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UNI ScholarWorks

UNI Grad Student News

Newsletters

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UNI Grad Student News, v13n2, September 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

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Message from the Dean



GETTING INTO THE SEMESTER

As we are settling into the Fall semester, many of us are now immersed in our classes, our research, and other related activities. All of us are experiencing the semester in different ways. For faculty, it may be a time for testing out new research ideas and projects that had been tossed around during the summer or perhaps trying out novel ways to impart knowledge to students using innovative technology. For first year graduate students, it is most likely a time for figuring out the expectations for their graduate classes and establishing relationships with faculty and colleagues. For the more experienced graduate students, it could be a time where a level of confidence has finally been achieved in terms of class expectations and focus is shifted toward the development or completion of their thesis/dissertation or other graduation requirements. Regardless of what you are trying to achieve in this semester, we want you to be aware of the opportunities the Graduate College can provide for you as students and faculty. Make sure you check out the Graduate College website (www.grad.uni. edu) for the latest news, presentations/events, deadlines and other information for faculty and student opportunities.

I also want to mention several specific events coming up in the Graduate College and hope you put them on your calendars.

A workshop called Ethical Issues in Scholarship, an event for graduate students that will be on September 30. This workshop presents information on several issues important to graduate students: integrity in authorship, qualitative/quantitative data management and working with collaborators in research. Register for the event at www.uni.edu/ethics/rcr-ethics-workshop-registration.

Every month, we have a Brown Bag lecture, a presentation with an interesting mix of research and current topics given by our distinguished faculty. Our next talk will be on October 21 by Professor Paul Siddens from the Department of Communication Studies from noon-12:50 in the UNI Interpreters Theatre (Lang 040). Students and faculty are highly encouraged to attend.

On October 29, we are happy to have the second annual Graduate Student Social Mixer – a get together for graduate students and faculty to touch base and network. Check out what your colleagues are doing in a fun, social environment. It is great event, look for it on the Graduate College calendar!

The Graduate Student Symposium on April 6, 2016 is another event students and faculty should mark their calendars for. This is a great platform for graduate students to present their original research or creative activity to the University community. Details are forthcoming on registration.

So as you move through the semester, take time to not only work on your classes/scholarship but also take time to attend some interesting talks, reach out to your fellow students and come join us at the Graduate College Social Mixer at the end of October!



Dr. Barbara Cutter, the Interim
Associate Dean of the Graduate
College, is also an Associate Professor
in the Department of History, where
she served as the Graduate
Coordinator for the last six years. She
was also the Interim Director of the
Women's and Gender Studies
Department. The transition to Interim
Associate Dean has been "exciting"

and "a new challenge," said Dr. Cutter, but she felt comfortable with it having worked with the Graduate College as a Graduate Coordinator.

"I want to get feedback from graduate coordinators and graduate students about ways that we could make the graduate programs at UNI even stronger," said Dr. Cutter in regards to her goals for the Graduate College. The Graduate College has experienced growth and success, and Cutter would like to see more of that happen.

Before beginning her journey at UNI, Dr. Cutter completed her undergraduate degree in Russian Studies from Columbia University in New York. She went on to receive her PhD in U.S. History with a minor in Women's History at Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1999. In her free time, Dr. Cutter enjoys hiking, biking, and jogging with her border collie, Moss. On advice she has for UNI graduate students who may be feeling overwhelmed, Dr. Cutter said, "If you're a first semester graduate student and you feel like your program made a mistake letting you in...don't worry about it because that's how everyone feels. Graduate school is very different from undergraduate education and it's an adjustment." Dr. Cutter also suggests seeking help from faculty as well. "Don't be afraid to ask questions. Ask the faculty, talk to the faculty in your program as much as possible."

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

RENAE BEARD: NISG VICE PRESIDENT



Tell us about yourself:

"I grew up with my roots firmly planted in the farming industry. As a sixth generation farmer, my story began in west central Wisconsin (near Northfield) and developed thirty miles north of the Missouri border in south central lowa (near Chariton)."

Why did you choose to run for office?

"I'm fortunate to have a more

comprehensive understanding of UNI; as an undergraduate, student leader, employee, opinion columnist, and now graduate student in the Performance Studies program- I want to use that to assist others. Graduate students are an underrepresented population on campus and the opportunity to give them a powerful presence was a valuable notion."

