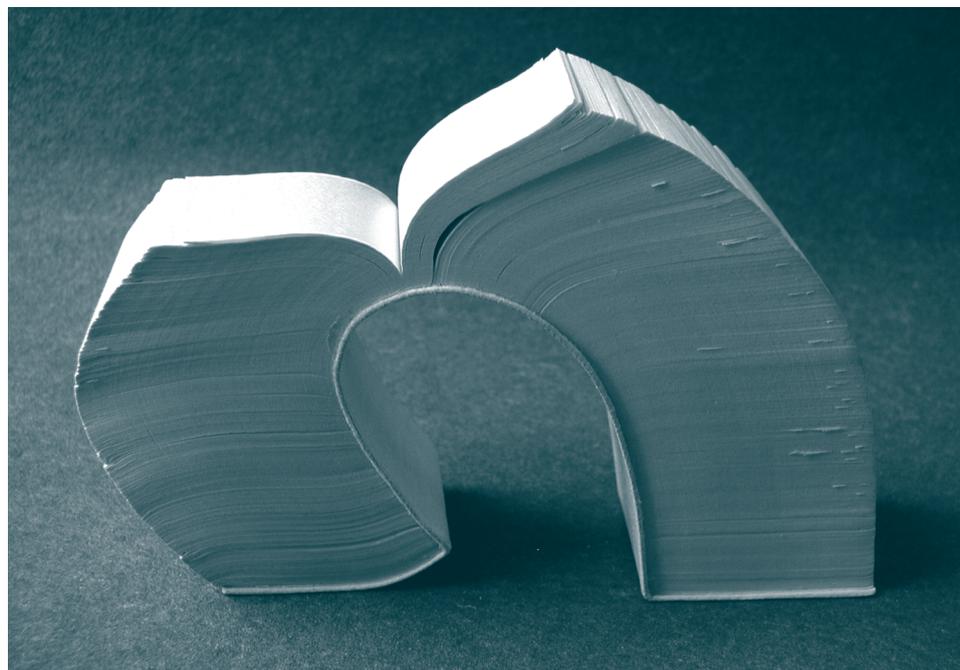


Graduate College Celebrates Expansion

The Graduate College has added several units under its academic wing. **Center for the Book**, **WiderNet** (a project in the School of Library and Information Science), and the **International Writing Program (IWP)** join 14 other departments and programs as the Graduate College builds upon its interdisciplinary focus. For more about these programs, see page 2.

INTERDISCIPLINARY FOCUS AT GRADUATE COLLEGE

Combining its dual roles as both an academic and administrative college, the Graduate College connects the UI and Eastern Iowa communities with inventive interdisciplinary programs. “The Graduate College is a logical place for these interdisciplinary programs to thrive,” said John Keller, UI Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Graduate College Dean. “With our responsibilities for graduate education on the UI campus, we are in a great position to help bring together scholars interested in innovative research projects that cross traditional academic boundaries.” Interdisciplinary research is seen by many higher education experts as the



Book sculpture by Timothy Barrett, Center for the Book

future of graduate education and the professoriate. The Graduate College’s emphasis on interdisciplinary programs helps keep the University of Iowa in the forefront of graduate education nationwide.

Because only a few academic institutions have such direct and active involvement in interdisciplinary academic programs, the UI Graduate College is unique among its peers, making the University of Iowa an attractive research environment for top scholars.

The Graduate College oversees 16 departments and programs, providing an academic home for groundbreaking interdisciplinary work across the UI campus.

- School of Library and Information Science
- WiderNet
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry
- International Writing Program
- Center for the Book
- Women in Science and Engineering
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Neurosciences
- Applied Mathematical & Computational Sciences
- Informatics
- Human Toxicology
- Second Language Acquisition

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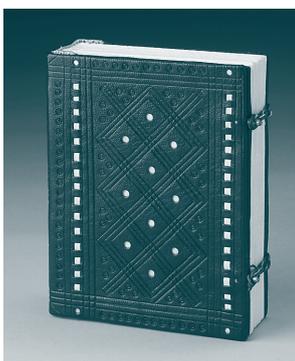
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CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The Center for the Book, directed by Matthew P. Brown, integrates study of the book in society with practice in the art of book production. The Center offers curricula in book technologies and book history to graduate and undergraduate students, as well as to the eastern Iowa community.

The Center also offers a joint degree with the School of Library and Information Sciences, and affiliates with book scholars in UI departments and programs such as History, English, Journalism and Communications Studies, Religious Studies, the Writers' Workshop, and American Studies.

*Book design by
Center for
the Book scholar
Melissa Moreton,
PhD Candidate
in Art History.*



WIDERNET

Under the direction of Cliff Missen, WiderNet is a UI service project that works to improve digital communication for people in developing countries. The project's current focus is in Africa,



Cliff Missen, Director, WiderNet.

with closest connections to Nigerian universities. The WiderNet Project centers on the improvement of educational communication systems in Africa by providing faculty and students with access to computers, email, and the Internet.



