

Message from the Dean



Why should you engage in research or creative work? The 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium is an opportunity to do just that. Here are five important reasons to participate in this event:

1. Build your résumé or curriculum vitae.
2. Enhance your professional development.
3. Showcase your research and creative works to a wider audience.
4. Network with others in the academic community.
5. Receive feedback from graduate faculty judges.

Graduate students are often required to do research or creative activities, but often do not know about outlets where they can present their work. I remember being a graduate student thinking my own work could never be presented at a conference or published in an academic journal. Once I did present at my first conference and secured a publication, I realized these ideas require a lot of hard work and willingness to seek out opportunities for presenting.

The Graduate College offers graduate students a venue for presenting their work each year. The 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. It is not too early to be thinking about what you could submit for this symposium. Registration is now open, so visit <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium> to sign up now.

In 2014, we had 68 graduate students participate and a total of 53 presentations and performances. There are opportunities to present via a poster session, oral presentation, or perform creative works. Graduate faculty judge each presentation and performance. Awards are given to 1st and 2nd place in each category. The 2015 categories are as follows:

- Research Poster
- Literature Review Poster
- Original Composition, Creative Performance
- Performance of Another's Work
- Creative Writing
- Oral Presentation

Last year's winners represented a variety of academic programs and disciplines. Perhaps you will be listed here next year!

- Ranjana Joshi—Technology
- Tsamchoe Dolma—Psychology: Social Psychology
- Brittany Lewno—Psychology: Clinical Science
- Sandra Flikkema—Communication Studies: Organizational Communication
- Luci Dumas—Psychology: Clinical Science
- Alexa Juhl—Health Education: Community Health Education
- Rachel Meisinger—Psychology: Clinical Science
- Brock Rozich—Psychology: Social Psychology
- Matthew Cooney—Geography
- Laura Trettin—Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs
- Lingxiu Chen—Technology: Engineering Management
- Asha Ganesan—Psychology: Social Psychology
- Melanie Abbas—Technology
- Darshak Dodiya—Technology: Industrial Management
- Katherin Kneisley—Performance: Voice
- Xavia Publius—Women's and Gender Studies
- Rachel Routier—English: Creative Writing

Visit the Graduate College website to learn more about this incredible academic opportunity. For any questions regarding the Symposium, contact Susie Schwieger, the Director of Grad Student Life.

DEMYSTIFYING THE GRE RECAP

In late October, Academic Learning staff Deanne Gute, Writing Coordinator, Latricia Hylton, Math Coordinator, and Emily Borcharding, Reading & Learning Coordinator, presented a workshop entitled, "Demystifying the GRE." The workshop began by Borcharding explaining how to register for the test and preparation materials needed to begin the GRE process. The workshop broke down each specific part of the test and gave sample questions for students to practice. Gute highlighted the key components of writing an appropriate response to the analytical writing portion of the test.

Borcharding followed by giving students appropriate testing resources to practice the verbal portion along with essential study tips. Concluding the workshop, Hylton discussed the different levels of questions presented during the quantitative portion of the exam. She provided specific examples and walked the students through the appropriate way to answer them.

Students unable to attend the workshop and wanting to know more about how to prep for the GRE should contact the Academic Learning Center at <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/>.

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

AUNNA MCDOWELL



Aunna McDowell completed her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and French at the University of Northern Iowa in 2013. She chose to attend graduate school because she wanted to pursue a degree of higher education. McDowell chose UNI because she enjoys working with the Department of Language and Literatures faculty. Another reason she chose to attend

graduate school was to further her Spanish language skills. McDowell is in her second year of the Spanish MA program in the Department of Language and Literatures. As a graduate assistant in the Languages and Literatures Department, she teaches the Elementary Spanish One class. Along with her studies and assistantship, McDowell is a Spanish and English tutor for Upward Bound, working with Waterloo West High School students. McDowell is working on a final research paper that focuses on different forms of feminism in modern Latin American literature. Following graduation, McDowell plans to pursue a career in Spanish teaching at the college level.

