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## UNI Grad Student News, v11n4, April/May 2014

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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## Message from the Dean



It's the end of the semester! Not only is it the end of the spring semester, but we are closing in on the end of the academic year. This means as of this writing, I see a lot of tired students and faculty around campus, as everyone tries to get everything done before the end of finals week. What happened to all of that time we thought we had, way back in September, when we made all of those promises to have

various projects done by the end of the academic year? Although everyone is scrambling to get things finished, I would like to encourage you to pause and take a moment to step back and review all of the wonderful things you accomplished this year. The 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, held on April 1, was a great way for me to do this, and to see a sample of the great work done by graduate students at UNI. I was truly impressed by the scholarship and creative works. Indeed, I am impressed every year, which is a testament to the quality of our students, faculty, and programs. Thank you to all students who participated, and thank you to our faculty judges who reviewed all of the work.

This time of year is also exciting because it is the time when we take a moment to recognize students for their academic excellence. I would like to offer my congratulations to those students who have won the Outstanding Dissertation, Thesis, Creative Thesis, and Research Paper awards. Well done! These are distinctions that reflect the truly excellent work that you have done. And of course, congratulations to all of those who are graduating. I cannot wait to offer my personal congratulations on stage during commencement on Friday, May 9. For those of you who are returning next year to continue work on your degrees, I hope you have an enjoyable summer, and that you are able to take some time to rest so that you return in the fall full of energy and enthusiasm.

Finally, I need to thank all of the graduate students who served as graduate assistants across campus. Your work is truly appreciated. I would also like to thank those who served on my Graduate Student Advisory Board, the Northern Iowa Student Government Senate, and the Graduate Council. You made sure there was graduate student input on university decisions. Best wishes!

Mike Licari  
Dean, Graduate College

## WHAT TO DO DURING THE SUMMER

**Stay busy this summer** and support local farmers, bakers, and artisans by visiting farmer's markets in the Cedar Valley. The Downtown Cedar Falls Farmer's Market is held in next to Overman Park on Saturdays from 8:30am until noon beginning May and ending in October. The College Hill Farmer's Market takes place in the parking lot next to Octopus on Thursdays from 4-6pm running June through October. Downtown Waterloo Farmers Market takes place at the RiverLoop Expo Plaza on Saturdays from 8am until noon and Thursdays 4-7pm beginning on May 15 through October. **Connect with nature!** Visit the Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Black Hawk Park, Big Woods Lake, or George Wyth State Park for hiking, walking or biking trails, fishing, picnicking, and much more. Visit UNI's Tallgrass Prairie Center to walk through a restored prairie area, and check out the nearby Panther Plot, UNI's student run garden. Campgrounds in the Cedar Valley include George Wyth, the Rotary Reserve outside of Cedar Falls, Hickory Hills Park in La Porte, the Ace and Florence Fogdall Campground connected with Black Hawk Park, Deerwood Park in Evansdale and many more. **Visit cultural sites** and attend events such as museums, arts festivals, plays, and live music. The Cedar Falls Historical Society and the Grout Museum District in Waterloo both have multiple buildings for visitors to enjoy. Cedar Falls offers free music every other weekend with Live to 9, shows start at 5:30pm behind the Ice House. The 36th Annual College Hill Arts Festival will be held on the UNI campus June 20 through June 24. **Attend annual town celebrations.** Waterloo will host My Waterloo Days from Thursday, June 12 through Sunday June 15, and Cedar Falls will host Sturgis Falls from Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29 in Gateway Park. Both celebrations offer fun, food, and music! Waterloo also hosts its annual BBQ'Loo and Blues Too! event July 18 and 19 in Lincoln Park. Barbeque vendors from across the nation provide delicious food while people listen to live music or participate in a chili contest!

Click the following link for more information about the BBQ'Loo event: <http://www.mainstreetwaterloo.org/eventsThemeDetail.asp?themeID=2> The full Cedar Falls Main Street events calendar can be found here: <http://www.communitymainstreet.org/asp/calendar.aspx>

Enjoy your summer!

## THE 7TH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM HELD ON APRIL 1 WAS A SUCCESS!

Thirty students participated in the poster presentations, twenty students participated in oral presentations, and six students participated in creative performances. The Graduate College appreciated the participation by presenters and performers, the graduate faculty who served as judges and the support by the university community who helped make the event possible. This issue features student profiles of the seven first place winners. Be sure to check out a full listing of the first and second place winners on the Graduate College webpage at [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu). The full Symposium program can also be found at [http://www.grad.uni.edu/sites/default/files/revised\\_program\\_-\\_2\\_0.pdf](http://www.grad.uni.edu/sites/default/files/revised_program_-_2_0.pdf).

Look for more information regarding the 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in coming issues of this newsletter.

## CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

## CHRIS WOOD



**Chris Wood**, a graduate student in the School Counseling program, is in his final semester and currently serving as the high school counselor at Don Bosco Catholic High School in Gilbertville, Iowa. Chris completed his undergraduate degree at Wartburg College and he discovered his strong passion for helping high school seniors accomplish their dreams of attending a post-secondary institution.

