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Greetings from the School of Music! I am pleased to invite you to read this year’s issue of our newsletter. Our faculty and students continue to amaze me as the school adds another successful year of outstanding accomplishments to its stellar and storied history. The articles inside chronicle national and international student ensemble tours with performances in New York at the 911 Museum, St. Mary’s Basilica in the Twin Cities, and abroad in Costa Rica, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Iceland. During the upcoming academic year, our ensembles plan to travel to Rome, Italy and for the first time, to Cuba. We are continuing performance tours throughout the state to bring music to Iowans and our future students. And, our researchers are bringing forth new studies and discoveries in music education, jazz, music history and composition.

This summer, the School of Music and UNI hosted the Midwest International Piano Competition with pianists traveling from around the globe to perform at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. More than 90 pianists from 22 countries applied to participate. Our faculty selected 35 finalists who hailed from USA, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Russia, China, Costa Rica, Algeria, South Korea, Taiwan, Lithuania, Albania, and Italy. We will continue our quest to be an international destination for musicians by hosting the Midwest International Carillon and Composition Festival in the fall and the Midwest International Conducting Symposium in the spring.

Our long-standing experienced professional teachers, performers, conductors and researchers are still delivering a high-quality education to our students. You will read about the faculty’s accomplishments during the past year, as well as the student and alumni awards received in this newsletter. Our new hires, who have replaced dedicated faculty retirees, are some of the best educators in the country. This new generation of educators will continue to inspire our future students. UNI is on the cutting edge of music education teaching, research and performance, which always influences the best applications and teaching practices in the classroom, studio and rehearsal hall. Our guest artist program continues to bring expert professionals to UNI to work directly with our students to enhance their education.

We are proud of our continuing leadership role as the “music education school” in the state of Iowa and the United States. And, we thank so many of you for your ongoing support! Our school’s quest to be a “national model of excellence” in the heartland of America is alive and thriving. Please join us for a visit or return trip to campus.

Sincerely,

John Vallentine
Director & Professor
The Northern Iowa Wind Symphony traveled to northern Italy from March 10 through March 18, and was invited to perform a series of several concerts throughout the region with concert sites in Palazzolo Sull’Oglio, Leno, Soresina, Nus (a suburb of Aosta), and the Chiesa di Madonna di Campagna in Verbania. Faculty artists Anthony Williams, trombone, Robert Washut, piano, Alexander Pershounin, bass, and Danny Galyen, conductor, joined the group on tour as guest artists.

The group, under the direction of UNI School of Music professor and conductor Ronald Johnson, previously toured Italy in 2004 and 2012, and has taken three tours in Hungary. This tour – nicknamed the “Warrior Tour” by the ensemble members – was Johnson’s final international tour with the ensemble.

In addition to their concert performances, the Wind Symphony served as the ensemble for a two-day intensive conducting workshop with several of northern Italy’s and one of Greece’s most esteemed band conductors. The ensemble also was able to take in the sights and history of northern Italy, including a visit to the birthplace of Giuseppe Verdi, Verona, the beautiful city of Shakespearean fame, and numerous museums and historical churches.

Reflecting on the trip, music student Jake Snyder noted, “my favorite memory of the week was all the unexpected friendships that were made with members of this group and the Italians. Music has the ability to break down whatever barriers that may separate us, and helps us to express ourselves in our true forms. The sights were great but the music that we shared is what I will remember forever.”

Editor’s note: Thank you to Ronald Johnson and the members of the Wind Symphony for their help with this article.
Over spring break, the UNI Women’s Chorus traveled to Ireland to perform concerts in four cities. This marks the first international tour for the Women’s Chorus, which holds the distinction of being the oldest ensemble on campus, since its foundation in 1888. The chorus is comprised of students from across all disciplines and years, and this trip included firsts for many of our singers: first time out of Iowa, first plane ride, first time seeing the ocean, and first international travel. Most performances were held in cathedrals, the oldest dating back to the 13th century, and being surrounded by both the history and acoustics of these venues was unlike anything the students had experienced before. Concerts were held in Killarney, Waterford, Bray and Dublin, and the chorus also marched in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Bray. In addition to performing, the Women’s Chorus was able to visit many important landmarks: the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone, Dublin Castle, Kilkenny Castle, and many more historic sites. For the students, the trip was the opportunity of a lifetime, and exposed them to the incredible culture, history and people of Ireland. The people are incredibly kind, and the chorus received a warm reception at every concert where people stayed after to talk to the students each time.

Nicole Schmitt, a sophomore Communication major from Fort Atkinson, reflected on the trip, noting, “traveling to Ireland with the Women’s Chorus was by far the most amazing opportunity that I have ever been offered. Traveling to another country was a fantastic experience and really opened my eyes to the diversity of the world in which we live. I got to see different landscapes, foods, culture, people, and history like I’d never experienced. Touring such an old country really helped me appreciate how young our nation is and how much we have to learn from other countries outside of our own.

Not only was I given the opportunity to travel to a new country, but I was given the privilege to perform music while doing so. I can honestly say that touring with the Women’s Chorus changed the way that I think about music.

This trip was truly a blessing and the experiences, magical music, and fantastic friends that I made during just one short week will affect me for the rest of my life."

Editor’s note: thank you to Amy Kotsonis and Nicole Schmitt for their contribution of this article.
Music faculty and students travel to present “In Paradisum: The Music of Maurice Duruflé”

In April, conductor and faculty artist John Wiles led a group of students on two run-out performances, collaborating with faculty artists to present the music of Maurice Duruflé to audiences in Waterloo and the Twin Cities of Minnesota.


Wiles served as conductor for the performances, leading the UNI Concert Chorale, Cantorei and Varsity Men’s Glee Club, while faculty artists Randall Harlow, organ, Mariko Morita, organ and Jeff Brich, tenor, appeared as well. Performances were offered on April 10 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Iowa, and on April 15 at The Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Prior to the Minneapolis performance, a gathering of Twin Cities alumni was held at local venue The Third Bird, where UNI alumni in the area had the opportunity to meet with Wiles and Harlow to discuss the Duruflé program, as well as current affairs at UNI and in the School of Music, before attending the concert.

Want to be included in alumni events in your area? Be sure that your contact information is up to date by completing the enclosed form!

The UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club embarked on an international tour May 18-26, traveling to Norway and Iceland. Over the course of nine days, the men of the Glee Club performed five concerts to enthusiastic audiences throughout the region. Performance locations included Neskurkja in Reykjavik, Skaholt Church in Skaholt, Christ the King Cathedral in Reykjavik, Norheimsund Kyrkje in Norheimsund, and a joint concert with Alt for Damene and Kor for Det in Bergen, Norway.

In addition to their performances, the students of the Glee Club were also immersed in the culture and history of Iceland and Norway through the exploration of landmarks, restaurants, and participating in guided sight-seeing tours.

UNI choirs will continue to travel and explore internationally in the coming years. For more information, visit www.uni.edu/choirs, or visit www.unigleeclub.com to find out more about the Glee Club’s 2016-17 home concerts.
For the fifth time in the program’s history, a group of exceptionally talented UNI School of Music students was invited to Costa Rica as part of the Promising Young Artists of the 21st Century program. Rodrigo Duran, director of the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center, extended the invitation. The group traveled to Costa Rica from September 26 through October 6, and performed throughout the region in two concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Eugene O’Neill Theater in celebration of their 70th season, as well as three other concerts in San José and Guanacaste.

UNI students Aaron DeSantiago of Council Bluffs, Adam Brown of Urbandale, Kayla Kjeldseth of Sioux City, Megan Grey of Cedar Falls and Michael Gookin of Fairfield traveled with UNI School of Music Associate Professor of Opera and tour Director Mitra Sadeghpour. The group spent one intensive week of rehearsal in August prior to the school year putting the whole show together, with the assistance of student Assistant Director Alexandra Saulsbury.

Sadeghpour noted, “in preparation for our tour, in addition to learning the music, staging, and dancing, the students have presentations on the history, culture, and ecology of Costa Rica. We met with Costa Ricans currently living in Cedar Falls, and we learned the Costa Rican national anthem. We are grateful for the opportunity, and proud to represent UNI in Costa Rica.”

Later in the year, the UNI Opera program poured themselves into preparing their winter performances. In January 2016, the opera program presented two performances of Susannah. The production featured the UNI Opera Ensemble under the direction of Mitra Sadeghpour, director, and Korey Barrett, vocal coach, as well as the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Rebecca Burkhardt. The opera, written by American composer Carlisle Floyd, featured student Kayla Kjeldseth in the title role and faculty artist John Hines appearing as Reverend Olin Blitch.

