CSBS Welcomes New Faculty & Staff

The college welcomed many new—and a few familiar—faces this fall.

We look forward to their individual contributions to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
New CSBS Center Opens

In August, the Creative Life Research Center became the newest component of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Under the direction of Gary Gute, associate professor of family studies, the CLRC is dedicated to building lives of meaning through the processes, places, and products of creativity. Defining creativity as solving problems in ways that are novel, useful, and appropriate, the center aims to forge interdisciplinary opportunities for inquiry, engagement, and outreach for students, for faculty, and for the community.

For more information on this dynamic new endeavor, visit www.uni.edu/csbs/clrc/.

Core faculty and students of the Creative Life Research Center:

Back row: Research assistants Elijah Seay (Psychology), Blake Findley (Psychology and Spanish), Dana Potter (Art), Carl Reitz (Biology), and Zach Garlinghouse (Psychology).

Front row: Graduate assistant Elizabeth Collins (English), program coordinator Deanne Gute, director Gary Gute, and graduate assistants Crystal Chariton (Physical Education) and Ashlyn Spies (School Counseling).

2013 State of the College

At the invitation of the CSBS senate, Dean Bass delivered the annual State of the College address October 7. The event is an opportunity to inform faculty and staff, introduce new colleagues, and celebrate the most recent crop of CSBS award winners.

Faculty recognized at the event:
Ana Kogl (Political Science) and Jim McCullagh (Social Work) for the CSBS Outstanding Teaching Award;
Laura Kaplan (Social Work) for the CSBS Outstanding Service Award;
Ruth Chananie (Sociology), Elizabeth Lefer (Psychology), and Emily Machen (History) for the University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching Award for Untenured Faculty;
Andrey Petrov (Geography) for the CSBS Faculty Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity;
Helen Harton (Psychology) for the Regents’ Award for Faculty Excellence;
Katherine van Wormer (Social Work) for the Distinguished Scholar Award
Staying Connected...

With Emeriti

One of Dean Bass’s many new initiatives was this summer’s emeritus faculty coffee. The event was designed to allow continued communication between current faculty and those campus resources who have retired from teaching. But as our inaugural group proves, emeritus faculty can keep just as scholarly active as those on campus.

The college salutes all our emeritus faculty who embody the spirit of life-long learning.

Among those attending the first “Coffee with the Dean” for emeritus faculty were (from left) Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology department head Phyllis Baker; emeritus professor Dean Talbott; History department head Bob Martin; emeritus professor Hal Wohl; emeritus professor David Walker; new Psychology department head Eric Hiris; and Dean Bass.

With Service Members

Iowa’s Statewide Military and Veterans Conference, “Uncamouflaging Campus Diversity: Creating Transparency through Cultural Competence,” was held on campus in September. In its fourth year, the event’s purpose is to discuss issues that face service members and veterans. This year’s event also included an employment fair as well as other campus and community resources to help service members and veterans reach success both in and after college. CSBS sponsors included the Office of the Dean and the Department of Social Work.

With Our Partners

Each year, the Department of Social Works hosts a colloquium open to agencies who accept placement of the department’s field practicum students.

This year’s event was “Closing the Gap: Strategies for Addressing Health Care Disparities among LGBT Older Adults” by Dr. Kimberly Acquaviva. An authority on aging among those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), Acquaviva was appointed in 2013 to serve on NIH’s National Advisory Council on Aging.

With Donors

David Van Sickel, a 1974 graduate of history, has been a continued supporter of international opportunities for students. An attorney living in Des Moines, Van Sickel recently visited campus to have lunch with some of the 13 students who traveled abroad in 2012-13 with his support.
Mark Grey (Anthropology) and Michele Devlin (HPLS) have been named recipients of a 2013 Immigrant Champion award. The award will be presented at Iowa’s Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit held in November at Drake University. Grey is the director of the New Iowans Center, the state’s leading research, training, and consultation center on immigrant and refugee populations.

Augustina Naami (Social Work) presented at the October meeting of the Current Research on Women (CROW) Forum, sponsored by Women’s and Gender Studies. The topic was “The impact of unemployment on women with physical disabilities: A comparison of Tamale, Ghana, and Salt Lake City, Utah.”

Chad Christopher (Social Science and History Education) has been named UNI’s secondary education program coordinator. The position, designed to represent all secondary teaching content areas on campus, reinforces CSBS’s dedication to social science teacher preparation and our college’s role in the preparation of all UNI teaching graduates.

Gary Gute (Family Studies) lent his expertise on creativity to the article “Creating Creative Kids” in the October 2013 issue of Family Fun magazine.

Richard Featherstone (Criminology) is a recipient of the first annual Provost Awards for Excellence in Teaching with Technology. The award is given to faculty who are using technology in innovative ways in their courses to improve student learning. Adam Butler (Psychology) was also a CSBS nominee for this new campus award.

Dhirendra Vajpeyi (Political Science) has published a new edited book, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Human Security: A Comparative Analysis, a collection of essays on the climate change debate. His 16th book, it also includes a chapter by CSBS colleague Jian Li (Anthropology) on the topic of environmental impacts, human security, and migration policies in China.

Andrey Petrov (Geography) has been awarded a major National Science Foundation grant for the project RCN-SEES: Arctic-FROST: Arctic FRontiers Of SusTainability: Resources, Societies, Environments and Development in the Changing North. The project is based from the existing Arctic Social and Environmental Systems Research (ARCSES) Laboratory in CSBS. The award will allow UNI to serve as the national center of Arctic sustainability science research for the next five years.

Lindsay Cohn (Political Science) is spending this academic year as an international affairs fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations. This highly competitive program has placed her with the Department of Defense in the office of Special Operations and Combating Terrorism.
STUDENT Kudos

Molly Franta* (History) interned this summer at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. She assisted the curatorial team of the exhibition FOOD: Transforming the American Table, 1950-2000 and also helped to plan and execute the Food in the Garden summer series at the museum.*

Jamie Groen (Family Services) spent the summer working at Camp Heart Connection in Des Moines. The camp allows children with cancer the opportunity to participate in typical summer camp activities.

Zach Owens (Textiles & Apparel) spent eight weeks in China this summer interning for the high-end shoe manufacturer ECCO.

Emily Pei* (Textiles & Apparel) interned in Hong Kong this summer with Cabela’s quality assurance team. She is the second student to participate in the internship program established by a TAPP alumna.

* Franta and Pei are current SBS Scholars.

ALUMNI Kudos

Kayla Stokes (Gerontology 2010) is a person directed care consultant for ABCM Corporation, which operates a number of rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, and independent and assisted living communities throughout Iowa.

Andy Pattee (Social Science Education 1998) is the new superintendent of Cedar Falls schools. He was most recently superintendent in Charles City.


Adam Bentley (Political Science 2008, Public Policy 2010) was recently named assistant city manager of Manhattan, Kansas.

Tabatha Cruz (Family Services 2008) and Jeff Kurtz (History 1996) were selected for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier “20 under 40” series. Cruz is program coordinator at UNI’s Center for Multicultural Education, and Kurtz is director of Main Street Waterloo.


Mark Sothmann (History 1971) has been appointed interim president for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He had been vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Bill Hood (Social Science 1962) is a 2013 Iowa African American Hall of Fame Inductee. Hood began his career as a secondary teacher and later became the first black teacher at Mount Mercy College.
CSBS Kudos, published twice every semester, is meant to highlight accomplishments of faculty, students, and alumni of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and to make colleagues in the college and across campus aware of the great things being done in CSBS. By sharing these ideas, interests, and contributions, we hope to sustain a sense of community.

 Panther Open House

Thanks to the many CSBS faculty, staff, and students who are taking part in the newest campus recruitment initiative. The college appreciates the enthusiasm of our representatives to greet prospective students and their families—especially on a recent Saturday morning.