WORKING TO RECOVER: GEOLOGY PROFESSOR, COMMUNITY ACTOR BECOMES ‘SUPER VOLUNTEER’

Courtesy of Juli Probasco-Sowers, Rebuild Iowa Office

Ken De Nault of rural Cedar Falls, a volunteer at the Waterloo Community Playhouse, became a “super volunteer” after the 2008 floods decimated the Playhouse, according to the Playhouse Marketing Manager, Danny Katz.

“There were a lot of volunteers who came to the forefront when disaster struck, but Ken not only put in the most hours, he brought in most of the volunteers,” said Katz. “He also hired his own crew to help and paid them out of his own pocket.”

Katz was so impressed with De Nault’s efforts that he nominated him for the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service earlier this year. De Nault was given the award in July by Lieutenant General Ron Dardis, executive director of the Rebuild Iowa Office. De Nault, who also serves on the Playhouse’s board of directors, is among nine individuals and organizations in Iowa who received the award for exemplary work in Iowa’s recovery from the 2008 floods and tornadoes.

De Nault has been involved for years as an on-stage volunteer acting in numerous productions. He also serves as the

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Playhouse board’s treasurer. However, since the flooding, De Nault’s volunteering and involvement have grown exponentially, Katz said. “He really rose to the occasion when we needed him the most,” Katz said. “He’s helped not only with contributions, cleanup and things we needed, but also with treasurer reports and other functions.”

Following the flood, De Nault helped muck out the building and repair the Playhouse offices. He helped carry out props, furniture and costumes that could be salvaged and threw out equipment and props that could not be saved. Additionally, De Nault spent his own time and money to purchase and install a sump pump in the basement of the Playhouse office building, located near the Playhouse, to make the area safer, Katz said.

Katz is particularly impressed in light of just how busy De Nault’s life is, even without all the Playhouse activities. De Nault is a geology professor at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, a race car driver with a Midwest Division Championship under his belt and a member of the Geological Society of America and the Iowa Academy of Science.

“Ken De Nault’s heroic volunteer efforts will never be forgotten by all of our volunteers and our staff, nor should they be. People like Ken enable us to go on having the fun and creating the magic that has been the tradition at the Waterloo Community Playhouse for nearly a century.”
**ART**

Roy Behrens gave a speech entitled, "Looking Closer at Grant Wood: What Did He Do and How Did He Do It?" at the Black Box Theatre inside the Arts Center at Iowa Western Community College on October 3. During his slide presentation, Behrens talked about Wood's training, influences and achievements, creative process, methods and failings and his basic beliefs about art. Behrens also included rare historic photographs of Wood and his students.

**BIOLOGY**


**COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

October 1-2, the UNI Forensics team hosted the William Brindley Invitational, a two-day, all events high school tournament. Twelve schools attended with nearly 200 competitors. In addition, the tournament staff included 20+ students who were not members of the UNI Forensics team.

The debate sweepstakes was won by West Des Moines Valley and the speech sweepstakes was won by Iowa City West High School. Iowa City West won both policy debate divisions, novice and varsity.

"Fast Forward: Eyes on the Future," an electronic media workshop that brings together students and media professionals, was hosted at UNI on October 1, in Lang Hall. This sixth annual "Fast Forward" workshop was sponsored by the Iowa Broadcasters Association (IBA) and Quarton-McElroy/IBA Endowment Fund. Interactive sessions were offered in a variety of settings to help media students prepare for their first job. Industry experts led discussions on best practices in broadcast journalism and helped attendees polish their broadcasting skills.

Numerous electronic media alumni returned to UNI to present workshops. The keynote address was given by Mark Steines, co-anchor of Entertainment Tonight. Presenters included Julie Kraft, senior broadcast consultant with Frank N. Magid Associates, Inc.; Paul Salisbury, commercial videographer and editor at WHO-TV 13; Teresa Hein, a former senior placement specialist at Frank N. Magid Associates; Pat Blank, senior news producer at Iowa Public Radio KUNI; Polly Carver-Kimm, public information officer for the Iowa Department of Public Health and press secretary for the governor's office; Eric Braley and Michael Rueber, co-owners of Around the Corner Productions; Tim Seelinger, senior video editor at the Mayo Clinic; John Wiedenheft, producer/director at KSMQ-TV; Dan Rouse, TV advertising services manager for On-Media; Keith Hindman, chief operations officer and co-owner of Metro Studios; and Caitlin Varcoe, creative services producer at KAAL-TV.
The IGAEA is an association of educators in partnership with industry, dedicated to sharing theories, principles, techniques and processes relating to graphic communications and imaging technology. The association has an international membership and holds conferences in regional areas in addition to the annual conference that highlights annual activities and events.

Sara Smith, along with graduate students, Lee Geisinger and Jim Volgarino, made presentations during the four-day conference held at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, July 24-29.

