THANK YOU!

On behalf of the UI First-Generation Task Force, thank you for attending this year’s 1stGen@Iowa Awards and Recognition Ceremony, and thank you for supporting first-generation students at the University of Iowa.

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Michelle Bremer Gama is a fourth year combined MD-MPH student. She grew up in San Diego, CA where she completed half of her undergraduate education at the University of California San Diego. The remainder of her undergraduate education was completed at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. Michelle grew up low income and an government support and worked throughout college to completely self-fund the endeavor. She experienced many unique challenges as a first-generation and low-income student with no connections to the medical field. During her third year of medical school, she founded the student organization First Generation and Low Income in Medicine (FGLIMed). Michelle decided to start FGLIMed as her own journey to medical school was a road of uncertainty, marked by an underwhelming level of guidance, mentorship, opportunities, and general sense of community amongst students with similar backgrounds and vision of the future. She hoped to be a force of change and founded FGLIMed to help solve these issues. Since the inauguration of FGLIMed, the organization has been a catalyst for numerous new mentorship programs across education levels, from graduate to high-school, and has also joined forces with pre-existing organizations that share the same mission. The group has also hosted a range of guest speakers, with the goal of building community, providing a source of inspiration, and relaying valuable information about navigating higher-education and the medical field. They are currently working on a podcast to further their reach. Michelle hopes to pursue a career as a pediatric anesthesiologist in an academic setting where she can continue her research. In Michelle’s free time, she loves to run, walk her two dogs (Mr. Bud and Lucky), camp, and spend time with her family.

John J. Bruno III joined the Hawkeye family in January 2014. He currently serves as the assistant athletics director for academics, in Student-Athlete Academic Services, where he oversees the tutoring and academic support provided to University of Iowa student-athletes. Additionally, he is the academic coordinator for football and men’s and women’s basketball. John received a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Southern Illinois University in 1999. He began his career serving youth, and their families, as a substance abuse and community outreach counselor at a non-profit youth organization in the Chicagoland area for six years before becoming a program therapist at a juvenile detention center. He returned to Southern Illinois University in 2007 to complete a second bachelor’s degree in communications and a master’s degree in kinesiology (Sports Studies). John spent two years as a television news, sports reporter/anchor and a radio color commentator for a minor league baseball team in Southern Illinois before finding his calling in student-athlete academic services. He has spent the past thirteen years working in academic services at three universities (Southern Illinois, Northern Illinois, and the University of Iowa).

Jennifer Haylett teaches in the Department of Sociology and Criminology as an associate professor of instruction. She is also the director of undergraduate studies and honors advisor for the department. Jennifer earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Idaho and a master’s degree and PhD in sociology from the University of California-Davis. Her academic interests fall in the areas of gender, family, medical sociology, sociology of reproduction, economic sociology, and qualitative research methods. When she’s not on campus, she’s usually spending time with her two dogs, Edie and Hank.

Madeline Olivia Carlson is a fourth year undergraduate student majoring in Neuroscience. Originally from Colorado, she came to Iowa for college in order to be close to some extended family. She is a first-generation college student who is extremely passionate about making other first-generation students feel comfortable and ready to take on both college and the workforce post-grad. In her free time, she is an avid reader who also enjoys any outdoor activity, camping, hanging out with those who she loves the most, and playing with her cat Bean.