CSBS Kudos, October 2010

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

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Sabin Hall renovation nearing completion

In just three months, Sabin Hall will finally be open for business. The building has been closed for renovation since December 2008. The guiding principal for the design, construction, and use of the new building has been sustainability, and the ultimate goal of the project is to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This four-tiered rating system establishes standards for environmentally sustainable water usage, energy consumption, design innovation, and building materials, with a focus on easily renewable materials and reuse of existing materials. If the project is successful in meeting those standards, Sabin Hall will be the first LEED-certified building on campus. The new building features state-of-the-art classrooms and computer labs, streamlined offices, and entirely new mechanical systems. The project will also include an effort to restore and reuse many of the unique features of the original building, including the terrazzo floors and marble fixtures, though beyond that the new-and-improved Sabin Hall will bear little resemblance to the old.

The most unique feature will be the interior light well. When constructed, the building included an open courtyard at its center that allowed natural light to reach the interior rooms on each level. Over time, the light well was enclosed in order to add more interior square-footage, an elevator, and mechanical rooms. The new architectural design will restore the light well concept in an effort to honor the original building design and to capitalize on natural lighting. The new light well, however, will be an interior feature to increase efficiency, add an identifying central feature, and make room for student lounge areas.

Sabin Hall will be a unique educational space. In addition to being an improved venue for the classroom experience, this model building will educate users to become more aware of their relationship to interior spaces and to be better stewards of resources.

Sabin Hall reopens for classes in January, just in time for its 97th birthday. But it will take UNI and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences much further into the future.

From top right: The atrium and light well in the center of the building, with a glass elevator shaft and balconies; an office space; a four-story interior facade that features bamboo plywood, a rapidly renewable resource in keeping with the project’s focus on sustainability; and other interior spaces. For more photos of the project, visit www.uni.edu/csbs/facilities
The School of Applied Human Sciences formed in CSBS

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is proud to announce its newest venture: The School of Applied Human Sciences.

The Department of Design, Textiles, Gerontology and Family Studies and the Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling programs that were formerly in the College of Education now constitute the School of Applied Human Sciences (SAHS). The reorganization was approved during the August meeting of the Iowa Board of Regents and is in effect for the Fall 2010 semester.

This innovative new unit was formed from the common focus of these programs and their foundation in the social sciences. The new School will provide an academic base for the addition of other applied programs and will be an important center of interdisciplinary studies in CSBS serving the entire campus.

Part of the School’s intent is to establish a foundation or core of faculty members and academic programs focused on applied human sciences to stimulate synergy among faculty members from across the campus to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, to foster cooperation, and to inspire more collaborative research. It is anticipated faculty members throughout the campus may choose to hold an affiliated appointment with the School, even if their academic department is not formally a unit within the School of Applied Human Sciences.

The School will remain an integral part of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and provide a focal point for many college faculty members interested in applied research with interdisciplinary interests. The mission of the School will be consistent with the mission of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, part of which is to increase understanding of people in individual, social, cultural and historical contexts.

The reorganization was celebrated in September with faculty, staff, and friends of the collaboration welcomed by Provost Gibson, Dean Mauceri, and Howard Barnes, director of SAHS. Provost Gibson praised the School as being an innovative model for the future of progress at UNI, and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is committed to its role in that success.

SAHS faculty named to endowed professorship in gerontology

Elaine Eshbaugh, assistant professor in the School of Applied Human Sciences, was recently appointed to the college’s Davis Professorship in Gerontology.

Eshbaugh holds a PhD from Iowa State University in Human Development and Family Studies and has published extensively on such topics as depression and loneliness across the lifespan and student interest in the field of gerontology. As the Davis Professor of Gerontology, Eshbaugh continues to coordinate UNI’s gerontology program and to promote gerontology education throughout Iowa. She is also an active leader for campus groups in her area and serves the community in a variety of capacities.