Sara Smith presented a workshop entitled, "Collaborative Teaching in the Graphic Communications Curriculum." The presentation focused on innovative methods for using collaborative teaching and learning experiences to best serve graphic communications students. Participants were shown the trials and tribulations of planning and implementing collaborative teaching and learning strategies in a graphic communications program.

Geisinger and Volgarino also presented a workshop entitled, "Making Decisions on your Graphics Lab in 2010." The presentation explored the decision-making process for integrating technology into the graphic communications lab environment. Geisinger and Volgarino were also two of nine participants awarded the Paul D. Von Holtz Conference Incentive Award for first-time attendance as educators at the conference.

The production is funded in part by the Department of Communication Studies, the Colleges of Humanities and Fine Arts and Natural Sciences and the Student Services Fee Committee. For more information, contact Angela Glunz at glunza@uni.edu or (319) 273-6728.

Members of the Department of Industrial Technology’s Graphic Technologies (GT) program made presentations this past summer at the annual conference of the International Graphic Arts Educators Association (IGAEA).

Jesse Swan was recently elected to membership in the International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE). Swan was nominated by alumnus of UNI, Paul Stanwood, now professor emeritus of the University of British Columbia, internationally renowned professor of English Renaissance literature and culture and past president of the IAUPE.
MODERN LANGUAGES

- Elena Dobrila represented the UNI Summer Institutes for Language Teachers of Spanish (UNISSIST Program) and French (Angers Program) at the Nebraska International Languages Association Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 1-2.

- Michael Prahl recently had his computerized test bank revised and published for use with W. W. Norton's Western Civilizations (17th edition), by Judith Coffin, Robert Stacey, Joshua Cole and Carol Symes. Prahl's Computerized Test Bank questions are organized around a concept map and are ranked by knowledge, type, difficulty and section reference.

- Anne Lair published an article in the journal, Philologie im Netz (University of Berlin), entitled, "Mise en scène culinaire: Le repas de fête de Gervaise dans L'Assommoir" ("Culinary Display: Gervaise's Birthday Meal in L'Assommoir").

Lair also gave a presentation at the Iowa World Language Association on October 8 entitled, "A la Cour de Louis XIV" ("The Court of Louis XIV").

MUSIC

- Bill Koch presented his one-man show, "Walt Whitman Live!!" at the Vincent House, in Fort Dodge, Iowa on September 26. The event was sponsored by the YWCA and Humanities Iowa. Koch has also published a textbook for College Writing and Research called, Writing and Research for College: Developing an Imaginative Literacy.

- John Vallentine has been named one of the recipients of the 2010 Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Merit Award. This award is the highest honor given by the Southeast Alumni Association. Vallentine was presented the award at the Show Me Center on Friday, October 29, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Alumni Merit awards are presented to graduates who have brought distinction to themselves and to Southeast Missouri State University. Vallentine received a Bachelor of Music Education from that institution.

He received the award along with a photo journalist from 60 Minutes, an agricultural products owner, an international academy owner, a U.S. attorney’s office division chief and a president of a genome resources company. Vallentine was chosen from among 70,000 alumni members for this honor and represents the School of Visual and Performing Arts at that institution.

- Jazz Band One's 20th recording, "Look Both Ways," was released October 12. Highlights include new student and faculty compositions and arrangements from trombonist, Mike Conrad, and pianist, Peter Roberts, as well as two new works by Director Chris Merz. Also included in the set are three compositions by 2006 UNI graduate, Kyle Novak, who joins the group on electronics and keyboards for two of his pieces. The album features a mixture of tracks recorded both in concert and in the new state-of-the-art recording studio in Russell Hall. All selections were recorded during the 2009-10 academic year. CD copies are available for $10. If interested, please contact Chris Merz in the School of Music. For those who buy music digitally, the album is also available via download at <www.cdbaby.com>.
Catherine Zeman was appointed to the Governor’s Green Advisory Committee. This committee is a governor-appointed advisory board that will provide guidance to the Governor’s Office, State of Iowa, on recycling and sustainability initiatives with particular focus on the development of an Iowa specific green certification program for recycling businesses and green manufacturers.

By January 1, 2011, the Green Advisory Committee is to submit a report to the General Assembly which will include recommendations for creating, administering, funding and periodically reviewing green certification programs for businesses. For businesses to be granted “Green Certification,” certain requirements must be met in waste reduction, reuse and recycling according to the standards set by the Green Advisory Committee.

The Green Advisory Committee will also make recommendations to the State of Iowa’s Governor’s Office and Department of Natural Resources for developing a resource catalog listing Green Certified Businesses and other resources available statewide, while developing a statewide educational communication and outreach resource program for all sectors of recycling.

THEATRE

Gwendolyn Schwinke performed this summer with the Oxford Shakespeare Festival in Oxford, Mississippi.

Graphic Communications Name Change

The business of communication has experienced dramatic changes in the last 20 years, and those changes have had a marked impact on the educational process. Understanding the technology that controls this communication is a challenge. A program that is part of UNI’s Department of Industrial Technology has positioned itself to handle the change and provide students with the skills to work in a dynamic and growing industry.

Graphic Technologies is the new name of what was once called Graphic Communications, a program that dates back nearly 30 years to when printing technology was the primary emphasis, and students focused on specific job skills.

“Today the industry is expecting potential employees to have a much broader understanding of the imaging technologies that are becoming the norm,” explains Sara Smith, Graphic Technologies program coordinator. “We can’t just focus on single technologies any longer as more and more graphics-related segments begin integrating more digitally-based processes within their production offerings” she said. “Our effort to broaden the course offerings and make the program closer to what is reflected within the industry is what moved us to look at changing the program’s name.”

Graphic Technologies better describes what students are learning within the Graphic Communications industry. From working with the initial creative process to create various types of communications to understanding and managing the final production processes, the program gives students the tools to make communication function as it is meant to happen.
The screening of the film, "Living Downstream", based on the book by the renowned biologist, Sandra Steingraber, will be held on Wednesday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the CEEE Auditorium.

In her book, as the film explores, she reveals the emerging science, "our environment is playing a bigger role in the story of cancer than previously assumed." That is good news, according to Steingraber, because we can do something about it. "We can choose, for example, to change our antiquated chemical policy. We can resolve, collectively, to divorce our economy from its current dependencies on toxic chemicals known to trespass our bodies. We can decide that the presence of cancer-causing substances in our air, water and food is too expensive."

In the foreword to the second edition of Living Downstream, she writes, "A 2007 investigation published by the American Cancer Society identified 216 chemicals known to cause breast cancer in animals. Of these, 73 are found in our food or consumer products; 35 are air pollutants; and 29 of them are produced in the United States in large amounts every year."

Steingraber advocates for a precautionary approach as suggested by many cancer researchers. In October of 2008, she submitted to the President’s Cancer Panel: "The most direct way to prevent cancer is to stop putting cancer-causing agents into our indoor and outdoor environments in the first place."

This event is in honor of Breast Cancer Prevention Month, and it is free and open to the public.
The UNI Gallery of Art will be featuring its newest exhibition, "Action is Eloquence," November 1-30. "Action is Eloquence" is a thematic invitational exhibition about desire, intention and direction. This exhibition is part of a year-long comprehensive series of Gallery events entitled, "Time Is Ripe," which features the art and scholarly works of the UNI Department of Art graduates. Participants for this month's exhibition include: Bruce Charlesworth, Dawn Gettler, Karla Hackenmiller and Tom Mueske.

Lectures will be held on November 1, 7:00 p.m., KAB 111, by artist, Bruce Charlesworth; and on November 2, 7:00 p.m., KAB 111, by artists, Dawn Gettler and Tom Mueske. Receptions that follow are sponsored in part by the Florence Hartwig Foundation and the UNI Alumni Association.

Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday; and noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. However, the Gallery will be closed November 20-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Gallery is located at the northeast corner of Hudson Road and West 27th Street, Cedar Falls, on the main floor of Kamerick Art Building South and is free and open to the public. For more information call, (319) 273-3095 or visit <www.uni.edu/artdept/gallery/>.
The Regents Award for Faculty Excellence is presented by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to faculty members who are outstanding university citizens and who have rendered significant service to his or her institution and/or the State of Iowa. This year's award winners included, Professor of Theater, Gretta Berghammer; Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Ken Bleile; Professor of Philosophy and World Religions, Harry Brod; and Professor of Communication Studies, Catherine Palczewski.

The Regents Award for Staff Excellence is presented by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to a member of the Professional and Scientific staff or the Supervisory and Confidential Staff who is an outstanding university citizen and who has rendered significant service to his or her institution and/or the State of Iowa. This award was presented to Laboratory Specialist of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Linda Paar.

Other awards recognizing the accomplishments of the spring and fall 2010 faculty were the Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Liberal Arts Core to Professor of Mathematics, Doug Shaw; the Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award to Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Gayle Pohl; and the Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching presented to Professor of Physics, Michele Roth.

An invited essay by Professor of Art, Roy Behrens, on "Color and Camouflage," will be a central feature in the fall 2010 issue of the international architectural magazine, Ark, which is published in Germany and distributed in more than 35 countries. Among those invited in the past have been German cultural historian, Thomas Macho, and American cognitive scientist, Donald Hoffman. In addition, he is one of five artists and designers whose work is included in the "Collage and Assemblage Invitational Exhibition" at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. The exhibition, which runs from October 13 through December 1, also includes works by John Washington (from Lancashire, UK) and Iowa-based artists Mary Snyder Behrens, David Kamm and Daniel Weiss.
What made you decide on UNI?
I needed a school that would allow me to further my passions in both mathematics and Russian. When it came down to it, UNI was the only school that allowed me to do just that and not get lost in a crowd of 30-40,000 students. As it turns out, I couldn’t have picked a better place.