Chris initially worked as an Admissions Counselor at Wartburg College. His work in admissions allowed him to meet inspiring and motivating school counselors, leading him to the UNI School Counseling program. Chris found the UNI program to be the best fit for him and he decided it was his first choice for graduate school. A unique feature of the UNI School Counseling program is the ability of students to accept a full-time job and salary in their final semester using a temporary license from the Iowa Board of Education.

Chris is currently taking advantage of the temporary school counseling license and is focused on finishing his final class requirements during the summer 2014. Balancing a brand new full-time job and school is admittedly difficult according to Chris. However, he credits his advisors, cohort members, and fellow school employees as well as the Gilbertville community in helping make the experience a meaningful and valuable one. Transitioning to graduate school was a challenge after a

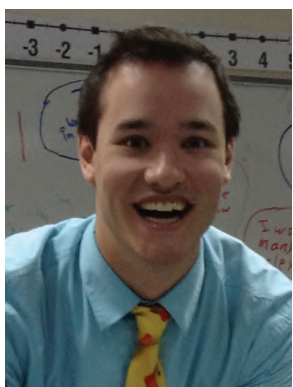
three year break following the completion of his undergraduate degree. Graduate studies required Chris to re-grasp time management skills. Chris also continued to work as an admissions counselor while completing his coursework. The counseling program was unique in its flexibility and several faculty allowed Chris to Skype for classes when he was traveling to state high schools with the Wartburg College admissions team.

Beyond working his first full year in a school and completing his classes, Chris also recently got married. He and his wife are looking forward to starting a family in the Cedar Valley area; the Wood's family simply couldn't see themselves living anywhere else. He enjoys the rare moments of free time by playing golf, softball, and volleyball. He also enjoys grilling outdoors with family and friends. Chris plans to spend his summer completing professional development opportunities and meeting more counselors with strong passions for helping students in the same way he does.

At the conclusion of his courses, Chris' plans to reward himself by attending the American School Counselor Association Annual Conference "Building Magical Futures," held in Orlando during the month of June. Reflecting on his experiences, Chris believes he would not have succeeded in the ways that he has without the incredible support and connections he has shared with his counseling cohort. The relationships he has built with students, professors, and peers reinforces the idea UNI was the perfect fit for him.

## CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

## ANDREW SHUTSA



**Andrew Shutsa** is a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in education. Andrew currently teaches at the Universal American School in Dubai, UAE. Andrew was attracted to UNI after meeting with UNI Professor Dr. Leigh Martin. Andrew also found that UNI's program was very compatible with the professional organizations that he is affiliated with in Canada. The program at UNI was designed for teachers in

American international schools. Andrew knew that he wanted to spend a good portion of his teaching career abroad, making this component essential.

Andrew's short term goals are to become a team leader in his school and eventually work his way into administration. Attending graduate school has also made Andrew consider additional graduate work because he has found it very intriguing and beneficial. Andrew has not experienced any challenges in

transitioning from undergraduate to graduate school. Andrew said that at "UNI students are engaged, we want to be there. Through our online classes and regular forum posts, there is a sense of community with our cohort. This was initially something I was hesitant about when starting the online class, but I think the technology is there to facilitate that community. We have teachers in the program working in Italy, The USA, Pakistan, Nepal and various school across Egypt and the UAW; and yet there is a sense of community."

Andrew enjoys playing ice hockey and traveling in his free time. Since arriving in Dubai last year he has been to Kenya, South Korea, Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman. Andrew finished up by saying "the program itself has been very beneficial for my career. We have focused on leadership, best teaching practices and intercultural communication. All of these are very helpful in an international setting. Teaching students from all across the globe, I realize how small our world really is. Dubai truly is such a transient city as well. The focus of the UNI MAE program has aided me in my classroom and professionally."

## GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

### DR. BILLIE COWLEY



**Dr. Billie Cowley** knew at a young age she wanted to teach students with special needs. Babysitting for her neighbors' children and participating in the Big Brother/Big Sister programs in high school drew her closer to her eventual career.

In high school, she had the opportunity to job shadow a special education teacher and instantly loved the position. She also wanted to one day reach these particular

students and see their confidence in themselves and their abilities grow. This interest and desire led Dr. Cowley to pursue special education degrees and eventually a doctorate in education from UNI. Dr. Cowley earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Upper Iowa University in 2003 with endorsements in special education, reading, language arts, and coaching.

After completing her bachelor's degree, she served as a middle school special education teacher in the South Winneshiek Community School District for two years and in the North Fayette Community School District for three years. The small setting and atmosphere of both schools allowed her to get to know the students better and she loved seeing and celebrating the growth students made. The biggest challenge for Dr. Cowley

was finding the best strategy or method to ensure each student was able to learn the content. Dr. Cowley started her master's in Instructional Classroom Leadership from Upper Iowa University and graduated in 2008. Upon graduation she obtained her current position with Upper Iowa as an Assistant Professor Education beginning July 2008. Shortly after, she returned to school and earned her doctor of education in special education degree from UNI in 2013.

Currently Dr. Cowley teaches a combination of undergraduate and graduate courses. She teaches course contained in the Upper Iowa Teacher Education Core, growth and development courses, and several methods courses. Dr. Cowley believes the highlight of earning her doctoral degree at UNI was simply the chance to meet many great people. She was able to collaborate with individuals from all over Iowa and build her own professional learning community, which is extremely important especially when meeting the needs of all students.