When asked why she selected Susannah as the opera production for UNI, director Sadeghpour explained, “because of the incredible musical score, both challenging and accessible to our student performers with its unique mix of twentieth-century Romanticism and folk-inspired melodies.”

The School of Music opera program will present several performances in 2016-17. Visit www.uni.edu/opera to find the latest information and performance schedule.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Mitra Sadeghpour for her contributions to this article.
Spring 2016 was a busy time for percussionists at the University of Northern Iowa. In March, UNI hosted the 2016 Iowa Days of Percussion. Faculty artists Randy Hogancamp and Matthew Andreini coordinated a two-day event featuring guest artists Maraca2, World Percussion Group and the Iowa/Hungary Project. The event included concerts, clinics, workshops, ensemble performances, industry exhibits and even door prize drawings for participants from all over Iowa.

Noting that the Days of Percussion reach far beyond the borders of Iowa, Hogancamp said, “we were excited to be able to offer musicians, ensembles, and clinicians from around the world. This is truly an international event!”

In April, the percussion activities continued with a celebration of the legacy of Randy Hogancamp’s studio at UNI (for more on Hogancamp and his 2016 retirement, see pg. 25) and a 50-year percussion alumni reunion. Alumni returned to campus from as close as Cedar Falls to as far away as Arizona for an interactive, multi-day event including performances, workshops, social time and campus tours. The reunion weekend culminated in a concert performance featuring current percussion studio students and alumni performers, in a program that highlighted eras of percussion at UNI from the “Coffin era” of the 1960s, to the final round of the 2010s in the Hogancamp years.

To find out more about the percussion program at UNI, or how you can get involved in alumni reunions from your studio, contact music@uni.edu.

Editor’s note: thank you to Randy Hogancamp for his contribution to this article.
ACE Composers: New CD Release Features UNI Faculty and Family

The 2016 Ravello Records release ACE Composers features the music of three composers in the same family: Alan Schmitz and his two sons, Christopher and Eric. Though Alan, UNI School of Music professor of theory and composition, describes the three composers as having different influences, their music is linked by connections to popular musical genres, which each references in some manner in a work featured on the album. The source genre of all three composers indicates the Schmitz family are all attracted to popular “non-classical” idioms and incorporate these into their compositions.

All of the Schmitz composers’ music is widely performed. Alan has published articles on composing for the guitar. Christopher composes film scores, while Eric prefers composing for jazz and big band.

Alan Schmitz is Professor of Theory and Composition at the UNI School of Music and has received several awards and commissions from agencies including the Alaska Council of the Arts, the Iowa Arts Council, the University of Northern Iowa and the Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Foundation. Christopher Schmitz is Associate Professor of Theory and Composition at the Townsend School of Music, Mercer University, and his scores accompany feature films including Dance with the One (2010 SXSW Film Festival Selection) and Between Kings and Queens (REMI Winner, 43rd Annual WorldFest – Houston International Film Festival). Eric Schmitz is Associate Professor of Jazz Studies at SUNY Oswego, and is the recipient of two Downbeat awards: “Best Jazz Arrangement” for his orchestral arrangement of Harold Danko’s For Bud in 2003 and “Original Composition – Best Song” for his big band piece In Your World in 2004.

Alan Schmitz has released two albums previously on Ravello Records: 90s Timeflow in January 2012 and Lyric Images in May 2012. To purchase any of these albums or to learn more, visit www.ravellorecords.com/catalog/rr7928.

Editor's note: thank you to Alan Schmitz and to Ravello Records for their contributions to this article.

Midwest International Piano Competition Brings International Excellence to Cedar Falls

The UNI School of Music hosted the second Midwest International Piano Competition on the UNI campus June 5-11. The event was open to outstanding youth and professional performing pianists and audience enthusiasts.

The competition featured 36 exceptional pianists from countries around the world, including Canada, Japan, Singapore, Russia, Italy, Albania, Costa Rica, Algeria, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Lithuania and the United States. In a new and exciting aspect added to the competition this year, all senior finalists performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony at the June 11 senior category final round. Awards were given to the top three finalists in both junior (up to 17 years) and senior (up to 32 years) categories. Six semi-finalists in the senior category also received honorable mention awards.

Timur Mustakimov (Russia) was awarded first place in the senior category, claiming a $10,000 cash prize. Alison Lee (USA) claimed the second place award in the senior category ($5,000) while Zhenni Li (China) claimed the third place prize ($2,500).

Jury members awarded first prize in the junior division to JJ (Jun Li) Bui (Canada). Arthur Wang (Canada) was awarded second place in the junior division, while Jeffrey Chin (USA) claimed the third place junior prize.

Jury members Eric Larsen (USA), Craig Sheppard (USA) and Nelita True (USA) spent each day of the competition hearing competitors in three rounds. Audience members gathered for the junior finals on June 10 and senior finals on June 11. All awards were distributed after the conclusion of the senior category finals competition on June 11, and audience members enjoyed an extended round of lavish receptions in the Gallagher Bluedorn lobby where community members, UNI faculty and students were able to interact with the jurors and competitors while celebrating the success of this exciting, globally-recognized event.

The next Midwest International Piano Competition is scheduled for summer 2018. For more information, visit www.midwestpianocompetition.com.
School of Music Honors Hall of Fame Inductees

Each year, the UNI School of Music celebrates its rich history and honors the legacy built by outstanding individuals who have been a part of that history by inducting exceptional music educators, professional performers, arts advocates and business and community leaders into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame and the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. Recipients are nominated and voted on by the current School of Music faculty and inducted at the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert or Jazz Band concerts. In 2015-16, we were thrilled to announce the induction of Ronald Ross and Jack Graham into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame, and Jim Linahon and Roger Maxwell into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame.

Conductor of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, retiring as Acting Music Director and Conductor in 2000. For more than 30 summers, he was Principal Clarinet of the New Hampshire Music Festival in Plymouth, New Hampshire, where he also served as Personnel Manager and Chamber Music Coordinator. Jack continued to teach part-time for the UNI music school until his untimely passing last March – truly a remarkable 48 years of teaching. Professor Graham was an outstanding teacher, musician and mentor to many.

Also appearing at the September concert to accept his induction honor was Ronald Ross. A recognized leader in the past history of the UNI School of Music, Dean Ronald Ross served as Director of the School of Music at UNI from 1975 to 1992 and Special Assistant to the President from 1992 to 1994. Dr. Ross founded the very first Scholarship Benefit Concert at UNI in 1982. During his tenure he initiated major plans for fundraising and development projects for the good of UNI students and faculty. As a leader in higher education, Director Ross worked diligently to revise the music curriculum, which included the addition of several Master of Music degree programs that now thrive in the School of Music. Most importantly, in collaboration with community and university leaders, Ron developed the conceptual planning for the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Earlier in his career, Dr. Ross served in administrative posts at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and most recently served as Dean of the Louisiana State University College of Music and Dramatic Arts from 1994 until his retirement in 2007. Ron’s successful path in administration as Director of the School of Music made a significant difference at UNI.

In April 2016, two outstanding alumni were inducted as honorees into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame.

Jim Linahon is a 1973 UNI alumnus and a Grammy-award-winning music producer from Clear Lake, Iowa, currently working and living in Los Angeles. Linahon recently returned to Cedar Falls in September 2015 where he appeared as guest conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra in their Scholarship Benefit Concert tribute to Frank Sinatra. Linahon is an award-winning music producer, composer and trumpet artist with more than 300 recording projects for film, television, radio, musical theater, video games and CDs/DVDs to his credit. Jim has an extensive background as a studio musician in California and has produced and recorded for a wide variety of artists, studios and agencies including Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Barry Manilow,

Therese Fetter appeared at the September 2015 Scholarship Benefit Concert to accept the posthumous Hall of Fame induction honor of Jack Graham. Jack Graham earned his bachelor’s degree in music education from Wichita State University in 1964, followed by a master’s degree in clarinet performance from the University of North Texas in 1968. For his entire professional career, Jack was then the clarinet professor at UNI for 35 years before retiring in 2003. He served as Principal Clarinetist and Associate Conductor of the New Hampshire Music Festival in Plymouth, New Hampshire, where he also served as Personnel Manager and Chamber Music Coordinator. Jack continued to teach part-time for the UNI music school until his untimely passing last March – truly a remarkable 48 years of teaching. Professor Graham was an outstanding teacher, musician and mentor to many.