Do you belong to any on-campus organizations? How does that involvement enhance your college experience?
I spend a lot of time as a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. I currently serve as the brotherhood chair, philanthropy chair, webmaster and a delegate to the interfraternity council. Going to college is about making the most out of the experience and not sitting idly by. Being a part of SigEp has helped me do just that by taking on leadership positions and participating in our philanthropies, social events and development programs.

What is a memorable experience you have had at UNI?
The summer before my freshman year, I lived in the city of Kazan, Russia (located 12 hours east of Moscow). While I was there, I had the opportunity to have dinner with representatives of the FLEX program, which sends Russian students to the U.S. to study English. While wearing my purple “True Panther” shirt, the FLEX staff immediately asked me if I was a student at UNI! We then proceeded to spend half an hour talking about the great Russian program here, and how they love sending students to UNI. If there’s one place I never expected to hear about how great UNI was, it would be over dinner, on the other side of the world, with Russians.

What would you tell prospective students about attending UNI?
My biggest piece of advice would be to just get yourself out there and pursue your interests. There is bound to be a club devoted to what you enjoy filled with people who are just like you. You just need to put in the effort into finding them.

Have you had any influential teachers/advisors?
My most influential teachers are also my advisors, Assistant Professor Theron Hitchman and Professor Ann Marie Basom. When I asked Hitchman about research opportunities in the math department as an undergraduate, his face instantly lit up as he described the projects he was currently interested in pursuing. That summer
How is UNI preparing you for your future/career?
UNI has provided me with a wide variety of experiences that will help me in my future, from researching Wood Turtles in West Virginia and Iowa to studying elephant habitats in Kenya (through Study Abroad) and to all the field experience I get at Price Lab School from my Level II class. These opportunities and experiences have made me the person I am today, and hopefully they will lead me into a prosperous career.

What do you do to relax?
In the spring and fall, I ride my bike around the Cedar Valley’s amazing bike trails. I also bring my camera and take pictures of the local wildlife. While researching elephants in Kenya, I became obsessed with wildlife photography, and the only way I can quench that obsession is by taking photos of the insects of the Cedar Valley. I know they are not as big as an elephant, but when you get up close, who can tell. Also during the fall and spring, I go out to the Cedar Valley Sand Prairie to try and catch bull snakes and lizards. The winter is when I rest and read books.

What are some highlights of your college career?
One of my highlights was camping in West Virginia for a week while doing field research (catching Wood Turtles, other reptiles and amphibians). Other highlights include being allowed to study abroad in Kenya and taking part in Camp Adventure. Through these opportunities, I have climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (the roof of Africa), I have seen the Mountain Gorilla in Uganda, I have climbed to the top of Mount Fuji and have been to 5 of the 22 South Korean National Parks. These have all been life changing opportunities.

What do you hope to do after graduating?
I want to become an international teacher, hopefully in East Africa, and then start my own non-governmental organization (NGO). I plan to have my NGO deal with HIV prevention and community conservation.

Have you had any influential teachers/advisors?
At UNI I have been in plenty of great classes with fantastic teachers. Associate Professor Jeff Tamplin allowed me to help him with his research of Wood Turtles in Iowa and West Virginia. Two professors, Professor Jim Demastes and Associate Professor Theresa Spradling, have showed me that one can connect interesting research, an ability to educate and having a family all in one. Professor Deirdre Heistad quenched my thirst for knowledge on the continent of Africa and even helped me decide on going to Kenya where my life was changed for the better. There are dozens of other teachers at UNI who have changed the way I see the world for the better.
RRTTC's Environmental Education program, “Get Your Green On,” has been recognized by the Iowa Recycling Association as the Best Public Education Program for 2009.

The "Get Your Green On" program incorporated several aspects of learning in order to share with the students, teachers and staff, along with parents, the importance of the 3R’s, water quality and conservation, natural resource conservation, landfill education and energy conservation. Topics were covered through reading books in the classroom, discussion guides, paper and plastic recycling bins given to each classroom and work areas, topical online videos, classroom presentations, field trips, educational books donated to the school library, environmental public service videos created specifically for the schools and performances by magician Timothy Wenk, "The Magic of Recycling", at each school and program information hosted on each schools website. Parent newsletters were also sent home with students in conjunction with the monthly school newsletters with recycling and environmental education information pertaining specifically to Cedar Falls and the Cedar Valley.
The “Get Your Green On” program is the only one of its kind offered in the state of Iowa providing service to over 2,500 students, 300 teachers and staff members and over 5,000 parents. This program coordinated several state and local agencies to bring a complete Environmental Education program to elementary school students, teachers and parents.

The "Get Your Green On" program is also unique due to the large variety of educational methods of delivery being brought to the students, teachers and parents. This program is of high value to our future as it teaches our youth the skills to embrace recycling and reuse practices and gives them the opportunity to practice these skills on a daily basis. By providing this program to all six elementary schools in Cedar Falls, there were significant amounts of materials diverted from the landfill.

