



2025

Emeritus Newsletter

UNI

University of Northern Iowa
Emeritus Association

The page features a decorative background of white flowers with yellow centers, likely cherry blossoms, set against a blurred outdoor scene. A solid yellow horizontal bar is positioned above the main text area.

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From your current UNIEA chair

JUDITH F. HARRINGTON, UNIEA CHAIR

Professor Emerita, Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders

GREETINGS TO ALL EMERITI, INCLUDING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS! ONE CERTAINTY: OUR association remains viable because newer emeriti are beginning to step up into leadership roles, as well as the continuing endeavors of long-time members.

Our annual programming remains two events each semester. Reviewing our programs since our last newsletter: We faced a challenge in our February 2024 event. Because weather is so unpredictable in our part of the world each February, we decided to think outside the box and offered the program both in-person and on Zoom. Our concept was to permit emeriti from wherever your location to join us if you had access to Zoom. We selected then-newly retired emerita Bettina Fabos, who spoke about her ongoing project *Picturing the Past: Preserving UNI and Iowa's*

Photographic Heritage. While the program was most interesting to those who attended in-person, unfortunately there was no tech staff available. Hence, the broadcasting on Zoom didn't work out for the most part.

In late April 2024, President Nook returned at his request to visit with local emeriti for the second year. He provided ample time for feedback and was candid in his replies, which was appreciated by us particularly since this had been a difficult year for UNI with new state mandates and financial squeezing.

In September, our guest speaker was Hillery Oberle, Assistant Vice President for Strategy, Communications and Campaigns in the UNI Foundation. She informed us how UNI is preparing for its sesquicentennial



celebration, commemorating 150 years since its founding. Starting this year and culminating in 2026, UNI's legacy and dedication to students will be honored, while celebrating the past, present and future. A few emeriti already have joined in the planning! You will find their names in the article about UNIEA's officers, committees, and support. I have recently learned from Hillery that there will be additional opportunities for involvement by emeriti starting this spring and when the 150th activities launch next fall. Anyone interested or seeking more info can email her at 150celebration@uni.edu. Further, the 150.uni.edu website will receive more updates starting this spring. Finally, the spring 2025 UNI Magazine will have a sesquicentennial preview with prompts for alumni and friends.

Our annual luncheon, co-sponsored again by the UNI Foundation/Alumni Relations and Western Home Communities (WHC) Foundation was held in December 2024 at WHC Diamond Center, named for UNI emeriti Saul and Joan Diamond. We had 55 emeriti and guests in attendance. February's event brought new experiences for local emeriti. We met for the first time in the McLeod Center Alumni Suite, and

our speaker was Dr. Megan Franklin, who became UNI's Athletic Director in this past May having served over a decade as Senior Associate Athletics Director & Strategic Initiatives and External Operations/Senior Woman Administrator at Drake University. The timing of her presentation was fortuitous, as UNI had named Todd Stepsis as UNI's latest football head coach in early December following Coach Farley's resignation at the conclusion of the 2024 football season after 24 seasons as UNI's head coach.

President Nook's interest in our association remains strong. At his request and our pleasure, we have scheduled him to return yet again this coming April.

In closing, our deep appreciation to the UNI Alumni Association & Foundation, which enables our essential programming and clerical support to be provided by its secretary, Tammra Chambers, who also serves as our webmaster.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy New Year,

Judith F. Harrington



A note from

UNI PRESIDENT MARK A. NOOK

AS 2024 COMES TO A CLOSE AND WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY INTO 2025, I HAVE BEEN REFLECTING on what has happened this past year and some of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for 2025.

The past year has been both exciting and challenging for UNI. Enrollment grew by nearly 3%, the largest percentage growth in more than three decades. New bachelor degree programs in Nursing and Material Science Engineering and a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies were launched. Extensive renovations created state-of-the-art laboratory spaces for nursing, applied engineering and construction management. The expansion and renovation of the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center has been very visible to all traveling down University Avenue,

and a grand opening of the Marquee Lounge is just around the corner. This past summer a member of our UNI swimming team competed in the Paralympics in Paris and brought home 6 medals, including a gold. In the past year, UNI has clearly lived out its purpose “... to enrich lives, communities and the world through our students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

As we look to the year ahead, enrollment continues to be a challenge and an opportunity. The enrollment increases of the past two years indicate that the new academic programs, new recruitment initiatives, outreach to serve new student populations and competitive tuition are making a difference in our ability to positively impact enrollment. We need to continue those efforts and continue to look for new

markets and better ways to recruit students.

One of UNI's legislative requests for the coming session would allow UNI to help address Iowa's biggest economic challenge and at the same time grow enrollment. The most significant economic challenge facing Iowa continues to be that there aren't enough people available to take the jobs here in our state. UNI is uniquely positioned to help solve this problem. UNI has capacity to grow and nearly 50% of students who come to UNI from outside of Iowa stay in the state after graduation. In essence, by bringing students to UNI to get an education, UNI recruits talented and educated workers for Iowa's economy. This year UNI is requesting \$3M to support offering resident tuition to students from states that border Iowa, and the governor has included this in her state budget proposal. The data indicates that if UNI set tuition for students from surrounding states at the same rate as in-state tuition, enrollment should grow

by 1,300 to 2,300 students over the next four years. More importantly for the state of Iowa, each year there would be 150 to 300 additional workers with bachelor's degrees starting their careers here in Iowa.

