


2013

CSBS Statements, v15, 2013

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

Copyright © 2013 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/csbsstatements>

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

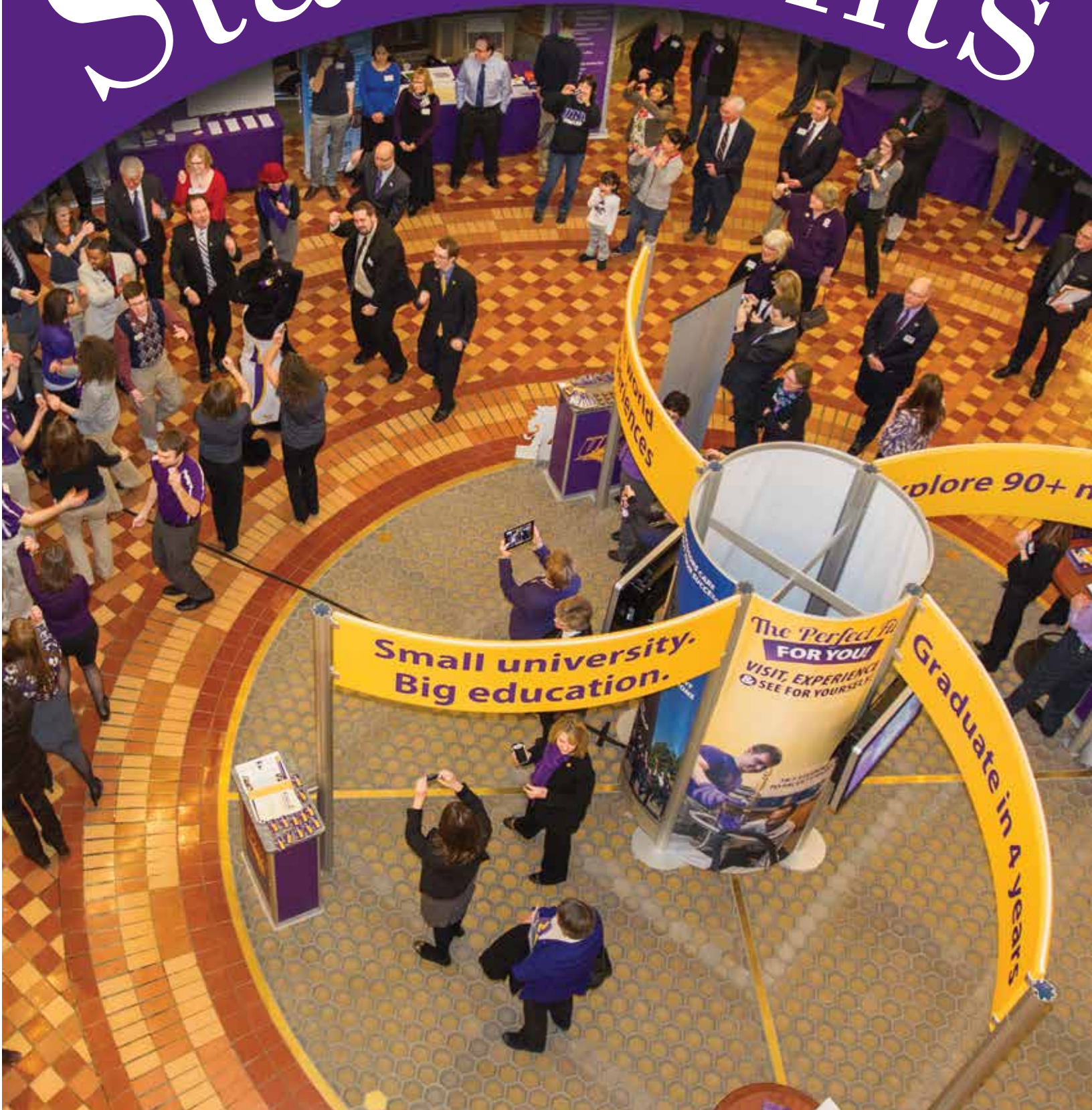
Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. College of Social and Behavioral Sciences., "CSBS Statements, v15, 2013" (2013). *CSBS Statements*. 6.
<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/csbsstatements/6>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in CSBS Statements by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Statements



IN THE SERVICE
OF IOWA:

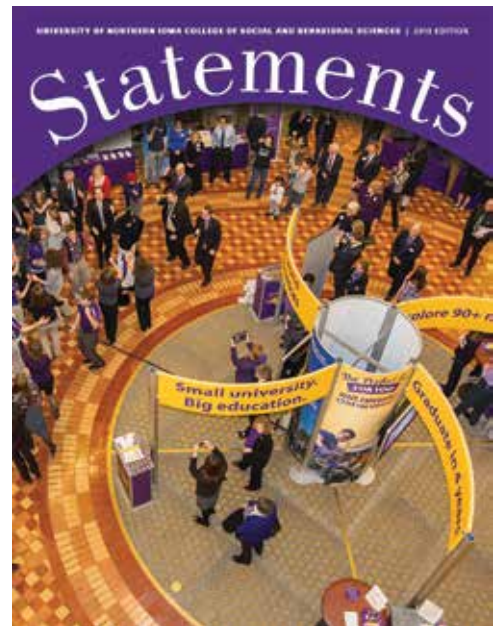
2013 ALUMNI PROFILE
Stephen Quirk

PRACTITIONER TO EDUCATOR
Samantha O'Hara

GIVING HOPE
Esperanza Pintor Martinez

in this issue

- 2 **2013 Alumni Profile**
Stephen Quirk helps Iowa children and families in crisis
- 4 **Supportive Connections**
Professor and alumna inspired to help youth in need
- 5 **Family Legacy**
Emeritus professor and his CSBS family leave their mark
- 6 **Return on Investment**
Alumnae work for a better Iowa
- 8 **Giving Thanks**
A note from our Director of Development
- 9 **Donor Profiles**
Two young alumni pay it forward
- 10 **Thank you**
Alumni and friends give to the college in many ways
- 12 **Northern Iowa & Beyond**
The college's centers work for all of Iowa
- 14 **College Updates**
A quick look at the year's news
- 18 **Student Updates**
Our students continue to shine
- 20 **Alumni Updates**
See what other CSBS alumni are doing



Cover: The first-ever "UNI Day" was held at the Iowa statehouse on February 11. Thanks to the students, faculty, and staff who braved the wintry roads and spent the day at the capitol reminding Iowa's decision-makers of our value to the state.

Volume 15 2013 edition

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

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences encourages correspondence from alumni and friends. Send letters to:

CSBS Office of the Dean
319 Sabin Hall
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0403

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN



In the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, this year has been one of focusing on our mission to serve our students and the state of Iowa. With 92% of UNI undergraduate students being from Iowa, UNI is an important investment for the state. While a significant portion of our alumni find success across the country and internationally, 74% of our graduates in the past decade have remained in Iowa to work, raise families, and contribute to local communities.

With over 2,000 students enrolled in CSBS programs, we continue to emphasize the importance of faculty excellence within the classroom, providing relevant extracurricular opportunities for our students to increase their learning, and involving our faculty and students in the larger Iowa community.

