

UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

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Message from the Dean



As we approach the end of another semester, it is worth considering how the holiday season can provide some time for reflection and rejuvenation, to set goals for the next year and spend time with those who are important to us. One unique opportunity provided during this season is being able to network with persons we also may not know so well.

Most of us commonly network by using social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. But sometimes it is harder to do this type of networking in face-to-face settings. Recently, I saw such networking happen at the first UNI Graduate College Social Mixer in November. Students and faculty, from various programs, were talking about their interests in research, teaching, etc. I learned about interesting projects being done by both students and faculty at UNI. I met students I would most likely never have met if I had not chosen to attend this event.

Looking for such places to network can be difficult. One place we all could consider networking during this holiday season is by attending holiday parties to which we are invited or by hosting such events. Such networking can expand the conversation topics we might normally have, and possibly make connections for our future or for those of our family and friends. But it may mean we have to get out of our typical comfort zones and conversations of "How are things going," and start telling different stories and reaching out in other unique ways.

For example, in a recent issue of Forbes magazine, the author talked about changing the focus of the conversation at such events, from the past to your future hopes and dreams:

- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolinecenizalevine/2014/11/30/the-career-changers-survival-guide-to-holiday-networking/>.

In another edition of Forbes magazine, a leadership coach discussed how to not appear nervous at such events:

- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolkinseygoman/2014/11/17/networking-tips-for-the-holiday-office-party/>, and the Networking Gurus provided suggestions of questions to ask at such events: <http://www.thenetworkinggurus.com/tips/tips08/twelve-tips-for-holiday-networking.html>.

To learn more about this type of networking, there are many good suggestions on the internet. See the following two links, as examples.

- <http://career-advice.monster.com/job-search/professional-networking/networking-tips-holidays/article.aspx>
- <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/networking/a/holidaynetworking.htm>

Another networking opportunity to consider will take place this January, in a professional development workshop put on by the Graduate College. It will provide helpful tips and advice on ways to network in Graduate School and also at professional conferences.

This holiday season, I hope you are able to find some time to do some networking of your own, as well as to rejuvenate and spend quality time with your family and friends. Have a great holiday season!

GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

LUCI DUMAS



Luci Dumas, a native of Liberty Center, Ohio, received her Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Science in May 2014. Currently she is a doctoral student working on her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Wyoming. Luci has had her sights on obtaining an advanced degree from the very beginning of her time at UNI. Luci said the professors in the Psychology Department were very helpful in preparing her for the application

and interview process. Further, Luci stated that participating in the 2013 & 2014 Graduate Student Symposium aided her in explaining components of her research to those outside the field as well as facilitating new ideas for her. Luci advises current graduate students to take advantage of funding opportunities, as she was able to present her research at two different conferences through that support.

She greatly appreciates the funding offered through the Graduate College and the UNI Intercollegiate Academics Travel, Research and Creative Activity Fund and recommends current graduate students pursue these funding opportunities. Luci attributes her growth both as a professional and doctoral student, to the faculty in the Psychology Department at UNI. She is especially thankful for the help and support of Dorothy Burt and Jan Cornelius, secretaries in the Psychology Department. Luci also notes the kind and helpful individuals within the Graduate College and believed many people went above and beyond in helping her pursue her degree. Luci has plenty of advice for current graduate students. She recommends everyone take full advantage of Rod Library, WRC, UNI Greenhouse, and other campus offerings. Her final piece of advice for graduate students is simple: "Figure out what is most important to you and then apply yourself to make your goals happen." Luci enjoys watching movies, baking, spending time outdoors, and playing with her pets. While she was at UNI, she enjoyed the \$5 movies on Tuesdays and Thursdays at College Square Theatre and the dog park. She misses eating breakfast at Newton's Paradise Café in Waterloo and visiting the Cedar Falls Farmer's Market.

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

DR. FABIO FONTANA



Dr. Fabio Fontana contributes to quality graduate education at UNI through both his research pursuits and teaching efforts. Dr. Fontana earned his undergraduate degree in Physical Education in 1997 from Federal University of Parana in Brazil. Shortly afterward, he pursued graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh where he began working on his Master of Science degree

