

5-1-2015

## UNI Grad Student News, v12n5, May 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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### Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College., "UNI Grad Student News, v12n5, May 2015" (2015). *UNI Grad Student News*. 3.

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## Message from the Dean



At this time in the semester, I want to reflect back on the good things that have been accomplished in graduate education this past year. One way to do this is to think of the ways we have recognized the excellent work being done by graduate faculty and students in the area of scholarship and creative activity.

We celebrated Graduate Faculty scholarship and creative activity at the Graduate Faculty Showcase on October 6, with recognition of select faculty who received funding for their projects. At the 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, held on April 1, we showcased the great work done by graduate students at UNI, as they work on projects with their faculty mentors. At the recent annual Graduate Faculty meeting, we were able to honor students who recently won the Outstanding Dissertation, Thesis, Creative Thesis, and Research Paper awards, who are recognized in this edition of the newsletter. We also honored Todd Bohnenkamp, Mohammed Rawwas, & Robert Washut for their outstanding work as teachers, researchers, and scholars.

At all of these events, I was impressed with the breadth and depth of the scholarship and creative works which were presented. I have told multiple people about several of the presentations I attended and their excellent quality. This is a testament to the quality of our students, faculty, and programs. Graduate education at UNI is increasing economic development and scientific advancement in the State of Iowa, serving the needs of Iowans, and providing K-12 education for Iowa and beyond.

I have been privileged these past few months to serve as Interim Dean of the Graduate College at UNI, working with the wonderful faculty, staff, and students we have in graduate education. I have recently accepted the Department Chair position of the Speech Communication Department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, in order to gain some additional administrative experience and move closer to my family. As I leave UNI after having been here over 20 years, I leave with a sense of pride about graduate education at UNI. I look forward to hearing good news about what faculty and students continue to do to further graduate education for the public good. I have enjoyed these past few months serving as your Interim Dean. Congratulations to all for your hard work in this important endeavor of graduate education!

## STUDENT AFFAIRS PRE-PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

On April 9 and 10, members of the Student Affairs Pre-Professional Association (SAPA) headed to Minnesota to visit St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (UMN-TC) to learn more about student affairs and the inner workings of these institutions.

The site visit was an opportunity to not only network but to see and learn the differences between working at a nationally-known private institution, St. Olaf College, and a large, research institution, UMN-TC. Members were engaged and asked questions to several different departments which included career services, orientation, academic advising, and wellness and recreation services. The group also had the chance to participate in a University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Alumni event at Excelsior Brewery.

Student affairs professionals across the two institutions directed their conversations about the power of creating relationships across the university setting to successfully implement changes that will ultimately help students succeed. Dr. June Nobbe, the Assistant Provost-Student Development and Director of LEAD-UP at UMN-TC, summarized it best by stating, "relationships are the currency of power."

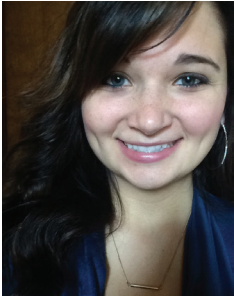
On behalf of SAPA, we thank the Graduate

College for its continued support of our organization. The trip gave members the opportunity to create new connections and get a glimpse of what it would be like working at higher education institutions that are structured differently than UNI.



## CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE

### MARCI SWANK



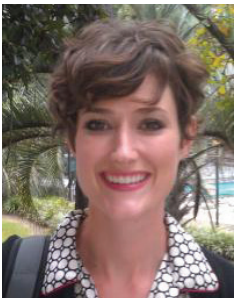
Marci Swank, a first-year graduate student in the English: English Studies program, obtained her undergraduate degree in May 2013 in English with minors in both Professional Writing and Interactive Digital Studies from the University of Northern Iowa. After completing her undergraduate degree, she was employed as an Adjunct Instructor at Iowa Central Community College teaching online classes. She ultimately decided to explore

