1. Describe your internship placement and responsibilities.
My internship is at Western Home Communities at Thalman Square which is the memory care community. I am responsible for planning and leading daily activities, spending time one-on-one with the residents, documentation, coordinating the staff calendar, and leading volunteers.

2. What have you learned through your internship experience? One major thing that I have learned is how differently Alzheimer’s or a related dementia affects people. I learned that I must get to know every person individually to fully understand which activities they will benefit from, how best to communicate with them, and how to help them.

3. What has been the most rewarding part of your internship? The most rewarding part of my internship is when I can tell that I have made a resident’s day better. I have done this by leading an activity that they enjoyed, sitting down and listening to them talk, even helping them find their room or calming them down when they are feeling anxious.

CONGRATULATIONS

- 2012 Gerontology: Social Sciences graduate Michelle Remold now works as the Administrative Coordinator at the Northfield Senior Center in Northfield, Minnesota. Michelle is in the process of starting a Memory Cafe for those in the earlier stages of dementia.

- Cayla Loew graduated in May of 2014 and is starting a new position as the Activity Coordinator at Friendship Village in Waterloo. Cayla’s degree is in Gerontology: Long Term Care Administration.

- Emily Miller graduated in May of 2012 with a degree in Gerontology: Long Term Care Administration and is now the director of Lakeview Lodge in Waterloo. Emily passed the NHA boards in the fall of 2013.

- Lauren Stratton and Norma Garcia-Tellez presented research on aging at the CSBS Research Conference on UNI’s campus this spring. Both also presented their research at Research Day at the Capitol in Des Moines.

- Lauren Stratton graduated in May of 2014 as the Purple and Old Gold Winner for the School of Applied Human Sciences.

- Rachel Cook recently completed her honors thesis on medication non-compliance among older adults. She was advised by Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh.