

statements

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

neighbors for peace, prosperity & compassion

CONNECTING HELPING
PROFESSIONALS ACROSS
THE CEDAR VALLEY

look for the helpers

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19
ON NURSING HOME
RESIDENTS & STAFF

mapping a virus

ANALYZING A PANDEMIC
UTILIZING GEOGRAPHIC
PERSPECTIVES & TECHNIQUES

the threat to health nobody is talking about

PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH

the
helpers

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FROM THE DEAN

UNPRECEDENTED. CHALLENGING.
CHAOTIC. HISTORICAL.

Just a few of the words used to describe the year 2020, where we have collectively faced a global health pandemic, a pivotal time regarding equity and inclusion, and widespread economic and psychological hardships.

In the midst of it all, CSBS alumni, students, faculty and staff have been on the front lines in addressing societal needs. From extensive efforts to keep nursing home residents safe, to a focus on mental health across the state and nation, they have stepped up to solve the complex issues at hand. The collective impact of the skill and talent found throughout the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has been both humbling and inspiring.

In these times especially, I invite you to read and learn more about how CSBS and UNI continue to make a difference in the world.

As always, your support as alumni and friends is crucial for our continued success. Your financial contributions, as well as your gifts of time and expertise, have allowed us to provide the best possible experiences and mentoring for our students.

We love to hear your updates so that we can stay connected and share your stories with our current students. Thank you for your support, and please feel free to contact me with thoughts or questions.



BRENDA BASS

DEAN, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



NEIGHBORS *for* PEACE, PROSPERITY & COMPASSION

“NO U.S. METRO AREA HAS LARGER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISPARITIES ALONG RACIAL LINES THAN WATERLOO-CEDAR FALLS, IOWA.”

So stated the November 2018 *24/7 Wall St.* report, singling out Waterloo-Cedar Falls as the worst metro for African Americans to live.

The report dealt a hard blow to the Cedar Valley, bringing the racial tensions and economic disparities the community has long struggled with to the national stage.

A year later, many reflected on the report: both the initial impact and the progress made.

As part of this reflection, UNI's TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOP) within the Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE) and CSBS turned to the theme, "Neighbors for Peace, Prosperity & Compassion," for their second annual System of Support Conference.

Oriented towards “helping professionals,” the conference specifically targeted audiences within the Cedar Valley who were working directly within human services.

“The [conference] is our opportunity to give back to the community and connect further with all the wonderful service providers out there,” stated CSBS Dean **BRENDA BASS**.

“I think, as a community partner, the university has an obligation and responsibility to think about how we use our resources, our expertise and really connect the dots between education, research and practice,” said Center for Violence Prevention Director and Conference Committee Chair **ALAN HEISTERKAMP**.

“[The report] was a big concern for us, at our program and our center,” stated Kathy Martin, director of EOP. “We’re primarily working with first-generation, low-income adults, helping them to further their education. So we wanted to partner with campus get practicing professionals together, have them talk about what they’re doing in their offices and discuss some of the different support services they can provide.”

The conference began with a community panel featuring representatives from prominent Waterloo organizations, including Cedar Valley Iowa Works, Grow Cedar Valley and People's Community Health Clinic, alongside the Waterloo and Cedar Falls mayors and police departments.

The panelists addressed how the *24/7* report hit home.

“When the article came out, I took it personally,” commented Mayor **QUENTIN HART, '03**, who in 2015 became the first African American elected to the office of mayor for the city of Waterloo. “They waited until I was elected huh?”



Mayor Hart contended many of the statistics of the 24/7 report took incidents occurring from 2009-2015 into account, which didn't seem to give an accurate depiction of the Cedar Valley today. But he recognized that regardless of what the statistics said, it was obvious that the lives of African Americans in Cedar Falls-Waterloo still need to be improved.

"Here we were trying so hard, but yet we were still not doing enough," said Christine Kemp, CEO of People's Community Health Clinic. "But if that's what it took to have conversations and put it all on the table, let's do it."

"After getting through the bruise of the article, we realized it created some great dialogue," remarked Carry Darrah, president and CEO of Grow Cedar Valley. "No one wants to have that blemish on their community. But if it took that article to have us talk seriously about identifying it ... progress needs to be made. It's not going to happen overnight, or be solved by any one person, organization or entity. It has to be a shift in the culture of what we do and how we do it."

"For everyone who's lived it, it was like well, now you know," Debra Hodges-Harmon, team lead at Cedar Valley Iowa Works, pointed out. "It was an embarrassment, but sometimes being embarrassed is not the worst thing to happen."

So what steps have been taken in the last year to move forward?

Community organizers worked hard to appropriately identify barriers, figure out who's going to work through them, who needs to be at the table at this moment and who needs to be invited in the future.

"The best thing is, now, we stand as one community working on many issues," said Hodges-Harmon.

Collaboration, connection and staying positive were key takeaways from the conference. Panelists stressed the importance of looking at what initiatives were already being done in the community. What organizations were doing similar things and could start collaborating? In what other ways could the audience, filled with community "doers," help?

For employers: Don't just look at who you're hiring into your company to help create a diverse workplace environment. It's equally, if not more important, to look at workplace culture, and how those hires will be supported.

For allies: Find ways to be a part of the community culture, learn and listen. Hire those who can help bridge relationships. Talk about implicit biases.

Listen. Find allies. Build relationships. Act.

LOOK *for the* HELPERS

ELAINE ESHBAUGH

professor of gerontology

AS I REFLECT ON THIS SPRING, I AM SADDENED BY HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED OUR OLDER ADULTS.

In particular, I think of the nursing home residents who are isolated in their rooms with no outside visitors, no congregate meals and no group activities.

Many are acutely aware of the COVID-19 risk and are fearful that the virus will hit their facility. As of mid-May, it was reported that over one-third of all U.S. coronavirus deaths are nursing home residents or workers.

Others may have dementia or cognitive challenges and struggle to understand why they can't leave their rooms, why their family isn't visiting and why people around them are wearing masks. COVID-19 has made a population that is challenged by isolation even more isolated. Not surprisingly, people who live in nursing homes have a higher rate of depression than the general population. I don't know of any studies that have collected data since the onset of COVID-19, but I can only imagine those numbers are increasing.

As a professor of gerontology, I work with many students who are employed at nursing homes and assisted living facilities in various capacities (e.g., dietary staff, activity professional, certified nursing assistant).

When UNI transitioned to online courses in the midst of the pandemic, many picked up additional hours because their schedules became more flexible.

They quickly adapted to new protocols and safeguards, and (in Zoom conversations with them) I learned that they were going above and beyond their job descriptions, in addition to somehow keeping up with their online courses and succeeding academically.

Although some facilities have worked hard to keep up with technology, others lag behind in what they are offering residents. Many nursing homes and assisted living facilities do not have the capacity to offer video chats to their residents. However, a trend emerged a few weeks into the COVID crisis: our gerontology students, who are well-versed in FaceTime, Skype and Zoom, were coming to work early and staying late to allow residents to video conference with their families.

Many of our gerontology alumni are leaders in the field and have had to make difficult decisions during this time.



ESHBAUGH

Recently, a gerontology alum who administers a nursing home in the Des Moines area was looking to borrow or rent a small RV to park near the nursing home, just in case he was needed in an urgent situation. Alumni who work in lifestyle enrichment and programming have had to forego group activities and come up with creative ideas to engage residents in their rooms.

An additional challenge is ensuring that all supplies are diligently sanitized if they are shared by residents. It is no secret that nursing homes have been hit hard by COVID-19, but hospitals are more likely to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE). Many of the alumni from our nursing home administration program have been challenged to locate and purchase PPE and also choose how to disperse PPE when it arrives at the facility. These decisions have serious implications for both residents and staff.

Many of our graduates work in programs that serve older adults in their homes. They have worked diligently to enroll more individuals in “senior meals” (aka, Meals on Wheels) programs. They’ve also worked in various ways to make sure medications and grocery delivery are available. During this time, these acts are nothing less than heroic. When we give older adults the option to stay home, we save lives.

I’ve coordinated our gerontology program for more than ten years, and I’ve always been inspired by how our current and former students make a difference to older adults and their families.

It is not an overstatement to say that right now their actions are life-saving. I have never been more proud to be a part of the UNI community.

*Photo: Student **KELSI NGUYEN** assists resident at Parker Place Retirement Community, managed by **JACOB BATES**, '13.*

MAPPING a VIRUS

JOHN DEGROOTE, ALEX OBERLE & MARK WELFORD
professors of geography

THERE IS AN ENDURING TRADITION OF ANALYZING HEALTH AND DISEASE USING GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES.

Cholera epidemics were thought to be caused by “bad air” until 1854 when British doctor John Snow utilized a geographical grid to connect a concentration of deaths to one public water pump.

Studying patterns of health and disease across geographic space has since been a mainstay of public health and epidemiology.

Over the past few decades, geography’s role has been greatly elevated through the widespread use of geographic information systems (GIS), a computer-based platform that allows for powerful and nearly instantaneous analysis of data across geographic space.

