

12-2011

The Update, December 2011

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

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Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences., "The Update, December 2011" (2011). *Update*. 7.

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THE UPDATE

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

December 2011

TWO UNI ALUMS TO GRADUATE WITH DOCTORAL DEGREES

*Courtesy of Emily Bruggeman
Promotions Assistant*

Both UNI alum and graduates of the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders, Laura Gingrich and Lindsey Leacox, will receive their Ph.D. from Florida State University (FSU) this month. Each earned their Communicative Sciences and Disorders B.A. degree in 2006 as well as their Speech-Language Pathology M.A. degree in 2008 from UNI.

Gingrich will graduate with her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology with an emphasis in understanding swallowing, speech, language and cognitive-linguistic functions. She states, *"The loss of the ability to communicate our thoughts or of the ability to eat and drink safely can be devastating. My passion is rehabilitating individuals with neurological disorders in the areas of speech, language and swallowing."*

At FSU, Gingrich has completed her doctoral studies under the mentorship of Julie A.G. Stierwalt, a respected leader and ASHA Fellow who is also a UNI alum. Gingrich also serves as a teaching assistant in the College of Medicine where she leads dissections of the head, neck, thorax and brain for over 26 cadavers. Outside of academia, she also enjoys volunteering as an adult leader for her church's youth group and treasures her time working with the Parkinson's Awareness Choir. The choir is a group of adults with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and community members who perform concerts and simultaneously educate communities on Parkinson's disease.

Gingrich continues to research pressures exerted by the tongue during swallowing in both healthy adults and in persons with Parkinson's disease. *"Our line of research is working toward developing a predictive equation based*

on an individual's biometric (e.g., height and weight) and demographic (e.g., gender) factors. A predictive equation may have diagnostic value as persons with swallowing pressures below their anticipated pressures, may signify swallowing impairment. I am also conducting research regarding the effects of dopaminergic medications on swallowing pressures. I hope to better understand swallowing parameters to aid in swallowing assessments and rehabilitation."

Gingrich has continued to collaborate with UNI through professor and department head, Carlin Hageman, renowned leader and ASHA Fellow. Hageman was also a mentor for Julie Stierwalt and very well could be for Gingrich's younger sister, Amy, who is currently a sophomore in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders working on research under Hageman as well as Angela Burda. Ultimately, Gingrich would like to be an advocate for speech-language pathologists and audiologists and for their clients (birth through adulthood) on a local, national and international level.

Beginning her doctoral studies at FSU at the same time as Gingrich, Lindsey Leacox will graduate with her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology with an emphasis in Language and Literacy in Multicultural and Multilingual Populations. During the first week of November, Leacox successfully defended her dissertation, the final written product to complete her doctoral degree. Working briefly for Iowa's Area Education Agency after graduation, where she had completed one of her previous speech-language pathology internships, Leacox began the journey of earning her Ph.D. at FSU under the direction of Carla Wood Jackson who she says has been *"an exceptional mentor in the area of bilingualism and similarly has*

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

>>ART

■ Associate Professor of graphic design **Soo Hostetler** was invited to the 2011 International Exchange Exhibit (November 22-November 27, 2011) sponsored by the Korea Institute of Design at Daegu University in Korea. The exhibition included several countries such as Korea, China, Taiwan and U.S.A. Hostetler is going to publish a paper entitled, "Learning Design Basics in Foundations Education Utilizing Digital Media," in the *International Journal of Design Practices and Principles* (Volume 5, November 5, 2011) by Common Ground Publishing LLC. She has served as an associate editor for this journal.

>>CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION

■ In October the CHGE inaugurated two book reading groups—one for faculty and one for students. The faculty group discussed Deborah Lipstadt's *The Eichmann Trial*; the student group discussed Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. Suggestions for the Spring 2012 groups are welcome. Books should deal with the Holocaust, other genocides and/or human rights and related issues. The groups look forward to welcoming new participants to the book readings.

