

Graduate Student Spotlight



Christina Freisinger

PhD - Biological Sciences

BS, Biology - Clarke College

Winner of 2nd Place in the Biological & Health Sciences Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference

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

The time that I have spent at Iowa has provided me with the many opportunities including becoming a teaching assistant, working with incoming graduate students, and developing my own research project. Together these opportunities have assisted me in becoming a mature scientist.

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

My thesis project addresses the effects G-protein regulation has on intracellular calcium release dynamics and developmental patterning events.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

There were many factors which persuaded my decision to go the graduate school but I believe that the largest contributing factor was my urge to learn more and develop into an independent scientist.

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

Iowa was a great choice for me because of its small home town feel along with its historical charm and great research opportunities. Because I was not directly affiliated with a lab the rotation program at Iowa gave me the piece of mind that I would find a lab that "fit" me. Lastly, Iowa was attractive to me because it gave me the opportunity to be only one and a half hours drive from my family.

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

I would like to pursue a career in developmental biology and start my own lab.

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?

I enjoyed sharing my research with my peers and gaining their input. In addition to providing students the chance to share their research the conference is also an ideal time to learn about all the research that is taking place right here at Iowa. It was a lot of fun talking one-on-one to other researchers in a laid back environment.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

I enjoy walking and gardening, as well as indoor things like movies and board games.

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

During the first two years of grad school it was difficult balancing my research with my classes. It is a lot easier now that I am post comps and have time to really dive into my research.

Hometown: Dubuque, Iowa

Advisor: Diane Slusarski

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

Of course my thesis advisor, Dr Slusarski has played the most significant role in helping me to develop my thesis. In addition to providing guidance she also listens to my opinions, encourages me to present my ideas and genuinely cares about my professional growth.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

The American Heart Association (AHA), Heartland Affiliate Predoctoral Fellowship, Evelyn Hart Watson Summer Fellowship, AAA Langman Graduate Student Platform Presentation First Place Award, and James F. Jakobsen Conference 2006 Second Place Award recipient.

