

1-2012

The Update, January/February 2012

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

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THE UPDATE

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

January/February 2012

CHAS TO SEND THREE STUDENTS TO THE NCUR

Courtesy of Samuel Lyndon Gladden

Department of Languages and Literatures

The College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences will sponsor three of its undergraduate students as they present their original work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, March 29-31. These students were nominated by CHAS faculty who submitted letters of nomination extolling the merits of each student's work and demonstrating its significance to existing and emerging research and scholarship in the student's disciplinary field. Our students were selected from 3,190 applicants to the NCUR, and they will travel to Utah this spring with Wendy Hoofnagle, assistant professor of English in the Department of Languages and Literatures.

Senior, Kelsey Hampton, will present her work on "Intra- and Inter-specific Variations of Carapace Shape in Brazilian Fiddler Crabs (genus *Uca*)," a study she has undertaken with colleagues at UNI, the Chicago Field Museum and the Universidade de Sao Paolo. In his nomination of her work to the Dean's screening committee, professor Carl L. Thurman, of the Department of Biology noted, "Kelsey has been analyzing the shape of the carapace in each species across their geographic range along the Brazilian coastline. Alone, she has prepared all 2,500 photos for geometric analysis by overlaying 23 'landmarks' on each," and "she has succeeded in completely analyzing the spatial relationships among these landmarks in four of the ten species." Hampton will complete this analysis for her thesis, which she will file in May, after which, Thurman anticipates the publication of her work "in a peer-reviewed scientific journal" with the other researchers listed as co-authors.

Junior, Anne Shepherd, will present her study on "Understanding Emission Characteristics of a Foundry Sand Binder," which was nominated to the Dean's screening committee by associate professor Scott R. Giese of the Department of Industrial Technology. In his letter of nomination, Giese described Shepherd's work as "an innovative analysis technique developed for the Metal Casting Center research program" which is "funded by the Department of Energy." Specifically, Giese indicated that "Anne's research work has a potentially tremendous impact on the way the metal casting industry will address and assess green technologies for sand binder systems." Giese further indicated that "Anne's information is also valuable to the collaborative research efforts between UNI and the University of Iowa in developing computer simulation codes to predict hazardous air pollutants' generation and emission rates into the workplace environment."

Senior, Erik Wolter, will present his work on "Electrical Transport Anomalies in Nanometer Scale Manganese Films," a project nominated by associate professor Timothy E. Kidd of the Department of Physics. In his letter of nomination, Kidd listed among Wolter's accomplishments his construction of a vacuum chamber, his development of experimental protocols for work on thin metallic films and his completion of an Honors thesis—"all before his senior year!" Kidd also lauded Wolter's wide experience as a speaker for the Iowa chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Iowa Academy of Sciences and the Argonne National Laboratory.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

>>ART

■ During the month of January, the UNI Gallery of Art hosted an invitational exhibition, “Modern Motives: Influences in Today’s Art,” curated by art students, **Stephanie Gonzalez** and **Bryan Coons**, with the assistance of the UNI Student Curatorial Committee. The exhibition was also sponsored in part by the Northern Iowa Potters and Sculptors (NIPS). A lecture entitled, “Finding Personal Artifacts,” was given by instructor of art, **Thaddeus Erdahl**.

■ Professor **Mary Frisbee Johnson** is currently exhibiting a large drawing installation titled, “Alesia Bay in Drawing



Discourse: The Third Annual National Exhibition of Contemporary Drawings,” at the S. Tucker Cooke Gallery of the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

>>CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION

■ This semester, which marks the 25th anniversary of the death of Holocaust survivor and author, Primo Levi, the CHGE Faculty Book Reading Group will discuss Levi’s collection of essays, “The Drowned and the Saved.” Additional participants are welcome. The group will meet to discuss the book in late March (location, date and time TBD). Copies of the book will be provided at no charge to participants beginning January 31.

■ This semester the CHGE Student Book Reading Group will discuss Ismael Beah’s *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, a 2008 memoir about the 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone and the scourge (and rehabilitation) of child soldiers. The discussion session will be from 6:00 to 8:00 on Wednesday evening, March 21, in LNG 11. Copies of the book will be provided for a \$5.00 deposit (refundable upon participation in the discussion) beginning January 31.

>>CEEE

■ Environmental Health Film Series: February 13 (*Crude Impact*), February 21 (*Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives*), March 20 (*Reel Bad Arabs*) and April 4 (*Power Paths*). All films will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in the CEEE Auditorium. The film series is proudly presented by the Healthy Cedar Valley Coalition and the Recycling, Reuse & Technology Transfer Center.

