The Update, January-April 2017

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FEATURED STORY: **GEO–SERVICE PROJECT** P. 12 – 13

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**
**MICAYLA DAWSON**
Micayla Dawson is a senior majoring in Instrumental Music Education. She has been involved in many organizations such as jazz band, symphonic band, concert band, winter drumline, UNI IBA, Tau Beta Sigma, among others.

**DEPARTMENT OF ART**
**HEARST LECTURE SERIES**
The UNI Art Department hosted five artists this academic year. All artists presented their work and talked about how what they do makes an impact.

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES**
**DIGITAL MEDIA PROGRAM**
The Department of Communication Studies is launching a new program titled “Digital Media.” The new program will offer three areas of concentration: digital journalism, digital media leadership, and digital media production.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
THEATER FACULTY RETIREMENT
At the end of the Spring 2017 semester, two faculty members from the theatre department will be retiring. After many years of dedication, Jay Edelnant, a theatre professor at UNI for over forty years, and Leonard Curtis, an associate professor for more than twenty years, will both be retiring. Following the opening night performance of *Into the Woods*, there will be a gathering to honor Edelnant and Curtis at the show’s reception. The *Into the Woods* opening night performance will be taking place April 21, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center.

THEATER PERFORMANCE TOUR
In February, Theatre UNI presented the show, *Palette of Possibility*. The show was a devised to target youth on the autism spectrum. In putting on the show, a group of twelve theatre students and two adults were sent on a week-long tour of cities in Western Iowa. The major outreach work of the tour provided good experience for UNI’s theatre students, as well as the enhancement of the communities visited throughout the week-long experience.

LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
PUBLISHED BOOKS
Several new books written by faculty members with the Languages & Literatures department have recently been published:

- Jim O’Loughlin’s flash fiction collection *Dean, Dean, Dean, Dean*, Shelly Crisswell and Grant Tracy, eds.
- *Feed the Lake: Essays on the Craft of Fiction* Jeremy Schraffenberger, ed.
UNI alumnus Mason Greer graduated in 2016 with a BA in Electric/Digital Media. He is currently working as a freelancer in film in a variety of positions including script supervisor and assistant director. He is also an actor and has been working that into his life while balancing openings in his production schedule.

After graduating from UNI Greer spent the summer in the Cedar Falls area working on a variety of projects. One being his latest film titled: *One Drop Rule*. Greer was also hired to produce two short documentaries focused on diversity and inclusion on campus. The other was a biography film about the group called UNI 7 that visited campus in the spring of 2016. These projects provided Greer the funds to move out to Los Angeles this past year.

Greer has competitively screened his film “One Drop Rule” at the LA CineFest, Muscatine Independent Film Festival and the Shawnee Midwest Shorts. The film won Best Student Short at the Muscatine Independent Festival. He has described winning this award as a nice resume builder and looking to capitalize on what it brings him in the future.

The most enjoyable part of his career has been meeting talented people and how well his skill sets get used in positions that aren’t usually held by somebody of his age. While at UNI, Greer had advantages and experiences as a Digital Media major. He appreciated the frequent support he had received from not only department faculty, but faculty outside of his major as well.

“Writing was always my first love for art form. I continue to write new projects I intend to produce in the future. Performance is another big joy in my life, I found my love for improv while on UNI’s campus and have been trying to keep that going since moving out here.”
Lucas Beving is currently a senior at the University of Northern Iowa studying physics and math. Beving was driven to attend UNI due to the size, cost, and his experience when visiting the introductory physics courses.

Throughout his time at UNI, Beving has been a part of several undergraduate research projects. During his sophomore year, Beving participated in his first undergraduate research project with Dr. Paul Shand during the summer. The project focused on materials, magnets, and application theories. This past summer, Beving also took part in a ten-week undergraduate research project at Princeton University. Along with the other researchers, they worked with the department of solar energy researching super magnets, their production and internal stresses, and determining the material it is made on.

Beving is involved in the physics club and serves as the president. He describes the club as interest driven by the members involved. He also serves as a physics department mentor to incoming freshmen. His favorite part of mentoring is building relationships with other students, and having the ability to help prepare them for their upcoming classes. Beving is also involved in the University’s Honors Program. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games, and outdoor activities such as hiking and climbing.

One of Beving’s favorite memories at UNI was living in Campbell Hall during his freshman and sophomore years, where he met many of his friends. He also enjoyed presenting at the 2016 American Physical Society undergrad session, where he presented his research findings with Dr. Paul Shand.

