

11-2015

UNI Grad Student News, v13n4, November 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College.

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©2015 Graduate College, University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/gnews>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College., "UNI Grad Student News, v13n4, November 2015" (2015).

UNI Grad Student News. 19.

<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/gnews/19>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNI Grad Student News by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.

UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

November 2015

Message from the Dean

HEADING INTO THE FINAL STRETCH FOR FALL 2015



Heading into the last four weeks of the fall semester, many of you are facing deadlines for final projects and papers

that are soon coming due. For us in the Graduate College, the semester has gone by quite rapidly but we have had a chance to connect with many of you at events this semester. From these conversations we have received ideas for several events and programming that we plan to introduce in the December newsletter.

As new staff members of the Graduate College, Associate Dean Barbara Cutter and I have had opportunities to listen and learn from you ways to enhance graduate student community. This semester, we introduced the theme of “Building Community” among the UNI graduate community. We have had a chance to talk to many graduate students, graduate faculty and coordinators about ways to improve and enhance relationships with graduate programs and their students. Great conversations occurred at the Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meetings and at the Graduate Student Social Mixer and students had many ideas about ways to build community. Conversations with graduate faculty/coordinators led

to ideas to improve communication between programs and the Graduate College to help them and their students.

UNI Grad Chat, a new Facebook group for UNI graduate students, is now available as a result of a suggestion shared at the Social Mixer. On UNI Grad Chat graduate students can feel free to share their experiences, questions and issues with other UNI graduate students. The site has already been used to post events from departments, student organizations as well as social activities. Plans are in place to host coffee chats and other mini-socials which are additional ideas from the Social Mixer.

In addition to these networking opportunities during the Spring 2016 semester there will be programming to improve your presentation skills for the 2016 Graduate Student Symposium and other conference opportunities. For example, the Graduate College’s Conference Room, Lang 115, will be available for graduate students to hold practice sessions for oral presentations/projects. This setting will also afford your peers to provide advice/feedback on your presentation skills and style. Make sure to join UNI Grad Chat and be on the lookout for updates and events.

The idea of a graduate professional development workshop series was shared at the Social Mixer and the GSAB meetings. In preparation for presenting at the Graduate Student Symposium

in April and conference opportunities there will be several sessions during the spring semester on developing poster presentations, perfecting your oral presentation skills, resume-writing and career-building workshops, and learning how to use social networking sites such as LinkedIn specifically for graduate students.

I also wanted to remind you to register for the 9th Annual Graduate Student Symposium – it will be held on April 6, 2016. Registration will be open Dec. 7th, 2015 for poster presentations, oral presentations, and creative performances. You can be at any stage of your graduate work to participate, not just finishing up. Wherever you are in your program, you can gain experience in presenting your work before an audience by participating in the symposium. Talk with your faculty advisor to determine what category to participate in.

Finally, in closing, I would like to welcome our new staff member in the Graduate College – our new secretary Rubina Chowdhury! Rubina joined us at the end of October and is a welcome addition to the office. Come by and say hi to her and all of us!

Have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,

Kavita Dhanwada

CURRENT FACULTY PROFILE

RICHARD GLOCKNER



Richard Glockner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at UNI. As an undergraduate, he majored in English and minored in Psychology at New York University, completing his studies in 1972. Glockner later received a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Temple University in 1978 and then moved to New York City where he pursued

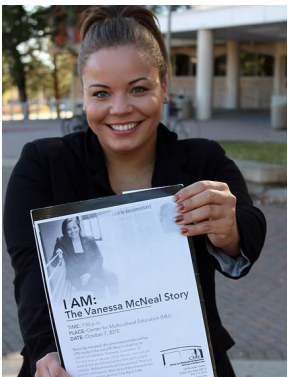
acting jobs, continued his actor training with many teachers, and "did a lot of catering." In addition, Glockner co-founded and was assistant artistic director of The Actor's Space Inc., an Off-Broadway theatre company and actor training program in New York City from 1979-1990. He was also an Instructor of Acting at Temple University from 1986-1988 and then became an assistant professor there from 1988-1991. Glockner started as an associate professor at UNI in 1991. When asked what attracted him to UNI Glockner stated, "The people, faculty and staff of the Theatre Department at UNI were what initially attracted me to the job. The

head of the Theatre Department at Temple University, Robert Hedley, had taught at University of Iowa and he was highly complementary of UNI's Theatre Department." Glockner's aspirations for the Theatre Department at UNI consists of renovating physical facilities that are too small for the program's growth and do not serve the needs of theatre in 21st century training and offering an emphasis in performing musical theatre.