graduate studies and she specifically wanted to be able to work while earning a graduate degree, which UNI allowed her to do. Today she is a full-time graduate student with an assistantship in the Department of Languages and Literatures and serves as a part-time instructor. She is also a freelance web designer. According to Swank, the pursuit of her advanced degree has truly allowed her to develop multiple opportunities in a variety of disciplines. Swank has several ambitious

goals she would like to achieve in the near future. In April, Swank participated in the 8th Annual Graduate Student Symposium as an oral presenter. Her work entitled, "Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol are All Topics of Rap, but What About God? : The Anomaly of Reach Records in the Mainstream Rap Scene," examined a Christian hip-hop group as it successfully promotes an alternative message to the current rap scene. She commented, "I enjoy not only speaking in a conference setting but also learning from others' research and presentations." She would like to seek out more opportunities related to academia before she earns her Master of Arts degree in December 2015. Making the transition from the undergraduate to graduate school was quite easy for Swank as she found the Department of Languages and Literatures very helpful. Ultimately, Swank hopes to earn her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition and become a professor within the English field. Aside from her work as a graduate student, Swank enjoys movies, plays, local shows, and traveling.

## GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE:

### DANIELLE MCGEOUGH



Dr. Danielle McGeough attended UNI for her undergraduate degree in Communication Studies from 2000-2004. After completing her BA, she attended Illinois State University for one year before transferring back to UNI where she finished her Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies in 2007. She then received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 2011 in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Performance Studies and

Graduate Minor in Anthropology. Prior accepting a position at UNI, she taught at Florida Atlantic University, Broward College, and Nova Southeastern University as an adjunct professor. When asked what attracted her to UNI, she said, "I love UNI students! I love students' passion for learning, work ethic, and willingness to play!" Dr. McGeough also added that having completed her undergraduate and graduate work at UNI, she has a great deal of respect for UNI's faculty and their commitment to students and each other. The level of collegiality between faculty members struck her as impressive as a student and she wanted to have healthy, collaborative relationships with her colleagues. She was also impressed with the variety of course offerings she would have an opportunity to teach at UNI. She looked forward to working in UNI's Interpreters Theatre, which she believes is an impressive and unique space for experimental learning and performance work. Finally, she appreciates that UNI views teaching and research as intimately

and intrinsically related. She is proud to work at a place that values the important relationship between quality research and quality teaching.

Dr. McGeough's future aspiration at UNI include continuing to grow as a teacher and researcher. According to Dr. McGeough, she also looks forward to getting to know people across campus and seek opportunities to take on interdisciplinary projects. She is continually finding fun and generative ways to improve the courses she teaches and finding more ways to connect with students. She hopes to direct more productions at UNI's Interpreters Theatre. She also enjoys working with students on their thesis and research projects. It inspires her to see students tackle such important projects in such creative ways.

Dr. McGeough's current research focuses on how performance is used for collaborative problem solving, community building and social justice work, specifically with regards to issues of waste and sanitation. Her research addressing how the urban poor have agitated for the right to defecate in public was published in *Text and Performance Quarterly*. In addition to her research on waste and sanitation, she is interested in how bodies are implicated in various social and cultural practices, as well as how everyday life performances (i.e., routine family storytelling or bathroom practices) maintain, reproduce, and challenge cultural norms. Her other research interests span the topics of adolescent sexuality and desire, critical pedagogy, the relationship between art and science, and gendered/sexed communication.

