Greetings from the Graduate College!

As we wrap up the semester, please enjoy our final newsletter for the 2017-2018 academic year. This was a busy and exciting year in the Graduate College. With the support of graduate students, faculty, and staff the Graduate College was able to provide valuable learning experiences and build a stronger graduate community. We hosted events such as Professional Development Workshops, New Graduate Student Orientation for Students Enrolled in On Campus Programs, Social Mixers, Brown Bag Seminars, Thinking About Graduate School for undergraduate students, and a very successful 11th Annual Graduate Student Symposium.

Over 50 presenters and performers shared their scholarship and creativity with the university community as a part of the 11th Annual Graduate Student Symposium. Congratulations not only to the winners, but to everyone who participated in the Symposium and made it a very successful event. I would especially like to extend many thanks to the faculty who served as judges for the event. A list of winners, participants, and judges is included on the next pages. The Symposium Program is on our website at https://www.grad.uni.edu/graduate-student-symposium.

Special congratulations to all the students who will be graduating this week. I wish you good luck on your next adventures! Commencement ceremonies will be held on May 4th and May 5th in the McLeod Center. For more information review https://registrar.uni.edu/graduation-and-commencement. Also I would ask that you fill out the End of the Program Survey you received from me. Please complete this survey by May 15, 2018. The information on your graduate experience provides valuable feedback to the Graduate College.

As you reflect on this academic year, remember to express your gratitude to those who have positively impacted your UNI graduate experience.

Enjoy your summer,

Dr. Patrick Pease
11th Annual Graduate Student Symposium Participants

**Poster Presentations**

Amani Al Rebeh, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Andrea Anderson, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Rebecca Brown, M.S.W. Social Work
Sage Comstock, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Michael Curtis, M.A. TESOL
Antoinette Fleming, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Christina Fortuna, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Anna Garner, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Hailey Hatch, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Shehreen Iqtadar, Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Nathan Lewey, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Qingshan Liang, D.I.T. Technology
Qi Lu, M.S. Technology
Zachary Meehan, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Christopher Pierce, M.A. Geography
Nicole Pothen, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Kristin Rooff, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Ayan Sasmal, M.A. Geography
Jacee Schneider, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology
Dessy Stoycheva, Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Hamid Tahery, D.I.T. Technology
Emma Welch, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Yi Yi Zhang, M.A. Geography
Alivia Zubrod, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology

**Judges**

Dr. Maureen Clayton, Department of Biology
Dr. Christina Curran, Department of Special Education
Dr. Dale Cyphert, Department of Management
Dr. James Dietrich, Department of Geography
Dr. Heather Kennedy, School of Applied Human Sciences
Dr. Sadik Kucukkara, Department of Technology
Dr. Elizabeth Lefler, Department of Psychology
Dr. Matthew Makarios, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
Dr. Lisa Millsaps, Department of Geography
Dr. David Saunders, Department of Biology
Dr. Ali Tabei, Department of Physics
Dr. Leila Rod-Welch, Rod Library

**Oral Presentations**

Kim Abeyta, M.M. Flute Performance
Marie Elomba Adebiyi, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Dane Atkins, M.A. Geography
Belinda Creighton-Smith, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Stanley Ebode, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Darlene Fitkin, M.S.W. Social Work
Brian Hadley, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Carole Hanksbrough, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Matthew Hill, M.A. History
Mahjabeen Hussain, Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Marwa Ibrahim, M.A. TESOL
Brian Jesteardt, M.A. History: Public History
Alba Karuni, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Tsering Kyi, M.A. Women's and Gender Studies
Hannah Lane, M.A. English: English Literature
Joyce Levinstone, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Younis Al-Hassan, Ed.D. Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services
Fiddelis Makaula, Ed.D. Educational Leadership
Rana Moustaafa, M.A. TESOL
Alexander Newkirk, M.A. History
Alex Pauls, M.A. History: Public History
Pujaningsih Pujaningsih, Ed.D. Educational Leadership
Ismael Quinones, M.A. Communication Studies: General Communication
Clarissa Ruiz, M.S. Biology
Abbie Shew, M.A. Communication Studies: General Communication
Emily Snodgrass, M.A. History: Public History

