Welcome Graduate Students! We, the graduate community, are so excited you are here. Graduate School is life-changing, and it is yours to explore. As I shared at the Welcome New Graduate Students event, there are three areas I challenge you to explore this year – ideas, relationships, and experiences.

In your graduate program, you are able to explore ideas in the discipline you are passionate about. Your understanding of these ideas will deepen and begin to shift as you become an expert. Classes are an obvious place you will explore ideas, but I encourage you to find other spaces to explore ideas. Perhaps it is a hallway conversation after class with a faculty member. Maybe it is meeting another student at SideCar for further discussion. Possibly, you accept an offer to go to lunch with a visiting scholar.

Graduate School is full of relationships – your faculty mentor, your professors, your fellow students, your staff, and many other individuals. Take the time to explore these relationships; invest in them. You will need a community of people to support you over the course of your education. Start now to develop the support system that you need.

Finally, explore experiences. Take the opportunities presented to you. Within your department, it may be engaging in scholarship, an internship, or a capstone. It may be exploring a leadership position by being the student member on a committee. Within the Graduate College, you may find yourself attending professional development workshops such as Conquering the Cover Letter or Attending a Professional Conference. Perhaps it is joining a student organization like Muslim Students Association at UNI or Habitat for Humanity UNI. And, I challenge you to explore different experiences at UNI. It could be attending an event at Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center or a guest speaker. Take advantage of all that UNI and our community have to offer.

Know that the Graduate College, graduate faculty, and graduate staff are here to support you. And, when anyone asks, tell them how you have explored ideas, relationships, and experiences during your graduate education at UNI.

I cannot wait to hear how you are exploring opportunities during the 2019-2020 year!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Waldron, Ph.D.
Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Dean of the Graduate College
- Collaborates with faculty to oversee administration of graduate programs
- Supports and promotes graduate scholarly and creative research
- Cultivates community among graduate students, faculty and staff

Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life
- Organizes and implements events, such as the Graduate Student Symposium
- Leads professional development workshops
- Serves as the editor of the UNI Grad Student News

Rubina Chowdhury, Secretary
- Acts as main liaison between the Graduate College and various constituency groups regarding inquiries related to graduate education
- Processes Graduate College students and faculty forms
- Assists with administration of Graduate College Awards and other events

Dr. Gabriela Olivares, Associate Dean of the Graduate College
- Administers academic regulations and degree requirements
- Oversees graduate curriculum
- Facilitates Graduate College Awards

Kathryn Wohlpard, Thesis and Dissertation Reviewer and Digital Publication Coordinator
- Guides students through the thesis and dissertation completion process
- Collaborates with resources on campus to support scholarly and creative writing
- Assists with digital communications in the Graduate College

Lisa Steimel, Secretary
- Manages the Graduate Assistantships and Graduate College Tuition Scholarships, including verifying students meet requirements
- Responsible for the administration and accounting functions
- Works with IT to manage Graduate College electronic forms and processes

Sydney Cindrich, Graduate Assistant

Natalie Ita, Graduate Assistant

Grace Mertz, Graduate Assistant

Anna Wood, Office Assistant
Student Profile: Natalie Ita

**What is your master’s program?**
Speech-Language Pathology

**Where did you earn your undergraduate degree and in what?**
University of Northern Iowa - BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders

**What motivated you to attend UNI for your graduate education and pursue your current field?**
I was very impressed with my professors during my undergraduate studies and wanted to learn more about their perspectives clinically.

**Describe your previous work and volunteer experience.**
I have worked for HyVee as a cashier, an intern at Employee Benefit Systems (third party health insurance administrator), and now I am a GA with the Graduate College. I enjoy volunteering my time with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a Big in the mentorship program and at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center.

**What are your research interests?**
My research interests are the benefits and practicality of providing early interventions for children with developmental delays.

**What are your professional and career goals following your graduation from UNI?**
I am open at this time to working in a variety of settings (i.e. hospitals, Early Access, schools) and with a wide range of populations (adults and children). My number one goal is to have the clients I work with be grateful at the end of therapy to have been receiving services from me. I want my clients to feel like I care about them holistically.

**What are your leisure time interests?**
I enjoy spending time with friends and family, exercising (especially running), reading, writing, and crafting. I am open to trying most activities!

