

DEPARTMENT OF
COUNSELING

ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014

University of Nebraska at Omaha
College of Education

ITEM 1 UNIT MISSION STATEMENT

The Counseling Department is one of five academic units within the College of Education and one of two departments providing graduate level training only (although faculty also teach undergraduates in cross-listed courses). The purpose of the Counseling Department is to prepare a diverse student population at the Master's Degree level for professional service as school counselors, professional mental health counselors, student affairs professionals and/or for advanced study. This is one of two counseling programs in Nebraska accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the accrediting agency recognized for counselor education programs by the former Council On Professional Accreditation (COPA) and the American Counseling Association (ACA). The Counseling program is also accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Mission

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's Role and Mission Statement approved by the Board of Regents in 1990, designates UNO as the major provider of educational opportunities in the metropolitan Omaha area. The following excerpt from the Board's statement summarizes UNO's mission:

UNO exists for the purpose of providing appropriate educational opportunities, discovering and disseminating knowledge through research and teaching, and offering public service to the citizens of the State, particularly the residents of the Omaha metropolitan area. Through these traditional, interdependent, and mutually-reinforcing functions, the faculty of the University of Nebraska at Omaha enrich the lives of students; advance the frontiers of knowledge; and contribute to the social, cultural, international and economic development of the community, State and region.

Similarly, the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education notes that UNO ". . . is an urban campus serving the educational needs of the Omaha Metropolitan area." The counselor training program specifically addresses each of these identified purposes. Graduates of the program are prepared to function professionally within their areas of specialization; service to community is a major emphasis, with all faculty providing seminars to schools and service agencies, and with student interns providing counseling through a department/college-sponsored clinic to children, families and individuals in the metropolitan area. Counseling interns serve the needs of many clients with low or no incomes referred by community agencies such as the Open Door Mission, Half-Way House, hospitals, and social agencies. Interns are available to present workshops, under the supervision of faculty supervisors to community groups requesting specific topics, such as a Pregnancy Prevention Workshop to Omaha Housing Authority. All classes are scheduled in the late afternoon and evening to accommodate the needs of the program's non-traditional students. Program graduates are prepared to fill the need for trained professionals to address the violence and other social problems occurring in today's metropolitan areas and the critical shortage of elementary school counselors. Virtually all of the program's graduates obtain professional employment in the Omaha metropolitan area.

Counseling Department Mission Statement

The mission of the UNO Counseling Department is to provide high quality training and curricular experiences to masters-level candidates, leading to eligibility for professional counselor certification and licensure, in alignment with the standards of the (CACREP). We educate academically-grounded and clinically-skilled counselors who are competent to work with diverse clients and in a variety of settings, with special emphasis on issues that emerge in a diverse metropolitan environment. We support our students as they acquire knowledge and skills to practice effectively and ethically, develop as critical and innovative thinkers, and become leaders in the counseling profession and in their area of specialization.

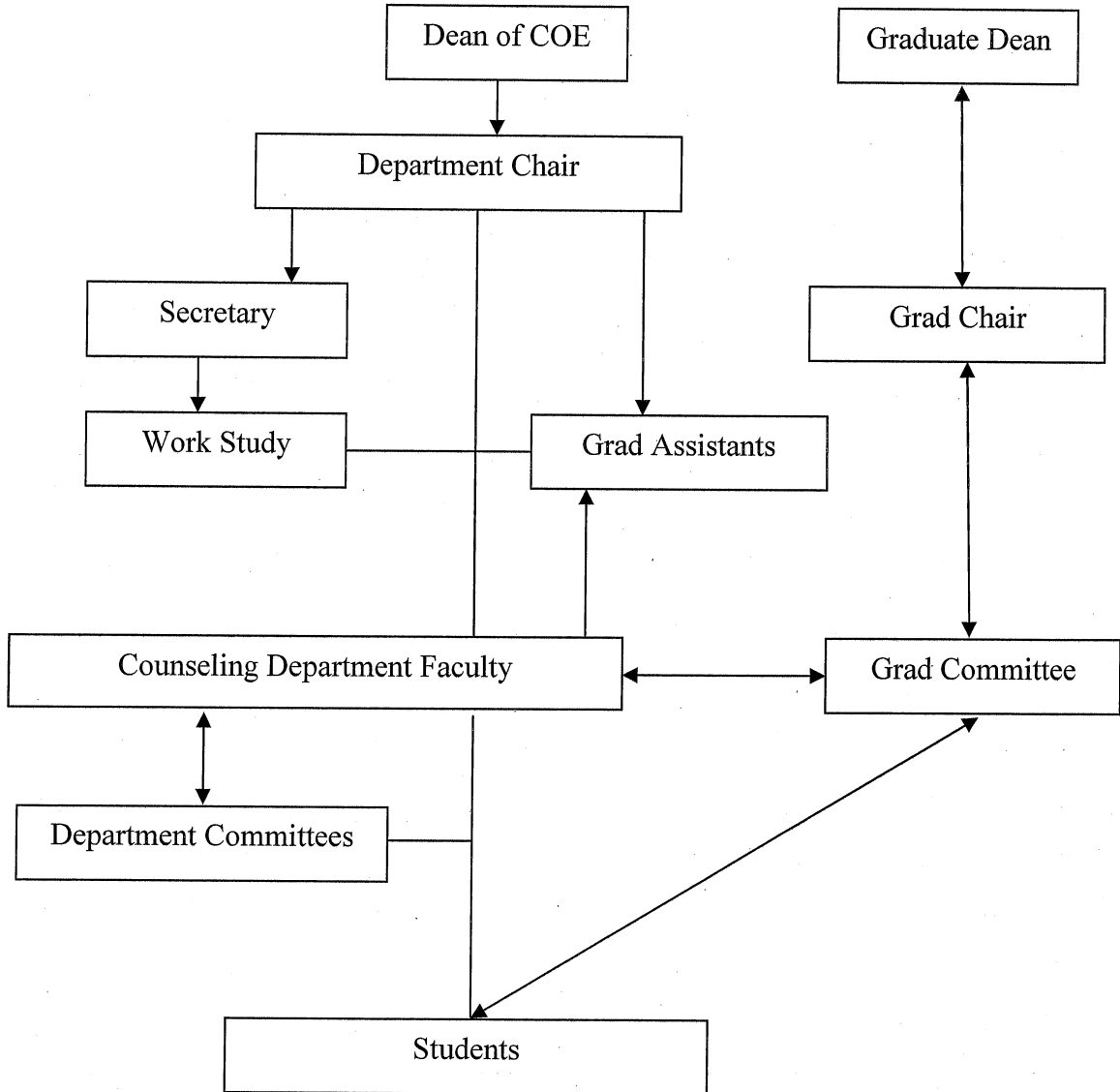
Unit Value Proposition

UNO's Counseling Department is the only graduate program in Nebraska offering two CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) accredited degree programs for students. CACREP is the accrediting body of the American Counseling Association and is evidence of an attitude and philosophy that program excellence is a fundamental goal. Because of our commitment to a rigorous curriculum and student focus, inherent of CACREP accreditation, our UNO Counseling students earn degrees that offer maximum licensure portability while enjoying the benefit of public school tuition rates.

Unit Nuggets

1. In a one-year period, 49 Counseling program graduates combined to offer over 34,300 hours of service in the clinic and area mental health or education related facilities.
*(49 students complete 100 practicum and 600 hrs. of internship...thus $49 \times 700 = 34,300$).
2. The UNO group average for counseling students is consistently higher than the overall national average on the National Counseling Exam with a 96% pass rate.

