

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE Graduate Bulletin

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gssenate@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu
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GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE Graduate Bulletin

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SPECIAL FEATURE (SUBMITTED BY UIOWA GRADUATE STUDENTS):
Points of interest from Universities around the nation; great for road trip adventures!

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For inquiries or article contribution, contact **jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu**.



The 17th annual Iowa City Arts Festival was held in the heart of downtown Iowa City June 3-5 to celebrate great art and music! Amongst the over 100 regional and local artists, fellow University of Iowa graduate student and successful local artist, Heidi Hehnly, was able to take time away from her research to exhibit some mixed media pieces (<http://www.heidihehnly.com/>). There was also plenty of musical entertainment, with more than 10 acts performing throughout the duration of the festival. Musicians ranged from rock-n-roll to bluegrass to piano to Celtic, providing enjoyment for a wide range of musical tastes! The Festival also provided entertainment for children with the “Global Village”, which was a group of tents each representing a country. At each tent/country, the following craft projects could be done: Peru/weavings, Norway/trolls, Turkey/marble paper, Ghana/ink stamps, Thailand/shadow puppets. After working up an appetite from walking around the Festival, one could stroll down “Culinary Row” and sample unique foods from 15 local vendors. There were also plenty of opportunities to volunteer at the Festival; if you interested in helping out with the 2006 Arts Festival or just getting more information, please check out their website at <http://www.iowaartsfestival.com>.

Kathy Brown // kathryn-brown@uiowa.edu

If you are in the area...GSS Recommends:

Georgetown University, Washington, DC – *Johnathan Gajdos (German)*

- Take the stairs featured in the cult film *The Exorcist* that lead down to M Street. If you are a fan of the film, you might recognize areas on campus that were used in various scenes, including Georgetown's main worship space, Dahlgren Chapel.
- Head to 36th street to enjoy American fare in the basement restaurant/bar known as the Tombs.
- Wander just north of campus to the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, where you will be greeted by an enormous green chair. Georgetown students built it as a gift to the school, and it has to be one of the largest chairs you will ever see.

Cuisine from the heart

RESTAURANT REVIEW Iowa Arts Festival Africa N'Zungu & Venuto's World Bistro

Chef Soleil Banguid believes that cooking is more than mixing ingredients until the meal is prepared - - every item that goes into a dish should be a spiritual moment, demanding the best of one's self and reflecting the chef's soul.

A passionate and idealistic man, Soleil, grew up in Makoua, Congo, and began cooking for his 15 brothers and sisters from a very young age. He currently creates his Afro-Creole food on Thursday Nights at Venuto's World Bistro for all to enjoy.

Most recently, he presented some of his signature dishes at the 2005 Iowa Arts festival. I sampled his slow-cooked Miteku-Teku Whiting Fish with spinach and peanut sauce and was simply blown away.

I gathered up my friends and we went to Venuto's the next Thursday to try out his other dishes. The meal was nothing short of spectacular, and his signature dishes were clearly prepared with the utmost care and love. Soleil sat down with us and shared his philosophy on cooking and how the energy of love and spirituality comes from within – like harnessing the sun's rays – and we should contemplate each morsel of food as an experience. He believes his mother, an extraordinary cook, passed this energy onto him in her womb. Indeed, Soleil's energy was in every bite, from the spicy wings, sunshine soup and avocado salad to his signature Makoua chicken finally finishing off our meal was a transcendent dessert, Beignets de banane; French style plantain doughnuts with chocolate sauce.

Soleil stands poised to bring his unique and inspirational cooking style to the world, but for now he wants to start modestly by opening up his own restaurant in Coralville. Although the exact location he is keeping a secret he plans to feature his signature dishes as well as an ever-changing weekly menu inspired from Asian, Creole, Mediterranean and Caribbean cooking styles. Sample Soleil's cuisine at Venuto's World Bistro 115 E. College Street, Iowa City.