20th Anniversary of the CSBS Student Research Conference:

I continue to be impressed by the quality of research work done by our students, and this conference provides a vital opportunity for them to share their research with an audience of peers and faculty. In addition to UNI students, the conference draws participants from Iowa State University, University of Iowa, Coe College, Buena Vista University, and Mount Mercy University. Over its 20 years, this CSBS conference has become known as a valuable, regional opportunity for students to gain experience in publicly presenting their research.

Teacher Education: In CSBS, we provide vital content courses for elementary education majors, and coordinate the secondary education majors for history education and social science education. Constitution Day was celebrated on campus in September (*see page 14*)—just one of the many ways that CSBS contributes to a strong teacher education curriculum.

We need you to share the excellent education you received and how it has contributed to your success in life.

Supporting Regional Sustainability Efforts:

Students and faculty are also involved in various projects concentrated on more sustainable use of limited resources and how to enact change in average people's daily lives. The Beta Nu chapter of the Phi Upsilon Omicron student honors society within the School of Applied Human Sciences chose to focus their annual project on the Blue Zones initiative (*see page 19*). Professor Jack Yates (Psychology) has been involved in the Get Energized Iowa project focused on reducing electricity use in four Iowa communities, and along with professor Mary Losch (CSBR & Psychology) and MidAmerican Energy is also directing the Green Community Campaign Plan which involves significant social marketing

campaigns in two Iowa communities aimed at reducing household energy use.

Whether our students' future keeps them here in Iowa or takes them far abroad, CSBS needs continued support from our alumni and friends to provide the best possible education to our students through internships,

networking, mentorship, and scholarships. Additionally, we need YOU to continue advocating for UNI by sharing with friends, neighbors, legislators, and prospective college students the excellent education you received and how it has contributed to your success in life.

Thank you for your support, and please feel free to contact me with thoughts or questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Bass".

Brenda Bass

Interim Dean, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
brenda.bass@uni.edu
(319) 273-2221



STEPHEN QUIRK

As executive director of Youth Emergency Services & Shelter, this CSBS alumnus helps Iowa children and families in times of crisis.

Stephen Quirk was recruited to become the executive director of Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS) in 2008. YESS is a children's welfare and juvenile justice agency that has been providing services to youth since 1973. One of the largest emergency shelters in the country, it provides residential emergency services to 50-60 youth per night. Between 650 and 1,000 youth (and sometimes more) live at the shelter every year, and hundreds receive emergency services, crisis response, and counseling and therapeutic care at YESS. Its campus also has a K-12 school, provides in-patient and out-patient clinical care, and has just opened Hope Hall Clinical Connections to meet the mental health needs of its youth.

In addition to leading the agency, Quirk also provides training for fourth-year medical students completing their community health rotations. And he's an instructor at Des Moines University, where he teaches public health administration and management.

Quirk graduated from UNI with a bachelors degree in political science in 1992 and a masters of public policy in 1994. As someone who has spent his entire career in public health, education, and philanthropy and youth development, Stephen Quirk is another CSBS alumnus using his skills to work for a better community.

CSBS: How did you get from a political science undergraduate degree to YESS?

Quirk: My political science focus was on local and state governance and policy with a special interest in public health. The degree prepared me to transition directly into graduate school. My undergraduate and graduate school experience challenged me to use quantitative and qualitative tools to understand policy and also to influence community improvement. So much of my formal education has led to me focusing more on private sector and non-profit solutions. While I am an active participant in the political system and policy-making process, I also have learned when and how to influence change using other strategies outside of the public system. I firmly believe that my political science and public policy training provided the framework to venture into many different professions.

CSBS: What skills did you learn in your undergraduate degree that are helpful in your career?

Quirk: There was a clear focus on not only scholarly writing, but practical writing. I also believe I was trained to be a good listener and a good communicator. Many of the faculty challenged me to think and provide creative responses. An appreciation for history and political activism is in my family and has always been an

important part of our civic engagement. My course work at UNI validated the relevance of that work and provided tools to be effective.

CSBS: *What is a memorable part of your undergraduate experience in CSBS?*

Quirk: I greatly appreciated small- and medium-sized classes. It is very fulfilling to know the faculty know you as a student and have the interest to know about you as a person. My classmates were great too. Many of my classmates maintain a strong presence in my professional network.

CSBS: *What advice do you have for those just starting out in the social and behavioral sciences?*

Quirk: Working in the social and behavioral science industry is incredibly rewarding. The challenge of working with people—especially those that are suffering and struggling—is not easy. I would encourage people interested in this type of work to be sure they are healthy, resilient and capable of dealing with the stress of their own lives and also carrying the weight and burden of the stress of others' lives. It is also critical that the science, theory and research of the industry are thoroughly understood. Being a 'people person' is not enough to be effective at dealing with people.

CSBS: *What are significant challenges in your work?*

Quirk: The solutions to the problems facing youth will not be created by the political system or policy-making process. Private solutions are necessary to improve the lives of children. Money is always an issue, but non-profit leaders have always complained about the lack of resources. We need to create solutions that depend on social capital and intellectual investments and involvement. One of the biggest challenges as the leader of an organization that deals with traumatized children is creating and supporting a strong work force. I must provide appropriate compensation and benefits. Beyond those obvious things, we must take care of our staff so that they are healthy and sufficiently trained to provide quality services to youth.

Stephen Quirk outside the room that bears his family's name (see page 5). In addition to his many duties, Quirk has published in the New England Journal of Medicine, completed the Federal Bureau of Investigations Citizen's Academy, and found the time to be an avid bike rider, sports enthusiast, and self-described "political and policy wonk".

CSBS: *What are the rewards of your work?*

Quirk: YESS saves lives. Everyday. We create a healthy and intelligent environment and program delivery system for youth to get better and move on with their lives. I greatly appreciate seeing children recover, rebound and move on from difficult life experiences.

CSBS: *Your daily life is serving the community. How can people in careers often labeled the "helping professions" give back in ways that don't relate to their job?*

Quirk: My wife ('93 Chemistry) and I have four amazing and active children. We have dedicated a lot of our time to athletics. We are also connected in church activities. My career is all about giving back to community and that also transcends into volunteer and civic engagement time.

CSBS: *What advice would you share with CSBS students and new graduates?*

Quirk: I work very hard and would coach and encourage students and young professionals to do so as well. I am a relentless optimist and have great faith and confidence in myself, my family and those that I choose to associate with. I love challenges and adventures and choose many times to think of life and work as a journey. I have decided to have a lot of fun in my life. I am very blessed that my wife, children, extended family and friends are all supportive and tolerant of that spirit. •



CSBS faculty provides social science research support to YESS

Bill Henninger, assistant professor in the college's School of Applied Human Sciences, has been working with Stephen Quirk to help the agency assess the outcomes and effectiveness of their programs.

Social science research is a vital component of any social service because it verifies which specific systems of service are working. Once that's understood, systems and services can be streamlined or improved. This ultimately results in benefits for clients, which is the reason most human services organizations exist.