**Judges**

Dr. Peter Berendzen, Department of Biology
Dr. Tom Hall, Department of Communication Studies
Dr. Ashleigh Kysar-Moon, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
Dr. Gayle Pohl, Department of Communication Studies
Dr. Lisa Riedle, Department of Technology
Ms. Marcy Seavey, UNI STEM Program
Dr. Roberto Swazo, School of Applied Human Sciences
Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, McNair Scholars Program

**Creative Performances**

Monica Chen, M.M. Violin Performance
Elizabeth Dickhut, M.A. English: English Studies
Moriah Henkelman, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Arielle Irvine, M.A. English: Creative Writing
James Keane, M.A. English: English Studies
Leia Lensing, M.M. Music: Vocal Performance
Adrienne Lloyd, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Randi Smith, M.A. English: Creative Writing

**Judges**

Dr. Cayla Bellamy, School of Music
Dr. David Grant, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Grant Tracey, Department of Languages & Literatures
Dr. Anthony Williams, School of Music
11th Annual Graduate Student Symposium
Scholarship Award Winners

Poster Presentations
First Place: Hailey Hatch, M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology
Second Place: Shehreen Iqtadar, Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Third Place: Kristin Rooff, M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science
Honorable Mention: Jacee Schneider and Nicole Pothen, M.A. Speech-Language Pathology

Oral Presentations
Oak Room
First Place: Rana Moustafa, M.A. TESOL
Presidential Room
First Place: Abbie Shew, M.A. Communication Studies: General Communication
Second Place: Kim Abeyta, M.M. Flute Performance
State College Room
First Place: Mahjabeen Hussain, Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Second Place: Darlene Fikkin, M.S.W. Social Work
University Room
First Place: Manwa Ibrahim, M.A. TESOL
Second Place: Fiddeis Makaula, Ed.D. Educational Leadership

Creative Performances
First Place: Moriah Henkelman, M.A. English: Creative Writing
Second Place: James Keane, M.A. English: English Studies
Third Place: Leia Lensing, M.M. Music: Vocal Performance

Above, Adrianne Lloyd, shared her Creative Writing piece entitled *The Moth Eaters.*


Above, Marie Elomba Adebiyi and Belinda Creighton-Smith as well as Carole Hansbrough (not pictured) co-presented *Spirituality, Cultural Heritage and Leisure.*

Above, Monica Chen entertained the audience with her violin performance.

Above, Shehreen Iqtadar shared her poster with Dr. James Dietrich.

Above, Qingshan Liang, presented his poster to judges Dr. Leila Rod-Welch and Dr. Ali Tabei.

Above, Jacee Schneider Zoomed in her fellow co-presenter Nicole Pothen for their Poster Presentation.
Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention

On April 14th, UNI’s Counseling Program hosted the annual UNI Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention. By the day of the walk, $24,022 was raised in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The money donated will help raise awareness of suicide as well as invest in research, educational programs, advocacy for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Approximately 150 individuals attended the walk, despite suboptimal weather conditions. The keynote speaker was a world-renowned mental health advocate Kevin Hines (pictured below), whose story about surviving a suicide attempt after jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge has reached millions of people. His story has inspired others to talk about mental health and provided hope for recovery for individuals across the globe. You can view Kevin’s entire story at http://www.kevinhinesstory.com/. The committee chairs would like to thank everyone who participated in the walk as well as those who provided their generous donations for making a difference and helping to fight suicide. See related story on page 6.

Frank and Otelia Kraft Scholarship Recipient

The recipient of the Frank and Otelia Kraft Scholarship was Elizabeth Dickhut. Nominator Dr. David Grant stated he nominated her because of her outstanding leadership in the department in helping and motivating her fellow graduate students to submit conference proposals and attend national conferences. Her work has been presented both nationally and internationally both in the U.S. and Australia. He added that Elizabeth has scored high on her exams, excelled in coursework, and taught first-year composition courses to undergraduates. Elizabeth’s scholarship focuses on gender representations in digital spaces and how it may help human rights and equality for women.

Photo from left to right: Dr. David Grant, Elizabeth Dickhut, and Dr. Kay Stenstrud

The Frank and Otelia Kraft Scholarship was awarded to an English or TESOL graduate student with at least six hours of graduate coursework in the UNI Department of Languages & Literatures, including Introduction to Graduate Study in English or Introduction to Graduate Study in TESOL with a minimum GPA of 3.33. The scholarship award is $750-$800.

