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## UNI Grad Student News, v12n3, March 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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# UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

March 2015 • Volume 12 • Issue 3

## Message from the Dean



I am always excited to be able to talk about the opportunities for graduate education at UNI. I had such an opportunity, along with other graduate faculty at the

UNI Day at the Capitol on February 16. We met with legislators, Iowa capitol staff members, alumni, and other interested persons to talk about our more than fifty programs and nearly 1,800 graduate students currently enrolled. We gave out UNI pins and memorabilia related to graduate education.

It was great to also connect at this event with alumni like Nola Aigner, who graduated in 2011 from UNI's Communication Studies Master of Arts program in Organizational Communication, and is now working in Des Moines at the Polk County Health Department as a health educator/public information officer. Nola volunteered her time to greet folks who came by our booth, providing her unique enthusiasm for what we do at UNI in graduate education.

If you are interested in finding out more about the wide types of things our graduate students do in the various programs at UNI, I encourage you to attend the upcoming Eighth Annual Graduate Student Symposium, April 1.

This is one of the events sponsored by the Graduate College each year that has the potential for drawing together people across campus in celebration of scholarly and creative work. To hear directly from participants and judges from the 2014 event check out the Graduate Student Symposium video at <http://grad.uni.edu/symposium-video>. Topics for the presentations range from gender and political efficacy, 1:1 technology programs to lifeguard

fitness readiness and brain injuries among ice hockey players. Our creative performers will demonstrate their talents in areas such music, and literature. There are 32 faculty judges from across the university partaking in this event. Whether you are presenting, judging, supporting a friend or colleague, or attending to find out more about UNI's quality graduate education, I am excited to share this upcoming day with you. We are doing great things!

*You Are Formally  
Invited to Attend*

**Eighth Annual** Graduate Student  
**UNI** Symposium

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

**Poster Presentations-Mauker Union Ballroom**  
Public Viewing~12:00-2:00 PM

**Oral Presentations-Mauker Union Meeting Rooms**  
Public Presentations~2:00-4:00 PM

**Creative Performances-Graham Hall in Russell Hall**  
Live Performance~ 6:00-9:00 PM

**GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:****LEILA ROD-WELCH**

Dr. Leila Rod-Welch is currently the Rod Library Outreach Services Librarian and an assistant professor at the University of Northern Iowa. As the Outreach Services Librarian, one of her goals is to promote all the great services that Rod Library has to offer students and faculty. She wishes some of the recent changes made in the Rod Library were completed when she was a student, this way she could have

taken advantage of those services (e.g. production studio, collaborative computer stations, west entrance, Book Bistro, wireless printing, etc). Dr. Rod Welch is also a Reference Librarian and a Bibliographer for five different subject areas including philosophy, religion, computer science, Spanish, and the Culture Intensive English Program (CIEP). Dr. Rod-Welch completed her Bachelor of Teaching English degree at Azad University in Iran in 2001 before coming to the United States. She then earned her first Master of Arts degree in Community Leisure Service Programming from UNI in July 2006. Then she pursued her Doctorate of Education in Leisure and Human Services Management from UNI and graduated in July 2010. While working on her doctoral dissertation, she attended the University of Iowa to earn her second Master of Arts degree in Library and Information Science. While in graduate school, she worked as a research assistant for many faculty and spent numerous hours in the library. She attributes her motivation to continue on with her education to the faculty and librarians at the Rod Library. The librarians inspired her so much that she decided she wanted to become one herself. Some of the reasons she enjoys working at the Rod Library include meeting many amazing students, faculty, and staff, and working with dedicated graduate students. She recounts one of her fondest memories of the Rod Library was meeting her husband, Keith Welch. She jokes that this could be used as incentive to encourage students to study in the library. Although Dr. Rod-Welch has completed her higher education for now, she still continues to conduct research

