FEATURED STORY: **FINAL THURSDAY READING SERIES**  P. 8 – 9

**CHAS**

Arts and Sciences Day
The CHAS visit day offers prospective students a chance to "meet and greet" their potential professors and be introduced to the various programs offered through CHAS.

**MUSIC**

UNI Men’s Glee Club Christmas Show
The annual Christmas show presented by the Men’s Glee Club features an array of traditional Christmas music with a few humorous twist.

**EARTH SCIENCE**

Yellowstone
Every year the department of Earth Science sends students across the United States to explore some of the most beautiful locations and to discover the environment and apply their class skills they have learned through their classes.
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STEM CONFERENCES
During the last three years UNI has hosted conferences to promote the growing demand for STEM degrees in the United States. The conferences provide participants an opportunity to receive information about various STEM careers and what steps are needed to prepare for those careers. This year the conferences feature career fairs, campus tours and presenters/business panels with people who are currently working in their respective STEM fields. Three more conferences are planned for Spring 2016 – UNI will be hosting on February 22, North Iowa Area Community College on March 8, and the final conference will be held at the Peosta Campus of North Iowa Community College on March 21.

ART EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Hosting a record number of attendees this year, the annual art educators conference hosted at UNI provided art educators an opportunity for networking, sharing of ideas and teaching each other about new teaching strategies and technologies that are available. The conference is a weekend long event that features keynote speakers, presenters and workshops that are both engaging and educating. This year’s keynote speakers were Olivia Guide and Katherine Douglas, both of whom presented on the impacts that art education can have on students and how to authentically assess student’s art work.

VERTIGO A-GO-GO: A NIGHT OF PERFORMANCE ART
Hosted every Fall semester, Vertigo A-Go-Go features student artists participating in the performance art program in the Department of Art. The night takes place in the UNI Gallery of Art and hosts a variety of performances. The goals of Vertigo are to enrich the publics understanding of what performance art is “Most people are in awe and dazzled by this event. ‘Live art’ is not typically embraced as a fine art until one experiences it for themselves,” said Aypryl Pippert, an instructor of performance art.
James Keane is a senior, non-traditional student from New Hampton majoring in Philosophy at UNI. With a North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) scholarship, and support from his family, he had the courage to return to school at the age of 49. During his free time, he likes to spend time with his wife and three kids and enjoys working in construction. Additionally, he travels with them for cross-country meets and band events.

Keane explained that a random thought compelled him to stop by NIACC on his way home from work. He looked at the NIACC scholarship details, and an advisor encouraged him to apply. Keane then received funding for one school year.

Keane described his first day at NIACC as a 49-year-old freshman as “nerve-wracking.” He added, “but every day the adjustment got easier, and by mid-semester of my first year I felt confident in my ability to succeed.” He is thankful for the administration, faculty and staff at NIACC for helping him to adjust.

While at NIACC Keane applied for a Roy Carver Scholarship and a national scholarship through the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (JKCF), and he was awarded both. Keane mentioned it is very competitive to get the JKCF award, but it was worth it because it is valued up to $40,000 per year for two years of school. He said, “I have learned over the past three years that life is not only unpredictable, but it is a team sport. None of us makes our way alone. The generosity of so many in my life inspires me to pay it forward.”

Keane started at UNI as a teaching major before realizing he had strengths in writing and literature and had an interest in philosophical questions, so he switched to a philosophy major. He was concerned about the reaction from students and how they would deal with a non-traditional classmate. However, he was glad to feel accepted. What he likes about UNI is the supportive and knowledgeable professors in the Department of Philosophy and World Religions, who provide career guidance as well as great education.

His most memorable experience at UNI was when his writing professor encouraged him to submit an entry for the English department writing awards where he was recognized in the category of critical writing. “I could not be happier with the education and support I have received here. I feel very confident I will succeed at whatever I choose to do next,” he added.

After graduation, Keane is considering applying for the JKCF, which offers funding for continuing education to transfer scholars. He plans to apply for law school and be a public defender, or pursue an M.A. in English and be a teacher. He said, “Whatever I do, it will entail giving back to a community, which has given me so much.”
CHAS NEWS

ARTS AND SCIENCES DAY

BY DEREK HOLT

The annual Arts and Sciences Panther Open House visit day creates an atmosphere for prospective students and families interested in the sciences, arts and humanities. This gives visitors a more in-depth look at of the academic experience here at UNI.

Our guests visit departments, “meet and greet” with faculty and current students, who field questions about majors, career outcomes, internships and scholarships. Visitors can see much of the offerings at UNI through facility tours, featuring labs, studios and learning communities.

