

CSBS *kudos!*

A PUBLICATION OF UNI'S COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES // SPRING 2026

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UNI

University of
Northern Iowa

College of Social &
Behavioral Sciences



Kyle Endres (School of Public Affairs & Service, CSBR) co-authored two articles, including “The Opportunities and Limits of Microtargeted Campaign Communications” in *Research & Politics* and “Pounding the Pavement: Field Experimental Evidence from a Persuasion Canvassing Study on Campaign Finance Reform Attitudes” in *Social Science Quarterly*.

Kyle Endres and **Steven Jokinsky** (CSBR) co-authored “The Utility of USPS Inbound Business Reply Envelope Tracking for Survey Data Collection” in *Survey Practice*.

Kyle Endres, Justine Radunzel and **Ki H. Park** (CSBR) co-authored “Polysubstance and Single Substance Use among Adults: Is Gambling a Differentiating Factor?” in *Substance Use & Misuse* and “Factors Associated with Gambling Behaviors After Legalization of Online Sports Wagering and Fantasy Sports” in the *Journal of Gambling Issues*.

Michael Fleming (Department of Family, Aging & Counseling; PATCVP) published the book “Family Life Education: The Practice of Family Life Education” (National Council on Family Relations).

Robert Hitlan (Department of Psychology) published the article “The Dark Triad, Emotional Regulation and Celebrity Admiration,” with co-authors in *Current Psychology* and “Sexual and Bystander Harassment Among Part-Time Employees: Effects on Work Attitudes, Stress and Withdrawal” in *Behavioral Sciences*.

Ashleigh Kysar-Moon (School of Community & Geographic Innovation) was featured in a news article published by the *Iowa Capital Dispatch* highlighting research from the study “Academic Freedom and Faculty Well-Being: A Case Study of Iowa Higher Education,” co-authored with **Carissa Froyum** (sociology) and **Rebecca Dickinson** (social work). They presented their preliminary findings at the 2026 Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.

Kevin Mason (Department of History) published the book “Retracing the Dragoon Trail in Iowa: Environmental Change Along the Des Moines River,” (Michigan State University Press) featured on Iowa Public Radio’s “Talk of Iowa.” He also published the chapter “River of Growth: Stephen Watts Kearny and the Missouri River Expeditions of 1819 and 1824” in “The Missouri: America’s Longest River: A Cultural and Environmental History” (Augustana University Center for Western Studies Press).

Ramona McNeal (School of Public Affairs & Service) published the chapter “Teacher Shortages: An Urban/Rural Divide” in “Creative Approaches to Teacher Retention” (IGI Global Scientific Publishing).

Terence Moriarty (Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training) published the article “Comparing the Cognitive and Physiological Effects of Traditional and Virtual Reality Exercise in Overweight/Obese Adults: A Pilot Study,” with co-authors in *Sci’s* special issue, “Enhancing Health Through Physical Activity and Sports Science: Advances in Applied Research,” and “Creatine Supplementation and the Brain: Have We Put the Cart Before the Horse?” with co-authors in the *Journal of Dietary Supplements*.

Evan Renfro (School of Public Affairs & Service) and **Brian Warby** (ORSP) published “Stimulating Counterterrorism Policymaking in the Classroom” in “Short Games and Active Learning in Political Science: Beating the Clock” (Routledge). Renfro published his book “Going to War with the Other: A Study of U.S. Foreign Policies of Violence” (Palgrave) and was invited to chair a panel at the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics conference at Grinnell College.

Jon Specht (Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training) published the article “Caffeine Increases Core Temperature without Altering Markers of Kidney or Gut Injury After Physical Work in the Heat in Caffeine-Habituated Adults” in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*.

