CSBS Kudos, December 2010

University of Northern Iowa. College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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CSBS is on the move

The renovation of Sabin Hall is nearly complete! By the start of spring semester, the following offices will have settled in their new locations:

- Dean’s Office: 319 Sabin
- Political Science: 335 Sabin
- Public Policy: 309 Sabin
- Counseling faculty: 301 Sabin
- Social Work: 235 Sabin
- Women’s and Gender Studies: 225 Sabin
- Center for Violence Prevention and Intervention: 219 Sabin

There will be an informal open house Friday, January 7, so that instructors teaching in Sabin Hall can preview their classrooms and learn about the new multimedia equipment. Keys to the new podiums can also be checked out that day.

Other days and times may be available in addition to scheduled appointments. Watch your email or www.uni.edu/csbs/facilities for more information about times and locations. Please note that office personnel and equipment may not be readily available during break, so plan now for any spring semester needs.

*Clockwise from top right:* The new lecture hall, now on the ground floor, that seats 175 students; the instructional computer lab; a classroom; a faculty office; the four-story atrium; and the new terrazzo floor design.
I traveled to England and Spain for a social psychology course and I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences of my life! Submerging myself in another culture is one opportunity I never thought I would experience and I’m so glad I took advantage of it while I had the chance. The professor and group I went with helped me enjoy the experience even more, from doing the academic part, to trying new foods, to going to performances, and experiencing the lifestyles of another part of the world. It was so nice to have a great balance of academics and time on our own to do more of our interest types of things like laying on a beach in Barcelona or talking with students from a University in Plymouth. Social psychology has always been an interest of mine and I’m so glad I got to fully experience a cross-cultural part of it.”

Psychology study-abroad course is launched

CSBS programs already offer study abroad opportunities in Greece, Italy, Poland, Nicaragua, and Northern Ireland, but the Department of Psychology now has its first international course offering for students.

In May 2010, the first psychology study abroad class traveled to the United Kingdom and Spain. Professor Helen Harton led students in the course Culture and Social Behavior. The main cities of the two-week course were London, England, and Barcelona and Jaen, Spain, and additional day trips to other interesting sites, including Plymouth, Brighton, Canterbury, and Granada, were also included.

The objectives of the course were for students to observe social behavior in the United States, England, and Spain; study the psychology of culture and cross-cultural research methods; complete assignments to better understand cultural differences; and visit several universities in England and Spain in order to interact with other students and hear lectures by European psychologists. Upon their return home, students were also charged with analyzing their collected data and completing a project on their study.

An additional course in Spain is also being planned by fellow Psychology professor Jack Yates and Carole Yates from the CEEE. The Capstone course Climate Change in Spain will allow students to better understand their own lifestyle, to observe the pleasant but environmentally respectful Spanish lifestyle and culture, and to learn about successful government policies that promote energy conservation and renewable energy development.

Sabrina Roll, a junior Psychology major, on her Summer 2010 experience: “I traveled to England and Spain for a social psychology course and I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences of my life! Submerging myself in another culture is one opportunity I never thought I would experience and I’m so glad I took advantage of it while I had the chance. The professor and group I went with helped me enjoy the experience even more, from doing the academic part, to trying new foods, to going to performances, and experiencing the lifestyles of another part of the world. It was so nice to have a great balance of academics and time on our own to do more of our interest types of things like laying on a beach in Barcelona or talking with students from a University in Plymouth. Social psychology has always been an interest of mine and I’m so glad I got to fully experience a cross-cultural part of it.”

New counseling programs maintaining excellence

Kudos to the newest unit within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences! The programs in Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling, now part of CSBS’s new School of Applied Human Sciences, have continued their excellence in preparing their graduate students.

In the fall of 2007, the programs instituted as an exit requirement an exam called the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE). CPCE is utilized by over 290 universities and colleges and is designed to assess students’ knowledge of counseling information based on eight content areas assigned by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs: human growth and development; social and cultural foundations; helping relationships; group work; career and lifestyle development; appraisal; research and program evaluation; and professional orientation and ethics. Since the requirement has been in force, the programs have maintained a 100% pass rate with 84% of the students scoring above the national mean score.

The counseling programs are coordinated by associate professor Jan Bartlett and will reside in Sabin 301.
Linda Walsh (Psychology) served on the steering committee of the 11th Annual Iowa Teachers of Psychology Conference, which took place at Central College in Pella in November. Two members of the 11-person steering committee are also former UNI psychology students: Keith Jones (now chair of the psychology department at Central) and Cory Johnson (now a psychologist for Great Prairie AEA).

Anne Woodrick (Anthropology) has written a publication about immigration in Iowa and the U.S. for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Programs. The publication will be translated into some 35 different languages and distributed around the world. The first article is about Marshalltown, Iowa, and is available online at www.america.gov.

Carol Weisenberger (History) was recognized in October for her outstanding faculty service on the Master of Public Policy Coordinating Committee. She has served in this capacity since the beginning of the program and has at various times been associate director and interim director of the program.