ITEM 2
Unit Organizational Chart
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING



ITEM 3
ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Department/School: **COUNSELING**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Program Title: **CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH**

Program Description:

A 60 credit hour graduate program consisting of didactic courses, skill development courses and nine credit hours (3 semesters) of Practicum and Internship experience in both the UNO Community Counseling Clinic and a community agency other than UNO. The program follows the standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Program Objectives:

The Clinical Mental Health Program prepares individuals at the graduate level for service in entry level professional counseling positions in community agencies and programs. Typical community programs or agencies would be mental health centers, substance abuse programs, marriage and family counseling services and rehabilitation counseling. Also to prepare students for advanced graduate work at the doctoral level.

Degree Offering: M.A. and M.S.

Names of full-time faculty who teach within the program:

Paul Barnes
Abby Bjornsen
David Carter
Scott Harrington
Ann Luther
Clyde (Rick) Richards

Accreditations:

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, NCATE
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, CACREP

ITEM 3
ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Department/School: **COUNSELING**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Program Title: **SCHOOL COUNSELING K-12**

Program Description:

A 48-51 credit hour master degree program consisting of didactic coursework, skill development coursework and nine credit hours (3 semesters) of practicum and internship experience in K-12 school guidance and counseling programs. The program design follows the standards of the National Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Program Objectives:

The School Counseling Program provides pre-service and continuing education opportunities for persons serving or preparing to serve as professional school counselors. The program also prepares persons for advanced graduate work beyond the master degree.

Degree Offering: M.A. and M.S.

Names of full-time faculty who teach within the program:

Paul Barnes
Abby Bjornsen
David Carter
Scott Harrington
Ann Luther
Clyde (Rick) Richards

Accreditations:

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, NCATE
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, CACREP

ITEM 3
ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Department/School: **COUNSELING**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Program Title: **STUDENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Program Description:

A 36 credit hour masters degree program consisting of didactic coursework, skill development courses and Internship experience. Student counseling services is the most common emphasis and the strongest in terms of curriculum, but an administrative emphasis is also possible.

Program Objectives:

The Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education Program prepares persons for professional level service in the student affairs services of colleges and universities; also for continued post masters degree work. Likely areas of service include admissions, registrar and student records, counseling and testing, career development, student organizations and financial aid as examples.

Degree Offering: M.A. and M.S.

Names of full-time faculty who teach within the program:

Paul Barnes
Abby Bjornsen
David Carter
Scott Harrington
Ann Luther
Clyde (Rick) Richards

Accreditations:

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, NCATE

ITEM 3
ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Department/School: **COUNSELING**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Program Title: **GERONTOLOGY**

Program Description:

This 48 credit hour master degree program in Counseling/Gerontology is a cooperative effort of the Counseling Department and the Gerontology Department. The UNO Gerontology Program offers courses leading to a certificate in gerontology. Graduate students wishing to earn a degree in counseling with emphasis in gerontology must be admitted to the gerontology certificate program and the Counseling Program. The gerontology concentration prepares students for direct practice careers in social services to older adults and their families.

Program Objectives:

The gerontology concentration prepares students for direct practice careers in social services to older adults and their families. Through specialized gerontology courses and variety of supervised field placements, students learn to address the complex psychosocial issues of aging. This degree prepares person for professional level service in gerontology; also continued post masters degree work.

Degree Offering: M.A. and M.S.

Names of full-time faculty who teach within the program:

Paul Barnes
Abby Bjornsen
David Carter
Scott Harrington
Ann Luther
Clyde (Rick) Richards

Accreditations:

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, NCATE

ANNUAL REPORT - ITEM 4a

FULL-TIME FACULTY INFORMATION - COUNSELING

	Name	Degree & Field ¹	Rank ²	Tenure Status		Grad Fac	Race/Ethn ³	Gend	Teaching Assignment & Level			
				Tenure Track	Tenured				T/P/S ⁴	G (only)	UG (only)	G/UG
COUNSELING	Paul Barnes	PhD (2000) in Community & Human Resources, University of Nebraska	Associate Professor	Y	Y	Y	1	M	P/S	X		
	Abby Bjornsen	PhD (2011) in Counseling Psychology, University of Kansas	Assistant Professor	Y	N	Y	1	F	P/S	X		
	David Carter	PhD (1994) in Community & Human Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Associate Professor	Y	Y	Y	1	M	P/S	X		
	Scott Harrington	PhD (1971) in Guidance & Counseling, University of Colorado	Associate Professor	Y	Y	Y	1	M	P/S	X		
	Ann Luther	EdD (2002) in Educational Administration, University of Nebraska-Omaha	Assistant Professor	Y	N	Y	1	F	P/S	X		
	Clyde Richards	MS (1995) in School Counseling, University of Nebraska-Omaha	Instructor	N	N	Y	1	M	P/S	X		