Dr. Cowley said the UNI doctoral program increased her understanding and ability to mentor graduate students in her current position. According to her, education is constantly changing and she advises students desiring a job in special education to understand the special education laws and learn how to advocate for students with disabilities. She believes she is currently fulfilling her career goal of being a professor and may someday seek an administrative role.

## GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

### DR. TOM (HARRY) HALL

**Dr. Tom Hall** earned his bachelor's degree in 1991 at the University of Arkansas. He received his master's degree in 1999 at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Ark in interpersonal and organizational communication. Dr. Hall earned his Ph.D. in 2005 at the University of Oklahoma. Between 1991 and 1999 he held several positions, such as small business owner, retail manager, and corporate trainer. It was while Dr. Hall was working as a corporate trainer that Tom realized how much he enjoyed teaching and working with others in a classroom environment.

While at the University of Oklahoma, he served as the academic coordinator for a Department of Defense joint course in the communication program. Tom has been a UNI employee since 2003. When asked about what attracted him to UNI he said, "Obviously, the students, faculty, facilities, and reputation were all big draws for me when I was considering my options a decade ago, so those are definitely some of the things that attracted me to UNI.

The community was also a big draw--I remember calling my wife during my interview here and saying that the Cedar Valley seems like a great place to raise a family. Those are all of the same reasons that I continue to enjoy working in the communication studies department at UNI and living in Cedar Falls. I can only

imagine that three or four more "polar vortices" might cause me to reconsider."

When asked about what future aspirations Tom had he said that he looks forward to continuing his position as director of the graduate program and to someday earn the rank of full professor. Tom also mentioned that the communication studies department has been able to hire some really "awesome" colleagues over the past few years and he is excited about seeing what new directions the department will take in the coming years. Tom said that sometimes with all of his commitments to the university that it is easy to overlook why he is here in the first place: "I love to teach--I love working with graduates and undergraduates on their projects and in the classroom." Tom's research area is organizational communication, specifically culture and identity.

Tom frequently teaches classes such as qualitative methods and communication theory. He currently has several projects underway, including one with Dr. Laura Terlip that looks at institutional approaches to free speech and hate speech. Tom is also continuing to look at the US government secrecy system and would like to earn a professional development award to complete that research.



# BROWN BAG LECTURE PRESENTERS

## **Dr. Melissa Beall**

*Communication Studies*

"Why Your Students Don't Listen"

## **Dr. K N ('Raj') Rajandren**

*Marketing*

"Identifying Attributes that 'Really' Matter"

## **Dr. Kevin Finn**

*School of HPELS*

"Studies in Hungary – Reflections of a Fulbright Experience"

## **Dr. Bettina Fabos**, Communication Studies

## **Dr. David Grant**

**Dr. Adrienne Lamberti,**

**and Dr. Jim O'Loughlin**

*Languages and Literature*

"The Digital Turn: A Roundtable"

## **Dr. Chris Larimer**

*Political Science*

"A Stranglehold on Power: Explaining Gubernatorial Stability in Iowa"

## **Dr. Dale Cyphert**

*Management*

"Teaching the System: Principles of Complexity as a Blueprint for Communication Pedagogy"

## **Dr. Katherine van Wormer**

*Social Work*

2012-2013 Distinguished Scholar

"The Maid Narratives: A Presentation for Black History Month"

## **Dr. Patrick Pease**

*Geography*

"The Prodigious Barrier of the Sand Sea: Discovering the Source of Sand for Wahiba Sand Sea"

## **Dr. Jack Yates**

*Psychology, & Carole Yates, CEEE*

"Changing Minds, Changing Behaviors, and the Changing Climate"

## **Marybeth Stalp & Theresa M. Winge**

*Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology*

Michigan State University

"Guerillas in the Knit: Guerilla Knitters, Yarn Bombing, and Craftivism in Contemporary North America"

## **Dr. Gary Gute & Dr. Deanne Gute**

*Creative Life Research Center*

"Complexity as a Catalyst for Flow and Creativity in the Early Family Lives of Highly Creative People"

## **Dr. Sarah Diesburg**

*Computer Science*

"Ghosts of Past Data: Challenges and Advances in Secure Deletion of Files"

The Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting took place on April 17. The meeting featured a number of student and faculty awards. The student awards included outstanding doctoral dissertation, outstanding master's thesis, outstanding master's research paper, and outstanding creative master's thesis award. The winners of the 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium were also recognized. The faculty awards included the outstanding graduate faculty teaching award, distinguished scholar award, brown bag lecture presenters, and milestone award recipients. The milestone award is given to faculty who have chaired 10 or more graduate student culminating projects (theses, dissertations, research papers, creative projects, or other equivalent graduate student culminating projects). UNI Graduate College Dean Michael Licari provided an update on the status of graduate education. The meeting concluded with a panel discussion of hybrid and online graduate programs by graduate alumni Pam Hartman, Renee Borglum, and Dr. Clayton Edwards.

