

Spring 3-2014

## The Update, March 2014

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

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Philosophy  
Leanne Hotek

2013  
2014

# THE UPDATE

College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

## SLAM DUNK

The Languages and Literatures English Club hosted its first “Poetry Slam” on Feb. 6 in Bartlett Hall. The event was considered a big hit. There were wonderful performers and a packed house. The English Club wanted to host an event that brought people together to appreciate literary art.

A poetry slam is a competition in which poets perform original work and go head to head with another poet. The poet with the highest score moves on to the next round until only the winner is left.

The top three poets won gift cards, with first place winning a \$50 gift card. All seven performers received a selection of poetry books donated by Final Thursday Press.

Each performance offered something new to the audience. Some poems were memorized, some read dramatically and others appealed to the crowd for support. Three judges, chosen from the audience, announced scores from 1-10 in which the audience could cheer in support of the score or boo the judge’s decision.

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CONTACT US

**Marketing & Promotions Coordinator**  
Sarah Pauls  
sarah.pauls@uni.edu  
319.273.2817

**Promotions Assistants**  
Desiree Dahl & Sara Heffernen  
chasupdate@uni.edu  
319.273.2725

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## BIOLOGY

• UNI's Tallgrass Prairie Center has become an official partner of the Monarch Joint Venture. The partnership was made possible after the Tallgrass Prairie Center (TPC) received a grant.

The TPC promotes and enhances native plants throughout Iowa, including milkweed. Milkweed is the only place a monarch can lay its eggs, and the caterpillars only eat milkweed. Monarch butterflies are experiencing a number of threats to their migration and are declining in numbers.

The Monarch Joint Venture strives to protect the monarchs and their migration. Together, the two programs will propose monarch conservation projects and work to seek additional grant funding for partnership projects.

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

• Chris Ogbondah will present the lead paper at the 16th National Conference of the African Council for Communication Education. Ogbondah's paper is titled "Photo Ethics In Nigerian Press: Will The Watchdog Please Watch Itself!" and he presented it at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, on March 11, 2014. Ogbondah will also present a paper, "Crisis in Nigeria's education sector: ASUU, Federal Government and failed communication" at the AEJMC's midwinter conference in March in Oklahoma.

• Bettina Fabos, with Leisl Carr-Childers (History) received a UNI 2013-14 Capacity Building Project Grant of \$16,074 in support of the project titled, "Fortepan Iowa," a web-based archive of historical photos of everyday life in Iowa taken by citizens. Fabos also received a \$10,000 grant from the Hungary Initiatives Foundation for a web-based photo visualization project of Hungarian history, 1848-1956.

• Jeff Brand will receive the Top Paper award at the CSCA for his paper "Arguing about Climate Change: Argument Spheres and The Fossil Fuels Industry."

• Sergey Golitsynskiy received an eight-week UNI Summer Fellowship for his project "Measuring New Reliance on the Press Release: A New, More Comprehensive Approach."

• Paul Siddens received a four-week UNI Summer Fellowship for his project "Another Day in Paradise: Writing and Devising an Original One or Two Act Play Focusing on High School Hostage/Shooter Situation for Live Theatrical Production."

## LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

• Congratulations to Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure, professor of English and American/African American literature in the Department of Languages and Literatures, for publishing a poem, "Fear Not, South Africa," in the January/February 2014 issue of *Konch* magazine.

The poem is about South African leaders, including Nelson Mandela from prior to his 1990 release from prison.

Congratulations are also due to Mvuyekure for inclusion in a PBS documentary, *Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth*. The film quoted his article, "Alice Walker's Colonial Mind" (*Konch* 1999), which is a post-colonial analysis of *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, a novel by Alice Walker.

## MUSIC

• Chris Merz, Professor of Jazz Studies and Director of Jazz Band I, will be directing the Wyoming All-State Jazz Band Mar. 19-21 in Powell, Wyoming.

• Robin Guy, Professor of Piano/Collaborative Piano, adjudicated the Iowa Music Teachers Association upper level piano auditions for the local chapters in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City/Coralville on Jan. 25 and Feb. 2.

