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## UNI Grad Student News, v9n1, October 2013

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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# UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

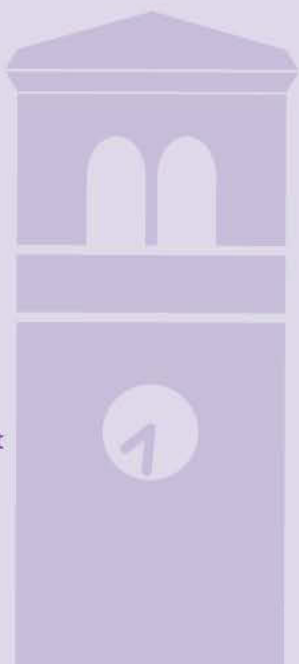
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## Message from the Dean

Welcome to the first issue of the new-and-improved of UNI Grad Student News! As before, the new version of UNI Grad Student News will have news about graduate education at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). However, starting with this issue *UNI Grad Student News* will be published monthly. This will allow the Graduate College to feature more stories about graduate students, faculty, and staff, and alumni. Graduate education at UNI is vibrant and strong, and we have a lot to celebrate!

Graduate student enrollment at UNI currently stands at 1,779 graduate students which is a record for the university. Thank you for choosing a graduate program at the University of Northern Iowa! As you work your way through your program, know that your input about the university matters. Graduate students serve on the student government senate, as well as on the Graduate Council, which is the body that has oversight of graduate curriculum and graduate academic policies. I also convene the Graduate Student Advisory Board at least four times a year. Please contact the members of any of these groups if you have an issue that needs to be reviewed. Or, just send me an email at [Michael.Licari@uni.edu](mailto:Michael.Licari@uni.edu)

Mike Licari  
Dean, Graduate College



## Darrina Bledsoe, MAY 2013 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

I chose the UNI Clinical Psychology Program because I am interested in assessing and treating mental health disorders in addition to attaining a working knowledge in social science research. I believe this program prepared me for a Doctoral program because it was taxing, tedious, and challenging, which are factors consistent and reflective of an advanced education



program. I went into the program intimidated and scared; however, as a result of this program, I am now more confident in my abilities as an entry-level clinician and researcher.

My plans for the future consist of gaining experience as a clinician in the work

force. I would like to earn my license and work for at least three years before returning to school. I plan to return to school and earn my Doctorate as a Psychologist within the next 10 years.

Excerpts from Darrina's Commencement Speech:

"As most of us know, being accepted into graduate school and actually completing it is a stressful, demanding, and life-changing process. When looking back at my senior year as an undergraduate, I did one of the most academically grueling things in my life, and that was applying to graduate school...

Now I can look back and truly understand that the real challenge was actually graduate school...

However, I would not pass up this tough and challenging experience for anything. It seems as if throughout this journey, I developed several valuable and irreplaceable relationships with some important and influential individuals, known as my colleagues...

When our dedication and commitment were challenged, we supported one another. After years of sacrificing our time, energy, health, and, essentially, our lives, we supported one another...

But all in all, we have persevered during times of adversity; remained strong and devoted when we could have easily walked away. And finally, we can all sit here today and officially say, 'We did it and it was all worth it.' Congratulations class of 2013!"

To read Darrina's entire speech visit [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu).

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE:

MICHELLE CZARNECKI



After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011 with a degree in English, a creative writing emphasis and a certificate in American Indian Studies,

**Michelle Czarniecki** began graduate school at UNI pursuing a Master's of Arts in Education in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs. Michelle's decision to attend UNI was encouraged by her father and advisor

and was cemented by an on-campus visit with students and faculty. As she begins the second year of her program, Michelle points to the people at UNI and especially her supportive cohort as being the most enjoyable part of her graduate experience. As an undergraduate, Michelle was active in the Wisconsin Union and competed with the Sailing Team. She brought her passion for involvement to UNI, and it prompted her practicum experiences with services like Athletics Academic Advising and Student Disability Services. This is Michelle's second year as the Graduate Assistant in the Student Involvement Center and as a member of the Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB). After graduation, Michelle hopes to apply her skills in a career where she can work with students on involvement, leadership, service, orientation, and wellness such as the director of a student union. A piece of advice from Michelle to fellow graduate students is to be active in the campus community and exercise to promote overall wellness!