*Christopher Merrill, Director,
International Writing Program.*

INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM (IWP)

Christopher Merrill directs the International Writing Program (IWP). IWP attracts renowned writers from around the world, enhancing an already rich writing environment at the UI. The program's principal design is threefold: to introduce talented individuals to American life; to enable these individuals to take part in American university life; and to provide writers with time, in a setting congenial to their efforts, for the production of literary work.

The U.S. Department of State is a major source of support for the program. The IWP also administers the grants of writers who come to the University of Iowa under subsidy from American corporations and cultural organizations abroad.

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From the Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion

GEM Conference Review: Future Faculty and Professional Symposium

June 28-30, 2006
Intercontinental Hotel, Chicago, IL
by Fitzgerald Steele

I wanted to share the valuable experience I had at the GEM Consortium Annual Conference in Chicago on June 28-30, and encourage you to attend future conferences to see if GEM can be helpful for you as well.

GEM can be an excellent financial and mentoring network resource for underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses.

GEM MISSION

The mission of the Graduate Education for Minorities (GEM) Consortium is to increase the participation of underrepresented groups (African Americans, American Indians, and Hispanic Americans) at the master's and doctoral levels in engineering and science.

This is primarily accomplished through GEM MS and PhD Fellowships, which provide full tuition and fees, as well as a stipend at GEM Member Universities such as Iowa. GEM fellows must intern with sponsor companies such as IBM, Motorola, Apple, or HP.

FUTURE FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

My application for the GEM Fellowship was denied, but I received an invitation to the Future Faculty and Professional (FFP) track of their annual conference.

The FFP introduces graduate students to faculty members and industry professionals who will share their expertise and personal perspectives on the wide spectrum of the graduate school experience and the transition into careers.

FFP Symposium also provides an opportunity to build community and collegiality with peers at other institutions that will continue through graduate school and beyond. The FFP was 2 days of presentations, discussions, and panels designed to prepare students for success in academia and industry. One lesson I took away was that success in academia appears to be judged in three areas: research, teaching, and service to your profession. I've started to review my experiences with these three facets in mind, identifying where I can improve and become more competitive in the marketplace.

Of the many sessions, I particularly enjoyed Dr. Stephanie Adams' (NSF reviewer and Assoc. Prof Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln) talks about proposal writing and details of the tenure process.

Dr. Cecilia Lucero gave an interesting talk about dissertation writing. She identified some of the causes of the ABD syndrome (e.g., procrastination, perfectionism) and provided strategies to overcome them.



Fitzgerald Steele, UI PhD candidate in Industrial Engineering

Dr. Keith Hargrove, Morgan State University and an Iowa Engineering alumnus, spoke about the importance of finding and maintaining mentoring relationships.

The opportunity to network and build relationships with current and future faculty was equally valuable. I've got a much longer list of people that I can draw upon and ask technical questions in my field, as well as general questions about academia.

GEM Conference a Worthwhile Investment

The conference fees for the FFP were extremely reasonable—\$100 for registration, (good) meals, and hotel on Michigan Avenue.

The information I received about the graduate school process, the connections I made with other students, current faculty, and industry executives definitely made the time and money worthwhile. I just want to make sure others know about the opportunities afforded by GEM, and get more people thinking about attending the conference next year.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the FFP or GEM Consortium.

Fitzgerald (Jerry) Steele fitzgerald-steele@uiowa.edu
PhD Candidate, Industrial Engineering, The University of Iowa

More Information on the GEM Conference & GEM Fellowships

www.gemfellowship.org

“One lesson I took away was that success in academia appears to be judged in three areas: research, teaching, and service to your profession.”

— F. Steele, PhD candidate in Industrial Engineering



About the Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion

OGEI's mission is to recruit graduate students from across all walks of life and to create an inclusive and welcoming community across our 100+ graduate programs.

To Contact OGEI: m-gardinier@uiowa.edu, 319.335.2147

Letter from the Dean

As a major research institution, the 100+ graduate programs at The University of Iowa exert significant influence:

- on all faculty and all students at our university (including undergraduate students);
- on Iowans statewide;
- on national and international citizens and institutions.

In the words of Philip Cohen, Graduate Dean at the University of Texas: "Graduate education is not only a private benefit but also a public good. As such, it is worthy of public investment... ..if our graduate programs are to carry out their mission of producing the faculty who teach our undergraduates, train our workforce, and advance the applied and basic research initiatives that contribute to the well-being of all current and future Americans."

