

Graduate Student Spotlight



Allison Bean

PhD - Speech Pathology and Audiology

BA, - Iona College

MS, - New York Medical College

**Winner of Honorable Mention in the
Biological & Health Sciences Division at the
2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate
Conference**

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

Examining how children learn words and use the words in their vocabulary.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

After working on a research team during my clinical training in speech-pathology I decided to pursue my PhD so I could continue doing research.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

The excellent reputation of the Speech Pathology and Audiology program.

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

To pursue an academic career where I can examine language development in children with autism.

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

I have had the opportunity to work on numerous research projects that have prepared me for a career in science.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

Seeing all of the different work that is occurring throughout the University.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

Running, reading and listening to music

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

The biggest challenge is finding enough time in the day to do everything that I would like to do.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

Karla McGregor and Larissa Samuelson have really impacted the way that I look at language development.