Noah Doely produces places in his work. His environments urge the viewer to reconsider their own place within history and their relationship to the subject matter. By choosing caves as a source of inspiration for this new body of photographs entitled, Above, Doely reinforces the notion of universalism as these photographs remain distanced from a particular culture or individual identity. Furthermore, through observing the dramatic role of light in these works and its interplay with cave forms, the relationship between nature and belief becomes reinforced. By isolating these forms and positioning the light in a particular way, these caves are made sacred.

At first glance, these photographs represent the natural world; however, the processes in which the works are produced result in deception. In the photographs, Doely creates dramatic, yet peaceful underwater spaces through the use of a pinhole camera. Instead of focusing on wide-open aquatic spaces, he imagines caves as dark spaces that are devoid of any kind of life. These caves are made by the artist as elaborate dioramas. In describing his process the artist explains, “I began by making molds of aquatic rocks, casting them, and then reconstructing them into various formations.”

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ART

• Professor Roy Behrens traveled to Sydney, Australia where he was a keynote speaker at the conference, “Camouflage Cultures: Surveillance, Communities, Aesthetics, Animals,” which ran Thursday, Aug. 8 - Sunday, Aug. 11.

• Showcasing their “Worn Out” series of screenprints, professors Tim Dooley and Aaron Wilson are the artists behind the third in a series of three projects that showcase work by Iowans at the Des Moines Art Center. The exhibit runs through Sunday, Oct. 13 in the museum’s Blank One Gallery. Admission to this exhibition is free. For more information, visit www.desmoinessartcenter.org.

The UNI Gallery of Art presents “The Lawrence Auld Collection: Ceramics from the UNI Permanent Art Collection,” Monday, Aug. 26 through Saturday, Sept. 21 in Kamerick Art Building South. Co-curated by professor of art, JoAnn Schmabel and gallery director, Darrell Taylor, this exhibition features work by Richard Aerni, Sandra Blain, Tara Davly, Adam Egenolf, Doug Hanson, Mark Hewitt, Shawn Ireland, Ben Jensen, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Sequoia Miller, Hank Murrow, and Ben Owen III, among others.

The UNI Gallery of Art will also present a new UNI Permanent Art Collection exhibition, “Myth and Narrative: It’s All in the Telling,” which will run through Saturday, Dec. 21. Co-curated by professor of art history, Charles M. Adelman and gallery director, Darrell Taylor, this exhibition represents an ongoing collaboration between the gallery and upper-level art history students. Featured works are by Romare Bearden, Salvador Dali, Honore Daumier, Reuben Nakian and Gladys Nilsson. Students from Adelman’s Myth and Narrative class will present didactic materials for each object. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.uni.edu/artdept/gallery/home.html or call 319-273-3095.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

• Sons of Jacob Synagogue, a documentary directed by Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Francesca Soans and Dr. Robert Neymeyer, received the Award of Excellence for Directing by the Iowa Motion Picture Association in a statewide competition. The film was also recognized in five other categories: Award of Excellence for Soundtrack Audio Mix to Tom Barry, Asst. Professor, UNI School of Music; Award of Achievement for Original Music Score to Rebecca Burkhardt, Professor, UNI School of Music; Award of Achievement for Visual Effects to Electronic Media students Brandon Poll and Grant Atherton; and Awards of Achievement for Editing and for Documentation to Francesca Soans and Robert Neymeyer.

The Iowa Motion Picture Awards are given “in recognition of outstanding creative and technical achievement in Iowa’s moving image production industry.”

MUSIC

• Angeleita Floyd, professor of flute at UNI’s School of Music was a guest artist at the XXIII Festival Internacional de Flautistas en el Centro del Mundo from Jun. 1 through 8 in Quito, Ecuador. She directed the Festival Flute Orchestra in rehearsals and in concert at the Casa de la Musica, and presented several master classes for advanced flutists during the festival. Additionally, recent UNI graduates participated in the festival, performing in recital and in the Gala Festival Orchestra Concert: Rocío Lima, Daniel Velasco and Rebecca Johnson.

