University of Northern Iowa

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CSBS Statements

Newsletters/Magazines

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Welcome back to fall in Iowa and another great semester in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences!

You will notice a change in this fall’s newsletter. As you know, the College places a high priority on engaging CSBS students in both academic pursuits and activities that encourage them to use their academic knowledge outside the classroom, which are generally referred to as co-curricular activities. And many of you, our CSBS alumni, have generously provided funds to help students participate in these endeavors. This year, we thought we would highlight some of these activities – so you can judge for yourself their value in enhancing the educational experience students receive at UNI.

You will read one student’s account of her travels to Nicaragua to see firsthand how Central American Social Services work. You’ll also read tales of CSBS undergraduates who have studied in Italy, Poland, New Zealand, and Ireland. You will see how UNI psychology majors demonstrated to Waterloo middle-school students the importance of research and investigation in the solving of crimes in their unique version of CSI-UNI. And, of course, there will be information from every college program about discipline-specific efforts to provide the highest quality education for UNI students.

In addition to all of these endeavors, the college supports programs to defray the cost of tickets to the Gallagher Performing Arts Center and provides funding for the Textile and Apparel spring fashion show, the CSBS undergraduate research conference, and a number of multicultural events and interdisciplinary efforts. This year we co-sponsored the Holocaust Remembrance and Education Program, which explores the history and lasting impact of the Holocaust, and sponsored an Art Merit Award, which recognizes excellence among UNI art students. We also worked with the Department of Political Science to help support the Saudi-U.S. Relationship Conference, held on campus October 24 in order to gain further understanding of Saudi Arabian economics, politics, culture, and relations with the U.S.

And, naturally, being in Iowa provides the opportunity to experience firsthand presidential politics! UNI has scheduled several on-campus presentations by major candidates to discuss their stand on educational policy, and we almost had the opportunity to host a national debate on MSNBC.

Getting a bachelor’s degree is no longer just about passing 120 credit hours of classes. Students, when they choose a college, choose one that will engage them 24/7. They look for a college that will provide them with high-quality dorm rooms, state-of-the-art technology, superior advising and career services, and a variety of activities in the arts, recreation, and athletics. Students are not disappointed when they come to UNI. In fact, a recent National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asked students if they could start college all over again, would they choose their current institution – and UNI students more than any of our peer institutions answered “Yes”!

We in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences are grateful that so many of our alumni consistently say “Yes” – to CSBS programs, faculty, students, and activities. Your support of the College helps maintain the superior level of teaching at UNI and creates new and exciting opportunities for our students to be engaged in an ever-changing world.

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In July, a group of students from the Department of Social Work and UNI’s Department of Communication Science and Disorders traveled to Nicaragua, the second-poorest country in Latin America, for the study abroad course “Social Welfare in Latin America.”

The group spent their time visiting such places as a school for disabled children, orphanages, a long-term care center for abandoned children, an inclusion school, and several other governmental and nongovernmental organizations working to fight poverty and empower communities. Cheryl Lyon, a student in the Master’s of Social Work program, was among the group. Following is her account of the trip.

It has been two weeks since my return from Nicaragua. It has taken this long for me to feel ready to put into words what the trip meant — both professionally and personally.

I was most interested in taking this trip for the opportunity to see how another country functions on a macro level, and how the citizens’ lives are affected by the environment around them. This goal was met many times over. Our trips to visit the women’s sewing cooperative and USAID offices were outstanding. Women who came from the United States to open a school for disabled children and an orphanage, were very informative in explaining how different macro systems interact to affect the daily lives of citizens. It is interesting to note that all of the organizations mentioned depend on aid from the United States to open a school for disabled children and an orphanage in Managua.

Cheryl is one of many students to have received a CSBS study-abroad scholarship. To read about other students who have had life-changing experiences abroad, turn to pages 7 and 8.

Right: The UNI group visited the home of a family that makes pottery. The couple has at least three generations of potters in the family. The sale of the wares provides a livable income for them and even allowed them to replace the dirt floor in their home with cement.