## 2015 IOWA CONFERENCE OF COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

The Iowa Conference of Communicative Disorders (ICCD) was held on April 9 & 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Cedar Falls. ICCD is a student-run conference that facilitates continuing education for speech-language pathology professionals and students. The event also showcased graduate student research and allowed public viewing of their outstanding work. This year ICCD had a full agenda of terrific speakers some of which included: Dr. Arlene Pietranton, CEO of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA); Dr. Lemmie McNeilly, ASHA's Chief Staff Officer of Speech-Language Pathology; Ms. Tricia Armstrong, a Speech-Language Pathologist at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota-St. Paul; Dr. Paula S. Cochran, a professor and chair of communication disorders at Truman State University; and many more. To see the full list of speakers and their biographies, visit <http://www.uni.edu/comdis/iccd-april-2015>



Xingzimin Pan is a doctoral student at the University of Utah. Currently he is working toward his Ph.D. in Composition with a focus on composing what he calls “contemporary classical music.” He has an assistantship teaching undergraduate classes such as musicianship and sound engineering. Pan also works as a freelance composer and has begun receiving commissions from various performing groups. Before

attending the University of Utah, Pan graduated with a Master of Music in Composition from UNI. Pan credits UNI for providing him with a professional platform to develop as a young composition student looking to go further in his field. He remembered coming to UNI with very little professional experience, but during his time at UNI he won an international composition competition, published several

pieces of work, received invitations to perform at professional music festivals, and performed in different venues, both in the U.S. and internationally. Pan believes his experiences at UNI developed a solid foundation for him as an emerging composer. He learned much from the many wonderful teachers at UNI, including Dr. Jonathan Schwabe, Dr. Alan Schmitz, Dr. Randall Harlow and Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt. The advice he has to offer current UNI students is, “First, please take some time to think about this question: What do you want to do/what do you plan to do after you graduate? Then plan ahead while studying. I think that is the most important thing. Studying without a direction could be meaningless. Secondly, enjoy Cedar Falls!” In his free time Pan enjoys reading and traveling to experience Utah’s great views and national parks. In the future he plans to become a professor at a college or university in the United States or in China. He also hopes to continue composing for commission and for his own enjoyment. Learn more about Xingzimin Pan by visiting his website, [www.xingziminpan.com](http://www.xingziminpan.com).

## PUBLIC HISTORY STUDENT ATTENDS NISGUA “RIVERS FOR LIFE” DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA

RaeAnn Swanson, a second year graduate student in the History Department, spent ten days in Guatemala in March with the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA). NISGUA was formed in 1981 in order to raise awareness about and end US support of Guatemala’s military regime during its long and brutal Civil War. Today, NISGUA is involved in grassroots activism in the US and Guatemala and coordinates an accompaniment project that enables volunteers to accompany and bear witness for communities and people in Guatemala as they deal with the numerous human rights violations currently plaguing the country. The March “Rivers for Life” NISGUA delegation had the opportunity to visit Copal’AA La Esperanza, a small community located in the Cobán municipality of the Alta Verapaz department. Many of Copal’AA’s 130 families are returned refugees who fled to Mexico during the Civil War.

### *Reflections from RaeAnn:*

Today, the people living in Copal’AA are in danger of being displaced by the government again. A huge hydroelectric dam has been proposed near the convergence of the Chixoy and Copón rivers that threatens the land and livelihood of nearby communities like Copal’AA and Las Margaritas Copón. Mega-projects like this, such as the well-known Chixoy dam, are typically accompanied by massive human rights violations and often have deleterious effect on the environment. In response to the proposed Xalalá dam, nearby communities formed ACODET, the Association of Communities for Development and the Defense of Territory and Natural Resources. The delegates had the chance to attend meetings with representatives of ACODET and community members to hear about their struggle against the dam. Representatives explained that they want development such as electricity, better roads, and supplies for their clinics, but they do not want those things at the expense of their land. While those are all services that the government usually provides, the National Electrification Institute (INDE) has withheld them by conditioning the provision of those services upon acceptance of the Xalalá dam. Community members have also been defamed, criminalized, and threatened because of their opposition to the dam. The delegation wrapped up with an advocacy meeting at the Inter-American Development Bank alongside members of ACODET and a meeting with the U.S. Embassy. The final meeting of the delegation was with Madre Selva, an environmental organization working to

provide low-impact, community run projects that generate electricity in a responsible way; the kind of projects that may help communities like Copal’AA receive the development they want without the harm to their land or government coercion tied to the Xalalá dam.

