

# UNI Magazine

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue denim jacket, a patterned face mask, and blue gloves. She is looking down at a clipboard, which is partially visible in the foreground. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

University of Northern Iowa Alumni Association

## UNIttogether

PANTHER SPIRIT REMAINS STRONG AS  
UNI RESPONDS TO PANDEMIC

# TURNING DOLLARS into ACTION

The University of Northern Iowa takes investments and in return, provides valuable services to our students, state and the nation. Take a look at our impact over the past year.



UNI ignites the the Iowa economy and helps provide a skilled workforce:

**82%**

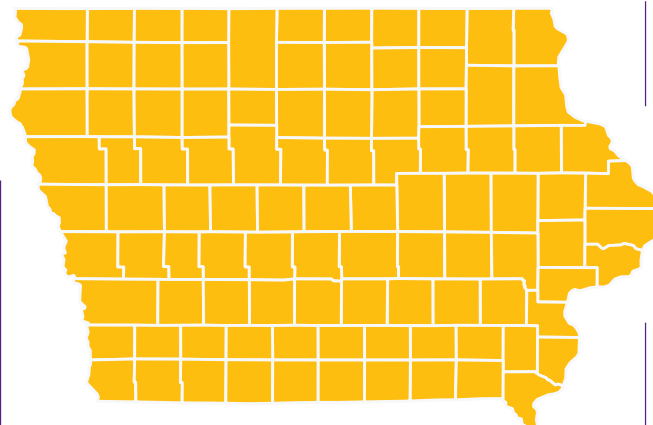
OF UNDERGRADS FROM IOWA STAY IN IOWA

More than 90 percent of UNI undergraduates are from Iowa

- from all 99 counties in Iowa

**40%**

OF UNDERGRADS FROM OUTSIDE OF IOWA STAY IN IOWA



2018-2019

70% of UNI undergrad degrees awarded in in-demand jobs



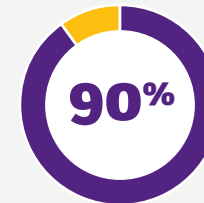
95% UNI graduates with bachelor's degrees are employed or pursuing advanced study within 6 months of graduation

**450+**

NEW TEACHERS GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY EVERY YEAR



UNI creates an accessible, engaged education for their students:



MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF UNI UNDERGRADUATES GAIN EXPERIENCE IN THEIR PROFESSION PRIOR TO GRADUATION

- UNI creates a pathway for community college students to earn a **four-year degree**
- UNI is **nine percentage points above** the average four-year graduation rate of institutions with a similar student profile
- UNI students earn a grade point average of **3.10**

The University of Northern Iowa was one of only seven colleges in the country to receive the **Excellence in Assessment designation in recognition** of its continual efforts to ensure education it provides set students up for success



More than 92 percent of UNI students receive financial aid

- loans
- grants
- scholarships
- workstudy



UNI GRADUATES HAVE THE **LOWEST INDEBTEDNESS** OF ANY **FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION** IN IOWA



UNI IS **\$5,000 BELOW** THE NATIONAL AVERAGE ON STUDENT DEBT



UNI serves the state and the nation in business development and sustainability:

- Business and Community Services leverages every **\$1** invested by the state with **\$5** in private grants, fees or federal funding
- Star4D Training has saved military bases and depots **\$500,000 per year** in painting and coating costs
- Distributed **1,300 acres** of native seed for **39 country roadsides** as part of the Tallgrass Prairie Center's roadside vegetation project
- Green Iowa celebrated its 10th anniversary and has impacted the state by **increasing energy efficiency by 566,000 hours** through **500 members** with nearly a **\$14 million impact**



INCUBATOR GRADUATES HAVE CREATED MORE THAN **1,000 JOBS IN THE STATE**

Business and Community Services provided assistance to nearly **3,370** unique business, community and local government clients in **all 99 counties** reaching more than **351,000 Iowans**.

Hosted Green Iowa AmeriCorps sites

- weatherized 600 homes
- conducted 500 educational programs
- 8,000 people in attendance



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## Features



### 04 UNIttogether

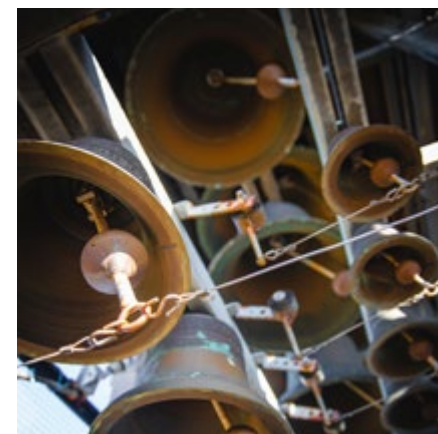
The Panther family has managed the transition to life online amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with grace, humor and determination.

### 10 Creating a campus for everyone

UNI works to build an inclusive community we are all proud to call home.

### 18 One season. One dream. Four world records.

UNI student-athlete Jessica Heims is on course for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo.



### 22 On campus 22 The Campanile

### 30 UNI impact 30 Sculpting the future or public art 36 Amateur photos tell Iowa's story 42 Where passion and leadership meet



### 46 Alumni Highlights 46 Forced out; welcomed back 50 A recipe for success 56 Distinguished Awards

### 53 Campus news

### 60 Class notes

## // FROM THE editor



## Dear alumni and friends of the university,

We hope this magazine finds you and your family doing well and you are navigating the new normal of our lives. You might have noticed your magazine arrived a bit later than last year. As you can imagine, our spring on campus was different in so many unprecedented ways requiring additional time to cover developing stories. Similar to universities and colleges around the world, we've been able to adapt and transition our methods and practices to fulfill the needs of our students in a very short time. We have included a great article describing some of UNI's responses to the crisis that is COVID-19. Even apart, socially distanced, we are together.

This issue is rooted in experience. Our most recent graduates will have extraordinarily unique tales to tell about the first-ever virtual graduation at UNI. We each possess a different definition of UNI. I think that is what makes this issue so fascinating: contemplating each of our unique experiences while also acknowledging what universally comprises UNI.

It's our iconic spaces, like the Campanile. For nearly 100 years the Campanile has served as a permanent reminder of our

traditions and the legacy of our university. It is a living memorial to all those who came before us building the foundation of our university and will be here for the next 100 years as we blaze new trails into the future.

It's the undeniable impact on the state and the nation. UNI takes investments made by the state, donor support and tuition dollars and provides a remarkable return of educated and skilled alumni, teachers, business support and development, and sustainability.

It's our students. They're out there changing conversations, challenging the status quo and breaking world records. Our students are the momentum to our success as a university.

It's you — our phenomenal alumni and friends. You take what you learned here and put it to good work, making the world a better place and coming together in a time of crisis to support our students and communities.

Each of us and the university are continually evolving and working to do and be better. I felt compelled to share a couple of stories in this issue that discuss the reality of addressing institutional gaps in supporting all of our

students. While UNI is working to create a campus culture of both acceptance and inclusion of all students, part of that work is recognizing the great disparities that exist among them. It is not simple, but it is critical for all of us to reflect upon our own decisions and the systems that surround us to identify and rectify our unconscious biases.

I can tell you that UNI is dedicated to creating a campus culture that is welcoming, supportive and celebratory of all our differences. Our campus is committed to nurturing an environment of open and honest dialogue and critical conversations that will continue to shape future decisions and programming to ensure our university is exceeding expectations for all who step on campus. We are working to make certain that all of our alumni have college memories that are positive and inspiring.

Loyally,

*Leslie Prideaux*

Leslie Prideaux  
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations  
President, University of Northern Iowa Alumni Association





Emily Dvorak, 19, program associate environmental health, volunteers April 9 at the Jerald Sulky plant in Waterloo. Volunteers in the plant made 10,000 face shields in the first 5-day run.

# UNItogether

## Panther spirit remains strong as UNI responds to pandemic

It's not yet over, but 2020 has already been a year unlike any other at the University of Northern Iowa.

As COVID-19, the disease caused by a novel coronavirus, spread globally, it brought unprecedented changes to the lives of students, faculty and staff. To protect public health, classes were held

remotely, sporting events and conferences were canceled and commencement was held online.

But through it all, UNI's sense of community stayed strong. Panthers used 3D printers on campus to make face shields desperately needed by healthcare workers. Departments donated their

stockpiles of personal protective equipment. UNI distributed millions in federal aid to the students with the most need. And generous donors — some of them recent graduates — gave over \$50,000 in a matter of days to create a new scholarship to support students financially hurt by the pandemic.

## Immediate response

The university already had a framework in place for an infectious disease outbreak thanks to emergency planning that had been done years ago. University officials moved quickly to mitigate dangers and keep everyone safe, forming a COVID-19 task force that worked closely with public health officials and others at the local, state and national levels to prepare while ensuring the health and safety of all.

"No one can predict exactly what will happen," said **Joseph Rayzor**, UNI's risk management director who oversaw the university's COVID-19 task force early in the response, "but by being prepared and communicating frequently with the campus, we can do so much to keep our community safe."

As it became clear it was necessary to limit contact between individuals to slow the spread of disease, UNI did its part, moving to a completely online format for classes on March 23. Within a week, employees were encouraged to work remotely if able.

"The health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff remains a paramount priority, and we are taking reasonable precautions to protect campus at this time," UNI President **Mark Nook** said at the time.

To help keep Panthers informed about what was happening, the university launched the website [prevent.uni.edu](http://prevent.uni.edu) to provide one location for all information related to UNI's response to the pandemic.

UNI also played a role in keeping the Cedar Valley community informed, hosting a livestreamed public panel to help educate people and dispel myths about the coronavirus. Panel members included two faculty members from UNI's health, recreation and community

services program who specialize in public health issues, **Michele Devlin** and **Catherine Zeman**, as well as officials from the Black Hawk County Health Department.

## Adjusting to life online

Moving classes online wasn't easy, but across the university, individuals and departments moved quickly to help ensure the university's mission to educate students continued.

Some classes were obviously easier to transition to online learning than others, but faculty persisted and figured out ways. **Amanda McCandless**, an associate professor in the School of Music, spent hours each week teaching clarinet lessons via Zoom and also had students record videos of themselves performing.

"I've been trucking ahead," said **James Mons**, a freshman music major. "I miss my UNI family a lot, and I'm eager for all this to pass, but we push on despite these circumstances."

**Julianne Gassman**, '92, '96, an associate professor in the department of health, recreation and community services who has previously taught online, pointed out the benefits of becoming a more well-rounded educator.



President Mark Nook speaks on UNI's COVID-19 response at a press conference held by the Black Hawk County Health Department.

“

The health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff remains a paramount priority, and we are taking reasonable precautions to protect campus at this time.”

- MARK NOOK, PRESIDENT





## // feature

“If there is a little silver lining in this, it’s that we will become more creative. We are becoming better problem solvers, we are thinking more critically about the future, and somewhere those skills will be put to great use,” Gassman said.

Services such as counseling, mentoring and homework help moved online, as well, to ensure students would still have these services regardless of where they were. The Center for Multicultural Education as well as Gender and Sexuality Services launched virtual communities to allow the students served by these offices to stay in communication and access programming.

UNI’s IT Department was one of the areas significantly affected

by the move, and they met the challenge. Moving nearly everything online meant a significant increase in the demand for many of the services the department provides as well as changes in how some of their work is done.

“It was an intense week,” said **Nate Klosterman**, director of network and infrastructure services. “Everybody was concentrating on how we can get people in remotely. It was fast and furious for a while.”

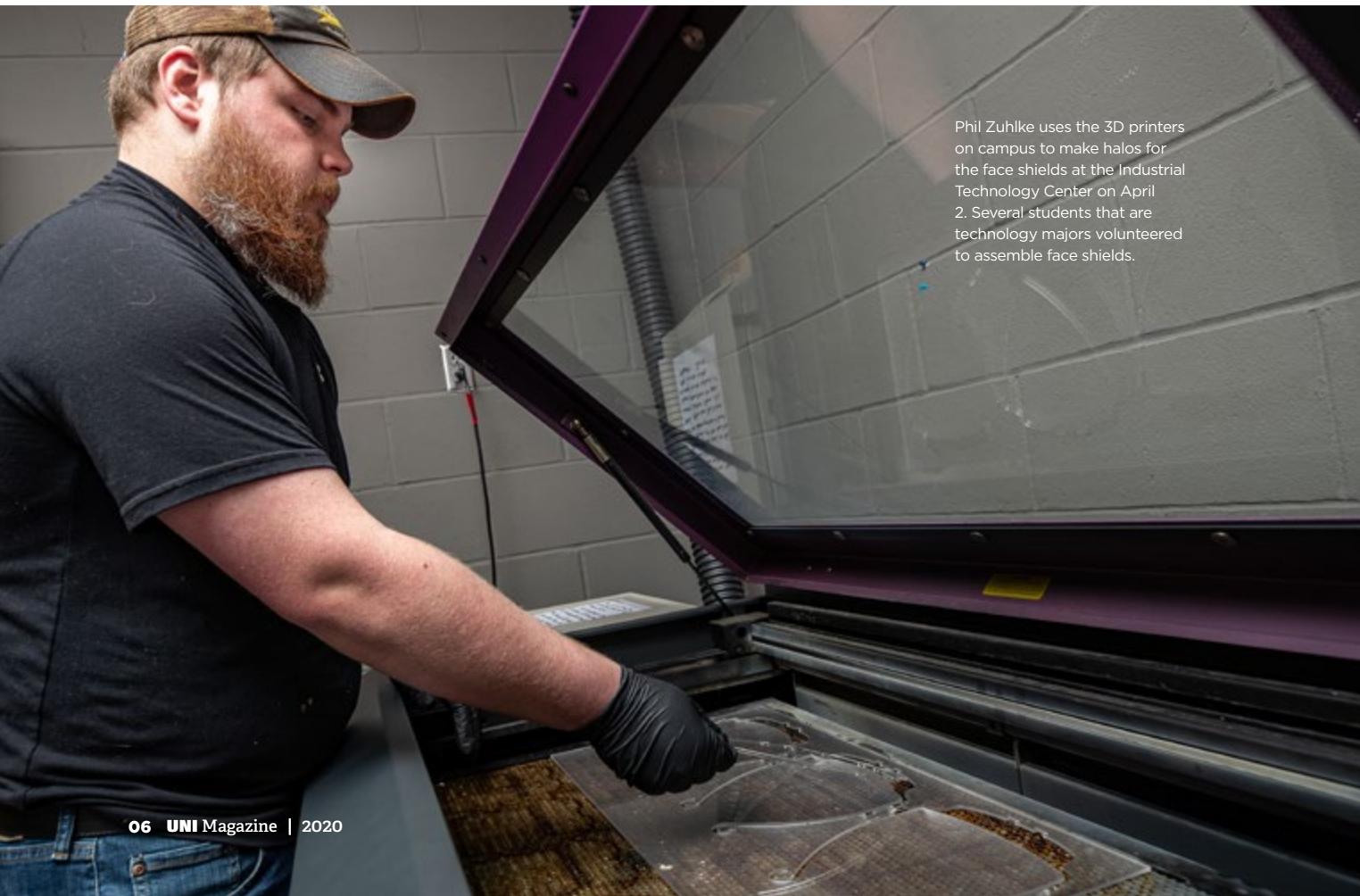
Also with the change came increases in help desk requests, use of Zoom for classes and meetings, tutorial needs for faculty to learn unfamiliar resources and so much more. But the hard work and

dedication of these professionals made the transition much easier. The increased reliance on technology was not the only issue facing Panthers. Closing campus meant many students faced financial challenges, both from unexpected expenses as well as reduced income. Once again, the UNI community worked to find solutions. The UNI Foundation participated in the Giving Tuesday Now movement on May 5 to raise funds for the #UNItogether Scholarship Fund to help students who have experienced financial hardships as a result of COVID-19. The campaign exceeded its goal, raising just over \$50,000.

“We wanted to do all we could to assist students who have been financially impacted by



UNI Bookstore Director Doug Johnson poses with close to 5,000 goggles sold at cost to local healthcare providers MercyOne and UnityPoint Health.



Phil Zuhlke uses the 3D printers on campus to make halos for the face shields at the Industrial Technology Center on April 2. Several students that are technology majors volunteered to assemble face shields.

the coronavirus pandemic,” said **Sarah Parsons**, ‘05, UNI’s director of advancement communications. “We were so thankful the Panther family stepped up for our students.”

### UNI gives back to the community

While the response to help the UNI community was tremendous, the UNI community’s response to help others was just as strong. Students, faculty and staff from throughout the university found ways to contribute.

When it became clear that healthcare workers did not have

access to the protective gear they needed to treat patients and stay safe, UNI’s Additive Manufacturing Center utilized their 3D printers to manufacture plastic face shields.

“It’s something really special,” **Jerry Thiel**, ‘93, director of the AMC, said at the time. “There’s been an outpouring at the university — everyone is chipping in. We’re hearing from everyone ‘we want to be involved, we want to help.’”

They were not the only ones to help. Personnel from the chemistry, biology and physics departments on campus collected and donated about 500 pieces of spare personal protective

equipment such as goggles, face shields, lab coats and exam gloves. The UNI Bookstore sold its entire stock of protective goggles at cost to local healthcare providers, adding about 5,000 items to their supply.

“We were just completely ecstatic to receive it,” said **Anesa Kajtažovic**, ‘07, a development director at UnityPoint Health’s Allen Hospital. “UNI has been so generous to our hospital and just been an extra helping hand to make sure we’re ready.”

