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UNI Grad Student News, v13n3, October 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

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Message from the Dean



BUILDING COMMUNITY

The season is changing, the leaves are turning colors and as we enter into the autumn season, the days are progressing quite rapidly; we have completed more than half of the fall 2015 semester! I'm sure many of you are quite busy with your midterm assignments: papers, exams, research and/or projects and it seems the work is never-ending. While the classwork may be ongoing, we have to remember that we also need to put the work in perspective. There certainly is a lot to do, but there is also much more we can gain from the graduate school experience.

This year, an initiative that the Graduate College is working to enact is a program of "Building Community". While we have already been working on this in several ways, our goal is to be more intentional and to improve on programming that facilitates the building the sense of community for UNI graduate students. Many students, especially those in

cohort programs, have developed community within their programs. However, we want to broaden that community; we want graduate students to reach across disciplines here at UNI, we want to create opportunities where we can all share our experiences, build a support network and create a sense of belonging within the Graduate College community that includes not only our students but our faculty and staff as well. We just had the Graduate Student Social Mixer on October 26th – a social opportunity where students and faculty got a chance to meet, mingle and munch on cookies and sip on warm apple cider. Hope you had a chance to attend!

I am asking you to share your ideas about what types of programming would help build community. Conversations with the Graduate Student Advisory Board members led to several ideas – social get-togethers, group volunteer opportunities, and new student workshops and monthly coffees. These are just some ideas. I'm sure that you have additional ideas and I would very much welcome you sharing those ideas with me at kavita.dhanwada@uni.edu

The monthly Brown Bag Lecture presented by graduate faculty provides another opportunity to build community. These noon hour lectures provide updates on research and other relevant, current topics to the Graduate College community. Graduate students should plan to attend and not only

hear about the research but have the opportunity to talk and share ideas with the faculty and students from across campus. Learn about work being done across UNI because you never know, it may tie in to your research. Plan to come to the Brown Bag Lecture on Thursday, November 12 (12:30-1:20 pm, Presidential Room, MAU) where Assistant Professor Disa Cornish, School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services will discuss her research on "Reforms might have looked really good on paper': Understanding how rural food service directors responded to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010." Bring your lunch. Cookies are provided.

Throughout the year, the Graduate College staff, are committed to building community. Since 2008, the annual Graduate Student Symposium has provided a venue for our graduate students to present their scholarship or creative activity on a wide-ranging platform to the University community. The Ninth Annual Graduate Student Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016. You'll be receiving event details, including registration information in November.

In closing, during this busy time as you progress in your program, remember to take advantage of opportunities around you that can help make your graduate school experience much more complete and let's work together to build community!

Sincerely,
Kavita Dhanwada

CURRENT FACULTY PROFILE

DR. ISLAM ALY



Dr. Islam Aly is an assistant professor and the graduate coordinator of the new online Art Education Graduate Program. Dr. Aly attended Helwan University in Egypt for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art Education. In 1998, he earned his Bachelor of Arts and in 2003 he completed his Master of Arts. In 2013, he completed the MFA program at

the University of Iowa Center for the Book where he explored the possibilities of historical bindings in contemporary book art practice. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the College of Education's Art Education program at the University of Iowa. Dr. Aly was attracted to UNI because of its reputation for good teaching practices and dedicated students. He was also interested in having the opportunity to direct the new Master of Arts in Art Education online program. Dr. Aly hopes to expand the online Art Education program to attract students from all over the world.

He shared, "I hope to create a hub for researchers and students to discuss their goals, and I can help them achieve their educational growth and research." He also wants to advance appreciation for book arts and technologies and implement using book art as a tool in art education curriculum.

Dr. Aly's research agenda proposes to motivate different populations to study the history, format, and importance of the book as a new medium. By disseminating book arts, he expects to empower diverse groups that can create social, economic, and environmental change. He hopes to be able to build a community open space that produces paper and book products. His long term academic goal is to use his skills and abilities to meet the needs of the community. Dr. Aly said, "I want to use the three components of my study: the theory, the practice, and the technology in preparing teachers and developing community."