To learn more about NISGUA, ACODET, or the Xalalá dam visit [www.nisgua.org](http://www.nisgua.org)



*Proposed site of the Xalalá dam at the convergence of the Chixoy and Copón Rivers near the community of Las Margaritas Copón.*



*Members of the “Rivers for Life” delegation and ACODET near the proposed site of the Xalalá dam. Photo courtesy of NISGUA.*

# EIGHTH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The Graduate College hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Wednesday, April 1 and the 2015 event was the largest to date. Seventy-one graduate students from a variety of academic disciplines presented through posters, oral presentations, and creative performances related to their projects and research. More than twenty-five graduate faculty members served as judges for the event and offered valuable feedback to all students involved.

The Poster Presentations took place in the Maucker Union Ballroom and featured 20 research posters and six literature review posters. Thirty-five students participated as presenters or co-presenters. Each poster was viewed by three faculty judges who were all very impressed with the work being carried out by our graduate students. Prizes were awarded for first and second place in each category, research and literature review. Congratulations to the following winners:

## Research Category

### First Place:

Junu Shrestha (Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services) and co-presenter Sushil Tuladhar (Geography)  
*Assessing Vulnerability Mapping of Nitrate Contamination among the Private Well Owners of Black Hawk County, IA*

### Second Place:

Ziyuan Li (Industrial Technology)  
*Audio Jack Data Communication on Smartphones*

## Literature Review Category

### First Place:

Ranjana Joshi (Industrial Technology)  
*Smartphone Centric Ubiquitous Sensing Platforms*

### Second Place:

Rachel Ellingson (School Psychology)  
*Adolescents' Risk-Taking and Self-Disclosure Online*

The Oral Presentations took place in the lower level meetings of Maucker Union. Twenty-four students participated and delivered presentations from a variety of academic areas. The 2015 event welcomed more oral presentation entries than any other year. Judges have the opportunity to listen to four or five individual presentations and choose a first and second place winner from each of the presentation rooms. Congratulations to the following winners:

## Presidential Room

### First Place:

Jared Parmater (Biology)  
*The Effects of Metolachlor Exposure in THP-1 Alveolar and Monocyte and Macrophage Cellular Functions*

Second Place: Sushil Tuladhar (Geography)  
*Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Phosphorus in the Cedar River Watershed of Iowa, USA*

## University Room

### First Place:

Kristin Broussard (Psychology: Social Psychology)  
*Predictors of Racial Prejudice: A Meta-Analysis of the Influence of Religion and Political Orientation*

### Second Place:

Megan Vogt (Social Work)  
*Influx of Child Immigrants to the United States: Policy & Practice Implications*

## State College Room

### First Place:

Annalee Hollingsworth (History)  
*"More Gallant By Far": Middle Class Enforcement of Masculine Ideals During the Evacuation of the Titanic*

### Second Place:

Somtochukwu Ebede (Leisure, Youth & Human Services)  
*Impact of Student Organizations on the Development of Core Competencies*

## Oak Room

### First Place:

Rachel Meisinger (Psychology: Clinical Science)  
*Identification of Sluggish Cognitive Tempo by Teachers*

### Second Place:

Andrew Martin (Leisure, Youth & Human Services)  
*Exploring the Perceived Work-Life Effects of Changes in Family Status on the Collegiate Outdoor Recreation Coordinators*

## Elm Room

### First Place:

Scotti Hagensick (Counseling: School Counseling)  
*Adolescents and Sexting: The Various Consequences and Strategies for Schools to Respond*

### Second Place:

Taylor Ash (Social Work)  
*Suicidal and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury*

The Creative Performances took place in Graham Hall in Russell Hall and also in Jebe Hall in the Gallagher Bluedorn. Eight students participated, along with four accompanists. They delivered creative performances from three different categories: Original Composition, Creative Writing, and Creative Performance. The 2015 event also welcomed more creative performer entries than any other year. Four judges had the opportunity to listen to all the creative performances and choose a first and second place winner from each of the categories. This year we even crowned an "honorable mention" award in the Creative Performance Category. Congratulations to the following winners:

