

1-2011

## The Update, January/February 2011

University of Northern Iowa. College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

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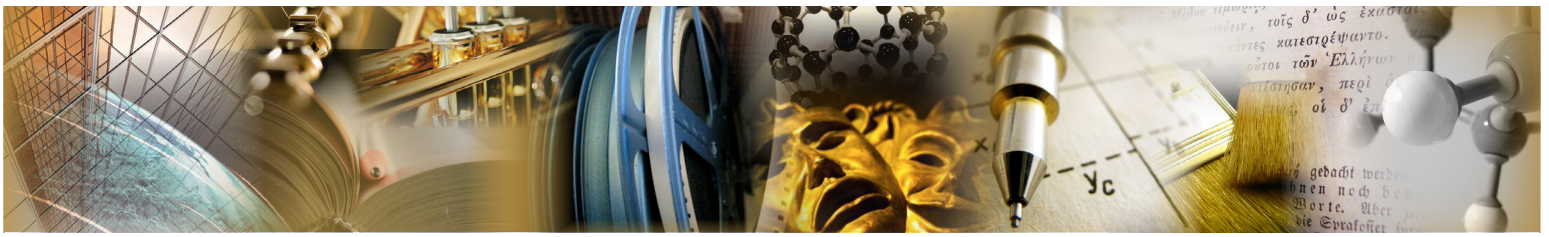
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# F U P D A T E

the OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER for  
the colleges of humanities & fine arts and natural sciences

## Popular NPR Show, *From the Top*, to tape a broadcast at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

Courtesy of Eleanor Dowling, *From the Top*

*From the Top*, the preeminent showcase for young musicians heard weekly on Iowa Public Radio, will be coming to the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center to tape a radio broadcast on Wednesday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. The popular NPR program hosted by acclaimed pianist, Christopher O'Riley, will feature the amazing performances and captivating personal stories of extraordinary young classical musicians from Iowa and across the country.

This show is presented by Orchestra Iowa, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and Iowa Public Radio, and is a

project of Iowa Makes Music, a multi-year residency to bring the power of classical music to Iowa communities. The show airs nationally the week of April 11, and will be heard locally on Iowa Public Radio on Saturday, April 16, at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 17, at 5:00 p.m.

What began as a radio experiment in 2000 quickly became one of the fastest growing and most popular weekly classical music programs on public radio. Broadcast on nearly 250 stations nationwide to an audience of more than 700,000

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# From the Top

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listeners each week, *From the Top* has been described by the *Boston Globe* as, "an entertaining, accessible and inspirational mix of outstanding musical performances, informal interviews, skits and games. The show is a celebration of extraordinary musicians who happen to be teenagers leading fairly normal lives."

Annually, *From the Top's* live tapings reach more than 20,000 live audience members of all ages across the United States. In conjunction with its national tour, the Boston-based, non-profit offers leadership training to young artists and conducts classroom and community programs leveraging the power of its performers as role models for younger students. In addition, *From the Top* and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation award \$10,000 scholarships to high achieving musicians with limited financial means.

The program has invested more than \$1.2 million in support for pre-college students since 2005. *From the Top* launched its Emmy Award winning PBS television series *From the Top* at Carnegie Hall in 2007.

*From the Top's* radio program is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and support from Liberty Mutual and US Trust. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and institutions as well as public radio stations. *From the Top's* radio program is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner. Tickets for the Gallagher-Bluedorn taping are available at the UNI Box office or at <[www.unitix.uni.edu](http://www.unitix.uni.edu)>.



PICTURED: (above and left)  
Rhys Lloyd Talbot

Courtesy of  
Jacqueline Hal bloom,  
Senior Producer Fine Arts

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## ART

■ During the fall of 2010, the Graphic Design: Motion Graphics class, taught by **Soo Hostetler**, created holiday greeting e-cards commissioned by President Ben Allen for the university. Graphic design senior, **Jennifer Meyer's** holiday e-card and printed card design were chosen as the final design. President and Mrs. Allen provided a pizza party for the entire Motion Graphics class at the President's house. Graphic design senior, **Kristin McKibben's** holiday e-card design was chosen by the Department of Art, and Graphic Design Senior, **Casaundra Gaston's** design was chosen as the UNI Panther Scholarship Holiday E-card. Our thanks to President and Mrs. Allen for supporting and encouraging our graphic design students.

■ **Jorunn Musil** (graphic design, B.F.A., 2010) published her typography postcard designs in the **Big Book of Layouts** (authors: Erin Mays, Katie Jain and Joel Anderson).

## BIOLOGY

■ UNI biology graduate students, **Pieter Ver Steeg** and **Adam Rodenberg**, presented a preliminary restoration and management plan for a five mile section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board on December 2. The nature trail, which runs through Black Hawk, Benton and Lynn Counties, is a recreation trail and also supports significant habitat for migratory birds, as well as prairie remnants and opportunities for viewing wildlife. Black Hawk County Conservation Board has contracted with UNI's Department of Biology to deliver restoration and management plans for the last four years.

■ UNI Biology graduate students, **Brady Reinert** and **Michelle Mahoney**, have completed a survey of campus rooftops and parking lots to determine how much storm-water runoff goes directly into storm drains, potentially affecting the water quality of Dry Run Creek. Their data will be used in a computer model to guide future investments in water quality installations such as rain gardens and biocells. UNI Facilities Planning assistant director, **Paul Meyermann**, is coordinating the project.

■ In November, **Peter Berendzen** traveled to Shanghai, China, and Taipei, Taiwan, to discuss exchange programs between UNI biology students and the universities in both cities. At Shanghai Ocean University, he explored a cooperative agreement to foster the exchange of students interested in fisheries-related courses and faculty interested in collaborative research. At National Chengchi University (NCCU) in Taipei, Berendzen finalized details for an exchange program between students at their Institute of Neuroscience and UNI biology students who will travel to NCCU in July 2011 for a four-week program of biology research and Chinese language and culture instruction. NCCU students will come to UNI during the same time period for the department's summer undergraduate research program and instruction through UNI's Culture and Intensive English Program.

## CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDU.

■ The Center for Energy and Environmental Education organized two additional Harvest Markets, one in Waverly and one in Cedar Falls. The Waverly event was held Saturday, December 4, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Waverly Civic Center. The Cedar Falls market was



held Saturday, December 18, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Cedar Falls Community Center on Main Street.

## CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

■ In December, the LEGO Llamas, a team of seven middle school students from several Cedar Falls schools, built LEGO-based robots at a regional competition of the FIRST LEGO League. The team is sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa's College of Natural Sciences and John Deere, Inc. UNI-STEM, a coordinating body for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities at UNI, is a sponsor of the competition. FIRST LEGO League was founded to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ **Chris Ogbondah** presented a paper, "International Public Relations and the Nigerian Government: Will President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's Image Handlers Please Stand Up?" at the African Studies Association conference in San Francisco, California, November 18-21.

■ **Karen Mitchell** received one of the UNI Diversity Matters Awards on Thursday, January 20.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

■ **Kevin O'Kane** has published his novel, **Omaha**. The book is "*an Orwellian thriller about a band of mild-mannered computer geeks who are lords of an unseen electronic empire.*" For more information about the novel,

visit <[www.omahadave.com](http://www.omahadave.com)>. O'Kane has also published in his discipline, including, "The Mumps Programming Language."

## EARTH SCIENCE

■ Three earth science students presented the results of their research at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado, October 31 through November 3. These students included: undergraduates, **Jake Davidson** (senior, geology, B.A.), **Matt Even** (senior, geology, B.S. and applied physics, B.S.) and Graduate Student, **Jennifer Shepeck** (environmental science, M.S.; earth science B.A.).

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

■ **Julie Husband** presented a paper, "Frederick Douglass's Performance of Biracial Masculinity in the Reconstruction Era" at the Midwest Modern Language Association meeting in November.

■ **Charles Saini**, a graduate student, has been accepted to present his paper, "In Dangered Love: Deviance, Taboo and Relationships in the Performances of Jake Gyllenhall," at the 2011 Men's Studies Association's Conference on Men and Masculinity. The conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, March 31 through April 3.

■ **Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure** received one of the UNI Diversity Matters Awards on Thursday, January 20.

■ **Joyce Milambiling's** article, "Bringing One Language to Another: Multilingualism as a Resource in the Language Classroom," is being published in the first 2011 issue of *English Teaching Forum*, a quarterly journal published by the U.S. Department of State for teachers of English as a foreign or second language and distributed in 125 countries.

# INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

■ **Kris Boss**, a senior from Waterloo, was awarded a special scholarship of \$2,000 from the Foundry Education Foundation (FEF) at its annual College Industry Conference, held in Chicago in November. Boss won the scholarship for writing a paper demonstrating his interest in ductile iron. Two other delegates, **Brodie Biersner**, a graduate student and research associate in the Metal Casting Center from Dike, and **Shane Silfer** of Wellsburg, also attended the conference, along with **Scott Giese**, key professor and liaison between UNI and FEF. The conference, attended by nearly 250 participants, gives students and professors from across North America the opportunity to meet leaders in the metal casting industry.

# MODERN LANGUAGES

■ **Anne Lair's** new book, **Les Arts de la Table: Représentations et mises en scène culinaires dans le Paris du XIXe siècle**, has been published and issued by Éditions Bénévent.

# MUSIC

■ **Robert Washut** was selected to be part of an international team of jazz arrangers and composers charged with the task of writing the jazz arrangements of a collection of music composed by the critically acclaimed group, Radiohead. The arrangements will be recorded by the Hessescher Rundfunk Big Band (Frankfurt, Germany) and will be published by Sierra Music Company. Washut will also serve as the guest conductor of the All-Northwest Jazz Ensemble in Seattle, Washington, on February 16-19. This select group is under the auspices of Music Educator's National Conference (MENC) and is comprised of the top

high school jazz musicians from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

■ **Danny Galyen** was selected as the recipient of the 2010-11 College of Humanities and Fine Arts University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching Award. The presentation will be held in Bengtson Auditorium in Russell Hall at 7:00 p.m. on March 22.

# PHILOSOPHY & WORLD RELIGIONS

■ **Martha Reineke** presented a paper entitled, "Mohamed Atta's God: Psychoanalytic Reflections on the Abject Father in Religious Terrorism," at a joint session of the Psychology, Culture and Religion Group and the Colloquium on Violence and Religion at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion on October 31, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia.

# PHYSICS

■ **Roger Hanson**, emeritus physics professor, co-published chapter 12, "Bowed Strings," in the book, **The Science of String Instruments**, with Thomas D. Rossing. The book was published by Springer in 2010.

# WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

■ UNI Women's & Gender Studies will host a Current Research on Women (CROW) forum titled, "The Economics of Sexual Orientation," led by Lisa Jepsen. The forum will be held on February 7 at noon in the Center for Multicultural Education, Room 109A. Faculty, staff, students and members of the wider community are welcome to come.

# 2010-11 CHFA Major Grants Announced

*Courtesy of Jim O'Loughlin,  
Associate Professor,  
English Language & Literature*

At the end of the Fall 2010 semester, Joel Haack, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and College of Natural Sciences, announced the recipients of the 2010-11 CHFA Major Grants. Eleven faculty members from seven different departments received awards to support specific research projects.

The Major Grants program is the main source of research support in CHFA. It is a competitive grant program, and submitted applications are evaluated by a faculty committee represented by a member of each department within CHFA. That committee makes recommendations to the Dean, who then makes the final funding decisions. Under current guidelines, faculty members may each apply for up to \$1,250. Each application includes a project narrative and a detailed budget.

This year's CHFA Major Grants recipients and the projects which were awarded funding, are as follows: Angela Burda (Communication Science and Disorders): Performance of Adults Across the Lifespan on Tests of Executive Function; Rebecca Burkhardt (School of Music) and Cynthia Goatley (Theatre) (joint project): A New Musical Based on the Life of Ann Richards; Theresa Camilli (School of Music): In-Depth Study of the Taubman Approach to Piano Technique; Jennifer Cooley (Modern Languages) and Karen Mitchell (Communication Studies) (joint project): Carne Viva: Life in Postville; Bettina Fabos (Communication Studies): An Interactive History of 20th Century Hungary; Tammy Gregersen (English Language and Literature): Nonverbal Indicators of Foreign Language Speakers' Willingness to Communicate; Kenneth Hall (Art): Everglades Research Project/Residency; Francesca Soans (Communication Studies): Waterloo: A History of Place; and Elizabeth Sutton (Art): Picturing Africa in the Netherlands, 1579-1665.

I would like to thank the members of the Major Grants committee for their work last semester revising the grant application and giving all applications a careful and fair hearing. A special thanks goes to Hillery Oberle of the Office of Sponsored Programs who served as a non-voting member of the committee for the first time. Her expertise with grant writing and resources was of much assistance in our deliberations.

Departmental Representatives on the 2010-11 CHFA Major Grants Committee were: Mary Frisbee Johnson (Art), Todd Bohnenkamp (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Jayne Witte (Communication Studies), Jim O'Loughlin – chair (English Language and Literature), Sara Rosell (Modern Languages), Jean McDonald (School of Music), Margaret Holland (Philosophy and Religion) and Mark Parrott (Theatre).



Welcome Back  
for another semester  
and a new year!



# ANDERSON SUMMER GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP FUND



Wayne Anderson, the former head of the Department of Earth Science, and his wife, Jan, created the Wayne and Jan Anderson Summer Geology Field Camp Fund to award \$1,000 stipends to students to help defray the costs of their summer camp. At a luncheon in their honor in December, the Andersons posed for pictures with the students who received awards this past summer: seniors, Christina Spielbauer, Kasey Westley and Matt Even.

The trio of Wayne Anderson, Jim Walters, who served as head of Earth Science from 1995–2010, and Siobahn Morgan, the current head, are all pictured and represent the entire history of heads of the Department of Earth Science.

PICTURED ABOVE: (B-F; L-R)  
Mr. and Mrs. Anderson;  
Christina Spielbauer, Kasey  
Westley and Matt Even

PICTURED RIGHT: (from L-R)  
Wayne Anderson, Jim Walters  
and Siobahn Morgan

*Courtesy of Cheryl Smith,  
Program Associate ISGC,  
College of Natural Sciences*





# MARKS OF PROCESS

a uni department of art  
alumni exhibition



Ken Steinkemp, *Timed Exposure II*, oil, plaster, wire, acrylic, thread on canvas, plexiglass and wood panel, 2010.

*Courtesy of Darrell Taylor, Director,  
UNI Gallery of Art*

The University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art will present an invitational group exhibition, "Marks of Process: UNI Department of Art Alumni and the Studio Painting Tradition," from Wednesday, February 9, through Wednesday, March 2. Four lectures will be offered in

association with the exhibition, which is part of a yearlong series of exhibitions and lectures titled, "Time is Ripe." The lectures are sponsored in part by the UNI Alumni Association.

"Marks of Process" is an invitational group exhibition curated by UNI alumnus David Schmitz (B.F.A., 2006).

According to Schmitz, the exhibition includes *"works by eight artists, all alumni of the University of Northern Iowa, who, through rigorous studio practice and varied media, have explored the languages of abstraction, materials and mark-making."*

*"Kenneth Steinkamp's (B.A., 1970) dense, layered works reveal the artist's ongoing fascination with line and surface. Darrell Roberts (B.A., 1997) and Danielle McCullough's (B.A., 2002) abstract forms explore the expressive potential of materials, bringing into play the tension between medium and object. In the paintings of Mikel Bisbee-Durlam (B.A., 2000) and Marcus Payzant (B.F.A., 2006), disparate imagery and life's flotsam are brought together to create environments suggestive of natural decay and disorder. Other artists represented, including Michael Boyd (B.A., 1959), Robert Riseling (B.A., 1963 and M.A., 1966) and Erin Anfinson (B.A., 2001) examine their physical and natural environments through ordered and simplified forms that are at once familiar and enigmatic."*

The following lectures will be presented in association with the exhibition: Curator David Schmitz and artist Danielle McCullough on February 9 at 7:00 p.m. in KAB 111; artist Michael Boyd on February 10 at 7:00 p.m. in KAB 111 with a talk titled "About (?);" artist Erin Anfinson on February 15 at 7:00 p.m. in KAB 111; and artist Darrell Roberts on March 1 at 2:30 p.m. in the Gallery with a talk titled, "Historically Influenced Through Painting."

Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday; and noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. The gallery is located at the northeast corner of Hudson Road and West 27th Street, Cedar Falls, on the main floor of Kamerick Art Building South. For more information call (319) 273-3095 or visit [www.uni.edu/artdept/gallery/](http://www.uni.edu/artdept/gallery/).

## UNI Interpreters Theatre

*Courtesy of Angela Glunz, Graduate Assistant, Communication Studies*

To open the spring 2011 season, the University of Northern Iowa Interpreters Theatre will present "For the Love of the Club" at 7:30 p.m., February 17 through 19, in the Interpreters Theater in Lang Hall, room 040.