>>COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ Professor **Chris Ogbondah** presented the paper “Who Watches the Watchdog? An Examination of Ethical Violations in the African Press with Special Reference to Nigerian Mass Media,” and presented at the “Politics and the Media” session at the 34th Annual Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, Nebraska, October 6-8. Ogbondah also gave a presentation at the Cross River University of Science and Technology (CRUTEC), Calabar, Nigeria, on November 9. The presentation was titled, “Internationalizing the African University Campus: Problems and Prospects.”

Ogbondah also recently had two chapters published. The first titled, “A Critical Analysis of State-Press Relations in Nigeria, 1999-2005,” published in the book *Mass Media and Society in Nigeria*, issued in December by Malthouse Press Ltd., Lagos. The second titled, “Political Repression and Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria, 1999-2007,” published in the book, *Communication, Culture, and Human Rights in Africa*.

■ Associate professor **Jayne Morgan** delivered a 75-minute break-out session at the Way-Up Conference for Women in Higher Education, in Des Moines on November 3. The talk was titled, “I Heard You the Second Time! (Why Listening Should be Your First Priority).”

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DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED

>>EARTH SCIENCE

■ **Kyle Gray**, assistant professor of earth science education, is the co-author of a recently published article in the *Journal of Science Education and Technology*, entitled “Assessing Multimedia Influences on Student Responses Using a Personal Response System.”

■ **Thomas Hockey**, professor of astronomy, presented his paper entitled, “Acronical Risings and Settings,” at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Austin, Texas. Hockey also chaired a session for the Historical Astronomy Division of the AAS for the awarding of the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy.

>>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

■ In November, over 275 people — including student delegates, professors and metal casting industry leaders — attended the Foundry Educational Foundation (FEF) College Industry Conference, held in Chicago. This unique conference brings together students and professors from across North America with the opportunity to interact with and meet the leaders in metal casting face to face. UNI is one of only 20 in the world to be certified with this foundation in addition to 14 affiliated schools. Three delegates from UNI, along with professor **Scott Giese**, attended the event.

Overall, \$57,000 in special scholarships and awards was given to the FEF certified and affiliated schools at this conference alone. UNI student, **Cameron Hoefing**, received one of the College Industry Conference’s Student Delegate Scholarships. In addition, students **Erica Hill** and **Ryan Battrud** each received one of the Special Scholarships available.

■ Associate professor **Hong (Jeffery) Nie** has been invited to speak at an IEEE International Conference. As one of 15 invited speakers all over the world, Nie will speak at the 2012 IEEE International Conference on Ultra-Wideband held

September 2012 in Syracuse, NY. Nie’s invited speech will focus on “Nonlinear Signal Processing Technologies for Energy Detection Based Impulse Radio UWB Transceivers,” a novel and promising research area originated by Nie from his multi-year research project funded by the National Science Foundation.

>>LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

■ **Ross Reed**, an undergraduate student, published his short story, “Stolen Heart,” in Daily Love. The Daily Love is an online opportunity for authors of all ages to publish new tales of romance and love of varying sizes and styles on a daily basis. Reed’s story is available online.

■ Associate professor of Spanish, **Jennifer Cooley**, and professor **Karen Mitchell** from the Department of Communication Studies, collaborated in directing a bilingual (Spanish/English) simulation titled, “Border Crossing/Cruzando la frontera,” at UNI in December 2011. This interactive performance was requested by those who had participated in it at the White Privilege Conference in Minneapolis, where it was performed in the spring of 2011. Community activists from Appleton, Wisconsin, traveled to UNI to participate in the simulation and to complete a master class the following day about the development of simulations about immigration.

Many UNI students and Cedar Valley community members also participated in the simulation. “Border Crossing/Cruzando la frontera” featured a number of talented undergraduate and graduate students from UNI, including **Araceli Castañeda**, **Nicholas Chizek**, **Edgar Espinoza**, **Andrea Estling**, **Jorge de León**, **Erin Hilker**, **Allison Krois**, **Blanca Martínez**, **Raúl Muñoz**, **Claudia Rodríguez**, **Amy Wikert**, and **Clair Williams**.

■ Adjunct instructor, **Bill Koch’s** essay, “Fearful Symmetry: What Northrop Frye’s Scholarship Has Taught Me So Far,” will appear in the Northrop Frye centennial edition of *English Studies in Canada* in Summer 2012.