Many at UNI also pitched in to make reusable fabric masks. Students and faculty from Theatre UNI worked in shifts to maintain



UNI has been so generous to our hospital and just been an extra helping hand to make sure we’re ready.”

- ANESA KAJTAZOVIC, ‘07, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
AT UNITYPOINT HEALTH’S ALLEN HOSPITAL



## // feature

social distancing while they produced masks from fabric left over from theatre productions. Those masks were donated to Western Home Communities, a retirement and assisted living community in the Cedar Valley, to be used by medical workers and visitors.

“All theatre majors are required to take stagecraft class, and they learn to sew as part of it,” said theatre department associate professor **Amy RohrBerg**. “We have a whole slew of machines and fabric and supplies to make garments for the shows. We have them sitting there waiting. We have a pattern, a place to send them and students willing to work.”

Others pitched in on their own. **Chris Schrage**, ‘96, ‘97, a business marketing instructor, made masks for a couple of former students who required them for work as well as a clinic in Clarksville and area emergency responders.

“I’ve been blessed with the talent to sew and ... I’m just gonna’ do what I can to help the cause and take care of other people,” said Schrage.

**Aleah Vaske**, a student double majoring in management and marketing, utilized the skills she had learned from her roommate, a textiles and apparel major, to sew masks for her local hospital in Manchester.

“I really appreciate the nurses and doctors still going to work — they’re putting themselves on the front lines,” said Vaske. “They’re always thinking about other people. This is the best thing I can do at this difficult time.”



UNI student Aleah Vaske volunteered on April 9 at Jerald Sulky plant in Waterloo, making face shields. In the first 5-day run, 10,000 face shields were created.

## // feature

### Events in a virtual world

Spring semester at UNI usually brings a variety of events that students spend months, even years, preparing for. But with social distancing came the cancellation of all large gatherings. UNI’s faculty, staff and students found ways to work through the challenges.

Quite possibly one of the largest challenges was how to recognize the UNI students who were set to graduate in the spring semester. How does a university have a commencement ceremony for thousands of people who are spread all over the world? Virtually, of course.

Officials worked for several weeks, looking into options and talking with other institutions to share ideas. The result was a website that includes slides of student photos and comments along with their academic achievements. President Nook, Provost **Jim Wohlpart** and others recorded video messages also included on the site.

“Commencement is our most cherished ceremony because it is about celebrating you, our students,” Nook said. “We know the loss you feel in not being able to be on campus and celebrate this time.”

Wohlpart had similar sentiments.

“I know this semester has been a challenge,” said Wohlpart. “This graduating class, the class of 2020, has demonstrated a level of resilience, determination and hard work that surpasses any other class that has come before you.”

Another annual event, the Catwalk fashion show put on by students in the textiles and apparel program, also was forced to take on a new format. Students start planning and creating original designs at the start of the semester to prepare for the show conducted each April, and were well on their way when COVID-19 changed their plans. But event organizers were able to change their approach, putting together a virtual show that included a website and video format.

The theatre department’s 10 Minute Plays, a part of the directing class required for all theatre majors, also fell victim to the new normal, but event organizers quickly made some changes and launched the first Digital Performance Festival.

### Looking forward

As the world adjusts to the sweeping changes of the first few months of 2020, officials have started looking ahead. UNI has established a steering committee to start planning for the return to campus, looking at a variety of scenarios that would allow students, faculty and staff to safely resume classes in the fall.

University officials also recognize that while plans are in place for in-person classes and activities this fall, there may be some students who have difficulty starting face-to-face classes due to extenuating circumstances. These students will have the option to begin their UNI experience from home through specially designed online classes with embedded academic support and social engagement, and then transition to campus as soon as they're ready. **UNI**



ROGER MAXWELL,  
CLASS OF '54

CREATING A CAMPUS FOR

# every one

As higher education becomes more diverse, UNI works toward a culture of belonging. One family's UNI connection marks the progress as well as the work left to be done.



Growing up as an African-American in Marshalltown in the 1940's, **Roger Maxwell** '54, age 88, experienced segregation as a fact of life. As a child, he was prohibited from swimming in the public pool. His family's home became the de facto place to stay for black people coming through town as many were repeatedly refused lodging. It seemed everywhere Maxwell looked, people like him were denied opportunities.

But at the University of Northern Iowa, then the Iowa State Teachers College, he found a lifeline, earning a degree in music education, making friends across lines of class and race and dazzling his fellow students with his musical virtuosity. It wasn't easy, but Maxwell went on to become Iowa's first black high school band director, making an impact on countless lives along the way.

"Everything emanated" from UNI. If not for his degree, Maxwell may have ended up like his parents: working hard, but always struggling to make ends meet. Maxwell described times when his family, living close by to the railroad, would gather coal in burlap bags to heat the house. "UNI saved me," he said.

Today his granddaughter **Rachel Greene**, 20, is following in his footsteps, studying economics with an eye towards law school. Much has changed since her grandfather's generation, but that doesn't mean Greene isn't pushing to make the world — and campus — a better place.

"It's hard being black here," Greene admits. "But I love my education from UNI."

Greene recently became student body vice president and has made diversity and inclusion a top priority. Greene said she wants others to understand that while racism isn't always overt, the small indignities add up.

"You always feel like people view you as less-than," Greene said. "You have to try really hard to prove yourself."

Greene says she makes efforts to affect change in small ways. That includes anything from speaking up in class to making prospective students feel welcome in her role leading campus tours.

"In that sense I do make sure I'm trying to do [my family] proud," Greene said.

Together, Greene and Maxwell's experiences tell a generational story about progress — and in some cases the lack of it — at a time when campuses and institutions at all levels of society are coming to grips with a younger generation that is eager for change.

The vision leaders have for campus is that all students, when asked "What does UNI mean to you?" have the same answer, "home." Leaders have instituted new initiatives to improve the campus climate in order to make this vision a reality.



“

I have to figure out each narrative I have to shape so that I appeal to other people.”

- RACHEL GREENE

## ‘BODY ARMOR’

For Rachel Greene, a West Des Moines native, growing up in a predominantly white K-12 education system at times meant being made to feel like you don't belong. She first became aware of her skin color within the confines of a classroom.

She recalled her first grade class was reading a book entitled "Chocolatina," which told the story of a young girl who ate so much chocolate that she became chocolate herself. The white teacher handed out chocolates to the class to see who would "become Chocolatina."

"I understood it was a joke, I was a mature kid ... but it persisted when the boys would come up like, 'You're Chocolatina! You're darker,'" Greene said. "So that was the first time it became apparent for me."

"Even in high school, we would have the [class] roster and it would have our pictures on it; the substitute teacher would [pronounce my name] 'Ray-shell' because they saw my picture and just had to assume," Greene

said. "And I have the most generic spelling of Rachel, it's the one in the Bible ... I was like, 'Really?'"

Greene says, like other people of color, she shoulders the burden of routine encounters with "microaggressions," or "everyday" verbal or behavioral indignities. These can be explicit — she gets frequent comments and questions about her hair, a common microaggression against black women — but also more subtle. Greene said she feels implicit and constant pressure to bust racial stereotypes and to "prove" herself in the eyes of others.

"Every single day, I wake up, put on my body armor and figure out which version of Rachel I have to be in every single different situation I'm in," Greene said. "Because if I'm 100 percent Rachel, then I won't get anywhere to where I want to be in achieving my goals. I have to figure out each narrative I have to shape so that I appeal to other people."

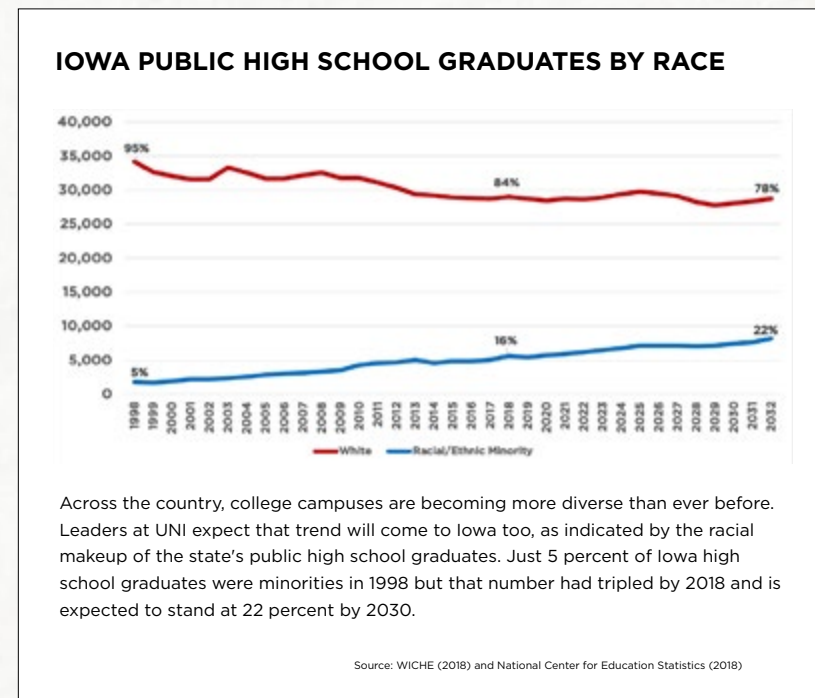


## A defining moment

Across the country, college campuses are becoming more racially diverse than ever before. Students of color made up 45 percent of the nation's total undergraduate student population in 2016, according to a recent American Council on Education report.

Iowa's population is less diverse but is undergoing a dramatic shift. Just 5 percent of Iowa high school graduates were minorities in 1998 but that number had tripled by 2018 and is expected to stand at 22 percent by 2030. UNI's minority student population has followed a similar curve, growing over the past decade, minus a slight dip in the last year, and now stands at approximately 10 percent of total enrollment.

UNI leaders are working to stay ahead of the demographic curve, focusing on ways to reach students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. That institutional priority



is rippling across campus, sparking new and renewed conversation on diversity, inclusion and equity.

Last October, President Mark Nook announced the formation of the President's Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Advisory Committee to create an action plan, which will "provide a clear set of priorities to

create the needed systemic change to our culture."

"Work on diversity, inclusion and equity is difficult, but it is essential to building a campus community that is welcoming and supportive of all our students and employees," Nook said. "Together we will build a university that better serves all students."

Part of the change happens from within by elevating talented people from all backgrounds into leadership positions, part of ongoing efforts to make campus more inclusive.

**Gwenne Berry**, UNI's chief diversity officer has been at UNI for over 25 years, serving as the university's first chief diversity officer since 2016. She says a more diverse campus community will pay dividends for

student success, retention and the overall campus climate. But it's about more than numbers — it starts with belonging.

"‘Diversity’ is when you get asked to the dance, ‘inclusion’ is when somebody at the dance asks you to come out on the floor," said Berry. "That's what I want UNI to be. I want people to come here and see themselves, and say, ‘Yep, there's a place for me there.’"

Berry said the same goes for students from other traditionally underrepresented backgrounds: women, LGBT students, veterans and students with disabilities. She approaches diversity and inclusion as education and as a conversation.

**Robert Smith** has been a part of that conversation for more than 30 years at the UNI Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE), an educational opportunity program

serving low-income and first-generation students in Waterloo. Smith, who is executive director at UNI-CUE, has seen the ebb and flow; campus uniting around diversity and inclusion for a spell and then in other years the cause losing momentum. But with forecasted changes in the demographic makeup of the state and the country, he sees the next few years as a defining moment for the university.

"Diversity and inclusion is not easy," Smith said. "It's not something you put on paper. It's going to take some uncomfortableness for people to get there. Until we have real conversations, and be pro-active — not reactive — it's going to be a challenge."

"I think we can get there. I'm an optimistic person," he continued. "History will tell us whether we move in the right direction."

“

**‘Diversity’** is when you get asked to the dance, **‘inclusion’** is when somebody at the dance asks you to come out on the floor.”

- GWENNE BERRY, UNI CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

“

Diversity and inclusion is not easy. It's not something you put on paper. It's going to take some uncomfortableness for people to get there.”

- ROBERT SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
UNI CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION



## Moving forward

While perspectives may differ on the degree to which change is taking root, new campus efforts signal concrete action on the topic.

Berry said there is a broad-scale effort at the university to re-evaluate the way it recruits students, staff and faculty and to build a supportive infrastructure for those recruits. These include new admissions scholarships, deepening recruiting relationships with Waterloo Schools and other diverse districts in the state, and new initiatives in UNI's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DIS). Several pipeline programs across campus aim to diversify the workforce.

In December 2019, UNI created a position within the DIS office as part of an institutional effort to better retain, recruit and serve students of color.

Other efforts on campus are student-led, including forums aimed at supporting students of color. Several town halls have taken place in the past few

months, designed to address racial disparities and promote policies to improve campus culture.

For her part, Greene says she is cautiously optimistic about progress on campus. The challenge will be building support among new audiences.

"How do you reach out to people that need to hear this information and need to hear these stories? That's going to be a struggle," Greene said.

Her grandfather expressed a similar sentiment. Maxwell, who spent nearly three decades of his life working on compliance and equity — both with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and later the Board of Regents — offered his advice.

"We all need to support each other. I don't care who it is," Maxwell said. "[We need] to reach out and help each other." **UNI**

“

We all need to support each other. I don't care who it is. [We need] to reach out and help each other.”

- ROGER MAXWELL



## THE HONOR OF A LIFETIME

"Roger Maxwell, School of Music Alumnus ('54), 1st Jazz Band 1951 ISTC (UNI), Music Educator."

So reads the inscription below a picture of Maxwell that hangs in Russell Hall. The life that led to that honor was one of both trials and triumph.

Maxwell remembers being one of a handful of black students on UNI's campus, then the Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC), when he and several others founded the UNI Jazz Program in 1951. Those memories remain close to his heart decades later.

Like the very first concert in February of 1951, which drew an unexpected response. Maxwell said that night some 200 chairs were initially being set up in the Commons as the band warmed up and took the stage with the curtain drawn.

"Open the curtain — there had to be 1000 students!" Maxwell recalled. "That floor was full, 200 chairs. People sitting in the aisles all the way around. Standing there. There were three balconies ... All full."

Subsequent performances had to be moved to the ISTC auditorium in what is now Lang Hall. The band's third

performance, a few months later, attracted a capacity crowd of 1,500.

Yet, being the only black member of the group meant Maxwell would occasionally experience it all from the outside. He told of one night after a packed concert when the group decided to go out on the town to celebrate.

Knowing he would likely be denied service, Maxwell drove separately from the group over to the club in Waterloo.

"I knew that I was not going to be invited, you know... not permitted to join the group," Maxwell said. "So I came in and went down to the restroom to let everything settle down. Everybody was in the back room — you could hear their laughter and everything. Just joyous, you know. So I came up, and I went over to check my coat. And they said, 'We do not allow — we do not serve Negroes.'"

Maxwell proceeded to collect his things and passed by the rest of the group on the way out. They questioned why he was leaving — Maxwell said he'd see them back on campus.

"What do you mean 'see us

back on campus?' Sit on down over here!" they replied.

Maxwell explained the situation. The group went back and forth — 'Get outta here! What are you talkin' about?' Maxwell replied definitively, "They do not serve negroes. I'll see you back on campus," and left.

"I understand later," Maxwell recalled, "Later on, everybody stood up — went and got their coats. The manager said, 'But you've put your orders in! Your orders are in.' And somebody [in the group] spoke up and said, 'If you can't serve our friend, you will not serve us.' And they all walked out."

Telling the story made Maxwell emotional decades later.

"I could depend on those folks," he said.

Sixty-five years after that first jazz concert, Maxwell's name was added to the Hall of Fame wall in Russell Hall.

"You know, it's — realizing how much UNI has meant to me," Maxwell said. "And for my colleagues there to select me for this honor. It's still within my system; (the) joy and appreciation."