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Roger Maxwell is a native of Marshalltown, Iowa. Maxwell was one of the founding members of the jazz program at UNI and taught music in the Hazleton Independent School District upon graduating from UNI (then Iowa State Teacher’s College) in 1954. During his career, Roger also served as assistant conductor and chief arranger for the U.S. Army Band of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, and returned to Iowa to teach in three more districts from 1958 through 1966. In 1966, Roger became a staff member for the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, later becoming the director of compliance for the Commission. Roger also served as Equal Employment Compliance Officer for the Iowa State Board of Regents and served in that capacity for 26 years, retiring in 1995. Roger’s love of music compelled him to author music education books including “Fourteen Weeks to a Better Band” (published in 1973) and two more works, that have collectively sold more than 700,000 copies. Roger currently resides in Windsor Heights, Iowa, with his wife Arenda.

Congratulations and thank you for the legacy of excellence that you have built, Jack, Ron, Jim and Roger!

A Wimba Way! Spectrum Project 2016

The UNI Spectrum Project is a music, drama, movement and art project for children with different abilities. A Wimba Way was presented in April 2016 in Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall. For more information on the Spectrum Project or upcoming events, visit www.spectrumproject.org.
Students and faculty from the School of Music made the journey east this year, to represent our program and to offer performances in New York City. We are proud to celebrate the exceptional artistry and national stewardship of the UNI Horn Choir and faculty artist Sean Botkin.

In October, a group of exceptionally talented UNI School of Music students visited New York City for two unique performances. The UNI Horn Choir, under the direction of faculty artist Yu-Ting (Tina) Su, performed at the 9/11 Memorial and at The High Line in New York City.

“We chose music in honor and remembrance of the heroes of our country,” said Su. The repertoire included Aaron Copland’s Fanfare for the Common Man, Samuel Barber’s Adagio for Strings, and Amazing Grace.

“Having the group visit the 9/11 Museum before the performance made a huge difference since most of the students were really young when the attack happened,” Su continued. “The students had a much better understanding of the magnitude of the attack after actually being at the location where the buildings stood. As a result, the performance at the 9/11 Memorial was more emotional and meaningful for the listeners and the performers.”

Student musician Dan Charette, a freshman music education major from Tipton, commented on the importance of the trip and how being in New York changed the music that the group performed. “The performance was more personal after going to the 9/11 Museum;” Dan said, “it gave more meaning to the music.”

The High Line Park is built on a historic rail line elevated above the streets of Manhattan’s west side. Playing at the amphitheater above 10th Avenue was a unique and intimate experience for the UNI Horn Choir. Unlike the usual concert venue setting, the traffic noises and the sirens were present during the performance, but the audience, which included both people who live nearby and visitors from all over the world, still showed a great interest in the performance.
In February, School of Music faculty artist and Associate Professor of Piano, Sean Botkin made his solo debut appearance at Carnegie Hall. The concert was held at the Weill Recital Hall. Botkin has appeared at Carnegie Hall twice previously as a featured artist, but this was his first solo engagement at the historic venue.

The performance at Carnegie Hall is a highlight in Botkin’s already impressive career, which, in addition to his appearances in New York, has included an engagement at the esteemed Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Prior to the concert, Botkin remarked, “I’m excited to perform because this is my official solo debut at Carnegie Hall. I attended Juilliard in New York and have looked forward to this – so it’s very exciting to me.”

According to John Vallentine, Director of the UNI School of Music, “Botkin’s performance is a strong testament to the outstanding faculty members teaching at UNI who continue to inspire students for their future professional performing and teaching careers.”

“For this performance,” Botkin explained, “I chose pieces that audiences may not hear as often.” The concert repertoire featured such rarely performed pieces as Prokofiev’s “Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op.1” and Rachmaninoff’s “Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 28.” The program also featured the infrequently performed “Sonata No. 16 in G major, Op. 31 No. 1” by Beethoven, and the slightly more common “Scherzo No. 4” by Chopin.

Prior to Botkin’s Carnegie Hall performance, UNI alumni currently living in the New York City area gathered for a reunion dinner. “It meant a lot to me to connect with UNI alumni in New York and to present this concert knowing that they would be a part of the audience,” Botkin said.

Botkin has already planned a return visit to Carnegie Hall. He will perform another solo recital on February 6, 2017, and is considering including a chamber music aspect to this future performance.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Tina Su and Sean Botkin for their contributions to this article.
The 35th Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert

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As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay for excellent hors d’oeuvres and a travel-themed reception in the lobby, as well as post-show music in Davis Hall. You won’t want to miss it!
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The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. In addition to the income from tickets sales for the concerts, we have developed a network of community, small business, corporate and university-related donors. The extent of this support has been most gratifying to the students and faculty at UNI’s School of Music.

To allow us to continue the support we have provided in the past, please consider becoming a special donor*.

To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office #72 Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by calling (319) 273-2025. All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. The final date for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 9, 2016. Individual tickets* may be purchased in person at the Gallagher-Bluedorn box office, by calling (319) 273-4TIX or (877) 549-SHOW (7469) or by visiting us online at www.unitix.uni.edu.

* all contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $10 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

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The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

Student Awards

At our 2016 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Nicholas Schumacher, clarinet, was named the 2016 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,300 Presser Foundation Award. Schumacher is a junior clarinet performance major at UNI. He has played clarinet with the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Panther Marching Band, UNI clarinet ensemble, and many small chamber groups. He is currently the clarinet instructor for the Cedar Falls New Horizons band and a broadcasting services clerical assistant for Iowa Public Radio. Nick was a finalist in the 2015 UNI Concerto Competition and the winner of the 2016 Wind Symphony Concerto Competition. Nick studies clarinet with Amanda McCandless and has also worked with clarinetists Michael Lowenstern, Richard Faria, and David Krakauer. Schumacher also claimed the People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Concerto Competition Finals Concert. The $2000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Emily Bicknese, flute. Bicknese is a senior Music Education major with a German minor. Originally from Elgin, Iowa, Emily currently studies flute with Angeleita Floyd. Last spring, Bicknese traveled to Klagenfurt, Austria where she studied music at the Kärntner Landeskonservatorium (Carinthian Music Conservatory), and German at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt for a semester. At UNI, Emily has been an active member of the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, UNI Singers, Flute Choir, and other ensembles, and has also studied piano with Robin Guy. Bicknese is a Presidential Scholar and an inductee of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Honor Society for music majors.

Lydia Raim, euphonium, was awarded the $1000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for her performance. Lydia is currently attending UNI, studying music education. She studies euphonium with Jesse Orth and previously with Jeffrey Funderburk. Lydia has performed with numerous UNI ensembles including the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, UNI Singers, UNITUBA, Panther Marching Band, and Women’s Chorus. She has also performed with the Eastern Iowa Brass Band and substituted with the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band. In 2015, she was a finalist for the Student Euphonium Solo division at the Midwest Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference. She won the Muscatoine Symphony Concerto Competition in 2013 and the Eastern Iowa Brass Band Young Artist Competition in 2012.

In November 2015, Elisabed Imerlishvili was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Imerlishvili was born in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. During her studies, she became the winner of The Bach competition and National Piano competitions in Georgia. She continued studying at the Central Musical Gymnasium for Gifted Children with Goma Gogia and later Tbilisi State Conservatory with Professor Svetlana Korsantia. She graduated with Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees, along with Post Graduate Studies. In 2008, Imerlishvili joined the esteemed Alexander Toradze Piano Studio at Indiana University South Bend and earned her Artist and Performer Diplomas. Currently Ms. Imerlishvili is a graduate student at UNI, studying Piano Performance under the guidance of professor Sean Botkin.
School of Music Earns High Honors

With the long list of awards and honors that School of Music students earned this year, it may come as no surprise to learn that many of our students are part of the Honors program at UNI. The Honors program at UNI aims to offer a more challenging, rewarding and engaging experience to UNI students, through advanced coursework in liberal arts and other Honors curriculum as well as a final senior thesis/project. The School of Music is proud to congratulate our Honors program students and those who have earned a place on the Dean’s List or as a Presidential or Provost Scholar this year. Scholars are as follows:

**Honors Program Students**

Emily Bicknese  
Malcolm Burke  
Nicholas Carlo  
Hannah Carr-Murphy  
Seth Chronister  
Micayla Dawson  
Alison Dickinson  
Arianna Edvenson  
Ryan Garmoe  
Kyle Geesey  
Megan Grey  
Alissandra Henkle  
Taylor Hicks  
Coren Hucke  
Jackson Ingle  
Taryn Kryomann  
Anna Larson  
Kathleen Marston  
Brent Mead  
Joseph Morris IV  
Samuel Ogilvie  
Emily Phalen  
Jotham Polashek  
Marissa Quinn  
Nicholas Schumacher  
John Shea  
Mallory Vallentine  
Colin Wilson

**Presidential Scholars**

Emily Bicknese  
Alison Dickinson  
Kyle Geesey  
Alissandra Henkle  
Coren Hucke  
Brent Mead  
Samuel Ogilvie  
Marissa Quinn

**Spectrum Project Buddies**

Joseph Morris IV  
Samuel Ogilvie  
Emily Phalen  
Jotham Polashek  
Marissa Quinn  
Nicholas Schumacher  
John Shea  
Mallory Vallentine  
Colin Wilson

**Editor’s note: thank you to Brenda Hackenmiller and Alyssa Adamec for their help with and contributions to this article.**

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2015 and spring 2016 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, while taking at least 12 hours of graded work during the semester.
2015-16 was another fantastic year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with School of Music students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, thrilling performances and interactive discussions, these inspiring guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is truly an inspiring path.