in several areas of interest to her. Most of her research focuses on library outreach efforts to first year and transfer students, graduate students, English as a Second Language Learners, international students, and military science students. Dr. Rod-Welch's other research interests include: leisure and aging, parks and recreation, and constraints to leisure regarding LGBT. In March, she will present *Looking through their eyes: Improving library services for English as a Second Language Learners by exploring their experiences and perceptions of academic libraries abroad and in the United States* at the Association of College & Research Libraries Conference. She previously published a book entitled *Leisure and aging: A content analysis of U.S. leisure textbooks and leisure academic journal articles* (2011) Some of her other noted accomplishments in research work include completing the American Library Association Emerging Leaders Program in 2014 and receiving the UNI Panther First Award for Teaching Excellence in April 2008. This spring Dr. Rod-Welch will serve as a Graduate Student Symposium judge. She mentioned that she is looking forward to serving as a judge because as a former participant, it enhanced her presentation skills and it motivated her to continue with her research. She believes all graduate students should partake in the event to learn more about research and notes it is a great resume/CV builder. Some projects Dr. Rod-Welch is currently working on in the Rod Library are improving the CIEP and ESL collections on the 3rd floor. She wants to expand and enhance the selection of library materials offered for learning English as a Second Language for International and TESOL students. She also hopes to continue with the event "Around the World in 120 Minutes" where over 30 countries were represented by UNI students. It was held last November during International Education Week and she hopes to make it an annual event. With all her work she has going on at Rod Library, Dr. Rod-Welch says when she does have free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends, woodcarving, painting, pottery, gardening, playing backgammon, and traveling to Iran.

**CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:****Katherin Kneisley**

Katherin Kneisley is a second year Master of Music student in Vocal Performance at UNI. Originally from Portsmouth, N.H. which is just north of Boston, Kneisley received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance from North Greenville University in Greenville, S.C. After

completing her undergrad, Kneisley took five years off and worked in insurance. Her voice teacher, who earned her advanced degree from UNI, recommended that she audition to see if it would be a good fit. Fortunately for Kneisley, it was a great fit and she has really enjoyed her studies here at UNI. When describing her experience, Kneisley said, "the voice faculty is incomparable and UNI's fabulous voice

program is one of the best kept secrets in the US." From her personal experiences outside the field of music, she says this experience has made her much more grateful for the opportunity she has to devote her life to music again. Kneisley explains she doesn't have a lot of free time as a graduate student but when she can find time away from campus she enjoys working out at the WRC, hiking the mountains back home, and attending music events. Most recently, she took a trip to St. Paul to see the *Exilir of Love* at the Minnesota Opera. Kneisley's future plans include relocation to the West Coast after graduation and auditioning for the Young Artist Programs. Kneisley will also be participating in the 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 1, performing "Klänge der Heimat, Die Fledermaus" by J. Strauss in the creative performance category.

## CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

### AGUNG KRISTIANTO



Agung Kristianto is in the final semester of the TESOL/Applied Linguistics Master of Arts program. Kristianto graduated in 2011 from Diponegoro University in Semarang, Indonesia with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. Kristianto chose to pursue an advanced degree in TESOL at UNI because he wanted to teach English as a second language in the future. He had also

heard praise from UNI alumni of the TESOL program. Kristianto holds a research assistantship with the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP), and is involved in a weekly English tutoring program with Burmese refugees in Waterloo through the student organization UNI RISE. Kristianto is currently working on his research paper that examines the effect of a short-term

study abroad language programs on second language (L2) learners' oral skill proficiency development. He focuses on social factors such as type of residency, community engagement, and out-of-class activities that benefit oral skills of L2 learner during short-term study abroad programs. In addition, Kristianto will examine the impact of short-term study abroad programs in one of several oral skill components. After graduation, he hopes to teach English in an intensive English program or an adult English Language Learning (ELL) program and eventually wants to teach English in Indonesia. Kristianto is also considering pursuing higher education to improve his knowledge and to conduct an original study in the field of Applied Linguistics. In his free time, Kristianto spends time with his wife and daughter and has many hobbies including playing the guitar and piano, watching soccer games and movies, and hiking.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### DEE VANDEVENTER



After earning a Master of Arts degree at UNI in Communication: Public Relations in 1993, Vandeventer, alongside Mark Mathis and Bryan Earnest, founded ME&V, now known as AMPERAGE Marketing and Fundraising after merging with the Cedar Rapids firm Henry Russell Bruce (HRB) in April 2014.

The merger resulted in the union

of one of the largest fundraising consulting firms that now represents more than 200 clients across 10 states. AMPERAGE provides services in healthcare marketing, higher education advertising, and nonprofit fundraising, to name a few.