Henninger's interest in the project stems from his own history in the social and behavioral sciences. As a college student, he became interested in the field of human service. During his undergraduate work at Iowa State University he participated in internships with Ames Youth and Shelter Services and at Woodward Academy, both of which provide services to children and adolescents in need. After working there, he began to wonder why certain services were distributed in the manner that they were. It was this curiosity that inspired him to seek further education in the field, pursuing graduate school in human development and family studies.

"The population we serve at YESS have experienced a great deal of pain and disappointments in their short lives. It is so rewarding to see the kids get excited when you walk in the door, because they know that you are sticking around and care about them."

—Emily Walter



CSBS faculty and staff traveled to YESS in December to learn more about the agency's services and needs. From left: associate dean Richard Featherstone, criminology instructor Jim Wertz, UNI career services coordinator Libby Vanderwall, family studies faculty Bill Henninger and Pat Gross, and development officer Nate Clapham

"The cool thing about this project is that it demonstrates why a family services major is unique. It allows Steve and me to cooperate, apply current research in the field, improve services for the youth he serves, and eventually add to the literature base in the field. It is the ideal circle that research-to-practice should take."
—Bill Henninger

CSBS alumna served as YESS intern and found her place

Before Emily Walter could graduate with a degree in family services, which she did in 2011, she was required to complete an internship. In looking for opportunities closer to her hometown of Urbandale, she was connected with Stephen Quirk.

Walter served her internship at YESS and says she stayed at the organization after graduation in part because interns at YESS complete all the training that staff do. "I was fully trained from the very beginning," she says. "I learned a great deal and knew there was room for me to grow and improve within the agency, so I decided to stay."

Now a lead worker at the organization, Walter became the supervisor for YESS's Crisis Nursery in January 2012. The nursery provides 24-hour-per-day services for children, birth through age eight. She is also completing the probationary period to become a Certified Family Life Educator through the National Council on Family Relations, which will certify that she is proficient in the ten family life content areas and has sufficient work experience in providing family life education.

Like many students, Walter didn't find her degree program right away. "I switched majors a couple different times during my first two years at UNI. I loved the core classes I took in family services, so at the beginning of my junior year, I declared family services as my major." Walter adds, "My favorite class was *Family Relationships* with Dr. Gross. I read that whole book front to back!"

Quirk family leaves legacy in CSBS

On December 5, the college was proud to dedicate the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Quirk Seminar Room in Sabin Hall.

The room-naming ceremony was possible due to a generous gift on behalf of the professor emeritus of history by his four sons, all themselves alumni of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The event included remarks by Dean Brenda Bass, history professors Robert Martin and John Johnson, Dr. Quirk, and youngest Quirk son Stephen. It was well attended by current and past history faculty as well as those with close ties to the family.

Dr. Quirk joined the UNI faculty as an assistant professor of history in 1965 after working part time since 1963. In addition to his other responsibilities, from 1967 to 1970 he was the director of the honors program on campus. Quirk retired from teaching in 2001 and served on United Faculty from 2001 to 2010. Impacting the lives of his students was his passion and evident in his actions, which included promoting UNI's history programs and being a tireless scholar.

The college is grateful for the Quirk family's gift and feels it fitting that Dr. Quirk's name now graces a room that promotes active student learning and collegiality.



Above: Members of the Charles and Gale Quirk family gathered for the room dedication ceremony.

Right: Quirk addresses the group while Robert Martin, current head of the department where Quirk taught for 37 years, listens.



*Below: The Quirk sons are all CSBS graduates. From left: **Wayne** ('80 Psychology); **Robert** ('87 Sociology and Criminology); **Stephen** (Political Science '92 and Public Policy '94); and **Brian** ('84 Psychology)*



Most CSBS alumni remain in Iowa after graduation.

These are just two alumnae who are reinvesting in the state whose support cultivated their strong educational roots.



As a UNI student, Esperanza Pintor Martinez (in blue) traveled to Romania and helped implement a dental health education program among the Roma [Gypsy] community.

Alumna—and former Alderman scholar—
Esperanza Pintor Martinez has already made a name for herself

A Young Hopeful

Esperanza Pintor Martinez's first name means "hope" in Spanish.

It's not named for her, but she administrates La Clínica de la Esperanza ("The Clinic of Hope") in Des Moines. So it's fitting that she's helping bring a lot of hope—in the form of comprehensive and culturally respectful medical care—to Latino immigrant families and others without health insurance.

As administrator and manager of the clinic, Martinez leads 14 clinical and office staff and coordinates the operational and financial components of the clinic. As a modest and life-long learner, however, she says, "What I enjoy most about my job is learning – learning from the amazing women I work with and the patients!"

Martinez graduated from UNI in 2008 with a major in sociology, a minor in anthropology, and a certificate in global health and health disparities. Reflecting on that choice, she says, "I came to the social and behavioral sciences because I was so interested in human behavior and how our society is constructed. No one thing in particular led me to this area of study, but rather multiple things in my life such as being the oldest child of immigrant parents, who came to the U.S. not speaking one word of English, who were told that college may not be affordable, who had many doors closed." But as an optimist who shows a lot of gratitude for the help of others, she adds, "And at the same time many doors opened."

While at UNI Martinez was a student leader active in a wide range of campus activities and also took the opportunity to study abroad in Greece, Romania, Hungary, and The Gambia (Africa). She was also selected by the college to receive an Alderman scholarship during her last year in CSBS, chosen for her potential to provide a good return on the investment represented by the award.

Martinez explains, "I feel that I am paying forward the investments made in me through my current role at a medical clinic that serves patients without insurance – many of who also have a language barrier, my role as mentor to youth, my role in serving as a speaker on different occasions, my role in my church, my role in community groups."

Even after completing her master's of public health from the University of Iowa in 2010, Martinez continues to learn. She's currently pursuing an interpreting and translating certificate from Des Moines Area Community College. Because of her educational journey, Martinez loves telling youth about the importance of going to college and about her experience at UNI. "I have actually learned so much more than I have given!"

After spending nearly 15 years as a practitioner in the criminal justice system, this alumna helps others learn about the discipline—and philosophy—she’s dedicated her life to.

“We need to take care of each other.”

Samantha (Smith) O’Hara earned two CSBS degrees: a criminology bachelors in 1994 and a sociology masters in 1996. But she also earned a spouse in fellow classmate Jim O’Hara (Sociology MA ‘99), whom she met in a criminology class in 1993. While many people meet their mates in college, their having met in Clemons Bartollas’s *Victimology* course is a unique—and very social-scientific—variation on the theme.

O’Hara is now an educator herself. Since earning her Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha she’s served as a part-time instructor for a number of years, and she’ll soon begin as an assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at Simpson College in Indianola.

The Forest City, Iowa, native came to UNI because it was (and still is) the only criminology bachelors degree available in the state university system. O’Hara remained at UNI for her masters degree in part because it allowed her to work more closely with professors with whom she had become familiar during her undergraduate studies.

“I have had many memorable professors and two great professors,” she says. “Dr. Keith Crew and Dr. Clemens Bartollas continue to be a part of my growth and learning to this day.” Additionally she recalls Phyllis Baker’s qualitative research methods class, which she credits for providing a solid foundation for her doctoral work. Outside class, she also learned from William Downs and other social work faculty through volunteering for a domestic violence victims’ group called People Against Violence (PAVe).