## Creative Writing:

### First Place:

Brian Pals, English: Creative Writing (MA)  
*On the Account of Abraham Panther: A Captive Narrativity*

## Original Composition:

### First Place:

Michael Dickerson, Composition (MM)  
*16 June 2013 - The Difference Between a Harp and a Piano*

## Musical Performance:

### First Place:

Michelle Monroe, Performance: Voice (MM)  
*Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson by Aaron Copland*

### Second Place:

Natalie Neshyba, Performance: Flute (MM)  
*The Reimagined Baroque Flute*

### Honorable Mention:

Mara Miller, Performance: Flute (MM)  
*Julie-O by Mark Summer*



## AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

### 2015 THESIS AND RESEARCH PAPER AWARD WINNERS

The Graduate College would like to extend congratulations to the following 2015 Outstanding Master's Thesis and Outstanding Master's Research Paper award recipients:

#### Outstanding Master's Thesis



Samuel Berg  
Advisor: Dr. Jeff Tamplin, Biology

"Population Structure, Size, and the Thermal Ecology of Iowa Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*): A Comparison Between Suburban and Rural Populations"



Wayva Lyons  
Advisor: Dr. Helen Harton, Psychology

"Social and Cultural Influences on Alcohol Drinking Habits among Native American College and University Students across the United States"



Cassie Reilly-Boccia  
Advisor: Dr. Travis Ficklin, School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services

"Social and Cultural Influences on Alcohol Drinking Habits among Native American College and University Students across the United States"

#### Outstanding Master's Research Paper



Holly Guanitz  
Advisor: Dr. Theresa Camilli, School of Music

"Incorporation of Popular Music into Class Piano"



Shawna Haislet  
Advisor: Dr. Michele Devlin, School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services

"Gardasil Uptake in Boys: Barriers and Strategies to Increase Vaccination Rates"



Kate Finegan  
Advisor: Dr. A.J. Meier, Languages and Literatures

"Critical Thinking Tasks and Second Language Vocabulary Learning"

#### Outstanding Creative Master's Thesis

Tara Meade  
Dr. Angeleita Floyd, School of Music  
"A Master's Recital in Flute"

#### Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

Wade Kooiman  
Advisor: Dr. Chris Kowalski, School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services  
"Perceptions of Coaching Efficacy from the Coaches', Parents', and Athletes' Perspectives"

#### Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Todd Bohnenkamp  
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

#### Distinguished Scholar Award

Dr. Robert Washut  
School of Music

#### James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award

Dr. Mohammed Rawwas  
Department of Marketing

## 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. The Quality Matters program initiative is to design quality online courses. Maryam will assist in tracking the scholarly research, analyzing, and reflecting on possible improvement of the QM standards and QM research agenda. Prior to coming to the United States to study, she taught English as a Foreign Language in Iran for three years.

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

## Dr. Shoshanna Coon Returns to Faculty: Q & A About Her Time as the Associate Dean



**You're leaving the Graduate College after six years as the Associate Dean. What factors motivated your decision to return to the faculty? What will you be doing next?**

I'm returning to the faculty for several reasons. My faculty appointment is in the department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and I taught in the department for 16 years, from the Fall of 1995 through Spring 2011, after which the Associate Dean position became full-time. I've missed getting to teach chemistry and mentoring undergraduate students as they mature into scientists. My typical teaching assignments are general chemistry and physical chemistry. I also want to get back into research and work toward promotion to full professor. I'll be writing some journal articles based on previously collected data and doing new research projects with students.