- cardboard: 20,500 lbs
- batteries: 17,041 lbs
- clothing: 300 lbs
- paper: 31,295 lbs
- plastics: 28,315 lbs

**TOTAL: 97,451 lbs**
School of Music

Studio Recital, viola
Tuesday, November 2, 6:00 p.m.
Graham Hall, Russell Hall
This recital will feature student musicians from the studio of faculty artist, Julia Bullard. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Cantorei Concert
Tuesday, November 2, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Under the direction of new UNI School of Music Assistant Professor and Conductor, John Wiles, the UNI Cantorei will offer a fall recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*

West African Drum & Kaji-Daiko Ensembles, percussion
Wednesday, November 3, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Under the direction of Associate Professor of Percussion, Randy Hogancamp, the UNI Percussion, West African Drum and Kaji-Daiko (Taiko) Ensembles will offer their fall concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Jazz Panthers & Jazz Band III
Thursday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall
The UNI Jazz Panthers, under the direction of Professor Robert Washut, will offer a fall concert with UNI Jazz Band III. Repertoire and soloists to be announced. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Guest Artist Recital: David Thompson, horn
Friday, November 5, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Visiting artist, David Thompson, will present a horn recital. Thompson is the solo horn of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra in Spain. He is also the horn professor at Escuela Superior de Musica de Cataluna in Spain. Thompson was the winner of International Horn Society Solo Competition and the winner of the International Horn Competition of America, and currently serves as vice president of the International Horn Society. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Faculty Artist Recital:
Dmitri Vorobiev, piano-Beethoven #1
Tuesday, November 9, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
UNI School of Music faculty artist, Dmitri Vorobiev, will present a piano recital featuring the work of Ludwig van Beethoven. The first in a series, Vorobiev plans to perform all piano works of Beethoven in a concert series beginning with this recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*
Northern Iowa Wind Symphony
Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC
Under the direction of UNI School of Music Professor and Conductor, Ronald Johnson, the Wind Symphony will offer its fall concert. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Master Class: Roger Chase, viola
Thursday, November 11, 1:00 p.m.
Room 30, GBPAC
Guest artist, Roger Chase, will present a viola master class. Born in London, Roger Chase studied at the Royal College of Music with Bernard Shore and in Canada with Steven Staryk, also working for a short time with the legendary Lionel Tertis, whose famed Montagnana viola he now plays. He made his debut with the English Chamber Orchestra in 1979, and in 1987 he appeared as a soloist at a Promenade Concert at The Royal Albert Hall in London. He has since played as a soloist or chamber musician in major cities throughout the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, the Middle East, India, most of Eastern and all of Western Europe and Scandinavia. This event is free and open to the public.

UNITUBA Concert
Thursday, November 11, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Under the direction of UNI School of Music Professor of Tuba, Jeffrey Funderburk, the UNITUBA Ensembles will offer a fall recital. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Roger Chase, viola and Michiko Otaki, piano
Friday, November 12, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Roger Chase is a celebrated viola soloist and chamber musician who has performed in major cities throughout the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Middle East, India, most of Eastern and all of Western Europe and Scandinavia. Michiko Otaki, who regularly collaborates with Chase, is a stellar pianist who has recorded and toured with the Slovak Sinfonietta, Bohemian Chamber Philharmonic, Brno Chamber Soloists and the Pilsen Philharmonic. This event is free and open to the public.

UNI Suzuki School Recital Weekend
Saturday & Sunday, November 13 & 14, 8:00 a.m.
Russell Hall
The UNI Suzuki School will present their biannual recital weekend. This event is free and open to the public.

Chamber Wind Players
Monday, November 15, 6:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
The UNI Chamber Wind Players will offer a fall recital under the direction of Professor and Conductor, Ronald Johnson. This event is free and open to the public.

Northwind Quintet
Monday, November 15, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
The Northwind Quintet will offer a fall recital, featuring UNI School of Music faculty artists, Tom Barry, oboe; Amanda McCandless, clarinet; David Rachor, bassoon; and Yu-Ting Su, horn. This event is free and open to the public.

UNI Horn Choir
Tuesday, November 16, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Professor, Yu-Ting Su, the UNI Horn Choir will offer a fall recital. This event is free and open to the public.

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This past May, I led my first study abroad trip to Berlin, Germany, with 15 UNI art students.

The course was unique in that it combined a more common “cultural experience” of touring the city – including its astounding contemporary and historical galleries and museums – with the experience of making art.

As artists, we are used to the uncomfortable feeling of not knowing how our work will turn out. We begin with a plan, but the plan inevitably leads us down paths that we could not have predicted...much like finding our way through a city whose customs, language and expectations are vastly different from our own. The afternoons and evenings in Berlin were spent breathing in this unique culture; always off-balance as we were finding our way.