UNI AWARDS



Donna Hoffman
2025–26 Regents Award
for Faculty Excellence



Andrey Petrov
2025–26 Regents Award
for Faculty Excellence



Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi
2025-26 Beverly Funk Barnes
Educator Excellence Award



Melinda Heinz
2025-26 UNI Outstanding
Teaching Award

CSBS AWARDS



Terence Moriarty
2026–27 Judy K. Nissen
Endowed Fellowship



Melinda Heinz
INSPIRE Award



Gregory Bruess
Study Abroad Award



Disa Cornish
North Star Award



Seth Brown
Jaimie O'Gara
Tami Popenhagen
I Can Do It! Service Award



Michael Gasser
Khamsai Lo
Good Shepherd Award



Todd Mensink
Academic Collaboration Award



Ramona McNeal
Rock of Reliability Award



Full-Time Nursing Faculty,
Department of Nursing
& Public Health
Department on the Move Award

COMMUNITY AWARD



Belinda Creighton-Smith
YWCA's Women of Persimmon Award



Ken Atkinson completes a 27-year career at UNI that began in Philosophy and World Religions and concluded in History, his academic home since 2011.

He has a strong record as an instructor, teaching 19 undergraduate courses across a wide range of topics, from The Historical Jesus and Mysteries of the Dead Sea Scrolls to The Cold War and Terrorism.

Equally accomplished in scholarship, Ken received UNI's James F. Lubker Research Award in 2023, the Donald N. McKay Faculty Research Award in 2008 and the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2006.

His work includes eight books, three co-edited volumes, 45 articles and 28 book chapters and proceedings. He has served the department with distinction, most recently helping build history's online MA program. He will be greatly missed.



Gregory Bruess has been a deeply valued leader in both the Department of History and the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

A longtime professor of history, he has shared his expertise in Modern Russia and Modern Greece with generations of students through courses on Imperial Russia, Twentieth-Century Russia and Modern Europe. Widely respected for his engaging teaching and deep knowledge of cultural and religious history, he has remained active in the Russian and Slavic studies community through scholarship and conference participation. Since 1999, he and his wife, Isabela Varela, have led a summer study abroad program to Greece for more than 350 students.

Since 2015, Greg has served as associate dean of CSBS, helping guide academic programs and support processes across the college. His contributions to UNI will be felt for years to come.



Todd Evans will retire after a distinguished career as a cornerstone of the Athletic Training division.

Todd served as division head for several years and played a key role in the program's transition from an undergraduate to a graduate degree. He also helped shape the current faculty, directly training two of the three tenured members in the division.

He contributed to UNI research through strong scholarly publications and by serving as chair of the Institutional Review Board. In that role, he supported both faculty and student research by providing detailed feedback and meeting regularly with investigators to strengthen proposals and ensure timely, ethical approval.

Todd's leadership, mentorship and commitment to academic rigor have had a lasting impact on the division and university.



Mark Grey retires after 35 years of service to UNI as professor of anthropology and former head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology.

Mark's research focused on immigration, demographic change and the transformation of rural Midwestern communities, raising important social and public policy questions. His scholarship also examined ethnic diversification in Iowa, immigrant labor systems and globalization's effects on rural communities.

He served as director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration and associate director of the Iowa Center on Health Disparities. His public service included training for public health, law enforcement and community organizations.

Over his career, Mark shaped generations of students and strengthened UNI's connections with communities across Iowa.



James Hall will retire after a distinguished career marked by outstanding teaching, leadership and service to the department.

Jim built strong rapport with students, who were drawn to his engaging personality and the practical, meaningful knowledge he brought to the classroom. Over years of classroom observations, his courses consistently fostered a positive and highly engaging learning environment.

Jim also proved a vital team member, teaching a wide range of courses to meet critical departmental needs as they arose. His leadership of the coaching minor helped grow the program and strengthen support for students pursuing careers in coaching and sport leadership.

Beyond the classroom, Jim had a lasting influence on the department's culture through his consistently positive, collegial approach and willingness to support colleagues and students alike.



Wallace Hettle, professor of history and specialist in the American Civil War and Reconstruction, retired last fall after 31 years at UNI.

Wally's Civil War course has been a cornerstone of the department curriculum and a strong draw for students, especially teaching majors who carry his lessons into classrooms across Iowa and beyond. He published three university-press books: "The Peculiar Democracy," "Inventing Stonewall Jackson" and "The Confederate Homefront," plus the open-access collection "The Union Homefront" through UNI ScholarWorks. Wally also gave extensive service to the profession and campus, including nearly two decades coordinating the Phi Alpha Theta lecture series, which brought distinguished scholars to campus for the annual Carl L. Becker Memorial Lecture in History.