// feature

# ONE SEASON. ONE DREAM. FOUR WORLD RECORDS.

// feature



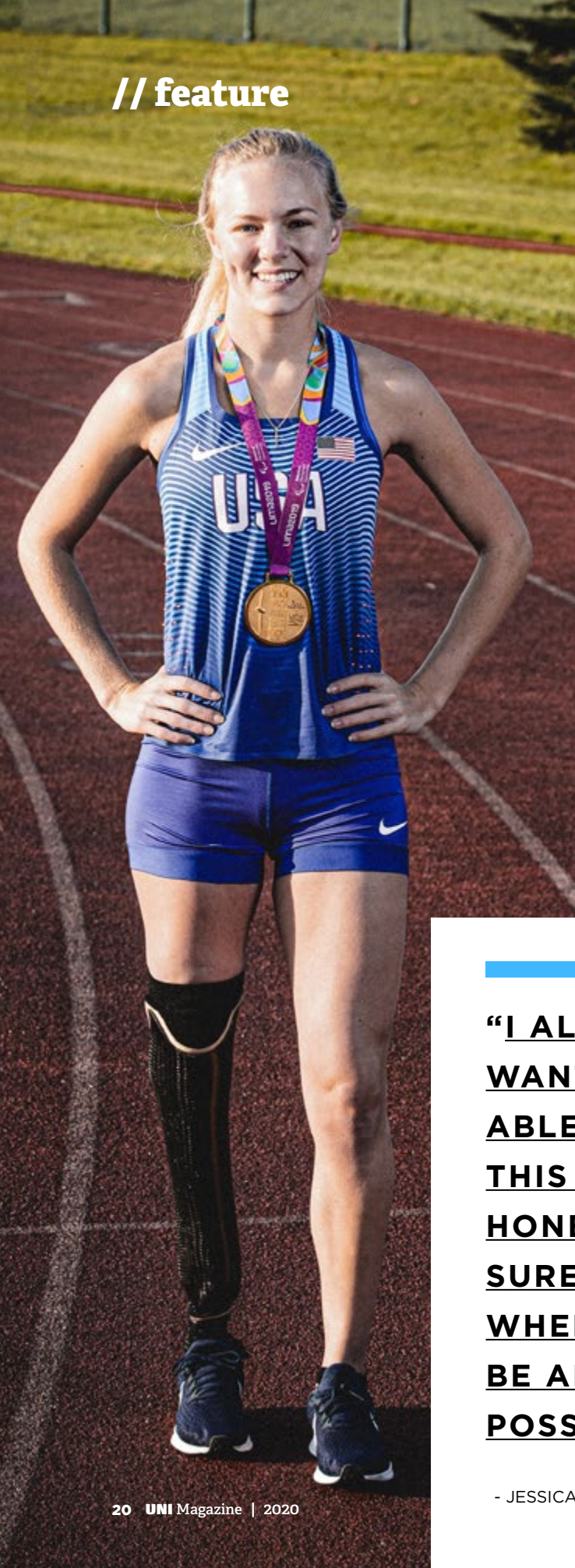
It was a record-breaking outdoor track season in the discus for University of Northern Iowa junior **Jessica Heims**.

In fact, the season was steeped in such dominance that by the end of it, the only discus world records she was breaking were her own.

But before going further, it's important to go back and consider two key moments of Heims' past.

The first is her birth. While Heims was in the womb, strands of the amniotic sac ensnared the right side of her body, restricting the growth of her right leg. It's a rare condition known as amniotic banding. At birth, the leg was severely underdeveloped. It was missing bones, and it hampered Heims' mobility. After a year of failed treatments, her parents made the difficult decision to amputate her leg at the midcalf.





The decision meant Heims could start using prosthetics, which gave her newfound freedom of movement and allowed her to discover her passion for track and field.

“It was honestly the best thing my parents could have done for me,” Heims said.

The next moment occurred in 2016, when, through passion and perseverance, Heims reached the highest of athletics stages — the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

There, she set a personal best in the discus, throwing it 25.98 meters, besting her previous best by two meters. The throw was good enough to advance to the finals, where she placed eighth overall. It both fulfilled a dream and planted a desire for more.

“I got a taste of the big stage in Rio, and it drove my hunger for improvement and allowed me to set bigger and scarier goals for myself,” said Heims.

In 2018-19, Heims missed UNI’s indoor track season due to surgery. But when the outdoor season opened, she wasted no time demonstrating she had reached the next level.



**“I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ABLE TO REACH THIS POINT, BUT I HONESTLY WASN’T SURE HOW OR WHEN IT WOULD BE ABLE TO BE A POSSIBILITY.”**

It started at UNI’s season opener at the Iowa Musco Open, where she threw a discus traveling 32.4 meters, a world record.

In June, Heims traveled to Italy to compete in the Para Athletics Grand Prix, where she captured three gold medals and hurled a discus traveling 34.2 meters. Another world record.

And she wasn’t done. In August, she competed in the 2019 Parapan American

Games in Peru, where she rocketed a discus traveling 34.4 meters. Yet another world record and a throw that beat the field by over 4.5 meters.

Then, a throw she made earlier in the year was made official, and that set another world record. This one happened at the Wisconsin Twilight meet in the spring, where she catapulted a discus traveling 35.5 meters.

So, for those keeping track, that’s four world records set in one year and a 10 meter improvement from her 2016 Paralympic heave.

It was an improvement Heims credited to a change in mindset.

“I always wanted to be able to reach this point, but I honestly wasn’t sure how or when it would be able to be a possibility,” Heims said. “For a long time, it seemed out of reach, but once I fully trusted my coaches and accepted that my identity wasn’t based on my athletic performance, I was able to focus and improve.”

These improvements were the culmination of a journey with the discus that started when Heims was around 11 years old. When she threw the discus for the first time at a youth track meet. Not long after, her father found a discus in a ditch and let her take it home to practice. The rest is history.

“At first I liked it because it was such a stark contrast to running, and it was the only throwing event that a little girl with stick-thin arms could do,” Heims said. “As I got older, I started to love it more for the complexity of the technique.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can never be perfect at it, and there is always something to improve on.”

And while some may think throwing a discus is about the arms, Heims said most of the power comes from the legs, which can make the motion challenging for her with a prosthetic.

01.

**A discus weighs between 1 to 2 kg (2.2 to 4.4 pounds), the weight depending on the age and gender of the athlete.**

02.

**The athlete must stand in a 2.5 m (8 ft 2 in) diameter circle, and not step over it, and throw the discus as far as he or she can without going over the foul lines.**

03.

**Jessica is first para-athlete to receive a scholarship at a Division 1 institution.**

“The greatest difficulty I find with throwing discus is the fact that I don’t have a lot of the feeling or mobility in my leg that is often necessary for the spin,” Heims said. “Being unable to feel what my leg is doing or where it is landing poses a challenge in learning and executing parts of the throw. I also have a limited range of motion, so I have difficulty keeping my knee in a bent position or keeping weight and pressure on it while spinning.”

These challenges mean that Heims has to take shorter practice reps than her teammates, as her leg can’t handle the constant pressure and spinning.

But that hasn’t stopped her. With a record-breaking summer behind her, Heims is looking ahead to the Para Athletics World Championship in Dubai and the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, both held in 2021.

Until then, Heims has enjoyed returning to the familiar surroundings of the UNI campus to continue her pursuit of a biology degree.

“It’s nice to have that to bring myself down to earth,” Heims said. “It’s nice to take a breath and be a normal student and do normal stuff.” **UNI**





# the **CAMPANILE**

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A LIVING TESTAMENT  
TO UNI HISTORY

**O**n a crisp October day at the center of campus, an outdoor concert is afoot — but you might not realize it.

A chorus of bells peals through the usual hustle and bustle of midday foot traffic. It is pleasant, dynamic music: the melodies sometimes delicate and twinkling, at other times featuring a low gonging that reverberates at great length.





Karel Keldermans, renowned North American carillonneur

Technically the audience for this concert stretches for upwards of a half-mile — the outer reaches of the bells’ sustain by some estimates — but in truth a select few are intent on listening. Today, a dozen or so UNI alumni and local community members huddle together on benches surrounding the base of the Campanile.

They’ve come to hear **Karel Keldermans** play the bells.

“I’m kind of a Karel groupie,” says

**Mark Welty**, ‘71, with a smile, not pulling his gaze from the top of the tower. “I haven’t hardly missed a concert of his at UNI.”

Keldermans is one of North America’s preeminent performers on an instrument called the carillon (keh-ruh-laan), an assembly of large bells played using a keyboard. Today, he treats the campus to a special hour-long program on UNI’s carillon, one of 50-plus concerts he’ll give this year as his

*There are people all over who went to UNI and who have an affinity for this. That’s unique. That usually doesn’t happen.”*

- KAREL KELDERMANS

performances take him across the globe. Keldermans has delivered two seasonal concerts at UNI annually since the early 2000s.

While it might sometimes be taken for granted, the origin and significance of the UNI Campanile is actually quite unique according to Keldermans, who holds a master’s degree in campanology. In Keldermans’ experience, many campaniles are a product of a single donor’s vision or a select few contributing funds. But UNI’s

was a multi-generational group effort, borne from a congress of imagination, reverence and sheer Midwest grit.

And the Campanile still holds a special place in the hearts and minds of alumni.

“There are people all over who went to UNI and who have an affinity for this,” Keldermans said. “That’s unique. That usually doesn’t happen.”

## WHAT IS A CARRILLON?

There are more than 180 carillons in North America and 450 elsewhere in the world. The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America define a carillon as “a musical instrument composed of at least 23 carillon bells .... It is played from a keyboard that allows expression through variation of touch.” UNI’s is played manually using a keyboard comprising a series of pedals and paddle-like keys. The keys are connected to a series of “clappers,” which strike each bell to produce musical notes. The only automation is the chime of the clock every hour on the hour.

### QUICK FACTS

- The UNI carillon is **one of three in Iowa**
- Our carillon contains **47 bells**
- The largest bell weighs **2.5 tons**



# TRADITION, ROMANCE

## AND A QUIRKY HISTORY

For many alumni, the Campanile evokes a singular event: Campaniling. It's the annual tradition the Friday night of Homecoming week when students gather at the Campanile to kiss their significant other — maybe even a stranger — at the stroke of midnight.

**Andrew Morse**, '05, says the Campanile can be seen as the intersection of tradition and romance. He and his wife, **Amy**, '09, both UNI graduates, have a love connection involving the Campanile that continues to this day.

As Andrew describes it, he knew shortly after meeting Amy (while study buddies in a humanities class) that he would ask her to marry him. When that day arrived, he was a “nervous wreck” — at one point, he actually dropped the ring on the ground in front of Amy. Luckily, she didn't notice.

Andrew had planned to pop the question on the couple's routine walk through campus. Despite the initial hiccups, the rest went according to plan. As the two strode past the Campanile, Andrew turned to Amy.

“I got down on one knee — we were at the northwest corner of the Campanile — and I asked her. She said, ‘Of course I'll marry you.’”

Andrew, who now works at UNI, says he and Amy make it a point to continue their tradition of an evening walk through campus — joined now by their children, Zoey and Quentin.

“We knew that we were going to be a UNI couple for life and keep coming back here,” Andrew says.

*“We love this place. And having the Campanile as a marker to keep coming back to and having that memory is very special.”*

Delving deeper into the storied history of the Campanile, it becomes clear that its significance stretches far beyond any one tradition. Students in recent years have gathered there to observe everything from political protests to vigils for friends and fellow Panthers whom they have lost. When the Twin Towers fell on 9/11, students flocked to the Campanile in mourning. It has served as a regular setting for marriage proposals, graduation portraits and countless campus events. And there is plenty of quirky



Campanile history to be found in the university archives.

Technically, the Campanile once ran for student body president. The 1975 student body presidential election took a satirical turn with “Campy” entering the race atop the “Tower of Power Party” ticket. Student **Jack Fleming**, '76, was the self-appointed spokesperson who launched both the party and the candidacy.

## GENESIS OF AN ICON

### 1914

The Iowa State Teachers College Alumni Association announces plans to erect a “suitable memorial on behalf of the faculty, graduates, students and friends of the institution,” in the form of a campanile.



### 1919

Campanile project reimagined as a World War I memorial. The location was planned to be near College Street, between the President's House and the College Hospital (now known as the Honors Cottage).

### Spring 1924

Committee formed for “A Campanile for ISTC in 1926” in honor of the college's 50th anniversary.

### Fall 1924

Present location of the Campanile selected and a groundbreaking is held.



### September 19, 1926

Construction of Campanile is completed with a 15-bell chime housed in the belfry. A total of 12,500 people attended the dedication services, according to the student newspaper.

### MODERN CAMPAÑILE IS BORN

### 1965

Professor **Myron Russell**, head of the music department, calls for adding 32 bells to upgrade the chime to a full-fledged carillon with greater musical capabilities.

### 1968

Carillon project completed as the State College of Iowa changes its name to the University of Northern Iowa. 35 bells are purchased, replacing 3 existing bells, taking the total to 47. The new bells were cast in the Netherlands. More than 5,000 people contributed to the project.



### 1995

A major renovation of the Campanile is completed, the last significant capital improvements to the structure.





Bob Byrnes, former  
university carillonneur

While Fleming insisted the campaign was not a joke, a number of the party planks suggested otherwise. One called for renaming the new UNI-Dome to the Richard M. Nixon Coliseum, just a few months after the president resigned due to the Watergate scandal. A subsequent letter in the student newspaper denounced the candidate, attesting that the party's platform "has neither chime nor reason."

In another failed campaign, a student by the name of **D. Wane Collins**, '31, announced a 10-day sit-in atop the Campanile slated to begin August 22, 1930. Undertaken as part of a bet, the feat would have won him \$25, equivalent to \$375 today.

"The consensus (sic) of opinion has it that the sitter decided [his] brown woolen suit, Woolworth underwear, and Kresge socks were not equal to the weather changes" a College Eye article noted several days later. That student was neither the first nor the last to get cold feet about scaling the Campanile's 84 stairs. Over the years, the narrow climb has proved a reliable test of one's acrophobia.

Another through-line in the history of the Campanile is the music of the carillon. **Bob Byrnes**, long-time university carillonneur and faculty member, is perhaps the individual most closely associated with the Campanile. Byrnes began his tenure in 1972 and continued in that post until his death in 2004. At one point, he was playing three times each weekday and throughout the weekend as well.

Byrnes graduated from UNI in 1971. He would go on to earn a master's degree in music from UNI, presenting his thesis on the instrument in 1977 — likely the first and only time that was done in the history of UNI.

Byrnes was full of stories of his time atop the Campanile, according to university archives. In one instance, a brave German shepherd climbed the Campanile stairs accompanied by a young child who had ventured through an open door. Byrnes ended up carrying the stubborn animal back down the stairs himself.

In May of 2004 the bells fell silent following Byrnes' death. Keldermanns played a concert that fall in honor of his friend.



## MUSIC PLAYS ON

The tradition of the university carillonneur goes back to the first "chimemaster," who instructed students on the original 15-bell instrument (formally known as a "chime") in the 20's and 30's. Byrnes was the last to hold the position, officially a member of the faculty, and upon his death students playing the carillon became a rarer occurrence.

That is, until a group of music students resurrected the tradition, forming the UNI Guild of Carillonneurs in 2015. **Tommy Truelsen** '19, a founding member, said an older student taught him and several others to play.

As a native of Cedar Falls, Truelsen said he has been drawn to the Campanile as long as he can remember. His mother, also a UNI alum, would tell him of the time, as a student, she ventured through an unlocked door and up to the top to find Byrnes playing away.

"In my mind I had an image of what I thought it would look like at the time. I was always so curious," Truelsen said.

Given the opportunity to play the instrument, Truelsen, a music technology major, jumped at the chance. He went on to recruit several of the group's leaders, who carry the torch today. Campus is now treated to twice monthly concerts as well as a weekly performance Friday at noon.

"Exhilarating. Powerful" — that's how **Brenda Sevcik**, one of the group's leaders, describes the feeling of playing the carillon.

The guild is the busiest they've been in the five years since reforming, according to Sevcik. Comprised of 10 students, the guild hosted the first-ever Midwest International Carillon Festival and Composers Forum in 2016. In November of 2019, they participated in a world-wide simultaneous performance of a carillon piece "The Sacredness of the Trees" as part of the annual Nordic Music Days.

"For being a small group, we have connections that reach around the world," said **Abbie Greene**, the guild's president.

Truelsen said in his experience, alumni are comforted knowing the instrument is still being played.

Sevcik and Greene encourage alumni to reach out to the guild to request a song or submit ideas for events. They also hope to see you at their next concert.

"We're interested in forming those connections with alumni," Sevcik said. "We love hearing about their experiences and how we can try to make their good memories become memories for students on campus now." **UNI**

*What's your Campanile story? Email your story to us at [alumni@uni.edu](mailto:alumni@uni.edu).*



# SCULPTING THE FUTURE OF **public art**

The public plays an important role in building community. And the University of Northern Iowa Public Art Incubator is a unique program within the UNI Department of Art that is meeting this rising demand, serving as a conduit between communities and artists to create art for public spaces.

The incubator has been active since 2011, enlisting students to fabricate and erect large-scale public art pieces commissioned and paid for by artists throughout the country. The work it produces can be seen on campus, in downtown Cedar Falls and peppered throughout the Midwest and beyond. UNI-fabricated art is installed on both coasts and in the Bahamas.



## CARRYING **the torch**

In 2014, the art incubator was commissioned to fabricate the iconic Olympic torch for that year's Special Olympics National Games.

The project brought with it some design challenges. The producers of the opening ceremonies wanted the sculpture disassembled into

six parts with the core values of the Special Olympics laser cut into them. The six parts would then be carried to the stage by athletes, celebrities and dignitaries and assembled into the torch.

In the end, the sculpture was 14 feet tall and eight feet in diameter. It was constructed

with laser-cut aluminum, steel and polycarbonate, with LED lighting and pyrotechnics for the ceremony. It was erected over four weeks by art shop technician and instructor **Dan Perry** and two UNI students. It is now permanently installed in Newark outside the New Jersey Special Olympics offices.





# 9,000 pounds OF STEEL

The largest sculpture the incubator ever produced was finished in the summer of 2017, but it wasn't installed until August 2019.

The massive, 9,000 pound abstract sculpture of a mortar and pestle was commissioned by the University of Iowa to stand in front of the new College of Pharmacy building and designed by the artist team, Actual Size Artworks, which consists of University of Wisconsin-Madison sculpture professors **Gail Simpson** and **Aristotle Georgiades**.

Tasked to construct the sculpture were incubator faculty Perry and **Tom Stancliffe**, professor of art, along with a team of four students, who were at first daunted by the mountain of metal arriving at the shop.