• Chris Merz, director of Jazz Studies and conductor of UNI Jazz Band One, released a new CD titled “Vu Jå Dé” on Realtown Records. The CD was a collaborative project with UNI student musician Jon Snell and features all original compositions, five by Senll and four by Merz. Merz also directed the Minnesota All-State Jazz Band in early August. He will appear with the band again in February of 2014 for a concert for the Minnesota Music Educators’ Association.

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MUSIC CONT.

- Dr. Floyd coordinated and was a featured artist at Passion Flute V: Foundations for Creative Performing held from Jun. 18 to 22, 2013 at UNI’s Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Along with guest artists Jill Felber, Claudia Anderson, Nicole Molumby (UNI BM/BMEd) and Hannah Leffler (UNI-MM 2011), she presented daily master classes, innovative workshops and conducted the Passion Flute Orchestra. Collaborative pianists, Sean Botkin and Serena Hou played for the daily masterclasses, assisted the guest artists on the Friday evening concert and performed for the closing Passion Flute Celebration Concert that featured all the performers and participants from the five-day workshop.

The highlight of Dr. Floyd's summer activities included participating in the National Flute Associations 41st Annual Convention held in New Orleans, Aug. 8 through 11, along with fourteen of her current UNI flute students: Emily Bicknese, Hannah Carr-Murphy, Linnea Casey, McKenzie Doyle, Rylie Graham, Calista Hagan, Amanda Johns, Felisha Jones, Megan Kingery, Elizabeth Kreassig, Rocío Lima, Tara McCabe, Stephanie Thimmesch and Jenny Titus. Ten returning students were generously funded through the Intercollegiate Academics fund sponsored by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, and four graduating students were supported by funding from the Dean's office in CHAS and the Director of the School of Music.

These UNI students were featured in the Convention's opening concert performed by the Jambalaya Flute Orchestra, a 150 member flute ensemble directed by Angeléta Floyd on Thursday morning. In addition, former students, Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor, and Dr. Amanda Mcdandless, clarinet, both faculty in the UNI School of Music, performed with the Orquestra Sinfônica da Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Brazil, for their fifth season subscription concert on Aug. 8, 2013. The program included Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto in A with Dr. Mcdandless as soloist, Prokofiev’s Classical Symphony, Overture in the Italian Style, Schubert and Darius Milhaud's orchestration of his Sardana de Ibiza. Dr. Mcdandless also gave a masterclass for clarinet students in the Caxias and Porto Alegre area. Both she and Dr. Burkhardt consulted with UCS faculty about the Northern Iowa Symphony tour to that area in March 2014 and about future student exchanges in several study areas including Music Education and Brazilian folk music.

- Trio 826, a string trio featuring UNI viola professor Julia Bullard, violinist Susanna Klein (faculty, Virginia Commonwealth University) and cellist Hannah Holmes (New York City Ballet Orchestra), was in residence this summer with the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival. As part of the residency, the trio presented several community outreach performances and performed on the season's subscription concerts. The trio then traveled to France, where they performed two concerts, the first at a chateau near the town of Nogent le Rotrou, and the second at the music festival, Le Musicales au piano on Aug. 8, 2013. The program included Mozart’s Flute Quintet, Mendelssohn’s Overture in the Italian Style and Beethoven’s Overture Egmont.

- Robin Guy, pianist (Professor, School of Music), spent six weeks of the summer teaching piano and high school collaborative arts at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. There, she also prepared and performed new works with faculty colleagues in a clarinet/cello/piano trio and a piano duo by a faculty composer. She then traveled to New Orleans for the National Flute Association Annual Convention where she performed with Interlochen faculty colleagues in two events, trio and duo. Prior to these, she attended the Iowa Music Teachers Association Conference as a member of the Executive Board.
Faculty Recital: Randy Grabowski, trumpet
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI School of Music faculty artist Randy Grabowski will present a trumpet recital with faculty pianist Polina Khlanko, featuring works by Vasily Georgiyevich Brandt, Eugène Bozza and more. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Mark Baldwin, trumpet, and Jon Warfel, piano
Friday, Sept. 13, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Visiting artists Mark Baldwin, trumpet, and Jon Warfel, piano, will collaborate to present a recital. Baldwin joined the Rockford Symphony Orchestra in 1980 and has held the position of Principal Trumpet since 1984. He also plays Principal Trumpet with the Wheaton Symphony, the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra and the Rockford Wind Ensemble, and has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Grant Park Symphony. Besides his work in symphonic venues, Baldwin also performs in other musical genres such as big band, Dixieland jazz, brass quintets, musical theater and brass bands. Baldwin will collaborate with pianist Jon Warfel, faculty artist at North Central College. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Wolfgang David, violin, and David Gompper, piano
Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artists Wolfgang David, violin, and David Gompper, piano, will collaborate to present a recital. Austrian violinist Wolfgang David has performed in major halls such as Konzerthaus and Musikhalle in Hamburg, Vienna; Carnegie Hall, New York; Gerettos Center, Los Angeles and more. David will collaborate with pianist, Gompper, a celebrated composer and performer who has worked professionally as pianist, conductor and composer throughout the United States and abroad. This event is free and open to the public.

