



# Graduate Student Spotlight

*Vanessa Mueller*

**PhD - Speech Pathology and Audiology**

*BA, - Our Lady of the Lake University*

*MA, - Our Lady of the Lake University*

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



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

*I am studying the effects of a tool I helped develop (the Iowa E-Book) on a Deaf child's vocabulary acquisition and parent/child shared reading interactions.*

**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 best part of the Jakobsen Conference experience was having the ability to talk to other graduate students around the University and learn about the fascinating research that takes place here.*

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

*I loved the atmosphere of the Speech Pathology department and Iowa City in general.*

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

*Hiking, biking, and playing softball and tennis with friends*

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

*I would like to continue working in an academic setting.*

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

*My advisor, Richard Hurtig has helped and supported me more than he'll ever know.*