GIS and related technologies are critical for disease surveillance, analysis and visualization, with more recent applications and platforms revolutionizing the way the public health community communicates to the general public.

For Iowans, as for many states and countries, a dynamic, interactive dashboard is the primary way that we monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Iowa.

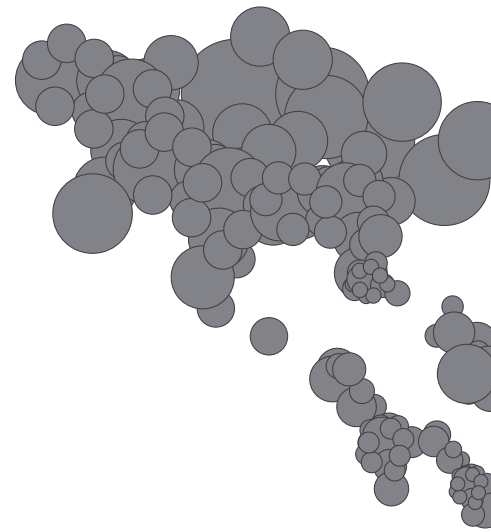
Local health departments have designed GIS dashboards to develop innovative means to support residents during this unprecedented crisis. A good example is the Atlanta area’s Cobb County COVID-19 Community Hub, a resource that includes a crowd-sourced grocery store inventory dashboard for shoppers to report which supermarkets have supplies or shortages of high-demand products.

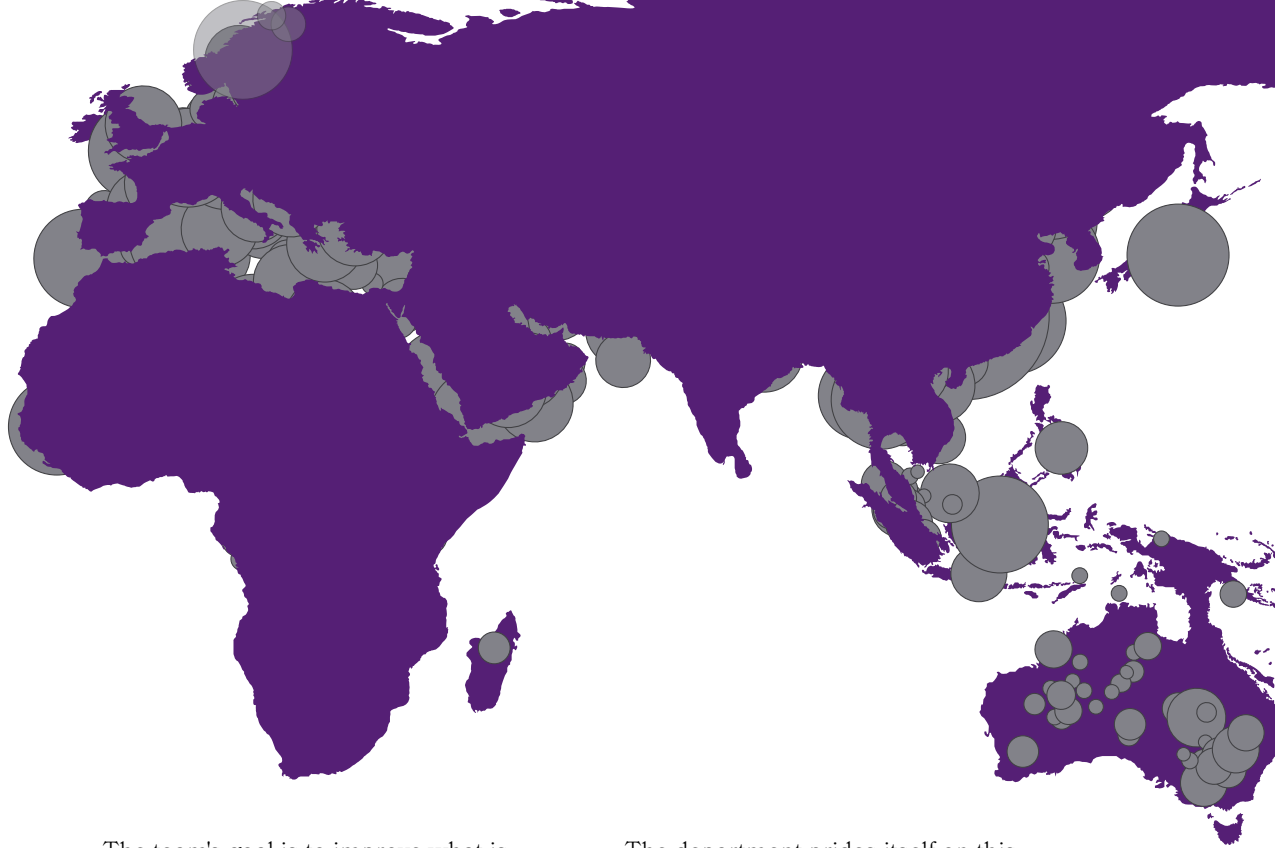
UNI’s Department of Geography has considerable experience and expertise in this area, through research, outreach and teaching.

MARK WELFORD, the department’s new head, co-published six articles on plague pandemics and wrote the 2018 book, “Geography of Plague Pandemics.”

In 2010, Welford and his colleagues predicted that modern rates of tropical/sub-tropical deforestation and “bush meat” consumption would likely encourage the emergence of additional lethal, easily transmitted pathogens in the near future. Sadly, with COVID-19, they have been proven right.

In early June 2020, **ANDREY PETROV, TATIANA DEGAI, JOHN DEGROOTE** and Welford, along with Alexander Savelyev from Texas State University, obtained a \$199,998 National Science Foundation (NSF) Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant for, “Tracking and Understanding Spatiotemporal Dynamics of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Arctic.”





WELFORD



The team's goal is to improve what is known about COVID-19 in the Arctic and develop tools for establishing the pandemic's relationship to sociocultural, economic, institutional and environmental contexts and changes.

The grant will fund near-real-time data collection, bringing together an interdisciplinary team of experts in data science, geoinformatics, visualization, spatial epidemiology and anthropology/Indigenous studies.

DEGROOTE



UNI's GeoTREE Center, led by DeGroot, has a history of published research that uses GIS technologies to examine West Nile virus occurrence across geographic space. The center has also collaborated on local and state public health projects by leveraging GIS technologies to examine health care disparities in Iowa (maternal and child care), low birth weight in Black Hawk County and other projects.

These opportunities, as with most research initiatives within the department, are supported by the hands-on assistance of both graduate and undergraduate students.

OBERLE



The department prides itself on this ability for students to directly apply what they've learned to address real-world issues.

This spring, students were eager to find ways to utilize their talents to help their communities. **MARITZA SALINAS, '20**, independently developed a [GIS-based dashboard](#) to help Iowa residents track COVID cases by county and find valuable resources.

Professor of Geography **ALEX OBERLE**, who served as an intern at the Arizona Department of Health as a Ph.D. student, has already been integrating health topics into his GIS I course. With all eyes on the pandemic, he will also integrate this theme into his fall Human Geography classes, including connections to course topics like diffusion, globalization, social justice and environmental change.

In these chaotic times, it will become all the more critical to have a highly skilled workforce to swiftly analyze geographic changes. We are proud of the work our geography faculty, students and alumni contribute to these efforts.



FEATURE | FAMILY SERVICES

THE THREAT *to* HEALTH *nobody is* TALKING ABOUT

NATHAN TAYLOR

assistant professor of family services

WHILE SOCIETY IS INUNDATED WITH DISCUSSIONS OF MASKS, VACCINES, IMMUNITY AND ALL MATTERS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, OMITTED FROM THE CONVERSATIONS OF HEALTH IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DISABILITY WORLDWIDE.

How can we not discuss the illness that impairs more people than any other?

No, I am not talking about heart disease, cancer or obesity, which while infamous are all secondary to the illnesses few talk about. Thriving in anonymity is the leading cause of disability worldwide: mental health problems.

So as the country continues to reopen, how can we include mental health as a priority to healthy living?

First, if a family member, friend or you are worried about your mental health, seek professional care.

I know this is often easier said than done. Throughout the country, access to mental health providers is difficult. Lack of providers, cost or being put on a wait list all hinder access to care. Access to mental health providers is especially problematic in rural states like Iowa where 94 of the 99 counties have an insufficient number of providers to meet population need.

Even when services are available, many struggle with challenges related to acceptability of mental health services. While it is decreasing and will continue to do so, some experience stigma associated with seeking mental health care. People do not want to be seen as weak, are scared of others finding out or believe that they can handle it on their own. Some can engage in self-help strategies to address mental illness, but many cannot and continue to suffer rather than seeking care. We will need to help minimize stigma by sharing our own stories of mental health problems, celebrating those that seek care, and being empathetic to those that are struggling.

Lucky for us, the current pandemic-that-shall-not-be-named removed some of the hurdles of seeking mental health care. With offices being closed and providing care still required, mental health clinicians across the country transitioned to delivering services virtually. This means that even when there aren't providers in your community or you are worried about others finding out, mental health providers are available without you even leaving your home.

