Greetings,

School Counselors across the U.S. and here in the state of Utah have a great deal to celebrate this spring. Beginning at the national level, the U.S. Department of Education announced in March that the nation’s high school graduation rate hit 81 percent in 2012-13. Never before have four out of five American students completed high school. In related good news, the new national graduation rate data show that the gap between minority and white students is closing. Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, the graduation rates for American Indian, black, and Hispanic students increased by nearly four percentage points over two years, outpacing growth for all students. (U.S. Department of Education, March 2015). To read more about these national milestones, click here U.S. Department of Education.

At the state level, school counselors are celebrating passage of House Bill 198, Strengthening College and Career Readiness. This bill was a dream of school counselors in the State of Utah who want to have the opportunity to be tops in their field when it comes to preparing all students for education after high school. HB198 directs the Utah State Office of Education to create an optional certification in College and Career Readiness for school counselors. One of the three components of the certificate is completion of USU’s three-credit course in college and career readiness, a course which all USU students take as part of the program of study. HB198 provides funding for school counselors in the field to take the course from USU or the U of U, and to engage in the other two components free of charge.

At the program level, I and the school counseling faculty are excited to announce 10 scholarships in the amount of $500 which eligible students can apply for to be used beginning fall 2015. The scholarship is intended for excellent students who have financial difficulties due to low income. Additional information about the scholarship is located on Page 3 of this newsletter. The application will be available in late June.

On the individual student level, we celebrate with our 30 students who began the Program in 2012 in Kaysville, and who completed the program this past December, or will be completing this May. Congratulations! Those of you who are finishing your first or second year of the program also deserve congratulations—you are a step closer to realizing your own dreams.

Good luck with your finals and congratulations on making your dreams reality.

Camille J. Odell, Director
USU School Counselor Education Program

Message from Camille

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT
Walt Disney
Courses: Summer 2015

Here are the classes you will need to register for summer term, 2015. You can register for these courses on Banner or stop in at a USU Education Center. Registration opened April 1, 2015

Textbook information for Summer 2015 can be found online at: [http://bookstore2.usu.edu/textbooks.php](http://bookstore2.usu.edu/textbooks.php)

### 2013 Statewide Cohort

- **PSY 6390**: Program Evaluation in the Schools: Models and Guidelines (3 CR)
  - Nancy Karpowitz, Instructor
  - May 12—June 23, 5:15-10:30pm

- **PSY 6610**: College and Career Readiness for School Counselors (3 CR)
  - Sandra Ameel, Instructor
  - June 30 – Aug 11, 5:15-10:30pm

- **PSY 6700**: Grant Writing (2 CR)
  - Marilyn Hammond, Jeffrey Sheen, Instructors
  - May 11– Aug 14, Online

### 2014 Kaysville Cohort

- **PSY 6350**: Intro to Theories of Intervention in Psychology (3 CR)
  - Amy Kleiner, Instructor
  - May 14-June 25, 4:30-10:00pm

- **PSY 6340**: Consultation in the Schools (3 CR)
  - Thomas Wiltbank, Instructor
  - July 2 - Aug 13, 4:30-10:00pm

- **PSY 6260**: Career Development for School Counselors (2 CR)
  - Kathryn Bitner, Instructor
  - May 11—Aug 14, Online

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School Counselor Education Program Scholarship

The USU Professional School Counselor Education Program is pleased to announce a new need-based scholarship for excellent students who can demonstrate low income status. The scholarship will be offered each year to first and second year students in the Professional School Counselor Education program. Ten $500 scholarships will be awarded each academic year. Students can qualify to receive 2 consecutive awards per academic year, meaning that a student can receive an annual award of $1,000. Students in their second year may apply for the scholarship even if they were awarded the scholarship their first year. Students in their internship year are not eligible for the scholarship.

Detailed information about the scholarship will be sent to students via email at the end of June.
Student Spotlight: Rachel Terry, 2012

Introduction - I grew up in Northern California and did my undergrad at BYU. My husband and I got married in 2012 and our daughter was born in August 2014. We live in Provo and enjoy going for walks on the Provo River Parkway and swimming at the Provo Rec Center. I enjoy baking sweet treats and watching Vikings. Before we figured out I was pregnant, we were planning on owning a hedgehog... now we have a baby instead.

Why did you go into school counseling? I've known I want to be a school counselor since high school so I'm one of the lucky ones. USU had a flexible and accredited program and I really wanted to be with the teachers face-to-face, so I chose the Kaysville cohort.

What are you post-graduation plans? My post-graduation plans are to (hopefully!) get a job as a high school counselor. I would like to work in Provo School District. I love working with teenagers and helping them figure out what they want to do with their college or careers.

What advice would you give to incoming students in the school counseling program? My advice to incoming students would be to buckle down for the tough classes—they're going to be incredibly helpful when you start your school counseling job! And there is definitely a light at the end of the tunnel.