Faculty Recital: Sandy Nordahl and Jeffrey Funderburk, electronic music
Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI School of Music faculty artists Sandy Nordahl and Jeffrey Funderburk will present an electronic music concert. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Ashley Hall, trumpet, and Horacio Noguid, piano
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Visiting artists Ashley Hall, trumpet, and Horacio Noguid, piano, will collaborate to present a recital. Ashley Hall has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player in the U.S. and around the world. She holds the position of principal trumpeter with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and her 2012 highlights included solo tours in New Zealand and Korea with the Grace Orchestra. Hall will collaborate with pianist Horacio Noguid, UNI alum and celebrated performer and educator. This event is free and open to the public.

Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series
Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, 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 Ich bin vergnügt mit meinem Glücke, BWV 84. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: “Art of the Single Line”
Frank Campos, trumpet
Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Visiting artist Frank Campos, trumpet, will present a recital performance. Frank Gabriel Campos is a renowned classical and jazz soloist and the author of Trumpet Technique (Oxford University Press, 2005), regarded as the best single source on the subject. Currently a professor of trumpet at Ithaca College’s Whalen Center for Music, Campos earned his bachelor’s degree from California State University Fresno and did graduate work at the University of North Texas where he won the Outstanding Masters and Outstanding Doctoral Student Awards, as well as the Hester Prize for Outstanding Graduate. Campos has been principal trumpet of the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, Texas Baroque Ensemble, Bear Valley Festival Orchestra and Malerda Symphony Orchestra, and he has been a member of the Fort Worth Symphony, the Fresno Philharmonic, and the Monterey County Symphony. This event is free and open to the public.

An Enchanted Evening
The 32nd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert
Friday, Sept. 27, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

Get ready for a celebration and join us for an enchanted evening! The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians, as well as a dazzling post-concert champagne reception where the music and excitement of the evening continue. Guest artist James Miller, associate principal trombone, Los Angeles Philharmonic, will perform. The concert will also feature music by faculty artists Korey Barrett, Amanda McCandless, Heather Pyrton, Dmitri Voroshiev and Robert Watsn. Also featured: Kaji Daiko (Taiko drums), the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, Jazz Band One, Concert Chorale, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and more. Please join us for this exciting event and help support student scholarships at UNI’s School of Music. For more information on this event or becoming a special donor, contact Caroline Bodmer at 319-273-2028. To order tickets, call 319-273-4343.

UNI School of Music All State Wind, Brass and Percussion Workshops
Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Various School of Music Venues

The UNI School of Music presents its annual hands-on workshops for high school student instrumentalists preparing for All-State competition. This event is free and open to the public, but does require registration. To register, please visit www.uni.edu/music or call 319-273-2025.

FORENSICS

The UNI speech team traveled to Marshall University in West Virginia to compete at the NFA National Tournament. Overall, the team qualified forty-eight events and fifteen students. However, only the three seniors traveled. Even though a small contingent of students competed at NFA, they had a great tournament. All three of them cleared, and with only fourteen events, the team was tenth in Sweepstakes and first in the President’s Division (representing schools with seventeen to twenty-seven entries). The following individual awards were won:
Harrison Postler received Second Place in Impromptu Speaking, Fourth Place in After Dinner Speaking, a semifinalist in Dramatic Interpretation, and an individual awards.

