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# CSBS Kudos, May 2013

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# **University of Northern Iowa**

# CSBS kudos!

A publication of UNI's College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

**May 2013** 

# **CSBS Student Research Conference Held in April**

For the 20th year, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided its students—and those from other regional institutions—the opportunity to present original research, exchange ideas, and learn more about the social and behavioral sciences.

The conference included poster sessions, oral presentations, panel discussions, and a keynote address by Dr. Jill Pruetz, an associate professor of anthropology at lowa State University, who spoke on studying chimpanzees in the Savanna.

This year's conference was coordinated by Brooke Ammerman, a graduate student in clinical psychology, and Abigail Nedved, a senior in psychology. The conference committee also includes faculty representatives from each area of the social and behavioral sciences and is spearheaded by assistant professor Nick Schwab.



Faculty advisor Dilbur Arsiwalla (left) with Psychology students
Sarah Wood and Sean Buchsbaum



Psychology M.A. students (from left) Brittany Lewno, Amber Schramm, Montgomery Lyons, Gina Sacchetti, and Carol Tweten



# **Alumni on Campus**

# 2013 Distinguished Alumni Day

In April, the college announced the 2013 Distinguished Alumni—those who have earned distinction in the social and behavioral sciences:

**John Cacciatore** '84 Political Science

Jerry Glazier '77 Psychology Bill Hood '62 Social Science

Larry McKibben '70 Political Science

Three of the four 2013 CSBS Distinguished Alumni visited campus in April, meeting with faculty and students. From left: Al Hays, director of the public policy program; Jerry Glazier; John Cacciatore; Dhirendra Vajpeyi, professor of political science; Larry McKibben; Dean Bass; and Nate Clapham, CSBS director of development.



# **Psychology welcomes alumnus from Australia**



A psychology alumnus recently visited campus and spoke to the Psychology Club about his experiences with a lecture entitled "Gone Walkabout: How I made it from UNI Psych to building a Bionic Eye."

**Dr. Brendan O'Brien**, a 1991 graduate of psychology, is now a researcher with the National Vision Research Institute at the Australian College of Optometry in Australia. As a neuroscientist, he runs his own laboratory at the University of Melbourne. His current research seeks to understand how eyes work—and how vision might be restored to the blind.

Dr. O'Brien says he came to UNI with the intention to study music and become a band director. But he credits the introductory psychology course with sparking his interest in the brain, and Dr. Walsh with helping cultivate it.

Right: Linda Walsh, associate professor of Psychology, presents alumnus Brendan O'Brien with his distinguished visitor certificate.

Kim MacLin, professor of psychology, has also involved many alumni in her Careers in Psychology class, which allows students to connect with alumni either virtually or in person.



# **FACULTY & STAFF** Kudos

#### **Center for Social & Behavioral Research news**

Led by **Gene Lutz** and **Disa Cornish**, CSBR is assisting the Governor's STEM Council by collecting public knowledge and opinion about STEM issues in the state and developing and monitoring measures for several dimensions of the statewide STEM initiative.

CSBR is significantly involved in the lowa NSF EPSCoR research program. **Mary Losch** and **Jack Yates** (Psychology) are directing the Green Community Campaign Plank, which involves significant social marketing campaigns in two lowa communities aimed at reducing household energy use.

Led by **Mary Losch** and her colleagues at Univ. of Iowa, Univ. of Alabama-Birmingham and Univ. of Michigan, work on the Iowa Initiative Research Program was completed in 2012 and findings presented at a statewide conference in September. The research design did not allow determination of causal linkages but the multi-year statewide project to reduce unintended pregnancies coupled with family planning infrastructure expansion were associated with significant drops in both unintended pregnancies among live births and a drop in elective terminations within the state.

# **CSBS** Retirements & Farewells

With much gratitude for their service, the college bids a fond farewell to the departing CSBS faculty and staff.

