Greetings from the Graduate College!

Welcome to the first issue of the UNI Grad Student News for the 2017-2018 academic year. I am Dr. Patrick Pease and it is a pleasure for me to serve the UNI graduate community as the Interim Dean of the Graduate College. My master’s program was a transformative experience for me that set the stage for my career, so I am truly excited for all of our graduate students and what adventures lie ahead for each of you. The year is off to a great start with the New Graduate Student Orientation, the Fifth Annual Graduate College Mixer, and the professional development workshops of “Information Literacy for Graduate Students” as well as “Using LinkedIn as a Job Search Tool”.

Although I am new to the Graduate College, I am not new to UNI. I first came to campus in 2006 as the Department Head in Geography. I spent most of the past 11 years in that same position with the exception of serving as Interim Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences during the fall semester of 2016. My academic specialty is geomorphology which is the scientific study of the development of landforms. I received my undergraduate and master’s degrees in Geology from Indiana State University and my Ph.D. in Geography from Texas A&M University. Before coming to UNI, I spent eight years at East Carolina University where, in addition to serving as Associate Professor of Geography, I was also the Director of the Center for Geographic Information Sciences.

As you settle into your academic year, be sure to take advantage of the campus’s resources such as Rod Library, the Academic Learning Center, and the Professional Development Workshops that are offered by the Graduate College and the Center for Academic Ethics. Here are a few tips:

- Check out the UNI Calendar of Events [https://www.uni.edu/unicalendar](https://www.uni.edu/unicalendar)
- Get to know the faculty in your program as they are valuable resources of knowledge
- Get to know your fellow graduate students as they provide critical support and may become lifelong friends

Have a wonderful semester! If you have questions about graduate school, feel free to contact me or one of the staff members in the Graduate College.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Pease
Welcome New Graduate College Staff!

Dr. Gabriela Olivares is the Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College and Associate Professor of Spanish. Dr. Olivares completed her B.A. at Catholic University of Chile, Santiago in English as a Second Language with her Teaching Certification and earned both her M.A. in Spanish and Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics at Purdue University. Prior to her employment at UNI in 2005, she was an Assistant Professor at Aquinas College as well as at Cleveland State University. Dr. Olivares has taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses at UNI and loves teaching because of the interactions with the students. As the Interim Associate Dean, Dr. Olivares is in charge of the compliance of graduate procedures/policies by students and graduate programs, organizes Professional Development Assignments and Summer Fellowships for faculty. The evaluation of graduate programs and the coordination of the Annual Graduate Student Awards are additional responsibilities. Dr. Olivares is committed to the promotion of foreign languages and values diversity and inclusion on campus. In her spare time, Dr. Olivares enjoys spending time with her family as well as traveling.

Sarah Elm is the Graduate Assistant for Online Content and Electronic Media. Sarah’s responsibilities include utilizing technology to market Graduate College events, such as the New Graduate Student Orientation, the Graduate College Social Mixer, Thinking About Graduate School, the Graduate Student Symposium, and the Professional Development Workshops. She is also the co-editor of the UNI Grad Student News and coordinates UNI GradChat, the graduate students’ Facebook page. Sarah earned a dual-degree in Child, Adult, and Family Services and Psychology from Iowa State University. Sarah had the opportunity to work with various student organizations at ISU including Dance Marathon, College of Human Sciences’ Ambassadors, Hixson Scholars, Study Abroad in Ireland, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). It was through these experiences, as well as her internship at Ballard Middle School, that led her to her passion of becoming a School Counselor. Following her graduation in May 2019, Sarah plans to become a counselor in a middle or high school setting. In her free time, Sarah likes to read, do yoga, travel, and spend time with friends. Sarah is looking forward to getting to know the Cedar Falls area, meeting new people, and finding new opportunities as she continues her education.

