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3-2013

### The Update, March 2013

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** 



March

# BIOLOGY PROFESSOR AWARDED FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP IN COLOMBIA

Quotations taken from Dr. Mark Myers' Fulbright Proposal

Growing up chasing butterflies, tracking mammals, and fishing in Ohio's Maumee River Valley helped to establish Dr. Mark Myers, associate professor of biology, as a lifelong student of the natural world. These early experiences led to a particular interest in conservation biology, which is the topic of his research for his upcoming Fulbright fellowship. The research will take place February through June of 2014 at the Antioquia School of Engineering (ASE) in Colombia.

While in Colombia, Myers plans to teach a course in Conservation Biology, as well as collaborating with ASE faculty to teach special topics in Ecology and Biology courses. He will also participate in research on the impacts of development projects on Colombian biodiversity and deliver public lectures on his research interests.

As a conservation biologist, I conduct research to gain understanding of biological systems, which can then be applied to prevent biodiversity loss and maintain ecological complexity. As an educator, I strive to help students understand humans' place in nature, to promote the development of an ecological worldview, to raise awareness of the global biodiversity crisis, and to highlight the need for their generation to aggressively promote biodiversity conservation.

Myers had many reasons for choosing Colombia as the location for his Fulbright. His wife is a native of Medellín, Colombia and a 2000 alumnus of the Antioquia School of

Engineering. He is also fluent in Spanish and has conducted research on imperiled species in Costa Rica.

Nowhere is there a greater need for ecological literacy and cautious environmental assessment than in Colombia, a country widely recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot with high rates of endemism and containing an estimated 10% of the world's species.

Myers has taught courses in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Evolution and the Nature of Science, Wildlife Ecology and Management, and Organismal Diversity. He is looking forward to applying his experiences at UNI on his Fulbright.

Coming to Colombia from Iowa, where the conversion of Midwestern native tallgrass prairie ecosystem to row crop agriculture over the past 150 years has been described as one of the most rapid and complete ecological transformations in human history, I believe I can offer Colombian students a unique perspective on the need to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem integrity and on the negative consequences and repercussions of failing to do so.

Myers' teaching philosophy centers around creating an atmosphere of mutual respect that allows him to establish individual relationships with students. He plans for his students to conduct research on Colombian biodiversity, ecosystems and conservation efforts.



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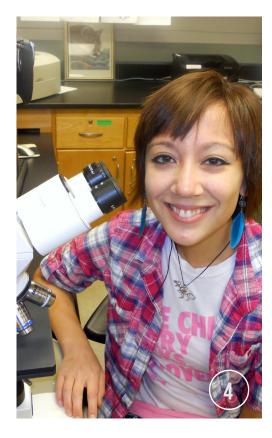
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### MARKETING & PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

SARAH PAULS (319) 273-2817 sarah.pauls@uni.edu

### PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

DESIREE DAHL (319) 273-2725 chasupdate@uni.edu

### PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

SARA HEFFERNEN (319) 273-2725 chasupdate@uni.edu

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### >>ART

■ UNI Art instructors Tim Dooley and Aaron Wilson, owners of printmaking collaborative Midwest Pressed, were visiting artists at the Tennessee Printmaking Symposium in Nashville, TN February 21-23. This event, which is being called by Nashville's critical writing community the "arts event of the winter season," was a three-day printing event which included an exhibition by Laura Berman at Belmont University's Leu Gallery, an open portfolio event at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film, the Hatch Print Show, a print shop local to Nashville, a visit from Platetone Press: Printmaking, Paper & Book Arts and the Poster Printacular Print Fair.

Other visiting artists included Laura Berman, Brandon Sanderson and Matt Hopson-Walker, Mike Martino and Goldsmith Press from Austin Peay University.

### >>COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ Associate Professor of Communication Studies Francesca Soans and Dr. Bob Neymeyer were selected to receive a grant from the Guernsey Foundation for their documentary project "The North End." The project documents the migration and histories of communities who settled in the north part of Waterloo, with special focus on the African American community. This is the third documentary in the series "Waterloo: A History of Place."

### >>COMPUTER SCIENCE

■ Cody Bardell will present the results of his undergraduate research at the 27th National Conference on Undergraduate Research, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, this April. Bardell's presentation, "Shared Display Interaction Using Mobile Devices," was selected from more than 3,500 submissions as demonstrating "a unique contribution to your field of study". He has been working on this project since last summer with advisors Prof. Stephen Hughes and Prof. Ben Schafer.

### >>LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

■ Bill Koch, adjunct instructor in the Department of Languages and Literatures, will do a re-enactment as Walt Whitman on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:30 pm in Lang Hall Auditorium. In this multi-media one-man show, Koch explains Whitman's life and times, reciting his poetry. Especially relevant as the country marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War are Whitman's reflections and poetry on the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. *This event is free and open to the public*.

### >>MUSIC, SCHOOL OF

■ Robert Washut, Professor of Music, presented a lecture/ performance entitled "The Creative Process" at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on February 7. The UWGB Jazz Ensemble also presented a concert of his compositions and arrangements, featuring trumpeter Bobby Shew on February 9. Washut also served as a adjudicator/clinician at the UWGB Jazz Festival.

### >>WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES

■ Jessica Valenti will be the keynote speaker for Women's History Month, and her book is serving as the inspiration for this year's theme: Feminism and the Modern Family. In *Why Have Kids?* Valenti explores the disconnect between the dream and reality of American parenthood. She examines social and cultural expectations about parenthood, work-family life balance issues, the economic costs of parenthood and who bears these costs, how gender, sexuality, race and class shape the experience of parenthood, and, as the title suggests, she illuminates some of the reasons that a growing number of Americans choose not to have children.

The keynote address will take place on Monday, March 11 at 6:00 pm in Lang Hall Auditorium.

### BIOLOGY STUDENT GETS PHOTO PUBLISHED

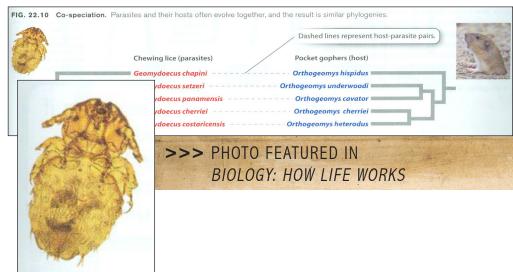
Jim Demastes, Professor of Biology, had a student's work featured in a new Introductory Biology textbook, Biology: How Life Works. Alex Popinga is a Double Major in Biology and Bioinformatics, and she has currently been working on her thesis statement "coevolution in pocket gophers and their ectoparasitic chewing lice." These are model organisms in the field of coevolution and are featured in Biology: How Life Works from Macmillan Publishing. The publishers had contacted UNI and others to find a high quality image of this figure; Alex's photo was the finest they found.

"The figure is based on research that Dr. Theresa Spradling and I were a part of a few years ago. The figure is on the facing page with Darwin's Finches!" said Demastes. "Alex took the photo using our Zeiss photomicroscope in our research lab. She was documenting the individual from which she extracted the DNA. She also uses these digital images to study various structures in the lice. Based on examinations like these. our lab described a new species last year (Demastes et al., 2012). A UNI undergraduate researcher was also an author on this paper."

"This research represented by her photo is incredibly important to the Department of Biology," said Demastes. "It shows numerous research opportunities for other biology students."

"Currently, we have five undergraduates and one graduate student doing this cutting edge research."







Percussion Department Concert Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 8 p.m. Davis Hall. GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI percussion faculty Randy Hogancamp and Matthew Andreini, the UNI Percussion and West African Drum Ensembles will offer the first of their spring concerts along with UNI's Taiko drum ensemble Kaji-Daiko and the UNI Marimba Ensemble. *This event is free and open to* the public.

Spotlight Series Concert: Choral Collage Thursday, March 7, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

This Spotlight Series concert will feature combined choirs from UNI including members of the Concert Chorale, Men's Glee Club, UNI Singers and Women's Chorus. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call 319-273-4TIX, or visit www.uni.edu/tickets.* 

Guest Artist Recital: Melissa Plamann, organ Friday, March 8, 2013, 8 p.m. Jebe Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artist Melissa Plamann will present an organ recital as part of the 2012-13 Organ Recital Series. Plamann is an accomplished organist and has earned degrees in organ performance with a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University and a Master of Music degree from Emory University. Plamann completed her Doctor of Music degree in organ performance at Indiana University. She has performed throughout the United States and Europe, and has taught courses in organ literature and church music at both Indiana University and Emory University. Plamann is currently University Organist and Wanda L. Bass Chair of Organ at Oklahoma City University. *This event is free and open to the public*.

Guest Artist Recital: Nathan Cook, cello Sunday, March 10, 2013, 3 p.m. Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artists Nathan Cook, cello, will present a recital with faculty artist Robin Guy, piano. *This event is free and open to the public.* 

Guest Artist Recital: Krebs, Kubin and Radoslavov Monday, March 11, 2013, 8 p.m. Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artists Jesse Krebs, clarinet, Brian Kubin, cello, and Ilia Radoslavov, piano will present a recital. The trio serves on the faculty at Truman State University and have celebrated successful careers as performers and educators individually and collaboratively. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Minor 4th Trombone Quartet Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Visiting artists Minor 4th Trombone Quartet will present a recital. The Minor 4th Trombone Quartet is a chamber ensemble praised for its high level of musicianship and technical ability. The quartet has recently performed at several universities in the state of Texas, the 2011 Big 12 Trombone Conference and 2012 Texas Music Educators Association's Convention. Members of quartet include: Oscar Diaz, assistant professor of trombone at Texas A & M University – Kingsville; Javier Stuppard, assistant professor at Huston-Tillotson University; Martin McCain, assistant professor of trombone and jazz studies at Texas State University; and Rai Morales, assistant professor of trombone at West Texas A & M University and Principal Trombone for the Amarillo Symphony and Opera. *This event is free and open to the public*.

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra ftg. Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of School of Music professor and conductor Rebecca Burkhardt, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra will offer a performance featuring members of the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival as part of the Reaching for Higher Ground series. The concert will be titled "What Happens to a Dream Deferred?" and will feature works by Frank Proto and Henry Cowell. *This event is free and open to the public.* 

### **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KATE DEGNER**



Kate Degner graduated with her **BA** in Secondary Mathematics Education in 2003, and her MA in Mathematics in 2009. She currently teaches for the Maguoketa Community School District. She teaches various courses in

mathematics, including Calculus I and II, College Algebra, and Pre-Calculus through Clinton Community College.

I'm also an administrator for the Belin Blank Center's summer Secondary Student Training Program at the University of Iowa. My husband (Matt Degner 2002 BA) and I live in the Quad Cities.

After leaving UNI, Degner taught mathematics in public schools for seven years. She has continued her education and was published in a mathematics textbook.

I went back to school to earn my PhD in Curriculum and Supervision and Mathematics Education from the University of lowa. I served as an author for the third edition revision of the University of Chicago Mathematics Project Algebra textbook (2005).

Beyond the classroom, she has worked with the National Center of Education Statistics and the University of Iowa.

I was selected to work with the National Center of Education Statistics to analyze restricted use data recently released as part of the last NAEP assessment. I also had a fellowship at the University of Iowa in the College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning for two years.

I also enjoy working with high school students, and getting to know them as individuals. I like talking to them about their future ambitions, and I think high school students are really a lot of fun to work with.

Her interest in high school education has extended into her research as well.

My dissertation looked for a relationship between particular parent behaviors and level of mathematics course taking in high school, according to socio-economic status. Currently, I'm interested in the way that disbursing Title I funding in schools can impact Title I students level of mathematics course taking in high school. I've spoken at a variety of conferences including MMC, ICTM (Illinois and Iowa), MCTM (Minnesota) and the NCTM conference in Philadelphia last year.

One of the best experiences for Kate at UNI was creating great relationships with the professors, particularly in the mathematics department.

I've had some of my mathematics professors come to my schools to team teach lessons to my students. I've always felt comfortable emailing past professors about questions. I emailed Dr. Shaw with a calculus question just last week! The willingness of the mathematics department as a whole to be so helpful and stay connected, even ten years after my graduation has really set a great example for me and the kind of teacher I want to be for my students.

In Kate's free time, she enjoys cooking and reading. Recently, she has picked up the hobby of running, but she likes races better than training. She also has been a high school cheerleading coach for ten years. When teaching, she enjoys working with the students one on one. She has three children (Jack, six; Liz, five; Alice one).

I can't imagine that I'd still be so excited about my profession had it not been for the experiences and people I worked with while I was there.

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS CONTINUED

High School Band Invitational Thursday, March 14, 2013, 8 a.m. Davis and Great Hall, GBPAC

School of Music professors and conductors Ronald Johnson and S. Daniel Galyen will coordinate a day-long workshop for visiting Iowa high school bands featuring Decorah High School, Grinnell High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Hampton-Dumont High School, Humboldt High School and Johnston High School. *This event is free but requires registration*.

Guest Artist Recital: Bernhard Scully, horn Thursday, March 14, 2013, 6 p.m. Davis Hall. GBPAC

Visiting artist Bernhard Scully will present a horn recital. Scully is currently the professor of horn at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He is a member of the University of Illinois Brass Quintet and is co-director of the Orchestral Repertoire Class. Formerly he was principal horn at the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the horn player for the Canadian Brass. He is currently on the faculty of the Kendall Betts Horn Camp and the Rafael Mendez Brass Institute, and has been on the faculty of the Music Academy of the West and the Eastman School of Music. *This event is free and open to the public.* 

Faculty Artist Recital: Amanda McCandless, clarinet Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 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.* 

### FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP CONT.

My own best educational experiences often occurred outside of the classroom, and I feel strongly that one of my most important roles as an educator is to be a mentor to my students.

As a result of his work in Colombia, Myers hopes to increase awareness of the elevated rates of biodiversity loss, establish relationships that could lead to on-going collaborations between UNI and ASE, and to promote an international perspective among his future students.

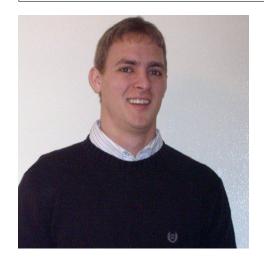
On a personal level, I expect that the exchange of ideas, collaborative research, and diverse ecological and cultural experiences that would characterize a Fulbright experience in Colombia will strengthen my own commitment to ecological research and education and hopefully foster a lifelong interest in biodiversity among my Colombian and U.S. students.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

### >>ADAM FELLER



Adam Feller, from Charles City, Iowa, is majoring in Statistics and Actuarial Science with an expected graduation date of May 2013.

I am the president of a math honor society called Kappa Mu Epsilon, and I work

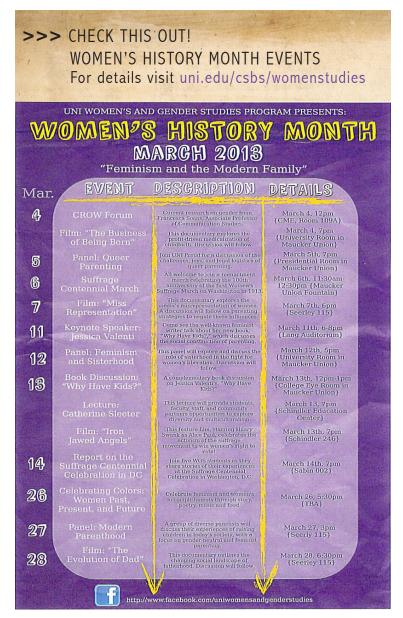
as a facility manager at the WRC. I have also held positions in the Actuarial Club. I chose to attend UNI because UNI has all of the opportunities that large universities have. It places its emphasis on students rather than research. I was impressed by the student-to-faculty ratio, and I knew that if I attended UNI, I would be more than just a number.

When Feller came to UNI, he thought it was a great atmosphere to learn, have fun, and develop as a person. He found many benefits in class and through campus involvement.

The math courses I have taken have taught me both the job specific and critical skills I need to succeed as an actuary. The clubs I am involved in on campus provided me internship opportunities and brought me into contact with my future employer. My education at UNI has given me skills to become a life-long learner. The professors in the Math Department make time for you and truly care about your success. Their doors are always open and they enjoy helping students. Don't be afraid seek out help.

Since Adam is a senior now, he has already been looking into the future. After graduation he will be working for The Principal Financial Group as an actuarial assistant in the student actuarial rotation program. If someone were to ask Adam about attending UNI or the Math Department, he would say,

Professors at UNI genuinely care about their students' success. I don't feel like a number. The professors took the time to learn my name early on in my college career and they care about my future. It's fun to get to know people with similar goals and aspirations. My major specific professors have been especially encouraging, as I have pursued my educational goals. Dr. Ecker, Dr. Kirmani and Dr. Luo have all spent time giving me guidance and advice.



## 2013 ADDY® AWARDS

UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences (CHAS) faculty, staff and students showed strength in design and advertising at the Cedar Valley ADDY® Awards on Thursday Feb. 21.

Representatives from CHAS won a combined 15 awards of the 58 given. CHAS students received four gold ADDYs including Student Best of Show, awarded to Joshua Peter for his piece "One Week With Josh." CHAS students also received eight silver awards combined. Of special note, former promotions assistants Allison Hamilton, '12, and Ben Rendall, '12, both won gold, for their respective projects, "A Week in the Life" and "Q-tip Poster Series," with Hamilton also taking home an additional silver for her magazine spread "Macro."

CHAS faculty and staff also had a great showing with three professional gold and three professional silvers. Phil Fass, professor, received two silvers for his UNI Art Gallery Posters and accepted a gold for art direction on the Art Department's Viewbook, designed by Jason Thompson, '12. Sarah Pauls, marketing and promotions coordinator for CHAS, accepted one silver and one gold for college recruitment work. Pauls worked collaboratively with Strayer-Wood Theatre Marketing Director, Traci Gaydos and local artist Gary Kelley on a unique mailer for the musical BatBoy, which also received a gold ADDY. Though, he didn't enter any work for UNI, Dana Lechtenberg, graphic designer at the Center for Teaching and Learning Mathematics was a great representative of the CHAS family as he took home three personal awards. One silver, one gold, and a Judge's Citation for his "Stand Up Takes Over New York City Posters."

An exciting addition to the evening was the success of UNIBusiness' AAF Club. The student-run club also won several awards through pieces developed as part of Matthew Wilson's Advertising Campaign Development class. Total the AAF Club added five awards to the tally.

The mission of the ADDYs is to recognize and reward creative excellence in the art of advertising. The three-tiered competition, held by the American Advertising Federation, is the world's largest advertising competition. The top 15 professional local entries are advancing to the District ADDY Competition as well as five student entries. District winners then advance to the National ADDYs.



Sarah Pauls, Traci Gaydos, Gary Kelley BatBoy Direct Mailer

Jason Thompson with Phil Fass UNI Department of Art Viewbook

Here is a complete list of UNI winners. An asterisk indicates a piece that is moving on to districts.

#### Student Best of Show:

Joshua Peter- One Week With Josh\*

#### Student Gold ADDY:

Kenny Miesner- Toothpick Poster Series\* Allison Hamilton- A Week in the Life\* Benjamin Rendall- Q-tip Poster Series\* AAF UNI- Nissan "What Limits?" Campaign\*

#### Student Silver ADDY:

Stephanie Wharton- Cliff Dwellers Kenny Miesner- Men's Health Magazine Redesign Joshua Peter- Geek Magazine Title Spread Allison Hamilton- Macro Magazine Spread Jordan McNamara- jordanmen.com AAF UNI- Nissan "What Limits?" Wallscapes & Sidewalks AAF UNI- Nissan 360 App

AAF UNI- Dance Marathon Web Video

#### Professional Judges Citation for Graphic Design:

Jason Thompson with Phil Fass- UNI Department of Art Viewbook\*

#### Professional Gold ADDY:

Sarah Pauls, Traci Gaydos, Gary Kelley- BatBoy Direct Mailer\* Sarah Pauls- CHAS Activity Book\*

#### Professional Silver ADDY:

Phil Fass- Spring 2012 Gallery Schedule Poster Phil Fass- Fall 2013 Gallery Schedule Poster Sarah Pauls- CHAS Welcome Bag

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

### >> JESSICA MOORE



Jessica Moore is a junior, majoring in Theatre with an emphasis in performance. She is originally from Cedar Rapids with the expected graduation date of May 2014. She enjoys spending the weekends watching movies with her friends, reading, and one goal she always keeps in mind is to be hardworking and fair.

I try to live my life in the present, but I'm excited to see where I will end up. Theatre is my first love, but I also have interests in psychology, literature and history. I love animals, movies and books.

She decided to come to UNI because it had one of the strongest undergraduate theatre programs in the state. Her first impression of UNI was it was friendly and welcoming; she is a

junior now and still feels the same way. She was surprised but pleased that the university values the arts as much as it values any of the other programs on campus.

Even in the midst of fine arts programs being cut from schools, this university has showed its support for such programs.

Jessica is the president of the theatre honor society, Alpha Psi Omega.

Being involved with the organization has helped me to shape programs, which directly affect me, and it's been great being able to give back to the community.

Jessica feels that she receives great training at UNI. Her professors have provided her with the real life experience in professional acting. She has also made a great group of friends, which she calls her second family. Some of her highlights of her college career have been her roles in theatre.

I've been lucky enough to be cast in three main stage shows since I've been here, and I've loved every experience. I love what I'm doing, it doesn't even feel like work. One of my favorite memories of my time here was from acting in Strayer Wood Theatre's production of *On the Verge*. It was my first role here at UNI, and even though I was the youngest actor in the company of five I was welcomed by the other actors. Every night when the lights came up for the first time I knew that I was in the right place.

Jessica has had many positive experiences at UNI and would encourage all prospective student to jump right in, it's the best way to meet people. She loves having the chance to perform, both on the main stage and through the student organizations. One challenging thing for her was not being able to see her family. This is why her friends are important at UNI, it is her home away from home. In the midst of all of this, she still manages to have lighthearted fun.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## FEATURED ORGANIZATION TESOL CLUB



Sarah Keller is a senior, majoring in TESOL: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. This degree allows graduates to teach English in many different education settings in the United States and around the world. TESOL graduates teach all the regular content of general classrooms, in addition to providing the English language support that English language learners need. Sarah got involved with the TESOL club in the fall of her junior year when one of her faculty members and the advisor of TESOL club suggested she should become involved. It was a new club at that point, but seemed interesting and intriguing.

The purpose of the club is to provide professional development opportunities for TESOL majors and minors, as well as services to English language learners in the community, through the organization of tutoring activity, and to promote the awareness of TESOL in the university community.

Since the club is new, they have been trying to raise awareness during International Education Week. The TESOL club members have been involved with tutoring John Deere employees, and weekly tutoring for CIEP students. They also hold Conversation Corner: a free tutoring and conversation hour for the English Language learners on campus, which is held in the upper floor of Maucker Union outside the

International Services Office. They have club meetings every Thursday from 4:00-5:00pm.