# 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 geniuses 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

**School of Music Audition Day**  
**Friday, March 7, 2014,**  
**Russell Hall and GBPAC**

For more details on specific locations of area auditions or times, contact the School of Music office at (319) 273-2024.

**Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series**  
**Friday, March 7, 2014, 12:15 p.m.**  
**McElroy Lobby, GBPAC**

Members of the UNI Cantorei, Wind Symphony and Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra will collaborate under the direction of conductor John Len Wiles to present Bach's Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**UNI Singers, Women's Chorus and Varsity Men's Glee Club**  
**Monday, March 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Great Hall, GBPAC**

Under the direction of choral conductors Dyan Meyer and John Len Wiles, this concert will feature combined choirs from UNI including members of the Varsity Men's Glee Club, UNI Singers and Women's Chorus.

**Faculty Artist Recital:**  
**Jean McDonald, Jeffrey Brich and Corey Barrett**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 6 p.m.**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

School of Music faculty artists Jean McDonald, Jeffrey Brich and Corey Barrett will collaborate to present a vocal music recital. Repertoire to be announced. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Faculty Contemporary Music Ensemble**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8 p.m.**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

Coordinated by faculty artist Amanda McCandless, this concert will feature works performed by the newly formed Faculty Contemporary Music Ensemble. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Saxophone Studio Recital**  
**Thursday, March 13, 2014, 8 p.m.**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

School of Music professor Ann Bradfield will coordinate a student recital from the saxophone studio at UNI. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**SPRING BREAK – March 15-23, 2014**

**Guest Artist Recital: Peter Hamlin, electronic music**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC**

Visiting artist Peter Hamlin will present a concert titled "Electronic Music Mayhem". Peter Hamlin teaches theory, electronic music and composition at Middlebury College in Vermont. He is an active composer who has written numerous works for orchestra, band, choir, chamber ensembles, solo instruments, solo voice, music theater, and electronic media. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Suzuki Recital Weekend**  
**Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30, 2014, all day,**  
**Russell Hall**

The UNI Suzuki School will present their bi-annual recital weekend. For more information, visit [www.uni.edu/music/suzuki](http://www.uni.edu/music/suzuki). *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Guest Artist Recital: Corpus Trombone Quartet**  
**Saturday, March 29, 2014, 6 p.m.**  
**Graham Hall, Russell Hall**

Visiting ensemble Corpus Trombone Quartet will present a recital. The Corpus Trombone Quartet (András Sütő, Péter Pálincás, Mátyás Veér, Róbert Káip) epitomize the highest standards of Hungarian playing, featuring musicianship and technique in equal abundance. Formed in 2001, when the members were students at the Franz Liszt Academy, the ensemble has won numerous chamber music competitions including the Philip Jones International Chamber Music and ITF Trombone Quartet Competitions in 2003, as well as making numerous appearances on Hungarian radio and television. Founding member Csaba Wagner has since gone on to become Principal Bass Trombone with Deutsche Oper, Berlin, whilst Mátyás Veér released his own solo CD in 2006, as well as winning the Donald Yaxley Bass Trombone competition at the 2006 ITF. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Spotlight Series: Performance Competition Finals**  
**Monday, March 31, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Great Hall, GBPAC**

This showcase features talented student finalists competing for the Presser Foundation Award, the Charles and Marleta Matheson Award, the Myron and Ruth Russell Award and the People's Choice Award. *This event is ticketed. \$10 Adults, \$9 Seniors, \$8 non-UNI students. Call 319-273-4TIX.*

**Interpreters Theatre**  
**Productions**  
**SCHEDULE**

**(RE)ORIENTATION\***

.....

Conceived, Written and Directed by Amandajeon Nolte, MA  
 with the students of SAVE (Students Against a Violent Environment)  
**April 10 & 11**  
**7:30 p.m. Curtain**

A performance/dialogue mash up examining our responses to violence, and exploring the assumptions that underlie Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

**PERFORMANCE POWER HOUR**

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**April 17**  
**7:30 p.m. Curtain**

See the "best of the best" performances from our beginning and advanced level performance classes.