When the campus Training School (later named Sabin Hall) opened, it had about 350 pupils, twenty-five teachers, and, over the course of the first year, about five hundred student teachers.

CSIS:UNI

In July, CSIS faculty offered a fun and interactive event for students in UNI’s Educational Talent Search, which encourages students to be successful in high school and to ultimately complete college.

The event, named “CSI:UNI,” introduced middle-school students to forensic photography, fingerprinting, eyewitness memory and identification, forensic entomology, composite construction, and evidence collection.

When the group attended lunch, a crime was staged, allowing the students to process the scene using all the skills they had learned in the morning session. Psychology faculty Kim MacLin and Otto Maclin organized the event and conducted it with the help of Psychology majors Elise Cochrane, Charles Michels, and Dwight Petersen; Psychology graduate student Melinda Bullock; and UNI alumnus and Iowa State doctoral student Ryan Tapcott. Also on hand to help for the day were other post-graduate students from Iowa State who staffed the stations and several high school students from Iowa and Massachusetts who acted as victims and witnesses.

While there’s no “CSI:UNI” spin-off ready for television yet, we hope that this fun and engaging event can be offered again in the future.

Gender Violence Prevention Project

Professors Annette Lynch and Michael Fleming from the Department of Design, Textiles, Gerontology, and Family Studies have received a grant of nearly one million dollars to address gender violence on college campuses. The funding will be used to fund the new program of the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Iowa CASA).

The new program will be directed by Dr. Lynch with Dr. Fleming as the associate director. Other UNI members of this collaborative effort include Karen Mitchell (Office of the Provost), Dave Zarifis (Public Safety), and Julie Barnes (Office of Student Affairs). Other collaborating partners include the Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, Iowa CASA, the Rape Victim Advocacy Program, and the Iowa Attorney General’s Office.

Crime Scene Investigation!

Sabin Hall near completion in the winter of 1913 - 1914

A new laboratory school was built in the 50s, and in 1957 the original building was renamed Henry Sabin Hall. Sabin, an early president of the Iowa State Normal School board of directors, was a leading figure in the development of teacher education practices.

In the mid-50s, the departments of Social Science and Business Education moved into the building. They later formed the College of Business and Behavioral Sciences but were separated in 1980 into the College of Business and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, which remained in Sabin Hall.

Sabin currently houses the CSBS Dean’s office, the departments of Political Science and Social Work, the Center for Social and Behavioral Research, 17 classrooms, two computer labs, and over 40 faculty offices. The building has been upgraded several times over the years, but nearly a century of use has taken its toll. CSBS faculty, staff, and students look forward to the upcoming changes that will provide a state-of-the-art environment for the next generation of students.

Look for the star symbol throughout this issue to learn more facts about Sabin Hall.

Historical photo and information appear courtesy of the University of Northern Iowa Archives.
The Department of History has a unified director, Phyllis Baker, who oversees both the undergraduate and graduate programs. The Women’s Studies program has a unified director, Karen Amsden, and the principal investigator is Dr. Gregory D. Herlihy. Gene Lutz, CSBR director, is the principal investigator in achieving its tobacco control goals. Gene Lutz, CSBR director, is the principal investigator.

The Center for International Peace and Security Studies sponsored several speakers last year, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams (see page 9). His research will focus on elements of the Rwandan genocide.

Laura Praglin (Political Science) was awarded the first USAID/USAID-Flooding in Bangladesh Research Grant. Her research seeks to develop a grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study the impact of college student employment on alcohol consumption. Dr. Downs continues his work on two other grants: the Integrative Services Project to address issues of safety and sobriety for battered, substance-abusing women, and another project examines what other services are needed for such women.