Celeste Bembry, CHAS Recruitment Coordinator says, “Families typically complete the open house visit with a good sense of the standard of UNI—academic excellence in an enriching and supportive learning environment.”

This year’s event allowed for student organizations and departments to participate in the opening session as prospective students first arrive. This is a more informative way for students and campus representatives to interact with visitors. The day began with a campus tour, followed by check-in and registration. After a welcome session, guests received important information about programs, research, scholarships and careers from our UNI faculty. Presentations about the admissions process and facility tours gave students a good feel of what UNI can offer them.

The advantage of having the college’s own visit day is more beneficial than just a normal visit day. Jennifer Cooley, an associate professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures shares, “The structure of these types of recruiting events allow for much more than just a stroll around campus. Prospective students and their families can seek firsthand information from people currently enrolled at UNI, from representatives of a wide array of campus services and from faculty who represent departments.”
Before the start of the 2015 fall semester, 14 students ventured out west on a two week learning expedition. Led by associate professor Chad Heinzel, the group embarked on a journey as part of the course, The Geology and National History of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. “The primary goal was to see and experience things we can’t experience in Iowa, or around the Cedar Falls area,” said Heinzel. And judging by the extensive photo albums the group returned with, that goal was sufficiently achieved.

Making a large loop, the group—which consisted of Madison Beeler, Jayna Brechwald, Emily Engle, Andrew Evans, Katlynn Luinstra, Matthew McIntosh, Benjamin Nettleton, Dylan Nielsen, Kathryn Patrick, Joseph Reinders, Aaron Schroeder, Robert Spielbauer and Eddie Todd—started by visiting the Badlands National Park in South Dakota, before traveling into Wyoming to Devils Tower, and then into the Bighorn Mountains to see Medicine Wheel.

After spending time in the Bighorn Mountains, the students traveled into Yellowstone. “In Yellowstone we did some pretty good day hikes,” said Heinzel. “My trips are pretty strenuous in general. We would go up four or five miles into the mountains. In the Tetons, a group of students wanted to see the Schoolroom Glacier, so they broke off and did a 26-mile loop in one day.” The glacier gets its name from its unique accessibility and its textbook glacial features, making it a great learning opportunity for students. However, given current climate conditions, the glacier is expected to disappear by 2030, if not sooner. “One thing a lot of national parks are studying,” said Heinzel, “is how climate change will affect tourism. Will people still be interested in visiting a national park like Glacier National Park or the Grand Tetons if they no longer have glaciers? With the environmental major, I really try, as much as possible, to tie in my background, which is geology and archeology, into future environmental issues for the places we visited. Out west, the big ones are oil and gas use, access to water and how that impacts the ecosystems.”

Brechwald said her favorite moment happened when her path crossed with a black bear. “The girl I was with was totally flipping her lid because it was just the two of us,” she said. “She asked if she should get out her pepper spray, because that’s basically what bear spray is, so we could protect ourselves if it came toward us. I told her to if it made her feel better. Black bears aren’t the bears you have to worry about,” she added, “grizzlies are. And this one looked like it was born this year, it was very small—I think it’s safe to say my St. Bernard was bigger. But just seeing this bear so close to me, and the fact that it didn’t care I was there because of all the wonderful huckleberries around was probably my favorite moment.”

Heinzel, who has done many trips like this, plans on doing another one in the future, although it may not be back to Yellowstone. “We try to mix it up,” he said. “We try to go where students want to go, where we think we can get the best experience.” But he feels these trips are important in other ways, “It changes their perspective, in that here [in the Cedar Valley] we are controlled by our technology. You are completely plugged in a lot of the time. But in the alpine environment, you feel very small. You get a truer sense of a different perspective of how the Earth is larger than we are.”
The Final Thursday Reading series began in Fall 2000 in the Vibe Coffeehouse (where Chad’s Pizza is now located) above the then Bought Again Books store. The readers and writers would gather around the espresso machine and sit on used furniture while sharing their writing. Through the next few years the series grew and moved to the Hearst Center in 2008 after the Vibe Coffeehouse closed.

During the years at the Hearst Center, the series has evolved into a literary cornerstone of the Cedar Valley. The Hearst Center has helped to promote the series to the public and the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences has helped by funding the series.

The series has housed an astounding variety of readers – from budding writers to writers who have gained national fame such as Eula Biss and Jen Percy. In the series, there are two part, first is the open mic, and the second is the featured readers who are selected in advance to read selections of their work and discuss their writing and their process.