Beving also provided some advice for students considering going into the physics field. “If you can figure out what you want to do, try to have a concrete plan on how you will finish your degree. The faculty do a good job of that here. Investigate what could become a research project. If there’s a problem in class that interests you ask your professor if you could do a project for it,” he stated.

Following his graduation in May, Beving plans to attend graduate school next semester. He is still deciding which institution to attend. After grad school, Beving hopes to obtain his PhD and become a physics professor at a university similar to UNI.
Caleb Vander Wiel is currently a VetMed student at Iowa State University. His education, however, started at the University of Northern Iowa. Originally from Cedar Falls, and having family connections to the school, he always had an attachment to UNI. After finishing his undergrad, Vander Wiel enrolled at Iowa State because of its proximity and the great Veterinary program.

As a VetMed student, the majority of Vander Wiel’s first year classes consist of introductory courses in physiology, histology, pathology and others. He spends several days a week in labs where he dissects animals such as dogs, cats, goats, cows, horses and pigs to further learn about their anatomy. Along with these courses, Vander Wiel also takes courses relating to the field of veterinary medicine that focus on building his medical skills. He says that he enjoys every class, as they are giving a good foundation for the technical and applicable skills for his future career goals. Not only does he love what he is learning, he also loves getting to spend time with the people that share his classes.

Vander Wiel’s time in the Department of Biology at UNI prepared him for the Veterinary program that he is in now. He recalls how Mary McDade’s anatomy and physiology course was challenging, but made his first semester in the vet program seem like a review. He says that there aren’t many universities that have a course about immunology, but says this course at UNI prepared him for Iowa State.

Not only did Vander Wiel have a great learning experience at his time at UNI, but he also has a lot of positive memories of football games, marching band and going to other musical events such as the Tallcorn Jazz Festival. He was also involved in Jazz Panthers during his freshman year as a trombone player.

After he graduates, Vander Wiel hopes to become a small animal veterinarian with the eventual goal of owning his own clinic.
Micayla Dawson is a senior at UNI majoring in Instrumental Music Education. Dawson is originally from Misawa, Japan, and Maryland but has lived in Iowa for the last 12 years. Her primary instrument is the trumpet. Outside of school, Dawson enjoys rock-climbing, reading, spending time with friends and Netflix.

Dawson decided in high school that UNI was the right fit when she competed in the Tallcorn Jazz Festival as well as the Thespian Festival on the campus. She was influenced to go to UNI since it is one of the best music schools in the state as well as having a good Teacher Education program. Her, like many other students, found the size of UNI to fit her very well.

“I appreciate that though it is a small university, UNI provides all of the same opportunities that a large university would have.”

During Dawson’s time at UNI, she has been actively involved in many activities and organizations that relate to her music career. Dawson was a member of the Panther Marching Band for four years and held a leadership position for two of those years. She has participated in the pep band for three years and held a leadership position for two of those years. Many other organizations she has been involved with include jazz band for two years, symphonic band, concert band, winter drumline, UNI IBA, Tau Beta Sigma, and also as a Recording Assistant and Music Ambassador for the School of Music. Not only have these many organizations provided networking connections, leadership, and public speaking skills, but also an opportunity to grow as a more confident future educator.

Some of Dawson's most memorable highlights from her time in the music department include when she, “earned a grant to research the use of pop music as a supplement to the traditional recorder sequence, and will be taking that research to the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Memphis later this spring.” She has also found valuable experience from coordinating LED lights for shows and traveling abroad in London.

After graduating in May Dawson hopes to teach middle or high school band, and have the opportunity to teach overseas. Acquiring a master’s degree in the future is also a possibility for Dawson. Her advice to any prospective students coming into the School of Music is, “There are endless opportunities available, and don’t be afraid to try new things!”
For this past school year, the Department of Art has been hosting the Meryl Norton Hearst Lecture Series. This year, there were five artists invited by faculty to the Hearst Lectures, all artists who utilized humor in their artwork. The artists were David Suter, Mark Dion, Sunkoo Yuh, Wendy Red Star and Aaron Draplin. Each artist gave a lecture about their work, and some also did demonstrations.