For more information on the MA Art Education program, visit <https://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/art-education>.

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE:

RACHEL GREGORY



Rachel Gregory, a Los Angeles Calif. native, graduated from Transylvania University in Lexington, KY with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 2008. Shortly after, she pursued her Master of Public Policy degree from UNI earning her degree in May 2015. Currently, Gregory is a graduate student in the

Women & Gender Studies Program. Gregory chose to pursue a second degree at UNI for a few practical reasons. First, UNI allows students to use nine credit hours toward another graduate degree, so she could complete this second degree in a year. Secondly, it allowed her the opportunity to write a thesis. Finally, her focus and passion in life is women in politics. Gregory says, "I plan to get a PhD in political science after I finish this degree. The M.A. in Women's & Gender Studies will provide the theoretical background on gender and sex that will help me to conduct more comprehensive research on women in politics in the future." Gregory's primary goal this semester is to apply to Ph.D. programs in Political Science. She wants to conduct research on women in politics, and she is currently beginning work on her thesis in this area. An additional goal she has is to get more women at UNI

engaged in leadership, especially political leadership. She is currently organizing the second annual Elect Her event, a program developed by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start that trains women to run for student government and political office and to excel in leadership positions. In conjunction with other students, she is also starting a student organization, AAUW for UNI, which will engage students in action and discussion on issues related to women in higher education. To learn more about AAUW, visit www.aauw.org.

When asked about any challenges she may have faced in her transition from undergraduate studies to graduate studies, Gregory replied, "I came from a private undergraduate university of approximately 1,000 students; therefore, transitioning to UNI was a challenge. I also think that every graduate student has to adjust to the difference between undergrad and grad in terms of free time. I really had to learn to manage my time. I had to learn to always put my studies first, even at the expense of missing a friend's wedding." During her graduate work at UNI, Gregory has been part of the AAUW's Elect Her National Student Advisory Committee, Graduate Student Advisory Board, and volunteers for Cedar Valley Friends of the Family. In her free time, Gregory likes to fly to L.A. to see her family and her year and a half old nephew. She also tries to read books pertinent to research and academia, such as ethics in research.



Dr. Bradley Okdie earned his Master's of Art degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Social Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa in 2007. He completed his Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Alabama, where he studied social influence and media psychology with Dr. Rosanna

Guadagno. While finishing his dissertation, Dr. Okdie also served as a visiting assistant professor of psychology at Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Ala. For the last four years he has been an assistant professor of psychology at The Ohio State, Newark campus. Dr. Okdie recalls that his career expectations were always to become a professor of Social Psychology. He says, "Looking back on who I was during my time at the University of Northern Iowa, I realize how little I knew about the field of psychology---despite the fact that I felt as though I knew a great deal. My coursework helped to shape my knowledge of psychology while my professors helped shape the way that I think about and approach problems." This reason is one of the reasons he was able to attain his goal of becoming a professor.

Dr. Okdie recognizes Dr. Helen Harton, his advisor, as the person who shaped the researcher he is today. He said, "Dr. Harton was direct and honest, qualities which are difficult but necessary for an advisor. She is also largely responsible for the quality of writing that I currently produce. She took a student with little knowledge about the field of psychology and average writing abilities and transformed me into a decent social psychologist." Dr. Okdie is also grateful for his time working with Dr. Mel Gonnerman at the Center for Social and Behavioral Research, where he was a graduate assistant, and Dr. Otto MacLin, who taught one of the most influential courses that he took entitled "Computer Applications for Psychological Research." When asked if he had any advice for current graduate students, Dr. Okdie replied, "Enjoy your time in graduate school." He hopes students treat their time at UNI judiciously and take advantage of the fact that they are surrounded by amazing faculty who are rooting for their success. He also advises graduate students to branch out and work with as many professors as possible. Dr. Okdie attributes much of his success to the support of his wife, Amanda, and son, Wyatt. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and cheering for the University of Alabama football team.

To learn more about Dr. Okdie, visit his website at u.osu.edu/okdie.2/.