■ The CHGE will be sponsoring an exhibit titled, "Who Am I? Young Minds Forced to Choose," in the Rod Library for two weeks in February 2012 (precise dates to be announced). Created by the Arnold-Liebster Foundation of Davenport, this exhibit of 13 framed panels examines the lives and experiences of young Jehovah's Witnesses who suffered as a result of their refusal to accept Nazi ideology. It acknowledges an important form of non-violent resistance to Nazi tyranny. The exhibit, which had its premiere at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust in 2008, has been hosted by several museums and educational institutions around the country.

■ The CHGE is also sponsoring the display of this exhibit in several school districts around the state in February-March 2012.

>>COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

■ Several faculty members and students from the University of Northern Iowa Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders attended and presented at the 2011 American Speech Language and Hearing Association Convention in San Diego, California in November. Presentations included the following: **Leah Clark, Whitney Cook, Jodie Roesler, Jennifer Rohde, Jacklyn Lowe, and Angie Burda** presented a poster entitled, "Performance on Differently Aged Adults on Tests of Executive Functions." **Matt Nelson, Angie Burda,** and **Evette Edmister** presented a poster entitled, "A Multimedia Approach to Memory Books." **Gena Aguilera, Molly Off, Angie Burda,** and **Carlin Hageman** presented "Problem-Based Learning in Speech-Language Pathology: Student Perceptions." **Kristin Anderson, Liz Muetting, Lindsay Woolston, Kyra Duhnam,** and **Carlin Hageman** presented "Refractoriness of a Transit Reaction: Replication with Speech in Children." **Sweta Soni** and **Todd Bohnenkamp** presented "Voice Therapy and Collision Threshold Pressure in Classroom Teachers," **Ken Bleile** and colleagues from other university programs: **Lynn Williams, Brenda Louw, Marcia Keske-Soares, Inge Trindade,** and **Nancy Scherer,** presented "United States-Brazil Cross-Linguistic Consortium in Speech and Hearing Sciences."

>>COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ **Chris Ogbondah**, journalism professor in communication studies, has a book chapter, "Political Repression and Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria, 1999 to 2007," published in a new book, "Communication, Culture, and Human Rights in Africa."

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<< Eric (Benjamin Tremmel) assists Pieta Woman (Molly Franta) who is reaching out to her Pieta Child (Nathaniel Harwood).

UNI Department of Theatre

GUERNICA RE-CAP

The following is a quote from student, Ryan Decker.

“Guernica brought a talented playwright, Cody Daigle, to our department. It was great to interact with him and to get his reactions to our interpretation of his script and also just to get inside the mind of the playwright. In addition to Guernica, which Cody wrote when he was 18, he also brought one of his newer scripts, William and Judith, for a staged reading. That provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss how artists develop and how their skills and styles grow and evolve. Meeting, working and talking with Cody has certainly been a highlight for me this semester.”

Over 900 students, faculty and members of the Cedar Valley community viewed Cody Daigle’s *Guernica*. The scenic painters who recreated Picasso’s “Guernica” under the instruction of scenic designer, Mark Parrott, worked over

the course of two weeks at an off site warehouse location to complete the painting. *Guernica* was in rehearsals for 5 weeks prior to opening.



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Zachary Bowman is a 2007 graduate of Glidden-Ralston Community High School in mid-western Iowa. He came to UNI in the fall of 2008 after working full time with a commercial construction company and as a custom wood worker. Art is simply a way for him to be creative and to make interesting objects. Bowman says the following about the sculpture seen in the production of *Guernica*, entitled *Buck*:

"In everything I do I immerse myself in the process and I strive for simplicity. Sometimes the simplest ideas can make for a good sculpture. I will think of any random subject, find an object that represents that subject, modify it and make a sculpture. Sometimes it's only one or two objects in the sculpture, other times there will be a handful of different objects that need to be transformed and fit together to make a cohesive piece. The story behind the sculpture shown in the production came from a motorcycle gas tank shown on Orange County Choppers. I really liked the sharp clean lines and the simplicity of the form. I made several more forms of different sizes and combined them to make the piece I call Buck."