Written and directed by Jocelyn Parih Smith, "For the Love of the Club" is an original work based on the author and director's thesis research of the women who ride with motorcycle clubs. Learn about their lives, the roles they fulfill for their men and their struggle to perform their identities within the confines of a social organization that often dictates their gender roles for them. (This production contains mature language, themes and situations. It is recommended for mature audiences only.)

For their second production, the Interpreters Theatre will present "Why, Felly" at 7:30 p.m., March 31 through April 2, in the Interpreter's Theater in Lang Hall, room 040. The production was written and directed by Kyle N. Weber. The Hollywood folk are in town, and MayPoint is all abuzz! Watch as our beloved Felicia Lucretia Natasha Ann Meriwether... Baaker-Meriwether that is...recounts her life with Howie and "Good Morning MayPoint." The energy never drops as the brassy women and the dim-witted men of MayPoint bring life to their small town Oklahoma diner with their stories of love, loss and hotcakes.

The productions are funded in part by the Department of Communication Studies, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Student Services Fee Committee.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Angela Glunz, graduate assistant, at [glunza@uni.edu](mailto:glunza@uni.edu) or (319) 273-6728.





## school of music *Concert Chorale*

The University of Northern Iowa School of Music's Concert Chorale, conducted by visiting artist and professor, Dyan Meyer, will offer a performance on Sunday, February 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Prairie Lakes Church Worship Center on Viking Road and Hudson Road in Cedar Falls. The performance will serve as a fundraising event, to gather financial support for the group's upcoming tour to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall. Admission to the fundraiser performance is free, donations will be accepted before, during and following the performance.

The Concert Chorale will travel to New York City, from March 17 through March 21. The group has been invited to perform the world premiere of Dr. David Childs' "Festival Te Deum" on March 20, in the Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. In addition to the premiere work, the Concert Chorale will return to the stage to perform a 20-minute set of their own repertoire for the Carnegie audience.

The choir has toured England to perform with John Alldis and sung the "Bach St. John Passion" under the baton of Margaret Hillis. They have also toured the Czech Republic and produced a CD recording with the Czech Virtuosi Orchestra. They have also performed at the American Choral Directors Association, national and divisional conventions and have performed seven world premiers.

In addition to performing at the prestigious Carnegie Hall, students will have the opportunity to tour the city, experience a Broadway performance and to perform for students at a local high school.

Tickets for the concert will be available for purchase approximately 30 days prior to the performance, by visiting [www.manhattanconcertproductions.com/public/boxoffice](http://www.manhattanconcertproductions.com/public/boxoffice) or by calling (212) 279-1147.

# Center of Advanced Bio-Based Binders

*Courtesy of Scott Giese, Associate Professor,  
Industrial Technology*

Dr. Scott Giese, associate professor of Industrial Technology and Foundry Education Foundation (FEF) key professor, and Jerry Thiel, director for the Metal Casting Center, were recently awarded \$1 million funding from the Department of Energy for continued research efforts in environmental emissions and low impact sand binders. The Center of Advanced Bio-based Binders, (CABB) was established in 2007 to provide the foundry industry a research resource to collaborate on emerging technologies addressing process emissions.

The previously funded research activities for CABB developed two low emission binders using bio-urethane technology. Additionally, a collaborative project with the University of Iowa and Penn State University established a fundamental model for the prediction of binder decomposition products within the mold.

The new funding will allow further investigation into emission prediction and thermal degradation analysis of resin sand binders. Combined high temperature thermal and gas analysis monitors the evolved chemical species as the binder breakdowns as a function of temperature. Further data collection is anticipated to enhance the predictive capabilities of the developed first generation emission model.

The anticipated application for the emission numerical model provides an assessment tool for binder development and industrial reporting emissions. Exploratory research will continue in binder technologies for low emission binders. Several naturally derived compounds adaptive to present core and mold making technologies have the potential to reduce green house gases while concurrently maintaining production quality. Research is planned to explore the chemical behaviors of these binder

systems to accelerate their reaction rates to improve process productivity.

Foundry trials planned within the project will demonstrate to the casting industry their potential of reducing hazardous air pollutants (HAP's) while minimizing or eliminating technology transfer costs. UNI currently supplies independent testing services for emission testing of foundry cores and molds.

A significant portion of the foundry industry presently utilizes the rapid reaction speeds of gas cured cold box technologies. Effective usage of organic catalysts should not only maintain process requirements but should minimize their environmental impact. Research work is projected to develop strategies and supporting technologies to efficiently distribute these gaseous compounds within the tooling.



Pictured above is a large valve body core made with a new bio-based binder system, developed by the CABB, ready to be assembled in a green sand mold. The valve body core was made and the casting poured at Clow Valve Foundry in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Significant reduction in emissions and odor was observed during the pouring, solidification and sand removal of the cast iron valve body.





# ALEX PETERSEN

When deciding where to attend college, Alex Petersen knew he wanted to attend a larger school with a strong art department, and he found that place here at UNI. *“UNI is a really comfortable college. People are friendly, professors are chipper. It’s large enough to feel like a big college, yet small enough to attach yourself to it on a personal level.”* Alex is currently a senior B.F.A. studio art major with an emphasis on drawing.

As a student here, Alex has immersed himself in all that the college has to offer. Like most students, he lived in the dorms his freshman year, and recalls that as one of his most memorable experiences here at UNI. *“First semester I had an awful roommate and second semester I had a roommate who has become a very close friend in my life. It was an experience completely new and exciting at the time and for*

*that I will always remember it.”* He is also a member of a few on-campus clubs. *“I enjoy on-campus groups because they allow me to see other students reaching into their college experiences.”* Alex has had the opportunity to study abroad in Poland, which he found was a wonderful experience. *“It was great to live in a city surrounded by strangers speaking a language I did not know. Traveling Europe (by the cheapest means possible), the friendships and the people I met along the way has had a profound effect on my life.”*

Alex accredits several faculty members as being influential in his learning and experience here at UNI. One in particular was Mary Frisbee Johnson. *“...She has taught me a great deal about art that I couldn’t have learned elsewhere.”* Upon graduation, he plans to attend graduate school.

