Greetings from the Graduate College!

As we scramble to finish up the academic year and prepare for summer, I have been thinking about the role of community and exploration in graduate school.

Community creates a sense of belonging where members feel valued and appreciated. In graduate school, strong communities develop at the departmental level. However, each of us also belong to the larger UNI graduate community. To showcase this vibrant community, the Graduate College sponsored events during Graduate Student Appreciation Week in April. During our appreciation pizza lunch, I engaged in conversations with students from different programs. Students from the School of Music talked with students in Post-Secondary Education: Student Affairs about common experiences, including stressors of graduate school and coping mechanisms. Although brief, these interactions developed community and funneled energy into the Graduate Student Symposium the following day. This event was filled with fascinating discussions, presentations, and performances. I learned about Baroque music, dead languages, podcasts in education, impact of video games on sexual harassment attitudes, and laser-tracking systems. I was impressed with the expertise and the passion that graduate students displayed. The event was successful because of our great community of graduate scholars and because of the willingness of individuals to explore opportunities.

Indeed, graduate school is about exploring opportunities. Hopefully, by graduation, students have prepared themselves for either the post-graduate job market or the next phase of their education by exploring and taking advantage of multiple opportunities, such as conducting research, presenting at a conference, or teaching a lecture. Fear, including the fear of being found out as a fraud, may contribute to bypassing opportunities. This is known as Impostor Syndrome. During our last event of Graduate Student Appreciation Week, a panel along with audience members shared the commonality of feeling like a fraud, especially when transitioning into new roles which is a consequence of Impostor Syndrome. Our Spring 2019 graduates may experience this as they move onto the next phase of their lives. This fear can be paralyzing and overwhelming: we may stop asking questions, begin avoiding safe risks, or start feeling isolated. The panel agreed that a helpful strategy to deal with Impostor Syndrome is sharing these experiences and doubts with others.

For next year, we will build our UNI graduate community by using the theme of Exploring Opportunities. Exploring Opportunities will guide our work for the 2019-2020 academic year, including our professional development workshops and other events. We are excited to hear how our students and faculty will explore opportunities during the coming year.

For those who are graduating, a warm congratulations! We know UNI has prepared our students with the skills to be successful. May our graduates continue to find community and explore opportunities as they make a difference in our local, regional, national, and global communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Waldron, Ph.D.
12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium Participants

**Poster Presentations**

Helena Alacha, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Andrea Anderson, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
DongYub Back, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Morgan Dobroski, M.A.E. Special Education: Field Specialization Emphasis
Danielle Dunagan, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Andi Edmister, Ed.S. School Psychology
Christina Fortuna, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Anna Garner, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Kelsey Johnson, M.A.E. Special Education: Career/Vocational Programming and Transition Emphasis
Bre Kirpes, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Kurt Klobassa, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Sydney Kunzweiler, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Brittney Lenth, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Nathan Lewey, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Rebecca Lueth, M.A. TESOL
Jordan Newburg, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Carissa Newman, M.A.E. Special Education: Field Specialization Emphasis
Pujaningsih Pujaningsih, Ed.D. Educational Leadership
Matthew Sedlacek, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Randi Smith, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Olivia Steffen, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Evan Stilgenbauer, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Anna Varriano, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Chelsea Washburn, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Kylie Wilson, M.A. Physical Education: Kinesiology
Alivia Zubrod, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology

**Judges**

Dr. Dilbur Arsiwalla, Department of Psychology
Dr. Disa Cornish, Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services
Dr. Gayle Rhineberger-Dunn, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
Dr. Cynthia Juby, Department of Social Work
Dr. Heather Kennedy, School of Applied Human Sciences
Dr. Annette Lynch, School of Applied Human Sciences
Dr. Scott McNamara, Department of Kinesiology
Dr. Joyce Milambilng, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Mark Myers, Department of Biology
Dr. Lauren Nelson, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
Dr. Nicholas Schwab, Department of Psychology
Dr. Nicole Skaar, Department of Educational Psychology & Foundations
Dr. Ira Simet, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Dr. Kelly Strong, Department of Technology
Dr. Matt Townsley, Department of Educational Leadership & Postsecondary Education
Dr. Jennifer J. Waldron, Graduate College
Dr. Leila Rod-Welch, Rod Library