"It was very overwhelming when the first shipment of metal came in," said **Abigail Hedley**, a senior pursuing a BFA in art who has worked in the incubator since her sophomore year. "We knew what the end sculpture would look like, but when you see such a huge mass of metal that's somehow supposed to end up like

the model, your brain fries a little bit. Honestly, you feel a little bit of doubt whether or not you're capable of doing it."

But Hedley said that the students were reassured by the preparation and experience of Perry and Stancliffe, who spent six months planning, engineering and modeling the sculpture. Ultimately, it was broken down into 23 sections consisting of more than 160 laser cut parts that were assembled into the final piece.

The sculpture was assembled over 10 weeks in the summer of 2017. The days were filled with the type of problem solving posed by the unique challenge of bending large slabs of metal into specific shapes.

"There is no machine available that can magically do that for you, so it all comes down to levers, pulleys and screw clamps. And typically, every one you own," Stancliffe said. "You apply lifting force here, pry this part over, clamp the other edge inward, have someone press all of their weight down there, and weld it before it all lets go. There is a lot of drama and adrenaline at times."







## A hometown PROJECT

One of the main benefits of the art incubator is that it gives students skills they can apply in real-world situations.

For Hedley, working with the incubator gave her the skills and confidence to apply for her own public art commission in her hometown of Dubuque. She had to create and present a proposal to a city committee for a sculpture with a \$10,000 budget, competing against her own peers. And she won the job.

"If I didn't work at the incubator and I didn't have these experiences, I would have never had the guts to apply for that Dubuque commission," Hedley said.

“ The skills I learned here made me feel like I could do this on my own.” - ABIGAIL HEDLEY

Hedley designed and created the piece based on the idea of home and how it feels to return. The finished sculpture, titled “Honey,” was seven-feet tall and made entirely out of stainless steel with fire-treated elements. It's on display in Dubuque as part of the Iowa Byways Project.



## TEACHING THE next generation OF ARTISTS

In 2015, the art incubator had the opportunity to bring their work into the middle school classroom.

UNI alumna and Waverly-Shell Rock teacher **Chelsie Meyer**, '07, had developed a curriculum where her students would learn about public art and then generate concepts and ideas for a permanent sculpture in their community.

The students presented their designs to the Waverly School and Public Art Committee, which selected a design by students **Seth Abkemeier**, **Luke Tobin** and **Aubrey Hall**. Their sculpture, “Collision,” was fabricated by two UNI students over three weeks. It is now displayed in Kohlmann Park in Waverly.

It is a project that Meyer, who now teaches in Iowa Falls, has continued.

"It is such a win-win project, where my students and UNI students both benefit from this collaboration," Meyer said. "We are able to make trips to UNI for students to see the sculpture lab,



“ It is such a win-win project, where my students and UNI students both benefit from this collaboration.” - CHELSIE MEYER

use the plasma cutter and shape their own piece of metal, as well as giving feedback through 3D design software to become more of a part of the design process.”

Meyer developed the class with input from Stancliffe and Perry and said the experience for her students is “priceless.”

“I just fell in love with the idea of students being able to design sculptures that would shape their landscape,” Meyer said. “This is so empowering for students, who sometimes do not feel like they have a voice until they are an ‘adult,’ to know that their ideas are valuable.” **UNI**

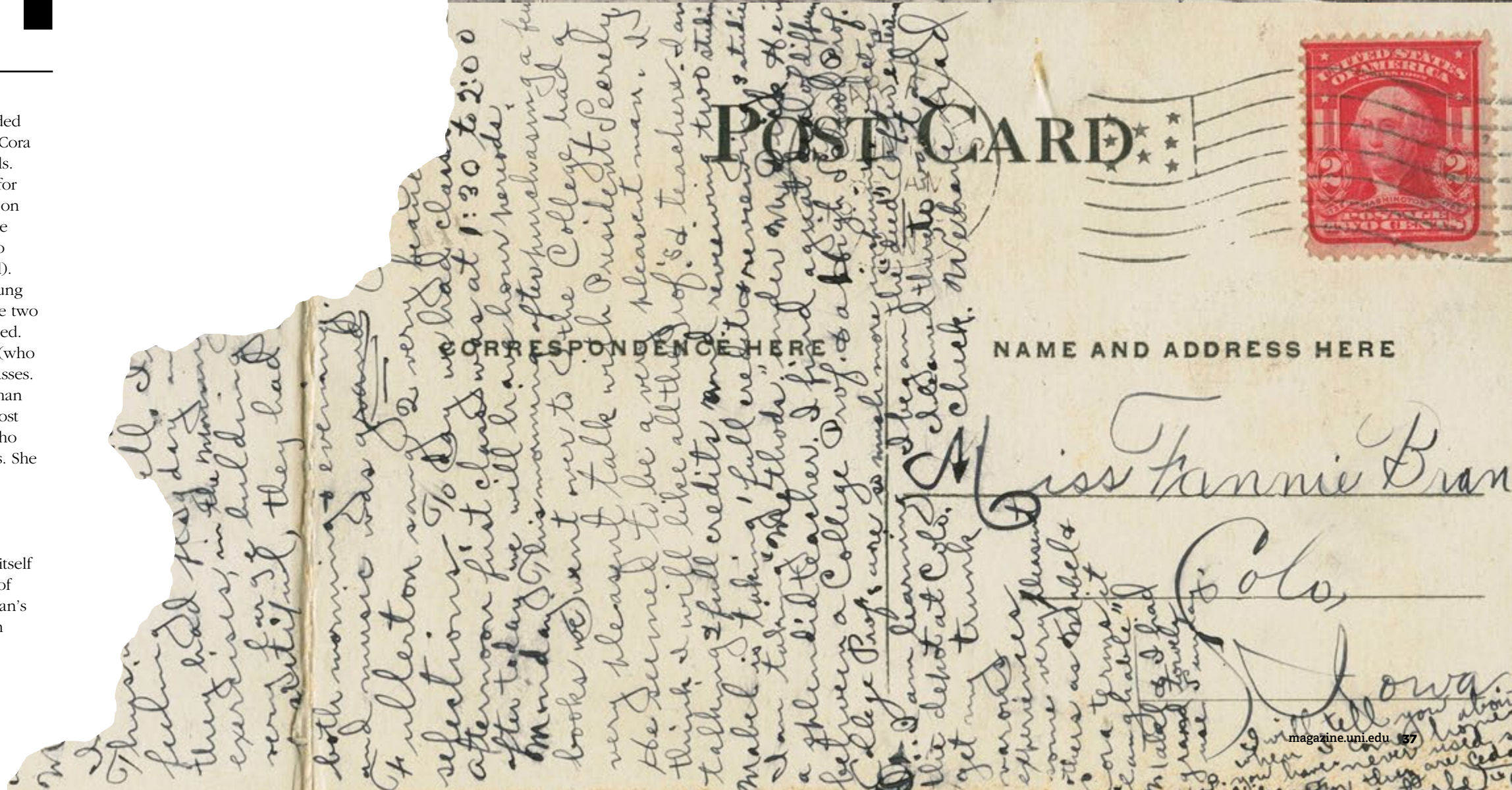


Amateur photos tell

# IOWA'S STORY

In the fall of 1907, a young woman from Colo, Iowa, boarded an “excursion train” in Marshalltown with her two friends, Cora J. and Mabel B., and headed towards downtown Cedar Falls. The train was very, very crowded with students all bound for Cedar Falls. The three young women arrived at about 3:20 on a Saturday afternoon to start their fall semester at Iowa State Normal School (now UNI). They then took a street car, also very crowded, to “Normal Hill,” (now know as College Hill). Cora J. apparently hustled (successfully) to get all three young women seats. Upon arrival they found their boarding house two blocks from campus, dropped off their suitcases and enrolled. The next day they had a meeting with **President Seerley** (who seemed very nice) and started their methods and studio classes. They found their college professors much more inspiring than their high school teachers. “We are meeting folks from almost all over,” the young teacher-in-training wrote. “One lady who boards at the house where Cora boards is a girl from Texas. She certainly is different from the other girls. Well.”

This story comes from the back of a postcard mailed to Miss Fannie Brand (a friend or sister?) during the college freshman's first week at the normal school. The postcard itself is a beautiful object: a tri-fold showing a panorama view of Lang Hall from that same year, 1907, and the young woman's sprawling handwriting explains her first week at school in succulent detail.





like the everyday Iowa history of a young woman's first week at college. The recently scanned postcard, donated by **Catherine Palczewski**, was uploaded to the public online photo archive created by a team of UNI faculty and staff called "Fortepan Iowa" (fortepan.us). The nonprofit public digital photo archive was established in 2015 to feature curated, high resolution photos and postcards taken by ordinary Iowans over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Placed in chronological order, these 15,000+ photos together tell the story of Iowa, one family snapshot and normal school postcard at a time.

The Fortepan Iowa archive is the first sister site to the well-known Fortepan archive in Hungary (fortepan.hu) which, in just a decade, has become a cultural institution with over 100,000 photographs and a huge and devoted following among everyday Hungarians and members of the photographic, archival, museum, historical society, and library communities. The name "Fortepan" comes from the famous global brand of film that was produced in Hungary from 1921 to 2001.

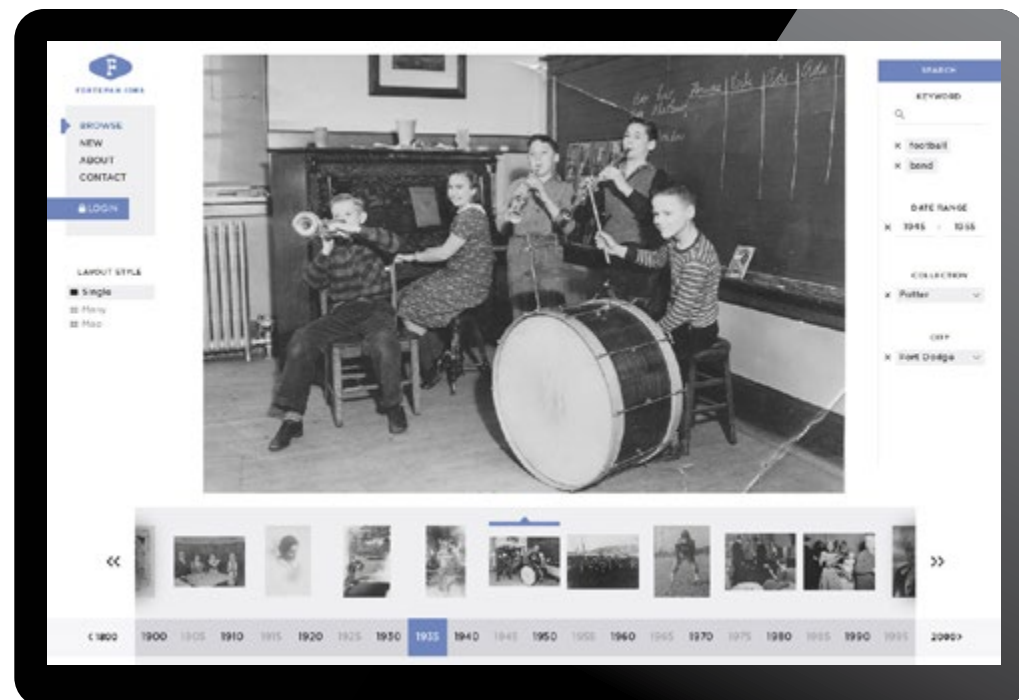
Today, our teams in Hungary and at UNI use "Fortepan" to refer to a new, community-focused way to think about archiving, photographs and public memory. Like Fortepan in Hungary, Fortepan Iowa seeks to capture history from the ground up, organize



and immediately contextualize the high-resolution photos on an easily searchable timeline, and directly connect to community members who exhilarate in the tagging and description capabilities of the interface.

Fortepan Iowa also licenses all images to the Creative Commons and makes them freely available for download and liberal use (even commercially) without fear of copyright. For all these reasons, this is not a typical online archive. As the Fortepan (Hungary) founder noted, "These [Fortepan] initiatives are aimed at

the creation of a new archiving paradigm, based on openness, dialogue and participation, which stands in contrast with the traditional values associated with archives, such as discretion, permanence and immutability." The teams in Hungary and Iowa are actively disseminating "the Fortepan Concept" (fortepan.us/info) to all corners of the world (Fortepan Malta, Fortepan Romania, Fortepan Denmark) and other U.S. states (Fortepan Ohio, Fortepan Vermont). The immediate mission at UNI is to perfect and expand the Fortepan Iowa archive through partnerships with Iowa public libraries and K-12 schools to model what is possible through community engagement with relatable photos organized by time and place. Doing so both celebrates and expands what it means to be Iowan, and uses these photos to initiate a fruitful dialogue about Iowa that builds upon communities' collective memory.



## What Makes a Good Photo for Fortepan Iowa?

As a professor of interactive digital studies, **Bettina Fabos** curates Fortepan Iowa images with **Noah Doely**, professor of digital photography. The larger team also includes **Jaycie Vos** and **Tessa Wakefield** in Rod Library Special Collections, **Philip Hopper**, professor of digital media, and **Sergey Golitsynsky** a former Panther now at Johns Hopkins University. Together they have harnessed the energy of a few key volunteers and hundreds of dedicated students from UNI's Interactive Digital Studies program to scan the photographic collections of approximately 470 donors to date. How do they decide what makes up the collection? The focus is on family snapshots taken by amateur photographers. The team finds value in focusing people's attention on certain types of images that are interesting in a broader context. They like the idea of creating a compelling visual experience through juxtaposition and thoughtful curation, and constantly ask themselves as curators: What's going to be interesting to a viewer who is not personally connected to the photographs? Is the archive compelling culturally or lyrically? Are the images altogether visually impactful?

**They choose images according to six informal categories:**



Boating on the Cedar River, 1915. Sue LeQuatte / FORTEPAN IOWA.

1.

Photos of **place** that connect people to a particular location, for example, a school, a downtown, a workplace; or a particular recreation area. This beautiful photo from 1914 shows a vibrant water scene with boat rides available on the Cedar River in Waterloo 100 years ago. Cedar Falls resident **Sue Lequatte** donated this image, explaining that her grandfather, **Phil Lown**, and her dad, **Dick Lown**, used to give rides on the Cedar River, and built their boats at her great uncle, Al Lown's, place in Sherwood Park.

2.

People are attracted to **action** photos that tell a story; or are perhaps funny, or tragic, or involve a situation that people might identify with; like a political rally, or a certain kind of motorbike. This photograph communicates the action that is just about to happen on the Cronkleton farm near Eldridge.



Cronkleton baseball on family farm, 1910. Duane Miller / FORTEPAN IOWA.



3.

The Fortepan team is also attracted to images that communicate a particular Iowa **cultural practice**.

One cultural practice the team is constantly enamored by is Iowa cake photos. Before there were camera flashes, Iowans posed with their birthday cakes outside, even in winter, to find enough light for their photos. This image, donated by **Norma Meyer**, is typical of the many cake photos uploaded to Fortepan Iowa.

Little girl with birthday cake, 1946c. Norma Jean Meyer / FORTEPAN IOWA.



Keith Kearns and Dwayne Kearns (brothers) in the back of their dad's pickup truck full of corn, Donnellson, IA, 1977. Kim Kearns / FORTEPAN IOWA.

5.

**Images that captivate** are a catchall category for those photos that hold magic — a personally touching detail or some kind of accidental framing, a special balance between dark and light, a particular human expression, the magnetic pull of two or more objects in a frame, the isolation, in a compelling way, of a particular thing or person — that elevates an everyday photograph into a piece of art. Very often these photos are unintentionally enchanting. These images keep the Fortepan Iowa archive surprising and lyrical.



Boys choir that Dean Bettis was a part of, Albia Community School District, 1957. Julie Bettis / FORTEPAN IOWA.



Butch King, age 18 takes a snapshot with his camera, Monticello, Iowa, 1991. Stephanie Bowers, '04 / FORTEPAN IOWA

6.

Finally, special love is shown for photographs with people **in the act** of taking a photograph.

Each Fortepan Iowa image contains a story, and through the information received from collection donors, tells stories about Iowa speakeasies, a beloved motorcycle mechanic, and the spunky Iowa farm girl who became a successful political staffer in Washington, D.C. We have one series of photographs from the **Tom King** collection that repeatedly features a woman who is clearly the love interest of the man behind the camera, who happens to be the donor's (Tom King's) grandfather. This woman inspired visual poetry, and the fascinating part is that no family member knows who she is — it's a family mystery.

With Fortepan Iowa's relaunch and forum capabilities now associated with each photo, the user community can also expand on the stories behind photos with additional details they may know about an event, an individual, or a piece of equipment, like a tractor model. Through crowdsourcing, the team learned that the man jumping with the kangaroo was an award-winning NCAA gymnast, **George Nissen**, who competed for the University of Iowa in the late 1930s. Originally from Blairstown, George Nissen invented the trampoline with his coach **Larry Griswold** in 1937 to perfect his tumbling techniques. Nissen and Griswold established the first trampoline-manufacturing company in Cedar Rapids in 1941, and the kangaroo photos were taken in Central Park, New York as part of a publicity campaign (the trampoline company's logo was a kangaroo). It's worth knowing that the trampoline was invented in Iowa by a local gymnast. **UNI**



George Nissen with Kangaroo in Central Park, 1960. Deb Jones / FORTEPAN IOWA.

