

1-2015

## The Update, January/February 2015

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

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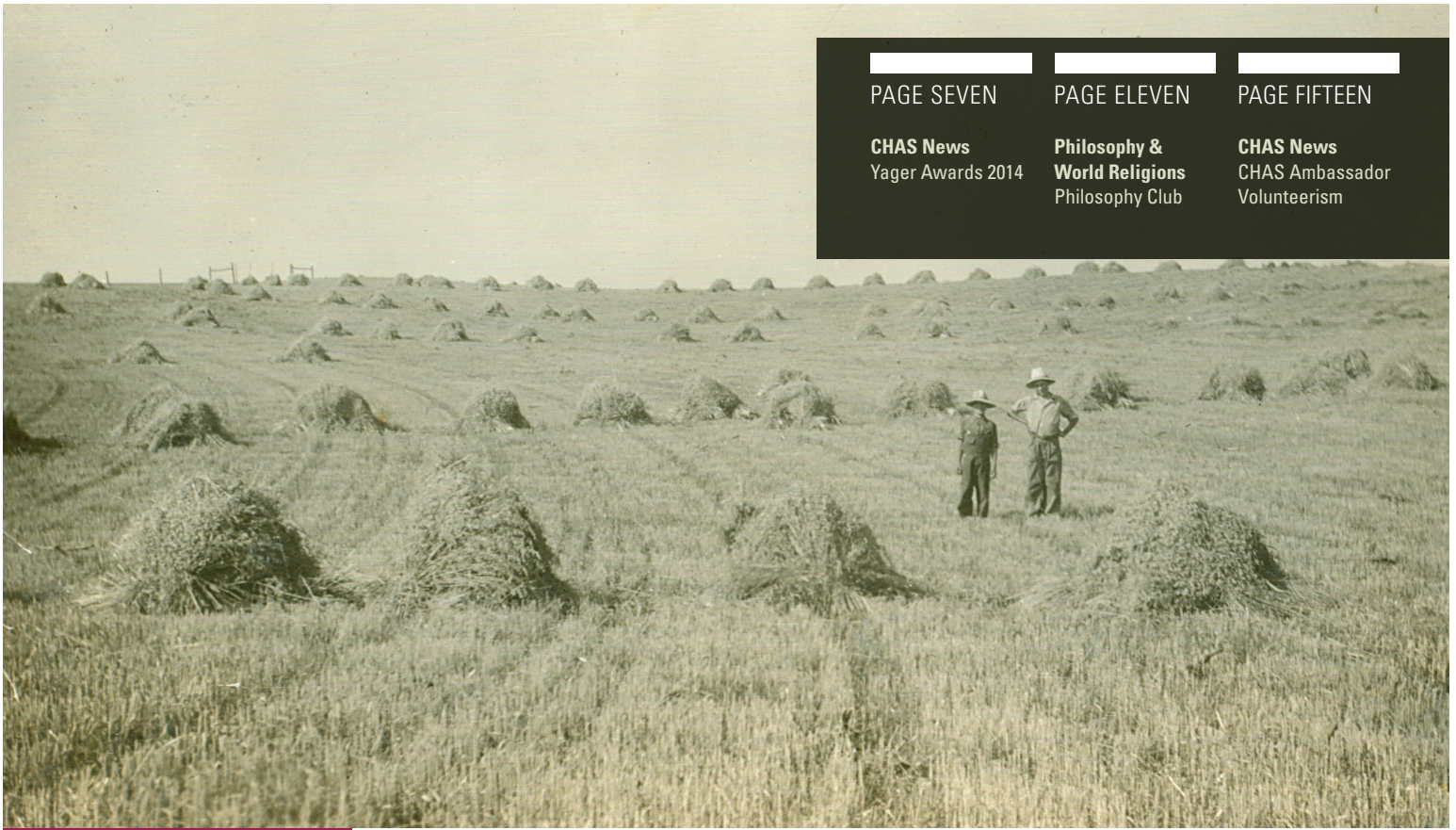
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2014  
2015

# THE UPDATE

College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

## FORTEPAN IOWA

UNI Professors collaborate  
to build a digital database of  
Iowa photographs

Throughout time, history has been preserved through writing, the spoken word and through fables and stories. In the last few centuries, history has been preserved through photography. The visual history of places

and things can be fortified and preserved through photography, and that is exactly the objective of a new project that will be started here at UNI, FORTEPAN Iowa.

FORTEPAN Iowa is a visual digital archive of photos taken in Iowa in the 20th century. The project is intended to keep the visual history of Iowa alive as well as to allow for the use of these images for creative and informational purposes.