ART

STUDENT  
SPOTLIGHT

# BENJAMIN WOHLERS



When Benjamin Wohlers first stepped onto the UNI campus, he wasn't sure if it was where he wanted to be, but as a senior now, Benjamin looks back at all the wonderful memories he has had here and is sad to be leaving.

Benjamin is majoring in biology with a biomedical emphasis, along with minors in chemistry and ethics. He has enjoyed all the classes in the biology and chemistry departments and has found the faculty and professors to be friendly and approachable. After graduation, Benjamin plans to attend medical school at the University of Iowa. The UNI Biology department here on campus has been very influential in helping him prepare for his future. *"I feel that the biology department in particular had helped me. There are intelligent professors who know how to teach well and are willing to work directly with the students to make sure they are learning the material. I feel well prepared to begin studying for the MCAT and the skills I have learned will help me far beyond UNI."*

Benjamin has also been heavily involved with on-campus organizations and clubs. He is a member of UNI Navigators, which has helped deepen his personal and spiritual life. Along with the UNI Navigators, he is also a member of the UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club. One of the things Benjamin would say to prospective students is to

get involved in a group or organization on campus. *"...Get involved early and stay involved. Getting involved helps to break down the large student body into smaller groups so that they can play an important role in. By staying in them for a good length of time, it makes them create stronger relationships with those around them. Bouncing around from group to group makes sure that you know a large amount of people, but they may not really know who you are. Get involved and make yourself known. It makes the transition to college easier."*

BIOLOGY  
STUDENT  
SPOTLIGHT



# WCF Symphony & School of Music Events

## School of Music

### Guest Artist Recital: Christopher Wilson, marimba

Tuesday, February 1, 6:00 p.m.  
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artist, Christopher Wilson, presented a marimba recital.

Christopher Wilson has entertained audiences around the U.S. with an extremely wide and varied repertoire. Wilson earned a Master's degree from The Boston Conservatory and a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University. He is an Adjunct Professor at Kirkwood Community College and a percussion instructor for the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy.

### Spotlight Series Concert: Faculty Artist Showcase

Wednesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.  
Great Hall, GBPAC

Featuring an exciting and diverse group

of UNI School of Music faculty artists, this concert kicked off the Spring 2011 Spotlight Series concerts.

### Guest Artist Recital: Mia Quartet, featuring UNI faculty artist, Julia Bullard, viola

Wednesday, February 9, 8:00 p.m.  
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting ensemble, the Maia Quartet, will present a recital. Since its formation in 1990, the Maia Quartet, quartet-in-residence at the University of Iowa, has established itself nationally as an ensemble of innovation and versatility. Praised by critics for its sparkling musical intelligence, the quartet has appeared in major concert halls throughout the US and abroad, including New York's Alice Tully Hall, Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall and the Aspen Music Festival's Harris Hall. UNI faculty artist, Julia Bullard,

viola, will join the quartet for this performance. *This event is free and open to the public.*

### Northern Festival of Bands

Thursday-Saturday February 10–12  
Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 2:00 p.m.  
Great Hall, GBPAC

The Northern Festival of Bands, is an annual honor band festival for high school band students, typically hosting over 40 schools and over 250 individual students. The event will feature performances by the UNI Wind Symphony and UNI Symphonic Band on Friday evening as well as Saturday afternoon's performance featuring solo competition winners, the festival's percussionist groups, Festival Concert Band and Festival Symphony Band. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX, or visit <[www.uni.edu/tickets](http://www.uni.edu/tickets)>.*





### **Romance with a Double Bass**

Monday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI adjunct professor of double bass, Hunter Capoccioni, the UNI bass studio will present a double bass concert with a romantic theme. *This event is free and open to the public.*

### **Flute Choir and Flute Studio Concert**

Wednesday, February 16, 8:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI professor of flute, Angeleita Floyd, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir and Flute Studio will present its annual concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

### **Tallcorn Jazz Festival and Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts**

Friday-Saturday, February 18-19

Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

The Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the UNI School of Music invite you and your band to the 56th Annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 60th Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts on the UNI campus. Jazz pianist, composer, bandleader and educator, David Berkman, will be the

featured guest artist at this year's event.

*Concerts for this event are ticketed.*

*For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX, or visit <[www.uni.edu/tickets](http://www.uni.edu/tickets)>.*

### **Suzuki Faculty Recital**

Tuesday, February 22, 6:00 p.m.

Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

The UNI School of Music Suzuki School will present a recital featuring Suzuki faculty artists. *This event is free and open to the public.*

### **Guest Artist Recital:**

#### **Suzanne Tirk, clarinet**

Wednesday, February 23, 8:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artist, Suzanne Tirk, will present a clarinet recital. Tirk has taught at several universities, including Bemidji State University, Lawrence University, Eastern Michigan University, Montana State University and she currently serves as associate professor of Clarinet at Wichita State University. Tirk has also appeared as guest and soloist at conferences nationally and internationally. *This event is free and open to the public.*

### **Spotlight Series Concert: Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra**

Friday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the Direction of visiting artist and conductor, Jonathan Girard, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra will offer a Spotlight Series Concert. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX or visit <[www.uni.edu/tickets](http://www.uni.edu/tickets)>.*

### **UNI School of Music Audition Day**

Saturday, February 26, 1:00 p.m.

Various Halls, GBPAC & Russell Hall

For more details on specific locations of area auditions or times, contact the School of Music office at (319) 273-2024.

