Let’s Talk About AGING
To our students, alums, donors, advisory board members, and community partners,

I am honored to present to you the 2020-2021 Department of Gerontology Annual Report. This past year, the lives of our students, staff, and faculty continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our everyday routines changed, from on-campus to online teaching and from face-to-face meetings to Zoom. Despite these challenges, we remained committed to our Department’s goals: to train students to enter the field of aging, where their knowledge and experience is needed now more than ever, and to recruit new students to gerontology, to understand aging and to improve the lives of older adults.

This report includes many highlights from the past year. A record number of students (50) were enrolled in our Bachelor’s program by the end of the Spring 2021 semester, which reflects that we continue to grow even during this recent time of uncertainty. With the research grants and publications attained by our faculty, the awards earned by our students, and our continued presence in our community, we have much to look back on with pride. At the same time, our advisory board, under the leadership of Paul Hogan, keeps us looking forward to the future of aging, which we believe is a bright one.

In 2022, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. We are one of the oldest departments of gerontology in the United States and we intend to continue our forward momentum. We thank all of you for your support over our first half century. We cannot wait to see what unfolds in our next 50 years.

Best wishes.

Christopher M. Kelly, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
MISSION STATEMENT

We develop knowledge, and educate and inspire future leaders to positively influence the aging process and to advocate for older adults, their caregivers, and the communities in which they live.

CORE VALUES

We are the primary provider of expert gerontological education in Nebraska with a global impact. We provide essential teaching, training, and service opportunities for students who aspire to careers in the field of aging through research, practice, and engagement.

CORE PURPOSE

Through our on campus and online degrees, we develop graduates to be leaders in the field of aging.

Our alumni bring unique age-sensitive solutions to the marketplace in areas such as business and industry, government, higher education, and other emerging fields.

We develop relationships with our alumni, fostering a community aging network that is both local and global.

We design and disseminate innovative research that is imperative for current and future aging opportunities.

Through community outreach, we enhance the ability of those working with older adults to understand, serve, and advocate for the aging population.

2020-2021 DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Hogan – Chairman, Board of Advisors
Chairman and Founder
Home Instead Senior Care

Thomas M. Belford
Owner
John A. Gentleman Mortuaries and Crematory

Heath Boddy
Executive Director
Nebraska Health Care Association

Eric Gurley
President and CEO
Immanuel Communities

Mark Higgins
Architect

Ronald C. Jensen, JD
Partner
Baird Holm Law Firm

Jane F. Potter, MD
Professor of Geriatric Medicine
Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care
Department of internal Medicine
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Home Instead Center for Successful Aging

Corie Sass, LCSW, LMHP, CDP
Social Services Coordinator
Vetter Health Services

Joann Schaefer, MD
Physician leader and public health expert
PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS 2020-2021

Jennifer Baker
Amanda Buscher
Mary Lou Buss
Elizabeth Chentland
Mary Christensen
Beth Culross
Christine De La Vega
Wonjeong Haavisto
Geralyn Hepp

2020-2021 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Naomi Adjei
Stephen Fogle
Mallie George
Angela Gifford
Sarah Hubner
Judith Kim
Heng Wu

REPORT PREPARED BY
Tara Grell, graphic designer, Center for Public Affairs Research

NEW FACULTY

Amy Hanson, Ph.D.
Instructor

Bede Bolin, M.S., M.A.
Lecturer

Heather Ford, M.A., C.D.P.
Academic Advisor/Program Coordinator/Adjunct Instructor

Mark Kazor, M.A.
Instructor

Kara Negley, B.A.
Office Associate

Lindsay Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Master's Program Chair

ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

PAUL P. FALKOWSKI, PH.D.

Adjunct Instructor is dedicated to serving the people who live and work in long-term care communities. He teaches online courses for the Department of Gerontology, conducts research, and consults with nursing homes. He recently developed the course "Volunteer Management and Aging Services." Also, he authored "Creating the Volun-Cheer Force: Rethinking the way we use volunteers in nursing homes" and formed VolunCheerLeader LLC to provide support to nursing home managers of volunteers. His passion is volunteerism and improving the care of older adults.
2020-2021 GRADUATES

Dr. Lakelyn Hogan
Doctor of Philosophy
Gerontology

Dr. April Paschall
Doctor of Philosophy
Gerontology

Angie Cappellano
Master of Arts
Gerontology

John Gardner
Bachelor of Science
Gerontology

Jean Joy Kamau
Bachelor of Science

Madison Klar
Bachelor of Science

Laura Kreuzberg
UNL Certificate and
UNO Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Neva Bilek
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Master of Arts
Gerontology