## You Can Contribute to Fortepan Iowa

UNI alumni are welcome to visit Fortepan Iowa and participate in the story of Iowa history. Help tell Iowa's story by tagging photographs or adding your own comments to particular photographs you may know something about. Volunteers are needed to help date photographs, moderate tags and comments, and post Fortepan Iowa photos on Facebook. You may also be interested in volunteering at one of Fortepans scanning hubs at UNI or the public libraries in Anamosa, Cedar Falls, Ottumwa, Sumner and Webster City. If you are interested in contributing family snapshots, glass slides or any type of Iowa-related photo you think might connect with larger publics (digital files only), visit the "About" page on the Fortepan Iowa website ([fortepan.us](http://fortepan.us)) to follow specific instructions about the image donation process.

As the archive expands, other initiatives are underway: a mapping tool to enable visitors to search photos by address; and a tool they are calling "Mainstreet 360°", which will geo-locate historical photos, decade by decade, onto a streetview-like display. For the prototype, the Fortepan Iowa team will geo-locate approximately 3,000 images from UNI's campus, so imagine revisiting the campus through this new tool, choosing "1960" and seeing a collage of geo-located photos superimposed on a streetview environment — augmented reality with an historical purpose.



Airplane bomb circa 1945 Ione Roquet / FORTEPAN IOWA

Recognizable **historical moments** are included, with special attention to images taken from the unique perspective of an amateur photographer.

Reagan speaks at Cedar Rapids Airport, 1984. Nichole Harken, '99, '03 / FORTEPAN IOWA.





# Where passion and leadership meet

**Autumn Pino** leaned forward in her chair, focused on the conversation in front of her and tonight's topic: school finance.

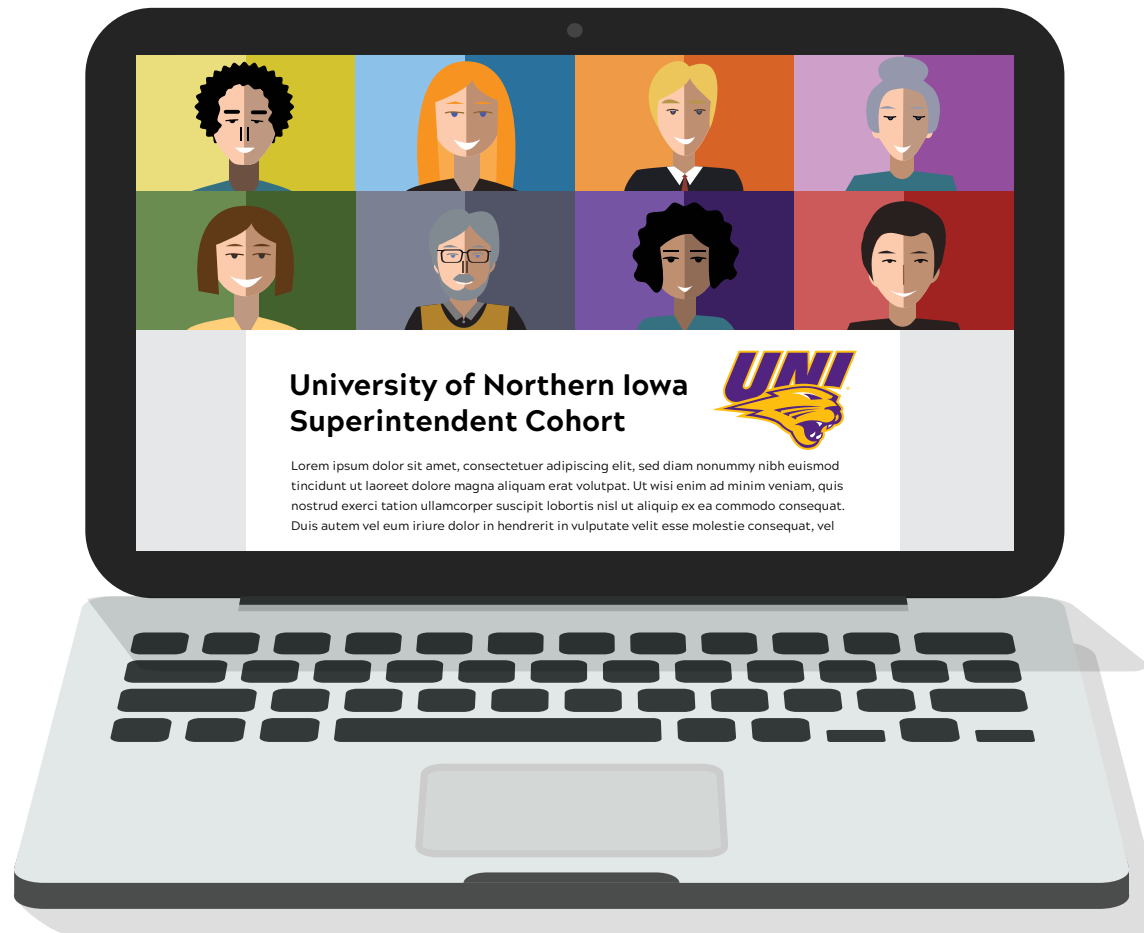
She was about to ask the presenter a question when she sensed a slight movement to her right. She turned and smiled as her daughter slid a sandwich in front of her. With a quick wink and silent “thank you,” she returned back to the dialogue unfolding on her computer screen. Forty-five minutes remained in her virtual class, part of the Advanced Studies Certificate (ASC) in superintendency program at the University of Northern Iowa.

This hybrid program — delivered via Zoom, with Saturday seminars four weekends of the first semester and a class on campus for two days each summer — combines a quality educational experience with a flexibility that gives future superintendents and senior administrators from all corners of the state of Iowa a doable path toward achieving a

graduate degree. Every two years, a new cohort of about 15 students begin.

“We have students from all over the state, and they’re really appreciative of this virtual mode of delivery, but blended with face-to-face time,” says **Denise Schares**, ‘86, ‘94, ‘04, who has been with the College of Education program for the past seven years, including leading it for the last three. “I have a student in Marcus, in the far northwest near Orange City, and also in Keokuk. You can’t hardly get much farther in your travels [in the state of Iowa] than that. But it’s been great work, and it really attests to our commitment to serving all geographic areas, as well as metro areas.”

Superintendents are the lead learners of their school systems — and within the K-12 setting, the pinnacle of administration. Interested educators work their way up the ladder through a combination of experience and



education, adding endorsements and graduate degrees to fill gaps, gain knowledge and meet licensure requirements. According to historical archives at UNI's Rod Library, the issue of advanced degree offerings was a topic of discussion at UNI from its earliest days as a teacher's college. Today's graduate degrees, including the ASC for superintendency, as well as ASC and master's for principalship and doctorate in education, are a natural continuum for Iowa's leader in teacher education.

Pino is one of hundreds of students who have successfully navigated the UNI superintendency program. As a

principal at Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy in Cedar Rapids, she's preparing herself for continued growth. Fellow alumnus **Mark Lane**, '16, became superintendent for Decorah schools in July 2019 after 25 years of experience in the Des Moines area, including as associate superintendent in Urbandale. **Travis Schueller**, '13, '16, has served as superintendent of the North Kossuth and North Union school districts since 2016.

The passion each has for their chosen profession is evident. When they felt it was time to prepare for that next step, each turned to the University of Northern Iowa.

## A FLEXIBLE APPROACH

The superintendency program at UNI provides future leaders with the coursework, connections and context to prepare them to lead in accordance with the Iowa Standards of School Leaders. The primarily online, hybrid approach worked well for the three.

“I could be at school all day on Wednesday, work at the office, log in at the computer, connect with our cohort and whoever was teaching the classes. It just really worked with what I was doing professionally at the time. It was good learning, but also convenient,” says Lane.

“**One of the challenges for any administrator is balancing work and home life. I take being a mom seriously. This program honored the fact I need a balance in my life, so not going to class every night was helpful to me,**”

says Pino. “If I knew I had a Tuesday or Thursday night class, I was completely focused on class, but it allowed me to do everything I needed to do leading up to the class.”

A first semester on-campus Saturday class helps build cohort connections. “Because they brought us together — so you meet people face to face — when you were on (the online link), they weren’t just a face on a computer. You knew who they were. It worked really well for people hours away,” adds Schueller, who notes the connection with cohort members persists to this day.



**GETTING  
PRACTICAL**

The UNI superintendency program is known for its practicality, both in experiences provided and expertise that's shared.

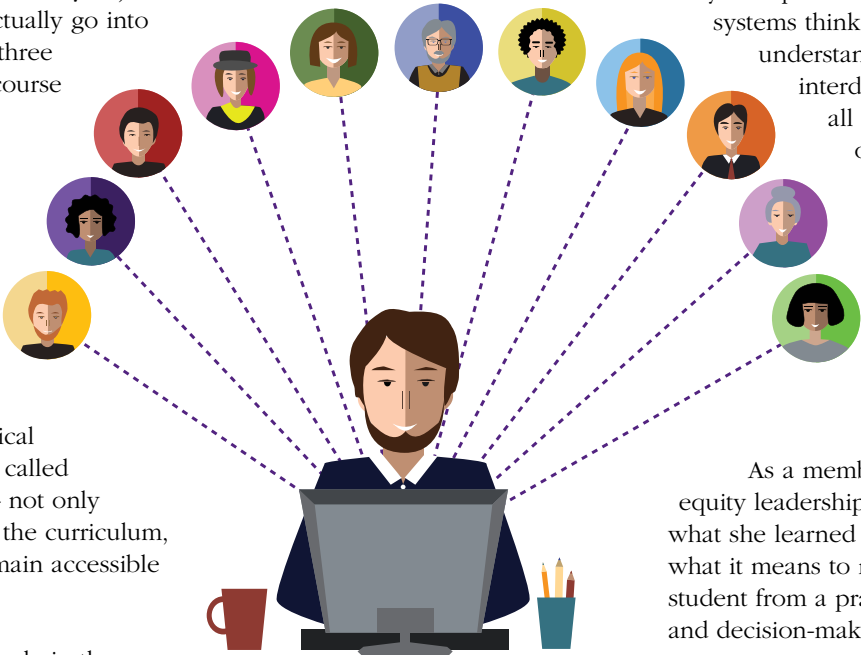
"It's taught by practicing administrators and central office administrators, those with practical experience," explains Schares. "It's taught in the field by UNI faculty; we rarely use any adjunct faculty, and we actually go into students' districts three times during the course of the program, supporting their internship work. These onsite visits with candidates and their mentors is really key."

Mentors — or critical friends, as they're called in the program — not only present as part of the curriculum, but coach and remain accessible to the students.

"Hearing from people in the field and finding opportunities via Zoom or on campus for them to share about their lived experience in the role was really beneficial," says Lane, who recalled hearing from **Tony Voss**, '92, superintendent in the Hudson district, and **Darwin Lehman**, with Forest City.

Schueller found this an opportunity to strengthen his connection with Lehmann, an

early mentor, while Pino gained new perspective on building community relationships from **Mary Jo Hainstock**, Vinton-Shellsburg schools superintendent. Listening to Superintendent **Stan Rheingans**, '12, from Dubuque was powerful, she says. "To hear him speak about the future direction of the district and thinking through difficult decisions, and how to do a good job honoring traditions, while leading with foresight, it had me thinking."



plant and equipment levy and co-facilitated a curriculum adoption. He later used what he learned to support preparations for a bond referendum for new buildings, which later passed. He expects to apply this experience to a similar need for new buildings in Decorah.

With coursework, dialogue and hands-on experience, students move beyond the natural building-based approach of a principal.

"Key to superintendency is systems thinking and understanding the interdependence of all the components of the system. A school system is a massive organization, even a small school district," Lane says.

As a member of the district equity leadership team, Pino used what she learned to help envision what it means to reach every student from a practice, policies and decision-making perspective.

"I appreciate being a part of the process, because there is so much systems thinking. It's an area of growth for me," she says. While she could implement some ideas in her building, she adds, "Now I have the ability to think broader about it as a future superintendent and how I would engage in shared leadership."

Through hands-on practicum projects of benefit to their districts, cohort members bring what they've learned into focus, reflecting their move into broader issues and solutions.

While an ASC student, Lane helped gather information for potential passage of a physical

**FINDING THE CONTEXT  
WITHIN COMPLEXITY**

Schares, a former superintendent with Clear Creek Amana school, notes the work of a superintendent continues to become more and more complex.

"There are budget concerns, enrollment concerns, a great deal more work on the social and emotional well-being of students. Declining enrollment has created a great deal more conversation about operational sharing. There are additional requirements for safety planning, concern for securing appropriately

endorsed teachers to serve in high need areas — all of those things continue to contribute to the complexity of the work. And they're addressed in our program," says Schares.

"What we emphasize is the context of the work. The actual district or districts that you're serving will bring with it unique challenges and opportunities," Schares adds. "Our work is really to do the best that we can to prepare them for those challenges and opportunities."

**LESSONS LEARNED**

Each program graduate recalls a specific aspect that left an impact. For Lane, it was a course on power politics and ethics. "That was an excellent foundation of the political side of the superintendency that you don't necessarily understand as a principal," he said. One of the first things he did upon his move to Decorah was to reach out to the mayor and city council members. "We are all public servants; we can't work in silos."

Pino liked being pushed to find her stretch points. "I can talk all day about equity and leadership for students, but an area I need to grow is finance. I liked the opportunities to

work closely with the CFO in my district. It's nice to be able to do that while still in a safe place and still in school."

Schueller appreciates the practical tools he gained. "One of the things unique about UNI is they have you prepare an entry plan for the first 100 days of being superintendent, for you to present to your board and then return for an update," he says. "This document helped guide me through that opening three months. I got that from current and former superintendents in class. Everything we did project-wise or assignment-wise had a meaning behind it."

**MOVING  
FORWARD**

Pino completed her final presentation in November. She welcomes whatever's next.

"This has allowed me to think more about the future. It's been good to engage in conversations with really great mentors that have lived the superintendency experience, but also know me as an individual student," she says. "Sometime in the near future, I will choose to go for a broader position, but will feel humbled enough to know that I would have to be the right fit."

Last fall Lane was ready for his first fall as superintendent. "I watched my dad become a school administrator and superintendent and watched the way that work filled him with pride and joy. I've enjoyed every job that I've had. I'm already starting to feel the pride in the job as I walk around the district."

Schueller's days are filled with both the challenges and delights of a shared superintendency which covers seven communities, two districts and three building sites. The small town, rural Iowa native considers it a perfect fit. He values the connections made and lessons learned through the UNI superintendency program and regularly talks with principals about entering the UNI ASC.

"I just love my job every day I go to work. You have the best of both worlds; if you want to interact with students, if I want to help instructional leadership with teachers; be part of management, or the finance side," he says. "It's an opportunity to be able to impact all different aspects of education. And in the end, it's all about the students." **UNI**



# Forced out; **welcomed back**

It was the fall of 1965 when **Tim Sullivan** received a letter that shattered his world.

He was a junior at the University of Northern Iowa, then known as the State College of Iowa, and life was good. He was heavily involved in theatre and had a wide circle of close friends. He lived in Ryder Hall. He went to the movies. He had roommates that he liked, and others he didn't. In short, he was a college student. He felt accepted.

But then the letter came and everything changed. It said he had been outed as a homosexual by a fellow student and now had two choices: He could tell his parents he was gay and start seeing a psychiatrist. Or, he would have to leave the university.

Sullivan chose to leave. And he said it was the best thing he could have done.

Now, more than 50 years later, Sullivan was invited back to UNI, where he shared with students and the community his experience as a gay man living through one of the most turbulent times for the LGBTQ community.

For UNI, it was a chance to right a wrong and to signal that times have changed at the university.

"I contacted Tim and apologized on behalf of the university," said **Paula Knudson**, vice president of student affairs. "Things have changed at UNI and in Iowa."

Growing up in rural West Union, Sullivan knew he was different.

"I played with dolls as a kid," he said. "Did I pay for that? Sure. Did I care? No."

In seventh grade, he won first prize in his school costume contest. He went as Marilyn Monroe. Later, in high school, he read an article in Life Magazine about gay men in New York and Los Angeles. It was the first time he had heard that word. "Gay."

After finding acceptance and rejection at UNI, he decided to head to L.A. with his boyfriend, who worked as a barber on College Hill. Back then, you could get paid driving someone's car to the coast. So, Sullivan and his boyfriend drove to L.A. on Route 66 in a white Pontiac they picked up in Chicago.

“

I played with dolls as a kid," he said. "Did I pay for that? Sure. **Did I care? No."**

- **TIM SULLIVAN**



He was 21 years old.

A year and a half later, he met a man who convinced him to go to New York. Together, they dropped acid and started hitchhiking. They made it as far as Albuquerque before taking a plane the rest of the way.

Sullivan’s friend disappeared shortly after they arrived. For a brief time, he was homeless and directionless. Then one night, he was walking down Fifth Avenue and stopped in front of the storefront window of Bonwit Teller, a high-end department store.

“The windows were showing ball gowns,” Sullivan said. “I had always been interested in fashion, and I had never seen anything like these dresses outside of the movies. I stood and stared at these windows and I knew I was home.”

He had found his calling, and Sullivan eventually worked his way up to director of visual merchandising for Brooks Brothers, the oldest clothier in the country.

Sullivan built a life he loved, and he didn’t begrudge UNI their action in 1965. Sullivan was far from the only victim of a concerted effort to remove homosexual students from Iowa universities. Known as the “purge,” it was emblematic of a society at large that condemned homosexuality.