September 2015

September was a very busy month in the school of music, kicked off with a visit from Robert Dorer, trumpet. Visiting artist Dorer presented a master class to UNI students. Dorer joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 1997 as second trumpet after six seasons as principal trumpet with the New Mexico Symphony. He previously was a member of the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica and Florida West Coast Symphony, and performed as guest principal with the New Zealand Symphony. He has performed as soloist with orchestras in Florida, North Carolina, New Mexico and Minnesota.

Visiting ensemble North Texas Euphonium Quartet appeared in Davis Hall in mid-October. Since its formation in 2012, the North Texas Euphonium Quartet has emerged as the leader among a formidable new crop of euphonium quartets from all across the globe. The group is comprised of doctoral candidates currently studying with Dr. Brian Bowman at the University of North Texas, and is the only quartet whose members have all been finalists in the world renowned Leonard Falcone International Euphonium Competition.

Conratulations on your outstanding achievements and best of luck in your graduate studies, Alyssa!
A busy weekend in October welcomed participants to UNI Flute Day on October 18, where guest John Thorne appeared as master class leader and featured artist. Thorne joined the Bienen School faculty as associate professor of flute after having been the Associate Principal Flute of the Houston Symphony from 1992 until 2012. Previously, he has held the position of Principal Flute with the San Antonio Symphony and the Florida West Coast Symphony (now called the Sarasota Orchestra).

Jerry Young, tuba, visited UNI to offer both a recital and master class. Young is Professor Emeritus of Tuba and euphonium at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, and has been a member of the music faculty at UW–Eau Claire since 1983. Young served on the faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp from 1983 to 1993 where he founded the Interlochen Tubafest and performed regularly as a soloist and chamber musician. Dr. Young has appeared across the U.S., Europe, and Japan as a soloist, chamber musician, clinician, lecturer and adjudicator.

The UNI Piano and Vocal Festival also welcomed an exceptional guest artist, Warren Jones. Honored in 2010 by Musical America as “Collaborative Pianist of the Year,” Jones, director of the Academy’s Vocal Piano Program, explored the often-hidden musical relationships between singer and pianist, music and text, performer and audience at the two-day festival.

On October 26, guest artists Suzanne Bullard, Taemin Han and Miah Han appeared in concert with faculty artists Ross Winter and Julia Bullard. The group performed an all-Mozart program to an enthusiastic Cedar Falls audience.

Duo Commixtus, featuring Franck Leblois, bassoon, and Pavel Eret, violin, presented a chamber music recital. Leblois is the founder of the Commixtus Association and both musicians have celebrated extensive performance careers throughout the world.

Late October welcomed visiting artist Karel Keldermans. Keldermans offered a recital performance from the campanile carillon at noon on both October 29 and 30. Karel is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America, and will serve as Artistic Director of the fall 2016 Midwest International Carillon and Composition Festival at UNI. Over the past thirty years, he has given carillon concerts around the world, has composed a dozen original works for carillon, as well as arranged numerous pieces for the instrument and has a Master’s degree from the University of Illinois in Carillon Performance and Campanology.

Visiting artist Edmund Cord, trumpet, presented a master class for UNI students on October 30. Cord has performed with Doc Severinsen, Ella Fitzgerald, Henry Mancini, Marvin Hamlisch, the Moody Blues, and others in jazz and commercial genres. Often requested for commercial recording dates, he performs frequently with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Carmel Brass, Broadway touring companies, big bands and other ensembles.

Pianist Matthew Bengtson appeared in concert in Bengtson Auditorium, the performance hall named for his family. Critically acclaimed as a “musician’s pianist,” Matthew Bengtson has a unique combination of musical talents ranging from extraordinary pianist, to composer, analyst, and scholar of performance practice, and thus is in demand as both soloist and collaborator. As a La Gesse Fellow, he has been presented in concerts in France, Italy and Hungary, at Thomas Jefferson’s home Monticello, and in solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weil Recital Hall. The final guest artist of October was violist Basil Vendryes. Vendryes appeared as the featured guest artist at the 2015 UNI Viola Festival, under the direction of Julia Bullard. Vendryes has been Principal Violist of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra since 1993. He is a former member of the San Francisco Symphony, the New York Philharmonic and the Rochester Philharmonic orchestras. As violist with the Aurora String Quartet (1986-95) Vendryes performed extensively, including recitals in New York, London and Tokyo.

In November, guest artist Alisa Belflower presented a voice clinic for our UNI audience as part of her two-day residency at UNI. Alisa has musically directed, coached, and/or directed over 100 productions. A passionate advocate for little-known musical theatre repertoire, both older and newer, she created www.musicaltheatrearts.com, the first multimedia encyclopedia of contemporary musical theatre composers on the internet. She currently serves on the faculty at both the Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film’s acting/directing faculty and the Glenn Korff School of Music’s voice faculty at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Guest ensemble Oasis Saxophone Quartet visited the School of Music in November to offer both a master class and recital. The members of Oasis (Nathan Nabb, James Bunte, Dave Camwell, and James Romain) are each highly regarded concert artists in their own right, appearing regionally, nationally, and internationally as chamber musicians, clinicians, orchestral musicians, solo recitalists and adjudicators. They can be heard on the Teal Creek, Innova, Centaur, Amp Recordings, and Mark Custom labels, and in performances with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Sarasota Orchestra.

A look back at our visiting artists
Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as a number of regional orchestras.

**January 2016**

A new semester brought visiting artist Jason Danielson to present a lecture in the Musically Speaking series, titled “The Role of Soul: Stax Records and the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis, Tennessee.” Jason is a UNI and Iowa State alumnus and has extensive experience as performing pianist, arranger, musical director and researcher. Danielson also collaborated with faculty artists Chris Merz and Bob Washut, as well as guest artist Rick Stone to present a recital during his visit. Saxophonist Stone is also a UNI alumnus with extensive performance history locally and nationally.

On January 27, guest artists Eun Ho Kim, violin, Tara Lynn Ramsey, violin, Katie Wolfe, violin, Marie-Elaine Gagnon, cello and Susan Keith Gray, piano, joined faculty artist Julia Bullard, viola, to collaboratively present piano quintets by Nicolai Medtner and Sir Edward Elgar.

January also saw a visit from drummer Jim Dreier. Dreier presented a master class on drumset. A lecturer in jazz studies at the University of Iowa, Dreier is a drum set-Latin percussion specialist, educator, clinician, and performer. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA) and a Master of Arts degree in music theory from the University of Iowa.

**February 2016**

As February began, faculty artist Yu-Ting (Tina) Su collaborated with guest Claudia Anderson, flute, to present a shared recital. Anderson is known for her originality and brilliance as a solo and chamber music performer across the U.S. She is a founding member of the innovative flute duo ZAWA! and of New Prairie Camerata, a chamber initiative based in Grinnell, Iowa.

Craig Hultgren visited the School of Music in February to offer a cello recital. Hultgren teaches at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Alabama School of Fine Arts and Birmingham-Southern College where he directed the BSC New Music Ensemble. A cellist in the Alabama Symphony, he also plays in Luna Nova, a new music ensemble with a large repertoire of performances available as podcast downloads on iTunes.

Guest conductors Dr. Frank Tracz (Kansas State University) and Jack Jean (Whitewater High School, GA) led the festival symphony band and concert band, respectively, at the 2016 Northern Festival of Bands. Both conductors worked in hands-on workshops and rehearsals with Iowa high school students visiting UNI, before leading the finale concert on Saturday, February 13.

Visiting ensemble the Brandon Lewis Quartet presented a concert in Russell Hall in February. The Quartet features Brandon Lewis, trumpet, Kevin Theodore, piano, Ben Carr, bass, and David Frazier, drums. Founder Brandon Lewis started his formal advanced training in trumpet and music performance at the University of Northern Iowa, and then moved to New York City to continue his freelance music career and received a master’s degree in Jazz Performance from SUNY Purchase College.

The Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the UNI School of Music held the 61st Annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 65th Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concert on February 19 and 20 on the UNI campus. Luis Bonilla, trombonist, composer and arranger, was the featured guest artist at this year’s event. Bonilla is a California-raised Costa Rican trombonist, composer and arranger who has sought out, taken in and mastered an incredible array of musical styles.

Trombonist Michael Mulcahy presented a recital and master class at UNI in February. Chicago Symphony Orchestra trombonist Mulcahy has appeared as soloist and teacher in the United States, Canada, Europe, Russia, Japan, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia. He has performed as soloist with the CSO and Pierre Boulez in music by Elliott Carter and with Daniel Barenboim in Leopold Mozart’s Concerto for Alto Trombone, which was broadcast on PBS. Other appearances include the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the Hilversum Radio Symphony and the Melbourne Symphony.

Faculty artist Cayla Bellamy was joined by visiting artist MUS J. Benjamin Smith of The Navy Band, stationed in North Chicago. The “Double or Nothing Duo” presented a recital titled “Originals” which featured duos by Francisco Mignone, Sofia Gubaidulina, and John Steinmetz.

**March 2016**

The Iowa Days of Percussion, hosted by the UNI School of Music in early March, brought ensemble Maraca2, World Percussion Group and the Iowa/Hungary Project to campus. The groups presented performances and master classes to UNI students and the public throughout the two-day event.
Featuring UNI School of Music faculty artist Julia Bullard and guest artists violinist Susanna Klein, and cellist Hannah Holman, Trio 826 presented a recital on March 9.

Visiting artists Jennifer Laubenthal, clarinet, and Kathy Melago, flute, presented an early-March recital. Laubenthal is assistant professor of clarinet at Eastern New Mexico University. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron, and a master’s and a doctorate from Ohio State University. Melago is assistant professor of music education at Slippery Rock University. She earned her undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock University, a master’s from the University of Northern Iowa, and her doctorate from Ohio State University.

Upon returning from spring break, UNI audiences and students were thrilled to enjoy a recital performance by guests Alena Lugovkina, flute, and Katherine Ventura, harp. Katherine and Alena began playing together in 2012 during the internationally renowned Verbier Music Festival in Switzerland, in which they were both members of the Verbier Festival Orchestra. Having enjoyed performing together not just orchestrally, but also finding success as chamber music partners, they decided to form a flute and harp duo.

David Earll, tuba, collaborated with faculty artist Robin Guy, piano, to present a recital in the spring. Earll is a Willson Tuba Artist and Professor of Tuba, Euphonium, and Trombone at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. David currently plays with the vibrant UW-Platteville faculty chamber group Ensemble Nouveau and has also performed with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, the Tempe Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the University of South Dakota Faculty Brass Quintet and more.

Guest artist Margaryta Golovko presented a piano recital. Golovko was the 1st place winner of the 2014 Midwest International Piano Competition, held at UNI. Ukraine-born, Golovko is a regular at the prize podiums of European piano competitions, and has already performed concerts in nine countries spread across three continents.

Late March also brought an exciting event for reed enthusiasts, featuring many exceptionally talented guest artists. UNI Reed Day featured performances and master classes by guest artists Wonkak Kim, clarinet, Eunhye Grace Choi, piano, Carrie Koffman, saxophone, William Ludwig, bassoon and Keri McCarthy, oboe. For more on UNI Reed day, visit www.uni.edu/music/reedday.

The final visiting artist of March was pianist Ani Gogova. Gogova’s dazzling artistic presence has been captivating audiences around the world for almost two decades. Her career started early in her native Bulgaria when she won all major competitions, including the most prestigious National Music Competition “Svetoslav Obretenov,” as well as top prizes in several international competitions for young pianists. Since then, Gogova has appeared in solo recitals and concerts with orchestras in Bulgaria, Italy, Serbia, England, and throughout the US. Her solo renditions have been heard on the Bulgarian National Radio, FM Classic Radio, Interlochen Public Radio and WFMT Chicago.

Our final month of the 2015-16 performance season was a busy month, launched when guest artist John Wojciechowski, saxophone, joined Jazz Band One in concert. Wojciechowski is an urban musician through and through. He grew up and developed his powerful tenor sound in Detroit—“a really rich community with a lot of great players,” he says—and since 2002 has thrived in Chicago, working alongside some of the best players in the city.

Carillonneur Karel Keldermans returned to the UNI Campanile in the spring semester to offer two more concerts on April 14 and 15.

Visiting artist Corey Mackey presented a clarinet recital as the final guest artist event of spring 2016. Mackey is the Principal Clarinetist for the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, and Lecturer of Clarinet at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he teaches applied clarinet lessons, chamber music, upper level written and aural theory, and serves as the Chamber Music Coordinator. He is a founding member of the Driftless Winds reed trio, and has performed and recorded with numerous ensembles.

A look back at our visiting artists

Guest artist funds for 2015-2016 were supported in part or in full by the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Esther Bley Rinker Endowment for Musical Excellence, the Mark Falb Tuba Endowment, Spotlight Series patrons, the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI School of Music. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for these contributions.
Alison Altstatt, assistant professor of musicology/music history
- Invited to guest teach in fall 2016 at the University of Notre Dame, which recently acquired a leaf of the Wilton Processional, an important manuscript which Altstatt recently rediscovered after it had been missing for over 150 years.
- Invited as contributing editor to *Corpus Monodicum* edition of medieval liturgical drama; two peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication.
- Gave public lectures at Stanford University, the University of Iowa, UNI, the joint meeting of the University of British Columbia Medieval Workshop and the Gregorian Institute of Canada, the Iowa Musicology Conference, the International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Cantus Planus Study Group of the International Musico logical Society in Dublin, Ireland, and at Salisbury Cathedral, UK.

Korey Barrett, associate professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano
- Served as Music Director and Vocal coach at his opera company in San Diego called Opera Neo. Visit operaneo.com.
- Served as Chair of the UNI Voice Division and President of the UNI chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.
- Collaborated in seven recitals and concerts at UNI, and in five off-campus events.

Elisabeth Bieber, instructor of voice
- Placed 2nd at the Regional level of the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Artist Awards Competition earlier in March.

Sean Botkin, associate professor of piano
- Appeared in his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. For more about this performance, see page 11-12.
- Performed one solo and one duo recital at UNI, as well as numerous local and regional solo and collaborative appearances.
- Served as Co-Artistic Director for the 2016 Midwest International Piano Competition at UNI.

Melinda Boyd, associate professor of music history
- Published a chapter in a collection of essays on women Lied composers.
- Signed a contract with University Press of Mississippi for a monograph on Dolly Parton.
- Served on numerous University and School of Music committees in 2015-16.

Ann Bradfield, assistant professor of saxophone
- Presented a recital and master class as guest artist in British Columbia, Canada.
- Awarded the CHAS Creative Activity Grant, using the funding to give recitals and master classes at Pacific Lutheran University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon.
- Selected to perform as a soloist at the North American Saxophone Alliance National Biennial Conference at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

Jeff Brich, instructor in applied voice
- Appeared as soloist in the spring performances of the music of Duruflé. For more on this, see page 5.
- Performed as guest soloist at three events throughout Iowa and as soloist on two concerts at UNI.
- Served as guest clinician at Storm Lake High School and as coordinator and adjudicator at the UNI Vocal Arts Festival.

Julia Bullard, associate director of graduate studies and professor of viola and theory
- Invited artist at the Bogotá Viola Festival in November 2015, where she presented master classes, solo and chamber recital performances, and appeared as guest soloist with the Bogotá Chamber Orchestra performing works by Telemann and Hindemith.
- Released first CD by Trio 826 (her ensemble with Susanna Klein, violin, and Hannah Holman, cello), *Mosaic*, on the Blue Griffin label.

Rebecca Burkhart, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
- Received grant funding for, and led all aspects of recording of incidental music for *The Laramie Project*.
- Composed two new works, both premiered in performance (one was recorded and another was performed at a national conference).
- Served as National President of College Orchestra Directors Association.

Jonathan Cheno weth, professor of cello
- Awarded a Professional Development Assignment for spring 2017 to continue his research on Bernstein.
- Appeared as cellist and guest conductor at several events throughout Iowa.
- Served as clinician and facilitator for numerous School of Music events, and served as Chair of the LAC committee.

