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## UNI Grad Student News, v9n2, November/December 2013

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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# UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

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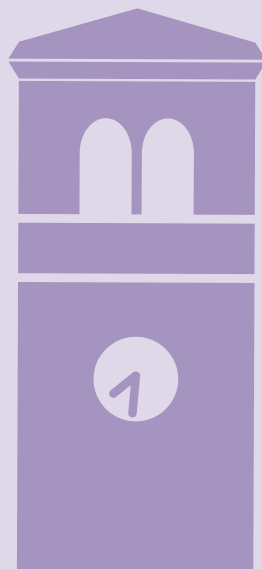
## Message from the Dean

Whew! The end of the semester! As we wrap up the fall 2013 semester, I would like to first, congratulate all of those who are graduating. Your hard work, dedication, and thoughtful application of your talents have paid off. Congratulations on completing your degrees! I wish you the best as you graduate and leave UNI. Please stay in touch! Send notes on your accomplishments to your faculty or to me. You may have noticed that we profile alums in this newsletter, and we have a rotating set of alumni profiles in the display cabinet outside of the UNI Graduate College office in Lang Hall. I am always happy to share good news about our graduates, and your good work can serve as an inspiration to current students.

For those of you who are still working toward your degrees, I hope you are able to use the semester break to rest and recharge your batteries. It is important to have some "down time" so that you are able to come back for the spring semester ready to go. Don't forget to register to participate in the 2014 Graduate Student Symposium, which will be held on April 1, 2014. All current graduate students, and those who are just graduating in December, are invited to participate!

Stay warm!

Mike Licari  
Dean, Graduate College



## Seventh Annual Graduate Student Symposium

With the winter holiday approaching, it is all too easy for students to forget their academic worries and snuggle up with a cup of cocoa and watch their favorite movies over the break. Along with catching up on sleep and the much needed respite from homework, winter break is a perfect time to start preparing for the Seventh Annual Graduate Student Symposium set for April 1, 2014. Registration is now open and the UNI Graduate College wants your help to make this year's event a success. Completing the short registration form and writing an abstract are simple tasks when compared with the assignments graduate students endure in class. Feb. 7, 2014 is the registration deadline, but completing it over winter break allows you to reserve the small amount of free time afforded to graduate students during the spring semester for other endeavors. You can find the form and examples of past abstracts at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium>. If you have any questions make sure to email [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu)



## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: KATHERINE BEANE



Currently pursuing her master of music (M.M.) degrees in music history and vocal performance, **Kat Beane** knew she wanted to be a part of UNI's excellent music tradition since she was young. After graduating from Luther College with a bachelor's in music in 2007, Kat spent five years working as a professional before returning to school. Kat felt drawn to the program after talking

with past students who considered their experiences at UNI to be overwhelmingly positive. The faculty within the UNI School of Music and the affordability of UNI attracted Kat and were both important evaluative criteria in her decision to attend graduate school. The school of music's supportive learning environment was critical for Kat and the faculty continue to encourage and support her in her development as a musician. Kat found that readjusting to life as a student was challenging but a worthwhile and exhilarating experience. In the coming years, she hopes to learn as much as possible while gaining valuable experiences before proceeding on to a Ph.D. program and upon graduation securing a university professorship. Outside of her academic studies, Kat is learning to play the recorder. She also enjoys cooking and trying new recipes as well as participating in Zumba fitness dance classes. As a graduate student, finding time to relax is important and Kat is focusing on building new friendships while she's at UNI.