Graduate College Awards

Student Awards

Outstanding Master’s Thesis Awards
First Place: Ryan Lockard, M.S. Biology
Leishmania Infantum Infection at the Cellular and Organismal Levels: Foamy Macrophages and Sex-Dependent Responses
Advisor: Dr. Nilda Rodriguez

Second Place: Stephanie Strong, M.A. Psychology
Psychoeducational Module to Promote Knowledge and Reduce Stigma Towards Recreational Marijuana Users
Advisor: Dr. Dilbur Arsiwalla

Third Place: Camille Marie, M.A. Psychology
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Stigma: Accurate and Inaccurate Portrayals in Electronic Media
Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Lefler

Outstanding Master’s Research Paper Award
First Place: Elizabeth Jacobs, M.S.W. Social Work
Bringing Families Back Together
Advisor: Dr. William Downs

Faculty Awards

James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award
Dr. Michael D. Waggoner, Department of Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education

Distinguished Scholar Award
Dr. Nageswara R. Posinasetti, Department of Technology

Graduate Faculty Teaching Award
Dr. Hemingiild M. Mpundu, Department of Accounting
Alumni Recognition Project
The UNI Graduate College Outstanding Alumni Recognition Project was initiated by the Graduate College in 2013 to recognize distinguished alumni. Since its inception, nearly 100 alumni from over 30 graduate programs have been nominated by their faculty. In addition to receiving a Certificate of Recognition, individuals are highlighted in the Graduate College's display case located adjacent to 110 Lang. This visual display includes alumni photos with educational and employment information. Also included are reflections on their UNI graduate education experience. Each individual will also receive a photo of their displayed information.

Department heads and graduate coordinators were asked for their programs' nominations by the Graduate College in January 2018. The Graduate College then invited nominated alumni to the UNI Graduate College Outstanding Alumni Recognition Project.

The university community is invited to visit the display which will be rotated monthly. The following alumni are recognized:

Dr. Jennifer Bellingtier
M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology, University of Northern Iowa, 2006
Ph.D. Psychology, North Carolina State University, 2017
Postdoctoral Scientist at University of Jena in Jena, Germany

Andrea Smit Boeriger
M.A. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Northern Iowa, 2008
Owner and Therapist at Bloom and Learn & The Speech Mom in Sioux Falls, SD

Lisa Chizek
M.A. Science Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2012
Science Teacher Grades 4-6 at North Tama Elementary School and District STEM Coordinator in Traer, IA

Dr. Scott Dailey
M.A. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Northern Iowa, 1993
Ph.D. Speech and Hearing Sciences, University of Iowa, 2009
Director of the Speech & Swallowing Clinic at The University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City, IA

Jordan Dunn
M.S.W. Social Work, University of Northern Iowa, 2011
Outreach Office Coordinator and Substance Abuse Counselor at Pathways Behavioral Services in Waterloo, IA

Dr. Johnanna Ganz
M.A. Women's and Gender Studies, University of Northern Iowa, 2011
Ph.D. American Cultural Studies, Bowling Green State University, 2015
National Rural Technical Assistance Projects Coordinator at Sexual Violence Justice Institute in Saint Paul, MN

Holly Hinkhouse Garcia
M.A. Science Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2013
High School Chemistry and Physical Science Teacher at Riverside High School in Oakland, IA

Laura Goetz
M.A. Women's Studies, University of Northern Iowa, 1997
Managing Editor at the Journal of the AAOS at American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in Rosemont, IL

Dr. Roark Horn
Ed.D. Doctorate of Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2011
Advanced Studies Certificate in Superintendency, University of Northern Iowa
Advanced Studies Certificate in Educational Leadership-Principalship, University of Northern Iowa
Executive Director at School Administrators of Iowa in Clive, IA

Dr. Ana Houseal
M.A. Science Education, University of Northern Iowa, 1998
Ph.D. Secondary and Continuing Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2010
Associate Professor/ Science Outreach Educator for the Science and Mathematics Teaching Center at University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY

Jennifer Jansen
M.A.E. Early Childhood Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2016
Early Childhood Consultant at Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency in Bettendorf, IA

Dawn Johnson
M.A.E. Early Childhood Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2015
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Teacher & Early Childhood Consultant at Kids World & Great Prairie AEA in Centerville & Ottumwa, IA

