CSBS kudos!

A PUBLICATION OF UNI'S COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES // FALL 2023

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UNI

University of Northern Iowa

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Greetings!

This semester has been a busy one, and I hope you are all looking forward to a restful winter break. As always, thank you for your contributions to the college and the university and your continued dedication to our students. As engagement increases across campus, and our college grows, there are many excellent reasons why we should take a moment to celebrate our successes. A few of the many include:

- A transformative $1 million gift from the Gerdin Charitable Foundation, which will help expand faculty teaching, research and outreach within our gerontology program.
- The ARCTICenter, in the Department of Geography, was part of a $13.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation to help communities respond to hazards attributed to climate change.
- This year's System of Support Conference was once again well received by the community, showcasing UNI's expertise in the health and human sciences, alongside professionals across the Cedar Valley.
- UNI is also leading the way in civic education on campuses, thanks to the contributions of faculty within the Departments of History and Political Science.
- The new nursing program received accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and is gaining strong momentum towards its first cohort of students in fall 2024.

Please read on to learn more about these great achievements and many others. Thank you again for your dedication, through what I know has continued to be challenging times. We look forward to the upcoming spring semester, growing enrollment and our collective successes!

Brenda L. Bass

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Kenneth Atkinson (history) was invited to speak via Zoom on early Islamic history at the University of Oxford (England) and on ancient Roman history at the Federico II University in Naples (Italy). He was also an editor and contributor to the books, "Misusing Scripture: What Are Evangelicals Doing with the Bible?" and "Essays on the Psalms of Solomon: Its Cultural Background, Significance and Interpretation."

Jiuqing Cheng (psychology) is a member of the 2024 Midwestern Psychological Association governing council.

Kyle Endres (political science) had three co-authored articles published. "Experimenting with QR Codes and Envelope Size in Push-to-Web Surveys" was published in the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, and "A Survey of South Carolina Pharmacists' Readiness to Prescribe Human Immunodeficiency Virus Pre-exposure Prophylaxis" was published in the *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy*. "Who is Mobilized to Vote by Information about Voter ID Laws" was published in *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.

Helen Harton (psychology) served as president of the Midwestern Psychological Association in 2023.

Ana Kogl (political science) published the article, "Easier than Saying No: Domination, Interpellation, and the Puzzle of Acquiesence" in *Hypatia*. She was also awarded a four-week summer fellowship from the Graduate College to finalize her book manuscript, "Grey Sex," which is under contract at Polity Books.

Evan Renfro (political science) published the book, “Political Graffiti and Global Human Rights: Take Another Look,” co-authored with Phil Hopper (communication & media). He additionally published the article, “The Combat Syllabus: Life, Death and Books,” in *Theory and Event*.

Evan Renfro and **Brian Warby** (political science) participated in a faculty panel, “What in the World is Happening?,” during International Education Week on campus.

Jayme Renfro (political science) moderated mayoral and city council debates in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. She additionally delivered lectures about the political landscape of DEI at the seventh annual Economic Diversity and Inclusion Summit in October, and on “Waterloo Redlining History: The Past is Not the Past” in October (co-sponsored by a number of community groups, including the AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch, the Cedar Falls and Waterloo Human Rights Commissions, the League of Women Voters for Black Hawk-Bremer Counties, and NAACP Black Hawk County).

Kamryn Warren was selected to be part of the 2023-24 cohort of Engaged Scholars by Campus Compact, a year-long collaborative learning and leadership program. Scholars were nominated by institutional leaders and selected based on their commitment to centering equity in their civic and community engagement work.

RETIREMENT

Sharon Mord

(textiles and apparel)

From Bill Henninger, head of the Department of Family, Aging & Counseling:

Sharon Mord has been a stellar teacher and is truly unique in her approach to ensuring students learn. Textiles and apparel (TAPP) is a skill-heavy major where students are not able to passively learn content. To really learn their craft, students must practice it with varied feedback from someone who has mastery of that skill. Sharon has always been willing to give of her time to each student in this manner. Be it sewing, printing, pattern creation or any other skill, she meets students where they are and gives them the feedback necessary to better learn and master a skill.