How do you plan to advocate for graduate education?

"In collaboration with the University of Iowa and Iowa State University student governments, NISG is currently working on a proposal to the state legislature to offer a financial incentive for graduate and professional students who are educated in Iowa to remain in Iowa for their employment after graduation. Student government representatives from all three universities and I are looking forward to submitting an initial proposal to the Governor by October 1."

What do you hope to accomplish while Vice President?

"UNI is offering a fantastic student life experience and I want to be sure everyone is cognizant of the opportunities. Specifically, we're hoping to improve transparency through networking and improved communication. The NISG office has been busy researching out the sister schools' centers and has noted the need to centralize our campus resources while introducing a strong source for female empowerment. Our Director of Diversity and Student Life, Hansen Breitling, has drafted a proposal and is in the process of applying for grants."

How can graduate students find out what is happening in NISG?

"Stay up to date by checking out our website at: www.uni.edu/studentorgs/nisg and by following us on Facebook (Northern Iowa Student Government) and Twitter (@NISG)!"

You can also reach Beard by email at renaeb@uni.edu

Why should graduate students get actively involved in student government?

"We're a comprehensive institution, dedicated to higher education at a variety of degree distinctions. Graduate students should become actively involved in student government to return a voice to one of the smaller colleges on campus. In order to refer to the Northern lowa Student Government as a genuinely representative body, we need every population adequately represented. All student voices matter."

Beard remarked that this university has had a huge role in shaping her life and she's excited to have the opportunity to continue to better that impact for a varied demographic of present and future students.



Former student-athlete, Brady Fritz, graduated from UNI in May 2014 with a Master of Arts in Post-Secondary Education: Student Affairs. Fritz is currently the Assistant Director of Compliance at Kansas State University in the K-State Athletic Department Compliance Office. In his current position, he works with student-athletes, coaches, boosters,

prospective student-athletes, and other athletic department staff on a daily basis to help and educate them about NCAA Division I rules and regulations. Fritz began studying Accounting as an undergraduate at UNI, but after talking with former track and field teammate Greg Offerman, the graduate assistant in the Athletic Compliance Office at UNI, Fritz changed his major to Marketing and began volunteering in the Athletic Compliance Office. Fritz graduated in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from UNI. Fritz recalled, "After completing my undergraduate studies in Marketing, I was luckily accepted into the MA program at UNI for Post-Secondary Education: Student-Affairs. While completing my studies in Student-Affairs I was able to customize my experience and studies to help prepare me to work in athletic administration. I was hired as the GA in the Athletic Compliance Office as well." Fritz also noted that UNI helped prepare him for

his current position as he was able to dive deep into the culture, history, and current events that surround intercollegiate athletics during his graduate studies. His biggest inflence during his time in the Post-Secondary Education: Student Affairs program was Dr. Lyn Redinton because "she pushed him to be a better student and person, in and out of the classroom." He also mentions many individuals in the Athletic Department including Justin Shemmel, Deputy Athletic Director for Internal Operations; Jean Berger, Deputy Athletic Director; Kara Park, former Athletic Academic Advisor; and Stacia Eggers, Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services, who heavily impacted his understanding of intercollegiate athletics. When asked what advice he has for current UNI graduate students, Fritz stated, "take advantage of all the opportunity to learn and grow with in your area of concentration, but also make sure that you get a good 360 degree view of how a university works. Make the most of your graduate assistantship, and I would recommend a summer internship rather than taking additional classes in the summer. I found that the more actual experience you have, the easier it will be to get a job, and you will feel more comfortable in different work environments." During his years at UNI, Fritz was a student-athlete on the Track and Field/Cross Country teams, a member of the Student Admissions Ambassadors, and a team representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. In his free time, Fritz still enjoys staying involved with athletics by running, golfng, and playing basketball.