9th Annual Graduate Student Symposium

Save the Date for April 6, 2016!

All graduate students are invited to present their work as either an oral presentation, poster presentation, or creative performance. Build your resume or CV, showcase your research, gain presentation and performance experience, and network with the graduate community.

More information coming soon!

University of
Northern Iowa
Graduate College



34TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

The School of Music presented the 34th Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert on Friday, September 25, at the Gallagher - Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The concert's proceeds go towards creating student scholarships for the School of Music. An array of musical talent, including the UNI Choirs, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Northern Iowa Flute Choir, UNI Opera, UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club, and several faculty performers were showcased.

The evening began with a tribute to Frank Sinatra by the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra under the direction of UNI alumnus Jim Linahon ('73). Bill Shepherd, Instructor of Music in General Studies, played the role of Sinatra. Dr. Amanda McCandless, Associate Professor of Clarinet; Dr. Heather Peyton, Assistant Professor of Oboe and Music Theory; and Dr. Cayla Bellamy, Instructor of Bassoon performed a Suite for Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Dr.

Mitra Sadeghpour, Associate Professor of Opera, sang two Irving Berlin songs accompanied by Christopher Merz, Professor of Jazz Studies, on saxophone; Bob Dunn, Instructor of Guitar; Dr. Alexander Pershounin, Instructor of String Bass; and Josh Hakanson on drums. To close out the first half of the show, the UNI Singers and Concert Chorale collaborated with the UNI Percussion Ensemble and faculty pianists Dr. Korey Barrett, Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching and Collaborative Piano; Sean Botkin, Associate Professor of Piano; Serena Hou, Instructor of Piano; and Dr. Dmitri Vorobiev, Associate Professor of Piano, under the direction of Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting, Dr. John Wiles. Gretchen Brumwell, Instructor of Harp, performed during intermission.

Following intermission, UNI Opera, under the direction of Dr. Sadeghpour and Dr. Barrett, performed excerpts from *L'elisir d'amore* (The Elixir of Love). The performance featured graduate students Blair Remmers, MaKayla McDonald, and Kelly Behling in leading roles. The Northern Iowa Flute Choir, directed by Professor of Flute Dr. Angeleita Floyd, premiered *Rondo Cubano* for Flute Choir and Latin Percussion. The UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club performed two pieces under the director of John Wiles. Faculty pianists Dr. Barrett, Sean Botkin, Serena Hou, Dr. Polina Khatsko, and Dr. Vorobiev performed a five piano arrangement of Saint-Saens *Danse macabre*. The concert concluded with a performance by Dr. Jeffery Brich, Instructor of Applied Voice, with members of the Concert Chorale and the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony under the direction of Dr. Ronald Johnson, Professor of Instrumental Conducting and Interim Associate Director of Graduate Studies.



APPLYING FOR FALL 2015 GRADUATION

The Fall 2015 Commencement for both graduate and undergraduate students is Saturday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. in the McLeod Center. Students who plan to graduate must submit their Application for Graduation, found in the Student Center of MyUniverse by November 10 to be included in the Commencement Program as well as to avoid a Late Application Fee. For more important information on Commencement, visit their website www.uni.edu/registrar/graduation-and-commencement.

PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS PRESENT AT SPSP CONFERENCE

Four social psychology graduate students' original research poster has been accepted for presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Conference in San Diego, CA from January 28- 30, 2016. SPSP is the largest organization of social and personality psychologists in the world with over 5000 members. The conference draws researchers, teachers, and students from academia, non-profit organizations, government and private sectors from the United States and beyond to network, collaborate, and advance research in the field. Manuel Salinas, one of the student presenters, was awarded both the Diversity Fund Graduate Travel Award and the Graduate Travel Award and accepted the Diversity Fund Graduate Travel Award which awards a stipend of \$500 to attend the conference. Below are the student presenters, poster titles, and contributing authors for the accepted presentations:

Larissa Hall (presenter): State Corruption and the Endorsement of Tight-loose Social Norms.

