



Horst wins nation's most prestigious dissertation award

University of Iowa alumna Jessica Horst has won the nation's most prestigious honor for doctoral dissertations, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award. Horst, who earned her doctorate in psychology in 2007, won the award for her dissertation "Turning Novel Names into Known Names," a study of how children learn language.

Horst's research proposes a theory on how to combine existing knowledge on how humans quickly identify words ("fast mapping") with knowledge about how we learn. Using lab experiments and computer modeling, she discovered that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the ability to fast map does not mean a toddler has actually learned a new word; full-word learning is a gradual process.

Dean Keller selected for national boards

John C. Keller, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate College, has been appointed to serve on the national Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Board of Directors.

CGS is the only national organization in the United States dedicated solely to the advancement of graduate education and research. Its mission is "to advance graduate education in order to ensure the vitality of intellectual discovery and to promote an environment that cultivates rigorous scholarship." Keller will serve a three-year term.

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Selected above all other social science dissertations completed nationally for a two-year period (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2008), Horst's study of early language learning was honored at a ceremony during the CGS 48th annual meeting in December. She received a certificate, a \$2,000 honorarium and travel expenses to attend the ceremony.

Horst's dissertation was directed by UI psychology professor Larissa Samuelson, with Bob McMurray, Gregg Oden, John Spencer, Karla McGregor, and Prahlad Gupta, all faculty in the UI's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, on the dissertation committee.

In 2008, Horst won the American Psychological Association Dissertation Award in Developmental Psychology. While at the UI, she was honored with a university-wide Outstanding Teaching Award from the UI Council on Teaching and was the winner of a Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship from the Graduate College.

She served for several years as a senator for the Graduate Student Senate, including service as secretary and vice president. As part of those duties, she helped increase scholarly interaction among UI graduate students, serving as co-chair for the Jakobsen Conference, a student-organized forum presenting graduate student research and creative work from across the entire campus.

Horst is currently an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.



Jessica Horst

UI surpasses Yale for top honors

Horst won the UI's D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize for best dissertation in the social sciences, which placed her work in the running for the national award she won.

Winners of the UI's Spriestersbach Prize have fared exceptionally well in the national competition. The UI, with five winners, has garnered more national awards than any other institution, public or private. With this year's award, the UI surpasses Yale University, which has had four winners.

UI national prize winners

Jessica Horst, psychology, 2008

Michael Chasar, English, 2007

Susan Behrends Frank, art history, 1997

Matthew P. Anderson, physiology & biophysics, 1993

David Lasocki, music, 1984



Urban and Regional Planning welcomes new director

This past fall, the UI graduate program in Urban and Regional Planning welcomed Dr. Charles Connerly as its new director.

Connerly came to Iowa from Florida State University where he was a professor of urban planning for 17 years, as well as the chair of the school's Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

This marks a return to Iowa for Connerly, who received his undergraduate BA in history from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa in 1968. He also attended the University of Connecticut for a Master's in History and the University of Michigan for his Master's and Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning.

He is a prolific and noted author, particularly on the subjects of city planning, combating racism through urban planning, and other urban affairs. He has written or contributed to more than 25 journal articles or book chapters. In 2007, his most recent book, *The Most Segregated City in America: City Planning and Civil Rights in Birmingham, 1920-1980*, was rated one of the top 10 planning books for 2006 by Planetizen, an online urban planning network.

Learn more about Connerly and the UI Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning at www.urban.uiowa.edu.



Chuck Connerly leads a discussion with graduate students.

UI SROP achievements receive recognition

University of Iowa Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) staff were recognized at a national meeting of all institutions that participate in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) SROP.

Iowa's program has the highest rate of graduate enrollment among its SROP alumni at 45 percent. UI SROP is among the smaller programs in the CIC group, with 402 students hosted 1986-2005. "Our Iowa program concentrates on providing individualized programming for its SROP scholars, carefully matching faculty mentor and student participant," said Diana Bryant, Iowa SROP coordinator. Forty students will participate in this summer's Iowa SROP.

Graduate College News

Jennifer Masada—editor, writer & designer • Andrea Parrott—writer & photographer
Eunice Prosser—editing • *Graduate College News* is published in the fall and spring.

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Brown garners national recognition for first book

University of Iowa Center for the Book Director Matthew P. Brown received an honorable mention for the Modern Language Association of America's First Book Prize. The associate professor of English was honored for "The Pilgrim and the Bee: Reading Rituals and Book Culture in Early New England." The honorable mention category has been granted only four times in the history of the award prior to this year.

The First Book Prize recognizes a first book-length publication of a literary or linguistic study, critical edition of an important work, or a critical biography. Only those in the MLA are allowed to vie for the prize, though competition is in no short supply, as there are 30,000 registered members from around the world.

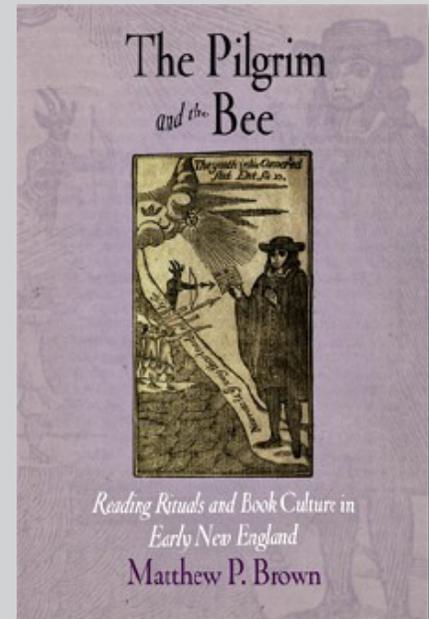
The judges said Brown's book, which analyzes several aspects of the colonial American literary world, contributes greatly to the fields of religious and early American studies, while calling for new directions in the study of book history and "advocat[ing] for book studies

scholarship as an especially valuable method for pursuing a social history of culture."

Brown centers his research on the history of readership. He will be on research assignment in the spring to work on his next book at the Library Company of Philadelphia with assistance from a NEH grant. The book, currently titled "The Novel and the Blank," will be an "investigation of how constraints of the print shop affected the literary culture and reading habits of colonial and early national America," Brown said.

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Brown sees "The Pilgrim and the Bee" as a direct outgrowth of his work at the Center for the Book, which is integral to the broader Writing University initiative at the UI. "First-rate faculty and graduate students in the program and from Art, English, Library Sciences, American Studies and History make for an extraordinary learning environment," Brown said. "As do my colleagues in English, the Center nurtures scholarly research, creative thinking, and literary expression."



Recent Literary Achievements at Iowa

Brown's honor adds to a growing list of recent literary achievements at the UI.

- In November the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) named Iowa City a City of Literature, an honor held by only two other cities worldwide.
- Center for the Book faculty crafted the application for the UNESCO designation, designing handmade paper, calligraphy, and binding for its presentation.
- Two poets affiliated with the Writer's Workshop shared the 2008 Pulitzer Prize.
- Orhan Pamuk, an alumnus of the International Writing program, won a Nobel Prize in 2006.

UI Center for the Book host for international conference

The University of Iowa Center for the Book was honored to organize the first of what will become a biennial conference of the College Book Art Association. ART, FACT, AND ARTIFACT—*The Book in Time and Place* was hosted by Iowa's Center for the Book January 8-10, 2009. Featuring keynote speakers Randall McLeod (University of Toronto) and Tate Shaw (Visual Studies Workshop and Preacher's Biscuit Books), the conference drew artists, book-culture enthusiasts, and scholars from across the nation.

According to conference organizer Matthew P. Brown, the conference was designed to challenge participants to approach the art of the book from new perspectives: "Scholarship, artistic practice, and the digital age have evoked for us the multimedia nature of the book experience." Alert to the history of book production, conference participants brought a long view to the communications revolutions of the 21st century. At the same time, the new visions opened up by practicing artists will reshape how we understand books and other media platforms in the future. "This combined orientation to history and to what lies ahead distinguishes the book arts," Brown said. ART, FACT, AND ARTIFACT offered presentations, papers, studio demonstrations, and exhibits from artists and scholars interested in the future, present, and past of the book as an expressive form.

Read about the conference online at <http://uicb.grad.uiowa.edu/uicb-cbaa-conference>

WISE — Women In Science and Engineering

Assisting women pursuing careers in the sciences, engineering, and math

by Andrea Parrott

Those who have never visited room 423 Gilmore Hall at the University of Iowa may find themselves surprised. At first glance, the exterior of the small, windowless room might appear rather unassuming.

The interior is a different story. Home to the WISE (Women In Science and Engineering) Research Library, the room holds 600 books, reports, academic journals, periodicals, an extensive collection of science and engineering projects and experiments for use in K-12 populations, CDs, and DVDs, neatly shelved and organized in searchable order.

The library is just one of many resources WISE offers. The interdisciplinary program assists female students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

“WISE is important because it connects women across disciplines,” said Tess Barker, coordinator of WISE’s Grad/Postdoc Programs. “There are equity issues that pertain specifically to women in STEM disciplines. WISE helps them find common solutions and validates experiences.”

Are there still social structures that create such hurdles for women? After all, it has been 27 years since the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which made it illegal in the United States to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of gender. In theory, this should eliminate traditional stereotypes and allow women to follow careers—in any field—as easily and successfully as their male counterparts.

In reality, this is not the case. According to the 2007 US Census, women make on average \$12,274 less per year than men. Chris Brus, director of WISE, said the best way to combat this disparity is with academic and social support programming.

“Community building has been shown to support learning,” said Brus, “especially when the group has traditionally been underrepresented.”

One of the most effective ways WISE supports young women is through the Graduate/Postdoc Professional Development series. Each semester, WISE offers four workshops, featuring topics ranging from *Writing a Successful Research Grant Proposal*

to *Using Networking to Enhance Your Professional Goals*. Women from the UI and the community who work in relevant fields volunteer to facilitate these workshops.

“A lot of our programming comes from student input,” said Brus. “We can’t afford to do stuff that isn’t helpful!” Each semester, Brus solicits program ideas. “Because we have to be so focused and specific in our programming, we know the people we’re working with and serving, and they are responsive to us.”

Now in its fifth year, the program has been recognized for its contributions to the UI community. In 2007 the WISE workshops won the UI’s Catalyst Award for outstanding innovative and distinctive contributions to diversity. And with good cause—over 65 percent of participants during the 06-07 academic year self-reported as students of color, foreign nationals, or differently abled.

WISE often works with the Graduate College’s Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion in order to serve the minority community. A key component of this work is mentoring.



High-Speed History

Women have long been active, necessary participants in the scientific community. However, due to gender (and sometimes also racial and class) discrimination, the names and contributions of many major female scientists never make it out of the scientific community, much less to our history textbooks.

Students at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, a branch of the University of California, have come up with an ingenious way to increase visibility for notable women in United States history – they have named each of their 16 supercomputers after females who have “had a career in or made a significant contribution to a scientific discipline.”

As male and female students interact with these Silicon Graphics workstations, they learn about historic women in a way meaningful to their everyday lives. And the San Diego Supercomputer Center has been kind enough to share.

The women and a brief write-up of their contributions appear on the Center’s website at www.sdsc.edu/ScienceWomen.

**For more information about WISE,
visit www.uiowa.edu/~wise.**

“Mentoring occurs best between people with the most shared experiences, especially in informal situations,” said Brus.

The organization fosters this notion through its WISE Ambassadors community, in which UI women (undergraduate through post doctorate) pursuing careers in STEM fields interact with K-12 students in the area. The older women create, organize, and execute outreach events, leadership exercises, and career development experiences for the younger students. Through programs such as the Ambassadors, women can build relationships with others from all walks of life.

“It’s a structured program with unstructured benefits,” said Barker. “Networking is about building long-term relationships and friendships, not just for reaching immediate goals, such as finding a job.”

Other WISE programs are more age-specific. Undergraduate women in STEM fields can take advantage of the Peer Mentoring Program or be a tutor for youth in the area.

The importance of networking and friendship can be seen in the presence of the WISE Living-Learning Community for first-, second-, and third-year women. The program began during the 1996-1997 school year and is now the oldest living-learning community at the UI. Through the years, it has supported over 500 first-year and 100 second-year students through a wide variety of scholarly and social activities.

WISE also provides support for women pursuing doctoral studies. Doctoral candidates active in WISE are eligible for the Dr. Eunice Schuytema Beam WISE Travel Grant Program. Each semester, three graduate students are awarded \$300 to travel to present scholarly work at meetings, conferences, and other academic gatherings. Endowed in 2001, the travel grant program has allowed more than 72 students to travel around the world.

Some WISE women have even expanded their travels to outer space. In 2007 NASA astronaut Peggy

In 2007, the WISE workshops won the UI’s Catalyst Award for outstanding innovative and distinctive contributions to diversity at the UI.

Whitson brought a WISE artifact into orbit. Whitson, a Mt. Ayr, Iowa native, was the commander of her mission, and the WISE artifact was one of only three Iowa – based objects to be taken into space on the journey.

“Whitson has been great for WISE,” said Brus. “We try to find role models who are Iowans from small, rural communities, as many of our members are. WISE is opening horizons and raising expectations. When you increase expectations for these women, as with any group, you also have to provide support.”

From outer space to Gilmore Hall at the University of Iowa, WISE women are working toward a scientific community with equal opportunities for everyone.

From the Field

For any women out there interested in pursuing a degree in the sciences, the Chicago Field Museum offers an easy-to-use web site featuring interviews with current-day women in science.

The site offers transcripts from talks with 13 scientists, links to related books and movies, and resources for teachers.

Find this web page at: www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/exhibit_sites/wis/main_page.htm.

Blog Byte

Female scientists who are already in the workforce might prefer this blog: <http://science-professor.blogspot.com>. The site is a frequently updated, tell-it-like-it-is journal, detailing the trials of being a woman science professor in the traditionally male-dominated field. Recent discussions touch on a range of issues, such as:

- Why a disproportionately large number of men might be winning awards in the college community.
- How to encourage women in university faculty jobs to be ambitious early in their careers.

How-to

“You are a woman pursuing a successful career in engineering, science or technology, and you are prepared to work hard. But you must also work ‘smart.’” *Becoming Leaders*, a text by Williams and Emerson, gives this (and much more) advice to women in STEM workplaces at every point of their career paths. The book is designed to help busy women seeking leadership positions to attain their goals, and assist those of both sexes to create a more gender equal workplace. Produced in part by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Available for \$29.99 on Amazon.com or at your local bookstore.



Letter from the Dean

Iowa received good news again this academic year when another of its alumni, Jessica Horst, won the CGS/UMI dissertation award. This national prize is the highest honor for dissertations, and the University of Iowa has surpassed all graduate institutions in the country for most awards won.

To foster such quality work, the University of Iowa Graduate College relies on

the remarkable faculty who mentor graduate scholars. We are proud of our faculty's successes in building a strong tradition of excellence in graduate education at Iowa.

Jessica Horst's win in 2008 marks the fifth for UI alumni. We are honoring her accomplishments, along with those of her mentors and past UI winners of the national award (see cover page), at a special ceremony this month.

Your support helps sustain Iowa's efforts to provide nationally competitive graduate programs that enrich the entire university and reflect well on the state of Iowa.