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE:

STEVE PRZYMUS



**Steve Daniel Przymus** completed his MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at UNI in 2008 while teaching full time at a Nebraska high school. Steve chose UNI because of the TESOL program's focus on special courses that interested him, the flexibility offered to distance learners, and the positive reputation. According to Steve, UNI's TESOL program is "practical, professional, and

well respected." Connecting with diverse teachers from around Iowa and UNI's exceptional faculty gave Steve the confidence to pursue applied linguistics at the Doctorate level. Steve is currently in the second year of the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT) program at the University of Arizona. He works as a Graduate Research Assistant evaluating the effectiveness of three undergraduate degrees, co-teaches a PhD course, helps organize the SLAT Colloquium, a week long lecture series, and teaches the English and Computers class to indigenous teachers from Mexico through Project SEED. Steve's current research deals with multiple aspects of linguistics including researching Dual Language Instruction models and the influence of first language grammar on English Language Learners communicative success in the United States. In the future Steve hopes to work in a program similar to UNI's TESOL Program with teachers, schools, and communities to advance the education of diverse students, especially English Language Learners.



## GRADUATE COLLEGE GRADUATE ASSISTANT PROFILES:

### ANTHONY ROTH

Anthony Roth is the Graduate Assistant for Online Publication and Marketing. Anthony is currently working toward a Master of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Mass Communication. He received his undergraduate degree in Communications: Electronic Media and Psychology from UNI in May of 2012. During his time at UNI Anthony was the General Manager of the student radio station 94.5 KULT from 2009 to 2011 Anthony was responsible for securing over \$ 10,000 in funding for new equipment for the station.

Anthony enjoys listening to music and attending music festivals. He also enjoys playing his guitar, watching movies and television, and spending time with his friends. He plans on working toward a PhD with the goal of becoming a journalism professor.

### SCOTTI HAGENSICK

Scotti Hagensick is the Graduate Assistant for Online Content and Web Development. She is a first year Master's in School Counseling student at UNI, having received her Bachelor's degree in Public Relations from UNI in May 2013. During her time as an undergraduate student, Scotti competed for the UNI Cross Country and Track & Field teams in addition to serving as the Educational Outreach Associate for the UNI Recycling & Reuse Technology Transfer Center (RRTTC). Scotti also completed an internship with the Global Competency Consulting LLC in Cedar Falls.

In addition to her classes, Scotti serves as the assistant coach for the Hudson High School Cross Country teams. Upon graduation, she hopes to work as a school counselor in Iowa and continue to coach high school teams.

