

# Graduate Student Spotlight



## Jon Johnson

**MFA - Art and Art History - Photography**

*BA, - The University of Alaska*

*MA, - Minnesota State University*

**Winner of 3rd Place in the Fine & Performing Arts Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference**

**Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.**

*Photographically documenting the post-Asian tsunami coastal areas in Thailand.*

**How did you decide to go to graduate school?**

*Finally discovered my passion for art and teaching, realized that there was funding to make it possible. Wanted to realize newfound educational and career goals.*

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

*Facilities (Art Building West, Art Library), research/funding opportunities, the city and local areas amenities, proximity to Twin Cities and Chicago, arts and entertainment opportunities, reputation/national ranking as art program*

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

*Immensely. I have received funding and encouragement from a variety of departments to pursue my thesis and related educational and research goals.*

**What are some of your interests outside of school?**

*Outdoors (hiking, camping, skiing), music, soccer*

**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?**

*The atmosphere was very conducive to immediate feedback, the facilities were good, and the fact that it is operated by grad students adds a vibe that is unique, fun and academic all at the same time.*

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

*Seek tenure-track faculty position, continue to publish/exhibit work*

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

*Time management, finding time for service-learning/volunteering.*

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

*John Freyer (lecturer, SAAH) and Jim Snitzer (Prof., SAAH), Kristi Fitzpatrick (International Programs)*

**Please note any significant honors you've received .**

*International Programs Stanley Grant, GSS Travel Grant for presenting at a conference, Graduate Diversity Grant/Scholarship, Bodine Fellowship*