WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN A UNIVERSITY

PG. 4
Hello Panthers,

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”—Socrates

This quote sits squarely above my head in my office. I see it every morning when I flip on my light and begin my day. It reminds me that all aspects of life go through continual change, forcing us to grow in ways that you do not realize until they are done. Our campus has been through a great deal of change this past year, but we are better for it. What better time to reflect upon this change than the start of a new year?

We are officially transitioning away from a paid membership for all of our alumni. This change has and will have amazing effects on how we operate as an Alumni Association. We are already seeing a great growth in overall engagement, as we have been able to focus on expanding events, increasing communications and connecting with as many alumni as possible.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Mark Nook as our new president. I believe he will find this university in an amazing spot. Our campus family has truly come together, and we are collectively working together to make this institution one of the best places for students to learn and grow.

We have developed and are beginning the implementation of our university strategic plan. This plan was developed by an amazingly comprehensive group of campus leaders, discussed with several focus groups of alumni and community members, and refined with many open sessions for campus response. This process has given me first hand insight of the complexity into our university.

In this issue of the magazine, we are diving into what it takes to operate the university. How are tuition dollars used? How are donations utilized? Where does the state financial support go? We hope the information gives you insight about how these changes over the last year are working on building the new, even better, UNI.

Purple for Life!

Leslie Prideaux
Director, Alumni Relations
President, University of Northern Iowa Alumni Association
What it Takes to Run a University
Students past and present are the key to success for a university, but funding is critical to sustaining that success for the future.

Embedded in the Community and Growing the Future
Two UNI professors recognized a challenge at UNI and set out to overcome it with a little help from custom postcards and notecards.

More Than a Marching Band
More than two decades after graduating from UNI, Fred and Susan Hucke returned to the Panther Marching Band – with their children.

Make That Too
A chance encounter led Sara and Kevin Goryl to create a company that donates underwear to nonprofits across the nation.

The Psychology of a New Year’s Resolution
Making a New Year’s resolution is more than just deciding to set a goal and going after it. It’s about how you approach that goal.

A New Chapter for the UNI Alumni Association
The Alumni Association is undergoing a transition that will expand membership and enhance engagement with alumni and friends.

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THE COST OF EDUCATION

A university, as defined by the dictionary, is “an educational institution designed for instruction, examination, or both, of students in many branches of advanced learning, conferring degrees in various faculties and often embodying colleges and similar institutions.”

In short, a university is a place of learning.

But there is one thing that definition fails to mention: Funding. No university would be possible without funding, but the topic has become the subject of much scrutiny in recent years.

When both current and future students are informed of a proposed tuition increase at their university of choice, many will drop their head into their hands and consternate at their mounting student debt.

When alumni receive phone calls asking for a donation to the university, there will be those who question why their alma mater needs more after four or five years of tuition.

But these fundraising efforts serve a critical purpose.
As one of three regent universities in the state of Iowa, UNI receives state appropriations each fiscal year, along with the University of Iowa and Iowa State University. Currently, state funding accounts for about 50 percent of UNI’s general education fund. For comparison, state funding accounts for about 35 percent of both Iowa and Iowa State’s respective general funds.

Over the last 30 years, state appropriations have generally declined for UNI, although there has been an increase in state funding each of the last six fiscal years.

As state funding has decreased, educational costs have continued to rise.

UNI must rely on tuition and fees, state and federal grants, gifts from private donors and other miscellaneous income to fulfill the remainder of their budget each year. With in-state students accounting for roughly 90 percent of undergraduate enrollment, UNI does not have a significant population of out-of-state students who pay higher tuition rates.

The funding has to come from somewhere, and that often leads to a tuition increase. But this is also why the UNI Foundation exists. The Foundation funded 3,400 scholarships and 16 professors and named chairs in fiscal year 2016, in addition to raising $4,625,150 for capital projects, including the renovation of the Schindler Education Center.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships also offers courses for students on how to manage their finances, which has contributed to a decrease in student debt for UNI graduates since 2010.

The topic of funding in higher education is almost never a fun conversation. But it’s important to remember that the core goal of a university to educate today’s youth to secure a better tomorrow. And like anything worth fighting for, that mission comes at a cost, both literally and figuratively.
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF UNI ON THE STATE OF IOWA

Each of the three regent universities make their own distinctive contributions to the state of Iowa. UNI graduates more than 450 new teachers each year, which makes the teacher education program the largest in the state of Iowa. More than 9,200 K-12 educators, principals and superintendents in Iowa are UNI graduates.