As a telemental health researcher, I will address the question I most often get. Does it really work? For the majority of mild to moderate mental health symptoms, the answer is unequivocally yes!

The second way we can add priority to mental health as we emerge from this pandemic is to remember this valuable lesson: We need connection.

As we have been isolated from our families, friends and community members, many have recognized that one of our most basic and vital needs is connection.

It has been amazing to see the innovative ways people remained connected. School teachers became parade participants, families engaged in virtual game nights, neighbors dropped treats off on the front porch, and the elderly received care packages.

The creation and maintenance of healthy relationships is one of our greatest neutralizers to mental health challenges. This is the focus of the family services program at UNI, where each year graduates disperse into the workforce with the mission to strengthen individual, family and community relationships.

So let's celebrate some of the good that came during these trying times. First, mental health services are now more accessible than ever. Help is available from the comfort of your living room and without you ever needing to change out of your pajamas. Do your part to minimize stigma about mental health by encouraging loved ones to seek care. Second, we were reminded of the importance of connection. Find ways to remember how special it is to be together with friends, family and neighbors, and devote effort to strengthen your important relationships.

I hope we don't return to normal after all of this, but instead spring forward to a time where mental health is rightfully included in conversations of healthy living. Because there is no health without mental health.



MIND & BODY

KAREN MITCHELL HAD JUST EXPERIENCED A SERIES OF UNTHINKABLE TRAGEDIES, INCLUDING THE DEATH OF HER PARTNER OF ALMOST 20 YEARS, AND FELT HERSELF IN A FUGUE STATE.

Then she tried an increasingly popular form of yoga, developed to help people recover from trauma. The class helped her start a path towards healing.

“I think it has a lot to do with listening to your body. Your body will tell you the truth,” she said.

Therapies like the trauma-sensitive yoga class Mitchell participates in are used alongside traditional talk therapy to help treat mental illness and other symptoms in survivors of trauma. Despite a lack of definitive research, these approaches are rising in popularity. A team of UNI experts, including Assistant Professor of Social Work **MATTHEW VASQUEZ**, is helping healthcare professionals understand how these supplemental therapies may help trauma survivors.

Vasquez came to UNI in 2017, drawn to the strength of the social work program, and has found great support for this cutting-edge approach to trauma therapy.

“I was very excited to come to UNI, specifically, because I’m really passionate about my research and teaching focus on trauma,” he said. “[The department] was very welcoming of my research and the courses I wanted to teach.”

Since 2013, UNI’s Master of Social Work (MSW) program has offered a specialization in trauma-informed care. At the time, it was one of only three such programs in the country and is still the only in the state of Iowa.

“There’s a lot of interest in it, so much that we started a distance education program in 2016 to help fulfill the demand,” said Department of Social Work Head **CINDY JUBY**. “We hired Matt because of his expertise on trauma-informed care. He’s really leading this specialization and helping us take it to the next step, so that we are getting the message out about its importance. He’s actively working with community agencies, helping them switch over to trauma-informed practices.”

One of the ways Vasquez is helping promote data-driven therapy is through a new study. It came about after he met **TRACI LUDWIG, '97**, a mental health therapist who had been leading trauma-sensitive yoga classes for her clients since 2015 but saw the need for formal research.

Ludwig, who works at Mercy One Behavioral Health in Cedar Falls and is a UNI adjunct instructor in social work, pitched the idea to Vasquez and the two set to work. Their study, currently in progress, tracks outcomes for both trauma-sensitive yoga and a Chen Style Tai Chi class, led by Mercy One therapist and social work alumnus **JOHN UPSHAW, '95**, aimed at helping trauma survivors.

Vasquez enrolled participants and developed testing instruments, working closely with Assistant Professor of Sociology **ASHLEIGH KYSAR-MOON**, to create pre- and post- surveys for study participants.

Participants take a pre-test assessing their mental health, then are randomly assigned to participate in trauma-sensitive yoga or Tai Chi, alongside talk therapy, for 12 weeks. The control group participates in traditional talk therapy only.

“Overall, there were fewer depression, anxiety and trauma symptoms in all three groups,” Kysar-Moon said of the results to date. “One of the things that’s come out really strongly in our qualitative data are the stories the [participants] are telling about how they’re feeling more connected with their body, or how they’ve been able to feel like they could connect more socially with other participants in these groups.”

That’s been the case for Mitchell. Participating in a trauma-responsive yoga class with Ludwig helped Mitchell acknowledge and come to terms with her trauma, which has had a profound impact on her life — mentally, physically and professionally.

“What I’ve noticed since doing the work with Traci is how much more present I am. I had not been fully present in my body in that way in any other exercise class. It’s also allowed me to calm down and not be so anxious about everything.”

It’s also affected her job. Mitchell is a professor in UNI’s department of communication studies and she said she’s seen a change in her students, as well.

“I think [my students] sensed a change in me over the course of the semester,” she said. “As I was becoming more open, more vulnerable, more willing to take risks, I think that came through in my teaching.”

The yoga classes are designed to help participants ease into movements, and allows them to modify or withhold from making moves based on their physical or emotional comfort.

“Because I’ve had first-hand experience instructing the groups for the past several years, I’ve been able to tailor our approach based upon a great deal of client-centered feedback,” said Ludwig. “I want to extend the reach to those that need it the most, whom in all honesty would never step foot into a yoga studio.”

The approach worked for Mitchell, a self-described “unapologetic big, beautiful woman,” helping her to not only feel comfortable in the class, but push herself further than she’d imagined.

“These are all people who have been in therapy for years that wasn’t working. They needed to actually do something to feel the power, to actually feel like they could do things in their body that they didn’t know they could do before,” said Vasquez. “That began to promote some rapid transformation. In trauma-sensitive yoga, there’s this sense of, ‘I can connect with myself and I accept myself,’ and in Chen Style Tai Chi we’re seeing, ‘I have so much power in my body.’”

For Vasquez, that is what is at the heart of this study — seeking to prove there are ways to treat trauma and mental illness beyond traditional therapy.

“In the long-term, my hope would be that we could stop this whole idea that ... our physical health and our mental health are two separate things,” he said. “How your body feels affects your mind, and what’s happening in your mind is going to affect your body.”



PANTHERS CAUCUS

THREE WEEKS REMAINED BEFORE IOWA'S FIRST-IN-THE-NATION CAUCUSES, BUT ROUNDS OF MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND EDUCATION EVENTS HAD LEFT UNI POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR **DONNA HOFFMAN'S** VOICE SCRATCHY AND FADING.

So when a French news outlet reached out to Hoffman — one of several UNI experts on Iowa's idiosyncratic method for selecting presidential candidates — her voice couldn't quite manage another phone or video interview.

"That's one I had to turn down," said Hoffman at the end of what had been another 12-plus-hour day. "Well I didn't turn it down — I just had to find an alternative method. She emailed me the questions."

Iowa's presidential caucuses come every four years and with them an intense media focus that upends the lives of at least two UNI professors. Nearly 2,000 reporters were expected to be in Iowa to cover the caucuses and no small number turned to Hoffman and her political science colleague **CHRIS LARIMER** for help.

Hoffman's cell sometimes started ringing minutes after she woke up before she could even pour herself a cup of coffee. Larimer cleared his to-do list and made special childcare arrangements — including with a neighboring UNI colleague — for his two children to make time for 7 a.m. radio interviews and last-minute media calls.

But Hoffman and Larimer don't mind the extra attention or work. Their relationship to the media helps inspire class discussions and puts Iowa — and UNI — in the national spotlight. One national reporter, senior *Politifacts* correspondent Lou Jacobson, even came to campus to speak to Larimer's "Iowa Politics" class.

"I've known Lou for a while. Several years ago, he started reaching out to me for insight on Iowa politics," said Larimer. "Lou is a nationally recognized correspondent and columnist, so this was a great opportunity for students. It's not often you get to interact with someone on that scale."

In addition to putting in extra hours doing media interviews, the professors were also hard at work educating the public directly, doing events like a campus Mock Caucus that drew more than 120 people to the Maucker Union Ballrooms on a cold Monday night in late January.

At the event, Hoffman and Larimer took turns explaining the rules of the Republican and Democratic caucuses, walking the students through a trial run of each process. Those gathered also learned that Iowa uses a caucus and New Hampshire has the first primary, each protecting its position with state laws.

"We might not always be the first in the nation," Hoffman told the crowd.

Her statement took on added weight when full results for the Democratic caucuses remained unavailable until after the presidential candidates had moved on to New Hampshire, causing many to question whether Iowa's first-in-the-nation status should continue. Larimer agreed Iowa's unique role is in jeopardy.

"There has always been criticism of the Iowa Caucuses, but those criticisms seemed heightened this year, even before what happened with the problems surrounding the counting of the results," said Larimer. "The complexity of the procedures was on full display last night and it obviously didn't go well. The one aspect of all of this that may save the caucuses is that if Iowa doesn't go first, who does? That will be an even larger and more complex matter for the national Democratic Party to resolve."