ART HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP DAY



DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED >>

>>EARTH SCIENCE

■ **Thomas Hockey**, professor of astronomy had his book “How We See the Sky - A Naked-eye Tour of Day and Night” published by University of Chicago Press in October. The book explores the night sky without the aid of a telescope and includes examinations of how the apparent motions of objects in the sky are produced and how different cultures viewed and explained the phenomena of the sky. For more details, go to, www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/H/bo11952794.html.

■ Earth Science faculty including **Chad Heinzl**, **Kyle Gray**, **John Groves**, **Mohammad Iqbal** and **James Walters**, adjunct instructor **Lee Potter**, and approximately 15 students attended the national meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Minneapolis Minnesota, October 9-12. Current department majors **Matt Even**, **Chris Britt**, **Maddie Pike**, **Nick Bosshart**, **Josh Shultz**, **Stephanie Hogan**, **Chelsie Thompson**, **John Chesley** and **Elle Johnson** presented the results of their research with faculty on a variety of geoscience topics.

>>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

■ The UNI robotics team just won 1st place in the 2011 ATMAE robotics competition. They won 1st in the overall score, 1st in the contest, as well as the Best Poster Award. Congratulations to team members: **Jeremy Ganfield** (EET major), **Rick Rupert** (Tech. Management), **Peter Dekluyver** (EET), **Jeff Rick** (MS in ET), **Matthew Wason** (Manufacture), **Rodney Jones** (Tech. Management), and **Sean Quarles** (Graphics Technologies).

>>LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

■ Associate Professor, **Adrienne Lamberti** has been selected as a finalist for the 2011 Pioneer Hi-Bred Iowa Women of Innovation Awards.



■ The Department of Languages and Literatures was well-represented at the Iowa World Language Association, in Des Moines, October 7-8, 2012. **Anne Lair**, professor of french presented on “Ces meubles qui nous entourent” [French furniture styles]; Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page gave the IWLA All-Star presentation, “En français ! Auf Deutsch! En español!: Target Language Tribulations and Tenacity” and also co-presented on “Combining through the Strands of 21st Century Skills in French and Spanish.” Three graduate students in French presented their research under the coaching of Anne Lair.

Pictured Right:
Anna Mikhaylova,
Ekatarina Bolshakova,
Anne Lair, **Tatiana Rygalina**, and **Holi Rabearison**.



■ Under the leadership of Associate Professor, **Jim Davis**, the Iowa Writing Project is pleased to announce The Hispanic Story Project, which gathers, translates and publishes the unique stories of Hispanic residents in northwest Iowa in order to honor and preserve the stories of immigrant Hispanic families, to foster understanding among established and immigrant individuals, families and communities, and to enhance education in area schools and communities. For more information on this project and on the Iowa Writing Project, see the IWP web page or the DLL You Tube video of IWP Director Jim Davis (www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz93lICqq2A) discussing the IWP’s history and recent accomplishments.

■ The latest issue of the Iowa *English Bulletin*, a publication of the Iowa Council of Teachers of English, features two articles by DLL faculty: “Virtual History: Rebooting the IEB” by Associate Professor and IEB co-editor, **Adrienne Lamberti**, (with CoryAnne Harrigan of Simpson College), and “The ICTE-IEB Partnership: A Brief History” by **Jim Davis**.

■ Professor of English, **Vince Gotera**, and Poetry Editor for the *North American Review*, was recently interviewed by Belinda Subraman for her radio program, *The Gypsy Art Show*.

■ Graduate student, **Scarlett Cerna**, who is currently completing an M.A. in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing, was featured in *New Verse News*, an on-line publisher of work about current events. Scarlett's poem, "Today on Wall Street," uses rhyme and draws on her own invented form—part expanded limerick, part rhyme royal.

■ Creative Writing minor **Sam Pelelo-Ray's** flash fiction story, "Club," was featured in the on-line journal *Everyday Fiction*.

■ DLL Creative Writing minor **Katie Baber's** short story, "Holiday Joy," has been published by Black Lantern, issue 5.

