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CSBS Kudos, December 2014

University of Northern Iowa. College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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2014 CSBS Fall Faculty Meeting

This fall brought a new twist to an old standard.

The CSBS Fall Faculty Meeting, long known as the State of the College, more fully embraced the idea that the college faculty senate is the host of this annual event.

The CSBS Senate therefore chose a different format this year, with the goal of making the event more interactive in nature. In that spirit, Interim Provost Licari addressed the group and provided a time for questions. The event also included a panel and open discussion to address issues relevant to faculty.

As always, however, the event included the introduction of new faculty, the recognition of faculty awards, and cookies.



Photos, from top:

CSBS Senate Chair Chuck Holcombe of History hosted the event.

Jim McCullagh of Social Work was congratulated by Dean Bass for his Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

The panel was led by Annette Lynch of Textiles & Apparel and the Center for Violence Prevention; Scott Peters, chair of the faculty; Dean Bass; and Susan Hill of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.



Scholarship banquet

4th Annual Scholarship Event Held

The Department of Political Science hosted the fourth Women in Politics Scholarship banquet Oct. 30. The bipartisan event has been a local opportunity to promote awareness of the cause and to raise money for the department's Women in Politics scholarship.

This year's event featured guest speaker Jennifer Lawless, professor of government at American University in Washington, D.C. She is the director of the Women and Politics Institute as well as a nationally recognized expert on the involvement of women in politics.

The current recipient of the Women in Politics scholarship is Autumn Reeder, a junior double-major in political science and criminology from Manchester.

Anniversary Honored

The University of Northern Iowa Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadre and cadets, in partnership with the Iowa National Guard, held a September 11th memorial event on campus. The morning began with a presentation of the colors on the West Gym and singing of *America the Beautiful* by UNI senior Megan Grey, who performs with the UNI opera. During the afternoon the National Guard provided military equipment and a rock-climbing wall for students and faculty to enjoy. Additionally, over 500 students, staff, and faculty enjoyed food, beverages, and music.



9/11 Commemoration



Lifelong Learning

The Department of Social Work has been active again this year offering continued learning opportunities for those practicing in the field. The annual Social Work Fall Colloquium was held on the topic of "Understanding the DSM V", with an expert from the Department of Psychiatry at the UI Carver College of Medicine.

The department also offered Social Work Ethics Training Tom Eachus, LISW, executive director of the Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center.



T.C. supports the Geographic Alliance of Iowa

The Next Phase



Barnes

Howard Barnes, director of CSBS’s School of Applied Human Sciences, will retire from his position at the end of the fall semester. He has led the college’s programs in family studies, gerontology, interior design, and textiles and apparel since coming to UNI in 1997. Barnes is not leaving UNI but will return to the classroom.

Carole Singleton Henkin, professor in the Department of Social Work, will retire from UNI at the end of the fall semester. She came to campus in 1989 and has had research interests in social policy, health care policy, and women and aging.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences thanks them for their many years of service and wishes them the best for this next phase of their lives.



Henkin

“Big Cats Initiative”

Alex Oberle, associate professor of geography, is also the coordinator of the Geographic Alliance of Iowa (GAI)—the organization committed to improving all levels of geographic education in Iowa.

The GAI was established with significant help from National Geographic, which currently has a program called the Big Cats Initiative. It is raising awareness about the dwindling populations of lions, tigers, cheetahs, and other big cats around the world.

Oberle and social science education student Mollie Ullestad have created a blog about how the GAI and two Iowa schools are getting involved with Big Cats. UNI’s own big cat, T.C., has been involved with the project too—even helping challenge other universities with ‘big cat’ mascots to get help elevate the cause.

In the spring, the GAI is planning to take the program on the road to Anamosa Middle School in Anamosa and South Hamilton Elementary in Jewell.

Even though Iowa is geographically far removed from big cat populations in Africa and India, this student/faculty partnership is proving that they can still make a positive impact.

To read more about the project, visit <http://blog.education.nationalgeographic.com/2014/11/27/big-cats-college-mascots-and-iowa-schools/>

FACULTY & STAFF Kudos

Carolyn Hildebrandt (*Psychology*) gave the presentation "Fake? Wrong? Fake and Wrong? Helping Students Evaluate Psychological Content on YouTube" at the Iowa Teachers of Psychology Annual Conference in November.

Andrey Petrov (*Geography*) has been appointed a U.S. representative on the Arctic Science Committee Social and Human Sciences Working Group. IASC is the international, non-governmental organization that coordinates all aspects of Arctic research. Petrov was a co-organizer of the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences that took place in Prince George, British Columbia, in May 2014. At the congress he was re-elected to the second three-year term as a councilor for the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). The congress was partially funded by the special NSF grant received by Petrov.

