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## UNI Grad Student News, v11n5, August 2014

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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## Message from the Dean



Welcome to all of our new and returning graduate students! I am Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter and am serving this year as the Interim Dean of the Graduate College. Dr. Mike Licari is serving as Interim Provost. I came to UNI in August 1991, and love teaching and working with students. In the past, I served as the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of

Communication Studies, enjoying the opportunities allowing me to work with graduate students.

Every summer, about this time of year, I find myself getting excited about starting a new academic year. The exhilaration of working with students, learning together, and collaborating on projects are all things I enjoy. And yet, the thought of a new semester often brings some anxiety when thinking of meeting new people, a new schedule, and all that needs to be accomplished in sixteen short weeks. What I have learned over the years is that these mixed emotions are very normal and experienced by many people when they are facing new experiences.

One of the things that is helpful for me to do at such times is to create a "to-do" list for myself, which will help guide me. When I look at specific things you might do as a graduate student at that level of specificity – whether new or returning – you might include things like the following, which can also serve as a checklist for you, as you enter this academic year.

1. Get acquainted with the UNI campus and learn about resources and how you can access them. Ask for help

when you need it by going to your department's Graduate Coordinator, your professors, or the staff at the Graduate College. Utilize valuable resources such as the Rod Library, the Academic Learning Center, and the Student Computer Centers. Follow the link to find the computer lab nearest you:

<https://www.uni.edu/its/labs/sccc>

2. Look for opportunities to present your research or creative work, such as the Graduate Student Symposium on April 1, 2015. Faculty members are often able to direct you to additional opportunities related to your particular program.
3. Update your resume or vitae with information related to your summer experiences or learn how to transition your documents from undergraduate to graduate experiences. Contact Susie Schwieger in the Graduate College to set up an appointment to review your resume or vitae.
4. Find a way to get involved beyond the classroom, on campus, or within the Waterloo/Cedar Falls community. You can find out about many opportunities by attending the Graduate Student Information Meeting on Wednesday, August 27 at 3:00 p.m. You can also participate in the Student Involvement Center's "Volunteer Tuesdays" opportunities.

I hope you have a wonderful semester! If you have questions about graduate school, feel free to contact me or one of the staff members in the Graduate College (<http://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-college/dean-staff>).

## GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING

The Graduate College would like to invite all new and returning graduate students to the Graduate Student Information meeting, Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 3-4:30 PM. The event will offer valuable campus resource information and an opportunity to connect with fellow graduate students. Dr. Chris Cox, Dean of the Rob Library, will once again present research tips and information on the library's technology resources and how to access unique collections and archives. Attendees will also have the opportunity

to ask questions from a current graduate student panel and gain insight into life as a UNI graduate student.

All attendees will have the opportunity to win door prizes donated by local businesses.

## MICHELLE CZARNECKI-MAY 2014 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Michelle Czarnecki, a May 2014 graduate of the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program, delivered the commencement address on Friday, May 9, in the McLeod Center. During her time at UNI, Michelle served as a graduate assistant for the Student Involvement Center and held positions on the Graduate Student Advisory Board and the Campus Activities Board. She also served as the Order of Omega

honor society advisor and completed practicum experiences with Athletic Academic Advising and Student Disability Services.

Upon graduation, Michelle accepted a position with Grinnell College as the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations for Student Programs in Development and Alumni Relations.

The following are excerpts from Michelle's commencement address:

"I am sure in the course of seeking our graduate degrees, we have all experienced fear. Fear of making a mistake, not enrolling in the right classes, of writing our theses or

dissertations, of juggling all of our responsibilities while staying on track for graduation...

The fact of the matter is, fear will continue to follow us past graduation. It will stand beside you on your first day in your new job. It will join in on learning new skills. It will cause doubt and hesitation. But, as Jack Canfield says, 'Everything you want is on the other side of fear.' So how do we move past it? How does one engage such a phenomenon...?

The first answer is, of course, you. You had the drive to pursue your education beyond the undergraduate level...Though you may have felt fear, you overcame it to be here today...

The other answer lies in those around you, and this is where gratitude comes into play...The more I learn about anything in life, the more I realize how interconnected we are and I realize how grateful I am for all those small connections...