in Development Movement. Dr. Fontana earned his Master of Science degree in 2004 and his Master of Education degree in Research Methodology in 2006. While completing his Master of Science degree, Dr. Fontana devoted time toward earning his Ph.D. in Motor Learning and Development, which he earned in 2007, also from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to assuming his position as Associate Professor in the School of Health, Physical Education, & Leisure Services (HPELS), Dr. Fontana held several other positions. From 2002-2006, he served as the co-director of the Kinder Kinetics program at the University of Pittsburgh which provided inclusive physical activity opportunities for students with and without disabilities. He also worked as a physical education teacher at Falk School in Pittsburgh from 2003-2006. Following his work at Falk School, Dr. Fontana assumed the role of Assistant Professor from 2006-2008 at the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Studies at Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Fontana joined UNI in 2008 and was attracted to the university because of the balanced focus on teaching and research. While on campus for his interview, he took note of the strong

publication activity completed by HPELS faculty members as well as the facilities and laboratories. Each of these aspects contributed to Dr. Fontana's decision to accept the offer to join the faculty at UNI. In addition to his work with graduate students, Dr. Fontana also collaborates with undergraduate students on many research projects, of which he is very proud. One of his future aspirations is to ensure the undergraduate research group remains strong and that they continue to have opportunities to serve as co-authors in national conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications. Finally, Dr. Fontana has been instrumental in helping facilitate the online Physical Education graduate program. He is very proud of UNI's ability to expand online education to physical education teachers who would not be able to pursue graduate studies due to professional demands. He is very excited to hear from his students regarding their ability to integrate and apply concept from graduate level courses into their teaching practices. Dr. Fontana believes the program is instrumental in student success and he is looking forward to continuing to offer the online learning option. In addition to providing both graduate and undergraduate students with research opportunities, Dr. Fontana is looking to pursue external funding opportunities related to his research interests. Primarily he focuses on vision and motor performance research and weight discrimination. Recently Dr. Fontana conducted research projects related to using vision to expedite the learning of motor skills among novice sport participants, investigating the optimal quiet eye length for accuracy in golf putting, and the effects of weight-teasing on physical activity participation, among many other projects. Dr. Fontana and his wife have a six-year-old son and a four-year-old daughter.

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:**HEATHER CHAMBERLAIN**

Heather Chamberlain returned to the Cedar Valley after attending the University of Iowa for two years majoring in pre-pharmacy biology. She received a bachelor's of science from UNI in 2012 with a major in biology and a minor in religious studies. Chamberlain is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Science Education with endorsements in chemistry and basic science. She is a graduate

Chamberlain appreciated how, even as an undergraduate student, the UNI professors are invested in her success and possess invaluable information about being a teacher. She said, "I am lucky to be learning from some of the best educators in Iowa and think this feature makes UNI unique." Chamberlain is currently writing her thesis about biblical literalism and acceptance of evolution. She chose her topic because of her undergraduate minor in religious studies and the unique problem of teaching evolution that science education teachers face. After graduation, Chamberlain hopes to stay in Iowa and teach high school biology. She said, "I have traveled all over the world and the more I do, the more I appreciate my home here." Chamberlain and her fiancé, also a scientist, plan to exchange vows shortly after graduation.

teaching assistant in the Inquiry to Life Science class and hosts a local environmental group, Cedar Valley Green Drinks. In the spring, Chamberlain will be completing her student teaching requirements and plans to graduate in May 2015.

Eighth Annual
UNI Graduate Student
Symposium April 1st, 2015
Registration Now Open!

In less than 10 minutes, you will be registered and have the opportunity to showcase your academic work and build your résumé in a professional and welcoming venue right on campus!

Categories:

Oral Presentations

Poster Presentations: Research or Literature Review

Creative Performances: Original Composition, Performance (Not Original),
or Creative Writing

Register Online Today

<http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium>

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) held its second meeting of the semester on Nov. 12, 2014. Maryam Rod, a graduate student in the Curriculum & Instruction program, joined as a new member. The GSAB subcommittee leaders provided updates pertaining to social media efforts, graduate student recruitment and retention projects, and upcoming plans for the Graduate Student Symposium.

NISG representatives Heather Place and Kristen Buldhaupt presented a brief update regarding their attendance at recent Northern Iowa Student Government meetings. Susie Schwieger reviewed the events and professional development workshops held during the semester. She asked members to share their suggestions by email for professional development workshops for the spring semester.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the 2015 Graduate Student Symposium. Topics considered included judging, prizes, and registration. Schwieger requested members start their marketing ideas for the Symposium by email.

