

# statements

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

# RISE

**University of Northern Iowa®** | 2019 EDITION

# IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 COLLEGE FEATURES
- 8 COLLEGE UPDATES
- 11 STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS
- 16 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
- 23 THANK YOU!

# CSBS

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

University of Northern Iowa

Volume 21 | 2019 Edition

CSBS Statements is published annually by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa for its alumni and friends.

The University of Northern Iowa does not discriminate in employment or education. Visit [uni.edu/policies/1303](http://uni.edu/policies/1303) for additional information.



## Greetings from CSBS!

To rise is to move upward. To come into being. To exert oneself to meet a challenge.

I cannot think of a better theme to encompass the excellence of our alumni, students, faculty and staff. Collectively, they rise to achieve their dreams and influence our world, even in the face of adversity. I continue to be so proud of the impact we have as individuals and together in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Articles in this year's publication highlight a few of those efforts:

- #PanthersVote showcases how collaboration can drive student voter engagement success
- Faculty Ken Atkinson reflects upon being called to rise to the challenge during the Cold War
- Criminology students stand out above the rest for the Cedar Falls Police Department
- Senior Kyla Ford finds purpose in her major to rise above difficult circumstances
- Senior Yakira Sanders empowers diverse students through togetherness

Our alumni portraits this year include Belinda Batang Esguerra's work to support communities on the rise to economic self-sufficiency; John Gallagher on the importance of mentoring and paying it forward; Katie Bries, literally on top of the world thanks, in part, to UNI's educational foundation; and recent graduate Janine Baeza, who returned to UNI to help students gain access to higher education.

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 we can stay connected and share your experiences with our current students. Thank you for your support, and please feel free to contact me with thoughts or questions.

Brenda Bass | Dean



If the 2016 election demonstrated anything, it was this: University of Northern Iowa students vote. They vote more than almost any other college in the nation.

In fact, only one other college in the country bested UNI's 67.5 percent student voting rate, and, for that, the college received a Silver Seal award from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

But despite the impressive turnout, seniors **Matt Johnson** (public administration, political science) and **Brenna Wolfe** (public administration, sociology) saw something missing in 2016.

"We saw these numbers happen naturally," Johnson said. "There was effort from different student organizations, but there was no cohesive collaboration."

This year, that all changed. Wolfe and Johnson helped UNI lead a new, unified effort, #PanthersVote, with the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) and university chapters of the American Democracy Project and Campus Election Engagement Project.

"In previous years, student organizations have undergone individual initiatives to encourage students to register to vote. While the hard work of the organizations produced successful results, these independent efforts were not as effective as they could have been," said **David Konfrst**, director of public relations for the student government. "Campus leaders are now creating a cohesive movement to increase voter engagement."

The group had a multiprong strategy, including coordinating a variety of organizations under the #PanthersVote brand, and using this common brand to get students registered to vote. The effort was driven by voter drives, community presentations, social

media campaigns and classroom visits.

For its efforts, the program was selected as the Emerging Innovation Award winner for the Iowa Campus Compact's annual Engaged Campus Awards. And the subsequent elections further solidified the initiative's success.

For the 2018 midterm elections, preliminary estimates show that turnout at the two precincts serving the campus more than doubled the turnout in 2014. And for the special election in March for Iowa Senate District 3, 863 people voted in two days, which is a remarkable total for a special election, said **Scott Peters**, head of the department of political science.

The numbers showcase a definitive trait in the student body.

"UNI students care. Our record shows that UNI students care about voting," Wolfe said.

That sentiment was echoed by Samantha Bayne, the Iowa director of the Campus Election Engagement Project, which worked with Johnson over the summer to brainstorm #PanthersVote.

"UNI has the highest voter turnout that I have seen in the state," Bayne said. "These numbers are incredibly rare and extremely impressive – they showcase a true culture of active citizenship at UNI."

It's important to remember that #PanthersVote is a strictly non-partisan effort. The only thing that matters for the leaders of this effort is that students register to vote and use that vote in an election.

"#PanthersVote isn't interested in who wins or loses, it's about getting students involved and engaged," Peters said. "It becomes not a partisan experience, but an exercise in civic responsibility."



# BEFORE THE WALL FELL



During the depths of the Cold War, **Kenneth Atkinson** crossed through the heavily fortified Checkpoint Bravo from West Berlin into enemy territory – the Soviet-controlled East Germany. He was carrying a package he was certain contained a rifle.

The next day he looked through the papers to see if anyone had been assassinated. No one had, but the night was emblematic of the unique role Atkinson played in a city that starkly displayed the differences between capitalism and authoritarian socialism.

"It was a very unusual job," Atkinson, now professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa, said.

Atkinson was part of a U.S. Army unit called the Berlin Brigade, serving as a specialist fourth class

in the Headquarters and Service Company Combat Support Battalion. It was the last unit from World War II still stationed in the city.

This classification afforded the unit an unusual relationship with the Soviets. It was Atkinson's job to receive classified correspondence and information gathered by United States spies operating behind the Iron Curtain and deliver it to the command in West Berlin. The Soviets knew what Atkinson was doing, but they were powerless to stop it, thanks to that fact that, in World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were allies. That relationship still applied to Atkinson's unit.

"Even though the Russians were our enemies, on paper, we were allies," Atkinson said. "It was an odd situation. They knew I was carrying secret correspondence across, but if

something happened to me, it would be an international incident."

Atkinson was stationed in West Berlin from 1984 to 1987. Only a few years after he left, the wall, and the Soviet Union, would collapse. But when he was there, people thought it would last forever.

"No one thought the wall would fall," Atkinson said. "If you could see what it was like, the size of it, the country, the police, the institutions – communism had such a strong control. People thought it would never end."

Control was the goal of the Berlin Wall, and the Soviets went about that goal ruthlessly.

The swath of barren land separating the walls in west and east Berlin was called the Death



KENNETH ATKINSON, FIFTH FROM RIGHT, WAS ONE OF TEN AMERICANS HONORED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN 2018 FOR THEIR SERVICES DURING THE COLD WAR.

Strip, and it earned that name. Soviet guards had orders to shoot to kill, and 136 people lost their lives trying to escape East Berlin.

But Atkinson, with his special status, was one of the few people in the world who could cross freely into East Berlin. He traveled there often, and received a first-hand view of the deplorable conditions and brutal state repression the populace endured.

"It was a pretty depressing place," Atkinson said. "There were still buildings bombed out from World War II. Saturday afternoon around 1 p.m., the whole city would empty out. Everything closes and it was just police and soldiers out. It felt like a post-apocalyptic movie."

Many buildings were still pockmarked with bullet holes

and riddled with substandard construction.

"It was sad to see the living conditions," Atkinson said. "In the winter, you'd see people carrying bricks of coal up to their apartments and the long food lines. It was really a primitive place."

And, whenever he was in East Berlin, Atkinson was constantly followed.

"There'd be someone behind you, and then you look ahead and someone's peeking around a building," Atkinson said. "The Soviets would take pictures of you. You assume the phones are bugged. You're constantly watched; it was a bizarre place."

Last September, Atkinson returned to Berlin. He was being honored by

the German government, through the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, for his service during the Cold War.

"It was a shock to go back and see it," Atkinson said. "Going to Checkpoint Charlie, you used to have people with weapons and dogs. Now, there are Burger King and McDonald's."

Today, Atkinson uses his experience as a lesson for his students. He mostly earned his unique post on the merits of his college degree in human resources development from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

"That's the advantage of having an education. It opens doors," Atkinson said. "That's what I tell my students. It's important to get an education and learn about the world. Because things can change instantly."





# DIGGING

*into UNI's past*

This may seem a bit abstract, but please consider: The grounds of the University of Northern Iowa are like a Jell-O salad.

Think of the grounds as a three-dimensional mold, the jiggly, gelatin confection analogy within which layers of the university's history reside. Bricks, limestone rubble, nails and all other manner of bygone miscellany then become the fruit cocktail, the artifacts that are unearthed as you excavate through that iconic dessert.

At least that's what it seemed like to the students in associate professor **Donald Gaff's** archaeology fieldwork class, who were on an archaeological quest to find the remains of the oldest and first building on campus – Central Hall.

Spoiler alert: They didn't find it. But that's mostly because of the sheer amount of historical remains that accumulated between that first building and surface above it. The Jell-O salad had a lot of fruit cocktail, if you will.

Construction at the site of Central Hall, which is near Maucker Union, has been rampant since Central Hall burned down in 1965. Lang Hall was built and remodeled. The old administration building and the first Gilchrist Hall were constructed and demolished. The Crossroads, which connected the administration building and Lang Hall, was constructed and destroyed. Maucker Union itself was built and the Center for Multicultural Education Extension was added as well.

"There's a complex history of the land there, so we've only just started to dig through the top of it," Gaff said.

Gaff's decision to search for Central Hall was sparked by several factors. First, it's the 150th anniversary of the building's construction this fall.

Central Hall was built in 1869 as one of Iowa's Soldiers' Orphans' Homes to house children orphaned by the Civil War. The building held the first classes of the Iowa State Normal School, which would later become UNI, in 1876. The building marks the beginning of UNI's story, and Gaff was hoping his class could find the remains.

They didn't, but the experience was still valuable, which leads to the other factor that led to Gaff's decision.

Typically, archaeology students learn the details and techniques of excavation during field schools, which are usually held in the summer. But this arrangement can pose challenges, Gaff said.

"I used to offer the traditional, classic summer field school, but it's hard because students might not plan financial aid through the summer or they have jobs or travel plans," Gaff said. "I came up with the idea of the doing the class this fall to provide the opportunity for students who wouldn't have the opportunity to do it. It was an abbreviated field school."

The students learned the basics of excavation in the fall, and then moved to the lab in the spring, where they catalogued and analyzed what they had found, which was mostly bricks and rubble, but also included buttons, sewing pins, glass and coins from the 1980s.

One student, sophomore **Dakota Maas** (anthropology), was tasked with identifying the bricks the class uncovered, and arrived at an approach that involved using a color sensor to try to match the bricks with current buildings on campus.

He discovered that the bricks mostly corresponded with Maucker Union and the now-demolished Crossroads at Lang Hall.

"It is difficult to get an exact date with this method, but using the color sensor narrowed down a timeline and an approximate location of the bricks found on site," Maas said.

The findings help confirm that the class dug down only into the 1980s and 1970s, but Gaff plans to continue the project this fall and reopen the excavation units that showed the most promise.

Maas, who plans to pursue a career in archaeology, said he hoped to continue his research next semester.

"I hope as we dig further down, we will discover more artifacts and get a bigger picture of the history of the land where Central Hall stood," Maas said. "If we are lucky and patient enough, maybe we will find artifacts to tie to the historic Central Hall itself."



## Panthers on

# PATROL

Becoming a police officer is not easy. The screening process is rigorous, the tests extensive. It's a procedure designed to ensure only the most committed join the force.

But graduating with a UNI criminology major is proving to be a critical first step. This year, when the Cedar Falls Police Department hired new officers, four of the eight officers brought on were UNI grads.

"We have a lot of success with our officers from UNI," said Capt. **Mark Howard**, who also teaches as an adjunct professor in the criminology program. "Not everyone makes it through our training program, but our UNI graduates tend to do really well, especially those who focus on the criminal justice classes."

The CFPD now has 21 UNI graduates in the department, which is almost 40 percent of its force, Howard said.

One of those new hires is **Marissa Abbott**, who graduated just this spring. Abbott was drawn to the field after speaking with her uncle, who works for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, about his experiences in the field.