FACULTY PROFILE

DR. TODD BOHNENKAMP



Dr. Todd Bohnenkamp, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, was the recipient of the 2014-2015 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award. Dr. Bohnenkamp is a native lowan from Fort Madison. He served in the United States Air Force in 1991. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts

from the University of Iowa with Honors in May 1998. He came to UNI and earned his Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology in 2000 and then went on for his doctorate at Indiana University. He completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University in 2006. He came directly to UNI from Indiana University. His attraction to UNI was initially based on his experiences as a student. He always hoped that a position in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders would be available upon the completion of his doctorate. There was a culture in the department and across the

university that he really enjoyed. Dr. Bohnenkamp recalled, "As someone looking for an academic position, UNI offered what I needed to become a successful teacher and researcher. That tight-knit culture was still here and it meshed with my professional goals." He enjoys and appreciates the ability to work closely with students and wants each student to have a similar positive experience while attending UNI. When asked about his future aspirations at UNI, Dr. Bohnenkamp said he wants to continue being a better faculty member in all aspects of his position. He also has many research ideas that he wants to explore and introduce to undergraduate and graduate students. He remarked, "UNI has excellent students and they always motivate him to do the best he can each day." Dr. Bohnenkamp's research is primarily focused on head and neck cancer rehabilitation, specifically those who have had their larynx removed. His published work focuses on how these speakers use their respiratory system to speak after what is often a very diffiult surgery and recovery process. He is currently working on research concerning speech motor control as well.

DISTANCE LEARNING FEATURE

Lisa Chizek is the North Tama 5th and 6th Grade Science Teacher and the district STEM

Coordinator. Chizek earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with Early

Childhood and K-8 Reading Endorsements from UNI in 1985. She earned her Master of Arts in Science Education, a distance learning program, from the University of Northern Iowa and also took several additional classes from UNI that she used towards her K-8 Science, K-8 STEM, and K-12 STEM Specialist Endorsements. Chizek said she knew she wanted to be a teacher because she always enjoyed learning and wanted to help children find the joy in learning as well. She began her career teaching the lower grades and always had a passion for science. Chizek recalled, "When I was choosing the direction to take for my master's degree, I decided to work on a science education master's degree. It was the best decision I could have made!

The professors and my classmates were wonderful. It was such a transforming experience. My mind really opened up to thinking about what teaching and learning really were and how I could best help my students." After receiving her degree, Chizek jumped at the chance to teach science for upper elementary because science time is very limited in elementary grades and she was eager to change that.

Chizek continued to grow as a professional by joining committees, working on projects, doing action research, presenting at conferences, and bringing professional development opportunities to the staff at North Tama. She feels fortunate to have connected with several UNI professors to collaborate on projects, including Dr. Jody Stone, Dr. Larry Escalada, Dr. Lyn Countryman, Dr. Scott Greenhalgh, and Dr. Beth Van Meeteren, who she sees as major contributors to her success. When asked about her experience as a distance learning student, Chizek remarked, "I never found distance to be a problem because what I was doing was important to me. Professors are very willing to talk with you, answer questions, and point you in the direction of valuable resources." Chizek advises other graduate students to get involved, seek out opportunities, take chances, learn from mistakes, network, and enjoy the journey. Chizek has been recently recognized for her outstanding work as a science teacher and STEM Coordinator. She earned the 2013 Excellence in Science Teaching Award for Elementary Education presented by the lowa Academy of Science, the 2014 Robert E. and Phyllis M. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award presented by the University of Northern Iowa, the 2015 STEM Education Award for Inspired Teaching presented by the Northeast Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, and was the first person in the state of Iowa to earn the K-8 STEM and the K-12 STEM Specialist Endorsements. Apart from work, Chizek enjoys spending time with her husband, Dave, and her four children Malynda, Dan, Nick, and Kelly. She also enjoys reading, swimming, biking, hiking, camping, and being outdoors.



RAEANN SWANSON AWARDED THE 2015 BURNS H. WESTON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY PRIZE

RaeAnn Swanson completed her thesis and graduated in July 2015 with a Master of Arts in History: Public History from the University of Northern Iowa. Swanson has been awarded the graduate award from the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights' Annual Burns H. Weston International Human Rights Essay Prize. The Scholarship Committee found Swanson's essay "'God Will Deliver Us': Human Rights Abuses from Guatemala to Iowa and Back, 1980-2014" excelled in highlighting the interconnectedness of rights issues across borders. They also thought the essay effectively documented a rights crisis that unfolded internationally and through many stages. She was awarded a \$750 scholarship to use towards tuition costs.

