The Update, August/September 2012

University of Northern Iowa. College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.
This semester, art education students enrolled in the Methods of Elementary Art Education course taught by art education instructor, Wendy Miller, will be teaching in an alternative setting at The House of Hope in Waterloo. The House of Hope is a two-year transitional housing program for homeless, single mothers and their children. In the past, students have gained valuable experience developing an after-school art club for Price Lab students on campus. In the wake of the closing of Price Lab, a new venue presented itself through building a relationship between art education and The House of Hope.

Students will work in small groups over the next six weeks, teaching art to children living at the shelter, while their mothers attend evening classes, and develop skills to live independently. At the end of the six weeks, the Waterloo Public Library will host a month-long art display of work made by the children in the art club. In order to prepare for this experience, students will read a series of articles about homelessness, meet with the director of the shelter, and plan art lessons under supervision of their instructor.

The Iowa Department of Education requires all pre-service teachers to take a class focusing on teaching students with
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**ART**

- Professor Mary Frisbee Johnson is exhibiting work at the British Museum, London. A medal titled ‘America In Its Big White Hat,’ was purchased in 2004 by the Museum, from the international traveling Anti-War Medal Exhibition sponsored by Velvet da Vinci Gallery, San Francisco, and Electrum Gallery, London. The artwork is currently part of an exhibition at the Museum titled Friends of the British Museum. All of the pieces in the exhibition have been purchased through the Friends member organization for inclusion in the B.M. collections.

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

- Electronic Media majors, Dawn Sagert and Scott Mussell, won the Silver Eddy in the Student Documentary category at the 2012 Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival for their film “Occupy.” Electronic Media major Beau Batterson’s PSA on cyberbullying “War on Words” was also competitively selected to screen at the festival.

- First-year student Lihn Ta, a Northern Iowan writer from West Des Moines, Iowa, won the Ruth Culbertson Memorial Award (the “Cubby” Award). The award was established in 1973 to recognize “outstanding Northern Iowan reporters or editors who have demonstrated exceptional service and devotion to the paper” and “promise and potential for becoming a professional journalist.”

- Junior Brandon Poll, the Northern Iowan’s managing editor from Maquoketa, Iowa, won the Jeanene Robertson Business Award, which recognizes “outstanding contributions to the paper from staff members in advertising, sales, production, and business management at the Northern Iowan.”

- Chris LeValley, an alumnus of communication studies/electronic media, won a GOLD ADDY in the 2012 AAF-Cedar Valley competition, honoring creative excellence in advertising, for his video “Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Camp.” LeValley is an editor/producer at ME & V Advertising, a Cedar Falls Advertising and Marketing company.

- Zach Everman received a GOLD ADDY for his commercial for 18th Street Vintage “Memory Lane.” This spot is also one of the top 15 finalists that will be sent to the District Competition in Kansas City. Everman also received a SILVER ADDY for his commercial for Dubuque Symphony Orchestra “Holiday Concert.”

- Evan Hutcheson received a SILVER ADDY for his commercial for University Book and Supply “Lost in the Amazon.” Both Everman and Hutcheson work for OnMedia with Dan Rouse, a 1986 graduate of the Communication Studies electronic media program.

**LANGUAGES & LITERAT URES**

- “Emigration Road,” a dramatic recital by two Irish actors on emigration from Ireland, will be presented at the Hearst Center for the Arts, October 15, at 7:00 pm.

- Adrienne Lamberti, associate professor of Languages & Literatures, was awarded a 2012 University Research Summer Fellowship for her book project, Crisis, Conflict, and Adaptation: Technical Communication in Transformation.


- The paper “The Idiodynamic Method: A Dual-Purposed Psycholinguistic Research and Teacher-Training Tool” has been...
“120 Years: The Road to Excellence!” will be the Theme of thirty-first annual scholarship benefit concert hosted by the UNI School of Music. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 28th, at the Great Hall in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center (GBPAC) on the University of Northern Iowa campus.