**Oral Presentations**

Amanda Albertsen, M.A. TESOL
Alia Azfal, M.A. Women's and Gender Studies
Jacob Bartlett, M.A. History and M.P.P. Public Policy
Mary Chipman, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Steven Dreesman, M.A. Counseling: Clinical Mental Health
Morgan Eggert, M.S.W. Social Work
Anna Garner, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Tammy Harris, M.A. TESOL
Matthew Hill, M.A. History
Mahjabeen Hussain, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction
Muhammad Intizom, M.A. TESOL
Shehreen Iqtadar, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction
Claudia Jimenez De La Hoz, M.A. TESOL
Jeffery Jones, M.A. English: Literature
Sarah Kilwein, M.A. TESOL
Kurt Klobassa, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Kelvin Mackey, M.A. Counseling: Clinical Mental Health
Ashley Meyers, M.A. Women's and Gender Studies
Marine Pepanyan, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction
Dylan Pieper, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Claudia Pino Leuquen, M.A. TESOL/Spanish
Pujaningsih Pujaningsih, Ed.D. Educational Leadership
Samantha Ribble, M.A. TESOL
Jose Salinas, M.A. TESOL/Spanish
Randi Smith, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Hamid Tahery, D.I.T. Industrial Technology
Seth Thill, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Ryan Villarreal, M.A. History
Abby Weiland, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction

**Judges**

Dr. Radhi Al-Mabuk, Department of Educational Psychology & Foundations
Dr. Peter Berendzen, Department of Biology
Dr. Fernando Calderon, Department of History
Dr. Jennifer Cooley, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Benjamin Forsyth, Department of Educational Psychology & Foundations
Dr. Heather Jeronimo, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Ashleigh Kysar-Moon, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
Dr. Gayle Pohl, Department of Communication Studies
Dr. Nilda Rodriguez, Department of Biology
Dr. Roberto Swazo, School of Applied Human Sciences
Creative Performances

Mariya Akhadajanova, Accompanist
Danielle Dunagan, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Serena Hou, School of Music Instructor
Hannah Lane, M.A. English: Literature
John Mason, M.A. English: Literature
Sayyod Mirzomurodov, M.M. Clarinet Performance
Shiqun Ou, M.M. Music Performance
Eve Sanchez, M.A. English: English Studies
Randi Smith, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Seth Thill, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Bethany Washington, M.M. Violin Performance
Denzel Washington, M.M. Composition

Judges
Dr. Cayla Bellamy, School of Music
Mr. Jim Bray, Department of Theatre
Dr. David Grant, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Anthony Williams, School of Music

Poster Presentations
First Place: Anna Garner, Psychology: Clinical Science (M.A.)
Sex Differences in Adult ADHD Symptomatology
Second Place: Sydney Kunzweiler, Speech-Language Pathology (M.A.)
Olivia Steffen, Speech-Language Pathology (M.A.)
Methods of Obtaining and Creating Pediatric Dysphagia Cases for Graduate Level Training
Third Place: Matthew Sedlacek, Psychology: Social Psychology (M.A.)
Does Political Orientation Cause Us to See Things Differently?
Honorable Mention: Kylie Wilson, Physical Education: Kinesiology (M.A.)
The Effectiveness of Using a Podcast to Teach Person-First Language

Creative Performances
First Place: Bethany Washington, Violin Performance (M.M.)
Pietro Antonio Locatelli: The Baroque Virtuoso
Second Place: Seth Thill, English: Creative Writing (M.A.)
Spin in Place, Bury Our Years: An Iowan Lyric

Oral Presentations
Elm Room
First Place: Mahjabeen Hussain, Curriculum & Instruction (Ed.D.)
Understanding ESL Undergraduate Students’ Beliefs About Learner-Centered Instruction
Second Place: Morgan Eggert, Social Work (M.S.W.)
How to Lower Chronic Absenteeism Rates in Kindergarten Through Fifth-Grade Students

Oak Room
First Place: Shehreen Iqtadar, Curriculum & Instruction (Ed.D.)
“If It Wasn’t My Race, It Was Other Things Like Being a Woman, or My Disability:” A Qualitative Research Synthesis of Students of Color with Disabilities in Education
Second Place: Seth Thill, English: Creative Writing (M.A.)
With Great Power Comes Terrible Memes Tracing Alt-Right Roots in the History of Spider-Man

Presidential Room
First Place: Ashley Meyers, Women’s and Gender Studies (M.A.)
“Beyond Born This Way:” Reconsidering Trans Narratives
Second Place: Dylan Pieper, Psychology: Social Psychology (M.A.)
What’s In A Name? Measuring Potential Influence of Medical Cannabis Labels on Attitudes Towards Its Use