Homosexuality was listed by the American Psychiatric Association as a treatable disorder until 1973, and the American Medical Association had a list of viable therapies until 1994, which

included drug and electro-shock conversion treatments, and lobotomies.

Movies and television had strict guidelines forbidding any positive portrayal of homosexuality under the Hollywood Motion Picture Production Code. The Congressional hearings of U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy turned a national spotlight on his fight to uncover an imaginary homosexual take-over of the government and military.

Every state had sex crime and sodomy laws criminalizing any sexual activity that could not result in a pregnancy. In Iowa, sodomy was a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, with repeat offenders, or those labelled “sexual perverts,” eligible for sterilization.

“Homophobia, in its truest sense, became institutionalized, leading to police raids, entrapment, harassment, and a sense of public panic and suspicion,” said **David Hayes**, a local LGBTQ historian who worked at UNI for 25 years. “LGBT people were driven further underground. We lived double lives, keeping secrets and often telling lies because it was simply too dangerous to be open as an LGBT person on campus, or in Iowa.”

In 1964, a new UNI administrator, who arrived from the University of Alaska, was appalled to learn that there was an underground gay life at the school known for training Iowa’s teachers. Using the weapon of Iowa laws, from 1965 to 1967 he quietly conducted a “purge” of gay and bisexual men from the school, giving them the choice to leave or face having their names turned over to law enforcement.

For those who escaped the purge, faculty advisors recommended that the state of Iowa not issue a teaching certificate to any education major suspected of being gay.

Student spies were sent to private parties to collect names and those named were pressured to name more. It was one of these spies that outed Sullivan, who was likely one of the first students expelled by the purge, Hayes said.

Victims of the purge are difficult to find. No official records of students given Sullivan’s ultimatum were kept. So, when Knudson learned about Sullivan’s story, she leapt at the chance to make things right.

Knudson invited Sullivan to speak on campus and visit with students about his experiences.

“It was great to be back at UNI, though it is much changed,” Sullivan said. “A large part of the current campus was corn fields when I was there. Many of the disciplines that I saw did not exist when I was there. I was most impressed with the size and apparent power of the LGBTQ community that exists today.”

Sullivan was the keynote speaker during UNI’s celebration of LGBTQ+

history month. He also spoke to textiles and design students to share his insights from decades working in the fashion world.

It was a whirlwind visit for Sullivan, and the perspective he imparted to students was invaluable.

“I was extremely flattered to be invited back as a guest speaker,” Sullivan said. “It was a wonderful experience for me and a source of many memories.”

For Knudson, Sullivan’s visit was a chance to right a wrong and shine a light on a regrettable and obscured moment in the university’s past. **UNI**

“We should apologize, because we treated people wrongly, UNI was not alone, but just because everyone else was doing it doesn’t make it right.”

- PAULA KNUDSON





# A recipe for success

## TRY PIE OFFERS HIGH SCHOOLERS A SLICE OF EXPERIENCE

**I**nside a storefront bakery in downtown Waterloo, a teenaged employee named Jessica stands in the kitchen peeling apples. Slowly, the pile of unpeeled apples begins to tower over the pile of apples still in their green and red skin. Though she has not yet turned 16, she is saving up her paychecks to pay the auto insurance on her new car in advance and avoid worrying where that money will come from each month.

Another young worker rolls dough into circles. Pemeh's hands are covered in flour as she carefully lifts the flattened pastry into a pan and crimps the edge. It took a bit of practicing to master the skill, but she does so now with

confidence. In the year she has been employed here, she has begun to step out of her comfort zone, making new friends and learning more about the culture of her new home. Pemeh has been saving 25 percent of each paycheck to help pay for college. She wants to study psychology.

The pies the two girls are working to make will be sold from this small storefront nestled across the street from Lincoln Park and across the Cedar Valley.

It is easy to see the young women enjoy their work and the company of the other girls. Tomorrow, the girls will gather with other members of the team to focus on ACT prep. Unlike traditional workplaces, their employer, Try Pie, is devoting resources to enable teens to manage their paychecks, prepare for future employment, understand their unique gifts and recognize value in each other.



**PROVIDING  
MEANINGFUL  
WORK**

**W**hile still a student at the University of Northern Iowa, **Sarah Helleso**, '15, began volunteering for Try Pie, an organization formed by a partnership between Heartland Vineyard Church in Waterloo and Orchard Hill Church in Cedar Falls. The work of these congregations, operating under the umbrella of Link Christian Community Development, focused on the flourishing of Iowa's Cedar Valley, specifically the Walnut Neighborhood of Waterloo.

Helleso quickly realized this young organization could provide a meaningful internship. So she began making plans. When Helleso reached out to her adviser **Julianne Gassman**, '92, '96, associate professor in the department of health, recreation and community services, to tell her she'd found the perfect internship, Gassman initially disagreed.

"I told her no," Gassman recalls of their initial conversation. She was worried Helleso would not gain as much knowledge from a nonprofit in its infancy as she would from one that was firmly established.

Helleso laughs while recalling the same conversation. "I don't remember a really firm no. I heard more of a, 'Hmm. I'm not so sure that's a good idea.' Which to me was just like, 'That's OK. We'll fill in the blanks here.'"

What Helleso saw in Try Pie, a social enterprise program that exists to provide young women with meaningful work, was

the opportunity to combine what she was learning in her classes as a leisure, youth and human services major and a business management minor.

Helleso was having conversations in and out of the classroom with professors like Gassman and **Laurie Watje**, associate director of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at UNI, who taught her entrepreneurship classes.

"I was seeing this gap between the nonprofit sector and the [ability to apply some] business-focused values that could launch their mission forward."

At the same time, Helleso was learning more about Try Pie from **Megan Tensen**, '12, who was then employed by Orchard Hill Church, splitting time between college ministry and local mission efforts.

"I really believed in [the idea of] social enterprise of business ministry and nonprofitship," recalls Helleso. "I was excited about this opportunity but knew I couldn't do it unless I could call it my internship."

Once Gassman understood Helleso's vision to apply knowledge she was gaining from both her fields of study to the young organization, she agreed to the internship placement.

Tensen and Helleso are now a team at the helm of Try Pie, which recently received its own 501c3 status and operates as an independent organization.

**Sarah  
Helleso**  
'15

**Megan  
Tensen**  
'12



*"I really believed in [the idea of] social enterprise of business ministry and nonprofitship."* **-SARAH HELLESO**



**OVERLAP  
BETWEEN BUSINESS  
& MISSION**

“We’re a teen employment program for high school girls from Waterloo and Cedar Falls,” Tensen says. “We want to give the girls their first job opportunities and a place to recognize the gifts and skills they have and can contribute to a community, and then learn to see the value of that in each other.”

As a social enterprise, Try Pie has an overlap between business and mission. Profit from the sales of pies and other products go straight back into the organization’s work to equip young women and strengthen the community. As a 501c3, the organization is also able to accept donations and apply for grant funding to support its mission.

Hands-on experience in the kitchen and store front is complemented by time spent in a classroom setting



with curriculum that focuses on four pillars: job skill development, financial literacy, faith development and reconciling community — the idea that we all have something to contribute and learn from each other in our community. Girls are paired with volunteer mentors and establish personal, work and financial goals.

While no student is required to have any kind of faith or interest in developing that in their lives, the

belief that God created us all with unique gifts and skills to share is central to the organization.

“After you accomplish that goal, you feel like you’re on top of the world,” Pemeh says excitedly.

“When you establish these goals, other people cheer you on,” Jessica said. Sharing the goals helps make each girl accountable.

Both admit they would not have

been likely to establish financial or other goals had it not been for their experience at Try Pie.

The extra effort sets Try Pie apart as an employer.

“When you’re in close proximity with the equal intention of preparing girls for work and preparing them for life, you are able to notice a lot more of what a student might need to develop and grow as a person,” Helleso said.

**FOUNDATION  
FOR GROWTH**

As the organization has grown, Tensen and Helleso have relied on the relationships they built while students at UNI for support.

“It has been great to stay in close communication with our professors and feel cheered on and affirmed in what we’re pursuing,” says Tensen. “But we also know that we have people to turn to as a resource to ask questions and learn from their expertise and wisdom.”

The pair has reached out to the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center for tools that helped Try Pie scale up and have also relied on the knowledge they gained in the classroom as students themselves.

Throughout Try Pie’s growth, Tensen and Helleso have been committed to letting the girls in the program continue to have ownership, developing new recipes, managing marketing and social media for the organization, exploring opportunities to grow business and assisting in managing finances.

Try Pie has found a recipe for success. **UNI**







**ALUMNI BOARD**

**Front row:** Kevin Saville '87; Connie Peters '73; Beth Primrose '66; Therese Stevens '12; Megan Stull '08; Kevin Mote '87; Allison Rickels '01; Debora Blume '94; Kay Smith '70, '77.

**Back row:** Vernon Avant '78; Jacob Levang '20; Andrew Conrad '93; Montana Hart '20; Jason Lau '99, '02; Michele Haupt '83; Jake Rudy '11; Jeffrey Hoppenworth '73; Dustin Toale '16; Jerry Glazier '77; Jerry Harris '89; Ben Hammes '08; Laurie Krumm '83.

**Not pictured:** Courtney Chabot Dreyer '94; Dan Fick '85; Steve Jackson '96; Joe Murphy '06; Coree Smith '98.

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Alumni Board, please contact Leslie Prideaux at [leslie.prideaux@uni.edu](mailto:leslie.prideaux@uni.edu).



**DISTINGUISHED AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

Recipients of the University of Northern Iowa's 2019 Distinguished Awards gather with UNI President Mark Nook.

**Front row:** UNI President Mark Nook; Larry McKibben '70, Alumni Achievement Award; Mary Theilen '99, Young Alumni Award; Sara Phillips '04, Emerging Philanthropist Award; Jersey Jermier, Honorary Alumni Award.

**Back row:** Doug, '72, and Rosie, '72, Lindaman, Alumni Service Award; Bruce Jorth and Doug Opheim with RSM, Corporation and Foundation Award; Dick, '63, and Carol, '65, Savage, Purple and Gold Award.

**Not pictured:** Sally Frudden, '55, '72, Faculty and Staff Award.



**UNI and DMACC partnership**

The University of Northern Iowa and the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) entered into a brand-new partnership to allow DMACC students a simpler pathway to a four-year degree without having to leave Des Moines.

The new program, known as "UNI at DMACC", allows students to complete the first two years at DMACC and the final two years at the DMACC Urban Campus through UNI. Students are able to earn a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree. The intention of the program is to make a four-year degree more accessible to DMACC students while eliminating the obstacles caused by relocation.

This partnership is the culmination of nearly a year's worth of conversations between UNI

President **Mark Nook** and DMACC President **Rob Denson**. DMACC's urban campus currently has over 5,000 students enrolled, and the program is set to begin in the fall of 2020. While this is the first time UNI will have a physical presence in Des Moines, the schools have shared a partnership for over twenty years.

"The Liberal Studies degree at DMACC's Urban Campus is a demonstration of our commitment to finding new ways of bringing a four-year degree to students across the state of Iowa, no matter their location," Nook said. "This degree has large employability and opens many doors for graduates. We are grateful for our long partnership with DMACC and are excited to provide an accessible education to Des Moines-based students through this innovative program."

**UNI receives \$40 million in grants**  
for research and special projects

UNI was awarded \$40 million in competitive research grants during the 2019 fiscal year, the highest in five years and an affirmation of the institution's strength in scholarship. It will support 210 projects, the most since 2010.

Many of the projects being funded have practical applications in public service, such as studying air and water quality in Iowa as well as training to help local school officials address students' mental-health needs. Public service has long been a signature of UNI's portfolio, with an emphasis on transforming on-campus scholarship and research into real-world benefits for local and regional communities.

"At UNI, as is the case with many public comprehensive universities, the role of seeking and obtaining external grants and contracts to support research and scholarship is becoming more important every year," said **Tolif Hunt**, director of research and sponsored programs at UNI. "External funding for research and scholarship plays a major role in helping position and distinguish UNI and its faculty as leaders in education, research, and scholarship."





## University of Northern Iowa named a Best Business School by The Princeton Review

The University of Northern Iowa finds itself in an elite company of business schools after being recognized by The Princeton Review on its list of “Best Business Schools for 2020”. The Princeton Review is a leading tutoring, test prep, and college admission services group performs a yearly survey of over 20,700 students and 248 schools.

"We recommend University of Northern Iowa as an excellent choice for a student aspiring to earn an MBA," said **Rob Franek**, The Princeton Review's Editor-in-Chief. Franek noted that the opinions of current students factor into the decision, as well as academic offerings, admission requirements, and graduates' employment.

"It is a true honor to be consistently named a best business school by the Princeton Review. The success of our students is a direct reflection of our commitment to them. We will never stop pushing ourselves to deliver the best business degree that emphasizes professional readiness, global engagement and confidence to face the challenges of tomorrow," said **Leslie K. Wilson**, '84, dean of UNI's College of Business Administration.

## UNI receives national award for student voting participation

The University of Northern Iowa was the retroactive recipient of the Silver Seal Award from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for after it was discovered UNI had one of the top two student-voting rates in the country.

This belated recognition was received after UNI joined the challenge in the summer of 2018. It was discovered that in the 2016 presidential elections, 67.5 percent of UNI students went to the polls, a figure nearly 18 points above the national average. This success can be attributed to the hard work of student groups on campus, such as the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG).

"UNI is a campus full of highly engaged and civic-minded students, so it was not a surprise that we would do well, but I am very impressed with the 2016 results," stated political science professor **Justin Holmes**. "It reflects not only the engagement of our students, but the hard work of various groups to engage and mobilize them. We look forward to building on our past success and to continue our tradition of high participation."



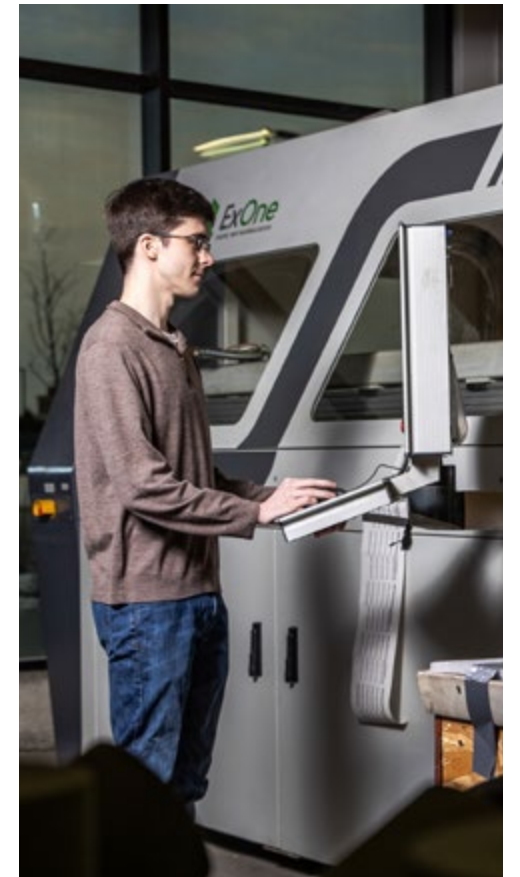
## Additive Manufacturing Center to become one-of-a-kind facility

UNI's Additive Manufacturing Center (AMC) took the first step towards becoming the only university in the world to boast having an automated investment casting facility when the two of three robotic machining cells arrived on campus this spring.

This groundbreaking expansion combines cutting-edge additive manufacturing technology with automated computer processing that allows for faster production than ever before. The cells create an automated investment casting mold that can be integrated with existing pattern printing technologies.

"The automation applications into the metal casting industry will help elevate the skill sets of the workforce while removing workers from environmentally and physically challenging or dangerous applications," AMC operations manager **Travis Flush** said. "Operators will use robots to support the menial and basic material handling requirements of the casting process."

The AMC is a world-class 3D printing and casting center that helps keep Iowa's industry supply chain on the leading edge of innovation. It is staffed by current UNI students, allowing them to gain valuable job experience while they help meet the demands of small businesses from across the state.



## UNI Chemistry/Biochemistry Department Receives \$25,000 grant from NASA for research projects

In February 2020, the UNI Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was selected as the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Iowa Space Grant Consortium, which is a fellowship partnered with NASA.

The funding was used to purchase specialized equipment to enhance the learning of students, as well as expanding research opportunities. The equipment

includes a spectrometer and other biosampling tools used on an undergraduate research trip to Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. The funds will also support a planned student trip to NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in California for astrobiology experimentation. UNI biochemistry professor and lead investigator **Josh Sebree** said these research trips are an opportunity unlike any other for undergraduate students.

"We're very fortunate to have received this funding," Sebree said. "Not only is this a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the students, who normally wouldn't get to go on a research trip like this at the undergraduate level, but it's also an opportunity for us to help others by contributing to national park conservation efforts, and NASA's efforts to explore the possibilities for life on other planets."



‘50s

**‘52 Elly (Stettler) Leslie, BA,** San Diego, CA, sang jazz tunes at the Bernardo Heights Country Club 9/14/2019 and plays piano concerts monthly at Oakmont of Escondido Hills.

**‘55 Lavonne (Wenger) McGuire, BA,** Morton, IL, stays busy with family and volunteering. She has four children, 15 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild!

**‘57 Len Froyen, BA,** Cedar Falls, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 Over 80 for 2019.

**‘57 Joy (Harris) Thiel, BA,** Reinbeck, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 Over 80 for 2019.

**‘59 Paul Lundberg, BA,** Indianola, was a vocal music teacher in Hartley, Dysart, Southeast Warren Liberty Center, Milo and Lacona.