The open mic begins at 7:00 pm and goes for an hour, giving the readers around five minutes to read a selection of their works. Jim O’Loughlin the facilitator of the Final Thursday Reading Series said, “I love how one year’s open mic reader can get a book published and becomes next year’s featured reader.” Many of the open mic readers often read short pieces they are working on, such as poems, short stories or a small section of a larger piece. The open mic allows writers to test out their works that are in the formative stages.

The second part of the reading series is the featured reader. During this portion of the series the writers generally read a small selection of their works, which can be poems, prose, flash-fiction and non-fiction. They also explain their personal writing process and afterwards their work is often available for purchase. By bringing in writers from the community and the United States, the Final Thursday Reading Series allows the local writing community to be exposed to a variety of different writers and styles. Another benefit the series provides is that it gives local writers an opportunity to connect to others in the community and discover how the process of other writers works.

During the last final Thursday Reading Series of the semester Jeffrey Copeland read from his new book *Ain't No Harm to Kill the Devil: The Life and Legend of John Fairfield, Abolitionist for Hire*. Copeland is a professor at UNI who specializes in creative non-fiction. His latest book is a look into John Fairfield’s life and tells Fairfield’s story. Copeland described his process to the audience and the amount of research that was required in writing the book. Since the work is creative non-fiction, Copeland traveled widely and did intensive research to guarantee that what he wrote was based on fact. He visited locations that Fairfield had traveled during his time in the underground railroad, and also talked to local residents about what he had found and compared them to local records. Copeland’s book is very well-documented and provided a historically accurate portrayal of who John Fairfield was.
The reading series continues to grow each year, during the last fifteen years the series has become a fundamental part of the Cedar Valley's writing and literary community, not only for the students at UNI but also the general public. With the help of the Hearst Center for the Arts and the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences the series continues to run smoothly and grow.

Next semester the lineup of featured writers includes:

O’Loughlin is author of the forthcoming collection of flash fiction, *Dean Dean Dean Dean* (Coda Crab Books). He is also the host of the Final Thursday Reading Series and an Associate Professor in the Department of Languages & Literatures at the University of Northern Iowa.

Timothy Fay – February 25, 2016
Fay of Anamosa, Iowa edits and prints the *Wapsipinicon Almanac*, an annual collection of essays, fiction and reviews. He’s produced the Almanac since 1988 and continues to do so from his shop situated on his family’s farm in Jones County.

Joe Benevento – March 31, 2016
Benevento’s books include three novels, three full-length poetry volumes, two poetry chapbooks, and a book of short stories. He is a Professor of English at Truman State University, where he teaches creative writing, American literature and mystery. He also is the longtime co-editor of the *Green Hills Literary Lantern*.

Tim Bascom – April 28, 2016
Bascom’s books include the novel *Squatter’s Rites* and the essay collection *The Comfort Trap*, in addition to his new memoir *Running to the Fire*. He is currently the Director of Creative Writing at Waldorf College.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
DAVID SCHMITZ
ART
BY RUQAYAH ALMUZAYN

UNI alumnus, David Schmitz, is the executive director of the Dubuque Museum of Art. From an early age, Schmitz loved drawing and painting and he knew that he wanted to be an artist. He landed his first professional job in Chicago Artists’ Coalition, an artist service organization, after earning a Master’s degree in arts management at Columbia College in Chicago. Schmitz then worked with Iowa Arts Council, before moving to his current job.

One of his memorable experiences at UNI was working as a gallery assistant at the Gallery of Art. Schmitz recalled that director, Darrell Taylor, had introduced him to behind-the-scenes aspects of organizing exhibitions and working with artists.

Also integral to Schmitz’s UNI experience were his classes. He learned to analyze information and think critically, which are important skills for many careers paths. UNI professors encouraged him to challenge himself and get out of his comfort zone.

Schmitz said having the role of executive director is an interesting job because of the variety of tasks that are done from day to day. However, his primary task is to develop a compelling vision for the organization’s future and strategies to reach that vision. Schmitz also has an artistic mission to educate audiences through collecting, exhibiting and interpreting artwork, and managing the needed resources to meet that mission.

Schmitz said the two most rewarding parts about his job are the impact of educational programs on the community and recognizing artists, which allows them the freedom to take risks in their work.

One achievement Schmitz is proud of is receiving grant funding for a pilot program, “In My Mind’s Eye.” This program plans to help people with dementia and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) to stimulate discussion and reflection by using shapes, colors, symbols and stories found in artwork. The new program will engage the community and use the collections as learning and discovery tools.

Looking forward, he plans to strengthen the Dubuque Museum of Arts exhibitions and the permanent collection. He added, “We plan to make the museum a more interactive and participatory place, in keeping with how audiences today want to interact with art.”

