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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Greetings!

As the 2021-2022 academic year draws to a close, I wanted to acknowledge that it has been a year full of challenges.

Our faculty and staff have expanded their efforts significantly to meet the needs of our students and sustain the vitality of our university and college. You are at the heart of what keeps UNI moving forward, but are not always recognized for it.

I have the privilege of often speaking with our alumni. Recently, in DC, I had the opportunity to engage in discussions with several UNI alums from across years and majors. Two themes emerged:

1. **YOU** are what shaped their experiences and memories of UNI. Repeatedly, alums asked about the professors and staff with whom they encountered during their time at UNI. They talked about the knowledge they gained from classes, the helpful mentoring that guided them, and the kind support they received. Even decades later, these former students lift **YOU** up as a key part of their success.

2. The vast majority of alums have had professional paths they would not have been able to predict while in college. The stories they told often involved being flexible and able to adapt their skills and pivot when opportunities presented themselves. Very few had life stories that were linear or followed the predictable path of "complete this major to get this job." Our focus on developing foundational knowledge and skills through a liberal arts education, providing experiential and project-based learning opportunities, and exposing students to a variety of perspectives provides the building blocks of our graduates’ successful careers and achievements. What we do in CSBS leads to the success and excellence of our students.

I share this with you so you can hear directly that our alumni recognize the value of what you do, and thank you for transforming their lives. What you do makes a difference in the world. These past two years have been incredibly difficult and, although I do not have a crystal ball to predict what the future holds for us, I do hope that the summer will provide you the time to decompress, recharge and relax.

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**Kenneth Atkinson** (history) was an editor and contributor to the book, “Psalms of Solomon: Texts, Contexts and Intertexts,” a collection of historical studies of ancient Greek poetry about the 63 BCE Roman conquest of Jerusalem. Atkinson was an invited speaker at two conferences held by the University of Michigan’s Center for Early Christian/Judaic Studies about the origins of Christianity. He was also invited to contribute to a study of Greek and Roman history in the Dead Sea Scrolls for a special edition of The Qumran Chronicle.

**Kyle Endres** (political science, CSBR) presented two co-authored papers at the 2021 meeting of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research in Chicago: “Experimenting with QR Codes and Envelope Size in a Push-to-Web Surveys” and “Branded URL: Garnish or essential ingredient for Push-to-Web?” He additionally presented the paper, “Cross-pressured Constituents: How Roll Call Votes Improve the Electoral Prospects of Incumbents,” at the 2022 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago.

**Kyle Endres, Alyssa R. McCoy** (CSBR) and **Mary E. Losch** (CSBR) received a National Science Foundation Grant, “Phoenix Area Social Survey Data Collection Report.”

**Reinier Hesselink** (history) has been invited to spend the 2022-2023 academic year as a visiting professor at Yale University.


Professor Emeritus Jay Lees (history) was invited to give a paper at The Third International Conference on Canons Regular from the Middle Ages to the Present. The conference was held at the Vatican in November 2021. Lees spoke about Anselm, the 12th-century bishop of Havelberg and Archbishop of Ravenna.

Jennifer McNabb (history), Scott Peters (political science), Susan Hill (philosophy and world religions) and Jim O’Loughlin (languages and literatures) were awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Connections Planning Grant. Their project, “Humanities For Civic Education: Preparing Teachers and Students for Engaged Citizenship,” will fund a team of faculty to develop an interdisciplinary UNIFI certificate on Civic Literacy and Public Engagement.

Ramona McNeal (political science) presented a co-authored paper, “School Shootings Continue: How are the States Responding?,” at the 2022 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago. She additionally presented a co-authored paper, “A Gendered Perspective on Cyber-aggression,” at the 66th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, a virtual conference held in March 2022.


IN RECOGNITION

Alan Heisterkamp

Life is a story of transitions and adventures. This spring the Patricia A. Tomson’s Center for Violence Prevention’s (PTCVP) Director Alan Heisterkamp announced his departure from the Center for a new adventure in Mumbai, India, where he will step into the role of a high school counselor. While the setting is new, the role is one he embraced earlier in his professional career. As he expressed to a colleague, “While there is still gas in the tank, I wanted to try a new adventure.” Working with youth, and those who educate and support youth, has always been at the core of his career.