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!
Alumni Spotlight

Taking on a new identity is a regular occurrence for Theatre Performance alumni, Eden Neuendorf. Since graduating, Neuendorf has taken advantage of many opportunities to build experience for her career. She began as an intern in the Artistic Department at California Shakespeare Theatre in Berkeley, Calif., which led to a position as their Artistic Fellow, followed by a full-time position as Artistic Coordinator. There, she assisted with casting and company management, while learning skills related to operating a theatre and immersing herself in the theatre community. She is now a working actor and the Associate Producer at Bay Area Children's Theatre.

“I have also been building my professional acting resume since graduation from UNI,” said Neuendorf. “I began auditioning two years ago, and have since consistently been in a play or new play reading.”

In addition to stage acting, she is also beginning to build her career in the areas of both voice and commercial acting. Following her day job, she typically spends her evenings at play rehearsals.

“Right now, I’m rehearsing two plays in rep for the Eugene O’Neill Festival in September,” she explained. “This makes my workday twelve hours long, but I’ve learned that I’m not a complete person without the acting work in the evening. I love my day job, but being able to express myself and be creative in the evening is a necessity to me.”

When she’s not working in the theatre, Neuendorf enjoys reading, making jewelry, hiking and spending time with her dog, Bobik. Although she lives in California, Neuendorf still keeps in contact with faculty members from the Department of Theatre.

“I still maintain relationships with all of them to the point where I could e-mail or call any of them at any time and ask for advice,” she said. “It’s an amazing feeling knowing that I have a team of mentors back in Iowa that want me to succeed just as much today as they did when I was a student.”

The encouragement and training she received in the Department of Theatre gave her the confidence to feel capable of reaching success in her field.

“I didn’t realize it until I got to the Bay Area, but the department really prepared me to work as an actor in the real world,” said Neuendorf. “I felt ready to step into auditions here, and I felt I had a proper actor toolbox to explore my characters in rehearsals. I really gave myself over to the experience, which allowed me to absorb as much as I could from my classes. They made me feel grounded in the professional world.”

BY THE LIGHT
cont. from cover

Next, I placed these constructions inside a glass tank and filled it with water. Using a single light source, I then directed light into this space. By changing this beam’s intensity, shape and direction, I was essentially sculpting with light.

While the words in Noah Doely: By the Light possess considerable darkness, they are revealed to the viewer through the manipulation of light, for example, the way in which the light enters the space through the pinhole camera and the way in which the light reveals to the viewer the crevices and varied contours of the caves are essential to the work. In In Search of Lost Time, Marcel Proust wrote “….illuminated by the light of the setting sun, which even at that distance I saw playing and smiling on their sloping sides.” Here, Proust’s prose shares a certain affinity with Doely’s photographs.

Doely received his MFA from the University of California San Diego. He is Assistant Professor of Photography at the University of Northern Iowa. The presentation of By the Light marks the artist’s first solo exhibition at a museum.

Funding for the exhibition Noah Doely: By the Light has been provided by The San Diego Museum of Art’s Contemporary Arts Committee, the Members of The San Diego Museum of Art, and the County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program. Institutional support for the Museum is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. Original article published at www.sdmart.org
On May 3, an “Excellence in Teaching With Technology Symposium” was held in the Great Reading Room. Executive Vice President and Provost, Gloria Gibson; and Shashi Kaparthi, CIO, Information Technology Services, presented instructional technology awards to Dr. O’Loughlin and others in the University community.

Dr. O’Loughlin has been successful in integrating technology into traditional course offerings. He regularly finds new ways to make context-appropriate technology a part of his classes. He pursues excellence in teaching with technology by focusing not on the specific technology tools students are asked to use, but on the intellectual tasks they are asked to solve using a range of appropriate technologies.

“UNI helped prepare me for where the industry was going and how to prepare myself for this,” she said. “The Department of Technology helped improve my oral and written skills for when I went into the industry,” said Meyers.

In the future, Meyers is looking to advance within the company. Currently, she is content with the position she holds.

“Consolidated Graphics offers so many opportunities for college graduates and that is what I love most. I am currently on track to be a president of a company within the next five years,” she said.

From the television screen to the workshop to the streets, The University of Northern Iowa’s Physics of Mario Kart camp brought the classic video game, “Super Mario Kart,” to life. Eight high school students spent a week constructing life-sized Mario karts and took them to the walkways on campus for some friendly racing.