O’Hara’s work history is impressive—a unique mix of academic and practical that highlights the versatility of working in the social and behavioral sciences. While at UNI she worked for social service agencies serving juveniles, families, and victims of domestic violence. She started out as a shelter assistant at a battered women’s shelter, where she helped victims with a variety of needs that included navigating the criminal justice system and community resources. Since then, O’Hara has been a family support worker with a social services agency; a residential counselor in state community corrections; a senior probation officer for U.S. District Court; an AIDS drug assistance program coordinator; and a law enforcement instructor.

Now poised to become a full-time educator, she’ll bring all those skills—and the many she’s gained from her extensive volunteer opportunities, partnerships, and collaborations—with her.

“At the end of the day, I can look back and hope that I have served young parents of children, youth with challenges, encouraged pro-social change and accountability in state and federal community-based corrections, and provided law enforcement officers with additional insights into crimes, ethical codes of conduct, and ways in which to work for the public,” O’Hara says. “Much later down the road, I hope I can look back and know that some of my students have been positively impacted

by my courses by improving their reasoning, critical thinking skills and increasing their worldview.”



Within Samantha O’Hara’s family, there are a total of nine people who have completed six bachelors degrees and five masters degrees at UNI. Once her nephew, a current biology masters student, graduates a year from now, there will be a dozen Panther degrees among them. Go purple!



FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Greetings, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences alumni and friends, and a heartfelt “Go Panthers” from Cedar Falls! In my first note to you as director of development for CSBS, I want to thank you for your continued interest in the university and College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. Your support allows students within the college to seize opportunities and benefit from experiences that are found only at UNI.

In my short time at UNI, I have witnessed the remarkable students enrolled in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. This recently rang true on campus when nearly 500 UNI students participated in “Love a Donor Day” and wrote thank you cards that were mailed to benefactors (see right).

Nate Clapham

Private support for scholarships and programs makes the educational experience at UNI accessible to students who might otherwise face serious financial barriers. Lizzie and Jim are great examples of the investment you will be making when you support the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. I hope you’ll take a moment to reflect on your time at UNI and consider the following ways to impact students.

Create a scholarship—A scholarship provides financial support for students and gives them the opportunity to fully pursue the academic and extracurricular activities available.

Support the CSBS Dean’s Fund for Excellence—The Dean’s Fund provides direct support to students and faculty in a variety of ways each year including study abroad funding, financial support for low paying or unpaid internships, and experiential learning opportunities at conferences and other events.

Join UNI’s Old Central Associates—Create a legacy for the future with a bequest or other planned gift. By including UNI in your estate planning you can help future students and programs in a way you never thought possible.

To learn more about making a difference in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, please contact me at (800) 782-9522, (319) 273-5468, or nathan.clapham@uni.edu.

With Panther Pride,
Nate Clapham
Director of Development
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Hello!
My name is Lizzie and I'm a Senior Social Work major. I just wanted to extend my deepest thanks for your donations. Without your help students like me couldn't have all these wonderful opportunities at UNI.
We are so grateful for your support.
- Lizzie

Hi, my name is Jim, and I am a History major. I wanted to say thank you for your donation, so here is a poem just for you.
I came to this school to study History
Why UNI is great is no mystery.
It is thanks to you,
And the awesome things you do!
- Jim

The Dean's Fund for Excellence directly supports students and faculty in the College of Social Behavioral Science through a variety of ways each year. CSBS greatly appreciates all gifts — no matter the size — to the Dean's Fund.

Here we say thanks to two young alumni who are dedicated to paying forward their educational experience.

Kelly Van Veldhuizen Post

When Kelly Van Veldhuizen Post (Political Science '00) arrived on campus, she knew getting a degree in political science was something she wanted to explore. "It was always a subject I found interesting, and my high school teacher encouraged me to pursue something I enjoyed. It also seemed like a good base if I wanted a career in government or law," said Post. After completing her law degree from the University of Iowa, Post is currently working at John Deere as an attorney on their product litigation team.

Post is a steadfast supporter of UNI and believes in what our students in CSBS are doing by giving to the Dean's Fund for Excellence. "My CSBS education gave me a great foundation to learn how to think and analyze what I was reading and apply it to practical situations. I also found professors were always willing to discuss careers that were possible with a CSBS education," she says.

The CSBS Dean's Fund for Excellence gives students the chance to receive financial support for study abroad and undergraduate research opportunities, and provides assistance for other initiatives within the college. Post also takes advantage of an employer match John Deere provides for many types of charitable giving. "I was fortunate to receive scholarships from private donors when I was at UNI and always wanted to pay it forward to others that might need help to fund their education. I also find it very rewarding to hear about the success of students that receive assistance from the Dean's Fund."



William Hagans

Even though William Hagans (Political Science '02) may have been uncertain about the Iowa winter weather after arriving on campus from Houston, Texas, he was always certain about the direction of his education. "I always wanted to be a lawyer, so I sought out the program that offered the most classes dealing with law," he said. Hagans is now an attorney with Hagans, Burdine, Montgomery, & Rustay in Houston.

"I was fortunate to be able to take a number of law classes from professors who genuinely seemed to enjoy teaching the subject," said Hagans. Because of the positive experiences and quality of teaching he received in CSBS, Hagans believes in supporting current UNI students and faculty through the CSBS Dean's Fund for Excellence.

"I think it always important to give back to the schools that helped you get to where you are. I am happy to give back to my high school (St. Pius X), to UNI, and to my law school (The University of Texas School of Law). Without the foundation that I received at each of those three institutions, I have no doubt that I would not be the same person I am today."

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Loyalty Roster

On behalf of the students of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, we express our sincere appreciation for all the alumni and friends who have contributed to the Dean's Fund for Excellence and allowed our students 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.

G. ROB & HEATHER ARNOLD
SUSAN BAKER
BRUCE & RUTH BENGTSON
FRANK BERGREN
GOWRI BETRABET GULWADI
ROBERT & CHERYL BEYMER
ELIZABETH PARTRIDGE BLESSINGTON &
BRIAN BLESSINGTON
GREGORY & ROSEMARY BRANDT
MICHAEL & DIANA BRINSKO
ANN & JOSEPH BRUNKHORST
BETH BRUNS
JOHN CACCIATORE &
ROBIN AHNEN-CACCIATORE
SUSAN A CALEY
MARIA & BRUCE CAMERON
LYNNE & JOHN CARROLL
GERALD & MARIAN CIAS
MARK A CLARK
LEIGH A COX
DEBRA & DANIEL CUNNINGHAM
BRADLEY & MICAH CUTLER
SUSAN & CHRIS CZERNIAK
ALAN W DEGRAW
ELAINE DOVE
KATHY & RICHARD EIGHME
JOAN & CARROLL ENGELHARDT
DAVID FISH
SUSAN & JIM FORD
GREGG & JENNIFER GARN
CHARISSE GILLET
KEVIN & ELLEN HABEL
WILLIAM G HAGANS
MICHAEL C HANSEN
STEVEN E HARKLAU
LOUIS R HELLWIG
DARREN A HERROLD
LARRY & NOLA HIETBRINK