## **2013 – 2014 Milestone Award Winners**

### **Chemistry & Biochemistry**

Dr. Dawn Del Carlo

### **School of Health, Physical Education, & Leisure Services**

Dr. Christopher Kowalski

Dr. Joe Wilson

Dr. Kathy Scholl

Dr. Rodney Dieser

Dr. Julianne Gassman  
Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Jean Donham

Dr. Sarah Montgomery

### **Psychology**

Dr. Adam Butler

Dr. Michael Gasser

### **History**

Dr. John Johnson



# 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: Dr. 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"

### Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

Clayton Edwards. Co-chairs: Dr. Audrey Rule and Dr. Greg Stefanich, Curriculum & Instruction

"Comparing Middle School Students' Learning and Attitudes in Face-to-Face and Online Mathematics Lessons"

### Faculty Awards

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Dawn Del Carlo, Chemistry & Biochemistry

### Distinguished Scholar Award

Dr. Melissa Beall, Communication Studies

# UNI STUDENTS PUBLISH MEASURING HAPPINESS: EXAMINING DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUMENTS IN ILLUMINARE

Abubakarr Jalloh, Thomas Flack, Kong Chen, and Kristine Fleming recently had their article, "Measuring Happiness: Examining Definitions and Instruments," published in the *Illuminare: A Student Journal in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies*. Both Kong and Kristine are UNI Leisure, Youth and Human Services graduate students and Abubakarr and Thomas are UNI Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Service graduate students at UNI. The *Illuminare* is a refereed journal within the parks, recreation, tourism, and leisure fields and maintained by the Indiana University Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies. "Measuring Happiness" examines literature and discusses the construct of happiness and how it has been used and researched. The article was published online April 4, 2014 and the full text can be found at: <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/illuminaire/article/view/3635/6444>

**Congratulations to Abubakarr, Thomas, Kong, and Kristine on the publication of your article!**

## — GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD —

The final Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting was held on Wednesday, April 9 with nine member and three UNI Graduate College staff in attendance. During the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Dr. Licari shared the Regents' Efficiency and Transformation Study was underway. More information can be found by visiting <http://www.uni.edu/web/efficiency>.
- Dr. Shoshanna Coon prepared graduation checklists for doctoral, master's or specialist's degrees thesis option, and master's or specialist degree non-thesis option. Find them on the UNI Graduate College website under the "Current Students" link or <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-college/current-students>.
- Susie Schwieger noted that the 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium was a success and that the UNI Graduate College is thankful to all of the participants and judges. The 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.
- Michelle Czarnecki, (Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs) who is also an NISG Graduate Senator, noted that the budget allocations for student organizations were decided and posted. This year's requests were far over NISG's budget. She also noted the GSAB member Heather Place will be taking her place as one of the NISG Graduate Senators.
- Chelsey Sensor (School Counseling) brought up the change in the student employment policy that only allows students to work 20 hours on campus per week. She noted how this change will effect offices such as the Academic Learning Center that employs graduates with other assistantships who serve undergraduates. Dr. Michael Licari noted that the new legislation will drive students trying to make ends meet off campus which has been shown to effect academic performance. However, the policy change stems from the new Affordable Care Act that makes employees working over 20 hours a week eligible for healthcare, and UNI cannot afford that additional cost.
- Chelsey Sensor also noted the confusion around the graduate assistantship renewal process. The UNI Graduate College staff acknowledged the issue and has taken steps to clarify information to address any misunderstanding of the process.
- Nate Dobbles, (Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs) announced that the UNI Job Board will be shifting to UNI Career Services. The switch will wipe out all information on the old system. The new UNI Job Board should be available by April 18.
- Ashley Heffern noted that some MSW students had difficulty applying for and finding information on summer scholarships. Dr. Licari and Dr. Coon discussed how they had talked to Dr. Cindy Juby, the MSW director, and other faculty to increase transparency and ease of the process. They stressed that students should be proactive in turning in applications and requests because this year's requests were 140,000 dollars over budget.
- Dr. Licari thanked members for their commitment to the GSAB and wished students success with the rest of the school year. Graduate students should email [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu) with comments, questions, or concerns.

# SCHOOL LIBRARY STUDIES STUDENTS PRESENT AT IOWA CONFERENCES



SLS student Franny Frey, alumna Kelly Reinhold and co-presenter Stephanie Jansa at the IASL conference.