We saw contemporary artists like Damien Hirst, whose exhibits included a ram, sliced down the center and presented alongside a zebra in tanks of liquid (Hirst was made famous for his display of a large shark that was sliced in similar fashion and shown in the “Sensations” exhibit over a decade ago) and a “painting” made from thousands of houseflies glued in en-masse like a giant exclamation point. On a different day, we saw ancient Greek, Egyptian and even Bronze Age sculpture at the Altes (Old) and Pergamon Museum(s) on Berlin’s famous “museum island.” The students began to see their place as “makers” in a very long history with other, similarly motivated artists.

We used an old apartment space in former East Berlin, where the rent was cheaper than the rest of the city as our studio space. The space was rented by a local artist co-op and was provided by our tour guide, Marcus Ahlers, who is a young sculptor in the contemporary art scene there. The smell of dank plaster and the physical presence of hundred-year-old wallpaper was a constant reminder of the layers of history we were immersed within. Painting and drawing was done on chunks of found materials like posters and advertisements that students found while they were exploring the city the night before. Everything was experimental.

Marcus, our tour guide, arranged a very dense schedule of gallery visits that kept us all moving (we walked several miles each day) and intellectually stimulated. Much of the work, like video and conceptual art that is common in these younger galleries, required a great deal of concentration on our part to discern the various levels of meaning. I relished the times of talking with students about the day’s events on the subway system and during evening meals. It was truly a more intimate experience than what happens during a normal semester course. I think the students formed very strong friendships during this trip, too, as they explored the city in small groups.
Teams from the Department of Computer Science brought home first- and second-place at the National Cyber Defense Competition (CDC) hosted by Iowa State in March. The National CDC challenges teams to set up, maintain and keep secure a large collection of standard computer services such as e-mail, web and user logins, all while being subjected to various attacks and threats by security professionals. Results are based on a combination of the team’s ability to keep its systems running and available to users and its ability to prevent attacks and theft of data.

Students began to prepare for the competition weeks in advance, doing research on tools and state-of-the-art exploits and practicing techniques. The competition itself takes place in one intense 24-hour window.

“"This year more than in the past, students stepped up and took on things that they’d never done before," said Paul Gray, advisor to UNI’s teams. The students have shared "thrilling accounts of situations where teams were successful in their deployment and well-prepared, mournful regret for things they overlooked or where the situation held them at a great disadvantage, and yes, even a bit of drama."

The championship team comprised Dan Boeding, Dan Cash, Nick Cash and Danny Lockard. Finishing second was a team consisting of Mohammed Al Baharnah, Leandro Avila, Andrew Blinkmann, Samantha Fahrmann, Nate Kemmer and J.C. Last. Several other UNI students participated in the competition as well.

This year’s performance built on a tradition of success. Teams from UNI Computer Science placed second and fourth in 2009, with another first-place victory in 2008, and a respectable second-place showing their first appearance in the competition in 2007.

While the UNI National CDC teams have been building this tradition of excellence during the National CDC, they have been developing another tradition of excellence outside of the National CDC. While the National CDC competition lasts just over 24 hours, members of the UNI teams also volunteer many hours of their spare time to mentor high school teams that compete during the annual IT-Adventures High School Cyber Defense Competition that follows in April.

Students from the UNI teams have advised high school Cyber Defense Competition teams from Cedar Falls High School (CFHS) and Northern University High School (NUHS). As they work through network troubleshooting, server configuration and security issues that they will face during the IT-Adventures High School CDC, the members of UNI’s National CDC teams are there to help explain how things are vulnerable and how to address these vulnerabilities.

This tradition of UNI CDC teams volunteering to help the high school teams has also led to networking opportunities of the more personal variety. Danny Lockard and Francisco Mota, two current UNI Department of Computer Science majors and experienced UNI CDC team members, were also members of the CFHS and NUHS (respectively) high school CDC teams.

Through the experiences of the Cyber Defense Competition, UNI computer science students have built friendships and experience while also building up their confidence. A recent graduate from our Computer Science program, Kay Wanous, exemplifies all of these facets. Having competed as a member of the UNI CDC team, serving as a very active mentor for the NUHS high school team, Kay returned after graduating from UNI as an organizer and mentor for a team from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Earlham went home with a third-place trophy under Kay’s mentoring.

The Cyber Defense Competitions have brought out the best in our computer science majors. The CDCs have provided an environment where our students form a collaborative community and where students are transformed into teachers.
What was your first impression of UNI, and what is your impression now?
My first impression of UNI was that it was a bigger university which could still provide a “small town” feel. I still have this same opinion of UNI, but I now regard it more by the professional experiences and faculty that I’ve had the opportunity to be involved with. The speech-pathology program feels like home, and I not only greatly respect our faculty, but I really appreciate that they speak to me as a colleague and not always as a student.

How is UNI preparing you for your future/career?
UNI is really preparing me for my career because I have had a variety of clinical experiences. Most universities don’t provide clinical experiences to undergraduates, so having that opportunity here put me one step ahead in even applying to graduate schools. Now that I’m almost through the graduate program, I appreciate the critical thinking and clinical mind-set that has been instilled in me through coursework and practicums. While I recognize that there is plenty I have yet to learn, I have every confidence that earning a degree from UNI in Speech-Language Pathology will be a great advantage to me.