Life and those who surround me propelled me past my fear. They placed dreams that seemed elusive within reach. Moving forward, we will face fear, and we will see our desires just out of reach, just past that inner hesitation. All we have to do is take a step back and recognize where we have come from. Remember how we got here. It is our turn, as we go forth, to share that challenge and support with all those we meet."

*To read Michelle's entire address, please visit [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu).*

### CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

### EVAN SCHARES



**Evan Schares** thoroughly enjoyed his undergraduate experience at UNI and after graduating in May 2013, decided to continue his education and pursue a master's in communication studies. Evan graduated with a bachelor's in global studies, political communication, and Spanish. Part of what made his experience so memorable and continues to do so, was working in the Office of the President for five years where

he conducted research on education policy and legislation. Evan also helped draft President Allen's speeches and assisted in the planning and execution of many events, including UNI hosting His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, First Lady Michelle Obama, and other international dignitaries. Evan credits UNI with affording him amazing opportunities off-campus. He lived abroad in San Jose, Costa Rica to study Spanish linguistics, served as a congressional intern in the U.S. House of Representatives, and interned in the 2010 and 2012 elections.

Now in his graduate education, Evan is focused on writing his thesis, "Body Dumps: The Performance & Rhetoric of Narcoterrorism." He also is exploring potential Ph.D. options in rhetoric and politics and while he isn't sure where he will end up, he hopes to continue learning and challenging himself. Evan also works as the graduate assistant within The Department of Communication Studies, teaching oral communication and working in the Interpreters Theatre. Evan notes several important people in assisting him with all of his success and goals including academic and professional mentors across UNI's campus; namely, former President Benjamin Allen, Dr. Catherine Palczewski, Dr. Karen Mitchell, and Jennifer Yarrow. Evan also believes The Department of Communication Studies' graduate faculty in performance and rhetorical studies are incredibly devoted to student success which made the transition to graduate study smooth and organic.

When Evan is not on campus, he loves running, reading for leisure, drinking black coffee and exploring Waterloo/Cedar Falls food and drink venues.

## GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE:

### JACQUI KALIN



**Jacqui Kalin** may be a professional basketball player but she believes UNI played a major role in her career development. Jacqui earned a bachelor of arts in exercise science in 2010 and later earned a master of arts in physical education in 2013, both from UNI. While at UNI, Jacqui played on the women's basketball team and upon graduating, accepted a position as a professional player in the Israeli league. She played one season as a member of the Ramat

Hasharon team, a city located on Israel's central coastal strip. Soon after, she was invited to play with the Israeli National Team, which is where Jacqui is currently playing. The best thing about her job, according to Jacqui, is that it doesn't seem like a job. Her passion for basketball allowed her to continue to play while earning an income. Jacqui stated she had many amazing professors at UNI and she worked closely with Dr. Jennifer Waldron and Dr. Mick Mack. The time spent outside of the classroom working on her research and writing skills

is something Jacqui especially appreciated from Dr. Waldron and Dr. Mack. Today Jacqui maintains communication with Dr. Waldron and they share a valuable mentoring relationship. Jacqui advises current graduate students and also those entering the professional realm to put in the time and be persistent. Although the writing and research can be stressful and frustrating, Jacqui encourages students to not settle for anything less than their best work. Proudly earning your degree and entering the workforce will be worth the long and difficult days of graduate studies, according to Jacqui. Currently Jacqui spends her free time learning Hebrew. Upon arrival in Israel, she knew how to read and write but is advancing her translating skills and working to become fluent. Jacqui enjoys traveling and recently visited Italy for a basketball competition and she is looking forward to traveling to Croatia and Bulgaria in the coming months. Jacqui shared she is extremely grateful for the experience she had at UNI while in her graduate program. She hopes to become a college coach or find a career in athletic administration and thanks to her time at UNI, she is ready to succeed. Jacqui cannot fully express her gratitude to all the professors and individuals at UNI who positively influenced her career.

## GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

### DR. DARCIE DAVIS-GAGE



**Dr. Darcie Davis-Gage** brings more than ten years of counseling experience and a diverse educational background to her work as an associate professor of counseling at UNI. Dr. Davis-Gage earned her bachelor of arts in psychology at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1994, and both her master of arts in counseling (1996) and education specialist (1997) degrees from Pittsburg State University. Prior to her appointment as an associate professor at UNI,

she worked as a counselor in a partial hospitalization program, a women's mental health agency, a college counseling and advising center, and in a private practice setting. While working as a counselor, she also completed her doctoral work in counselor education from the University of Iowa in 2005. Dr. Davis-Gage also worked as an assistant professor in the Counseling and Psychology Department at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. Currently Dr. Davis-Gage teaches a variety of courses including Facilitating Career Development and Group Counseling for both graduate school counseling and mental health counseling students at UNI.

She was originally attracted to the UNI counseling program for its strong national reputation and the highly involved faculty members who are recognized on a national scale. Dr. Davis-Gage herself is very involved as a counselor educator and is an active member of the American Counseling Association, the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision, the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, and serves as the current president of the American Counseling Association (ACA) of Iowa. Dr. Davis-Gage's research interests are in the area of group counseling, creativity and flow theory, and wellness and diversity issues related to counselor education and practice. Her current research agenda includes examining how popular media can be used to train counselors. She is also focused on continuing to build the counseling program and increasing her involvement in the UNI Creative Life Research Center which focuses on becoming a national leader in creativity research by facilitating faculty-student research projects. Her goals include becoming a full professor in the next few years. In her free time, Dr. Davis-Gage enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially her 14-year-old son, Will. Additionally she enjoys running, hot yoga, and knitting.



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## GRADUATE COLLEGE ASSISTANTS

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## SPANISH STUDENTS PRESENT AT WORLD LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

Three graduate students, Andrés Morera, Larissa Gasperetti, and Ashley Blosch, attended the 2nd Annual World Languages Graduate Organization Conference, "Exploring Edges" at the University of Iowa on April 5, 2014. Under the guidance and support of Dr. Tania Carrasquillo Hernández, a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures, each student presented various work as well. Andrés is a master of arts in Spanish candidate and presented, "Studying a Second Language Abroad: More than Languages Skills." Larissa, a master of arts in Spanish teaching student, presented "Student Travel and Intercultural Competence: The Case for Secondary Student Study and Travel Abroad Opportunities to Develop the 21st Century Skill of Global Citizenship." Ashley is also a master of arts in Spanish student and was recently accepted into the Ph.D. in Spanish Literature program at Indiana University. Her presentation was entitled, "El juego del tiempo y la muerte: The construction of self in La noche boca arriba y El Sur."

Congratulations to Andrés, Ashley, and Larissa on your accomplishments!

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## EXPLORE THE ARTS AT UNI

As a graduate student at UNI, there are plenty of exciting activities and events to attend all year long, most of them free of charge. The School of Music consistently offers solo piano performances, orchestra concerts, choirs and many other ensembles and high quality performances open to all UNI students. Whether you are an avid music lover or simply curious, the School of Music offers more than 200 concerts and events and something to suit nearly everyone's taste. Join their mailing list or view the School of Music calendar at <http://www.uni.edu/music/events/index.html> to stay updated on all the outstanding events.

The UNI Gallery of Art offers events and exhibitions open to the public throughout the academic year, free of charge. The permanent art collection exhibit is composed of a variety of prints, drawings, paintings, and sculpture spanning over 700 years. Students at UNI have the privilege of viewing works from Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Grant Wood, and many other featured artists. At the UNI Gallery of Art, students have the opportunity to explore a diverse collection and learn about the culture behind many artistic pieces. Located in the Kamerick Art Building and open six days a week, students can view pieces from art professors, students, and invited artists. Plan to attend an event this year and view all the scheduled exhibit offerings at <http://www.uni.edu/artdept/gallery/Home.html>.

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**Abbie Gacke** is the Graduate Assistant for Online Publication and Marketing. Abbie is a first year graduate student working towards a master of arts degree in Speech Language Pathology. She completed her undergraduate studies at UNI majoring in Communicative Disorders. As an undergraduate student, Abbie competed for both the UNI Women's Basketball team and the Track & Field team. In addition to participating in athletics,

Abbie was an active volunteer for the International Student Volunteer Program, along with being involved with the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Abbie enjoys spending time with family and friends, exercising, and reading. Upon graduation, she hopes to work in a large children's hospital as a Speech Language Pathologist for the infant through five-year-old population.