Under his decade long leadership of the PTCVP and its implementation of the gender violence prevention programs Mentors in Violence Prevention and Coaching Boys into Men, it is estimated that close to 38,500 secondary students have been reached by the MVP program; 8500 UNI students have participated in MVP classroom modules; 500+ UNI students, faculty and staff received training and certification in the MVP program, 47 high schools across Iowa, and 195+ coaches have partnered with the PTCVP to implement bullying and gender violence prevention programming. The PTCVP, UNI and colleagues across the state have benefited from Alan’s leadership and dedication over the years and all wish him well in this new adventure.
FACULTY AWARDS

Scott Peters
Faculty Administrator of the Year, United Faculty

Ashleigh Kysar-Moon
2021-2022 Outstanding Teaching Award

Libby Fry
Apple Polisher Award

Chris Larimer
2022 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence

Lixia Zhang
Apple Polisher Award

Donna Hoffman
MWOOne Advising Award (nomination)

Rebecca Dickinson
Apple Polisher Award

PROMOTIONS

Elizabeth Lefler
promotion to Full Professor of Psychology

Evan Renfro
promotion to Associate Professor of Political Science with academic tenure
IN MEMORIAM

Thomas W Keefe III, 79, passed away April 22, 2022. He was a man with deep convictions and a drive to advocate for others. He loved to teach and was known for sharing his knowledge with anyone who stopped to listen. Tom was also an avid runner, regularly running long-distance road races and participating in marathons and triathlons.

Tom was born in North Charleroi, Pennsylvania, and attended graduate school in Colorado, after which he joined the Air Force Medical Corps, where he worked as a psychiatric social worker providing counseling for men returning from Vietnam. This gave him a deep understanding of the stress that comes with war and returning to peace. He later earned his Doctorate of Social Work from Utah State.

After earning his doctorate, he began as a professor of social work at the University of Northern Iowa. Here, he contributed to several textbooks, including two as the primary author. He also wrote many articles about social work advocating for stress management strategies, particularly exercise and meditation. While serving as the department head of social work, he spearheaded the development of the graduate program. In keeping with his passion for others, he was active in the Democratic Party, a member of Citizens for Peace and challenged people to vote and be politically active.

James (Jim) McCullagh died on April 27, 2022 at Allen Memorial Hospital of heart failure.

Jim was born on August 26, 1936 and grew up in New York, New York. His parents emigrated from county Tyrone in Northern Ireland, making Jim a dual U.S. and Irish citizen. Jim served in the Army for three years in several locations, including Germany and California. He attended Curry College in MA before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Chico State University in 1963. He received a Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1970 where he met his wife Cheryl Ann Edwards, a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Counseling from Northern Illinois University in 1979, and a JD from University of Iowa in 1993. Jim worked as a welfare worker in San Francisco in the early to mid-1960s. Before coming to UNI, Jim was an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. He, his wife and their son moved to Cedar Falls in 1981.

Jim was a professor of social work at the University of Northern Iowa from 1981 until he retired in 2021. He was honored with the Randy A. Fisher Lifetime Achievement award as well as a UNI regent’s award. His research focused on Native Americans and their contribution to social work. During this process he made a life-long friendship with Howard Chandler Walkingstick who was a prominent Cherokee and social worker. As a part-time lawyer he focused on juvenile law in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. Jim was a member of St. Stephens Student Center in Cedar falls where he volunteered as the sacristan for over a decade. Additionally, Jim was a Benedictine Oblate.

Jim loved to travel. He visited Europe many times including several visits with his family in Northern Ireland. He also visited Israel, where he worked on a kibbutz for four months. He additionally often traveled to Hilton Head with family and friends. Jim was an avid antique collector and deeply enjoyed puzzles and Sudoku.
Major Bert Flather (military science) retired from UNI’s Department of Military Science in spring 2022. He is a Field Artillery Officer with a career that spans 23 years of service in the Army. Bert came to the program from Fort Stewart, GA, in 2018 as an assistant professor of Military Science and never looked back. He has served multiple positions in the department including: operations officer, recruiting operations officer, freshman instructor, military history instructor, CSBS senator, and executive committee member. Bert looks forward to remaining in Cedar Falls and enjoying time with his family, including his wife Kate, 4-year-old son Quinn and now 5-month-old daughter Eleanor.