Authors: Larissa Hall & Dr. Nicholas Schwab.

Manuel Salinas (presenter): Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Police Attitudes: Racism Trumps Other Individual Differences. Authors:

Manuel Salinas, Tamara James, Kaimi Mattila, & Dr. Helen C. Harton

Salomi Aladia (presenter): Individual Differences in Helping and Receiving Help Across the United States and India.

Authors: Salomi Aladia & Dr. Helen C. Harton

Zheng Li (presenter): The Effect of Suppression of Stereotype Threat on Self-evaluations and Cross-Gender Interpersonal Evaluations.

Authors: Zheng Li & Dr. Helen C. Harton

To learn more about the SPSP Conference, visit <http://meeting.spsp.org/home-page>

2015 CONFERENCE ON ETHICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



On Friday, September 18, UNI's Center for Academic Ethics hosted the 2015 Conference on Ethics in Higher Education. Ethics in Practice: Building a Classroom and Campus Culture for Academic Integrity was the theme of this year's conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. James Lang, a Professor of

English and Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. Dr. Lang has published four books on the subject of academic honesty, the most recent being *Cheating Lessons: Learning from Academic Dishonesty*, and *On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to your First Semester of College Teaching*.

Dr. Lang's presentation promoted fostering a learning environment that encourages students to be academically honest. He discussed elements of learning environments that can induce cheating, such as extrinsic motivation, performance orientation, infrequent high-stake assessments, low self-efficacy, and common or peer-approved cheating. Lang also delved into how educators can learn to improve their learning structure by changing these elements to include intrinsic motivation, mastery orientation, a mindset of growth, and learning integrity.

The conference included a poster session, a student panel, and discussions by educators and students from UNI, Allen College, Hawkeye Community College, and the University of Dubuque. These presentations concerned subjects such as scholarly integrity, improving pedagogies to combat cheating, and student perspectives on academic ethics.

To learn more about Dr. Lang and his reflections on higher education, and literature, visit www.jamesmlang.com.

PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP RECAP

The "Crafting a Successful Personal Statement" Workshop, sponsored by the Graduate College, took place on October 14 in the University Room of the Maucker Union. Fifty-two graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of programs attended the event. The workshop was presented by Dr. Deanne Gute, the Writing Center Coordinator.

Dr. Gute discussed strategies for creating a comprehensive and strong personal statement, including tips on getting started, development, organization, and revision. She encouraged students to communicate their strengths and future ambitions when writing a personal statement in order to provide a selection committee with a detailed idea what they can contribute to the program. Dr. Gute also provided handouts of her presentation, which will be available on the Graduate College website (www.grad.uni.edu/), where additional resources for crafting a personal statement can also be found.

For more information on services offered by the Writing Center, check out their website at www.uni.edu/unialc/writing-center, email unialcwconline@uni.edu or call (319) 273 -6023.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE HEARST CENTER

LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES AT THE HEARST CENTER – UNI BASS STUDIO

The Lunchtime Concert Series at the James & Meryl Hearst Center for the Arts features musicians from the UNI School of Music performing during the lunch hour (noon) on select Fridays. The concerts are free and open to the public, although free-will donations are accepted. All proceeds from the Lunchtime Concert Series go towards the scholarship fund for students of the UNI School of Music.

Dr. Alexander Pershounin and the UNI Bass Studio were featured on the Lunchtime Concert Series on October 9 at noon in Mae Latta Hall. Dr. Pershounin and his students performed pieces from a variety of composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Schubert, William Boyce, and Duke Ellington. Dr. Sean Botkin, from the UNI Piano Studio, was the featured accompanist. Pieces performed by Dr. Pershounin include Bach's Cello Suite No. in D-minor, BWV 1008 and Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata in A-minor, D. 821. The UNI Bass Ensemble played Bach's Minuet in G major, the second movement of Boyce's Sonata No.1, and Ellington's "Night Train." Dr. Pershounin introduced the pieces and briefly discussed the origin of the bass.