Unlike the real thing, UNI's Mock Caucus went off without a hitch.

For Hoffman, this flurry of national media coverage, regional events and her regular teaching duties, are all part of her education mission.

"I'm in this job to teach and do research. I'm not in this job to talk to the media, but that is a piece of what we do," she said. "Part of this job is educating the public, not just educating the students. It's a public service."

As political scientists, Hoffman and Larimer can often find themselves chained to their desks, reading studies and analyzing data. According to Larimer, media coverage and community events are often a welcome opportunity to make an even bigger impact, turning data analysis into practical impact.

"It gets you outside of your office, you're actually out talking to voters," he said. "It's important to sit here and look at the data — that's incredibly important. I'm very much a quantitative political scientist, and I could stare at data all day. But you still have to get out and talk to actual voters and see what they're thinking."



HOFFMAN



LARIMER

"Not only are we in Iowa, where there's a lot of political activity, but we're also at a comprehensive university, so professors teach but they also do research," said Hoffman. "We're teachers and we're scholars and we try to involve undergraduates in the work that we do. So students have opportunities if they want to be engaged."

Larimer echoed Hoffman's sentiment, pointing out that students involved in winning campaigns in Iowa often gain access to even more opportunities.

"National people are interested in this stuff. We've got to take advantage of being in Iowa," said Larimer. "If students are interested in working on a campaign, if you can get involved in a campaign that does well in Iowa, those are the people who end up doing big things."

MICHAEL J. LEIBER

passed away on Jan. 13, 2020.



Leiber began his academic career as an assistant professor at the University of Northern Iowa in 1989, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1995 and full professor in 2002. From 2005-2010, he was a faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University. Since 2010, he was a professor at the University of South Florida and chair of the Department of Criminology from 2011 to 2019.

Leiber was a distinguished scholar, colleague and mentor. His scholarly contributions should be best remembered for his desire to see the world become a better, fairer and more equitable place. His concern for social justice guided his career, where his work focused on minority over representation in the juvenile justice system, juvenile delinquency, and the treatment of disadvantaged youth in juvenile court. He was a very successful academic and widely acknowledged to be an expert in the field.

In his personal life, he was a devoted animal lover to his multiple cats and “fidos,” and maintained a pristine early 1970’s Alfa Romeo Spider. Leiber was also an avid sports fan, who was always up for a debate over his love for the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks and Wisconsin Badgers.

CHARLES (CHUCK) QUIRK

passed away on Oct. 21, 2019.



In 1963, when Quirk arrived at UNI, he assumed two positions: pastor at the College Hill Interdenominational Church and part-time assistant professor of history in the Department of Social Science. He subsequently earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Iowa in 1967. In that year, Quirk also undertook the direction of the fledgling honors program and helped guide its development for the next three years. In 1969, he was promoted to associate professor.

Quirk was a masterful teacher and especially enjoyed the close interaction with students found in the setting of the seminar. He regularly taught Religion in America, The City in U.S. History and American Civilization.

His real passion, however, was graduate education. He was coordinator of the history graduate program for eight years in the 1990s and taught graduate seminars in Historical Methods, U.S. Historiography, and specialized offerings in American religion and other topics. Quirk also helped lead graduate education at the university level as chair of the Graduate Faculty and chair of the Graduate Council. His scholarly interests were quite broad. He published articles and gave presentations on American religion, race relations, television evangelists and the history of Waterloo.

Quirk was a steadfast advocate for social justice at UNI and in the community. On campus, he was chair of the Committee on University Responsibility for Minority Group Education. He endeavored to empower faculty as a charter member of the UNI Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers in 1968. In the community, he and his wife, Gale, were very active in the struggle for civil equality and social justice at the local, state and national levels. Quirk retired in 2001 and became emeritus professor of history.

ROBERT (DEAN) TALBOTT

passed away on March 3, 2020.



Talbott began his career at UNI in 1967. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1959 and taught at Emporia State Teachers College (Kansas), Valley City State College (North Dakota) and Kearney State College (Nebraska). Talbott taught Latin American history courses and Non-Western Cultures: Latin America. He was promoted to full professor in 1974.

Talbott’s scholarly activities focused on Chilean history. He published the monograph, “A History of the Chilean Boundaries,” and wrote numerous reviews for various journals. He participated in several professional organizations, including the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS), where he was extremely active and served in many positions, including president from 1981 to 1982.

In chairing various committees at UNI, Talbott was a major contributor to change. He helped to develop the Latin American studies major and chaired the Latin American Studies Committee from 1968 to 1992. He chaired the history department’s Curriculum Committee for twenty-two years. Talbott retired in 1996 and became emeritus professor of history.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

ALISON COX

joined the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology as assistant professor of criminology. She received her bachelor's degree from Texas State University at San Marcos, and master's degree and doctorate from Michigan State University. She has also worked professionally in the areas of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and family law.



REBECCA DICKINSON

joined the Department of Social Work as assistant professor. She received her bachelor's degree from Mount Mercy College, master's of social work from UNI and doctorate from the University of Iowa. As a practicing social worker, Dickinson provided play therapy services and specialized in working with foster/adoptive children and their families.



ANNE FARNIOK

joined the School of Applied Human Sciences as instructor of interior design. She brings over 20 years of field experience (residential and commercial interiors) and over 10 years as faculty at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota.



ERAN HANKE

joined the School of Applied Human Sciences as assistant professor of counseling. She received her bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University, master's degree from University of Minnesota and doctorate from University of Iowa. Hanke most recently served as the director of the Medical Student Counseling Center and as senior staff counselor at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.



CORI MARTIN

joined the Department of History as secretary III. She received her bachelor's degree from Coe College and had most recently worked as operations assistant in business and continuing education at Hawkeye Community College.



JENNIFER MCNABB

joined the Department of History as head and professor of history. She received her bachelor's degree from Adrian College, master's degree from Bowling Green State University and doctorate from University of Colorado at Boulder. McNabb most recently served as professor of history at Western Illinois University, with terms as associate director of the Honors College and as the chair of the Department of History.



ANN SCHILLING

joined the School of Applied Human Sciences as secretary III. She received her bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University and had most recently worked for UNI's Office of Continuing and Distance Education.



NATHAN TAYLOR

joined the School of Applied Human Sciences as assistant professor of family services. He received his bachelor's degree from Weber State University, master's degree from Utah State University and doctorate from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Taylor's main research focuses on utilizing non-traditional approaches for improving the mental health and well-being of individuals and families in underserved areas.



MARK WELFORD

joined the Department of Geography as head and professor of geography. He received his bachelor's degree from Coventry University, master's degree from the University of Idaho and doctorate from the University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign. Welford spent the past 26 years as professor of geography at Georgia Southern University.



LIXIA ZHANG

joined the Department of Social Work as assistant professor. Originally from China, Lixia obtained her master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.



JOANNE GOLDMAN

joined UNI as an assistant professor of history in 1990. She taught a variety of American History courses including American Civilization, the City in United States History, The Early Republic and the History of Technology in America.



Goldman served on numerous departmental and university committees including the Curriculum Committee, Policies and Planning Committee, the Professional Assessment Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee. She also served on the Education Policies Committee and the Experiential Learning Task Force.

Her research interests have been varied. Goldman's first major project was the public policy history, "Building New York's Sewers," in 1997. Since then, she has published several articles on the history of the Ames National Laboratory, the history of the current rare earth crisis and the history of science and social studies education.

She was proud to have developed and directed the first public history program at an Iowa Regents University. Her fondest memories were those spent with colleagues. Goldman and her husband have retired to Port St. Lucie, Florida, and are eager to begin a new chapter in life.

JOE GORTON

was a respected faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology (SAC) from 1998 to 2020. During this time, some of his most noteworthy contributions included publishing one book and six articles in refereed publications. He was the primary investigator for six externally funded grants totaling \$162,637, chaired six successful graduate thesis committees, and served as the graduate program coordinator for criminology from 2007 to 2010.



During his tenure at UNI, Gorton served as president of United Faculty, UNI Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, from 2013 to 2018. During 2015 and 2016, he was instrumental in initiating a university-wide suicidality reduction project.

This included leadership for the creation of the One Is Too Many program and serving as a member of the grant writing team for the successful application of a federal suicidality reduction grant in the amount of \$360,000.

From 2011 to 2013, Gorton was the faculty advisor for UNI's Military and Student Veterans Association. In this position, he helped the organization grow substantially, established a long-term leadership development plan, and worked with students and the administration to create the UNI Military and Student Veterans Center. For this work, Gorton received the Meritorious Service Award in 2013.

ROBERT MARTIN

After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975, Martin served as an adjunct faculty member for six years at UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and St. Mary's College.



He joined the Department of History at UNI on a one-year appointment in August 1981 and became assistant professor in 1982. For the next twenty years, Martin taught a variety of courses including both halves of the U.S. History survey, Foundations of Modern America, The South in United States History, American Society and Culture, The Civil War and Reconstruction, and several Junior/Senior and graduate seminars. In 2003, he became head of the department, a position Martin held until the summer of 2019.