■ Associate professor of English, **Catherine MacGillivray’s** article on contemporary French Congolese poet, Marie Leontine Tsibinda, will appear in the forthcoming issue of *UNIVERSITAS*. MacGillivray’s short introduction to Tsibinda and her work will be followed by two of her poems in a bilingual

edition—Tsiminda’s originals and MacGillivray’s translations. MacGillivray’s *UNIVERSITAS* article represents the culmination of her recent PDA.

■ Associate professor of TESOL, **Joyce Milambiling**, has been invited to be a visiting researcher at the Bilingual Research Center at the University of Bangor in Wales for her PDA in Spring 2013. Her research will compare bilingual education policies and practices in Wales with those in the United States.

■ Assistant professor of Spanish, **Gabriela Olivares-Cuhat’s** article, “Learner Factors in a High-Poverty Urban Middle School,” has been published in *Penn GSE Perspectives on Urban Education 9.1* (2011) and is available online.

■ Assistant professor of English, **Jeremy Schraffenberger’s** poem, “Miss South Carolina” was published in *Paper Darts* and is available online.

>>MATHEMATICS

■ Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, **Joel Haack**, attended the Joint Mathematics meeting the first week of January. Haack presented a talk, “Writing the History of the Iowa Section of the MAA (Mathematical Association of America)”, chaired the Science Policy Committee of the MAA, participated in the Board of Governors meeting and the Council on the Profession of the MAA and made a special presentation on “Congressional Advocacy Training.” Haack also attended a 4-hour mini-course on “Reading original sources in Latin for the historian and mathematician.”

■ The University of Northern Iowa’s Center for Teaching and Learning Mathematics (CTLM) has partnered with the Waterloo Community Schools to provide instructional coaching in both Cunningham and Irving Elementary Schools through the 2013-2014 academic school year. With a focus on changing teachers’ beliefs and classroom practices, university mathematics faculty will collaborate with Building Interventionists and District Math Coaches to provide intensive modeling, coaching and professional development to the elementary teachers. The instructional focus will be on successful implementation of the district’s newly adopted TERC Investigations series.

Success criteria for the project include an increase in teacher content knowledge of mathematics, improvement in teachers’ implementation of instructional strategies aligned with the adopted district mathematics curriculum and an increase in mathematics achievement by the elementary students. Mathematics faculty that are involved in the partnership include assistant professor **Elizabeth Hughes**; associate professor **Larry Leutzinger**; instructor **Peggy Magner**; associate professor **Glenn Nelson**; assistant professor **Olaf Steinhorsdottir**; associate professor **Brian Townsend** and assistant professor **Matt Webb**.

>>PHILOSOPHY & WORLD RELIGIONS

■ Professor **William Clohesy’s** article on Hannah Arendt has appeared in Deen K. Chatterjee, ed., *Encyclopedia of Global Justice* (Springer, 2011).

>>SCIENCE EDUCATION

■ **Lisa Volesky**, a UNI science teaching alumnus (2002) with a major in biology teaching and a minor in chemistry, has received the National Association of Biology Teachers



Association Ecology/ Environmental Science Teaching Award.

Volesky has been teaching for the Chicago Public Schools for eight years, and is currently at Northside College Preparatory High School, one of the highest performing high schools in the state of Illinois.

STUDENT TEACHING OVERSEAS

SCIENCE EDUCATION STUDENTS COMPLETE STUDENT TEACHING IN BRAZIL AND CHINA



Alyssa Jacobson and Mark Busch could tell you a thing or two about what it's like to live and teach in another country. Both recent UNI graduates started their teaching careers overseas when they stepped out of their comfort zones and traveled to Brazil and China to complete their student teaching.

After attending the UNI International Teachers Fair in February of 2011, Waverly native, Mark Busch, made the decision to travel overseas to Escola Americana de Brasília (American School of Brazil) to complete his student teaching. He relied heavily on the Out-of-State/International Student Teaching Office at UNI in making the decision and embarked on his adventure July 2011.

As with most overseas adventures, Busch ran into several challenges besides the language barrier. *"Certain countries have heavy importation restrictions, which makes it difficult to get resources in a timely manner. I learned to teach with what I had, using chemicals and other supplies that I could easily find at the grocery store or local shops. By doing so, it actually provided great "real-life" applications for my laboratory activities, which aided in student learning."*

Innovation and determination aided Busch during his time in Brazil, and when he completed his teaching experience, the school offered him the opportunity to finish the rest of the school year as a paid member of the high school science faculty. Needless to say, Busch jumped at the opportunity and spent the rest of the school year gaining valuable experience.