Kevin Droe, associate professor of music education
- Directed and coordinated the Spectrum Project at UNI, including a spring concert. See photos on page 10 and student awards on page 16 for more information and visit spectrumproject.org.
- Presented a research poster in North Carolina, and offered one in-service conference presentation in Tennessee.
- Served as Chair of the Music Education Division at UNI, Chair-elect of a National Association of Music Educators work group, and as President-elect of the Iowa Music Educators Association.
Angeleita Floyd, professor of flute
- Appeared as a guest artist, conductor and presenter at the international flute festival in Quito, Ecuador.
- Led Collegiate Flute Choir in rehearsals and concert of commissioned work premiered at the National Flute Association conference in Washington, D.C.
- Celebrated an outstanding number of student awards and achievements.

Danny Galyen, associate professor of music education, and director of bands
- Appeared as conductor and served as drill designer for numerous Symphonic Band concerts and Panther Marching Band performances.
- Served as Chair of the Research Division of the Iowa Bandmasters Association.
- Offered a research presentation at the Iowa Music Educator Association conference.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
- Performed as soloist in three faculty recitals, on a Randall Harlow recording, with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, and with the 5 Seasons Orchestra.
- Appeared with Manheim Steamroller (in Mason City), as principal trumpet with the wcfsymphony, and in chamber music with the Northern Brass Quintet, 5 Seasons Brass Trio, and faculty colleagues.
- Composed trumpet etudes, edited trumpet solos, and wrote brass quintet arrangements.

Robin Guy, professor of piano
- Taught and coached high school piano majors preparing collaborative performance at Interlochen Arts Camp (IAC) in Michigan for the 32nd consecutive summer.
- Performed a new trio by Robert Mueller, composer, with colleagues Jill Heyboer, flute, and Theresa Delaplain, oboe, and returned by invitation to the Congregational Summer Assembly, Frankfort as the Green Lake Trio.
- Adjudicated the ENKOR International Piano Competition, IMTA regional auditions for Cedar Rapids I, and master classes for the Music Teachers of Central Iowa, Ames.

Randall Harlow, assistant professor of organ and music theory
- Appeared as visiting artist and educator on fellowship in Germany throughout summer 2015, and as Keynote Speaker at the International Interdisciplinary Music Research Conference in Amsterdam.
- Awarded a New Music USA grant, one of only 54 awardees out of 1216 applications.
- Awarded a grant from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music to fund the full production and manufacture of his contemporary music CD, ORGANON NOVUS.

John Hines, associate professor of voice
- Performed two full recitals in Iowa (at UNI and Luther College), as well as oratorio performances in Illinois, Ohio and Iowa.
- Elected to serve as Vice-President for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (2015-2017).
- Served as adjudicator for two School of Music events, and as member of numerous university committees.

Randy Hogancamp, associate professor of percussion
- Organized and hosted the 2016 Iowa PAS Days of Percussion with International Guest Artists Maraca2, the World Percussion Group, and the Iowa/Hungary Project from France, Italy, Belgium, Ukraine, Hungary, Luxembourg, Canada, and the US.
- Planned and hosted the 50-year UNI Percussion Alumni Reunion.
- Celebrated his retirement after teaching 44 years at UNI. See more on page 4.

Ronald Johnson, professor of instrumental music
- Appeared as conductor of the Wind Symphony and led the ensemble on a tour of Northern Italy in spring 2016. For more on the tour, see page 3.
- Served as Chair of the Division of Large Ensembles and Conducting and as member of several other School of Music committees.
- Celebrated his retirement after teaching over 30 years at UNI. See more on page 25.

Amy Kotsonis, assistant professor of choral ensembles and music education
- Served as Artistic Director and conductor of the Metropolitan Chorale.
- Presented a paper at the Iowa Music Educators Association conference, and appeared as guest lecturer at an American Guild of Organists event in Cedar Falls.
- Conducted the UNI Women’s Chorus on their international tour of Ireland. For more, see page 4.

Amanda McCandless, associate professor of clarinet
- Released her CD, “Brazilian Dreams, Music of Michael Eckert” on the MSR Classics label.
- Performed in eleven recital, workshop and conducting appearances at UNI, including two solo recitals.
- Served as Chair of the Woodwind/Percussion Division and Chair of the Guest Artist Committee.

Jean McDonald, professor of voice
- Appeared in concert with the UNI Women’s Chorus on their international tour to Ireland in March 2016.
- Presented on a panel at the first-ever School of Music convocation.
- Awarded the 2015 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

Christopher Merz, professor of jazz studies
- Directed UNI Jazz Band One and combos in many performances, and served as Chair of the Jazz Studies Division.
- Performed numerous times with the Hands of Time Quartet, Christopher’s
Very Happy. Band, and more.
• Released the Jazz Band One CD *Local Color* (independent release) and the Christopher’s Very Happy. Band CD *We Are Bathed in Sunlight* on the Real!Town Records label.

**Katherine Osborne**, instructor of voice
• Appeared as voice faculty and festival soloist at Opera Academy and Summer Festival in Sweden.
• Published an article in the VoicePrints Journal.
• Performed in one full recital at UNI, as well as in the post-show performances at the 2015 Scholarship Benefit Concert.

**Jesse Orth**, instructor of tuba and euphonium
• Invited to perform at the 2016 Army Band Tuba/Euphonium Workshop in Washington, D.C.

**Alexander Pershounin**, instructor of string bass
• Performed in numerous concerts in the School of Music and the Cedar Valley, including two solo recitals at UNI and nine appearances with the wcfsymphony.
• Created and directed the first-ever UNI Bass Jamboree.
• Appeared in a series of performances with the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony in Italy, and in performance with the UNI Trombone Ensemble in Charleston, Illinois.

**Heather Peyton**, assistant professor of oboe and music theory
• Invited to appear as guest soloist and artist-in-residence at St. Cloud State University and as invited guest soloist at the NACWAPI conference in South Dakota.
• Presented a lecture as part of a series titled “From a Woman’s Perspective” in Maine.
• Elected as President of Pi Kappa Lambda, spring 2016.

**Mitra Sadeghpour**, associate professor of opera
• Took five members of the UNI Opera Ensemble to Costa Rica as part of the Promising Young Artists of the 21st Century, where they sang with the Costa Rica National Symphony and toured with a fully staged program of American Musical Theatre. For more on this, see page 6.
• Served as artistic and stage director for a highly acclaimed production of *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd in the Gallagher Bluedorn Great Hall.
• Appeared as music director for the UNI Department of Theatre’s production of *Rent*.

**Alan Schmitz**, associate director of undergraduate studies and professor of music theory and composition
• Released CD titled *ACE Composers* on Ravello Records. For more on this release, see page 8.
• Directed undergraduate advising activities for music majors and minors.
• Chaired and served on numerous School of Music and University committees.

**Jonathan Schwabe**, professor of composition/theory
• Celebrated the performance of two of his original compositions at the North Atlantic Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference in Lubbock, Texas.
• Premiered one original piece and celebrated performances of two others at UNI.
• Served on the Ohio State Arts Council Review Panels, and performed for the Spectrum Project at UNI.

**Michelle Swanson**, instructor of music education
• Planned and hosted four music education workshops at UNI, and served as co-organizer of the new Choral Music Education Day.
• Performed as pianist with the Sturgis Falls Children’s Choir and led the UNI Children’s Choir in two concert performances.
• Served as President of the Cedar Falls Booster Club and as Vice President/Past President of the First Iowa Orff Association.

**John Vallentine**, professor and director of the School of Music
• Awarded a Blackhawk Gaming Commission Grant of $100,000 for signage located at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center.
• Invited presenter for a national session for new department heads at the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, November, 2016.
• Selected by university President to serve as chair of the search committee for the Associate Counsel position.

**Dmitri Vorobiev**, associate professor of piano
• Performed two solo recitals and a duo recital at UNI, as well as on numerous local and regional concerts, and continued his ongoing Beethoven performance project, including recording and editing work on an upcoming two-CD set for Beethoven works.
• Organized and chaired the fall Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals.
• Served as Co-Artistic Director of the 2016 Midwest International Piano Competition.

**Robert Washut**, professor of jazz studies
• Conducted the Wisconsin and Colorado All-State Jazz Bands, and SEIBA Honors Jazz Band; Adjudicator/Clinician: Greeley (CO) Jazz Festival, Fred Sturm Jazz Celebration (WI) and
numerous Iowa high school jazz bands and festivals.
• Composed “Rondo Cubano,” performed at the 2015 Scholarship Benefit Concert and the National Flute Association Conference in Washington, DC, and composed “The High Road,” and performed that piece on UNI Wind Symphony’s Italian tour and in concert in the GBPAC.
• Appeared as pianist, arranger and coordinator for the Bob Washut Dodectet, A Tribute to Kenny Wheeler, and appeared as jazz pianist in over 20 performances locally and regionally.