His humor, erudition and collegiality will be deeply missed in Seerley and across campus.



Mary Losch, director of the Center for Social Behavioral Research and professor of psychology, retires after 28 years at UNI.

Mary joined UNI in 1998 as an associate professor and CSBR assistant director, became a full professor in 2008 and was named CSBR director in 2015. Before UNI, she served as a program director at the Iowa Social Science Institute. Across her career, Mary contributed to more than 100 survey, evaluation and applied research projects spanning STEM education, public health, environment, energy and public policy. She led numerous multiyear NSF and state and local evaluations, published research on survey and evaluation methods, social science and health, and taught Psychology of Gender Difference from 1998 to 2009. She received the Kennedy Achievement Award and Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research fellowship honors in 2024 and is going on to become president of the AAPOR in May 2026.

PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSOR



Disa Cornish



Tyler O'Brien



Jayme Renfro

PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH ACADEMIC TENURE



Eran Hanke



Kyle Endres



Mary Louise Franken

passed away at the age of 86. She earned her B.S. in Home Economics from the University of Wisconsin–Stout, her M.S. in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin and her Ed.D. from Drake University.

Mary joined the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa, where she taught family studies and later served as chair of the Department of Home Economics. She retired in 1998 after a distinguished academic career.

She was active in the Cedar Falls community, including her involvement with St. John Lutheran Church and her service as a volunteer with Cedar Valley Hospice. She also contributed her leadership to several organizations, including the YWCA, Family Service League, Family and Children’s Council and Lutheran Services of Iowa.

Mary will be remembered for her dedication to education, service and community engagement, and for the positive impact she had on colleagues, students and the broader community.



John Johnson passed away on January 2, 2026, at age 79. A distinguished historian and devoted member of the University of Northern Iowa community, John found his professional home in Cedar Falls, where he was deeply valued for his scholarship, teaching and collegiality.

Throughout an academic career that also took him to institutions in New York, South Carolina and Alaska, he was recognized as a gifted teacher, mentor and facilitator whose influence extended well beyond the classroom. At UNI, he remained an engaged member of the campus community, embracing Panther athletics and the life of the history department with enduring enthusiasm. He was equally appreciated for the friendships and sense of community he fostered among colleagues and students.

Following retirement, John continued his commitment to service through the Reading Buddies program, civic involvement and active engagement in the Cedar Falls community. He will be remembered for his intellectual generosity, love of learning and dedication to others.



Susan “Suz” Welch passed away on November 6, 2025, at age 85. Raised in Earlham, Iowa, she developed an early love for the outdoors that shaped her lifelong commitment to youth development.

She earned her B.A. in Physical Education from the University of Northern Iowa and began her career teaching before joining Camp Fire staff in 1965.

Suz served as director of Camp Hantesa beginning in 1972 and later as executive director, guiding significant program and facility expansion. She also contributed to the University of Northern Iowa as an adjunct instructor, teaching courses in camp leadership and administration.

Recognized nationally for her expertise in camping, she served in leadership roles with the American Camp Association, including as board president. Following her retirement in 2005, she remained active in mentoring leaders and supporting camps nationwide.

Suz will be remembered for her visionary leadership, dedication to youth development and lasting impact on generations of campers and colleagues.



Charlotte C. Wells passed away on December 20, 2025, at age 73. She earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, her M.A. from Marquette University and her Ph.D. from Indiana University.

Charlotte served as a professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa from 1993 until her retirement in 2020. She taught a wide range of courses on early modern Europe, including the Renaissance and Reformation, the Enlightenment and women’s history. Her scholarship focused on national identity in early modern France and later on the relationship between religion and identity in seventeenth-century North America.

Beyond her academic work, she was actively engaged in community service, volunteering with local organizations and contributing to lifelong learning initiatives. She was also an active member of her parish community.

Charlotte will be remembered for her dedication to teaching, scholarship and service, and for the lasting impact she had on her students and colleagues.