---

Student Profile: Grace Mertz

**What is your master’s program?**
Communication Studies (Performance Studies Emphasis)

**Where did you earn your undergraduate degree and in what?**
St. Cloud State University (St. Cloud, MN): English/Linguistics and Communication Studies

**What motivated you to attend UNI for your graduate education and pursue your current field?**
UNI offers a lot of opportunities to get hands-on performance experience, most notably through the Interpreters Theatre. I’m enjoying the chance to learn about the technical and managerial aspects of performance as well as the onstage parts! In terms of my career path in the field, I really value the power of performance to cross-cultural, religious, and interpersonal divides. It’s brought me into some amazing relationships and conversations, and I hope to continue that in the future!

**Describe your previous work and volunteer experience.**
I’m currently a freelance writer specializing in fundraising and web content. Also, I’ve interned (and now volunteer) as a writer with Wycliffe Bible Translators, a nonprofit based in Orlando, FL.

**What are your research interests?**
My research interests include interfaith dialogue, autoethnographic writing and performance, and faith practices in academic spaces.

**What are your professional and career goals following your graduation from UNI?**
I’d like to open a community arts center geared toward facilitating interfaith dialogue and serving at-risk minors.

**What are your leisure time interests?**
My hobbies are reading, binge-watching Netflix and YouTube, and listening to music.

---

Student Profile: Anna Wood

**What is your major?**
My major is biology.

**How did you choose your major?**
I chose this major so I could work in a scientific field that would allow me to help people in my future career.

**Where are you from?**
I am from Clive, Iowa which is near Des Moines.

**What campus activities are you involved in?**
I am involved in the activities board for Roth Apartments, Women’s Chorus, and Spectrum Project.

**What are your leisure time interests?**
My hobbies are reading, binge-watching Netflix and YouTube, and listening to music.

---

Rod Library for Graduate Students!

Rod Library has the resources you need for success as a graduate student. Wherever you are in the research process--refining a topic, preparing for a literature review, selecting and navigating databases, accessing information for free, managing citations, etc.--we are here for you! You can:

- Find a librarian that specializes in research and information in your academic program: [https://library.uni.edu/research/liaison-librarians-collection-strategists](https://library.uni.edu/research/liaison-librarians-collection-strategists)
- Schedule a research consultation where a librarian will help you no matter where you are in the research process: [https://uni.libcal.com/appointments/librarians](https://uni.libcal.com/appointments/librarians)
- Learn more about the resources and services available to you as a graduate student: [https://uni.libcal.com/appointments/librarians](https://uni.libcal.com/appointments/librarians)

Attend a workshop with Dr. Leila Rod-Welch and learn how to optimize your search skills on Wednesday, October 9, 1:00-1:50 p.m. in LIB 373. Need help? Ask a librarian at Rod Library!
Describe your educational background.
I completed a B.A. in History from Adrian College, a small liberal arts college in southeastern Michigan. I then received an M.A. in History from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. My interest in European history increasingly centered on England, so I completed my education with a doctoral degree on history of England, 1350-1714, from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Describe your employment experience.
Prior to my appointment at UNI as Department Head of History, I spent 14 years at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL, where I attained the rank of full professor and served as chair of the department. I also taught honors courses and served a term as the Associate Director of WIU's Centennial Honors College.

What has impressed you since beginning your position at UNI?
I have been impressed by the opportunities for professional collaborations and the focus on student learning at UNI. Faculty and staff are genuinely interested in work being done all over campus and in searching for ways to deliver the best educational opportunities to students. This is an exciting community to be a part of.

What graduate and undergraduate courses do you teach?
I teach Humanities II and will offer History courses on the Middle Ages and the history of England to 1688. I’m excited to have the opportunity to teach my first graduate course at UNI in Spring 2020—a seminar on the history of witchcraft.

What do you most enjoy about teaching?
I enjoy helping students understand the complexities of the past, particularly through the examination of source evidence. I consider all of my students historians-in-training and want them to leave my classes knowing more about how to do the detective work of history. Learning how to interpret historical evidence is absorbing and rewarding—it’s also great fun.

What are your research interests?
I am a scholar of modern England, and my research explores the social and cultural consequences of the Reformation during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. My current projects focus on the processes of courtship and marriage, particularly in instances where relationships went wrong. I analyze records of legal disputes between men and women trying to prove or disprove valid marital unions. Because not all binding marriages took place under the supervision of the church, there were many “he said, she said” disagreements that ended up in court. The documents produced by these lawsuits also form an incredibly rich resource for early modern life, since witnesses often offered information about their daily activities and interactions while weighing in on the legitimacy of disputed relationships. It is fascinating material that I enjoy sharing with my students as well as my fellow historians.