State College Room
First Place: Abby Weiland, Curriculum & Instruction (Ed.D.)
Teacher Well-Being: Voices in the Field
Second Place: Matthew Hill, History (M.A.)
“Half-Breeds,” Squatters and Settler Colonialism in the Des Moines-Mississippi Confluence

University Room
First Place: Jose Salinas, TESOL/Spanish (M.A.)
De Vos a Tú: Voseo to Tuteo Accommodation and Language Attitudes Among Central American International Students in the United States and Mexico
Second Place: Claudia Jimenez De La Hoz, TESOL (M.A.)
English for the Vocational Classroom: How Vocational Instructors Can Help EFLL

Symposium Scholarship Award Winners
Take Care Tip from the Graduate College

The Happiness Project was developed by author, Gretchen Rubin, who spent a whole year finding out what makes her happy. Essentially, the project emphasizes long term and short term goal setting to achieve maximum happiness. Given that the theme of the 2019-2020 academic year is *Exploring Opportunities*, the Graduate College would like to challenge you to start your own Happiness Project for the summer and explore what makes you happy. For three months, you are going to pick a long term goal or resolution every month, and then make short term goals to achieve that resolution. For example, your resolution for the month of June might be, “Challenge Yourself.” With this, you might have small goals such as, taking time out of your day for mini adventures, trying new foods, or drinking the recommended amount of water every day. After each experience, you will check mark the number of days in the month that you accomplished that small goal.

Whatever you choose to do, make sure you take this summer to put your happiness first and explore the opportunities that life gives you!

### JUNE’S RESOLUTION: Eat a Peach (challenging myself)

“Between the ages of twenty and forty we are engaged in . . . learning the difference between accidental limitations which it is our duty to outgrow and the necessary limitations of our nature . . .” — W. H. Auden

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See the example chart above to start your own Happiness Project!

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**Summer Activities Around the Cedar Valley**

### Books, Music, Movies & More

- Cedar Falls Library [http://www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us/](http://www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us/)
- Waterloo Library [https://www.waterloopubliclibrary.org](https://www.waterloopubliclibrary.org)

### Buy Fresh, Buy Local

- Downtown Cedar Falls Farmer’s Market [https://cedarfallsfarmersmarket.net/](https://cedarfallsfarmersmarket.net/)

### Catch Some Rays

- Waterloo Leisure Services Aquatics [http://www.waterlooleisureservices.org/sports/aquatics](http://www.waterlooleisureservices.org/sports/aquatics)

### General Travel Information

- Travel Iowa, Iowa Tourism Office [https://www.traveliowa.com/](https://www.traveliowa.com/)

### Night Life

- Movies on the Cedar in Waterloo [http://www.mywaterloodays.org/moviesonthecedar](http://www.mywaterloodays.org/moviesonthecedar)

### Outdoor Recreation


### Sizzling Summer Festivals

- Cedar Falls Community Main Street [http://www.communitymainstreet.org/](http://www.communitymainstreet.org/)
- College Hill Arts Festival in Cedar Falls [http://collegehillartsfestival.org/](http://collegehillartsfestival.org/)
- Main Street Waterloo [https://www.mainstreetwaterloo.org/](https://www.mainstreetwaterloo.org/)

### Sports

- Waterloo Bucks in Waterloo [https://northwoodsleague.com/waterloo-bucks/](https://northwoodsleague.com/waterloo-bucks/)

Do you have some awesome summer fun ideas? Please share them with the Graduate Student Community on UNI Grad Chat! [https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/)
Student Profile: Ashley Meyers

**Education:** I graduated from Luther College in May 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies and Religion with a minor in Creative Writing. I will graduate from UNI in July 2019 with a Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies.

**What motivated you to attend UNI for your graduate education?**

Mostly, I was motivated to attend UNI for my graduate education because of the faculty. The faculty in my program really do care about their students and that showed through on my first visit here. Also, UNI's emphasis on teaching makes it a great place for anyone considering teaching as a career path.

