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## UNI Grad Student News, v11n6, September 2014

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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## Message from the Dean



When you think of research, what comes to your mind? I think of descriptors like finding answers, solving problems, embracing challenges, learning, and collaborating. To me, however, participating in research and scholarly activity is much more than just figuring out an interesting project to do and completing that project.

My richest experiences in research over the past few years always involved participating in an academic community and being empowered to discuss important ideas with colleagues who are interested in learning as well.

One of my goals as Interim Graduate Dean is to provide opportunities for both faculty and students to grow together in this type of academic community. One such opportunity is the upcoming Graduate College Faculty Showcase on Monday afternoon, October 6, from 3-5 p.m.

**Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter** (in Seerley Hall 115 & the Great Reading Room). At this showcase, we will be able to join together in an academic community to hear faculty tell about the scholarship they have done this past year, as part of their summer fellowship and professional development activities.

I am looking forward to attending this event and learning about research in areas as diverse as rural child nutrition, transformational leadership, women composers, ADHD stigma in college students, university campus outdoor spaces, subversive laments in the Book of Job, wildlife habitats, nonverbal communication, energy efficiency, prostate cancer, hostage/shooter situations portrayed on stage, smartphone apps, news media press releases, bat swing, and chewing lice of pocket gophers. Wow – we are really doing interesting work at UNI!

This event will also be a chance for graduate students to see an actual poster session and oral panel presentation in action, to help them know how they might present their own scholarly activities.

Participating in an academic community can be exhilarating and challenging. I hope you take the opportunity to find your own academic community this year, as you continue to build your own portfolio of scholarly work.



## THESIS/DISSERTATION PREVIEW

Graduate Students who are graduating in December 2014 and writing a thesis or dissertation, need to schedule and complete a preview meeting with Janet Witt, the Graduate College's Thesis/Dissertation Reviewer, by October 24.

The student's department should notify the Graduate College of the student's intent to complete a thesis or dissertation in the current semester, and these students will receive an email from Janet with more details about the preview process. The preview will ensure students are following the formatting guidelines required by the Graduate College. Theses and dissertations are not accepted for final approval by the Graduate College if the student has not completed a preview. For more information visit: <http://www.grad.uni.edu/thesis-dissertation>

## HEATHER PLACE AND KRISTEN BULDHAUPT: REPRESENTING UNI GRADUATE STUDENTS



Graduate Students at UNI have plenty of opportunities to get involved on campus in meaningful ways. One way graduate students can represent the interests and needs of their fellow students is by serving as members of the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG).

Two Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs students, Heather Place and Kristen Buldhaupt, will represent and promote the interests of the graduate student body by serving on the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) Legislative Branch during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Place, a graduate assistant in the Dean of Students Office, will be serving as a voice for graduate students and voting on proposed legislation. She will also serve on the Graduate Student Advisory Board and report back to the NISG branches regarding any information that may potentially affect graduate students. NISG is responsible for allocating funding to student organizations as well as representing the student body to the administration. Graduate students are affected by NISG in similar ways to undergraduates. NISG can make

recommendations or give feedback to administrators in regards to student fees, provide funding to student organizations, and recognize individuals for their commendable work.

Buldhaupt, a graduate assistant with the Office of International Programs, will be serving as a senator during 2014-2015. As a senator, Buldhaupt has the ability to vote on legislation that is passed by the Senate. Additionally, she serves on the Organization and Finance Committee which works with student organization's funding requests and other budgetary concerns. She added, "Graduate students are affected by NISG because it represents all voices at UNI. Oftentimes NISG may pass legislation on changes in college structure that has an impact on graduate students."

Both Place and Buldhaupt encourage graduate students to become involved with NISG for a variety of reasons including the opportunity to develop leadership and communication skills, stay informed on campus news, and have the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns. Buldhaupt added, "NISG serves as an excellent networking opportunity to meet up-and-coming undergraduate students who are planning leadership activities and events for their student organizations." While UNI is primarily an undergraduate university, both Buldhaupt and Place will be fulfilling active roles in NISG and serving as effective lines of communication for graduate students while focusing on promoting their needs and interests.