In what publications has your work been published?

What types of activities do you enjoy during your leisure time?
I love to travel whenever I have the opportunity. I also enjoy cooking, reading (particularly mystery novels), and attending concerts.
Alumni Profile: Jordan Dunn

Describe your educational background.
I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from UNI in 2010 and my Master of Social Work degree from UNI in 2011. I am certified as an International Alcohol and Drug Counselor (IADC) by the Iowa Board of Certification and have been a licensed social worker at the independent level (LISW) since 2017.

Describe your employment experience.
I was hired by Pathways Behavioral Services in Waterloo in 2009, while I was still an undergraduate student at UNI. My first position with Pathways was as a 3rd shift, every other weekend, chemical dependency technician in our residential program. Since that time, I have continued to work for Pathways as an outpatient counselor, residential counselor, and as the Black Hawk County Adult Drug Court counselor. Currently, I am the coordinator of Pathways’ Outreach Office in downtown Waterloo, where I continue to see substance abuse and mental health clients on an outpatient basis. Additionally, I have been an adjunct instructor for the UNI Social Work Department for the last 4-5 years. I currently teach an Addictions Treatment course.

What motivated you to earn your graduate degree from UNI?
I was familiar with the UNI Social Work Department, and the university as a whole, from my undergraduate education. UNI was the right fit for many reasons. My professors and instructors were knowledgeable and helpful. The Cedar Valley was also a great place to live and complete my field placements, which I did through internships at Pathways and the American Red Cross. My graduate education furthered my understanding and skills related to this field, and provided valuable guidance related to licensure and building a career.

What is the role of your employer in the community?
Pathways Behavioral Services provides the best possible behavioral health and other related services to individuals, families, and communities to improve the quality of life in Northeast Iowa. Our services include substance abuse, gambling, and mental health treatment for youth and adults. Our addiction services include outpatient and inpatient treatment, medication assisted treatment, and detox. We also have a very active Prevention Department, integrated health services, and community support services. More information can be found at pathwaysb.org.

What changes have you seen in your field since beginning your employment with Pathways?
In recent decades, we have a much-improved understanding of how issues like trauma and addiction impact the brain and recovery. I appreciate the UNI Social Work Department’s focus on being trauma-informed and providing training and conferences that reflect recent developments in the field. Technology is also a growing component in the helping professions which requires us to consider how to best use these tools while addressing related ethical issues.

Describe briefly your professional involvement in the community such as task force or committee memberships.
I have been involved in the Four Oaks Foster Care and Adoption Task Force, UNI Social Work Advisory Committee, CRUSH (Community Resources United to Stop Heroin) Professional and Community Coalition, and DHS Clinical Consultation Team.

What are your leisure activities?
I enjoy running, hiking, all things pop culture, and spending time with my three sons, ages 8-14.
Two teams of MBA candidates worked with Cedar Valley organizations over the past six months and presented their professional analysis and recommendations to faculty and business professionals at the end of June. The consulting projects are the final requirement of the University of Northern Iowa’s MBA program, one of just a handful of programs that require students to serve as consultants for existing businesses. The teams were introduced to their clients last January, presented a project proposal to the MBA faculty in April, and then worked with a faculty mentor to complete the planned work by the end of June.

The teams were mentored by Dr. Sarah Rosol, Capstone Experience Coordinator, and advised by faculty committee consisting of Dr. Matthew Bunker, Marketing Department Head, Dr. Rusty Guay, Associate Professor of Management, and Dr. K.N. Rajendran, Professor of Marketing.

The teams’ recommendations were presented at the annual MBA Capstone Conference, held at the UNI campus on June 25. The conference allows faculty, student and executive reviewers to evaluate how well the results met the individual business’ objectives and each team’s contribution to the on-going success of the firm. At the final conference, teams were reviewed by Stewart P. Carter, Project Manager, Inter-Factory Supply Chain Development Worldwide Supply Management and Logistics with Deere & Amp Company who is serving as the MBA Program’s 2019 MBA Alumnus-In-Residence. Other guests included Dr. Lisa Jepsen, Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration, Cynthia Goro, Chair of the College’s Executive Advisory Board, Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Associate VP of Research and Innovation and Dean of the Graduate College, and Susie Schwieger, UNI’s Director of Graduate Student Life.

The conference was also attended by a group of MBA students from the Universidad EAFIT in Medellin, Colombia who are visiting UNI for a short course in cross-cultural business leadership practices with their faculty, Ana Maria Ortega Alvarez and Luis Mauricio Bejarano Botero.