Martin's scholarship focused on American religion, culture and society in the early twentieth century. He published two biographies, "Howard Kester and the Struggle for Social Justice in the South, 1904-1977," and "Hero of the Heartland: Billy Sunday and the Transformation of American Society, 1862-1935," as well as articles and essays.

Over a 39-year career at UNI, Martin considered himself fortunate to have had the opportunity to teach many able and dedicated students and to serve with faculty who understand and believe in UNI's three-fold mission of teaching, scholarship and service.

Martin is not quite sure yet what he will do in retirement, but plans to spend some time continuing to learn to play the guitar. It is an ambition to which he came to very late in life, and he hopes to find ways in which he may help others as he has been helped so often over the years.

CHARLOTTE WELLS

came to UNI as an assistant professor of history in 1993.

She has served on “too many committees to bother mentioning,” including ten years as chair of the History Department Scholarship Committee.



Her publications include the monograph, “Law And Citizenship In Early Modern France,” and several other articles on religion and national identity in early modern France. Wells hopes to get back to a long-delayed project on how these issues transferred to French and English settlements in North America.

Wells helped move French history into the digital age as one of the founding editors of H-France, an international discussion list for scholars of French history and culture (with currently over 8,000 members). She will remain associate editor of the H-France digital journal. "Film and Fiction for Scholars of France," after retirement.

She is proud of her contribution to UNI's outreach to the Cedar Valley community as a frequent presenter in various community education forums and as a member of the Canterbury Forum Coordinating Committee. Her most prized award was the Phi Alpha Theta Faculty Award in 2014 for teaching excellence.

In retirement, Wells hopes to get back to research and to continue to teach in venues that do not require correcting papers. She also plans to travel, when the state of the world again permits it, support the history department as it grows into the future and, finally, take the advice of the philosopher Voltaire and, “cultivate her garden!”

TAIFA YU

joined the Department of Political Science at UNI in 1988 after earning his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1993.



Yu's scholarship focused on relations among the nation-states of East Asia, particularly China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

In recent years, he examined the role of key policymakers in decisions about the Korean War. His scholarly interests complemented his teaching. He frequently taught Non-western Cultures: China, Contemporary Political Problems, East Asian Politics, Comparative Politics and Comparative Foreign Policy.

WILLIAM HENNINGER

(family services)
appointment to CSBS associate dean for student success



EMILY MACHEN

(history)
promotion to full professor



JAYME RENFRO

(political science)
promotion to associate professor with tenure



BRIAN WARBY

(political science)
promotion to associate professor with tenure



the COCA-COLA® CHALLENGE

As one of the world's most recognizable brands, Coca-Cola routinely works with top-tier design firms. Even against that backdrop, when its North American division recently teamed up with UNI's Advanced Design Studio II class to create a new in-store fixture, merchandising directors were left impressed.

"We were blown away with the caliber of students and the work they created," said Susan Lazaro, director of Coca-Cola North America Visual Merchandising. "The end result of their designs gave us some wonderful ideas that we'll hopefully see in market one day."

Students worked in competing teams to design an in-store fixture promoting Coca-Cola's "mini" line of small-portion canned sodas. The designs were shared digitally with Coca-Cola's main office in Atlanta, and a winning design was selected to be considered for production in 2021. For **EMILY HAMILTON, '20**, recent UNI interior design grad and one-half of the winning team, the project could be her first time seeing one of her designs go to market.

"This was a really neat opportunity to practice working more on the commercial side," said Hamilton. "I never thought I would be working with this large of a company on any project. I also think it's really neat that our idea could come to life."

The winning design featured a whimsical dual surfboard concept, showcasing two different size packages of mini Coke cans on different sized surfboard-shaped shelves.

The design process alone gave many students their first glimpse into the variety of opportunities available in the interior design industry.

"We heard we were doing a retail project, but I didn't know it was an actual fixture, rather than a floor plan," said recent UNI interior design grad **NATALIE NEUZIL, '20**, who co-designed the winning display for the spring 2020 project with Hamilton. "This definitely opened my eyes and made me realize I can use my interior design skills to design fixtures. It's not just residential or commercial, it can be all these subcategories."

The two worked with Illinois-based merchandising and retail firm Bish Creative on the project, which gave them hands-on experience with a lesser-known side of the commercial interior design industry.

"Decoration is a small portion of what we do as interior designers. Interior architecture would be a better term for interior designers. We are planning interior spaces," said **ANNE FARNIOK**, instructor of interior design, who led the design project and co-taught the class.

"[The project] was an opportunity to give [students] retail design experience. It really gave them a glimpse of what it would be like in the real world."



UNI's interior design program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, which has rigorous standards meant to prepare students for work in the field. The Advanced Design Studio II class in particular is meant to give students hands-on experience.

"It's kind of a capstone experience for the students. In it, they address an advanced design problem, with multiple components, touching many different aspects of the design process," said **GOWRI BETRABET GULWADI**, professor and area coordinator of interior design.

The project was also in collaboration with the Planning and Visual Education (PAVE) initiative, an organization devoted to promoting the retail industry to college students.

"Our goal is to get [students] in front of industry, which hopefully will lead to career opportunities," said Dash Nagel, director of PAVE.

"I came away thoroughly impressed. [The UNI students] were well-versed and handled themselves professionally. It just goes to show that there is great talent in all four corners of this country," Nagel said. "Our goal is always to reach as many schools as possible. To be able to give them the opportunities that some students only feel like you get in the big city has been really rewarding."

It was Farniok, a new faculty member this academic year, who had a connection with PAVE and helped bring the program to UNI.

"I think PAVE fit in very well," stated Betrabet Gulwadi, who had previously taught the class on her own. "It was an extremely valuable connection to those in the industry who actually translate a design from paper and make it happen."

With the success of the PAVE project, Betrabet Gulwadi looks forward to expanding the program's network.



EMILY HAMILTON, '20



NATALIE NEUZIL, '20

While PAVE helped give students insight into a lesser-known area of interior design, UNI's program also has strong connections to local industry within the Cedar Valley.

"We have very good architectural firms in the area. I think students in the interior design program gain a broad perspective from right here in the Cedar Valley, but also outside, like you're seeing now with PAVE," she said. "Having these connections is a wonderful part of UNI ... and I'm really excited to see where it's going to go in the future."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
PSYCHOLOGY

Carolyn Pham

LEADING CUTTING-EDGE
RESEARCH

After graduating from high school in Davenport, **CAROLYN PHAM, '20**, arrived at UNI intending to pursue a degree in art education. When she realized she was more interested in what drove people's perceptions, particularly about race, she switched to psychology.

"I've always been interested in how people act and why they do the things they do. As a kid, I liked the idea of being a psychologist and dissecting people's motivations and feelings," Pham said. "While that isn't quite what I'm interested in anymore, that interest still pushed me toward choosing psychology."

At UNI, Pham found the perfect home for undergraduate research. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals not once, but twice. Her talent and experience gave her a leg up when she applied to doctoral programs and was immediately accepted into three.

"She is smart, unique and a future cutting-edge researcher and faculty member," said Lisa Hooper, one of Pham's mentors and director of UNI's Center for Educational Transformation (CET). "She is an amazing student whom I am sorry to see go."

Pham started as a research assistant at the CET, which conducts educational research studies across the state. She was then selected as a Donald and Gudrun Fruehling Undergraduate Research Fellow during the summer of 2019, which allowed her the unique opportunity to help lead a research study.

In that role, Pham worked alongside her mentor, Assistant Professor of Psychology **JIUQING CHENG**, to develop a study that focused on their mutual interests in cognitive psychology and cultural psychology.



Their study — based on a survey of over 400 people — measured how different racial groups viewed police and explored how people's thinking style also had an impact on their perception regardless of their race.

With two studies published in a peer-reviewed journal and numerous research experiences under her belt prior to graduating, Pham said her time at UNI has prepared her to tackle a career in psychology.

"My experiences here have boosted my confidence and taught me how to talk to different types of people," Pham said. "While, of course, I've learned hard skills like psychological constructs, data analysis and painting methods, the soft skills I've learned and will continue to improve in, such as public speaking, resilience and interpersonal relationships, were what really made my time at UNI memorable."

Upon graduation, Pham will be attending Ohio University to pursue a doctoral degree in experimental psychology, with an emphasis in industrial-organizational psychology.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
GEOGRAPHY

Maritza Salinas

FINDING YOUR OWN PATH

As the daughter of two immigrants who strove to build their family a foothold in the U.S., **MARITZA SALINAS, '20**, grew up knowing the value of hard work, education and finding your own path.

It was a non-traditional journey that brought her to UNI, where she won a full scholarship and numerous accolades. After high school, Salinas pursued a journalism degree from the University of Iowa, but after two years there she knew it wasn't for her. She withdrew in the fall, worked the corn harvest and took a technical support job working overnights as she finished an associate's degree at a community college.

Friends encouraged Salinas to consider finishing her education at UNI because of its scholarship programs for minority and non-traditional students. Salinas won a full scholarship and decided to pursue a degree in geographic information systems, which, like journalism, would allow her to tell stories in a way people could understand.

"I knew I wanted to study geography after working on the combine in the fields, and working at the call center told me I liked technology. I just had to find a way to combine the two." Salinas said. "When I found GIS at UNI, I was really excited because I was like 'Ah! Finally, it exists!'"

One of the best things for her about UNI was that it truly helped prepare her for a future career in GIS by giving her experience working with industry-standard remote sensing software like ArcGIS, ENVI and ERDAS Imagine. Salinas was also able to work at the Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) as a geographic information systems intern.



"She has been a great asset to the IWRC. We knew we wanted to start integrating some GIS elements into our programming, but we weren't quite sure how we were going to do that." said Joe Bolick, director of the IWRC.

"When we brought on Maritza as a GIS intern, she was able to take our ideas and bring them to life. She is a prime example of what it takes to succeed in this world, and she is going to continue to do great things moving forward."

This real-world experience has helped Maritza to start making a difference before she had even graduated. Using the skills she learned at UNI, Salinas created a COVID-19 web application that shows each county and their reported cases. It also provides links to resources such as food assistance programs, tutorials for cloth face masks and mental health programs.

After graduation, Salinas is staying at UNI to pursue a master's degree in geography. Prior to the cancellation of the program due to coronavirus, she was selected to take part in NASA's highly selective DEVELOP program to work on the Satellite Beach energy project over the summer.

To see Salinas' COVID-19 tracker, visit <https://arcg.is/u9iSj>.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Phales Milimo

BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GENDER GAP

It was the middle of the afternoon when **PHALES MILIMO** (master's) saw a pregnant woman go into labor and collapse on the sidewalk.

She was in the Sinazongwe District in southern Zambia, just a five-hour drive from her hometown of Lusaka, the country's bustling metropolitan capital. Technically, she hadn't left her country, but it felt like she was in a different world.

Milimo, now a graduate student and Fulbright scholar in the women's and gender studies program at the University of Northern Iowa, watched as a group of people helped the pregnant woman. The woman lived in one of the rural villages in the district and had walked for around an hour, on the cusp of giving birth, to reach the clinic.

It was one of the many challenges Milimo witnessed women face in rural Zambia, and it helped spark her interest in the global healthcare inequalities that are the focus of her studies at UNI.

Milimo arrived on campus in the fall of 2019 with an already decorated academic record. She was the first Zambian to be awarded the Atlas Corps Fellowship in 2016, and a recipient of the prestigious Global Health Corps Fellowship award in 2014. In the coming semesters, she plans to focus her work on bringing transformative change to vulnerable populations.

"My passion is women and girls and trying to see how we can work through the inequalities women face and bring them public health access to empower women," Milimo said.

Her interests fit seamlessly with the women's and gender studies program, which focuses on creating social change through a firm scholarly foundation.

This fall, Milimo will start interning in Waterloo with the Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC), an organization that helps refugees successfully settle in Iowa,



to explore the barriers refugee women face in accessing quality healthcare. The work will be part of her thesis as she finishes her master's degree with a concentration on gender and wellness.

She would also like to explore areas of economic empowerment for the women refugees at EMBARC.

She was first exposed to the stark poverty rural women face while working on a project for the international humanitarian charity World Vision. The gender-based healthcare disparities she saw were especially eye-opening. When she would go to the clinic, there were always more women seeking care than men. When she worked on a project examining HIV and AIDS in the district, the adolescent girls had a significantly higher infection rate than the boys.

These discrepancies illustrated the healthcare gap between urban and rural areas in Zambia, and in many developing nations in the world. That's what has inspired Milimo to devote herself to doing all she can to end gender inequality in healthcare.

"It starts with the empowerment of women, so they can know their health rights and advocate for better healthcare," she said. "Because they can't advocate for something they're not aware of."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Nilvia Reyes

HIGHLIGHTING THE JOURNEY OF IMMIGRANT IOWANS

When the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, better known as DACA, was established in 2012, sisters **NILVIA REYES RODRIGUEZ** (senior) and **MONICA REYES, '15**, sprung into action. They knew there were other “dreamers” like themselves, who would need help connecting to resources.

Together, they formed a Facebook group that provided a safe space for immigrants and allies to connect across the state of Iowa. This group would eventually grow into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, DREAM Iowa.

As the organization grew, so has its vision, which now focuses on helping immigrant Iowans shift from generational poverty to generational wealth.

A big part of this transition, they've discovered, is understanding the history behind the events that drew immigrants to Iowa. And then sharing those stories with others.

With this in mind, this summer Rodriguez has been helping a local author and journalist with a book, spearheaded by DREAM Iowa.

It highlights the stories of immigrant families who have been in Iowa across generations. There are fourth, fifth and even sixth generation Iowans whose families came to the state during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Some arrived as part of the 1986 amnesty under President Reagan. Others are refugees, who sought safety in Iowa after various reigns of terror.

Rodriguez is diving into the historical narratives behind each story. As a public administration major and history minor, she has a passion for analyzing current issues within a historical context. She also has direct experience with how these narratives can distinctly shape lives.

*For more information
about DREAM Iowa, visit
dreamiowa.us.*



Rodriguez's own family came to Iowa when a local meatpacking plant recruited workers from Mexico.

She became a DACA recipient at 19 and enrolled in UNI directly after high school. Trying to minimize her future debt, she worked three jobs, putting in 60-80 hours a week. The process was not sustainable. After a period of time taking semesters off, she finally settled into a well-paying full-time job. It was comfortable, but the lack of a college degree weighed heavily on her mind. So when the company closed, she counted it as a blessing and returned to UNI.

Rodriguez realizes her college journey has been quite different than many others. But that's also what has made it even richer in the end. In her public administration classes, they discuss things she's already doing or has done. Having these experiences has helped her understand the practical applications immediately. And, with help from the TRADE act, she'll now graduate debt-free.

Her advice to current and future students? Never give up hope. As Rodriguez sets her sights on graduating this December, she looks back on nine years of a meandering journey filled with barriers. But if she can do it, anyone can. There are so many ways to find help.

The immigrant and undocumented student experience is often an unspoken, yet interwoven part of the UNI campus (and many others). Rodriguez's primary goal is to help share these experiences and dynamic histories. It's up to the rest of us to listen.

MASKS *for the* FRONTLINES IOWA

It is hard to summarize the overwhelming, stressful feelings that surrounded the spring 2020 semester. For students and faculty alike, the season brought a strong sense of anxiety and helplessness.

This much was certainly true for **LAURA VAN WAARDHUIZEN, '04**. As an assistant teaching professor in family and consumer sciences education and studies at Iowa State University, she was struggling to know how to best support her students through this transition.

On top of that, she was feeling guilty. Here she was with this useful knowledge of sewing, during a mask shortage. One thing she knew she could do was round up some of her extra supplies, put them on her porch and send out an all-call on social media for mask sewers to come and get it.

In doing so, she found Masks for the Frontlines Iowa, a new Facebook group connecting those looking to help with the resources required to make it happen.

"These people are warriors," Van Waardhuizen remarked when describing her first impressions of the group. Members ranged from seasoned sewers to those who taught themselves on the spot in an effort to help.

She started answering their questions, problem-solving and discussing what materials might work best.



In doing so, Van Waardhuizen quickly realized that this community of helpers was exactly what she needed. They were her social outlet and their energy and active service helped her mentally get through bouts of COVID-induced depression

It was around this time that her former professors, UNI textiles and apparel (TAPP) professors **ANNETTE LYNCH** and **SHARON MORD**, reached out. They had several students slotted for

summer internships that were being canceled. Was there any support they could provide to the organization in return for internship credit?

In addition to helping provide resources to Masks for the Frontlines Iowa, Van Waardhuizen was discovering a plethora of information that would be useful to mask makers everywhere. And so, TAPP incoming seniors **MALENA SILVA**, **MELINA GOTERA** and **CASSIE HENDRIX** began to put together a website of online resources.

Silva set to work researching mask effectiveness by fit, material and usage.

She wanted to find the best textiles for masks and filters, and help relay the information that was most beneficial and scientifically proven for the general public.

In doing so, she quickly discovered research that came out as recent as March was already outdated.

“When you’re testing textiles there are standardized tests,” said Van Waardhuizen. “But this is an area we don’t really have a test for, so people are approaching it in a bunch of different ways. That’s what [Silva] is looking at.”

Gotera is helping combat misinformation by taking Silva’s research and putting it into terms and visuals to help anyone understand the science behind what works and what doesn’t. They’ll also be making videos to help better explain and directly show how different materials are tested.

The hope is that this information, along with mask-making tutorials and other resources, will help share some of Iowa’s expertise across the country.

As for Masks for the Frontlines Iowa, they’ve been “rocking it.” Founder Jess Mazour was recently told by a national organization, Masks Now, that Masks for the Frontlines Iowa has made more masks than any other group of its type across the country.