The next GSAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

GRADUATE COLLEGE SOCIAL MIXER

Nearly 60 graduate students, faculty, and staff attended the Graduate College Social Mixer held on Nov. 17. Attendees enjoyed warm apple cider and cookies while networking. The event served to kick off the registration for the 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium to be held April 1st. Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter briefly described the benefits of participating in the Symposium before a promotional video featuring previous Symposium participants, winners, and judges was shown. The Graduate College would like to extend a warm thank you to all of the attendees of the first Graduate Student Social Mixer! The link to the Symposium video can be found here <http://grad.uni.edu/symposium-video>.



GRADUATE STUDENT DAVID COLTRAIN JOINS NISG LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



David Coltrain, a first year graduate student in the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program, recently began serving as a senator on the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) legislative branch. Coltrain joins Heather Place and Kristen Buldhaupt, both Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs students, as members of the legislative board. Prior to starting his graduate education, David spent three years working for the United States Antarctic Program in support of scientific research taking place in Antarctica. Coltrain graduated from UNI in 2010 with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree after completing coursework at Iowa State University and Western State College. In addition to his education experiences, Coltrain is a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked for the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. He also spent several years working in the tourism industry of Colorado. He decided to pursue the opportunity with NISG due to the experience being a part of student government that would enhance his ability to work with campus organizations in his future student affairs career. Although Coltrain has not been representing the interests of graduate students for long, he believes NISG is striving to become a more robust organization that better represents the whole student body. Specifically, he is involved with the External Relations Committee. Coltrain will be representing NISG on the Master Plan Task Force on Facilitating Transportation through the remainder of this academic year.

TIPS TO PREPARE FOR THE 2015 SPRING SEMESTER

The spring semester is fast approaching and graduate students are preparing for new courses, planning to attend conferences and/or anticipating graduation. The long winter break offers you the opportunity to make the most of your spring semester. After you have spent some time relaxing and mentally rearing yourself, follow these resolutions to get a jump on the New Year:

- **Double-check your course registration from MyUNiverse.** Make sure you are in the correct courses for the correct number of credits and they are being applied to your degree. Complete any items in your "To Do List" before classes begin.
- **Order your textbooks now** and take the time to familiarize yourself in advance.
- **Register to participate in the Eighth Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Wed., April 1, 2015.** Current graduate students and December 2014 graduates are invited to participate. The symposium features poster presentations, oral presentations, and creative performances. Prize money will be awarded! For more information including the registration form, guidelines, and frequently asked questions, visit the Symposium website <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium>. The registration deadline is Feb. 2, 2015.
- **Keep your resume or CV updated.** Email your document to Susie Schwieger, susan.schwieger@uni.edu, Director of Graduate Student Life, to have your resume or CV reviewed. Phone and office appointments are also available by calling 273-3044. Winter break is also an excellent time to create a portfolio showcasing your work or update an existing one.
- **Keep in touch with your program coordinator.** Inquire about any upcoming conferences or events you should consider attending. Is it possible for you to complete a short-term internship or practicum experience over the break? Consider getting in touch with a current professional in your area of study for a job shadow experience; ask questions and add to what you have learned in the classroom.
- **Organize and file your work from the past semester.** If you haven't already, develop a systematic way to store your notes, handouts and papers for future reference. If possible, back up your resources electronically and take care to save your syllabi as well.
- **Plan/Resolve to get involved this semester.** Take advantage of professional development activities offered for graduate students and monitor the UNI Graduate College Calendar. Look at your upcoming schedule and pencil in monthly Brown Bag presentations, professional development workshops and upcoming conferences or relevant off-campus opportunities. The list of professional development workshops will be listed on the website and sent out in an informative email.
- **Check your UNI email regularly over break.** Make sure your UNI email forwards to your personal email if that is what you prefer. All official university correspondence (including opportunities for assistantships/scholarships) are sent to your UNI email.
- **Thesis/Dissertation Writers-** Communicate to your department early in the semester your intent to complete your thesis/dissertation. Then watch your email for a message from Janet Witt, Graduate College Thesis/Dissertation Reviewer, regarding scheduling your preview. These deadlines are also posted on the UNI Graduate College website <http://www.grad.uni.edu/>. Do not wait to schedule your preview; the time slots near the deadline fill up quickly. The deadlines are enforced; requests for extensions are not approved. If you are writing a research paper, please check with you advisor regarding the procedure and deadlines.
- **Use Rod Library Resources and attend thesis and dissertation defenses.**

COUNSELING PROGRAM STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SYMPOSIUM

