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The Update, December 2012

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

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THE UPDATE 2012 2013

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

December

HAVING A FIELD DAY: UNI STUDENTS ATTEND GEOLOGY CAMP IN WYOMING



John Chesley is a Geology major at UNI, planning on graduating in 2014. Geology majors at UNI are required to take a course involving intensive field work, normally offered by another university. This gave John the unique opportunity to attend a field camp outside of Greybull, Wyoming, offered by Iowa State University. It was here that he was able to take what he learned in the classroom, and apply it to real life situations.

Everyday in class you learn about geologic structures and concepts by reading them from a textbook or seeing a little two-dimensional model on your professor's PowerPoint slide, so

it is a little overwhelming when you first go out there and start seeing all of these concepts in real life situations. Being out there and actually seeing these concepts and structures in real life is the best way to learn geology.

Most of the work that John accomplished while in Wyoming was related to geological mapping. Students would go to

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

>>ART

■ **Jeffery Byrd**, head of the Department of Art, has work featured in “Insider/Outsider”, an exhibition displayed at Lincoln Arts Project in Waltham, MA. The exhibition included documentation of performance art pieces happening in public spaces. Byrd’s work recorded an eight-year performance in which he inconspicuously left sheets of gold leaf in fifteen cities in ten different countries. His piece was mentioned in a review of the show published by *The Boston Globe*. Byrd, along with Associate Dean **John Fritch**, also authored a paper entitled “Forever Ephemeral: John Cage’s ASLSP” recently published in the October issue of the journal, *Performance Research*.

>>COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

■ **Jennifer Garrett**, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, co-presented with **Emily Freeman**, graduate student, and **Marie Conway**, Decorah Special Education teacher, at the annual *Closing the Gap* conference in Minneapolis, MN. Their session, “Writing Instruction and Opportunities for Older Students,” presented instructional strategies and opportunities in writing for high school students who have significant disabilities and complex communication needs.

>>COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ **Chris Ogbondah**, journalism professor in the Department of Communication Studies, presented “Nigeria in global leadership role: Quo vadis?” This paper and title of inaugural lecture were presented at the Okrika Grammar School Old Boys Association reunion in the auditorium of the Rivers State House of Assembly in Port Harcourt, Nigeria on November 2, 2012. Chris Ogbondah was also the recipient of the prestigious OGS Reunion Lecture Award for 2012. In addition, Ogbondah presented, “Cut and Paste Journalism: Persistent Ethical

Problem in Nigerian Mass Media” and “Oops! The Wrong Way: An Analysis of Nigerian Government’s Communication Policy Vis-à-vis Late President Yar’Adua’s Illness,” at the Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, Nebraska on October 4-6, 2012.

■ Graduate students will perform their work from the Seminar in Performance Studies taught by professor **Karen S. Mitchell**, in the event “Shame and Glory.” This event will be held in the Interpreters Theatre, Lang 040 on December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

■ At a meeting of the AFA-NIET committee in Orlando last week, UNI Director of Individual Events Rebecca Buel was awarded the 2012 AFA-NIET Outstanding New Forensics Coach Award. The award will be given at the national tournament in spring 2013, but the selection happened at this year’s National Communication Association conference.

>>LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

■ **Jim O’Loughlin**, associate professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures, published the essay “Acting in Farmscape” in *Farmscape: The Changing Rural Environment*. His short story, “Not Full” appeared in *The Quotable*.

■ As part of Reaching for Higher Ground events “Critical Conversations: Voices of the Cedar Valley” will host a forum showcasing the work of students in teacher Mirsa Rudic’s 6th grade class for English Language Learners at Carver Academy in Waterloo at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5 in room 244, Schindler Education Center. These students, as a part of a service-learning partnership with a Wartburg College course, participated in a PhotoVoice project where they took photos and wrote about their conceptions of the American Dream. The event will include a panel of speakers following the showcased photography that will promote rich dialogue about the hopes,

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ART STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH PAPERS AT MIDWEST HUMANITIES CONFERENCE



>>> CARLTON MILLER

Art history students, Floris Bannister and Carlton Miller, represented UNI's art department at the Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities at Simpson College on November 3rd. Each presented original research developed in Dr. Elizabeth Sutton's Research Methods and Writing course last spring.

Bannister, an art history emphasis, chose to analyze a work by the artist, Kay Rosen, titled *063*.

"For that Research Methods class, we put together a class-curated show where we each selected and researched a piece from the UNI art collection. I chose a piece by Rosen called *The Works*... I had come to really appreciate Rosen during my research thus far so I continued to study her. Over the course of my research, I came across a few reviews that limited Rosen to be a funny artist without much depth, 'one-liner' art. I knew this wasn't the case and sought to prove that in my analysis of *063*."