What would you tell prospective students about attending UNI?
I would tell them that it is one decision in their life that they will have no regrets about. If you put yourself out there and dive in to the opportunities, there is no way you can be disappointed.

Have you had any influential teachers/advisors?
All of the professors that I’ve had the chance to work closely with in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders have been nothing short of phenomenal. They all have such a wealth of knowledge and experience, and they will go above and beyond measure to help you feel prepared. I don’t think that’s something you can find just anywhere.

What made you decide on UNI?
I learned that UNI had a strong reputation, and I was very impressed by what I saw on my college visit. I was also interested in majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders. UNI is one of the few schools in Iowa that offers the Communication Sciences and Disorders program. Overall, I knew UNI was the right choice for me!
Do you belong to any on-campus organizations? How does that involvement enhance your college experience?

I am currently the student president of UNI National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). I am also a committee member for Relay for Life of UNI. I have been involved in several other on-campus organizations and activities such as: Best Buddies, Panther Push, Running Club and Intramurals. Being involved in campus activities has helped me meet new people and gain leadership skills.

How is UNI preparing you for your future/career?

UNI has offered numerous opportunities to help me exceed academically, socially and emotionally. I have built many friendships and social networks here at UNI. The faculty and staff at UNI have provided me with valuable resources that help me advance in my education and future career. The Communication Sciences and Disorders department allows undergraduate students to collect observation and working clinical hours which will benefit me as a future speech language pathologist.

What do you do to relax?

I really enjoy taking time to walk across campus. I feel the campus is very calming, especially in the fall. I also really enjoy attending Panther athletic events in my free time.

Share a memorable experience of UNI.

This past summer, I studied abroad in Nicaragua through the UNI Study Abroad program. I traveled with UNI professor, Ken Bleile, and 24 other Communication Sciences and Disorders students to provide clinical services to children with feeding and communication disorders in schools and orphanages. This was a great way to learn hands-on about some of the clinical cases I may encounter in my future career as a speech-language pathologist. This trip was an unforgettable and life changing experience!

I loved the campus and the fact the UNI was relatively close to my home town (two hours away). I was also drawn to UNI because of the outstanding reputation of their speech-language pathology program.

Do you belong to any on-campus organizations? How does that involvement enhance your college experience?

I am a member of UNI’s chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). I am also a co-chair for UNI’s Iowa Conference on Communicative Disorders (ICCD) which will be held in the spring of 2011. These experiences have allowed me to branch out and bond with other people in my program.

What has been one of the ways that you’ve made UNI your home away from home?

Graduate school can be daunting at times, however support from my professors and colleagues has allowed me to persevere. The people in my major have become a type of extended family.

What was your biggest challenge when coming to UNI and why?

Becoming acclimated to a new town and a new school was quite difficult. I didn’t know anyone in my program; it was initially a very intimidating experience. It didn’t take long to find my niche, and I am now very comfortable in my surroundings here at UNI.

What do you hope to do after graduating?

After I graduate, I want to provide speech-language services to children with cochlear implants and children on the autism spectrum.
Bright and early on Sunday, October 3, 37 students and five UNI faculty members boarded a chartered bus for Chicago. It was 4:00 a.m., and hardly an eye was open for more than half of the way. Yet there was an air of excitement as all were looking forward to the once-a-year graphic communications industry trade show in Chicago, known as GraphExpo.

The trip was sponsored by the Graphic Technologies (GT) program in the Department of Industrial Technology at UNI. In addition to students from UNI’s GT program, there were students from other UNI programs such as Art and Communications along with students from Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo and Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.
The trip was hosted by the UNI Grafx Club, which provided bottles of cold water and snacks. The group spent six hours at GraphExpo, viewing all the newest technology in the field of graphic communications. Vendors and their equipment and services filled McCormick Place, which is one of the largest exposition centers in the Midwest. At each vendor location, participants could talk with industry experts and even get their entrance badges scanned in order to get additional information from each company by e-mail or regular mail.

One of the highlights was free give-away items, including large and small posters, printed on everything from metallic paper to vinyl. Even guns and swords were printed on lightweight foam core material and automatically cut out right in front of participant's eyes.

This is truly the cutting edge of the graphics industry, all-in-one location for students to take in and experience firsthand. The day was filled with walking, learning, interacting with old and new friends and learning a great deal about the industry. Everyone returned home that night tired, but appreciating the opportunity to experience this important event.
When Jeffery Byrd discovered his passion for art, he knew he had to share it with someone. "I knew I wanted to teach art, (because) making art is something I'm passionate about," said Byrd, professor of art and head of the University of Northern Iowa Art Department.

Since then, Byrd's success has come a long way. On October 2, he was awarded the 2010-2011 Distinguished Service Outside the Organization Award at the Art Educators of Iowa's (AEI) Fall Conference in Sioux City. Though he was thrilled to receive the award, he was also very surprised. "I really wasn't expecting it at all. It was quite an honor," he said.