**Describe your work experience, including your role as a Graduate Assistant for Women's and Gender Studies.**

As an undergraduate, I interned at the Tretter Collection's Trans Oral History Project at the University of Minnesota where I contacted potential interviewees, arranged interviews, utilized digital archiving methods, and gained skills in oral history and archival methods. It was during this time that I cultivated an interest in oral history and how the practice of oral history can benefit marginalized communities. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Women's and Gender Studies, I have worked in a variety of classroom contexts ranging from lecture-style psychology of gender classes to an honors seminar on queer theory to an online course on intimate partner violence. This semester, I am teaching a section of Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and I am enjoying seeing students learn and grow in my classroom, especially when I can see them gain a new perspective on a subject they once found unfamiliar.

**What are your research interests?**

My current research interests lie at the intersection of transgender studies and narrative theory. Specifically, I am interested in how transpeople of various gender identities construct their own life narratives and how trans experiences are and have been represented within the wider culture. Along with these primary interests, I am interested in the history of gender and sexuality, oral history, women's and LGBT+ literature, and LGBT+ media representation.

**What opportunities have you had to present your work at professional conferences?**

So far, I have presented my work in family oral history at the 2017 4W Summit on Women, Gender, and Well-Being at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Most recently, I presented my thesis *Beyond “Born This Way”: Reconsidering Trans Narratives* at UNI's 12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium.

**What are your professional and career goals following your graduation from UNI?**

After graduating from UNI, I will pursue my Ph.D. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Oregon State University starting in the fall of 2019. My main career goal is to become a professor and teach Women's and Gender classes one day.

**What are your leisure time interests?**

During my leisure time, I enjoy spending time with my friends, reading memoirs, creative writing, and taking long walks when it is nice outside while listening to my favorite podcasts or audiobooks. Lately, I’ve been listening to the audiobook of Trevor Noah’s memoir, *Born a Crime*, during my walks.

---

Student Profile: Hamid Tahery

**Education:** I am a doctoral student in Industrial Technology with an anticipated graduation of May 2020. I received my Master's Degree in Computer and Electrical Engineering in October 2011, from The Center of Excellence in Power System Management & Control at the University of Tehran in Tehran, Iran.

**What motivated you to attend UNI for your graduate education?**

After I graduated with my Master's Degree, I was determined to apply for a good graduate program. After doing some research I discovered an excellent professor in the Department of Industrial Technology, Dr. Sadik Kucuk, who shared the same research interests. As a doctoral student, a solid advisor is one of the most important aspects as you will work alongside them for four years. Another important factor for me was the people that I would be around. I found out that the people from Iowa, and Cedar Falls specifically, are very warm and kind. After living here for two years, I am now sure I made the right choice. Not only have I learned a lot in my Doctoral program, but also, I really enjoy living with the great people of Cedar Falls. I am really happy that I chose UNI to continue my studies.

**Describe your work experience, including your role as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Technology.**

As a Graduate Assistant, I help the professors in the preparation of class materials as well as assist in teaching their classes and grading. For example, this semester, I am a lab assistant for a Programmable Logic Controllers class. I really enjoy helping other students especially when I see my teaching has helped them complete their lab assignment and be more successful. Nothing makes me happier than helping a student understand class material. As a part of my graduate assistant position, I also do research under the supervision of Dr. Kucuk, which is mostly in the area of electricity market, optimization, and electricity storage.

**What are your research interests?**

My research interests are on electricity storage and electricity market. My research interests are geared to answer these questions: How renewable energies like wind or photovoltaic can affect the electricity market? How to make using electric vehicle profitable? Is it possible to use electric vehicle for storing electricity and sell it to the grid?

**What opportunities have you had to present your work at professional conferences?**

During my time as a master's student, I had five papers published. This is my second year as doctoral student and I have presented three times at the UNI Graduate Student Symposium. I have also submitted a journal paper for review and am currently working on publishing a conference paper which I hope to finish by the end of this semester.

**What are your professional and career goals following your graduation from UNI?**

It has always been my dream to become a professor one day. When I was 12 years old, I had a sticker inside my school bag which read: “Job: Professor”. My friends used to make fun of me because typically at that age students are not thinking about their dream job. At the completion of my doctoral program I will be much closer to achieving my goals and landing my dream job.

**What are your leisure time interests?**

My favorite hobbies include skiing and biking. Skiing is a little hard to do in Iowa because there are no mountains. Fortunately, Cedar Falls has great bike trails. I also enjoy reading. A year ago I began the new hobby of fishing. I really enjoy fishing because I like sitting near calm water and relaxing; however, I have never caught a fish.
Alumni Profile: Teresa Moery, Ed.S. School Psychology

I attended Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC for my undergraduate education. I completed the Elementary Education Program and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2011. I enrolled in the School Psychology Graduate Program at UNI in the fall of 2014. As part of that program, I earned a Master of Arts in Education degree in 2015 and graduated with a Specialist in Education degree in 2017. I now hold a Professional Service License for the practice of School Psychology within the State of Iowa.