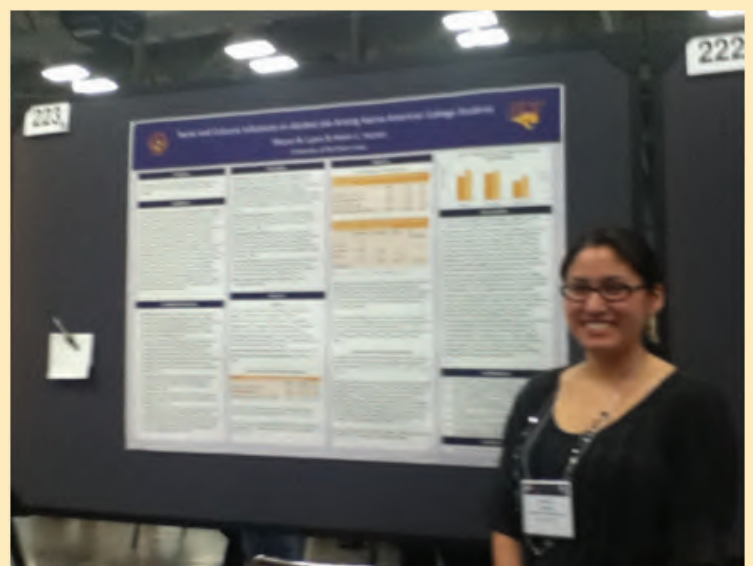
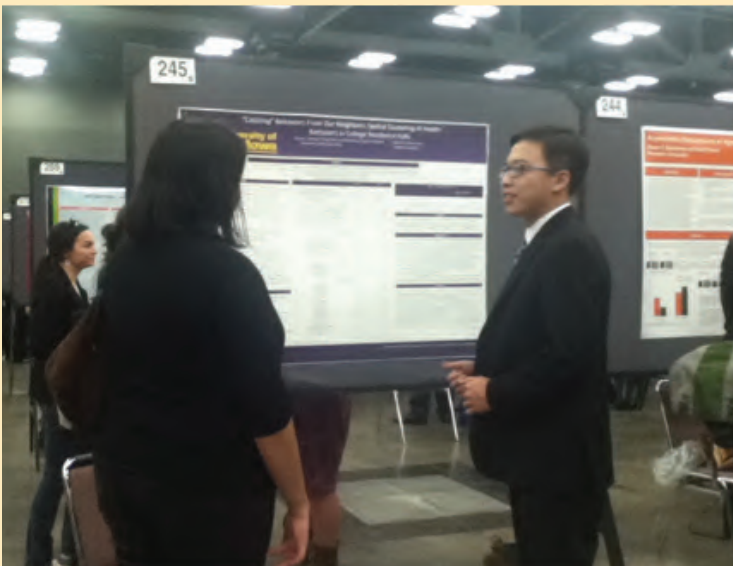
Franny Frey, graduate student in School Library Studies, co-presented at the Iowa Association of School Librarians (IASL) Conference April 14, 2014, in Cedar Rapids. Working collaboratively with School Library Studies alumna and teacher librarian Kelly Reinhold, Franny presented "Common Language: Inquiry Process, Credible Online Sources and Copyright." Their presentation focused on the Waukee Middle School Library and its ability to nurture students in the inquiry process by using common language across the district for the inquiry process, for verifying credible sources, and for copyright and creative commons procedures. Franny teaches 8th grade language arts at Waukee Middle School, along with another co-presenter, Stephanie Jansa.

School Library Studies student Tyllie Corbin presented "Teaching Tech with Tyllie" at the 2014 Iowa 1:1 Institute on April 10 in Des Moines. Tyllie, a K-12 teacher librarian for Denver Community Schools, described the tools and lessons she uses to help students use their Apple devices for learning.

## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

Eight psychology graduate students attended the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Austin, Texas held in February to present their research. Below are the presentation titles and authors with graduate students' names in bold:

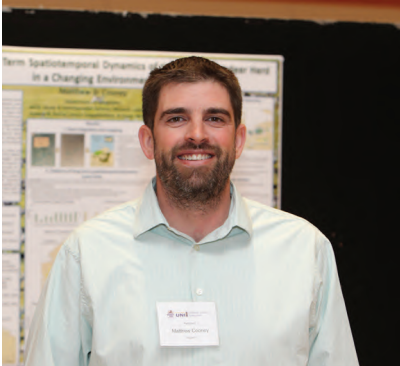
1. Political Orientation and Numerical Estimations of Political Issues: The Role of Numerical Anchors and Cognitive Load – **Asha Ganesan and Helen C. Harton.**
2. Blind to Color but Not to Status: The Effects of Religious Identity and Political Orientation on Racial and Economic Prejudice – **Kristin A. Broussard, Helen C. Harton, Carol Tweten, Allie Thompson, Alexia Farrell, and Paden Goldsmith.**
3. The Effects of Need for Closure on Responsibility Attribution – **Brock Rozich**
4. Driving Anger and Personality Disorders – **Gina Sacchetti**
5. Trait Variability for Individuals with Personality Disorders: A Frequency-Based Approach – **Carol Tweten**
6. Social and Cultural influences on Alcohol Use among Native American College Students – **Wayva W. Lyons and Helen C. Harton**
7. "Catching" Behaviors from our Neighbors: Spatial Clustering of Health Behaviors in College Residence Halls – **Helen C. Harton and Peng Zhang**





# 2014 GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM POSTER PRESENTATION WINNERS

Matthew Cooney, Ranjana Joshi, and Luci Dumas were recognized as the first place winners in the poster presentation categories of research, literature review, and project at the 7th Annual UNI Graduate Student Symposium. Each student received a plaque and \$400 on behalf of the UNI Graduate College.