Students interested in NISG can follow on Twitter (@NISG) and connect with the Facebook page to stay current on events. Senate meetings are held at 8 p.m. every Wednesday in the Maucker Union University Room and open to all interested students. One senate position is currently open in the Legislative Branch and students can run for this seat if interested. To run for election, please visit: <http://www.uni.edu/studentorgs/nisg/government/nisg-open-positions>. For more information about NISG and how you can get involved, please visit: <http://uni.edu/studentorgs/nisg/government>.

### CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

#### MEGAN VOGT



**Megan Vogt**, a Master of Social Work student with a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, experienced a great amount of success during the past academic year. As a January 2013 Psychology graduate from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, Vogt decided to pursue a graduate degree at a larger university with more opportunities related to her research and study interests. According to Vogt,

UNI had the program she desired, employed outstanding professors in the field of social work, and offered her a graduate assistantship in the CIO's Office of Institutional Research. Given these factors, Vogt accepted the offer and has indeed taken advantage of many opportunities during her time as a graduate student. Vogt presented her work at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Research Conference and

the Graduate Student Symposium, both of which were held in April, 2014. She also received the 2014 Outstanding Graduate Paper on Gender Award for her paper entitled, "Portrayals of Feminism: Through the Eyes of Hans Christian Andersen and Disney." Vogt presented her paper at the Current Research on Women Forum (CROW) held in April as well. She has set her sights on several more goals for the upcoming academic year including publishing a journal article, and presenting at the Graduate Student Symposium and the CSBS Conference, and being accepted into a Ph.D. program or law school in the fall of 2015. Overall, Vogt has greatly enjoyed her time as a student at UNI. She stated the transition has been quite easy due to the support of her cohort and her desire to pursue advanced degrees. While Vogt is not sure whether she would like to ultimately pursue a law or doctoral degree, she hopes to find herself in the field of policy and social justice. In Vogt's free time, she enjoys reading and teaching water aerobics and swimming lessons. She also volunteers in her community and stays involved with family and friends.

## ALUMNI PROFILE:

### DR. JIM HALL



As both a former student and a current faculty member at UNI, **Dr. Jim Hall** has contributed in valuable ways to the School of Health, Physical Education, & Leisure Services (HPELS). Dr. Hall graduated with his Doctor of Education with an intensive study area of Allied Health, Recreation & Community Services degree in December 2013. Much of Dr. Hall's doctoral studies and dissertation research focused on

teaching children with autism how to swim. Today, as a faculty member, Dr. Hall is working with the Autism Society of Iowa to include special programming on campus for UNI students to assist children with special needs in learning to swim. Prior to earning his doctoral degree, Dr. Hall earned both his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education/Aquatics Specialization and his Master of Science degree in Physical Education, at Eastern Illinois University. After completing his degrees in 1982 and 1983, Dr. Hall started his career at UNI in the fall of 1983 as the head coach of both the men's and women's swim teams. He also served as an instructor in the HPELS Department and in 2001, became a full-time instructor in physical education. Currently, Dr. Hall teaches classes in his specialty area of aquatics along with the Red Cross certification courses, scuba diving, and swimming courses. As a student himself, Jim stated his doctoral program

was met with incredible support; from the faculty members to staff and secretaries. "UNI is unique because the faculty really do care about each of their students," he said. "UNI faculty are passionate not only about their teaching, but are interested in the students' lives along with their thoughts and ideas. The atmosphere in each class was energetic, thought provoking and enjoyable all at the same time." During the pursuit of his doctoral degree, Dr. Hall noted Dr. Chris Edginton and Dr. Diana Briggs as two faculty who were very encouraging and helpful, from the start of his degree in 2006, until its completion. As a former student, he has valuable advice to offer current graduate students. According to Dr. Hall, taking the first step or even beginning the first course, can be the most difficult one as a graduate student. To make the first step a little easier, he recommends graduate students surround themselves with other students and staff who are positive, thoughtful, and understanding. When considering his own dissertation, Dr. Hall worked on it every day for at least fifteen minutes. "Everyone can manage fifteen minutes a day," he said. "Many days for me it was barely fifteen minutes, while other days turned into hours of productive writing and research." Dr. Hall has two daughters with whom he spends much of his free time. As avid water lovers, Dr. Hall and his daughters scuba dive and enjoy the beach as often as possible. He is also an NCAA and high school swimming official in addition to his responsibility as one of the Black Hawk Area Swim Team coaches. Dr. Hall will be continuing to integrate his doctoral research into swimming programs for children with special needs at UNI beginning this spring semester.

## GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

### DR. ANGELA BURDA



**Dr. Angela Burda** graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders in 1993. She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in

Communicative Sciences and Disorders, and a Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree in German at the University of Minn. Duluth in 1996. Dr. Burda earned her Ph.D. in Communicative Sciences and Disorders from Wichita State University in 2000. She was a speech-language pathologist at various hospitals and long-term facilities in St. Paul, Minn. and Wichita, Kan. before coming to UNI. Dr. Burda stated the students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, along with the faculty of the department are some of the main reasons she was attracted to UNI. In addition to teaching, Dr. Burda has been recognized for many accomplishments in her time here at UNI. Some of her notable awards include Recipient of the University

of Minnesota-Duluth College of Education and Human Service Profession Distinguished Alumni Award (2013), being named a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2013), and Recipient of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence (2014). Most recently she co-developed the Name That! App, which was the first available app from UNI. Name That! helps victims of strokes exercise the speech part of the brain as they recover. This application is part of a growing number of technology-related products making life easier for people with speech disabilities, including victims of strokes and those who experience stuttering. Using this app, patients can test the speech portions of their brain at home, instead of having to wait for appointments with a speech therapist. In discussing her future aspirations, Dr. Burda said, "I hope to keep doing the job that I love. This includes teaching students about working with persons who have communication disorders resulting from various medical diagnoses." She also hopes to continue developing apps alongside students, and continuing her research focused on the cognitive abilities of adults across the lifespan. "I view my students as integral team members in these scholarly activities. Research projects and apps have all benefitted from the ideas my students have. It's always gratifying when my students have opportunities to present their projects at regional and national venues," concluded Dr. Burda.

## PUBLIC HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ATTENDS EDUCATIONAL DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA

The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission (GHRC) is a nonprofit organization that promotes human rights and solidarity with communities and activists in Guatemala. GHRC leads a number of educational delegations to Guatemala each year. The delegation held in August was titled, "Women and the Construction of Justice in Guatemala." RaeAnn Swanson, a second year graduate student in the Public History program, had the opportunity to attend the delegation along with three GHRC staff members as well as nine delegates from around the world including Germany, Canada, and Washington D.C. The delegation met with human rights defenders, lawyers, and judges who contextualized and described issues facing Guatemalan society. These issues included limited access to justice, increased criminalization of human rights defenders and peaceful activists, renewed militarization, and environmental degradation at the hands of foreign companies with national backing. Continued violence against women, and the inequality of educational opportunities between men and women are also current issues facing Guatemalan citizens. According to Swanson, one of the most striking aspects of the trip was visiting the Indigenous Women's Association of Santa Maria Xalapán (AMISMAXAJ) in Jalapa. While visiting AMISMAXAJ, Lorena Cabnal and other women gave their testimony of fighting for the basic rights of education and for a life free from violence. The delegation also visited La Puya, a group of communities in opposition to the El Tambor mine. The mine is run by Kappes, Cassiday and Associates, an engineering firm based in Reno, Nev. Members of La Puya have joined in this peaceful resistance because the mine will likely raise arsenic levels in the water supply enough to make agriculture impossible and displace nearby communities. Members of the resistance take 24 hour shifts near the entrance of the mine, and although they are peaceful, they are monitored and surrounded at all times by police. Members of La Puya have been threatened, falsely criminalized, and brutally attacked by police. As a student focused on environmental and women's' history with an interest in human rights in Latin America, Swanson believes the delegation was eye-opening and instructive. She is grateful to the GHRC staff and other delegates who made this experience possible and who shared their ideas for action in the future. For more information visit the GHRC website at <http://www.ghrc-usa.org/>



Members of La Puya and the August delegation near the entrance of the El Tambor mine. Photo courtesy of GHRC.

## GRADUATE STUDENT, KONG CHEN, PRESENTS ON A NATIONAL STAGE



Kong Chen, a graduate student in the Leisure, Youth, and Human Services and the Master of Business Administration program, recently co-participated two publications in accordance with his graduate assistantship with the Special Education department. With Dr. Christina Curran, Chen presented "Collaborative Use of AT in General

Education Classrooms" at the Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference held in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 2014. In his second presentation Chen, in conjunction with Dr. Susan Brennan, presented "Promoting Accessible Learning: A Mode of AT Skill Development in Pre-Service Teacher Education" at the Annual Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo in Philadelphia, April 9-12, 2014.