Abbi Schupanitz is the Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development for the Graduate College. Abbi coordinates the planning, marketing, and implementation of the New Graduate Student Orientation, Graduate College Social Mixer, Thinking About Graduate School, and the Annual Graduate Student Symposium. She also serves as the co-editor of the UNI Grad Student News. Abbi is the Master’s Student Representative on the Graduate Council. Abbi is a first year graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology program. She began her undergraduate journey at North Iowa Area Community College where she received her Associate of Arts degree in May 2015. She then received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from University of Northern Iowa in May 2017 and is now a graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology Program. As an undergraduate, Abbi participated in Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, Panhellenic Grand Council, Dance Marathon, National Student Speech and Hearing Association, and Study Abroad in Brazil. She is currently the graduate co-chair of the spring 2018 Iowa Conference on Communication Disorders. Abbi’s dream is to work in a rehabilitation hospital focusing on patients who have experienced traumatic brain injury and other neurological deficits. In her free time, she enjoys the outdoors, hot yoga, reading autobiographies about her field, traveling, and socializing. Abbi is looking forward to learning more about her future career and getting to know new people.
Why did you attend UNI for your graduate education?
There are two main reasons I selected UNI: The quality of the business school (based on my undergraduate experience) and its proximity to home. I was working full time and had a young family at home. I knew I wanted the benefit of a classroom environment without a lot of travel time. I also liked the flexibility to take the program at a pace that worked for me.

What were some of the highlights of your graduate education?
I enjoyed the group projects, specifically in areas that were not as familiar to me. My undergraduate degree was in Marketing so at the time I did not pay much attention to finance and accounting classes. I got so much more out of these classes and from my counterparts in these areas as we worked through projects and case studies together. I really enjoyed the mix of international students in the program. At that time, I was just starting to travel internationally for work and interacting with them gave me a much better perspective of the world.

What impact has your UNI graduate education had on your professional development?
I was five years out of my undergraduate and had just taken my first management job at the time I started the MBA program. The program came at a great time to enhance my understanding of the total business model and build my critical thinking skills as a leader. Shortly after I graduated I moved into a more senior leadership role in my company. My graduate degree gave me the tools to be successful in this role and my future jobs as I grew in my career.

What was your role as the MBA Alumna-in-Residence?
My role was twofold; guiding and encouraging the students’ work through their Capstone Projects and being a resource for them as they go out and apply what they learned. I wanted to be that cheerleader for them as they celebrate the success of graduating and realizing the opportunities in front of them.

MBA Annual Conference

Four teams of MBA candidates worked with Cedar Valley organizations over the past six months and presented their professional analysis and recommendations to faculty and business professionals at the annual Capstone Conference on the UNI campus on June 27, 2017.

The consulting projects are the final requirement of the University of Northern Iowa’s MBA program, one of just a handful of programs nationwide that require students to serve as consultants for existing businesses. The teams were introduced to their clients last January, presented a project proposal to the MBA faculty in March, and then worked with a faculty mentor to complete the planned work over several months.

Andrea Đoković, Kishor Sapkota, Michael Hanson, and Tiffany Batchelor worked with the Western Home Communities, Cedar Falls. In response to a staffing concerns, the team investigated possible retention and recruitment solutions. The team was mentored by Dr. Dan Bumblauskas, Assistant Professor of Management (Supply Chain).

Team members Andrew Bachman, Kerry Nicolaus, and Tony Hanson responded to a sales trend question from Viking Pump in Cedar Falls with a forecasting model and methods for ongoing market data collection. Professor of Marketing, Dr. Matt Bunker, mentored the team.

Ashok Bhattarai, Ben Stevens, Megan Horn, and Tiphaine Hustache worked with Kay Park, a Janesville, IA manufacturer of playground and park equipment, to develop a marketing strategy for continued growth. Dr. Dan Power, Professor of Management, was the team’s mentor.

VGM Homelink, Waterloo, IA, posed a situation calling for process analysis and provided a plan for optimizing capacity. Team members Andrea Schmit, Bhaskar Upadhyaya, Gina Trimble, and Jim Mayer worked with mentor Dr. Atul Mitra, Professor of Management (Human Resources).