Vandeventer's passion for fundraising led her to her current position as Chief Development Officer, which she began on Jan. 1, 2014. She has been involved with fundraising efforts for organizations in Iowa for 30 years, including devoting ten years to her work as director of annual giving and special gifts for the UNI Foundation. After nearly 20 years with her company, Vandeventer sold her shares in April 2014 with the intent to spend more time directly with clients. Allen Hospital was ME&V's first and longest-running client and when the opportunity came up for Vandeventer to join the team, she wanted to return the favor. She described this decision

as bringing her career "full circle." Reflecting on her time as a graduate student, Vandeventer commented she attended UNI because of the stellar national reputation. "Having earned a Master of Arts degree provided a great deal of credibility with our clients. My graduate research served as the basis for volunteer/client fundraising training and consulting," she said. Pursuing a graduate degree also permitted her to achieve the goal of digging deeper into the academic side of philanthropy. UNI allowed her to customize her degree program and provided encouragement and support during the thesis portion of her journey. "The university is so fortunate to have many faculty who are leaders in their field and live the student-centered philosophy," Vandeventer stated. She encourages current students to persevere while pursuing advanced degrees. Despite all the responsibilities graduate students juggle, Vandeventer reassures you to stick with it, as the accomplishment is extremely valuable in the end. Her ambitions for the future remain focused on assisting Allen Hospital in reaching the philanthropic goals she will be leading. A native of LaGrange Park, Ill., which is a suburb of Chicago, Vandeventer has been married to her husband Dave for nearly 33 years. Together they have two children. Their daughter, having wed last summer, now lives in Istanbul, teaching English in a Turkish school. Their son recently earned his funeral director license and works in a funeral home in Newton, Iowa.

## Out of the Darkness 2015 CAMPUS WALK

In the United States, a life is lost to suicide every 14 minutes. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among fifteen to twenty-four year olds and the second leading cause of death among college students. When you walk in the Out of the Darkness Campus Walks, you join the effort with thousands of people to help reduce suicide in the United States. The graduate program in Counseling is contributing to the effort by hosting their own event, the University of Northern Iowa Campus Walk, on April 12, 2015 at 2:00 PM. The Out of the Darkness event raises funds that directly benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). All funds raised by campus and community walks are invested in new research, used to create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Thanks to walkers across the country, AFSP has set a goal to reduce the annual suicide rate by 20 percent by 2025.

Bringing suicide awareness to UNI is also extremely important to Christy Kessens, a Continuing Education & Special Programs instructor.

"Each semester that I teach the course 'Families & End of Life Issues', I do an anonymous survey of my students to see how many people they know who have either died by suicide, attempted suicide, or had suicidal ideations. Each semester I am stunned by the number of lives affected by suicide," Kessens said.

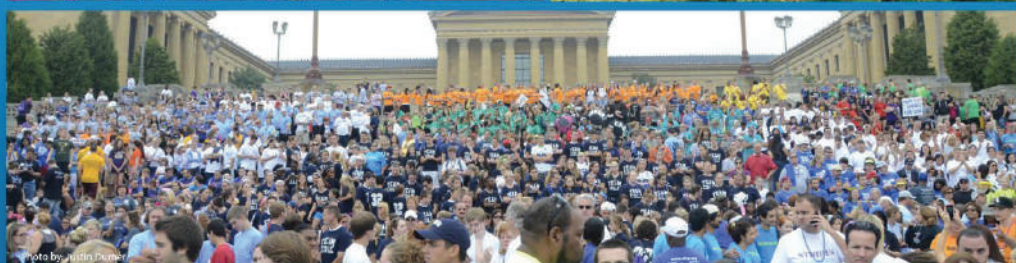
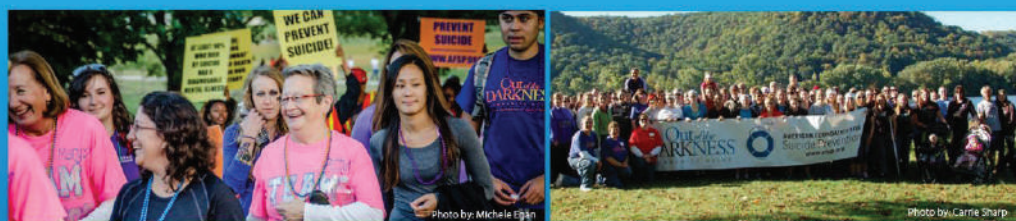
"Having lost a loved one to suicide, I understand the heartache, grief, stigma, and many other emotions and challenges suicide can cause. I brought the idea of AFSP's Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to a group of students at UNI in the fall of 2013. They agreed to take on the event and our first walk took place in April of 2014 - and it was a great success! We had 125 walkers and raised over \$6,000. This year UNI will be holding its second annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk and we hope to raise a similar amount."

