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With the theme of “persevere,” I am delighted to share with you a few highlights of the amazing achievements from this past year. The university successfully managed difficult circumstances during the pandemic, and our faculty, students and staff were innovative and resourceful in how they persevered and met the challenges.

This edition of our magazine showcases how our current students and faculty as well as our alumni have persevered in many different ways. For some, they pushed through tough personal circumstances. For others, they persevered in career settings to provide the strongest support possible for populations they serve. With a degree from UNI and a major in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, our students are prepared for so many diverse life opportunities, and it shows in the amazing variety of paths our alumni take after graduation and their success along the way.

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.

Each year we look forward to receiving your updates so that 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, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Exploring new ideas, making big discoveries & shining bright.

Undergraduate and graduate research and hands-on engagement opportunities play a significant role in what makes UNI shine bright.

In the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, we are extremely proud of the students who present during our annual INSPIRE Student Research & Engagement Conference.

The conference has been around for a significant amount of time, but through recent years has grown to be more inclusive of students from all programs. As the name implies, it also now highlights, along with research projects, experiential opportunities such as internships and practicums, volunteering, club activities and more.

Despite the multiple challenges students faced, this year’s conference was as robust as ever, featuring majors from across multiple colleges, including our very first creative group performance from the UNI Orchesis Dance Company. This was, in part, thanks to a new partnership with the Graduate College, who merged their annual conference to make one dynamic experience to showcase students’ work.

As with many 2020-21 activities, the conference was held virtually, which allowed the opportunity to share across a wider audience.

Read on for highlights from just a few of our many talented students. All projects are available to review online at inspire.uni.edu.
Lessons from death & dying
Research and relationships help grad prepare for law school

Spring 2021 graduate Bekah Bass focused her senior thesis on a topic not often looked at by undergraduates — studying the differences in death attitudes across various demographics.

“I’ve always been interested in reading and learning about [death],” said Bass. “And I noticed there isn’t a ton of research on death attitudes, especially across different demographic groups.”

Her research looked specifically at how age, gender, religion, income and education affected a person’s beliefs and attitudes about death and dying.

Her findings found that, similar to previous research, women showed significantly higher levels of fear of death than men. As people age, their negative death attitude scores decline, while all types of acceptance increase. And those who are religious (primarily Christian in her sample) had higher levels of acceptance than non-religious individuals.

The notion of looking at income and education came from her data sets, which showed interesting correlations between death acceptance of those with advanced degrees and higher salaries.

This finding particularly interested Bass, as one of the many things that intrigued her about the study of death are the social justice aspects people don’t always think about. “This was my opportunity to dive into that ... a really niche area of social justice ... and add something to the conversation,” said Bass. “And so, I think it also kind of helped reinforce for me that you can work towards justice and equality, and all these positive things to better society, in a lot of different ways.”

Bass doesn’t know if she’ll continue to study death, as she looks forward to studying law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. this fall. But she does know that the foundational experience of diving into research will certainly help, and that being able to look at different kinds of social realities will only be of benefit for her future career.

For incoming Panthers? She’d highly recommend taking part in UNI’s undergraduate research experiences. Whether that’s co-authoring a paper with an advisor or diving into one’s own, in-depth study. “Even if people start small, I think it’s hugely helpful and important,” said Bass. She touted not only the experience she gained in research and statistics, but also more generally in critical thinking, time management and self motivation.

Above all, she appreciated the strong relationship it helped build with her advisor. “I think one of the reasons why I got into law school was her letter of recommendation,” stated Bass. “Making connections with faculty or other students ... these relationships are a huge benefit and will continue to help you throughout and beyond your college career.”
Many students are drawn to the psychology major without being quite sure of their future path. But, thanks to the cooperative education offerings at UNI, students have an opportunity to try one on for size.

This is what led both senior CARLI GASIWAY and EMILY KAUS, ’21, to shadow the school counseling offices of Peet Junior High and Cedar Falls High School in the spring of 2021.

Under the supervision of alumna REBECCA LINS, ’04, Gasiway remarked that no day was ever quite the same. Kaus agreed, “Our motto was, ‘there is no such things as a typical day.’” Her supervisor, alumnus ANDREW EISENMAN, ’17, informed her straight away that he had long stopped trying to make a daily schedule, as it would just be thrown away within the first few minutes.

But both students thrived in this environment, learning hands-on what each day might entail, from one-on-one counseling sessions, group sessions, monitoring lunchtime antics, scheduling appointments and more. “I basically did everything my counselor did,” said Kaus.

Their advice to fellow psychology students? Stay open to possibilities and take advantage of all of the opportunities that are available within the department. When something in class interests you, even a little bit, stop and ask your professor to tell you more about it. Talk to your advisor about various career paths and then try a cooperative education experience or internship. Maybe you’ll find something you love, or something you don’t like so much. But that’s part of the process too, discovering what you don’t like can help shape your future just as much, if not more.

For Gasiway and Kaus, their paths are set. Kaus will enter UNI’s School Psychology program this coming fall. Gasiway is set to graduate in spring 2022. She hopes to continue to gain counseling experience within her time at UNI, preferably within a high school setting to help round out her exposure to different age ranges.

At the INSPIRE Conference, the students enjoyed listening to their respective experiences and about other students’ internships. “It was cool to kind of take the blinders off and be like, ‘Okay, I’m done. Now, let’s see what everybody else was focused on this semester,’” said Kaus. “And [when] you’re committed to doing this for an entire semester … you’re going to be really passionate about it. People got really fired up about [their projects] … they found their thing, and were like, ‘this is what I want to do.’”
At UNI, Geography and Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) majors have a unique opportunity for real world experience. Using cutting-edge technology, students have been able to aid in the updates of mapping and capturing photos for local attractions and the university to use to develop interactive digital virtual resources.

JOHN DEGROOTE, instructor of geography and director of the Geoinformatics Training Research Education and Extension (GeoTREE) Center, leads his students through working with these high-tech programs and gadgets.

One of the programs DeGroote explores in his class is Google Earth Studio. Earth Studio, according to Google, is a “web-based animation tool for Google Earth imagery.” Students are taught how to utilize Earth studio and the software behind it.
In one of DeGroote’s classes this past year, each student was assigned to work with one of the three community partners: Experience Waterloo, Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau and Hartman Reserve Nature Center.

Each organization had specific wants and needs. For example, for Cedar Falls Tourism, one of the initiatives was to capture 360° imagery of the event centers around Cedar Falls. The goal was to display how approachable Cedar Falls is compared to how it might appear on any other given map. The students in his class and who work with the GeoTREE Center utilized the University’s 360° camera. Using this camera, they captured 360° images of specific event centers around Cedar Falls and the UNI campus.

CAMPBELL HOFFMAN, a summer 2021 GIS graduate who has worked with GeoTREE for the past year, was capturing 360° images of the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center (GBPAC) when we caught up with him in Mid-May. The 360° camera Hoffman works with stands on a large tripod with about six different lenses.

He took the time to explain that in order to get a full, comprehensive photo of the building that is user-friendly for Google Street View, you have to move the camera about 15 feet per photo. The camera is connected to the user’s phone. That way, if possible, you can hide behind a corner to take the photo. However, if you’re outside taking photos on a bike trail, things may get a little more complicated; i.e., hiding underneath the camera and/or cropping yourself out of the photo during the editing process. Once the photos are edited and approved, they are uploaded to Google Street View for the public to use.