Not all of his time spend in Brazil was spent imparting wisdom to the next generation and combing the local markets for materials to use in lessons. Busch also had the opportunity to travel and sample all sorts of foods, culture and adventures. *"In Brazil, the food is light, fresh and utterly delicious. I also thoroughly enjoy spending time with my international and Brazilian coworkers outside of the classroom or going to a restaurant to listen to local music and experience the culture of Brazil! A beach vacation every now and then didn't hurt either."*

Busch returned to the states for a brief period and as of the time of this article, has flown back to Brazil to continue teaching. He highly recommends students take advantage of opportunities overseas. *"Student teaching is a great transitional period between being a college student and being a full-time educator, but it also means that this is our last time to really explore and be adventurous before we enter the workforce. Take an opportunity like this and explore a little piece of the world! You will grow so much as an educator and as a member of the global community!"*

Originally from Cedar Rapids, Alyssa Jacobson also took the opportunity to complete her student teaching in another culture. Instead of choosing a Portuguese speaking country like Busch however, she decided to fly all the way to the other side of the world and teach in Xiamen, China. For Jacobson, it was a combination of professional and personal reasons that pushed her to pursue her student teaching experience overseas. *"Professionally, I was looking for a challenging experience in which I would learn more about teaching and reaching out to students. Personally, I wanted to push my boundaries and see just how well I could handle myself in a completely different environment. I chose to teach in China because I have a personal interest in learning about the people, history and culture."*

Despite the differences in American and Chinese culture, Jacobson found that she was able to adapt and work effectively with the local culture.

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Culture and History in Berlin



*Courtesy of Brian McInnis
Department of Languages and Literatures*

UNI students have a new opportunity to study abroad in Berlin, Germany, during May 2012. The German Section of the Department of Languages and Literatures has developed a new program in English to introduce any UNI student to Berlin's contemporary culture. The course is slated for three weeks beginning May 6 and concluding May 28, 2012.

Berlin is a natural destination for a study abroad experience. It is a national capital, it is relatively affordable, and it is a multicultural city with many access points to German culture. In terms of high culture, the city boasts three opera companies, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, a world-famous film festival and numerous theater and dance companies. The center of the city is known for its Museum Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with museums for Roman, Greek, Near Eastern and European Art. Berlin is also a city for new and adventurous contemporary artists, from writers to musicians, actors to visual artists. The study abroad program will further introduce students to Berlin's role as a center of Germany's political and economic life. Berlin has been a center for

numerous governments during the past two hundred years, including those of the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, the Nazi regime, the East German government and post-1990 unified Germany. Course participants will investigate the representation of the past based on coursework and site visits to pivotal historical and cultural sites in or around the city. These visits will encourage students to critically evaluate why the monuments and buildings were created and what meanings they convey in contemporary culture. For example, after students tour the German parliament building and visit the Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe (Holocaust Memorial), they may be asked to consider the geography of these specific sites.

The itinerary includes visits to additional destinations such as the Berlin Victory Column, the German parliament building, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Checkpoint Charlie, sections of the Berlin Wall, monuments to murdered Jews of Europe, the GDR museum, the Bauhaus archive, the Emperor William Memorial Church, the Babelsberg film studios, the Jewish Museum, the Museum of German History, the Museum of Technology and the Museum Island complex featuring the Pergamon Museum and the Old National Gallery. Of course students will also be encouraged to explore cafés, cinemas, soccer games and diverse city districts. For those who have learned some German, they will have daily opportunities to practice their skills. For newcomers to German culture, they can begin practicing German by ordering a Kaffee or a Currywurst. Send your students to discover all that Berlin has to offer!

>> continued from cover

CHAS to Send Three Students to the NCUR

The Office of the Dean of CHAS is pleased to support these students as they travel to the NCUR and is pleased, as well, at the interest CHAS faculty have taken in promoting their work and investing in their professional futures. Later this semester, Kelsey Hampton, Anne Shepherd and Erik Wolter will present their projects to the campus community during a brown-bag lunch event, featuring remarks by Dean Joel Haack. Please watch email announcements and future issues of the CHAS *Update* for information about our students' experiences at the NCUR and for announcements about the public presentation of their work.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

>> JOHN ANDERSON



When senior philosophy major, John Anderson, first came to UNI, he had only the faintest inkling of what he wanted to study. Originally an English teaching major, Anderson took a philosophy class out of curiosity during his early years as a student. The course piqued his interest and challenged the way he approached life. This interest eventually led him to take up philosophy as a major and add English as a minor.

In addition to the classes required for his coursework, Anderson has been extensively involved in extracurricular activities on campus. This is his fourth year working for the *Northern Iowan* and

his second as executive editor. He acts as a member of the student admissions ambassadors, and the Philosophy Club, where, in the past he has served as secretary, vice president and president. Anderson is also the current Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta—the English honor society—and has been involved with numerous theatrical and choral endeavors and ensembles.

“As a whole, I would say that my extra-curricular involvement was just as, if not more, crucial to my educational experience at UNI as has my academic involvement. I have learned so much through interacting with my peers and spending countless hours putting my philosophy-bred critical thinking skills to the test as I lead

various groups to achieve very different goals. Being involved in on-campus organizations also made the difference between UNI just being school and being home. I have grown so much as a leader, a person and as a student through these organizations. Consequently, I have built up strong relationships that I hope will last the rest of my life.”

However busy, Anderson still makes time to focus on his faith. His current aspiration for the future is to become a pastor. In order to achieve this goal, he would like to do foreign missions with the Navigators for two years before attending seminary.

“I feel that UNI has equipped me with the critical thinking, communication and leadership skills and experiences that will help me be a good leader, preacher, and counselor, both through my courses and through my extra-curricular involvement.”

Throughout the time spent on campus, Anderson has developed close relationships with both students and faculty at UNI.

“I’ve been surprised by just how approachable my professors are. They’re all so willing to meet with students one-on-one to provide valuable feedback and to just talk. I’ve had some great out-of-class discussions with professor Clohesy and professor Holland, and it’s been so rewarding to be able to talk to them about philosophy and life without any condescension.”

Like any college student, Anderson still finds time to hang out with friends, watch movies and experience the often comedic moments that life on campus has to offer. When asked what one of his most memorable moments was, he laughingly stated, *“During my sophomore year I was on my friend Eva Andersen’s radio show on KULT, called Blabbermouth. On the show she pitted me against my friend and current student body vice president, Ian Goldsmith, in a beauty pageant for the title of Miss(ter) Blabbermouth. Thanks to my proclaimed love for my mom, my passionate defense of Barbie and my wonderful rendition of the Spice Girls’ “Wannabe,” I left the studio with the coveted sash and tiara.”*



MATHEMATICS ALUM RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Courtesy of Cassie Luze
Development and Foundation*

Gary Scholten, '80 Mathematics, received the UNI Alumni Association's 2011-12 Alumni Achievement Award during the annual Heritage Honors Award weekend celebration November 11-12. This is the university's most prestigious honor and recognizes significant personal and professional success of UNI graduates. It is presented annually to a graduate who epitomizes the best qualities of the university and its alumni. Scholten is pictured above with the president of the University of Northern Iowa, Benjamin Allen and the dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, Joel Haack.

Scholten, a native of Larchwood, Iowa, is senior vice president and chief information officer at Principal Financial Group.

He has received numerous awards for his contributions to his industry and has been featured in national magazines. Additionally, Scholten has led efforts in Des Moines and the State of Iowa to develop programs aimed at middle and high school students to generate interest in and preparation for careers in the field of information technology.

Scholten was instrumental in developing UNI Day and Principal Day, an exchange between Principal employees in Des Moines and UNI students and faculty. He is also a charter member of the Advisory Board to the Department of Computer Science. Scholten and his wife, Mindy, live in Des Moines and have two grown children.



Romance with a Double Bass II
Tuesday, February 14, 6 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.*

Faculty Artist Recital:
Amanda McCandless, clarinet
Tuesday, February 14, 8 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

UNI School of Music faculty artist, Amanda McCandless, will present a clarinet recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Flute Choir & Flute Studio Concert
Wednesday, February 15, 8 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 17 & 18, 7:15 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 57th Annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 61st Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts to be held on February 17 and 18, on the UNI campus.

Peter Apfelbaum, avant-garde jazz pianist, tenor saxophonist, drummer and composer, 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.*

Suzuki Faculty Recital
Tuesday, February 21, 6 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.*

Faculty and Student Chamber Music Recital ftg. works by Dan Welcher
Wednesday, February 22, 6 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

School of Music professor and conductor, Rebecca Burkhardt, will coordinate this recital featuring chamber music works by composer and visiting artist, Dan Welcher. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Spotlight Series Concert:
Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra & Symphonic Band
Thursday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of conductors, Rebecca Burkhardt and S. Daniel Galyen, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band will offer a shared Spotlight Series concert featuring guest composer and conductor, Dan Welcher. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX.*

Sigma Alpha Iota presents
Mr. School of Music
Friday, February 24, 7 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

The sisters of Sigma Alpha Iota will present the annual Mr. School of Music event. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI School of Music Audition Day
Saturday, February 25, All day
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 27, 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.*

Faculty Artist Recital:
Matthew Andreini, percussion
Wednesday, February 29, 8 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

UNI School of Music faculty artist, Matthew Andreini, will present a percussion recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*



EARTH SCIENCE: ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

>> BRIAN HYNEK



University of Colorado professor and alumni, Brian Hynek, has traveled from the freezing ice caps of the South Pole to the balmy climates of Hawaii and Nicaragua, all in the name of science.

After graduating from UNI in 1999

with degrees in earth sciences, earth sciences - teaching, and all sciences education, Hynek took the opportunity to attend Washington University in St. Louis to earn his masters and PhD in earth and planetary sciences. Upon graduating from Washington University, he headed to the University of Colorado where he is currently working as an assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

Besides being actively involved with the research at the University of Colorado's world-class planetary sciences program, Hynek has also continued his research on the history of water on Mars.

"At one time, it [Mars] was much more earth-like in the sense that there were lakes, flowing rivers, rain and snow. Currently, Mars is cold and dry and water is not stable on the surface. My research group's goals are to understand when and where there was water, how long it was there and what happened to it. These questions are directly relevant to if Mars ever had life, and it's a great place to look for past or present signs beyond Earth."

In addition to studying the history of water on Mars, Hynek is also studying sulfur rich volcanoes on Earth for evidence of extremeophiles (organisms that thrive in physically or

geochemically extreme conditions that are detrimental to most life on Earth). There is evidence that Earth's life may have originated in such extreme climates and the same may have been true for Mars. The research on this subject involves working on steaming, sulfur-belching, active volcanoes in Nicaragua and Hawaii. If conducting research in Hawaii and Nicaragua isn't adventurous enough, Hynek has also had the opportunity to camp a few hundred miles from the south pole and search for meteorites in Antarctica with NASA scientists.

When asked how his education at UNI has effected his current career, Hynek stated, *"Studying planetary systems means that you have to have a solid grounding in chemistry, physics, geology, atmospheric science, biology and the interplay between these disciplines. The science educators at UNI trained me well in all of these fields. I was also able to participate in research in the Departments of Earth Science, Chemistry, and Physics and this was invaluable real-world experience. Finally, I learned how to be a great science teacher while at UNI."*

In the future, Hynek would like to build an instrument to send to Mars on a future mission. Research has been done on a new imaging system that will be placed on a rover that will give an unprecedented amount of new information when sent to Mars.



Students Teaching Overseas

“The most important thing I learned while overseas was to be flexible and accepting. There are several things that the Chinese people do that a typical American would find incredibly rude, but they deem it acceptable behavior. I quickly learned to let those things go and adapt to it.”

Once she adapted to the differences in the two cultures, Jacobson was able to connect with new friends and experience exciting opportunities. When she wasn't learning how to better adapt lessons, assisting English language learners in the classroom and helping coach cheerleading, Jacobson was

exploring places like the Great Wall and the Forbidden City as well as local food shops. *“In my free time I liked to explore the local area and take pictures of places that I stumbled upon.”*

Jacobson also experienced difficulties in finding materials to use in her lessons but communication was the greatest challenge she faced. *“The biggest issue I had was not being able to speak the language. I had learned a little before I arrived and quickly learned some useful phrases after I arrived, but it was not enough to communicate effectively.”*

Despite the challenges and issues both students faced, the experience they gained and the adventures they had more than made up for it.

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION {NCA} MEETING

Numerous faculty members in the Department of Communication Studies attended and presented papers at the National Communication Association (NCA) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the end of November. The following is a list of the participants and their involvement at the conference.

Associate professor **Joyce Chen** presented the papers, “What Journalism Was and What Journalism Is: Tracing the Evolution of Journalistic Practice Over Time” and “Voices of Contemporary Chinese Parenting Styles: A Qualitative Approach.” Chen was also a panelist and the respondent of the paper session at the NCA as well as a panel organizer for the panel called Communication Studies on International Adoption: Voices, Issues and Impact.

Assistant professor **Jungmi Jun** gave two presentations at the NCA, “Media Representation of Climate Change in

South Korea” and “Communication Strategies for Responding to Racially Discriminatory Messages Among Asian American Women.”

Assistant professor **Katherine Lavelle** was an organizer and panelist on a panel named Our Team, Our Voice: Examinations of Media Coverage of Communities and Sports. Lavelle also presented a single authored paper called, “When the Saints Go Marching...: A Rhetorical Analysis of Identification of the 2010 New Orleans Saints.”