The campus walk is a 5k route and it is a noncompetitive event. All students, faculty, staff, family and friends as well as community members are invited to participate in the walk. You can register to walk by visiting:

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=3113>. If you are unable to walk but would like to be a part of this event, you are still able to get involved. Event planners for the Campus Walk have set a goal of raising \$5,000. All monetary contributions are greatly appreciated. Online registration closes at noon the Friday before the walk. However, anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Walk donations are accepted until June 30, 2015.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Cindy Enyart at [enyartc@uni.edu](mailto:enyartc@uni.edu) or Christy Kessens at [christine.kessens@uni.edu](mailto:christine.kessens@uni.edu).

### Out of the DARKNESS<sup>SM</sup> COMMUNITY WALKS American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



## Walk to Prevent Suicide Out of the Darkness Community Walks

Help Us Create A World Without Suicide

**WALK.**  
**VOLUNTEER.**  
**DONATE.**

[www.afsp.org/walk](http://www.afsp.org/walk)



**University of Northern Iowa**  
**April 12, 2015**

**CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION: 1:00 pm at Mauker Union**  
**WALK BEGINS: 2:00 pm**

**CONTACT: Cindy Enyart at [enyartc@uni.edu](mailto:enyartc@uni.edu)**

To register or donate, please visit:

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=3113>

## NETWORKING 101

The Graduate College presented the first installment of the Spring 2015 Professional Development Workshop Series, "Networking 101" on Jan. 27, 2015. The workshop was facilitated by Abbie Gacke, a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate College, who presented information on do's and don'ts of social media networking, professional strategies for face-to-face networking, and ways to keep track of and organize a professional contact list. Several helpful handouts were presented throughout the presentation and they can be found at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/networking-101-handouts>.

## ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PANEL

The second installment of the Spring 2015 Professional Development Workshop Series, Attending a Professional Conference Panel held on February 2nd in Maucker Union, was facilitated by RaeAnn Swanson, a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate College. Due to the harsh winter weather leading up to the workshop, two of the four graduate student panelists were unable to attend. The audience members were treated to an in-depth look at what graduate students Robin Summers, Women's and Gender Studies, and Monia Ehn, Psychology: Clinical Science, have experienced at past conferences. Audience members were particularly interested in networking at conferences and how to navigate those one-on-one social opportunities. The Attending a Professional Conference Tip Sheet that includes 'Tips from the Panelists' can be found at <http://www.grad.uni.edu/attending-professional-conference-handout>.

## JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES WORKSHOP RECAP

Looking for a job after graduate school can be a difficult and frustrating process. In the final workshop of the spring 2015 Professional Development Series, graduate students learned about resources to help them throughout the job seeking tasks. The workshop was facilitated by Scotti Hagensick, a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate College. Students also learned the essential skills needed when searching for a job and career. Ten students attended the workshop held on February 9 and acquired knowledge regarding how to identify priorities, diversify the search process, and creating customized applications. If unable to attend the workshop, students can view the PowerPoint slides on the Graduate College website or by directly visiting the following site: <http://grad.uni.edu/powerpoint-posted-job-search-workshop>