The project got its inspiration in Hungary, where UNI professor Dr. Bettina Fabos traveled two years ago on a Fulbright Scholarship. There she met one of the FORTEPAN Hungary founders, Miklos Tamasi. Tamasi and other FORTEPAN Hungary members had established an archive of 46,000 photos on their website with all of the photos being open source under a creative commons license. They named it

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## MUSIC

• Robert Washut, Professor of Music, will conduct the Texas ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble in San Antonio February 11-14 in conjunction with the Texas Music Education Association's annual conference.

• The Northern Festival of Bands is an annual honor band festival open to high school band students which typically hosts over 40 schools and over 250 individual students in a weekend long event. This year the festival will be held February 12-14, 2015. The event will feature performances by the UNI Wind Symphony and UNI Symphonic Band on Friday evening as well as Saturday afternoon's performance featuring solo competition winners, the festival's percussionist groups, Festival Concert Band and Festival Symphony Band.

## ART

• The College of Business is sponsoring a contest for students to design an artwork for their new conference room. They put out a call for proposals and have selected five finalists. The finalists will be making presentations to the selection committee later this month and a winner will be chosen to receive a commission to complete the art work.

## CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

• The UNI Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry is hosting its annual Wilson Lecture on February 25 at 7:00pm. This year's lecturer is Dr. Shawn Domagal-Goldman from NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center in MD. His lecture will be about new technologies in astrobiology to determine if there are planets around distant stars, and perhaps if these planets are life sustaining.



## TECHNOLOGY

• Last November, the UNI Department of Technology attended the 2014 College Industrial Conference held in Chicago. Professor Scott Giese traveled with four students including Aaron Baughman and Nick Bouska to the conference along with students from only 31 other Foundry Educational Foundation certified universities. At the conference, Baughman and Bouska were awarded CIC Delegate Scholarships, totaling \$50,000 each.

## UNI STEM

• The University of Northern Iowa announced that it has been designated a 2015 STEM Jobs Approved College by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting individuals in transition with education and career opportunities, and creator of STEM Jobs media, education and career resources for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math. The 2015 STEM Jobs Approved Colleges inaugural list is the first of its kind to rate universities, colleges, community colleges and trade schools on their responsiveness and relevance to high demand, high growth STEM occupations.

• UNI STEM EPSCoR has opened 15 new summer camps with the help of additional funding.

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

• The Soul Food Museum is an interactive performance bringing to light the magic, politics, and ritual of an African-American Sunday dinner. A challenge to mass-mediated stereotypes of the Black family and Black life, "The Soul Food Museum" invites us to laugh, eat, and share. Learned in his childhood, graduate student DeRod Taylor prepares for us his own Sunday Dinner as we navigate Black life and the power of family. Conceived, designed, directed and written by DeRod Taylor.

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**Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series**  
**Friday, February 13, 2015, 12:15pm**  
**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 this performance as part of the Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**UNI Brass Faculty Recital**  
**Monday, February 16, 2015, 7:30pm**  
**Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall**

School of Music brass division faculty artists will collaborate to present a recital with faculty pianist Polina Khatsko. Repertoire and additional collaborators to be announced. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Suzuki Faculty Recital**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2015**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

The UNI School of Music Suzuki School will present a recital featuring Suzuki faculty artists. This event is free and open to the public. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Faculty Artist Recital: Alexander Pershounin, double bass**  
**February 17, 2015, 6:00pm**  
**Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall**

School of Music faculty artist Alexander Pershounin will present a double bass recital. Repertoire and collaborators to be announced. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Tallcorn Jazz Festival and Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts**  
**Friday – Saturday, February 20 – 21, 7:15pm**  
**Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall**

The Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the UNI School of Music invite you and your band to the 60th Annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 64th Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts to be held on February 20 and 21, 2015, on the UNI campus. Dave Douglas, trumpeter and composer, will be the featured guest artist at this year's event. For more information, click here. Concerts for this event are ticketed. *For tickets, call 319-273-4TIX, or visit [www.uni.edu/tickets](http://www.uni.edu/tickets).*

**Jazz Combos Concert**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 7:30pm**  
**Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall**

Under the direction of faculty artist Chris Merz and graduate student conductors, the School of Music will present a jazz combos concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Flute Choir & Flute Studio Concert**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 8:00pm**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

Under the direction of UNI professor of flute Angeleita Floyd, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir and Flute Studio will present its annual concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Faculty and Guest Recital: Robert Washut, Alexander Pershounin and Eric Schmitz**  
**Friday, February 27, 2015, 3:00pm**  
**Studio 101, Russell Hall**

School of Music faculty artists Robert Washut, piano, and Alexander Pershounin, double bass, will collaborate with guest artist Eric Schmitz, drums, to present this afternoon studio concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**Faculty Artist Recital: Ann Bradfield, Saxophone**  
**Friday, February 27, 2015, 8:00pm**  
**Davis Hall, GBPAC**

School of Music faculty artist Ann Bradfield will present a saxophone recital. Repertoire and collaborators to be announced. *This event is free and open to the public.*

**School of Music Audition Day**  
**Saturday, February 28, 2015, 8:00pm**  
**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.