Professor **Chris Martin** presented his paper, “Socioeconomic Class and Political Voice: How the 2012 Presidential Campaigns Hail ‘The People’.”

Professor **Karen Mitchell** and associate professor **Jennifer Cooley** presented “‘Border Crossings’: The Risks and Impact of Simulations on Student

Facilitators.” Mitchell also sat on two panels at the NCA, called Discovering Voice through Acting, Improv and Performance as well as Performance Groups, Spaces and Social Practice.

Professor **Catherine Palczewski** was an Invited Lead Scholar for “Voicing Connections, Contradictions, and Possibilities in Social Movement and Counterpublic Theories” Pre-Conference. She presented “Why I am a Counterpublic Scholar of Social Movement,” a panelist for “Threading Our Stories: A Communal Exploration of Women’s Voices in Academic Debate,” was an Invited Respondent for “Scholar to Scholar: Gender, Race and Communication in Culturally Diverse Environments,” and Palczewski also presented her paper, “The Indian Memorial at Little Bighorn: Rhetoric, Commemoration and Public Memory: The Materialization and Performance of Past and Present Voices.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

>> JENNA GRAUPMANN

When Jenna Rose Graupmann first came to UNI, her biggest challenge was deciding what she wanted to major in. This creative junior spent two years taking classes and exploring what UNI had to offer before deciding on not one, but two majors: art history and theatre, with an emphasis in costume design. If that wasn't enough of a challenge for this ambitious student, she also chose to add a minor in French as well.

Graupmann has spent a substantial amount of time in the costume department of the Strayer-Wood Theatre and has had many opportunities to get involved in events around the theatre. During her career in the Department of Theatre, she has organized a costuming conference, costumed a student show, acted as an assistant in designing a blockbuster main-stage musical and even curated a textile exhibit.

"If you join the Theatre Department at UNI, you will be constantly amazed by the opportunities offered to you. If you put forth your full effort, the professors here will pour a plethora of wonderful opportunities into your lap."

In addition to her double major and volunteer work in the theatre department, Graupmann is a part of BASIC and the vice-president of the UNI chapter of the U.S. Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT). She has also traveled to Paris in order to study costume design and highly recommends taking the opportunity to study abroad to all UNI students.

"Without a doubt, the best times I have spent during my college career have been in the costume studio or in Paris. I rant enough about my work in the theatre's costume studio; so let me encourage the benefits of study abroad. Although making



studying abroad happen takes incredible perseverance, the experience of escaping your comfort zone and learning from a new culture will show benefits for the rest of your life!"

Despite all of the organizations and schoolwork that she is involved with, Graupmann still takes time to hang out with friends and break from the stress of classes by enjoying quality

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>> BRIDGING THE HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

AS A FACULTY MEMBER OF THE NEW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES, DO YOU FIND YOURSELF BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE DISCIPLINES OF THE HUMANITIES AND THE SCIENCES?

After the initial idea was brought up by assistant professor David Grant from the Department of Languages and Literatures, our office set out to find faculty members who have embraced the merge of the two previous colleges by offering courses that combine both the humanities and the sciences. The following are such accounts about faculty members within CHAS.

David Grant,
Department of Languages and Literatures

Assistant professor and coordinator of Writing Programs, Grant is teaching “Studies in Environmental Literature,” English 4186/5186. The genre of environmental literature, or nature writing, has often been hailed as America’s unique

contribution to the world literature. Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and Annie Dillard are all representative examples. Such writers are often scientists themselves and their writings are required texts in the natural, social and humanistic sciences.

This course surveys environmental literature and focuses on “ecocriticism,” or the ways language, literature and writing represents places and the natural world, orients our perspectives toward them and connects us to them as an evolutionary adaptation of human beings. It encompasses the idea that terms like “nature” or “wilderness” have meaning due to social convention, but that these conventions are not simply a fiction. However our disciplinary methods allow us to grasp

our surroundings, they will always be incomplete. How might we do so responsibly and with a full sense of the term “literacy” is a fundamental question. The course, then can be valuable to students in sustainability studies, biology, interpretative naturalism, geography as well as students in education.

Current students enrolled are from the Departments of Languages and Literatures, Geography, Public Policy and Interdisciplinary Studies. The capstone project will focus on researching and producing a “landscape genealogy” about a local natural area such as the Hudson Avenue Retention Ponds or Hartman Nature Preserve. Given the student make up of the course, multiple disciplinary perspectives will come together to focus on a particular place. Grant is currently looking for a suitable archive to house and display the results of the project which he hopes will grow as the course continues.