The 2017 MBA Alumna-in-Residence, Beth Sulentic (MBA ’02, Marketing ’93). Sulentic is the Director of Strategic Marketing at Idex Corporation. Previously Beth served as Marketing Manager for both Viking Pump and Waterloo Industries.
Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)

The Eleventh Annual Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) event was September 25th with 150 students attending! The event was held from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Dr. Patrick Pease, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, and Dr. Gabriela Olivares, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College, presented “Thinking About Graduate School” which provided an overview of the graduate school application process. Kaili Benham, Financial Aid Counselor from the UNI Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships presented “Financing Your Graduate Education.” The Graduate Faculty & Graduate Student Panel members were Dr. Leisl Carr-Childers, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Dr. Christina Curran, Associate Professor, Department of Special Education, Dr. Dale Cyphert, Associate Professor and MBA Director, Department of Management, Dr. Jim Demastes, Professor, Department of Biology, Clarissa Laplante, Graduate Student, Department of Biology, and Abbi Schupanitz, Graduate Student, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders.

Presentations and additional graduate school application resources are posted on https://www.grad.uni.edu/thinking-about-graduate-school.

At the conclusion of TAGS, students were asked to complete an evaluation of the event and 97% of the respondents stated they would recommend TAGS to their friends! Students who completed the evaluation were eligible to be entered into a drawing for 15 door prizes donated by Copyworks, Jimmy Johns, The Other Place on the Hill, Your Pie, University Book & Supply, UNI Department of Residence, and the UNI Graduate College.

Spring Commencement 2017

UNI hosted Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 6, 2017 in the McLeod Center. The ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students receiving degrees from the Colleges of Business Administration and Social and Behavioral Sciences was at 9:00 a.m. with Marjorie Perkins (MA, Psychology: Clinical Science) presenting the Graduate Student Address. Marjorie reflected, “When we said yes to UNI, we said yes to strengthening our capacity for learning. We said yes to bettering ourselves, our community, and our future professions through transferable value of higher education.”

Natalie Milo (MAE, Principalship) gave the Graduate Student Address at the 2:00 p.m. ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students receiving degrees from the College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education & Special Programs. Natalie stated, “My journey through the graduate program at UNI has been a tremendous experience- one in which professional growth and personal growth were intertwined and completely inseparable.”

Jessica Cramer (MA, Speech-Language Pathology) presented the Graduate Student Address at the 6:00 p.m. ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students awarded degrees from the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences. Jessica shared, “UNI has not only taught me how to be a passionate therapist, but also has taught me to have endless compassion for my community, this country, and our world.”
Altrusa Scholarship Award Recipients: Joslyn Hicks, Sandra Gavin, Megan Davis, & Elizabeth Sweet

Altrusa International Inc. of Cedar Falls is a service organization dedicated to empowering women in the workplace. They have developed a scholarship program to aid adult women pursuing higher education in Black Hawk County. Scholarship funds are administered by a committee of Cedar Falls Altrusans with scholarships being awarded to women over the age of 22, who have completed their sophomore year of college and who wish to continue their education within Black Hawk County. Consideration is given to ability, motivation, and financial need. This year all four scholarship winners are University of Northern Iowa students and they were recognized at a Scholarship Brunch and Auction on Saturday, September 30th at the Beaver Hills Country Club in Cedar Falls.

Elizabeth Sweet is a senior in Health Promotion and will graduate in the summer of 2018 following the completion of her internship. She plans to pursue a graduate degree. Elizabeth is a single mother to her two-year old son, Kai. Elizabeth and Kai’s world was flipped upside down when her fiancé was killed in a tragic car accident in August 2016. The accident occurred several days prior to beginning her journey at UNI. According to Elizabeth, “With a heavy heart I decided to start classes that fall with a few less credits than I had planned. With the help of my amazing advisor, Professor Thomas Davis and the UNI faculty, I successfully completed my fall semester.” Elizabeth shared, “It’s stressful and scary being a single parent but by overcoming those fears, I found the most monumental motivation to be successful and follow my dreams. My dream is to be successful in my own life so that I will be able to help the lives of many others. One day, I would love to be awarding scholarships to students working towards a successful life.”