Over 7,000 photos have been produced and published by UNI students onto Google Street View. Photos of UNI’s campus, local trails, state parks, etc., now have over three million views since publication.

“It’s a great way for students to do some real world work,” said Hoffman. “It’s a paid experience and a job that’s flexible during the school year and in the summer. It’s fun, gets you to places around town and outside.”

With a strongly in-demand workforce and the ever-growing use of technology, the world of geography and GIS has never been more vital and beneficial to our everyday lives.

Students like Campbell Hoffman, and professors like DeGroote, are able to share their skills using this cutting-edge technology that will benefit anyone who passes through any small town or big city.
What makes a church a sacred place?

Is it the physical four walls? A collective purpose? A space for spiritual gathering, respite, togetherness, healing?

These questions were pressing for a group of neighbors in the Walnut Neighborhood, adjacent to downtown Waterloo, as they watched the continued deterioration of the beloved Walnut Street Baptist Church.

The needs of the community were no less than when the current structure was built in 1908. It’s Baptist congregation, one of the largest in Iowa, moved to a new structure in 1971 and the building was sold to Faith Temple Baptist Church. In 2000, the church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and in 2010, it held its last service.

And there it sat, watching over the community in its little triangular lot.

In 2016, the community decided to do something about it.

The Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity purchased the historic church, on behalf of the Walnut Neighborhood Development Coalition. “The plan was just to hold on to it for a bigger purpose, not knowing exactly who would be involved, or what it will look like, but knowing that the building is so special,” said Angela Waseskuk, instructor in UNI’s Department of Art. Planning has since been underway.

Saving faith
on how to properly restore its iconic architecture and utilize the space mindfully by the neighborhood and surrounding communities, thanks to the guidance of key members from the coalition and the University of Northern Iowa.

DREW CONRAD, ’93, Karla Organist and the team at UNI’s Institute for Decision Making (IDM) have been integral to the process. Thanks to their oversight, alongside funding from the Office of the Provost, the coalition has been able to recently hire a community consultant with strong ties to North Waterloo. Matthew Gilbert will now lead the charge of gathering input from Waterloo residents, with help from local organizers like Laura Hoy, from the Walnut Neighborhood Association, Ali Parrish, from the Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity and Sharina Sallis, corporate social responsibility manager from CUNA Mutual Group (among many others).

CSBS professors GOWRI BETRABET GULWADI and GARY GUTE are also a key part of the planning committee. As coordinator of UNI’s interior design program, Betrabet Gulwadi is enthusiastic about the possibilities of the beautiful space and potential for future student projects and participation.

With the help of local architects, who were able to supply the church’s original plans, students have thus far been working towards creating a 3D model in REVIT to help conceptualize the revitalization. But the possibilities for student participation and programming support only grow from here.

“It’s such a big part of our students’ learning experiences,” said Gute. “To learn about the history and culture and community right where they’re learning it? This is our role as educators; to help co-create with students lived experiences where they can learn and grow.”

Beyond this connection to UNI, the team is quick to point out that the main focus has and will always tie back to the community. “All the way through the strong thread has been, ‘We want to know what the community wants,’” remarked Betrabet Gulwadi. “We want this to be for the community, by the community.”

And as director of the Human Potential Project and UNIFlowLab, Gute remarked on how beautifully the project has come together, and the excitement for what’s to come. “We want to do what we can with the expertise we have. Help bring together all of the people within these multiple systems of the community to do really remarkable things that can be continued for generations to come.”

To stay up-to-date with the progress of Walnut Street Baptist Church, visit walnutbaptistwaterloo.com. For 360° imagery of the space, taken by UNI’s GeoTREE students, visit walnutbaptistwaterloo.com/gallery.
The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous chaos in all of our lives this past year. Isolation, loss, confusion, political differences ... the list could go on. However, one group of individuals endured these struggles perhaps more profoundly than any other.

The onset of the pandemic pushed aging adults into extreme isolation. Whether at home or in residential living settings, they retreated into the shadows, separated from loved ones. There, alone, they heard overwhelming public sentiments that COVID was “an old person’s disease.” They were a disposable population, it seemed, abandoned by those younger, stronger and more immune.

Fortunately, the gerontology program at UNI strayed away from these stereotypes and fought hard for the aging community, and their family and friends, for a safe return to a life after COVID.

Each gerontology major at UNI is required to complete an internship in one of a variety of settings such as adult day centers, state and federal agencies, nursing homes, senior centers, assisted living and retirement communities.

A number of students were set to complete their internships in spring 2020. As the pandemic hit Iowa, nursing homes and other older adult care facilities had harsh misconceptions; much of the public believed that COVID was only spreading in nursing homes and wanted to steer away. This left older adults alone, and facilities hurting. Employees were leaving their jobs because they didn’t feel safe. Families couldn’t come visit. Older adults, and especially those affected by dementia, were scared and confused.

The gerontology majors found themselves to be in demand more than ever. Internships and job opportunities were ample as facilities needed staff, especially individuals with a passion and understanding in caring for older adults.

Although the need was there, it was not an easy transition for those starting new internships, or for those who were brand new to the administration board at various facilities. ELAINE ESHBAUGH, program coordinator and professor of gerontology at UNI, expressed that she now knows her students “better than ever” because of this. Eshbaugh frequently met with her interns over Zoom and by phone; there was a lot of strong communication flowing through the program during these times.

The students were also faced with the struggle of simply living as a college student, in a college town, during a pandemic. With quarantine, social distancing and many other guidelines put into place for everyone’s safety, students working in older adult caring facilities were faced with...
many challenges outside of work. Students commonly live with multiple people, and not every member of the household held the same standard of COVID safety. Gerontology students not only had to think about and be aware of their own health and safety, but also that of the residents they worked with.

Eshbaugh began a ‘GeroZoom’ series this past year, intended for gerontology students and alumni to share their experiences, but open to anyone interested in listening. The final meeting took place in May, where alumni Jake Bates, ’13, discussed his experience in his first job after graduation as a manager for an assisted living care facility. Searching for PPE, working with the ever changing rules and regulations of COVID, and fighting for staff to stay are just a few of the complications new managers faced.

One intern, Megan Zimmerman, ’20, created a “COVID coordination” position at a continuing care retirement community in the spring of 2020. Zimmerman took on this initiative during her unpaid internship and began completing tasks no one else in the facility had time for.

Tedious, crucial tasks including face shield assembly, tracking of PPE inventory and continuously tracking the ever changing COVID guidelines created by the Center for Disease Control. Zimmerman also created a flow chart that tracked COVID-19 exposures among employees and residents to determine who was able to come into work each day.

Zimmerman would pack an overnight bag when going into her shift to prepare for a COVID exposure either from her home to avoid exposing the residents, or from the facility to avoid exposing her roommates. Because this wasn’t her paid job, Zimmerman and Eshbaugh were in active communication every day, constantly contemplating the risk to complete this internship, and the decision to continue.

Ultimately, Zimmerman stayed. “I wanted to be helpful and continue to care for the residents the best I could. It was emotionally taxing ... but it was an interesting season to be in and learn from.”

Gerontology specialists now more than ever understand the importance of caring for older adults during difficult times. While in a largely demanding career, these students and professionals persevered with their passions to give the best possible care for older adults living in care facilities during an ever-changing pandemic.