# THEATRE UNI SPRING 2015 SHOWS

## Avenue Q

**By: Lopez/Marx, Whitty & Directed by Matt Weedman**

Avenue Q is the story of Princeton, a recent college graduate (who just happens to be a puppet) and his search for his life's great purpose. Since Princeton was an English major, he struggles to find work, and ends up renting an apartment on Avenue Q; the only neighborhood he can afford. There he meets some of the most interesting people, and puppets, and monsters that a struggling young person could ever encounter. Together they explore topics like the true meaning of a mix-tape, what the internet is really for, racism, and what to do when life seems too overwhelming and hard. Avenue Q received the Tony Award for Best Musical when it opened on Broadway and is an audience favorite around the world.

**Show Times:**

February 26, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 February 27, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 February 28, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 March 1, 2015 - 2:00pm  
 March 5, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 March 6, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 March 7, 2015 - 7:30pm



## WONDERland

**Directed by: Gretta Berghammer**

Wonderland will take an imaginative and playful look at the objects, characters, nonsense and events found in Lewis Carroll's classic Alice in Wonderland. Under the direction of Gretta Berghammer, the piece will be created by an ensemble of inventive UNI actors and designers. Designed to be sensory friendly, highly visual, and verbally simplistic, the play is intended to involve, engage and enchant audience members of all ages in the "wonder" of it all.

**Show Times:**

April 24, 2015 - 7:00pm  
 April 25, 2015 - 2:00pm  
 April 25, 2015 - 7:00pm  
 April 26, 2015 - 2:00pm

## The Great God Pan

**By: Amy Herzog & Directed by Richard Glockner**

Jamie is journalist who seems to have everything: a good job, a great girlfriend, everything a guy could want. But when an old friend reveals that his father sexually abused him as a child and he's planning on suing, Jamie's world is thrown into chaos. This show expresses what it means when we try to suppress memories and how this can affect us when we try to evade feeling certain tumultuous emotions.

**Show Times:**

April 8, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 April 9, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 April 10, 2015 - 7:30pm  
 April 11, 2015 - 7:30pm



continued from cover

FORTEPAN after the famous Hungarian film intended for photographic use. Fabos returned to the United States with the idea of creating a similar project.

“As FORTEPAN focuses on photographs of and by Hungarians, I thought to myself, wouldn’t it be great if there were other FORTEPAN archives, perhaps even one for Iowa? It was my understanding of FORTEPAN’s incredible value and unique interface that made me want to ask if replication was possible. I was thrilled when Miklos supported this idea,” Fabos said.

And so the work began on creating FORTEPAN Iowa, an American version of the Hungarian archive.

UNI Professor of Photography, Noah Doely is the FORTEPAN Iowa curator. Doely is responsible for curating the archive, which is a process of selecting photos based on their significance.

“Some images are included because of their historical significance, a recognizable place

for example, others might have an interesting narrative quality, other times it’s something strikingly visual or some other ineffable quality it possesses,” Doely said.

Doely, like others involved in the project has high hopes for the impact after FORTEPAN is launched.

“I hope people will use it to learn about the history of Iowa and its changing landscape, and to think about the history of photography as one that encompasses the individual stories of ordinary people. I think people will be surprised to find out that their personal collections of photographs can have a larger cultural resonance,” Doely said.

As for the procurement of photographs, that is left to one of UNI’s newest academic programs, Interactive Digital Studies. IDS has students participate by bringing in their own photographs, conducting image searches in Iowa communities as well as scanning and uploading those images. “This is why we have such a beautiful range of photos,” Fabos said. By having



students participate in Fortepan directly, they are also learning valuable skills.

“From a teaching perspective, being involved with building FORTEPAN IOWA is an amazingly tangible way to get students to understand important issues about copyright, the public domain, the Creative Commons, and the public web vs. the commercial web – all important topics in the class,” Fabos said.

Students also learn how to manipulate photos, work with web tools and build creative projects.

In the near future, Fortepan Iowa will bring in Hungarian Photographer, and member of FORTEPAN Hungary, András Török. Török will be assisting in the development of FORTEPAN Iowa and giving a lecture on Hungarian Photography sponsored by the UNI Department of Art on March 24.



