

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING

The Communicator | September 2015

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A Message from the Chair

Welcome to an excited and busy academic year! This semester is especially eventful, so please remember to regularly check your UNO email for updates sent via the department's listserv. For starters, we're very pleased to welcome **Dr. Ashley Blount** as our new assistant professor (see profile). Please stop in and say hello when you get a chance. We're also pleased to announce that **Dani Bojanski** has been hired as the new Community Clinic Coordinator (please see profile). Dani will be working closely with the faculty and practicum students to facilitate client scheduling, marketing the clinic, and other clinic administrative responsibilities. Also, we again extend our congratulations to all our Summer 2015 graduates (see list)!

As noted, there are several key items to be aware of this semester. First, the department will be hosting our **CACREP site visit** team from September 20-23rd. If you'd be willing to share your experiences as a student or program graduate with the site team, please let me know. Second, the next **group experience** is scheduled to start October 5th and will be on Monday evenings from 7:15-9:15pm in Roskens Hall at a cost of \$115. Please note the group is 5 weeks long, is limited to 10 students, and placement is done on a first come first serve basis. A **second group experience** is being planned for this Fall and students will be notified via the departmental listserv as soon as it is confirmed. Next, the **Fall CPCE** and **written exam**

dates for CMHC students are Friday, September 11th and Friday, September 25th, respectively. The **school counseling written exam** is set Saturday, October 3rd and the **registration deadline** is Friday, September 18th. Registration for both the group experience and comprehensive exams is done in the counseling department office. This year will see Dr. Blount beginning her tenure as CSI faculty advisor. She takes over for Dr. Carter as faculty advisor after his **15 years (!)** of leadership and service to the chapter.

As the year progresses, the department will also be highlighting several professional advocacy and leadership opportunities, such as joining and being an active member of Upsilon NU Omicron, our department's chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. And finally, we again encourage you to contact your advisor regularly to ensure your plan of study is on the right track--and be sure to take full advantage of the **UNO Writing Center** for all your writing projects. On behalf of the entire faculty, we wish you a happy and productive Fall semester. Don't hesitate to stop in or contact me at any time!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kissinger, Chair/Associate Professor

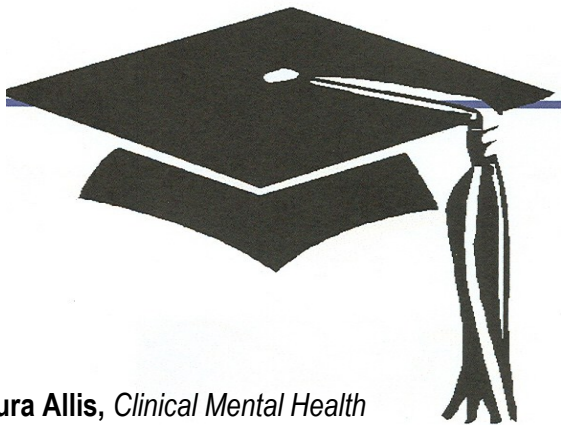
Announcements

- A big welcome to **Dr. Ashley Blount**, our new Assistant Professor! See her bio on page 3!
- **NCA Conference** is October 7-9th in Kearney. See the NCA website for info about student rates and how to register.
- **Fall Group Experience** is scheduled to be on Oct. 5th, see page 4 for more information.
- **School Counseling Comprehensive Exams** are scheduled for **October 3rd from 8am-12pm**. Register with Barb at the front desk **by September 18th**.
- Check out the updated Clinical Mental Health Practicum and Internship Manuals on the department website! (<http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education/counseling/graduate/forms-documents.php>)
- **The Genderworks Conference** (sponsored by the Professional Transgender Resource Network) is September 11th 8:30-4:30 at the CEC and is **FREE to current students**.
- **Carlos DiClemente** will be in Omaha presenting at a conference on **October 30th**. Keep an eye out for more details!!

Policy Update: NCE

The NBCC, has recently changed the procedure for applying and registering for the National Counselor Exam. Application and registration will now be an online process. Once each fall and spring, the department will submit a roster of students to the NBCC who are eligible to take the exam the following semester. The NBCC then contacts these students via e-mail with directions on how to register for the exam. The roster of eligible students is created by Dr. Kissinger. Students will not be deemed eligible to take the test until they are in their final semester of internship. The only exception will be for those students whose final semester is in the summer—they will be deemed eligible to take the NCE in the spring. Although the registration process has changed, UNO will continue to be a testing site and offer the exam twice a year to current program students—once in the fall and spring semesters. If you have questions regarding the new procedure contact the graduate assistant office (402-554-2764) or Dr. Kissinger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUGUST 2015 GRADUATES



Laura Allis, *Clinical Mental Health*

Arick Grinberg, *Clinical Mental Health*

Danielle Bojanski, *Clinical Mental Health*

Danielle Cheney Macnab, *Clinical Mental Health*

Megan Engel, *Clinical Mental Health*

Valyn Gipson, *Student Affairs*

Brian Heidvogel, *Clinical Mental Health*

Holly Hoffman, *Clinical Mental Health*

Jaime Johnson, *Clinical Mental Health*

Cristin Kloewer, *Clinical Mental Health*

Tino Miller, *Community Counseling*

Rachel Newman, *School Counseling*

Jenna Olsen, *Student Affairs*

Brenda Painter, *Student Affairs*

Aaron Van Gorp, *Clinical Mental Health*

Jenna Vyhlidal, *Clinical Mental Health*

Nicole Wagner, *Clinical Mental Health*

Tawnie Ware, *Clinical Mental Health*

Peter Zelenka, *Clinical Mental Health*

Meet the New Faces in the Counseling Department!

