

President's Newsletter

2015-2016, Issue 4



Department Chair Message

Welcome back to a new year and a new semester. With a new year comes an opportunity to set resolutions. Author William Arthur Ward said "opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them." I would hope that you will set resolutions to not miss the diverse opportunities that can be found at UNL. Look for opportunities to meet new people, grow professionally, and try something new. A great way to expand your horizons would be attending the job talks that will be taking place this semester. With the department hiring six new faculty members, you have the opportunity to witness firsthand what may be expected of you in future job interviews, while enhancing your knowledge of research and teaching skills. Do not miss these opportunities that will benefit your own professional development and prepare you for similar presentations you will make as you are looking for jobs.

- Dr. Richard Bischoff

Spring 2016 Celebrate Diversity Events

January 29 at 1:00 - Turkish food with Helen Raikes
February 26 at 1:00 - Brazilian with Cody Hollist and Paul Springer
March 11 at 1:00 - El Salvadorian food with Catia Guerrero
April 22 at 1:00 - New Mexico food with Gilbert Parra



What We've Been Up To....

The GSA finished out 2015 with our Healthy Holiday Treats Celebrate Diversity Event. The group made Grinch Kabobs, Skinny Holiday Fruit Crisp, and Black Bean-Corn Wonton Cups.



CYAF GSA

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Beating the Winter Blues. I know I know I know!!! Winter has just started but I am already anxiously waiting for the snow to be gone, the wicked wind of the north to stop blowing, and new blades of grass to spring up. If any of you are like me, winter is a time for hibernation. I just want to curl up with a blanket, binge watch Netflix, and do everything I can to not leave the house. The problem is, there is still work to be done which is always challenging because the short, cold days leave me lethargic and unmotivated. This results in an inner battle of succumbing to the winter blues, or making conscious decisions to take care of myself. Here are a few activities that help me beat the winter blues.

Find time to exercise. This where the battle between hibernation and winter living is the most challenging, but we need physical activity. This is especially true if you are sitting in and office or classes all day. You will feel better after you exercise, even if you can't walk the next day. If you can't make it to the gym, there are plenty workout videos or stretching exercises to help get your mojo going.

Go outside. Yes, I just said that. I realize that it feels like your lungs just turned into ice cubes, but we need the sun. There is nothing worse than going to school while it is dark and returning home while it is still dark. Find a time during your day to go for a walk and enjoy the fresh, albeit freezing, air. It only takes a few minutes, but will help recharge your battery.

Find ways to be social. No, I am not talking about being social with the latest episode of The Bachelor or Making of a Murderer. Our need for human connection doesn't freeze. If you are like me, this is more difficult in the winter when there are not BBQ's or games to attend. Join a club, start a study group, or attend the GSA activities to help your need for connection be satisfied during the great freeze.

Good luck this semester. I hope this advice can help you survive the Nebraska Winter!!! -Nathan Taylor (PhD Student)



MEET SOO-YOUNG HONG

What is your research? My overall research interest is in early childhood educational interventions and their relation to or effect on early childhood professionals and young children's learning and development. My primary research goal is to promote young children's cognitive and social competence through providing early childhood teachers with research-based and sustainable professional development opportunities in two key areas in childhood care education: 1) early childhood science education and 2) early childhood inclusion.

What advice to you have for grad students? Build relationships with fellow graduate students, and they will become your life-long collaborators, supporters, and advisors. Practice telling a story with your research ideas. A good story-teller makes a good scholarly writer. Participate in various research projects and attend as many presentations as you can. There will be at least one thing you will learn from each project and each presentation, and those experiences and learning will help you become an innovative research and teacher. Volunteer to spend time with the faculty candidates visiting UNL (e.g. campus tours, rides from and to campus/airport, etc). It gives you great opportunities to build relationships with future colleagues early on. I think half of my current relationships I built when I was a graduate student.

What don't people know about you? I was going to be a cellist, but I quit playing the cello during my junior year in high school because I hated practicing the same piece over and over again. At that time, I guess I didn't realize that research and teaching require the same type of persistence.



Announcements

1. PHD Surveys are due to Lisa King January 29th.
2. Mixed Methods Approaches to Facilitate Cultural Understanding of Diverse Samples. Feb. 5th, 11:30-1. Nebraska Union.
3. Funding in QUAL and Mixed Methods. February 8th, 11:30-12:30. Nebraska Union.
4. Creating a Research Poster. February 17th, 10 am and 3 pm. Love Library South.
5. Keep an eye out for the job talks this semester. Presentations will be sent out as they are scheduled.