Erin Fram, Uwem Ekwo, and Chenjie Gao (pictured left) comprised a team to assist the Northeast Iowa Medical Education Foundation, also in Waterloo, with a strategic planning project for its Northeast Iowa Family Practice Center. The team conducted both financial and stakeholder analyses to determine the organization’s core value as a provider of qualified family practice physicians within the Cedar Valley.

During the 2018 Spring semester a Food Insecurity Task Force was charged to determine student need. Food insecurity refers to the USDA’s measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active healthy life. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. It may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing, medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods (Feeding America, 2018). For our students, these tradeoffs also include tuition, books, and other school expenses. The information acquired by the Task Force led to the decision that a food pantry should be established on our campus as 15% of our students have identified as having low food insecurity. Low food security means they have limited access to quality and variety foods, or occasionally reduce food intake as a result of not having access to food.

On January 14th a food and necessities pantry, the Panther Pantry, opened in the lower level of Maucker Union to the right of the Computer Lab. The Pantry has food and necessity items available for students to access Sunday – Thursday from 12 pm - 8:00 pm and Friday and Saturday from 12 pm – 5 pm. All currently enrolled UNI students are able to use the Pantry. The intent is that any student that cannot financially afford food, either because their paycheck hasn’t come in or because they don’t know where their next meal is coming from, utilizes the Pantry. If you wish to volunteer you can sign up here: https://goo.gl/forms/eTXRxWyvKZ0FtCH13

All volunteers must go through a brief training on confidentiality prior to their shift. If you would like more information or have questions regarding the Pantry please contact us at pantherpantry@uni.edu or visit our website pantherpantry.uni.edu.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Cedar Falls has developed a scholarship program to aid adult women in financial need to continue their education in Black Hawk County. Scholarship funds are administered by a committee of Cedar Falls Alstrasuns. Application for scholarship monies is open to women who have completed at least their sophomore year of college, or a two year associate degree, and who continue their education at a Black Hawk County institution.

Consideration is given to ability, motivation, and financial need. This year, UNI had three $2,000 scholarship winners: two undergraduate students, Schalisa Taylor and Mischa Terry, and one graduate student, Aspen Olsen. Recipients were recognized at the Scholarship Brunch and Auction on Saturday, September 21st at the Beaver Hills Country Club in Cedar Falls.

Award recipient, Aspen Olsen, graduated from UNI in May 2019 with a degree in Social Work and Spanish. Aspen is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work degree with a specialization in trauma - informed care. Aspen reflected on her motivation to continue her education and noted, “I have faced many challenges in my life, but I have overcome these challenges and have succeeded in the face of adversity. I truly believe that I was given this life so that I could help others that are going through or have gone through similar experiences. Therefore, I am pursuing a degree in social work.” Aspen is continuing her practicum at Highland Elementary working with children who are facing adversity at home.
### IMPOSTOR SYNDROME PANEL
Join graduate students, faculty and staff in a panel discussion about the recognition and impact of the Impostor Syndrome. Learn strategies on how to manage Impostor Syndrome feelings that may impact your self-image and success. Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Dean of the Graduate College, will moderate the panel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>12:00-12:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THESIS AND DISSERTATION Formatting
The Thesis and Dissertation Formatting Workshop is offered for all graduate students who are working to fulfill their thesis or dissertation requirement. Kat Wohlpart, the Graduate College Thesis & Dissertation Reviewer and Digital Publication Coordinator, will cover how to format the document and meet other Graduate College requirements. This workshop satisfies the preview requirement that must occur prior to a thesis or dissertation submission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>11:00-11:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>4:00-4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### USING ROD LIBRARY ONLINE AS A GRADUATE STUDENT
Dr. Leila Rod-Welch, Outreach Services Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Services, will help you to hone your library research skills using Rod Library Online including how to find quality books and scholarly articles. Learn how to use advanced search capabilities to access specialized databases, explore features of Google Scholar and identify your Library Liaison and how they can help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>1:00-1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library Room 373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE
Make the most out of your Professional Conference experience. Come learn how to find conferences, present yourself, and ensure you make the most out of attending a professional conference. Kat Wohlpart, the Graduate College Thesis & Dissertation Reviewer and Digital Publication Coordinator, will help you prepare your elevator speech and leave ready for your next conference experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>1:00-1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONQUERING THE COVER LETTER
A well-written customized cover letter complements your resume and can set you apart from other applicants. Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life, will review the format, components of the cover letter and tips on the effective writing of this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>3:00-3:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECHARGING YOUR RESUME AS A GRADUATE STUDENT
How can you transform your resume into a key marketing tool for your internship or job search? Discover how employers review resumes. Learn the process of analyzing a position description and customizing your document to target your employment goals in this workshop presented by Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>1:00-1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BUILDING BEHAVIOR-BASED INTERVIEWING SKILLS
Get a jump start on your next interview by attending this workshop presented by Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life. Find out why and how employers use behavior-based interviewing in the hiring process and how you can prepare and practice this type of interviewing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>12:00-12:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Rod Library ScholarSpace Room 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Signature Events

