

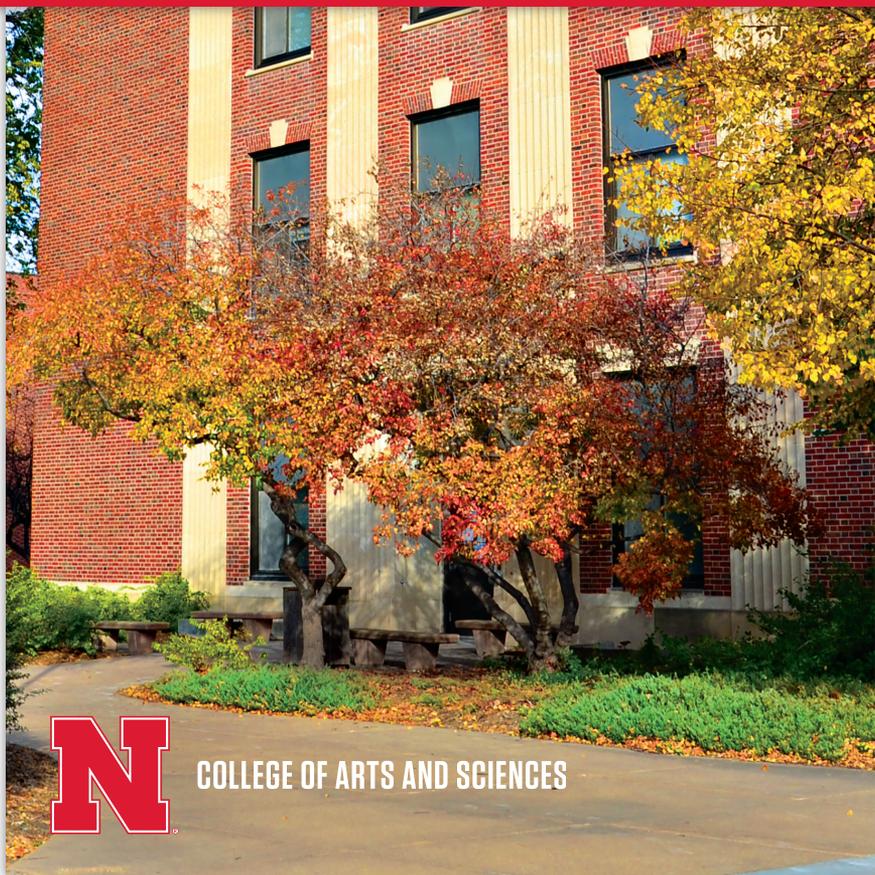
# *Welcome Freshmen*

**to the Department of English**

📍 201 Andrews Hall

☎ 402.472.1811

🌐 [unl.edu/english/advising-office](http://unl.edu/english/advising-office)



**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

# Welcome to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and the Department of English

The English Department's freshmen mentoring program is a joint effort between the English Undergraduate Advising Office staff and the English Student Advisory Board. All first-year English and Film Studies majors are eligible and encouraged to enroll by completing the email entry form in July after the conclusion of New Student Enrollment: [www.unl.edu/english/freshmen-mentoring-program-registration-form](http://www.unl.edu/english/freshmen-mentoring-program-registration-form).

This undergraduate mentoring program centers on the philosophy that peer mentoring for first-year English and Film Studies majors promotes success in college by encouraging participation in academic activities and engagement in the department's mission of *imaginative reasoning*.

*Imaginative reasoning* is the ability to use the imagination to think hypothetically about the world in all its diversity—the past, present, and future, the local and the global. Such an ability, we believe, enables all of us to engage critically with social and political phenomena because it allows us to re-envision what is possible and to dream up audacious solutions to seemingly insoluble problems, solutions that might at first seem implausible but, once dreamt up—once imagined—suddenly seem possible.

By being part of our peer mentoring program in the first year at UNL, students will have the opportunity to build strong relationships with faculty and with their fellow English & Film Studies students. As well, students will learn about ways to contribute to the intellectual life and creative activities of the department.