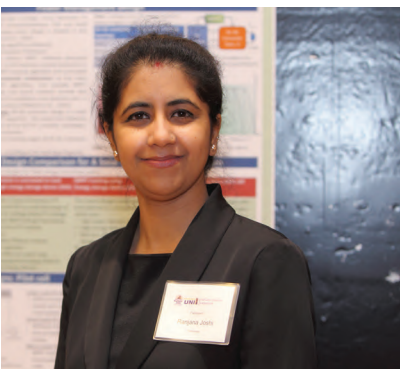


## Research: Matthew Cooney

Matthew Cooney, a second year graduate student in the UNI Department of Geography, was awarded first place in the research category of the poster presentations with his poster titled, "Understanding Long-Term Spatiotemporal Dynamics of the Taimyr Reindeer Herd

in a Changing Environment." His research contributes to the work being done at the Arctic Social and Environmental Systems Research Laboratory (ARCSES) here at UNI. For his research, Matthew used various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to better understand the spatial and temporal dynamics of the Taimyr Reindeer Herd in Taimyr, Russia. He also investigated environmental and climate factors that influence their selection of habitat during the summer season of their migration. This herd represents roughly one third of the world's wild reindeer/caribou and they are currently in a fairly rapid population decline, losing 300,000 animals since 2000. Matthew's adviser, Dr. Andrey N. Petrov, currently works for Taimyr Reindeer and Environmental Change (TREC) project. Matthew says his work stems from Dr. Petrov and other Russian scientists' previous research. This summer he hopes to co-author a paper with Dr. Petrov for publication in a journal. Matthew is looking forward to graduation and is excited about entering the GIS field. He says GIS is broadly applicable to many disciplines, and he has not yet narrowed down an area where his skills and research would make the most contribution. Although he did not know what to expect, Matthew said the Symposium was a great experience and he recommends that other students get involved.

Transportation that dealt with wireless sensor networks. Ranjana is currently working on a harvester design and looking forward to attending another conference this year. As for the future, Ranjana says she is focused on learning different aspects of doing research with the great faculty at UNI. She received an opportunity to teach and it helped her realize her potential and zeal to continue teaching in the future. She wants to establish herself as an industrial researcher and make connections in academia because academics has become an integral part of her life. Ranjana believed the Symposium was a great opportunity for her because she learned different ways of presenting and organizing the content of her literature review. She encourages graduate students to participate because presenting will help them focus and understand their work better. She says exchanging ideas with faculty and receiving their expert advice is a great reward.



## Literature Review: Ranjana Joshi

Ranjana Joshi, a second year Doctor of Technology graduate student, was awarded first place in the literature review category with her poster titled, "Harvesting Ambient Energy to Power Wireless Sensor Nodes." Her literature review

is an extensive study of the existing solar energy harvesting and storage techniques with the potential to power the micro wireless sensor nodes in wireless sensor networks. The review highlighted some of the key areas to for designing an efficient harvester. She became interested in this topic in 2010 when Dr. M.D. Salim and Dr. Jin Zhu completed their project with the Iowa Department of



## Project: Luci Dumas

Luci Dumas, a second year Psychology: Clinical Science graduate student, was awarded first prize in the project category of the poster presentations with her poster titled, "The Influence of Locus of Control and Personality Traits on Life Goals in Offenders."

The project assessed

how personality traits and locus of control influence the type and perception of life goals for men on community supervision sentences, for example probation, parole, work release, etc. She conducted interviews at a local residential correctional facility in order to obtain qualitative and quantitative data. Luci said life goals have always been a strong motivating factor for her, and she was interested to see what life goals look like for individuals who have been convicted of a crime and/or served time for their crimes. In the future, Luci plans to continue her research of life goals in offenders while examining several other important factors including psychological flexibility. After graduating from UNI, Luci will be attending the University of Wyoming's Clinical Psychology PhD program and hopes to one day work in a mental health or correctional facility as a Clinical Psychologist. Luci believes the Symposium is a great opportunity for graduate students to network with graduate students from other programs and graduate faculty. She said it was fun to be able to share her project with other UNI graduate students and to see what they were working on.

**Congratulations Matthew, Ranjana, and Luci on you first place presentations at the Symposium! The Graduate College wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavors.**

# 2014 GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ORAL PRESENTATION WINNERS:

## MELANIE ABBAS AND LAURA TRETTIN



### **Melanie Abbas:**

Melanie Abbas, a Doctor of Technology student and Laura Trettin, a Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs student, were recognized as the first place oral presentation winners at the 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 1. Both Melanie and Laura received a plaque and \$400 on behalf of the UNI Graduate College.

Melanie's presentation, "Development of a Multi-Mode Self-Adaptive Traffic Shaping Algorithm for an Efficient Network on a University Campus," focused on her doctoral research. She plans to present the topic in more depth at her upcoming doctoral defense meeting. Melanie began her research two years ago when deciding a topic for the completion of her dissertation. She is advised by Dr. Jin Zhu in the technology department and works primarily with Aaron Howard, Interim Director of ITS-Network Services and Dr. Paul Gray, associate professor of computer science.

Melanie enjoys presenting, especially taking a very technical topic and transforming the information into something understandable for all audiences. Seeing an audience appreciate the concepts is part of why she is drawn to presenting her work. Melanie believes the symposium was an excellent opportunity for her to practice her dissertation defense argument in advance and she recommends the symposium to any graduate student looking to improve their presentation skills.

Melanie expects to graduate in August 2014. She does not have any immediate plans but is focused on becoming a chief information officer in her future.