It is hard for Cheryl and me to believe that it has been eight years since we moved to Cedar Falls and became members of the University of Northern Iowa family. You and so many current and former employees welcomed us so warmly and adopted us as a member so quickly that we can't imagine being anywhere else. The impact that you made on UNI while you were here created the commitment to excellence that continues to permeate our campus. Thank you for your stewardship of the spirit of community and commitment to excellence that is the hallmark of the University of Northern Iowa.

Panther Proud,
Mark A. Nook





The pace of change is shifting the educational landscape in many ways

JOSE HERRERA, Ph.D., PROVOST

GREETINGS FROM THE HILL! OVER MY 30-YEAR ACADEMIC CAREER, THE EDUCATIONAL landscape of colleges and universities has grown increasingly complex and difficult to predict. Since becoming an administrator some 15 years ago, the pace of change, disruption and challenge has only quickened and become more persistent. When I took my first full-time job as an assistant professor of biology, I was one of only a handful of faculty who were stumbling through using a new digital tool called PowerPoint. Most faculty were earnestly using chalkboards, acetate sheets or mimeographed handouts (I can still smell the alcohol).

Flash forward 10 years and nearly all the faculty were using PowerPoint to deliver information and lectures. In a span of 10 years, a quarter of the faculty had turned over, and more importantly, nearly all the remaining faculty had jumped on PowerPoint to help them deliver a conceptual understanding of their discipline. You may argue that the technology was unneeded, distracted students from learning or complicated our lives, but the students, at the time as they are now, were expecting their experiences to be embellished with learning tools they were regularly using themselves. Flash forward a few more years and the tools are now more diverse and sophisticated, more available, and more ethically complicated.

Over the past two years, I've asked several folks on campus to develop guidance and strategy for our latest technological mixed blessing: artificial intelligence (AI). We have had to adapt and respond quickly. Consider this: since being patented in 1876, the telephone achieved 100 million users in about 75 years; it took the television some 38 years to achieve 100 million users, the internet eight years, Facebook, five years, and an astonishing two months for ChatGPT to reach the same milestone. The amazing pace of change will challenge us to continue to meet the different and diverse needs of our students in the 21st century.

I've warned our Online and Distance Education (ODE) Office that I fully expect that within 20 years (maybe sooner), asynchronous online learning experiences within colleges will not exist as we know them — students will not pay for these experiences. Even now, and arguably, students may be willing to pay for the credential — not the online experience. So, I have asked folks in our ODE Office to prepare for a future where students will not pay for such experiences unless there is a certain level of engagement. Paradoxically, I suspect that 20 years from now, students will pay for learning experiences that are engaged, experiential and active. I say paradoxically because many of the engaged, experiential and active disciplines like music, theatre and some of the sciences are all of those things and yet are currently under enrollment threats.

The experiences and activities of UNI of the future will be — perhaps — unrecognizable, and yet feel comfortingly similar. That is, at its core, UNI will have to re-focus on what has always been important: the human relationship between the student and the instructor. What students will yearn for, parents will demand and employers will seek are experiences that are AI-proof and can serve as a proxy to indicate that future employees can work well with other humans. It will be these humanistic experiences that our community, our state, our country and parents will be willing to pay for.

These next few years will help us undergo a transformative, soul-searching journey by re-challenging us with some important, mission-critical questions: “Who are we?”, “Who do we serve?”, “How do we serve?” and as the president has pointed out to us, “Why do we serve?” And, of more recent importance, “How do we provide this service while remaining solvent?” Stay tuned for updates on a variety of fronts, and in the meantime, I hope that you will continue cheering us on to help us become an institution that our students and our communities need.

Go Panthers!

Jose Herrera



A message from

JIM JERMIER

VP for UNI Advancement & President of the UNI Foundation

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WARM WISHES FOR A JOYFUL AND FULFILLING YEAR AHEAD. As the calendar flips to 2025, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our university community. Your dedication and contributions have been instrumental in shaping the legacy of our institution, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

I am happy to again share with you a progress report on the success of the *Our Tomorrow* campaign. Thanks to your generosity and the collective efforts of our community, we have made significant strides toward our fundraising goals. As you know, we raised the goal to \$300 million and as of January 13, have raised \$291 million. We continue to be impressed and humbled by the number of unique and first-time donors to this campaign. We currently have

30,474 unique donors to the *Our Tomorrow* campaign and 43% of donors are first-time donors. Additionally, we set an ambitious goal for faculty and staff participation and have also surpassed that goal! Over 1,500 faculty, staff and emeriti have contributed. I mentioned this in a prior newsletter, but feel it's worth repeating — **this is the strongest faculty, staff, and emeritus participation in the history of comprehensive campaigns at the University of Northern Iowa.**

A few noteworthy *Our Tomorrow* announcements: over \$80 million has been raised in scholarship support with 483 *new* scholarship funds created; the nursing program welcomed its first class of students this fall; the GBPAC Marquee Lounge will open in the spring; the Campanile Carillon & Plaza dedication event will be held in October 2025; and phase 1



of the UNI-Dome renovation project is complete.

Thank you. Your support makes a tangible impact and provides our students with the resources they need to excel and innovate.

We are also excited to announce that the university's sesquicentennial planning is well underway. Starting in 2025 and culminating in 2026, we will honor our 150-year legacy and dedication to students while celebrating the past, present and future. This milestone reaches beyond the boundaries of our campus, reflecting UNI's commitment to preparing tomorrow's leaders and innovating programs that meet the needs of Iowa, the nation and the world. We will celebrate throughout the academic year with a series of special events and activities, and we hope you will join us and take pride in the legacy you have helped build. More information on the sesquicentennial can be found at 150.uni.edu.

Your involvement is invaluable, whether through donations, volunteering or simply sharing our mission with others. Together, we can ensure that our university remains a beacon of excellence and opportunity for generations to come.

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy 2025!

With gratitude,

Jim Jermier

Our Tomorrow

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNI

Current Statistics as of March 2025

\$292M+

DOLLARS RAISED TOWARD
\$300M CAMPAIGN GOAL

30,650+

UNIQUE DONORS

\$93M+

DOLLARS RAISED FOR
SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

\$97M+

DOLLARS RAISED FOR
PROGRAM SUPPORT



#LivePurpleGiveGold, UNI's annual day of giving, is **Thursday, April 10**. Make your gift early to support your favorite area of campus and boost our momentum toward 1,876 donors at dayofgiving.uni.edu.



Updates from emeriti

PHYLLIS BAKER

In the summer of 2015 I retired from UNI and took a position at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I held a variety of positions there and the last full-time position was as the director of academic affairs for the Discovery Partners Institute (part of the University of Illinois System). I retired again in April 2022. Two weeks after my last day, I walked the Camino de Santiago (the French Way, about 500 miles). Not long after that, I took a part-time job at the Institute for Government and Public Affairs (University of Illinois System) and then a consulting gig outside the university. I finally fully stopped paid work October 2024.

During December 2024 my husband, Kevin Leicht, and I moved to Iowa City where we plan to stay. We are living in a condo and thoroughly enjoying retirement. One of our children lives nearby (yay) and the other three are in Washington, D.C., Nashville and Lincoln, Nebraska.

ROY R. BEHRENS

Emeritus Professor of Art and Distinguished Scholar

It's been an eventful year. I haven't traveled, but I have continued to teach. I retired from UNI in 2018, but for the past four years I have taught one online course each semester as part of Drake University's lifelong learning curriculum, which I really enjoy.

During 2024, I also continued various research efforts. Among them, I worked with Barbara Lounsberry on producing a traveling exhibition about the life and work of Iowa novelist Ruth Suckow (I designed the panels, the brochure, and the shipping crate). It was a lot of work, but totally enjoyable and so successful (thanks to Barbara) that it has continued to circulate nonstop to Iowa libraries since the day it was finished.

I also volunteered to design the wall-sized title panel for the 2024 Elena Diane Curris Biennial Design Exhibition, which took place in October-November at the UNI Gallery of Art. What an amazing exhibit it was, highlighting the current work of four professional designers who are UNI graphic design alumni.



I have also continued to write, and, during 2024 alone, seven of my latest essays were published in such magazines as *The Iowa Source* and *Iowa History Journal*. Over many years, I've written a considerable number of articles on little-known aspects of Iowa history, so in recent months I put together a book of 25 of those. Titled *Dreams of Fields: Memory Traces of Iowa's Past*, it has been accepted for publication and will come out this fall. It begins with an account of the visit to UNI by Surrealist artist Salvador Dali in 1952.

I enjoy contributing, whenever I can, to the exhibition graphics at the Hearst Center for the Arts while also giving occasional talks. I continue to produce online YouTube video talks (@camoupedia), eighteen of which I've made so far. I maintain two blogspots (Camoupedia, and *The Poetry of Sight*), and have recently designed commemorative websites about artists John Page and Everett Longley Warner. Throughout the year, I worked with Ellen Neuhaus at the UNI Rod Library on contributing to the postings on UNI ScholarWorks, where many of my video talks and publications can be accessed.

LYNN BRANT

After teaching at UNI for 25 years I retired in 2007 (almost 18 years ago). I still visit the campus nearly every day. Since retirement I have published a number of papers. In fact, I may get a couple credited to me

this year, one of which is the description of a new species of diatoms. I've also published a book of essays and continue to do a bit of art. I've been in a number of exhibits, sometimes as the main artist. I'm hoping this year will see a new piece hanging on the wall in a public space. I also give talks and have been invited to give talks in UNI classes, most recently in late 2024.

I am very thankful for my health, friendships and enough money to do some traveling (both domestic and foreign). This past year I traveled to Pennsylvania, Mobile, Alabama and San Francisco — and to Ohio via Michigan to see the solar eclipse in April. Retirement has been good, and I'm grateful. Here's hoping the same for you all.

DAVID BUCH

I am a consultant and writer for a performance and new recording of Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, incorporating the Viennese performing materials I rediscovered in 1999. Martin Wåhlberg will conduct the Okester Nord in Oslo, Norway. The recording and booklet will be issued on the French label Aparté.

My article in Spanish, "Observaciones sobre arrastres ligados, mordentes y mariposas," will appear in the *Journal Roseta, Revista de la Sociedad Española de la Guitarra* 19-20 (2024-2025).



I have been invited to give a presentation at the Symposium on Music, Sound and Antisemitism scheduled for May 28-29 and June 3-4, 2025 in New York.

I continued serving on the doctoral committee of José Luis Maldonado, a candidate in musicology at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

SCOTT CAWELTI

Angeleita Floyd and I live in Charleston, South Carolina for the winter and Cedar Falls from July through October. This year, we left Cedar Falls late and came to Charleston in January just in time for snow and “bitter” cold — meaning 20s and 30s — but temperatures do rise quickly into the 50s. Still enough snow to bring Charleston to a dead stop for three days. No salt, very few plows and dangerous overnight freezing. Still, we prefer the (mostly) winter-free climate of Charleston.

Angeleita has been busy finishing her revision of *THE GILBERT LEGACY*, her flute pedagogy book based on Geoffrey Gilbert’s teaching and performing. It’s an extremely popular book with flute teachers and students. She has added an extensive section on Gilbert’s life and times as the first flutist of major British symphonies during and after WWII. She’s working diligently to get it right and will be done soon.

I no longer write, teach or play music, but have been creating pencil portraits now since COVID shut us down in 2020. In fact, I will have a gallery showing of twenty graphite portraits of Native American leaders at the Ragged Edge Gallery in Cedar Falls in September into October. I’m looking forward to framing the portraits and writing their stories for this exhibition.

DAVID DUNCAN

This year I learned that growing older can include some unwelcome events. Last spring I tripped on a sidewalk and fractured my upper left arm into several pieces. This necessitated a shoulder replacement surgery followed by a long period of recovery and a considerable amount of physical therapy. What I had not expected was that my balance and my confidence in that balance were also severely compromised by that incident. But I am happy that now I seem to be regaining both balance and shoulder function, nine months after the incident. I am grateful for good medical care in Cedar Falls throughout the process. I am also impressed by the multitude of strangers who open doors for me and offer other assistance when they see me using a cane. I must confess that before my mishap I was largely oblivious to others who were experiencing mobility issues; I have now learned a belated lesson in empathy and helpfulness. Best wishes to all of you; stay healthy!



KATHLEEN GREEN

I retired from UNI as director of university health services in 2014 and have since become positively addicted to international adventure travel. A group of us enjoy hiking, climbing and backpacking hut to hut through beautiful mountainous country. In the last ten years, I've hiked the Inca Trail to Peru, around Mt. Blanc in Switzerland/Italy/France, the Italian Dolomites, the French Pyrenees, Mount Olympus and other areas of Greece, the Tatras Mountains of Slovakia, Iceland, the national parks of southern Spain and more.

Next November I'll be trekking hut to hut in the glacier region of southern Patagonia. Every adventure is glorious! I keep in shape at home by running, cycling, hiking and rock climbing (at UNI and outdoors around northeast Iowa). Life is GOOD!



Kathleen hiking at Mt. Olympus and Via Ferrata Parnitha National Park

HANS ISAKSON

My update is that my wife of some 60 years and the love of my life passed away on 12/17/24. Her Celebration of Life was on 2/6/25 at the First United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls. It has been a tough time for me. I am just now coming out of the fog of grief.

JIM & DORI JURGENSON

In mid-January we spent two weeks in Winter Haven, Florida staying with Jim's sister Becky and brother Ron. We also visited childhood and college friends who have moved there.

February and March were both warm here. Our daughter Ashlea visited for a few days and brought her skis up, but with temps in the 50s and 60s, there was no chance of skiing. It never felt like winter!

In April we traveled to southern Indiana to view the solar eclipse on the 8th. We stayed in the town of Sullivan and toured a nice park there. The area was quiet and our motel off a short bypass. It had a nice open space out back for viewing. The weather cooperated, and we had an interesting experience and good pictures! The day after the event, we decided to go west to Springfield, Illinois to tour Lincoln's home and museum. It's a very interesting state with national displays.



At the end of April, Jim participated in the Metropolitan Chorale concert presenting the ambitious Brahms Requiem after many months of rehearsals. Shortly after that, we drove to Lawrence, Kansas for Ashlea's graduation from pharmacy school. She had already lined up a retail job in a town an hour or so south of Lawrence and began working there immediately. Once we were home again, we went on our annual fishing trip to northern Minnesota at the end of May. It was pleasant as usual with good weather and so-so fishing. Then, we were off to Vermont for Dori's 60th college reunion at Middlebury. Numbers dwindled down, but it was fun to see a few old friends. We headed to Cape Cod, opened Dori's family house there and had a busy three weeks. Besides some painting in the kitchen and bathroom, we welcomed old friends from Pennsylvania and later Jim's sister Becky and husband Jody.