>>SCHOOL OF MUSIC

■ The following students from the vocal studio of **John Hines** were resident Young Artists in opera festivals across the U.S. this summer: soprano **Allison Wamser** (M.M. Vocal Performance) at Chautauqua Opera; bass **Rhys Talbot** (B.M. Vocal Performance) at Central City Opera where he was also recipient of the McGlone Award; and, tenor **Jesse Geers** (M.M. Vocal Performance) at Opera Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. Mezzo Soprano **Renee Rapier**, student of **Jean McDonald**, was a resident young artist in the Merola Opera Program of the San Francisco Opera. Currently, she is performing in the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program with the Los Angeles Opera. She will return to San Francisco Opera in 2012, this time in the distinguished capacity of Adler Fellow, an opportunity extended to a select group of Merola participants. Renee graduated with an M.M. in Vocal Performance in Spring 2011.

■ Recent UNI graduate, **Renee Rapier**, was chosen by Placido Domingo to sing in the performance of, *Romeo and Juliet* for the LA opera! She continued throughout the month of November.

>>WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

■ On Monday, February 6, the CROW Forum will welcome, Michelle Devlin from HPELS. Devlin will present, "Darfur to Denison: Iowa's Newest Refugees from Africa and Implications for Women's Health Professionals." CROW Forum will take place at noon in the Center for Multicultural Education, Maucker Union, Room 109A. Bring a lunch!

FACULTY MEMBER AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Carlin Hageman was named Fellow at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Annual Convention on November 18th in San Diego. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association bestows. To be awarded Fellow, the nominee must have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders. Hageman was nominated by Julie Stierwalt from Florida State University, a long-time colleague of Hageman's. He is also currently the Executive Director of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association.





SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

UNI Clarinet Studio and Clarinet Ensemble Concert

Tuesday, December 6, 6 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI School of Music Professor of clarinet Amanda McCandless, the UNI Clarinet Studio and Ensemble will offer a fall concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Spotlight Series Concert: Chimes of Christmas

Tuesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

A perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Come join the UNI School of Music choral ensembles in celebrating the joys of the season. Enjoy holiday favorites and majestic, winter-inspired works. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX.*

UNI New Horizons Band Winter Concert

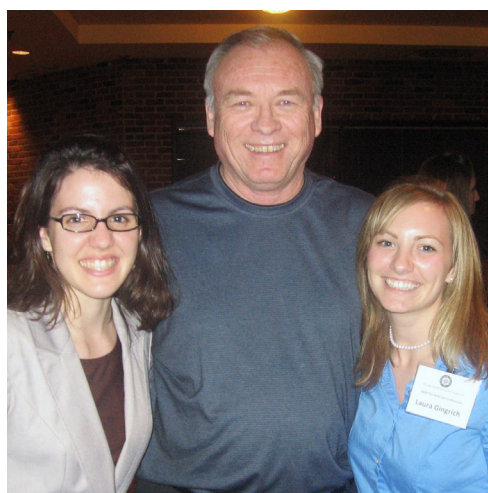
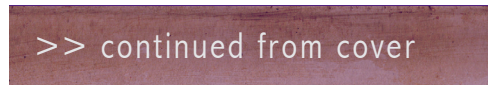
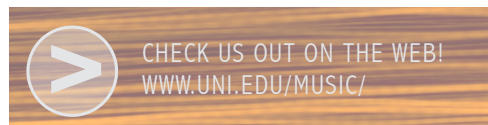
Monday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

The New Horizons Band will offer its winter concert. Under the direction of Diana Blake, the New Horizons Band features musicians 55 and older who travel from all over Iowa. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Children's Choir Winter Concert

Friday, December 16, 7 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

The UNI Children's Choir will offer their winter concert under the direction of Michelle Swanson. *This event is free and open to the public.*



<< (l-r): Lindsey Leacox, Carlin Hageman and Laura Gingrich

a heart for providing access to speech and language services to migrant farm working families and their children."

She also had the opportunity of being a grant recipient to fund her doctoral studies. The grant was funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), through the U.S. Department of Education. Her current research involves her interest in working with young bilingual children. *"My dissertation research project focused on one potential advantage of being bilingual: cognates. Research with cognates is one avenue to investigate how to help young bilingual children in their vocabulary learning."*

"My primary advisor (Dr. Jackson) and I are also collaborating on a longitudinal study to look at young bilingual children's vocabulary changes in English and Spanish. We are interested in the developmental changes between English and Spanish from when children first enter school through second grade."