Congratulations on your recent publications Kong!

# UNI GRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANIMAL AND NATURE-ASSISTED SUMMER CAMP

Thirteen area elementary and middle school students had the opportunity to explore nature, meet rare animals, and connect with graduate and undergraduate student counselors during the annual Animal Camp. Hosted by the Black Hawk Wildlife



Rehabilitation Project and held each June, Animal Camp combines animal and nature-assisted elements for students recommended by area school counselors from Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Janesville schools. Campers, once selected by their school counselor,

pair up with a UNI student counselor. Under the direction of Dr. Linda Nebbe, associate professor and licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services doctoral student Amy Davison, four graduate students served as counselors during the two week-long camps. In addition to undergraduate counselors, the four graduate students, Lauren Reader (Social Work), Blair Birkett (Clinical Mental Health Counseling), Scotti Hagensick (School Counseling), and Olivia Schnur (Clinical Mental Health Counseling), developed daily lesson plans and activities in conjunction with their counselee's unique needs and interests.

Animal Camp is held at Dr. Nebbe's home in Cedar Falls, which includes approximately 22 acres of prairie and wooded areas. Nearly all of the animals on-site are currently in rehabilitation and receiving specialized care through the Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation Project. Each day, campers participated in quiet time with their counselor, embarked on story hikes and scavenger hunts, participated in an educational lesson, and enjoyed opportunities to connect with animals and nature; including feeding a desert tortoise, canoeing on the site's pond, and observing baby birds.

The 2014 Animal Camp collaborated with the School of Health, Physical Education, & Leisure Services to design outcomes to affect not only the youth who participated in the camp but their families



as well. According to Amy Davison, thirteen youth participated in the camp experience and each student stated they desired to return to camp in the future.

"One parent reported to me that she and her child had not had conversations in months," Davison said. "However, due to the activities at Animal Camp, they were now talking daily. Her daughter was the happiest she had been in months."



According to Schnur, "(Animal Camp) was one of the best learning experiences of my academic career. If I had any doubts about the benefits of nature and animal-assisted therapy, the improvements I witnessed in self-esteem, relationship building, and overall wellness were enough for me to believe in the healing power of nature and animals. Even as a counselor, I felt my mood lift after spending my mornings at camp."

"The experience was extremely valuable. Animal Camp allowed me to link classroom knowledge to a counseling relationship. Animals and nature can reach children and adolescents in many ways and each camper brought valuable characteristics to the experience," Hagensick said.

Birkett, a clinical mental health counseling student, also found the experience influential on her development as a counselor. "The kids had such a fun time being out in nature, learning about different wildlife, and interacting with the animals. As a counselor, it is fulfilling to see the personal growth in these kids and experience the powerful influence interacting with nature and wildlife has on mental health," she said.

The week-long camp concludes with a campfire and the return of one animal to the wild. During the 2014 camp, several ducks and starling birds were released. The camp is designed to help campers return to school with a renewed sense of hope and excitement while building their self-confidence and continuing to build on their love of animals and the outdoors.

In 2015, Animal Camp alongside the School of HPELS, hope to secure additional counselors to allow more student participation. The experience will remain a one-to-one focus between campers and counselors, continuing to make the camp a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience.



## IOWA COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE FUNDRAISER

The Master of Public Policy program at the University of Northern Iowa is hosting a dinner reception and fundraiser to benefit the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) on Friday, Oct. 10 in the Commons Slife Ballroom. ICADV is a state level nonprofit organization that has proven its capacity as a state and national resource in responding to the needs of battered women, men, and children. Currently there are twenty-five direct service domestic violence member programs across the state. This collaborative endeavor seeks to raise funds for public advocacy efforts aimed at representing the victims of domestic violence and the people who serve them. In addition, the Public Policy program will be celebrated, and notable alumni will be recognized.

Guests attending the event will enjoy a formal dinner service, cash bar, a silent auction and an operatic performance by renowned soprano Geraldine McMillian and tenor Willie Morales, who is a current graduate student in the Public Policy program. Semi-formal attire is requested. Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased in advance.

To purchase tickets or donate visit <http://mppfundraiser.wix.com/2014>.