Andrew Stollenwerk, professor in the Physics Department and co-creator of the camp, said it was a good way to show interested students what physicists really do.

“Sometimes people think physicists are always at the board, solving equations, but most of the time physicists are out there doing experiments. It would be good to dispel that stereotype.”

The idea for the camp came to Stollenwerk and Tim Kallsen, another professor in the physics department, from YouTube videos where people had constructed karts modeled after the game and then dressed as the characters and raced.

“We can do that,” said Stollenwerk, “and when the EPSCoR grant money came in for the camp, the money and the idea just fit.”

Before camp started, Stollenwerk and Kallsen, with the help of a few undergraduate volunteers, assembled the karts and wrote the computer code that would be used. After the karts were assembled and the code written and tested, the karts were broken down for the incoming campers to rebuild. Stollenwerk said the code took weeks to write, and the karts were more draining than he had predicted, but rewarding come camp day.

Although the campers didn’t write the code, they were able to spend some time working with it, customizing it to their kart’s needs. After the code was tweaked, the karts were constructed.

On the last day of camp, parents were invited to attend as the students assembled around the campanile, where an obstacle and race course had been built. The campers raced two karts, turning heads of onlookers as they passed.

Alex Corker, a junior majoring in physics, was a camp counselor and also helped build the karts before camp started. This year was his first time teaching. He said that it was a good experience, but a challenge.

“It’s different to be in the teaching position and instead of being a student.”

Corker said the biggest challenge was trying to find the balance that made for the best learning experience without camp being too intense for students who had little to no experience.

The camp is still a work in progress. This year, students were able to build and race the karts, but many of the main components that make Mato Kart the game that it is have yet to be included. A main feature of the game allows players to collect objects off the track that either give them a boost or can be used against their opponents. Stollenwerk said he would like to incorporate this function into their life-sized recreation. “It’s something that is well within our ability to do; it’s just a matter of time and resources.” He said next year’s camp could see those added features.

Now that camp is finished, the karts are either going to be disassembled and placed in storage for next year, or be used in recruiting for the Physics Department. Although, Stollenwerk said, the karts could help trim some time off his campus commute.
The world isn’t just moving into digital dominance; it’s sprinting there, and it’s the responsibility of educators to keep up. Today, Facebook reports 2.2 billion users; more than 6 billion hours of videos are watched on YouTube monthly; and Twitter claims 300 million registered users. The University of Northern Iowa recognized this growing digital world and created a new program, Interactive Digital Studies (IDS).

Within six months of the program’s launch last year, the number of majors offered doubled. IDS now has twenty-nine majors and nineteen minors. Bethina Fabos, associate professor of communication studies, said this will likely double again.

Although housed in the Department of Communication Studies, the program is designed to be versatile, with a focus on interdisciplinary study. The majors allow students to mix and match different “bundles” - made up of five classes in a certain area of digital interest - to create a personalized major. Bundles currently include digital advertising, music, computation, media and social change, imaging, writing, learning and visualization.

For the IDS major, a student takes three foundation classes in digital communication, picks two bundles and caps their study with a practicum that brings IDS majors together across disciplines to build a final digital project as a class.

The IDS minor, which requires one bundle, pairs a digital skill dimension to any major currently offered. For example, a history major adding an IDS minor will become adept at digital archiving. “Any UNI student involved in IDS is instantly better positioned for a future career in the digital world,” Fabos said. “We are offering this perfect fusion of liberal arts and marketability.”

For more information about IDS, visit ids.uni.edu.

Valyn Reining

Valyn Reining, senior, is studying Electronic Media Studies (major) and Business Communication/Interactive Digital Studies (minor). She is a transfer student from Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, and came to UNI because the atmosphere and size seemed like a perfect fit. She works for the Rod Library as a Multimedia Production Assistant, and loves exploring new technology and expressing her creativity through various job duties.

Reining was involved in the UNI Speech Team for one year and is currently on her second year of Digital Collective. She has found that being involved on campus has helped in many aspects of her life. “Not only did I improve my presenting skills, but I made some awesome friends that I’m still in touch with. This will also be my second year as President of the Digital Collective. We focus on building digital skills and cultivating experiences to prepare students for future digital careers,” said Reining. “My involvement with student organizations on campus has really allowed me to enhance my leadership abilities and it’s also nice to network and meet people on campus that share common interests.”

