

To the UNL Band Alumni Association,

Thank you for the wonderful honor of being a recipient of the Jack R. Snider/Band Alumni Association Scholarship. The generosity of this organization has not gone unnoticed, and I cannot wait to become a member once I graduate from UNL this May. It is an honor to work alongside some of the best musicians in the state, and I am honored to carry on this legacy of excellence as a UNL and CMB alum.

I graduated from Blue Valley High School in Stilwell, KS in 2020, where I marched mellophone and served as a drum major for the BV Tiger Band. I came to UNL majoring in Forensic Science with a concentration in Crime Scene Investigation, which is where I began to love both scientific research and forensic analysis. In my second year, I declared a double major in Biochemistry, but my true passion has always been in forensic anthropology, the study of human bones in relation to the law. After graduating, I have dreams of going to graduate school and then pursuing a career as an Autopsy Assistant or Death Investigator. Ever since my youth, I have wanted to help serve justice to my community and uncover the truth about crimes that have occurred in our hometowns, and my opportunities to combine science with evidence analysis will help me become the best version of myself, professionally and personally.

Serving as a rank leader and drum major in the Cornhusker Marching Band has given me multiple opportunities for growth in conflict management, interpersonal skills, and problem solving. I am so fortunate that I have amazing colleagues in the Glenn Korff School of Music that have helped me grow as a musician and a leader. The skills I developed in the CMB will be imperative to my success as a forensic investigator, and I am forever indebted for the love and experience that the CMB has provided me. Thank you all for allowing me to continue to fund my education as I am applying to graduate programs. I am so proud to represent Nebraska Bands and will continue to be for the rest of my life.

Sincerely,



Madison van Ophem
Drum major/horn. Senior in Forensic Science and
Biochemistry from Overland Park, Kansas