John Wiles, associate professor of choral conducting
• Selected to receive the 2014-15 College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence in Departmental Programs.
• Led the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club on a tour of Norway and Iceland. For more on the tour, see page 5.
• Created and organized Choral Music Education Day at UNI, and published one article in “The Choral Scholar.”

Anthony Williams, assistant professor of trombone
• Traveled with and performed alongside the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony on a tour of Northern Italy.
• Appeared as guest recitalist at the University of Memphis, and presented on “Jazz Trombone Essentials” at the Iowa Bandmasters Association conference.
• Performed in over 40 performances at UNI and throughout Iowa, including a premiere performance of a new work by Jeffrey Funderburk.

Ross Winter, instructor of violin
• Promoted to Academy Director of the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy in Virginia (Wintergreen Performing Arts, Inc.).
• Appointed Associate Concertmaster of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra
• Received Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Cellist Jonathan Chenoweth, professor of cello at UNI, received his training at the Oberlin Conservatory and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has performed as a member of several professional ensembles including the Dakota Quartet, the Soviet Emigré Chamber Orchestra, the Richmond (VA) Symphony, and the contemporary music group Bis.

He has been a soloist at festivals in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Vermont and has taught at universities in Pennsylvania, Missouri and South Dakota.

At UNI, Dr. Chenoweth is a member of the String Division and coordinator of chamber music activities. In addition, he has developed service learning opportunities that get UNI student musicians out in the community, and has explored innovative approaches to the teaching of music appreciation. He serves as principal cellist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, a group in which several of his students also play.

“I am convinced that students learn the most when their experience at the instrument is especially gratifying and when the goals of their work are clear and compelling to them,” Chenoweth stated. “On this first point, it is hard to imagine an instrument that is more gratifying to play than the cello! Clarity in teaching requires a comprehensive knowledge of the instrument and its techniques, but it also involves the ability to understand the individual student’s experience and the ability to articulate and demonstrate concepts in a variety of ways. Teaching becomes compelling when the student becomes familiar with success. As a teacher, I am fascinated by these processes and deeply indebted to the examples of my own mentors, especially Timothy Eddy and the late Richard Kapuscinski.”
This year the School of Music celebrated the influential careers of four faculty and staff members as they retired in 2016. Therese Fetter, Cindi Mason, Randy Hogancamp and Ronald Johnson all celebrate their retirement this year.

**Therese Fetter** served as the UNI Suzuki School director from 1986 to 2000, and then as Artistic Advisor and Violin Master Teacher in the program. Earlier, in the late 1970s, she served as an instructor. Therese’s long-time association with the School of Music and the UNI Suzuki School is an amazing story of dedicated work as a teacher and musician. Therese has been an incredible role model in the community and the school. Her impact on hundreds of musicians and their families will continue to be felt for years to come.

**Cindi Mason** is the founding director of the UNI Community Music School and has built an impressive program from the ground up. Cindi’s efforts in advocating for children and the underserved have been a building block for the CMS. Cindi also has had a long association with the School of Music and UNI, where she served as a stellar leader who championed music education programming for all. From young children to senior adults, Cindi’s leadership has impacted hundreds of community members each year, including children and families who were able to participate despite not having the financial means. Even after her official retirement in summer 2016, Cindi will remain as an instructor and continue to be a part of the School she has built.

The School of Music celebrated the 44-year long career of retiring professor of percussion **Randy Hogancamp** this spring. In his time at UNI, Randy worked tirelessly to grow and expand the percussion program, including additions of global and international programming like the West African Drum and Dance ensemble, and the Kaji Daiko Taiko Drum Ensemble. Randy’s impact on Iowa’s schools has been immense through his teaching of thousands of music educators, and his students have excelled in the performance realm and many other pursuits. Randy’s hard work and dedication, to be the very best musician possible, has been clearly evident. Director of the School of Music, John Vallentine noted, “Randy has always demonstrated what a true professor should symbolize: an outstanding teacher, performer, contributor and colleague.”

Another legendary School of Music professor and conductor announced his official retirement in 2016. **Ronald Johnson** has led the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony and taught conducting and music history for over thirty years at UNI. During this time, Ron led the Wind Symphony on international tours of Hungary and Italy, and launched the Northern Iowa Band Invitational and Iowa Conductors Symposium. Reflecting on her time studying with Johnson, alumni Christine Todey remembered, “he said, ‘don’t make a difference, be the difference.’ He certainly was for me. I am very grateful for all the opportunities he gave me during my undergraduate studies.” Though officially retired in 2016, Johnson will continue to lead the Wind Symphony during the 2016-17 academic year, before leaving UNI to fully enjoy all aspects of retirement.

**While we say goodbye to these remarkable pillars of the music program, we are excited to welcome new faculty and staff who begin their UNI journey this year.**

**Dr. Ryan Frost** has accepted our Instructor of Percussion position. Frost has a DMA from West Virginia University, an MM degree from Middle Tennessee State University, and a BA in music from UNI. He previously served as Instructor of Percussion at Fairmont State University from 2012-2016, where he taught applied lessons, percussion ensembles and percussion techniques. Ryan also recently taught at Waynesburg University, Washington & Jefferson College, West Virginia University, and appeared as Visiting Instructor of Percussion at UNI for the 2007-08 academic year. He has presented multiple workshops and presentations on African drum and dance, and steel drums, and he has appeared as a performer at the West Form New Music Festival and more.

**Dr. Cayla Bellamy** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Bassoon. Bellamy has a DMA from Indiana University, and both an MM and BM degree from the University of Georgia. She has been serving as Instructor of Bassoon at UNI since 2014. She previously served as Instructor of Record at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and Associate Instructor at Indiana University Student Academic Center. From 2010-2012, Cayla appeared as Associate Conductor of the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra in Atlanta, Georgia. She also has experience as a Title I Director of Bands for public school bands in Snellville, Georgia. In addition to her teaching experience, Bellamy has an extensive performance record. She will teach applied music, liberal arts core, and music education courses for our students.

**Dr. Lynn Worcester** has accepted our Instructor of Piano Performance and Pedagogy position. Worcester has a DMA degree from University of Oklahoma, an MM degree from Baylor University, and both MM and BM degrees from the California State University (Fullerton). She has been serving as Assistant Professor of Music in Piano and Director of Piano Pedagogy at Shorter University since 2014 where she taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, accompanying and more. She previously served as piano faculty at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and has maintained an active private piano studio. In addition to her teaching experience, Lynn has an extensive performance record including appearances at numerous music festivals in Austria and the United States.
Emeritus Faculty Activities

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired professors. We continue to see the lasting effect of their years of dedication and service to our students, and are happy to bring you news on their current projects and travels.


Bruce Chidester – Bruce checked in with a warm update on his busy year, noting “it’s interesting how the same number of days each year seem to be filled with more activities than the year before. We just finished the show ‘All Hands on Deck’ and have a few weeks before starting up again for the fall season. Playing lead trumpet in a 10-piece band has been enjoyable and this is the first and only band I have not become bored with and eventually quit. The Branson Trumpet Ensemble continues to perform and sales from my trumpetensemblemusic.com continues to increase each year.

The TrumpetBlog, which I publish, has a daily following of over 500 readers per day now so my fishing had to be put on hold for this year. This month will begin my fourth season playing with the exceptional Taneycomo Festival Orchestra and the second season playing with their Festival Big Band. If this wasn’t enough, my Dixieland band the Dixie Kings continues to perform for clubs, country clubs and conventions in town. Did I mention I play trombone with this group as well as a local church in town? All I can say is, ‘I never wanted to be an old trumpet player, and now I am one’ (Missouri word usage).”

Michelle Kostielney accepted a Secretary II position in the School of Music and began work in August 2016. Michelle graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Public Relations, and a Psychology minor. She recently served as Test Proctor, Leader Proctor and Media Intern for the Iowa State University ELO-Test Center. Michelle also brought prior experience in social media management, customer service as well as experience in research and correspondence. Her high energy and multitasking strengths are strong assets to the School of Music.

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Therese, Cindi, Randy and Ron on their retirements and to welcome Ryan, Cayla, Lynn and Michelle!

Editor’s note: thank you to John Vallentine and Christine Todey for their help with this article.

New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

Dorothy Matetich honors her mother through the Mayme Ward Olson Music Enrichment Endowment Fund. Her gift supports School of Music ensemble performances in schools across Iowa. She has also included a gift in her will to grow the fund in the future.