Glockner's accomplishments as an actor include soap operas such as *One Life to Live* and *The Doctors*, numerous theatrical appearances in New York City, regional theatre, film work, and commercial work. He said he also sees himself as an acting teacher and director. In 2014, he played the painter Mark Rothko in a production of the play *Red*, in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Since 2006 he has been annually invited to teach and direct for a theatre company in the Gaza Strip called Theatre Day Productions. Glockner has been invited again for 2016. His latest theoretical interest in acting and directing techniques is the Etude Method taught at the St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia.

CURRENT STUDENT PROFILE

VANESSA MCNEAL



Vanessa McNeal, an MSW student, graduated from Iowa State University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child, Adult, and Family Services with a minor in Criminal Justice. She chose to come to the University of Northern Iowa because she was really impressed with the quality of the Social Work Program and it was a nice distance from her family. When asked about her transition from

undergraduate to graduate work, McNeal said, "I did experience some challenges in my transition, mostly because I didn't know anyone when I moved here. It was really hard to transition alone, but my cohort is amazing so it didn't take long for me to feel comfortable. Academically, I prepared myself to be challenged so I believe my transition there was smooth." McNeal's short term goal as a graduate student is to be successful in her program, to really challenge herself academically, and excel at her internship placement.

She is also working on a new film project to continue to create awareness around the topics of sexual violence and trauma. Her documentary, "I Am" was a testimony of her experiences with childhood neglect, familial sexual abuse, sexual assault, and her overall experience with trauma. The filming process started in January 2015 when she paired up with PLVTO productions and began filming the documentary. The documentary was released in July 2015 and since then has received an outpouring of support. McNeal exclaimed, "I couldn't have asked for a better response. I wanted to raise awareness and give hope to survivors who haven't been able to find their voice yet." She wanted students to understand that trauma is very complex and that healing is lifelong. McNeal reflected "I am extremely successful, but that doesn't mean that I don't struggle at times because of experiences. I want students who experience trauma to know that life gets easier, it won't always be easy, but it gets easy." Information and links to her documentary can be found at www.vanessamcneal.com.

In her free time, she says she likes to surround herself with loved ones, family, and friends. She also enjoys reading, listening to music, boxing, and spending time in nature.



Stephanie Johnson graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2006 with a Master of Arts degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical Science and a focus on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Johnson has been a Clinical Research Coordinator for the past five years at Emory University - School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and

Behavioral Science. Johnson has been responsible for managing non-clinical and clinical trials focused on first episode psychosis and early phase schizophrenia. She said, "I have wanted to work in research on schizophrenia since college particularly because my mother was diagnosed with this disorder before I was born. Since graduating from college, three of my cousins have also been diagnosed with schizophrenia-spectrum disorders." Aside from this work, she launched a behavioral health consulting company, NaviPsych, LLC, in March of this year. Johnson's company offers several services including mental health education training for mental health organizations, governmental agencies, schools, and community organizations, empathetic interviewing of first episode and early phase schizophrenia patients, psycho-education training on schizophrenia, career and personal development coaching to psychology majors and early career mental health professionals. NaviPsych also collaborates with other organizations for mental health advocacy. NaviPsych launched the Georgia Campaign to Change Direction, a local affiliate of the national Campaign to Change Direction, in October 2015. This is mental health awareness campaign that encourages the public to know the five signs of emotional suffering or distress: personality change, agitation, withdrawal, poor self-care, and hopelessness.

Though Johnson expected to have a PhD in Clinical Psychology by now, she realized that she needed more research experience

