

GO PERS!

UNK[®]

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY[™]

Communication Disorders

Honors & Scholarships | 2024

POWER *of the* **HERD** 

Outstanding Undergraduate Senior

- Bridget Slagle
- Hometown: Sargent,
- Major: Communication Disorders
- UNK Activities: I have been a member and officer in KSSLHA, Operation Smile and SO College, as well as a member of the Honors program.
- Career Plans: I plan to attend UNL and earn my master's degree in speech-language pathology, then hopefully return to rural Nebraska and become an SLP!
- Fondest Memories: It is hard to choose just one, but I would say some of my favorite memories have been playing Jeopardy in Mrs. Wilson's class to review for tests or our class discussions during Professional Issues!



Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher

- Marlee Nebesniak
- Grew up in Omaha, Moved to Ord at the age of 15
- Major: Communication Disorders
- UNK Activities: 2022-2024 /CDIS Ambassador
- Career Plans: Start grad school at UNK in the fall 2024 and go from there!!
- Fondest Memories: My fondest memory of my undergrad would have to be how close the CDIS faculty and students get. I completed my undergrad in 3 years, and so I can't wait to see what these next 2 years have in store!



Outstanding Graduate Scholar

Holly Rockenbach

- Hometown: York, NE
- Major: Speech-Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: Graduate Assistant for CDIS
- Career Plans: Elementary SLP for Elkhorn Public Schools at West Bay Elementary and Arbor View Elementary
- Fondest Memories: Cohort Christmas parties!!



Outstanding Graduate Researcher

Kiley Allgood

- Hometown: North Bend, NE
- Major: Speech-Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: GSA, graduate research assistant
- Career Plans: Elementary SLP at Patriot Elementary with Papillion Community Schools
- Fondest Memories: Co-treating a client with my friend, Holly Rockenbach, and forming a friendship through our time collaborating and preparing, walks to get coffee between classes and clients, nights we went out for Mexican food as a group to decompress and check in with one another!



UNK[®]

POWER of the **HERD**

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA at KEARNEY



Outstanding Graduate Researcher

Gracie Lopez

- Hometown: Hastings, NE
- Major: Speech-Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: Member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc., Order of Omega Honor Society, Greeks Advocating for Healthy Lifestyles, Multicultural Greek Council
- Career Plans: Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist at Mary Lanning Healthcare Outpatient Clinic
- Fondest Memories: I loved our Christmas parties at the end of the fall semester! We always ate great food and played fun games! I also loved grabbing coffee and studying with my cohort.



Outstanding Graduate Clinician

- Elisa Backes
- Major: Speech-Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: Basketball
- Career Plans:
- Fondest Memories:



Outstanding Graduate Clinician

- Anna DeSordi
- Major: Speech Language Pathology
- UNK Activities:
- Career Plans:
- Fondest Memories:



Scholarship Awards

Department of Communication Disorders 2024

Dr. John Cochran Scholarship

This scholarship shall be awarded to full-time students majoring in Communication Disorders or Speech Pathology. Recipients shall have junior, senior, or graduate status, a minimum 3.0 GPA, shall have excellent clinical potential, be active in the student organization KSSLHA, and shall have expressed a desire to work in the area of Speech Pathology following graduation.



Dr. John Cochran Scholarship

• Laineey Sheffield

- Hometown: Council Bluffs, IA
- Major: Communication Disorders with a minor in special Education
- UNK Activities: KSSHLA, Resident Assistant, Social Media and Marketing for Residence Life, Intramural's, Research Assistant, Tour Guide, and involvement with the Newman Center
- Career Plans: Finish my undergraduate degree and get my Masters in Speech Pathology.
- Fondest Memories: Sonic runs with my friends, and volunteering at TOPS soccer.



Dr. John Cochran Scholarship

Kinley Helmer

- Hometown: Arthur, NE
- Major: Communication Disorders-Speech Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: Alpha Omicron Pi, CDIS Ambassador, Operation Smile Secretary, KSSLHA, Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Career Plans: In the fall of 2026 I plan to attend UNK for Graduate School. After completion I am hoping to attain a position in a school or clinical setting in a rural community.
- Fondest Memories: I've really enjoyed getting to meet some of my best friends and our sonic runs where we talk for hours. I also enjoy learning more about the speech language pathology field and getting to know my classmates.



Edna Larsen Memorial Scholarship

Established to help support students in the field of Speech Pathology who have completed a full year of college work. Selection shall be based on past academic achievement and demonstration of potential for future academic and professional accomplishments.