# YAGER AWARDS

## Annual Yager Awards Event Yields A Memorable Experience

The Dr. Robert E. and Phyllis M. Yager Exemplary Teaching Recognition Award, established by the Robert and Phyllis Yager Education Fund for Excellence, recently recognized two Iowa teachers with awards.

Nominees are selected by UNI faculty members and are UNI graduates in at least their fifth year of teaching in a K through 12 classroom. Awardees are selected on the basis of teaching materials and student performance.

student-centered learning into her science teaching.

Edwards was nominated by Brian Townsend, associate professor of mathematics. A desire to improve his classroom practice and his

M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant physiology from the University of Iowa. His research interests have focused on student motivation and attitudes toward science.

*Story Courtesy of UNI Newsroom*



This year’s recipients are: Clayton Edwards, mathematics teacher from Grundy Center Middle School, and Lisa Chizek, science teacher from North Tama Elementary School.

The intent of the awards from the Yager Education Fund for Excellence Award is to recognize exemplary K through 12 teaching by University of Northern Iowa graduates. It serves a key role in supporting UNI’s leadership in preparing teachers.

Chizek was nominated by Jody Stone, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Stone noted that Chizek, who earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education and her masters degree in science education at UNI, began her teaching career as a third grade classroom teacher and transferred into a highly effective science teacher. She also successfully lobbied her principal to increase the time spent on science instruction at the third grade level and incorporated activity-based,

students’ understanding of mathematics led Edwards to UNI’s Middle Grades Master’s Program. Townsend noted that Edwards is an innovator in his classroom through the use of technology and problem-based instruction.

Robert E. Yager, professor emeritus of science education in the College of Education at the University of Iowa where he taught for 50 years, received his B.A. degree in biology from UNI in 1950. Yager went on to earn his



Top Left: Clayton Edwards, left, Dr. Robert Yager, middle and Liza Chizek, right  
Top Right: Clayton Edwards  
Middle Right: Liza Chizek  
Bottom Right: UNI President William Ruud



# GREG SMITH

## Technology

Water is a resource that many take for granted in today's world. It is a resource that can be manipulated for our use but it also a resource that can cause headaches and sometimes great distress. Work must be put into protecting it and proliferating its safe use as a natural resource. Greg Smith, a 2002 UNI graduate with a B.S in Construction Management is currently working for J.F. Brennan Co, Inc. based out of La Crosse, WI. Brennan is a marine construction company specializing in lock & dam construction, dredging and environmental remediation.

Smith's time at UNI was extremely helpful to his development as a professional and "helped to provide the foundation for what I needed to enter the construction industry," he said. His favorite memories from UNI come from his time in construction classes. Many of the friendships he formed there still remain intact today.

After graduation, Smith traveled from coast to coast for environmental projects. Many of these projects lasted anywhere from months to years. In time though, he finally settled in Green Bay, Wisconsin and began work at Brennan where he rose to the position of Assistant Environmental Division Manager. While he still travels across the country for Brennan, most of his work stays inside of NW Wisconsin.

His time in the field has been extremely productive – Smith has been an active force in

environmental remediation and dredging not only in hard work and dedication but also in innovation.

"I have been awarded the Deb Buhr Award from Brennan which is in dedication to excellence, selfless commitment to duty, cost consciousness, and overall cooperation," Smith said.

In addition, he has also helped develop a groundbreaking patent that is now an industry leading process in transporting and installing materials such as sand and gravel in contaminated sediments for environmental remediation purposes. To go along with this patent, Smith is also working with a team to pilot an experimental capping plant using activated carbon. This project is also groundbreaking and he hopes to have testing completed by the end of the year and a full test by next summer.

However, environmental remediation can also be a very tricky business.

"Typically our clients are being forced by some regulatory agency to clean up the contaminated areas. Most of our clients used to see this as a liability with no value to their bottom line. Because they were paying for something they didn't want, most of the projects in the industry would be delayed as much as possible to avoid the cost of the remediation," he stated.

There is also the issue that in the past when the technology was relatively new and the



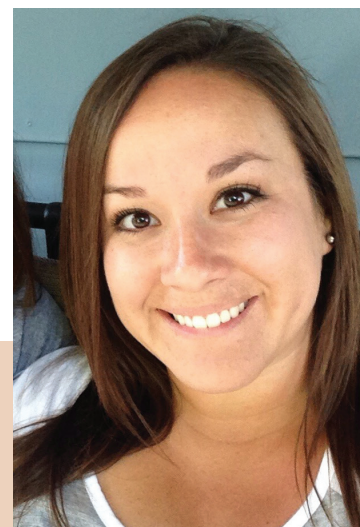
industry was young, results on remediation were mixed. In recent years though, the technology has improved and fewer companies see the cost of postponing projects as beneficial. Furthermore, governmental environmental agencies also see remediation projects as increasingly beneficial as more scientific studies are released about the long-term environmental benefits.