‘60s

**‘60 Norman Wolfe, BA,** Stuart, is retired, does a lot of fishing, writes poetry and short stories and enjoys traveling. He has 50 grand and great grandchildren and is a big UNI football fan.

**‘64 Francis Dow, BA, MA ‘69,** Summerfield, FL, is a retired college professor and travels extensively.

**‘65 Glenn Wehrkamp, MA,** Waverly, is retired and living in an apartment at Eichhorn Haus with his wife, Yvonne. They are in good health and enjoying life.

**‘66 Dave DeWalle, BA, MA ‘74,** Marion, received the 2018 Ambassador of the Year Award from the Marion Chamber of Commerce and Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance.

**‘66 Donna (Ferns) Hoffman, BA, MA ‘81,** Cedar Falls, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 Over 80 for 2019.

**‘68 Connie (Worl) Venti, BA,** Aguanga, CA, is semi retired teaching voice and piano lessons three days a week. She also stays busy with grandchildren and hobbies, such as music classes with granddaughters.

‘70s

**‘70 Dwight Bachman, BA,** Willimantic, CT, was named Valedictorian for the 100 Men of Color Class of 2019 by the June Archer and Eleven28 Entertainment Group. The gala recognizes contributions of men who have impacted communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

**‘70 Kurt Johnson, MA,** Bronx, NY, was awarded The Brian Boyd Prize for his book “Fine Lines” in Sept. 2019.

**‘72 Jan Dinger Duggan, BA,** Saint Cloud, MN, retired from teaching kindergarten in Fairfax County Public Schools in Alexandria, VA.

**‘72 Mary (Wenke) Quass, BA,** Mount Vernon, received the National Radio Award from the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio Advertising Bureau in Sept. 2019.

**‘73 Roy Fielding, BA, MA ‘77,** Charlotte, NC, retired as senior lecturer at the University of North Carolina after more than 40 years. The UNC chancellor is naming the Belk Gym Pool in his honor.

**‘74 Robert Good, BA,** Charleston, IL, received the 2018 award designation of Master Fellow by the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**‘75 Julie Bright, BA,** New Hartford, received the Kenneth E. Farris, Sr. Award from the College Athletic Business Management Association in recognition of her lifetime achievement in the field of athletics business management.

**‘75 Kenneth Icenbice, BA,** Virginia Beach, VA, retired in 2015 after 40 years of

government service, including active duty US Navy, Navy contractor and Navy Civil Service.

**‘76 Dave Heath, BA,** Ankeny, is a volunteer instructor for AARP’s Safe Driver program and was appointed to the state marketing and instructor recruiter coordinator position. He also serves on the AARP national steering committee for Safe Driver TEK.

**‘76 Joe Ryan, BA,** Oskaloosa, retired as managing partner of TD&T CPAs and Advisors after 34 years.

**‘78 Holly (Meier) Lester, BA,** Ames, retired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year after teaching middle school math for 41 years.

**‘79 Joseph Needham, BA, MA ‘81,** Ridgeway, is a professor at Northeast Iowa Community College.

**‘79 Patricia O’Donnell, BA, MA ‘83,** Wilton, ME, published a novel titled “The Vigilance of Stars.”

**‘79 Gwen (Cumberland) Schaeffer, BA,** Independence, retired from public education after 39 years. She taught home economics and was an administrator.

‘80s

**‘80 Jerry Ask, BA,** Cedar Rapids, was named one of the top advisors in Iowa for 2019 by Forbes and Barron’s.

**‘80 Pat (Cahoy) Cunningham, BM,** Auburn, NH, performed Copland “Clarinet Concerto” with the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra.

**‘80 Laura Leonberger, BM,** Waikoloa, HI, decided to move to Hawaii after 28 years of winters in Minnesota. She and her husband were able to work from home until retirement 7/5/2019.

**‘80 Sally (Sullivan) Mainquist, BA,** Minnetonka, MN, was named chair for the 2019 Twin Cities Walk to End Alzheimer’s. In 2018 she received the

Minnesota Society of CPA’s Public Service Award, the Paragon of Leadership Award and the Real Power of 50 Award from the Minnesota Business Magazine.

**‘80 Doug Pearson, BA,** Ankeny, is senior vice president and chief underwriting officer at GuideOne Insurance.

**‘81 Scott Bertelsen, BA,** Forest City, was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame 10/5/2018. He is a high school English teacher and speech coach.

**‘81 Betty (Johnson) Hopkins, BA,** Des Moines, retired after 28 years as a State of Iowa juvenile court officer and supervisor. She was also a National Certified Restorative Justice trainer and fellow at Georgetown University Public Policy Institute.

**‘81 Daniel Waller, BA,** Colleyville, TX, is senior director for strategic transformation and growth with Nutrien Financial. He provides financing solutions to the agricultural world and is based out of Loveland, CO.

**‘84 Jay Anliker, BA,** Wausau, WI, retired as president and CEO of UMR, a business unit of UnitedHealthcare.

**‘84 Kevin Boatright, MA,** Lawrence, KS, was named to the governing board of his undergraduate alma mater, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**‘85 Lisa (Andersen) Chizek, BA, MA ‘12,** Toledo, was named a science finalist for the 2019 Iowa Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**‘85 Clark Christensen, BA,** Atlanta, GA, was inducted into the inaugural Riverside High School Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Graduate. He continues to work for The Coca Cola Company.

**‘85 David Howe, BA,** Okemos, MI, works in pedagogy, instructional design, educational technology and other academic services at Michigan State University.

**‘86 Saul Austin, ASC,** Waterloo, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 Over 80 for 2019.

**‘86 Charles Jenkins, BA,** Jonesboro, GA, was the first African American ROTC graduate at UNI and retired from the US Army as lieutenant colonel.

**‘86 Deb Vangellow, BA,** Sugar Land, TX, was named one of the Top 50 LPGA Teachers for 2020 2021 by the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

**‘87 Gregory Block, BA,** Las Cruces, NM, retired from New Mexico State University after 27 years and works for Tresco Inc., a nonprofit agency.

**‘87 Chris (Keenan) Fagan, BA,** North Bend, WA, published a book titled “The Expedition: Two Parents Risk Life and Family in an Extraordinary Quest to the South Pole,” which details her record breaking adventure.

**‘87 Deb (Zeimet) Little, BA,** MA ‘96, Tripoli, received the 2019 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**‘87 Joyce (Kuhn) Pingel, BA,** Runnells, was promoted to chief information officer with Kum & Go.

**‘87 Teri (Greenlee) Ross, BA,** Altoona, was promoted to president of shared services at Sammons Financial Group in West Des Moines.

**‘87 Gary Wolter, BA,** Mesa, AZ, is a certified residential specialist and realtor with EXP Realty.

**‘87 Terry York, BA,** York, NE, was promoted to associate director of health systems with Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

**‘88 Lynn (Rhodes) Boffeli, BA,** Holy Cross, retired after more than 25 years in social work. She now works for a company involved with helping people in the health field.

**‘88 Jim Lee, BA,** Clear Lake, is a 5th grade math teacher and head girls’ track and field coach with Mason City Community School District.

**‘88 Steve Metz, BA,** Apple Valley, MN, is CEO of LJP Waste Solutions.

**‘89 Jon Best, BA,** Norcross, GA, is the director of business development and market strategy at Abbvie.

**‘89 John Kotz, BA,** Adel, received the Class 4A Boys’ Golf Coach of the Year Award from the Iowa High School Golf Coaches Association and the Iowa Boys’ Gold Coach of the Year Award from the National Federation of High Schools Iowa.

‘90s

**‘90 Christopher Mailander, BA,** Asheville, NC, published a book titled “The Craft,” which examines how corporate decision makers perceive, react and think in critical moments.

**‘90 Stacey Snyder, MA, ASC ‘13,** Tripoli, received the 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘91 Lisa Raine, BA, MA ‘95, ASC ‘97,** Vancouver, WA, is the union director for the Washington Education Association.

**‘91 Robert Spalding, BA,** Moraga, CA, published a book titled “Monumental Seattle.”

**‘92 Brad Buck, BA,** Cedar Rapids, was named superintendent of Waukee Community Schools effective 7/1/2019.

**‘94 Bill Lange, BA,** Olive Branch, MS, was promoted to senior director for global sales and product development with TRUE Sports.

**‘94 Tyann (Sheldon) Rouw, BA,** Cedar Falls, had a story titled “Looking for the Sale Sign” published in the book “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Angels all Around.”

**‘94 JC Sanford, BA,** Northfield, MN, is the artistic director of JazzMN.

**‘94 Ann (Bliesman) Thomas, BA,** Cedar Falls, received a

2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘94 Erin (Niemeyer) Wittenburg, BA,** Readlyn, received a 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘95 Jenny (Eischeid) Becker, BA,** Jesup, is the director of field instruction and undergraduate program director for the social work department at UNI.

**‘95 Sylvester Brown, BA,** Dumfries, VA, celebrated 22 years in the US Navy and is currently the deputy chief for acquisition operations within the Defense Logistics Agency.

**‘95 Maureen DeArmond, BA, BA ‘99,** Gainesville, FL, was named associate vice president of human resources with the Oregon Institute of Technology.

**‘95 Jennifer (Wilkinson) Klocke, BA,** Libertyville, opened The Law Office of Jennifer L. Klocke, PLLC.

**‘95 Laura Kress, BA,** Shenandoah, TX, retired after teaching middle school social studies for 23 years in Kilean and Spring, TX.

**‘95 Daniel Mahraun, MM, MM ‘96,** Everson, WA, was named artistic director of the Seattle Bach Choir in fall 2019.

**‘95 Kent Sperry, BA,** Beulah, ND, has been in full time ministry for 21 years in six states and is currently the pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

**‘95 Christine Stewart, BA,** Brookings, SD, was named South Dakota poet laureate beginning 7/1/2019 and lasting for four years. She is a professor at South Dakota State University.

**‘96 Natalie (Rasmusson) Franke, BA, MA ‘03,** West Des Moines, was named a mathematics finalist for the 2019 Iowa Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**‘96 Robert Hilbert, BA,** Urbandale, received the 2019 C. Scott Elliott Development Professional of the Year Award by PBS. He is the vice president of the Iowa Public Television Foundation.

**‘96 Bradley Schaufenbuel, BA,** Naperville, IL, is vice president and chief information security officer for Paychex, Inc.

**‘96 Aileen (Mahood) Sullivan, BA,** Ames, was named to the first Iowa Governor’s Teachers Cabinet in Dec. 2018.

**‘96 Krista (Ward) Tanner, BA,** Clive, was promoted to senior vice president and chief business unit officer for ITC Holdings Corp.

**‘96 Shelly (Wentzel) Vroegh, BA,** Norwalk, was named to the first Iowa Governor’s Teachers Cabinet in Dec. 2018.

**‘97 Todd Millang, BA,** Des Moines, was named an Individual CoStar power broker for 2018 by CoStar Realty Information Inc.

**‘98 Jeff Grant, BA,** Encino, CA, was promoted to partner in the Los Angeles office of Fox Rothschild LLP.

**‘98 Teri (Drennon) Pimento, BA,** Toronoto, ON, is going around the world for a year with her husband and two daughters, ages 4 and 7. They plan to take their “world school” tour to more than 80 cities in nearly 30 countries.

**‘98 Tracey (Juergens) Simon, BA,** Waterloo, received a 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘99 Angela Brommel, BA,** MA ‘01, Henderson, NV, was promoted to executive director of the Office of Arts and Culture at Nevada State College.

‘00s

**‘00 Dave Harper, BA,** Altoona, is in account management with Informatica and covers healthcare payer organizations in the northeast.



**‘00 Blake Murray, BA**, Saint Paul, MN, was promoted to SQL database solution engineer senior at RSM US LLP on 8/1/2019.

**‘01 Kelly (Pearson) Bennett, BA**, Bedford, TX, was promoted to product director at defi SOLUTIONS.

**‘01 Raychelle Burks, BS**, Crete, NE, received the 2020 Grady Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public from the American Chemical Society. She is a professor of chemistry at St. Edward’s University.

**‘02 Autumn (Brunssen) Craft, BA**, La Porte City, was named one of the Corridor’s 40 under 40 for 2019 by the Corridor Business Journal. She is the chief development and marketing officer for Waypoint Services.

**‘02 Scott Hagarty, BM**, Cookeville, TN, is an assistant professor of trumpet at Tennessee Tech University.

**‘02 Brad Nieland, BA**, South Windsor, CT, was named president of Berkley Accident and Health.

**‘03 Liz Dunshee, BA**, Eden Prairie, MN, is editor of TheCorporateCounsel.net, CompensationStandards.com and DealLawyers.com.

**‘03 Kate (Melloy) Goettel, BA**, Oak Park, IL, was named the Non Profit Lawyer of the Year by the Federal Bar Association in May 2019. She is an immigration attorney for the National Immigration Justice Center.

**‘03 Daniel Kunkel, BA**, Polk City, is vice president of market growth for Guaranteed Rate.

**‘03 Teresa (Kulow) Roof, BA**, Norwalk, was named by the Des Moines Business Record as one of the 2019 40 Under 40 honorees. She is a public relations manager with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

**‘03 Bart Schmitz, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is the program manager of the John

Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at UNI.

**‘04 Jeffrey Ebeling, BA**, Minneapolis, MN, was named executive director of the Clear Lake Arts Center.

**‘04 Boe Hodnefield, BM, MM ‘06**, Sioux City, is in his 13th year at Sioux City West High and currently has six ensembles under his and his associate’s direction.

**‘04 Tim Jones, BM**, Waukee, was promoted to risk consultant at Wells Fargo. He also subs in local community bands and regularly plays with the Lutheran Church of Hope Jazz Band.

**‘04 Justin Lossner, BA**, Norwalk, was named managing director of JLL Des Moines.

**‘04 Jessica (Salvatore) Parker, BA**, Cedar Falls, was promoted to partner with RSM in Waterloo.

**‘04 Jaime Williams, BA, MBA ‘06**, Shakopee, MN, is senior materials manager for Vermeer Corporation.

**‘05 Andy Anderson, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is an assistant professor of management at UNI and owner of TransChina Solutions LLC.

**‘05 Liz (McKenna) DeJoode, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/ Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. She is a health innovation consultant with PDCM Insurance.

**‘05 Brandon Foldes, BA**, Norwalk, was named by the Des Moines Business Record as one of the 2019 40 Under 40 honorees. He is principal CEO of SHYFT Collective.

**‘05 David Hall, BS**, Clarksville, TN, was hired at Nova Tech Inc. immediately after graduation and has been promoted four times.

**‘05 Tyler Wyngarden, BA**, Des Moines, was named by the Des Moines Business Record

as one of the 2019 40 Under 40 honorees. He is the vice president of development for the Technology Association of Iowa.

**‘06 Michael Gleason, BA, MA ‘09**, Waverly, is an associate professor of leadership and the director of the Institute for Leadership Education at Wartburg College.

**‘06 Joe Murphy, BA**, West Des Moines, was named by the Des Moines Business Record as one of the 2019 40 Under 40 honorees and received the 2018 Influencer of the Year Award from Young Professionals Connection. He is executive director of the Iowa Business Council.

**‘06 Sasha White, BA**, Killeen, TX, is the VA benefits specialist and school certifying official at Texas A&M University Central Texas.

**‘07 Lindsey (Myott) Adams, BA**, Bennington, NE, opened Adams Family Insurance in 2018.

**‘07 Brian Aronson, BA**, Hudson, was promoted to shareholder at BerganKDV 7/1/2019.

**‘07 Nathan Etten, BA**, Palo, was named one of the Corridor’s 40 under 40 for 2019 by the Corridor Business Journal. He is operations manager with Van Meter Inc.

**‘07 Kyle Gansen, BA**, Epworth, was promoted to general manager with Lime Rock Springs, Co., which is the Dubuque area Pepsi bottler.

**‘07 Nick Klobberdanz, BA, MBA ‘12**, Ankeny, was promoted to sergeant first class in the US Army Reserve and was also promoted to operational risk manager 2 and assistant vice president at Wells Fargo Wholesale Banking.

**‘07 Melanie (Welter) Knipp, BA**, Waterloo, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. She is co owner of Trends Hair Salon.

**‘07 April (Hessenius) Myers, BA**, Arlington, VA, is the vice president of strategic growth

for RLAH Real Estate in Washington, D.C.

**‘07 Jamie (Hutchinson) Rathjen, BA, MA ‘11**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. She is the founder and executive director of Guiding Star Cedar Valley and founder of Fiat Fertility Care Center.

**‘07 Emilie Stigliani, BA**, Burlington, VT, was named executive editor of the Burlington Free Press. She is the second female to hold the position.

**‘07 Tina (Andrews) Wehrman, BA**, Ankeny, was promoted to associate, interior designer with BNIM.

**‘08 Lindsey Daugherty, BA**, Loveland, CO, announced her candidacy for District 29 of the Colorado State House of Representatives.

**‘08 Cole Hornbuckle, BA**, Newton, joined Liberty National Bank in Johnston as a vice president/commercial banking officer.

**‘09 Katie (Smith) Baker, BA**, Jesup, earned a DO degree from Des Moines University in 2014 and completed an emergency medicine residency in Cleveland, OH in 2019.