This event is cosponsored by the Master of Public Policy Club, a graduate student organization advised by Dr. Chris Larimer.

## HOW AND WHAT CAN I SUBMIT AS NEWS?

The Graduate Student Newsletter welcomes your news! Students, faculty, and staff can submit news regarding recent academic conferences, awards, and accomplishments, or upcoming departmental events pertaining to graduate students. Please visit <http://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news> and download the submission form. Email completed forms to [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu). Submission deadlines for Fall 2014 and further contact information is included below:

October Deadline: 10/8/14

November Deadline: 11/7/14

December Deadline: 11/21/14

Susie Schwieger: Supervising Editor ([susan.schwieger@uni.edu](mailto:susan.schwieger@uni.edu))

Scotti Hagensick: Co-Editor ([shagen@uni.edu](mailto:shagen@uni.edu))

RaeAnn Swanson: Co-Editor ([swansraa@uni.edu](mailto:swansraa@uni.edu))

Abbie Gacke: co-Editor ([ackeraab@uni.edu](mailto:ackeraab@uni.edu))

## 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 on Career Cat at: <http://www.uni.edu/careerservices/careercat/>



## GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING RECAP



**Graduate College Graduate Assistants: Abbie Gacke, Scotti Hagensick, & RaeAnn Swanson**

The Graduate Student Information Meeting was held Wednesday, August 27 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Maucker Union Ballroom. One hundred and thirty-eight students attended the event. Highlighted were valuable information and resources available to both new and returning graduate students. The Resource Fair, staffed by 20 university offices, showcased key services for graduate students. Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, welcomed the students to campus and introduced Dr. Chris Cox, Dean of the Rod Library. Dr. Cox's presentation "Using the Rod Library like a Graduate Student," provided research tips and specific strategies to navigate through the library's unique collections and archives.

To conclude the GSIM, Dr. Chatham-Carpenter, moderated the graduate student panel. Toluwani Johnson (Public Policy), Heather Place (Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs), Chris Rew (Biology), and Scotti Hagensick (School Counseling) shared their experience and insight on graduate student life. Door prizes, donated by university offices and local businesses, were awarded throughout the event.

### Thank you to all the businesses who donated door prizes!

Barmuda Corp.  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Caribou Coffee: Hy-Vee  
Copyworks  
Crossroads Mall  
Culver's of Cedar Falls  
Edible Arrangements  
\$5 Dollar Pizza  
Flowerama  
Here's What's Poppin'  
Jimmy John's  
Jiva Salonspa

Kay Jewelers  
Men's Wearhouse  
Martin Brothers  
Oster Regent Theatre  
Pepperjax Grill  
Qdoba  
Scheels  
Scratch Cupcakery  
The Library  
The Other Place: Cedar Falls  
The Pump Haus Pub & Grill  
UNI Credit Union

UNI Alumni  
Association  
UNI Department of  
Residence  
UNI Wellness &  
Recreation  
University Book &  
Supply  
World's Window



## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR



The UNI Department of Psychology hosted a welcome party Sept. 6, 2014, including kayaking, canoeing, and a picnic at the Black Hawk Park. Second-year graduate students, new first-year graduate students, and faculty attended. The event started at the Upper Cedar River near Janesville and reached Black Hawk Park after three hours of exciting and enjoyable activity. According to graduate student Kristin Broussard, the river was serene and the landscape itself welcoming. Overall, new members of the department felt thoroughly welcomed.



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## GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter**

Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of the Graduate College  
*april.chatham-carpenter@uni.edu*

**Dr. Shoshanna Coon**

Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs  
*shoshanna.coon@uni.edu*

**Susie Schwieger**

Director of Graduate Student Life  
*susan.schwieger@uni.edu*

**Lisa Steimel**

Secretary IV, Assistantships and Scholarships  
*lisa.steimel@uni.edu*

**Janet Witt**

Clerk IV, Thesis and Dissertation Review  
*janet.witt@uni.edu*

**Cheryl Nedrow**

Secretary II  
*cheryl.nedrow@uni.edu*

**Abbie Gacke**

Graduate Assistant for Student Publications and Technology  
*ackeraab@uni.edu*

**Scotti Hagensick**

Graduate Assistant for Online Content  
*shagen@uni.edu*

**RaeAnn Swanson**

Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development  
*swansraa@uni.edu*



**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)**

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