New students will find opportunities to get to know other TESOL majors and minors, gain valuable teaching experience, and form international friendships. The highlight of my experience with the TESOL club has been the unique friendships I have been able to form, especially through the weekly Conversation Corner.

TESOL club has been successful in part due to the support of faculty in the Department of Languages and literatures.

The entire TESOL faculty, including Dr. Roberts, Dr. Meier, and Dr. Gregersen, has been vital to my education through their years of experience in the field, and the passion for languages and teaching, which they impart to their students.

Sarah plans to graduate in December of 2013. Her dream would be to teach English in an urban setting, as well as work with immigrant and refugee families. If there was one piece of advice she could give to other students, it would be to "choose organizations that will help you to reach across boundaries to serve others with your time."

# HEY. HEY, YOU. GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SEE HERE?

Do you have an article or organization you'd like to see showcased in the next edition of *The Update?* We, the creative genuises in CHAS Promotions, are always looking for new and interesting things to feature. Send any exciting events, news or accomplishments you hear our way today!

CHASUPDATE@UNI.EDU

### RICHARD JOURDAN SCHOLARSHIP

Content Provided by Janelle Darst and Clifton Chancey

UNI's College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences recently received a generous gift from Richard Jourdan of Omaha, Nebraska. Jourdan is the grandson of Dr. Louis Begeman, the first department head of Physics, who taught at UNI from 1899 till 1935. The renovated UNI Physics Building was named Begeman Hall in 2007 to honor Dr. Begeman.

Jourdan gave a cash gift to create the new Jourdan Mentor Scholars Fund.

Jourdan has been a generous supporter of several scholarships and foundation funds at UNI in recent years, including the Begeman Scholarship Fund. It has been fifty years since his Uncle Myron, a son of Louis Begeman, started the Begeman scholarship fund.

Jourdan, who has an interest in chess, has been fascinated at how learning and playing chess has helped improve the academic performance of at-risk high school students. He discussed these ideas with Cliff Chancey, head of the Department of Physics, and their discussions sparked the Jourdan Mentors Scholars Fund. This new scholarship fund will adapt the peer-mentorship experience found in learning and playing chess to the learning experiences of first and second year students majoring in physics. Jourdan's fund will support physics students who would benefit academically from close work with a junior/senior peer mentor. The uniqueness of this fund is that it will support both the new student as well as his or her student mentor.

"A challenge in physics is that our students sometimes lose their way, academically, because of poor study habits or because they are unaware of the support services available to them at UNI. Physics is a challenging field of study, and even though graduates are very well paid, getting to graduation can seem like a steep hill for some of our new majors. The Jourdan Mentors Scholars Fund will provide a student guide up the slope. This will be a significant help in retaining talented students in the BS and BA programs," said Chancey.

First year students will receive \$3,000 per year, which can be renewed for a second year. The mentors will receive \$2,000 per year.

"Nothing works as well as peer to peer mentoring. Our hope is that some of the Jourdan scholarship students will themselves become mentors and thus complete the loop by using their experience to help other students," said Chancey.

Jourdan also designated an estate gift that will be split evenly among the Begeman Fund for Excellence in Physics, the Begeman Scholarship Fund, and the Jourdan Mentor Scholars Fund.

### >> JESSICA MOORE CONT.

The funniest thing that has happened was finding out that a fellow student had recorded me screaming during a show and then turned it into their ring tone.

After graduation she plans to work for a year to save up some money, and then she would like to move to California to pursue a career as a professional actress. Over the past three years, there have been many influences on her decisions.

I have been very influenced by the teachers who have introduced me to voice and movement for the actor. Susan Schuld, a visiting professor last year, and Matthew Weedman have opened my eyes to a new level of the theatrical arts. They both have been and continue to be some of my biggest supporters, and they have pushed me to go further than even I thought I could.

If Jessica had one piece of advice for students, it would be to make friends right away. She struggled her first semester, because she was away from home and didn't have anything to look forward to during the week.

As soon as I got involved, I met some great people in the department, and I was excited to stay and experience as much as I could.