



Introducing the **LINK** team

Mrs. Kelly Southmayd, MS **Link Program Director**



Kelly serves as the Director of the Link program. She is dedicated to providing a positive experience for the students and is always striving to create opportunities for them to succeed. Prior to joining the SEU staff 2 years ago, she spent 25 years as a speech-language pathologist working in a variety of settings. Most of her career was spent assisting individuals with a return to independent living following a stroke or brain injury.

Kelly most enjoys being able to share her faith with her students and loves watching them achieve their goals. Outside of work, she is a wife and mom to 2 teenagers and 2 pugs.

Miss Laura Grace Hodupp, MA **Link Resident Director**

Laura Grace serves as the resident director for the Link program. She meets with students regularly to provide support and develop strategies to help the students succeed. Laura Grace holds her M.A. in Coaching and Athletic Administration. Prior to joining the SEU staff, she spent six years as a Health and PE teacher and has also coached volleyball and basketball at the middle school, high school, and college levels.



"I love getting to know the students on a personal level. It is exciting helping them set goals and then watching them achieve those goals." Laura Grace also volunteers with Athletes in Action, a nationwide campus ministry focused on discipleship. She loves to travel and if she is not playing a sport, at the beach, or hanging with friends, she is probably at the nearest coffee shop with a good book!

Miss Sarah McGee, MA, BCABA **Link Course Instructor**

Sarah recently joined the Link team and serves as the program professor. She helps the students prepare to enter their career field and equips them with the knowledge and skills to lead independent lives. She is a Tennessee native and graduate of Union University where she earned her Master of Education degree. She is a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst and has served as a one-on-one behavior therapist. Her other work experience includes teaching in a specialized classroom at a local school here in Lakeland.



Her favorite part of working in the Link Program is seeing students apply what they are learning in the classroom to their daily lives. In her free time, Sarah enjoys going to the beach, doing yoga, and traveling. She has also enjoyed working as a youth fitness, gymnastics, and cheerleading coach.

Matthew Faller **Graduate Assistant**

Matt recently graduated from Florida Southern College where he earned his degree in Exercise Science and was also a member of the Track and Field Team. He is now pursuing his Masters in Kinesiology here at Southeastern University. In addition, he currently serves as a pitcher on the Fire baseball team!

Matt will be coming alongside the Link students to help them set fitness goals and is excited to work with them towards reaching those goals! He is also excited about the opportunity to share his faith with the students. Matt is a Florida native and loves spending time outside and by the water. He especially enjoys being able to fish and play sports year-round!





MEET the MENTORS



"Hi! My name is Anais. I am a Junior from Orlando, FL, studying Exceptional Student Education here at Southeastern University. Some of my favorite hobbies are spending time with my family and friends, worshipping Jesus, and helping those around me in any way I can! This is my second year being a Link mentor and it has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. Being a Link mentor is beyond rewarding; it's life-changing. I get the privilege to witness the mentees grow as individuals and into the young adults that the Lord created them to be. It brings my heart great joy to serve and love on the Link students."

In the Spotlight

One of our very own Link students, Aarushi Pratap, was featured on an episode of WEDU: Arts Plus. [Click here](#) to check out the video!



Mary and Rylee pose with Tuscan's executive chef



Ethan captures a photo of an Amazon plane after landing

IN THE LINK

featuring CONNOR

Connor has quickly adjusted to college life here at SEU. He has made many new friends and has no problem keeping up his social life! He is excelling in his studies and his favorite class is weight-lifting. He recently joined an intramural flag football team which competes weekly here on campus. He had his first game this past week and was excited to report that his team won!

AARUSHI

Aaurushi's artistic and creative abilities have been quickly recognized here on campus. She has created beautiful water color pictures that she enjoys giving to her friends. Most recently, she joined the Thrift and Clothes Club. This club meets weekly and provides students the opportunity to sew and create new fashion designs. Be sure to check out the link on the left to learn more about Aarushi's unique talents!

ETHAN

This month, Ethan was able to tour the Lakeland Regional Airport. During his time there, he conducted an interview which helped him learn more about the field of aircraft marshalling. His favorite part of the experience was watching a Boeing 767 Amazon plane land right over his head! His future goal is to become an aircraft marshaller.

JOLINA

In addition to her classes, Jolina currently serves as a classroom assistant at Pathways, a school serving middle and high school students with special needs. She enjoys being with the students and has been able to implement some of the strategies she has learned in her Methods for Teaching class. She loves that class because "the professor makes it so fun!" She is enjoying being back on campus with her friends and has also been practicing her baking skills!

MARY

Mary is keeping busy between school and extra-curricular activities. You can find her on Victory Field with the cheerleading squad whenever the football team is competing here at SEU. She also attends a weekly theatre group where she is preparing to play the role of Mrs. Clause in an upcoming Christmas program. So far, her favorite class this semester is photography.

ABBY

As part of her on-campus internship, Abby is involved with the missions department. She enjoys attending the weekly department meetings where she learns more about leadership. Currently, she is helping the team prepare for the upcoming missions trips SEU offers during the spring semester. This year they will have teams going to all 50 states! Abby says, "I love college so much! I love to be with my friends and meet new people!"

TIFFANY

Tiffany has enjoyed being back on campus this semester. She attends chapel twice a week with her friends and loves to sing the worship songs! She is currently doing an on-campus internship in the Welcome Center. She helps put together welcome packets to give to prospective students. So far, she says she is learning the importance of working together as a team!