“I STAYED BECAUSE I WANTED TO CARE FOR THE RESIDENTS THE BEST I COULD.”
ELINDA CREIGHTON-SMITH, '91, '19, has never let adversity stand in her way. To become a pastor, community leader and inspiration to many on campus, she’s had to overcome the death of her son during her graduate studies and five-hour commutes to start her education. She now has a doctorate in education and is taking her determination to a new role in her fight for diversity on campus at UNI, as a member of the President’s Council on Inclusion, Transformative Social Justice & Advocacy.

The UNI instructor in the Department of Social Work will bring her considerable community leadership experience, as well as her dissertation research on the experiences of students of color in predominantly white higher education institutions, to the council as part of its mission to improve issues of diversity and inclusion at the university. It’s an endeavor Creighton-Smith is eager to undertake, no matter how difficult the conversations become.

“We can’t really begin to deal with the issues until we name it and address it head on. No matter how difficult and how painful the process, it takes that painful work and those uncomfortable conversations to make change happen,” she said. “It’s going to be important for everyone to hear and to bring our expertise to the table and to bring the stories of other communities.”

People close to her are confident that she will help guide the council to confront the realities of racism on campus.

Social work and Spanish double major RYAN FRANK, ‘20, is one of the founding members of the Racial and Ethnic Coalition (REC), a student group created to help combat racism and promote equity on campus. He said Creighton-Smith’s work was instrumental in guiding the group’s work.

“I have confidence that Dr. Creighton-Smith will be an absolute advocate for students on that [council],” Frank said. “I am hopeful that with the current conversations around racism and white supremacy going on in our country, we can genuinely engage in actionable change.”

Creighton-Smith’s passion for service is something that’s always been a part of her life. She grew up in a religious
household and that inspired her not only to connect to her faith, but to care for others in a number of other ways.

“My family, we have always been in the church. As a child, we would play church and of course I was the preacher and my siblings were the congregation,” she recalled. “Eventually I began to sense a real yearning to just know more about God and develop my relationship with God and I found myself being drawn to the kind of work in human services where I could minister or serve individuals.”

She was able to connect to her faith by becoming a pastor at Faith Temple American Baptist Church in Waterloo, and she’s served her community in other ways, as well. She’s worked for the Northeast AIDS Coalition, a program of the American Red Cross, as a family support worker for Waterloo Schools, and has served in the Army Reserve. It’s been fulfilling work, but it wasn’t an easy road.

“I stay motivated by my faith and by those that I serve and those who serve me,” she said. “I focus on serving others, whether it’s in the classroom or in the parish, and it has served me well.” Her work as a pastor also encouraged her to serve in other capacities. After becoming a full-time pastor, Creighton-Smith decided to go back to school. In 2012, she came back to UNI for a doctorate of education.

Shortly after starting her doctoral program, one of her sons died by suicide. She was devastated and considered quitting the program.

“My whole life was shattered. I remember going through that semester just going through the motions and operating in a fog,” she recalled. “I was blessed with professors who not only encouraged me but supported me. Somehow by God’s grace and by the support that God placed in my life I was able to get through it.”

Now, she’s successfully completed her doctoral program and is helping to encourage a new generation to make a difference. Creighton-Smith teaches classes in social work and has inspired many students to get involved in activism on campus and beyond.

“Dr. Creighton-Smith ... has helped me better understand how systems of oppression work and how they impact different marginalized identities,” said Frank. “I tend to refer back to her work a lot in regards to white fragility, recognizing racial bias and how implicit bias is so deeply ingrained into all of us and what we need to do in order to dismantle that. That’s something that I take with me everyday in my personal life, not just in my professional life.”

Creighton-Smith has experience organizing on campus. As a student in Waterloo Schools in the 1970s, she helped organize a walkout and protest when students of color raised concerns about how they were being treated by faculty and administrators on campus. She also got a first-hand look at organizing on campus at UNI — her mother played a role in helping the UNI 7, a group of Black UNI students who fought for racial justice on campus in the 1970s.

“Our home was oftentimes the meeting place for some of the college students who were part of the UNI 7. We were blessed to be sitting in the wings as they would discuss different things that they were gonna’ do,” she said. “As a child, my mother was actively involved in civil rights work, so all my life I was a part of it. We were pioneers.”

Creighton-Smith is now not only passing that passion on to a new generation through her teaching, but her five children, as well. One of her sons, RAS SMITH ’17, has gone on to become an elected official, serving on the House of Representatives for Iowa House District 62.

“My mother has this ferocity when it comes to somebody picking on or trying to belittle or harass someone. She has little tolerance for it,” Ras Smith said.

“My mom imparted that it is our job to try to eliminate that and to educate people to be better. That’s something I’m working towards. I’m trying to mimic what she does. I know if I can follow that, I’m good.”
A life that touches others goes on forever.
JAMES G. CHADNEY, JR.
lost his 13-month battle with gastric cancer on May 13, 2019, at his home in Salem, Oregon.

Jim earned his BA at Portland State University and his MA and PhD at Michigan State University. He taught anthropology at UNI from 1968 to 1999. He became assistant dean of CSBS in 1994 and served as interim dean in 1998-9. Jim left UNI in 1999 to serve as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Western Oregon University until his retirement in 2005. Jim’s scholarship focused on the Sikh community in Vancouver.

In retirement, Jim enjoyed golfing and traveling with his wife.

DONALD FRUEHLING
Hard work defined Don Fruehling. I will never forget the first time I met Don and hearing the story of how he put himself through UNI. He worked from 4 to 8 a.m. during the weekday mornings, went to his classes, and worked again from noon to 5:00 p.m. Following graduation from UNI, he used that work ethic to propel himself to a highly successful career with McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

In that first meeting, Don made it clear that he not only believed in hard work, but he also strongly believed in the value of an education. Don and his wife, Gudrun, carried out this belief through their generous gifts to CSBS which have impacted the lives of numerous students studying in CSBS. I will miss Don greatly, but will be forever grateful for the legacy he created at UNI. — NATE CLAPHAM
Assistant Vice President for Collegiate Development & Annual Giving

ALBERT R. GILGEN
passed away Jan. 4, 2021.

Al grew up in Akron, Ohio. He earned his BA at Princeton University, his MA at Kent State University, and his PhD at Michigan State. Al came to UNI in 1974 to serve as head of psychology; a position he held until 1994. He retired in 2001.

Al published articles and books on topics ranging from contemporary American psychology to International psychology to the relevance of chaos theory for psychology. He taught on a Fulbright at the University of Galway, Ireland, and presented invited papers in Russia, Austria, Mexico and Ecuador.

HATTIE MAE MIDDLETON
passed away on May 7, 2020, at Prairie Hills Senior Living in Des Moines.

Hattie earned her BA at Florida A&M University, her MA at the University of Northern Iowa, and her PhD at Kansas State University. She taught at UNI from 1988 to 2000. She also taught in China as part of a UNI faculty exchange.

Hattie belonged to many organizations such as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, OES, Unity Presbyterian Church in Waterloo and Bethel AME Church in Des Moines. She was a member of the Iowa Department of Public Health. Above all, she enjoyed entertaining family and friends and traveling.

RONALD E. ROBERTS
passed away on Oct. 29, 2020, of COVID-related complications at Ravenwood Specialty Care, Waterloo, Iowa.