ANNE & THOMAS HOCKEY
DIANE C. HOLMES
LOREN HORTON
ANDREW HUPP
BENEDICT HUSSMANN
MOLLY & WILLIAM IOVINO
TERRI & RICK JEDLICKA
EVELYN & ROBERT JENSON
NORMAN JEWELL
SYLVIA JOHANNIS
JOHN DEERE FOUNDATION
LORA & MARK KANDER
TIMOTHY & JUDITH KNIPE
JOHN KOBERG & BARBARA REED
STEVEN & JANET KOCH
PATRICIA & SCOTT KOSTER
KATIE KUKER & BRAD BREDEHOEFT
META & JOHN LAGE
LEO R LAPIERRE
HARRIET & DUANE LEITCH
KATHRYN M LIMES
KEVIN & RUTH LITCHFIELD
ANDREW & BRENDA LOOP
MAXINE & WILLIAM LOSEN
RANDOLPH & RUTH LYON
JOANNE & ALLAN LYONS
ROBERT & KATHERINE MARTIN
RICHARD W MATTHIESEN
PATRICIA MAXWELL
LAVONNE MCGUIRE
LAURIE MCKAGER
LARRY & MARLENE MCKIBBEN
DENNIS & DEBORAH MILLER
JAMES & BONNIE MONEYPENNY
DAN & DARCI MUETING
CHERYL & GREG MYHR
TIM & JENNIFER NAVARA

WILLIAM & PAMELA NELSON
BARBARA & JAMES NERVIG
ANDREW & KATHRYN NIELSEN
BRAD L NIELSON
RONALD O'CONNELL
SUZANN & MARK OGLAND-HAND
ROGER C PETERSON
CLAIR & THERESE RAUSCH
RALPH A RICHARDSON
JOHN J ROOT
ERIC & SARA RUNEZ
NORMAN & REBECCA RYAN
JAMES & EILEEN SANDERS
TIMOTHY L SCHMIDT
DIANE & MICHAEL SCHNIEDERS
SANDRA JO SHILL & JOHN KELLER
HELEN T SORENSEN
JENNIFER & CORY SORNSON
SUE ELLEN SPARKS
JANET SPEICHER
HARVEY & GABRIELLA SPERRY
SQUARE D FOUNDATION
KEITH & SANDRA STAMP
MARY & MICHAEL STEWART
JANICE & ERWIN STICKFORT
ELEANOR & LARRY STRECKER
JON & SANDRA SULLIVAN
KEVIN & AMY TRUAX
UNIVERSITY BOOK & SUPPLY
DHIRENDRA VAJPEYI
KELLY VAN VELDHIJZEN POST &
ARLIN POST
DAVID & BARBARA VANSICKEL
JOEL & MADELEINE WEEKS
WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION
JANE WHIPPLE
CAROLYN & BRUCE WIGHT
MICHAEL & MARY LYNN WRIGHT

**CSBS thanks 345 alumni and friends who gave gifts from \$1 to \$99.
Gifts of every size make a difference!**

reflects gifts between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012

Dean's Fund Inner Circle

The Inner Circle recognizes alumni and friends who give \$1,000 and above to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean's Fund.

We are proud to announce this year's Inner Circle members.

BRUCE & RUTH BENGTON
RANDOLPH & RUTH LYON
PATRICIA MAXWELL
JAMES & BONNIE MONEYPENNY
JAMES & EILEEN SANDERS
HARVEY & GABRIELLA SPERRY
UNIVERSITY BOOK & SUPPLY
DHIRENDRA VAJPEYI
DAVID & BARBARA VANSICKEL

2013 Distinguished Alumni Day

In April, the college announced the 2013 Distinguished Alumni—those who have earned distinction in the social and behavioral sciences:

John Cacciatore Political Science '84
Jerry Glazier Psychology '77
Bill Hood Social Science '62
Larry McKibben Political Science '70

Three of the four 2013 CSBS Distinguished Alumni visited campus in April, meeting with faculty and students. *From left:* Al Hays, director of the public policy program; Jerry Glazier; John Cacciatore; Dhirendra Vajpeyi, professor of political science; Larry McKibben; Dean Bass; and Nate Clapham, CSBS director of development.



For more information on this year's Distinguished Alumni, please visit www.uni.edu/csbs/2013/.



From left: Alan Heisterkamp, director of the CVP's Mentors in Violence Prevention Leadership Institute; Annette Lynch, director of the CVP; and Kristen McNutt, graduate student in women's and gender studies

Center for Violence Prevention

UNI's CVP has helped school districts from Sioux City to Davenport to recognize the need for bystander-based programs to provide the training and programming needed to address bullying and gender-based violence in Iowa classrooms, hallways, locker rooms, and playgrounds.

The center has provided webinars, student and faculty training, and technical assistance to schools throughout the state that are seeking solutions to creating safer and more supportive spaces for youth in Iowa. On campus the CVP has worked with faculty to ensure that students who graduate from the UNI teacher education and educational leadership programs have the skills to address these critical problems in the schools and communities where they are placed after graduation.

Center for Social & Behavioral Research

The CSBR works on a multitude of projects each year that demonstrate the value of social science research to a wide variety of issues.

Led by Gene Lutz and Disa Cornish, the center is assisting the Governor's STEM Council by collecting public knowledge and opinion about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics issues in the state. CSBR is also developing and monitoring measures and processes for several dimensions of the statewide STEM initiative.

Mary Losch is working with initiatives to reduce unintended pregnancies in Iowa. The multi-year statewide project coupled with family planning infrastructure expansion were associated with significant drops in both unintended pregnancies and elective terminations. Public health remains the CSBR's predominant area of research.



From left: Madeline Stenersen, psychology student; Isabel Montemayor, CSBR research associate; Mary Losch, CSBR assistant director; and Mitch Avery, graduate student in public policy

For more information on outreach in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, visit www.uni.edu/csbs/centers/.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is home to several centers that enhance the college's mission of service. Here are just some of the projects they're working on that serve communities throughout Iowa.

Northern Iowa & Beyond

GeoTREE Center

The UNI Geoinformatics Training, Research, Education, and Extension (GeoTREE) Center supports the effective use of geospatial technologies, which can then be shared with federal, state, local, and tribal agencies in order to address a range of environmental, social, economic, and governmental issues.

GeoTREE is currently working on an Iowa Water Center funded project on community-wide urban stormwater planning. Tools are being developed to aid communities in using an urban stormwater model, which will allow them to characterize urban watersheds and urban runoff.

The modeling tools will allow communities to more effectively plan urban stormwater best management practices to improve urban water quality. The GeoTREE Center will provide all developed tools freely and will also provide a free training session for users in Iowa and other states during the summer of 2013.



From left: Brian Swedberg, geographic information science major, and John DeGroot, GeoTREE director



Mark Grey, director of the New Iowans Center and professor of anthropology

New Iowans Center

The New Iowans Center is Iowa's leading center for research, training and consultation on the opportunities and challenges associated with the state's growing and diversifying immigrant and refugee populations.