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Trudy Eden (History): Cooking in America, 1590-1840

Donna Hoffman (Political Science): Assessing the State of the Union: The Evolution and Impact of the President’s Big Speech

Alexandra Kogi (Political Science): Strange Places: Political Perils and Potentials of Everyday Spaces


M. Kimberly MacLin and Otto MacLin (Psychology): Cognitive Psychology (new textbook edition and a translation into Turkish)

Christopher Mullins and Dawn Roth (Criminology): Power, Bending, and Bloodshed: State Crime in Post-Colonial Africa

Henry Owusu (Geography): Africa, Temper, Turf and Trade: Geographic Perspectives on Ghana’s Timber Industry

Margaret Stalp (Sociology): Quilting: The Fabric of Everyday Life

Katherine van Wormer: Addiction Treatment: A Strengths Perspective and the Social Environment, Micro Level

Carissa Froyum has joined the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology. She has a PhD in Sociology from North Carolina State, and her research interests include social inequality, sexuality, families, and feminist theories.

Cynthia Dunn (Anthropology) will be a visiting scholar at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, in spring 2008. Her research will focus on Japanese language ideologies and workplace communication.

Kay Weller (Geography) received a Fulbright-Hays award to develop curriculum about natural hazards in Bangladesh. She and her team spent four weeks there meeting with universities, schools and were there to experience the worst flooding in a decade.

Flooding in Bangladesh

James McCullagh (Social Work) was again awarded a training project grant from the Iowa Department of Human Services. The grant amount and scope have increased to include the development and piloting of a new training program on cultural competency and diversity.

Elaine Eshbaugh (Family Studies) was a recipient of the first AEB-Whitenack Davis Research in Gerontology award. Her research centers on older women who live alone. The Davis fund was established to encourage research activities in gerontology and the professional development of UNI gerontology faculty.

Brenda Bass (Family Studies), Adam Butler (Psychology), and William Downs (Social Work) have received a grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study the impact of college student employment on alcohol consumption. Dr. Downs continues his work on two other grants: the Integrative Services Project to address issues of safety and sobriety for battered, substance-abusing women, and another project examines what other services are needed for such women.

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Laura Praglin (Social Work) was among the first group of UNI faculty invited by the Iowa Dialog Center to participate in an educational and intercultural exchange in Turkey this summer. The IDC seeks to promote global knowledge and dialogue between the Muslim world and the West.

Marybeth Stalp (Sociology) will be an invited scholar at an international conference on gender at the University of Rouen, France, this fall, where she will present her research on the art of quilting.

R. Allen Hays (Public Policy) is spending the fall 2007 semester as a Fulbright scholar at Queen’s University Belfast in Northern Ireland.

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**Student News**

**CSBS Students again Lead NISG**

For the second year in a row, the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) leaders are both CSBS majors. Student-body president Andrew Morse (I), a junior in Psychology, and vice-president Adam Bentley (R), a senior in Political Science, will spend this year representing over 12,600 UNI students by lobbying state legislators, working with the community, and consulting with campus administrators.

Morse, from Alcorn, Iowa, has the goal of earning a Ph.D. in social psychology. Bentley, from Iowa City, would like to become a city administrator and eventually get into state or national politics. Whatever their path once they leave UNI, we are proud of their achievements and those of all students who are active in the more than 250 student organizations at UNI.

**CSBS Student Research**

Each spring, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences hosts a Student Research Conference in order to facilitate scholarly activities, and promote fellowship in the social sciences. Students from universities and colleges across Iowa are invited to present original research that is supervised by a faculty member and is work beyond regular course research.

The 2007 conference was chaired by Professor Beverly Kopper from the Department of Psychology and coordinated by students Erica Spenlove (Family Studies 97) and Emily Nordorf (Psychology). Following is a small sample of the research projects that were presented at the conference by CSBS student scholars.

**Esperanza Pintor (center) spent several weeks in Africa this summer. She is shown here in front of a local hospital with four public health workers from the city of Farafenni in The Gambia.**

**Social Science Major Studies in Poland**

Steven Steele, a senior Social Science Teaching major from Fairfield, spent part of his summer studying the Holocaust and taking a Capstone course in Poland.

"Studying in Poland was probably one of my greatest experiences," he says. "This was my first time out of the country and really my first time ever going on a trip, and I truly enjoyed the whole time while there.