Bannister had help from her professor and peers in preparing for her presentation.

"In the writing stage, Dr. Sutton was extremely helpful in helping me articulate my ideas into a cohesive

and coherent argument. At the end of her research methods course, we all presented our papers to our peers. This was a very useful 'test-run' to presenting at the conference."

Miller, a printmaking emphasis, also found the class to be beneficial.

"Dr. Sutton's class changed the way that I view art. Her research methods class basically explained the different art historical view points on art in general, which gave me the ability to start my research with a specific methodology in mind: iconography."

Miller used this direction in choosing the topic of Mauricio Lasansky's series, *For an Eye an Eye I-IV*.

"I have been interested in Lasansky's work for a while. I have been looking for an opportunity to research his work. Wartburg college asked me to write a brief description about *For an Eye an Eye*, so I expanded this concept into a research paper."

Bannister and Miller spent an entire semester preparing their research. Participating in the conference gave them the opportunity to introduce their work to a fresh audience.

"My favorite part of the conference was having the opportunity to present my own research in a receptive atmosphere," said Bannister.

Both Miller and Bannister felt that their presentations went smoothly. "During the presentation, I felt very good," said Bannister. "The technology worked and the room was packed (close to maybe twelve people!) Following my presentation, I was happy with a job well done."

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>>> FLORIS BANNISTER

SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

UNI New Horizons Band Winter Concert
Monday, December 10, 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 14, 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.*

DEPARTMENT NEWS

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dreams, and needs of English Language Learners in our community. The overall goal of the forum is to address the implications the students' stories have for practice, research, and policy change in the local, state and national educational arena.

>>PHILOSOPHY & WORLD RELIGIONS

■ Religion major, [Janey Dechow](#), delivered her paper, "From Leviathan to Dr. Frankenstein's Creature: The Work that Monsters Do," at the *Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference* at Truman State University on Saturday, November 10th.

■ [Susan Hill](#), professor of religion, was recently elected to be on the American Academy of Religion Board.

>>TECHNOLOGY

■ The UNI Robotics team took 3rd place at the 2012 Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) competition in Nashville, TN. UNI's team faced off with several schools from across the country with their robot P-CAT II. P-CAT, which stands for Panther Collect, Analyze, and Transfer, was the winning robot the team built for the 2011 competition and then modified for this year's challenge.

JOHN CHESLEY

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different areas of the state equipped with a topographic map and a satellite image of the area. The students were then expected to map out the geological features and formations of the area. Though John thoroughly enjoyed his field experience, it was not always easy.

The most challenging part for me was the physical demand that was required each day in the field. During the week we would spend close to eight hours a day climbing up and down large hills and extremely rocky terrain.

John's favorite part of the field experience was building relationships with other geologists from different schools. Throughout his experience, he was able to use what he had learned at UNI to help him complete his tasks.

Everything I had learned in my geology courses at UNI was applied at field camp. Every day at field camp I was doing something that I had learned in the classroom at UNI.

By the end of the field camp, John found it to be a very rewarding experience. Despite the challenges he faced, the amount he learned and experienced was enough to make it all worth it.

A lot of the work we did at field camp was extremely demanding and challenging, but it was the most beneficial class I have ever taken. I have never learned so much in my entire life, and since I was not only learning while I was out there, but also applying everything I learned, that knowledge will be with me the rest of my life.

CHALLENGING BULLYING THROUGH ART



*Content provided by
Wendy Miller (article, photos) and Jeff Byrd (photos),
Department of Art*

On Tuesday, November 27, while 1,100 people were attending The Governor's Bullying Prevention Summit in downtown Des Moines, The University of Northern Iowa held its' own summit when 160 seventh graders came from Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School to visit campus. The initial goal of the visit was to see the art exhibit entitled, "Fritz Hirschberger: Sur-Rational Paintings and The Fifth Horseman." This powerful show consists of paintings by Hirschberger, deeply layered, richly colored and angry evocations of Nazi barbarities, which related to the seventh graders study of World War II.

To connect this exhibit's theme to a relevant issue in middle school students' lives, my students and I created an anti-bullying lesson to present and teach to them while they were on campus. Our decision to connect bullying to the Holocaust partly came from one of my students who is enrolled in a class on genocide at UNI this semester. She wanted to teach the students that Hirschberger's work was as much about the indifference as the horror that intolerance can create and how important it is to not be a bystander when someone is hurting another person.



My students and I created a presentation on the connections between the Holocaust and bullying and then discussed the types of bullying, along with its most harmful effects. Our heavy conversation began with depression and students dropping out of school, and ended with the impact of bullying leading to suicide, especially for LGBT students, and finally school shootings. We discussed cyber bullying separately as a new and extremely dangerous form of bullying. We closed by discussing ways to fight bullying and how to create awareness in their school.