In the future, Smith hopes to continue his work at Brennan and expand the company to new markets while maintaining the company's industry-leading edge. In his free time, he hopes to continue building things – anything he says, for himself, his family or others. He also finds himself enjoying fall and winter activities as the summer dredging season takes up a considerable amount of time.

His advice for his fellow alumni is to make two lists daily: The first should be what you need to accomplish that day, and the second is what you need to accomplish in the future. Lastly, he advises that everyone should have a plan B, as even the most intensively planned things in life can face challenges. Said as a true construction professional, a backup plan will keep you 'operationally efficient.

# JAMIE FLATNESS

## Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders



Jamie Flatness graduated from UNI in 2009 with a BA in Spanish Language and Literature, in 2005, a BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2007 and a MA in Speech-Language Pathology in 2009. She is now in her sixth year as a medical speech-language pathologist at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. At the VA, she is a speech pathologist working with veterans to restore their ability to formulate language and speech.

"Each day is a new patient, new inspiration, new treatment, new challenge, but always with the goal of helping veterans heal and succeed," Flatness said.

Flatness' time at UNI was full of hard work and determination. She was involved in the Hispanic Latino Student Union, the American Sign Language Club, UNI Women's Rugby and in the UNI Study Abroad Program; she traveled to the La Universidad de Oviedo in Spain.

In academics, Flatness focused on the Department of Communication Science and Disorders (CSD) as her path of choice that would catapult her into the field she is in now. The Department of Communication Science and Disorders is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, which is a critical aspect of what the department has to offer. In addition, CSD offered courses that were hands on and involved students directly with real clients. This approach is uncommon, Flatness said, universities usually are not able to offer hands-on courses to undergraduates.

Armed with real-world knowledge and experience gained from her degrees, Flatness graduated from UNI in 2009 and completed her Clinical Fellowship at the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, TX that same year. Following the Fellowship in 2010, she returned to Iowa to begin work at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System. Flatness worked in outpatient, inpatient and home-based care services.

Overall, Flatness finds the work itself and the results extremely rewarding.

"It's a major accomplishment when a patient can still say, "I love you" to a family member

using their eye movements and a computer," she said.

Many of the patients she treats have suffered from diseases that impair speech, such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or deployment-related brain injuries. Even with challenges facing patients, treatment, hard work and rehabilitation can enable a patient to attend college and graduate.

Going forward, Flatness says that veterans will always have a place in her heart, and she will continue to serve them through the VA.

"My goal in this career is to stay current with ongoing advances in the field and to always advocate for and improve quality of life for our nation's veterans," she said.



# JACOB SNYDER

## Department of Mathematics

“I have always excelled at math and knew it was something I was interested in,” said Jacob Snyder, a junior double majoring in Actuarial Science and Finance. “I chose actuarial science because I love the business aspect of it. It perfectly combines analytical and communication skills.”

Snyder’s time at UNI has been very productive, both in the field of music as well as in the field of mathematics. Currently, Snyder is heavily involved with the School of Music, being a part of the Panther Marching Band, the Horn Choir as well as the Wind Symphony. The involvement in the School of Music would normally indicate a major in music, but Snyder is not pursuing one. Instead, he considers the experience in music to be extra-curricular.

“These activities have enhanced my college experience in many ways. My freshman year I was in PMB, which consisted of many of the first friends I made on campus. I have also learned many important life skills from my involvement in music that I apply to all areas of my life, including my future career,” he said.

Mathematics is another one of Snyder’s passions, and it is the one he chose to pursue as his career choice. The actuarial science program at UNI has contributed much to Snyder’s success and he attributes his success to the two actuarial science professors who have helped him in passing the major actuarial exams as well as networking.

“The two main professors that I have had for my major, Dr. Kirmani and Dr. Luo, are also very knowledgeable about what type of information you need to know for those exams,” Snyder said.

Networking is something that the Actuarial Science program excels at, Snyder explained. However, some of the networking that is established by students is acquired through the UNI Actuarial Science Club. Snyder has been a part of the club and learned networking skills through the club’s effort to bring in insurance companies to talk to students. The interfacing with insurance firms has helped land Snyder an internship at Transamerica last summer.