Reservations recommended: 319-688-0002. www.venutosworldbistro.com

J Caldwell // jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu



If you are in the area...GSS Recommends:

The University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI – Megan Sheffer (Dentistry)

- Tailgate before attending a Badger game at Camp Randall,
- Photo-op with Abraham Lincoln atop Bascom Hill
- Sit on the Terrace and enjoy Babcock ice cream or a cold brew!

The 2005 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Forum was held recently on campus, showcasing an amazing variety of work being done by graduate students at the University of Iowa. The weekend was a great experience for the many students presenting their research and a stimulating event for all of the students and staff who came to see the outstanding work being produced by Iowa graduate students.

The Forum is an annual conference co-sponsored by the Graduate College, UISG and the Graduate Student Senate that provides an opportunity for graduate students from all disciplines across campus to present their research in a comfortable setting here on campus. The Forum is named for former Graduate College Dean James Jakobsen in honor of his many years of dedication to graduate students at Iowa.

This year's Forum, held April 29th and 30th, had a record high in submissions from the five divisions of the Graduate College with students presenting work on a wide variety of topics ranging from classic literature to physical chemistry. Students presented their work at the Blank Honors Center in oral sessions or in a poster format throughout the day on Saturday. In addition, submissions from the Fine and Performing Arts division presented their works during a special event on Friday evening at the IMU.



Forty-five students were awarded cash prizes for outstanding papers and presentations. Taking home the top prizes in each division were: Angela Balcita (Fine and Performing Arts) for her non-fiction work entitled "Moonface and Charlie," Elizabeth Sutton (Humanities) for her historical analysis of the art of Vesalius and Linschoten, Brandon Abbs (Social Sciences and Education) for his paper "Is Overt Repetition Critical to Word Learning?," Yongming Zhao (Biological and Life Sciences) for a cross-sectional analysis
continued next page>>>

examining treatments for end-stage renal disease, and Yi-Ching Lee (Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences) for work detailing the effects of divided attention on driving and car accidents.

This year's conference, the seventh annual Jakobsen Forum, has like previous events, offered an invaluable opportunity to the students involved, not only by way of professional development, but also enhancing the University's cross-disciplinary dialogue. When asked about what they enjoyed most about the Jakobsen Forum, one student said "It's really nice to hear what other people are doing and to exchange ideas with people I would not otherwise get to interact with."

Darren Hoffmann // darren-hoffmann@uiowa.edu



2005 James F. Jakobsen Forum Committee at the Fine Arts Presentations in the IMU River Room. Back Row: Forum Co-Chair **Margaret Burchianti**, Humanities Division Head **Jessica Horst**, Forum Co-Chair **Jim Krueger**, Social Sciences and Education Division Head **Karleen Jones**, Publicity **Darren Hoffmann**, Front Row: Fine & Performing Arts Division Head **Maria Martin**, Mathematical, Physical & Engineering Sciences Head, **Sarah Vigmstad**, Biological & Health Sciences Division Head **Aruni S. Arachchige Don**.

If you are in the area...GSS Recommends:

The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM – Elaine Shenk (Spanish & Portuguese)

-Hike the Tent Rocks (conical geological formations) www.pueblodecochiti.org/kashakatuwe.html

-Eat a green chile breakfast burrito at *The Frontier* <http://www.frontierrestaurant.com/>

Tuskegee University in Tuskege, AL – Debra Ely (Biomedical Engineering)

-Visit the George Washington Carver Museum and see the statue 'Lifting the Veil' www.tuskegee.edu

Dining In BY

Sarah Vigmostad and J Caldwell

SALSA EN FUEGO & QUESADILLAS

One of the best things about Iowa City in the Summer time is the **Farmers Market**. Held through October on Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 PM and Saturdays, 7:30-11:30 AM in the Chauncey Swan parking ramp located between Washington and College Streets.

Visit the market and check out the vendors selling baked goods, fresh vegetables, meats, flowers, crafts and plenty of good things to plant in your garden. Be sure to stick around for the live music and the fun, friendly atmosphere. Anything you can't find at the Farmers Market can be purchased across the street at the New Pioneer Co-op, so there's simply no excuse for you to not prepare this month's dishes. We planted the peppers, cilantro, oregano and tomatoes after we bought the starters from the Market and have since made our delicious and spicy salsa.