Dr. Resa Kelly
M.A. Science Education, University of Northern Iowa, 2000
Ph.D. Chemistry, Chemistry Education, University of Northern Colorado, 2005
Professor of Chemistry & Science Education at San José State University in San José, CA

Cassie Nieman
M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science, University of Northern Iowa, 2012
Children's Mental Health Case Manager at Canvas Health in Oakdale, MN

Dr. Bradley Okdie
M.A. Psychology: Social Psychology, University of Northern Iowa, 2007
Ph.D. Social Psychology, University of Alabama, 2011
Associate Professor of Psychology at The Ohio State University at Newark in Newark, OH

Dr. Jarrett Pfrimmer
M.S. Biology, University of Northern Iowa, 2013
Ph.D. Fish and Wildlife Sciences, South Dakota State University, 2016
Director, Department of Natural Resources at Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa in Tama, IA

Christopher Sparks
M.S.W. Social Work, University of Northern Iowa, 2009
M.A. Public Administration, University of Missouri, Kansas City, 1989
Executive Director at Exceptional Persons, Inc. (EPI) in Waterloo, IA

Ashley Sparks
M.A. Psychology: Clinical Science, University of Northern Iowa, 2011
J.D. Law, Drake University Law School, 2013
Attorney/Owner at Cooper, Goedicke, Reimer & Reese Law Firm in West Des Moines, IA

Dr. Julie Stierwalt
M.A. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Northern Iowa, 1989
Ph.D. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Iowa, 1997
Senior Associate Consultant at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN

Brittany Van Arkel
M.A. Industrial Organizational Psychology, University of Northern Iowa, 2011
Program Manager, Amazon GO at Amazon in Seattle, WA

Jason Woods
M.A. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Northern Iowa, 1994
Director of Integrated Healthcare Services at PreferredOne in Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Juliann Woods
M.A. Speech-Language Pathology, University of Northern Iowa, 1997
Ph.D. Special Education, University of Oregon, 1990
Associate Dean of Research, College of Communication and Information; Professor, School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL

Dr. Sigiqin Yang
M.A. Women's Studies, University of Northern Iowa, 2000
M.S. English and Project Management, Wuhan University, 1997
Ph.D. Comparative and International Development Education, University of Minnesota, 2008
Associate Director for International Education at the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN
Abbie Shew, Communication Studies graduate student, has completed two years of a Graduate Research Assistantship under Dr. Christopher Martin for the Science in the Media Project. The project, supported by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, is designed to help journalists better cover science and environmental issues, particularly as they relate to Iowa. Abbie wrote abstracts for science research articles and helped to build other content for the website http://scienceinmedia.org/. The project has so far resulted in two major journalism projects developed in partnership with Cedar Falls High School journalism students and IowaWatch, a nonprofit investigative journalism organization.

In 2017, as a result of these partnerships, Dr. Martin and Abbie developed an extensive report on nitrate levels in drinking water, particularly in Cedar Falls, and the story was published in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier, The Des Moines Register, The Cedar Rapids Gazette, The Cedar Falls Tiger Hi-Line, and IowaWatch at http://www.iowawatch.org/2017/06/02/cedar-falls-fights-drinking-water-nitrates-battle/. A full investigative report regarding Iowa’s 333 PK-12 public school districts’ pesticide exposure risk is to be published in May 2018 by http://www.iowawatch.org/. Dr. Martin and Abbie found a connection with nearby croplands and an increase in pesticide exposure risk for students and teachers.

Robert Runkle Endowed Scholarship in Social Work:
The Robert Runkle Endowed Scholarship in Social Work was awarded to Rebecca Egen and Nicole Reilly. Rebecca Egen is currently completing her first year in the M.S.W. program. She has experience with assisted living facilities and elder care, ABA therapy techniques with individuals with autism, residential treatment facility care for youth, and is currently completing an internship with Allen Hospital in Waterloo. Nicole Reilly is a first generation college graduate and is in the M.S.W. Distance Education Program. Nicole started working with at risk children in high school and after graduate from college worked with children who have autism where she eventually became a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst. She has been interning since August 2017 at Orchard Place’s Child Guidance Center in Des Moines. The Robert Runkle Endowed Scholarship in Social Work honors the memory of Robert Runkle, a prominent local social worker, and was established by Mr. Runkle’s wife, Sue, after Bob’s death in 2010. Bob was the executive director of Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center for 16 years. This scholarship was awarded to a current M.S.W. student who intends to become a licensed social worker.