in the area she is most passionate about: schizophrenia. This was her focus when she entered UNI; however, her advisor at the time changed his research focus from schizophrenia while she was on his research team, and she adapted to this change by finding another topic of interest: African Americans and suicide. This switch was a pivotal transition in Johnson's career interests and goals. After completing her thesis on this topic and returning to Atlanta, she met and worked for one of the psychologists whom she'd referenced multiple times in her thesis, Dr. Nadine Kaslow. Johnson said, "Working for Dr. Kaslow led to a full-time position on a different research team conducting a study on first episode psychosis." Additionally, Johnson attributes much of her success at UNI to Dr. Augustine Osman, who is now a psychology professor at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Johnson, an African American from Atlanta, one of the most historic cities for African Americans in the United States, found adapting to Cedar Falls very challenging during her first year. However, Dr. Osman advised her that leaving the program wouldn't solve that problem and more African Americans are needed in the field to help with systemic occurrences. Johnson began working with him and learned how to think of her training as applicable across various levels of her field; clinically and non-clinically. Johnson suggests that current graduate students do what she was challenged to do by Dr. Osman, "Think of your training as so skilled and specialized that you can utilize them in traditional and non-traditional careers. Try to be open enough about your future to recognize your intrinsic strengths and talents, but focused enough to recognize how to tailor your career to best fit those strengths and talents. Be encouraged by thinking out of the box to find ways to use advanced training in psychology to improve our society in all sectors."

In her free time, Johnson enjoys spending time with her husband Aaron, who is a musician and a high school band director and her two sons, Aaron Jr., who is four years old and Amani, who is three years old. She enjoys taking them to Barnes & Noble and the park. To learn more about NaviPsych, LLC, check out their website at <http://navipsychllc.wix.com/navipsych#!about/c1envr>

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, & LEISURE SERVICES LUNCHEON:

The second annual Leisure, Youth, and Human Services (LYHS) Luncheon was on October 8, 2015 in the Faculty Lounge of the Wellness & Recreation Center. The luncheon was coordinated by Jennifer Stevens, LYHS graduate student. Approximately 45 students, faculty, and staff attended the event, where faculty and students discussed their research interests. The luncheon has been a successful way for students to network and build relationships with fellow students and get to know faculty and staff members.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ACADEMIC FUND



When asked what Dr. Nancy Hill Cobb would like graduate students to know about the Intercollegiate Academic Fund (IAF), she responded that it is sometimes tough to know what it is really about. Everyone's future is different, however, whether

students are on the PhD track or earning their Master's degree, the IAF supports research required to get a degree. There are funds available for traveling to conferences, research, contributions for participants, and more.

Dr. Cobb also mentioned that no matter what, it is great experience to fill out the application. When asked what common mistakes are made during the application process, Dr. Cobb stated that many students (and professors) rush through the process. She advised taking your time, paying attention, and following the directions. Additionally, students should be very aware of the deadline for the application. Furthermore, students should pay close attention to the specific conference, symposium, recital, or other event that they are applying to as well. To qualify for funding, students must receive a merit based invitation outside of University of Northern Iowa.

Overall, Dr. Cobb wants students to understand that the Intercollegiate Academic Funding is not money from the Provost office. This is student fee money, which in turn, is student government oriented. So take advantage of this opportunity and apply!

You can find the application form and deadline information at <http://www.uni.edu/provost/IAF>

PERSONALITY PREDICTORS OF PROSOCIAL PERSONALITY ACROSS THE UNITED STATES & INDIA

Psychology student Salomi Aladia presented her original research poster, "Personality Predictors of Prosocial Personality across the United States & India" at the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). This regional conference was on July 28 - 31. The IACCP conference invites researchers from across the world to exchange ideas related to culture and psychology. Salomi Aladia was the recipient of the "Travel Award" from IACCP and the Provost Global Opportunities Scholarship from UNI. She received \$600 from IACCP and \$1,000 as a part of the scholarship to support her attendance for the conference.

2015 GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL MIXER

The 2015 Graduate Student Social Mixer was on Monday, October 26 in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Thirty five graduate students, faculty, and staff from a variety of programs attended the event to socialize, network, and discuss ideas for creating graduate community.

Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, acted as a moderator to facilitate discussion about building graduate student community. Students provided feedback and recommendations based on current events and opportunities within their programs and cohorts, and made suggestions for the Graduate College staff to consider implementing in the future. These suggestions included professional development opportunities, research groups, conference presentation practice sessions, volunteerism, and more casual gathering options such as meeting for coffee.

If you have any ideas for possible graduate events or activities, email susan.schwieger@uni.edu.

