We have had a great start to the 2013-2014 academic year with many accomplishments to celebrate. We welcomed Mary Hoylman as our new Office Associate, and Lynn Grubb as the new Clinic Supervisor. I hope that you stop by the department to meet Mary and Lynn as they bring great experience and new ideas to the department. Our undergraduate and graduate students have been very busy with student organization activities, presenting at conferences, and completing research. I continue to be inspired by the work of our students.

Enjoy learning about the many activities that are happening in the department and please contact us at any time if you have any questions. Happy Holidays!

Faculty Awards

- Dr. Mary Friehe won the Honors of the Association Award from the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association at the state convention in September. She was nominated by Liz Humlicek, a UNO adjunct instructor.

- Dr. Shari DeVeney has been accepted to the 2014 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Pathways program. The role of the Pathways program is to mentor early-career clinical scientists in developing strong foundations for independent research careers. Only 10-15 participants are chosen nationally each year. The researcher who has agreed to be Dr. DeVeney’s mentor, Leslie Rescorla, is one of the top researchers in her area of late talkers.

- Jonathan Scherling received the Governor’s Recognition Award for leadership in preservation, protection, and promotion of civil human linguistic rights of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the State of Nebraska 2009-2013.
The Special Education Department is proud to recognize the student research projects and activities that have been occurring throughout the semester.

Student Research and Activities

A group of University of Nebraska at Omaha students, including undergraduate speech-language pathology major Kayla Kivett, studied in Salamanca, Spain. Kayla is planning to work as a bilingual SLP; this is an incredible opportunity to study both language and culture. This image was taken in Salamanca's city hall on the second level, which is typically open only to dignitaries and for special occasions.

- A total of 11 UNO students attended this years national American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) convention in Chicago, Ill. - more than any other recent year!

- Jennifer Morris, Amy Buchanan and Kristin VanWyngaarden, speech-language pathology graduate students, presented their research projects at the state and national speech-language pathology conventions this fall.
- Pictured at right (from L to R): Kristin VanWyngaarden, Amy Buchanan, Dr. Shari DeVeney (faculty mentor), and Jennifer Morris at the National ASHA Conference.

- Kristin VanWyngaarden is also a recipient of ASHA’s Academic Affairs and Research Education team 2013 Students Preparing for Academic-Research Careers (SPARC) Award. As one of only 10 SPARC Award recipient, Ms. VanWyngaarden will receive a $1,000 stipend to support activities proposed in her research mentoring and teaching plan. This award will further facilitate Ms. VanWyngaarden’s progress toward a PhD degree and faculty-researcher career.

Speech-language pathology graduate students Kristin VanWyngaarden, Kalayla Hough, Jordan Laughlin, Grace Lallman, and Kacie Bryant (pictured at right) presented a guest lecture on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) technology to Occupational Therapy students at Creighton University on November 11, 2013. They presented with support from Dr. Shari DeVeney (UNO) and Ms. Kathy Miklas (Alegent Health).
Student Council for Exceptional Children

Our student organization advocates for children and adults with disabilities. We do tons of community volunteer work with various agencies, such as: Ollie Webb, the Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands, TOPSoccer, the Monroe Meyer Institute, the Autism Society of Nebraska, and our most recent partnering is with the Special Olympics of Nebraska. We have also been participating in a joint event with Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) that sends volunteers out to work with children at the Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln. This semester we have participated in many volunteer events with Ollie Webb, including: their Omaha All Stars basketball games for adults and youth, fall formal dance, Halloween dance, Honey Sunday, and a Thanksgiving dinner event. For the Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands we were excited to have participated in setting up and registering walkers for their Buddy Walk event at Stinson Park. You can look for us on Facebook under UNO SCEC or email us with any questions at unosce@gmail.com!

Pictured: SCEC Student members at the Buddy Walk in Stinson Park.

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association

One of our first events of the school year was what we call “Pump It Up.” This event is for the Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN). At “Pump It Up,” ASN holds a support group for parents, while we play with and supervise their children in rooms with large bouncy houses and inflatable obstacle courses and slides. This event takes place every month and is one of our favorite events to help with! Select members also attended “BE a MAV Day” and the “Academic Majors Expo.” At these events, we advocate for our profession to new students or high school seniors that will be applying to UNO. The officers and many other members attended the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference in Chicago. UNO NSSLHA was selected to represent our geographic region in "Battle of the Regions: Knowledge Bowl". The team of both undergraduate and graduate students won second place during the NSSLHA Experience at ASHA (this event provides students from each region to battle it out through a friendly competition based on questions similar to the Praxis Exam).

Pictured at right: NSSLHA Student group members.

Talking Hands

During the fall 2013 semester, Talking Hands students have been active in the community. The semester kicked off with a picnic in Elmwood Park and nearly double the members of previous years were in attendance. Students have been involved with Homecoming activities at the Iowa School for the Deaf and others volunteered at the Nebraska Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf fall conference. A group of UNO students are also collaborating with students in the Marian High School Sign Language Club.

On October 24, the first workshop of a four part series was held related to teaching Deaf children English by using American Sign Language. The Math Concepts in ASL workshop was postponed due to weather but will be held in the spring. Students also have gathered by the fireplace in the student center at various times to practice their signing skills with native ASL users.

A large group of students attended the shadow interpreted performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Talking Hands faculty co-advisor Dr. Julie Delkamiller and president Justin Cyboron were two of the interpreters seen on stage making the musical accessible to Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals.

Pictured: Talking Hands student group members at the group’s fall Picnic.
Welcome to the Department

We would like to welcome Lynn Grubb as the new Clinic Supervisor for the UNO Speech-Language Clinic. Lynn started in this position on December 2. Lynn has her M.A. in speech pathology from Northern Illinois University and has worked as a clinical Speech Pathologist at the Laboratory of Speech and Language Disorders at UNMC in Omaha as well as multiple hospitals in Illinois.

Mary Hoylman is the Special Education and Communication Disorders new Office Associate. Previously, Mary has worked as a Staff Assistant for the history department at Nebraska Wesleyan University and was the Assistant State Coordinator for National History Day: Nebraska. She also worked as a para-educator for Millard Public Schools. Mary and her husband have two teenage sons and a standard poodle named Snickers.

neRID Conference Presentations

Dr. Julie Delkamiller and Ricky Smith were presenters at this fall’s Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (neRID) conference.

♦ Ricky Smiths’ two presentations were entitled “Bases are Loaded! Getting rid of visual clutter!” and “Pre-Game Workout:‘What is Really Being Said Here?’”.
♦ Dr. Julie Delkamiller presented about her work in Nicaragua in a presentation entitled “Escuela de Sordos in Leon, Nicaragua”.

International Research Blog

Visit our International research blog at www.unoseed.blogspot.com

Thank You!

Thank you to Patrick Hilderbrand and Kristin VanWyngaarden (pictured at left), graduate students in speech-language pathology, for their work as ambassadors for the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders and the College of Education. Both of these students served as judges during the Miss Amazing pageant. Visit this link for more information about the pageant itself: http://missamazingpageant.com/ Dr. Mitzi Ritzman was invited to serve in this capacity but was unable to do so – Kristin and Patrick willingly stepped in. These two students did an amazing (no pun intended) job of representing all of us!

Check our department website:
http://coe.unomaha.edu/sped/

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