Dear Students, Faculty members and Recent Graduates:

I am headlining our spring 2014 Newsletter with a critical issue for school counselors and students. The Utah Legislature is currently in session and funding priorities are being established. Valerie Ross, President of the Utah School Counselor Association, sent the information below to current school counselors and friends of school counselors last Friday. The links will provide you with quick access to a sample letter (do not use verbatim), email addresses of legislators and Utah State Board of Education members across the state, and additional information about this vital topic. Governor Herbert last month called for funding to hire new school counselors to address the critical shortage, and to bring counselor-to-student ratios to the recommended 1:350. The climate has never been more positive, but we have to keep the topic at the top of the legislative education agenda if we want to see success. Competition for funds is always keen.

I know that all of you are very busy. However, I strongly urge you to contact your legislators and state board of education representatives either by email or phone right away. I have been told by many legislators that contacts make a TREMENDOUS difference in the way they vote. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD on this critical topic. Do not postpone this important responsibility or think that others will carry the baton for you—it simply does not happen that way. YOU have to make the effort. This very moment I am writing my own email to my legislators, to add to my contacts with them over the past few months. Join me and do the same.

USCA has created a sample letter of what you could send to your legislator to urge them to support funding for school counselors. Here is the link to the sample letter: http://www.utschoolcounselor.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Sample-Legislature-Letter.pdf. It is written in the voice of a school counselor. If you are not a school counselor, please make adjustments. We have also included link to a list of education appropriations subcommittee members. If you don’t know your election districts, go to http://elections.utah.gov/map/district-maps. For a list of State School Board Members, go to http://www.schools.utah.gov/board/Board-Members.aspx.

Please take a moment to visit USCA’s website to learn more about this important piece of legislation and what you can do to support it. The direct link to USCA’s webpage calling for legislative support can be found here: http://www.utschoolcounselor.org/news-and-events/call-for-legislative-support-for-school-counselors/.

-Camille
Courses: Summer 2014

Here are the classes you will need to register for summer term, 2014. You can register for these courses on Banner or stop in at a USU Education Center. Registration opens April 7, 2014.

Textbook information for Summer 2014 can be found online at: http://bookstore2.usu.edu/textbooks.php

**2012 Kaysville Cohort**

- PSY 6390: Program Evaluation in the Schools: Models and Guidelines (3 CR)
  - Lani Van Dusen, Instructor
  - May 8—June 19, 4:30-10:00pm

- PSY 6610: College and Career Readiness (3 CR)
  - Sandra Ameel, Instructor
  - June 26 – Aug 7, 4:30-10:00pm

- PSY 6810: Grant Writing (2 CR)
  - Marilyn Hammond, Jeffrey Sheen, Instructors
  - May 5–Aug 8, Online

**2013 Statewide Cohort:**

- PSY 6350: Intro to Theories of Intervention in Psychology (3 CR)
  - Amy Kleiner, Instructor
  - May 6-June 20, 5:15-10:30pm

- PSY 6340: Consultation in the Schools (3 CR)
  - Thomas Wiltbank, Instructor
  - June 24 -Aug 5, 5:15-10:30pm

- PSY 6260: Career Development for School Counselors (2 CR)
  - Kathryn Bitner, Instructor
  - May 5—Aug 8, Online

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**Faculty Spotlight: Lani VanDusen**

Psychology 6390: Program Evaluation in the Schools: Models and Guidelines

- **What is your favorite thing about teaching in the program?** Knowing that as students take back out in the field principles and strategies they have learned in the program, they will be better prepared to face the challenges of the educational system and will be well-equipped to improve that system.

- **What advice do you have to students in the Program?** If you are just starting, look for opportunities to apply what you are learning in your own performance as a student and in working with others—this could include keeping a journal of ideas/practices that you can refer to once you are in the schools. If you are about to graduate, now is a good time to establish the goals you want to achieve as a counselor and/or of a counseling program—in this way when you get into the hectic and often chaotic world of schools, you have something to ground yourself and to help prioritize what you will do.