This year’s event will commemorate the School of Music’s 120th anniversary at UNI. The concert will feature music by faculty artists Sean Botkin, Randy Grabowski and John Hines, as well as the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club, Jazz Band One, the Northern Iowa Symphonic Orchestra, UNI Opera Ensemble, UNI Singers, Concert Chorale and more.

Following the concert there will be hors d’oeuvres, champagne and music in the lobby including a performance by the Hands of Time Quartet. Additional post-show performances featuring School of Music faculty musicians will be featured in Davis Hall. Pre-show music will be provided by Angeleita Floyd and the Northern Iowa Flute Choir.

The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. Individual tickets may be purchased in person at the Gallagher-Bluedorn box office, by calling 319-273-4TIX or 877-549-SHOW (7469) or at www.unitix.uni.edu. To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office by calling 319-273-2025.

For more information on this event or the UNI School of Music, contact Caroline Boehner, UNI School of Music communications and operations coordinator at 319-273-2028 or caroline.boehmer@uni.edu.
Sarah Noll Wilson graduated from UNI in December of 2003 with a BA in Theatre Performance as well as a BA in Theatre Education. Today, Sarah works with her husband Nick Wilson as the Talent Development Business Partner at ARAG, a legal benefits provider.

My responsibilities include developing and implementing all company-wide learning development programs, partnering with leaders to identify team member’s performance gaps, provide solutions to improve, and facilitating leadership and team development programs. Last year I started Yes And Consulting, a consulting firm that focuses on creating highly creative, interactive, energizing, and effective learning.

Outside of work I perform Improvisation with Des Moines premier improvisation group Comedy Xperiment at the Civic Center, organize Des Moines Pecha Kucha Nights and make short films with my husband.

Like many college graduates, Wilson wasn’t sure what direction to take specifically, but her experiences at UNI helped her get where she is today.

Words cannot describe how critical my time at the Department of Theatre was in shaping who and where I am today. First, it was at Theatre UNI that I was first introduced to drama as an educational tool through my work with Gretta Berghammer. It was in my time under Gretta that I learned about the science/art of teaching and how important it was to create an environment that is conducive to all learning styles (kinesthetic, visual, etc.). This created the foundation for the work I am doing now, the only difference is that instead of helping reading comprehension with kindergartners, I’m using the same techniques to explore change management with executives. Additionally, the critical skills and behaviors learned through productions and classes continue to be invaluable such as collaboration, listening, big picture thinking, public speaking, risk taking, being grounded, finding connection with others, and creative thinking. Of course the list goes on from there. Finally, all of the professors challenged us to explore who we were as
Philosophy & World Religions

Korey Barrett, assistant professor and vocal coach, co-founded Opera Neo, a three-week opera workshop festival in San Diego, CA. Barrett served as music director and coach for its inaugural season, which included among its participants 20 singers, 3 coaches, 3 stage directors and 3 voice instructors from around the country. The festival performances included operatic scenes programs, a cabaret, and an evening of arias; master classes, seminars, yoga, movement classes, private lessons and coaching rounded out the daily curriculum. Three graduate students from UNI, Amanda McDonagh, Megan O’Brien, and Samantha Kantak, were accepted into the program. The festival will maintain its residency in San Diego for the foreseeable future.

In August, School of Music double bass instructor, Hunter Capoccioni, appeared as guest clinician and chamber music coach for Ann Arbor Pioneer High School at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet, played in the Britt Festival Orchestra in Jacksonville, Oregon. The 98-member orchestra, comprised of professional orchestral musicians from 27 states and Canada, performed 7 different concerts in 19 days with some of the world’s most accomplished soloists.