**During your tenure in the Graduate College, what changes in processes, procedures, and policies have impacted graduate education? What's been your role in making such changes happen?**

One of the first things I tackled when I started in the Graduate College was outdated policies that were often being waived. I brought those to Graduate Council's attention and asked them to either change them or repeal them. I also asked for assistance from Graduate Council in developing an expanded policy on recency (the time period allotted for a student to complete the degree--7 years for a Master's degree, for instance). I developed an approach to requests for waivers of recency that was significantly different than what had been done in the past, by requiring the student to work with their grad program to develop a plan for degree completion so that the student, grad program, and the Graduate College are on the same page about what it's going to take for the student to complete the degree and the timeframe in which that has to happen. That has really improved the eventual graduation rate of students who get a waiver of recency.

The change to the new course numbering and going into the new SIS required a lot of my time in meetings ensuring that graduate education was not adversely impacted by the changes. I've been pleased to work very closely with folks in Student Affairs on all kinds of processes and procedures--everything from students taking both graduate and undergraduate courses to what happens when a student hasn't been enrolled for a while, to financial aid issues, to graduate students being continuously registered until graduation after all classes are taken.

One of the best changes happened when I suggested that our requirement of 9 credits applying to the degree to be eligible for a Graduate Assistantship was obsolete and could be changed to 9 enrolled graduate credits. Another great change is that routine student requests such as elective declarations or substitutions for courses bypass the Graduate College if the graduate coordinator approves them. What I've always tried to do is streamline processes and to make policy and practice consistent with each other.

**What things are you most proud of from your time at UNI working in graduate education?**

One of the things I'm especially proud of is the communication I've done to graduate programs, to graduate students, and to the rest of campus when needed. I've always said that 90% of an administrator's job is typing and talking. I've tried to give good customer service when I'm contacted by a student, faculty member or staff member. I'm not always able to give them the answer they're hoping for, but I try to make sure they understand the reason for my answer. One of the things I think has made a big difference is my work for the Graduate College Curriculum Committee and with the graduate programs to reduce the number of student requests that are needed. When I first started, virtually every degree-seeking graduate student needed to file at least one student request during their time in graduate school, and some needed to file many. This amounted to about 2000 student requests per year! Working with departments to have more of the typical courses that students take automatically apply to the degree has decreased the number of student requests by at least 40%! This has saved time for students, faculty, and staff with no downside. I'm also proud of those times when I've really been able to make a difference for a student or faculty or staff member who had a difficult problem and didn't know what to do, and I was able to help.

**What have you enjoyed most about your position in the Graduate College?**

People at first seemed surprised that I enjoy academic administration, since I'm used to dealing with instrumentation, numbers, and molecules. I say that what I really enjoy is solving problems and I'm just solving people problems instead of chemistry problems. I've enjoyed helping people, helping to move graduate education forward and streamline its administration, and working with folks from all across campus. This is a unique position in that it's an Associate Dean position, but it's really a university-level position. I've interacted with folks from every college, nearly every department, most of the departments in Student Affairs, quite a few people in ITS, and others. But what really makes each day a treat to come to work is the Graduate College staff and graduate assistants! Everyone in the Graduate College does their job so professionally, and they all like each other and work together so well. That's a rare office environment and my only real regret in returning to the faculty is that I won't get to see those folks on a daily basis anymore.

**What do you enjoy about teaching?**

The thing I enjoy most about teaching is getting to know the students and helping them to understand something they didn't before. My own subject of physical chemistry tends to be quite challenging and highly mathematical. I enjoy finding ways to bring the students to conceptual understanding of what the mathematics is saying and what's actually going on. I also really like working with students individually, whether on difficulties with the material or in my research.

**What are your research aspirations/ plans?**

My research area is surface chemistry--looking at the reactions that take place right in the very top layer of molecules of a solid. Much of my research is done in a vacuum chamber, and it takes specialized instrumentation to be able to measure only the reactions at the surface. But I also have an ongoing research project that involves dyes on titanium dioxide and those experiments can be done on a bench top and the effects of the chemistry seen with the naked eye! It's a very unusual system.