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

DR. CHRIS LARIMER



After completing his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Christopher Larimer secured his first post-graduate job at UNI in 2006. He was thrilled at the time and remains enthusiastic about his work teaching courses in the area of American politics, Iowa politics, and public administration. An Iowa native, Dr. Larimer completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science at UNI in 2001. He then went on to pursue both his M.A.

(2003) and Ph.D. (2006), both in Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After completing his graduate studies, Dr. Larimer returned to UNI as a faculty member. He credits his great experiences as an undergraduate student as a significant factor in his decision to pursue an employment opportunity at UNI. In his current position as an Associate Professor, Dr. Larimer enjoys bridging the gap between academic research and "the real world" by developing relationships with policy

practitioners and elected officials through classroom visits and informal discussions about research. He hopes to continue this trend in his work with UNI students. Dr. Larimer's research on voter mobilization techniques have direct relevance for elected officials and he has been pleased to see his research used in various electoral contexts across the country. Dr. Larimer's current project involves working on a chapter and book length project on recent Iowa governors. He continues to do research to "get out the vote" techniques using direct mail and field experiment methodologies. This research has generally focused on how campaigns can use subtle and overt forms of social pressure messaging to increase voter turnout. Dr. Larimer enjoys researching Iowa politics and finds himself fortunate to work with talented professionals across the state on this topic, including university colleagues as well as members of the media and elected officials. Dr. Larimer's wife, Danielle, teaches second grade in Waverly, Iowa and is currently a graduate student. Dr. Larimer and his wife have two children, Drew, who is six-years-old, and Nora, who recently turned two. Dr. Larimer enjoys playing golf, baseball, and football with his son and watching the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears sports teams.

GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

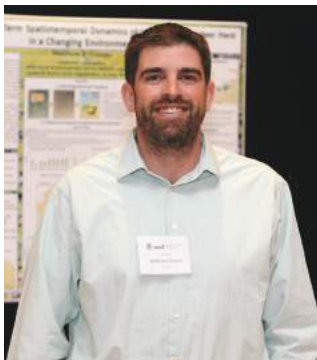
LATA D'MELLO

Lata D'Mello came to UNI in 1996 to pursue a Master of Arts degree in Women's and Gender Studies and completed her degree in 1998. Previously, D'Mello was a journalist for 22 years in Singapore, India. After graduating from UNI, D'Mello worked as a writer for a newspaper in Des Moines. While living in Des Moines, D'Mello became acquainted with a non-profit organization called Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa. She began actively volunteering in 2003 and became a full-time employee in 2009. D'Mello is currently serving as the assistant director in direct services, community outreach and education, and violence prevention. Her main responsibilities are finding community resources for immigrants and refugees in low economic statuses, providing educational forums and presentations to the public about Monsoon services, and advocating for violence prevention throughout the state of Iowa. When asked about how UNI influenced her future,

she said the professors affected her the most. D'Mello attributes finding her own "sense of feminism" and having a better understanding of women's issues, especially those involving cultural disputes, to her UNI professors. D'Mello strongly recommends the graduate students in the Women's and Gender Studies program start to volunteer and support non-profit organizations early on in their education. She stated, "fundraising skills, along with creativity skills are heavily relied upon for non-profit work." She also suggests being mindful of your own self needs. She knows first hand non-profit work can be emotionally and physically draining at times, so it is important to take care of oneself in order to help others. When D'Mello does find time for herself, she said she enjoys reading, cooking, and sewing. For more information on the Monsoon non-profit organization visit <http://muawi.org/>.

GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

MATTHEW COONEY



Cedar Falls native, Matthew Cooney, graduated from UNI in May 2014 with a Master of Arts degree in Geography with an emphasis in Geotechniques. Cooney is currently working as a GIS Specialist at Aerial Services, Inc. in Cedar Falls where he is responsible for conducting spatial analysis, designing and streamlining geospatial processes, and working with web

application creation. Throughout his graduate career at UNI, Cooney worked closely with all the faculty in the Department of Geography and GeoTREE but especially his advisor, Dr. Andrey Petrov. Cooney expanded his knowledge and experience of research and analytical skills through his work with Dr. Petrov but also through attending and presenting at national conferences with his fellow classmates. Cooney's advice to

current graduate students is "spend the time to do it right." He advises working on your thesis every day because hard work pays off. Cooney also attributes his graduate school success to his wife, Amber, who was very supportive while he spent many hours a day up in the grad lab. Cooney's dedication paid off when he was awarded first place for his research poster, *Understanding Long-Term Spatiotemporal Dynamics of the Taimyr Reindeer Herd in a Changing Environment* at the 2014 UNI Graduate Student Symposium. When asked about his experience at this event, Cooney said it was a good experience because when you get a chance to talk to about your work you should do it. He also felt satisfied when he could see his work was understood by others besides outside his field. In his spare time, Cooney enjoys traveling all over the country and to many other countries. His love for traveling has added to his passion for Geography.

UPCOMING BROWN BAG LECTURE

Dr. Belle Cowden, Director of Continuing & Distance Education, will present, "Teaching Online: It Can be a 'Hat Trick,'" as part of the Brown Bag Lecture Series on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 12:30-1:20 PM in Rod Library, Room 378. This Brown Bag Lecture is co-sponsored by the Graduate College and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Online teaching and learning is the focus on the presentation and Dr. Cowden will provide an overview and discussion of the different "hats" a faculty member wears. Some of these "hats" include pedagogical, social, managerial, and technical and each is involved in effectively teaching an online class. Bring your own lunch, and refreshments and cookies will be provided.

Eighth Annual  Graduate Student Symposium

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!

Register Online Today

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


University of
Northern Iowa
Graduate College

UNI Graduate College



Facebook Photo Contest

1. Photograph yourself reading the current issue of *UNI Grad Student News* in a creative way.
2. Email your photo to gradlife@uni.edu by December 8, 2014.
3. Visit the UNI Graduate College Facebook page and "Like" your favorites December 9-15.
4. The four photos with the most "Likes" will receive a prize and be featured in the January 2015 issue!

Receive a special prize from Chad's Pizza for your winning photo!



Use your smartphone to scan the QR code to check out the Graduate College Facebook page!

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: FALL 2014

The Fall 2014 Commencement Ceremony will be held at 11am on Saturday, Dec. 20 in the McLeod Center for both graduate and undergraduate students. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis for all guests. The Office of the Registrar encourages students to keep in mind a seating ratio of approximately six guests per one student. Doors to the McLeod Center will open at 8 AM on the morning of graduation. Students graduating should expect to arrive at least one hour in advance of the ceremony. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.uni.edu/registrar/graduation-and-commencement>.



MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY CLUB RAISES MORE THAN \$3,000 FOR THE IOWA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Master in Public Policy Club (MPP) held a dinner and fundraiser in October to benefit the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). The event was held in the UNI Commons and this collaborative endeavor raised funds for public policy advocacy efforts aimed at representing the victims of domestic violence and the people who serve them. Guests enjoyed a formal dinner service, silent auction and operatic performance by renowned Soprano Geraldine McMillian and Tenor Willie Morales, a student in the MPP program. In addition, the MPP program was celebrated and MPP alumni in attendance were recognized. Dr. Carol Weisenberger was also acknowledged for her long-standing commitment to the MPP program.



The ICADV is a state level nonprofit organization that has proven its capacity as a state and national resource in responding to the needs of battered women, men and children. Currently, there are 25 direct service domestic violence member programs across the state. ICADV staff provide training, counseling, community outreach, program management, and technical support for the member programs, professionals and the community. ICADV's mission is to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women, men, and children through education, advocacy and quality services.