### Job Search Strategies:

*Resources to Help You Get Your Ducks in a Row*

**Websites:**

- [www.about.com/careers](http://www.about.com/careers)
- [www.rileyguide.com](http://www.rileyguide.com)
- [www.quintcareers.com](http://www.quintcareers.com)
- [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
- [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)
- [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
- [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)
- [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
- [www.simplyhired.com](http://www.simplyhired.com)
- [www.glassdoor.com](http://www.glassdoor.com)
- [www.internships.com](http://www.internships.com)
- [www.tweetmyjobs.com](http://www.tweetmyjobs.com)
- [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)
- [www.proven.com](http://www.proven.com)
- [www.jobs.careercloud.com](http://www.jobs.careercloud.com)
- [www.snagajob.com](http://www.snagajob.com)
- [www.linkup.com](http://www.linkup.com)
- [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

**Don't Forget To Try:**

1. JOB FAIRS
2. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY JOB BOARDS
3. CONNECTING WITH ALUMNI IN YOUR PROGRAM
4. NEWSPAPERS
5. ASKING OTHERS IN YOUR NETWORK
6. HEADHUNTERS OR EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

**Long Distance Job Tips:**

- Research the cost of living in cities you are considering to avoid salary sticker shock.
- Use [glassdoor.com](http://glassdoor.com) to research average salaries in your target city.
- Utilize geographically-based LinkedIn groups to introduce yourself and make connections.
- Consider Twitter as a tool to follow companies and reach out directly to begin a conversation.
- Research locally-based Career Service office in your target area and sign up for job alerts from websites you utilize.



*Iowa State Representative Timi Brown-Powers delivered the keynote address about her campaign and politics in Iowa at UNI's Elect Her Conference.*

## PUBLIC POLICY GRADUATE STUDENTS BRING *ELECT HER* TO UNI

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, thirty-four graduate and undergraduate students spent their Saturday attending the Elect Her: Campus Women Win Training Conference. Elect Her is a collaborative program between Running Start and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), designed to encourage and prepare women to run for elected office and become political leaders. UNI was one of fifty universities that was chosen to hold Elect Her conferences in 2015. Public Policy graduates Rachel Gregory and Kerri Robinson secured the funding for Elect Her to come to UNI and coordinated the event. AAUW representative Mollie Lam facilitated

the training that consisted of presentations, speeches, as well as a question and answer session with women in government at UNI that included NISG graduate student representatives Kristen Buldhaupt and Heather Place, and practice scenarios. The audience heard from Timi Brown-Powers, the Iowa Representative, Dr. Dianne Bystrom, the Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University and Kim Reynolds, the Lieutenant Governor of Iowa. The Elect Her conference concluded with a networking event. The Elect Her: Campus Women Win may become an annual leadership training here at UNI.

## GSAB Update

The Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) met on January 27 and kicked off the spring semester meetings with upcoming announcements and a discussion of future Graduate College events. Twenty-one people, including three Graduate College staff members, were in attendance. Plans are underway for the 2015 Graduate Student Information Meeting, an event scheduled at the beginning of each academic year. One key point focused on during the meeting was the Graduate College staff exploring programming options for first and second year students. The Graduate College is currently working to plan this event set for August 2015.

Two graduate assistants, Kristofer Czekwicz and Jennifer Lynes, from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships attended the meeting as guests and discussed the "Live like a Student" series. Typically focused on undergraduate students, the "Live Like a Student" series is a free workshop for UNI students.

The series includes information regarding effective budgeting practices, how to understand credit scores, money management skills, and living within your means. A graduate student "Live Like a Student" course is in the works and GSAB members provided suggestions to make the series more appropriate for graduate students. Topics potentially included in the future workshop are how to defer loans, information about mortgages, filing taxes, etc. In addition possibly designing the workshop within an online learning format to make it more accessible for graduate students.

To learn more about the GSAB members or to read full meeting minutes, please visit: <http://grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-advisory-board-2014-2015>.

The next GSAB meeting is scheduled for April 8.

## CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION STUDENT PRESENTS THESIS AT CONFERENCE

Maryam Ghayoorrad, an instructor of Education Technology and Design and a doctoral student in the Curriculum & Instruction program, recently presented her thesis at the Sixth Annual Quality Matters (QM) Conference in Baltimore. Ghayoorrad's thesis entitled, "Are Students Experiencing the Intended Outcomes of Quality Matters Standards?" led her to apply for a role as a QM Research Colleague. She was accepted as one of nine 2015 Research Colleagues and she will work alongside the Director of Research to track, document, and analyze scholarly research that informs the continuing reflection and improvement

of the QM Standards. They also discuss, advise on and support the QM research agenda. Ghayoorrad taught and served as a research assistant at UNI for the past three years. As a graduate student, she researched the student experience in online courses influenced by Quality Matters. For three years prior to coming to the United States to study, she taught English as a Foreign Language in Iran.