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**RaeAnn Swanson** is the Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development. She is a second year graduate student in public history. RaeAnn completed her undergraduate work at UNI majoring in history and anthropology. RaeAnn's research interests include environmental history, women's history, and Latin American history. In the future, RaeAnn hopes to be accepted into

a Ph.D. program to continue her education upon graduation. RaeAnn enjoys reading, camping, traveling, and visiting family and friends.

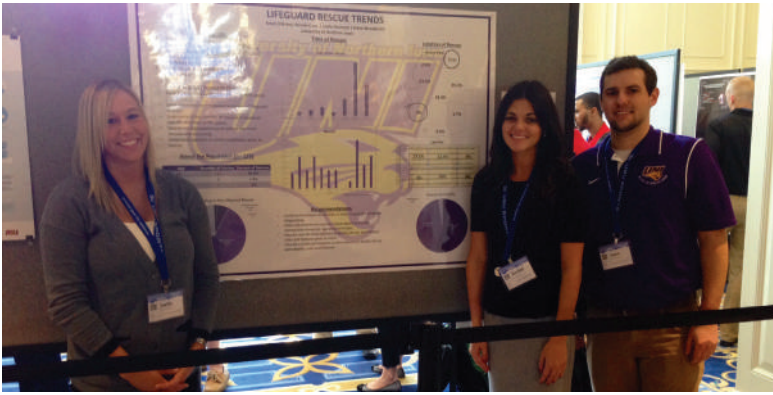
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**Scotti Hagensick** is the Graduate Assistant for Online Content and Web Development and this is her second year working with the Graduate College. She is a second year master of arts in School Counseling student at UNI and received her bachelor of arts degree in Public Relations from UNI in May 2013. In addition to her classes and work as a graduate assistant, Scotti coaches cross country and track & field for the Hudson Pirates.

During the summer, Scotti volunteered as a counselor at the Cedar Falls Animal Camp, working one-on-one with area elementary and middle school students in an animal and nature assisted therapy environment. During the coming year, Scotti will complete her school counseling practicum and focus on securing an internship in an area middle or high school. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Michael, reading for leisure, playing the piano, and participating in yoga classes.

## HPELS STUDENTS ATTEND NASPA CONFERENCE



Three Leisure, Youth, & Human Services graduate students, Joelle Rummel, Rachel Cook, and Dane Wunderlich, presented a poster at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association annual conference held April 23-26 in Nashville. More than 2,800 attendees and 150 exhibitors contributed to the success of the 14th annual conference focused on "Harmonizing Our Values." The UNI students had valuable access to leaders in collegiate recreation and learned about tools and support needed to influence the next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to all three students on their success!

## DOCTORAL STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS ACCEPTED FOR WORLD LEISURE CONGRESS

Kristine Fleming, an Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services doctoral student and Wade Kooiman, Ed.D, a Dec. 2013 graduate of the Leisure, Youth and Human Services program, both were honored with the acceptance of two presentations at the World Leisure Congress. The World Leisure Congress (WLO) is composed of individuals and organizations focused on the common goal of fostering leisure as a force for human growth, development, and well-being. The WLO will be held in Mobile, Ala., Sept. 2014. The presentations are entitled, "Health Benefits of Cycling: Strategies to Calculate Potential Cost Savings," and "Establishing Healthy, Sustainable Communities: The Health Benefits of Social Capital."

Kristine and Thomas M. Flack, also an Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services doctoral student will be presenting their work entitled, "Walkability." Walkability is described and explored as aspects of the built environment that promote or inhibit walking for leisure or transport. Further, walkability can also be thought of as a psychological construct that can be used to measure one's perception of the walkability of their surroundings.

Congratulations to Kristine, Wade, and Thomas, and best of luck at the World Leisure Congress!