But UNI’s impact on Iowa extends beyond teacher education.

89% OF UNDERGRADUATES AT UNI ARE FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

68% OF ALUMNI ARE STILL LIVING IN IOWA A DECADE AFTER GRADUATING

That means Iowa students are coming to UNI and leaving as Iowa professionals and Iowa taxpayers.

UNI also bears the distinction of being the most affordable Iowa four-year public institution for in-state students.

AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT = $22,313

THE NATIONAL AVERAGE = $25,550, SO NOT ONLY IS UNI EDUCATING IOWA UNDERGRADUATES, BUT THEY’RE TAKING STEPS TO LESSEN THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON STUDENTS AFTER GRADUATION.

UNI is shaping the lives and careers of undergraduates from all across Iowa.
**FUNDING AN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Believe it or not, something as simple as a basketball game in March can put the name of a college or university into households of prospective students across America.

For UNI, a three-point shot from Ali Farokhmanesh against top-ranked Kansas in the NCAA Tournament in 2010 was a shot heard around the country.

And many people in the country started to take notice of UNI.

There is no question that outstanding academics are the foundation of a strong university. But a successful athletic department can help put a university on the map and bring to campus students who might otherwise have never even heard of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

But when discussing college athletics, funding is almost always a topic of discussion.

Expenses include salaries and fringe benefits for department employees, student aid in the form of scholarships and travel costs.

It’s also important to note that the student services fee allows students to attend all sporting events without having to pay an additional cost, whereas a lot of other institutions charge their students admission to athletic events.

There are athletic departments at larger universities around the country that are able to self-fund their operations for the most part, but for a university the size of UNI, contributions from the student fees and the general fund are a necessity to sustain athletics. Whether that is a feasible funding model is up for debate, but there are no shortage of students, faculty and staff who will tell you that sports are essential to promoting the university and reaching a broader demographic of students.

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### HOW IS THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AT UNI FUNDED? 2016-2017 BUDGET

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<td>Ticket Sales</td>
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<td>NCAA and Missouri Valley</td>
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With a budget of $14 million, here is the breakdown:

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- Student Services Fee: $2 M
- Private Donations: $1.9 M
- Ticket Sales: $1.7 M
- Multimedia Rights Contract: $1.3 M
- NCAA and Missouri Valley: $1.7 M
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**Fundraising**

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When UNI Textiles and Apparel alumna Sara Goryl, B.A. ’03, and her husband, Kevin, lost a close friend to addiction in 2013, they knew they wanted to find a way to give back to people in need. A Google search revealed, to their surprise, that the most-needed item for donation is underwear.

Later, Kevin was shopping when he came across TOMS, canvas shoes that are a part of a one-for-one mission where a person in need receives a pair of shoes for every pair purchased by a customer. This encounter inspired them to do more than donate, but to create a company that would donate underwear to nonprofit organizations such as women and children’s shelters, domestic violence shelters and women’s addiction recovery centers for every pair of underwear purchased. “We could only donate so much on our own, helping only a handful of people. Starting the business was a way for us to help many more and to utilize both of our skill sets,” said Sara.

For Sara, the experiences she had at UNI helped shape the path that led her and her husband to creating their own company. “The variety of courses taught through the TAPP program allowed me to get a feel for the different paths you can take in the apparel industry,” said Sara. “In the program, I studied everything from patternmaking to fashion marketing. I was pretty sure I wanted a career in product development, but it wasn’t until my internship at Target working with the children’s wear team that I knew for certain I wanted to pursue a career in product development/technical design. Because of my UNI education and connections, I was able to land this internship.”

Currently with The J. Peterman Company, she gained valuable work experience through her internship with Target, and has since worked for The Hillman Group, May Merchandising Company and Under Armour. “I have been fortunate in my career that I have had the opportunity to work for large national brands as well as smaller, family-run companies. Each experience has been different and has given me a better understanding of the industry. Also, I think one of the most important things to remember (though it can be scary!) is to not be afraid to take a risk, whether that is...”

Many people seeking the safety of a domestic violence shelter do so with just the clothes on their back. Having a new pair of underwear to put on may not seem like a big deal to most of us, but I have been assured by counselors at our nonprofit partners that it is more important than I will ever know."
starting your own company or moving across the country to pursue a great opportunity.”

Before they even created the product, Sara and her husband launched www.weartoo.com and asked nonprofit women’s shelters, rape crisis centers and addiction rehabilitation facilities to sign up as a partner to receive underwear donations. They posted the call to action on Facebook and Twitter and had 20 nonprofits sign up within the first week. Now, Too Apparel has more than 70 nonprofit partners, with new shelters signing up each week. Sara and Kevin have visited and volunteered at a number of their partnered shelters around the country and hope to eventually visit them all.