Congratulations to Maryam for her thesis presentation and acceptance as a 2015 Research Colleague!

## Public History Student Presents at Conference



RaeAnn Swanson and Dr. Jeffrey Pilcher

RaeAnn Swanson, a second year Public History Master of Arts student, presented a paper titled "God Will Deliver Us": Human Rights Violations from Guatemala to Iowa and Back, 1980-2013," at the 19th Annual New Frontiers in Graduate History Conference held at York University in Toronto. The paper explored human rights violations and local responses through the experience of the transnational communities

in Postville, Iowa and El Rosario, San Jose Calderas, and San Miguel Dueñas, Guatemala. This paper will be incorporated into Swanson's thesis she is completing this spring. Swanson enjoyed visiting Toronto and exploring York University's campus, including a tour of the Archives of Ontario. Swanson was fortunate to meet Dr. Jeffrey Pilcher of University of Toronto, who presented the keynote lecture, "How Beer Travelled the World." Swanson's advisor, Dr. Fernando Calderón worked under Dr. Plicher as he completed his doctoral degree at the University of Minnesota.


Congratulations to RaeAnn on her first conference as a graduate student!

## Spring 2015 Graduation and Commencement Information

The Spring 2015 Commencement Ceremony Reply is now available for submission, and it must be submitted by April 1, 2015. All Spring 2015 degree candidates, whether or not you plan to attend a Spring 2015 Commencement Ceremony, must complete and submit the Commencement Ceremony Reply. The information provided on this form is utilized for the Commencement Program. It is also important to note that the Commencement Ceremony Reply is separate from the Application for Graduation, which also must be submitted by April 1, 2015. For more information regarding Spring 2015 graduation, contact the Office of the Registrar or visit <https://www.uni.edu/registrar/graduation-and-commencement>.

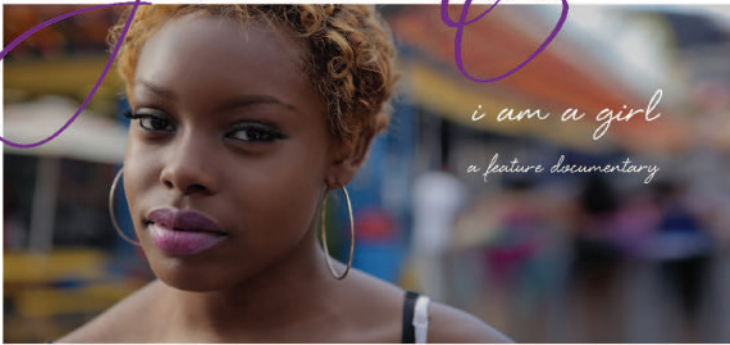






**MULTICULTURAL GRADUATE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
University of Northern Iowa

*presents:*






*i am a girl*  
a feature documentary

**I AM A GIRL SCREENING**


WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 | 7:00 | SABIN HALL ROOM 2


CO-SPONSORS:







**MULTICULTURAL GRADUATE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
University of Northern Iowa


**PRESENTS:**

 **Attending The Soul Food Museum**  
Written by DeRod Taylor with Jerica Crawford  
March 7, 2015  
7:30 PM  
Wesley Foundation  
2422 College Street, Cedar Falls

 **Bowling Night: Monster Mania**  
Thursday, March 12, 2015  
9:00 - 11:30 PM  
Maple Lanes  
Cost is \$6 per person  
(Includes shoes and 2.5 hours of bowling)

 **I Am a Girl Screening**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
7:00  
Sabin Hall Room 2

 **MGSA Game Night**  
Friday, March 27, 2015  
7:00 - 10:00 PM  
Center for Multicultural Education

 **Family Movie Outing: "Home"**  
Saturday, March 28, 2015  
10:00 AM  
Cedar Falls Marcus Theatre  
Cost \$7.50 per person

**MARCH EVENTS**

## GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News contact [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu).

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

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