For the future, Snyder is deciding between life insurance and property and casualty insurance. However, he is sure that he will be successful in whatever he chooses.

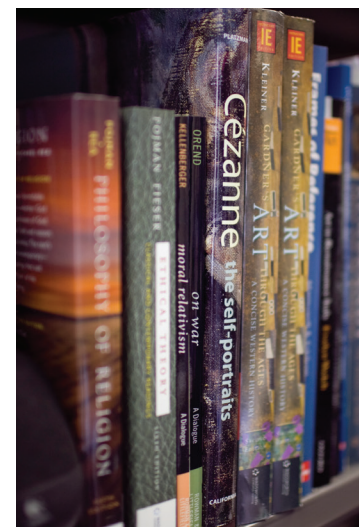
“I feel prepared for what lies ahead and attribute a lot of that to the department and the opportunities that they present to me.”



# PHILOSOPHY CLUB

## Department of Philosophy and World Religions

Philosophy – the study of logic, reality and knowledge. It is an ancient art rooted in the cultures of antiquity and has been an integral part of thinking in every corner of the world, including a corner of Bartlett Hall here at UNI. Weekly meetings are hosted to discuss everything from the classic questions in philosophy to modern questions in current events. The philosophy club also hosts a number of events, including the hosting of seminars for UNI Philosophy and World Religions alumni as well as book sales.



The club was started in 2007 by a now UNI graduate, Zach Paige Joel Anderson and Margaret Holland. The club has stayed in its current iteration with weekly meetings and hosted events. Today, senior double major in Physics and Philosophy Corey Cooling and Philosophy major Michael Kelly head the club, organizing the weekly meetings and planning events.

“We meet weekly on Thursday nights, hosting discussions on topics ranging from the ‘classical’ philosophical questions to discussions related to current events. In addition, the leaders of the club understand our role in advocating for and recruiting students to the philosophy major. We work with the department and other student organizations in a variety of capacities to help publicize and demonstrate the value of the study of philosophy,” Kelley said.

The bread and butter of the philosophy club is of course the discussions themselves. Various topics are discussed, including, “the role of government and logical fallacies combined with current political issues such as torture or the NSA,” Kelley said. In addition, the Philosophy Club has also held joint meetings with UNI STARR to discuss philosophy and feminism.

The partnership with UNI STARR is something that

the philosophy club hopes to continue based on successful events in the past. One of these included a meeting held in Maucker Union’s Hemisphere Lounge.

“We discussed the pros and cons of the different approaches and the historical context of their development. We held the event in the hemisphere lounge with some pizza and had probably 40 people attend. After the presentation we opened the floor for discussion and broke into small groups to discuss contemporary issues related to feminism, philosophy, and their application to modern issues,” Kelley said.

In addition, the Philosophy Club also brings in philosophers to speak about various issues. Recently, the Philosophy Club brought in Massimo Pigliucci, a famous modern-day philosopher that teaches at the City University of New York.

“As a double major in physics and philosophy, it was rewarding to hear about his career progression and his perspective of the world,” Cooling said.

This semester, the philosophy club hopes to bring in David Bullwinkle, an associate professor of philosophy at Kirkwood Community College.

## JUSTIN ALLEN

### Department of Art



Photography is art of capturing a moment, a moment in time that will never be seen until that photo is reproduced. Justin Allen, a senior Photography major is approaching the final moments of his college career now in his second to last semester at UNI. Allen has pursued his BFA in photography and hopes to participate in the annual second semester BFA show in the UNI Gallery of Art to close out a very productive college career.

Allen came to college with an overwhelmed feeling of not knowing where to begin in terms of finding friends and becoming involved in student groups. With a little bit of time, Allen came to the realization that UNI is smaller than he thought.

“Now I realize that the University is much more interconnected than I thought. I see people I know no matter where I go. Its comforting to know a friendly face isn’t too far away,” he said.

After Allen plugged himself into the university experience, he began work in the field of photography, which is also his passion. Being a BFA art major requires a tremendous amount of work, demanding long hours working to construct a body of artwork for the BFA show in the spring as well as work for a student’s portfolio. Allen is also preparing for his future beyond graduation by being a Photography Lab monitor as well as creating photography art books that he hopes to self-publish.

Outside of class, Allen is involved in the UNI Climbing Club which allows him to connect with students and be active. Being active is one of Allen’s great interests. He enjoys everything from rock climbing to camping and surfing. Every break in the academic year provides an opportunity for him to travel to places across the nation such as Utah and Colorado to climb. Allen is also a slackliner, an activity that UNI has made famous.

“In the warmer months you can find me slacklining with those crazy people you see by the library,” he said.