In July, Jim took the boat to Canada to fish with college friends Clark and Gary at Clark's place in Nestor Falls, Ontario on Lake of the Woods. He spent a week there, then some time at home. We were home most of July, but in early August we took the boat out to Colorado to visit our son Eric and family. We towed people through the water on a pull-behind chair in Horse Tooth Reservoir, and the next day we all went fishing there.

The last week in August we spent fishing at Miles Bay Camp in Lake of the Woods and caught some good walleyes for the freezer! Then we were off for a month on a long travel adventure to Peru and Ecuador. The first stop was Lima, then Machu Picchu, where we got

two chances to see the ruins on successive days and heard great history lessons from the guides. Next, we went to Quito, Ecuador. We took a short plane trip to Coca and spent three days in the rainforest, exploring the natural area. We also spent one day visiting a school and having an extraordinary lunch with a local family. Next, we flew to Galapagos and spent a week on a small ship visiting different areas in amazing islands. Our group had only 12 people, so we had great walks seeing wildlife in each area. We did some snorkeling and spent one day swimming with five or six sea turtles, always with wonderful tropical fish. We saw penguins, blue-footed booby birds, frigate birds, sea lions, marine iguanas and whales several times. We spent the last day on one island with a rainforest environment at the summit and a large reserve for the huge land tortoises that are a signature of the park.

Back to Quito, where the main trip ended and most of the group left, we took a short post-trip extension which included a bus trip on the Pan-American Highway through the Avenue of the Volcanoes. We had a number of fascinating stops at points of interest, then three days in Cuenca, a beautiful and interesting old city. Finally, we were back to Quito and home in early October. We went with Overseas Adventure Travel, which had wonderful, knowledgeable guides and great organization. There was so much to see and do — still processing!

The rest of the year was quieter. Family from Colorado came for Christmas. Eric has a son and two daughters, who are our only grandchildren. The 800-mile distance makes it hard to get to see them often.



We're off to Australia and New Zealand in March!

MARIAN KROGMANN

I have enjoyed almost 30 years of retirement, including travels to about 15 countries and also exploring and enjoying southeastern Utah by hiking and 4WD. I have been thankful for good health and TIAA-CREF.

After retiring in 1995, I moved to the Grand Valley in Colorado. I lived in Fruita until a few years ago, when I moved to an assisted living facility in Grand Junction. An active newcomers group in the Valley made it easy to find others who became good friends.

In addition to travels in the usual Western European countries, I enjoyed Elderhostels and other travel groups in Cuba (twice), Uzbekistan (right after the breakup of the USSR), Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt (a cruise on the Nile and Aswan), Jordan, China, Malta, Turkey, Jordan, Iceland, Australia, the Northwest Territories and Yellowknife, two trips to Russia (the Trans-Siberian Railway and the Ring Cities, Moscow and Leningrad) and the Baja in Mexico. I also enjoyed three trips down the Colorado River through the

Grand Canyon, the Ohio and lower Mississippi and the Columbia River. Some people drop names; I drop places!

I also continue to do a lot of reading. I have discovered that a Nook and other readers are easier on the eyes than regular books.

I declined an offer to teach a course at the local college.

GENE LUTZ

I'm now in my eleventh year of retirement from UNI, and it's somewhat surprising that this much time has passed already. As many others experience it, the first year or so required the most adjustment but soon a new pattern of semi-structured life emerged. It has consisted of the usual mix of personal health challenges, family changes, reading on topics far beyond my career's boundary, travel and projects. We have family and friends both in the US and abroad to visit and to keep in touch with.

For the most recent years we have made our lives abroad simpler by acquiring an apartment in Denmark,



where my wife (a Danish citizen) spends at least half of each year, and I am there for shorter periods. From there, it is convenient to do long trips, such as our recent river voyage on the Danube, and earlier a few days in Oslo, another time in Berlin and another time a visit to friends in southern Austria. We also take day adventures into various areas of greater Copenhagen, elsewhere in Denmark or over to southern Sweden. Our local town of Roskilde has a seemingly endless number of spots for an afternoon jaunt including the harbor, the Viking ship museum, cafés, an old bakery, a cathedral and an artist's shop, as examples.

But whether in Denmark or Iowa, there is precious time with family, friends and colleagues, the latter including our weekly cathartic gatherings at Gilmore's Café in Cedar Falls to discuss politics, education, books and whatever strikes our fancy at the time. Overall, it is a good retirement experience.

