

# Graduate Student Spotlight



*Samantha Joyce*

**PhD - Communication Studies**

*BA, Journalism - Universidade Federal Fluminense*

*MA, Radio and Television - San Francisco State University*

**Winner of Honorable Mention in the Humanities Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference**

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

*The Relationship between television, representation and social change*

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

*I was unsatisfied with my role as a radio reporter. I thought I could use my life better as a researcher and as a professor, giving back to the community and students.*

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

*The excellent program, professors and courses offered. They were good enough to keep my Brazilian mind off the cold weather! ;P*

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

*I have the opportunity to work with wonderful professors and also have hands on experience teaching my own classes*

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

*Film (cinema) and culture related activities – museums, city architecture, concerts*

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

*To continue to do research related to television and social change as well as teaching at the University level.*

**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 close contact with graduate students from other departments.*

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

*Believe it or not, the freezing weather has been a challenge. It is hard to go to school when it's 4 degrees!*

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

*Not just one, but many. All the professors I have come into contact with here in Iowa have helped me in some ways. But if I had to narrow it down, I'd choose Brent Malin and Joy Hayes*

**Please note any significant honors you've received .**  
*2004 - Best International Graduate Student Award (San Francisco State University), 2007 – Crossing Borders Fellowship*

**Hometown:** Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

**Advisor:** Joy Hayes