

## UNO NSSLHA Update

Submitted by Andrea E. Kremeier, UNO NSSLHA Chapter President

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's NSSLHA chapter has been busy this semester. The chapter is full of close to 60 graduate and undergraduate students who are studying speech-language pathology, and more importantly, striving for excellence. The students of the chapter are finding themselves immersed in the Omaha community while advocating for and interacting with those who are affected by communication disorders.

The chapter's special relationship with Omaha's Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN) allows members ample opportunities to interact with children who have autism. Members help facilitate social interactions for the participants who may be very similar to the clients that these future speech-language pathologists will possibly work with someday soon. UNO NSSLHA loves volunteering for ASN's Rec Club, where children come and enjoy time working on social skills during the facilitation of activities that resemble those seen in physical education classes. Members of UNO NSSLHA also help out at monthly Pump it Up events where children can bounce and play while parents are able to attend support groups. UNO NSSLHA is lucky to have such a great partnership with the Autism Society of Nebraska!

To make sure it's members are getting the opportunity to work with a wide variety of potential future clients, UNO NSSLHA also participates in weekly Reach for It classes. During these classes, members take part in therapeutic dance and stretching activities with participants that are affected by Parkinson's disease. Members love interacting with the wonderful participants at Reach for It while also enjoying the relaxing elements of the class!

Not to be forgotten, advocacy is one of the most important things to UNO NSSLHA members. Members advocate often, whether it be through attending various walks in the community or sending in advocacy emails to their representatives. Members recently attended the Omaha Walk for Williams in September, in addition to the Nebraska Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech in August where they met up with UNL NSSLHA! Additional advocacy events UNO NSSLHA recently participated in include the following: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha Hands and Voices Fall Bash, and Omaha Children's Respite Care Center's Trunk-N-Treat. There are so many fun opportunities to advocate in the community, and UNO NSSLHA enjoys partaking in as many of them as possible!

Overall, UNO NSSLHA has enjoyed a wonderful beginning to their new school year. So what's next for these students? Aside from continuing to enjoy opportunities such as Reach for It, Rec Club, Pump it Up, and more, a group of UNO NSSLHA members also look forward to attending the 2015 ASHA Convention in Denver. The chapter has been chosen to serve as Ambassadors for the 2015 NSSLHA Experience – a special program put on by the NSSLHA Executive Council for all students attending the convention. Being chosen is an honor and also a big task, but after their experiences volunteering at this year's NSLHA Fall Convention, the members of UNO NSSLHA feel prepared and excited to take their work to a national level.



Pump it Up! UNO NSSLHA members volunteer for Omaha's Autism Society of Nebraska during "Pump it Up" events where children bounce and play while parents attend support groups.



Walk for Apraxia – A group of UNO NSSLHA students pose for a picture at the Nebraska Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech. This event took place in August 2015; members of UNL's NSSLHA organization participated as well.