Jan Cornelius (psychology) retired from her role as secretary in the Department of Psychology in April. She began working at UNI in March of 2001 and held several different positions in the college, including as a secretary for the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration and as a grants administrative assistant. She served as the psychology secretary for 14 years and was the point person for many students who needed help with registration, advising and life. She helped usher in many electronic processes in the department and was instrumental in organizing the department’s move from the now-demolished Baker Hall to the newly renovated Bartlett Hall. Jan continues to live in Cedar Falls and is spending a lot more time with her grandchildren.

Dennis Dahms (geography) was a vital and critical member of the Department of Geography throughout his long and storied career at UNI, and his continuing scholarly activity remains the envy of most of the university.

He is an associate editor of *Catena*, one of Quaternary Geomorphology’s premier journals, and just in the last two years he has published the following work:

- “Age, geochemistry and geomorphic significance of new Lava Creek ash exposures from Lander, WY, USA,” *Geomorphology* (in review)
- “Landscape Evolution, post-LGM surface denudation and soil weathering processes from Dickinson Park mire, Wind River Range, Wyoming (USA),” *Geomorphology*
- “The Deglaciation of the Americas during the Last Glacial Termination,” *Earth-Science Reviews*

Dennis plans to continue writing grants and papers and will maintain a lab on campus.

Annette Lynch (TAPP) received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1992 and took her first academic position at UNI in the fall of 1991. In her time at UNI, Annette has held multiple positions vital to the university’s core mission. She was director of the Women’s Studies program, a co-founding director of the Center for Violence Prevention and a director of the School of Applied Human Sciences, for which she was recognized as the United Faculty Administrator of the year.

Annette has been a tireless advocate for her students. Her teaching excellence has been recognized, in part, by the various teaching awards she has earned. However, a larger part of her success can be witnessed through the prolonged mentoring relationships she engages in with her students after they graduate.

At UNI, Annette has been a strong scholar, authoring over 20 peer-reviewed articles, books and book chapters. In addition, she has participated in close to 40 peer-reviewed presentations over her career. Most importantly, Annette has consistently applied her research to communities in which she lives and works to better people’s lives.

Finally, Annette has been the type of colleague any faculty member would be lucky to have. She has been a mentor, encourager and friend to everyone she works with. In addition, she is willing to stand up for what she believes in. UNI, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and School of Applied Human Sciences have all benefited because she chose to become faculty member here in the fall of 1991.

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Central to her outstanding record of service was Anne’s many years of service to UNI athletics. Anne served as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative from 2002-2011, one of the most demanding and time-consuming service jobs on campus. She also served on the Missouri Valley Conference President’s Council and she was a member of the search committee that hired women’s basketball head coach Tanya Warren. When she was recently inducted into the 2021 UNI Athletics Hall of Fame, it was duly noted that Anne “impacted the lives of countless student-athletes through her advocacy and leadership.”

John ‘Henry’ Owusu
(geography) was an indispensable and crucial member of the Department of Geography throughout his 22 years at UNI. He is a leading expert on economic development and resource management in Sub-Saharan Africa through his research on the timber trade. In addition, through excellent teaching and dedicated mentoring, he has had an outstanding record of fostering and advancing student success through his LAC classes. He plans to continue working and publishing on Sub-Saharan development issues while splitting his time between Ghana and Iowa.

Ann Woodrick’s (anthropology) legacy at UNI will be grounded in her reputation as an outstanding teacher. Anne consistently demonstrated a great passion for teaching. Demanding but fair, she was employing critical thinking strategies in all of her classes years before the approach became a widespread expectation for teaching at UNI. Anne also did important research during her years at UNI, resulting in publications in such highly regarded journals as Human Organization, Religion and Education, Urban Anthropology, Anthropological Quarterly and Ethos.
Social Work Ranked Top Graduate Program in New Report

Three University of Northern Iowa graduate programs were named among the top graduate programs in the country, according to a new U.S. News & World Report ranking.

The programs—education, social work and the part-time MBA—ranked among the top 200 in the country on the publication’s Best Graduate Schools for 2023 list.

Since 2013, UNI’s Master of Social Work program has provided a trauma-informed care specialization based on decades of research on how people are affected by stress, adversity and oppression. Students work with scholars and experts in the field of trauma and mental health, gain experience in the field, and learn innovative approaches to address the complex problems facing our world.

New Online Advanced Studies Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

School counselors from across Iowa have a new educational pathway to serve the mental health needs of school districts and communities with the addition of a new Advanced Studies Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling offered from the University of Northern Iowa.

Designed with working professionals in mind, this program provides a flexible, dynamic experience for school counselors from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited programs with at least two years of experience to complete the educational requirements to obtain licensure as a clinical mental health counselor. Offered entirely online, students will gain extensive training in brain-based, evidence-based and holistic mental health counseling interventions.

Additionally, with the current national shortage of mental health professionals, this program will aim to address a need for additional mental health counselors in schools, and help graduates improve access to mental health services in rural and local communities.

Electoral Administration & Integrity Conference

The Department of Political Science and Master of Public Policy program sponsored the Electoral Administration and Integrity Conference on campus in April. The program brought together local election officials from Black Hawk and Grundy County with UNI students and faculty to discuss how elections are carried out and the factors that influence trust in elections. Justin Holmes, the chair of the UNI American Democracy Project and political science and economics major Anton Benjegerdes discussed #panthersvote and the importance of civic engagement; Donna Hoffman, Chris Larimer and Kyle Endres presented their research; and David Kimball, professor of political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, provided the keynote address.

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Greg Bruess (history), Evan Renfro and Brian Warby (political science) discussed the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in March 2022. About 100 students and community members attended to learn about the history leading up to the invasion and the international security and economic ramifications of it.

State of the Union Address Watch Party

The Department of Political Science and the American Democracy Project sponsored a State of the Union Address watch party in February 2022. About 40 students attended to watch and discuss the address and the Republican response.
Phi Alpha Theta / History Lecture Series

The Department of History and Phi Alpha Theta hosted four lectures during the spring 2022 semester, including “The Indian Farm Bills & Their Discontents: Making Sense of the Massive Indian Farmer Protests of 2020-21,” presented by Lou French (history); "'You Can Kill the Revolutionary but You Can't Kill the Revolution': Fred Hampton, Memory & Heritage in Chicago,” presented by Cheryl Dong (history); “Dividing the City: Private Racial Restrictions & the Architecture of Segregation in the Midwest,” the 48th Annual Carl L. Becker Memorial Lecture presented by Colin Gordon (University of Iowa); and “Women in the Provisional IRA and their Impact on Irish Republicanism and Northern Irish Society During the 1970s,” the 2022 best graduate thesis, presented by Sean Riley (history).

Geography Colloquium

The Department of Geography hosted three lectures as part of their geography colloquium series during the spring 2022 semester, including “Designing a Sustainable Urban Environment by Spatial Data Science and Urban Climatology,” presented by Qunshan Zhao (University of Glasgow); “‘The Pastoral City-State’ A Metaphor for the Geography of Uruguay,” presented by Samuel Brandt (UCLA); and “Making Sense of Human Rights: Sociological Perspectives on Human Rights and Social Justice,” presented by Kamryn Warren (sociology).

Women’s & Gender Studies SWAG Forum

The Women’s and Gender Studies program hosted several SWAG Forums during the spring 2022 semester, including “The Significance of Black Lives Matter,” presented by Reverend Belinda Creighton-Smith (social work) and Joyce Levingston, ‘14; “Love and Court(Ship) In Early Modern England,” presented by Jennifer McNabb (history); and “Gender Issues in Communication: Militarized Muscular Christianity & Hegemonic Masculine Performance at the U.S. Capitol Riot,” presented by grad student Emma Newton (comm studies).

The program also co-hosted a screening and workshop with Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, as part of Women’s History Month, “I Was A Teenage Feminist - A Documentary About Redefining The F-Word.”
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Model UN wins Distinguished Delegation

The UNI Model United Nations Competition Team received the Distinguished Delegation award at the National Model UN competition in New York in April. This was a very competitive conference, with students from dozens of schools across the country and around the world, including several universities each from France, Germany, Spain and Canada, as well as schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Ecuador and the UK. The team consisted of political science majors Zach Zippe and Megan Robinson, as well as Alenah Rankin (social work) and Alex Perrin (social science teaching) and advisor Brian Warby (political science).

Student Research Highlights

90 students presented at this year’s INSPIRE Student Research and Engagement Conference, including 21 Honor’s capstone presentations, co-hosted by CSBS and the Graduate College and coordinated by Helen Harton (psychology) and Windee Weiss (kinesiology).

13 students presented at this year’s Donaldson E. Shepardson Memorial Student Research Conference, hosted by the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta.

Autumn Stowe (social work) presented their Honors Research, "Animal Adoption Profiles: An Application of the Human Animal Connection," at the Undergraduate Honors Research Day.

Sandra Thiman (political science) received the Fruehling Fellowship to write her paper, “The Gender Bias Burden on Business: Women’s Access to Credit in Bahrain.” She presented this paper at the Iowa Human Rights Research Conference at Drake University Law School and UNI’s INSPIRE conference in April. The paper was also a runner up for the Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Award sponsored by Rod Library (faculty advisors: Evan Renfro and Brian Warby).

Lindsey Ingraham (political science) received the Fruehling Fellowship to write her paper, "Media Suppression in Africa and the Balkans – How Economic Distribution Impacts the Press on an International Level." She presented this paper at the Iowa Human Rights Research Conference at Drake University Law School and UNI’s INSPIRE conference in April (faculty advisor: Evan Renfro).

Witt Harberts, ‘21 (political science) presented his paper, “Judicial Selection Commission Composition and Applicants to Judicial Vacancies,” at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in April (faculty advisor: Scott Peters). His Honors thesis, "Made in China: Decline of Unions and Stagnant Wages in the U.S.,” was a runner-up for the Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Award sponsored by Rod Library (faculty advisor: Evan Renfro).

Olivia Chen's school counseling students attended the Iowa School Counselor Day on the Hill, meeting with legislators to advocate for a better school counselor ratio.

Jerrell Bates (psychology) was awarded the 2022 Lux Service Award in recognition of his overall involvement at UNI. He will be attending UNI's mental health counseling program upon graduation this spring.
Jennifer Van Haaften, ‘93 (history) has been a history and museum professional for over 25 years. Her early studies focused on clothing and textile history, with an emphasis on material culture. Her thesis at the University of Manchester examined extant 19th-century women’s clothing examples in British museums, as well as journals and textile sample books from early 19th-century textile manufacturers throughout England.

Van Haaften's museum background includes an extensive period of managing living history programs, recreating material culture and researching the everyday lives of 19th-century immigrants in the Midwest: agricultural practices, foodways, folk beliefs, religious beliefs, clothing construction, consumerism, trade and economics, machinery, architecture, and household furnishings.

Her strong background in ethnic and historic clothing research was enhanced by her tenure at Old World Wisconsin, a living history site that recreates immigrant life in 19th-century Wisconsin, covering ethnic groups such as Germans (Prussian and Bavarian), Bohemian (Czech), Polish, Irish, Norwegian, Finns and Danes. In her current position she is instrumental in expanding the representative collections and stories of military service members from historically underrepresented groups in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, including Latinx, Blacks, Asian-Americans, women and LGBTQ+.

Yadira Guzman, ‘21 (political science) was awarded the Young Woman of Tomorrow for the Women of Persimmon awards from the YWCA of Black Hawk County

Jeremy Jones, ‘01 (social science teaching) was honored as the 2022 Iowa Middle School Principal of the Year.

Deb Stanek, ‘75 (home ec vocational), Family & Consumer Science, Hudson High School, was awarded a KWWL and the R.J. McElroy Trust Foundation 2022 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.
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.