He hopes to keep gaining knowledge about the arts and humanities, and considers becoming a teacher one day. One of the best things Schmitz likes about the arts is that it is changing continuously, “No matter how much expertise one attains in a discipline, our understanding of art and culture is always changing, and so the process of learning is ongoing.”
Makenzie Nokes, a senior English teaching major, recently completed a teaching experience in Mumbai, India. She realized she loved traveling when she had her Capstone class in Greece. Nokes chose to teach in India because she wanted to get out of her comfort zone and go to a country that she did not know much about. In addition, she wanted to obtain a first-hand experience of the unique culture for which India is known.

One of the lessons that Nokes learned from her teaching experience is that not all the assumptions about other cultures are true. She said, “In an international school, you quickly realize that all assumptions you may hold about someone become ignorant and irrelevant.” Nokes noted that as students come from different countries and speak different languages, they cannot define their identity by one nationality. She continued, “Sometimes, it’s hard for them to explain where home is when they have always been continuously moving or when their parents hold different nationalities.” Nokes learned to better get to know students through combined cultural experiences rather than from the country that they come from.

One of Nokes’s memorable experiences while teaching in India was the many festivals she could experience. One of them was Janmashtami, a Hindu festival that includes creating human pyramids, fasting, which was followed later by breaking the fast with food and dancing. She mentioned that people were very welcoming and energetic. “The wide range of religions, languages, and cultures embodied here only make it that much more interesting to experience.”

Nokes is involved on campus by serving as the President of UNI’s Council of Teachers of English; as a student editor for the student literary magazine, Inner Weather; and a member of the Educators for Change Book Club. Her involvement helped her to meet new friends, be open to new experiences and expand her comfort level.

UNI offered Nokes a personal and professional growth opportunity when she presented a historical-fiction paper at the North American Review Bicentennial conference. Her presentation focused specifically on captivity narratives. She explained, it was intimidating to present with professors, writers and readers from around the world, but it “helped me gain new insights into what I was capable of. It’s a moment I’m very grateful for and proud of.”

Nokes is considering applying for an international teaching job and working toward a Master’s degree in English in the years immediately after graduation.
Founded on October 1, 1960, by Dr. Les Hale, the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club was established when UNI was still the Iowa State Teacher’s College. The Glee Club’s first Spring Concert was performed in Lang Hall Auditorium in 1961, but it wasn’t until 1978 that they began producing and performing in the annual Christmas Variety Shows, then in Russell Hall. To date, the Glee Club claims more sold out performances in the Gallagher Bluedorn Great Hall than any other student or professional group. The Glee Club has performed across the state of Iowa, throughout the Midwest, and around the world on tours, traveling internationally every other year since 1980 and performing in Austria, the Czech Republic, England, Holland, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Wales.

With the revenue from the Christmas Variety Show, the Glee Club can subsidize international travel, regional touring, and a variety of programmatic needs – from paying for the Christmas Variety Show program to purchasing tuxedos.

The Christmas Variety Show, directed by John Wiles, features everything from the sublime to the ridiculous. Audience members enjoy a fun atmosphere dedicated to lifting spirits through music. While the Glee Club is in its 55th year on campus, each year is different. Wiles said, “We have different students, different music and different jokes, yet the spirit remains. Each Christmas Variety Show is a fresh encounter with the history, tradition and spirit of the Glee Club. Old favorites like *The First Noel* and *Ave Maria*, as well as some new favorites from Iceland and Nigeria.”

2015 was the 38th Christmas Show the Glee Club performed for the community. The show is an enormous amount of work. The holiday show is special compared to other shows put on by the Glee Club because the men write and produce a play, create a professional set, and are given outstanding community support by three sold-out shows. Students work hard, sacrifice time and effort, and the result is a great accomplishment.
Many citizens of Cedar Falls, particularly those who live around the College Hill area, have come to shop at the College Hill Farmers Market. Senior citizens and college students alike, shop for a healthier option and fresh produce.

Communication studies current student, Delany Langel, is employed as the farmers’ market marketing assistant for the College Hill Farmer’s Market. She helps with managing social media, communicating with vendors and creating promotions to be held at the market. Every Thursday in the fall, she would attend and assist in parking the vendors, talking with customers and helping with the weekly promotion. The market manager and Local Food Coordinator for the region, Jodie Huegerich, also has the above responsibilities and works closely with the vendors and market assistant.

The market was started as a result of a College Hill Partnership survey and members requesting a market in their neighborhood. This past season was the third year the College Hill Farmers Market was open. Each year there have consistently been eight permanent vendors and four seasonal/temporary vendors; however, for the 2015 season there was a larger selection of produce with different vendors participating.