JEAN MCDONALD

In mid-December, I took a break from the learning curve of retirement and traveled to New York City with my husband, School of Music faculty member Jeffrey Brich, to hear two former students in a glorious production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* by Richard Strauss. Megan Grey (contralto, Stratagem Artists) and Leia Lensing (mezzo-soprano, Sempre Artists) filled the iconic space with their familiar — now seasoned — voices. It was a thrill. In our free time we enjoyed spending time with Megan and Leia, catching up and enjoying lots of good food. Our trip was made

even more memorable by a short, sweet reunion with alumnus Joel Waggoner (UNI, NYU), who slayed us with his inimitable comedic timing and hilariously irreverent improvisations in the off-broadway production *Titanique*.

Amidst the weight and turmoil of our world, this whirlwind trip was indescribably uplifting. On any normal day in retirement, however, I can honestly say that I am uplifted by gratitude for all of my students. They challenged me, they taught me, they changed me, and then . . . I graduated!

Cheers!

PAUL RIDER

I continue to play music with various groups and remain active in planning for and performing in the Cedar Basin Music Festival that occurs the last weekend in June. As a 38-year member of the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, I have composed three marches that the band has premiered in our summer concerts.

I represent emeritus faculty on the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee as well as on the Eller Scholarship Committee that awards scholarships to UNI students for study abroad. As a former city official, I am a member of an emeritus group of city council members who serve to assist current officials if needed for local events and consultation.



I recently had knee replacements that have allowed me to continue playing noon basketball at the WRC with other faculty and students. At age 84, they go easy on me, which I appreciate.

I remain active in the Cedar Falls Supper Club and have been a member for the past 51 years.

MICHELLE HYDE SWANSON

My first year of retirement has been tremendously rewarding. It is wonderful to wake up every morning and simply do the things you choose to do! The first thing I did was join three different Bible studies — because I could! I’m enjoying my freedom. I’ve also sewn and crafted more in the last 6 months than I have in the last 6 years! So fun!

My husband, Chad, is still working in Cedar Falls so we still have our home locally. I am enjoying

supporting Chad’s work and getting involved in the legal organizations he serves. We make a good team, especially when I have quality time to invest. I assisted with the Iowa Chapter of ABOTA annual dinner. After sharing the details of Chad’s education component of his presidential platform, I was asked by the national leadership to be a part of their civics education national conference. It’s been a blessing how opportunities have come up!

Traveling has been at the top of my list! Just the ability to go wherever I want — whenever I want — is fabulously freeing! We have a second home in Gilbert, Arizona, and we have spent much time there, including the holidays. Our adult children, Liz and Matthew, were able to join us for a warm Christmas break! We’re also looking forward to a trip to Turkey and Greece in March. It will be our first time cruising!

My husband and I are chairing the capital “capacity” campaign for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Having



served on the board for several years, it is such a blessing to finally have the time necessary to devote quality service to this organization.

I can keep busy in the schools as much as I'd like with substitute teaching licenses in both Iowa and Arizona. To be honest, half days are my favorite!

I am also thrilled to still be in the schools in a mentor role, as I mentor first- and second-year elementary music teachers across Iowa through the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. I've been so fortunate to continue with my favorite aspects of my teaching role at UNI into retirement.

I was asked to conduct an elementary honor choir in April. I am **THRILLED** to continue to work with young children's voices! I've picked my favorite songs and am excited for this upcoming opportunity.

Our daughter gets married in August, and I'm so thankful for time to prepare for that celebration.

Overall, I'm just so thankful for time. Time to choose

how I invest my energy. I miss the colleagues and students so very much. But I am assured that they are doing great at the UNI School of Music.

BÜLENT UYAR

I retired technically in May 2020, but taught a course as an adjunct in the fall semester as well. Since retirement, I have been able to visit family in Istanbul, Türkiye and also spend about a month on the Mediterranean every summer. One of the best decisions I made in retirement was to move to a townhouse on the campus of Western Home Communities in October 2023. I have lunch or brunch engagements with friends and former colleagues quite often. I work out regularly for three to four hours every week, almost half under supervision. I am learning how to play bridge. I volunteer at Martin Suites every week. My friend there has a library of close to 3,000 movies. That gives me a chance to watch movies, some of which I may never have on my own; I am learning a lot while having fun. I also read quite a bit and discovered some very good authors. My only complaint about retirement is time!



JOHN VALLENTINE

I retired on September 3 this Fall after Diane retired following the Spring 2024 semester. We began day one of retirement with a trip to Oregon to hike and see some amazing scenery. When we landed it was 103 degrees in Portland and as we traveled south that day the temperature changed to 54 degrees... and no, we were not back in Iowa! We had traveled into Northern California to see the famous redwoods, and in Oregon we were fortunate to visit with retired UNI art professor, Mary Frisbee Johnson, and her husband. Upon return to Iowa we traveled again with shorter trips to LeClaire, Iowa, and Lake City, Minnesota.

When the weather turned cold we flew to the Dominican Republic to stay at our first all-inclusive resort. And yes, we missed the first Iowa snow! It was not our usual vacation because we are normally moving at warp speed to see the sights, but we did enjoy visiting seven restaurants, playing tennis, floating on a lazy river and the beach!

My quote in describing that week: "It's a cruise ship on land!" Oh, and these two musicians lost a dance

contest at the resort, but that's another story for a later date!