1 Highest degree earned in the field.

Assistant Professor
Associate Professor
Professor

3 1 = Caucasian/White

2 = African American/Black

3 = Hispanic

4 = Asian/Pacific Islander

5 = Indian/Alaskan

6 = No Response

4 T = teaching EDUC, methods,

P = teaching professional courses for other school professionals

S = supervising student teaching/practicum/internships

**ANNUAL REPORT - ITEM 4b
PART-TIME FACULTY INFORMATION - COUNSELING**

Name	Degree & Field ¹	Assignment/ Role	Rank ²	Race/ Ethn ³	Gend	Teaching Assignment & Level			Term		
						T/P/S ⁴	G (only)	UG (only)	G/UG	1135	1138 1141
ATHERTON, JOHN	MS - COUN & GUIDANCE		LECTURER	1	M	P			X		X
BELIEU (HANDKE), MOLLY	MA - EDUCATIONAL ADMIN		LECTURER	1	F	P/S	X			X	
BUTLER, SCOTT	MS - SEC SCHOOL COUN		LECTURER	1	M	P	X				X
CLARK, DAVID	MS - COUN & GUIDANCE		LECTURER	1	M	S	X			X	X
DELAET, THEODORE	PhD - COUN PSYCHOLOGY		LECTURER	1	M	P	X			X	X
GRAY, ALEXANDER	MA - COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	M	S	X			X	X
HARPER, IRENE	MS - COMMUNITY COUN		LECTURER	1	F	P/S	X			X	X
HATCHER, JULIE	EdD - HEALTH PROFESSNS EDUC		LECTURER	1	F	P		X			X
HRON, TIMOTHY	MA - COMMUNITY COUN		LECTURER	1	M	P/S	X			X	X
JESSING, BARBARA	MS - COUN & GUIDANCE		LECTURER	1	F	P	X				X
KEISER, KATHERINE	MS - COMMUNITY COUN		LECTURER	1	F	S	X				X
LINDBURG, JACLYN	PhD - HIGHER EDUC ADMIN		LECTURER	1	F	P	X				X
LINCOLN, MARY	MS - SECONDARY COUN		LECTURER	1	F	S	X			X	
MACE, CURTIS	MS - COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	M	P	X				X
MATUSZEK, KERRY	MS - COMMUNITY COUN		LECTURER	1	F	T/P		X		X	X
NAATZ, NICOLE	MS - COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	F	P	X				X
OSTERLOH, MARY	MS - EDUC PSYCHOLOGY		LECTURER	1	F	P	X			X	X
RICHARDS, CLYDE	MS - SCHOOL COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	M	S	X			X	
RICKETTS, WILLIAM	MS - COUNSELOR EDUC		LECTURER	1	M	P		X		X	X
ROANE, SARAH	MA - COUN PSYCHOLOGY		LECTURER	1	F	T	X				
SCHETTLER, LOEL	MS - COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	M	T/P			X	X	X
SHEPHERD, MARGARET	MA - ART THERAPY		LECTURER	1	F	T/P			X		X
THULL, BRYCE	MA - AGENCY COUNSELING		LECTURER	1	M	T/P			X		X

NOTES:

- 1** Highest degree earned in the field
- 2** Lecturer
- Instructor
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Professor
- 3** 1 = Caucasian/White
2 = African American/Black
3 = Hispanic
4 = Asian/Pacific Islander
5 = Indian/Alaskan
6 = No Response
- 4** T = teaching EDUC, methods courses
P = teaching professional courses for other school professional
S = supervising student teaching/practicum/internships

ITEM 5

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Please align highlights with the Conceptual Framework and Strategic Plan. Items included may be special projects and activities that have occurred Summer 2013, Fall 2013, and Spring 2014. Please record the highlight under the goal and action plan that align with the highlight. Examples include new or significantly revised programs, facility renovations, special student organizations projects, or major honors and events such as an accreditation review.