As for the future, Allen is grateful for the UNI art staff for pre-

paring him for his career after graduation.

“Every professor I have worked with wants to help you become a better artist. They don’t show you how to properly “do art.” Instead, they take your strengths and make them better. We’ve all had teachers that just don’t seem to care, but I haven’t met any like this in the Art Department,” Allen said.

Allen hopes to become a freelance photographer after graduation, a career that he has experience with during an internship in Minneapolis last summer.

“I did an internship with a couple from Minneapolis who take images for New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Target, and Verizon. I would love to travel as much as they do. They always were shooting interesting stories for their clients.”

## MALCOLM BURKE

### Department of Music



Malcolm Burke is an accomplished senior at UNI. Burke has done much with his time here at UNI, including being a member of the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the George Walker Society and the Iowa Band Masters Association. To go along with these activities, he is also a stage-hand, a School of Music ambassador and a librarian and education intern at the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra.

Burke came to UNI from Elgin, IL, and at first, he was not excited by his experience. However, that quickly changed.

“With the people I met and the overall experience of each trip I made here my senior year, it kept climbing up my list. Now, I love it! I wouldn’t trade it for anything because of the faculty and the many opportunities and experiences afforded to me as a

student here,” Burke said.

During his time here at UNI, Burke found a bulk of his learning not only through outside work, but also primarily in the classroom and the studio. The School of Music curriculum provided him with the tools to know how to lead an orchestra as well as the knowledge of instruments from the piano to the cello as well as music theory and music history. Along with the excellent curriculum of knowledge, Burke also highly values the people in the School of Music, whom he said are hard working, caring and helpful.

With the knowledge of music and the connection to people, Burke took these things to the College of Education to learn how to teach in order to make a difference.

“The College of Education has provided me the tools to take my musical knowledge and apply it in a classroom setting. They helped secure classroom experience for me at Jesup Community School and Peet Junior High. This hands-on experience reinforced my classroom learning and provided valuable insight into different leadership approaches to education and conducting an ensemble,” he stated.

In addition, Burke was happy to have made an impression on the people he had contact during his Level 2 teaching experience at Peet Junior High. “At the end

of my two-week experience, three students asked me to sign their yearbooks,” Burke said. “I think that’s pretty awesome to have made such an impression during a short time frame,” he concluded.

Outside of class, Burke is involved in a myriad of activities. It is a balancing act, he said, but something that he handles through adequate planning and motivation. Being involved in an array of activities is also great experience and leads to being a more well-rounded individual.

“I believe being knowledgeable on both brass and strings will be very helpful for my students and will make me more personable with them. Let’s say I am an orchestra director, being well-rounded will allow me to talk to a student about influential jazz musicians and how to transcribe one of their solos.

Being skilled on both will also make me a more valued educator,” he said.

As for the future, Burke hopes to enter the field of teaching before returning to school for his masters and later doctorate in education. He hopes to rise to a principal or superintendent position in order to help in the reformation of education, a topic that he holds close to his heart.



# WOMEN IN COMPUTING

## Department of Computer Science

One of UNI's most recent organizations, but also one of its most important is Women in Computing. The goal of the organization is to bring women into the field of computer science through recruiting efforts, scholarships and service.

The movement of Women in Computing began earlier in the 20th century to promote equal opportunity in the field of computer science. Since it's beginning, the movement spread across the globe and eventually materialized as a formal group here at UNI this fall.

Already Women in Computing has organized a trip to a conference as well as outreach events to bring female students into the field of computer science.

In October of 2014, Professor of Computer Science Sarah Diesburg traveled with six students to the Grace Hopper Celebration for Women in Computing in Phoenix.

The Grace Hopper conference is the "world's largest gathering of women technologists." At the conference, students see research presentations and participate in workshops. The conference also included an extensive career fair.

"The trip was an incredible success. Each student that attended the conference wrote a summary letter about her experiences. For some students, the conference provided the extra encouragement and confidence they needed to stay in the computer science major. Other students were exposed to computing fields and careers, which were new to them. One student is now considering graduate school," Diesburg wrote.

Following the conference in Phoenix, the UNI Department of Computer Science held a panel meeting to discuss the gender-related issues that still exist in the field of computer science. The panel found that there is an issue

in the number of female computer science students enrolled. Nationally, the percentage of computer science degree recipients was 18 percent. At UNI, only 7.6 percent of computer science majors are women. The reason that Women in Computing works so hard lies in the revelation of these numbers.

While attempting to make a greater impact directly at UNI, Women in Computer is also hoping to make an effort at the grassroots level. Last October,

Women in Computing sent students to lead workshops at the 'Expanding Your Horizons' conference, an event designed for middle-school girls to become more aware of STEM career options.