Students worked in small groups to create a one-page spread using bullying material and art supplies to create collaged,

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JAMES ARNS



James Arns has a B.A. in Physics from the University of Northern Iowa. He joined the Hughes Aircraft Company in Culver City, CA shortly after college graduation. His early assignments included the design of systems for and the fabrication of holographic combiners as part of prototype Head-Up Displays (HUDs) for a number of military fighter aircraft. He was also responsible for the design and construction of the opto-mechanical systems used to build night vision and laser eye protection holographic optical elements (HOEs) and the production of the HOEs for these products.

After supervising the Holographic Laboratory and staff for a period of time Mr. Arns turned his efforts to advance dichromated gelatin (DCG) technology, a preferred material for recording high quality HOEs, and the development of commercial applications for the Hughes holographic technology including optical filters and security devices.

Arns received the Hughes Aircraft Company Radar Systems Group Invention Award in recognition of a series of inventions that reduce noise in holograms during the recording process. Hughes Aircraft Company's top technical honor, the Hyland Patent Award was bestowed on Arns in 1991 for his contributions to a holographic noise reduction patent considered "significant to the business of the company".

Arns then moved to Kaiser Optical Systems in Ann Arbor, MI with a primary task of developing new commercial applications of the company's holographic technology. His efforts fostered improvements in the quality and production of holographic notch filters and gratings used in Raman-based instruments.

In response to an inquiry by laser researchers he headed the development of high performance gratings for pulse compression in ultrafast lasers. This effort enabled the building of compact ultrafast lasers for use in applications such as eye surgery.

He initiated and was instrumental in the development of holographic gratings for fiber optical telecommunication networks. This effort resulted in the invention and patent of a grating and prism assembly with the highest dispersion commercially available at the time.

In 2000, Arns co-authored what has since been described as a pivotal paper describing the value and use of volume phase holographic (VPH) gratings in astronomical spectrographs. Since the publication VPH gratings have been designed, developed and installed on a number of world-class telescopes around the world to classify distant star masses, discover planets around other stars and determine the existence of dark matter and energy.

Arns is a named inventor on thirteen U.S. patents and has authored and co-authored several papers on the development and application of holographic optical elements

He has an interest in travel, aviation and is a private pilot and avid practitioner of film photography.

CHALLENGING BULLYING THROUGH ART

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mini-magazines called “zines” about anti-bullying. We collected their pages and are working to put them together into several small zines that they can share with the rest of Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School.

This was a wonderful collaboration with Darrell Taylor of the UNI Art Gallery, the Waverly-Shell Rock Public Schools and the Art Education Department at UNI. My students were able to see firsthand, how this project reinforced important professional skills such as good organization, collaboration, interdisciplinary teaching and social justice art making.



UNI FORENSICS TEAM

The UNI Forensics team placed seventh in team sweepstakes at the 65th Annual Norton Invitational. Forty seven schools competed over two days at Bradley University. Several students placed in individual events.

Michael Taylor received second place in Poetry Interpretation, fifth place in Program Oral Interpretation, and was a semifinalist in both Prose Interpretation and Dramatic Interpretation. Harrison Postler received second place in After Dinner Speaking, fifth place in Pentathlon, and was a semifinalist in Impromptu Speaking.

Ryan Courtney was a semifinalist in Duo Interpretation with Harrison Postler and a quarter finalist in Prose Interpretation. Zoe Russell was a semifinalist in Impromptu Speaking.

In addition, several students received awards in the novice division for first year collegiate competitors and new students. Keegan Bosch received first place in Novice Pentathlon, fourth place in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, and was a semifinalist in Novice Impromptu. Scott Bredman received fifth place in Duo Interpretation with Keegan Bosch and was a semifinalist in Novice Impromptu. Maddison Jansen was a semifinalist in Novice Impromptu.

STUDENT RESEARCH

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Following their presentations, students were able to receive feedback. “The most memorable part of the conference for me was probably during the cross-examination after my panel gave our speeches,” said Miller. “A lot of very smart people helped me see the arguments that I needed to work on most.”

Both Miller and Bannister would advise that students considering developing research projects should choose a topic they are interested in. “I think it is incredibly important to choose a topic that you are personally interested in and curious about,” said Bannister. “You’ll be spending a lot of time researching and you’ll be far more inclined to do that if you don’t hate your topic.”

Overall, they found the conference to be a rewarding experience. “I would encourage more students to try presenting their own research at conferences,” said Bannister. “It’s a very good professional and academic experience.”