### **Jazz Combos Concert**

Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Under the direction of faculty artist, Chris Merz, and graduate student conductors, the School of Music will present a jazz combos concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*





PICTURED LEFT:  
Justin Gray, Seth  
Harwood and a  
referee getting set  
up at the Regional  
Competition held on  
December 4

Courtesy of  
Bill Harwood,  
Department Head,  
Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

# FIRST LEGO League

On December 4, the LEGO Llamas, a team of seven middle school students from several Cedar Falls schools, built LEGO-based robots at a regional competition of the FIRST LEGO League. The Llamas are sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa's College of Natural Sciences and also by John Deere, Inc.

About 25 competed at the regional qualifier, which was held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Heights Elementary School and was open to the public. *"If we survive this event, we will be one of the 72 teams competing at the state level in Ames in January,"* said Bill Harwood, team coach and head of the UNI Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

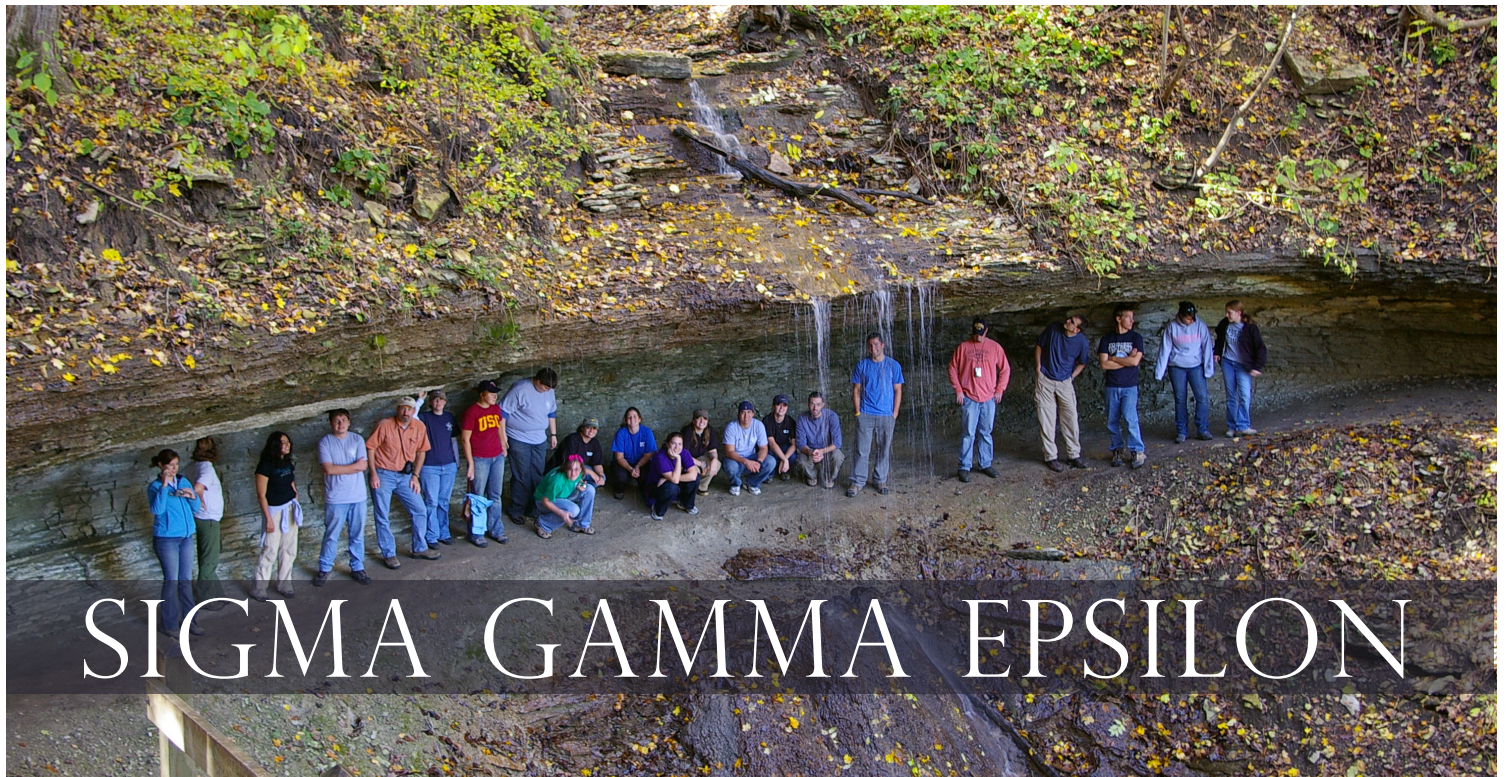
Students in FIRST LEGO League design, build and program robots, apply real-world math and science concepts and learn critical thinking and team-building skills.

Members of the LEGO Llamas are Charlotte Brandenburg (Holmes Junior High), Basil Chatha (Northern University High), Martha Easton and Justin Gray (St. Patrick), Seth Harwood (Holmes Junior High), Miriam Queiroz (Peet Junior High) and Sriram Sugumaran (Hansen).

The winning team from the state competition will go on to the world competition in St. Louis in May. According to Harwood, in addition to middle school students, competitions are held for grades K-3 and grades 9-12.

UNI-STEM, a coordinating body for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities at UNI, is a sponsor of the competition. FIRST LEGO League was founded to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.





*Courtesy of Jim Walters, SGE National Secretary Treasurer,  
Department of Earth Science*

Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE), the national honor society for the Earth Sciences, was founded in 1915 at the University of Kansas. Since then, nearly 200 chapters have been installed across the United States. The UNI chapter of SGE, the Gamma Sigma chapter, was established in 1974. Professors Siobahn Morgan and Jim Walters are currently co-advisors of the Gamma Sigma chapter.

