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## Gerontology Newsletter, September 2011

University of Northern Iowa. Gerontology Program.

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**UNI Gerontology Newsletter**  
September 2011

Hi Everyone!

As many of you know, 2010-2011 was a great year for UNI Gerontology. Both major tracks, as well as the minor, have continued to grow. We also underwent an external review of our program and received very positive feedback (and some great suggestions)!

The Rural Aging Conference took place at Maucker Union on UNI's campus on April 7, 2011. We had over 120 people attend the conference! I was pleased to see Donna Harvey, the current director of the Iowa Department on Aging, in attendance. I was also thrilled to see so many Gerontology majors and minors! Your turnout was beyond my expectations. We had wonderful speakers from such organizations as Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging and Alzheimer's Outreach International. Senior Family Services major Josie Davie served as coordinator of the conference and did a fantastic job. A special thanks to Claire Wilson, Sheri Sigler, Christy Kessens, Dr. Pat Gross, and Dr. William Henninger (who also happens to be my husband!) for their help on the day of the conference. I also want to thank the director of the School of Applied Human Sciences, Dr. Howard Barnes, and the dean of the College of Social Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Phil Mauceri, for their support.

Congratulations to our recent graduates who have found employment. Spring LTC Admin graduates Sheri Sigler and Adam Braden both found jobs before even taking the boards! Sheri is in the administrator-in-training program with Care Initiatives. Adam is the administrator of a nursing home in Tripoli. In addition, Becky McDaniel Aarnodt, who was a Psych major and Gerontology minor, found a job as a case manager at Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging in Waterloo. We wish all of you the best in your careers!

I was fortunate enough to be invited by the university to do a community webinar titled *Caregiving for Aging Parents* in spring of 2011. The webinar was very well attended, showing the need the community has for information on caregiving. Furthermore, it was a great professional experience for me because I know that in the future more presentations will be given in this format.

You may have noticed that we have a new website: [www.uni.edu/csbs/sahs/gerontology](http://www.uni.edu/csbs/sahs/gerontology). It is my hope that this website will be more useful for current and potential students than the old one. You will be able to find information about major/minor requirements, internships, and careers in aging. In addition, you will be able to download materials that you need for internships (e.g., placement agreements). There is a Q & A section of the website that covers questions I am frequently asked. If you can think of any questions you had about the program that are NOT on the website, let me know and I will add them. I want to make this a great resource for all of you, as well as for future students. If you know someone who might be interested in our program, please refer them to the website (and to me, of course!).

Like the rest of UNI, Gerontology is challenged by recent cuts to the state budget. Yet, our program continues to grow and improve despite these obstacles. I appreciate all of your help in recruiting new students to the Gerontology major and minor and spreading the word about careers in aging. Welcome to the 2011-2012 academic year!

*Elaine*

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