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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Note to editors: High-resolution photos of the winners are online at

<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/PowellNancy.jpg>

<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/HallettAdrienne.jpg>

<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/WehnerCarlWanda.jpg>

UNI Alumni Association to present Heritage Honours Awards during Homecoming

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- The University of Northern Iowa Alumni Association will present its annual Heritage Honours Awards during a reception and program, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The awards program honors the accomplishments of UNI graduates and their service to the university.

Nancy Powell, a 1970 graduate of UNI, currently living in Kathmandu, Nepal, will receive an Alumni Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding professional accomplishments. Adrienne Hallett of Washington, D.C., a 1997 graduate, will receive the Young Alumni Award, recognizing graduates 40 years of age or younger who have excelled in their profession and demonstrated commitment to their community. Emeritus faculty members Carl (B.A. '51 and M.A. '59) and Wanda Wehner (B.A. '52 and M.A. '66), of Cedar Falls, will receive the Alumni Service Award, recognizing graduates who have shown long and continuous service to their community and the university.

The recipients will also be recognized during the Saturday, Oct. 11, Panther Fest, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., as part of a brief program at 10:30 a.m. The celebration will be held on the southwest corner of College and West 23rd Streets on the UNI campus, and includes a "Virtual Parade," food, games for kids and more.

Powell, the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal-- her formal title is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Nepal-- is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service Class of Career Minister. A native of LeMars, Powell majored in history-teaching at UNI and taught in Dayton, Iowa for six and one-half years before joining the Department of State. Just before her posting last summer to Nepal, she had most recently served as the National Intelligence Officer for South Asia at the National Intelligence Council. Prior to this, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the Department of State.

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UNI HERITAGE HONOURS RECIPIENTS / ADD ONE

In 2006, Powell received the Homeland Security Medal. Service to America Medals are presented annually by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service to celebrate excellence in the federal civil service. Powell led key diplomatic efforts to organize international preparations for an avian flu pandemic in her State Department post as Special Representative on Avian and Pandemic Influenza.

Earlier in her career, Powell served as the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ghana and Uganda.

Hallett, a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services & Education, since 2001, was nominated for the Young Alumni Award "because she is a superb example of the quality of a UNI degree and of how far that degree can take a person in her professional life," according to UNI philosophy and world religions faculty members **Martha Reineke** and **Susan Hill**.

They cited her outstanding academic and extracurricular work while a UNI student and wrote that they had not been surprised that she had gone on from UNI and "made exceptional contributions in her chosen profession. . . .working on multiple problems concurrently while focusing proactively on the long-term goals of the senators she represents.

"Hallett regularly demonstrates expertise in evaluating thousands of budget proposals and awarding \$40 million in direct grants annually. . . .Her outstanding analytical skills, honed during her study of philosophy and religion at UNI, enable her to successfully negotiate contentious issues including policy and funding disputes, resulting in the allocation of \$20 billion in a variety of national programs" while "a member of the Senate professional staff."

Hallett has returned to UNI to deliver an alumni lecture in the Department of Philosophy & World Religions, sharing with students key features of her work and explaining how the skills she developed as a major in the department prepared her for the work she does every day, citing her skills in critical reflection and ethical decision-making as crucial to her career success.

Hallett earned a master of theological studies degree from the Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn., and worked as an aid to U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), where she authored legislation on pension reform, hunger issues and closed captioning. An active community volunteer, she prepares tax returns for low-income families, works to support the ALS Association and research on Lou Gehrig's Disease and works with at-risk elementary school children.

Her awards and honors include the 2006 Distinguished Congressional Staff Award from the American Psychological Association, the 2005 and 2006 Congressional Champion Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers and the 2007 Public Radio Leadership Award presented by National Public Radio.

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UNI HERITAGE HONOURS RECIPIENTS / ADD TWO

"Carl and Wanda Wehner have been visionary and tireless contributors to their professions and to their community," wrote Joel Haack, dean of the UNI College of Natural Sciences, in nominating them for the Alumni Service Award. "They were central figures in the growth of their respective academic departments and are part of the backbone that supports the strength and widespread reputations of the mathematics, computer science and chemistry departments. In fact, Carl was the driver behind the creation of the computer science department at UNI.

"They were educational role models to their colleagues as well as to the students in their classrooms, and have been included in many academic and professional honoraries. In the Cedar Valley, Carl and Wanda are known for their devotion to mission work and for being in service to others."

Efforts and organizations that have been supported by their gifts of time and resources include: the UNI Emeritus Association, UNI Alumni Association, Friends of the UNI Museum, Cedar Valley United Way, First United Methodist Church (FUMC) and United Methodist Women (where Wanda has also been unofficial leader of the quilting projects), Cedar Falls Mennonite Church, Cedar Falls Band Shell, Self Help International, Crop Walk, Cedar Falls Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Little Red Schoolhouse, Cedar Valley Food Bank, and the annual FUMC Ingathering for Mission and Northeast District Ingathering.

In speaking of their service to UNI, Haack wrote that during their tenures at UNI, they were outstanding leaders in the classroom and in their disciplines and have been as generous in their support of colleagues and UNI students since their retirement as they were while at UNI. They have created four scholarship endowments that support undergraduate students across four disciplines at UNI: computer science, mathematics teaching, chemistry teaching and elementary education.

"They are truly a two-person public relations team for our university," he concluded.

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