Swanson is continuing her education as a doctoral student at the University of Texas-El Paso. Congratulations to RaeAnn on her outstanding work!

GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING

The Graduate Student Information Meeting (GSIM) was held on Wednesday, August 26 in the Maucker Union Ballroom. The event had 104 graduate students in attendance. The GSIM offered resources and information for both new and returning graduate students. The meeting began with the Resource Fair, in which students could talk to a variety of representatives from 16 participating university departments and organizations. Dr. Barbara Cutter, Interim Associate Dean for the Graduate College, welcomed graduate students and introduced the presenters. Mark Rowe-Barth of Student Health and Wellness Services spoke to students about UNI's newest online program on sexual assault, dating violence, and awareness. Students learned about the "Train the Trainer" Violence Prevention Program and were invited to attend. Dr. Chris Cox, Dean of Rod Library presented research tips for graduate students, including specific ways to navigate through the Library's unique collections and archives. He also informed the students about different study areas to fit group or individual needs, digital publishing, and personalized research consultation. Christina Geweke from the Office of Business Operations spoke about managing your U-Bill, financial aid and disbursement, direct deposit, 1098-T tax forms, and navigation of the "Student Center," which was much appreciated by new graduate students. The handouts from the event are posted on the Graduate College website. Twenty-one organizations donated door prizes for the event.

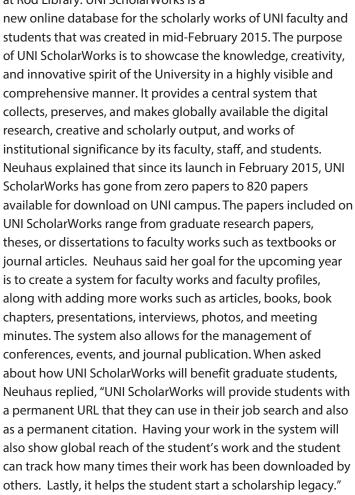
Thank you to all the organizations who donated door prizes! Barmuda

Buffalo Wild Wings Chad's Pizza Caribou Coffee-Hy-Vee Copyworks Famous Dave's Flowerama Insomnia Cookies Jimmy John's Jiva Salon & Spa Mohair Pear Pita Pit Scheel's Sidecar Coffee The Library The Other Place-Cedar Falls **UNI Credit Union UNI Alumni Association UNI Department of Residence UNI Recreation Services** World's Window

BROWN BAG LECTURE

On September 9,
2015, the first Brown
Bag Lecture, "UNI
ScholarWorks and
Global Reach" was
presented by Ellen
Neuhaus. Neuhaus is
an Associate Professor at
UNI, the Digital Collections
Coordinator, and UNI
ScholarWorks Coordinator

at Rod Library. UNI ScholarWorks is a



On Tuesday, October 20, there is a series of Grand Reveal activities scheduled in the Library Browsing Room to celebrate the launch of Rod Library's UNI ScholarWorks. An overview of UNI ScholarWorks will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed by a reception scheduled from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., with a campus presentation on open textbooks given by Sarah Cohen, Managing Director of the Open Textbook Network scheduled for 3:30-4:45pm. If you have any ideas for potential projects or any questions regarding UNI ScholarWorks email scholarworks@uni.edu or Ellen Neuhaus at ellen.neuhaus@uni.edu.



STUDY SPOTS ON CAMPUS

As a graduate student, studying and reading for class becomes a regular part of student life. While working from home may be beneficial to some students, it can also be distracting to others. Finding the right study spot can be tough, especially for graduate students new to campus. This academic year, make the most of your time on-campus and utilize extra time to study course materials. The Graduate College has compiled a list of potential study spots on campus for students to check out.



Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

Visit the GBPAC for a unique study break. You may find yourself enjoying the quiet sounds of students practicing their instruments and will appreciate the exceptional architectural structure of this beautiful building. If listening to music helps you concentrate, then this is the place to be.