**What motivated you to earn your graduate degree from UNI?**

I taught general education in a public elementary school in Durham, NC from 2011 to 2014. During that time, I developed a desire to provide more intensive and targeted supports to struggling students. I shadowed our school psychologist for a few days, and, after learning what the job entailed, I decided to apply to graduate school. I chose to attend the University of Northern Iowa because it felt like home from the very start. I had lived in North Carolina for most of my life and had never even been to the Midwest. When my husband received a job offer that would move us to Iowa, everything was a new challenge. I had always known I would return to graduate school for school psychology, but thought I would teach a bit longer than 3 years. I decided to take the leap and apply to graduate school since we were already moving across the country. I applied to both universities in Iowa that had school psychology graduate programs. I chose UNI because the professors were incredibly helpful and kind to me. They responded to emails, sent me some of their research, offered to meet with me while I was in town, and even spoke with me on the phone. They were easy to get a hold of for questions, even from across the country! The welcoming feeling and support I felt from the faculty from the start was a big reason that I chose to attend this program.

**What does a typical day look like in your role as a School Psychologist?**

This is a difficult question, because there is not really a typical day for a school psychologist. I wear many hats! However, the tasks I spend the majority of my time doing include: meeting with staff and families about the needs of students; coaching teachers on best practices for interventions; assessing students for eligibility for special education; observing students and teachers in a variety of settings; and writing evaluation reports. In addition to my typical day-to-day work, I engage in systems level work at the district, state and national levels. In my district, I coach buildings on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) programs. I also serve on the boards of the state and national school psychology associations.

**What are your leisure interests?**

My husband and I love going to live performances! Whether it is a concert at one of the many venues in the Corridor, a comedy show, play, or festival, we greatly enjoy this time together. We also enjoy hanging out at home and watching sports, TV shows, and movies. Cooking, baking, and trying out new restaurants are also some of my favorite things! Any of these activities help me unwind after a long day helping children reach their potential!
Faculty Profile: Dr. David Schmid, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Department of Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs

**Education:**
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership: Postsecondary Education from UNI
Master of Science in Counseling and Student Personnel from Oklahoma State University
Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

**When did you begin your career at UNI and in what role?**
I started at UNI way back in 1998 as the Noehren Hall Coordinator. I loved my time in housing and will always cherish the relationships that I built with RAs, colleagues, and residents. However, I continued to add positions including coordinating the Summer Conference program at UNI and teaching as an adjunct instructor. I made the leap to full-time faculty member in August 2016, and started as Graduate Program Coordinator for the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program in February 2018.

**Describe your employment experience.**
I have had numerous housing positions between Oklahoma State and UNI prior to my position as an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator:
- Hall Director — Oklahoma State University — 1995–1998
- Resident Director — Oklahoma State University — 2001–2002
- Summer Conference Coordinator — UNI — 2006–2016
- Adjunct Instructor -UNI — 2006–2016
- Assistant Professor — UNI — 2016–Present

**What graduate and undergraduate courses do you teach?**
In our Graduate Program I teach:
- College Student Development
- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Organization and Personal Foundations of Student Affairs
- Research in Student Affairs
- Internship in Postsecondary Education
- Three electives for our program: Teaching in College, Two-Year College, and College Effects on Students

I also teach one undergraduate internship class. Our Doctorate Intensive Study Area will come online in Fall 2020 and may have me teaching Administration and Finance in Higher Education and Organization Communication and Processes.

**What are your teaching interests?**
I like teaching anything that has to do with student affairs. I find my style is to incorporate as many activities and as much discussion as I can. We have recently gone through a large curriculum change in our program and this summer will be the fifth new class that I have created in the past three years. While I change my class every semester based on needs and feedback, it will be nice to get into a routine over the next few semesters!

**What are your research interests?**
I have recently had an article accepted on the way in which graduate programs in student affairs prepare their graduates in the area of helping skills. In addition, I have been working on an article that discusses resident assistants, their faith, and how their faith plays a role in their position. Generally, my research interests will be in the area of college student development theory and housing.