Jackson and Leacox presented at the Division of Early Childhood conference on research studies investigation strategies to increase young bilingual children's vocabulary. She has also had the opportunity to complete poster presentations at the national American Speech-Language and Hearing Association's conference. These presentations focused on two studies that Leacox co-conducted.

Of her time at UNI, she says her mentors in both the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Department of Modern Languages were irreplaceable. Leacox, who also graduated with a B.A. degree in Spanish from UNI, says, *"I have always loved Spanish – the language, the different cultures. The mentors from Modern Languages offered courses focusing on Spanish linguistics and Spanish language development, which tied closely to content in speech language pathology."*

For Leacox, her dream job would include one that provides services to young bilingual children as well as training individuals who work with multicultural and multilingual populations. *"I am interested in uncovering the potential advantages of being bilingual, particularly for those who have communication and language difficulties—how can we capitalize on the similarities between languages to facilitate learning and success?"* She is also interested in traveling and international collaborations.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF ART



>> ERLINDA BABAUTA

Erlinda Babauta, a B.F.A Art Studio senior, is originally from the Northern Mariana Islands in Saipan but has called Iowa home for the last 10 years and UNI in particular for the last four years. When deciding on a college to pursue her art, she decided to attend UNI for the sole purpose of the art program. Accordingly, the highlight of Babauta's college career was during her sophomore year when she was accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts program for the Department of Art. Her emphasis is in photography and her work entails people.

MILITARY VETERAN AND UNI ALUMNUS JOINS THE CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING MATHEMATICS

UNI's Center for Teaching and Learning Mathematics (CTLM) is proud to announce the hiring of military veteran and UNI alumnus, Randy Jensen, as their new Military Consultant for Project SOAR (Student Online Achievement Resources). SOAR is an innovative educational project dedicated to United States military families and the military support personnel that serve them. Randy's 21 years of experience with the armed forces

"I would consider myself to be a portrait photographer and nothing else. I work with an old fashion 4x5 film camera. My process involves working with a model at all times, some coaching and relationship building. I believe in developing comfort with my models upon shooting, and once that relationship between subject and photographer is achieved, a special moment is captured and the shutter is released."

Babauta realizes that being an art major can be a challenge and that time management can be crucial because of the hours required—outside as well as during class—to produce a work that is worthy can sometimes be a stressful job. However, she has found that having influential professors has been encouraging and helpful.

"Every professor that I have had set art class with has been influential to me. I look up to every single one of them because they are who I hope to become someday. They all offer intellectual knowledge within their experiences, which shaped them to be the kind of artist they had wanted to be, and I think that is just amazingly beautiful. What is even more amazing is that, as the student, I get to absorb every single bit of it."

In the long-term future, Babauta would love to be making work in a huge loft studio apartment on a Mac desktop overlooking a beautiful view of California but for now she hopes to earn her Master of Fine Arts degree at the graduate school that best suits her.

will be an invaluable resource to the CTLM in their ongoing efforts to establish and maintain networking contacts within the military.

Randy graduated from UNI with a B.A. and plans to pursue his M.B.A. from UNI. His wife is a Cedar Falls native and the chance to raise their children around family and friends, drew them back to the area before his deployment to Afghanistan. *"I grew up a country boy,"* Randy said. *"When I was faced with deployment I wanted to move my family to a community that had that country feel. Cedar Falls is a good place to put down roots."*

UNI GEOLOGY STUDENTS EXPLORE HEAVY METAL: LEARNING HOW TO ROCK!

Heavy Metal Concentrations in Iowa's Landscapes and Farmlands

*Courtesy of Chad Heinzl
Department of Earth Science*



Nick Bosshart, Josh Shultz, Elizabeth Madsen and Cody Mireles, geology majors at UNI, are participating in a state-wide environmental investigation under the direction of Chad Heinzl and Kenneth De Nault. This project began as a 2011-2012 UNI Small Seed Grant and is evolving into a major research program.