With the generous support of the Department of Political Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Daniel Webster Law Society and the Northern Iowa Student Government Pepsi Fund, the MPP Club was able to make this event a memorable and successful evening. The MPP Club raised over \$3,000 to benefit the ICADV. These funds will be used to continue their work in preventing and ending domestic violence in Iowa. The event increased agency visibility for ICADV, making more people in the Cedar Valley aware of the important work they do. Planning and implementing this event also coincided with Public Policy course work thus greatly enhancing the educational experience of the MPP students.

SCHOOL COUNSELING STUDENT ATTENDS STAR TRAINING

Scotti Hagensick, a second year student in the School Counseling program, recently attended the Level I STAR: Strategies for Trauma Awareness & Resilience training in St. Paul, Minn. The STAR training is a five-day research-supported trauma awareness and resilience-training program facilitated by faculty and staff of Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. Hagensick applied for and received a financial scholarship to attend the off-campus training opportunity at Hamline University in St. Paul held on Oct. 3-5 and Oct. 18-19. The training is designed for individuals or organizations working with trauma, violence, or conflict-affected populations. The Level I training is an experiential and interactive based training and incorporates aspect of neurobiology, spirituality, and restorative justice to address the needs of trauma-impacted individuals and communities. Training participants discussed trauma overview and definitions as well as the emotional, cognitive, physical, spiritual, and behavioral effects of trauma. Hagensick was also equipped with resilience and self-care strategies to apply in her future work as a school counselor.



(Scotti is pictured in the front row, second from the right).

The STAR model is designed for settings involving all types of trauma including but not limited to natural disasters, abuse, violence, death, and military absences. Congratulations to Scotti for her participation in the STAR training!

Making the Most of Thanksgiving Break

Graduate school can be very demanding for most students, but especially first year graduate students. Thanksgiving break comes at an opportune time in the semester as finals week is rapidly approaching. Here are a few tips students can use to take advantage of this time:

1. Visit Friends & Family: Graduate School can be a home away from home for some students, so take the time to travel and see people that mean the most to you.

2. Explore Your Creative Side: Read a book or start a creative project. Graduate courses can be very challenging and may not allow for graduate students to express themselves creatively. Use this time to think outside the box.

3. Volunteer: Take the time to give back to others and also enhance your resume through volunteerism.

4. Set Aside Time for Schoolwork: Thanksgiving break is three weeks before finals. Use this break to catchup on school work or even get ahead before finals.

5. Self-Reflect: Take time to reflect on the semester thus far. Ask yourself what goals you have for the future and also what you can do to improve for the next semester.

6. Have Fun & Relax: It is always important to make school a priority but it is also vital to this week to enjoy time away from school. Finals week will be approaching quickly and it is best to feel revived and refreshed for the upcoming challenges.

GradFest 2014

December graduates are invited to GradFest on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 6-8 PM. at Gingers, on College Hill. Stop in for some free pizza, pop, and a gift from the UNI Alumni Association. Don't miss out on your chance to win an iPad and several other great prizes just for attending. While you are there, sign up for the Alumni Association and receive more cool stuff from your membership package!

The University of Northern Iowa

UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

Spring 2015 Submission Deadlines:

Submissions can be completed via the online submissions form at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news> or emailed to gradlife@uni.edu. We accept stories regarding conference participation and presentations, published journal articles or featured works, upcoming departmental events and announcements and more. We welcome your news!

Submission deadlines for Spring 2015 and further contact information is as follows:

January Deadline: 12/12/14	Susie Schwieger: Supervising Editor (susan.schwieger@uni.edu)
February Deadline: 1/30/15	Scotti Hagensick: Co-Editor (shagen@uni.edu)
March Deadline: 2/27/15	RaeAnn Swanson: Co-Editor (swansraa@uni.edu)
April Deadline: 3/31/15	Abbie Gacke: Co-Editor (ackeraab@uni.edu)
May Deadline: 4/21/15	

Past Issues:

All recent issues of the newsletter can be found at:

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

GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News fill out a submission form on our website. With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

*A special thank you to **University Relations** for producing the newsletter layout and design.*

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