Krista Hendrix
Bachelor of Science

Reilley Black
Bachelor of Science

Monjika Gurung
Bachelor of Science

Wenjing Cao
Bachelor of Science

Madeline Daley
Bachelor of Science

Madison Euse
UNO Graduate Certificate

Emily Frankel
UNO Graduate Certificate

Traci Prauner
UNO Graduate Certificate

Perry Root
UNO Graduate Certificate

Kizzetta Holmes
Master of Arts
Gerontology

Kennedy Kustin
Master of Arts
Gerontology

Erica Guzman
Master of Arts
Gerontology

Kenneth Hites
Master of Arts
Gerontology

Joan Joy Kamau
Bachelor of Science

Jean Joy Kamau
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Laura Maxwell
Bachelor of Science

Ashley Moseman
Bachelor of Science

Jason Nitz
Bachelor of Science

Sarah Quinata
Bachelor of Science

Lindie Strickler
Bachelor of Science

Madison Klar
Bachelor of Science

Emily Frankel
UNO Graduate Certificate

Traci Prauner
UNO Graduate Certificate

Perry Root
UNO Graduate Certificate

Madeline Daley
Bachelor of Science

Monjika Gurung
Bachelor of Science

Krista Hendrix
Bachelor of Science

Christina Aguilar
UNO Certicate

Hayle Faucho
UNO Certificate

Taylor Kent
UNO Certificate

Rachel Levine
UNO Certificate
**2020-2021 GRADUATES**

**STUDENT AWARDS**

**MADELINE DALEY**
- Deans Award
- College of Public Affairs and Community Service

**KENNADY GUSTIN**
- Honorable Mention, Graduate Oral Presentation
- "Examination of Job Satisfaction of Aged Care Employees: A Systematic Review"

**ANGELA GIFFORD**
- Meritorious Award for Graduate Poster Presentation
- "The Impact of Stress Management on Loneliness and Chronic Stress in Older Adults"

**TAYLOR O’BRIAN**
- Champions of Aging Student Worker (Lincoln)

**DINESH KARKI**
- Champions of Aging Student Worker (Omaha)

**AKANKSHYA CHATAUT**
- Champions of Aging Student Worker (Omaha)

**MAKEENNA PLUFA**
- UNO Certificate

**MORGAN ESSMAN**
- UNL Certificate

**KRYSTINA IESINGO**
- UNL Certificate

**SOPHIE JOHNSON**
- UNL Certificate

**CLAIRE KELLER**
- UNL Certificate

**ELLIE KOCH**
- UNL Certificate

**GABRIELLE LUTT**
- UNL Certificate

**KENZIE McMULLEN**
- UNL Certificate

**SHEA PEERY**
- UNL Certificate

**SYDNE SMITH**
- UNL Certificate

**KIRSTINA LUST**
- UNL Certificate

**KRIEZEN McMULLEN**
- UNL Certificate

**SOPHIE JOHNSON**
- UNL Certificate

**SHEA PEERY**
- UNL Certificate

**SYDNE SMITH**
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- UNL Certificate

**SYDNE SMITH**
- UNL Certificate

**KRIEZEN McMULLEN**
- UNL Certificate
Dr. Lakelyn Hogan. The Impact of Paid Professional In-Home Respite Care on Dementia Family Caregivers. Under the supervision of Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron.

Dr. April Paschall. Examining Adult Student Success through a Lifespan Development Lens: A Mixed Methods Investigation. Under the Supervision of Dr. Christopher Kelly.

Kennady Gustin. Examination of Job Satisfaction of Aged Care Employees: A Systematic Review. Under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Kelly.
Omaha Health Expo
LeadingAge Conference
Nebraska Health Care Association Conference
   NNFA/NALA (Nebraska Nursing Facility Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association)
Nebraska Nurses Practitioners Conference
Home Instead Convention
UNO/UNMC Health Wellness Fair

Bachelor of Science Gerontology
Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (Gerontology Concentration)
Certificate in Gerontology (UG and GR)
Master of Arts in Gerontology
Doctor of Philosophy in Gerontology

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE GERONTOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Spring 2020</td>
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<td>Spring 2021</td>
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Aksamben Village Senior Living
CHI Health at Home
Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging
Elk Ridge Village Senior Living
Endless Journey Hospice
Hillcrest
Home Instead Senior Care
Immanuel Lakeside
Immanuel Fontenelle
John A. Gentleman Mortuaries
Lighthouse Ministries
New Cassel Retirement Center
UNO
Ridgewood Senior Living
Rose Blumkin Jewish Home
Sunrise Country Manor

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Dr. Lyn Holley, The University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland
Dr. Julie Masters, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS


FACULTY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


Dr. Jonelle Beadle, PI, $764,565 from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, COBRE Grant: Neural Basis of Empathy in Aging

Dr. Jonelle Beadle, PI, $50,000, Great Plains IDEA-CTR Scholars Program Grant, The Psychological, Neural, and Hormonal Bases of Caregiver Compassion Fatigue

Dr. Jonelle Beadle, PI, $42,451 Research Development Grant from UNO: Neuropsychiatric Symptoms in Alzheimer’s Disease and Caregiver Stress

Dr. Jonelle Beadle, PI, $20,000, University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative, Interdisciplinary Care Transition

Dr. Jonelle Beadle, PI, $5,000, UNO Big Ideas, Reducing Caregiver Stress through Music

Dr. Jonelle Beadle, Co-PI, $10,000 UNO UCRCA Grant, Interpersonal Synchronization, Empathy, and Hormones in People with Parkinson’s Disease and Caregivers

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, PI, $73,000 Great Plains IDEA-CTR Pilot Grant, Age-Related Differences in Food Choices and Appetite Regulation in the Context of Exercise

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, PI, $20,000, University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative, Enhancing Senior Living, Quality of Life, and Independence through Utilizing Assistive and Interactive Technology

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, PI, $5,000, UNO BIG Ideas, A Needs Assessment: Improving Quality of Life and Independence for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers through Assistive and Interactive Technology

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, PI, $5,000, UNO Big Ideas, Investigating Need for a Continuous Health Status Monitoring in Aging Adults Living in Assisted or Skilled Facilities

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Co-PI, $99,414, UNO-UNMC Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Collaborative Grant: Resiliency, Reserve, and Fatigability: Insights into Fall Risk

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Co-PI, $50,000, UNMC Health Disparities VCR Pilot Grant: Optimizing Community Efforts to Improve Physical Activity in Aging

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Co-PI, $38,250, Great Plans IDEA-CTR Pilot grant: Tailoring Interventions to Reduce Loneliness in Aging Adults through Voice Assistants

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Co-PI, $5,000, UNO BIG Ideas, Examining Needs, Usability, and Preferences Towards Assistive and Interactive Technology to Enhance Senior Living, Quality of Life, and Independence

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Co-PI, $5,000, UNO BIG Ideas, Availability of Real-Time, Data-Integrated Resident Health Monitoring IT Dashboards for Assistive/Skilled Care Providers

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, Dr. Janelle Beadle, and Dr. Julie Masters, Co-Pis, $1,592,000, UNO BIG Ideas, Transforming Wellness through Business, Informatics, and Gerontology

Dr. Julie Masters, Dr. Lindsay Wilkinson, and Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron, $5,000, UNO BIG Ideas, Exploring the Effects of COVID-19 on Persons Living in Senior Living Communities

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron and Dr. Lyn Holley, PIs, $2,500 GSA/AGHE Seed Grant for Age-Friendly Universities
SELECT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- UNO Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
  (Drs. Christopher Kelly and Lyn Holley)
- UNO-OPS Collaborative Intergenerational Poetry Reflection

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

- COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS
  - Boron, J.B., Understanding, Identifying, and Addressing Fall Risk in Aging Adults. Webinar for the American Society on Aging and Right At Home, Online. (2020).
  - Masters, J., COVID-19: Ensuring the Last Breath is as Important as the First. Spring Convention, Nebraska Health Care Association via Zoom. (2021).
  - Masters, J., “Busting the Myths of Aging.” First Covenant Church, Omaha. (2020).
  - Masters, J., “It Takes Courage and Planning to Age.” AgeMark Senior Living, Nebraska and other states - via Zoom. (2020).

- Be a Santa to a Senior
- Champions of Aging
- Coalition for Older Adult Health Promotion
- Dementia Friendly Nebraska
- Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, Advisory Council and Senior Companion Program
- Elder Rights Coalition
- Florence Home Assisted Living
- Home Instead Center for Successful Aging
- Leading Age Nebraska Education Committee
- Midlands Eldercare Network
- Nebraska Mental Health and Aging Coalition
- Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
- Office of Public Guardian
- Partnerships in Aging
- Respite Advisory Committee
- St. Gregory the Great Seminary Board of Trustees
- UNL Veterans Mentorship Program
AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE – MARCH 16, 2021

University of Nebraska at Omaha has been added to the Age Friendly University (AFU) Global Network, thanks to the work of Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron and Dr. Lyn M. Holley.

8TH BIENNIAL AGING WITH PASSION AND PURPOSE CONFERENCE – MARCH 15, 2021

ACCESS THE EXPERTS