One thing Reining enjoys about UNI is the abundance of classes she can choose from in Electronic Media and Business Communications. When she arrived at UNI, she was impressed with how accessible campus was and how close the buildings were together. One thing she would have changed about the last four years was to come to UNI right out of high school.

After her short time here at UNI, there are a few specific professors who have made the Department of Communication a successful choice for Reining. “I have had two very influential teachers during my time at UNI. Rebecca Buzz was my speech coach my first year at UNI and not only was she a wonderful coach, but she was a great academic mentor to me as well. She made me feel welcome when I knew no one on campus, and I’m so grateful for that. Bethina Fabos has also been extremely influential to me. She’s such an awesome resource, and whenever I have a question or need advice, she’s always right there willing to help,” she said. “It’s so refreshing to have professors that truly want you to succeed and above and beyond to help you achieve your academic goals.”

In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing video games, watching movies and hanging out with her friends. In the future, she would like to stay in Cedar Falls and get a digital job in marketing or advertising. Reining feels she has gained the knowledge, through classes and campus involvement, to land her dream job after graduation.

“I’m confident that I’ve gained the skills I need to get my digital dream job after I graduate. I’m also a highly motivated person and I’m always looking for ways that I can improve myself,” said Reining. “When I’m not in class, I like to take time to research new technology so that I’m up to date on what’s happening in the industry.”
Johnanna Ganz graduated in 2011 from the Department of Women and Gender Studies. Her MA thesis was entitled, “Defining the ‘Good’ Mother: Examining the Myths of Motherhood and the Hierarchical Construction of Femininity in ‘Weeds’ and Weekly Magazines.”

Ganz is currently pursuing a PhD at Bowling Green State. Recently, she won an Excellence in Research Competition. Her paper was one of six chosen from nearly 100 submissions. She won first place in the competition with a paper that used some of the data she collected when doing her UNI thesis. She has also already published an article in the Fat Studies Journal entitled, “The Bigger, the Better: Challenges in Portraying a Positive Fat Character in ‘Weeds’.”

Dr. Kelter will provide background for an interactive discussion with the audience about these challenging and timely questions.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 7:00 - 8:15 pm
LANTZ AUDITORIUM IN MCCOLLUM SCIENCE HALL
Daniel F. Specht, 63, died as a result of a farm accident on July 8, 2013. Dan was born May 29, 1950 in Monticello, Iowa, the son of Max and Loretta Thalacker Specht. His education began in a one room school, followed by graduation from Monticello High School. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Northern Iowa. Dan lived and farmed near McGregor from 1973 until the time of his death.

Dan was a passionate conservationist who employed farming practices that promoted diverse plant species as well as habitat for song birds and other wildlife. Dan was a naturalist who loved to spend time outdoors. He especially loved walking prairies, fishing, or sitting in a blind or stand, immersing himself in natural communities in study of interactions, including human, on the biomes.

Dan was prolific in his ideas and constant in his support for sustainable farming practices, serving as a board member on the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), Award Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education (SARE), and the USDA Task Force on the Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone. He testified often in Washington, D.C., providing expertise on conservation, sustainable agricultural practices, and farming issues related to systemic change in policy. His leadership in agricultural issues spanned local, regional, statewide and national arenas.

Dan is survived by his four siblings: David Specht, New Lisbon, WI; Elizabeth [Steve] Johnson, Monticello; Paul [Kim] Specht, Monticello; Philip [Sharon] Specht, McGregor; many nieces and nephews; and his very close friend, Mary Damm. He was preceded in death by his parents and his nephew, Nathan Specht.

Dan was a leader and visionary who gave voice to a human food production system that would fit into the natural world and would add to the value of what is done in the process. Because Dan gave freely of his experience and expertise, in lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial funds be sent to Practical Farmers of Iowa, earmarking the beginning farmer-grazier program in memory of Dan Specht and his profound knowledge and contribution to sustainable farming and living and, as Dan would say, “how it all fits together.”

Condolences may be left with: www.graufuneralhomes.com.