Salsa En Fuego (means *on fire* – and we mean it)

Ingredients:

8 Roma Tomatoes
6 Jalapeno peppers
2 Jalapeño pepper
2 Poblano peppers
1/2 sm Bunch cilantro (no stems)
1 ts Oregano

1 Lime (juice only)
1 Lemon (juice only)
2 tb Vinegar
1 ts Salt
1 ts Pepper
1 ts Garlic salt
1 ts Oregano

Instructions:

Dice or Blend tomatoes, peppers, oregano, and cilantro as small as possible. Add the remaining ingredients and chill for a few hours. Serve with Blue Corn Chips. IF you are feeling daring, add 1 Thai Hot Pepper.

Quesadillas

Ingredients:

12 (10 inch) flour tortillas
1 1/2 cups Mexican Cheese Blend
1 (7 ounce) diced green chiles
1 onion, chopped (optional)
2 whole chicken breasts (optional)

Instructions:

A delight for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike!

Place one tortilla on grill over medium heat. Sprinkle with thin layer of cheese, green chiles and onion. Once the cheese begins to melt cover with second tortilla and flip. Heat for another 2-3 minutes. Cut into wedges and serve with salsa and sour cream on the side.

For chicken quesadillas, poke a few holes into uncooked chicken breasts with a fork. Spoon salsa onto chicken until covered. Marinate for 15-30 minutes. Grill chicken over medium-high heat until juices run clear and meat is no longer pink. Cut chicken into bite-size pieces (or shredded if you prefer). Follow instructions above, adding chicken at the same time as cheese, chiles and onions.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In every issue of the Graduate Student Senate BULLETIN we will bring you updates, initiatives and important information from The President of GSS, *Sarah Vigmostad*, the President of University of Iowa Student Government (UISG), *Mark Krezowik* and in future months from the President of the University of Iowa, *David Skorton* and The Graduate College Deans..

GSS President Sarah Vigmostad – sarah-vigmostad@uiowa.edu
UISG President Mark Krezowik – mark-krezowik@uiowa.edu

UISG // MARK KREZOWIK

Over the course of the summer the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) executives are putting in many hours for you. The UISG website (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~uisg>) is being renovated and will be much more effective in the fall. It will include the Digital Dropbox which will make applying for money from UISG much easier. The GPSS executive is improving the Scholarly Presentation and Research Grants process for next year. This summer will also see the creation of the Student Assembly Auditing Committee. The SAAC will provide transparency for student fee funds and a tool for student organizations. Finally, we are working on creating a UISG strategic plan to focus our efforts for the next year and into the future. A long-term strategic plan is the cornerstone of any effective organization.

The most pressing situation is the proposed supplemental tuition increase. The Board of Regents will decide on a 3% supplementary base tuition increase on Thursday, July 14th, at Iowa State University in Ames. This will have an impact on both how much each student pays to attend the University as well as the quality and reputation of the education that we are receiving. We are developing a position that best represents what students want and what this University needs. Another major issue is the Year of Public Engagement. We have pushed for the creation of a full-time staff person to coordinate civic engagement and service learning opportunities for students, faculty, and student groups. That position will be starting July 1st. We are also looking at ways to engage students with the non-profit sector, the Iowa legislature, and the local community. We hope to generate massive student turnout in the upcoming City Council election. The UISG legislative executives are reviewing the constitution to make sure that is updated and most effective for everyone participating. You will have a chance to see and vote on the revised constitution in the fall.

If you want to get more involved in UISG next year, there will be openings on most of the Charter Committees (http://www.uiowa.edu/president/charter_committees/). The Charter Committees provide direct input on policy decisions for the University. We would also love to have your input at any time, you can reach us through email at uisg@uiowa.edu, by phone at 335-3860, or drop by our office, 48 Iowa Memorial Union, from 9-5. If there is something that you would like us to address, or if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Mark Kresowik and Lauren McCarthy
mark-krezowik@uiowa.edu
University of Iowa Student Government

GSS // SARAH VIGMOSTAD

Hello Graduate Community,

Seeing as this is my first article as Graduate Student Senate President, I wanted to take some time to introduce myself and talk a little bit about our plans for the upcoming year.