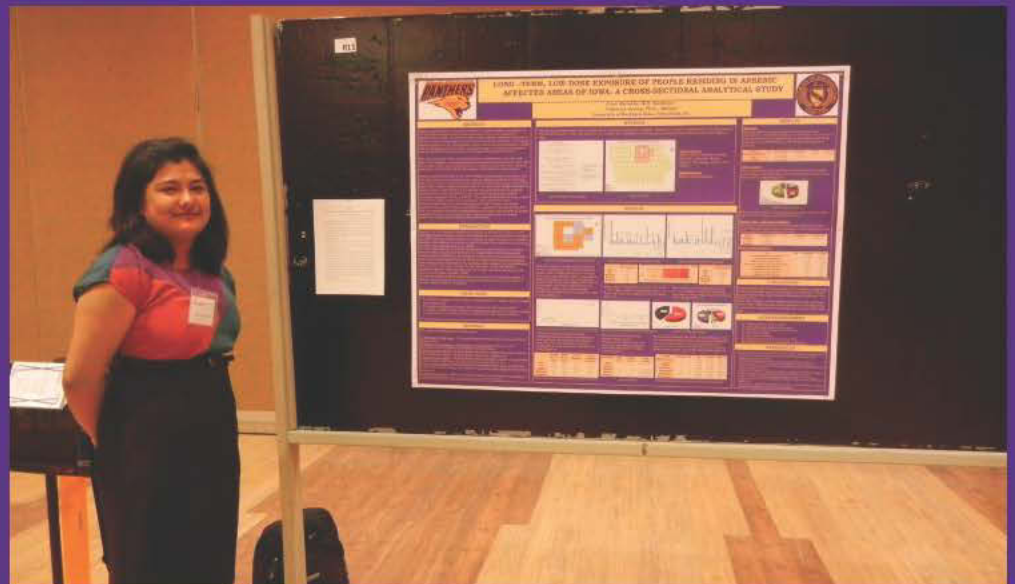
### RAEANN SWANSON

RaeAnn Swanson is the Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development. She is a first year graduate student working towards a Master's degree in History. RaeAnn completed her undergraduate studies at UNI majoring in History and Anthropology. While completing her undergraduate work, RaeAnn participated in the Study Abroad capstone "Sacred Space" in Italy. RaeAnn was also a member of the Honors Program and spent much of her senior year working on her Honors Thesis titled *Clean Up Our Home: Ellen Swallow Richards' Human Ecology and Emerging Environmental Ideologies, 1890-1915*.

Over the summer, RaeAnn worked to catalogue and identify documents in the microfilm records from counties across Iowa for the Rural School Records located in the Special Collections and University Archives at Rod Library. RaeAnn's other interests include reading, camping, traveling, and visiting family and friends.

## 7th Annual GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars! April 1st, 2014 is the 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium. The Symposium includes oral presentations and poster presentations in Maucker Union and creative performances in Gallagher-Bluedorn. The Graduate Student Symposium is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to showcase their projects, research pursuits, or creative talents. Last year fifty graduate students presented their accomplishments to an audience of faculty, colleagues, and panelists. Information regarding the 2014 Symposium will be released this November 2013. Information on the 2013 Symposium and the Symposium guidelines are available at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium>.



# UNI MBA TEAMS PROVIDE VALUABLE WORK TO AREA COMPANIES

Four teams of University of Northern Iowa MBA candidates worked as company consultants during the spring 2013 semester and presented their professional analyses and recommendations at the June MBA Capstone Conference to faculty and business professionals as the final requirement of UNI's MBA program.

The MBA program at UNI is one of just a handful of programs nationwide requiring students to serve as consultants for existing businesses. The teams were introduced to their clients in January, and they presented project proposals that included recommendations on how to meet company objectives to the MBA faculty in March. The teams worked with a faculty mentor to complete the planned work before the MBA Capstone Conference on June 26, 2013.

The recommendations were evaluated to discover how well company objectives were met and how each team contributed to its on-going success.

University guests in attendance included Shoshanna Coon, associate dean for the Graduate College; Susie Schwieger, director of graduate student life; Randy Pilkington, executive director of Business and Community Services; Daniel Beenken, director of the Small Business Development Center; Rob Williams, business analyst for Strategic Marketing Services; and Laurie Watje, incubator manager for the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

Submitted by Rebecca Schultze, College of Business Administration

## Seventh Annual Graduate Student Research in the Humanities Symposium

The College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences hosted the Seventh Annual Graduate Student Research in the Humanities Symposium on April 12th, 2013. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jack Kay, professor of Communication Studies and former provost at Eastern Michigan University, evaluated students' presentations as well as Dean Joel Haack.

"The event serves as a model for graduate education, enabling young scholars to showcase their research and creative activity by going beyond the classroom and simulating the academic conference where ideas are shared and critiqued by the

community of scholars," Dr. Kay said. "I was impressed with the fine work of the young scholars, rivaling work that I would expect of doctoral students."

Alexandria Chase presented the top paper on the novel *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Second place was awarded to Katelyn Santy for her work regarding emotional labor and Arlie Russell Hochschild's book *The Managed Heart*.

The University of South Carolina's Dr. Erik Doxtader is the planned keynote speaker for the 2014 symposium slated to be held on April 11, 2014.



Communication Studies Graduate Students Megan Warff Kavanaugh, Nicole Brennan, Alexandria Chase, and Katelyn Santy.



## GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING

The Graduate Student Information Meeting was held Wednesday, August 28 in anticipation for the 2013-14 academic year. The event successfully offered valuable resources and information for both new and returning graduate students. One hundred and fifty graduate students were welcomed by President Bill Ruud and Dr. Michael Licari, Dean of the Graduate College. Students enjoyed the opportunity to meet with participating university departments and organizations during the Resource Fair portion of the event.

Dr. Chris Cox, Dean of the Rod Library, presented research tips for graduate students including an update on the library's technology resources and unique collections and archives. The meeting concluded with a graduate student panel who answered questions and offered insight into life as a UNI graduate student.

## Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)

Students have many opportunities at the conclusion of their undergraduate years, and pursuing graduate studies are often considered by UNI students.

The 7th Annual Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) was held on Wednesday, September 25 in the Maucker Union Ballroom from 3:15-4:30pm. More than 150 students attended the event to have their questions answered and to visit faculty representing nearly two dozen UNI graduate programs. Dr. Michael Licari, Dean of the Graduate College, welcomed participants, and was followed by Dr. Shoshanna Coon's presentation entitled, "The Ins and Outs of Applying to Graduate School." A faculty panel, composed of Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, Dr. David Saunders, Biology, Dr. Kimberly MacLin, Psychology, Dr. Cynthia Juby, Social Work responded to questions submitted by students prior to the event. Students learned valuable information about the application process, composing personal statements, and how to develop experiences that will strengthen their resumes. TAGS was an excellent opportunity for potential graduate students to learn strategies to develop a strong graduate application. The TAGS presentation and printed material are posted on the Graduate College website at [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu). The 8th Annual TAGS is scheduled for September 23rd, 2014.



# PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT STUDENT UPDATES

Several graduate Social and Clinical Psychology students at UNI were well represented this past academic year at numerous events and authored poster presentations at the Annual College of Social & Behavioral Research Conference in April. Students also attended the 2013 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in May where eight students presented research on related topics.

The following is a list of the UNI presentation titles and authors featured at the Midwestern Conference, graduate students in bold:

- *The Impact of Deployments and Separations on Military Romantic Relationships*-**Darrina Bledsoe**, Helen C. Harton
- *Perception of Infidelity in Emotionally Dissatisfying Relationships*-**Abigail Harris**, **Neal Pollock**, Beth Siegel, Helen C. Harton
- *The Effects of Distracters and Student Ability on Test Performance*-John E. Kiat, **Asha Ganesan**, Ai Rene Ong
- *How to Increase Survey Response Rates and Participant Research*-**Wayva Lyons**, Danielle Stuck, Helen C. Harton
- *Language as a Social Reality: The Infantilization of Women*-**Chelsae R. Huot**, Helen C. Harton
- *Are We Who We Think We Are? Self-Report Measures as Predictors of Behaviors*-Tess Garceau, **Brooke Ammerman**, Danielle Stuck
- *The Effects of Political Orientation, Involvement and Media Exposure on Perceptions of Race and Religion in Political Campaigns*-Allie Thompson, **Paden Goldsmith**, **Carol Tweten**, Alexia Farrel
- *Does Race Matter as Much if You Are Rich? The Effects of Political Orientation, Target Race and Target Status on Punishment Ratings*-Alexia Farrel, **Carol Tweten**, **Paden Goldsmith**, Allie Thompson
- *Social Reactions Upon Disclosure of Sexual Assault: Does Victim Acknowledgment Matter?*-**Brooke Ammerman**, Helen C. Harton

Several students continued on to doctorate programs including Ross Jacobucci, enrolled in the University of Southern California's Quantitative Psychology Program, Brooke Ammerman at Temple University in the Clinical Psychology Program and Abbie Harris at St. Louis University for Social Psychology.