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: HAYLEY THOMAS



A master of accounting (MAcc) student, **Hayley Thomas** is gaining a strong competitive edge in the business world. In May 2013 Hayley graduated from UNI with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Hayley decided UNI felt "just right" for her during a campus visit and it allowed her to be close to her sister who attended Wartburg College. As an undergraduate, Hayley studied abroad in

Chile, completed internships with Flowerama and Southern Imperial and was a member on the UNI Cross Country and Track & Field teams. Experiencing firsthand the UNI Accounting Department's strong tradition in applied accounting research skills, communication strategies and problem-solving capabilities, Hayley decided to pursue the advanced degree. Transitioning to the graduate level was made easy for Hayley as several other classmates were also accepted into the program. The master's program is designed to prepare you for your future, according to Hayley. Learning to manage her time and devote herself to her studies are some of her priorities as a graduate student. After she graduates in May 2014, Hayley plans to take the Certified Public Accountant exam and begin her career with one of the "Big Four" public accounting firms, Ernst & Young, in Minneapolis. Hayley was offered the position after serving as the Assurance Intern during the summer of 2013. In her free time, Hayley continues to enjoy running and reading for leisure. Spending time with her fiancé, friends and family is also very important to her and she is busy planning for her August 2014 wedding.

## GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE: NATHAN GREEN



UNI alum **Nathan Green**, originally of Cascade, Iowa, serves as the GEOINT Analyst/ Foundations Solutions with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in St. Louis. Nate earned his bachelor's in earth science (2002) and his master of geography (2005), both from UNI. Nate's thesis examined the potential for using airborne hyperspectral imagery for

monitoring Iowa lake water quality. Nate's work earned second place in the Outstanding Master's Research Paper. According to Nate, several key faculty members contributed to his academic success, including Dr. John Groves, Dr. Alan Czarnetzki, Dr. Kenneth Denault, Dr. Ramanathan Sugumaran and Dr. David May. Nate believes their ability to provide real world applications, facilitate classroom discussions and enhance laboratory work have contributed to his career development. Nate's desires to secure an enjoyable and challenging position led him to the NGA where he is able to work with the latest software and further his professional development at seminars and conferences. Today, as a GEOINT Analyst, Nate collaborates with customers and source providers to manage tasking, collection, dissemination and reporting related functions while creating strategies and advisements in support of the National System for Geospatial Intelligence (NSG). He has been employed by the NGA since 2007 after working with the GEOTree Research Center at UNI. Outside of work, Nate spends time with his wife Shelly and watching their young son, Luke, grow and explore. Nate enjoyed sports while at UNI and continues to run and play softball in addition to attending many St. Louis sporting events. He encourages graduate students to take full advantage of the many opportunities afforded during their education, including collaborating with numerous professors and colleagues.

## GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE: DARIUS ROBINSON



After graduating from Iowa State University with a bachelor's in history in 2004, and serving in the Navy, **Darius Robinson** decided to continue his education at UNI. He chose UNI because of its great reputation and reasonable tuition costs. In 2010 he received his master's in history. With the skills and knowledge gained at UNI, Darius entered the Thomas M. Cooley Law School

in Lansing, Mich., ultimately obtaining his Juris Doctor (J.D.) in 2013. UNI taught Darius that much of the learning at the graduate level occurs outside of the classroom and that professors help students master those concepts, and understanding that pushed him ahead of his peers in law school. From his experience at UNI, Darius fondly remembers late nights at Rod Library, performances at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, and serving on the Graduate Student Advisory Board. In addition, Darius was a graduate student senator in the Northern Iowa Student Government and was a member of the coalition that lobbied the Iowa Legislature for more funding for UNI. He also worked

as a graduate assistant in the history department and interned and volunteered at the Grout Museum District. For Darius, UNI facilitated lifelong connections with faculty, his cohort, and his significant other, Sara, who was also a graduate student in the UNI History Department. Having earned his license to practice law in Iowa this past September, Darius is currently seeking a full-time position to begin his legal career.

#### GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE: DR. ERIC HIRIS

**Dr. Eric Hiris** earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Oakland University in Michigan in 1990. He attended Vanderbilt University for both his master's (1992) and doctorate (1995) degrees, also in psychology. His thesis and dissertation examined motion after-effects and direction repulsion, respectively. Prior to coming to UNI in August 2013, he taught for one year at Auburn University and 13 years at St. Mary's College of Maryland as an associate professor of psychology and served as acting chair for one semester and department chair for three years. He welcomes his new role at UNI and is ready to continue to develop what he calls a "gentle yet persistent and effective" leadership style. Dr. Hiris is passionate about working with graduate students and UNI allows this type of valuable experience. Dr. Hiris is currently collaborating with a graduate student on a project relating to biological motion and examining points of light cast on joints in the human body. His interests and work related to visual perception psychology have led to publications in several journals including *Perception*, *Journal of Vision*, *The Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance* and *Perception & Psychophysics*. In his position as Department Head, Dr. Hiris plans to continue to learn about the different processes at UNI and prepare to move the department into new offices in Bartlett Hall where new laboratory and clinical areas will be available. Dr. Hiris plans to continue the mission and vision of the department which emphasizes competence in research methodology and provides a strong empirical orientation, while discovering new strategies and tactics for graduate education. Dr. Hiris and his wife Dawn, live in La Crosse, Wis. where she works as a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. In his free time, he enjoys restoring Victrola record players and collecting records from the 1920s and 1930s.



#### GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE: LEISL CARR CHILDERS

**Leisl Carr Childers** completed her BA in 1993 at Pepperdine University. After one year of graduate work, Dr. Carr Childers began teaching history in California. She later moved to Arizona and Germany before returning to Pepperdine University to complete her MA in 2005. In 2011, Dr. Carr Childers completed her doctoral work at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

As a visiting professor at Northern Arizona University from 2011-2013, Dr. Carr Childers worked to promote the use of inquiry-based instruction in K-12 and graduate classrooms through collaborative projects, workshops, and the Inquiry in Teaching and Learning website she assisted in creating, <http://nau.edu/CAL/History/History-Social-Studies-Education/Opportunities-For-Growth/>.

The UNI History Department's emphasis on project-based, visible learning and incorporation of technology attracted Dr. Carr Childers to UNI. She utilizes traditional and digital environments as well as hands-on and practicum experiences when teaching. Although this is Dr. Carr Childers' first year at UNI, her aspirations for the future are clear. She wrote, "My intention is to build a solid, if not top-tier, Public (think applied) History program at UNI. Structurally, nearly all the necessary pieces are already in place across the University to craft a competitive program for a BA certificate and MA emphasis...My vision is to institutionalize a program that is nationally competitive."

Dr. Carr Childers' research interests stem from her public history background with the Nevada Test Site Oral History Project and the Autry National Center in Los Angeles. She is currently writing her first book that explores the intersection of nuclear testing and public land programs such as ranching, outdoor recreation, and wild horse management in Nevada and throughout the Great Basin.



# TIPS TO PREPARE FOR THE 2014 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 readying 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 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 Seventh Annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 1, 2014. Current graduate students and December 2013 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 additional information, visit the Symposium Website (<http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium>). The registration deadline is Feb. 7, 2014.
- Keep your resume or CV updated. Email your document to Susie Schwieger, [susan.schwieger@uni.edu](mailto: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, career development workshops and upcoming conferences or relevant off-campus opportunities.
- 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 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.

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## UPDATE YOUR RESUME AND CV

As a graduate student, keeping your resume or curriculum vitae (CV) updated is important and a resource when applying for internships, practicum experiences, seeking jobs and applying for scholarships or other sources of financial support. The Graduate College offers appointments by phone and in-person to assist you in revising and improving these documents. To make an appointment, call 273-3044 or email your documents to Susie Schwieger, [susan.schwieger@uni.edu](mailto:susan.schwieger@uni.edu) and she will share comments and individual advice. Stay connected with potential employers and internship opportunities by posting your resume or CV with Career Services on Career Cat at: <http://www.collegecentral.com/uni/Student.cfm>.

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## COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENT ATTENDS AND PRESENTS AT THE 36TH ANNUAL GLOBAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

Communication Studies graduate student Anthony Roth attended the 36th Annual Global Studies Conference held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Oct. 3-5. At the conference, Anthony presented his paper "CIA Drone Strikes Abroad: The Effects of Agenda Setting and Framing on Public Importance and Opinion of CIA Drone Strikes." His research reviewed the New York Times coverage of drone strikes overseas with special attention placed on agenda setting and framing of drone strike articles. Anthony also co-presented

a paper with Dr. Chris Ogbondah, UNI Communication Studies professor. Their presentation examined Washington Post editorials that called for regime change in Libya. Anthony received funding for this professional development opportunity from the UNI Intercollegiate Academics Travel Fund. Students can find more information about the availability of travel funds at the following link:  
<http://www.uni.edu/vpaa/iaf/TravelFundGuidelines.shtml>

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION GRADUATE PRESENTS AT THE 2013 IOWA COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

Ashlea Ahrenholtz, a recent graduate from the UNI MAE in Elementary Education program, presented a session titled, "Cultivating Active Citizenship Through Service-Learning: Proposing a Future Dog Park in Carroll, Iowa." Ahrenholtz presented with Dr. Sarah Montgomery at the October 2013 Iowa Council for the Social Studies Conference. This state-level presentation focused on her facilitation of a student-led

service-learning project in Ashlea's fifth-grade classroom. Starting in January 2013, her students led an initiative to create a recreational dog park in their community. Students worked as active citizens collaborating for change by joining with local government officials and community leaders, in addition to fundraising and researching dog parks in Iowa.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The second Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting was held on Wednesday, Nov. 13 with 11 members and three UNI Graduate College staff members in attendance. GSAB would like to welcome the newest member of the group, Ashley Heffern, who is a representative from the master's of social work program. The following topics were discussed:

- Dr. Licari led a discussion about the possibility of a separate graduate student graduation ceremony for fall graduates beginning December 2014. The data gained from the discussion will be used by administration when making a final decision.
- Dr. Licari noted that concerns have been identified regarding graduate students experiences in G-Level classes. G-Level courses include both undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate students are expected to complete additional assignments and meet with the professor outside of class. GSAB members then shared their experiences in G-Level courses. Dr. Licari told students that their experiences would be taken into consideration on any

further discussions on the state of G-Level courses.

- Susie Schwieger announced that the registration for the 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium scheduled for April 1, 2014, is now open. Visit <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium> for more information.
- Tom Reburn, the Admission System Coordinator, shared UNI Admissions Office's plan to become paperless and funnel all graduate application materials through the admissions office in the near future.
- All graduate students were encouraged to join the Graduate Student Social Network (GSSN), the UNI Graduate College's Facebook page, where graduate specific reminders and information is posted.

Graduate students should contact [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu) with any concerns or issues for discussion in the next GSAB meeting on Feb. 4, 2014 from noon to 1 p.m. in the CME.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS WIN AWARD AT THE NASPA IV-EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Michelle Czarnecki and Ellie Hail, second year graduate students in the Post-Secondary Education: Student Affairs program, won the case study competition at the 2013 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) IV-East Regional Conference. The case study competition strives to cultivate the ability of graduate students to apply theory to practice, while also giving students the chance to showcase their skills and receive feedback from professionals in higher education.

Michelle and Ellie's case study focused on the transition of a student back to a small liberal arts college following a tour of duty for military service. The case addressed issues such as racial identity,

gender identity, military/veteran status, and mental health. Michelle and Ellie's case resolution incorporated the use of Schlossberg's (1984) Transition Theory to address the immediate needs of the student, identify policies and procedures that limit inclusion of military and veteran students, and finally, to address campus culture and attitudes toward these students. Michelle and Ellie received the award based on their ability to connect theory to practice, field and respond to questions, exhibit clear organization of their thoughts, and present a realistic response to the situation.

*Congratulations Michelle and Ellie on your success!*

## STUDENT ACCEPTED FOR 35TH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST POPULAR CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

Elizabeth Collins, a master's student in English studies, was recently accepted to present at the 35th Annual Southwest Popular Culture American Culture Association Conference to be held Feb. 19-22, 2014 in Albuquerque, N.M. Collins' paper, "Science as Friend and Foe: A Dialectic Approach to the Zombie Apocalypse," was written for her Introduction to Graduate Studies course. *Congratulations Elizabeth on your success!*

# RESOURCES

### Rod Library's Assignment Calculator

After entering beginning and due dates into Rod Library's Assignment Calculator, a helpful calendar with step-by-step instructions for completing the assignment is generated. Find the Assignment Calendar at <http://www.library.uni.edu/gateway/calculator/>.

### Rod Library's Graduate Student Research Guide

The Graduate Student Research Guide leads students through databases, library services, and how to schedule a research consultation. Take advantage of this resource by visiting <http://www.library.uni.edu/graduate-student-research-guide>.

### Professional Development: Attending a Professional Conference Workshop

The "Using LinkedIn as a Graduate Student" workshop was offered by the UNI Graduate College on Oct. 24. The workshop was delivered by graduate assistant Scotti Hagensick and featured a question and answer opportunity in addition to the program. Students in attendance stated the presentation was useful, well-prepared, educational, and professional. The presentation including note pages are available at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/linkedin-professional-development-workshop-presentation-now-available>

The UNI Graduate College held the second professional development workshop, "Attending a Professional Conference," on Nov. 13 and was conducted by graduate assistants RaeAnn Swanson and Anthony Roth. Students in attendance commented, "I enjoyed the workshop and hope to attend a conference in the future," and, "I learned a lot of new things!" The presentation and notes are now available at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/powerpoint-presentation-attending-professional-conference-workshop-now-available>.

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND DISORDERS PRESENTS AT THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA) NATIONAL CONVENTION

Submitted by: Laurel Williams, Graduate Assistant, Communication Sciences & Disorders

A bus full of graduate students, undergraduate students, and faculty from the department of communication sciences and disorders ventured to Chicago for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association National Convention. UNI was well represented at the convention. Dr. Angela Burda was named the 2013 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Fellow for exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to education. As the National Advisor to the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Dr. Carlin Hageman helps coordinate pre-professional experiences for students attending the National Convention of the American Speech-Language Association. Dr. Hageman, Dr. Burda, Dr. Jennifer Garrett, and Dr. Todd Bohnenkamp presented research projects being conducted

at UNI, along with student researchers. Eleven UNI graduate students were selected to present their graduate research projects at the conference. These projects investigated questions regarding clinical efficacy for new treatment methods, the current education of speech-language pathologists and potential adaptations that should be made based on the growing field, and international fieldwork done in Brazil and Nicaragua. Tom Wright, a master's student in speech-language pathology and his former mentor, Dr. Lisa Scott from Florida State University, presented a short course on counseling. The opportunity to present research was exciting and unforgettable for these students. Over 13,000 speech-language pathologists nationwide attended the conference, and for many of UNI's student presenters, it was their first time attending a national conference.

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## 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)

**Dr. Michael Licari**

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate College  
[michael.licari@uni.edu](mailto:michael.licari@uni.edu)

**Lisa Steimel**

Secretary IV, Assistantships and Scholarships  
[lisa.steimel@uni.edu](mailto:lisa.steimel@uni.edu)

**Anthony Roth**

Graduate Assistant for Online Publication and Marketing  
[rothaad@uni.edu](mailto:rothaad@uni.edu)

**Dr. Shoshanna Coon**

Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs  
[shoshanna.coon@uni.edu](mailto:shoshanna.coon@uni.edu)

**Janet Witt**

Clerk IV, Thesis and Dissertation Review  
[janet.witt@uni.edu](mailto:janet.witt@uni.edu)

**Scotti Hagensick**

Graduate Assistant for Online Content  
[schonsaa@uni.edu](mailto:schonsaa@uni.edu)

**Susie Schwieger**

Director of Graduate Student Life  
[susan.schwieger@uni.edu](mailto:susan.schwieger@uni.edu)

**Cheryl Nedrow**

Secretary II  
[cheryl.nedrow@uni.edu](mailto:cheryl.nedrow@uni.edu)

**RaeAnn Swanson**

Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development  
[swansraa@uni.edu](mailto:swansraa@uni.edu)

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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).





**University of Northern Iowa**  
**Graduate College**  
110 Lang Hall  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614  
Phone: (319) 273-2748  
Fax: (319) 273-2243

**[www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu)**