Ron received his BA from Drake University and earned his MA and PhD at Louisiana State University. He taught sociology at UNI from 1969 to 2001.

Ron was an avid reader, prolific writer on sociological issues and the human experience, lecturer and an activist for the oppressed and powerless. He was instrumental in helping to make the John L. Lewis Memorial Museum of Mining and Labor in Lucas, Iowa, a reality.

Ron enjoyed traveling abroad, socializing with his life-long friends and colleagues, viewing movies, biking, and participating in RAGBRAI. As his last act as a citizen, he proudly exercised the right to cast his vote.

HAROLD (HAL) WOHL
died peacefully of natural causes on Nov. 20, 2020 in Cedar Falls.

Hal grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He earned his BA and PhD at the University of Iowa. Hal began his career at UNI in 1956 and taught American history, the philosophy of history and colonial America until his retirement in 1995. Hal also was a visiting professor at Herzen University in St. Petersburg, Russia. In retirement, Hal and his wife, Jean, enjoyed travel, especially ocean cruises. Hal continued to teach after retirement for UNI’s Lifelong Learning University and Wartburg College’s Keep on Learning Program.
KENNETH BASOM
came to the University of Northern Iowa in 1991. Promoted to associate professor in 1996, Basom has been a stellar university citizen and has contributed to a number of important initiatives at the departmental, college and university levels during his 30 years here.

Basom's expertise lies in the politics of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Throughout his time at UNI, Basom has been a dedicated teacher and mentor. He has anchored the department's comparative politics curriculum, teaching our introductory-level course as well as courses in Western European Politics, Russian and Eastern European Politics.

Basom has also given freely of his time to do independent study courses and supervise Honors theses. Perhaps nothing speaks more to his dedication to students than the extra effort he has exerted within the past year.

During his 30 years at UNI, Basom has consistently provided excellent teaching and service to our department, the College of Social Behavioral Sciences and the University. All of his colleagues thank him for his meritorious service to UNI. We will miss him, but we wish him a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

DAVE MAY
has been a committed and effective teacher since arriving at UNI in 1985. He received the CSBS Outstanding Teaching Award and the UNI Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000. He was the recipient of the Regent's Award for Faculty Excellence in 2001.

May has authored and/or co-authored dozens of articles on geomorphology and geoarcheology during his career.

He received the J. Warren Nystrom Award of the Association of American Geographers for the most significant research paper based on a dissertation in 1988. In 2001, he was recognized as “one of the leading geomorphologists working in the Great Plains.”

May's service to the Department of Geography was consistently extensive, significant and excellent. He was the department's graduate coordinator for a decade, growing the graduate program under his tutelage to be the largest within CSBS by 2000. He was interim and acting department head from 2004 to 2006.

DONNA (DOLLY) MAIER
has been a valued member of the Department of History since her appointment in 1978. Her record of scholarship, teaching and service at UNI, combined with her human rights advocacy work and international profile in bringing awareness to past and present genocides, has enriched the UNI campus community and beyond.

Maier has an extensive record of achievement as an educator at UNI. She developed a number of courses in her specialization that brought her vital areas of expertise to UNI students.

Maier has an impressive scholarly record. She published several books, chapters, reviews and articles in prestigious journals including the Journal of African History and the International Journal of African Historical Studies.

Maier's service to the department, the college, the university, and the profession has been significant. She served as chair of the Graduate Faculty, member of the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate. Her greatest contribution to the department, however, may be her years as an active, thoughtful steward of history's graduate program.
JAMES MCCULLAGH
As one of the faculty appointed in the early days of the Department of Social Work, McCullagh has educated and influenced generations of social workers. He has been an exceptional instructor who is highly regarded by the students he taught. Devoted to student success, he established three scholarships to award to high-achieving social work students. McCullagh served as commencement marshall every year for 39 years, and would have served his 40th, if COVID had not disrupted in-person commencement plans.

McCullagh's scholarship is vast. Most recently, he examined and chronicled the Cherokee tribe in Oklahoma. He is currently a member of the Cherokee National Historical Society and plans to continue his scholarship as emeritus faculty.

His knowledge of the child welfare system and his experience as a practicing attorney who specialized in children in need of assistance helped McCullagh secure the Child Protective Training Academy contract in 1994. In that role, he helped educate the Iowa DHS workforce by hiring quality trainers and scheduling an array of trainings.

McCullagh's 41-year career has been outstanding. His exceptional teaching and extensive scholarship have contributed widely to the education of students and practitioners across the state and country.

LAURA PRAGLIN
In the past 20 years, Praglin has served the university in numerous ways.

Starting with her graduate education, Praglin's career has been at the intersection of social work and religious studies. This foundation shaped her scholarship that included publications on the Jewish healing tradition, implications for post-Holocaust social science and theology, and the intersection of spirituality, religion and social work.

Over her time at UNI, Praglin has taught a variety of classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She also coordinated the conflict resolution certificate program that many students have completed.

On campus, she has served on the Holocaust and Genocide Education Committee, as a representative on the American Democracy Project, and on the academic planning committee for the 2010 Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series event that brought the Dalai Lama to campus.

We wish her the best in retirement, and are sure that she will remain active with her advocacy efforts in the community.
// NEW FACULTY

CHERYL DONG
Assistant Professor of History

ALEX DOOLEY
Term Instructor, School of Applied Human Sciences

KYLE ENDRES
Associate Director for the Center of Social & Behavioral Research; Asst Professor of Political Science

THOMAS LARSEN
Instructor of Geography

// AWARDS

ELIZABETH LEFLER
2020 UNI Regents Award for Faculty Excellence

CHRIS LARIMER
2021 James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award

HEATHER KENNEDY
2020 Outstanding Teaching Award for Untenured Faculty

MATTHEW VASQUEZ
2020 Outstanding Teaching Award for Untenured Faculty

ELAINE ESHBAUGH
2020 CSBS Outstanding Service

ANDREY PETROV
2020 CSBS Outstanding Scholarship

JAMES DIETRICH
2020 CSBS Untenured Faculty Award Scholarship and Creative Activity
Psycho grad finds niche in neuroscience

Some students are lucky to know exactly what they want to major in after high school. For others, it takes time, reflection and self-determination to seek their passion. And the confidence to follow their heart.

When Nia McClendon, ’21, entered UNI’s biochemistry program, she assumed a career in medicine or microbiology would be in her future. But something didn’t ‘fit.’ She was doing fine in her classes, but didn’t really enjoy them. Her parents were disappointed too, they wanted a determined path for their daughter. McClendon wanted time to explore and find something she enjoyed doing. So, she decided to step away from college for a while.

During this time, she landed the position of chief medical scribe at MercyOne Hospital. She enjoyed the role, still involved with science, just in a different capacity. Soon, she found herself drawn to the resident neurologist, who would patiently walk her through CT scans and explain the processes of the brain. McClendon was hooked — she wanted to know more.

After a year and a half, she went back to UNI and enrolled in a developmental psychology class with professor Carolyn Hildebrandt. She fell in love with the subject and immediately reached out to Hildebrandt for advice.

“I was like, ‘I don’t know what this is called and I don’t know what to do with it, but it’s something I enjoy,’” said McClendon. She decided to take another course with Hildebrandt in cooperative education, where she was able to bring neuroscience into her job as a scribe.