Professor Robin Guy performed as a guest collaborative pianist on the Fourth Annual Summer Chamber Music Festival held at the University of Arkansas in May. She then spent 6 weeks at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan teaching collaborative piano skills to high school piano majors. It was her 40th summer on the staff there, and she performed in a trio with horns on the first faculty recital. Additionally, in July she performed in two events at the International Double Reed Society Conference held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio: a trio with oboe and viola and a premiere of a new work for piano and bassoon by Daniel Baldwin.

ART MAKING AT THE HOUSE OF HOPE

This program is an opportunity for art education students to step out of their comfort zone in order to gain experience teaching art to children while exploring major issues of poverty, domestic violence, and service-learning, all centered around homelessness in the Cedar Valley. The hope is that working with these children will help art education students develop a better understanding of the diverse populations they will serve, along with the skills and strategies they will need to best teach these children and most importantly to brighten the day of children living without some of life’s most basic needs.
Cody Bardell

Cody Bardell, a junior Computer Science major from Dewitt, Iowa, wasn’t sure what he wanted to take his life when he first started searching for a school after graduation. With a competitive spirit, and a self-proclaimed horrible sense of direction, Bardell was able to find just the direction he needed in the Department of Computer Science. Here he has been able to take classes that will prepare him for the next step in his education and career.

I had taken a couple courses in high school that taught me how to program in Visual Basic and I loved it so I figured this was the place for me to be. The classes I am taking to complete my major have truly made me feel like I am prepared to enter the real world with the knowledge I need to be successful.

Through the Department of Computer Science, Bardell has taken part in many memorable experiences: from banding together with other students to study for difficult exams in Combinatorics, to taking part in the SURP Poster Session this past summer. Bardell has also gained experience through actively pursuing his interests in game development.

Last Summer I started a business (Glass Cannon Games) with a friend in the R.J. McElroy Student Business Incubator which is a program of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. It has given me the opportunity to experience the forming and managing of a business which is something I really hadn’t had any interest in up until that point. But I have been able to gain perspective on what really goes on and that has been an invaluable experience.

Bardell’s dream job would be to become a Robotics Engineer, but he currently plans to go to grad school to get his Masters in Programming Languages after he graduates in May of 2013. Though he does not enjoy the “unrelenting cold that flows through campus in the winter time,” he does feel that his experiences with the UNI faculty have been very influential in his life, and his future goals.

Professor Hughes has probably had the biggest impact on me recently. He really pushes us to consider graduate school and is the main influence on my decision to attend gradute school.

After three, almost four years completed, Bardell wouldn’t do much differently, but gives one piece of advice:

Do more things, go to more home games, join more groups, meet more people.
Lucas Joers, an undergraduate student in the Department of Biology, recently won first prize for his poster presentation at the first annual Iowa EPSCoR All-Hands Meeting. The competition provides an opportunity for students to showcase their current or completed research and earn a cash prize.

The mission of the Iowa NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is to establish Iowa as the leader in worldwide transition in energy supply from fossil energy stores to harnessing renewable energy flows in the biosphere. It also aims to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

The poster, which was titled “The Effect of Diversity on the Evolution of Physiology in Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum),” showcased the findings of Lucas’s summer research project at UNI. In this study, he tested whether the diversity of a plant community influences the strength of natural selection on photosynthetic and developmental traits of a focal species within that community.

To examine this question, Lucas measured selection on switchgrass plants grown in four different treatments of native vegetation: (1) switchgrass monoculture, (2) five warm-season grass species, (3) 16 species of grasses and forbs, and (4) 32 species of grasses and forbs. He found that selection generally favored high photosynthesis and rapid growth in all four diversity treatments, but that selection was strongest in the switchgrass monocultures.

He concluded that these selection pressures were likely caused by drought stress, which increased competition for light in the switchgrass monoculture relative to the diverse prairie mixes. Lucas is planning to continue this research in the fall as part of his undergraduate honors thesis.