To contribute funds to graduate education at Iowa, look for a letter in your mailbox from the University of Iowa Foundation, due to be sent in late April. Or you can visit www.grad.uiowa.edu and click on "Make a Gift" in the lower left hand corner. Your gift will be used to further the career of an Iowa graduate student like Jessica Horst.

Sincerely,

John C. Keller

Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Dean, Graduate College

Continued from front cover—John Keller Selected for National Boards

Keller has also been tapped to serve on the board of directors for the Association of Graduate Schools (AGS), an organization of graduate deans from Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions.

AAU is an organization of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada, including the University of Iowa. AAU member institutions perform nearly 60 percent of federally funded university-based research and award nearly half of all U.S. Ph.D. degrees.

For more about the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Association of American Universities (AAU), visit www.cgs.org and www.aau.edu.

Message from a graduate student

"As an international student, the scholarships I have received from the University of Iowa have literally made all the difference in the world."

Without them, I wouldn't have been able to afford to move from Romania to Iowa City, live here while completing my program, and also pay for the classes that I had to take to complete my credit requirements—especially during the first years.

The University of Iowa has given me the opportunity to experience one of the most interesting and exciting parts of my life. There have certainly been a lot of cultural shocks the first years I have been here, from the work-related ones to the everyday life details.

For example, I remember being amazed at the fact that everyone was smiling and being so friendly at work, on the bus, on the street, in the grocery store, everywhere. I have fully adapted to it, and it's actually one of my most favorite things about Iowa!"



Alexandra Nica

is pursuing a doctoral degree in economics, specifically international trade and growth. She is a member of the Graduate Student Senate and has worked to organize the Jakobsen Research Conference this past spring.

Her hobbies include skiing, piano, martial arts, photography, and telling the story of the real Dracula.

Message from a UI alumna

"I think it is important to help further the mission of the graduate school and I know that the money will be used wisely and with the goals of improving graduate education at Iowa."

I obtained both my undergraduate and graduate degrees at Iowa and I think I received an excellent education from Iowa. The graduate research I participated in is highly recognized around the country and helped me get my current position here at UAB.

I believe that connections I made with faculty and administrators at Iowa have helped me further improve my career options because of the lessons I learned from them."

Dr. Kelly Andringa is a faculty member in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Iowa.

Graduate College to add professional development program on scholarly integrity

The University of Iowa Graduate College is collaborating with other graduate schools nationwide to create and implement policies on scholarly integrity.

Spearheaded by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), this initiative aims to integrate scholarly integrity into graduate education.

“Scholarly integrity is a core value of scholarship and is the foundation of trust between society and the university,” said Minnetta Gardinier, UI Associate Dean for Graduate Recruitment and Professional Development and part of the team at Iowa responsible for developing the plan.

Fostering trust in the university’s research and scholarship is important, since high levels of trust enhance universities’ working relationships with the public sector. Policies set forth regarding scholarly integrity support the UI’s scholarship mission with positive consequences for all stakeholders—the individual scholar, the university, and society.

The current national program to support ethical research, **Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)**, emphasizes a compliance and regulatory framework. CGS seeks to broaden this effort into a values-based dialogue that will emphasize career-long personal and professional integrity.

As part of its efforts toward offering training in scholarly integrity, the UI Graduate College plans to initiate and sustain an ongoing dialogue among all graduate students across all graduate programs.

This valuable learning process will begin with an orientation for all new graduate students and will extend through each student’s graduate training.

As plans develop, the Graduate College will seek opportunities for interdisciplinary partnerships to promote better networking and to consolidate resources for its scholarly integrity program.

For more information on this program and its value to both the university community and the public, visit www.scholarlyintegrity.org



Jessica Horst received the national CGS/UMI dissertation award in Washington D.C. this past December. She is pictured here with UI Graduate College deans. From left: Associate Dean Dale Wurster, Associate Dean Dan Berkowitz, Associate Dean Minnetta Gardinier, Jessica Horst, former Associate Dean Sandra Barkan, and Associate Provost/Graduate College Dean John Keller.

REMINDERS

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

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