**‘09 Jed Batterson, MA**, Cedar Falls, was named to the first Iowa Governor’s Teachers Cabinet in Dec. 2018.

**‘09 Mark Brady, BA**, Columbus, NE, is a professional development coordinator with Educational Service Unit 7.

**‘09 Zach Everman, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is the owner of Pixel Labs.

**‘09 Katie (Noonan) Hillyer, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. She is the director of professional distinction operations in the College of Business Administration at UNI.

**‘09 Bethany (Schwichtenberg) Krutzfeldt, BA**, Minneapolis, MN, was promoted to account director at Periscope advertising agency.

**‘09 Josh Mahoney, BA**, Denver, CO, is an associate on the business litigation team with Faegre Baker Daniels.

**‘09 Sara (McIntosh) McIntosh, BA**, Dunkerton, received the 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘09 Ryan Meyer, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is vice president of operations for MercyOne Northeast Iowa.

**‘09 Vanessa Newton, BA**, Madison, WI, is the data and visualization lead at the Career Leadership Collective.

**‘09 Mark Watje, BA**, Cedar Falls, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is the president of Curbtender Inc.

‘10s

**‘10 Laura (Bohlke) Connor, BA, MBA ‘16**, Cedar Falls, was promoted to supply management supervisor at John Deere Waterloo.

**‘10 Sam Krutzfeldt, BA**, Minneapolis, MN, is a senior data scientist with United Healthcare.

**‘11 Eva Andersen, BA**, Des Moines, is a TV anchor and reporter for WOI TV and was nominated for a regional Emmy Award for her journalism work.

**‘11 Gregory Kajewski, BA**, Oelwein, was promoted to director of partner success with Anaplan.

**‘11 Robby Krapfl, BA, MA ‘13**, Chicago, IL, is a large enterprise account executive with Gartner, a global research and advisory company.

**‘11 Jordan Miller, BA**, Muscatine, is a financial advisor with LPL Financial.

**‘11 Saleena Neuhaus, BA, MSW ‘13**, Waverly, is a LISW at the Shell Rock Clinic, a satellite location of Waverly Health Center. She also provides social work consultation services and collaborates on patient care with school systems, long term care facilities and other specialty services.

**‘11 Kevin Shannon, BA**, Des Moines, was promoted to senior IT application analyst at Principal.

**‘11 Matthew Tobin, BA, MA ‘16, ASC ‘16**, Waterloo, received a 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘12 Jamie Harthoorn, BA**, Cedar Falls, is marketing manager for Terex Minerals Processing Systems.

**‘12 Brett Maher, BA**, Essex, is a business manager — digital with Meredith Corporation.

**‘13 Tyler Avis, BA**, Grinnell, was promoted to director of building and planning with the City of Grinnell.

**‘13 Umaru Balde, BA, BA ‘14**, Cedar Falls, is a graduate student in post secondary education: student affairs at the University of Iowa and an international health, safety and security advisor with the study abroad office.

**‘13 April (Johnson) Bosma, BA**, Spirit Lake, renovated and moved into a new office with her senior partner at Chosen, Bosma and Associates.

**‘13 Justin Decker, BA, MA ‘14**, Waterloo, received a 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘13 Derek Olsthoorn, BA**, Ames, is a software engineer at Workiva.

**‘14 Chance Finegan, MPP**, York, ON, earned a Ph.D. from York University with a dissertation titled “Protected Areas, Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation in the USA.”

**‘14 Alison (Meyer) Folken, BA, MA ‘16**, Colorado Springs, CO, is a speech language pathologist with UHealth Memorial Hospital.

**‘14 Austin Hedstrom, BA**, Woodbine, was named an Individual CoStar power broker for 2018 by CoStar Realty Information Inc.

**‘14 MacKenzie Hull, BA**, West Kelowna, BC, is an HR professional for a real estate developer.

**‘14 Wes Pieper, BA, MACC ‘14**, Wever, was promoted to assurance manager at Eide Bailly LLP.

**‘14 Sammantha Piercy, BA**, Des Moines, was promoted to human resource business partner II and won the 2018 Corporate Support Person of the Year Award.

**‘14 Keegan Wilkening, BA**, Waukee, was promoted to assistant vice president and commercial loan officer at TruBank in West Des Moines.

**‘15 Tiffany Auderer, BA**, Madison, WI, is a regional accountant with Sinclair Broadcasting Group.

**‘15 Rafael Benitez, BA**, Cedar Falls, received a 2019 Black Hawk County Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**‘15 Derrick Bertram, BA**, Davenport, is a member of the performing waitstaff, the Bootleggers, at Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island, IL.

**‘15 Ben Burgmeier, BA**, Kansas City, MO, is a financial analyst on the revenue management team with Cerner Corporation.

**‘15 Christopher Burke, MA, ASC ‘16**, Dubuque, was named the Iowa Teacher of the Year for 2019. He is a math teacher at Roosevelt Middle School.

**‘15 Brianna Christle, BA**, Ankeny, was promoted to recruiting specialist at Nationwide Insurance in Aug. 2019.

**‘15 Colton Cornwell, BA**, Waterloo, is a national sales executive with Efficient Technologies.

**‘15 Jessica Du Bois, BA**, Alexandria, VA, was named a 2019 Face of Change for BenefitsPro Magazine. She is an employee benefits consultant in Washington, D.C.

**‘15 Alayna Duwa, BA**, Miami, FL, is on the audit team with Grant Thornton LLP.

**‘15 Brandon Honeyman, BA**, Des Moines, is a sales specialist with RV One Superstores and runs his own MMA agency, Honeyman Promotions.

**‘15 Joe Noonan, BA**, Marion, was promoted to senior category manager with Collins Aerospace.

**‘15 Alyssa Turcsak, BA**, East Lansing, MI, is the assistant director of development for Wharton Center for Performing Arts at Michigan State University.

**‘16 Lauren Bever, BA**, Adel, was promoted to assurance senior associate at EY.

**‘16 Tessa Bratrud, BA**, Mason City, is a marketing specialist with MercyOne North Iowa.

**‘16 Collin Cochran, BA**, Minneapolis, MN, was promoted to senior consultant of merch insights with Target.

**‘16 Hunter Harmening, BA**, Carroll, is in his fourth year as the juvenile court school liaison with the Carroll Community School District.

**‘16 Sarah Kemp, BA**, Ames, earned her doctor of physical therapy degree from the University of Iowa in 2018 and is a physical therapist for Mary Greeley Medical Center in Story City.

**‘16 Jared Mueller, BA**, Epworth, is a sales support team lead at PBS Systems.

**‘16 Nicole (Lang) Oswald, BA**, Des Moines, is an accounting and finance analyst at Athene USA.

**‘16 Allison Twedt, BA**, Dunedin, FL, is a dolphin trainer at Clearwater Marine Aquarium working with the animals from the movie “Dolphin Tale.”



**‘16 Colin Wilson, BA**, Iowa City, completed his master of arts in vocal performance at the University of Iowa in May 2019. He is a first year doctoral student in vocal performance at the University of Iowa.

**‘16 Grace (Ritter) Wolf, BA**, Ankeny, earned a master’s degree in 2019 and is an academic coach in the Academic Success Center at Iowa State University.

**‘17 Arijan Alagic, BA**, Parsippany, NJ, earned an MBA from the University of Iowa Dec. 2018 and is an assistant brand manager with Reckitt Benckiser.

**‘17 Tanner Bernhard, BA**, West Des Moines, was promoted to director of marketing for Building Products Inc.

**‘17 James Gibbons, BA**, Muscatine, completed his first year as an alcohol and drug counselor and has been accepted into the graduate program for addiction studies at the University of South Dakota.

**‘17 Jordan Hanson, BA**, Milford, is a vendor support specialist at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

**‘17 Hanna Kerr, BA**, Saint Louis, MO, was promoted to advisory services senior with EY.

**‘17 Ryan Kramer, BA**, Cedar Falls, was promoted to supply management specialist at John Deere Product Engineering.

**‘17 Brittney Luth, BA**, Jesup, is the director of Neuro RehabCare, LLC.

**‘17 Cody Nuzum, BA**, Monroe, is in the tax department at Farm Bureau Financial Services.

**‘17 Kelsey (Hansen) Randall, BA**, Waukee, is a program associate with ITA Group.

**‘17 Samantha Speltz, BA**, Cedar Falls, is working on her master’s degree in student affairs at Iowa State University and is an academic success assistant for the Veterans Center.

**‘17 Benjamin Stevens, MBA**, Jesup, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2019. He is the chief financial officer at the Buchanan County Health Center.

**‘18 Rachel Bearinger, BM**, Minneapolis, MN, is associate digital producer with Minnesota Pubic Radio and released an album of original music in Sept. 2019.

**‘18 Eugene Cheok, BA**, Waukee, is a business development and support manager with Tymeshift, which produces workforce management software.

**‘18 Kaylee Clemens, BA**, Des Moines, is a medical social worker with Iowa Home Care.

**‘18 Brittany (Sefton) Gabhart, BA**, Center Point, is a fashion merchandising buyer for BHFO Inc.

**‘18 Elysiana Harken, BA**, Toledo, is a bank examiner with the Iowa Division of Banking.

**‘18 Milica Njezic, MA**, Saint Louis, MO, is an e commerce specialist with Famous Footwear.

**‘18 Brianna Schaefer, BA**, Denver, is the executive assistant to the CEO/president of PIPAC Health & Life Brokerage.

**‘18 Haley Springer, BA**, Costa Mesa, CA, is an assistant account manager with HKA Marketing Communications and directly assists in managing PR work for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

**‘18 Brittni Wright, BA**, Neu Ulm, Germany, is part of the online global marketing team with Bossard.

**‘19 Kaitlyn Bown, BA**, Cedar Falls, is a visual designer with Visual Logic.

Marriages

**‘94 Gregory O’Connell, BA, MA ‘05, ASC ‘05**, married **Catherine (Metz) O’Connell, MA ‘07**, on 10/27/2018.

**‘04 Tim Jones, BM**, married Tracy (Cavanaugh) Jones on 8/11/2018.

**‘11 Brittany (Fett) Erickson, BA**, married Luke Erickson on 8/4/2018.

**‘11 Kevin Shannon, BA**, married Ashley Wright Shannon on 12/8/2018.

**‘12 Reilly (Zlab) Martin, BA**, married Kyle Martin on 8/9/2019.

**‘15 Derrick Bertram, BA**, married Emily Bertram on 4/14/2018.

**‘17 Sam Bills, BM**, married **Kayla (Fleming) Bills, BM ‘15**, on 6/29/2019.

**‘17 Mark Floyd, BA**, married **Milica Njezic, MA ‘18**, on 2/6/2019.

**‘18 Lauren (Janning) Johnson, BA**, married Avery Johnson, BA ‘18, on 6/1/2019.

**‘19 Ross Vogel, BA**, married **Kennedy (Elliott) Vogel, BA ‘19**, on 9/14/2019.

Births

**‘03 Liz Dunshee, BA**, and Andy Goke, Eden Prairie, MN, son Charlie born 11/3/2017.

**‘09 Amanda (Wilson) McFadden, BA**, and Walter McFadden, Iowa City, son Lyndon Michael McFadden born 1/26/2019.

**‘09 Mike Stout, BA**, and **Ashley (Lathrum) Stout, BA ‘09**, Cedar Falls, son Camden born 5/2/2019.

**‘10 Laura (Bohlke) Connor, BA, MBA ‘16**, and Johnny Connor, Cedar Falls, daughter London Connor born Apr. 2018.

**‘11 Nick Fohey, BA**, and Jordann (Hoffert) Fohey, Marion, son Leo born 9/11/2017.

**‘12 Matt Harken, BA**, and Kirsten (Hayes) Harken, Waterloo, daughter Natalie born July 2018.

**‘13 Stephanie (Dick) Ball, BA**, and Zach Ball, Overland Park, KS, daughter Zoey Faith Ball born 12/6/2018.

**‘13 April (Johnson) Bosma, BA**, and Jake Bosma, Spirit Lake, daughter Riley born Sept. 2018.

Deaths

**‘48 Vi (Barth) Reimer, 2 yr Cert.**, died 4/22/2019 in Cedar Falls.

**‘48 Betty Stoelting, 2 yr Cert.**, died 4/9/2019 in Carroll.

**‘56 Erwin Christianson, BA, MA ‘64**, died 9/12/2019 in Webster City.

**‘58 Dean Funk, BA**, died 3/31/2019 in Rochester, MN.

**‘60 Claudia (Gress) Criswell, BA**, died 2/23/2019 in DeWitt.

**‘46 Virginia (Tvedt) Fredericks, 2-yr Cert.**, died 9/16/2019 in Iowa Falls.

**‘66 Robert Plaehn, BA**, died 7/26/2019 in Lakeville, MN.

**‘74 Kay (Erusha) Linsey, BA**, died 12/12/2017 in St Charles, MO.

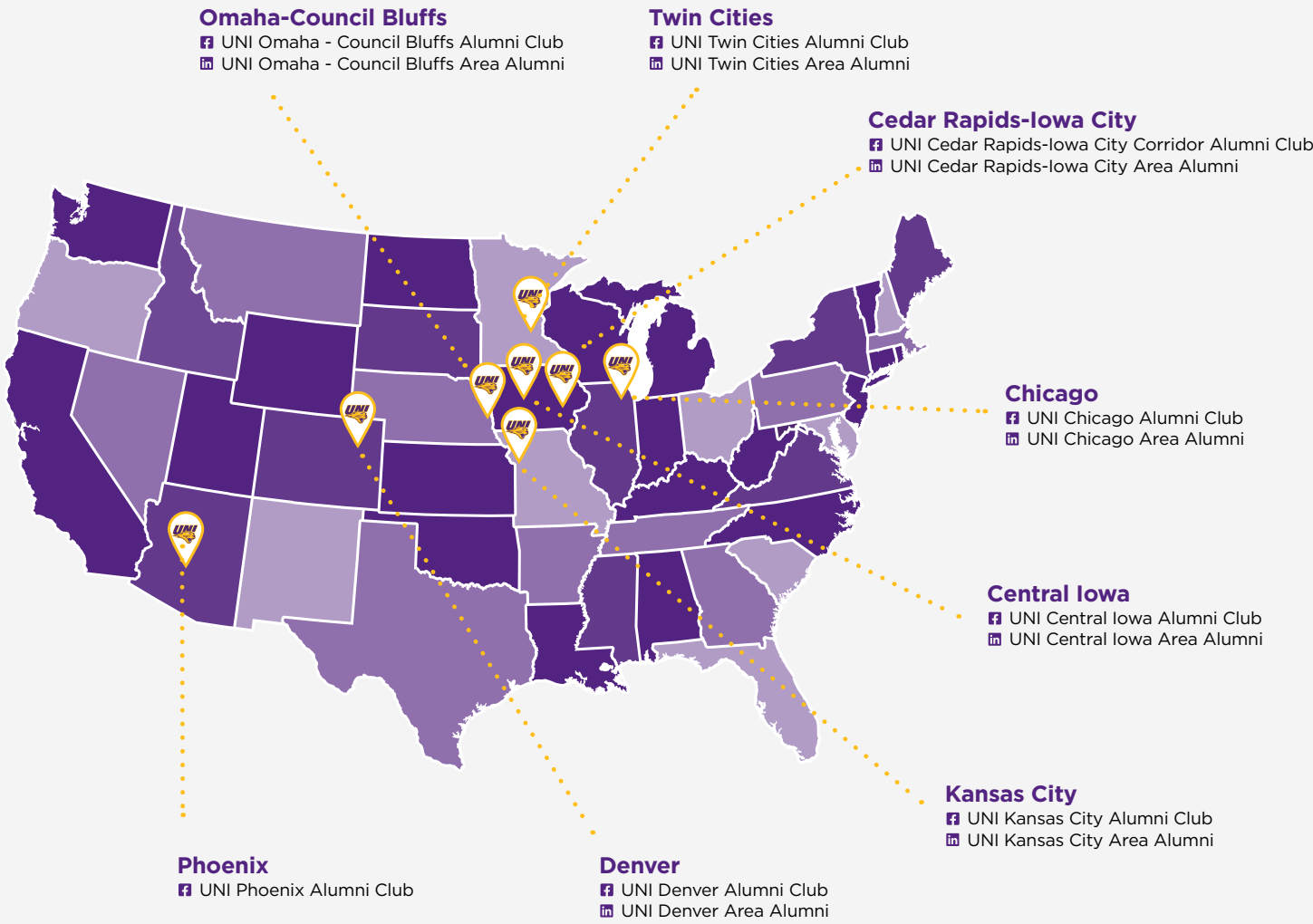
**‘88 Mark Lowin, BA**, died 4/4/2019 in Cedar Falls.

**‘16 Micalla Rettinger, BA**, died 4/28/2019 in Cedar Falls.

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**#PurpleForLife**

# Thank you

While many aspects of 2020 have been in flux, one thing remains constant: the importance of friends like you. Thank you. We are grateful for your generosity and the ways you champion the students, faculty and staff of the University of Northern Iowa.

The passing of the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is part of the country's response to help taxpayers, businesses and nonprofits in these extraordinary times. The new law has a few key provisions that may affect you, your loved ones and your charitable goals, including:

- A new charitable deduction
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- Learn more at [uni.planmylegacy.org/cares-act](https://uni.planmylegacy.org/cares-act).

For more information on the CARES Act or how you can make plans to support UNI contact:

**Jane Halverson**  
Senior Director of Gift & Legacy Planning  
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