While in Europe, Steele was able to experience other unique opportunities. He traveled to the Czech Republic, where he toured the city of Prague and visited the site of a former concentration camp, and he also visited the Italian cities of Rome, Pisa, and Milan.

"Since my return," he says, "I have told everyone that I talk to about my experience and how it has changed my life forever."

**CSBS Student Researches the World**

Esperanza Pintor is a senior from Des Moines majoring in Sociology and minoring in Anthropology. She is an Alderman Scholar and a McNair Scholar and has been very active on campus in such groups as the Hispanic Latino Student Union, the Discipleship Council at St. Stephen’s, the Jump Start Committee, and the Honors Student Advisory Board. Esperanza spent her summer in four foreign countries, and she has shared with us a brief account of her experience.

In May I traveled to Romania, Greece, and Hungary as part of my Capstone class. During this experience, five UNI students and I implemented a dental health education program with the gypsy community in Romania. I am obtaining the Global Health and Health Disparities Certificate at UNI and therefore was able to fulfill my requirement through the planning and organizing of the dental health outreach program.

During the months of June and July I interned in The Gambia, Africa. This internship was provided by the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa in partnership with Minority Health & Health Disparities International Research and Training (MHIRT), a program that enables students from under-represented minority groups in the U.S. to gain international research experience in a health-related area.

During my stay in The Gambia, I was an intern at a total of seven non-governmental organizations, hospitals, and clinics. My focus during the internship was on women’s health, but at each organization I was able to learn about the current health issues that all Gambians encounter.

Being exposed to other cultures, ideas, traditions, and ways of being is a great opportunity for people to grow personally, which would recommend it to all individuals. Many question studying abroad due to cost, but funding opportunities are available. Take advantage! I know I benefited from being exposed to everything I saw in Romania, Greece, Hungary, and The Gambia!

**Where in the world have CSBS students been?**

Here is just a handful of other amazing international opportunities that CSBS students have taken advantage of.

**Christina Phruit (Textile and Apparel) from Davenport spent part of her summer in China teaching English. Alyson Rasmussen (Social Work) from Marshalltown went on the study tour of Italy (see back cover). As a non-traditional student with a family, she knew that studying abroad for a whole semester was out of the question. When she found out about the two-week course, however, Alyson knew it was the perfect opportunity for her: she got the chance of a lifetime and could still be a mom.**

**Megan Tiernan (History) from Connnec spent some of her summer in Ghana with other students from UNI’s Global Health Corps. The group worked with local university students to develop programs on the eradication of guinea worm, a parasite prevalent in northern Ghana. Megan says, “The people there were so friendly, and it is absolutely gorgeous.”**

**Ashley Wilson (Public Administration) from Ames spent five weeks studying in Poland during the summer of 2006. She enjoyed it so much that she spent the entire spring semester in Ireland. Ashley says, “Studying abroad was one of the best times of my life. I guess that is the reason I did it twice!”**

**Jessica Young (Psychology) from Nevada, Iowa, spent the spring semester in New Zealand. When she wasn’t studying, Jessica spent time spent time hiking on a glacier, skydiving, exploring geothermal areas, experiencing Maori culture, and relaxing on the beach.**

**Funding for student travel**

CSBS encourages every student to take part in an international experience. The perspectives these students bring back are priceless to our mission of helping students become global citizens, and the personal development is life-changing for these students. Too many students, however, feel that such opportunities are out of their reach due to the cost.

One of the many ways in which alumni can help students is a gift to the Dean’s Fund for Excellence. These funds have been established in each of UNI’s colleges to support activities not eligible for funding from other sources. CSBS, however, has devoted the bulk of the money from its Dean’s Fund specifically for the purpose of increasing the ability of undergraduate CSBS students to study abroad.

Students returning from abroad consistently describe it as one of the best events of their lives. After reading the personal accounts of students like Cheryl Lyon (page 2) and Steven Steele (page 8), two of the many students to have received CSBS study-abroad scholarships, it is easy to see that such an experience can have on a student’s perspective and personal journey. Consider supporting the Dean’s Fund for Excellence. The gift you give really does have the power to change a student’s life forever.