Deciding to go beyond donation into the realm of creation was a challenge for Sara and her husband, but one they knew would be worth the effort. “It was a learning process with a lot of trial and error.”

Sara and Kevin are dedicated to supporting the people in need at their partnered shelters and know that their work is about doing something bigger. “The women and men who work for our nonprofit partners are true heroes and rock stars! Many of our nonprofit partners are under-funded and under-staffed, they are working very hard to support the people who come to them for help. Too Apparel was created to help them, not the other way around.”
Cowri Betrabet Gulwadi, professor of interior design, and Marybeth C. Stalp, professor of sociology, started at UNI as assistant professors in fall 2003. The greatest joy of working at UNI is working with students, and they both noticed how much some of their students struggled to make ends meet financially. They also noticed that student scholarships are somewhat uneven across the various disciplines, even in their own College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Realizing that students who graduate with a major in their disciplines are more likely to work in the “helping professions” and are giving back to society rather than seeking high salaries, they knew they needed to find a way to fundraise and develop additional opportunities for financial aid to offer their students.

As they sorted out the options available to them that best matched their ideas, they realized that the clearest path, although also the most challenging, was to create their own company — thus, Fabricate, LLC was born in January 2015. Entrepreneurs are stereotypically known to be competitive young men with lots of energy and little need for sleep, which was certainly not the case for two fully employed UNI professors with busy work and personal lives. Yet, Betrabet Gulwadi and Stalp persevered as they designed and developed a UNI licensed product that would be meaningful to various audiences while resonating with the spirit of UNI, and whose proceeds would go to student scholarship development in their program areas.

They were inspired by the beauty of the UNI campus and how, in particular, the Campanile at the heart of campus has an enduring larger meaning to students and alumni. With student input, they created a modernized design of the Campanile that could be used in multiple products, including a notecard and a postcard.

Jon Laity at Copyworks agreed to print the notecard and postcard, keeping Fabricate, LLC’s strong focus on supporting the local UNI and the College Hill community. Doug Johnson at University Book and Supply, another member of the College Hill community, agreed to sell the cards.

As a licensed product, 12 percent of all sales goes back to the university as well as royalty fees, and, as is written on the back of each card, “A portion of the proceeds goes to student scholarships in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.” Betrabet Gulwadi and Stalp are happy to offer a locally designed, printed and licensed product that celebrates the UNI experience, supports other local businesses and, most importantly, supports their hard-working students.

Check out Fabricate, LLC’s postcards and notecards on the University Book & Supply website at www.panthersupply.com. UNI
FINDING A COMMON THREAD

This November, members of the art department at UNI collaborated with Hawkeye Community College and the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture Northern Iowa Culture Hub Experience (NICHE) to create an art-filled afternoon of community at the Waterloo Public Library. “Common Threads: Our Community Imagines Together” incorporated weaving as both as metaphor and activity to celebrate the Cedar Valley community.

“Common Threads” took place on Saturday, Nov. 12, and featured a variety of student groups in addition to roundtable discussions with community leaders. The student and performing groups provided entertainment and activities throughout the event, including creating pieces for a large community weaving as the centerpiece. The community weaving was created from unsalable clothing from local secondhand shops, weaved together by the Youth Art Team and attendees.

Why weaving? For UNI art instructor Angela Waseskuk, who helped bring the event to life, weaving provided not only a tangible activity for participants, but also a perfect metaphor for bringing together different communities within the Cedar Valley. “Our goal for this event from the very beginning was to create a space for people to feel like they could come together and discuss ways to build bridges between all the communities that we belong to,” said Waseskuk. “We really liked that there would be a physical object at the end that is a direct result of many people coming together to make something beautiful.”

This collaborative community event came out of Waseskuk’s discovery of the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture (USDAC) from a colleague, associate professor of art Elizabeth Sutton. The organization had an open call for applicants to their Culture Agent Program, and Waseskuk was accepted in their third cohort of 18 people for the upcoming year. The program consists of a series of learning calls and a commitment to plan an “Imagining” event in each person’s respective community. “The people involved in the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture are some of the most caring, thoughtful, brave and surprising creative’s I have encountered,” said Waseskuk. “My direction in work and life has shifted significantly because of their interventions.”