Konrad Sadkowski (History) and Xavier Escandell (Sociology), together with Deirdre Heistad (Modern Languages), have formed a new collaborative study and research initiative. The Forum for National and Transnational Identities was established with a 2010 CSBS Dean’s Challenge Grant and seeks to advance interdisciplinary efforts on national identity and related fields, such as nationalism, transnationalism, ethnicity, race, immigration and citizenship. Any interested faculty member is welcome to join the membership and contribute in a variety of formats.

Ramanathan Sugumaran (Geography) and John DeGroot, GeoTREE staff, just published a book, “Spatial Decision Support Systems: Principles and Practices” (CRC Press). GeoTREE has also received a research grant from Amazon to conduct research on Cloud Computing for processing the statewide Iowa LiDAR data and aerial imagery, in addition to a new five-year research contract with John Deere to conduct research on spatial analysis.

Carolyn Hildebrandt (Psychology) and Indrani Thiruvselvam presented a workshop entitled “Cyberbullying: Freedom of Speech or Psychological Harm?” at the Association for Constructivist Teaching Conference in October. Thiruvselvam is a Fulbright Scholar from Malaysia pursuing a master’s degree in Clinical Science in the Department of Psychology. Hildebrandt also presented a multimedia workshop on teaching Piaget’s concept of equilibration to college-age students at the conference.

Richard Featherstone (Criminology) and Allen Hays (Public Policy) helped facilitate the October CSBS Brown Bag on service learning. Both have had recent success in engaging local agencies and businesses in service learning opportunities for students.

Wallace Hettle and John Johnson (History) discussed “Dissent in Iowa” on Iowa Public Radio’s “Talk of Iowa” in October.

Donna Hoffman (Political Science), Tyler O’Brien (Anthropology), Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi (Interior Design), and Brenda Bass (Family Studies) are serving on the college’s new Recruitment Task Force, implemented by the dean to increase the promotion of the college’s programs to new students.

Upcoming CSBS Events

January 28: CSBS Brown Bag, Sabin 109, 2-3pm

Steven Briggs (Criminology) will lead a hands-on tutorial on using the data sets available through the Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

CSBS has purchased a two-year membership in ICPSR, a unit of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. ICPSR offers a wealth of social, political, historical, and geographical quantitative data and archival material, as well as faculty development opportunities. This membership significantly increases the research resources of the faculty and students of CSBS, including access to numerous surveys and studies; analysis-ready data in multiple software formats (SPSS, SAS, and Stata); classroom-ready datasets geared to getting quantitative analysis into the classroom; the Minority Data Resource Center; data deposit and preservation services; a summer program in quantitative methods of social research; and a summer undergraduate internship program. For more information about this event or to RSVP, contact Associate Dean Brenda Bass.

Seating for this event is limited, so please RSVP now if you are interested.
Student Kudos

Ian Goldsmith and Spencer Walrath (Psychology) recently won first place in the “I Am Purple and Gold” video contest sponsored by the Office of Admissions. Their video can be seen at www.youtube.com/user/UNIAdmissions. Goldsmith is a current SBS Scholar also majoring in theater.

Anna Dubois (Textile and Apparel) spent the summer as a design intern with GoLight Outfitters in Denver, Colorado.

Student Interior Designers in New York City

Twenty Interior Design students participated in a week-long study-trip in New York City this summer. Led by faculty Gowri Betabet Gulwadi and Jillissa Moorman, excursions to design firms and well-designed historical and contemporary landmarks enhanced students’ perspectives. The annual Interior Design Senior Portfolio Show is December 12.

Dean’s Student Advisory Council

Each month, the dean meets with an advisory council comprised of student leaders from across CSBS. The purpose of the council is to engage students directly with our college and to seek their input on issues of interest to students.

The dean greatly appreciates the student perspective and thanks the following students for serving on this year’s council: Ryan Abernathy (Criminology), Kenan Aldzic (Geography), Mackenzie Burger (Textiles and Apparel), Devin Davis (Political Science), Jessica DeBoom (Counseling), Jennifer Devries (Counseling), Beth Dhooge (Social Work), Abby Huff (Interior Design), Abby Kelchen (Interior Design), Julie Roth (Interior Design), Tesfay Russell (Geography), Carmen Schechinger, (Interior Design), Lindsey Sermons (Social Work), Sheri Sigler (Gerontology), Ariel Smith (Women’s and Gender Studies), and Kathy Wood (Textiles and Apparel).

Left: CSBS students discuss issues with Dean Mauceri at the December meeting of the advisory council. Above: Students in attendance (L to R): Ariel Smith, Tesfay Russell, Karin Schwarz, Jessica DeBoom, Chelsea Miller, Abby Huff, Abby Kelchen, and Carmen Schechinger

If you have a notable achievement you’d like published in an upcoming edition of CSBS Kudos, send the information to holly.bokelman@uni.edu. Then watch for the next edition!
Alumni Kudos

Anesa Kajtazovic (Public Administration ‘07) was elected in November to the Iowa House of Representatives. Born in Bosnia, her family arrived in Waterloo in 1997. Kajtazovic was a CSBS Alderman Scholar and double-majored in Public Administration and Business, degrees which she completed in only three years.

Cindee Calton (Anthropology ‘05) has completed her M.A. thesis at the University of Iowa on the topic “Language Ideologies in an American Sign Language Classroom.”

Ryan Tapscott (Psychology ‘03) has completed his Ph.D. at Iowa State. He has also co-authored an article for the North American Journal of Psychology: “Face recognition in context: A case study of tips on a call-in crime TV show” with Kim MacLin and Otto MacLin (Psychology).

Jeffrey Kurtz (History ‘96) is the new executive director of Main Street Waterloo. He had previously served as the executive director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society for six years.

Terrence Ou (Public Policy ‘96) returned to Beijing in 2008. He established the Chinese branch of Zunch Communications, a search engine optimization, Web site design, and email marketing firm, and now serves as president of that branch. He is also expanding his own business, which focuses on Chinese travel tours.

Sue Caley (History ‘81) came to UNI as a hometown girl from Cedar Falls, Iowa. Sue came to UNI intent on being a social sciences teacher, but a part-time job with a public relations agency when she was in college took her career down another path. Sue now works at Wells Fargo in Des Moines in the communications department supporting her teams’ efforts in a variety of Wells Fargo’s lines of business.

She says, “I’m very proud of the education I received from UNI and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. To this day I am a big believer in a broad liberal arts education, and UNI gave me the chance to study history, sociology, and geography, which are topics of interest to me.” Sue is a steadfast supporter of UNI and believes in what our students in CSBS are doing by giving to the Dean’s Fund for Excellence. The CSBS Dean’s Fund for Excellence gives students the chance to receive financial support for study abroad and pursue undergraduate research opportunities, and provides support for other initiatives within the college.

“I had a number of wonderful professors at UNI, people who are icons in the social sciences, like David Walker, John Eiklor, and Leland Sage, as well as Glenda Riley, who was really at the forefront in the area of women’s studies on campus. All of these people helped increase my knowledge of the world, which provides me a greater understanding in my everyday interactions and conversations at a company like Wells Fargo,” she says. “I believe that everyone can do something and there is not any amount that is too small to help students.”

Tom Newton, director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at this year’s Public Policy homecoming gathering for faculty, students, and alumni. He was also a featured guest at the CSBS Distinguished Alumni Day in April.

Mr. Newton is a 1994 graduate of Political Science and a 2002 graduate of the Master’s of Public Policy program. Before becoming director of the IDPH in 2007, Newton served as the director of the IDPH Division of Environmental Health. Among his many accomplishments in this position was the Redesigning Public Health in Iowa project. This statewide effort between local and state public health focuses on developing a baseline of standards for public health service delivery statewide.
New digital signage in CSBS

You may have noticed the new digital displays installed in buildings with a CSBS presence. We currently have three units and will add four more when Sabin Hall reopens in order to maximize the opportunities for students and visitors to become more acquainted with the college.

Our goal is to use the displays to deliver college news, events, and program promotion. Each program or department will eventually be represented, along with profiles of CSBS faculty, students, and alumni.

Though the bulk of the content will be CSBS-specific, the monitors also broadcast the weather, select UNI events, and bulletins in the event of an emergency.

We rely on faculty and staff to submit information regarding events and students to profile. If you have suggestions regarding content, nominations of students to include, or questions about the process, please contact Holly Bokelman.

When designing your own slides, aim for readability within a 5-second window. Also note that the format of our displays favors an aspect ratio of 16:9 instead of the default PowerPoint slide setting.

The Center for Violence Prevention and Intervention

When Sabin Hall reopens, there will be a new center among its occupants. The Center for Violence Prevention and Intervention has been established with a grant from the Department of Justice to focus on decreasing gender violence and developing best practices for responding to and preventing interpersonal violence at Iowa’s three state universities.

Annette Lynch (Textiles and Apparel) will direct the center. She has already been leading the Regents Campus Violence Task Force, formed to update the sexual misconduct policies at the state universities. Funding for the new center will further support initiatives for victim support services; educating men about their role in ending violence against women; national training institutes for campus personnel and students; mandatory education for all first-year students at Iowa’s state universities about sexual assault and gender violence; and a Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Leadership Institute for Violence for young men and women from all backgrounds to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities.

Additional funding for the center has come from the Waite Institute for Violence Prevention, located in Sioux City, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Together with the center’s MVP director Alan Heisterkamp, Lynch has also recently received a Domestic Violence Prevention grant from the Verizon Foundation to offer summer MVP training for local school teachers, staff, and administrators. For more information on the center and its programs, visit Sabin 219 this spring.

The faculty of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences continually distinguish themselves in quality teaching, scholarship and service. CSBS Kudos, published twice every semester, is meant to highlight these accomplishments and make colleagues in the college and across campus aware of the great things being done in CSBS. By sharing the ideas, interests and contributions of faculty, we hope to sustain a sense of community among the teacher-scholars of UNI.