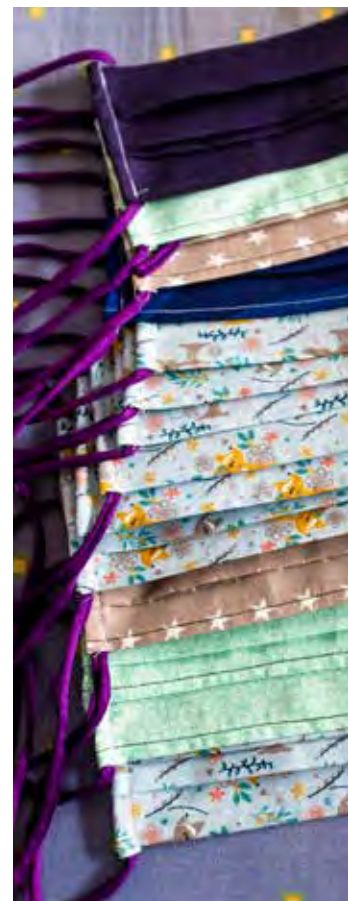
At the end of June, this scrappy, community-organized group of Iowa “PPE warriors” had made over 100,000 masks. Most of which have been driven by volunteers to their recipients at Iowa hospitals, care facilities, grocery stores, homeless shelters, daycares and beyond.

The organization attributes much of its success to simply allowing people to help in whatever way they can. “We didn’t just focus on sewists — drivers, people with porches, material cutters — every little bit helps,” remarked Mazour.

“Give people the tools they need to succeed and they’ll do it.”

For more information about Masks for the Frontlines Iowa, visit masksforiowa.com.

To see UNI textiles and apparel students’ new website, Mask Facts, visit maskfacts.wixsite.com/info.



FINISHING STRONG

In his senior year at UNI, **RYAN STEVENSON, '18**, took his first class with professor and head of the Department of Political Science, **SCOTT PETERS**.

As Stevenson remembers it, Peters started the class with a bold statement, "If you haven't yet been challenged throughout your college career, you've wasted your money."

This was not a welcome declaration for Stevenson, who was hoping to just get through his last semesters. But he stuck with the class and soon found his interest peaked in the lively and engaging discussions. Then, in the final days leading up to graduation, he tried to sneak in a paper he knew wasn't his finest. Peters was quick to call him out on that too, emailing to acknowledge he could do better.

It was at that moment that Stevenson realized he had to keep pushing. And the degree was just the beginning. There was so much more work ahead. The fact that Peters believed in him enough to pull him aside and say, "finish strong," meant people were watching, and he didn't want to disappoint.

Stevenson didn't have a typical college experience. Just before his senior year, he was incarcerated and spent four years in federal prison.

While he did his time, he watched friends and neighbors go on to great things. Accomplishments he knew could have been his own. He was happy for his friends, of course, but started wondering ... what would his footprint be now?



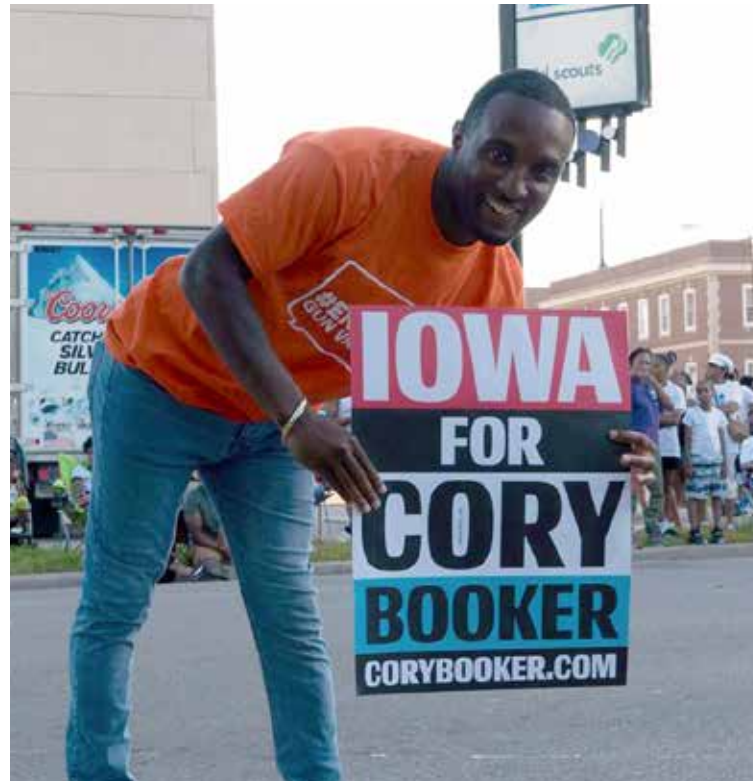
So upon release, Stevenson went back to UNI to finish up his senior year. After graduation, he continued to push forward, taking his professors' advice and putting in the hard work. His footprint, he decided, was to dig in and do his part to make a difference in politics.

He joined Rep. Abby Finkenauer's campaign, starting as a canvasser and working his way up so that, by the end of the summer, he was hired onto her team.

From there, the opportunities took off. He's been blessed to have offers from across the country, including working on Sen. Cory Booker's presidential campaign and most recently, within Rep. Finkenauer's office once again. Through it all, he's been learning and trying to figure out how to best help his city, his state and his country.

Although it's been exciting to be involved in campaigns and help push forward initiatives on the federal level, Stevenson enjoys being able to help people right here in Waterloo and the surrounding Black Hawk County.

"Being that I'm from here, I live here ... what can we do right now?"



With that thought, Stevenson started helping community members find solutions to various issues and connecting them with ways to get engaged in local politics. It was a lot of hard work and late hours, but it felt good to help.

And his efforts didn't go unnoticed. At the January 2020 NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet, Stevenson was awarded the Social Action Inc. Founder's Choice Award.

It's a recognition he doesn't take lightly. The award, along with all the other opportunities and experiences garnered post graduation, has only pushed him harder.

Now, a lot of eyes are on Stevenson. In fact, looking out into the crowd at the awards banquet, he saw Peters alongside professor **DONNA HOFFMAN**, cheering him on.

"That really touched me," he reflected. "It would be easy for me to fade into the background, but now is the time to do more ... keep pushing at what's next." Finish strong.

"I've worked for a lot of Democratic candidates, but it's really all about getting people to be part of the process. Get out to vote. Know what matters to you and dig in, dive deeper. Right now is a critical time in all levels of government. If you know someone who isn't registered to vote . . . register them. Exercise your right."

Check your voter registration status at [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov).

Michael & Mary Lynn Wright

MICHAEL WRIGHT, '69 (American history), and **MARY LYNN (SNODGRASS) WRIGHT, '71** (elementary education), first met in the library.

That chance meeting led to a courtship and eventually their marriage. Upon graduation from UNI, Mr. Wright took a job as a history teacher in Waterloo. But, like many couples of that era, the Wrights had to endure a separation while Mr. Wright served the country in the Vietnam War. He returned from Vietnam a highly decorated veteran and remains a passionate supporter of our country's military.

After returning from military service, the couple settled into married life with Mr. Wright resuming his teaching position in Waterloo and Mrs. Wright teaching elementary school. While living in the Cedar Valley the couple welcomed their only child, Nichole, into their family.



Mr. Wright eventually left the teaching profession and became a lobbyist for Hoffmann-LA Roche for 37 years, covering seven states with a wide range of healthcare and regulatory issues. The

Wright's have resided in Texas since 1978. Mr. Wright has worked with policymakers on a variety of topics including Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, patient access and rights, scope of practice issues, taxation and tort reform.

Mr. Wright served on Health & Human Services Committees with the National Governors Association, National Council of State Legislators, the American Legislative Exchange Council

and the Medicaid Directors Association.

After a short retirement, Mr. Wright is now the vice president of government affairs for American Pharmacies and doing business in thirty-one states.

"UNI provided a strong foundation for Lynn and myself to be successful in the teaching and political realms. Giving back is a very important part of our lives. To actually meet and get to know the UNI students our resources are helping matters tremendously." —MICHAEL WRIGHT, '69

Mrs. Wright remained active in the education profession until her retirement. She taught for thirty-three years in Waterloo, Houston and Austin, Texas. She continues to fondly reminisce about these years. Her great joys are the many contacts with students who went on to be successful in their own rights and attribute their success to her influence on their lives. Mrs. Wright remains active in fundraising for Dell's Children's Hospital, Great Hills Country Club Book Club and NW Hills Bible Study.

Mr. Wright is active in multiple organizations in the Austin area, serving as president of Great Hills Country Club, president of Great Hills Homeowners Association, Dell Hospital NW Circle of Friends, the University of Houston College of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council and the RxWiki Corporate Advisory Board. In addition, he serves on the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board and has been nominated to serve on the UNI Board of Trustees.

The Wrights have been loyal supporters of UNI and CSBS. They have established an endowed scholarship, supported the Teaching Iowa History project, the CSBS Dean's Fund, the gerontology program, Panther Pantry and the newly established UNITogether Scholarship.