Reflecting back on his career, Byrd is reminded of his teachers from the past who took part in teaching, influencing and molding him into who he is today. "Part of the honor was about those teachers," he said. And now, he can play a part in forming, educating and helping his students discover their own potential.

Upon receiving the award from the AEI, Byrd only expressed praise for the group. "I think they're a great organization," he said. He enjoys the ability to share ideas about teaching methods and technique within the art community. In 2009, Byrd successfully brought AEI's fall conference to UNI's campus. AEI members were more than pleased with UNI's facilities and extraordinarily talented faculty. Furthermore, Byrd brought Tim Rollins, a nationally recognized art educator from New York to be a keynote speaker at the fall conference.

Regarding the future, Byrd hopes to bring more art education conferences to UNI and to extend his hand and ideas to the younger crowd, in hopes to increase interest in art and to show the public the importance of art in school.

"I'm hoping we can continue to make connections with the K-12 art teachers," he said. Byrd strives to create the most positive partnerships with the greatest number of people, thereby bringing the art community together.
UNI Symphonic Band and Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC
Under the direction of UNI School of Music Assistant Professor and Conductor, S. Daniel Galyen, the Symphonic Band will present a shared fall concert with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of visiting artist, Jonathan Girard. This event is free and open to the public.

UNI Student Composer's Concert
Thursday, November 18, 6:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Coordinated by Professor of Composition and Theory, Jonathan Schwabe, UNI School of Music student composers will showcase their work in this fall recital. This event is free and open to the public.

Chopin Bonanza #3, featuring UNI piano students
Thursday, November 18, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
In a continuing celebration of the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth, faculty artist, Dmitri Vorobiev, will coordinate this third and final recital in a series of performances featuring student musicians from the piano studio at UNI. This event is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Terri Armfield, oboe
Monday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC
Visiting artist and UNI alumna, Terri Armfield, is currently assistant professor of oboe and music theory at Western Carolina University in North Carolina. Terri has held an oboe position and has been a featured soloist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and now performs with various ensembles in the community and at Western Carolina University. This event is free and open to the public.

UNI Opera Scenes Performance
Tuesday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall
UNI School of Music Professor, Sandra Walden, will direct opera scene performances featuring student musicians. This event is free and open to the public.

“Today’s communication is highly integrated, making use of both printed documents and electronic devices for presentation,” she explained, “So today’s student must meet the challenge of understanding not only the processes but also their relationship to other processes.”

“We are surrounded by images and graphics and bombarded with all types of messages. Someone has to have the knowledge to control and manage all that information in the most efficient and successful way.”
October 9-10, the UNI debate team traveled to Kansas City to compete at the Kansas City Community College tournament. In a field of dream teams from Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas and Missouri, the varsity team of Allie Chase (junior) and Thomas Casady (first-year) were 4-2 in preliminary rounds. They were successful against a team from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) in the quarterfinals, but lost to another UMKC team in the semi-finals. Chase was sixth speaker, and Casady was ninth. Casady is a first-year student from Indianola high school. This was the first tournament for Chase and Casady to participate as a team, so the team looks forward to what he will do as a member in the future.

Both sides of the squad were off the weekend of October 16-17, but the speech team was back in action the following weekend at MAFL #3-4 in Wisconsin. The debaters were then off for two weeks, but later headed to Detroit for the Motor City Classic Invitational at Wayne State University.

UNI also hosted an audience debate on October 27 in Lang Auditorium. This event featured two UNI students who led an audience debate on the gubernatorial race in Iowa. The event was designed to encourage discussion and debate about the critical issues in this race that most closely relate to our students.

Over Halloween weekend, Director of Forensics, Katherine Lavelle, also went on a recruitment trip to the Cedar Rapids Washington Caucus Tournament, which is a national level high school debate tournament.

The team has a handful of students who are close to qualifying for events to the American Forensics Association National Tournament, so it is their hope to get some more events to nationals.

Food was cheap in Berlin, and we enjoyed finding a Turkish shish-kabob restaurant on nearly every street corner where one could get a massive pita sandwich for under 3 euros (at the time, that was about $4). Morning cappuccino and delicious pastries were standard as we traveled from the apartment building where most of the students stayed to our studio space in another part of the city. Fruit stands were also common in areas, though it was intimidating for us to communicate with vendors, whose English was often very limited.

Entertainment in Berlin was cheap and easy to find. Some of the students found a dance club called “Caseopeia,” and were able to talk me into going with them later in the trip. Techno, ambient and hip-hop styles were fun to find, perfected in a way that was unique to young Europeans – but very different to us! A high point for me was watching one of the students break-dance when the floor cleared out a bit – I had no idea of the latent talent that would be “unleashed” by our group of UNI students!

The comments that I received from students upon our return were “life-changing,” “I will never forget this” and “I could have never imagined.” I would say the same about my own experience there. I’m looking forward to a return trip in 2012!