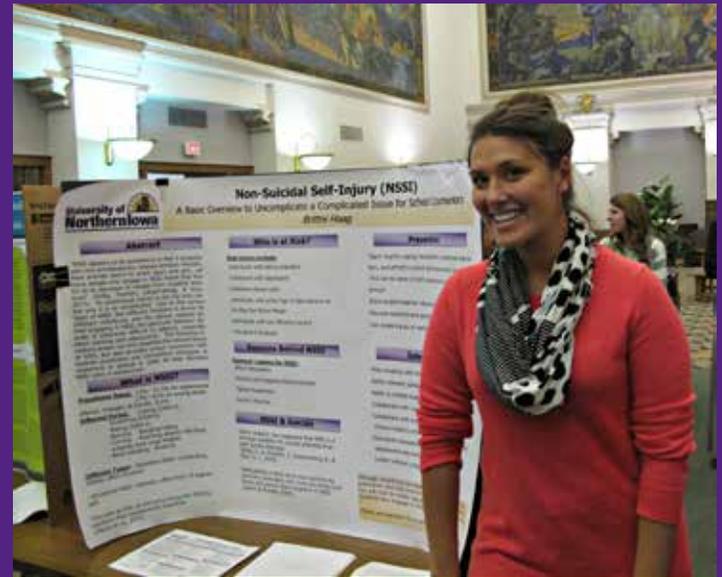


Thirty-four students from the Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling programs participated in the annual Chi Sigma Iota-Upsilon Nu Iota Chapter Counselor Education Research and Scholars Symposium on Nov. 18, 2014 in the Seerley Great Reading Room. Each of the students presenting were second-year students in the counseling program. The Symposium is a graduation exit requirement of the counseling program and is a brief synopsis of each student's research paper. Students are evaluated regarding several criteria including content and relevance of the material, quality of the poster, professionalism, and self-confidence. Full-time counseling faculty members conduct the evaluations.

Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling. Each year, select students in the UNI counseling program are

invited to become members of the Upsilon Nu Iota Chapter of CSI for demonstrating excellence in the classroom and as future professionals. The Upsilon Nu Iota Chapter hosts the Counselor Education Scholars Symposium each fall to celebrate the achievements of the students and provide the opportunity to present their projects and research to an audience, peers, and colleagues. Students presented posters on a variety of topics including physical activity and mental health, creativity and flow theory, play therapy, animal assisted therapy, and many others.

Congratulations to the UNI counseling program on their successful research symposium!



SPEECH LANGUAGE-PATHOLOGY STUDENTS UPDATE

Graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders presented their research projects at the 2015 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 20-22. The students' research topics ranged from resources for early intervention to augmentative and alternative communication to the Name That! App used for individuals with aphasia. Twenty-five graduate students presented at the ASHA Convention. Congratulations to the following students for their presentations:

Nicole Busta	Cathy Dykeman	Jessica Reuter
Kari Lien	Abby Golden	Jessica Sexe
Lindsey Strock	Zach Foltz	Joana Eggert
Lindsey Lang	Bethany Fischer	Ada Strausser
Amber Melchert	Ashley Richardson	Bailey Wedeking
Kelli Bean	Leslie Holtkamp	Christina HoangAnh Tran
Riley Schreder	Ali Meyer	Laura Carson
Manaswita Dutta	Jennifer Akins	Kathryn Glesne
		Morgan Reiter

Five Iowa Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ISHA) 2014 scholars were recently chosen by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Congratulations to Meghan Wethington, Kari Lien, Lindsey Lang, Leslie Holtkamp, and Laura Carson for being recognized! These students will now go on to compete against the University of Iowa and St. Ambrose University students for the Neil VerHoef Scholarship. To read more about the students recognized above, please visit: <http://www.uni.edu/comdis/news-events/names-2014-isha-scholars-released>

Congratulations to all the Speech-Language Pathology graduate students!

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES STUDENTS ATTEND NWSA CONFERENCE IN PUERTO RICO

Several students in the Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) program recently attended the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference (NWSA) Nov. 13-16 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The NWSA conference regularly draws more than 1,500 attendees and is the only annual meeting in the United States exclusively dedicated to highlighting the latest feminist scholarship. The 2014 theme was "Feminist Transgressions" and hosted poster presentations, interest group meetings,

and roughly 500 breakout sessions, each comprising two to five professional and academic presentations in the fields of Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Robin Summers and Emily Harsch, WGS programming assistants, represented UNI at an academic opportunities fair during the event.