\*Denotes world premier production

## DEPT OF TECHNOLOGY to Host "Expanding Your Horizons"

The University of Northern Iowa is partnering with the Cedar Valley Society of Women in Engineering (SWE) to host up to 100 female middle school students on Saturday, Mar. 29. The mission of Expanding Your Horizons is to "inspire girls to recognize their potential and pursue opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)."

Girls from local middle schools are invited to participate in the day long program in the Industrial Technology Center. Participants will choose from a variety of hands-on workshops including: building a solar car, food chemistry, metal casting and CAD design, Lego League and capturing and analyzing DNA. Participants will receive a gift bag, t-shirt, lunch, a commemorative medallion and get to keep their projects.

Currently, UNI students are involved in the planning and implementation of the seminar. Student organizations in the Metal Casting Center and GrafX Club are creating and producing products for the event.

For more information about Expanding Your Horizons or registration information, please visit the website at: [eyhreg.org](http://eyhreg.org).



## TWO CHAS ALUMNAE Presented Outstanding Thesis Awards

Congratulations are in order for Alissa Cornick (Languages and Literatures) and Katelyn Santy (Communication Studies). Cornick was awarded the Outstanding Master's Creative Thesis Award. Santy was presented the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. Both were awarded by the UNI Graduate College.

Cornick's thesis title was *Apothecary and Other Stories: A Short Fiction Collection*. James O'Loughlin, the chair of her committee, nominated her. The other committee members were Jeremy Schraffenberger and Grant Tracey.

Cornick offered her feelings about the award. "My thoughts are full of

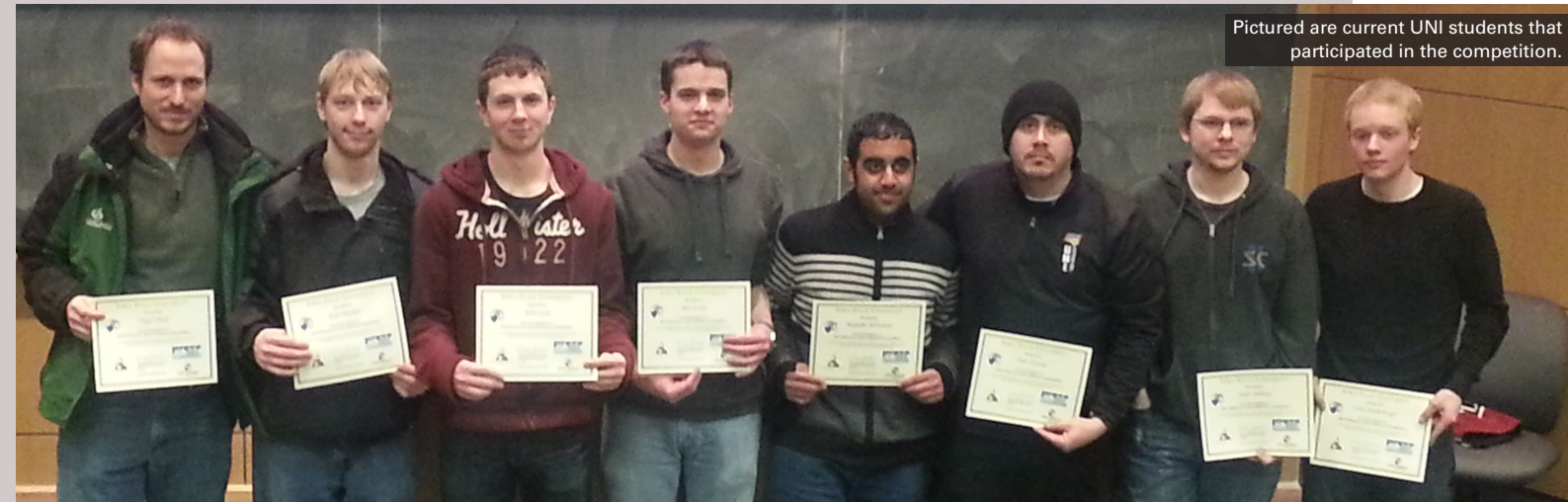
happiness and, certainly, gratefulness to my committee, the program on the whole and many friends and writing peers. I've never been an especially confident writer, so I feel very lucky to have had the chance to get so much great feedback on the stories in my thesis. Without everyone, I'd probably have spent a lot more time despairing dramatically about writing instead of actually writing!"

Santy won the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for her thesis *Where Loyalties Lie: A Study of Workplace Dissent Through the Lens of Loyalty*. Santy's thesis committee consisted of Jayne Morgan (chair), Tom Hall, and Cate Palczewski.

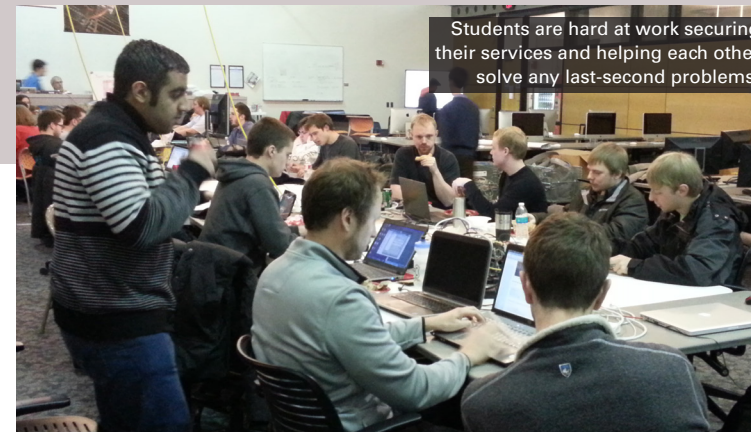
Santy said, "I am very honored to be selected for the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. I really enjoyed learning about my thesis topic and developing my project; it's a true honor to be recognized in this way. I'm especially grateful to the faculty members who helped shape my approach to the project. I know I stole a great many office hours from my thesis chair, Dr. Jayne Morgan, as well as my committee members, Dr. Tom Hall and Dr. Cate Palczewski."

Congratulations again to both of these outstanding students.

By: Rachel Routier



Pictured are current UNI students that participated in the competition.



Here, students are busy monitoring their environments and responding to threats, including passerbys that might be looking at laptop screens to try to gather information (like passwords or sensitive configuration files.)

## CYBERDEFENSE Competition Team

On Saturday, Feb. 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., a group of UNI students participated in Iowa State University's (ISU) Cyberdefense Competition. The group arrived on Friday to set up their station and make last minute preparations.

Computer Science professors, Paul Gray and Sarah Diesburg, accompanied the students. Gray has taken the UNI team for a number of years. This was Diesburg's first experience at the competition. Diesburg described the preparation time as a period to learn about the environments and services the students needed to maintain, how to lock down potentially vulnerable systems and set up services required for the competition.

"The actual infrastructure for the event was hosted on ISU's ISEAGE (Internet-Scale Event and Attack Generation Environment) servers, but students had to bring their trusted laptops, quick thinking, past experience and a lot of caffeine."

At the competition, participants were color coded to correspond

with their roles. The students were on the blue teams had to make usable systems, yet be secure from attackers. The attackers, or the red team, were security professionals from the community. The green team consisted of ISU volunteers who attempted to use the systems. The balance of red and green teams helped instill the idea that computer systems need to be secure, but also usable.

Diesburg said, "the cyberdefense competition gave our students a great opportunity to set up different computer services and systems required in a typical corporate IT infrastructure, secure them from threats, and respond to active threats while attacks were occurring. I think this competition provides a great opportunity for students to gain a lot of experience in cyber defense in a very short time period. They will be able to directly apply the valuable skills gained in this competition to their careers after graduation."

By: Rachel Routier

# communiqué

College of Humanities, Arts & Sciences Alumni Magazine  
University of Northern Iowa

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# SLAM DUNK

## Continued from Cover

Timoteo Garcia had the audience laughing and enjoying their time in between performances.

English Club president, Amanda Arp, said, "The 'Slam' was incredibly successful! Seven poets shared their heartfelt work and many students and professors participated in their performance by being there to support and enjoy the poets' efforts."

Keegan Bosch won first place with his moving poetry that told of the loss of a friend, a lost loved one and how his father taught him to respect women. Jacob Ferguson received second through his comedic, witty poems. Jordan Beardsley won third place with her words concerning a relationship, anger and love. Congratulations to all participants.

Arp said, "I was thrilled not only by the audience turnout, but by the quality of the poetry. The poets truly impressed me with their work."

Participants had to perform original work written by them. No props, costumes or musical instruments were allowed, just the poets' words and passion.

The English Club hopes to host another Slam in April and future semesters as well.

By: Rachel Routier





# WOMEN IN PHYSICS CLUB

Marie Curie. Maria Goeppert-Mayer. These are the female winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics. The other 193 laureates are men. In 2010, the fraction of bachelor's degrees in physics earned by women in the United States was about 20%. (In 1982, it was about 10%.) Historically, women have been an under-represented group in physics, and the University of Northern Iowa Women in Physics Club aims to do something about it.

The idea of a Women in Physics Club (WiPC) was conceived by Dr. Rui He, faculty member in the Physics Department. Her idea was to create an organization within the predominantly male Physics Department to support, encourage and nurture aspiring women physicists. Within this environment, female physics

majors would mutually reinforce their passion for physics by working together on homework assignments, research projects, outreach activities, graduate school preparation and job searching. Courtney Keiser, senior physics major, was involved in the initial start up discussions with Dr. He in April 2013 regarding the birth of the new club. Courtney played a major role in founding the WiPC and now serves as its first president. Other officers are Cassara Higgins (vice-president), Ellen Jarrett (secretary) and Casie Means-Shively (treasurer).

The WiPC meets twice each month. The first meeting is devoted to a presentation by a female UNI professor in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) field. These presentations are

part autobiographical and part technical. The professors are excellent role models and the embodiment of successful women in male-dominated STEM fields. Their life trajectories are stimulating and motivating for the undergraduate women. Of course, the technical part of the presentation, in which the professor describes and explains her research, is also stimulating and fun. The second meeting of the month is usually devoted to social activities such as bowling, hiking or movies.

This year, the WiPC has an ambitious slate of activities. The club has already attended the 2014 Midwest Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, which was held in Chicago in January. Club members attended many research talks, toured

University of Chicago research labs and networked with fellow women physicists throughout the Midwest. The club is also planning to participate in outreach activities in which members will demonstrate the fascinating properties of superconductors and ferrofluids to Girl Scouts and other youngsters. The WiPC also works closely with the Physics Club, which is the (much) older sibling organization for physics students.

The UNI Women in Physics Club is off to a great start. In the brief period that it has been in existence, it has advanced the agenda for aspiring women physicists and has carried the banner of the UNI Physics Department far and wide. With these talented and creative women at the helm, the sky (which is blue because of Rayleigh scattering) is the limit.

By: Paul Shand



# SHANE LIES

## Chemistry

Post-baccalaureate Shane Lies returned to UNI to receive a degree in biochemistry and expects to graduate in May 2014. As his final semester at UNI, he plans to attend graduate school for organic chemistry in the fall. Lies has been accepted into the University of Iowa, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Purdue.

Lies describes how his passion for chemistry developed. "When I first returned for my second degree, I took General Chemistry I as a summer course. The next fall, by the time I could register for classes, all of the General Chemistry II courses were full. The department head of chemistry tried to find some way for me to fit into one of the classes, but there was just no way. The department head arranged for me to enter into an accelerated General Chemistry I-II course, and that's where I really began my love of chemistry."

As the current president of the UNI Chemistry Club, UNI ACS, Lies says the position has helped him in many ways, namely "to develop leadership skills through planning events and delegating responsibilities." He adds that, "The UNI ACS has also helped me to develop my interpersonal communication skills through demonstration shows and interaction with other students, parents, and faculty."

Lies was drawn to UNI because of the closeness to his hometown,

Waterloo, and the lower cost of the school compared to others. "UNI is unique in that I was able to start doing research in my second semester. I have worked in an organic chemistry lab for over two years now, and it taught me a wealth of skills beyond what I have learned in my courses. It has also given me a great amount of research experience, which plays a very large role in being accepted to graduate school for chemistry."

When he's not studying chemistry or planning activities for the Chemistry Club, Lies enjoys spending time with his friends he's met through the chemistry program. He also relishes playing video games and sleeping. "I love to sleep," he says. If he could, he would sleep and play video games every day on a tropical beach.