TAPP is also one of the more equipment-heavy majors on campus. They have sewing machines, irons, a giant fabric printer, a steam column to set fabric colors, a spectrometer, and various other expensive gadgets that are important to the discipline. Over multiple uses, these items break down or do not work as efficiently as they once did. As any who owns a car or home knows, when something breaks someone has to fix it, be it the owner or a repair person. In TAPP, oftentimes that person has been Sharon. I am not sure anyone ever asked Sharon to learn how to fix these items, that is just who Sharon is. She sees a problem and she fixes it. Her willingness to don her forehead lamp and dig into the bowels of a fabric printer has ensured that students' projects get done on time and the departmental budget stays reasonably on track. Sharon's value to the department in this area cannot be overstated.

Sharon is one of the most "game" faculty I have ever met. A few years ago, one of our faculty members became exceptionally ill and was not able to teach the rest of the semester. With this illness came a need for class coverage on a course that required knowledge of several computer programs. There was not an adjunct pool at the last moment for that kind of knowledge. However, Sharon was willing to learn the software and teach so students could finish the class. She has always been willing to pitch in and is fearless in her willingness to undertake uncomfortable and unfamiliar tasks. It is one of the traits we will miss the most about her.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

FAMILY, AGING & COUNSELING

Melinda Heinz
Assistant Professor

Ann Plagge
Assistant Professor

Tami Popenhagen
Secretary III

HISTORY

Johnathan Williams
Instructor

KINESIOLOGY & ATHLETIC TRAINING

Sarah King
Instructor

Megan Maly
Assistant Athletic Trainer/Instructor

MILITARY SCIENCE

Gracie Davis
ROTC Supply Technician

NURSING & PUBLIC HEALTH

Nancy Kertz
Department Head

Carrie Hollerud
Academic Coordinator

Jimmy Reyes
Instructor

Kristin Soppe
Secretary III

PSYCHOLOGY

Susie Grover
Secretary III

SOCIAL WORK

Lane Forsman
Assistant Professor

Itunu Ilesanmi
Assistant Professor

SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY

Casey Schotter
Instructor

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Kristin (KJ) Johnson
Secretary II

IN MEMORIAM

Robert "Bob" Leslie Ross (political science), 95, died on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at MercyOne Cedar Falls. He was born on May 29, 1928, the son of Leslie O. and Margaret C. (Mitchell) Ross, and grew up in the wonderful town of Sidney, Iowa. He received his BA from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls and served in the Army during the Korean War. Following military service, he taught social studies at high schools in Humeston, Algona and Davenport, IA. He then earned his MA from Columbia University in New York and his PhD at Michigan State.

On August 31, 1957, Bob was united in marriage to Mary Ellen Sawyer in Hawarden, IA. He was a professor of political science at the University of Northern Iowa from 1962 until his retirement and was head of the Department of Political Science for many years. Locally, he was an active supporter of the Democratic party, serving terms on Black Hawk Co. Democratic Central Committee and Iowa Democratic State Central Committee.

Bob co-founded the Waterloo Sharks swimming program and enthusiastically supported the swimming achievements of his children. He was a lifelong member of Presbyterian and Methodist churches. He served for a time on the City of Waterloo Human Rights Commission and in 2004 received the Human Rights Commissioner Award. He co-founded the Sidney IA Music Endowment Committee of Sidney Alumni and Friends, Inc. He had lifelong interests in politics, music, history, religion and sports.

Sabin Atrium Renamed in Honor of Professor Jim McCullagh

The Atrium in Sabin Hall was dedicated in memory of former Professor of Social Work **Jim McCullagh** and his wife Cheryl in Sept. 2023.

The new Dr. James and Cheryl McCullagh Atrium commemorates a legacy of caringly trained social workers, alongside a $1.1 million gift to support students in the Department of Social Work.

System of Support Conference

CSBS hosted the System of Support Conference, in conjunction with UNI's Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and the Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE), on Nov. 17, 2023.

Focused on the theme "Accessing & Achieving Equity: Health & Well-Being," the conference brought together UNI faculty, staff and community health experts from Black Hawk County Public Health, Success Link Together for Youth, UnityPoint Health Allen Hospital, MercyOne Northeast Iowa, Waterloo City Council and Youth City Council, Hawkeye Community College, Peoples Community Health Clinic, and Bijelic Counseling and Consulting Services.

CSBS was represented through sessions led by faculty **Jaimie O'Gara** (social work) and **Elaine Eshbaugh** (gerontology), as well as alumni **Charles Mhoon, '17** (psychology), **Lovely Henderson, '01** (sociology), **Tiffany Criss, '20** (social work), and current student **Elsie Aslesen** (gerontology). **Mark Grey** (SAC) moderated an afternoon panel on Health Care Perspectives, which included CSBS faculty **Jimmy Reyes** (nursing) and alumna **Amanda Schara, '05** (counseling).

