ALLIES FOR SIGN LANGUAGE

Allies for Sign Language is a student organization dedicated to increasing access and awareness for American Sign Language (ASL) on UNO’s campus and developing relationships with the local Deaf/Hard of Hearing community. UNO students have been active in the local Deaf community by volunteering at the Nebraska Association of the Deaf conference held last summer, the annual Deaf Day at the Zoo in September, the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters conference in October, and the Education Summit held by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing in the Milo Bail Student Center on October 21. UNO ASL students have been teaching a weekly sign language class for an after school program at a Millard elementary school and have been volunteer interpreting for various activities as requested by community members. In collaboration with The Circle Theatre in Omaha, the students will be interpreting at least one performance of each show during the season and will be interpreting for classes at The Rose Theatre beginning in January. In the spring, we'll be collaborating with UNO NSSLHA to host a literacy development workshop, and later partnering with the Delta Beta chapter of Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity to organize a Deaf Culture event.

NSSLHA RECEIVES GOLD CHAPTER HONORS

Congratulations to UNO NSSLHA! NSSLHA chapters who make significant contributions to further National NSSLHA’s mission are recognized annually through the National NSSLHA Honors Program, formally presented each year at The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention. This year, UNO NSSLHA was (once again) recognized with Gold Chapter Honors! 2016-17 President: JoVanna Balquier. Faculty advisor: Mitzi Ritzman
SCEC has had yet another great semester of volunteering! This semester, we helped with many organizations and programs. TOP Soccer started right in the beginning of the school year and went until October. This program provides opportunities for children with exceptional needs to practice soccer skills for an hour each week. Many of our members took part in volunteering at the Down Syndrome Alliance (DSA) Buddy Walk, which is an all-day event that brings awareness and celebration to those who have Down syndrome. Members of SCEC also assist with various DSA tutoring programs such as “The Learning Program”, and “The School Enrichment Program”. These programs provide teachers and volunteers to help kids with special needs work on school work and developing skills needed later on in life. In addition to these programs, we also worked with Ollie Webb and their Sibshop program. This program provides the opportunity for children who have siblings with special needs to learn about various disabilities. Children are also allowed time to ask questions regarding themselves or their siblings. This semester, SCEC raised money by doing a fundraiser through Eileen's Cookies! This is one of our favorite ways to raise money, because who doesn't love cookies? We were able to raise a little over $1,000! This has been a productive semester of fundraising and volunteering, and we can't wait to continue this in Spring of 2018!

“Our TOPSoccer program centers around an inclusive environment where all children regardless of physical and cognitive abilities can enjoy the game of soccer, improve communication skills, make new friends, and have fun!”

-Coach John Schlenker
FALL 2017

NSSHLA MEMBERS HONORS

Congratulations to alumna Allison Johnson! She was recognized at The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention with NSSHLA Member Honors, specifically the Speaking Out and Being Heard Award. Through social media, Allison heightened public awareness about communication disorders, such as dysphagia. She completed the Thickened Liquid Challenge by using a thickener to turn her Sprite Zero from a thin liquid to a honey-like consistency, and she encouraged her #SLPeeps to also give it a try. She also participated in events such as the Nebraska Legislative Day, where she spoke to state senators about legislation that would affect the CSD discipline.

NATIONAL STUDENT SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION/COLLEGIATE SERTOMA (NSSHLA)

NSSHLA started 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 campus and community organizations including Autism Action Partnership, Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN), The Hope Center of Omaha, The Moving Company, Nelson Mandela Elementary, the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Omaha Southwest Sertoma Club, Parkinson’s Nebraska, Quality Living, Inc. (QLI), RiteCare Clinic, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, UNO College of Education, UNO Transitions Program, UNO University Housing, and UNO Wellness Center. Events include ASN bowling league, Pump it Up, Parkinson’s Nebraska’s Reach for It, QLI’s Halloween party, Rec Club, Teen Night, and UNO’s Office of Civic and Social Responsibility’s 60 Minutes of Service. We have had wonderful guest speakers attend our monthly meetings, including Munroe-Meyer Institute’s RiteCare Clinic staff, ASN Omaha Chapter leaders, and graduate students from the UNO Speech-Language Pathology program. We are excited to continue serving in the upcoming semester. Overall, UNO NSSHLA/Collegiate Sertoma members have had a successful semester filled with fun, learning, and personal growth!
UNO’S FIRST ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR FUTURE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

The graduate program for speech-language pathology is committed to providing integrated collaborative educational experiences for our students to promote high quality outcomes for future patients and their families. To that end, we’ve incorporated several opportunities for our students to engage in interprofessional experiences/interprofessional practice (IPE/IPP) throughout their graduate training program.

Most recently, we collaborated with educators and students from College of St. Mary’s to conduct UNO’s inaugural workshop *Interprofessional Experience for Future Health Care Providers*. Held on November 17, 2017, we brought together over 75 students from nursing, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology to discuss professional roles and responsibilities in healthcare settings and allow for small group, multi-disciplinary discussions of presented patient case studies.

Although this was our most recent IPE pursuit, our graduate students also benefit from IPE/IPP through academic and clinical experiences with UNO’s School Psychology graduate program and through newly established collaborative with Creighton University’s occupational therapy and physical therapy programs, *Interprofessional Pediatric Co-Treatment Experience for Future Allied Healthcare Providers*. We will be piloting this latest IPE during the spring 2018 semester.