And finally, I started to drink coffee for the first time in my life because the quality was so high in Punta Cana. So, "coffee" is my new retirement passion (*finally*, everyone says) and we're off to Costa Rica soon to enjoy some more! While in Iowa we are enjoying time with our two grandchildren and looking forward to another one arriving in March. Diane stays busy with her PEO activities in Cedar Falls, and I do more dishes than ever!!! In closing, my new answer to the proverbial retirement question "How is retirement?" is "every day is a Saturday!"

KATHERINE VAN WORMER

I had to leave Cedar Falls and move to the less friendly town of Madison, Wisconsin, to help in the care of grandchildren. I still know only a few people here. Please contact me if you get to Madison as I'd love to meet former colleagues at a neat coffee shop near my home. During the COVID isolation period I wrote a 5th edition (with Clem Bartollas) of Women



and the Criminal Justice System: Gender, Race, and Class (Routledge, 2022).

I still do three social work correspondence courses for UNI.

BOB WASHUT

I'm still involved in composing/arranging work and playing some jazz piano as well. Lots of golf this past summer as well as travel to Ireland, London, NYC, and Jekyll Island, Georgia. I also conducted the New Mexico all-state jazz band last January.



Celebrating 50 years of excellence in social work education

ADAM BUTLER

Interim Head, Social Work

THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL CELEBRATE 50 YEARS of accreditation next academic year, marking a proud milestone as the oldest social work program in the state. Founded in 1969 by Ruth Bluford Anderson, an African-American social worker and scholar from Waterloo, the program has grown from offering just three undergraduate courses to a robust curriculum with over 20 courses today.

Our program serves approximately 125 undergraduate majors pursuing their Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). At the graduate level, we offer innovative Master of Social Work (MSW) programs, including an online foundation program for students new to social work and both online and in-person advanced standing programs for those with a BSW. The MSW program features a trauma-informed specialization, equipping students to address the complex impacts of trauma on individuals, families, organizations and communities.

With an emphasis on building resilience and strength, this specialization prepares graduates for impactful careers. We currently support 54 graduate students.

The department is energized by a young and vibrant faculty of 12, including four assistant professors. Our commitment to fostering a supportive environment extends to our newly renovated office suite in Sabin Hall, which features a popular student lounge complete with comfortable seating, snacks and a coffee machine — a small but meaningful way we build community.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to advancing social work education and making a difference in the lives of our students and the communities they serve.

Adam Butler



Innovation in Public Health at UNI

DISA CORNISH, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor and Administrative Fellow,
UNI Department of Nursing and Public Health**

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTS AND PROMOTES THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES. AT UNI, WE OFFER A major, minor and several certificates focused on public health practice and content. As an ever-changing field, public health innovates every day. Lately, an innovation that everyone is focused on, artificial intelligence, is also a topic of conversation in public health. How can AI improve public health practice? Well, let's ask ChatGPT:

"Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming public health, offering powerful tools to predict disease outbreaks, streamline medical research, and enhance

healthcare access. With its ability to process vast amounts of data, AI is helping public health officials make faster, more informed decisions — potentially saving millions of lives."

"One of the most significant applications of AI in public health is disease surveillance. AI-driven models analyze social media trends, travel patterns and hospital reports to detect early signs of outbreaks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AI tools helped track the virus's spread and assisted in vaccine development. In the future, similar technology could help prevent pandemics before they escalate."

"Concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias and ethical oversight remain. Ensuring transparency and equity in AI-driven healthcare solutions will be critical as the technology advances. With continued innovation and responsible governance, AI could lead to a future where disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment are more efficient, equitable and effective than ever before."

Public health students are preparing to enter the workforce as credible and reliable sources of information in their communities. Because AI will be a part of the workforce they enter, students need to be critical consumers and creators of public health information in the future. It is our responsibility to make sure that the education they receive at UNI helps them to become ready to take on that challenge.



Exciting updates from Communication Sciences and Disorders

JENNIFER GARRETT

Department Head and Associate Professor,
Communication Sciences and Disorders

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS!

We have students in our department who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in communication disorders or master's degrees in speech-language pathology. In addition, starting in fall 2024, we now offer a teaching minor in Deaf or Hard of Hearing for students who are pursuing an education degree and would like to be eligible for a teaching certificate in this area. Our American Sign Language (ASL) instructor offers three levels of ASL for majors, minors and students across the campus interested in learning the language. Our department had undergone several changes in the past couple of years.

In 2019, thanks to grant funding from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and matching funds from the department, we were the first program in the United States to purchase a Baby Paul pre-term infant simulator to assist future speech-language pathologists in learning about pediatric feeding and swallowing. Three years later, we were provided

additional funding from the Carver Trust to update our audiology suite including the purchase of CARL simulators for students to practice testing hearing.

These simulated experiences supplement our students as they acquire 400 hours of hands-on clinical experience in the Roy Eblen Speech & Hearing Clinic on the UNI campus as well as off-campus placements and internships across the United States. At the master's level, we are graduating approximately 50 students a year, one of the largest residential speech-language pathology programs in the United States. Usually, about 75% of our alumni continue to live and work in Iowa.