SGE is an associated society of the Geological Society of America and participates in the annual meeting of the GSA by sponsoring a SGE Poster Session, where students can present the results of their undergraduate research. Eight students attended last fall's meeting in Denver and four of them presented their research during the poster sessions.

On campus, our chapter of SGE typically has about 24 members. We conduct initiation ceremonies during both fall and spring semesters and keep ourselves pretty busy. We

assist with departmental activities such as the Quarry Open House every fall during National Earth Science Week. Other activities in which we have been involved include caving, geode hunting, fossil collecting and field trips to Chicago to visit the museums. Of course, we also like to participate in the Geological Society of Iowa field trips and the Tri-State Geological Field Conference. One of our most successful fundraisers has been the making of rock and mineral kits for the Introduction to Geology course in order to help the students study for their rock and mineral exam.

We are currently working on designing new SGE t-shirts. Our student room is a popular place to be and quite often you will find us in there by 8:00 a.m. studying and we will stay until midnight or later. Somehow we always find time for get-togethers that might include bowling, holiday parties, movie nights and planning for our next activity.



# FORUM:

a student organization publication

Kara Robinson, a UNI graduate student pursuing a master of arts in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Public Relations, also goes by another title – editor in chief. Originally from Springfield, Illinois, Robinson joined UNI PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) because of its outstanding reputation as a pre-eminent, pre-professional public relations organization for students interested in a public relations career.

Last June, Robinson was elected as Editor in Chief of *FORUM*, the PRSSA national newspaper. The position's responsibilities include: overseeing the operation and publication of the tri-annual newspaper, managing the in-house publishing team comprised of UNI PRSSA members, soliciting, editing and publishing weekly blog content, monitoring blog analytics, recording minutes at National Committee meetings and acting as a resource to the 32 chapters located in Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Illinois.

Regarding her position, Robinson states, *"I view my position as an educational opportunity that allows me to share my knowledge with fellow members. This includes connecting with students and professionals with pertinent information regarding the public relations industry."*

The types of articles included in every issue of *FORUM* range from industry news, PRSSA news, diversity/ethics, career development and columns such as "Footprints", "Ask the Professional" and "Setting the Pace." Other sections of *FORUM* are written about some of the annual gatherings that PRSSA members can attend. These include the National Conference, held during the fall semester and in a different city each year, and also the National Assembly, held in the spring semester over an extended weekend that includes leadership sessions as well as the election of the new National Committee. Members of the National Committee are also welcome to submit articles about their specific initiatives to keep Chapter members updated on what's happening at the national level.



## Next Stop: Washington, D.C.

Powering Through the Nation's Capital

Kate Ryan, University of Toledo

Anticipation was the only word that could describe my feelings leading up to the PRSSA 2010 National Conference in Washington, D.C. Sending six Chapter members was a great accomplishment for our small Chapter and one of us had attended Conference before. We all had our resumes and business cards handy, not knowing who we would meet.

Since our Chapter is small, I felt that it was very important for everyone to attend at least one Chapter Development Session. "Making the Most of a Drough-Nation" and "Power of the TweetDeck: Integrating Social Media for Event Success," taught us that it was extremely important to designate one Chapter member each year to social media.

Our first professional development

session was a panel discussion on sports and entertainment public relations.

"How does one get the media's attention to further a particular story about an athlete or reduce it?" asked panelist Kurt Kehl, vice president of corporate communications/chief communications officer of Monumental Sports and Entertainment. His answer: Follow up, follow up, and more follow up. This appears to be a magical key when it comes to sports and entertainment public relations.

For the keynote address, "Obama's Media Man" Jim Margolis gave an outstanding presentation on his role as key strategist for the President's 2008 campaign. I found myself wondering if America's obsession with social media began with this man. The address was followed by Chapter Roll Call, when each Chapter has a chance to stand out through a cheer or chant. It was in-



Members from Ohio University enjoy the Opening Night Social at PRSSA 2010 National Conference.

See WASHINGTON on Page 5

## Finding Your Passion and a Job That Matches It

Kevin Sagley, Public Relations and Marketing Specialist, Chicago Cubs

Close your eyes for a second and think of your dream job. Where are you sitting? Perhaps you are promoting your favorite theater, or supporting a major hospital that saves lives every day. Or maybe you are at the ballpark, which was the case for me. For many others, that question may not have an immediate answer.

Public relations professionals are blessed with the flexibility to target a career in almost any industry they choose. A job can be especially fulfilling when it is connected to a nonprofit cause or topic of personal interest. On the flipside, you can burn out quickly devoting time and energy to an employer you do not believe in.

The path to your ideal job may not be direct. I am fortunate to work in baseball as I had dreamed about long ago; however, I would not have secured this job without learning the necessary skills for a few years in an agency setting (which I also enjoyed).

Once you are able to narrow down your list of interests and passions, how do you go about working in that space? Aside from the obvious job search tools, here are a few tips.

**Meet the people who work where you want to be.**

There are many ways to do this tastefully. Invite these contacts to speak at your PRSSA event or meeting, or see if your group can visit their office. See if these role models are speaking at an upcoming conference and attend if possible. Speakers always appreciate when someone makes an effort to attend their sessions. Finally, you can e-mail these contacts directly and see if they have time for a cup of coffee. You would be surprised how many say "Yes." If you cannot visit personally, you may also set up a 15-minute informational interview as part of a class assignment or PRSSA newsletter feature, just to be sure



See PASSION on Page 7.

## What a New Pro Would Do If She Had the Chance To Do A Re-Do

Sarah Stewart, Account Executive, KemperLeslik

As a student at Michigan State University, I volunteered, held leadership positions (including PRSSA, of course) and had an internship — all things we are told would help us succeed, and they certainly do. What would I do differently? Though I wouldn't change anything I did do, the following are some things I should have done as well.