"Law enforcement has always been appealing to me," Abbott said.

*"The idea of being able to interact with citizens in the community and be there for them when they need it the most was a big reason for my decision to pursue it."*







She started working for the CFPD in April 2018 as a part-time community service officer. She said she immediately loved the department and her co-workers.

"What I admire most about the department is their willingness to help new employees and officers gain success," Abbott said. "The officers at the Cedar Falls Police Department will go out of their way to assist you in any way in order for you to succeed, regardless of the position you hold with the department."

Now that she's graduated, Abbott will start the 16-week Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in Johnson, Iowa. Upon graduation from the academy, she will start her field training at the CFPD and begin her career as a public safety officer.

And through it all, she will be using the skills she acquired at UNI.

The criminology program is a mix of course work and hands-on experience, said **Kimberly Baker**, associate professor and internship coordinator with the department of sociology, anthropology and criminology. Internships are not required, but are highly encouraged.

"The internship program at Cedar Falls [Police Department] is really well structured," Baker said. "It's designed for students to see several different parts of the organization. They get to go on patrol, they also get to go to see what an investigation is like, see a little of the crime lab and learn about the paperwork and processing."

The experience makes UNI criminology graduates a prized commodity for police departments, Baker said.

"When I call around, I'm hearing that our students are preferred compared to students coming out of two-year programs and students coming out of our sister schools," Baker said. "Our students are just better prepared."

## FACULTY PROMOTIONS



**ELAINE  
ESHBAUGH**  
Promoted to  
full professor of  
gerontology



**CARISSA  
FROYUM**  
Promoted to  
full professor of  
sociology



**BINGQING  
LIANG**  
Granted tenure  
& promotion to  
associate professor  
of geography

## NEW FACULTY



**LIBBY FRY**  
Instructor of social work



**MEGAN RUXTON**  
Assistant director, Center for Social &  
Behavioral Research  
Assistant professor of political science



**SEI-YOUNG LEE**  
Assistant professor of social work



**KAMRYN WARREN**  
Assistant professor of sociology

## RETIREEES



**KEITH CREW** joined the faculty of the department of sociology, anthropology, and criminology (SAC) in 1985. Professor Crew earned tenure in 1992, full professor in 2016 and

served as department head of SAC for ten years. Professor Crew's research centers on criminology and law, publishing and teaching widely in these areas. He was deeply involved in the sociology and criminology graduate programs at UNI. Professor Crew has served UNI in many capacities, including as an Institutional Review Board member, Carver Institute workshop leader, CSBS Project Awards Committee, and the Liberal Arts Core Committee. He was internship coordinator for criminology and was on the Comprehensive Exams Committee in public policy. Professor Crew contributes to the discipline of criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and has reviewed manuscripts regularly for nationally recognized journals. At the community level, professor Crew works with state and local agencies,

and works as a public scholar, communicating with local media on occasion. Professor Crew retired from UNI in March 2019, and we wish him well as he enjoys his retirement.



**JUDITH DOHLMAN** began her career at UNI on May 4, 1977, as a staff member in the Office of the Vice President. Two years later, she transferred to the department of history

and, as she puts it, "the rest is history." We are fortunate that it has been. There is only one faculty member who was in the department back in 1977 when Judy arrived, which means that she is not only an able and experienced Secretary III, but also a historical source in her own right. For forty years, Judy has provided a friendly greeting to all who entered the often-busy departmental office, worked to answer a host of questions and helped resolve innumerable student and faculty problems. The breadth of her knowledge and experience has benefited students and faculty alike as

we go about our daily tasks. After 42 years at UNI, Judy will be retiring this summer. We will miss her and wish her the best as she takes this opportunity to pursue other interests and spend time with family.



**BILL DOWNS** has been a professor of social work at UNI since 1992. From 1992 to 2000, he directed the Center for the Study of Adolescence, from 2000 to

2002 he was the graduate program director for the masters in social work (MSW) program, and served as interim department head of social work in 2012. Professor Downs is a prolific grant-writer and has had approximately 50 funded grants since coming to UNI. Professor Downs received the 2008 Time to Lead award from ICADV and the 2014 Award for Excellence from the Iowa Behavioral Health Association. He also helped develop Social Action, Inc., a community and social action agency that works with at-risk youth in east Waterloo, and Amani Community Services, the only culturally specific victim service agency for African Americans in Iowa. Professor Downs received the Social Action, Inc. Community Service Award in 2010, Veridian Community Engagement Fellowship Award in 2010, University of Northern Iowa James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award in 2010 and the Iowa Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence in 2011.



**CYNDI DUNN**, who joined the faculty of the department of sociology, anthropology, and criminology in 2000, is retiring from UNI on June 30, 2019. Professor Dunn earned tenure

in 2006 and full professor in 2015. She combines linguistic anthropology and psychological anthropology, with work published in journals such as the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, Journal of Pragmatics, Ethos, and, most recently, the Annual Review of Anthropology. Professor Dunn has served UNI in many capacities, including serving on the CSBS Faculty Senate, the Dorothy Jean Ray Anthropology Scholarship Committee, being involved in the Women's and Gender Studies program, and, most recently, serving the SAC department as PAC chair. She received the CSBS Outstanding Teaching Award in 2010. She regularly contributes to both the LAC and the anthropology major, including her signature course, Language and Culture. Professor Dunn is moving to Colorado Springs. In between hiking and wine tasting, she will also teach part-time

at Colorado College. We wish professor Dunn well as she moves on to the next adventures in her life!



**VICKIE HANSON**, after two part-time, temporary appointments in the late 1980s, became a permanent part of the UNI community in August 1989, when she joined the staff of what was then the department of

home economics. In August 1991, Vickie transferred to the department of history, where she has been a hardworking and integral part of the office staff for the past 28 years. Vickie has always been friendly, patient and committed to fulfilling all faculty requests in a timely fashion. Her work ethic and positive disposition helped make the main departmental office an efficient and hospitable place for all who pass through it. Vickie plans to retire this summer. We will miss her and would like to express our thanks for her many efforts and to wish her best as she enjoys this opportunity to engage in other pursuits and spend time with her family.



**DON PETERSON**, adjunct professor of geography, will be retiring after three decades of service to UNI. Professor Peterson's teaching career, including his tenure as an outstanding social studies teacher

at Marshalltown High School, spans 55 years. His teaching and expertise in education has won numerous state and national awards, including the Iowa Council for the Social Studies Secondary Teacher of the Year Award, the National Council for the Social Studies Secondary Teaching Award and the National Council for Geographic Education. Professor Peterson has been integral to the College Board's AP human geography and has positively impacted many UNI students through his human geography courses. Although retiring from UNI, professor Peterson still plans to provide guidance for the Geographic Alliance of Iowa, where he has had a leadership role since its inception. We also look forward to his continued contributions to the Iowa State Geography Bee, for which professor Peterson has been the voice of the final round for several years. Looking ahead to true retirement, professor Peterson plans to use his extra time to focus on family genealogy research, creating wildlife habitat for birds and monarch butterflies, spending time with grandchildren and traveling. It will not be the same without professor Peterson in the department and we will miss his many contributions.





**MITCHELL STRAUSS** has worked in higher education in the field of textiles and apparel for over 35 years, 20 of which were at the University of Northern Iowa. In addition to serving as a professor, he also served in an administrative capacity as dean of the graduate school at the Institute of Textile Technology and department head of apparel, textiles and interior design at Kansas State University. Professor Strauss' prior leadership positions in the textile industry brought valuable knowledge and insights to the curriculum. While at UNI, professor Strauss maintained an active scholarship agenda. He co-authored a book on fashion change theory, co-edited an encyclopedia of ethnic fashion, and published several papers and encyclopedia articles on the meaning of dress in Civil War reenacting. He also served as the primary investigator on the National Science Foundation grant that funded the building of an extensive, state-of-the-art textile-testing laboratory. This lab has given hands-on experience to all textiles and apparel majors, many of whom have gone on to take leadership positions in the industry.



**MARY VER STEEGT** came to the University of Northern Iowa in the summer of 2014 after having worked a variety of jobs (office coordinator, telephone interviewer, lay professional and parish worker at churches, and manager at a bridal gallery among others), the most recent having been at Wartburg College. Retirement plans include travel, gardening, numerous projects around her house and acreage, volunteering, and spending more time with her husband, family and friends.



**LINDA WALSH** is retiring from the department of psychology after 44 years of continual service. After receiving her Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of Chicago, professor Walsh came to UNI to teach biopsychology and related courses. She was beloved by her students for taking intimidating material--the brain--and making it accessible and engaging. In addition to the usual content, her syllabi include numerous suggestions for students to experience success. Although she began her research career investigating rat ingestive behaviors, she transitioned to the scholarship of teaching and learning. For many years, professor Walsh was the co-advisor for the student Psychology

Club and was instrumental in organizing the department's annual student research conference, which grew into a regional conference featuring student work from nearby colleges. Professor Walsh is very active in the Iowa Teachers of Psychology, where she has played a prominent role in organizing their annual conference for college, community college and high school psychology teachers in the state.



**CAROL A. WEISENBERGER** joined the faculty of the department of history at UNI in August 1989. In her 30 years as a professor of public policy and U.S. history at UNI, she has developed a commendable record of instructional, service and scholarly contributions to the university and the Cedar Valley community. Throughout her years here, in addition to offering a variety of courses to students in UNI's history programs, she has remained deeply involved in the public policy program, annually offering the course history and U.S. public policy, as well as serving for six years as associate director of the program and as acting director on two later occasions. In addition, she has contributed to the evolving delivery of distance education in a variety of ways. Professor Weisenberger's service contributions have been many, including not only service on innumerable departmental, college and university committees, but also her work in UNI's Lifelong Learning Program. We are fortunate to have had professor Weisenberger as a member of our department, college, university and Cedar Valley community. We express our thanks and wish her the best as she retires from UNI on June 30, 2019.



"It enhances UNI's community engagement," Oberle said. "[We are] committed to doing this from here on out."

LOOKING

› *forward*

FOR THE FIRST TIME

**Kyla Ford**'s academic journey started pretty hastily. At just 17 years old, she had moved out of her mother's house, was just diagnosed with chronic regional pain syndrome and was recovering from surgery. She knew she wanted to go to school, so she enrolled in Kirkwood Community College and started studying human services.

"My brain was so foggy, I just literally applied to the first school I knew I could get into," she said. "I don't even know why I picked human services. Honestly, I think I took a career test and it said clergy or social worker and I was like, 'OK, I'm not gonna' be a clergy member, so I could probably do something with social work.' But I didn't realize where my trajectory was going."

Little did she know, she would develop a passion that would lead to even more opportunities. Motivated by her studies at Kirkwood, Ford transferred to UNI and started studying social work, and became actively involved on campus. She took on leadership roles with Active Minds, Ethnic Student Promoters, the Student Social Work Association, UNI Mental Health Council and UNI's NAACP chapter. She also became involved with the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which allowed her to do original research — and prepare to continue her education.

For the first time, Ford has a vision of where life is going — she's planning to pursue a doctorate in community psychology from University of Illinois at Chicago in fall 2019. It's a huge shift from her mindset when she was 17 and running away from negative experiences. Today, Ford is looking forward and is excited for what the future holds.

"This is the first decision I made that wasn't decided by circumstance," she said. "I got to make a decision, and I'm getting to form myself. And that's something I'm really looking forward to."