**Student Textile and Apparel Show**

Every April, students in the Textile and Apparel (TAPP) program produce a design show. This runway show is the culmination of a year’s work for students and showcases their theoretical and creative work in addition to the fundamentals of textile design, science foundations, garment construction, merchandising, and promotion.

Just as the featured apparel is designed and constructed by students, the planning, promotion, choreography, music, and execution of the show is done entirely by students. The 2007 expo was directed by students Amy Heinick, Lacy Hooey, and Alyssa Stokesbary, but each design show is truly a collaboration that includes both the guidance of TAPP faculty and the effort of virtually all TAPP students.

Each week, classrooms in Sabin Hall accommodate over 6,800 students.
CSBS Scholarships

The College is proud to offer two sizeable scholarships for students interested in the social and behavioral sciences. SBS Scholarship: The SBS Scholarship Program offers up to $6,000 per year for four years for approximately 10 incoming first-year students. Applicants must rank in the upper 15 percent of their high school class, have a composite ACT score of 27 or better, and intend to declare a major in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Applications for the 2008-2009 academic year are due January 7, 2008.

Alumni Scholarship: The Everett Alderman Endowment Fund supports scholarships of up to $6,000 per year for “needily, worthy and appreciative” students. The program is open to incoming freshmen, current students, and transfer students who intend to declare a major in CSBS. Applications for 2008-2009 are due Feb. 1, 2008.

Cengage Learning

Sabin Hall was constructed in 1912 at a cost of $150,000. The cost estimate for the renovation of the building is just under $12 million.

News from CSBS Alumni

1950s

Bernard Brommel (Social Science ’51) retired as a professor from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago after 40 years of teaching. He remains a writer and a psychotherapist.

1960s

ThomasBruce (SocialScienceBA’61,M.A.64)isaprofessorofpsychology atSacramentoCityCollege. He has specialized in thanatology, the study of death, since 1975.

Edward Ahl (SocialScience ’63) recently sold his motorsports business and has retired to a career of cyberspace sales.

CarrollEngelhardt(SocialScience’63)isaprofessorofhistoryemeritusatConcordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He has published a book on how the railroads shaped the cities of Fargo and Moorhead.

1970s

Kenneth Berryhill (History ’72) retired after nearly 35 years in higher education. He and wife Jenny (’75), who is also retired, live in Massachusetts.

WilliamDonald (Sociology ’72) is a financial advisor and vice president of Morgan Stanley, where he has worked for over 22 years, and lives in New Mexico.

Janice Berry Edwards (SocialWork ’78) is an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also involved with the CSWE Gero-Ed Curriculum Development Institute and has a private practice.

1980s

JonNiehaus (Psychology BA ’83, MA ’85) is a senior account manager and co-founder of the software company Starrisoft, which he started after he received his PhD in computer science. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

James Lynch (SocialWork ’83) is a senior account manager at Starrisoft, which he started after he received his PhD in computer science. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

JodyWeigel(SocialWork’81)spent10yearsworkingforabrain andspinal-cord injury prevention program but now helps husband Chad run their businesses. They live in Hudson with their children.

Dan Cox (SocialScience ’91) is the secondary principal and activities director at Valley Lutheran Middle and High School in Cedar Falls.

1990s

Troy Cook (Psychology ’90) works at Krust Insurance in West Des Moines and has been active in politics.

Bob Hensley (Psychology BA ’90, MA ’92) earned an MA in creative writing and family studies from ISU, married Tamara in June ’06, and spent a year as a visiting instructor in Pennsylvania.

Holly (Clarke) Karr (FamilyServices ’91) spent 10 years working for a brain and spinal-cord injury prevention program but now helps husband Chad run their businesses. They live in Hudson with their children.

JohnLee (SocialScience’94)ishigh schoolteacher and football coach in Mason City. He is also a father of three.

Jennifer Meehan Brennon (Sociology ’95) earned her PhD from ISU and is an assistant professor of sociology and psychology at Kirkwood College. She and her husband have a daughter (Mar.’05).