\$1.22 million grant to UNI's Center for Civic Education

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a three-year, \$1.22 million American History and Civics Education – Seminars (AHC-Seminars) grant to the University of Northern Iowa Center for Civic Education.

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University of Northern Iowa receives \$2.4 million grant to launch Humanities Hub

The UNI Humanities Hub is a transformative initiative designed to expand paid internship opportunities and strengthen the role of the humanities on campus and in the community.

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UNI announces restructuring to strengthen humanities and public service education

Philosophy and World Religions joins the Department of History, while the Department of Political Science, the Criminology and Criminal Justice programs and the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Development program formed a new School of Public Affairs and Service.

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UNI launches online non-thesis Master of Arts in Geography

The University of Northern Iowa is expanding access to graduate education with the launch of a new online, non-thesis Master of Arts in Geography program designed for working professionals seeking advanced knowledge and career growth.

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UNI teacher education program continues to boast high placement rate

After graduating from UNI with a history teaching degree in spring 2025, Elizabeth Forcht promptly got offered a position as a social studies teacher at Cedar Falls High School, which she describes as a dream job.

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UNI launches accelerated three-year degree pathways

The University of Northern Iowa is launching 30 new three-year degree pathways, giving motivated students the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in just three years.

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Classroom to crime scene: hands-on learning in UNI's new Crime Scene House

UNI criminology students are gaining hands-on investigative experience in the Crime Scene House, a realistic training space where staged evidence-based scenarios help bring classroom concepts to life.

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For the love of movement

When you have a passion for movement and enjoy working with kids, becoming a physical education teacher is a dream job. That's the case for PE teacher and UNI alum Caitlin Schoville and UNI PE major Peyton Major, who were recently honored at the Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training's 2026 Hall of Excellence event.

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Accelerated BSN now enrolling for fall launch

The University of Northern Iowa is now enrolling students for its new Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, set to launch in August 2026.

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UNI celebrates completed nursing facility

The University of Northern Iowa is celebrating its newly completed nursing facility, giving students access to advanced, hands-on training designed to mirror real-world clinical environments.

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Center for Civic Education hosts Challenging Perspectives event

The Center for Civic Education hosted its first Challenging Perspectives event, featuring journalists Emily Jashinsky and Anna Louie Sussman in a discussion on “Strengthening the American Family,” moderated by **Nathan Taylor** (Family, Aging & Counseling). Taylor guided the conversation through topics including ways to strengthen American families, the roles of culture and policy in family life, and differences between findings in the U.S. and Europe. Drawing on academic research and polling data, the speakers outlined both areas of agreement and differing interpretations of the data and its policy implications. Approximately 65 students, faculty and staff attended the event.



UNI History hosts National History Day & Iowa High School Model United Nations

The Department of History hosted the Sullivan Brothers District competition of National History Day in late March, which brought 98 junior high and high school students to campus to compete in five categories: Website, Paper, Exhibit, Documentary and Performance.

The department also hosted the annual Iowa High School Model United Nations Conference in April, welcoming nearly 500 high school students from across the state (plus Platteville, WI) to UNI.

PATCVP leads statewide Rape Prevention and Education program

The Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention is now the statewide administrator of Iowa’s Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program, a federally funded initiative authorized through the Violence Against Women Act and administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Iowa’s five-year RPE plan focuses on preventing first-time sexual violence among youth ages 10–24 by strengthening partnerships among schools, community organizations, rape crisis centers, and state agencies. Key initiatives include developing a statewide Youth Workplace Violence Prevention Council and supporting programs such as Iowa ACEs 360 and Work. Well. Iowa., which promote safer workplaces, workplace wellness and supportive policies that help reduce violence risk.

PATCVP hosts documentary screening and kick off to Stand Up Guy campaign

In April, the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention hosted a screening of the documentary *Gone Guys*, a film examining the growing isolation and disengagement of boys and young men and its broader social implications.