Lang Hall

The first floor computer lab is open until 10 PM during the week and many graduate students report it is almost completely empty after 5 PM. The second floor study area offers cozy couches and tables in an area that seems to be void of excessive student traffic. The second floor is a good spot to sink down and study for long periods of time.



Maucker Student Union

If you favor the outdoors, students can venture out to the rooftop of Maucker Union and sit at one of the many picnic tables and benches or enjoy the garden areas by the panther fountain between Lang Hall and Seerley Hall.



Information Technology Center

Located on the second floor of the ITC is well-kept secret of a study area. There are leather couches among glass tables to conveniently spread out and utilize space to complete projects and study. You will find high ceilings, iron balconies, and antique architecture mixed with contemporary glass walls and steel framed doors. The area was once a swimming pool and the windows continue to let in natural lighting exceptional for studying.



Center for Multicultural Education

The CME, located on the second floor of Maucker Union, offers private computer access, comfortable couches, and an ample amount of natural light. This study spot is perfect for a quick study session and is easily accessible to the rest of campus if you are between classes.



Rod Library

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



This November, "Live Like a Student," a free non-credit course, will be offering a new section tailored for the interests of graduate students. Sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, this discussion-based course will explore budgeting, saving and investing, car loans, student loans, mortgages, credit, and identity protection. Students that take part in a "Live Like a Student" course will have the opportunity to enter their name in a drawing during each class they attend for a scholarship of \$500. The course, which will meet six times during the semester, begins on November 3rd from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. in Rod Library Room 324.

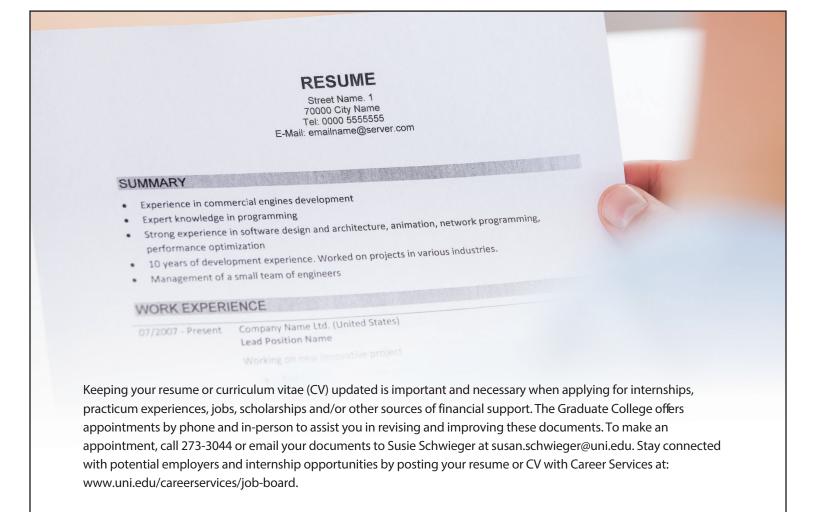
For more information and to sign up for the course, visit www.uni.edu/finaid/live-like-a-student or call 273 - 2700.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT STRAYER – WOOD THEATRE

Strayer – Wood Theatre, the home of UNI's on-campus theatre production program, will be hosting performances of the play, *Independence*, and musical, *Rent*, throughout October and early November. *Independence*, written by Tony award and Pulitzer Prize nominated playwright Lee Blessing, takes place in Independence, lowa and follows a family in emotional distress. *Independence* will be playing October 8 – 10 and 15 – 17 at 7:30 p.m., and October 11 and 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Rent documents a group of friends in New York City fighting to survive a life of poverty, drug addiction, and the AIDS epidemic while working to achieve their dreams. It is the ninth longest running Broadway show in history and winner of four Tony awards and the Pulitzer Prize. Rent will be playing at Strayer – Wood on October 29 -30 and November 5 – 7 at 7:30 p.m., and on November 1 and November 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at Strayer – Wood Theatre on the night of the performance, through the UNI Ticket Box Offic es, or online at www.unitix.uni.edu, though additional fees do apply for online ticket orders. Tickets for *Independence* are \$16, and tickets for *Rent* are \$24. For more information, check out www.uni.edu/theatre/swt or call (319) 273 – 6381.



GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News contact gradlife@uni.edu. With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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