CSBS annual giving

The College of Social & Behavioral Sciences alumni and donors are as diverse as our different class offerings, but they all share one thing in common: A strong desire and commitment to give back to the college and university that means so much to them.

We want to thank each of you who have made a contribution this past year. Your support is pivotal to the delivery of a quality education to our students!

Our goal, when working with alumni and donors, is to find a way for them to support their passion and vision.

Your gifts are an investment in students, faculty and programming. It is important that you, our supporters, see a return on that investment.

If you would like to explore different giving possibilities, please reach out. It would be an honor to work with you!

DIANNE CAMPBELL, '91
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
dianne.campbell@uni.edu
319.273.5985

2020

AMETHYST SOCIETY

In its third year, the Amethyst Society recognizes annual donations of \$1,000 or more. These donors embody the beliefs ancient civilizations had with regard to the amethyst, one of the world's most admired gems. It was their belief that the amethyst would bring forth the highest, purest aspirations and deepest wisdom of humankind.

SILVER

(gifts between \$1,000-\$9,999)

William & Nancy Blake	Leighty Foundation
Emily Bormann	Judy K. Nissen
Virginia L. Brown	Marlin Oeltjen
Community National Bank	Shellie & Sam Sablan
Troy & Deann Cook	Daniel Schaeffer
Steve Corbin & Doris Kelley	Scott A. Schamberger
Robert & Carol Deppe	Schneider Electric Company
Randy & Connie Hefner	judi segebarth
Loren Horton	Marybeth Stalp
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Madeline Johnston	Trust for Mutual Understanding
Jerry & Jo Ann Kramer	Dhirendra Vajpeyi
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& Brad D. Bredehoeft	Amy Wienands Real Estate
The Kind World Foundation	

GOLD

(gifts between \$10,000-\$19,999)

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John Deere Foundation
Larry & Marlene McKibben
Thomas & Ginger Penaluna
Cathy & Rick Young

PLATINUM

(gifts over \$20,000)

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Patricia L. Geadelmann
Dr. Harmon & Jeanne Hosch
Kern Family Foundation
National Geographic Society
Education Foundation
O. Jay & Patricia Tomson
Tomson Family Foundation
Michael & Mary Lynn Wright

CSBS

LEGACY SOCIETY

Members of UNI Legacy Society (formerly Old Central Associates) are a special group of friends who have provided for the University in their estate plans. A deferred gift of any size or type brings an invitation to become a member of the UNI Legacy Society. Membership means continued funding for scholarships, faculty support, research and facilities. The common thread among the members is a strong belief and confidence in the work of the University of Northern Iowa.

Susan K. Baker	Al Geiger	Patricia J. Maxwell
Bruce D. Bernard	R. Allen Hays	Dr. James G. McCullagh
Kevin J. Boatright	Tim Hilby	Jessica Moon
Elizabeth M. Brand*	Loren N. Horton	Cheryl Myhr
Darrell E. Briggs	Harmon M. Hosch	Marybeth Nelson
Sue Caley	Doris J. Kelley	Joann McBride Neven
Mark A. Cubit	John Koberg	Dr. Judy K. Nissen
Bob Deppe	Katherine A. Kuker	Scott A. Schamberger
Terry W. Edmunds	Steve Langerud	Sara Porter Stark
Don Fruehling	Donald M. Lowe	David A. Whitsett

**Denotes planned gifts made during 2020 academic year*

DEAN'S FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

LOYALTY ROSTER

On behalf of the students of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, we express our sincere appreciation for all the alumni and friends who have contributed to the Dean's Fund for Excellence. The Dean's Fund allows our students to participate in educational and career enhancing opportunities they otherwise might not have had. We are profoundly grateful for their support. Below is the CSBS Loyalty Roster – those donors who gave \$100 and above to the Dean's Fund during the previous year. Please consider joining this special group of donor during the upcoming year.

Brenda S. Allen
Cynthia & Jeff Anderson
Susanne Anderson
Sarah Ann Barger
Howard & Jane Barnes
Brenda & Bill Bass
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Carolyn & Bruce Wight
H. Mark Wight

TOTAL RAISED *for* DEAN'S FUND
\$59,350.00

Reflects gifts between July 1, 2018 – May, 31, 2020.

CSBS thanks 137 alumni & friends who gave gifts from \$1 to \$99. Gifts of every size make a difference!

DEANS FUND INNER CIRCLE

(\$1000 & above)

Virginia L Brown
Robert & Carol Deppe
Randy & Connie Hefner
James & Simone Lynch
Larry & Marlene McKibben
Michael & Mary Lynn Wright

CLASS NOTES



1950's

LAVONNE (WENGER) MCGUIRE, '55
BA, Morton, IL, stays busy with family and volunteering. She has four children, 15 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild!

1960's

FRANCIS DOW, '64
BA, '69 MA, Summerfield, FL, is a retired college professor and travels extensively.

1970's

MARY (WENKE) QUASS, '72
BA, Mount Vernon, received the National Radio Award from the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio Advertising Bureau in Sept. 2019.

CHERYL MULLENBACH, '74
BA, Panora, published a book titled, "Stagecoach Women: Brave and Daring Women of the Wild West."

JOSEPH NEEDHAM, '79
BA, '81 MA, Ridgeway, is a professor at Northeast Iowa Community College.

1980's

KEVIN BOATRIGHT, '84
MA, Lawrence, KS, was named to the governing board of his undergraduate alma mater, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

DAVID HOWE, '85
BA, Okemos, MI, works in pedagogy, instructional design, educational technology and other academic services at Michigan State University.

JIM LEE, '88
BA, Clear Lake, is a 5th grade math teacher and head girls' track and field coach with Mason City Community School District.

STEVE METZ, '88
BA, Apple Valley, MN, is CEO of LJP Waste Solutions.

1990's

STEVEN KREMER, '91
BA, Cherokee, was promoted to brigadier general in the Iowa Army National Guard.

LISA RAINE, '91
BA, '95 MA, '97 ASC, Vancouver, WA, is the union director for the Washington Education Association.

JASON FOLLETT, '92

BA, Ankeny, was elected to the board of directors for Special Olympics Iowa to serve Jan. 2020-Dec. 2023.

MAUREEN DEARMOND, '95

BA, '99 BA, Klamath Falls, OR, was named associate vice president of human resources with the Oregon Institute of Technology.

LAURA KRESS, '95

BA, Shenandoah, TX, retired after teaching middle school social studies for 23 years in Killeen and Spring, TX.

KENT SPERRY, '95

BA, Beulah, ND, has been in full-time ministry for 21 years in six states and is currently the pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. He is married and has six children.

2000's

AUTUMN**(BRUNSSSEN) CRAFT, '02**

BA, La Porte City, was named one of the Corridor's 40 under 40 for 2019 by the *Corridor Business Journal*. She is the chief development and marketing officer for Waypoint Services.

KATE**(MELLOY) GOETTEL, '03**

BA, Oak Park, IL, was named the Non-Profit Lawyer of the Year by the Federal Bar Association in May 2019. She is an immigration attorney for the National Immigration Justice Center.

BECKY**(AHLSTROM) LINS, '04**

BA, '06 MA, Cedar Falls, received the 2020 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching. She is a counselor at Peet Junior High.

SASHA WHITE, '06

BA, Killeen, TX, is the VA benefits specialist and school certifying official at Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

LINDSEY DAUGHERTY, '08

BA, Loveland, CO, announced her candidacy for District 29 of the Colorado State House of Representatives.

2010's

SALEENA NEUHAUS, '11

BA, '13 MSW, Waverly, is a LISW at the Shell Rock Clinic, a satellite location of Waverly Health Center. She also provides social work consultation services and collaborates on patient care with school systems, long term care facilities and other specialty services.

TYLER AVIS, '13

BA, Grinnell, was promoted to director of building and planning with the City of Grinnell.

UMARU BALDE, '13

BA, '14 BA, Cedar Falls, is a graduate student in post-secondary education: student affairs at the University of Iowa and an international health, safety and security advisor with the study abroad office.

CHANCE FINEGAN, '14

MPP, York, ON, earned a Ph.D. from York University with a dissertation titled, "Protected Areas, Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation in the USA."

HUNTER HARMENING, '16

BA, Carroll, is in his fourth year as the juvenile court school liaison with the Carroll Community School District.

GRACE (RITTER) WOLF, '16

BA, Ankeny, earned a master's degree in 2019 and is an academic coach in the Academic Success Center at Iowa State University.

ABIGAIL VAN**PATTEN-FREEMAN, '18**

BA, Cedar Falls, is a behavioral health intervention services counselor with Heart and Solutions Counseling Agency and is pursuing an MA in clinical mental health counseling at UNI.

What's New *with* You?

Let us know how you're doing, what you're doing and how we can keep in touch!

Update your information at [csbs.uni.edu/alum update](https://csbs.uni.edu/alum-update).



“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

—FRED ROGERS