**What journals or other publications has your research been published in?**
The most recently accepted article will be published in the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* with the other article in revision to be printed in the *Religion and Education Journal*.

**What is your role in recruiting students to the Postsecondary Education-Student Affairs program?**
We do many things over the course of the year including a preview day in October, visits to Dubuque and other cities in Iowa to take our recruitment on the road, and constant one-on-one connections. Anyone who expresses interest in our program, I offer to come and visit me on campus, Zoom meet with me, or talk on the phone. I then follow-up as we get closer to the application deadline. Finally, I track all of our applications, coordinate our selection process, and then email admits as soon as we can with an offer. It is a lot of work, but truly one of my favorite parts of the job as I welcome in a new cohort of around 25 students every fall.

**What types of activities do you enjoy during your leisure time?**
I am a big game player — typically cards — and I also enjoy time at the casino here and there. My family and friends mean a great deal to me, so spending time with them is also a very important activity in my life.
Graduate Student Appreciation Week

The Graduate College celebrated Graduate Student Appreciation Week on April 1st-April 5th. The week began with President Nook’s Proclamation followed by the pizza kick-off event. Students had the opportunity to enjoy pizza, pop, and cookies while interacting with Graduate College Staff as well as graduate students in other programs (pictured below left).

On Wednesday, April 3rd, the Graduate College hosted the 12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium where students were able to showcase their research and creative works in either a poster presentation, oral presentation, or creative performance. The event hosted 65 graduate student presenters and performers and 31 graduate faculty judges.

On Thursday, April 4th, an Impostor Syndrome panel was held. The panel consisted of students and faculty (pictured below right) who discussed their own struggles with Impostor Syndrome. Impostor Syndrome is a phenomenon that most people experience where an individual doubts their accomplishments and has an internalized fear of being exposed as a fraud. The Graduate College would like to extend a special thank you to our panelists: Muhammad Intizom (M.A. TESOL), Jamie Butler-Chidozie (Director of Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice), Jacob Clark (M.A. Physical Education: Kinesiology), Dr. Elise DuBord (Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics and Graduate Coordinator of Spanish), and Alivia Zubrod (M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology).

Finally, the week was concluded by sharing with student’s the reasons faculty members around campus appreciate them. Thank you to everyone who helped make this week a success and thank you to all of the graduate students here at the University of Northern Iowa!

Keep Calm and Join UNI Grad Chat

Request to join at https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/
Counseling Students Attend Semester in Taiwan

Steven Dreesman (pictured left), M.A. Counseling: Clinical Mental Health and Benjamin Larison (pictured right), M.A. Counseling: School Counseling, studied abroad at National Chengchi University (NCCU) in Taipei, Taiwan in the Fall 2018 semester from mid-September to mid-November. The counseling coursework Steven and Benjamin took at NCCU was with both graduate and undergraduate students, and highly discussion based. Because of the ethnic diversity, class discussions focused on key concepts explained through the lenses of several different cultures. This reminded the UNI students of the importance of viewing issues from a variety of perspectives, not simply through their own lenses. The students shared that one of the best parts of studying abroad in Asia is the fact flights to other countries were very inexpensive, especially as compared to flights from the U.S. They were able to get round-trip flights from Taiwan to the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia for under $200 each. Hence, they were able to learn about several different cultures during their stays abroad.

The students shared, they would not trade their time studying abroad in Taiwan for anything. Spending a couple of months in a completely different culture provided them with numerous opportunities to grow intellectually. Every single second was a learning experience. Steven shared, “I found I grew a lot when every interaction I had with the world around me required a focused, concerted effort toward finding solutions to problems. This trip taught me how to be grateful for the struggles, for being away from those I love, and for increased levels of anxiety. They proved to be the best, most brutal teachers. This experience was a perfect example of how growth happens when we step out of our comfort zone. I am so thankful our Counseling Program allows students this opportunity.”