Going forward, Women in Computing is still waiting to become a registered student organization. The organization also hopes to continue to work to recruit and retain more women in the field of computer science.



Student Ramya Varadaraju, left and student Michaela Leinen, right. Middle three are Grace Hopper Celebration award winners.



Speaker Linda Northrop, left and student Michaela Leinen, right

# CHAS AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS

## UNI CHAS Ambassador Raises Funds for the Community

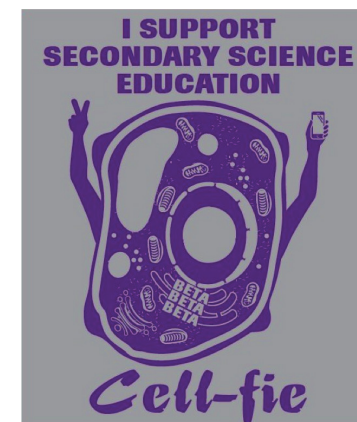
By Stormie Johanson

My name is Stormie Johanson, and I am a junior Biology major here at UNI. I grew up in north central Iowa in the little town of Swea City, where I was actively involved in my community and school. My involvement continued at UNI through being a member and officer of various clubs, becoming a Biology Ambassador, Student Admission Ambassador, and the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences Ambassador and being a full time student. I tend to gravitate toward being exceedingly busy rather than utterly bored. However, after the past two years of living in the Cedar Valley, I realized I felt like I had not

given enough back to my "second home" and community. Through much deliberation, I honed in on what I am most passionate about: aiding others and science. So, I put the two together and created a community service project.

With the help of Tri-Beta, a Biology club on campus, I am currently in the process of spreading the word and selling "punny" t-shirts (see design, right) to raise funds to purchase dissection kits for Carver Middle School students in Waterloo. The t-shirts are only \$12 a piece, but the opportunities to supplement a student's education are priceless. I am immensely

grateful for the opportunity to proceed with this project. UNI faculty and staff have graciously assisted me throughout the many ideas and hoops. Without their passion for assisting students, I would not be where I am currently. If you would like more information, or would even like to donate and purchase a t-shirt, contact me at johanos@uni.edu. Impacting others is important to me; I hope by the end of my project I am able to impact young peoples' educations for the better, just as others have impacted my own education.



T-Shirt Design for Carver Middle School Artwork by Stormie Johanson and Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society

## UNI Interpreter's Theatre Spring Schedule

### The Soul Food Museum

March 6 & 7 at 7:30pm

Conceived, Designed, Directed and Written by DeRod Taylor

This interactive performance brings to light the magic, politics, and ritual of an African-American Sunday dinner. A challenge to mass-mediated stereotypes of the Black family and Black life, "The Soul Food Museum" invites us to laugh, eat, and share. Learned in his childhood, graduate student DeRod Taylor prepares for us his own Sunday Dinner as we navigate Black life and the power of family.

### Dogs of Rwanda

March 26 & 27 at 7:30pm

Conceived, Designed, Directed by guest artist Sean Lewis. Working Group Theatre. Sponsored by the UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide.

In 1994 David found himself in Uganda as a church missionary. When he followed the girl of his dreams into the woods to help a Rwandan child, he entered a world from which he will never fully be able to escape. Twenty years after surviving the genocide, a note from the Rwandan boy he once tried to save arrived. "You didn't tell them everything," it said. A dinner party story for the ages.

### Funny...as a Crutch?

April 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30pm

Directed by Karen S. Mitchell, PhD. and Amandajean Freking Nolte, MA. Composed and devised by the cast with scenes from David Orloff's play, "Funny as a Crutch".

Produced, in part by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. Sponsored by SAVE Forum Actors.

Laughter is often a nervous reaction to subjects our society finds taboo. We laugh at inappropriate times, make self-deprecating jokes about our human frailties, and hide behind our laughter. Through this performance of poetry, personal narrative and drama (and relying on a bit of humor), "Funny...as a Crutch?" challenges audiences to rethink the role humor plays in revealing (or masking) our attitudes toward our own mental and physical disabilities.

### Performance Power Hour!

April 23 at 7:30pm

See the "best of the best" performances from our beginning and advanced level performance classes. From traditional performances of literature to unexpected and experimental performances. You will laugh, cry and beg for more!





PRESENTED BY **THEATRE UNI** THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

7:30 PM FEBRUARY 26-28 & MARCH 5-7 2:00 PM MARCH 1

STRAYER-WOOD THEATRE University of Northern Iowa

G. KALLIN