(Kyrie Borsay, pictured on the right, stands with Dr. bell hooks at the NWSA Conference)

WGS students attended presentations on a multitude of topics, such as "Black Feminist Ethnographic Practice: Voice, Collaboration and Justice in the Fight for Liberatory Knowledge Production," "Exploring Feminist Politics Online: The Possibilities and Limitations of Online Feminist Activism," and "Transcending Speciesism: Feminism and Animal Ethics." Students were also able to attend plenaries on Caribbean scholarship and activism, as well as on the Israeli occupation of Palestine and support for the BDS movement. Feminist author and activist Dr. bell hooks was the



(Left to Right: Christa Cortesio, Emily Harsch, Dr. Catherine MacGillivray, Robin Summers, Kyrie Borsay, Kyle Marburger, and Shera Steere)

keynote speaker for NWSA 2014: Feminist Transgressions and one of the leading public intellectuals in the U.S. Dr. bell hooks has appeared in documentary films and published more than thirty books. Dr. hooks (née Gloria Watkins) published her first book under the name "bell hooks" and did so to honor her maternal grandmother and her name is expressed in lowercase letters to de-emphasize the author as person and instead focus on the subject of her writing.

Several representatives of UNI accompanied Summers and Harsch at the conference. Attendees included graduate students Christa Cortesio, Kyle Marburger, Kyrie Borsay, and undergraduate senior Shera Steere, WGS. The director of WGS, Dr. Catherine MacGillivray, was in attendance along with UNI professor Dr. Jennifer Cooley, who presented her ethnographic research entitled "A Labor of Love (and Hate): Migrant Women Weaving Networks of Resistance."

Congratulations to all of the WGS students and faculty on their attendance at the NWSA Conference!



Winter Break 2014

"I use the first week to take a trip and visit family. The second week is 'me' time and I sleep in and relax. The last week I use to get an early start on my readings for next semester."

Toluwani Johnson, Public Policy

"Winter break is a great time to visit family and relatives and buy gifts. This year I am going to use my time to do some artwork that allows me to de-stress."

Maryam Rod, Curriculum & Instruction

"Take time to do something you might not have time to do during the academic year such as reading for fun, outdoor activities, or cooking. This is also a great time to plan ahead for future semesters and plans for after graduation."

Kristen Buldhaupt

Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs

"Go downhill skiing! The best way to enjoy winter and relax is by getting out in it."

Dave Coltrain

Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs

"Enjoy having a break. Make sure you set aside time for fun, even if you're working on your thesis."

Liz Johnson, English: English Studies

"Spend time with pets. Visit downtown Cedar Falls to see all the lights or even go sledding. Winter break is a great time to catch up on your favorite TV shows or organize your room, apartment, or desk area."

RaeAnn Swanson, Public History

"Travel! It seems stressful but it always helps me feel centered and refreshed."

Ashley Heffern, Social Work

"I catch up on sleep, cuddle with my cat, and spend quality time with love ones!"

Heather Place

Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs

"Winter break is a great time to start looking into potential internship locations and making initial contacts. It is also a great time to do something you normally don't have time to do like skiing, visiting relatives, doing creative projects, reading, or cooking."

Abbie Gacke, Speech-Language Pathology

UNI ALUMNI RECEIVE YAGER EXEMPLARY TEACHING RECOGNITION AWARDS

Dr. Clayton Edwards and Lisa Chizek, both UNI alumni, were recently recognized as recipients of the Fifth Annual Dr. Robert E. & Phyllis M. Yager Exemplary Teaching Recognition Award. This award recognized exemplary K through 12 teaching by University of Northern Iowa graduates who now teach in Iowa schools. Dr. Edwards earned a Master of Arts degree in Middle Level Mathematics and a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UNI. Currently he is a mathematics teacher at Grundy Center Middle School in Grundy Center, Iowa. Dr. Edwards also received the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation award in 2014. Chizek earned her Bachelor Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Science Education from UNI. She now teaches fifth and sixth grade science and serves as the STEM Coordinator at North

Tama Elementary School in Traer, Iowa. Chizek received the Excellence in Science Teaching Award for Elementary Education from the Iowa Academy of Science in April 2013. Both Chizek and Edwards were recognized at a luncheon held on Dec. 5, 2014 in the Great Reading Room in Seerley Hall.

Robert E. Yager, professor emeritus of science education in the College of Education at the University of Iowa where he taught for 50 years, received his B.A. degree in biology from UNI in 1950. Yager went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant physiology from the University of Iowa. His research interests have focused on student motivation and attitudes toward science.

Congratulations to both Dr. Edwards and Ms. Chizek on their accomplishments!

GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News contact gradlife@uni.edu.
With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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