### **Laura Trettin:**

Laura Trettin is a Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs graduate student and was recognized as the first place oral presentation winner at the Symposium on April 1. Her presentation, "The Effects of Living in a Springboard House During One's First Year at the University of Northern Iowa," was based on the

research and data collection she completed as part of her master's thesis project. Laura focused on first-year students living on campus and the experience they have in regards to living in specific communities within the residence halls. The data she collected provided valuable information to the Department of Residence regarding first-year student experience and retention rates.

Laura will graduate May 2014 and has accepted a position in Michigan as a residence hall director. She is very excited about this new position and is looking forward to applying what she has learned both in and outside the classroom.

Laura's experience at the symposium was valuable and she appreciates how engaged the faculty were in her presentation. She says the questions she was asked during the presentation challenged her to think more in-depth about the topic and the effects and implications of her work. She recommends the symposium to other students as it is a great opportunity to practice presentation skills, interact with faculty in other fields, and share personal research and findings with others.

Congratulations to both Melanie and Laura on your first place presentations at the symposium! The Graduate College wishes you both the best of luck in your future endeavors.





**Abubakarr Jalloh**, a doctoral student in the Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services program, recently attended the March 2014, "High Level Event of the General Assembly: The Contribution of Women, Youth, and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda," held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Jalloh serves as the United Nations Representative for the World Leisure

Organization (WLO) and was invited to attend the High-Level Event in order to discuss the working relationship with the United Nations system. The work of the WLO aligns with the UN Millennium Development Goals as well as the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Both the Goals and Agenda refer to the global process to help define the future global development framework, a set of eight targets set to expire in 2015. The event focused on the theme of "Equality, Inclusion, and Participation." Several topics were addressed including cross-cutting rights-based issues relevant to women and youth. Issues covered included preventing violence against women and girls, providing access to quality education, skills and training, health, social protection, and financial and economic inclusion. The event was convened and organized by the UN General Assembly, chaired by the President of the General Assembly with remarks from the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the Director-Generals of UN Women and UNICEF, delegates from Member States and representatives of NGOs/Civil Society Organizations. Following the event, Jalloh had the opportunity to personally meet UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. **Congratulations Jalloh on your recent success!**

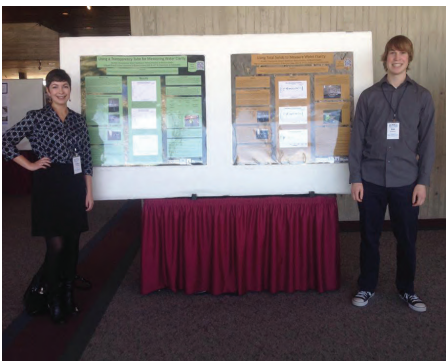


The UNI Graduate College would like to congratulate **Dr. Elizabeth Lefler** who was recently awarded the Psychology Club Teaching Award at the Psi Chi Induction Ceremony on April 6. Psi Chi is the psychology national honor society and an additional twenty-four new members were inducted at the 2014 ceremony event. Psychology Club members are allowed to nominate a professor for the Excellence in Teaching Award and each member casts a vote according to the nominations. Dr. Lefler received the most votes and was honored with this award. **Congratulations to Dr. Lefler!**



**Luci Dumas**, Psychology: Clinical Science, presented a poster at the 2014 American Psychology and Law Society Conference in New Orleans on March 8. Luci's poster entitled, "The Influences of Personality and Locus of Control on Life Goals in Offenders," is based on her thesis research and was also presented at the 2014 UNI Graduate Student Symposium on April 1. Kirstin Kramer, Gina Sacchetti, and Amber Schramm,

Psychology: Clinical Science students, attended the conference in New Orleans with Luci. All four students attended sessions concerning assessment and treatment of forensic populations, adolescent intimate-partner violence, interviewing victims of abuse, and risk-assessment skills. **Congratulations Luci on your recent success!**



**Heather Chamberlain**, a science education graduate student, alongside her undergraduate student research assistant, **Robert Spielbauer**, presented a poster at the Iowa Water Conference in Ames, Iowa, March 3-4. Heather and Robert's

poster was based on research recently completed at the Tallgrass Prairie Center and is entitled, "Using a Transparency Tube to Measure Water Clarity." This particular research was designed for Iowa DOT construction sites and is important as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is implementing new limitations on how much sediment can be found in water. There was no easy-to-use, accurate, inexpensive way to measure water clarity and both researchers validated the transparency tube with a usable instrument. Heather and Robert's poster won third place, which included a certificate and monetary prize. **Congratulations Heather and Robert on your success!**



**Rachel Routier**, a graduate student in English with a specialization in creative writing, published the poem "Five Senses" in Surges: Outpourings in Haiyan/Yolanda's Wake, a literature and art anthology published in December in the Philippines as a fundraiser for disaster relief after Typhoon Haiyan. **Congratulations Rachel on your success!**

On April 7, **Megan Vogt**, recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Graduate Paper on Gender Award, presented her Outstanding Graduate Research Paper to an audience of UNI faculty, staff, and students at the Current Research on Women (CROW) Forum. A graduate student in social work, Megan's paper is entitled, "Portrayals of Feminism: Through the eyes of Hans Christian Andersen and Disney." Her work speaks about the recent feminism outrage regarding the latest Walt Disney Pictures film, Frozen. Her critique compares the two works of Hans Christian Andersen, including The Little Mermaid and The Snow Queen, with their