**Dr. Al Hays**, director of the public policy program and professor of political science: 34 years at UNI

Dr. John Somervill, professor of psychology: 38 years at UNI

**Lt. Col. John Roadcap**, head of military science: 21 in the military and 4 at UNI **Master Sergeant Ronnie Lary**, military science: 27 in the military and 3.5 at UNI **Lt. Col. Paul McNamara**, military science: 21 in the military and 5 at UNI



Hays

McNamara, Roadcap, Dean Bass, and Lary



Somervill



# **FACULTY & STAFF** Kudos

Katherine van Wormer (Social Work) is this year's recipient of the Graduate College's Distinguished Scholar Award

Helen Harton (Psychology) was awarded a 2013 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence

**Emily Machen** (History) was selected by the alumni association at Southeast Missouri State University to receive a 2013 Young Alumni Merit Award. The award is given on the basis of the candidate's "exemplary professional growth, service to the university and individual character."

**Lindsay Cohn** (Political Science) was in Denmark in February to speak at the University of Southern Denmark's Center for War Studies. She gave one talk to students on ethics and international law as well as one public lecture entitled "Are Targeted Killings Legal?"

**Lou Fenech** (History) has had a new book published by Oxford University Press: *The Sikh Zafar-Namah of Guru Gobind Singh: A Discursive Blade in the Heart of the Mughal Empire.* 

**Li Jian** (Anthropology) has had a research article adapted into a textbook section entitled "Examples of Applied Anthropology: Socioeconomic Barrier to Biogas in China" in two textbooks: *Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective* (9th edition) and *Elements of Culture: An Applied Perspective* (1st edition).

#### Summer 2013 Fellowships from the Graduate College:

Ga-Young Choi (Social Work): "Elder Mistreatment in the Asian Pacific American/Immigrant Communities"

Carissa Froyum (Sociology): "Emotions in Volunteer Work"

Wallace Hettle (History): "Courting Controversy: William Herndon in History and Memory"

**Gayle Rhineberger-Dunn** (Criminology): "Social and Crime 'Fact' Presentation in Fictional Crime Dramas: Fact or Myth?" **Marybeth Stalp** (Sociology): "Seeing Red: Self-Defined Performances of Being 'Old' in the Red Hat Society Book Project"

#### **Provost's Capacity Building Grants**

Provost's Scholarship Grants

Carissa Froyum (Sociology): "Emotions in Volunteer Work"

**Andrey Petrov** (Geography): "Leveraging International Collaboration to Develop Taimyr Reindeer Observing Network"

Marybeth Stalp (Sociology): "Gendered Cultural Production in Ireland"

Anne Woodrick (Anthropology) and Gene Lutz (CSBR): "One Day More: Spirituality and Identity in Rural Mexico"

#### Provost's Small Scale Project Grants

**Dilbur Arsiwalla** (Psychology) with **Adam Butler** (Psychology) and **Brenda Bass** (Family Studies): "Daily relations between mothers' work-family functioning and health outcomes: The role of stress and work-family conflict"

#### Provost's Large Scale Project Grants

**Ga-Young Choi** (Social Work): "Elder Mistreatment Study in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Communities"

**Bingqing Liang** (Geography) with **John DeGroote** (Geography) and Maureen Clayton (Biology): "Assessing the Effects of Historical and Future Land Use/Land Cover Change on Surface Water Quality in Middle Cedar Watershed, Iowa."

#### **NSF EPSCoR Grants**

Gary Gute (Family Studies): "Psychological Complexity Small Scale Grant"

**Andrey Petrov** (Geography): "NSF RCN Sustainable Arctic (RCN-SARC): Recourse, Communities and Sustainable Development in the Arctic"

Nicholas Schwab (Psychology): "Experimental Investigation of Normative Strictness"

John DeGroote (Geography): "Spatio-temporal investigation of socio-ecological drivers of Lyme disease in Iowa"

# In memoriam

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is saddened by the loss of two former professors over the last year.

#### **RUTH BLUFORD ANDERSON (1921-2013)**

Professor Ruth Bluford Anderson founded the Department of Social Work at UNI in 1969. She also served as first department head and taught a variety social work classes until she retired in 1981. She died on January 22, 2013, after a long illness.