Adrienne Lamberti,
Department of Languages and Literatures

Professor Lamberti asserts that the “Applied Writing” courses offered by UNI’s Professional Writing Program bridge the disciplines, as these courses focus upon professional-level communication as it exists in any context. For instance, during this semester’s course in “Workplace Communication,” English 4765/5765, students in the Professional Writing Program minor are teamed with students in other programs to produce communications for actual organizational clients throughout the state. The 4765/5765 course therefore enables substantial collaboration and mutual support among professional writing students, who often major in the humanities, and students who are learning to be subject matter experts in, e.g., math, science and technologies.

The discussion cultivated by such teamwork enables each student to strengthen workplace communication skills as relevant to his/her field, while gaining appreciation for other disciplines’ discourse communities (and their professional value systems).

Kenneth Bleile,
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Professor Bleile teaches two courses that combine elements of the humanities and the sciences: “Language Acquisition: Birth to Five Years,” a sophomore level course open to all university students, and “Seminar on Speech Sound Disorders,” a graduate level course for students majoring in communication sciences and disorders. Both courses, in different ways,

address three basic questions: Why study speech and its disorders?, What is the neurological basis of speech learning and How does the environment facilitate speech learning?

Douglas Shaw,
Department of Mathematics

Shaw, a professor in the Department of Mathematics also teaches a course for the Department of Theatre. In addition, Shaw has also directed the improv troupe, Half-Masted, which often performs in the Strayer-Wood Theatre and in the Communication Arts Center.

Feeling inspired? Faculty and staff members of CHAS are encouraged to submit more information to the Dean’s Marketing and Promotions office about the ways in which they have embraced the merge of the two previous colleges that combine both the humanities and the sciences. Submissions may be sent online through the CHAS website at www.uni.edu/chas/news-events/chas-update/submit-update with the article title, “Bridging the Humanities and Sciences.” Submissions may also be emailed directly to chasupdate@uni.edu with a similar subject line.

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Student Spotlight: Jenna Graupmann

company and conversation. Her advice to incoming students is, *“Even if you don’t know the exact direction of your academic career, every class and lesson learned is beneficial to your time. And, though it’s cliché, everything really will be OK.”*



After graduation, Graupmann would like to live in a large city and work on costume design. When asked what she would like to do if money were no issue, she stated, *“I would be living and studying in Paris, experiencing the magic of the city and letting it influence my creativity every day.”*

UNI FORENSICS

Courtesy of Katherine Lavelle

Department of Communication Studies

The UNI Forensics team travelled to the Quad Cities the weekend of January 28-29 for the Viking Invitational and achieved great success from the forensics teams. On the debate side, the junior varsity/novice team of Peter Ickes and Kyle Joseph were second seed in the division and lost to Wayne State (MI) in the semifinals. Joseph was fourth speaker in the division. Joseph and Ickes are both first year students but while Joseph had significant high school experience, Ickes competed at his second tournament ever this weekend.

The speech team competed at MAFL 5-6, hosted by Minnesota State University-Mankato and Gustavus Adolphus College. Overall, the team was 5th (MAFL 5) and 4th (MAFL 6) in Team Sweepstakes. The team earned three more AFA Nationals Qualifications. First year, Ryan Courtney, qualified with junior, Harrison Postler, in Duo Interpretation, by winning the event at MAFL 5. This is Courtney's second AFA qualification. Postler

also qualified in Impromptu Speaking at MAFL 6, by placing 3rd in the division and winning it at MAFL 5. He also placed 4th in After Dinner Speaking and Poetry at MAFL 5. Postler now has three events AFA qualified. Finally, senior, Michael Taylor, qualified his Poetry Interpretation to AFA by placing 3rd at MAFL 5. Taylor has qualified four events to AFA at this point in the season. He also won Dramatic Interpretation at MAFL 6.

Several other team members had a successful individual weekend. Sophomore, Zoe Russell, won Extemporaneous Speaking at MAFL 6 and placed 4th in Persuasion at MAFL 5. Senior, Mandy Paris, placed both days in After Dinner Speaking (4th-MAFL 6; 5th-MAFL 5), and first year, Jordan Lukehart, was 3rd in Extemporaneous Speaking at MAFL 6.

Both teams have spent 10 days in January at tournaments. This past weekend, the team took a much-deserved break from traveling, but will be back in full swing the weekend of February 11-13. The debate team will head to the University of Texas-Austin to compete at their last national tournament of the regular season. There are 158 two-person teams in the division and 58 different schools in competition. The speech team will compete at the Love Fest at the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire and Ripon College.



DEAN'S TRIANGLE GALLERY