My name is Sarah Vigmostad, and I am a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. I've just finished my fourth year as a graduate student, and I have been involved with GSS since my first year. In GSS, I was involved with the Social Committee, the Forum, and more recently as Treasurer, and through this involvement, I've become very passionate about building and improving our graduate student community. It's all too easy as graduate students to become very isolated, but I think it's important to have a balanced life while in graduate school. Taking your mind off your studies occasionally, finding ways to relax, and meeting people from all over campus who have similar goals, similar problems and issues, and yet diverse backgrounds and areas of interest is part of building graduate student community, and I hope to continue to do so as President of GSS.

The Graduate Student Senate offers many ways to become involved and active in the graduate community. The most obvious way is of course joining GSS. To find out more about joining, I encourage you to talk with your department or contact our Membership Officer (Jay Caldwell: jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu) directly. Even if you do not join GSS, feel free to join us at some of the events organized by GSS. Every year we have several social events, a graduate student conference, and brown bag lunches, all of which are great opportunities to meet graduate students from various departments across campus. These events will begin as soon as the fall semester begins, and I suggest you continue to check out our website for more information: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~gss>

Beginning this fall, we will be holding weekly lunches every Monday in River Room One at the IMU. This is a great chance for any graduate student to meet new people, talk about any concerns or issues they have had, and just get more familiar with GSS and The University of Iowa. These lunches are open to all graduate students, and unless we have a special guest, will not have an agenda, so that we can talk about anything graduate students want. Bring your lunch and join us from 12-1pm every Monday!

I am looking forward to a great year with GSS. Please feel free to email me if you ever have any issues or concerns that you would like to see GSS get involved with, and I hope that we can work together to make graduate school as fulfilling as possible.

Sarah Vigmostad (sarah-vigmostad@uiowa.edu)

Charlie's Angela

Interview with Non-Fiction Writing Graduate Student *Angela Balcita*

By J Caldwell

J CALDWELL: Tell us about your first thesis chapter in your thesis *Moonface Burlesque* titled *Moonface & Charlie*.

ANGELA BALCITA [Moonface]: “Moonface Burlesque” is an illness narrative about my two kidney transplants. The first chapter, “Moonface and Charlie,” tells the story of my second transplant, a kidney donated by my boyfriend [Charlie’s real name is Chris]. It talks not so much about the experience itself, but about how we tell the story of the experience. When you have a story like mine, you find that you end up explaining what happened over and over again. And to keep yourself and your audience still interested, you find ways to keep the tale lively and humorous. So this chapter is a story about how we tell the story of the transplant. It also talks about the complexity of the situation, about how you maintain a relationship with someone who just donated a part of his body to you.

JC: Where does the rest of the thesis take us?

AB: The rest of the thesis goes back and forth in time and talks about how an illness like this one affects a person and her family. I’ve been sick with kidney disease ever since I was eighteen. The first time around, my brother donated his kidney to me. I discovered that each member of my family learned to deal with this situation in different ways. And even when Charlie came along, he dealt with it differently, too. What I’m trying to show, however, are all the feelings I was going through when this was happening. I didn’t realize how many there were until I started writing about it.

JC: How have these experiences shaped you as a person, influenced your writing overall and affected your relationship with Charlie?

AB: I suppose you could say that something like this makes you truly figure out what you need to be happy. I know now that I don’t need to be wealthy, or to be famous, or to be widely published. None of those things mean anything to me if I feel sick, or if I’m in a hospital bed. I know now that all I need to do is keep myself as healthy as possible and be with the people I want to be with. I get to look at the bigger picture now. I look at a situation and see what really counts. That always helps when you’re writing nonfiction. Our job as essayists is to look at the world around us and see what becomes significant we pay attention to the little things, and we think about them. We take the mundane and the everyday and we make it count. I feel like I already look at the world like that.