RebeccaHyman (PoliticalScience’97)ishigh schoolteacher in Katy, Texas, where she teaches world history and world geography.

Emily (Meyer) Wegner (Nutrition and FoodScience’97) is a food safety specialist with the Iowa Department of Inspections. She and Jason were married in May ’96.

Alumni Spotlight: Charles E. Hill

Charles Hill (History ’35) came to Iowa State Teachers College from Clarion, Iowa. While at ISTC, he was active in the college choir, Minnesingers’ Glee Club, the Student United Movement, Phi Tau Theta, and student government.

Mr. Hill earned his masters in education from the University of Michigan and was an educator for over forty years, including 29 years as the president of Rochester Community College. The campus’s Charles E. Hill Theater was named in 1987 in appreciation of his many years of service and patronage of the arts.

Charles Hill was a member of the Class of 1935 and is a long-time supporter of Iowa State University. He and his wife Helen have remained in Rochester where he is an active member of their independent living community. He continues to enjoy photography, dancing, and music, having even organized a musical ensemble.

Mr. Hill served as college president for 19 years, but he is best known for his work in community development. He and his wife Helen have remained in Rochester where he is an active member of their independent living community. He continues to enjoy photography, dancing, and music, having even organized a musical ensemble.

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A generous spirit

Cassie Benning Luze
Director of Development, UNI Foundation

I believe the human urge to acquire is outstripped by our urge to give. Giving is an inherent part of the American sense of community. There seems to be an unwritten agreement that those who acquire wealth—even at a modest level—will share it with those who have the least.

We give not only to our own citizens, but to the rest of the world.

This spirit of giving has been bred into us by the first immigrants on our shores. When the communities of our young country were being created, building the local school, church, hospital, and even the neighbor’s barn was a community effort.

Studies show time and again that the tax relief we may enjoy from giving is outstripped by our simple impulse to give. The philanthropic streak ingrained in our national psyche compels us to ask, “Why don’t we do something about it?” rather than “Why don’t they do something about it?” We continue to work in the spirit of community.

You who so generously respond to our needs are a community of alumni and friends who are doing something about it when your gifts help relieve student loan debt or provide vital program support. In the coming year UNI’s next campaign will be formally announced, but it will most certainly highlight the creation of scholarship endowments.

But you will most certainly highlight the creation of scholarship and program endowments. Will you think about how you can provide assistance to our students and faculty?

Endow a scholarship. State support for UNI has declined to less than 50 percent of our budget, and our students have experienced significant tuition hikes since 2000. Endowed scholarships create a permanent fund that provides financial support for our students and help give UNI an advantage when recruiting students.

Support the CSBS Dean’s Fund for Excellence. The Dean’s Fund provides direct support to students and faculty in different ways each year including student research, educational technology study abroad, and public service programs.

Give to the UNI annual fund. With an annual fund gift of $1,000 or more, you will become a member of the Campanile Society, which will join others who are committed to the long-term growth and mission of UNI. The annual fund is critical in providing funds to the university that can be used immediately, as they are needed most.

Join UNI’s Old Central Associates by creating a legacy for the future with a planned gift. UNI is important to you and played an important role in launching you into life and a career. By including UNI in your estate planning, or making a planned gift now, you can help students and programs in a way you never thought possible.

Thank you for your steady financial support and your loyalty to the University of Northern Iowa! Please feel free to contact me at (800) 78-952, (3 19) 273-6078, or cassie.luze@uni.edu.

David and his wife Barb, an elementary school principal, have three children: Spencer (13), Alexander (11), and Madison (8).

Donor Spotlight: David VanSickel

Thanks to the generosity of Des Moines attorney David Van Sickel (History ’74), students in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences are getting a helping hand to seek out study-abroad experiences. In particular, David helps students meet their travel expenses through his gifts to the CSBS Dean’s Fund for Excellence.

David understands the value of travel and experiencing other cultures. He and his family enjoy international travel, and he feels that it’s important for UNI students to learn about other world cultures and how to compete in our global society.