The New Iowans Center provides training and consultation on a variety of topics related to demographic change in Iowa. These services include training on providing culturally responsive health care and social services, communication in multilingual environments for law enforcement and first responders, the efficient use of interpreters, and in-service training for educators.

Major projects in 2013 include ethnic and racial disparities in Iowa's child welfare system, early childhood initiatives for diverse and underserved populations, trauma-informed care for children in rural northwest Iowa, and training for law enforcement and first responders on communicating with non-English speaking clients. Many of these projects are undertaken in partnership with Michele Devlin, director of UNI's Center on Health Disparities.



Sabin Hall is a certified sustainable building.

The **Sabin Hall renovation project**, completed in 2011, was recently awarded Gold LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This third-party endorsement in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design verifies that the college's primary classroom building is a sustainable facility. Sabin is the first LEED-certified building on campus.

In May, **Golden Graduates of the Class of 1963** toured the building and received a brief overview from the dean of the college as part of their 50th anniversary return to campus.

Constitution Day was celebrated on campus September 17. Sponsored by the American Democracy Project, the event was carried out by Chad Christopher, CSBS's social science and history education advisor and field experience coordinator, and his students. Approximately 150 eighth-graders from a Waterloo middle school came to campus in order to learn more about the constitution. The agenda included small-group activities focused on the limitations of free speech, social media and the first amendment, voter registration, and writing a bill of rights for their school.

On April 1, **professor Gary Gute and students** in his capstone course *Creativity and the Evolution of Culture* hosted a videoconference, "The Role of Flow in a Life Well-Lived," with professors Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Jeanne Nakamura of Claremont Graduate University in California. Csikszentmihalyi's pioneering research on flow—a state of concentration or absorption with the activity at hand—has significantly shaped research and application in the study of creativity, learning, leisure, and positive psychology.

Deanne Gute, writing coordinator at UNI's Academic Learning Center, and Carol Tweten, graduate assistant at the center and in social psychology, have begun identifying faculty participants for research on flow-based learning strategies in UNI courses. Flow research allows researchers and educators to focus on the most fundamental practical question of higher education: How to improve the likelihood that students can experience the intense concentration and focus necessary for genuine learning, development of complex academic capacities, sense of self-control, and persistence toward meeting academic goals.

Constitution Day at UNI



The **gerontology major celebrated its 10-year anniversary** in November. The milestone was marked with a celebration and the screening of a documentary film about Alzheimer's disease. Attended by a crowd of about 130 students, faculty, and community members, the event also included the presentation of the first Adele Whitenack Davis Gerontology Service Award. Michelle Remold, who graduated this fall with a degree in gerontology, won the award for meritorious service to the gerontology program, the UNI campus, and the local community.



Michelle Remold with faculty advisor Elaine Eshbaugh



Alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students attended UNI Day at the Iowa statehouse in February. The purpose of the day was to promote UNI's state-wide value to the legislators.



Social Work's trauma-informed care training

Trainers from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provided **training on trauma-informed care** to students, community members, and faculty in April. Over 300 people attended the training, which places emphasis on service providers understanding how various trauma-inducing experiences affect individuals. The training was sponsored by the Department of Social Work, which also holds an annual fall colloquium that provides continuing education to professionals in the field.

The Geographic Alliance of Iowa (GAI) offered six professional development opportunities for K-12 educators in Iowa in the past year. This included co-hosting a new workshop, with UNI's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education and University of Iowa's Center for Human Rights, which focused on geographic aspects of conflict and human rights. The GAI continued its commitment to provide statewide professional development by holding two workshops outside our local area, one in south-central Iowa (Chariton) and one in northwest Iowa (Okoboji).



Geographic Alliance of Iowa workshop participants at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, an educational field station for Iowa's state universities.

As part of the GAI's continued collaboration with other organizations, it has begun a new partnership with the Mid-Iowa School Improvement Consortium (MISIC), which works closely with more than 150 mostly rural Iowa school districts. With the importance of both literacy and STEM, the GAI has begun new initiatives that integrate geography with these key areas. This includes a NASA-funded project in collaboration with UNI's Science Education that involves a team of science education and social science education students working together on a common project, and the GAI's role on a nationwide National Geographic taskforce that links geography with the new Common Core standards in English/language arts.

R. Allen Hays, director of the graduate program in public policy and professor of political science, is retiring after 34 years at UNI. Hays earned his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and his masters and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina. Raised on a farm outside Louisville, Kentucky, he taught for two years at two small colleges in Louisville before coming to UNI. In the early 1980s he helped design and implement UNI's

new undergraduate major in public administration—still one of just a handful of programs in the U.S. He also helped develop the curriculum for the Masters in Public Policy, now in its twentieth year. Since 1994 Hays has organized and conducted over 40 conferences on major public policy issues ranging from welfare reform to industrial ecology to immigration to drug policy. In addition to educating and involving faculty and students, these conferences have brought to campus hundreds of practitioners and concerned citizens from all over Iowa. Hays has authored several books, been awarded numerous grants, and received a number of teaching and research awards. He was a Fulbright fellow at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during the 2007-2008 year.



Al Hays

Hays's last conference, the summit "Understanding Poverty in Iowa and the U.S.," was held in April. He has been a strong advocate for the Waterloo area as well as an expert in housing and community policy.



Al Hays moderates his last conference as a UNI faculty member.

John Somervill, professor of psychology, is retiring after 38 years at UNI. Somervill earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and served his clinical internship at the Ohio State University Health Center. He was a faculty member at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, before joining UNI's Department of Psychology in 1975. While at UNI, Somervill served as the associate director of the gerontology center and dean of the graduate college until 2004, after which he returned to teaching. In 2010, Somervill won UNI's Diversity Matters Award for his exemplary and long history of work with minority and international students.

The **3rd Annual Women in Politics Scholarship** benefit dinner was held September 19 in the Commons Ballroom. The featured speaker for the evening was Kathie Obradovich, political editor of the *Des Moines Register*. In addition, former Lt. Gov. Joy Corning provided an update on 50/50 in 2020, a bi-partisan effort in the state of Iowa to assist women running for political office. Proceeds from the dinner went to the Women in Politics Scholarship, established by former state representative Doris Kelley. The winner of the scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year is Beth Sullivan, political science and public administration major from Peosta, Iowa.



Dean Bass and military science retirees

CSBS said farewell to **retiring and departing personnel from the Department of Military Science**. From left: lieutenant colonel Paul McNamara, who has served 21 years in the military and 5 at UNI; lieutenant colonel John Roadcap, department head, who has served 21 years in the military and 4 at UNI; Dean Bass; and master sergeant Ronnie Lary, who has served 27 years in the military and 3.5 at UNI.



Helen Harton, left, receives the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence from Provost Gibson.

Helen Harton, professor of psychology, is a recipient of a 2013 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. The award, given by the Iowa Board of Regents, recognizes excellence across the spectrum of teaching, scholarship, and service.

Of the four campus University Book and Supply Outstanding Untenured Teaching Awards announced recently, three are CSBS faculty: **Ruth Chanie-Hill**, sociology; **Elizabeth Lefler**, psychology; and **Emily Machen**, history. Other award-winning faculty include **Xavier Escandell**, sociology, who was given a campus Diversity Matters Award, and **Katherine van Wormer**, social work, who was given the Distinguished Scholar Award from the graduate college.



RUTH BLUFORD ANDERSON (1921-2013)

Professor Ruth Bluford Anderson founded the Department of Social Work at UNI in 1969. She also served as first department head and taught a variety social work classes until she retired in 1981. She died on January 22, 2013, after a long illness.

Born in Braden, Oklahoma, Anderson received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.A. from Columbia University. Anderson would later move to Waterloo, Iowa, and serve as a social worker for the Black Hawk County Department of Public Welfare in the 1960s. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1982 and in 1988 was the first African-American woman to serve on an Iowa county board of supervisors. She received many awards for her contributions, including a 2012 diversity lifetime achievement award from the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

To honor this remarkable woman, the Department of Social Work has established the Ruth Bluford Anderson Scholarship. The department is currently soliciting contributions for this scholarship fund, intended to benefit an undergraduate social work student of color from East Waterloo who plans to practice social work in the Cedar Valley. For more information or to contribute to the Ruth Bluford Anderson scholarship fund, please contact Nate Clapham, CSBS director of development, at (319) 273-5468 or nathan.clapham@uni.edu.



THOMAS G. RYAN (1925-2012)

Tom Ryan joined what was then the Social Science Department faculty at Iowa State Teachers College in 1960. Although born in Chicago he moved to Brooklyn, Iowa, with his family at age 11. Following high school graduation in 1943 Tom served in the U.S. Army during World War II. His undergraduate and graduate years were spent at the University of Iowa followed by one year on the University of Detroit faculty before moving to Cedar Falls.

Retired in December 1993, for more than three decades Tom taught Humanities, the United States History survey courses, Recent United States History, Blacks in American History, and the History of Iowa. The latter reflected his scholarly interest in and love for Iowa, its history, and especially its politics. At the beginning of each semester he asked students to fill out a card listing, among other items, their hometown and high school. He loved to tell them their sport mascot and the number (reflecting the county) then on vehicle license plates. He collected volumes of political and demographic data and utilized that information in historical publications and talks, KUNI public radio commentaries, as well as newspaper op-ed pieces.

Not only devoted to his students, Tom was also committed to social and racial justice. From 1968-1970 he served as the initial coordinator of what would be known as UNI's Minority Group Education Program, the first university-wide effort to increase campus diversity.

Tom died on November 20, 2012. Survived by his wife Jane, five children, ten grandchildren, and two brothers, he was buried with full military honors and a mass conducted by his brother Rev. Philip Ryan. Tom will long be remembered by students, university faculty and staff colleagues, and those of us who will always miss "my dear friend Tom".

courtesy of David Walker, professor emeritus of history

Student Updates

Carrie Eilderts, a graduating senior in history, recently served as an intern with the Cedar Falls Historical Society. As part of her duties, she completed an exhibit for the Behrens-Rapp Filling Station, the small museum in Sturgis Park that serves as a visitors center. She also completed an internship at the Parkersburg Historical Society in her hometown—giving tours of its Historical Home on Sundays, arranging displays, and inventorying collections. Though she graduates in May, Eilderts will stay at UNI to pursue a master's degree in public history. She has also been an SBS scholar in her time at UNI.



Carrie Eilderts and her history exhibit at Cedar Falls's Behrens-Rapp Filling Station



Brian Swedberg works on soldering circuitry as part of the INSPIRE Program

Brian Swedberg, a graduating geographic information science (GIS) major from Marion, Iowa, has received a prestigious internship at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in Washington, D.C., this summer. During his academic career he chose to deploy to Afghanistan in 2010-2011 with the 1-133rd Iowa Army National Guard as a scout in a reconnaissance platoon. His experiences from Operation Enduring Freedom serve as his motivation to pursue GIS topics in national security and defense. Swedberg was a NASA-Iowa Space Grant Consortium Scholar for the Iowa Near-Space Project Integrating Research and Education (INSPIRE) project during 2012-2013. Within INSPIRE, he developed a desktop application program allowing high altitude balloon data to be processed and easily viewed in Google Earth. According to Swedberg, the programming experience he gained from INSPIRE will be extraordinarily useful in his future pursuits. Following his internship, Swedberg will begin a graduate degree program in geography at Penn State University where he will study GIS and programming with a focus on applications in national security.

Members of the Student Social Work Association traveled to Des Moines in February to advocate for the passage of a dating violence bill. The bill would give dating victims the same protections as those suffering from domestic abuse. Only individuals married to, living with, or sharing a child with their abuser are currently protected by domestic abuse laws—which may leave college students unprotected. Those advocating for the introduction of the bill include **Kaydee Vraspier** (*far right*), president of SSWA, and State Representative Marti Anderson (*center*), who graduated from the first UNI social work cohort. Also present was **Elizabeth Martin** (*fifth from left*), secretary of SSWA. A senior from Urbandale interested in the issue of domestic violence, Martin worked with the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence to help organize this event.



The Student Social Work Association at the statehouse

Alyssa Kielly Plunkett, a family services student originally from Baxter, headed a project that recently won second place nationally among chapters of Phi Upsilon Omicron, a national honor society. Beta Nu chapter in the School of Applied Human Sciences chose to focus their annual project on the Blue Zones initiative, a national movement aimed at incorporating all aspects of a community to make it a healthier environment for its citizens. The students worked extensively with the Cedar Falls Blue Zones team to make UNI a healthier place, assisting at Blue Zones events and promoting the initiative. By partnering with the local community, they were able to contribute towards the larger efforts to improve the well-being of residents within Iowa.

CSBS has announced the inaugural members of the Social and Behavioral Representatives (SABRs) student group, who will serve as ambassadors of the college in the 2013-2014 academic year. *From left:*

- Kaydee Vraspier**, Social Work, from Iowa City
- Emily Sorenson**, Family Services, from Decorah
- Sam Horsch**, Political Communication and Public Administration, from Waukee
- Micah Webb**, Psychology, from Plainfield
- Kara Poppe**, Geography, from Davenport
- Mollie Ullestad**, Social Science Education, from Jewell
- Raechel Breyer**, Sociology, from Cedar Falls
- Elijah Seay**, Psychology, from Keokuk
- Sarah Jentz**, History, from LeMars
- Dylan Keller**, History and Political Communication, from Donnellson (*not pictured*)

Jeremiah Moffitt, a senior in anthropology, presented his original research at the 20th annual CSBS Student Research Conference. He studied how story-driven video games have a community forming effect and impart moral messages on the gamers who play them.



Jeremiah Moffitt

Other student research at this signature conference:

- Kendra Pospisil**, sociology, studied teens, identity, and cell phone use while driving
- Cody Schmidt**, political science and public administration, researched industrial democracy as a means for political and economic security
- Andrew Gruis**, anthropology, studied a large congregation church in a small Iowa city
- Sean Buchsbaum** and **Sarah Wood**, psychology, researched work/family balance and the moderating role of coping strategies

Libby Hurder, a junior interior design student from Freeport, Ill., has won first place in the 2013 Durkan D*discover Design Competition. As part of her top national prize for designing a printed carpet for the hospitality industry, she will travel to Las Vegas to accept the award. Congratulations also to **MaTrasa Phillips**, a sophomore student from Ida Grove, for winning third place.