[www.unl.edu/english/mission-statement](http://www.unl.edu/english/mission-statement)

## Benefits

**Upon successful completion of the freshmen mentoring program, first-year English and Film Studies majors will:**

- 1 Get to know successful peers in the English and Film Studies programs
- 2 Attend events to help crystalize goals related to departmental scholarships, internships, research, & professional development

- 3 Obtain advice on recommended courses for the spring semester
- 4 Learn about faculty research interests and publications in order to identify potential future mentors
- 5 Have fun participating in department events

## Requirements

**First-year students enrolled in the UNL English Freshmen mentoring program are required to:**

- ✓ Attend three fall events:
  1. **Freshmen Welcome - August 25**  
1:30-2:45pm, 229 Andrews, Bailey Library
  2. **Freshmen Advising for Spring - October 25**  
3:30-6:30pm, 229 Andrews, Bailey Library
  3. **End-of-Semester Celebration - December 1**  
1:30-2:45pm, 229 Andrews, Bailey Library
- ✓ Communicate with assigned mentor
- ✓ Meet with the English Undergraduate Advising Office staff

### IMAGINATIVE REASONING IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Imaginative reasoning feeds into and supports a number of core values our department affirms, including:

- ✓ pursuing social justice
- ✓ affirming diversity
- ✓ engaging with a broad array of real and imagined communities based on empathetic understanding
- ✓ fostering a sense of belonging
- ✓ instilling a desire for civic engagement

*Mentors are “the magnets in the many compasses an artist wears out over a lifetime.”*

— Deborah Digges

## Meet the English Advising Team

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 **KELLY PAYNE**  [kpayne2@unl.edu](mailto:kpayne2@unl.edu)

In addition to serving as the English & Film Studies major advisor, I teach courses in American literature, professional practices, and mentoring in English. I received my bachelors degree from Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, Indiana) and my masters degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In my time away from campus, I enjoy reading novels, walking my boxer puppy, reading Roald Dahl's books to my son, and traveling to Belgium and other locations in Europe.

## Meet the Mentors: 2017-2018

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 **ANNE ABERLE**

Anne is a senior this year and she comes to UNL from Franklin, Nebraska but after spending a semester of her junior year studying abroad, she's decided that France is her true home! As a double major in English and French with a minor in Women & Gender Studies, she approaches her English studies with one phrase in mind from the department's mission statement: "the 'world' is not just 'out there'—elsewhere; it is in fact right here in Lincoln, Nebraska." After graduating, Anne plans on pursuing a career in the publishing industry and nothing could better prepare her for that than her experiences at UNL. She spent a summer as an editorial assistant at Prairie Schooner and is thrilled to be spending this fall semester interning with a literary agent based in New York City. She looks forward to helping new English majors make the department their home in the same way that she's been able to. In her free time, you can find her re-reading her favorite books and consuming copious amounts of caffeine.



 **DANIELLE BISCHOFF**

Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Dani is a junior English and Communication Studies double major. She is involved in the club Young Democrats on campus, and enjoys volunteering at Planned Parenthood. In her free time, she likes to binge watch the latest Netflix shows with her dogs. Dani has always been passionate about reading and writing, and looks forward to incorporating her passion into her future career. She can't wait to work closely with first-year students that share her love for literature and film.



 **GABRIELLE STROUP**

I'm from Lincoln, Nebraska, and I'm currently a junior Film Studies major with a triple minor in Theatre, Dance and English. I play soccer three to four days out of the week, and I'm a die hard USA Soccer fan. I'm a master at watching Netflix, with Bob's Burgers and One Tree Hill being my absolute favorite series. I'm also a writer for the Real Nebraska Girls website. I look forward to working with students who are just as passionate about what they're studying, just like I am.



 **XINYUE WANG**

I come from Beijing, China. I'm interested in various things. Some of my favorites are dancing, writing, traveling, painting. Other than these, just name it because I'd like to try different things! Life is just like a wonderful adventure, so why don't we enjoy it!

I'm a senior Communication Studies and English major, with a psychology minor. Helping others is always one thing that I enjoy, particularly, when someone achieves his/ her goal because of my help. During more than three years' studying at UNL, I found that what I'm studying helps me become a competent person, allowing me to help others better. The coursework such as interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, and intercultural communication allow me to acquire skills to communicate with different people in a proper way, which are really important in our daily life. English study allows me to think critically, which

I think is also an ability that most of people need. Additionally, studying English help me to realize what I want to do for my life. Because I like helping others, I'm thinking to be an advisor or life coach in the future, helping students find their loves and achieve their goals. I think that when I help others become better, I'm also developing myself. What I'm studying could assist me in being an advisor or life coach.