“From my own experience and in speaking with more recent graduates, I am convinced that UNI provides outstanding undergraduate education, and I want to support students attending the university,” David says. “I also strongly believe in the value of programs that provide students an opportunity to spend time studying in another country. In an ever-smaller world, exposure to other cultures is an essential part of a quality education.”

Funding for Sabin Hall was provided by Iowa’s mileage tax, a real-estate tax used by the General Assembly for capital improvements at state institutions. Most of the red brick and limestone buildings on the eastern part of campus were also financed with this tax.

Alumni updates

Erin (Bergan) Bloomquist (History ’98) is co-director of the University of Iowa Chicago Center.

2000s

Nicole Arnold (Social Work BA ’00, MSW ’04) is a law student at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. She has a daughter.

Matthew Parker (History ’00) is a social studies teacher and head volleyball coach with Southeast Polk.

Sarah Benzing (Political Science ’01) is chief of staff in the Washington, D.C., office of congressman Bruce Braley.

Jeff Danielson (Public Administration ’01, MPP ’04) serves in the Iowa senate, where he was elected president pro-tempore for the 2007-2008 session.

Sara (Gordon) Mahncke (Family Services ’01) is a qualified mental retardation professional with Comprehensive Systems in Cedar Falls.

Erica (Hirli) Carrick (Sociology ’01) earned her MA and is an administrator at the first graduate-level care facility for the mentally retarded at ChildServe. She and Steve were married in Oct. ’05.

William Hagans (Political Science, ’02) is an attorney with Brackwell & Giuliani in Houston, Texas.

Janell (Dessel) McElree (Social Work ’03) is a social worker; hospice social worker; and bereavement coordinator for Palmer Lutheran Health Center and Heart of Iowa Hospice. She and Matthew were married in Oct. ’04.

Jeremy Robert Riley (Criminology, Sociology ’04) is an operations specialist with the US Coast Guard. Based in South Carolina, he spends much of his time conducting drug interdiction operations in the Caribbean Sea.

Chance McElhany (Public Administration ’07) is a staff assistant in the Washington, D.C., office of Senator Charles Grassley.

Tim Menge (Geography ’07) finished an internship with the Waste Management division of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and has entered a master’s program specializing in development and planning.

Cynthia Sweet (History MA, ’07), the first graduate of the master’s track in Public History, was recently named the executive director of the Iowa Museum Association.

Construction of Sabin Hall began in 1912, and the building was ready for use in January 1914. The current estimate is that the renovated building will be open for classes in the fall of 2010.

Alumni Updates We’d like to include you in next year’s edition. Please complete the following:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail ____________________________
Degree/Major ____________________________ Year of Graduation ________
Occupation ____________________________ Current Employer ____________________________

Items of Interest (to include in coming editions)

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Return to: CSBS Statements, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, University of Northern Iowa, 117 Sabin Hall, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0403. Information can also be e-mailed to holly.bokelman@uni.edu.
CSBS international study tours

The Department of History has added a new international study tour to the university catalog. A new course in Italy joins two others, those in Poland and Greece, that are offered by CSBS faculty, are held in international locations during the summer terms, and satisfy UNI’s liberal arts core Capstone requirement.

“Italy: Sacred Space” was offered for the first time during the May 2007 session. Incorporating anthropology, religion, architecture, art, and history, the course aims to help students identify and understand the meaning of sacred places.

The group spent most of the two-week class in the area called Umbria and visited such places as Lake Trasimeno, where Hannibal defeated the Romans; Gubbio, where they attended a religious festival involving the entire town; and Assisi, the home and final resting place of St. Francis. The group was also able to spend a few days in Rome and Florence. Instructor Jay Lees says, “Every day held new things in store for us. Everyone who went on this trip to Italy can hardly wait to go back.”

Summer study tours, from upper left: Students in Italy making friends, visiting a medieval monastery garden, and in front of the Colosseum with instructor Jay Lees; a banquet in Poland with students, hosts, and instructors Konrad Sadkowski and Alicja Boruta-Sadkowski; and students attending a lecture by instructor Greg Bruess in Ioannina, Greece.