Joslyn Hicks earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Northern Iowa in December 2016 and continued her education in that department as a graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology. She will graduate in December 2018. Joslyn will complete her internship in Fall 2018 at the Tripler Medical Veterans Administration Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii, one of the top VA hospitals in the world. Since Joslyn was a child she knew she wanted to be a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) because of her experience with a SLP from the time she was three years old until the sixth grade as well as her father’s experience. According to Joslyn, “After my father had a stroke at age 49, I realized how important a SLP’s role is in the recovery of stroke victims. I decided to further pursue my education to the master’s level and hope to someday offer excellent patient-centered care to help improve the quality of life for my clients.”

Sandra Gavin is a graduate student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and she plans to graduate in May 2018. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Services from Upper Iowa University in May 2015. Sandra is an intern at the UNI Counseling Center and works with students with adjustment, social, academic, substance abuse, traumatic experiences, depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns. She is also involved in the UNI Counseling Center’s Outreach Program and assists with psychoeducation presentations and group sessions. When asked about her plans following graduation Sandra said, “I plan to earn a PhD in counselor education and supervision. My ultimate goal is to work as a professional at a distinguished university, working with students and trying to make a difference in the helping services field. I want to inspire students and conduct research in the field of counseling by focusing on the struggles of transgender individuals.”

Megan Davis is a Gerontology Long-Term Care Administration major and will be awarded her second Bachelor of Arts degree from UNI in May 2018 having earned her undergraduate degree in social work in December 2012. In January 2018 she is scheduled to begin an administrative internship in a local nursing home including shadowing department heads in the nursing facility. According to Megan, “Life works in mysterious ways. I had returned to Iowa to help my dad at his restaurant and two years ago, a women, who happened to be an administrator at a nursing facility, came into the restaurant and we talked about my education. She gave me a job application and a week later I was a social worker at a nursing home.” From this experience Megan realized that she fell in love with gerontology and how the facility was run but she wanted to have more responsibility and to make a bigger impact. After one more year of school, Megan will take the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards and start her new career as a Long-Term Care Administrator.
New Graduate Student Orientation

This year’s New Graduate Student Orientation was held on Monday, August 21st from 3:00-4:30 p.m in the Maucker Union Ballroom. The orientation was for students enrolled in on campus programs and 100 students attended the event. Dr. Patrick Pease, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, welcomed the students followed by introductions of the Graduate College staff and their roles.

Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life, shared information on upcoming Professional Development Workshops as well as the 11th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, scheduled for April 3, 2018. Presentations by Jim Kelly, Instruction and Liaison Librarian, on “Using Rod Library as a Graduate Student” and Christina Geweke, Assistant Director of Business Operations, on “Managing Your U-Bill” followed. The Campus Resource Fair concluded the event with 19 offices and departments represented. Students who completed evaluation forms of the event were eligible to win door prizes. Door prizes were donated by Your Pie, Copyworks, Flowerama, Jimmy Johns, UNI Alumni Association, UNI Department of Residence, UNI Graduate College and University Book & Supply.

Daniel Vorwerk Receives 2017 Miracle Network Distinguished Leadership Award

Daniel Vorwerk, May 2017 alumnus of the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program, served as an Executive Co-Director of the 6th Annual UNI Dance Marathon Event on March 4, 2017, which raised over $453,000 for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital. According to Daniel “under his leadership his team chose to live every day for the kids.” This distinguished leadership award recognized only 20 graduating college student leaders across North America. Daniel is now employed at Minnesota State University-Mankato as a Hall Director. Daniel encourages everyone to participate in UNI Dance Marathon as dancer registration is now open. Register at http://www.unidancemarathon.com/register
The Fifth Annual Graduate College Social Mixer was Tuesday, September 19 from 4-6:00 p.m. in Rod Library, Room 287. A record number of 86 graduate students, faculty and staff attended the event. In his welcome, Dr. Patrick Pease, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, noted events such as this to build graduate student community. Prizes were given to the cohorts which had the most students attend the event. The first place prize of two dozen cupcakes from Scratch Cupcakery was awarded to the Speech-Language Pathology Program which had 19 students attending. The School Psychology Program and the Postsecondary Education-Student Affairs Program tied for second place with 18 students each in attendance. Each of these programs received a gift certificate for two large pizzas from Dominos.