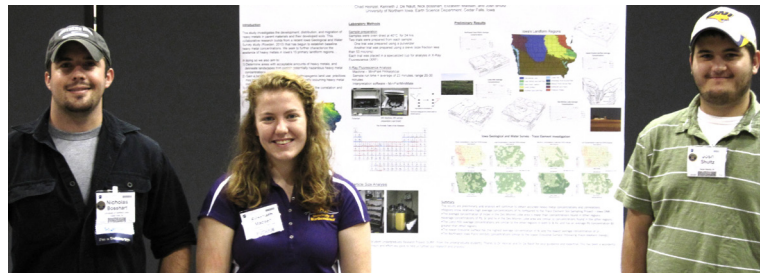
Each student is fully engaged in 'place-based' education and is exploring the landscapes where they grew up: Nick's research lies on Iowa's most recent glacial deposits (The Des Moines Lobe) in Boone and Greene Counties; Elizabeth is exploring the Loess Hills and Northwest Iowa Drift Plain of western Iowa: Iowa's older glaciated landscapes, primarily the Iowan Erosion Surface, are being investigated by Josh (Linn County) and Cody (Black Hawk County); finally, Heinzl grew up near

Maquoketa and is studying the East-Central Iowa Drift Plain along with synthesizing the research group's findings.

This study looks into the development, distribution and migration of heavy metals (e.g. cadmium, arsenic, copper, and lead) in Iowa's sediments (subsurface) and soils (surface). Soil is a crucial component of rural and urban environments, and in both places land management is the key to soil quality. We are working closely with the Iowa Geological and Water Survey to characterize the variability of naturally occurring heavy metals in Iowa's 10 primary landform regions. In doing so, we also aim to: determine areas with acceptable amounts of heavy metals versus landscapes that contain potentially hazardous concentrations, gain a better understanding of how anthropogenic land-use practices may contribute to or intensify

naturally occurring heavy metal concentrations, and obtain trace element markers that may facilitate the correlation and specific origins of Iowa's glacial sediments. Prior to the Fall 2011 semester, the research team went on a week-long excursion around Iowa gathering sediment and soil samples. The students were able to share and learn more about many of their childhood environments including: the Missouri River (during the massive summer 2011 flood), Council Bluffs, Ida Grove, Storm Lake, Jamaica, Cedar Rapids and Codfish Hollow.

Recently, the students have been characterizing the chemical/heavy metals content of their samples with an X-ray Florescence (XRF) machine under the guidance of De Nault and the particle-size (percentages of sand, silt and clay) with Heinzl. This UNI Environmental Geology Team presented their preliminary findings at the national Geological Society of America meeting, October 2011, in Minneapolis. The students are using their research experiences (field work, laboratory analyses and applied Geographic Information Systems) as a foundation towards furthering their education now and in graduate schools and eventually as professional geologists.



MODERN MOTIVES: INFLUENCES IN TODAY'S ART



*Courtesy of Darrell Taylor, Bryan Coons
and Stephanie González
Department of Art*

Department of Art students, Bryan Coons and Stephanie González, have been collaborating to co-curate an invitational exhibition of five artists entitled, "Modern Motives: Influences in Today's Art." The exhibition is scheduled for January 9 – February 1, 2012, at the UNI Gallery of Art and will feature some rising stars in the art world whose works will reflect a modern perspective and will showcase a variety of mediums such as drawings, sculptures, prints and ceramics. The idea

for the exhibition arose from a Spring 2010 suggestion by Professor Jeffrey Funderburk that students should be involved in the actual planning stages of an exhibition. From that point on, the students have been involved in each step along the way. Coons, a senior B.F.A Ceramics major, stated that he and González, a senior B.A. Art History major, began by sitting down with a few other students to create a list of artists they would like to bring into the gallery. After contacting the artists, the students worked with gallery director, Darrell Taylor, to chose the works that will be shown in the exhibition.