During this experience, she wrote a paper on the neuroscience of emergency room doctors and their decision to admit. Her research found if there was a high patient load in the emergency room, doctors tended to automatically admit patients to minimize mistakes. They were at their cognitive load.

This interesting discovery led her to a confirmed path once and for all — cognitive neuroscience.

UNI doesn’t have a program specifically in neuroscience, but does have a cognitive psychologist, Jiujing Cheng. With Cheng, McClendon charged forward and hasn’t stopped.

This fall she’ll enter Northwestern’s Cognitive Neuroscience doctoral program. A prestigious honor for an undergraduate.

She prides her connection with her professors for helping her find her path and her passion.

She also stresses the importance of not being afraid to reach out and advocate for yourself. McClendon approached both of her advisors with targeted questions. And, when she applied to neuroscience programs, she wasn’t afraid to articulate how her experience was relevant.

“I was applying to PhD programs in neuroscience and competing with people who had done actual work in neuroscience. My work was in cell biology and organic chemistry, not at all relevant,” said McClendon. “But it’s more about the path you take, and how to explain that really well. You don’t have to be a perfect fit for the program. You just need to show them that you have the drive and you’re committed to it.”
ARAH JOANNE BOURY, '21, overcame challenges few can imagine to walk across the stage on May 7 for her diploma.

The 23-year-old Des Moines, Iowa, native is believed to be the first to graduate from college — having earned a double major — while deaf (using one cochlear implant), breathing with one lung and sustaining herself through a tube-feeding system.

Boury's boundless determination shines through in her next life goal: leveraging her UNI bachelor's degree, with a double major in family services and social work, to pave the way for others with medical challenges to gain access to higher education and meaningful, decision-making jobs.

“I want to help others become independent and self-sufficient, and to get a higher education so they can be in a position of management,” said Boury, who interned at Mainstream Living Inc., an Iowa non-profit that provides housing, counseling, medical, employment and community integration services to people with intellectual disabilities and mental illness.

“I want to help people become successful,” said Boury.

Her afflictions stem from a birth ailment known as EA/TEF — a rare occurrence in one of every 2,500 births. Boury was born at 35 weeks with a missing right lung; a break in her esophagus which won't allow food or liquid to pass through; and an abnormal connection between the esophagus and the trachea that lets fluids get into the airways and interferes with breathing.

She stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit for eight months and became deaf at 14 months due to a high fever and reaction to medication.

Throughout her lifetime, Boury has endured eight major surgeries, including a 36-hour-long emergency trachea procedure, and dozens of minor surgeries.

She credits her strength and success to her family and to UNI.

“She chose UNI because of its relatively small size, for its family services degree program, and her familiarity since her aunt, uncle and distant cousin are alumni.

“‘I could not survive without my family and their support,’ said Boury, whose mother, Nancy, PhD, is a microbiology professor at Iowa State University, and her father, Ernest, works in the auto insurance business. She also has a younger sister, Laura.

Longer-term, Boury wants to produce research that allows others facing medical challenges to find more helpful resources and technology, “to create change over time.”

That's particularly important because of the longterm effects of EA/TEF, which tend to get worse with age. The surgeries at infancy fail to adapt well as one grows into adulthood.

“[UNI] wants to see people become successful,” she said. “They want to meet people half way. You just have to speak up for yourself.”

Katie O'Brien, UNI's American Sign Language instructor, acted as Boury's friend and mentor, often meeting Boury on campus just to chat.

O'Brien also is the advisor to UNI's Deaf Cultural Experience Club, where students and adults can have fun in activities such as bowling, game nights and social get-togethers at restaurants.

“[Boury] is just an incredible person and an incredible woman,” O'Brien said. “With all the challenges, she was not going to give up. She's a fighter. That is for sure. I think she's just incredible. It is a joy to know Sarah.”

UNI gave Boury the extra time she needed to walk from class to class, since she can get winded easily, and accommodated her time away for surgeries and online learning needs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Katie O'Brien, UNI’s American Sign Language instructor, acted as Boury's friend and mentor, often meeting Boury on campus just to chat.
For Boury, that has meant five hospitalizations in two years, each lasting from two weeks to a month. “We don’t know what the treatments and interventions will do for me in the next few years,” she said.

Boury has conquered educational challenges since she spoke her first sentence at age 7, after she had learned to read people’s lips. She attended mainstream public schools for much of her K-12 education, using sign language interpreters and her own ability to read people’s speech.

“I felt very isolated most of the time,” Boury said. “When necessary, I met one on one with the teachers, or I asked other students to repeat themselves and look at me face-to-face so I could read their lips.”

She credits a teacher at Ankeny Centennial High School, Theresa Lawler, with encouraging her to compete on the school’s speech and debate team.

Boury lived on campus at UNI until the pandemic hit, so she finished her studies via Zoom and virtual classes.

As part of her future work, Boury aims to push for improvements in technology to address things such as her inability to see live screens side-by-side, requiring the interpreter to join a Zoom class so Boury doesn’t have to toggle between her interpreter and the class.

She also hopes that her work will improve technologies for the deaf. Boury would like to see fewer complications from surgeries and a higher survival rate so people in similar situations can have a better quality of life.

If anyone can succeed at that challenge, it’s Boury.
“Homeownership amongst Black Americans” awarded Andrew Brimmer Prize

Growing up in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, Alladin Dafalla was constantly reminded of the gap between the wealth of the city and poverty of the southern towns in the grip of war. Witnessing these disparities inspired him to undertake a career in public service and became the basis for an essay that recently won a national award.

When his family moved to the Midwest in 2013 in pursuit of better educational opportunities for Dafalla, now a senior at the University of Northern Iowa, and his older sister, he was surprised to see similar issues in the United States.

These experiences came together in an essay that recently won a national award. In it, Dafalla argued that, because many school districts are funded through property taxes, comparatively low homeownership and high poverty rates in Black neighborhoods were driving down investment in local schools and increasing the education gap relative to more affluent areas.

"Until this system of property-tax-funded schools is abolished or completely overhauled so that low-income children are entitled to the same education their rich counterparts are, the cycle of poverty will continue to churn," he wrote.

A close relationship with political science department head Scott Peters helped Dafalla construct his essay, and his time at UNI has forged his career ambitions. He plans to attend graduate school for political science and then pursue a career in the United Nations as a diplomat.

For Dafalla, the topic of his essay was all too familiar. “If you compare schools in the capital city to other, more rural areas of Sudan, there’s a huge disparity in funding for education resources,” Dafalla said. “The scary thing is that, while Sudan is still a developing country, the United States has the resources and the ability to solve these problems, but they’re not being addressed.”

Dafalla and his family initially moved to the United States in 2010 after they won a lottery to obtain a visa. After arriving in Philadelphia, they returned to Sudan after only a few weeks to care for a sick family member. They settled in Dubuque in 2013, when Dafalla was 13. The desire to continue to receive the best education available led him to visit UNI, where he fell in love with the political science department.

As a political science major, Dafalla received a weekly email from department head Scott Peters with information about upcoming opportunities for students. Dafalla discovered the Andrew Brimmer Undergraduate Essay Prize through one such email.

The Andrew Brimmer Undergraduate Essay Prize is awarded each year to a student pursuing a degree in economics, political science, public policy or a related field in honor of Dr. Andrew Brimmer. Dr. Brimmer was the first Black member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board. The essay must focus on a topic related to the economic well-being of Black Americans.

Dafalla was intrigued. He decided to enter the competition. "My first thought was that I wanted to write about the educational system like differences based on property taxation. If you live in a certain part of town, you’re going to have less access to resources like education or technology than if you lived somewhere else,” Dafalla said. "I was originally going to focus only on the educational system, but then I decided to take a step back and focus on the whole housing system.”

Dafalla was informed in mid-November by Peters that he had been selected as the 2020 winner. “All of us within the department of political science hold [Dafalla] in very high regard,” Peters said. "We’re very proud of his accomplishments.”
Newman Civic Fellow dedicated to destigmatizing mental health

JERRELL BATES arrived at UNI as an introvert wondering whether he’d ever leave his dorm room. Three years later, Bates is a campus leader whose efforts to destigmatize mental health issues were recognized with a national award.

The Waterloo native was one of just 212 students from 39 states selected for the Newman Civic Fellowship, a yearlong program that selects student leaders who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities.

“We all have a purpose and I just feel like my purpose is to help people. It’s not a big deal ... I feel like it’s just the right thing to do,” he said. “Seeing the recognition that I get for the work that I do is really special. It kind of signals how big of an impact I’m making.”

Bates was nominated for the award by the Office of the President.

“Jerrell’s involvement on campus illustrates how he is addressing the fields of mental health and higher education,” said UNI President Mark A. Nook. “He recognizes the lack of representation of Black individuals in higher education and commits his time at UNI to working to help individuals of color enroll in educational programs and seek out the support services to assure their success in reaching their educational, professional and personal life goals, including mental health programs when needed.”

Bates’ work to promote education and equity among marginalized students won him the nomination. Bates is the president of Ethnic Student Promoters (ESP), a student group housed in the Office of Admissions that seeks to increase the amount of students of color in higher education, and is active in the Black Student Union.

He’s also a mentor in the Center for Multicultural Education’s Multicultural Mentoring for Student Success program, a program he was first involved in as a mentee.

“I saw the leadership traits in Jerrell way before he could see them in himself. I wanted to be challenged to see if I could pull him out of his shell,” said UNI alum and Bates’ former mentor YAKIRA SANDERS, '19. “I am so honored to be able to watch Jerrell grow into the leader he is today. He is the definition of hard work and determination.”

Bates credits the mentorship he received, as well as his UNI classes, with giving him the skills he needs to succeed as a student leader today and prepare for his future. He wants to pursue a master’s in psychology at UNI.

“I feel like I’ve gotten a really good education since I’ve been here, so I have no doubt that the master’s program will be the same,” he said. Through his leadership and UNI education, Bates is working towards becoming a clinical psychologist. He wants to not only help people living with mental illness directly, but help advocate for policy changes to address inequalities in mental healthcare.

It’s all part of his passion for helping others.

“I want to be one of those people [individuals with mental illness] can go to for help with that support, but I would also like to see things like policy changes to benefit them,” he said. “I’ve always believed in the motto that you should treat people how you want to be treated. There’s a bunch of people on this earth and we’re all in this together, and I feel like we should all be there for each other.”
As the Dakota Access Pipeline protests turned violent on Labor Day Weekend in 2016, TRISHA ETRINGER, ’19, was on the frontlines, two months pregnant with her daughter.

Faced with the barking dogs of private security guards, Etringer stood up for the rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and was pepper sprayed for her efforts.

It was a moment that would define her life, a moment when Etringer, a member of the Winnebago tribe, decided that tackling the issues which plague indigenous communities would become a career.

“There I was, an Indigenous person standing for Indigenous people and their land rights, and this is the direct answer we get,” said Etringer, who graduated UNI with a degree in psychology. “So, after that, I thought ‘this is my life’s work now.’ I want to fight for Indigenous rights and be at the table having those conversations so people know that we’re still here and they need to hear from us.”

The journey both to and from this moment wasn’t easy. The mother of four now works for the Great Plains Action Society, advocating for Indigenous rights across the Midwest, persevering through homelessness, intergenerational trauma and domestic abuse to get there. She almost dropped out of college twice, but successfully graduated thanks to critical assistance from UNI faculty and staff. And through it all, she discovered the joys of her heritage.

Before she could help anyone, she had to discover herself.

Etringer was raised in a white, suburban neighborhood with her adopted family, her aunt and uncle, and attended Catholic school. Her adopted father earned a steady income working as an electrician for John Deere. Her Indigenous heritage was not a part of her life. For the most part, Etringer was not even aware she was different from her white classmates.

That started to change when she met the other side of her biological family, members of the Winnebago tribe who lived in Sioux City, at the age of 12. By the time she was 15, she was plagued with questions of her identity and facing troubles at home, so moved to Sioux City to live with her older sister, Jessica.

“That’s when I really began my journey of knowing who I was and where I came from,” Etringer said.

Jessica taught her the ways of the Winnebago tribe, the meanings of their songs and the importance of the Pow-Wow. She also learned about the impacts of the intergenerational trauma of Indigenous people stemming from the erosion of their culture.

“They got their language stripped away from them,” Etringer said. “Their hair, their clothing, their parents, their children, all stripped away.”

When she was 21, Etringer had her first child, Javon. In 2015, motivated to do something more with her life, she decided to attend UNI to study social work and set a good example for her children. She was 27 years old and a
single mother when she enrolled. “I had no idea what kind of journey it would be,” Etringer said. “And it turned out to be one of the most powerful journeys I’ve ever taken.”

At UNI, the gravity of her heritage and her upbringing became apparent when she learned about white privilege for the first time during a lesson in the classroom of social work instructor BELINDA CREIGHTON-SMITH.

“I broke down into tears, because I was like, ‘how could I not see this?’” Etringer said. “I grew up in a white privileged home. I was immersed in that, and I didn’t realize there were people, my people, living in Sioux City who were homeless and struggling and in poverty. Now it was my turn to go back and correct these social injustices.”

And while her experience at UNI yielded profound moments of self discovery, it was not without challenges. She was homeless for a time and struggled through a relationship fraught with domestic violence that caused her to almost drop out of school twice. But both times, UNI helped pick her back up.

“When I was facing homelessness, UNI came in and basically saved me,” Etringer said. “They put me in a single-parent dorm so I could still go to class.

“We toughed it out,” she continued. “But at the end of the day, I chose to go to UNI because I wanted my son and daughters to see that they can do this. You just have to put your mind to it, and to see their mom graduate and walk the stage — that was something I wanted them to witness.”

But she might not have made it without the intervention of JAN CORNELIUS, a secretary in the psychology department. It was Cornelius who witnessed Etringer come into the office in tears, overwhelmed with the burden of domestic abuse, ready to hand in her papers to drop out.

“She looked me in the eye and said ‘I want you to go to counseling. And then, if you feel the same way that you do after you talk to the counselor, then come talk to me, and I’ll sign this for you,’” Etringer said.

And she did just that, and found a path to stay in school. When she graduated, she sought out Cornelius to thank her. The two teared up sharing the memory and embraced. “Trisha is an extraordinary person,” Cornelius said. “I’m just thankful I was there when she needed someone.”

After graduating in 2019, Trisha moved back to Sioux City to work as the director of operations for the Great Plains Action Society, a collective of indigenous organizers of the Great Plains working to resist and indigenize colonial institutions, ideologies and behaviors.