Did you know that the average adult spends roughly 2 hours on social media per day? UNI Grad Chat could be a positive use of your time spent surfing Facebook! UNI Grad Chat is a place where graduate students can connect, learn about new opportunities, discuss recent issues, and stay up to date with all of the awesome events around campus as well as in the Graduate College. Please request to join us at UNI Grad Chat [https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/)
Student Accolades

School of Music


Department of Curriculum & Instruction: Literacy Education Program

Jamie Nelson (MAE Literacy Education) presented a paper at the 2017 meeting of the American Educational Research Association meeting held in San Antonio, TX. Her paper, entitled A Self-Study of Literacy Practice: Tensions Between the Ideal and the Real, grew out of her thesis research in the Literacy Education program at UNI.

Department of Geography

UNI graduate students Aaron Padilla, Salma Zbeed and Narmina Iusubova presented papers at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in April 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Arctic-FROST is a research coordination network funded by the National Science Foundation. It brings together environmental and social scientists, educators and community members from all circumpolar countries to enable and mobilize research on sustainable Arctic development, specifically aimed at improving health, human development and well-being of Arctic communities while conserving ecosystem structures, functions and resources under changing climate conditions. The network includes more than 500 members from 20 countries. Arctic-FROST is headquartered in the UNI ARTICenter and directed by Dr. Andrey Petrov, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography.

Varvara Korkina (pictured left), UNI Geography Graduate Student and Research Assistant for UNI ARTICenter, co-organized workshop the “Cultural Economy in Indigenous Communities” in Moscow, Russia. The purpose of this activity was to share results of particular studies and personal experiences of Indigenous cultural entrepreneurship from the United States, Russia, and Canada. The workshop gathered academics, fashion designers, Indigenous artists, businessmen, and government representatives.

Department of Psychology

Lijing (Lily) Ma (pictured left) (MA Psychology, Summer 2017) and Emily Wetherell (pictured right) (BA Psychology, December 2016) presented a research project on political orientation and fear (co-authored with faculty member Dr. Helen Harton and graduate students Manny Salinas, Jenna Gray, and Jerome Grahan) at the International Society of Political Psychology conference in July in Edinburgh, Scotland.

UNI Geography graduate student Varvara Korkina (pictured right) and UNI undergraduate student Madeline Meyer (pictured left) won first prize at the Polar Style Fashion Show in Moscow, Russia for the Best Contemporary Indigenous Fashion Design. Their collection was produced as a part of a collaborative project between the UNI School of Applied Human Sciences and ARTICenter.

Polar Style Fashion Show participants (Varvara Korkina in the center).
What is the UNI Grad Student News?
UNI Grad Student News is a quarterly newsletter featuring news and updates concerning graduate education at the University of Northern Iowa. Each issue features profile stories on graduate students, faculty, staff, and notable alumni. UNI Grad Student News is unique in that it publishes news submitted directly from graduate students and faculty.

How and what can I submit as news?
Complete submission form at https://grad.uni.edu/online-submission-form. Submissions can include information about recent conferences you have attended, academic accomplishments, or upcoming departmental events.

We welcome your news!

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:
- NOVEMBER 15, 2017 for DECEMBER ISSUE
- JANUARY 24, 2018 for FEBRUARY ISSUE
- APRIL 11, 2018 for MAY ISSUE

Who receives the newsletter?
All graduate students, faculty, and staff receive the newsletter via email.

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Sarah Elm - School Counseling Co-Editor

Abbi Schupanitz - Speech-Language Pathology Co-Editor

Questions?
Contact gradlife@uni.edu
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