Joann Schnabel, ceramics professor, invited Sunkoo Yuh, a ceramic artist originating from Korea. Schnabel originally saw Sunkoo’s artwork in Chicago a number of years ago at SOFA (Sculptural Objects and Functional Art Expo), which is held each fall at Navy Pier. Yuh focuses on figurative ceramic sculptures, which consist of forms including plants, animals, fish and human figures. His artworks are based upon many things, especially Korean folklore. Schnabel says that Yuh’s artwork inspires her because of its large scale and use of brightly colored glazes. Schnabel wanted to invite Yuh as an artist because she thought it would be a great experience for the students to see him build one of his sculptures here at UNI. Schnabel also wants to inspire others who might not know much about ceramics, and show them how ceramics is a diverse medium that can be used to create functional and sculptural artwork.

Suter came during October of 2016, and talked about his illustrations, many of which included political commentary and were included in The Washington Post. He illustrated during the Vietnam War, Nixon and Watergate controversies, and his political artworks have become known as “Suterisms.” His works have also been published in the New York Times, Harper’s Magazine, Rolling Stone, Time, The Progressive, The Atlantic along with other publications.
Mark Dion, who came in January, is an artist who focuses on conceptual art and uses scientific presentations in his installations. His artwork has been showcased in a variety of major public solo exhibitions, and works of his can be experienced at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Tate Gallery of London, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles among others.

Wendy Red Star and Aaron Draplin both visited in March. Red Star uses a variety of mediums, such as photography, sculpture, video, fiber arts and performance that express intersections of Native American ideologies in both historical and contemporary society. Her art is heavily influenced by her cultural background of the Crow tribe. Her works have been exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fondation Cartier pour l’Art Contemporain, Portland Art Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art and more.

Draplin is a graphic designer who specializes in logo design, and loves to relate his designs for the average, working-class citizen. He currently owns and runs the Draplin Design Company, and creates logos and designs for clients across the country such as Coal Heawear, the Union Binding Company, Snowboard Magazine, Ride Snowboards, Chunklet Magazine, Cobra Dogs and more.
The University of Northern Iowa Communication Studies Department is launching a brand new program, Digital Media.

The launch took place on Friday, March 30, 2017 in Lang Auditorium. Assistant Professor Phillip Hopper explained the event’s layout. “The event started in Lang Auditorium then moved to the ground floor studio area, which includes the TV News Studio, the Sound Stage and the Interpreter’s Theatre,” he said.

During the launch, student work was also featured. “We showcased student work from all three emphasis areas and most important the ways that these three areas overlap and intersect,” Hopper said. Additionally, there was a one-minute video contest judged by Hopper himself, David O’Shields and Rob Bauer, an alum employed by the local On Media Production Company.

The new digital media program will offer the following three areas of concentration: digital journalism, digital media leadership, and digital media production. The curriculum to support these three majors all relate to digital media. For Digital Journalism, the classes will teach the resources that are available in social media to produce stories that are newsworthy. Digital Media Leadership courses focus on using several media platforms to market and monetize content. Courses offered for Digital Media Production include introductory, intermediate, and advanced classes in video, audio, and interactive formations. “All courses emphasize creativity and innovation,” Hopper added.

The planning to launch the Digital Media Program has been in the works for a while. Hopper explained how UNI and the surrounding community began planning the event approximately one year ago, and it has been an ongoing process since then. Hopper also added that planning over the past year had been a challenge. “The biggest obstacle is keeping all the details organized in an event with so many moving parts,” he said.

“We hope that students are as excited as we are about the potential for this new program and that the program will expand in the future,” Hopper concluded.
Recently, a team of students attended the National Cyber Defense Competition (NCDC) held at Iowa State University on February 4, 2017.

Departmental Head, Eugene Wallingford said that approximately fifteen students attended the competition. Many of those students are affiliated with the Cedar Valley Linux Users Group (CedarLUG), an organization on campus, but it was not a requirement to attend. “There were several students that participated simply because they heard about it through word of mouth,” he added. The students spent countless evenings, as well as weekends configuring services, defenses, and networks to prepare for NCDS.

NCDC is a “capture-and-place-flags” event, as explained by Wallingford. The competition consisted of teams of four to eight students, with fourteen teams competing. The teams of students were responsible for protecting their computer systems and components from being attacked by the “red team,” which consisted of computer system professionals. Wallingford explained that teams of students were only responsible for protecting their computer systems, as it was not a hacking competition. “The competing teams do not hack other servers or networks. This is exclusively a secure-and-defend competition,” he stated. To earn points: the team must maintain user services and functionality, through documentation of attacks from the red team, and finally though several other technological activities.