As for Charlie, you can’t get much closer than this.

JC: How does writing on such a personal matter compare to your other works?

AB: This was the most difficult thing I’ve ever written. I usually write about my relationships, my identity, my ethnicity, etc. But this was harder because I had to deal

with some feelings I wasn't willing to own up to. What's worse is that when I was sick, I spent most of that time thinking, "Okay, I just have to get through this. As soon as I get through this, it will be all over." But here I was, going back in time and going back to all those feelings and trying to relive them on the page.

I started writing in college when Dr. Musgrove told me she liked my sonnet. She pulled me aside and said, "Are you sure you want to be a Speech Pathology Major?" I started writing fiction and graduated with a degree in Writing. I kept trying to invent characters that were off the wall and in awkward situations. And then one day I started reading my journal and decided that real life is a lot crazier than I could ever imagine. So I started writing about my friends and family and the things going on in my head.

JC: What does Charlie think of all this? Are you two so dynamic in real life?

AB: "Charlie" is still getting used to being the character in a manuscript. Actually, he's still getting used to the attention he gets from being my donor. I call him my "hero" in this piece, and he doesn't like that at all. Though he likes reading my writing, I tend not to share drafts with him while I'm in the writing process. Otherwise, he's pretty supportive. He leaves me alone and doesn't hang over my shoulder. In the book, he wants me to make him Taller. I'd say we have a pretty fun time. Humor gets us through everything – Not just the transplant, but also the bickering, with annoyances, the bad days, the crankiness. Many times, I do feel like we're a comedy act. Whether the audience enjoys our jokes as much we do, I don't know. But we sure think we're funny.

JC: What's scarier than the kidney disease and the transplant?

AB: Being kidnapped by militant rebels in the Philippines. Standing on the edge of a cliff next to someone you trust only slightly. Drowning. Drunk drivers. Bears. Vincent Price. War. The entire Bush Administration. Being hungry. Being alone. Needing a heart transplant or a liver transplant. Cancer.

JC: how has your experience in the Non-fiction Writing Program been?

AB: When I first started the NWP, I was writing a lot about food, race, multi-cultural identity. I've always written about my family, and that hasn't changed much. I got the second transplant a year into the program, and everyone was telling me that that was a story I had to tell. They were right.

I've loved being in this program, and it upsets me that I have to leave. I've liked the teachers I've worked with and my classmates really seem to be interested in making the work better. I'll miss the little community I have here when I leave.

JC: What's next?

AB: In the coming year, I'd like to finish the book. The thesis is only a few chapters of what of the book I envision, so I've got a long way to go. No book deal yet, but hopefully soon. Ultimately, I see myself with "Charlie," in a house somewhere by the water, surrounded by my children (biological or otherwise), cracking cheesy jokes and making fart sounds with our hands, maybe.



Virtual Humanity

Interview with *Dr. Karim Abdel-Malek*

By J Caldwell

*Dr. Karim Abdel-Malek is a professor in the department of Biomedical Engineering and was recently appointed as Director of the Center for Computer Aided Design at the University of Iowa. He and his team are currently leading the field in unique initiatives in digital human modeling with the **Virtual Soldier Research (VSR) Program.***

Imagine a computer generated, physics-based human that can perform any number of tasks in a virtual environment and that also possesses cognitive reasoning and a physiology just like a real person's; this is "Santos", the work-horse of the VSR simulations.

Abdel-Malek's group has generated a fully articulated character that is used to test prototypes for equipment and vehicles, without the need and expense of actually creating the device, in real time. Santos is able to test and interact to these prototypes and give feedback on the task; if he is unable to perform the task, he won't, if the task is laborious, the researchers can monitor his breathing and muscle fatigue.

Two years ago the VSR project was funded solely by a US Army grant and in recent months the group received a \$1.75 million strategic partnership grant from Caterpillar Inc. and VSR is the largest project of its type in the US. Interest has sparked for this project due to the inherent flexibility and reproducibility of Santos' coding that mirrors human behaviors. This is due, in no small part, to the interplay of medical, engineering and computer science Graduate and Professional students from Ulowa and Abdel-Malek's background in robotics from the University of Pennsylvania.