Outstanding Graduate Service Award:
Rebecca Brown was chosen, in consultation with the M.S.W. Student Social Work Association, to receive the Outstanding Graduate Service Award. She has exemplified outstanding service and dedication through university and community involvement. She is the president of the Masters of Social Work Student Association and has been active in bringing guest speakers to campus to share their work and wisdom with our campus community. Rebecca is currently interning with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at the Coralville Out-Patient Mental Health Clinic as she prepares for her graduation in May 2018.

Outstanding Graduate Research Paper Award:
Rebecca Brown received the Outstanding Graduate Research Paper Award which recognizes remarkable scholarship by an M.S.W. student. Rebecca conducted a thorough literature review showing that among combat veterans ACE scores contributed to PTSD over and above combat stress.

The UNI Job Board, managed by Career Services, focuses on helping students and alumni locate contacts, jobs, and preprofessional experience. Providing access to over 4,300 employers and 5,000 recruiter contacts, the Job Board is a pathway to locate positions across the state of Iowa and US. With nearly 7,000 unique jobs posted annually (1,000 internships, 3,500 full-time, 2,500 additional experiences), UNI students and alumni will have opportunities to grow professionally, earn money, and gain new experiences. The Job Board login uses the same login information as your email and MyUNIverse. You can access the Job Board through https://careerservices.uni.edu/. The Job Board is powered by Symplicity, the largest college to career connecting system in the United States. If you are graduating in May 2018 you will need to re-register as an alumni by going here: https://uni-csm.symplicity.com/students/. There is no charge for this service. Contact Career Services at (319)-273-6857 with any questions.
Summer Activities Around the Cedar Valley

Need some inspiration for summer fun in the Cedar Valley? Check out our list and see how many you can cross off by August!

Books, Music, Movies & More
- Cedar Falls Library [http://www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us/]
- Waterloo Library [https://www.waterloopubliclibrary.org]

Buy Fresh, Buy Local
- College Hill Farmer's Market in Cedar Falls [http://www.collegehillpartnership.org/]
- Downtown Cedar Falls Farmer's Market [https://cedarfallsfarmersmarket.net/]

Catch Some Rays
- Lost Island Waterpark in Waterloo [http://www.thelostisland.com/]
- The Falls in Cedar Falls [http://www.ci.cedar-falls.ia.us/397/Pool-Information-Recreation-Lap-Swim-Hou]
- Waterloo Leisure Services Aquatics [http://www.waterlooleisureservices.org/sports/aquatics]

General Travel Information
- Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau [http://www.cedarfallstourism.org/]
- Travel Iowa, Iowa Tourism Office [https://www.traveliowa.com/]
- Waterloo Convention and Visitors’ Center [http://www.travelwaterloo.com/]

Night Life
- Marcus Theatres, College Square Cinema and Crossroads Cinema [http://www.marcustheatres.com/]
- Movie Under the Moon in Cedar Falls [http://www.communitymainstreet.org/]
- Movies on the Cedar in Waterloo [http://www.mywaterloodays.org/moviesonthecedar]

Outdoor Recreation
- Parks [http://www.cedarfallstourism.org/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/parks/]
- Trails [http://www.cedarfallstourism.org/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/trails/]

Sizzling Summer Festivals
- Cedar Basin Jazz Festival in Cedar Falls [http://www.cedarbasinjazz.org/]
- Cedar Falls Community Main Street [http://www.communitymainstreet.org/]
- College Hill Arts Festival in Cedar Falls [http://collegehillartsfestival.org/]
- Iowa Irish Fest in Waterloo [http://iowairishfest.com/wordpress/]
- Main Street Waterloo [https://www.mainstreetwaterloo.org/]
- My Waterloo Days [http://www.mywaterloodays.org/]
- Sturgis Falls in Cedar Falls [http://www.sturgisfalls.org/]

Sports
- Waterhawks in Waterloo [http://waterhawks.org/]
- Waterloo Open in Waterloo [http://www.waterloopen.com/]
- Waterloo Bucks in Waterloo [https://northwoodsleague.com/waterloo-bucks/]