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 **JERICA BURGESS**

I am a senior double majoring in English and Communication Studies, with a minor in Leadership. I am very passionate about education, and my declared academic program will serve me well as I pursue graduate school for Educational Administration-Student Affairs. My dream is to work with college students one day, either as an academic advisor or professor (or both!). My hobbies include reading, watching Harry Potter, and doing yoga. I am from Lincoln, Nebraska (Go Big Red!). The faculty at the University, especially in the English department, have influenced my college career in so many positive ways. Kelly Payne, the English & Film Studies Academic Advisor, has given me the opportunity to serve as the English Advising Intern for Fall 2017, and I am so excited to mentor students in English & Film Studies. I am very passionate about working with students. I enjoy encouraging others to get involved at UNL and in their area of study. There are so many amazing opportunities at UNL, and I can't wait to serve as a role model for the English department. When I was a freshman, I had an English major mentor named Dani. She met with me throughout the year to see how my classes were going, and helped me develop my resume. It was awesome to have a role model to look up to in my major during my freshman year!

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 **BERKLEY FIERRO**

My name is Berkley Fierro and I am a Senior from Rapid City, SD majoring in English and minoring in Criminal Justice and Women's & Gender Studies. After graduating in December of 2017, I plan to attend law school in the Fall of 2018 and pursue a career in

corporate/ industry law. In addition to being a second year ESAB peer mentor, here at UNL I serve as the President of my sorority, am an active Intramural Sports employee, help lead the Pre-Law Club, and do work with the transfer-student honor society. I also enjoying paging for the Nebraska Legislature last spring. From these experiences, I have developed my leadership abilities, my public speaking skills, and have learned how to better work in a team with peers. I love that our Department focuses on Imaginative Reasoning because I personally value that I have gained this perspective when writing papers, conducting research, and just viewing the world, in and outside of English classes. I'm looking forward to mentoring again this semester because I feel it is my civic duty to facilitate the success and accomplishment of others; the world is not functioning at its fullest capacity until all of it's citizens are! This is why I do my best to ensure everyone has what they need to succeed. My biggest mentor in life has been my mother, who always told me to never settle for good enough, that self-empowerment is the biggest key to one's happiness, and "what do you have to lose?"

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 **JADE ZUEHLKE**

I was born in Daegu, South Korea. I was adopted at six-months-old and have lived in Omaha, Nebraska ever since. I am a huge Duke Basketball fan and enjoy traveling, running, and good eats. I am majoring in English and philosophy, minoring in communications studies, and am pursuing a Public Policy Analysis Certificate. Within my English major, I am concentrating in composition and rhetoric. Upon graduation, I hope to further my education by in law school or in a Master's program studying public policy. Ultimately, I would like to utilize my writing and critical thinking skills from my coursework as a member of the FBI or CIA as a communications liaison or public affairs specialist. I am looking forward to mentoring because I remember how desperately I needed someone to look up to beginning my major in English. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my English major up until the summer of 2016 and I owe it to my mentor as well as my advisors for granting me endless

opportunities until I found my niche in composition and rhetoric. Through ESAB, I hope to have that same impact on my mentees and to be there every step of the way through both the brilliant and confusing times during their undergraduate careers.

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 **JENNA BRENDE**

Jenna is a senior English major and business minor from Renner, South Dakota graduating in December. She served as the Undergraduate Advising Intern in the English Advising Office for Spring 2017 and is currently continuing work with Career Services as a Peer Career Guide while working on her thesis: Imaginative Mentoring through Literature: Reading to Overcome Obstacles in College. With ambitions to pursue graduate school in Educational Administration/ Student Affairs in the future, Jenna thrives on helping students through their college experiences. Jenna's desire to help students know they deserve to take up space is emphasized in our department's mission of imaginative reasoning, where we acquire skills that "connects us to others, leads us to look and work across boundaries, including, importantly, the boundary of our own selves and most immediate communities." Because Kelly and the English Student Advisory Board have helped her find a home at UNL, Jenna is looking forward to making her own mentees feel welcome in our department. When not found doing homework or studying, Jenna is most likely watching Harry Potter or The Office, doing yoga, or hanging out with her cat, Rue (and sometimes, all of the above).

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 **LEE KENNY**

Lee is a junior English and Psychology major with a minor in Math. She hopes to pursue a career in helping disadvantaged youth, whether through teaching, writing, or social work. She stays busy serving as the Vice President of Operations for Kappa Delta, working at the Writing Center, copyediting at the Daily Nebraskan, volunteering with the Writers Lincoln Initiative with Mark of Honor, and loving leadership as a senior counselor for NHRI. In her free time, she

loves to watch Parks and Recreation. Her friends describe her as "a weird combination between Leslie Knope and April Ludgate." Her favorite classes have been Composition & Rhetoric classes taught by Katie McWain and Dr. Shari Stenberg. She encourages all students to get to know their professors, because her professors have given her many opportunities and taught her to love fields of English she had not even considered! As a peer mentor, she is excited to form relationships with students in the department and encourage learning to accomplish her favorite part of the English department's mission statement — "we help students develop their capacities in imaginative reasoning so that in their lives as citizens of the world and members of their local communities they can discern connections and synthesize across seemingly incommensurable ideas or beliefs."