- **What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?** Golf—I’m not very good but I enjoy that I can’t think of anything else besides my next shot when I’m out on the course, which gives me an opportunity to let go of work and any other challenges I’m facing.

- **If you could have lunch with anyone from history who would it be?** Jane Austen—I’d like to know why she really never married and I think it would be fun to learn who were the inspirations for her books.

- **Who and what has made the biggest impact on your career?** Actually, it has been the economy. With tough financial times, it is hard to find the resources and support to do the work in the same way I have in the past.
**Student Spotlight: Danie Natter, 2011 Statewide**

**Introduction**
I live a fast-paced crazy life and would not have it any other way. I was lucky enough to marry my best friend 10 years ago. We have two amazing beautiful children. Tag is 4 years old and a wild man. Eleanor is 2 and makes sure that she is always the boss. I currently work at Hunter High School (interesting fact: Hunter is the High School that I graduated from) as a Health and School Success teacher, I am also the head drill team coach.

**Why did you go into school counseling?**
I am extremely passionate about education, especially in the secondary schools. I knew that it was in my best interest to get a Master’s degree and the USU school counseling program kind of fell into my lap. With this program, I was able to continue my teaching and coaching career while still going to school. As a school success teacher I am a liaison between the students and the counselors and have found my love in the school counseling side of education. I found that all of my favorite parts of teaching were also things I will still be doing as a counselor. I love being an advocate for the student and also for the school and I feel that as a school counselor I have found the perfect place to do that.

**What advice would you give to incoming students in the school counseling program?**
Don’t be overwhelmed. Take it day by day, sometimes hour by hour! Be prepared for hard work but also for one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

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**Student Spotlight: Michele Meyerhoffer, 2012 Kaysville**

**Introduction**
I have been married to my husband Trent for 16 years and we have three daughters. Brynlee 11, Camryn 8, and Avery 5. I live in Plain City which is west of Ogden. My kids definitely keep me busy going from one thing to the next. I love summer, movies and reading a good book. Going to my family’s cabin, mountain biking and working in my garden are some of my most favorite things to do.

**Why did you go into school counseling?**
I decided to start the SC program because I want to help kids succeed. Being able to make a difference in someone’s life is something I have always wanted to be a part of. I have enjoyed working with and around kids and knew achieving my goal to be a school counselor is something I would not regret.

**What advice would you give to incoming students in the SC program?**
Not to worry about getting perfect grades all the time. Yes, grades are important, but don’t forget to enjoy learning about the material. You will gain so much more and hopefully sleep better too!

**What will you do after graduation?**
I would love to get a school counseling position in an elementary or secondary school. Each one of these age groups are so unique and different that I look forward to seeing where I will end up.

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**Student Spotlight: Lori Baird, 2013 Statewide**

**Introduction**
I was born and raised in Utah. I’m 26 years old, 6’1, and love to play volleyball. I also love the outdoors, playing the piano, and watching movies. I recently married my husband who is my best friend. Something interesting about me is that I have competed in volleyball tournaments in Russia, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, and Austria.

**Why did you go into school counseling?**
I decided on the school counseling program as a result of several personal experiences. A main contributing factor was my time spent in Brazil and the realization of how influential education is on a person’s future. I also love working with kids.

**What advice would you give to incoming students in the SC program?**
My advice to incoming students is to get to know the people in your cohort. They will become some of your best friends and biggest support. They’re going through the same things as you and they’ll be there to encourage and cheer you on when it’s hard (as well as you for them). Plus, who doesn’t like hanging out with their friends every week?

**What will you do after graduation?**
I hope to work in a middle school or junior high setting as a counselor. I feel like it’s at this age that kids are faced with new and hard decisions that truly affect the rest of their lives.
This is an exciting time for our Spring 2014 graduates. Congratulations! Follow the information and procedures which follow to help you prepare for this momentous occasion.