This professorship is part of the Adele Whitenack Davis Professorship in Gerontology Endowment Fund given to the University of Northern Iowa Foundation. The fund was established to encourage research activities in the field of gerontology and the professional development initiatives of gerontology faculty at UNI. CSBS began offering a BA in gerontology, the only program of its kind in Iowa, in 2002.
Faculty Kudos

Andrey Petrov (Geography) is a recipient of the 2010 Starkey-Robinson Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers. The award is given annually to a recent graduate of a Canadian university for best dissertation. Petrov received the award for his dissertation, “Marginal Regions in Discursive Space: An Examination of Socio-Economic Conditions, Development Paths and Spatial Differentiation in the Economic Systems of the Canadian and Russian North” (University of Toronto, 2008).

Annette Lynch (Textiles and Apparel) will continue to lead UNI’s flagship Department of Justice grant to address campus violence. UNI’s Center for Violence Prevention will be supported by this grant in addition to support from the Waitt Institute for Violence Prevention and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

John Johnson (History) has been appointed to a three-year term to the Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

Allen Hays (Public Policy) received a Summer Fellowship to study community policing in Northern Ireland, as a follow-up to earlier research conducted while a Fulbright Scholar in 2007-2008. In July, he made a dual purpose trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to conduct this research and to present a paper comparing community policing in the US and Northern Ireland to the 10th International Conference on Diversity at Queens University in Belfast.

Carolyn Hildebrandt (Psychology) and several students were interviewed by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for a feature including their research on cyberbullying. The research was also presented at the 2010 CSBS Student Research Conference.

Laura Kaplan (Social Work) has been named a Diversity Fellow in the office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Laura Janik-Marusov (Political Science) has a forthcoming article, “Stop Making Excuses: Understanding Hepatitis B and the Global Failure to Act” in Global Health Governance.

Helen Harton (Psychology) offered a new study abroad course this summer: Special Topics in Social Psychology: Culture and Social Behavior. Students spent two weeks in London, Barcelona, and surrounding sites, meeting with European faculty and students and completing a project on a social behavior.

Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi (Interior Design) presented a study of memory display boxes in dementia care centers at the annual meeting of the Environmental Design Research Association in Washington, DC.


Dhirendra Vajpeyi (Political Science) became a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Governance and Public Policy.

Katherine van Wormer (Social Work) published a two-volume set, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Micro Level and Macro Level, co-authored with Fred Besthorn (Oxford University Press).


Charlotte Wells (History) presented a lecture entitled “Utopian Communities in the Reformation Era” as a part of the Faith Exploration Series at Waterloo’s First United Methodist Church.

Pat Gross (Family Studies) is developing an online textbook in Family Relationships.

Robert Hitlan (Psychology) attended “Spit Camp” at Penn State this summer. He was part of a small group of researchers from across the world setting up new assay labs and learned directly from the top researcher in salivary assays and director of Salometrics, Dr. Douglas Granger, who has authored over 100 papers related to measuring and validating hormone levels via salivary assay.

Award-winning Faculty
CSBS Outstanding Teaching Award: Cyndi Dunn (Anthropology) and Kay Weller (Geography)
CSBS Outstanding Service Award: Carolyn Hildebrandt (Psychology)
CSBS Outstanding Teaching Award for Untenured Faculty: Chris Larimer (Political Science)
James Lubker Faculty Research Award: Bill Downs (Social Work)
Regents Award for Faculty Excellence: Kim MacLin (Psychology) and Otto MacLin (Psychology)
Veridian Award: Bill Downs (Social Work)

New Faculty & Staff
Ga-Young Choi: first-year faculty in Social Work
Elizabeth Lefler: first-year faculty in Psychology
Jan Bartlett: joining CSBS from Counseling
Darcie Davis-Gage: joining CSBS from Counseling
Linda Nebbe: joining CSBS from Counseling
LaShawn Bacon: visiting instructor in Counseling
Jan Cornelius is now Secretary III in the Department of Psychology, having replaced Jeanne Marshall upon her retirement from UNI.

Elaine Robinson is the new CSBS Grants Administrator. She brings with her significant grant experience from the Mathematics Department, where she worked on Project SOAR among others. Faculty interested in support with external funding can contact her at 3-7237 or elaine.robinson@uni.edu.
Student Kudos

Congratulations to five undergraduate Geography students who recently presented their research at the NASA space grant consortium regional meeting:

Jonathan Launschbach: Analyzing Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Arctic Wildfires Using MODIS Data
Susan Meerdink: Using Geospatial Technology and Environmental Variables to Develop an Ecological Niche Model of Glyptemys insculpta
Philip Cavin: Using airborne LiDAR data and 3D dasymetric mapping technique to enhance population distribution maps
Andrew Wille: Use of Aerial Imagery and LiDAR Data for Crop Condition and Yield Analysis
Jack Kosmicki: Spatiotemporal Modeling of Glacial Refugia of Etheostom blennioides during the Last Glacial Maximum

Abubakkar Jalloh (Public Policy) was selected for an internship with the United Nations for the summer of 2010. A native of Sierra Leone, he was interested in the complicated refugee issues raised by that country’s civil war. He worked on the issue of how to resettle refugees who were former combatants in such a way as to avoid destabilizing either the host country or their country of origin. His internship was supported by the Public Policy Scholarship Fund and the Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Psychology students Quinn Bullis, Kayla Nalan, Claire Wilson, Elizabeth Perez, and Justina Kotek spent some of the spring semester working with John Somervill (Psychology) and Elaine Eshbaugh (Family Services & Gerontology) on a project about pet attachment among the elderly. As part of the project, they visited area retirement communities with a canine companion. They currently have an article about the study under review.

Molly Grady (Political Science) is spending the semester interning as a field organizer for the Iowa Democratic Party. Among her responsibilities are mobilizing volunteers, improving voter turnout, and promoting candidate events. Grady is an SBS Scholar who spent the spring 2010 semester studying in Ireland.

Upcoming CSBS Events

October 14: CSBS Grants Day: Community Outreach College Eye Room, Maucker Union, noon-2:30pm

October 27: CSBS Brown Bag: Service Learning 161 Baker, noon-1:00pm

For a calendar of CSBS events, see www.uni.edu/csbs/calendar

Alumni Kudos

Mike Payson (Social Sciences HISTORY ’68) taught for a short time after graduating but was soon drafted into the Army. Upon returning from Vietnam, he returned to UNI to do graduate work. He is entering his 40th year in the retail jewelry industry, but he will retire fully in 2011. He says, “I have very fond memories of my years in Cedar Falls and SCI and UNI, and count them as some of the best of my life.”

Krista (Ficek) Castellanos (Social Work ’95) is an elementary and reading teacher working for an inner-city school district. She is also a certified teacher in CLAD (Cross-Cultural Language & Academic Development), instructing Spanish-speaking students. She is married with three daughters and in her spare time is a Girl Scout Leader.

Rustin D. Meyer (Psychology ’03) earned his PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Purdue University and became an assistant professor at Georgia Tech in 2009. He is married to UNI alumna Hollie (McLaren) Meyer.

Angela Ott (Anthropology ’07) spent a year working as a VISTA volunteer at Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota. She is currently in a PhD program in linguistics at Purdue University.

Mary Jo Halder (Political Science ’10) is attending the London School of Economics and Political Science working toward a Master of Science in Comparative Politics: Democracy.

John Koberg received his BA in history with a minor in sociology in 1975. He began working for an engineering firm in Moline, Illinois, primarily doing surveying work on highway construction projects for the Iowa DOT. In 1978, John returned to UNI as a graduate student in geography. He later went to work for the Defense Mapping Agency as a cartographer. He fulfilled a variety of functions involved in the making of maps using whatever computer software was available at the time. This included both air photo interpretation and map finishing (for print). Years later, his employer became known as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and John’s job took on a quality-control function involved with database maintenance of geospatial data. John recently retired from the NGA after over 30 years of service and was one of the featured guests at CSBS’s 2010 Distinguished Alumni Day.

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!
Vajpey Fellowship established in the Department of Political Science

A new opportunity for CSBS faculty in the Department of Political Science was announced earlier this year: Steve (History BA '67, Political Science MA '74) and Linda Segebarth of Indianapolis have established the Vajpey Political Science Endowment Fund. Named after Dhirenda Vajpey, UNI professor of political science since 1969, the fund will support one faculty member each year in the Department of Political Science to pursue his or her scholarly interests and engage students in research.

The Segebarths have created the new Vajpey Fellowship in CSBS.

New scholarships for Political Science students

The Department of Political Science is proud to offer two new scholarships to students in their programs.

The Women in Politics scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding junior or senior female political science major interested in a career in public service. State Representative Doris Kelley presented the department with a $1,000 check for the establishment of the new scholarship. The proceeds were raised at the fifth annual Cedar Valley Women’s Equality Day Celebration. This year’s event coincided with the 90th anniversary of American women’s suffrage.

A second new scholarship has been established by Emile Leighty of Waterloo. Leighty and her husband Ike are already steadfast supporters of what is now CSBS’s School of Applied Human Sciences as well as many other programs at UNI, but the new gift has been made in honor of her sister, Sarah Agee.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is grateful for each of its supporters and for the opportunities that such support gives our students.

Psychology faculty to appear on Discovery Channel

The research of Kim MacLin and Otto MacLin, associate professors in the Department of Psychology, was the focus of a recent visit by a cable television production crew.

The researchers and several of their undergraduate students were being filmed for an upcoming episode of the Discovery Channel series Curiosity [The Questions of Life]. The episode will center on memory, a subject which features prominently in the MacLins’ research on perception, face recognition, eyewitness identification, and forensic science. The students aided the production by staging a mock crime and acting as eyewitnesses.

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The crew from the Discovery Channel outside the Psychology 1 laboratory. The crew filmed on and around campus for four days in June. The episode will air sometime in 2011.
CSBS faculty visit China & Taiwan

In June, a group of UNI faculty and staff traveled to China and Taiwan. The intent of the trip was to meet with various universities in order to establish relations and increase international exchange and collaborative opportunities for our faculty and students.

Among the contingent were Brenda Bass, CSBS associate dean and professor of Family Studies, and Marybeth Stalp, associate professor of Sociology. Bass and Stalp met with social sciences faculty and leadership, and they each were able to present information about CSBS as well as their own personal research agenda and teaching interests. Although the bulk of their work was at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan, significant cultural exploration in both China and Taiwan was also part of the experience.

Above: Brenda Bass (left) and Marybeth Stalp at the Great Wall of China and (right) with a UNI alumna from Hong Kong at the Forbidden City.

New laboratory facility in CSBS

The Psychoneuroendocrinology Research Lab in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is open and ready to begin research analysis.

The lab can analyze hormone levels from saliva samples, including testosterone, estrogen, cortisol, and C-reactive protein, among others. The lab will allow faculty members and graduate students to learn to use the equipment and to formulate and answer questions such as whether social exclusion has an effect on stress (via cortisol changes), whether actions like social dominance or aggressive driving behavior are related to testosterone levels, and whether certain disorders such as borderline personality disorder are related to rapid changes in hormone levels.

The lab is administered by Robert Hitlan and Catherine DeSoto, associate professors of Psychology.

This summer, CSBS launched its new, long-awaited web site. The new site includes a fresh look more in keeping with the UNI identity; expanded features for faculty, students, and alumni; and an interface that allows for quick updating of information and adding of capabilities. CSBS departments and units will soon begin migrating to the new platform as well. In the meantime, visit us at www.uni.edu/csbs.

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.