Do you have some awesome summer fun ideas? Please share them with the Graduate Community on UNI Grad Chat!
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/]

Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders
The 27th Annual Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders (ICCD) was held on Thursday, April 19th and Friday, April 20th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls. ICCD provides continuing education that is approved by the state of Iowa and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for speech-language pathology professionals. Areas of emphasis include adult and pediatrics. University of Northern Iowa’s ICCD is one of the few conferences in the United States that is student-led and organized completely by undergraduate and graduate students. The conference co-chairs this year were Karlee Peyton, graduate student, and Hannah Brummel, undergraduate student, with the assistance of their faculty advisor Suzanne Dripps. There were 183 attendees, 118 of them being graduate and undergraduate students and 65 of them being professionals. Eleven professional speakers spoke on a variety of topics within the field of speech-language pathology, educating local professionals and UNI graduate and undergraduate students. Ten UNI graduate students also presented their research at the event.

2018 ICCD Conference Planning Committee
Presenter Andrea Boerigter, M.A., CCC-SLP
Presenter Glenn Weybright, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F
Jocelyn Jenks and Morgan Powers
Liz O’Loughlin, Megan Lancaster, Joslyn Hicks, and Samantha Skaar
Bailey Wright and Megan Jordan
Rikki Barto, Karlee Peyton and Abbi Schupanitz
Student Accolades

School of Music

Megan Grey has advanced to the Semi-Finals round of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in NYC. She will be one of 24 singers to compete on the Metropolitan Opera Stage for placement in the Final round which consists of performances of arias with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. In June 2018, Megan will also be heading to San Francisco for the summer to take part in the Merola Opera Program as a Young Artist. She is one of 29 Young Artists selected from over 800 international applicants. Follow Megan’s adventures at www.facebook.com/greymezzo.

Department of Biology

Carmen Pellish, (Master of Science in Biology, May 2014) and Jessica Riebkes, (Master of Science, Biology May 2016) had papers accepted by Restoration Ecology. Both papers looked at the impact of granivores on the success of native tallgrass prairie restoration. Dr. Laura Jackson served as the research advisor for Carmen as well as for Jessica. Dr. Mark Sherrard brought both projects to fruition by preparing the graphs and reviewing the texts for publication. Carmen’s research quantified the impact of granivores on seed loss during prairie restoration by placing exclosures at the restoration site and comparing rates of seedling emergence between protected and non-protected areas. The following is the citation: Pellish C, Sherrard ME, Leytem P, Jackson L. L. Small vertebrate granivores reduce seedling emergence in native tallgrass prairie restoration. Restoration Ecology 26: 323-330. Jessica’s research tested whether the application of supplemental birdseed could effectively deter granivores from eating prairie seed during a restoration. She found that the application of supplemental seed successfully increased early seedling establishment at three restoration sites. The following is the citation: Riebkes J. L., Sherrard M. E. and Jackson L. L. Supplemental seed increases seedling establishment in roadside native prairie restoration. Restoration Ecology Online Early View Section at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rec.12699.

Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Alexis St. Clare, the Women’s and Gender Studies Outstanding Graduate Paper Award winner, presented “Anthropocentrism, The Other Face of Patriarchy: An Investigation into Patriarchal Attitudes and Perceptions of Non-Human Nature” at the CROW Forum on April 2 in Rod Library, Room 287. Alexis earned her Master of Arts degree in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) from UNI in December 2017 and is currently serving as an adjunct instructor in WGS.

Department of Languages and Literatures

The University of Northern Iowa’s Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Collegiate Chapter presented a session at the 2018 MTNA National Conference in Orlando, FL on March 19, 2018. The presenters were three graduate students, Jenna Klein (pictured right), Rebecca Nickles (pictured left) and Jordan Walker (pictured middle), who are currently earning their M.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. Their session, entitled “Community Outreach Initiative: A Model for Piano Instructors”, discussed the chapter’s experience teaching free piano lessons to children of Burmese Refugees affiliated with the non-profit organization EMBARC Iowa, as well as provided a model for developing similar community outreach initiatives.

School of Applied Human Sciences

Sarah Elm, a graduate student seeking her M.A. in School Counseling, was recently selected by the Iowa School Counselor Association Executive Committee to serve as the Graduate Student Chair. She will serve a year term in which she will facilitate communication with student organizations affiliated with the Iowa School Counselor Association.