Ramona McNeal (*Political Science*) has co-authored a forthcoming book chapter with a colleague from Kent State: "Digital Paranoia: Unfriendly Social Media Climate Affecting Social Networking Activities," in *Social Media and the Transformation of Interaction in Society*. She also has an encyclopedia entry with a co-author from Walden University: "The Mobile Presidential Election" in *Encyclopedia of Mobile Phone Behavior*.

Mark Grey (*New Iowans*) and Michele Devlin (*HPELS*) have been providing training and technical assistance on ebola emergency-response planning among West African immigrants in Iowa and the United States. Thus far they have held a briefing for the Iowa Department of Public Safety on this topic, spent time with the Iowa Department of Public Health creating a culturally responsive community engagement plan with the 5,000 West African immigrants in Iowa, and led a major meeting between state agencies and organizations for emergency response planning. Other events include leading a Pentagon briefing on the topic for the Department of Defense in Washington D.C. and providing cultural preparation training for U.S. soldiers deploying for aid and for medical teams that will be sent to any future U.S. outbreak.

Helen Harton (*Psychology*) is organizing a summer study abroad program to Taiwan. UNI students will have the opportunity to conduct research with internationally known professors in a variety of areas, including research on sleep, neuroscience, and clinical psychology.

Laura Praglin (*Social Work*) has had an article, "Jessie Donaldson Hodder, 1867-1931", recently posted on *The Social Welfare History Project* website. The article developed as Praglin researched the correspondence between social work pioneers Ida Cannon and Richard Clarke Cabot. She is in the final stages of completing a book on these letters titled, *'Dear Sharer of Many Problems': The Correspondence of Ida Cannon and Richard Clarke Cabot, 1907-1939*. Additionally, Praglin and Linda Nebbe have co-authored "Introduction to Animal- and Nature-Assisted Therapies: A Service-Learning Model for Rural Social Work," for the journal *Contemporary Rural Social Work*.



Opportunity for Social Work students

Social Work recently welcomed two guest speakers: Marvin Firch (*left*), outreach/compliance educator with the Iowa Board of Professional Licensure, Department of Public Health, and Denise Rathman (*center*), executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter. The speakers addressed social work licensure requirements and issues of professional ethics in separate sessions for graduate and undergraduate students. **Laura Praglin** (*Social Work, right*) organized the event, and **Jenny Becker** (*Social Work Field Instruction*) and **Mark Dobie** (*CSBS Tech*) worked to record the sessions and make them available via the Social Work website.

Marybeth Stalp (*Sociology*) gave the October CROW (Current Research on Women and Gender) Forum for Women's and Gender Studies: "Of Course The Domestic Can Also Be Feminist: Complicating Femininity, Feminism, and the Domestic Arts."

Kenneth Atkinson (*History*) spoke to conferences at Ben-Gurion University (Beer-Sheva, Israel) in May and the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris, France) in July.



Zhao

Wenjie (Wendy) Zhao has arrived on campus as a visiting scholar in the Department of Geography. Zhao is a full professor of environmental sciences at the Northeast Normal University in China. She earned her B.S. in environmental sciences and a M.S. in ecology from Northeast Normal University and a Ph.D. in remote sensing from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2004. Her main research areas focuses on agricultural landscape, animal ecology, and surface water pollution. She has directed a number of projects in surface water quality such as lake eutrophication, and landscape dynamics modeling using remote sensing, GIS, and GPS. Zhao will be at UNI June 2015.

Special Guests

Many faculty have harnessed the power of CSBS alumni this semester by bringing them back to campus and connecting them with our students.

Judge Randy Hefner, a 1975 history graduate, visited a Q&A session with the Daniel Webster Law Society, lead by **Scott Peters** and **Donna Hoffman** (*Political Science*), as well as the Capstone class of **John Johnson** (*History*).

Kim MacLin's "Careers in Psychology" course routinely invites psychology alumni to speak with students, both in-person and virtually. Recent visitors included **Alexandra Dewitt**, a 2013 graduate now pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing; **Ashley Sparks**, a 2011 master's graduate who is now an attorney in Des Moines; and **Evette Creighton**, a 2007 graduate, currently the diversity program manager for Rockwell Collins.

Carolyn Hildebrandt (*Psychology*) brought psychology and sociology alumna **Kelly (Smith) Pelzel** to campus. Pelzel is a Clinical Psychologist at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital with specialties in pediatric autism, parent-child interaction therapy, and circle of security training.

David VanSickel, a 1974 history alum and now an attorney in Des Moines, met with students to talk about their study-abroad experiences.



Clockwise from top left:
Events for VanSickel, Pelzel, Hefner, and psychology alumnae

STUDENT Kudos

Mike Whitson (*Psychology MA*) is the vice president and chief research scientist for iTracking Research in Cedar Falls, a marketing and media intelligence company that researches eye-gaze tracking data of online users. A new application for their research was recently initiated, which will study the correlation between eye movement and physical disorders. Whitson gave a talk at the American Marketing Association Iowa meeting in December, entitled “Fear of Lions Builds a Better Website”.