Introduction - I was born and raised in Utah, and live in Orem with my lovely wife Libby and our two little girls. I attended Dixie, BYU, and SLCC before this USU program. I'm a big Disney geek, I love playing basketball and I like to sing and act. I love to travel and spend time with my family. My 4-year old has a rare disease called Xeroderma Pigmentosum, where she can't be exposed to sunlight. (See www.annaliberty.com). Through that, I am learning how to work through unique challenges and gaining empathy for physical problems my students might be facing.

Why did you go into school counseling? I've always wanted a career helping young people. My wife is an elementary school teacher, and I'm inspired by her and the impact she has on her students. I've really enjoyed my practicum hours at Lone Peak High School where I've been able to learn from great counselors and have real-world experience. I also look forward to a career where my wife and I share the same holidays and summers off!

What advice would you give to incoming students in the SC program? I would encourage new students to be careful not to fall behind. Get your assignments done early. Also, rely on your new friends in the program. Help and support each other. The time flies by and you'll learn so much. Also, get organized - find a way to keep the great resources the professors will provide so you can find and use them in your career as a counselor.

Student Spotlight: Sara Carver, 2014 Kaysville

Introduction - My name is Sara Carver. I’m 21 years old. I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Family Studies from Weber State University. I’m in my first year of the School Counseling graduate program. I grew up in South Ogden and currently live in Pleasant View. I come from a family of five, with two younger siblings. I love being outdoors, especially running and hiking. I also love going shopping! Something interesting about me is that I’ve ran three half marathons this last year.

Why did you go into school counseling? My dad is a licensed therapist, which led me to think about the field of counseling. I started talking to different professionals in the field and happened to talk Jennifer Hartman, a school counselor from Sky View High School. She had been doing school counseling for more than 15 years and still seemed so excited and interested in her work. This helped me decide that school counseling was the career I wanted to pursue.

What advice would you give to incoming students in the SC program? My advice to incoming students is to come prepared to learn and know that the professors are always willing to help!
This is an exciting time for our Spring 2015 graduates. Congratulations! Follow the information and procedures below to help you prepare for this memorable occasion.

Graduation Procedures: You should have heard from Joan Rudd in the School of Graduate Studies regarding commencement and graduation via an email in mid-March. PROMPTLY FILL OUT THE CHECK-LIST INCLUDED IN THE EMAIL SO EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE FOR GRADUATION.

Graduation Luncheon: You are invited to attend a delicious 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 International Lounge. A formal invitation with an RSVP reply card for the luncheon was sent to you in March. Please contact Alex Spendlove if you did not receive an invitation.

We will be recognizing Dr. Carolyn Barcus as she retires from the program.

Graduate Hooding Ceremony: The graduate hooding ceremony will be held on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 1:30 in USU’s Spectrum.

Licensure: You may apply for licensure now. Please refer to the e-mail you received from Camille on January 6th concerning the steps to apply.

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.

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Graduation Day Schedule

Friday, May 1st, 2015

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

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Graduation Checklist

- Complete the graduation checklist sent via email by Joan Rudd
- You may purchase your cap and gown online at [http://campusstore.usu.edu/](http://campusstore.usu.edu/) (The color for the College of Education is blue)
- You should have received a mailed invitation to our graduation luncheon. Return the RSVP to Alex Spendlove by April 17th
- You have received a request via email for a picture of yourself and a few words for our graduation booklet. Return these two items to Alex by April 17th
We would like to thank Dr. Barcus for her years of service in the USU Professional School Counselor Education Program. Dr. Barcus has been affiliated with the program for three decades. During this time she has instructed students in group counseling and issues of diversity. For many years she provided leadership for the internship portion of the program. Dr. Barcus has also served on the program’s admissions committee.

Dr. Barcus plans to devote much of her time in retirement to working on her beautiful ranch located in Cache Valley.

We express our sincere gratitude for all of her many contributions to the students of Utah State University. She will be missed.

We wish her many years of enjoyment in her retirement. Thank you, Dr. Barcus!

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**Faculty Spotlight: Jeff Sheen**

Psychology 6700: Grant Writing

**What is your favorite thing about teaching in the program?**
I love the opportunity to associate with other faculty and students who are all so passionate about making the world a better place.

**What advice do you have to students in the Program?**
For those just starting the program I would say, remember to pace yourself, this is not a sprint. Keep your oxygen mask on and be sure to take care of yourself as you go. For those about to graduate I would say congratulations on persevering through all the challenges that led you to this point and time. As you go forward never stop learning and never stop trying to improve the world around you.

**What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?**
Spending time with my minions. Watching the wonder on my kids’ faces as they experience new things is the best hobby ever. Trying to see the world through their eyes on a daily basis is an amazing, humbling adventure.

**If you could have lunch with anyone from history who would it be?**
The Buddha (the original one not the one from Fox 13 News).

**Who and what has made the biggest impact on your career?**
At each crossroad of my life there has been an individual who has helped me see my potential and encouraged me to keep learning. More often than not that person has been some type of teacher.