Department of Biology

Elizabeth Dickhut, graduate student seeking her M.A. in English: English Studies, was funded to attend the Golden Key International Honour Society’s Asia Summit on February 8-10, 2018 in Melbourne, Australia. The activities included networking luncheons, speakers on the UN Sustainability Initiative, and a historical/cultural tour of the city.
Student Accolades

Department of Psychology


The 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention was held March 1-3 in Atlanta, GA.

Emma Welch and Dr. Adam Butler examined the effects of perceived discrimination on health outcomes in racial, gender and sexual orientation minorities, as moderated by social support and identity importance. Hailey Hatch and Dr. Helen Harton presented research examining region (i.e. U.S. Midwest vs. South) as a moderator between moral foundations and attitudes toward evolution and gay men/lesbian women.

Alba Karuní (pictured right) and Dr. Helen Harton presented their research on gender, STEM major choice, role congruity theory, and retention, finding that men tend to choose STEM majors more than women, and that men are better retained in STEM majors than women.

Chelsea Washburn (pictured left) presented her research on framing and eyewitness testimony.

Alivia Zubrod presented her work examining the relationship between negative emotionality and dimensions of psychological well-being, finding that different aspects of mindfulness mediated these relationships.

Melanie Reyes and her co-authors from Florida State University, Dr. Andrea Meltzer and Dr. James McNulty, presented their work on personality as predictors of sexual infidelity. Melanie won a $500 graduate travel award.

Pictured left to right: Alivia Zubrod, Dr. Andrew Hayes (noted statistician), Emma Welch, and Hailey Hatch

Department of Communication Studies

Mir Ashfaquzzaman and Ismael Quinones presented at the Central States Communication Association Annual Convention held April 4-7 in Milwaukee, WI.

Mir Ashfaquzzaman, who earned his Master of Arts Degree in Communication Studies with an Emphasis in Mass Communication in December 2017, presented his competitively selected research entitled, “Analyzing Rana Plaza Crisis Discourse from a Postcolonial Perspective: Implications for Identity and Crisis Communication Studies.” Mir has been accepted to The University of Iowa’s Ph.D. program in Communication Studies beginning Fall 2018.

Ismael Quinones, graduate student enrolled in the Communication Studies Program, was honored twice at the conference for his work. His paper “How Hamilton Tries to Please Everybody and Succeeds: A Mythic Analysis of the American Dream” received the award for Top Graduate Student Debut Paper Submission in the Rhetorical Theory and Analysis Division. The paper, developed in Dr. Ryan McGeough’s Rhetoric and Civic Culture Class, was also recognized on the Past Officer’s Debut Panel. That panel highlights the top debut papers from across the conference and is intended to showcase some of the most promising work of the discipline’s graduate students.

Abbie Shew, a graduate student in Communication Studies, has been accepted the Ph.D. program in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington. Since Fall 2016, she has been a graduate assistant for the Science in the Media project, under the project leader, Dr. Christopher Martin, in the Department of Communication Studies. During the summer of 2017, Abbie was a Wallace-Carver Fellow and Food Safety Education at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-FSIS, in Washington, D. C. As an undergraduate student at UNI she received a Bachelor of Science in Biology, serving as a research assistant in Dr. Michael Walter’s lab, and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. Abbie was a leading member of the UNI’s Collegiate Debate Team from 2012-2016 and served as a Senator and Cabinet Member in the Northern Iowa Student Government.
UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

What is the UNI Grad Student News?
UNI Grad Student News is a quarterly newsletter featuring news and updates concerning graduate education at the University of Northern Iowa. Each issue features profile stories on graduate students, faculty, staff, and notable alumni. UNI Grad Student News is unique in that it publishes news submitted directly from graduate students and faculty.

How and what can I submit as news?
Complete submission form at https://grad.uni.edu/online-submission-form. Submissions can include information about recent conferences you have attended, academic accomplishments, or upcoming departmental events.

We welcome your news!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR 2018-2019 NEWSLETTERS:
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE
NOVEMBER 15, 2018 FOR DECEMBER ISSUE
JANUARY 24, 2019 FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE
APRIL 11, 2019 FOR MAY ISSUE

Who receives the newsletter?
All graduate students, faculty, and staff receive the newsletter via email.

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