Dylan Keller (*History MA*) has been closely involved with the development and launch of the newly opened John Deere Engine Museum. Keller is a 2014 BA graduate of history. Seven of the 10 staff members at the museum are UNI students or alumni—and five of those are from CSBS. Staff with CSBS connections are **Rosa Grant**, curator, pursuing a history MA; **Annette Scherber**, pursuing a history BA; **Cyndi Sweet**, collections manager, a public history MA alumna; and **Josh Waddle**, curator, a history BA and MA alumnus.

Brittney Boche (*Gerontology*) has participated in Memory Trunks, a UNI program developed as a discussion-based activity for those with Alzheimer’s and related dementias. Each month for two years, Boche has visited Newel Post Adult Day Services in Waterloo.



Rachel Gregory and **Kerri Robinson** (*Public Policy MPP*) have spearheaded bringing an American Association of University Women (AAUW) program to campus. *Elect Her—Campus Women Win* helps recruit young women to run for student government positions and provides a workshop to train them. This year, the national campaign will hold trainings on 50 campuses, and UNI was selected to be the first site in Iowa.

Mollie Ullestad (*Social Science Education*) has been working on the ‘Big Cats Initiative’ (see page 3). “I’ve learned a lot about how to connect different groups of people together for a common cause,” she says. “Working with Iowa schools, the GAI, and National Geographic will help me gain invaluable experience that I can build off of after I graduate from UNI.”



Masters in Public Policy fundraiser

The Masters in Public Policy program held a fundraiser in October for the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence. **Rachel Gregory** (fourth from left) and **Kerri Robinson** (second from right) also took the lead on bringing the Elect Her program to campus. The event will be held on campus January 24. The free event will allow students to gain hands-on campaign skills, hear from inspiring local speakers, and discuss research on women in government.

ALUMNI *Kudos*



Jessie Nicholson with President Ruud

Jessie Nicholson (*Sociology '74*) was recently honored with the 2014 Alumni Achievement Award during UNI's Distinguished Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8. This award recognizes significant professional accomplishments of UNI graduates. Nicholson is the first African-American woman to lead a legal aid organization in the upper Midwest, and she is only one of eight in the entire country. Currently the CEO of Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, her practice focuses on immigration and housing discrimination issues.

Angie Tagtow (*Dietetics, '91*) has been named executive director of the USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. In this role she oversees the committee that creates federal nutrition standards.

Chad Goings (*Anthropology, '97*) and **Beth (Tracey) Goings** (*Sociology, '00*) are president and vice president of their own consulting business in Iowa. They provide archaeological, GIS, and mapping services.

Mike Diekman (*Social Science, '01*) is a social studies teacher with the Houston, Minnesota, Public Schools.

Brett Forkner (*Geography, '06*) is an environmental scientist with LT Environmental, an environmental and engineering firm in Arvada, Colorado, that provides site assessments, compliance, environmental remediation, and engineering solutions.

Jordan Dunn (*Social Work, '10*) received an Individual Volunteer Award, as part of the Governor's Volunteer Awards, for his volunteer efforts through Lutheran Services in Iowa. The LSI mentoring program matches a volunteer with a teen or child living at one of LSI's residential treatment centers. Dunn volunteers at the Bremwood center in Waverly.

Lizzie Boeck (*Family Services, '11*) has been named the assistant coach of the New York University women's basketball team. Her responsibilities will include scouting and post-player development. Boeck played for the Panther women's basketball team during her time at UNI.

Kayla (James) Orr (*Social Work MSW, '12*) is a therapist at Four Oaks, an Iowa child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health agency.

Tyler Avis (*Geography, '13*) is a planning aide/GIS tech with the city of Columbia, Missouri.

Rebecca Gronewald (*Geography: Environmental Systems & Sustainability, '14*) is presently participating in an Americorps internship at the city of Knoxville, Tennessee. She has been part of a program that used Google technologies to map hiking trails in the area. The program is part of the technology to add trails to the street view on the company's maps. The Trekker backpack is Google's wearable version of the technology that is typically car-mounted for conducting street view data collection. It's a GPS unit combined with multiple cameras to capture 360-degree views referenced to a geographic location.

Liz Sedlacek (*Textiles and Apparel, '14*) works in product development at Powers Athletic Manufacturing in Waterloo, developing athletic uniforming. She designed the print and pattern for the 2014 Homecoming super-hero capes worn by T.C. and T.K. Sedlacek was also a judge for super-hero costumes designed using materials donated by Powers Manufacturing. At right, she's shown with the winning design.



Liz Sedlacek (left)

The Semester in Pictures



1. The undergraduate Student Social Work Association

2. SABRs share their love of CSBS.

3. Psychology Club, with faculty advisor Mike Gasser, visited the penitentiary in Anamosa.

4. Political Science's Pi Sigma Alpha National Honor Society induction ceremony



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