**Make a Five-Year Plan**

During college, it's easy to live in your campus bubble with friends around every corner. A 10 a.m. class is considered early and three-day weekends are standard. However, particularly in this economy, it's important to stay focused on your career goals. I had an idea of what I wanted to do and where I wanted to be after graduating, but I procrastinated making a true five-year plan until after graduation. Life moves forward whether you have a plan or not; a key to success is documenting clear and detailed goals set to a timeline.

**Network With Professionals**

Networking can be intimidating or awkward as a student, but it's just as nerve racking for most professionals. When you have the opportunity to network with professionals, go confidently, knowing that you too can add value to the conversation and relationship. Though you may not have a job, you do



have knowledge, enthusiasm and ideas that professionals find valuable. I used to make the mistake of collecting business cards at functions, but never taking notes or following up. Immediately after you walk away from someone, write a note to yourself on the back of his or her business card reminding you of the conversation. This helps when you send a "nice to meet you" e-mail later referencing your discussion as noted on the back of the card. It's shocking how many people don't follow up, so when you do, you definitely stand out.

**Read Industry Blogs**

If you aren't following at least five industry blogs, you're missing out. When I was a student, we weren't talking about blogs at the collegiate level yet. Lawyers felt like I had more than enough to read

See NEW PRO on Page 6.

For further information about Public Relations Student Society of America, please visit <[www.prssa.org](http://www.prssa.org)>.

As well as her position at *FORUM*, Robinson is also involved in many other organizations. She is currently a staff member of PRide (Public Relations Interns Develop Expertise), graduate student assistant in the College of Business for the Professional Readiness Program, choir member and soloist for the Metropolitan Chorale, cantor at St. John American Lutheran Church and she also sings the national anthem for the Waterloo Bucks.

When asked what she would like to do after graduation and at the end of her *FORUM* term in May, Robinson replied, *"I hope to utilize the knowledge I have acquired both in my graduate coursework, as well as my overall experience with PRSSA, in a public relations managerial/leadership position."*

*Specifically, my interests include the healthcare field, institutions of higher education, private corporations and classical entertainment like the symphony or opera."* She would also like to work for another publication someday. *"I've enjoyed every facet of creating each issue and I am definitely interested in the opportunity to work for a publication, especially from a management perspective."*

For students interested in getting involved in PRSSA/ *FORUM* or any other organization/publication, Robinson encourages them to take initiative. Her advice, *"Do not allow your uncertainties control your opportunities. If you have an opportunity, take it!"*

## CHFA Summer Fellowships

Congratulations to the CHFA faculty members who received Summer Fellowships.

These include: Karen Mitchell, "Carne Viva: Performing Postville"; Melinda Boyd, "Staging Women: Gender, Composition and Opera"; Joyce Chen, "Web Page as a Site for Communication and Commitment: Maintaining and Promoting African American Identity, Culture and Community"; Jesse Swan, "Introducing Essay for Book Entitled, *Editing Lives/Essays in Contemporary Textual and Biographical Studies in Honor of O. M. Brack, Jr.*"; Tammy Gregersen, "Passionate Teachers: Reaching and Teaching Without Borders"; Julie Husband, "Reconstructing the American Body Politic: Selected Reconstruction Era Speeches by Frederick Douglas"; Francesca Soans, "ZENANA"; Cynthia Goatley/Rebecca Burkhardt,

"Revision of the Initial Draft of a New Musical Based on the Life of Former Texas Governor, Ann Richards"; Elizabeth Sutton, "Picturing Aftica in the Netherlands 1579-1665"; Soo Hostetler, "Creating Motion Graphics: Integrating Form and Music Embodied by Mathematics and Art Theory"; and JoAnn Schnabel, "Sculptural Tea Serving Sets for Exhibitions."





## UNI students win Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions

*Courtesy of Center, Iowa State University*

The Iowa District Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions for the Iowa District, which were held at the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall in Ames on January 8. Nineteen singers competed for advancement in this national competition.

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions are designed to discover exceptional young talent and to assist in their development by providing a venue for singers from all over the country to be heard by a representative of the Metropolitan Opera.

Three outstanding young singers were chosen to advance to the Upper Midwest Regional competition in St. Paul on February 5, and another was recognized with a non-advancing Encouragement Award. Soprano, Andrea Shokery of Marshalltown, a graduate of University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, received the Des Moines Metro Opera Ames Chapter Award (\$1,000). Baritone, Austin Kness of San Francisco, a graduate of University of Northern Iowa and Indiana University, received the Douglas Burke Memorial Award (\$1,000). Mezzo-Soprano, Renee Rapier of Marion, Iowa, who is currently a graduate student at the University of Northern

Iowa, received the Martha-Ellen Tye Career Development Award (\$1,000). Ameila Kischer-Browne, a soprano from Wartburg College, received an Encouragement Award of \$500 but did not advance.

Shokery, Kness and Rapier will join winners from the four other districts of the Upper Midwest Region in competition on February 5, at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul. From those singers, one will be chosen to go on to New York City for musical preparation under the guidance of the Metropolitan Opera's staff in the National Semifinal competition, when the field will be narrowed again.

Ten singers will be selected to compete in the Grand Finals Concert with full orchestra on March 13, held on stage at the Met. The jury will award \$15,000 each to a maximum of five National Grand Winners.

Judges for the competition were Cynthia Lawrence, William Farlow and Richard Walters. Ms. Lawrence is a renowned soprano and regular guest of leading opera companies around the world. William Farlow is professor of Music and director of Opera at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Richard Walters is vice president of Classical and Vocal Publications at Hal Leonard Corporation, the world's largest print music publisher and the largest source for classical music publications in the world.