**Can you tell us about your family? What are your interests?**

My husband Jeff works at Rod Library during most academic years, and makes the world's best cookies and brownies! My daughter Magdalen is in 6th grade at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Waverly. Music is a big part of our lives. All three of us sing in the worship team at St. Paul's Church, and Magdalen is in band, orchestra, the school choir and handbell choir, and the UNI Children's Choir. Jeff writes and arranges music. I perform in the Shell Rock Music Association's Spring Swing variety show each year--this year we did 8 shows. Besides singing in the chorus, I'm in a singing act called the Fab 5 and I also have had a comedy musical solo act for the past several years. I spend some of my evenings doing Tae Kwon-Do. I've been practicing Tae Kwon-Do since November of 2011 and I'm a first degree black belt in the UNI Tae Kwon-Do Club, UNI's oldest sport club.

Some of my other interests are gardening (both flowers and vegetables), reading, and puzzles such as cryptograms, crosswords, logic problems, sudoku, etc. I also enjoy cooking when I can be creative with it or can make a family favorite.

# Congratulations TO OUR GRADUATES!

The following students submitted a brief description of their post-graduate school plans:

**Kristin Broussard** will be graduating with her Master of Arts degree in Social Psychology in July 2015. She plans to continue her education at a Ph.D. program, at either St. Louis University or the University of Nevada Reno, studying prejudice and stereotyping, with an emphasis on the contributions of social identities to biased and prejudicial attitudes.

**Xia Wang** will be graduating from the Social Work M.S.W. program this May. She and her husband are planning to move to Portland, Oregon. With a passion for restorative justice, Xia plans to gain more experience applicable to the career field. While she is new to the United States, Xia is open to new job opportunities. She will miss the outstanding professors from the UNI Social Work department.

**Rachel Gregory** will earn her Master of Public Policy degree in May and is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science with an emphasis on women in politics. Before pursuing a doctoral degree, Rachel plans to continue her current research and submit it to a journal for publication. She has ambitions to travel as well before continuing her studies. During her time at UNI, Rachel believes she cultivated relationships with fellow students and faculty members with whom she will miss eliciting advice, discussing current issues and just conversing on a daily basis.

**Rachel Meisinger**, a graduate student in the Psychology: Clinical Science program plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue a Ph.D. in School Psychology.

**Kristen Buldhaupt** will be earning her Master of Arts degree in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs in May. She plans to move to Brookings, S.D. and begin her career as the South Dakota State University Graduate Student Services Coordinator. She will miss her friends and the wonderful group of international students she worked with in her assistantship position. She is looking forward to new transitions and is excited to get married in a few months.

**Scotti Hagensick** will be graduating in December 2015 with a Master of Arts in Counseling: School Counseling. She has accepted a position with the South Tama County School District as the 5-7 Middle School Counselor. Scotti plans to complete her final semester as a dual career/internship experience. She will miss having classes with her cohort but is grateful for the relationships she has formed with faculty and colleagues.

**RaeAnn Swanson** is graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Public History and will be attending the University of Texas in El Paso's doctoral program in History. RaeAnn is grateful for all the support she received from the faculty in UNI's Department of History and her cohort.

**Samantha Billing** will be earning her Master of Arts degree in History in May and will be pursuing a Ph.D. in History at Penn State in the fall.

**Olivia Schnur**, a Counseling: Mental Health student was recently accepted for an internship position with Horizons of Covenant Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa. Horizons is a substance abuse clinic which includes inpatient, outpatient, family counseling, dual diagnosis, and group counseling services. Olivia hopes to work with the inpatient population and will begin her internship in August.

*Students who wish to have their plans included in the August Grad Student Newsletter can email [gradlife@uni.edu](mailto:gradlife@uni.edu).*





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

**The Graduate College** | 110 Lang Hall | (319) 273-2748 | [www.grad.uni.edu](http://www.grad.uni.edu)

**Dr. April Chatham-Carpenter**

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