Specifically, Etringer’s goal is to work within indigenous communities who suffer from high rates of suicide, alcoholism, depression and historical trauma. “We can’t let this go on any longer. We need to help these people heal themselves,” she said.

Etringer is exploring a partnership with Rosecrance Jackson Center, an addiction recovery center in Sioux City to combat these issues. Beyond that, she has helped lead the Native COVID-19 Rapid Response Team. The virus was particularly rampant in the Sioux City-area indigenous communities, where many work at the meatpacking plants that dominate the local industry or are susceptible to infection due to high rates of homelessness and alcoholism.

Etringer also sits on the Native American Advisory Board for the Sioux City Department of Corrections along with other Indigenous leaders, with the goal of improving the relationship between the Native community and the Department of Corrections, and sits on the board of the Urban Native Center, which serves the local Indigenous population.

She has also returned to her alma mater, working on a land acknowledgment project and mural with Bettina Fabos, a UNI professor of communications and media, and Angela Waseskuk, a UNI instructor of art. Etringer will present decolonization workshops for UNI faculty about how they can change their syllabi to include the Indigenous perspective.

And as Etringer begins the next journey in her life, she looks to the future of indigenous people to see not a disappearing culture repressed by the grindstone of colonization, but a thriving, powerful part of society motivated to validate the sacrifices of their ancestors.

“My ancestors went through really hard times, and I am the product of their survival,” Etringer said. “So I have to pay that forward. My kids need to realize that this is not always a sad story.”

“WE’RE DOCTORS, WE’RE NURSES, WE’RE SCIENTISTS.
WE’RE NOT SAVAGES. WE’RE BEAUTIFUL.
WE’RE POWERFUL.”
Immigration lawyer Heliodoro “Helio” Moreno, Jr., ’07 — the first in his family to graduate high school and college — credits two of his UNI political science professors with playing key roles in his law-school entry and legal career.

His legal expertise has been especially crucial as the federal government has sought to restrict immigration.

“I got a rude awakening,” said Moreno, the Senior Removal Defense Attorney of Stand Together Contra Costa, a program run by the Contra Costa County public defender’s office, who represents people threatened with deportation. “You can’t take anything for granted. You have to stand up for yourself. Once people get scapegoated and you don’t do anything, they’ll come after you. You have to be present and advocate for yourself and community members to make sure you are respected.”

Indeed, Moreno’s journey to UNI deviated in several key ways from the typical high-school kids.

He learned of UNI from his then-commanding officer, a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, who was taking classes part-time at the university. Moreno was stationed at an artillery unit in Waterloo, Iowa, after he followed his younger brother’s footsteps by joining the Marine Corps.

“I wanted to get a college education,” said Moreno, who grew up in the Bay Area city of Pittsburg, California. In fact, he already had his eye on law school, too.
Yet he conceded that he initially wondered how welcoming the Midwest would be to a native Californian whose parents immigrated from Mexico. His father ran a lawn-care service and his mother held a series of minimum-wage jobs working in a factory, as a cleaner at a laundromat and as a shelf-stacker at Walmart.

“A Latino kid from California going to the Midwest, I was like OMG,” he said.

Moreno was not only pleasantly surprised by how welcomed he felt, but how well he was prepared for law school.

UNI, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science in May 2007, laid the groundwork for his understanding of the Socratic method and other legal insights that serve him so well today.

The two professors who had the greatest impact were SCOTT PETERS, who taught pre-law using the Socratic Method, which Moreno said eased his transition into law school, and Vaughan Shannon, who served as a father/big brother figure by always being available to listen.

“My first year of law school was so easy,” Moreno said of Peters' tutelage. “I thank him all the time.”

Peters, now head of the political science department, said he isn't surprised by Moreno's success, especially since Moreno had already served in the U.S. Marines and “was always super prepared and involved in class.”

“He was a great student — eager to learn, hardworking and very bright,” Peters said. “Everyone in the department is proud of Helio. We’re very cognizant of the fact that we’re preparing people who might do a lot of different things. Whatever they do, we want them to be engaged and responsible citizens.”

Moreno earned his law degree from California Western School of Law in San Diego.

Moreno had enlisted in the Marines after the 9/11 terrorist attack and was called back to service after his first year of law school. He served as a member of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a Legal Services Specialist, Moreno edited a legal newsletter and helped defend and prosecute Marines in court martials. He also helped prepare Marines' passport applications at the Al Assad Air Base. In Afghanistan, he was attached to a helicopter unit at Kandahar Air Field.

Moreno’s rise up the ranks reflected his interest in the law and politics that started when he was in high school. He participated in debating, public speaking, moot court and Model United Nations. He also got involved in Future Leaders of America, East Bay Area, a local youth leadership development program where he’s now president of the board of directors back in his hometown.

The Future Leaders program helped Moreno hone his public speaking, essay writing and parliamentary procedural skills.

“I gained a lot of confidence,” he said. “It helped me believe, ‘This is what I want to be involved in.’”

Besides helping lead the program for future generations, Moreno, who is now married and the father of three girls ages 14, 10 and 7, and a baby boy, is active in his community and in his daughters’ school district.

The school district — the same one Moreno attended — represents a predominantly Latinx population in a city that was started by Italian immigrants. He’s now working to ensure that students from all backgrounds get the best education and that people from all walks of life get a say in the city’s governance.

It's the same urgency with which Moreno approaches the difficult, emotional and gut-wrenching immigration system that even circuit court judges have called a Labyrinth.

“It’s just pushing through and fighting,” Moreno said. “I want to be that wrench in the deportation machine, to make sure people are assured their due process rights.”

One of his most memorable wins was for a police officer who had been threatened and attacked in his native country by a drug cartel who were in cahoots with his superiors.

“I helped him and his family gain asylum last February,” he said. “Seeing their relief and their gratitude make it worth it.”
David Van Sickel, '74 with UNI President Mark A. Nook
When I think of someone who embodies “Purple for Life!” DAVID VANSICKEL, ’74, immediately comes to mind.

Whenever David is asked to do anything for UNI, and specifically the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the answer is “YES”.

David grew up in Sheffield, Iowa and graduated from UNI with a bachelor’s in history and a minor in political science. He relates that UNI was a family choice with all three of his brothers also graduating from UNI. For David, the campus was just the right size ... big enough to have a diverse student body and faculty but small enough to still be able to get to know and interact with faculty and not feel like just a number.

David stated, “I was lucky enough to have some outstanding faculty from the history department for some of my survey courses and they instilled in me a fascination with history that has never diminished.” He went on to share that professors Lang and Eiklor were great role models who really expanded his horizons. Another great influencer was professor Sunseri. David relayed listening to his lecture on a Huey Long speech and ventures that anyone who heard it would never forget it. He credits Prof Sunseri’s “encouragement (insistence really)” that he think critically as a life-long influence.

After graduating from UNI, David continued his education at the University of Iowa College of Law, graduating with a J.D. in 1977. Since that time, he has been an attorney with Dentons Davis Brown PC in Des Moines, Iowa, where he specializes in public finance as bond or underwriter’s counsel on financings for public bodies, including Des Moines Area Community College and the State of Iowa and its various authorities, and non-profit corporations including most of the private colleges and universities in Iowa. David has enjoyed working with public officials and college and university administrators to secure financing for important state projects and higher education facilities.