I. Major accomplishments as Dedicated Practitioners

DP #1: Identify and implement alternative course design and delivery approaches that reflect evidence based best practices.

- a) The unit faculty revised all Counseling courses (Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling) to assure measurable student outcomes were present, and aligned to CACREP standards. Evidence of student learning is being collected and systems for ongoing evaluation are in early stages.
- b) The Counseling Department continued refining its relationship with the School of Social Work in the delivery of three courses designed to allow students to attain the Licensed Alcohol Drug Counselor (LADC) credential. This partnership has posed logistic challenges, yet has the potential to benefit Counseling students when fully implemented.

DP#2: Align field experiences with program goals and deliver with more consistency and recognition for effectiveness and efficiency for students, community partners, and the college.

- a) The Counseling Department required part-time instructors, who supervise field experiences, to attend an orientation in March 2014. Updated syllabi were provided and the training stressed the importance of collecting consistent evidence of student learning outcomes. Presenters also emphasized the importance that courses taught by full-time and part-time instructors were consistent in objectives and outcomes.
- b) Experiences that take place throughout the school counseling field placement (ie, practica and internships) are documented and evaluated in an electronic portfolio. Since the COE server will no longer support the existing portfolio system, faculty worked to create a new portfolio using the commercial product, LiveText. Implementation will start summer of 2014.

DP #3: Incorporate a continuing professional development plan at the end of the program which identifies candidate goals as dedicated practitioners, reflective scholars, and responsible citizens.

- a) Degree candidates are asked to complete a self-evaluation during clinical experiences and are advised to meet requirements to apply for professional credentials. Graduating degree candidates are also required to meet with program faculty once every two weeks. Professional development plans will be enhanced as we move forward with portfolio improvement (ie, LiveText).

- b) Degree candidates volunteered to host the Chi Sigma Iota – Food Drive event during 2013/14. It was coordinated with other events celebrating the 20th Anniversary of CACREP accreditation.

DP #4: Develop and implement a comprehensive sustainable real-time assessment system that allows us to model assessment practices for students.

- a) The Counseling Department created a comprehensive assessment plan, including a monthly list of assessment activities to be carried out by the Department's assessment committee (i.e., 2 faculty and chair).
- b) The program has a dynamic system of evaluation that includes evaluation of: students, instructors, site supervisors and courses. Key assessments are diverse in nature and were implemented to match evaluation objectives.

II. Major accomplishments as Reflective Scholars

RS #1: Share, honor and promote research and creative activities internally and externally.

- a) The Counseling Department renewed its grant work with the Avenue Scholars program to support the funded graduate assistant position (2-year \$53,000) for 2013-2015. The graduate assistant, Katelyn Schany, completed her first year as the Department's "Avenue Scholars" graduate assistant during the 2013-14 academic year.

III. Major accomplishments as Responsible Citizens

RC #1: Increase candidates' knowledge and understanding of teaching students who are different from themselves (culturally responsive teaching).

- a) Two Counseling Department faculty (Drs. Luther and Bjornsen) took the lead in co-chairing the COE Diversity Committee. They have related college-wide events planned in the Community Engagement Center for Fall 2014.

RC#2: Emphasize the personal and professional dispositions that support effective classrooms and workplaces.

- a) New faculty voluntarily participated in the TABS process, to continually refine their teaching skills.
- b) Every counseling student was evaluated at the end of every course, by the instructor, concerning progress and professional disposition. The evaluation form is routed to each student's advisor for review and student consultation as necessary.