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 **HAILEY FISCHER**

Hailey is a 3rd year English and Film Studies double major and Business minor from Loveland, Colorado. She loves to read, write, watch movies, and hike. After her time at the university, she hopes to pursue a career in publishing or writing for film, and would like to publish her own work someday. If none of this works out, she plans on becoming Batman. This will be Hailey's second year being part of the English Student Advisory Board, and she has been greatly inspired by the fellow mentors and students she has gotten to meet being part of the program. She has enjoyed many of the film studies classes offered through the department, and was inspired to add a Film Studies major after taking English 239 Film Directors. She would encourage every student to take a film or creative writing class during their time at UNL. Hailey loves getting to know fellow English and Film Studies majors through mentoring, as well as getting to share common interests and learn new things through the experience.

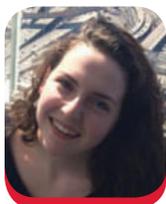
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 **ARAYA SANTO**

I have lived in several areas, but I graduated high school in Omaha, which is the biggest city in Nebraska. I love to immerse myself in books (preferably fantasy and paranormal, with some romance and a kick-butt heroine). I am currently trying to publish one of my books, and I also write poetry. My hobbies include photography and obsessing over dogs. I'm an English and history double major with a minor in Women and Gender Studies and a concentration in creative writing. Basically, I want to help people, but my English degree helps me a lot with interacting and communicating with other people, including when I travel to different areas, because I know different cultures' literature and their history. I use my education to write realistic and feminist characters and stories that reflect what our world is like (mixed with angels and Greek gods and different Trickster figures). My academic programs will help me be a Fulbright Scholar, or enroll in the Urban Teachers or Teach For America programs before I apply for grad school. This summer, I traveled with the English department to the Netherlands and Belgium, and I would love to talk more about that experience! I'm really looking forward to helping incoming freshmen with the writing process, discussing classes, and about UNL and Lincoln in general! There was an English Advisory Board mentor, Dani, who not only impacted me my freshman year, but has impacted me since then. I think of her nearly every time I write a serious paper or apply for scholarships. She pushed me to make sure I was expressing myself in the way I wanted, but also in a formal or rhetorical tone, which are two tones I have a huge problem with.



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 **MICHAELA LUCKEY**

I'm from Elmhurst, Illinois which is a suburb right outside Chicago. I love reading (of course!) and writing. I write short stories and my favorite genres to read are nonfiction, essay collections, and novels about film. I'm a huge cinephile and X-Files fanatic, but I also love swimming, biking nature trails, and fishing. I'm a senior English major with a minor in

business. I plan to work in publishing post-grad and I knew I needed to not only continue fostering my love of literature, but I also needed to have some business background in terms of learning how to sell and market books you believe in to publishing houses and the public! In terms of internships, my positions as the Editorial, Design, and Production Intern at the University of Nebraska Press and as the Literary Agency Intern at Curtis Brown, Ltd. have given me some amazing hands-on publishing experience that's not always readily available to undergrads in the Midwest. The English Department has so many great opportunities for us as students and through these programs I've learned that I do have a passion and drive to work in trade publishing. When I was a freshman, I felt lost and confused with no idea what to do with an English degree. As a mentor I can't wait to be able to work with my mentees and show them that, while it can be intimidating, there's so many promising avenues to take within Andrews Hall. We've all been there and you will be okay—especially if you use all the fantastic resources Andrews has to offer.



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 **MITCHELL SELDAL**

Mitch Seldal is a senior studying Political Science and English at the University of Nebraska. He hopes to utilize his education in Nebraska in order to enroll in Law School upon graduation. Originally from the Chicagoland area of Illinois, Mitch has adjusted to Lincoln by getting involved in both on- and off- campus organizations, including the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He has also worked for the Nebraska Democratic Party and is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. At any given moment, Mitch can be found supporting his hometown Chicago sports teams and tweaking this week's fantasy football lineup.

*Answers to these questions and more are coming fall semester 2017!*

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- ① When will I register for spring classes?
- ① How can I get involved in the department?
- ① What is a concentration?
- ① How does major advising work?
- ① How do I find out about upcoming major events?
- ① What types of opportunities will there be for me as an English or Film Studies major?

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