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UNI GERONTOLOGY CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE

The 10th anniversary of the Gerontology program at the University of Northern was celebrated on Monday, November 12, with a documentary screening at Center for Multicultural Education. "You're Looking at me Like I Live Here and I Don't," a documentary focusing on a woman with Alzheimer's disease, was shown to a crowd of about 130 students, faculty, and community members.

Gerontology at UNI started as a certificate program, and the program now offers a major with two tracks and a minor. The aging of the Baby Boom generation has created many employment opportunities and contributed to the growth of the program. Currently, there are approximately 45 Gerontology majors and 45 Gerontology minors at UNI.

Students in the Gerontology program participate in internships and community service experiences at local hospices, nursing homes, assisted livings, agencies on aging, adult day centers, non-profit agencies, seniors centers, and home health care agencies.

Dr. Howard Barnes, director of the School of Applied Human Sciences, and Dr. Brenda Bass, interim Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, gave short speeches at the event. Barnes and Bass have been key figures in the development of the program, which is interdisciplinary and administered by the School of Applied Human Sciences.

UNI currently offers the only undergraduate Gerontology major in the state of Iowa. Students have the opportunity to major in Gerontology: Social Sciences or Gerontology: Long Term Care Administration.

REMOLD WINS GERONTOLOGY SERVICE AWARD

Michelle Remold is the first recipient of the Adele Whitenack Davis Gerontology Service Award. Remold, who graduated in December of 2012 with a degree in Gerontology: Social Sciences, won the award for meritorious service to the Gerontology program, the UNI campus, and the local community.

Remold, who is from Faribault, Minnesota, founded a popular Memory Trunks program that provides a discussion activity for individuals living with Alzheimer's and related dementias in local nursing homes, assisted livings, and adult day centers. She and her team have visited facilities across the Cedar Valley.

Her desire to help those with Alzheimer's disease stems from helping her family care for her grandfather after his Alzheimer's diagnosis.

"Michelle has made fantastic contributions to our program in the last few years," said Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh, associate professor of Gerontology. "She is so committed to helping older adults with dementia, and she's really helped to promote our program."

In addition, Remold has assisted with campus events such as Major in Minutes, where students share their experiences in their major with deciding students. She has been a guest speaker at several university events and coordinated a training on Alzheimer's through the Alzheimer's Association in the fall of 2012. Remold plans to attend graduate school at Mankato State in the fall of 2013.

UNI I am... promoting healthy aging.

Visit us online at www.uni.edu/csbs/sahs/gerontology.