UNO WELCOMES NATIONAL SPEAKER DR. LYNN KOEGEL

Dr. Lynn Koegel visited UNO Speech-Language Pathology graduate students in September and again in March. Dr. Koegel is co-developer of Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) for Children with Autism. She currently serves as Clinical Director at the Koegel Autism Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has published textbooks and articles, along with field manuals on communication and autism. Dr. Koegel’s first talk in September focused on strategies to illicit expressive language in children on the autism spectrum. In addition, she spoke about a new research project she is working on around initiation. Dr. Koegel’s March talk included “Disruptive Behavior” and “Motivational Academics”. UNO is fortunate to have a world-renowned speaker share her expertise with students and faculty.

DR. NORDNESS HOSTS YSEALI PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Nordness hosted three members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) who are visiting UNO, Nebraska, and America for the first time. Leo Aribal, Julianti Huki, and Nadiah Abdul Lateb are involved in the field of education in their home countries. These young adults are considered to be the best and the brightest from their countries. They have been having a wonderful time engaging in civic activities throughout Omaha and Nebraska during their month-long visit.
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Dr. Coufal has been announced as the new program director for the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Coufal received her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research interests include early language development and disorders, interprofessional collaboration, and early childhood service delivery. Dr. Coufal most recently served as the Department Chair and Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Wichita State University. She is happy to rejoin the department at UNO as both a Professor and Program Director!

AWARDS

Dr. Mitzi Ritzman: UNO Outstanding Faculty Service Learning Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has experience with a service learning course, who has been supportive of service learning at UNO, and who has a thorough understanding and appreciation of community agency issues.

Dr. Jessica Hagaman: UNO Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award. This award was established to honor distinguished teaching in the classroom, and is presented to eight faculty members each year at the annual Faculty Honors Convocation.

Kelsey Phipps Sheridan: National NSSLHA Distinguished Student of Service. Kelsey is a graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology program. Only one of five students across the country to be recognized with this award.

Brent Schade: UNO College of Education Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Brent serves as a Special Education Coordinator for the Transition program in the Millard Public Schools. Brent earned with Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Speech-Language Pathology from UNO.

STUDENT AND FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Hansen: UNO Speech-Language Pathology graduate student’s article on the iPad Pilot Program is front and center of the new journal to our field, Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Thanks to our fabulous clinical educators, Jill Kumke and Lynn Grubb, for their pioneering work in designing and facilitating this great program for our graduate students. Check out the first issue—and Taylor’s article at: www.tlcjournal.com

Dr. Shari DeVeney was invited to write the feature while serving as the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSLHA) 2016 President. Check out Dr. DeVeney’s feature at: http://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2589145
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL STUDENT SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION
by JoVanna Balquier, UNO NSSLHA President

UNO's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association/Collegiate Sertoma (UNO NSSLHA/Collegiate Sertoma) is up to great things, gearing up to end the year with a bang!

The chapter has a strong commitment to community engagement, with a focus on supporting the work of a variety of community organizations including the Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN), The Hope Center of Omaha, The Moving Company, the Nebraska Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, and the Omaha Southwest Sertoma Club. Aside from these five community partners, UNO NSSLHA has also spent time serving many additional community organizations, including the following: RiteCare Clinic, UNO College of Education, UNO University Housing, the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America, Autism Action Partnership, Quality Living, Inc. (QLI), the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, UNO Wellness Center, and The Durham Museum.

This year, UNO NSSLHA/Collegiate Sertoma held their third annual UNO’s Got Talent!—an entertaining night of incredible performances—to benefit ASN and the families they serve. In addition to preparing for UNO’s Got Talent!, UNO NSSLHA/Collegiate Sertoma members have spent the semester participating in a variety of activities throughout both the campus and greater Omaha metro communities.

Events include the following: UNMC’s Skate-A-Thon for Parkinson’s, ASN events such as Rec Club, Teen Night, Bowling League, and Pump it Up, add Reach for It, QLI and UNO’s 60 Minutes of Service.

Members especially enjoyed taking their advocacy to the next level at the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s 2017 Legislative Day. NSSLHA members traveled to the Nebraska State Capitol building to advocate for their profession and future clients by having lunch with state senators. During the luncheon, members, senators, and their staff members discussed important upcoming legislation that will impact those with communication disorders. Advocating at this level was incredibly empowering for all the students who attended! Overall, UNO NSSLHA/Collegiate Sertoma members have had a successful semester filled with fun, learning, and personal growth!
SCEC has had a busy semester! Our members have been volunteering with many different organizations. We participated at the Munroe Meyer Walk-N-Roll for Disabilities. Members had a blast cheering on the participants, handing out door prizes and helping with registration. SCEC members also volunteered with TOP soccer, Ollie Webb and the Autism Puzzle Walk April 8th. SCEC officers were able to attend the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders in Kansas City. There they learned about the best ways to interact and teach individuals with Behavior Disorders.

SCEC also brought in guest speakers to give us a new look on individuals with Autism. We learned what Autism is like through the eyes of someone with Autism. SCEC is proud to continuously be learning about individuals with disabilities and to be involved with so many great community organizations.

ALLIES FOR SIGN LANGUAGE

The Allies for Sign Language has been busy over the past few months! On campus, we host Sign and Dine in the student center twice/week and advocate in the Deaf Community speak to our group each month. Once a month we have social events out in the community including Sign and Dine, where we invite anyone and everyone for an evening of immersive sign language.

To celebrate the holiday season, a group of students attended the shadow-interpreted performance of A Christmas Carol at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Also in December, each Circle Theatre production of A Charlie Brown Christmas was performed with UNO students as the shadow interpreters. In March, students had the opportunity to perform at the Nebraska Association of the Deaf Fundraiser Dinner. The evening had a 1920s theme, and students wrote, rehearsed, performed, and interpreted a murder mystery play for the attendees. We will be sponsoring a carnival booth at the Iowa School for the Deaf’s annual Celebrate ISD festival.