González says that she has learned patience from this experience. *"Patience is key when it comes to this project. I have learned to be patient and always have a backup plan in case the first or second one doesn't pull through. This is especially true when trying to get the artists that you want for a show, not all of them will be able to participate so having a back up plan is key."*

Both González and Coons agree that the most challenging part of the process was contacting the initial list of artists. Coons states, *"We started with a list of 20 artists and only a handful of them would even respond, which was frustrating but it's all a part of the process."* For him, this experience has also been a long time coming; *"I've worked in the gallery for the past three years and have always wanted to be a part of the curating and setting up of a show. Darrell was nice enough to give me that opportunity so there was no way I could pass that up."*

Both students are in agreement in saying that they would be more than willing to participate in this type of project again.

NEW U.S.-BRAZIL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Excerpt from The ASHA Leader

Students on two continents are participating in a new, innovative program designed to promote research into communication disorders across languages and cultures. The three-year project, jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Brazilian Ministry of Education (Fundacao Coordenacao de Aperfeicoamento de Pessoal de Nivel Superior; CAPES), supports student exchange as well as cross-cultural and cross-linguistic curriculum development for

students of speech-language pathology and audiology at four universities in the United States and Brazil. The universities include East Tennessee State University (lead U.S. university, Brenda Louw, Project Director), the **University of Northern Iowa** (Ken Bleile, Project Director), Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (lead Brazil university, Marcia Keske-Soares, Project Director), and Universidade de São Paulo-Baurú (Inge Trindade, Project Director).

"The purpose of the consortium," explains A. Lynn Williams, Project Co-Director and Associate Director, Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development Professor at East Tennessee State University, *"is development of a global curriculum based on a shared research*

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF MATH

>> NATHAN BRADFIELD



Nathan Bradfield was not sure what he wanted to do in college but he was sure it had to be mathematics related. So he came to UNI and soon he and the Actuarial Science program found each other. Bradfield will graduate in May 2012 to join the rapidly growing list of UNI actuarial science alumni making their mark in the prestigious world of America's top insurance companies.

Bradfield, a proud native of Cedar Falls, is a product of the Cedar Falls Community School District. He attended Southdale Elementary, Peet Junior High and then the Cedar Falls High School. So, UNI was not a secret to him. Here at UNI, the Actuarial Science program gave him the formula for success: Success = Rigorous course work in Actuarial Science + Passing the professional Exams in Actuarial Science + Summer Internship in an Actuarial Company + Good computing and business skills + Extra-curricular activities with a good dose of volunteerism and leadership.

Bradfield took the formula to heart and started the serious but joyful business of implementing it in earnest. Last May, he passed the dreaded Life Contingencies examination of the Society of Actuaries in his very first attempt—something which any actuary, leave alone an undergraduate, would be proud of. Bradfield had passed the Probability and Financial Mathematics examinations (jointly administered by the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society) earlier.

Last summer, Bradfield was an actuarial intern at the State Farm Mutual Insurance Company in Bloomington, Illinois, where he worked on a couple of very interesting projects. He worked on State Farm's rating structure to price boat premiums. He was member of a State Farm group developing new ideas geared towards telematics and the young adult market. Telematics is a device installed in a user's vehicle which records data such as speed, acceleration, and turning angles, etc. Bradfield's internship last summer included presentations on his projects to the upper management. His advice to fellow UNI students: "*Nothing beats an internship.*"

Bradfield is also an outdoor enthusiast. Hunting deer, ducks and geese is his favorite hobby. Indoors, his main hobby is playing card games where he tries to apply his knowledge of probability to win. Implementing the Department of Mathematics' formula for success has been challenging but Nate Bradfield has found it to be a highly rewarding experience. He has loved every minute of life on the UNI campus.

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NEW U.S.-BRAZIL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

collaborative to train the next generation of clinical scientists. Through this experience, students will have the opportunity to learn the social and cultural differences that exist in working families from an ecological model of child development, to understand communication disorders from a holistic perspective within the theoretical framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health—Children and Youth, and to assess the impact of communication disabilities within the unique socio-cultural contexts of families and communities that exist in the two countries."