Through the grading criteria, the top three teams earned awards at the competition. Although the UNI teams were not rewarded with trophies, Wallingford said that they were rewarded with the learning experience. “These events put students in situations that are not able to be experienced in the classroom,” he stated.

Wallingford added that several of the students that participated in NCDS also attended a similar CDC competition that was hosted by the Argonne National Laboratory on April 1, 2017.
The Earth and Environmental Science Department geomorphology class has been working on a geo-service project led by Dr. Chad Heinzel. Beginning in the Fall of 2016, the project has continued to be worked on this semester.

Heinzel explained that the project is centered on a rural to urban dry watershed in which UNI resides in. “We are characterizing the geomorphic and environmental aspects of our watershed in an effort to promote the understanding of fluvial processes (e.g. sedimentation, contamination, and flooding) and landscape development,” he said. To collect data, the geomorphology students are building a geographic information system (GIS), with site-specific field descriptions of landforms, soil, and bank properties. The students also did laboratory research such as chemical, XRF, XRD, ICM-MS, and physical and particle sizes and colors. The laboratory research will help the students with their understanding, according to Heinzel. "The laboratory research will be used to facilitate a greater understanding of the ‘health’ of Dry Run Creek.”

Heinzel also mentioned that communicating the scientific findings of the project will encourage conservative measures through community engagement. “These data will provide valuable information as the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District and to the Dry Run Creek Watershed Coordinator, Joshua Balk, moving forward in attempts to improve the geologic and environmental health of our local drainage network,” he said.

The entire class consisting of 21 undergraduate students and one graduate student who all began working on the project during the Fall of 2016. The class was divided into four different groups, each responsible for different parts of the project. “Each of the research groups took ‘ownership’ of different sections/branches of Dry Run Creek. We took time out of our geomorphology class each week to gauges each group’s progress and go over any problems or best practices,” Heinzel explained.

While working on the project, the students faced obstacles that are common within a group, such as: scheduling, different perspectives on the research, equipment failure, storms and floods, temperature changes etc., and keeping up with other course work. Heinzel also said that working with landowners to be able to access the stream in and out of Cedar Falls was often a challenge.

To help fund the research project, Heinzel was awarded a grant through UNI’s Conservation
Corps, funded by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. He explained that the grant helped pay the four students selected to continue working on the project and supported research for the spring, as well as presenting the results.

Heinzel says that the report of results will be presented at two different events. “We have two presentation at the upcoming Iowa Academy of Science meeting … [and] We will be presenting our final report to the Dry Run Creek Advisory Board this Spring.” The group is also planning on participating in UNI’s Earth Day Celebration in April. Heinzel added that the group is presenting the results of the project later this year in October, at the Geological Society of America meeting in Seattle Washington.

As for the outcome of the project, Heinzel has three main hopes for the results. The first is to provide a meaningful learning experience to students through the applied project. He also hopes has to make collaborations easier between UNI, the Dry Run Creek Advisory Board, the Iowa Geological Survey, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Cedar Falls to understand and improve the quality of the watershed. The project should provide accurate geological data to the local watershed advisory board to help increase more knowledge of the stream, mitigating the negative effects of urbanizations, and working towards creating a healthy stream and community. Finally, Heinzel hopes the project’s efforts will remove the Dry Run Creek from Iowa’s list of impaired streams. He added that he would like to do more work like this. “I would like to do similar geomorphologic characterizations of our other local streams (Miller and Black Hawk Creeks) and elsewhere in Iowa,” he concluded.
Kyle Gray, an Associate Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences, is currently finishing up his eighth year teaching here at UNI. His most current development within the department has been creating new courses for students majoring in Earth or Environmental Sciences.

Along with being a professor, Gray uses his time conducting scientific research for the publication. He has written a number of papers using work produced during his time in graduate school. For one study on the role professors’ teaching methods have on students, Gray analyzed over 10,000 student responses to questions asked in an LAC geology course at the University of Akron.

Gray’s most recent scientific essay was just published in the *Journal of Geoscience Education* in February of this year. The paper, titled “Assessing Gains in Science Teaching Self-Efficacy After Completing An Inquiry-Based Earth Science Course,” was based on his study of students’ self-efficacy, which can be explained as one’s belief in their ability to complete a given task; not their ability to do the job, but rather their belief that they can do that job.