RC #3: Recruit and retain a diverse student body and faculty who are committed to working in high need areas.

- a) The Department admitted/enrolled 79 new counseling degree candidates (26 Summer 2013, 18 Fall 2013, and 35 Spring 2014).
- b) Counseling faculty collaborated with area school districts to recruit prospective school counselors, who are currently serving in teaching positions. The recruiting sessions were held at area district offices and school sites.

RC #4: Increase personal knowledge and presence in P-12 schools and in the community
Plan of Action:

- a) During 2013-14 we partnered with area k-12 schools to place 20 practicum and internship students who each contributed 700 hours of services to their respective P-12 school site(s).
- b) The Counseling Department advisory committee continued in 2013-14, which meets once each semester.
- c) The Department partnered with area agencies to place practicum and interns in areas hospitals, correctional facilities, shelters, and other human service agencies (36 to 40 per semester for 2013/2014). Each student completed over 700 hours of service to their clients, sites of the profession.

RC #5: Communicate the Mission & Vision of the College
Plan of Action:

- a) The Department of Counseling is working to use the content management system (CMS) to update the content of UNO's website.
- b) Additionally, for the first time a Program Outcomes report has been posted on the Department website.
http://coe.unomaha.edu/couns/docs/coun_outcomesreport_2013.pdf

ITEM 6 COMMUNITY COUNSELING CLINIC REPORT

The Community Counseling Clinic is a service of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Counseling Department, a part of the College of Education. The Counseling Department provides graduate students with a quality education, part of which is supplied by their practicum experiences within the Clinic. The clinic is staffed by community/agency graduate students, counseling under the supervision of the UNO Counseling Program faculty. These students have completed more than half of their course of studies and enter the clinic well-prepared, with a wide variety of back grounds and life experiences.

The clinic provides the Omaha community the option for quality counseling opportunities at a low cost. Services offered include:

- Individual counseling
- Marriage and couple counseling
- Family counseling
- Counseling for families of children with special needs
- Referrals
- Flexible hours
- Affordable rates
- Ease of parking

CLINIC USAGE – SUMMER 2013-SPRING 2014

Numbers are based on scheduled clients, and may reflect occasional inaccuracies. These numbers are relevant only to hours in the UNO clinic. Some sections of Practicum saw clients and secured contact hours off-site.

Total Clinic Clients: 194 (54-Summer 13; 71-Fall 13; 69-Spring 14)

Total Clinic Client Hours: 879 (190-Summer 13; 363-Fall 13; 326-Spring 14)

INCOME GENERATED

Summer 2013	\$2,601.00 – May-Aug. 13 (\$1,281.00 clinic; \$1,320.00 group exp.)
Fall 2013	\$1,854.00 – Sept.-Dec. 13 (\$1,524.00 clinic; \$330.00 group exp.)
Spring 2014	<u>\$3,510.00</u> – Jan.-Apr. 14 (\$1,420 clinic; \$2,090.00 group exp.)
	\$7,965.00

ITEM 7
UNIT STRATEGIC PLAN
IDENTIFYING GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Please align these goals with the Conceptual Framework, Strategic Goals and Plan of Action in Item 5.

1) Implement a consistent model for documenting student learning outcomes – Live Text

Goal: Faculty will design and implement LiveText-based portfolio that allows for assessment and documentation of student performance outcomes.

Conceptual Framework - DP#4

2) Successful submission of CACREP self-study and site visit.

In January of 2015, the unit shall submit a self-study along with application for reaccreditation in school counseling, and accreditation in clinical mental health. In the following months, the unit will also host a team of site visitors.

RC#2, RC #5, RS #1, DP #1, DP #2, DP #3, DP#4

3) Faculty Positions

Goal: Hire one full-time tenure track faculty member for 2014-15

To allow for program growth, while maintaining an overall faculty to student ratio of 10:1 (CACREP), the Department will form a search committee to identify candidates and ultimately hire a tenure-track assistant professor.

RC #3