Contact Helene Benitez, director of gift and legacy planning, at 319-273-6078 or helene.benitez@uni.edu for information about including a gift of music in your will.

Explore uni.planmylegacy.org for ways to give smarter.
The School of Music always loves to hear from our graduates. Success stories, new projects and career or performance highlights are all welcome and celebrated. Please take a moment to check out what your former classmates and fellow alumni have been up to recently!

1940s

‘48 Rosie Irene (Maiden) Bolstad, BA, Bremerton, WA, is continuing work on her upcoming release “Remembering Bernie” in honor of her late husband, as well as two other recording projects.

1950s

‘50 Ted Herbst, BA, Germantown, WI, is enjoying retirement and summers in Rhinelander, WI, at their summer home on Lake Thompson.

‘56 Jerry McRoberts, BA, Charleston, IL, retired from Eastern Illinois University in 1998 where he served as professor of art history and earned a faculty excellence award.

1960s

‘67 John Smith, BA, MA ‘73, Lake Dallas, TX, is directing his own big band called the Pecos River Brass Big Band. The band performs jazz standards, as well as new and innovative arrangements, including some by Smith himself.

1970s

‘71 Steven Ainsworth, BA, MA ‘75, Pensacola, FL, retired after 44 years of band directing and moved to Florida to be closer to children and grandchildren. Because teaching has been his occupation and hobby he will be teaching music education courses two days per week at Pensacola Christian College.

‘74 James Miller, BM, MA ‘77, Ames, IA, is retired and stays busy volunteering at an elementary school, working with Scouts, teaching Sunday school and giving guitar lessons.

‘74 Kathleen (Haley) Taylor, BA, Knoxville, IA, retired from Evans Middle School in Ottumwa and now substitute teaches in schools near Knoxville. She also enjoys helping with the St. Anthony choir, Knoxville Community Chorus and Pella City Band.

‘75 Al Jacobson, BA, Cedar Falls, IA, is completing his 30th year as senior lecturer in music at Wartburg College. He is the instructor of percussion and director of The Knightliters Jazz Band I.

‘76 Denise (Drew) Reit, BA, Spencer, IA, retired from the Spencer Community Schools after 40 years of teaching middle school general music.

1980s

‘83 Randy Atkinson, BM, MM ‘89, Cedar Rapids, IA, retired in June 2016 after 33 years of teaching instrumental music in Iowa. He taught in Ottumwa, Linn Mar and Taft Middle School in Cedar Rapids.

‘87 Craig Miller, BA, Bernalillo, NM, is a worship pastor at Sagebrush Community Church in Albuquerque, NM. He became a full time worship pastor after switching from a career in business. He has greatly utilized his marketing management degree and minor in music from UNI.

‘87 Steve Peters, BA, Minneapolis, MN, is the minister of music at Peace Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN, serving as organist, director of celebration singers, and manager of staff and overall programs. In addition, he is a career/employment counselor at HIRED.

1990s

‘94 Aaron Hansen, BM, MM ‘04, Cedar Falls, IA, is teaching K-6 general music at Cedar Heights Elementary School. This follows 16 years at Waverly-Shell Rock.

2000s

‘00, Tamara Sanikidze, MM, Austin, TX, joined the faculty of the Butler School of Music in Austin, TX, in January 2015. Sanikidze is also an official pianist for Plácido Domingo’s Operalisa, The World Opera Competition and has performed regular in the Marilyn Home Foundation’s The Song Continues... and On the Wings of Song series.

‘03 Lisa Schmitz, BA, West Des Moines, IA, was named marketing and PR manager for the Principal Charity Classic PGA Tour Champions event in Des Moines. She spent the previous seven years in the sports and entertainment division of Edelman Public Relations in Chicago.

‘05 Lacy (Sprung) Willenborg, BA, Des Moines, IA, married Drew in June 2015. They were able to honeymoon in Rome, Italy and received the Sposi Novelti blessing (marriage blessing) from the Pope.

‘06 Sarah (Duvel) Rueber, BM, MA ‘10, Cedar Falls, IA, was named worship director for Orchard Hill Church’s two campuses in Grundy County. She also does script writing and administrative support for Around the Corner Productions.

‘09 Jeff Fountain, BM, Cedar Rapids, IA, is a band teacher at College Community School.
2010s

‘10 Michael Thursby, MM, Mankato, MN, is the director of athletic bands and percussion at Minnesota State University Mankato.

‘11 Michael Conrad, BM, Greeley, CO, was selected as a recipient of ASCAP’s 2016 Herb Alpert Young Composer Award. Mike also won first place in the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers Jazz Arranging Contest in December 2015, which was followed by a performance and recording of the arrangement by Kim Richmond’s Jazz Orchestra in Los Angeles. Conrad is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Colorado. He continues to remain active as a composer and performer.

‘13, Rebecca Buseman, BA, Saint Paul, MN, graduated from the graduate program at the University of Southern Florida in May 2015. She currently resides in St. Paul, MN, where she works at Wells Pianos helping the business owner to operate the business, facilitate piano deals, volunteer within the community, play pianos, teach piano lessons and more.

‘13 Jordan Leckband, BM, Newton, IA, is the 6-12 grade director of vocal music at Nodaway Valley in Greenfield. He teaches the High School Women’s Chorus, High School Men’s Chorus, 7/8 Choir, 6th Grade Choir, and the Advanced Music Studies class. He will be returning to Cedar Falls this summer to teach the Music Technology classes for Camp MusicMania, and is also a member of the Central Iowa Alumni Association for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He married Meghan (Vosberg) Leckband in August 2015 with most of the groomsmen being UNI Music Alumni!

‘13, Stephanie Opsal, BM, Albuquerque, NM, recently completed her Master of Music degree at University of New Mexico. While completing her studies, Stephanie served as Woodwind Tech/Clinician at La Cueva High School, leading clarinet sectional and working with their marching band. She also taught Beginning Band and Beginning Strings at St. Mary’s School in downtown Albuquerque.

‘14, Brett Copeland, BA, Tampa, FL, is pursuing the MM degree in Tuba Performance at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Brett is the current President of the New-Music Consortium and Vice-President of the College of The Arts Council at USF. In fall 2016, Brett plans to attend the Eastman School of Music to begin working towards the DMA in Tuba Performance and Literature while also serving as a teaching assistant for the Eastman Computer Music Center.

‘14 Nick Wills, BM, Bloomington, IN, is a second year graduate student in horn performance at Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

Marriages

‘05 Lacy (Sprung) Willenborg, BA, married Drew Willenborg in June 2015.

‘13 Jordan Leckband, BM, married Meghan (Vosberg) Leckband on August 8, 2015.

‘14 Nick Wills, BM, married Emily (Linder) Wills, BA ‘14, on July 26, 2014.

Final Cadence

We were sad to hear of the passing of our past graduate. We send our sympathies to her family.

‘55 Donna (Sharp) Sehmann, BA, died 12/4/2015 in Cresco, IA.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland for assistance in gathering information for this and the entire Alumni News article.

Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please complete and return the form in the center of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!
### Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band
Ronald Johnson and Danny Galyen, conductors  
Wednesday, October 5, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Jazz Band One & Jazz Panthers
Christopher Merz and Robert Washut, conductors  
Friday, October 7, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

### Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor  
Thursday, October 20, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Concert Chorale & UNI Singers
John Len Wiles and Amy Kotsonis, conductors  
Tuesday, November 1, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### UNI Opera Presents: Fall Opera Performance
Mitra Sadeghpour, director  
Monday-Tuesday, November 14-15, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

### UNI Choirs Holiday Concert
Ftg. UNI Choirs and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor  
Thursday, February 23, 2017  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen, conductor  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Jazz Band One & Concert Chorale
Christopher Merz and John Len Wiles, conductors  
Friday, April 7, 2017  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### UNI Opera Presents: Death by Aria
Mitra Sadeghpour, director  
Monday April 24, 2017  
6:00 p.m., Davis Hall, GBPAC

### Wind Symphony
Ftg. UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club  
Ronald Johnson, conductor  
Monday, April 24, 2017  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

### Symphonic Band & UNI Singers
Danny Galyen and Amy Kotsonis, conductors  
Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be $11 – adults, $10 – senior citizens, $9 – non-UNI students. UNI School of Music is proud to offer free admission for UNI students with a current ID, thanks to the Panther Pass program.

Tickets are available by calling (319) 273-4TIX or visiting [www.unitix.uni.edu](http://www.unitix.uni.edu). Tickets may also be purchased at the door. For more information, call (319) 273-2028.
UNI Music Ambassadors Alyssa Adamec, Micayla Dawson and Nathan Jones stop to pose with TC and TK at the final Panther Open House of spring 2016.