The 2013-2014 Social and Behavioral Representatives (SABRs)



Alumni Updates

Philip Jones (Public Administration '06) has been named the new city manager in Waverly, Iowa. After graduating from UNI, he earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, in 2008.

Cheyenne (Cuddeback) Miller (History '04) has published a book that tells the stories of WWII veterans. Over the course of three years, she and her father, Larry, interviewed over 110 veterans in southeast Iowa. Those interviews, along with Miller's photographs, resulted in *We Lucky Few: Portraits of Courage & Sacrifice from SE Iowa*.



Father-and-daughter authors Larry Cuddeback and Cheyenne Miller

Miller lives in rural Washington County with her husband, Andy, and two young daughters. She works for Premier Sheep Supplies, where she is involved in product development. It is through this work that she has been able to lead international agricultural tours to Ireland and France, which gave her the opportunity to visit the historic beaches of Normandy and the American Cemetery there. Miller says, "Normandy changed me—and I returned home even more determined to publish the voice of SE Iowa's WWII veterans."

Jessie (Engleman) Brigham (Textiles & Apparel '03) is the manager of quality assurance and compliance at the clothing company Aéropostale in New York City. She previously had been an assistant manager of product integrity for Kohl's and both an assistant product developer and an associate buyer for Spiegel Catalog.

Kathryn (Radel) Woerner (History Teaching BA '00, Social Science MA '09) was selected to receive the 2012 Excellence in Education Award from the Iowa State Education Association. She is a junior high social studies teacher at Vernon Middle School in Marion.

Tim Navara (Social Science '88) is the high school principal and activities director with Treynor school district in southwest Iowa.

Dennis Pfrimmer (Social Work '76) is a social worker with Capital Area Counseling Service in Pierre, South Dakota. He received the 2012 Social Worker of the Year award presented by the state's chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Cheyenne Miller (below) was particularly moved by the grave of a Washington County soldier in the American Cemetery that overlooks Omaha Beach. According to his family, he never made it ashore on 6 June 1944.



Stefani Petrakis Weber (History BA, Counseling MA '76) has been a school counselor for 28 years—8 at the high school level and 20 at the elementary. She is currently employed by the Dubuque Community Schools and is also an adjunct instructor at Northeast Iowa Community College, where she's taught psychology courses for 18 years. She just published her second book, *Children's Storybook Guidance*. Weber has two children and two grandchildren, and she enjoys biking, gardening, and tennis.

Patrick Devine (Sociology '75) and **Donna (White) Devine** (Health Education '76) left their respective positions of employment last summer. Pat left his job with a metro probation department in Kansas City and Donna as a social work practicum instructor at University of Kansas. In July they headed to the Philippines in order to begin a 27-month tour of service as volunteers with the Peace Corps.

Ray Johnson (Social Science '69) retired in January 2012 from Belmond community schools in north central Iowa. He had served 43 years as a school counselor, taking two years (1971-73) to serve in the U.S. Army.

Nancy (Poeltler) Fulton (Social Science '68) has worked with her husband, Dr. Michael Fulton, in their Daytona Beach, Florida, orthopaedic office for the past 34 years. Married 43 years, they have two sons: Chris, the office's business manager, and Brent, a family practice and sports medicine physician. The Fultons have five grandchildren, operate two active health clubs, and return to Iowa each spring for mushrooming season and each fall for football season. Fulton writes, "Even though we have lived here 34+ years, Iowa is still home."

Richard Faber (Social Studies MA '59) is a writer as well as a retired teacher, government official, and Air Force officer. One of his co-authored books, *The American Presidents Ranked by Performance, 1789-2012*, is now in its second edition. He lives in Des Moines.

Chuck Novotny (MA '56) has been retired from education for 25 years. He was employed by Downers Grove South High School in Illinois, where he also served as the first athletic director in 1966, began their soccer program, and coached the sport until 1985. While at ISTC, he participated in both track and football and served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 55. Married 53 years, he has three children and seven grandchildren.

Kenneth Severson (Social Science '51) was a teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools for 41 years, serving schools in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Before attending college, he was a member of the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948. Severson and 64 fellow residents of the Wake Robin retirement community in Shelburne, Vermont, have published an anthology of their experiences in WWII. *Our Great War* includes his experience of attending the Japanese war crimes trial in Tokyo on August 27, 1947.

Please complete and submit the form on the enclosed envelope if you would like to be included in next year's CSBS Statements.

As this is an annual publication, information in the Alumni Updates may have been submitted up to a year ago. Try as we might to be accurate, we apologize if any information is incorrect or outdated.

Brendan O'Brien (Psychology '91) is a research fellow at the National Vision Research Institute and Department of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Originally from Cedar Rapids, he came to UNI intending to be a music major. But taking the *Introduction to Psychology* course as part of the general education requirement fired his imagination.

After graduating with honors from UNI—and receiving the department's Purple and Old Gold award—O'Brien continued his education, ultimately earning a Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1997.

The research he now carries out in his laboratory is designed to help return sight to the blind. In 2009 the Australian Government committed \$42 million to help build a bionic eye. Since 2010, O'Brien has been part of that project, and his team has made great strides in testing the new diamond electrodes that soon will be implanted in patients. "I really enjoy being on the cutting edge of science," he says, "especially the translational component. Knowing that the data we get today is going to help a patient see in the near future is pretty cool."

The excitement in the lab recalls his initial interest in psychology as a student. "I think perhaps the most exciting moment was the time Dr. Linda Walsh taught me how to do a brain lesion in order to study food intake in rats. It was the first time I was able to spend some real one-on-one time with a staff member. As I later learned as a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington and a postdoc at Brown University, this is very unusual for an undergraduate student at a large university. To this day, I feel that the staff at UNI truly do care about their students and their learning. Ultimately, while it is always the responsibility of the student to step up to the challenges set by university education, it is with great teachers that they find the inspiration to do so. UNI is endowed with staff whose passion is training the next generation to think and achieve."



Linda Walsh, associate professor of psychology, presents Brendan O'Brien with his distinguished visitor certificate. O'Brien visited campus in April and spoke to the psychology club about his experiences with a lecture entitled "Gone Walkabout: How I made it from UNI Psych to building a Bionic Eye."

319 Sabin Hall
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0403

The annual CSBS Student Research Conference was held in April. For the 20th year, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided its students—and those from other regional institutions—the opportunity to present original research, exchange ideas, and learn more about the social and behavioral sciences.

CSBS students presenting at the conference included psychology masters students (*from left*) Brittany Lewno, Amber Schramm, Montgomery Lyons, Gina Sacchetti, and Carol Tweten. This group's research projects centered on behavior while driving vehicles—including driving behaviors among drivers with ADHD, urban versus rural driving behavior, driving anger among commuters, and the effects of music on driving behaviors.