David has been a long-time contributor to the CSBS Dean’s Fund as well as to the VanSickel Student Support Fund, established to assist students with Study Abroad expenditures. David has also recently made a commitment to support the gerontology program’s endowed professorships and scholarships accounts.

When asked when and why he chose to contribute to CSBS/UNI, he responded that it has been such a long time since he initially made the decision that his reasoning has shifted with the times. David believes, “in an era of constantly declining support from the legislature, it is important for everyone who believes in the value of higher education do what they can to support UNI. That concern and my interest in study abroad have been the initiatives for my contributions.”

David is a great believer in travel as a way to experience other cultures and promote greater understanding among peoples. It is for this reason that he has supported Dean Bass in providing assistance to students wanting to spend a semester or at least some time studying abroad. It is his hope that the travel has been rewarding and an interesting learning experience for the students he has assisted.

In addition to his monetary generosity, David has been extremely generous with his time and talents, by serving on the CSBS Advisory Board, volunteering at CSBS events, and most recently serving on an ad hoc committee for the UNI Board of Trustees.

David will soon be retiring from his practice of law and is anxious to have more time to enjoy and pursue his hobbies of reading, travel, biking and hiking. We all wish him well as he embarks on his next chapter and look forward to our times to interact with this “Purple for Life!” alumnus.

DIANNE CAMPBELL, ’91
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Class Notes

1960's

'69 CHUCK GANTENBEIN, BA, MA '73, Mooresville, NC, retired after 44 years as a school psychologist in Iowa, Michigan and North Carolina.

'69 CATHY CONKLIN, BA, Urbandale, retired from the Urbandale School District after 30 years.

1970's

'70 AL WILKE, BA, Odebolt, taught at Odebolt Arthur for nine years and retired from the Swanson Insurance Agency after 40 years. He has been married 53 years and has nine grand children.

'70 MARY POTTER KENYON, BA, Dubuque, is a program coordinator at the Shalom Spirituality Center and published a book titled "Called to Be Creative: A Guide to Reigniting Your Creativity" in Aug. 2020.

'71 DIANNE FAGNER, BA, Des Moines, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Work in Oct. 2020.

'71 JAMES PEDERSEN, BA, Blue Springs, MO, retired after 32 years of service in Missouri Public Schools.

'72 KEVIN BOATRIGHT, MA, Lawrence, KS, was named to the 12 member Friends Council of the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas.

'74 SCOTT MOLINE, BA, Ankeny, was named Iowa State Chairman by the State Funeral for World War II Veterans.

'74 PATRICK MURPHY, BA, Northport, AL, celebrated 25 years with the University of Alabama, with the last 23 as head softball coach.

'75 DARIN WIPPERMAN, BA, MA '85, Lancaster, NH, published a book titled "First for the Union: Life and Death in a Civil War Army Corps from Antietam to Gettysburg."

1980's

'83 KIRK ANDERSON, BA, MA '85, Mission Viejo, CA, was named one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2020 by the Orange County Register. He is program administrator for Juvenile Hall School and created the first distance learning model for incarcerated youth in OC during the pandemic.

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1990's

'89 JASON KNITTEL, BA, MA '94, ASC '93, Dyersburg, received the 2021 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching. He is a 9-10th grade history teacher at East High School, Waterloo.

'89 DARWIN WIPPERMAN, BA, Lancaster, NH, published a book titled "First for the Union: Life and Death in a Civil War Army Corps from Antietam to Gettysburg."

'90 SCOTT MOLINE, BA, Ankeny, was named Iowa State Chairman by the State Funeral for World War II Veterans.

'90 JESSE WOZNIAK, BA, Pittsburgh, PA, published a book titled "Policing Iraq: Legitimacy, Democracy, and Empire in a Developing State."

'93 KEVIN BOATRIGHT, MA, Lawrence, KS, was named to the 12 member Friends Council of the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas.

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'94 SHANNON RISK, BA, Niagara Falls, NY, is the chair of the department of history at Niagara University and was inducted into the New York Academy of History in 2018.

2000's

'02 AMY (JOHNSON) LUCK, BA, Perrysburg, OH, was promoted to partner with RCO Law.

'07 BELINDA (MARTINEZ) BATANG ESGUERRA, MPP, San Mateo, Rizal, Philippines, started a new online learning program on family ministry and is studying to improve relationships with others.

'08 BECKY WHITE, BA, Cedar Rapids, is excited to have son Cameron attend UNI in 2021.

'09 ANDREW MORSE, BA, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley's 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2020. He is assistant to the president for board and governmental relations at UNI.
2010's

'11 RACHELLE (HANSELMAN) KIDWELL, BA, Cedar Falls, is the academic eligibility coordinator at UNI.

'13 KELLY (WILTJER) VICK, BA, Mount Pleasant, WI, became a trademark paralegal for SC Johnson in July 2019.

'14 JOYCE LEVINGSTON, BA, MA '17, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley's 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2020. She is a community leader and director of One City's momentum program.

'15 EMILIO SANCHEZ, BA, Chicago, IL, is an account executive with McGarry Bowen.

'16 COLLEEN BORCZON, BA, Glen Burnie, MD, is working towards a masters in social work at the University of Maryland as a behavioral health workforce integration service and education substance use disorder workforce expansion fellow.

'16 JESSICA (HYSCOPE) LANGE, BA, Ankeny, earned a MS in special education from Drake University in 2019 and is a special education teacher with Des Moines Public Schools.

'17 JAMES GIBBONS, BA, Muscatine, celebrated 10 years of sobriety in 2020.

2020's

'18 RYAN STEVENSON, BA, Waterloo, was named one of the Cedar Valley's 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2020. He is a community leader and political activist.

'16 COLLEEN BORCZON, BA, Glen Burnie, MD, is working towards a masters in social work at the University of Maryland as a behavioral health workforce integration service and education substance use disorder workforce expansion fellow.

'16 JESSICA (HYSCOPE) LANGE, BA, Ankeny, earned a MS in special education from Drake University in 2019 and is a special education teacher with Des Moines Public Schools.

'17 JAMES GIBBONS, BA, Muscatine, celebrated 10 years of sobriety in 2020.

Annual Giving

To say the past year has been a challenging one, is an understatement for most of us. While we all have had to learn to adjust to different ways of working, learning and living, I have found CSBS alumni, students and faculty and staff to be an incredibly resilient bunch! You have continued to give so that our students can maximize their educational experience. Our annual phonation for the Dean's Fund saw record numbers this year, you responded to crowd funding requests, and we have some exciting new projects and gifts to support them currently being finalized. None of this could be accomplished without each of you.

Please feel free to reach out to me to learn various ways that we can match you and your philanthropic interests with ways to help CSBS!

DIANNE CAMPBELL, ’91
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
dianne.campbell@uni.edu
319.273.5985
Amethyst Society

In its fourth 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:

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**PLATINUM** (gifts over $20,000)
- Robert A. & Candace Bowlsby
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- Tomson Family Foundation
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**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
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- Elizabeth M. Brand
- Darrell E Briggs
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- Scott A. Schamberger
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- Suzanne Strever
- David VanSickel*
- David A Whitsett
- Diane E Wille

* Denotes planned gifts made during 2021 academic year
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 donors during the upcoming year:

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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.