For his paper, Gray looked at early childhood education and elementary education majors, of all grade levels, who were taking an earth science content course designed for their students. The majoring students’ self-efficacy towards teaching science was measured by administering a standardized questionnaire called the STEBI, which would compare their scores from the end of the semester to what they scored in the beginning of the term. Once the data was all gathered, a computer statistics program calculated the difference present between the course assessments.

At the end of the study, Gray was able to affirm that majoring students who take science content courses designed for their students’ have boosted attitudes towards teaching science. In furthering this study, Gray will be taking the results of the data from other LAC Earth science courses for additional papers.

Following the publishing of his paper, Gray’s research has been moving away from student self-efficacy towards a new study of peoples’ thoughts on the concept of mass extinctions. In the future, he hopes to continue finding interesting and challenging questions to research and understand, as to advance his teaching of geoscience.
Suzanne Dripps has been named the new Clinic Director at the Roy Eblen Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Northern Iowa. Dripps has worked in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders since August of 2013. Before being promoted to clinic director, Dripps worked as a supervisor and as the communicative disorder specialist. Before beginning her career, Dripps attended UNI and earned her BA and MA from the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department.

Dripps is very excited to be at UNI. “I have grown, on both, a personal and professional level while being here at UNI. I have very high personal motivation to be the best I can,” she said. Dripps explained her favorite quote as: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader” by John Quincy Adams. Dripps lives by this quote by serving as a mentor in which she is driven by her students. “I want to be a positive and powerful mentor for them, so that they can become the BEST speech language pathologists,” she added.

Since arriving at UNI, Dripps has been very involved. She has been involved with supervising undergraduate and graduate clinicians in the department, as well as a past graduate advisor and undergraduate student advising. She has also served as an administrator for the multifaceted camera system and graduate student tracking software. Dripps also said that she has worked as an instructor, and has been a tour guide for Panther Open Houses. Another role Dripps is active in is in advising the annual Iowa Conference of Communicative Disorders, which provides continuing education to Speech Pathologists in the area.

Dripps has also been an advisor for the student organization, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). “I love this advisor role, and being able to watch the students grow as servant leaders within our community,” she said. Her favorite memory during her time at UNI is when NSSLHA won student organization of the year, the first year she served as an advisor for the organization. “I am so proud of our student organization!” she shared.

As the clinic director, Dripps has acquired new duties such as clinic scheduling, internship placement, scheduling externships. She is also responsible for instructing and overseeing the entire clinic and the daily activities. “I have worn many hats within our department… I’m loving every minute of it!” she said.

Dripps says the most gratifying part of her job is working with the students and watching them grow into professionals. “I find great joy knowing that I was a part of the success of so many people,” she said. Dripps hopes to continue to make the Roy Eblen Speech and Hearing Clinic as successful as possible. “I want to continue to make sure that we give back, not only to our campus community, but also to our general community,” she concluded.
CALANDAR OF EVENTS
APRIL – MAY

DR. SEUSS WANTS YOU
April 4, (All day) to June 3, (All day)
Grout Museum of History & Science,
503 South St., Waterloo, IA

FACING PREJUDICE
April 4, (All day) to June 3, (All day)
Grout Museum of History & Science,
503 South St., Waterloo, IA

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
April 20, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
NW Courtyard, Maucker Union

PERFORMANCE POWER HOUR
April 20, 7:30 pm
Room 040, Lang Hall

INTO THE WOODS
April 21, 7:00 pm
April 22, 2:00 pm
April 23, 2:00 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: UNI OPERA’S “DEATH BY PIASTRE”
April 24, 6:00 pm
Davis Hall, GBPAC

B.F.A. GROUP EXHIBITION
April 24, 7:00 pm to May 6, 5:00 pm
UNI Gallery of Art

FILM SCREENING: ‘THE ARMOR OF LIGHT’
April 24, 7:30 pm
Auditorium, Lang Hall

WOMEN SING! WOMEN’S CHORUS FESTIVAL
April 25, (All day)
GBPAC

THE WILLIAM AND STEPHANIE CLOYESY DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES
April 25, 10:00 am
February 12, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
ScholarSpace 301, Rod Library
April 25, 2017 - 7:30 pm
Room 002, Sabin Hall

FINAL THURSDAY READING SERIES FEATURING KEITH LESMEISTER
April 27, 7:00 pm
The Hearst Center for the Arts

NEW HORIZONS BAND CONCERT
May 1, 7:30 pm
Great Hall, GBPAC