The event also marked the kickoff of the Stand Up Guy campaign, a prevention and awareness initiative modeled after Scotland’s Don’t Be That Guy campaign. Stand Up Guy invites boys and men to critically reflect on language, attitudes and behaviors that normalize disrespect toward women and girls while encouraging active responsibility in preventing sexual and domestic violence and intimate partner abuse. It is part of a broader multi-pronged community effort in the Cedar Valley to address the root causes of interpersonal violence.

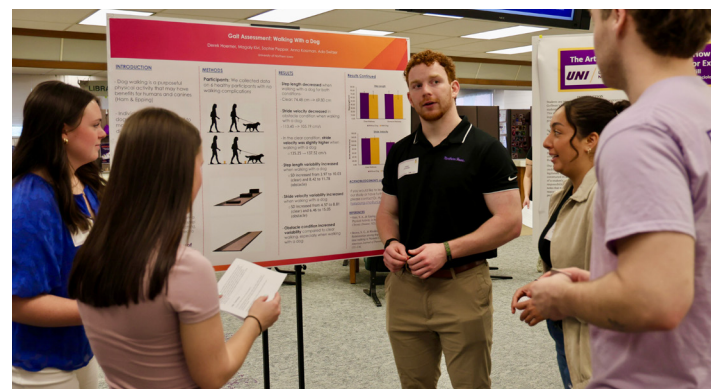
A Q&A followed the screening featuring panelists involved in the Stand Up Guy campaign including Glen Keith (Love INC), **Alan Heisterkamp**, '84 (Cedar Falls High School), **Jeremy Everett**, '15 (Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center, Inc.; Success Street), Mike Robinson Sr. (Four Oaks) and Bryan Burton (Boys and Girls Club of the Cedar Valley).



Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training honors alumni at 2026 Hall of Excellence

The Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training celebrated student and alumni achievement during the 19th annual Elinor A. Crawford and William R. Thrall Hall of Excellence Induction and Celebration, held April 11, 2026.

This year's event honored **Caitlin Schoville**, '12 and **Gary Smith**, '67 (physical education teaching) with Hall of Excellence Career Awards, while **Caitlin Place**, '16 (Athletic Training) received the Early Career Award. **Peyton Major** (physical education teaching) and **Jaydon Gansen** (recreation, tourism & nonprofit leadership) received the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards, respectively.



INSPIRE 2026

The 2026 INSPIRE Student Research and Engagement Conference took place April 13-14, showcasing nearly 100 experiential projects from undergraduate and graduate students across campus.

This year's program at csbs.uni.edu/inspire-schedule highlights student work on topics such as trauma and foster youth experiences, workplace inclusion and mental health, artificial intelligence in education, criminal justice perceptions, healthcare burnout and substance use prevention and demonstrates how students are applying research to real-world challenges in their communities.

New School of Public Affairs & Service brings alumni back for conference

The School of Public Affairs & Service officially launched this spring with the "Public Service Across Systems" conference, which welcomed alumni public service professionals back to campus to discuss careers in law enforcement, criminal intelligence, public safety and national security.

Featured speakers included **Mark Howard**, '93, '08 (Assistant Adjunct Professor of Criminology; Cedar Falls Chief of Police), **Ochuko Awwunuma**, '21 (Texas Department of Public Safety), **Aaron Ridgely**, '17 (Deputy U.S. Marshal), **Rodell Jones**, '23 (TSA Office of Intelligence and Analysis) and **Steve Hoodjer**, '17 (Department of Defense). Together, they shared insights into their diverse career paths and offered practical advice for students interested in public service careers. Attendees also toured the School's newly completed Crime Scene House, designed to give criminology students realistic, hands-on investigative experience.

Live Purple Give Gold 2026

CSBS raised \$28,342 from 122 donors during UNI's Day of Giving on April 16, surpassing our goal! The total reflects strong engagement across the college, with departments, faculty, staff and supporters helping spread the word and encouraging participation.

Thank you to all who contributed and helped promote the campaign, and a special thank you to the CSBS Advisory Board for its \$5,000 gift to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean's Fund for Excellence.



Check out our LPGG rallying cry and thank you videos!



UNI Day of Service: Cats who Care

Thank you for showing up and making UNI's first Day of Service a day the Cedar Valley will not forget. Across 80+ projects and 6,000+ hours, nearly 2,500 participants generated almost \$180,000 in community impact.