Ashley Blount joins the Counseling Department as our new assistant professor. She primarily works with adolescents and young adults and specializes in Wellness Counseling. Her research interests include Wellness, Counselor Education and Supervision, and working with Athletes and Former Student Athletes. Ashley is originally from Northern Wisconsin and got her undergraduate degree in Biology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, where she also played collegiate basketball. Her master's is in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and her Ph.D. is in Counselor Education from the University of Central Florida. Ashley enjoys spending time with her partner, JR and their three-month-old daughter, Maya. In her down time she enjoys being active, running with her husky mix Rocky, and engaging in community events like farmers markets and art/music festivals.



Maddie Moore is the new graduate assistant in the Counseling Department. She was born and raised in Omaha and graduated from Duchesne Academy High School in 2008. In 2012, she received her undergraduate degree from Creighton as a History major and Spanish / Social Justice Minor. Before starting the Clinical Mental Health Program at UNO in the fall of 2014, she did two years of AmeriCorps service with an organization called College Possible, where she worked with low-income, first-generation high school students at Omaha South to get them to college. While in her first year of graduate school, she worked as a Teen Program Facilitator at Girls Inc and will still be doing ACT tutoring there for the foreseeable future. Ultimately she hopes to continue to work with at-risk populations, ideally in an educationally setting.

Dani Bojanski serves as the new Community Clinic Coordinator. She is a recent graduate of UNO's Counseling program, where she worked as a Graduate Assistant while a student, and will soon receive her PLMHP license. Her counseling interests include trauma, interpersonal relationships, and parenting issues. Prior to entering the Counseling program, Dani worked in higher education as a program coordinator, academic advisor, and writing instructor. She continues to teach writing as an adjunct instructor at Metro Community College. When not in the clinic or classroom, Dani can be found with her husband and son, mowing the lawn, or walking when she meant to be running.



Group Experience

All Counseling students must participate in a 10 hour group experience prior to enrolling in COUN 8270 and COUN 8370.

A 10 hour group experience is facilitated by the department several times each year. The cost is \$115. Please contact Barb Newell (402-554-2727) to sign up.

Fall 2015 12 Hour Group Dates:

October 5th, 12th, 26th, November 2nd, and 9th

The group will meet for 5 weeks on Monday nights from 7:15-9:15pm in Roskens Hall 105. This group will be limited to 10 members. Your spot in the group will not be reserved until full payment is made. Please contact Dr. Kissinger directly with any questions, dkissinger@unomaha.edu.

A consent form is required prior to your experience. You may print this form from the department website or complete it in person in Roskens Hall 101.

CMH Internship Info

When it comes time for your internship experience, it is your responsibility to contact sites of interest and secure your internship. There are many opportunities available in the community. **If you are uncertain of where to begin your search, check out the department website for a site list to get you started (<http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education/counseling/graduate/forms-documents.php>).** Your advisor is available to speak with you about marketing yourself to site supervisors and to answer any questions you may have.

A few key points to remember:

Plan to do your internship experience at the end of your program. It will best position you to transition into the job market.

Aim to find a site that best suits your interests.

Begin looking for your internship a few months in advance. Some popular sites are competitive and require applications and interviews.

UNO Community Counseling Clinic

Clinic hours: the clinic will now be open Monday-Thursday, 2-7 pm

Our clinic is staffed by practicum students. Individual, couples, and family counseling are available for a small fee (\$10 per session, \$15 for couples and families). Service is free to current UNO students.

Appointments are available to community members and UNO students during hours of operation.

Call 402-554-4882 to schedule an appointment.

We are working to expand our client base! We appreciate your referrals to this service and have cards and brochures available for local community distribution if you would like to help.

Fall 2015 Clinic Staff:

Dr. Dan Kissinger, Clinic Director

Dr. David Carter, Practicum Instructor

Dani Bojanski, Clinic Coordinator

Student Counselors:

Jordan Moller

Kristin Sindelar

Carly Spring

Sean Weller

Chi Sigma Iota



Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ashley Blount

Fall 2015 Student Officers: President: Lance Burwell

Join us

Once you have completed nine (9) semester hours with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, complete the following steps to officially join!

- Complete the online application process at csi-net.org.
- Click on Membership under Chapters and Members (in the left hand column).
- Enter our local chapter name: Upsilon NU Omicron.
- Submit the form online and pay initial dues online via credit card.
- Lastly, write a check to chapter Upsilon Nu Omicron for \$10.00 (chapter fee) and turn the check into Dr. Blount in Roskens Hall Room 101. When she receives your certificate and pin, she will notify you by phone and set up a time for initiation.

Events

- Keep an eye out for upcoming elections!
- Contact Dr. Ashley Blount, the new CSI faculty advisor, if you would like to get involved!

Messages

Dear Chi Sigma Iota Members,

After fifteen years as Faculty Advisor of our chapter, Upsilon NU Omicron, I will be passing the torch to our new faculty Dr. Ashley Blount. I am certain that she will be meeting with students to elect new officers for the 2015-2016 academic year soon. I know that you will welcome her with the same enthusiasm that you have extended to me all these years and I wish you the best in your future with the honor society.

Dr. Carter

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