Underscoring the importance of this issue, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) director Debra Stewart recently issued a compelling statement about graduate education in the U.S. "Declining public investments in graduate education are threatening American competitiveness and global economic leadership."

CGS has been active in campaigning in favor of federal funding for graduate education, noting that America's ability to compete effectively in the 21st century global economy may be at stake. Stewart says, and other experts agree, that "the role of graduate education in supporting America's research and development enterprise and in preparing a highly skilled workforce" is critical to our nation.

I urge you to speak out about this issue. Please contact your legislators or contact our office to ask how you can help advocate for graduate education in your profession.

With our thanks for your support,

John C. Keller

Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Dean of the Graduate College



*John C. Keller,
Associate Provost for Graduate
Education and Dean of the
Graduate College.*

"Graduate education is not only a private benefit but also a public good. As such, it is worthy of public investment..."

*- P. Cohen, Graduate Dean
University of Texas*

MORE ABOUT THE COUNCIL ON GRADUATE SCHOOLS

General Website - <http://www.cgsnet.org/>

CGS Statement on the National Competitiveness Investment Act - http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/o/pdf/GR_NCIA_0906.pdf

CGS Statement on the Final Report of the Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education
http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/o/pdf/GR_commission0906.pdf

Additional CGS policy papers - <http://www.cgsnet.org/Default.aspx?tabid=212>

Remarkable Research

The James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference (formerly the Jakobsen Forum) is a forum to showcase the excellent research completed by graduate students at The University of Iowa.

The event provides a unique opportunity for students to experience a professional conference in a safe environment, with no travel costs, while interacting with graduate students across all disciplines.

The community also has an opportunity to see the cutting edge work produced by The University of Iowa's graduate students.

In the last several years 120 to 170 graduate students have presented work in the sciences, humanities, fine and performing arts at each of the Jakobsen Forums. The Graduate College continues to support this interdisciplinary forum, committing \$6000 toward awards for the top presenters in each division.



Graduate students present their research findings as an important part of their professional development through the UI Graduate College.



Sarah Vigmostad (2005-2006 Graduate Student Senate President) discusses poster sessions with fellow UI graduate students at last year's James F. Jakobsen Conference.

Remarkable research



 THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Be remarkable

PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTING UI GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate College web site - www.grad.uiowa.edu

Graduate Student Senate Bulletin.

A monthly publication with helpful articles, resource lists, and deadlines. Written and published by graduate students.
www.uiowa.edu/~gss/bulletinonline/

James F. Jakobsen Conference 2006 Award Recipients

BIOLOGICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Best Presentation:

Nicole Brogden, Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry

First Place:

Elizabeth John, Pharmaceutical Socioeconomics

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

First Place:

Jynelle Gracia, English, Nonfiction Writing Program

Second Place:

Jennifer Proctor, Cinema and Comparative Literature

HUMANITIES

Best Presentation:

Bei Yang, FLARE

First Place:

Joyce Kelley, English

MATH, PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Best Presentation:

Sujith Perera, Chemistry

First Place:

Soumik Ukil, Biomedical Engineering

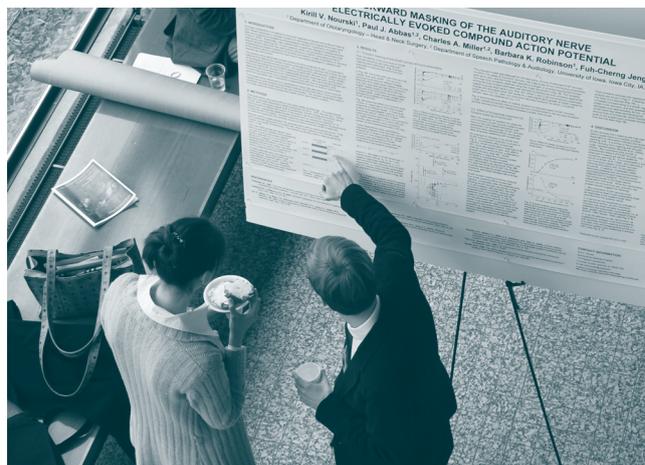
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Best Presentation:

Michael Matthews, Teaching & Learning

First Place:

Grace White, Social & Personality Psychology



Graduate Scholars present their research findings as an important part of their professional development through the UI Graduate College.



The Conference offered professional development opportunities for graduate students, including sessions on "Excellence in Graduate Teaching," "The Dissertation and Beyond," and "Mentoring as Graduate Students."

Graduate College News

Jennifer Masada, editor, writer • Warren Staal, designer

Graduate College News is published in the fall and spring.

On the web: www.grad.uiowa.edu

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- Contributors of \$100 or more to the Graduate College are recognized in *Graduate College News*.

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- The Graduate Student Support Fund for excellence (30-250-028) 2006 GCNA
- Other _____

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