Women in Politics

The Department of Political Science held its annual Women in Politics Scholarship bipartisan fundraising dinner in October. Scholarship recipients **Olivia Schneider** and **Faith Larsen** spoke about the impact of the scholarship on their lives and recipient **Madeline Hinz** served as emcee. The keynote speaker was Courtney Maxwell Greene, the Director of External Partnerships and Community Engagement for UnityPoint Health.

MPP Accreditation

The Master of Public Policy Program received initial accreditation from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), making it the only NASPAA-accredited graduate program in the state of Iowa. NASPAA is the global standard for public service education. Accredited programs share NASPAA's commitment to transparent, effective, inclusive, and ethical public service. This achievement is the culmination of five years of work by program faculty, who engaged in significant curricular redesign to align the program with NASPAA's competencies and reviewed every aspect of the program's activities. Congratulations to the program's faculty nucleus: **Chris Larimer**, **Jayme Renfro**, **Ramona McNeal**, **Kyle Endres** (political science) and **Alex Oberle** (geography).

Congress to Campus

The Departments of Political Science and History participated in the Congress to Campus program in October. The program, sponsored by the Association of Former Members of Congress, centered around a two-day visit by two former House members: UNI alumnus **Gil Gutknecht** ('73) (R-MN) and Major General (ret) William Enyard (D-IL). They spoke with several classes, had dinner with student leaders, and discussed current congressional events with history and political science students. They also participated in a public forum, "Congress, the President, and the Balance of Power." Funding to bring Congress to Campus to UNI is made possible by the late **R. Gordon Hoxie**, a 1940 UNI alum and founder of the Center for the Study of the Presidency.

Phi Alpha Theta / History Club Lecture Series

The Department of History and Phi Alpha Theta hosted three lectures during the fall 2023 semester: "Puerto Rican Nationalism & Anti-Imperialism," by Margaret Power, professor emeritus of history, Illinois Institute Of Technology (50th Carl L. Becker Memorial Lecture); "The Travails of Translation: How do Historians Work with Ancient Texts," by **Ken Atkinson** (history); and "An Unknown Chapter In Iowa Immigration History: The Poles Of Brighton (Polishvlle) & Sioux City," by **Konrad Sadkowski** (history).

Community Action Poverty Simulation

In October, the public health program hosted a Community Action Poverty Simulation for approximately 250 UNI students preparing to student teach next semester.

Created by the Missouri Community Action Network to help people understand the realities of poverty, the simulation allowed students to role-play the lives of low-income families. Some were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, some were seeking employment, and some were senior citizens on social security. During the course of four 15-minute "weeks," they had the stressful task of providing basic necessities and shelter on a limited budget. Students interacted with simulated human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officers and others (all played by current public health majors). Afterwards, students debriefed their experiences and discussed how what they learned might help their future classrooms.

“As a future educator, (I aim) to help students achieve their goals and be able to make it into the real world,” said student senior elementary education major Danielle Grady. “My biggest takeaway was how many unfamiliar resources I encountered throughout this simulation. With this, the best thing I can do to help the students in my classroom is to educate myself on resources that are beneficial to help be a guide for my students as well as their families.”

Civic Education

UNI’s civic education initiative continued this fall semester. Last year, led by **Jennifer McNabb** (history), **Scott Peters** (political science), Susan Hill and Jim O’Loughlin, faculty from across the university designed and submitted into the curriculum process new proposals for a UNIFI certificate and standalone minor in civic education. Both the minor and certificate are multidisciplinary and stress the connections between Humanities disciplines and other disciplines in fostering civic learning. Funded by a Capacity Building Grant from the Office of Sponsored Research, the initiative expanded the group of faculty involved in fall 2023 and agreed to pilot several class activities and exercises throughout the academic year with an eye toward reinforcing civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions across social sciences and the humanities.

Another part of the project involves helping students develop the ability to talk to one another across differences. Over the summer, **Brian Warby** (political science) and **Fernando Calderón** (history) attended the three-day Discussion Project training, and in September over two dozen UNI faculty attended a half-day Discussion Project training seminar. The seminar was facilitated by Diana Hess, Dean of the College of Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and The Discussion Project.

Dementia Support Programming

The Department of Family, Aging and Counseling’s Dementia Simulation House and MA Counseling teams offered a series of programming through Nov. and Dec. 2023 for those living with dementia and their loved ones.