The Explorers of Religion club was established on campus last year as a club to discuss religion from an academic viewpoint. The club was created by religion majors but the club is open to anyone, regardless of major, who wants to discuss the academic study of religion. A highlight of last year’s events was a film series on the Life of Jesus. This year, the club hopes to put on events such as discussions on Westboro Baptist Church, Scientology and various other topics and hopes to continue having productive dialogues about religion.
Matt Harding is a teacher of Physics at Iowa City West High School. He graduated from UNI in 2000 with a BA in Physics (Teaching), but later returned to UNI for his MA in Science Ed (Physics Emphasis). Though he is in his 13th year of teaching both introductory physics and AP physics at IC West, UNI is still a part of Harding’s life.

Since graduating in 2010, I’ve been able to return to campus for an Iowa AAPT (American Association of Physics Teachers) meeting and for the recent Physics Department Spring Banquet. During those visits, I was very impressed by the recent renovation of the physics department and the undergraduate research being conducted in the department. Now that I’m done with grad school, I continue to grow as a teacher by interacting with other physics teachers on twitter (@physicsramble). I also use education blogs and the online Global Physics Department (globalphysdept.org), where I get to discuss physics education research with other physics instructors like fellow class of 2000 UNI physics graduate Andrew Morrison.

Harding is married to his wife Anne, and has one child (with another one on the way, due in January). He is a sponsor of the high school physics club and an assistant boys soccer coach, but his real passion is still teaching.

I wake up (early) every morning, excited to go to school. I can’t imagine any other job providing me with the challenge and fulfillment that I get from working with my students each day. Teaching in a university town has many benefits. My students are often highly motivated and have an appreciation for how my physics class will benefit them. It’s always great to see students go on to pursue degrees in physics or science education, especially when they choose to do so at UNI.

Harding looks back on his experience at UNI as an influential one, especially returning for his MA in Science Education. Like many UNI grads, he was greatly affected by the personal help of the UNI faculty.

The instructors for my graduate classes in science education were an excellent mix of high school teachers, who were implementing the strategies discussed in our courses in their own rooms, and UNI professors who were actively involved in research related to these ideas. I gained a lot of insight into developing and conducting a research project as well as the practical application of ideas from education research. I know that my approach to teaching this year differs greatly from my first few years of teaching. Being able to continue working with, and learning from, Dr. Escalada, Dr. Stone, and Dr. Lee during my graduate program in Science Education provided me with a great opportunity to continue growing as a teacher while working full time in my own classroom.

Harding looks forward to continuing to work with pre-service teachers and refining his teaching practice.
Guest Artist Recital: Jim Miller
Thursday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Jim Miller is the associate principal trombonist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a position he has held since 1999. His previous orchestral experience includes the North Carolina Symphony, the Long Island Philharmonic and the New York Philharmonic. Miller earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his Masters of Music degree from the Juilliard School where he was a scholarship student of Per Brevig. This event is free and open to the public.

Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series
Friday, September 21, 12:15 p.m.
McElroy Lobby, GBPAC

Floyd attended and presented at the 40th Annual National Flute Association (NFA) Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 9-12. She directed the Ruby All-Star Flute Orchestra in the opening Gala Concert, presented a tribute concert entitled “The Gilbert Legacy: From Rocks to Rubies, The Transformation of a Generation,” hosted a Cirque de la Flûte event, and was a teacher at the “Master Class Circles for Flutists” session. In addition, Floyd served as Chair and MC of the Gala Dinner Lifetime Achievement Awards.

During the 40th NFA Convention, two of Floyd’s recent graduates distinguished themselves as prize-winning flutists. Hannah Leffler (MM 2011) won first prize in the NFA Orchestral Competition and Abi Coffer (MM 2012) won third prize in the NFA Young Artist Competition and was awarded the prize for best performance of the newly commissioned work “Totem” by Hungarian composer, Gergely Ittzés.