Graduation Procedures: You will be hearing from Joan Rudd regarding commencement and graduation via an email in mid-March. PROMPTLY FILL OUT THE CHECK-LIST SHE INCLUDES IN HER EMAIL SO EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE FOR GRADUATION.

If you officially graduated in December, but waited to walk this May, please email Joan Rudd to remind her at: joan.rudd@usu.edu

Graduate Hooding Ceremony:
The graduate hooding ceremony will be held on Friday, May 2, 2014 at 1:30 in USU’s Spectrum. Prior to the Hooding Ceremony, you are invited to attend a lovely catered buffet luncheon and program for graduates and their family and friends hosted by the School Counselor Education Program. The luncheon will be held in the Taggart Student Center. A formal invitation with an RSVP reply card for the luncheon will be sent to you in March.

Licensure: You may apply for licensure now. Please refer to the e-mail you received from Camille on February 3rd concerning the steps to apply.

Graduation Day Schedule
Friday, May 2nd, 2014

11:00 Graduation Luncheon
- Taggart Student Center

12:30 Assembly of Graduates
- Nelson Field House

1:00 Academic Procession
- Nelson Field House to Spectrum

1:30 Graduation Ceremony
- Dee Glen Smith Spectrum

Praxis: YOU MUST TAKE THE PRAXIS TEST TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE. When you go in to take the exam, be sure to indicate that you want a copy of the test report sent to USU College of Education and Human Services and to yourself. When you get the report e-mail or fax a copy to Camille Odell . She will need this to approve you for licensure.

Graduation Checklist

- Complete the graduation checklist sent via email by Joan Rudd PROMPTLY.
- Purchase your Cap and Gown at the Grad Fair on March 18-19th in the USU Campus Store, OR order online at http://campuststore.usu.edu/
- You will be receiving an invitation to our graduation luncheon. Return the RSVP to Alex Spendlove by April 18th
- You will also be receiving a request for a picture of yourself, and a few words for our graduation booklet. Return these two items to Alex by April 18.
At a recent faculty meeting Camille reported on hiring information for graduates from our program for the past two years, 2009 and 2010 cohorts. Faculty members suggested that this information be shared with our current and prospective students. We are happy to share with you the positive findings our recent graduate hire survey.

We are always thrilled to hear of your successes in the workplace and encourage all of you to keep in touch. As part of our accreditation with TEAC-CAEP, we are required to gather job placement information from our graduates. As each of you graduate from the program and move forward with your careers, we would ask that you be willing to respond to our short surveys as you receive them. In addition, after you graduate, please keep us informed of your current email address so we may contact you about job openings and current issues in the field. We look forward to hearing about where your careers take you!

The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.
- Charles Dubois
Melanie’s father died in a car accident. He had been on his way home after working the night shift. The following day was a clerical day for the school staff to prepare for parent/teacher conferences. There were no children at the school, but Melanie’s grandmother called and said Melanie wanted to come and talk with me. The grandmother brought her in. I had worked with this family for several years and knew the dad was a single parent who loved his children dearly. Melanie cried as we held each other and asked why this had to happen to her. She said the worst part was that her daddy would never get to come to her parent conference to hear about her progress and see all her awards. We went to her classroom and got all her awards, then copied and laminated them. We gathered all the papers the teacher would have shown Melanie’s dad, including her grade card and a guidance project. The guidance theme was heroes, and Melanie had made a hero sandwich out of construction paper for her dad, labeling it with all the qualities that made her dad a hero to her. She put the finishing touches on it and talked about the funny things that her daddy had done. We laughed, then we cried. Then she said something I will never forget. “Daddy would have liked it that I came in to talk to you. He trusted you and said you were the nicest person he knew.” It was my turn to cry. I am honored to have had the privilege of walking along this path with this family.

- Kathy Reschke, Elementary School Counselor