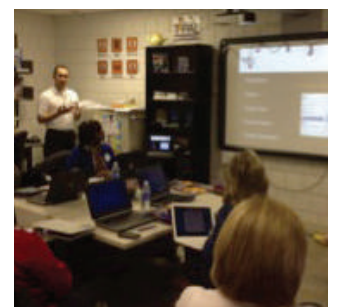
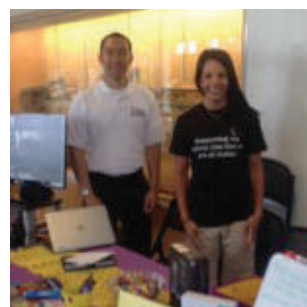
## KONG CHEN: SUMMER UPDATE

Kong Chen, a graduate student in the Leisure, Youth, & Human Services program participated in an ongoing summer 2014 research project alongside Dr. Christina Curran and Dr. Amy Petersen, both professors in the special education department. Kong assisted in a statewide survey of school superintendents and focused on examining the integration and consideration of Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology in 1:1 programs in Iowa. This research project is funded by the UNI Capacity Building Grant, which was secured by Kong and Dr. Curran in 2013.

Kong also served as a co-author and presenter on several state and regional journal articles during the spring 2014 semester. Kong assisted in the presentation of the "Technology Tips and Tools for Literacy and Learning" at the Learning Disabilities Association Iowa Teacher Workshop held in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He also participated in the "Accenting Learning and Life: Accessible Learning and Engaging Technology Tools for Inclusion" at the Midwest Summer Institute-Inclusion and Communication for All, also held in Cedar Falls.

Kong has been recognized on an international and national level at conferences. His other works will be featured in the Sept. 2014 newsletter.

The Graduate College would like to extend congratulations to Kong on his success during the spring and summer 2014!





# UNIQUE PLACES TO STUDY ON CAMPUS

As a graduate student, much of our day outside of the classroom and the work environment is spent studying. Some students prefer to study at home, others love studying on-campus. Some people prefer background noise while others need complete silence. This academic year, make the most of your time on-campus and utilize extra time to study course materials. Whether you have a spare minute or an entire hour, here are a few “graduate student approved” and most recommended places to study on-campus:



## ROD LIBRARY

The top floor of Rod Library is reserved as a “quiet space” and allows those studying to work in an environment perfect for those who need silence to be most productive. Check out the first floor of Rod Library if you want easily accessible printers and study hubs or check out a private study room at the main desk.



## GALLAGHER BLUEDORN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Visit the GBPAC for a unique studying opportunity. Find yourself enjoying the quiet sounds of students practicing their instruments and appreciating the unique architectural component of this beautiful building.



## LANG HALL

The first floor computer lab is open until 10 PM during the weekdays and many graduate students report it is almost completely empty after 5 PM. The second floor study area offers comfortable couches and tables amidst the comings and goings of students changing classes.



## REDEKER CENTER

The newly redesigned Redeker Center is located in the midst of the “Quads” dorm halls. Upon entering the center, students can find a convenient computer lab located directly across from Biscotti’s, perfect for snack breaks.

## CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

The CME, located on the second floor of Maucker Union provides private computer access, comfortable couches, and plenty of sunlight. This study spot is perfect for students with only a few minutes to study as it is in the center of campus. If you prefer the outdoors, students can venture out to the rooftop of Maucker Union and sit at one of the picnic tables or enjoy the garden areas by the panther fountain between Lang Hall and Seerley Hall.



# CONGRATULATIONS ON POST-GRADUATION PLANS:

## **Luci Dumas**

*(Psychology: Clinical Science)*

will be attending the University of Wyoming for her doctoral program.

## **Gina Sacchetti**

*(Psychology: Clinical Science)*

plans to attend Ohio University for her doctoral work.

## **Asha Ganesan**

*(Social Psychology)*

will be going on to a Ph.D. program at the University of Sydney.

## **Carol Tweten**

*(Social Psychology)*

will be attending Michigan State University

## **Brittany Lewno**

*(Psychology: Clinical Science)*

has accepted a position as a therapist at Behavior Care Specialists, Inc., in North Dakota.

## RESUME & CV APPOINTMENTS

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 at: [www.uni.edu/careerservices](http://www.uni.edu/careerservices).



## THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

Do you know an undergraduate student who is interested in attending graduate school? Invite them to attend Thinking About Graduate School, sponsored by the UNI Graduate College on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 3:30-4:45 in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Attendees will learn the "Ins and Outs of Graduate School" including tips and tricks regarding the application and personal

statement process. Students will learn strategies on how to develop strong applications, have the opportunity to meet with UNI graduate programs, and hear from a graduate faculty panel.

This event is free to attend and all students are welcome.



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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). Feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below with any additional questions or concerns.

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