The advice he offers to other students is to "Do research. Do it early, and do it often. UNI offers a unique experience for undergraduates in the chemistry and biochemistry program, they get a lot more hands-on research experience than you would at the larger universities. The Chemistry department has professors working on several of the different disciplines of chemistry – inorganic, organic, computational, spectroscopy, astrochemistry, biochemistry, natural products isolation and more. If you start research early and find that you don't enjoy the discipline, you can change to a different discipline and



see if you like it more. Research experience really sets you apart for professional and graduate school, so do research whenever you can."

When Lies participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program for the Chemistry department, he was given the opportunity to present his research at a national conference in New Orleans. Lies says, "It was an amazing experience to be able to show what I had been working on for so long on a national stage, and to see what kind of research other students around the country were doing." Lies also highlighted the UNI ACS MarCHEMmadness tournament that occurs every year. "The chemistry faculty forms teams and recruits students to participate

in a variety of chemistry-themed events such as a titration relay race, a pie eating contest on pi day (3/14) and a dodgeball tournament. It's a great opportunity for the students to interact with their professors outside of the academic setting, and everyone has a lot of fun with it."

However, the thing Lies has enjoyed most about UNI is the interactions with professors and students. "I have made many friends since I have come here, and I think that is the most valuable thing I have gained."

By: Rachel Routier



# LEANNE HOTEK

## Philosophy & World Religions

Class of 2011 graduate, Leanne Hotek has used her degree in Philosophy and Political Science to start a career as a Legislative Aide for Chairman Tom Harkin in the Education Policy Office of the US Senate HELP Committee. She began serving as an intern at the US Senate HELP Committee following graduation, and was hired on staff a few months later.

“The best part of my job hands down is working for a senator who, day in and day out, pushes for federal policy that helps our nation’s most vulnerable populations,” Hotek stated.

A large part of her job is researching education policy.

“The finished project of this research takes various forms, including memos to the Senator, reference documents for Committee members, and legislative proposals and language. I typically speak with or give presentations to stakeholders, such as professional associations, nonprofits, advocacy groups, or students on a monthly basis. Two of the most recent panel presentations I have been a part of were for the National

School Board’s Association Rural Education Policy Conference and the Interstate Migrant Education Council’s Annual Conference.”

When she is not working on education policy, Hotek enjoys exploring the city of Washington D.C.

“No matter how many times I visit the Smithsonians, memorials, or monuments, I still learn or notice something new every time,” she said. “I also quite enjoy being part of two book clubs and fitting in recreational reading whenever I can, in addition to my new affinity for taking spin/cycling classes.”

During her time at UNI, Hotek was actively involved in UNI Dance Team, Honors Program, Honors Student Advisory Board, and Philosophy Club. She received the Presidential Scholarship and the Purple and Old Gold Scholar award for Political Science. She also graduated summa cum laude.

“As cliché as it may sound, my entire four years spent at UNI contain nothing but positive memories. If I had to highlight the one (or two) that stands out the most, it would be winning UDA College Dance Team Nationals for



our pom routine in both 2010 and 2011,” she said.

While extracurricular activities were important to her experience at UNI, the education she received was also essential in building skills that she continues to apply in the workplace.

“The class discussions, test preparation, writing, and guidance from professors that took place over my four years with the Department of Philosophy and World Religions provided tools, such as content knowledge, critical thinking, and oral and written communication skills, that have proved crucial to my job performance to date. My time at

UNI provided the foundation of knowledge and skills that allowed me to start a career in my field of interest, and continue to prove useful each and every day.”

In the future, Hotek is considering furthering her education in the fields of either law or public policy.

“My main goal for the future is to continue in my line of work in education policy, pushing for and crafting legislation with the aim of improving the lives of children and families across the nation,” Hotek concluded.

## COMING UP AT THEATRE UNI

### Mauritius

DIRECTED BY:  
Steve Taft

7:30 PM

MAR

2:00 PM

1 2 6 7 8 9

### August: Osage County

DIRECTED BY:  
Angie Toomsen

7:30 PM

APR

2:00 PM

10 11 12 13 17 18 19

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