



SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Shannon
American Sign Language Instructor

Shawn has been a part of the SECD ASL team since 2011. He started out as an adjunct instructor and as of this year, he joined the team as a full-time faculty as an ASL Instructor.

What led you to choose a career in American Sign Language Instruction?

American Sign Language (ASL) is my first language. I was never formally taught sign language in elementary school. When I was 19 years old, I was an exchange student in Sweden for a year. While in Sweden, I learned Swedish Sign Language, and I realized that I really enjoyed studying and teaching it.

What is your favorite part about working at UNO?

So far my favorite part about working at UNO is interacting with ASL students. It makes me happy to see them learning and signing so quickly!



What do you like to do for fun?

I love to travel; especially going on road trips! I been road tripping to 49 states. One of my favorite trips was cycling from Virginia Beach, VA to Venice Beach, CA with three other people. It took us five weeks to complete the trip.

What is your favorite family tradition, past or present?

My favorite family tradition is going to the Lake of the Ozarks every year. My family and I go tubing, water skiing, wakeboarding, and knee boarding. We also enjoy jumping off of cliffs and fishing. You might find us at the Bagnell Dam area or Osage Beach.



What is one interesting fact about you that no one would guess?

I ran the 200 and 4x100 relay for Team USA at the 2005 Deaflympics in Melbourne, Australia. We got 5th place in the 4x100 relay race. There was only .07 seconds difference between 3rd and 5th place.