Edna Larsen Memorial Scholarship

Lily Siebert

- Hometown: Kearney, NE
- Major: Communication Disorders with a minor in Special Education
- UNK Activities: Gamma Phi Beta Sorority Administrative Vice President, Kearney Student Speech Language and Hearing Association Vice President, Panhellenic Council VP of External Recruitment, Senator for the College of Education Student Affairs and Public Relations Chair, Order of Omega, Chancellor's Ambassador, Honors Program, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Peer Health Educators
- Career Plans: Work as an SLP with kids but I haven't decided what setting I prefer yet!
- Fondest Memories: My professor Nikki Plummer brought her one-year-old son Easton to hang out with us in class one time!



Jean A. Marshall Memorial Scholarship

To be awarded to students pursuing a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Candidates shall have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.



JEAN A. MARSHALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jean's son had language development problems which encouraged her to enter the field of speech-language pathology. She later focused her work on children with autism and early childhood education.

"The earlier we intervene, the better chance each child will have."



Jean Marshall Memorial Scholarship

Shawna Farber

- Hometown: Dighton, KS
- Major: Speech Language Pathology
- UNK Activities: KSSLHA Member
- Career Plans: At this time, I am interested in working with children with setting or in early intervention & would like to have my own practice some



Kearney

Sertoma Club

Scholarship

Awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student majoring in Communication Disorders or Special Education. The preference is for a student enrolled in Communication Disorders. Selection is based upon academic achievement.



Kearney Sertoma Club Scholarship

Dauida Hernandez

Hometown: Santa Maria, CA

Major: Speech-Language Pathology

UNK Activities: Operation Smile

Career Plans: I'm not certain where I'll land just yet, but my heart's desire is to work with kiddos and/or adults from low socioeconomic backgrounds in either a school or a skilled nursing facility.

Fondest Memories: My fondest memory is participating in the Loper Launch Enrichment Camp. I had the greatest time collaborating with peers in my cohort and with Mrs. Moody, Dr. Schneider-Cline, Dr. Roitsch, Jill Wilson, and so many others from the incredible UNK staff! I learned so much and I truly enjoyed watching the kiddos have so much fun and make progress in such a short time!



Kent Emal Communication Disorders Scholarship

This scholarship shall be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student majoring in Communication Disorders. Candidate must be in good academic standing.



Kent Emal

Communication Disorders Scholarship



Kent taught for the CDIS Department for 41 years, beginning in 1967 and retiring in 2008. He was pivotal in the grant and design of the Speech-Language-Hearing bus, and impacted thousands of students.

He was a strong advocate for stutterers and was a member of the National Stuttering Association as well as the American and Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Associations.



Kent Emal Communication Disorders Scholarship

Megan Wells

Hometown: Malvern Iowa

Major: Communication Disorders

UNK Activities: National Residence Hall Honorary, KSSH LA, Operation Smile

Career Plans: Speech Pathology in the schools or in outpatient clinic

Fondest Memories: Getting into my major-related classes & how much fun it is to learn about something I am so passionate about!





Kathryn O. Falconer & Mary Jo Morrow Scholarship

This scholarship shall be awarded to students majoring in Communication Disorders or Speech Language Pathology. Candidates shall have junior, senior or graduate level standing and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater. They will also be active members of KSSHILA.



Kathryn O. Falconer & Mary Jo Morrow Scholarship



Lainey Overton

- Hometown: McCook, NE
- Major: Communication Disorders
- UNK Activities: KSSLHA
- Career Plans: I intend to practice speech pathology in a school setting.
- Fondest Memories: Building relationships with the students in my classes inside and outside of class.





**WAYNE & VIRGINIA
MCKINNEY FAMILY
SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP**



Candidates shall be pursuing any major in the Department of Communication Disorders with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. First preference shall be given to students who are residents of Buffalo County, Nebraska. Second preference shall be given to students who are residents of any of the following central Nebraska counties: Adams, Custer, Dawson, Hall, Howard, Kearney, Phelps or Sherman. Third preference shall be given to any otherwise qualified student.

Wayne & Virginia McKinney Family Speech-Language Pathology Scholarship

Jenna Rauert

- Hometown: Wood River, NE
- Major: Communication Disorders
- UNK Activities: Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Chancellor's Ambassador, Honors Program, GAMMA member, Panhellenic Pi Chi Leader, Loper Leader, KSSLHA member, Undergrad Research Assistant, Order of Omega, and Intramurals
- Career Plans: I plan to continue with my undergrad and then possibly attend grad school here at UNK! Starting out, I would love to be a travelling SLP or work in a clinic!
- Fondest Memories: My fondest memories of UNK and the Communication Disorders department all involve the amazing people I have been fortunate to meet along the way. All of my classmates and professors have made this journey an amazing one so far and it has led me to have a great experience!



Congratulations

To all of the students in the
Department of
Communication Disorders!