Walt Disney Pictures film adaptations, *The Little Mermaid* and *Frozen*. The paper ultimately uncovers the opposite of popular opinion and educates Disney fanatics on the stereotypical ideologies of the past and the present. **Congratulations Megan on all your accomplishments!** **Michelle Czarnecki and Ellie Hail**, Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs students, competed in the NASPA Annual Conference Graduate Student Case Study Competition in Baltimore, March 17-19. Their assigned case focused on the intersections of alcohol, Greek life, and campus traditions like homecoming at a comprehensive university. Their response was built on a theoretical framework provided by James Banning (Campus Ecology) as well as James Marcia (Ego Identity Development). Ellie and Michelle were one of six teams from graduate programs in higher education and student affairs to compete. They unfortunately did not win but received very positive feedback from their presentation, particularly on their recommendation to create a homecoming task force as well as rebranding "Greek Life" to "Fraternity & Sorority Life." **Congratulations Michelle and Ellie on your success at the NASPA Conference!**



On April 8, two MSW students, **Ron Devoll and Tim Tolliver**, facilitated a presentation and discussion entitled, "The Trauma Informed Classroom" at the Rod Library in conjunction with the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning. Both Ron and Tim are army veterans and provided insight on how professors and UNI as a university can become "trauma informed" and use it to benefit students. The discussion

focused on defining "trauma informed" and understanding how traumatic experiences are triggered depending on content and conversations within the classroom. The session also offered strategies to work with students who have experienced trauma and sought to change the paradigm from "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?"

Ron and Tim also presented this topic at the 4th Annual State-Wide Military and Veterans Conference held on Sept. 23, 2013 hosted by UNI. **Congratulations to both Ron and Tim on their accomplishments!**

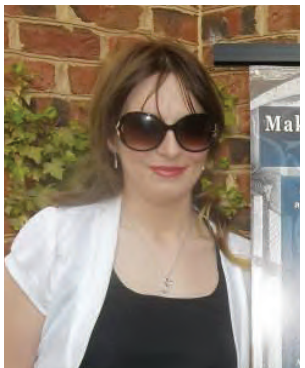


**Abdullah Al-Asmari**, a Communication Studies: Community College Education graduate student, presented his paper, "Instructors' Perceptions of their Own Effectiveness: The Role of Credibility and Nonverbal Immediacy" at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) convention on April 5, 2014. The CSCA convention was held in Minneapolis and followed the theme of "Elevate." Attendees were encouraged to elevate their

understanding of communication and push the boundaries of

traditional inquiry and instruction. Abdullah is a member of the National Communication Association (NCA) and the Central States Communication Association. Additionally he has served as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Communication at the King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He became interested in his research area as he hoped to improve his own communication in the classroom. Abdullah has worked closely with Dr. Melissa Beall, Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter, and Dr. Tom Hall throughout his thesis process. **The UNI Graduate College would like to congratulate Abdullah on his recent success!**

Several graduate TESOL students have been busy attending conferences and presenting at numerous occasions over the spring semester. **Kate Hein**, recent winner of the UNI Department of Languages & Literatures Kraft Scholarship, presented her poster entitled, "Collaborative Strategic Reading as Sheltered Instruction" at the TESOL International Convention held in Portland, Ore. Held March 26-29. Kate was also accepted to present "Critical Thinking Tasks and Second Language Vocabulary Learning" at both the TESOL and Applied Linguistics Graduate Student Conference in Cullowhee, N.C., and the Humanities Symposium at UNI. Kate also co-authored a paper with Dr. Tammy Gregersen, fellow TESOL graduate student Kyle Talbot, and TESOL undergraduate student Shelby Claman. The group's paper concerns positive psychology and emotional intelligence and has been accepted for the 14th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology to be held in Hawaii this summer. The paper will be published in a special issue of the journal *Studies in Second Language Learning and Teaching*. **Kyle Talbot** also co-presented a paper at the 20th TESOL Arabia International Conference & Exhibition in Dubai titled, "Celebrating Learner Success through Affective Alternative Assessment," with Dr. Gregersen in March 2014. Kyle's presentation "Using Electronic Portfolios to Authentically Assess Student Proficiency" was also featured at the TESOL Club's Teaching Tips Roundtable at UNI during the spring semester. TESOL student **Daryl Veatch's** presentation, "Problem Solving Activities: Let's Talk it Out" was also included in the program. Daryl introduced problem solving activities to bolster group identity through common struggle and community building through play. **Congratulations to Kate, Kyle, and Daryl on their outstanding accomplishments!**



On April 4-5, Kimberly Bridgewater, a graduate student in the Languages & Literatures department, recently presented her paper, "Artifice and Identity in Melion and Marie de France's 'Bisclavret'" at the Making Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Cultural Conference hosted by the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Kimberly's paper focused on medieval werewolf tales and the representation of identity through clothing and the establishment

of artificial identity. Kimberly shared a panel with two other graduate students from different universities and was recognized when she presented her paper. **The UNI Graduate College would like to congratulate Kimberly on her accomplishments!**



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With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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