For emeritus faculty or other community members who have concerns about speech, language, voice, fluency, feeding and swallowing, cognitive and/or hearing, we do offer evaluations and treatment services at the Roy Eblen Speech & Hearing Clinic. For more information about the services offered and fees, please visit our website at chas.uni.edu/comdis/roy-eblen-speech-hearing-clinic or call the clinic at (319) 273-2542.

Jennifer Garrett



Hello, UNIEA friends!

TAMMRA CHAMBERS

Clerk IV, UNI Alumni Association and Annual Giving,
Secretary for the UNIEA

It's important to us that UNIEA communications get to you. Email is the preferred method for these communications, but email has been especially challenging this past year. This note serves as an update on event email communications and registrations.

The UNIEA currently hosts approximately 4 events per calendar year. Each event will have 2-3 emails sent regarding the event. You might have noticed we've also recently started including other information about new emeriti and updated necrology information in some of the emails. This yearly UNIEA newsletter also arrives via email, unless you specifically request a printed version at alumni@uni.edu.

Things you can do to ensure you receive these communications:

(1) Check the UNIEA membership directory to verify your information. If your information changes, notify us! The email list and directory will then be updated.

(2) Check your computer's spam folder to make sure our emails from emeritus@engage.uni.edu and alumni@uni.edu aren't being redirected there.

(3) Save the email addresses above as contacts in your email system.

After taking these steps, if you still do not believe you are receiving UNIEA emails, please reach out to me by calling 319-273-2355 or emailing alumni@uni.edu so we can try to determine if there is another issue.

Event registrations now only require your name and email address. A brand-new feature includes being able to RSVP that you are unable to attend. To do that, go to the registration page and select "Sorry, I can't attend" instead of "Register Now." Enter your name and email and then submit. There's also an RSVP list that now shows up on the registration site for everyone that has registered to attend. If you look and see that someone is missing from the list, share the event info with them to make sure they receive the invite!

We want you to stay connected to your colleagues and the university! Taking the above steps will help us ensure this occurs. We look forward to seeing you at future events! Thanks!



UNIEA officers, committees and special support

As of January 14, 2025

OFFICERS

CHAIR

Judith Harrington

Pro tem

VICE CHAIR

Len Froyen

Pro tem

PAST CHAIR

David Duncan

CHAIR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Traditionally three-year terms

David Duncan

Past Chair, ad hoc

Len Froyen

Vice Chair, ad hoc

Continues to serve pro tem

Joel Haack

Term expires July 2026

Judith Harrington

Chair, ad hoc

Continues to serve pro tem

Paul Rider

Term expires July 2026

Vickie Robinson

Term expires July 2025

Susie Schwieger

Term expires July 2025

COMMITTEES

ROBERT ELLER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

No term limits; reappointed annually by UNIEA Chair

Diane Curtis, chair

Michael Prael

Paul Rider

Susie Schwieger

Gary Shontz

Sally Kleiss Timmer

Executive Director, Cedar Falls Community Foundation

RETIREMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bulent Uyar

UNIEA representative; reports to President Nook

SESQUICENTENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Paul Rider

UNIEA representative; reports to President Nook via Core Committee

SESQUICENTENNIAL WORK GROUPS

Susie Schweiger

Service & Giving; advising on UNI 150 Profiles project

Jo Duea & Judy Finkelstein

History & Exhibits (history of Price Laboratory School)

Bob & Kate Martin

History & Exhibits

UNIEA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Duncan

SPECIAL SUPPORT

Brian Gabel

Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

Tammra Chambers

Clerk IV, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving; UNIEA Secretary & Webmaster



UNIEA necrology

In alphabetical order

EMERITI DECEMBER 18, 2023 — JANUARY 3, 2025

Dr. Mary Nan Aldridge

*Curriculum and
Instruction*
July 5, 2024

James D. Anderson

HPELS
March 31, 2024

Myra Boots

Comm. Disorders
June 22, 2024

Dr. Jerry V. Caswell

Library/Library Info. Tech.
February 10, 2024

Darlyce Drum

Administration
November 26, 2024

Dr. Christopher Edginton

*Health, Recreation
& Comm. Services*
September 3, 2024

Dr. John Fecik

Applied Engineering
November 26, 2024

Dr. Nancy Hamilton

*Health, Recreation,
& Comm. Services*
September 20, 2024

Dr. A. John Holstad

School of Music
May 13, 2024

Curtis Nielsen

Teaching
December 18, 2023

Dr. Antonio Planells

Modern Languages
July 7, 2024

Dr. Clair D. Rowe

Marketing
July 18, 2024

Dr. Richard Strub

*Educational Admin
& Counseling*
January 3, 2025

Donald R. Walton

Administration
March 12, 2024

Dr. David A. Whitsett

Psychology
April 12, 2024

Recently submitted:

Dr. James Change

Chemistry & Biology
December 13, 2019

David Korhs

Athletics Administration
January 11, 2017