Several graduates accepted employment nationwide. Darrina Bledsoe, Clinical Psychology graduate and Spring 2013 Graduate Commencement speaker, accepted a position with Rosewood Ranch Centers in Arizona, specializing in treatment for eating disorders. Neal Pollock is employed as the Assistant Field Supervisor at UNI's Center for Social and Behavioral Research and Sara Richardson is currently employed at Exceptional Persons, Inc. Ashley Zellhoefer, Clinical Psychology graduate, works as a Mental Health Counselor within the PMIC unit at Lutheran Services on the Beloit campus in Ames. Adam Livengood, a Social Psychology graduate now teaches at Hawkeye Community College and Jon Pedersen is working at Winona State University as an assessment and data coordinator. Amanda Thompson is working as an Academic Support Specialist at Kirkwood Community College. Congratulations to all the graduate psychology students!

## Thinking About Doctoral Studies (TADS)

Thinking About Doctoral Studies (TADS) was held on September 24th and the presentation was given by Helen Harton, Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of Graduate Studies for the Psychology program. Twenty-four students attended the event. Helen outlined reasons not to pursue a PhD such as wanting to become rich and powerful and followed up with

appropriate reasons for getting a PhD like enjoying research. Harton described the differences between an academic doctorate and a professional doctorate such as MD or DDS. She discussed tips on how students could make their application as strong as possible. This included attending conferences, getting letters of recommendations from professors, crafting

a personal statement with the help of your advisor, attending preparatory classes for entrance exams, and searching for potential faculty members you would like to work with.

Helen's presentation can be found on the Graduate College website (<http://www.grad.uni.edu/thinking-about-doctoral-studies-tads-presentation>)

# Graduate Student Advisory Board

The first Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting was held on Wednesday, September 18th with eleven students and three Graduate College staff in attendance. The GSAB, chaired by Dr. Michael Licari, Dean of the Graduate College, meets quarterly to discuss student concerns. At the first meeting, GSAB members expressed a need for a central webpage where prospective students could find application information. Members felt that tutorials on MyUniverse and eLearning would have helped the transition into graduate school. The housing payment policy for roommates or subleases for on campus housing was another issue discussed. The Graduate College will address these concerns for the 2014 admissions and housing. Kathy Green, Director of University Health Services, presented members with information about resources and facilities on campus available to students, such as the Student Health Clinic, the Wellness and Recreation

Center, and the Counseling Center. For more information regarding these services visit [www.uni.edu/wellrec](http://www.uni.edu/wellrec). The next GSAB meeting is Wednesday, November 13th from noon to 1:00pm in the Center for Multicultural Education.

### GSAB Members 2013-2014:

**Kelly Paustian**  
*Communication Studies: Organizational Communication*

**Heather Place**  
*PSE: Student Affairs*

**Toluwani Mary Johnson**  
*Public Policy*

**Brittni Haag**  
*School Counseling*

**Chealsey Sensor**  
*School Counseling*

**Theophile Muhayimana**  
*Educational Leadership*

**Michelle Czarnecki**  
*Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs*

**Nate Dobbels**  
*Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs*

**Marissa Krein**  
*History*

**Lauren Dietz, NISG Graduate Senator**  
*Public Policy*

**Nate Schultz, NISG Graduate Senator**  
*Public Policy*

**Anthony Roth**  
*Communication Studies: Mass Communication*

**Scotti Hagensick**  
*School Counseling*

**RaeAnn Swanson**  
*History*

**Michael Licari**  
*Dean of the Graduate College*

**Shoshanna Coon**  
*Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs*

**Susie Schwieger**  
*Director of Graduate Student Life*





## NEW LOOK FOR THE GRADUATE COLLEGE DISPLAY CASE

Next time you are in, stop by the Graduate College office at 110 Lang Hall to check out the new display case. The new design highlights faculty members and outstanding graduate students recommended by the faculty for inclusion in the display. Outstanding Graduate Alumni and the winners of the 2013 Graduate Student Symposium, Thesis and Dissertation Award Recipients, and Graduate Faculty Award Recipients are currently featured. Alumni were asked three questions that focused on their time at UNI. Alumni provided insight into why they chose UNI for their graduate education, some of the highlights of their graduate education, and what the impact of their education at UNI has had on them professionally.

## GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**The Graduate College** | 110 Lang Hall | (319) 273-2748 | [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu)

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Dean of the Graduate College

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

For important information on Graduate College events and deadlines visit the Graduate College website at [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu).





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