2018-2019 Graduate College Awards

Student Awards
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation
First Place: Allan Nelson, Ed.D. Educational Leadership & Postsecondary Education
*Exploring The Experiences Of Adolescent Students Attending A Virtual School*
Advisor: Dr. Radhi Al-Mabuk
Second Place: Junu Shrestha, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
*Study of Low Dose Nitrite Stress on Human Mononuclear Cells: An In-Vitro Case-Control Study On Osteoarthritis*
Advisor: Dr. Catherine Zeman
Third Place: Stanley Ebede, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
*Student Engagement in Higher Education: Measuring the Differences in Community Engagement*
Advisor: Dr. Julianne Gassman

Outstanding Master’s Thesis
First Place: Clarissa Ruiz, M.S. Biology
*The Effects of Nutrient Resorption, Photosynthetic Rate, and Leaf Longevity on the Success of Typha x Glaucia*
Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Elgersma
Second Place: Hailey Hatch, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
*The Moral Motivations of Negative Attitudes Toward Transgender Persons*
Advisor: Dr. Helen Harton
Third Place: Zachary Sperstad, M.S. Biology
*Reconstructing The Phylogeny And Characterizing The Patterns Of Molecular Evolution Of The Tetraploid, Freshwater Suckers (Cypriniformes: Catostomidae)*
Advisor: Dr. Peter Berendzen

Outstanding Master’s Research Paper
First Place: Caitlin Becker, M.A. English
*A Lesson on Cats and Dogs: Using Project-Based Learning Strategies to Meet Language Arts Standards*
Advisor: Dr. Sheila Benson

Faculty Awards
James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award
Dr. Martha Reineke, Department of Philosophy & World Religions

Distinguished Scholar Award
Dr. Daniel Power, Department of Management

Graduate Faculty Teaching Award
Dr. Catherine Palczewski, Department of Communication Studies
Over half of Iowa’s full time teacher librarians are trained or have been trained by University of Northern Iowa. The Department of Curriculum & Instruction plans to continue this tradition by launching another School Library Studies cohort in Fall 2019. The online program offers teacher librarian endorsement and an M.A. degree. The teacher librarian alumni are literacy and technology leaders who impact schoolwide learning by collaborating with classroom teachers and providing equitable access to books and digital information.

Brooke Becker, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction, had a journal article entitled “Addressing Common Misconceptions with Informal Arguments” accepted for publication in Mathematics Teacher, NTMC, Vol. 112, No. 6 in April 2019. This article reflects upon the implementation of a high school mathematics activity that provides the opportunity to address misconceptions about triangle congruence conjectures as they naturally develop through the formation of informal proof schemes.

Abby Weiland, Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction student, had the opportunity to present her research, “Teacher Well-Being: The Quest to Do What’s Best for Kids Without Losing Yourself” at the Texas Association for Literacy Educators Annual Conference at the Waco Convention Center on March 1. The following morning, she was honored with one of two Graduate Student Research Poster Awards. Abby’s research explored the experiences of practicing elementary teachers as they navigated the demands of the teaching profession, and how these experiences contributed to their conceptualization of teacher well-being.

Ashley Meyers, a Women’s and Gender Studies student, has been accepted to Oregon State University’s Ph.D. program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies starting in the fall of 2019. Zie is receiving a four year teaching assistantship.

AJ Richard has had an article entitled, “Gender, Race, and Baseball in Postwar America” accepted for publication in the April issue of the Baseball Research Journal. She is earning an M.A. in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Dr. Matt Townsley (pictured left), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, recently presented at the National Conference on Education (AASA) in Los Angeles with Sam Miller (pictured right), Chief Administrator at Central Rivers AEA. Their session was entitled, “Mastery-minded Grading in Secondary Schools” which focused on leadership lessons from implementing standards-based grading.

Post Secondary Education: Student Affairs graduate students had the opportunity to present at the NODA Region V Conference at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Lindsey Wischniewski and Bailey Aukes (pictured above right) presented about the graduate school search process. Maddy Spettel and Taberie Halling (pictured above left) presented on investing in orientation leaders through professional development.

The Graduate Student Symposium figured largely in a Spring 2019 class taken by students in the MA-English program. English 6286: Studies in Professing English is a new course focusing on professionalization issues in the English discipline. Dr. Adrienne Lamberti built the curriculum to focus on what it means to be a member of the field, as well as on historical and current topics impacting and transforming “English” today. As part of the course, students composed for the Symposium a series of presentations, posters, and creative performances that argued how each student defined “English” as a discipline, then created publicity campaigns to drive traffic to the Symposium pieces as housed on ScholarWorks.

It is early in the process of obtaining internships for students in the Department of School Psychology, and three of students have already accepted internships for the 2019-2020 academic year. Dayelle Davis and Andi Edmister have accepted internships with Heartland AEA. Liz Del Castillo has accepted an internship with Central Rivers AEA.