CSBS HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights below represent just some of the many ways CSBS students, faculty and staff contributed to UNI's Day of Service.

Students in the **Ashleigh Ksyar-Moon's Social Justice Seminar class** spent the semester addressing food insecurity on campus through a partnership with the Panther Pantry. Their work combined service and research, including monthly volunteer shifts, a study of student food insecurity and outreach campaigns to reduce stigma and increase awareness. For UNI's Day of Service, students led a food drive with 18 community partners, donation bins across campus and throughout the community and collection sites at both Cedar Falls Fareway locations. Their efforts collected 469 pounds of food and \$286.82 in donations. Students also supported volunteer coordination while preparing a final teach-in on solutions to food insecurity.

Building on a service-learning pilot in **Alex Oberle's UNIFI Peoples, Cultures and Environments (PCE) courses**, nearly 80 students in the spring class supported Panther Pantry efforts leading up to and during the Day of Service. Much of the semester involved assisting

sociology's Social Justice Seminar class with planning and logistics. With a focus on poverty and food insecurity, some students also volunteered with Meals From the Heartland, helping pack nonperishable food for communities in Latin America and Africa.

In a separate collaboration, students in **GIS I** mapped litter in the College Hill neighborhood to help prioritize cleanup efforts for the Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training.

Department of Kinesiology & Athletic Training faculty and students collected 320 pounds of solid waste across the city, trails and campus.

The **Health and Family Services Club** hosted an event to celebrate National Home Visiting Week by assembling wellness and care packages for home visiting professionals. The initiative recognized the home visiting workforce, and the care packages included self-care items intended to help reduce burnout in the field. Students created 15 bags for home visitors serving 160 families in northeast Iowa.

The **Cedar Valley Men's Shed** partnered with students to build a desk, shelves and a collection station for community pop can donations supporting Americans for Independent Living.

Gary Gute's course The Creative Experience launched the Panther Innovation Lab, bringing together 75 UNI students with Cedar Falls Community Main Street, Experience Waterloo and Grow Cedar Valley for a collaborative, solution-focused

conversation centered on community needs and local impact.

Interior design partnered with construction management and Habitat for Humanity to help demo and paint homes across Waterloo.

The **Department of Social Work** hosted nearly 50 students for multiple volunteer opportunities in honor of UNI's Day of Service, including compiling intake paperwork packets and welcome kits for Friends of the Family and participating in the Hearing Voices Simulation hosted by Mindspring Mental Health Alliance to learn strategies for supporting people who experience auditory hallucinations.

The **Department of Nursing & Public Health's** blood drive collected 27 units of blood, helping sustain or save up to 81 lives.

Students from the **Intro to Public Health** class joined students, faculty and staff from across campus to pack more than 60,000 Meals from the Heartland, enough meals to feed 230 children five days a week for a year.

The **School of Public Affairs and Service** potted 350 fruit trees that were later distributed to various cultural and ethnic community groups.

The **Center for Civic Education** hosted a Civic Culture Design Lab where more than 60 students engaged in facilitated small-group discussions exploring challenges and opportunities for strengthening civic culture at UNI.



// STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Iowa Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Sociology students presented research at the 2026 Iowa Sociological Association Annual Meeting:

Mikey Brown received the Manford Kuhn Award for the paper "Tradition, Transformation, & Identity: Models of Masculinity in Marvel Superhero Films."

Sammie McDonald received the Stephen Wieting Award for the paper "Missing Children: The Underrepresentation of Youth in Mental Health Data."

Avery Wuollet gave a roundtable presentation on the paper "Hide and Seek Champion: Bigfoot's Cultural Legacy."

Caitlyn Wyllie presented the paper "When the Conversation Gets Difficult: Navigating Relationships With Belief Differences."



2026 Mid America Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) Quiz Bowl

Master of Athletic Training students **Macy Alexander**, **Alex Crimmins**, **Megan Knudtson** and **Damon Bowman** (alternate) brought home 3rd place in the 2026 Mid America Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) Quiz Bowl competition.



Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting

Psychology students presented research at the 2026 Midwestern Psychological Association annual meeting.

Pyper Naylor, **Quinn Kelly** and **Rebecca Rainwater** presented "Psychological Threat as a Mediator Between Workplace Exclusion and Deviance," "Attachment Style Moderates the Relation Between Exclusion and Psychological Health" and "Cognitive and Behavioral Costs of Workplace Exclusion: Does Neuroticism Matter?"

Adan Reyes Salas presented "Application of Backlash & Stereotype Maintenance Model to White Liberals."

Norah Pearson, **Carson Bartelt**, **Haven Ellsworth**, **Lindsey Stabenow** and **Tiana Selimagic** presented "Explaining or Justifying? Assessing Compliance in the Illusion of Explanatory Depth Paradigm" and "90 - Do I Feel Understood? Perspective-Taking Feedback and Willingness to Engage with Opposing Viewpoints"

Cameron Fraher and **Mary Carolus** presented "Marked for Bias: Tattoo and Race Effects on Promotion Decisions."

Gabriella Haddad and **Madelyn Wells** presented "Effects of Race and Tattoo Status on Criminality Judgments."

Jordan Smith presented "Predictors of Prejudice Towards People with Tattoos."

Rebecca Strong presented "Is a Fun Run Fun?"

SABR EXCELLENCE AWARD

Aeris Turner (psychology, family services)

Patience Kies (social work)



Public Health

Public health students **Vy Van** and **Jacey Ordal** presented the poster "Trial by Trolley: A Game-Based Introduction to Public Health Ethics" at the Public Health Conference of Iowa in Des Moines. The team was one of only three undergrad teams that achieved the "gold standard" from judges.

Students **Jacey Ordal** and **Hannah Snitkey** entered as a team in the National Case Study Competition in Health Education, presenting their case study solution virtually during the Society for Public Health Education Conference in Portland, OR.

Political Science

Political Science students presented papers at the 2026 Midwest Political Science Meeting in Chicago.

Jadin Greiser presented "We Don't Get Our Voices Heard, We Work: Working-Class Perceptions of Power and Powerlessness in Iowa."

Trina Schmadeke presented "Perceptions of Money in Politics: Analyzing the Connection Between Knowledge of Congressional Campaign Funding and Political Trust in the United States."

Saylor Smith presented "Private Power, Public Consequences: Rethinking Democracy in Corporate Institutions."

Additionally:

Alison Meagher presented a paper at the Iowa Network of Human Rights Scholars conference in Grinnell.

Sydney Singh attended the 2026 Innocence Network conference in Chicago

Student Leadership Awards

The following CSBS students took home high honors:

Lux Service Award

Anya Lovstuen (social work)

Military & Veteran Affiliated Scholarships

Ty Hook (kinesiology: exercise science)

Logan Houang (social work)

Mental Health Ally Award

Celia Reece (counseling)

Promising Young Alumni Award

Jaxon Raydon Dailey (kinesiology & sport performance)

Outstanding President in a Student Organization Award

Emily McNamara (family services, psychology)

Servant Leadership Award

Kyla Johanson (psychology, social work)

Gabriel Salazar (political communication, digital media)

Dr. Sue Follon Scholarship for Leadership

Cali Prochaska (kinesiology, psychology)

Emily McNamara (family services, psychology)

Jersey Jermier Award

Ryley Goebel (nursing)

Rising Global Star Leader Award

Ruth Abagna (geography)

Mevlon Pozhari (geography)

Greek 360 Award

Saylor Smith (public admin, political communication)

Outstanding Officer in a Student Organization Award

Aeris Turner (psychology, family services)

Outstanding Student Leader Award

Elise McFarlin (psychology, family services)

William Krueger (psychology, family services)

Jesika Basurto (social work)



Student Organization Advisor of the Year

Anne Plagge

Department of Family,
Aging & Counseling



CSBS Kudos, published every semester, highlights accomplishments of faculty, students and alumni of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and makes colleagues in the college and across campus aware of the great things being done in CSBS. By sharing these ideas, interests and contributions, we strive to sustain a sense of community.

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