**Scholar Connexus**
**Tuesday, October 29th, 2019, 3:00-5:00 pm, Georgian Lounge & Slife Ballroom, Commons**
The annual Scholar Connexus is an opportunity to network with UNI colleagues, identify new research collaborators, share ideas and expertise, and meet new people with similar interests in a fun, informal environment. **Registration is required** in order to facilitate the necessary matching of individuals for paired conversations. Refreshments are served. For more information, visit [rsp.uni.edu/connexus](http://rsp.uni.edu/connexus).

**Human Subjects Research - register at [rsp.uni.edu/IRB-training](http://rsp.uni.edu/IRB-training)**

**IRB Training for Graduate Students**
**Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm, Rod Library 301 (ScholarSpace)**
Presented by IRB Chair Todd Evans, Ph.D., this session will cover the ethical principles and regulations regarding research involving humans, including the UNI Institutional Review Board (IRB) review process and procedures. Graduate students are especially invited but all are welcome. Cosponsored by the UNI Graduate College. **Registration requested.**

**Other Research Ethics Workshops - register at [rsp.uni.edu/Training-and-Events](http://rsp.uni.edu/Training-and-Events)**

**Ethical Issues in Qualitative Research**
**Monday, October 28th, 2019, 3:00 - 4:00 pm, MAU, Presidential Room**
Facilitated by Susan Etscheidt. Details to follow. **Registration requested.**

**Transparency and Integrity in Quantitative Research**
**Thursday, October 31st, 2019, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Rod Library 287**
In this workshop, presenters will describe what pre-registration is, why it matters, and how to do it (including templates and websites). They will also explain what a data management plan is and what funders are looking for in them, discuss common issues that arise (e.g., privacy), and give you several options for making your data and materials public. This multidisciplinary session will be presented by Helen Harton, Professor of Psychology; Rebecca Rinehart, RSP Preaward Grants Specialist; and Ellen Neuhaus, Digital Scholarship Librarian. **Registration requested.**
Welcome New Graduate Students!

On August 26th, the Graduate College hosted Welcome New Graduate Students! Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Dean of the Graduate College provided a warm welcome and advised students on making the most of graduate school. Dr. Waldron shared, “Your time in graduate school is an adventure where you are able to explore ideas, relationships, and experiences. Get curious. Explore the content you are passionate about and your ideas about it may shift.” Exploring is just what the new graduate students did at the Welcome. A panel consisting of experienced graduate students fielded student questions on a range of topics including how to personally manage oneself during graduate school and conducting research.

Kathryn Wohlpard, Thesis and Dissertation Reviewer and Digital Publication Coordinator spoke on the research process in graduate school and offered her services as a resource to students. Additionally, students were informed of the many and diverse resources available at Rod Library by guest speaker Dr. Leila Rod-Welch, Outreach Services Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Services.

At the conclusion of the Welcome, new students socialized with one another and participated in ice-breaker activities. Overall, the new graduate students reviewed the event positively. Be sure to join us for future professional development workshops where there is assuredly more fun and education to be had.

Panelists were able to discuss their graduate school experiences (top) and new students had the chance to socialize with one another with ice breaker activities (bottom).

---

Take Care Tips from the Graduate College: Social Wellness

The relationships we have (or don’t have yet) can impact our health. As social beings, the importance of connecting with others meaningfully is high on our list of needs. The relationships we form should be healthy, existing in freedom and in support of one another’s well-being. Some strategies to employ to increase your network of friends and professional connections include:

- Joining a local or campus group with a common interest or hobby (e.g. community theater);
- Volunteering with an organization who supports a cause you would like to invest in;
- Keeping your word when making a commitment;
- Joining a gym and taking exercise classes that interest you;
- Reconnecting with old friends; or
- Attending campus and community activities.

In order to meet others and build your professional and social network, you must put yourself out there in ways you enjoy and get to know others! Much joy can be found in getting to know another person and appreciating his or her individuality.