What separates this farmers’ market from your local grocery store? The farmers market differs because at the market you get to personally meet the person(s) who grew the food. It adds a personal element to the process of grocery shopping. Also, you know exactly where the food came from. It is fresh produce, usually picked twenty-four hours or less before the market. In some cases it can be less expensive than the grocery store. They offer seasonal produce ranging from fruits and vegetables to baked goods, jellies and crafts. Of course depending on the farmer, most of the produce is chemical free!

The best memories Langel has had working at the market is getting close to the vendors. They all have such passion for local foods and it is great to be surrounded by that type of energy, she said. “This market has had a great economic impact by supporting small farm and food businesses. It also has been an asset for the College Hill neighborhood because UNI students and UNI faculty/staff have fresh foods within walking distance of their home and work,” Langle said.

College Hill Partnership has also contributed toward funding the market. In addition College Hill businesses donate product and coupons for their businesses. The Center for Energy and Environmental Education also has provided staff and funding coming from a variety of sources.

If you have questions or want to become a vendor for the 2016 market please contact Jodie at jodie.huegerich@uni.edu. Be sure to like College Hill Farmers Market on Facebook to find weekly produce available at the market and upcoming specials for the week. (The College Hill Farmers Market runs from the beginning of June until the end of October.)
During the last decade, Connie Terry has been striving to leave an impact on math in Iowa’s academics. Terry graduated from UNI in 1998 with a B.A in Secondary Math Education, since then she has gone on to receive her master’s degree in Math Education in 2004.

“After just a year of teaching though, I knew that I had so much more to learn. At that point, I began my master’s program at UNI,” Terry said. “It created a professional learning community for me that valued ongoing learning and improving as a teacher. Those values are what I try to provide for the teachers I work with everyday.”

Terry has since gone on to become the Math Consultant for Green Hills Area Education Agency (AEA) serving Southwest Iowa since 2005. Her job allows her to make a big difference, not just on students but on the teachers as well.

“The best part is having a broader impact,” Terry said. She has worked on two major grant projects during her time at the AEA – Making Sense of Mathematics and Teaching and Teaching Mathematics to Struggling Learners. The first grant Making Sense of Mathematics and Teaching focused on the continuing development of elementary teachers in Waterloo and Creston, Iowa. The second grant Teaching Mathematics to Struggling Learners targets special education teachers and students in order to create an environment that provides high quality instruction based on individual research and assessment. With both of these grant projects, Terry has worked closely with faculty members in the schools to promote education across Iowa.

Terry has been awarded several honors for her extraordinary work including: Favorite Teacher Certificate, Governor’s Scholar Recognition Program, Educator of Distinction and National Society of High School Teachers. These awards showcase the hard work and enthusiasm that Terry puts into her career.

Before Terry began working at the AEA, she worked at Price Lab School and Nodaway Valley High School. At Nodaway she coached soccer, one of her passions. While she was at UNI, she was the president of the women’s soccer team and played for the Panther’s club team.

Terry has worked hard to serve the community, by not only aiding teachers and students in math, but also volunteering for the school and community and holding fundraising events for the city.

“I’m enthused about the progress being made across our district to advance academic achievement,” Terry said. She continues to push for academic advancement and hopes to leave a lasting impact on Iowa’s academics.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
JANUARY – MARCH

EXHIBITION
RACE AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE
January 1 – March 1
March 21 – April 16
April 25 – May 7
UNI Gallery of Art

EXHIBITION
WOMEN’S WORK
An Insight into Nature, Beauty and the Domestic Object
January 11 – March 1
UNI Gallery of Art

SUSANNAH – UNI OPERA
January 22 – 23, 7:30 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: DUO PIANIST – SEAN BOTKIN & DMITRI VOROBIEV
January 26, 7:30 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC

CME FIRST FRIDAY
February 5, 7 – 11:00 pm
March 4, 7 – 11:00 pm
Center for Multicultural Education

NORTHERN FESTIVAL OF BANDS
February 11 – 13 (all day)
Great Hall, GBPAC

THEATRE UNI: THE GLASS MENAGERIE
February 26 – 27, 7:30 pm
February 28, 2:00 pm
March 4 – 5, 7:30 pm
March 6, 2:00 pm
Strayer-Wood Theatre

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: CONCERT CHORALE & VARSITY MEN’S GLEE CLUB
March 8, 7:30 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC

ANNUAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION
March 21 – April 16
UNI Gallery of Art

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: PERFORMANCE COMPETITION FINALS
March 28, 7:30 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC