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UNI Grad Student News, v10n3, March 2014

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

March 2014 • Volume 10 • Issue 3

Message from the Dean



Spring is finally here! As of writing this, it is 45 degrees, sunny, and the snow and ice is actually melting. I hope your semester is going well. I do know that graduate students across campus are busy doing a lot of really interesting things. As you travel for conferences, research, or performances, take a few pictures and send them to the Graduate College along with a quick description of your trip.

We can profile you in an upcoming newsletter! One of the most fun things about being the dean is to hear about all the experiences and adventures of graduate students, and I'd love to help share your stories.

Now that we're past the half-way point of the semester, it's time for a lot of you to start thinking about commencement. The ceremony for graduate students will be on Friday, May 9 at 7:00pm in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. It is a real treat to be able to have our ceremony in the GBPAC, so I am really looking forward to the evening. For those graduating in May, your applications for spring graduation are due April 1 in order to avoid a late application fee and to be included in the commencement program. Please see the Graduation and Commencement page for more information: <https://www.uni.edu/registrar/graduation-and-commencement>

Finally, I am looking forward to the Graduate Student Symposium on April 1! I always learn a lot from the students who participate, so even if you are not presenting or performing your work, I encourage you to attend and see what your fellow students are working on. Trust me, it is amazing stuff!

Best wishes as you all work on the remaining weeks of the semester!

Mike Licari
Dean, Graduate College

SENIORS!
GRADFEST
2014

Thursday, April 3 from 6-8pm

Gingers
eccidat pallas

Get your **free gift** from the UNI Alumni Association.

Complimentary pizza and pop & cash bar available.

Sign-up for your Alumni Association membership and *get more cool stuff.*

And don't miss out on your chance to **win** an iPad and other great prizes just for attending.

**YOU'RE GRADUATING—
LET'S CELEBRATE!**

UNI Alumni Association
University of Northern Iowa

GRADFEST

The UNI Alumni Association will be hosting GradFest on April 3 from 6-8 pm at Ginger's, the local pub on College Hill. All graduate students who are completing their programs are invited to come celebrate with free pizza and a gift from the Alumni Association. All attendees have the chance to win great prizes and will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad.

For more information contact the Alumni Association at 273-2355.



YOU'RE GRADUATING— LET'S CELEBRATE!

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

RANJANA JOSHI



Right from the first day, when I landed here at the University of Northern Iowa, I have experienced the culture of a small and caring family. I read a lot about UNI before coming here and after spending close to three semesters here, I truly feel, how special this place is for students who like to be in a close knit environment, who learn more in a close teacher student relationships.

From the administrators to faculty, from fellow classmates to the seniors everyone here is committed to make the learning experience uniquely crafted for you. There are plenty of opportunities and facilities for students, and thus to make a positive impact on society. I have been working with professors, who not only helped me to garner a unique perspective about technology, but they also have provided me every opportunity to work on some of the ground breaking works in the field of technology. Typically after the first semester, programs are highly customized suiting to ones needs and research focus. Applied learning and freedom to explore new areas in research along with UNI's culture of student empowerment, results in a highly intensive and unique study experience for me.

Moreover, it is the UNI community and the eco-system, which makes it so special for me. The amount of drive and focus UNI imparts in educating its students makes them indispensable not only in academia but also in industry.

Written by Ranjana Joshi and Edited by Anthony Roth

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

DR. DAWN DEL CARLO

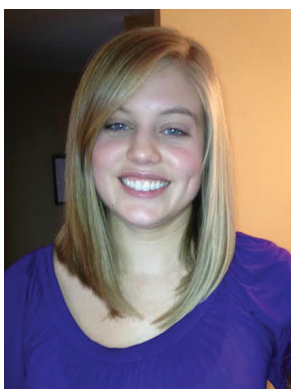


Dr. Dawn Del Carlo earned her bachelor's degree in 1995 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. as a chemistry major and a math minor. She received her master's degree in 1998 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. in inorganic chemistry. Dr. Del Carlo remained at Purdue and obtained her Ph.D. in chemistry education in 2001. Dr. Del Carlo worked as an assistant professor of chemistry at Montclair

State University in Montclair, N.J. from 2001 to 2004 before coming to UNI. She was attracted to UNI because of its interdisciplinary science education program that is housed within the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences. Other universities typically keep similar programs within the College of Education, but UNI's model allows for education specialists to be directly involved in science content departments. Dr. Del Carlo's research interests lie in studying the lived experiences of people in regard to science and science learning. Her specific areas of study include how research experiences shape future and current teachers, how laboratory experiences (either in a classroom or research context) shape future scientists, and how the life experiences of women have shaped their identity as scientists. Dr. Del Carlo hopes to continue her research in her field and down the road obtain full professorship at UNI.

GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

LEIGH ANN THUL



After receiving her master of arts in education and specialist in education degrees at UNI, Leigh Ann Thul's career path led her to her current job as a school psychologist for the West Central Education District in Minn. A native of Alexandria, Minn., Leigh Ann now serves the two rural towns of Melrose and Sauk Centre which have approximately 1,700 students. Her main roles as a school psychologist are to plan

special education evaluations, complete cognitive assessments with students, and assist compiling assessment information in order to qualify students for special education plans. Her work ultimately involves implementing individual education plans for

her students. Leigh Ann credits her education for her advanced training in the many different facets of the special education system. Leigh Ann believes the school psychology program and Dr. Kerri Clopton and Dr. Nicole Skaar in particular, have given her a wide variety of assessment options for school systems and increased her comfort level in working with many different kinds of assessment tools. Leigh Ann advises current graduate students to maintain a healthy balance between school and personal time. She says enjoying your hobbies in addition to studying is important. In her own free time, Leigh Ann enjoys cooking and attending concerts with friends. Her love of trying new recipes and cooking healthy foods started while attending UNI and turned out to be a great stress release for Leigh Ann.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

— FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD —

Community

Grants Awarded with Graduate Student Participation

Dr. Jack Yates, professor of psychology, was awarded a 2013-14 UNI Capacity Building Grant (\$17,900) to determine if participants in four small Iowa communities continue to persist in the energy use behavior changes they started during a 2012 competition to save the most electricity among the four communities. Justin Simmons, psychology graduate student, is working with Dr. Yates to answer the question of whether or not people persist in changed behaviors after an incentive (the competition) ends. Justin is helping to develop the survey, input data from the survey, collect energy use data from local utilities, and compare the persistence data to pre- and post-survey data from the competition year. The communities range in population size from 800 – 2,000. The impact of this research is significant because a review of the literature shows that persistence of behavior change for energy reduction is rarely studied. This study will look at persistence at least 1 ½ years after the competition ends. If persistence occurs, Iowa has hundreds of small communities that might save money and energy from similar competitions.

Graduate student participation in CFU surveys

Psychology faculty member Dr. Adam Butler and several psychology graduate students help prepare the CFU annual employee survey each year.

EPSCoR grant on energy efficiency

Psychology faculty members Dr. Nicholas Schwab, Dr. Mary Losch, and Dr. Jack Yates received a national grant to design interventions to increase household energy efficiency. Four psychology graduate students—Abbie Harris, Wayva Lyons, Kirstin Kramer, and Luci Dumas—helped work on the project. Dr. Schwab recently gave a presentation at the state capital to state representatives concerning the project.



Justin Simmons, Psychology graduate student, and Psychology Professor Jack Yates discuss survey questions for a project to determine peoples' persistence in energy use behavior changes.

Research to help the community

Psychology faculty member Helen Harton has begun a research project with several graduate student collaborators, including Wayva Lyons, Asha Ganesan, Kristin Broussard, and Michael Mintz, the project examines participants' understanding of information in research consent forms and impressions of issues that arise in research. Participants include the general public, faculty, students, professional participants (those who participate regularly in studies), and Institutional Review Board members. The goal of this research is to help improve the process and ethics of research for a variety of types of populations.

ABUBAKARR JALLOH

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

The following are some recent publications by doctoral student Abubakarr Jalloh from UNI's Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services.

Jalloh, A. (2014). Leisure and the Millennium Development Goals. *World Leisure Journal* [In press].

Edginton, C. R. & Jalloh, A. (2014). Leisure for Children and Youth – A Global Perspective. *Hong Kong Recreation Review* [In Press].

Jalloh, A. (2013). African Leisure: A Framework for Development Through Leisure. *World Leisure Journal*, 55(1), 96-105.

Flack, T.M., Edginton, C.R., Coles, R., & Jalloh, A. (2013). Leisure, Health, and the Built Environment. *International Leisure Review*, no. 2/2013.

Coles, R., Edginton, C. R. & Jalloh, A. (2012). Africa and the World Leisure Organization. *African Journal for Physical, Health Education, Recreation and Dance*, 18 (4:1), 684-693.

Jalloh, A. (2012). The United Nations 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development – Poverty Eradication: a World Leisure Overview. *World Leisure Journal*, 54 (2), 189-192.

Edginton, C. R. & Jalloh, A. (2011). The United Nations System and World Leisure: An Overview. *World Leisure Journal* 53(4) 332-335.

SCHOOL COUNSELING STUDENTS ATTEND “VISIT THE HILL” CONFERENCE

Three first-year School Counseling students, Scotti Hagensick, Coleen Tanyag, and Michele Doyle, attended the Visit the Hill Conference in Des Moines on Feb. 25, 2014. Students attended the event with Cedar Falls High School counselor, Susan Langan. Sponsored by the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling Government Relations Committee and the Iowa School Counselors Association, the Visit the Hill event provides advocacy training and information for school counselors to lobby for issues critical to the interests of students in Iowa high schools. Brad Buck, Director of the Iowa Department of Education, opened the morning sessions which included topics such as bullying legislation, counseling undocumented students, and diversity in schools. Scotti, Coleen, and Michele also spent the afternoon at the State Capitol lobbying with state representatives and senators. The three students specifically lobbied for the introduction of new bullying prevention laws and increased funding for schools to hire more school counselors in order to lower the counselor-student ratio.



Mason Kuhn, a student in the doctorate program in College of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Department, was chosen as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching according to a White House announcement Dec. 20, 2013.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching is given every year and rotates from a K-6 and 7-12 recipient. According to its synopsis, the PAEMST is the highest award a math or science teacher can be bestowed in the United States. The winners receive a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, certificate signed by the President of the United States, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Kuhn is an Iowa native, born and raised in Charles City. He graduated from Charles City High School in 1996 and earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Coe College. He taught fifth-grade science in Houston, Texas, for five years followed by one year of fourth-grade math and science in San Diego, Calif. He then spent two years teaching third grade in Charles City, and has been a fourth-grade teacher in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District for six years.

Kuhn complete two masters' degrees one in science Education from Walden University in 2009 and one in special education from the University of North Dakota in 2011.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

2014 THESIS AND RESEARCH PAPER AWARD WINNERS

The Graduate College would like to extend congratulations to the following 2014 Outstanding Master's Thesis and Outstanding Master's Research Paper award recipients:

Outstanding Master's Thesis



First Place:

Katelyn Santy
Advisor: Jayne Morgan, Communication Studies
"Where Loyalties Lie: A Study of Workplace Dissent Through the Lens of Loyalty"



Second Place:

Jon Pedersen
Advisor: Catherine DeSoto, Psychology
"Circulating and Organizational Testosterone and the Perception of Dominance"



Third Place:

Darrina Bledsoe
Advisor: Helen Harton, Psychology
"Predicting Commitment for Those in Military Relationships"

Outstanding Master's Research Paper



First Place:

Emily Guetzlaff
Advisor: Rick Traw, Curriculum & Instruction
"The Effects of Peer-Conferencing on Writing Revisions in a Second Grade Classroom"



Second Place:

Meredith Stensland
Advisor: Cindy Juby, Social Work
"Sex Offender Laws: A Policy Analysis"



Third Place:

Renea Reichenbach
Advisor: John Johnson, History
"Conscientious Objectors in America: A Comparative Study of the Treatment of Conscientious Objectors in WWI & WWII"

Outstanding Creative Master's Thesis*

Alissa Cornick Advisor: Jim O'Loughlin, Languages & Literatures
"Apothecary and Other Stories: A Short Fiction Collection"

The Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation will be announced during UNI's Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting on April 17, at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 115 with a reception to follow in the Great Reading Room.

*Denotes single award.

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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