Upcoming Lunchtime Concert Series performances will feature the UNI Saxophone Studio with Assistant Professor of Saxophone Ann Bradfield on November 13, and the UNI Piano Studio with Associate Professor of Piano Sean Botkin on December 11. For more information, check out the Hearst Center's website at www.thehearst.org, call (319) 273 – 8641, or like Hearst Center for the Arts on Facebook.



THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW: ORIGINAL BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS BY GARY KELLEY

October 2 – November 29, 2015

This exhibition includes pastel illustrations from the Hearst Permanent Collection by Gary Kelley for the classic American story, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

The James & Meryl Hearst Center for the Arts is located at 304 West Seerley Boulevard in Cedar Falls. More information on the Hearst Center and its programs is available at www.TheHearst.org, by calling the Hearst Center at (319) 273-8641, or follow the Hearst on Facebook.

LUNCHTIME
CONCERTS

**Alexander
Pershounin**
and the UNI Bass Ensemble

Oct. **9**



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING RECAP

The first Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting of 2015 was on September 23 from 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. in the Center for Multicultural Education (CME). The 25 member board is chaired by Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, the Interim Dean of the Graduate College. Members of the GSAB began the meeting by sharing their motivations in joining the board. Reasons included a desire to meeting new students from different programs, working to utilize graduate resources, encouraging involvement for distance learners, promoting the Graduate College to international students, and representing graduate students to the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG).

GSAB member Renae Beard, Vice President of the NISG, made an announcement regarding the establishment of a new chapter of the American Association for University Women (AAUW) on campus, along with additional announcements for upcoming speakers and events which can be found on their website at www.uni.edu/involvement/calendar. Beard also encouraged graduate students to complete the Graduate & Professional Student Tax Credit/ Loan Repayment Survey. This survey which was also open to students at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, was created to help lawmakers develop a possible plan to implement tax credit or a loan repayment systems for students who choose to seek employment in Iowa following graduation.

GSAB member Jenny Lynes discussed the new section of Live Like a Student for Graduate Students. This free, non-credit course will meet six times from 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. starting on November 3 and ending on November 19. This section of Live Like a Student is designed with the needs of graduate students, and will focus on budgeting, investing, loans, mortgages, and more. To register for the course, visit www.uni.edu/finaid/live-like-a-student.

Dr. Dhanwada facilitated the conversation focused on what the GSAB can do to foster support and involvement throughout the graduate community. A number of student members of the board suggested a graduate student orientation to familiarize students with UNI when school begins. The Graduate Student Information Meeting currently serves as the main source of initial graduate information, and changes to its format may be implemented to better meet the needs of graduate students

The next GSAB meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 4 from 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. in the CME. If you have a question, concern, or possible discussion topic for the GSAB, please contact Susie Schwieger at susan.schwieger@uni.edu.

THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL (TAGS) RECAP

Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS) was held Tuesday, September 29 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the Maucker Union Ballroom where 144 students attended the event. Highlighted in the program was appreciated information and campus resources available to students considering graduate school. Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, welcomed the students to the event and introduced Dr. Barbara Cutter, Interim Associate Dean of Graduate Academic Affairs. Dr. Cutter's presentation provided information on the application process, sources of financial support, developing faculty references, and researching potential graduate programs. Dr. Dhanwada then moderated the Graduate Faculty Panel. Dr. Kerri Clopton (Educational Psychology & Foundations), Dr. Elizabeth Lefler (Psychology), Dr. Jennifer Waldron (School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services), and Dr. Ira Simet (Chemistry & Biochemistry) shared their experience both in advising undergraduate students and also in evaluating applicants to their graduate programs.

To conclude TAGS, the UNI Academic Learning Center staff including Dr. Deanne Gute, Emily Borcherdy, and Latricia Hylton presented "Demystifying the GRE," which included a presentation over the three components of the examination and how to prepare.

The handouts and resources provided at the TAGS event can be found at <http://grad.uni.edu/thinking-about-graduate-school-tags-recap>



GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News, fill out the online submission form found at <http://grad.uni.edu/online-submission-form>. With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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