**"Before UNI, I didn't even know what research was. Giving me the license to do a project and do original research ... that's where my entire trajectory shifted."**





## EMPOWERING *diverse* STUDENTS

Social work senior **Yakira Sanders** never thought she would come to college, but UNI helped her build confidence to succeed. And a new internship opportunity with UNI's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DIS) has helped her hone her leadership skills, while providing a valuable resource to empower other diverse students on campus.

This past semester, Sanders was named the first-ever peer advocate intern for DIS. The role was created just for Sanders — in fact, she approached DIS with the idea of working for them as an intern, because it's a resource she's loved using as a student and as a leader on campus. (She's had leadership roles with Black Student Union, Ethnic Student Promoters, and was the Director of Diversity for Northern Iowa Student Government.) The internship focuses mainly on advocating for diverse students who have experienced bias-related incidents on campus, acting as a listening ear and a source of resources.

"Students who go through these experiences typically don't like to talk to administration or staff," said

Sanders. "As a peer, I make it less intimidating to talk to them and let them know that I also go through these things and this is how we can get through it."

This role has been a vital addition to the resources provided by DIS. The office, which combined the collective efforts of the Center for Multicultural Education, Military & Veterans Services and Gender & Sexuality Services, now offers intersectional and inclusive services devoted to addressing the needs of students with a variety of diverse experiences and identities. Sanders supported all of these students, and sees the position as a sign of a larger shift towards a more inclusive vision of diversity.

"The real change is to be able to see that our institution is actually doing something about [diversity]," she said. "I've truly enjoyed being surrounded by different people, being challenged to step outside my comfort zone and being able to learn from them. The idea of having differences just makes everything better."

---

**"As a peer, I make it less intimidating to talk to them and let them know that I also go through these things and this is how we can get through it."**



## FASHION *for* JUSTICE

At first glance, fashion and social justice might seem like an odd pairing.

But look closer and the similarities begin to emerge. Fashion, after all, is about perception, about image and the story that appearances convey. Weave that into social justice issues, and fashion becomes a powerful vessel to make statements about negative self-imaging, gender identity, diversity and inclusion.

University of Northern Iowa senior **Kennedy Elliott** knows this connection well. She's been focusing on it since her freshmen year.

That's when Elliott, a textiles and apparel (TAPP) and marketing major, started participating with Uprising Magazine, a student-led publication advised by TAPP professor and School of Applied Human Sciences director **Annette Lynch**. The group included a diverse mix of majors from across campus who created the magazine as an outlet for student culture, fashion and music.

After a few years passed, Elliott and other new members realized that Uprising could be a voice for so much more on campus. Fully embracing the evolution, she applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Principal Community Scholars Program. Her goal: to help elevate the magazine and create awareness about social justice issues on the UNI campus.

"The meaning of Uprising is to speak up and give voice to the voiceless," Elliott said. "We were given this platform to give people a voice and support them. It's not often that people get the opportunity to speak on these issues. It's important."

Elliott looked to professor Lynch's dress and human behavior class for help. Students were encouraged to think about an area in society they wished to change or see better represented and asked to visualize how to express those ideas in one image that best articulated their "empowerment brand." Elliott would then create a space for the students' ideas to

be brought to life on the pages of Uprising.

Two of the projects were featured in the spring 2019 issue of the magazine, alongside an array of student-written articles and poems that touched on a wellness theme. Junior **Cassidy Hendrix** (TAPP, marketing) created the brand empowerment project #AuthenticallyMe to focus on breaking westernized beauty standards in media for the Asian American population, and junior **Peter Lo** (TAPP, interior design) created #REGIMEN, a campaign that defies the misconception that having a self-care routine is a feminine practice and educates men about the importance of hygiene routines.

Elliott hopes that this experience, and future opportunities, will help students pursue their projects beyond the semester, and create a real impact across campus. "There is a huge ripple effect," said Elliott. "We're empowering others to find their passion, and then giving them a platform to do something about it."

# Tackling reading proficiency

# ONE BOOK

# AT A TIME

There's a critical milestone for children at the end of the third grade, a milestone that can reverberate throughout the rest of their lives. And it involves something seemingly simple, something many may take for granted. Reading.

More specifically, reading proficiency, defined by most educators as a mastery of grade- and age-level expectations.

Because, after third grade, an important transition occurs. Up to that point, students are learning to read; after that, they're reading to learn. It goes without saying that if a student's reading proficiency falls behind, their entire education falls behind as well.

University of Northern Iowa sophomore **Caleb Gipple** is well aware of this fact, and of the raft of data that outlines the consequences of poor reading proficiency, such as increased high school drop-out rates and the litany of consequences that incurs, including lower earnings, higher unemployment and increased incarceration rates, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Gipple, a double major in political science and economics, decided to help tackle the problem by starting a project he calls Readers Today, Leaders Tomorrow, which aims to provide books to low-income children in the Cedar Valley. The idea earned him a \$1,000 scholarship from the Principal Community Scholars Program, designed to encourage student leadership to meet community needs.

And the area has a need. Reading proficiency in Black Hawk County stood at 61.5 percent as of 2012.

It's a problem in particular for children from low-income households. When students fall behind in reading proficiency, it is often because they don't have access to books during the summer months, when school is not in session. Gipple calls this, "the summer slip."

"If you look at the numbers, it makes it pretty clear," Gipple said. "We have students that can't access material, so they fall behind in class and become more vulnerable to dropping out."

To tackle this problem, Gipple's project will use donations to buy books at a discounted rate from his partners and then distribute them to schools. He will work with the schools to identify students from low-income households and link them up with books.

The project is still in its early phases, but Gipple hopes to donate 2,000 books – enough to give each student in need two or three books for the summer.

"It's a simple idea, but it's powerful," Gipple said. "If we can inspire passion in reading and learning in just five kids, that has a potential to be life changing. If this only impacts a handful of kids, it will be worth it."





ON TOP  
OF THE

# world



“I feel like I get to do something different frequently. And you meet fantastic people from all over the place and all sorts of backgrounds.”

**Capt Katie Bries, '10**, stepped out into the frigid Greenland air at Thule Air Force Base and looked up with surprise. It was 11 p.m., but the sky blazed bright as noon.

Welcome to life 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Bries was at the remote air base for only a short stint, but the surreal experience of living life in perpetual sunshine was exactly what she was looking for in a career. Yet, if you told her during her time at UNI that she would end up joining the U.S. Air Force after college, she probably wouldn't have believed you.

“The Arctic Circle was not on the list of places I thought I would visit in my life,” Bries said. “I can't think of any other job where you get to do things like that.”



Bries arrived at UNI as a political science major, but ended up graduating with a double major, adding anthropology after a class on human origins piqued her interest in the field.

In 2010, she emerged from college into the stalled economy of the recession and decided to attend law school, enrolling in Drake University Law School. After graduation, she knew she wanted to take a non-traditional career path, something that allowed her to travel while entertaining a variety of fields. It turned out the Air Force checked those boxes.

"I sat down one night on the website and started poking around," Bries said. "Everything I learned about it made it more interesting."

So, she joined and started active duty in January 2014 with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, commonly known as the JAG Core. She was stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs and

started working as a prosecutor and legal assistance attorney. From there, she moved to Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota, where she worked primarily in military justice.

Now, she is stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas, where she is a Special Victims' Counsel with the Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Community Legal Services Directorate, Special Victims' Counsel Division. In this capacity she provides independent legal representation to and advocacy on behalf of sexual assault victims during the investigation and throughout the criminal prosecution process.

These frequent changes in scenery and job responsibilities are exactly what Bries was looking for in a career.

"You get to dabble," Bries said. "I feel like I get to do something different frequently. And you meet fantastic people from all over the place and all sorts of backgrounds."

Besides her time in Greenland, Bries also traveled to South Korea, where she worked with attorneys and learned about international law and the law of war. There, her experience in political science and anthropology served her well.

"It was an opportunity to use those skills, where you're connecting with people from a different background who might have different approaches to the same problem, and you're able to work with them successfully," Bries said.

This summer, Bries will move to Washington D.C. and pursue a Masters of Law in environmental law. After that, she owes the Air Force three more years and then it will be off to another adventure. She's considered teaching at the college or law school level, but she's keeping her options open.

One thing is certain: Her future is as bright as that nighttime sky, 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

# Gaining knowledge to **GROW COMMUNITY**

An advanced degree is known to affect future career opportunities and earning potential. But to master of public policy (MPP) alumna **Belinda Batang Esguerra, '07**, advanced knowledge can also be cultivated to create a ripple effect for societal change.

After receiving a bachelor's in chemistry from Cagayan State University in her home country of the Philippines, Esguerra decided to continue her education in the University of Northern Iowa's MPP program, attracted to UNI's focus on "students first." Esguerra had been employed with the Philippines government and wanted to learn more about how governments work with the people they serve. She would later also receive a diploma of IT - systems administration from Polytechnic West in Perth, Western Australia.

This extensive education led to her current role as a senior data analyst with World

Vision International, a global relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with communities to overcome poverty and injustice. The experiences also helped shape a long-held desire to give back to her own community in the Cagayan Valley.

In 2015, Esguerra created a small team consisting of herself and four other Australian government scholars. Their goal: to start an entrepreneurial food processing project for women farmers in their hometown communities. The team applied for and won an alumni grant from the Australian government that is offered to Filipino scholars. And with that, they immediately got started, targeting women farmers through the





local Rural Improvement Club of Nueva Vizcaya (RIC-NV), Philippines.

With the help of club officers, participants were screened based on need and interest in the program. Recipients would not only receive hands-on training in fruit and vegetable processing, but also materials, start-up capital and the development of a long-term marketing strategy for their products.

In the end, over 300 women farmers from the 10 towns in the Cagayan Valley were trained as a means of augmenting their farm income. Each town also received funds to continue developing income-generating projects after the training concluded.

Esguerra points out that the project was, "not merely a venue for participants to learn how to make candies

and food items, but more importantly, for the women farmers to take pride in themselves [to learn] they too can upgrade their skills, upscale their food products and upend their economic situation."

After Esguerra's training was completed in 2015, RIC-NV has taken on the project as one of its regular community activities. With additional funding, Esguerra hopes to help replicate the project and empower women in municipalities across the Philippines.

"It was my degree from UNI that opened my eyes to varied challenges and problems in society where I can be part of the solution," reflected Esguerra. "I believe everyone has a part in changing the world for the better."







# Bridging the opportunity

# GAP

Immediately upon meeting **Janine Baeza, '17**, it was clear she was at home in her new role as recruitment and retention coordinator for the UNI Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE) Panther Promise Program (3P).

The brainchild of UNI-CUE executive director Robert Smith, 3P was recently established (fall 2018) out of a desire to help Iowa students gain better access to the UNI campus. Looking back at his own time as a student-athlete, Smith knew that in athletics recruiting, students were meeting with coaches who were bending over backwards to not only ensure they had everything they needed to enroll in an institution, but also to succeed throughout their academic journey and graduate.

Why not utilize the same mindset for minority and non-traditional students?

"Minority and non-traditional students, they don't understand what college is," Smith said.

"Historically, [they] never had access to higher education. If you don't have anyone in your family who went to college, you don't know the process to enroll in a university or understand how it can make you more productive."

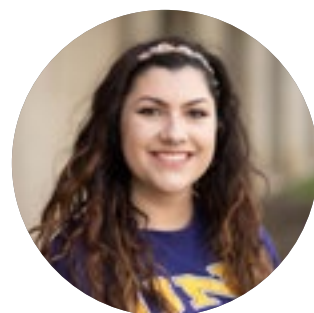
3P focuses on building solid relationships between UNI recruiters, like Baeza, and Iowa high school principals, guidance

counselors and teachers. Eligible juniors and seniors are brought on personalized visits to the UNI campus where they receive financial advising, customized academic workshops and access to apply to UNI free of charge. Last fall, the program brought about 1,800 students to campus.

And the relationship doesn't stop there. As students are accepted and transition to university life, 3P participants will remain connected to that same recruiter/advisor throughout their college career. Baeza explained, "Our role is not only to recruit (these students), but to see them all the way through the process...from the time they're a junior in high school all the way through their four years or more at UNI until they graduate."

Targeting a mix of urban and rural schools, 3P has thus far brought students from 21 schools to the UNI campus. With over 400 in the state, they know they have a long way to go.

Access to higher education is becoming increasingly difficult for all students across Iowa. But Baeza points out, "achievement gaps begin as opportunity gaps and lead to pervasive disparities that affect graduation rates, financial security and lifelong wellness. All people have barriers - some are just easier to overcome than others."



**Janine Baeza**  
Psychology, 2017

**Recruitment and  
Retention Coordinator,  
UNI-CUE**

CSBS is proud to claim many of the UNI-CUE staff as alums. For additional alumni profiles, visit [csbs.uni.edu/uni-cue-alum](https://csbs.uni.edu/uni-cue-alum). For information about all the great people and programs at UNI-CUE, visit [eop.uni.edu/uni-cue](https://eop.uni.edu/uni-cue).



# RISING WITH OPPORTUNITY



John Gallagher commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG) out of UNI ROTC in 1983 before the program gained host status in 1986. Commissioning in the Regular Army as a Signal Officer, 2LT Gallagher embarked on a seven year career of dedicated service in the signal corps. He served in multiple CONUS and overseas locations prior to resigning his commission to pursue a civilian career. Gallagher was inducted into the UNI ROTC Hall of Fame and the U.S. Army Cadet Command ROTC Hall of Fame in 2016. He is currently vice president of government relations at VGM & Associates.

When **John Gallagher, '83**, started out on his academic journey, something didn't quite feel right. As a freshman at Iowa State University, things weren't falling into place. With a feeling that he just wasn't at home on the large campus, Gallagher decided to reassess his college of choice and visit UNI.

That fateful day, master sergeant (MSG) **Jack Regan** was in Maucker Union, presenting a brand new ROTC program at UNI. Gallagher excitedly signed up the very next day, joining the first class of UNI ROTC cadets.

The experience quickly taught him to not be afraid to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. Thinking more about how that might translate into advice to current UNI students, recent grads or really anyone looking towards a transition, Gallagher narrowed it down into three specific opportunities:

## Don't be afraid to constantly learn or advance your education.

Gallagher's decision to join ROTC that day helped him find the direction he needed to achieve his undergraduate degree. His experience in the military after graduation gave him the confidence to later pursue a master's degree. And he is quick to point out that this doesn't only apply to achieving an advanced degree. Any opportunity to learn a new skill set or hobby is a new chance to grow and be involved.

## Don't be afraid to ask for help and look for mentors.

Throughout his time at UNI, Gallagher pointed to the many people who helped him throughout the way, from **Deb Ackerson**, who helped him through the UNI ROTC process, to MSG Regan and Major (retired) **Doug Kangas**, who taught him about professionalism. Major General **"Curly" Hultman**, who pinned on Gallagher's second lieutenant bars during his 1983 commissioning, was and continues to be a guiding light through his entire career, both in and outside of the military.

The best advice came from Gallagher's father, who told him as he went off to college: "Choose your friends very wisely. The people you choose to surround yourself with in the first two weeks of college will determine the outcome of

your college experience either positively or negatively." This advice, which he later gave to each of his own six children, can be carried over into a new career or where you choose to live. "Who you surround yourself with will set you up for success or failure," Gallagher said. "The people at UNI helped me set up a very positive college experience and future success. Some of my closest friends remain those I made at UNI over 30 years ago."

## Don't be afraid to give back and become a mentor for someone else.

Gallagher humbly admitted that he will "never be the General Hultman or Deb Ackerson's of the world who have helped countless people." But, he stressed the importance of striving to be "that positive individual who wants to help someone else achieve their goals." He continued, "We all make mistakes in life...it's what lessons we learn and how, with help, we can turn those lessons learned in a positive direction."

Needless to say, John Gallagher is a UNI alumnus we can all strive to be, or have, as a mentor.

## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



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.

This process begins by listening to your story. What attracted you to UNI, and CSBS specifically? What were pivotal moments in your collegiate career? What have you done since graduation? What do you care about? How would you like to be remembered? The next step is to think about your answers and see where they match up with the needs of CSBS.

A few examples of different things your peers have supported include: student research, study abroad opportunities, programming such as the recent Teach Iowa History project and ongoing We The People program, faculty positions and, of course, student scholarships. Vehicles besides cash that donors have used include: appreciated stock, mandatory IRA distributions and naming CSBS/UNI as beneficiary in a will, investment account or retirement fund.

If you would like to explore different giving possibilities, please contact me by calling 319-273-5985 (office) or 605-610-7494 (cell), or by emailing [Dianne.Campbell@uni.edu](mailto:Dianne.Campbell@uni.edu). It would be an honor to work with you!

With appreciation,

*Dianne Campbell*

**Dianne Campbell, '91**

Director of Development  
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

# COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES 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	Andrew Hupp	Elizabeth Partridge Blessington &
Phyllis Baker	Sylvia Johanns	Brian Blessington
Susan Baker	Jenny Redix Jordan & Matt Jordan	Sherryl & Dennis Paul
Brenda & Bill Bass	Dylan C. Keller	Patrick & Kristin Pease
John & Marian Bauercamper	Katherine & Michael Kerker	Jack Petersen & Susan Chantland
Bruce & Arlene Bernard	Richard L. Klaessy	Julie C. & Keith Pitzen
Kathryn Berning	Ken & Lori Kolthoff	Dr. Lois J. Pokorny
Robert & Cheryl Beymer	Christopher & Danielle Larimer	Kelly Van Veldhuizen & Arlin Post
Ann & Jeff Boes	Harriet & Duane Leitch	Scott F. Prochaska
JoAnne & Pat Bohl	Mary Losch	Leigh Ann & Christoph Randak
Thomas Bruce	Maxine Losen	Gayle Rhineberger-Dunn
Sue Caley	Dennis L. Lutz	Ralph A. Richardson
Dianne Campbell	James & Simone Lynch	Victoria Robinson
Katrinka & Gary Carpenter	Patrick & Ann Lyons	Susan Rolinger
Cindy & Barry Christensen	Terrance D. Malone	Norman & Rebecca Ryan
Susan & Chris Czerniak	Ronald P. Martin	Scott A. Schamberger
David & Carol Ann Draper	James & Lori Mattson	Richard R. Shirk
Frank Esser & Pamela Trelstad	John M. McCalley	Jillian Sinnwell
Habbo & Holly Fokkena	Robert F. Meyer	Eleanor & Larry Strecker
Mackenzie Follmuth	Paige & Jaimie Miller	Virginia & Harry Thulstrup
Susan & Jim Ford	Kathryn L. Mitchem	Rebecca & Jose Torres
Gary Froyen & Ann Lighter	David Mohr	Michael Tuftee
Arthur & Kay Gabriel	Matthew & Sarah Moore	Suzan & Keith Turner
William G. Hagans	Gregory & Kristin Moser	Janice & David Van Erem
Janelle Hall	Philip Moss & Kimberly Heffernan	David & Barbara VanSickel
Michael C. Hansen	Moss	Susan & Douglas Walkup
Beth Ann Happe	Mary B. Myers	Spencer & EmilyAnn Walrath
Joel A. Happel	Roger & Joyce Natte	Gerald J. Ward
Gary & Ronda Hemann	Gerald & Cindy Nelson	Joel & Madeleine Weeks
Elaine Eshbaugh & William	James Nervig	John & Cathy Weld
Henninger	Joann Neven	Karen & Robert White
Darren Herrold	Candace Jean Nissen	Lee R. White
Donald & Carole Hoeft	Alex & Hillery Oberle	Carolyn & Bruce Wight
Deborah J. Hoskins	Shirley & Anthony Pantini	Janet & Richard Witt

CSBS thanks 224 alumni and friends who gave gifts from \$1 to \$99. Gifts of every size make a difference!  
Reflects gifts from July 1, 2018 – April 18, 2019.

## DEANS FUND INNER CIRCLE (\$1000 AND ABOVE)

Troy & Deann Cook	James & Eileen Sanders
Robert & Carol Deppe	William T. Schmid
Randolph & Ruth Lyon	Michael & Mary Lynn Wright
Larry & Marlene McKibben	

## TOTAL RAISED FOR DEAN’S FUND - \$40,051

Every effort is made to provide an accurate list. We apologize for any misspellings or exclusion from the lists. Please notify Dianne Campbell of any errors or omissions.





# Amethyst Society

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences benefits greatly from the philanthropic giving by alumni and friends. They have designated their gifts towards scholarships, student internships, program support and study abroad, to name a few.

In its second 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. This year’s members include:

## Silver

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

William & Nancy Blake  
Troy & Deann Cook  
Steve Corbin & Doris Kelley  
Robert & Carol Deppe  
Don & Sandra Hofsommer  
Michael & Virginia Hogan  
Loren Hottton  
Dr. John W. Johnson  
Madeline Johnston  
Jerry & Jo Ann Kramer  
Katie Kuker & Brad D. Bredehoeft  
The Kind World Foundation  
Leighty Foundation  
Randolph & Ruth Lyon  
Timothy & Kristin Mack  
Larry & Marlene McKibben

Judy K. Nissen  
Marlin Oeltjen  
Thomas & Ginger Penaluna  
Nancy J. Powell  
Patrick & Judy Reed  
Daniel Schaeffer  
Scott A. Schamberger  
James & Eileen Sanders  
William T. Schmid  
Schneider Electric Company  
judi segebarth  
Sodexo Inc. & Affiliates  
Mary Stalp  
Marybeth Stalp  
Vaniitha Sugumaran  
Dhirendra Vajpeyi  
David VanSickel & Barbara  
Charlotte Wells  
Amy Wienands Real Estate

## Gold

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

John Deere Foundation

## Platinum

(Gifts over \$20,000)

Marjorie Chase  
Donald & Gudrun Fruehling  
Kern Family Foundation  
Marybeth A. Nelson  
Otto Schoitz Foundation  
Patricia & O. Jay Tomson  
Verizon  
Michael & Mary Lynn Wright

# 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 of the UNI Legacy Society is a strong belief and confidence in the work of the University of Northern Iowa. The following members of the UNI Legacy Society have made provisions for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences through a deferred gift:

Susan K. Baker\*  
Bruce D. Bernard  
Kevin J. Boatright  
Darrell E. Briggs  
Sue Caley  
Mark A. Cubit  
Bob Deppe  
Terry W. Edmunds  
Don Fruehling\*  
Al Geiger  
Charles E. Grassley

R. Allen Hays  
Tim Hilby  
Loren N. Horton  
Harmon M. Hosch  
Doris J. Kelley\*  
John Koberg  
Katherine A. Kuker  
Steve Langerud  
Donald M. Lowe  
Patricia J. Maxwell  
Dr. James G. McCullagh

Jessica Moon  
Cheryl Myhr  
Marybeth Nelson  
Joann McBride Neven  
Dr. Judy K. Nissen  
Scott A. Schamberger  
Sara Porter Stark  
David A. Whitsett  
Diane E. Wille

\*Denotes planned gifts made during 2019 academic year

**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)**.