Bethany Washington, current Master of Music in Violin candidate, has won a professional position through audition with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra.
Accolades

Department of Biology

As part of his research work Ryan D. Lockard, recent M.S. Biology graduate, was involved in various experimental avenues. His M.S. thesis was the result of the convergence of these projects and was awarded the 2018-2019 First Place Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. Some of these results, in which he is an author are now published in the following scientific literature:


Department of Psychology

In February several psychology graduate students traveled to Portland, OR to present research at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. Chelsea Washburn presented research conducted with Dr. Kim MacLin, "Police Activities," Alivia Zubrod presented research conducted with Dr. MacLin, "Implicit Bias and Target Race as Predictors of Crime Perceptions." Alivia Zubrod and Nathan Lewey assisted Dr. Helen Harton's project entitled, "Prejudice and Perceptions of Threat from Immigrants Are Actually Down in College Students." Nathan (pictured above left) also conducted research with Dr. Harton, “Threat as a Mediator of the Relationship between Political Orientation and Prejudice Toward Immigrants.” Christina Fortuna and Breanna Kirpes (pictured above right) presented research conducted with Dr. Harton, "Race, Gender Identity and Philanthropy: Assessing Intersectionality.”

Helena Alacha, M.A. Psychology, presented research at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Annual Convention held in Denver, CO on April 4th.

Department of History

Three current and former M.A. History graduate students were accepted to History Ph.D Programs for Fall 2019. Current M.A. History graduate student Matthew Hill has been accepted to the University of Kansas. Current History M.A. student Robert Umsted will be attending the University of North Texas. Robert also earned his B.A. in History at UNI. Nicholas Sly, a 2015 M.A. History will be attending Michigan State University. Nicholas also earned his B.A. in History at UNI and has been teaching English in South Korea for the past few years.

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders / Speech-Language Pathology

The following was published by faculty and graduate students from the department:

Carissa Newman, M.A.E. Special Education, attended the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario on April 7. She shared, “This conference was a great way for me to kick off my teaching career by being surrounded by thousands of teachers and educational researchers from around the world. It made me realize how different education is around the world, and it made me very thankful for the resources we have in Iowa for young children and students with educational needs.” One Paper Session she attended was about parent and student perspectives on the home and school relationship. She stated, “After listening to the qualitative findings about parent perspectives, I am eager to begin my first year as a teacher and develop a strong relationship with the parents of my students. I am very thankful for this educational experience, and I look forward to more conferences in the future!”

Morgan Dobroski, M.A.E. Special Education, presented her research at the 2019 Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities in Honolulu, Hawaii. While at the conference in March, Morgan was able to share her personal story as a student with a disability, while also centering the voices and experiences of others that she had interviewed who also have a disability. Morgan’s research embeds her personal autoethnography as well as emerging qualitative themes from interviews with young women with disabilities. The title of her presentation was, “How I Learned to Like My Disability” Understanding How Young Women with Disabilities Feel about Themselves. After graduation this May, Morgan will move to Thailand to teach high school Special Education.

Kelsey Johnson, M.A.E. Special Education, attended the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario. She shared, “The AERA conference was a great opportunity to listen to individuals from all over the world present their research and it truly opened my eyes to the endless possibilities in research. I learned about an upcoming self-monitoring app from the University of Iowa and listened in on research regarding inclusion for students with disabilities!” She also had the opportunity to listen to numerous presentations regarding the importance of promoting self-advocacy skills in adolescents in their transition out of high school, the essential role of parents in the motivational processes for students with disabilities, and how to better support students with autism in the classroom. She stated, “AERA was the perfect conference to wrap up my educational experience and research at the University of Northern Iowa!”

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- Read the UNI Graduate Student Handbook!
- Read UNI Grad Student News, the Graduate College's online newsletter!
- Join UNI Grad Chat, Facebook Group exclusively for graduate students!
**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](https://grad.uni.edu/online-submission-form). Submissions can include information about recent conferences you have attended, academic accomplishments, or upcoming departmental events. Submissions for accolades are limited to 150 words and must be written in third person. Submit photographs to gradlife@uni.edu.

**We Welcome Your News!**

*Submission Deadlines for 2019-2020 Issues:*
- September 4, 2019 for September Issue
- November 15, 2019 for November Issue
- January 24, 2020 for February Issue
- April 10, 2020 for April Issue

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**Who Receives the Newsletter?**

All graduate students, faculty, and staff receive the newsletter via email. You can always view previous and current issues of *UNI Grad Student News* at [https://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news](https://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news).
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