"I am most proud of my *Dream Team*," says Abdel-Malek. VSR is run by a group of about 40 Graduate Students and Staff in the Engineering Research Facility, and Abdel-Malek is "truly impressed with the way Iowa City and the University consistently recruit new and talented graduate students." During a tour of the facility you can see these students working energetically behind their computer stations or donning virtual reality suits to interact in the Santos environment.

The VSR team are soon going to unveil the newest component to their research. Presently, the details of the project are kept secret, but I was permitted a quick tour of Santos' new environment and was awestruck. Look for the dedication of this new facility in the near future. Abdel-Malek is working to the goal of commercialization of the Santos environment ultimately to integrate him into dozens of diverse fields including forensic technology, sports medicine, safety and accessibility and many more.

If you know a University of Iowa Graduate Student or Professor that is doing interesting and unique work, please contact jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu with your suggestions.

BEST OF IOWA CITY/CORALVILLE – RESTAURANTS

Fellow Graduate Students: here's your chance to give the incoming Grads your collective knowledge of our little town's finest establishments. Print and Fill out our short, two-page survey and send it to:

Graduate Student Senate - attn: Jay Caldwell
415 Gilmore Hall

All applicants will be entered into our contest drawing for gift certificates from various restaurants and bars downtown. *Limit one application per University of Iowa Graduate Student.*

Your Name: _____

email address (so we can notify you): _____

Campus or Local Mail _____

or fill out our the survey on the website: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~gss/bulletinonline/>

LOOK FOR THE WINNERS AND YOUR COMMENTS IN THE AUGUST EDITION!

J Caldwell // jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu

BEST PIZZA

Wig & Pen

Pagliai's

The Mill

Other _____

Comments _____

ECLECTIA

Motley Cow

Devotay

Red Avocado

Other _____

Comments _____

MOST ROMANTIC

Taste on Melrose

Linn Street Café

one twenty six

Other _____

Comments _____

BEST WINGS

Vine

Sports Column

Public House (Fitzzi's)

Other _____

Comments _____

BEST PLACE TO STUDY

House of Aromas

Java House

Terrapin Café

Other _____

Comments _____

BEST COCKTAILS

- Siren
- Atlas
- Takanami
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST BURGER

- Micky's
- Summit
- Bo James
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST NEARBY IC

- Lincoln Café (Mt. Vernon)
- Dolduce (Washington)
- Vernon Inn (Cedar Rapids)
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST MIDDLE EASTERN

- Cafe Z
- Oasis
- Aladdin
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST ASIAN

- Aeoshe
- Takanami
- Thai Spice
- Other _____

Comments _____

OUT WITH THE FOLKS

- Gianni's
- Mondo's
- Brown Bottle
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST 21+ Bar

- Dublin Underground
- Joe's Place
- Martini's
- Other _____

Comments _____

BEST LUNCH

- Baldy's
- Bread Garden
- Venuto's
- Other _____

Comments _____

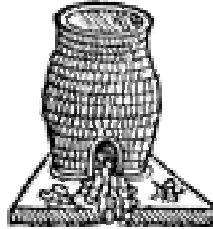
BEST GREASY SPOON

- Hamburg Inn
- Tony's Grill
- Lou Henri
- Other _____

Comments _____

MC S W E E N I F I E D

LISTS THAT I ADD BECAUSE THEY
AREN'T FUNNY ENOUGH
FOR PUBLICATION



WEBSITES I WISH I COULD REGISTER

BY J CALDWELL

www.hardknocks.edu

www.govnet.org

www.OEDthemovie.com

us.co.jp

IN THE NEXT ISSUE (The Iowa City Issue): We'll have the results of our 'Best of...' survey, interviews with a new grad and prof, new recipes and restaurant reviews, announcements about the GSS Fall Ball social event, and much, much more...

If you want to suggest features or contribute to the bulletin, please contact J Caldwell (jason-caldwell@uiowa.edu)