Elaine Eshbaugh (gerontology) gave the lecture, “Dementia: Beyond Memory Loss,” at the Diamond Event Center on Oct. 30, in which she discussed aspects of dementia that are not related to memory, such as personality changes, mood changes, and issues with sensation and perception. Participants learned strategies for minimizing agitation and anxiety in those living with dementia.

“Supportive Conversations,” offered by **Eran Hanke** (counseling) and counseling students both in-person at Western Home Communities and online through Zoom in Nov. and Dec., welcomed participants currently living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment into a safe space to share some of their hopes and challenges via one-on-one or small group conversations.

Support Groups for family caregivers and loved ones of people living with dementia were also offered both in-person at the Dementia Simulation House and online via Zoom. A separate, five-week program, ran specifically for older children and adolescents.

FEATURED STORIES

Gerdin Charitable Foundation donates $1M gift to establish Gerontology Chair

A transformative gift from the Gerdin Charitable Foundation will significantly enhance UNI's ability to train the next generation of elder care professionals working in the field of gerontology.

The North Liberty-based Gerdin Charitable Foundation has pledged a $1 million endowed gift that will expand faculty teaching, research and outreach for UNI's growing gerontology program. In honor of the investment, UNI will establish the Gerdin Family Chair in Gerontology.

READ MORE | bit.ly/Gerdin-Donation

UNI ROTC stair climb honors 9/11 first responders

UNI ROTC sponsored 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 10.

Open to the public, a group of approximately two dozen participants took five laps up and down the UNI-Dome stairs in honor of the steps taken by firefighters, EMTs, police and other first responders in the World Trade Center. During 9/11, first responders climbed more than 2,000 stairs or 110 flights.

READ MORE | bit.ly/Memorial-Climb

ARCTICenter part of $13.9 million grant to fight climate change

UNI is one of four institutions that will combat climate change as part of a $13.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant funds a program led by the University of Alaska Fairbanks to help multiple communities respond to coastal erosion, flooding, permafrost thaw and other hazards attributed to climate change. The four years of funding, awarded this month, is part of the foundation's Navigating the New Arctic program.

The funding supports AC^{3}TION, a project led by the Alaska Coastal Cooperative at UAF in collaboration with the rural coastal communities, the University of Northern Iowa, Arizona State University and the University of Texas El Paso. The group's acronym stands for Alaska Coastal Cooperative for Co-producing Transformative Ideas and Opportunities in the North.

READ MORE | bit.ly/NSF-Grant

UNI student gets up-close look at the FBI and urban law enforcement

Katelyn Bakker has always been fascinated by crime shows like "Law and Order: SVU" and "Criminal Minds." Although she now knows those TV shows may not have the most realistic depictions, her dream of going into law enforcement has not wavered. She is pursuing this dream at the University of Northern Iowa, where she is majoring in psychology and criminology and criminal justice with minors in sociology and mental health.

"After doing more research throughout high school and taking the courses to make sure that was something I wanted to continue in college, it just opened my eyes to the fact that, sure, it's not the same as what I grew up with on TV, but it's definitely still a career that I would be super passionate about."

READ MORE | bit.ly/Katelyn-Bakker

UNI's nursing program receives Higher Learning Commission accreditation

UNI's highly anticipated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is set to launch after receiving final approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The accreditation marks the last step in the regulatory process to begin accepting new students into the program's first cohort in fall 2024.

"We enjoyed and appreciated the members of the Higher Learning Commission who visited our campus and learned about the vision for UNI's nursing program," said UNI President Mark Nook. "We are grateful for their accreditation and look forward to enrolling students into the program next fall."

READ MORE | bit.ly/Nursing-HLC

UNI and Des Moines University partner to help students interested in healthcare

Des Moines University and UNI have announced a new partnership to create enhanced pathways for UNI students seeking medical and health sciences careers. The partnership is intended to foster opportunities for students while helping build Iowa's health care workforce.

Under the agreement, DMU will annually reserve seats for qualified UNI students in doctoral programs in occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, podiatric medicine and physical therapy. UNI students will be guaranteed an interview for admission to these programs by meeting DMU's admission requirements, including grade point average, completed coursework at UNI and program-specific admission requirements such as MCAT scores, demonstrated hours of relevant observational or work experiences and other academic achievements.