ALUMNI PROFILE

ELLIOTT L. HOFTS



Elliott L. Hofts earned her Master of Social Work on the Clinical/Micro track from the University of Northern Iowa in May of 2011. Hofts is currently employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or the Iowa City VA Healthcare System. She also has an office location at the Waterloo VA Clinic. Hofts serves veterans in Waterloo, Dubuque, and Decorah by providing mental health and substance abuse counseling at the outpatient clinics. Before working for the Department of Veteran Affairs, Hofts worked as a homeless outreach social worker for the

VA. In that position, she provided outreach services to veterans in northeast Iowa who were homeless or at risk for homelessness. "My experience in the MSW program at the University of Northern Iowa was invaluable" said Hofts in the University of Northern Iowa's Department of Social Work newsletter. "Not only were we supported by our professors and encouraged to be the best we could be, but we were given the education that set us up for success in our profession. I would not be where I am in my career without the exceptional education and support I received throughout UNI's MSW graduate program."

To learn more about the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, check out their website at <https://va.iowa.gov/>

UNI GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS WIN THE GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION AT REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY MEETING

At the 2015 meeting of the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers, UNI graduate students swept the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for the graduate student research poster competition, beating out MA and PhD students from across a seven-state region. The annual West Lakes meeting was held October 15-17 in Eau Claire, Wis. The West Lakes division includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin and is comprised of 47 member universities.

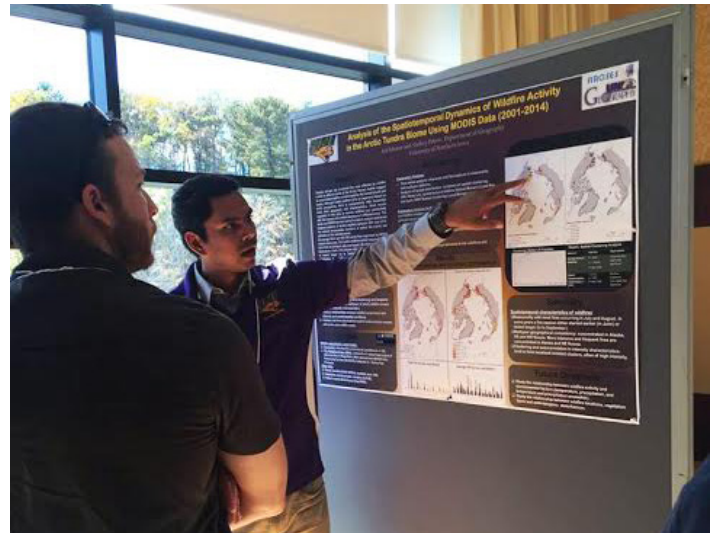
Emily Francis received 1st place for her research, "Analyzing Winter Activities of Wild Taimyr Reindeer Using Argos Satellite Collars."

Athila Gevaerd Montibeller took 2nd place for his research, "Monitoring Drought Conditions in Western Santa Catarina State,

Brazil, between 2001 and 2010 using MODIS NDVI and TRMM Precipitation Data."

Arif Masrur won 3rd place with his research, "Analysis of the Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Wildfire Activity in the Tundra Biome Using MODIS Data (2001-2014)."

Additionally, Narmina Lusubova presented her research on "3D Visualization of Wind Environment Data by Software with Open Programming Code" and Dylan Nielsen presented his research, "A New Wind Resources Characterization Map for Iowa: Developing Multispectral Empirically-Driven Land-Cover Sensitive Methodology."



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

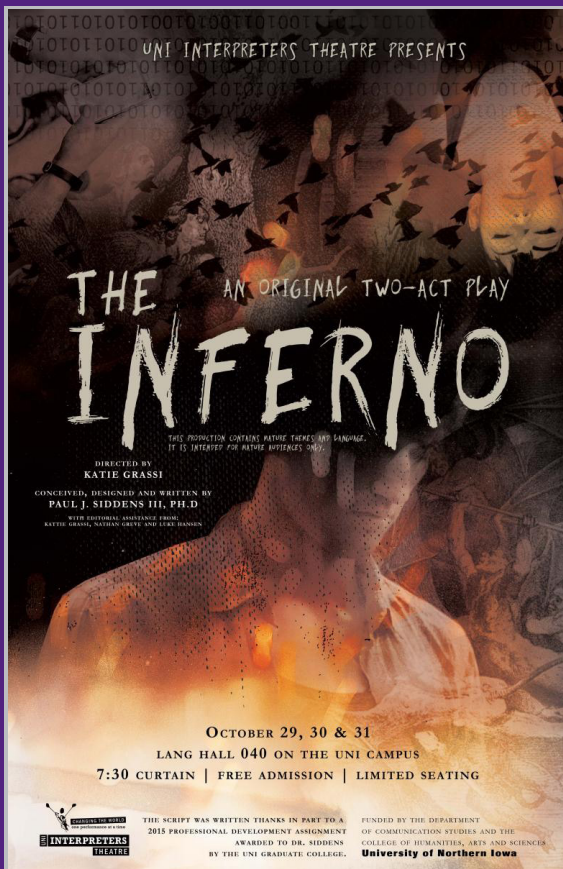
This month's Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting was on November 4th from 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. in the Center for Multicultural Education (CME). The meeting commenced with Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, welcoming members and making announcements about events in the Graduate College. These announcements included a recap of the Graduate Student Social Mixer, which took place on October 26, and information on the 9th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, which will be on April 6, 2016.

Registration for the 9th Annual Graduate Student Symposium will open on December 7. The symposium will feature three categories: Oral Presentations, Poster Presentations, and Creative Performances. Dean Dhanwada and Associate Graduate Dean Barbara Cutter plan on emphasizing to judges the importance of their feedback to student participants.

News from the Northern Iowan Student Government (NISG) included two new graduate senators, Sunny Teeling and Jeremy Rosel. Member Shera Steele announced the Know Your Rental Rights event on November 11. Hosted by the NISG and Cedar Falls Police, this event focused on information regarding rental rights of tenants and landlords. Additional discussion included the new Graduate College Facebook group, UNI Grad Chat. The group is open to all current UNI graduate students as a place to discuss concerns, ask questions, socialize, and help build graduate student community. For information about UNI Grad Chat, email hansocan@uni.edu.

The next GSAB meeting will be January 27, 2016. For questions, suggestions, and information regarding the GSAB, email susan.schwieger@uni.edu. Don't forget to "like" the UNI Graduate College on Facebook and follow @UNIGradCollege on Twitter!

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES: OCTOBER: THE INFERNO



The October Brown Bag lecture, "The Inferno: Writing and Producing an Original Play at UNI," showcased the UNI Interpreters Theater production and highlighted the work of Dr. Paul J. Siddens of the Communication Studies department, student director Katie Grassi, and the cast and crew of the play.

The Inferno is the second part of a project created by Dr. Siddens as part of a Professional Development Assignment (PDA) awarded by the Graduate College. The first part of the trilogy, *The Summoning*, was based on the English play "The Summoning of Everyman." His current work is based on Dante's *Inferno*, which tells the story of Dante Alighieri's journey through the circles of Hell. In this version of the tale, the protagonist's name is Danny. With the guidance of Authentica, he explores the modernized circles of Hell governed by Electronica.

Katie Grassi, a senior Public Relations major, served as the student director. This was her first time directing a show instead of performing, and though it was challenging at times, she found it was a positive experience as a student and artist. The cast discussed their challenges as well, which included playing multiple roles of extreme characters throughout the play. For the directors, the biggest challenge was scheduling rehearsals around an array of classes and activities. The cast contained many younger students who found that being in this production was a great way to meet people and get to know UNI. The *Inferno* had around 25 people involved in its production, including cast and crew members. The cast rehearsed for eight weeks leading up to the performances on October 29, 30, and 31. The performances garnered a full house for all three nights.

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.

The Graduate College | 110 Lang Hall | (319) 273-2748 | www.grad.uni.edu

Dr. Kavita Dhanwada

Interim Dean of the Graduate College,
Interim Associate Provost for
Academic Affairs, Professor of Biology
kavita.dhanwada@uni.edu

Dr. Barbara Cutter

Interim Associate Dean for
Graduate Academic Affairs,
Associate Professor of History
barbara.cutter@uni.edu

Susie Schwieger

Director of Graduate Student
susan.schwieger@uni.edu

Lisa Steimel

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

Janet Witt

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

Rubina Chowdhury

Secretary II
rubina.chowdhury@uni.edu

Abbie Gacke

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

Carly Hanson

Graduate Assistant for Online Content
hanscan@uni.edu

Cori Austin

Graduate Assistant for Graduate
Professional and Community
Development
austicab@uni.edu



Graduate College
110 Lang Hall
Cedar Falls, IA 50614
Phone: (319) 273-2748
Fax: (319) 273-2243

www.grad.uni.edu