---

Graduate Students Living in the Residence Halls

The UNI Residence Halls give students easy access to campus, surround them with friends, and offer learning beyond the classroom. Living in the residence halls as an undergraduate student is a great way to make the most out the UNI experience, but what is it like living in the residence halls as a graduate student? Graduate student, Riley Rodemaker, gives insight on the experience.

**What residence hall do you currently live in?**
I currently live in a single person apartment in the Roth Apartments.

**What university did you attend for your undergraduate degree?**
I actually attended UNI for my undergraduate degree too!

**Did you live in a residence hall as an undergraduate?**
I lived in Campbell Hall my freshman year, then I lived in Roth Apartments for my sophomore year of undergraduate, then for my junior and senior years of undergraduate I moved off-campus with a friend.

**What are some of the challenges that you face by living in the residence halls as a graduate student?**
Since I have been living in Roth Apartments, I have honestly not experienced any challenges as a graduate student. However, I would imagine that if I moved back in the typical dorm style living (as opposed to apartments), there could potentially be issues with people being loud and not providing a studious environment.

**What do you see the benefits of living in a residence hall as a graduate student?**
I feel that the biggest two motivators for me moving back on campus for my graduate career were the ability to use financial aid to pay for my living in one lump sum, as opposed to having to pay monthly rent and utilities, especially since I am not able to work as much as before. The other nice part about living at Roth Apartments is that it is relatively close to campus, so I don’t have to use as much gas.

For more information about the Department of Residence and off-campus housing, visit dor.uni.edu.
Explore a new topic each month in
GRAD SOURCE
The Grad College’s monthly student e-blast!

Video Clips
Deadlines
Upcoming Events
Professional Development
Writing & Research Tips

The 13th Annual Graduate Student Symposium
Be sure to mark your calendars for the 13th Annual Graduate Student Symposium coordinated by the Graduate College. The Graduate Student Symposium will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 in Maucker Union. The Graduate Student Symposium is an opportunity to showcase your research and creative works in a conference-like environment. Begin to prepare your work to be showcased in one of the three categories: Poster Presentations, Oral Presentations and Creative Works. Through this great opportunity you can enhance your resume or CV, gain presentation and performance experience, receive feedback from graduate faculty judges and network with the university community.

JAMES HEARST IN PROSE EXHIBIT
Public discussion with UNI curatorial students: Thursday November 7th from 4:00 p.m. Opening reception: Thursday, November 7th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Though James Hearst was known primarily as a poet, during his long literary career he also wrote essays, journalism, fiction and a memoir. This exhibit explores many lesser known facets of James Hearst’s writing and offers an introduction to the work of one Cedar Falls’ literary greats. This exhibit was prepared in conjunction with graduate English students in the UNI Department of Languages and Literatures.
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 the 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 Deadlines for 2019-2020 Issues:

November 15, 2019 for December Issue
January 24, 2020 for February Issue
April 11, 2020 for May Issue

Editors

Susie Schwieger, Director of Graduate Student Life
Supervising Editor
susan.schwieger@uni.edu

Sydney Cindrich, Graduate Assistant, Kinesiology
Co-Editor
cindrics@uni.edu

Natalie Ita, Graduate Assistant, Speech-Language Pathology
Co-Editor
itan@uni.edu

Who Receives the Newsletter?

All graduate students, faculty, and staff receive the newsletter via email. You can always view previous and current issues of UNI Grad Student News at https://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news.
GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

- **Dr. Jennifer Waldron**
  Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation/Dean of the Graduate College  
  jennifer.waldron@uni.edu

- **Dr. Gabriela Olivares**
  Associate Dean of the Graduate College  
  gabriela.olivares@uni.edu

- **Susie Schwieger**
  Director of Graduate Student Life  
  susan.schwieger@uni.edu

- **Lisa Steimel**
  Secretary IV, Assistantships and Scholarships  
  lisa.steimel@uni.edu

- **Rubina Chowdhury**
  Secretary II  
  rubina.chowdhury@uni.edu

- **Natalie Ita**
  Graduate Assistant for Online Content and Electronic Media  
  natalie.ita@uni.edu

- **Sydney Cindrich**
  Graduate Assistant for Graduate Professional and Community Development  
  sydney.cindrich@uni.edu

- **Grace Mertz**
  Graduate Assistant for Graduate Writing  
  grace.mertz@uni.edu

- **Anna Wood**
  Office Assistant  
  anna.wood@uni.edu