Born in Braden, Oklahoma, Anderson received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.A. from Columbia University. Anderson would later move to Waterloo, lowa, and serve as a social worker for the Black Hawk County Department of Public Welfare in the 1960s. She was inducted into the lowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1982 and in 1988 was the first African-American woman to serve on an lowa county board of supervisors. She received many awards for her contributions, including a 2012 diversity lifetime achievement award from the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

lowa county board of supervisors. She received many awards for her contributions, including a 2012 diversity lifetime achievement award from the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

To honor this remarkable woman, the Department of Social Work has established the Ruth Bluford Anderson Scholarship. The department is currently soliciting contributions for this scholarship fund, intended to benefit an undergraduate social work student of color from East Waterloo who plans to practice social work in the Cedar Valley. For more information or to contribute to the Ruth Bluford Anderson scholarship fund, please contact Nate Clapham, CSBS director of development, at (319) 273-5468 or nathan.clapham@uni.edu.



#### **THOMAS G. RYAN (1925-2012)**

Tom Ryan joined what was then the Social Science Department faculty at lowa State Teachers College in 1960. Although born in Chicago he moved to Brooklyn, lowa with his family at age eleven. Following high school graduation in 1943 Tom served in the U.S. Army during World War II. His undergraduate and graduate years were spent at the University of lowa followed by one year on the University of Detroit faculty before moving to Cedar Falls.

Retired in December 1993 as Emeritus Professor of History, for more than three decades Tom taught Humanities, the United States History survey courses, Recent United States History, Blacks in American History, and the History of Iowa. The latter reflected his scholarly interest in and Iove for Iowa, its history, and especially its politics. At the beginning of each semester he asked students to fill out a card listing, among other items, their hometown and high school. He loved to tell them their sport mascot and the number (reflecting the county) then on vehicle license plates. He collected

volumes of political and demographic data and utilized that information in historical publications and talks, KUNI public radio commentaries, as well as op-ed pieces in the *Des Moines Register* and the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*.

Not only devoted to his students, Tom was also committed to social and racial justice. From 1968-1970 he served as the initial coordinator of what would be known as UNI's Minority Group Education Program, the first university-wide effort to increase campus diversity. He represented the university at numerous conferences and workshops to implement those programs.

Tom died on November 20, 2012, at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo. Survived by his wife Jane, five children, ten grandchildren, and two brothers, Tom was buried in Greenwood Cemetery (Cedar Falls) with full military honors following a Mass of Christian Burial conducted by his brother the Reverend Philip Ryan. The family directed memorials to St. Patrick Catholic Church and the UNI Foundation.

Tom will long be remembered by family, students, university faculty and staff colleagues, neighbors, and those of us who will always miss "my dear friend Tom". courtesy of David Walker, professor emeritus of history

# **STUDENT** Kudos

In February, the Student Social Work Association traveled to Des Moines to advocate for the passage of a dating violence bill. The bill would include dating violence in the lowa criminal code in the same category as domestic abuse assault, which would give dating victims the same protections as those suffering from domestic abuse. These protections would include charging perpetrators with domestic abuse assault (a charge that is compounding and increases penalties if the abuse continues), criminal protective orders for victims, and batterer's intervention programs for abusers. Currently, only individuals married to, living with, or sharing a child with their abuser are protected by domestic abuse laws—which may leave college students unprotected.

Libby Hurder, a junior interior design student, has won 1st place in the 2013 Durkan D\*scover Design Competition. As part of her top national prize for designing a printed carpet for the hospitality industry, she will travel to Las Vegas to accept the award. Congratulations also to MaTrasa Phillips, a sophomore student from Ida Grove, for winning 3rd place.



The Student Social Work Association at the statehouse in Des Moines. Those advocating for the introduction of the bill include **Kaydee Vraspier** (far right), president of SSWA, and State Representative Marti Anderson (center), who graduated from the first UNI social work cohort. Also present was **Elizabeth Martin** (fifth from left), secretary of SSWA. A senior from Urbandale interested in the issue of domestic violence, Martin worked with the lowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence to organize this event.

**Dan Murphy** and **Rebecca Gronewold**, students in geography and GeoTREE Center, won 2nd place in the student poster competition at the 2013 lowa Water conference in Ames on March 5. Their poster was entitled 'Urban storm water planning utilizing LiDAR, the WinSLAMM Model and GIS'.

JoHanna Smrcina, a graduate social work student, has had her work named an Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper on campus. She presented the paper, "Rape Myths and Victim Blaming among

Victims of Sexual Assault: The Implications for Social Workers," at the April Current Research on Women (CROW) forum.

Alyssa Kielly Plunkett, family services, has lead a project building awareness and support for the Blue Zones program. The project recently won second place nationally among chapters of Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national honor society for family sciences.



CSBS has announced the inaugural members of its new Social and Behavioral Representatives (SABRs) student group, which will represent the college in the 2013-2014 academic year.

**Kaydee Vraspier:** Social Work **Emily Sorenson:** Family Services **Sam Horsch:** Political Communication

**Micah Webb:** Psychology **Kara Poppe:** Geography

Mollie Ullestad: Social Science Ed

Raechel Breyer: Sociology Elijah Seay: Psychology Sarah Jentz: History

**Dylan Keller:** History (not pictured)

### **STUDENT** Kudos

The Psychology Club trip to the Anamosa Penitentiary in November (right) allowed 12 students and a faculty advisor an up-close experience with the facility. The prison warden led the three-hour tour that included interviews with staff counselors, one of the staff psychologists, and two convicted murderers. They were also able to see the lock down areas, prison yard, and the manufacture of Braille books, license plates, and furniture.

Psychology Club students and faculty advisor Mike Gasser on the steps of the penitentiary in Anamosa.



# **ALUMNI** Kudos

**Cheyenne (Cuddeback) Miller** (History '04) has published a book that tells the stories of WWII veterans. Over the course of three years, she and her father, Larry, interviewed over 110 veterans in southeast lowa. Those interviews, along with Miller's photographs, resulted in *We Lucky Few: Portraits of Courage & Sacrifice from SE lowa*.

Miller lives in rural Washington County with her husband, Andy, and two daughters, ages 4 and 9 months. She works for Premier Sheep Supplies, where she is involved in product development. It is through this

work that she has been able to lead international agricultural tours to Ireland and France, which gave her the opportunity to visit the historic beaches of Normandy and the American Cemetery there. Miller says, "Normandy changed me—and I returned home even more determined to publish the voice of SE lowa's WWII veterans."

**Kathryn (Radel) Woerner** ('00 History Teaching BA, '09 Social Science MA) was selected to receive the 2012 Excellence in Education Award from the lowa State Education Association. She is a junior high social studies teacher at Vernon Middle School in Marion.

Left: Father-and-daughter authors Larry Cuddeback and Cheyenne Miller Above: Cheyenne Miller was particularly moved by the grave of a Washington County soldier in the American Cemetery that overlooks Omaha Beach. According to his family, he never made it ashore on 6 June 1944.

**Kenneth Severson** ('51 Social Science) was a teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools for 41 years, serving schools in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Before attending college, he was a member of the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948. Severson and 64 fellow residents of the Wake Robin retirement community in Shelburne, Vermont, have published an anthology of their experiences in WWII. "Our Great War" includes his experience of attending the Japanese war crimes trial in Tokyo on August 27, 1947.

# **The Year in Pictures**



- 1. Faculty and staff traveled in December to YESS, the Youth Emergency Shelter Services in Des Moines.
- 2. Students represent their discipline for Geography Day.
- 3. Social Science Education students at fall's Family Weekend
- 4. Alumnus Habbo Fokkena and wife Holly at the CSBS-sponsored performance of STOMP at the Gallagher-Bluedorn in January
- 5. CSBS represented its centers at UNI Day at the statehouse in February.
- 6. The annual Social Work colloquium provides continuing education to professionals in the field.
- 7. Sabin Hall was awarded LEED Gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council. It's the first such building at UNI and certifies it to be a sustainable facility.













Thanks to all the faculty, staff, students, and friends who helped make the 2012-2013 year successful.



# UNI am studying and solving real-world problems.

**CSBS***Kudos*, published twice every semester, is meant to highlight accomplishments of faculty, students, and alumni of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and to make colleagues in the college and across campus aware of the great things being done in CSBS. By sharing these ideas, interests, and contributions, we hope to sustain a sense of community.