Floyd’s distinguished service to the profession and the NFA will be recognized at next year’s convention as she has been selected to receive the NFA’s 2013 National Service Award.
Harrison Postler is a Senior majoring in Communications. Originally from Iowa City, Postler was looking for a school where he could pursue his interest in public speaking and it was clear that UNI would be a good fit.

It was the only state school that had a speech team. And, I’ve known for years that I wanted to compete for as long as people would let me, and UNI was the best way to make that happen.

Postler’s keen interest in speech naturally directed him to the Department of Communication Studies, and it was there that he was able to become involved with one organization in particular.

I’m on the forensics team here. Forensics is a blanket term that encompasses speech and debate, I happen to fall in the speech half. This involvement is the single most important thing that has happened to me at UNI. There isn’t another activity, area of study or class that I’ve encountered that effectively teaches how to articulate your beliefs, or even how to discover that you have the ability to make an impact like speech does.

In fact, some of Postler’s most memorable experiences here at UNI have been directly related to speech and the Forensics team. Through his years participating, Postler has been able to witness the team’s significant growth and success.

Every year, the team has made incremental improvements beyond the previous year. I’m really excited to be part of a legacy here at UNI, especially considering the small size of our team. Most students and faculty aren’t aware, but our forensics squad has had unprecedented success these past few years. And not just unprecedented at UNI, but nationally. That’s the product of an amazing coaching staff and a dedicated team, and just bearing witness to something like this happening has been reward enough.

Postler plans to graduate in May of 2013, and from there he wants to continue on to grad school. He believes his desire for keeping a good work ethic and for learning in general has been greatly influenced by UNI and its faculty.

I’ve had no shortage of awesome mentors in my time here at UNI. All of my speech coaches (Rebecca Buel, Josh Hamze-hee, Sade Barfield, Kate Lavelle, Sarah Taylor, Yaw Kyere-mateng, Ian Hopkins and Rachelle Saunders) have had a huge impact on my life. Each of them have done different things to help me, and all of those things have been significant. Some of them are just volunteers. Their level of dedication has really set the tone for the students.

Academically, I’ve worked with wonderful professors inside the Department of Communication Studies, namely Cate Palczewski, April Chatham-Carpenter and Karen Mitchell, who have all mentored me through some pretty monstrous projects. And during my LAC experiences, the classes I took with Harry Brod in philosophy and Cynthia Goatley in theater have always resonated with me.

This year’s Wilson Lecture is set for Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 pm in Lantz Auditorium. Dr. Melanie Sanford will be speaking on the importance of Tackling Global Challenges in Sustainable Chemistry Using Transition Metal Catalysis.
This year’s Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium took place July 27th. The posters exhibited in the event covered a wide and highly varied array of topics, ranging from Software-Promoted Interaction in Speech-Language Therapy to Optimization of Microsatellite Polymerase Chain Reaction for the examination of the population genetic structure of Longnose Dace. Dean Haack opened the event with a brief introduction and Lyn Brant treated those in attendance to the lecture “Not Just Rocks.” The lecture was followed by the exhibiting of the many posters.

I would not be where I am today without my amazing time within the Strayer-Wood walls. Since graduating at UNI, Wilson has gone on to receive her Master of Science in Adult Learning and Organizational Performance from Drake, and hopes to someday get her PhD. Though she has graduated, nothing has stopped her from still doing research.

I’m finishing up a research paper in collaboration with Dr. Cris Wildermuth and Dr. Elaine Bright that explores the impact of the Case In Point teaching method on Adaptive Leadership learning. Essentially, exploring how can you push people past their comfort zone so they can grow and transform but not so far they become paralyzed.

I recently presented research comparing different personality models at the Work Place Big Five annual conference in North Carolina. Upcoming engagements include workshops on the parallels of improvisation and adaptive leadership to the Central Iowa American Society of Training and Development as well as at the State Conference for the Society of Human Resources.

In future, Wilson plans to continue to follow her passion of bridging creative drama/interactive learning with personal development training, and maybe someday write a book.