READ MORE | bit.ly/DMU-Partnership

UNI course invites the community to explore Creative Cedar Valley

UNI students in the new course, *The Creative Experience,* invited the public to explore creativity thriving in the Cedar Valley at four events in October, November and December.

Through the course, students were challenged to conceive, plan and deliver a four-event series that immerses them in creative experiences. **Gary Gute** (family services) explained, "I've been teaching creativity classes nearly every semester since 2005. The consistent lament from students is 'I'm not creative because I'm not an artist.' This course helps them quickly experience that creativity is not only within the purview of the arts."

READ MORE | bit.ly/Creative-Cedar-Valley

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Aubrianna Woody (political science), **Grason Rowlet** (public administration & political science) and **Ashlee Vick** (public administration & political science) presented at the Civic Action Academy in Grinnell, IA. Their presentation, "Homelessness in Iowa: Addressing Stigma and Taking Action," shed light on the issue of homelessness in Iowa and spurred discussions on how college students can actively engage at the local level to drive change within their communities.

Caroline Christensen (political communication) recently accepted a position as a part-time news producer for News 7 KWWL.

The Model UN Competition Team participated in the American Model United Nations Competition in Chicago in November.

Four UNI Geography MA students attended the Westlakes AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago in October:

Olivia Calvin (poster), "Evaluation of a Consent Decree TMDL: Presenting New Insight on Phosphorus Sources and Loading in the Milford Creek Watershed."

- Awarded second place in the Best Student Poster Competition at the Master-level.

Beatrice Chali (paper), "Land Suitability Analysis for Organic Farming in Sioux County, Iowa."

Polina Syadeyskaya (paper), "Indigenous-Driven Institutional Change, Wealth Distribution, Inequality and Subsistence Livelihood in a Reindeer Hearding Community."

Andrew Creasey (poster), "Using GIS Suitability Analysis to Determine Grocery Locations in Blackhawk County, Iowa."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Peter Dreifuss, '21 (political science) recently accepted a position as recruitment and retention specialist for the College of Business at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Jared Girres, '19 (political science & criminology) began working as a management and program analyst at U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington, D.C.

Alexa Hach, '10 (public health) was named one of Cedar Valley's 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier. She is an integrated disease specialist and special projects coordinator for NuCara Pharmacy's Capacity Extension Program.

Lindsey Ingraham, '23 (political science & public administration) started a new position as a legislative analyst at the Iowa Legislature's Legislative Services Agency.

Ahsan Jehangir Kahn, '19 (public administration) accepted a position as a judicial law clerk at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Chad Lang, '04 (social science teaching), was named the 2023 Central Office Administrator of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa. He is currently the assistant superintendent of school improvement and human resources at Glenwood Community School District.

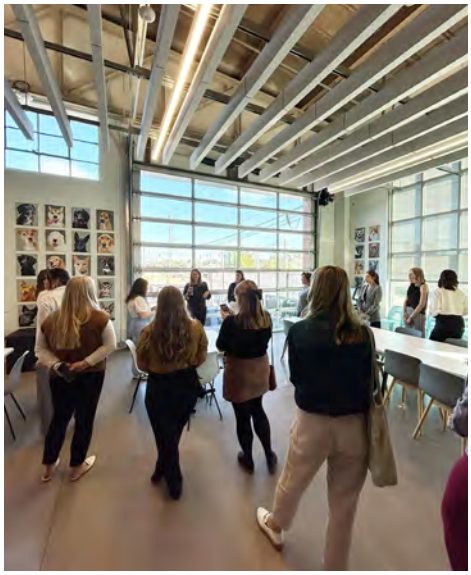
Andrew Powers, '07 (psychology) started a new position as chief of staff - VP and chief human resources Officer at Chevron.

Charles Mhoon, '17 (psychology) was named one of Cedar Valley's 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier. He is an educational counselor at the Educational Opportunity Center, in the UNI Center for Urban Education.

Brian Weuve, '98 (public administration) was recently named finance director of the City of Pella.

SNAPSHOTS

Dr. James and Cheryl McCullagh Atrium
The Sabin Hall Atrium is named in honor of Emeritus Professor, Dr. James McCullagh and his wife Cheryl, for their long time dedication, service and generosity to students at the University of Northern Iowa.
Dedicated January 10, 2023
Jim McCullagh, Professor 1981 - 2021



CREATIVE CEDAR VALLEY
Celebrating Creativity in Place
Community Tour
THREE PINES
FARM

KNOCK AND
DROP IOWA

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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