Waseskuk was also a part of an initiative to create USDAC College Hubs in universities across the nation. The hub at UNI consists not only of UNI faculty, staff and students, but also faculty from Hawkeye Community College. This hub formed in the spring semester of 2016, and has participated in events at the Center for Multicultural Education and CultureFest at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. The Common Threads was a NICHE and Imagining event rolled into one, bringing together art, culture and community.

“NICHE’s goals are to create and facilitate events that bridge all of our communities, civic and academic, through creative conversation and activities,” said Waseskuk. The Common Threads event is their first large-scale event, and those goals were at the forefront of their efforts. After a conference in Milwaukee in the fall, she felt even more passionate about what Common Threads could mean for the community. “The arts are viewed as a way to facilitate social justice, a way to communicate difficult ideas and an important method of celebration,” said Waseskuk. “Common Threads is a place to begin talking about where that already exists in our community and how we can continue to grow that vision in the Cedar Valley.” UNI
"New year, new me," says everyone ever. What is it about the New Year that prompts people to make resolutions? We recruited associate professor of psychology Nicholas Schwab to help us understand the psychology behind the phenomenon.

“The New Year creates a kind of ‘fresh start’ that motivates people to achieve a goal,” said Schwab. “This is true for the start of a week, the start of a month, the start of the semester if you’re in college and even a specific special date such as your birthday or an anniversary. These ‘fresh start’ days can motivate someone to put resources into achieving either a new or existing goal.”

However, making a resolution is more than just deciding to set a goal and go after it – you have to approach the goal in such a way that you maximize your success. Schwab suggests setting a WOOP goal, a process that’s supported by research across a variety of goal types.

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION**

**WOOP STANDS FOR WISH, OUTCOME, OBSTACLE & PLAN.**

The wish is your resolution, goal or aspiration. Visualize that wish, and then think about the outcomes of the wish. If your wish is to lose weight, what will happen if you achieve it? How will accomplishing that goal make you feel? From there, think about obstacles to your wish. What prevented you from accomplishing this wish in the past? What could get in the way now? This step can be difficult or discouraging, but it’s important to be honest with yourself in order to plan how you can address these obstacles, which is part of the next step. Your plan for accomplishing your resolution should take the form of if-then statements. For example, if you feel like having a late-night snack, then you will eat an apple or another healthy snack. These statements can help you plan around your obstacles and focus on your goal.

Along with the WOOP model, research suggests that social support can help people achieve a goal. It can be helpful to develop some of your WOOP plans with friends, family or co-workers, but be careful – if your friends or family negatively influence your habits, enlisting their help may make it more difficult to achieve your resolution.

To help make and keep your resolutions, Schwab recommends using the WOOP system, breaking your goals down into smaller steps, keeping a record of your progress and rewarding yourself for achieving smaller goals on the way to your outcome, as long as the reward doesn’t undo your hard work. “Incentives are important. Recognize your ability to change despite failures. Understand the limits of self-control.”

As for his own New Year’s resolution, Schwab wants to create more separation between work and home and write more. What are your resolutions for 2017? UNI
Most reunions celebrate the decades following graduation. This one was far different. It remembered the beginning, not the end, of college life.

In the fall of 1966, 58 young men settled into Clarke House of Shull Hall. It is now half of what has become Tesla Hall. There were a few upperclassmen, some transferees and more than a few apprehensive freshmen. Over the next few years these young men formed a powerful bond.

In the summer of 2015 two former roommates, Joe Gibbs, ’69, and Larry Sharp, ’70, got together in Clear Lake over a cup of coffee. Memories led to a discussion of trying to get the guys together the following fall to celebrate. Some skepticism arose, but it was agreed that if 20 would come, it should happen.

For the next several months, ably assisted by Amy Mohr from the Alumni Association, invitations and planning took place. Countless emails and phone calls later much had been learned. Of the original 58, six had passed away. Several suffered enough health issues and/or distance to preclude attendance. Yet, the grapevine and networking produced three additional residents who lived in Clarke House prior to 1966 who wanted to attend. In total, 30 of the men of Clarke House attended the reunion, over 50 percent of those originally arriving in 1966. They came from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Illinois and Oklahoma. Dan Gillaspie, ’69, even traveled nearly 600 miles to be there. This event was important to them.

On the weekend of Aug. 26-28, the reunion finally took place. The group enjoyed dinners, a tour of Shull Hall and a campus tour, and reminiscing.

Fifty years changes many things. Most changes encountered on campus were improvements. One very important thing remained the same. The men of Clarke House cared deeply for each other – and still do. UNI

*Article was written by UNI alumnus Larry Sharp
When Fred Hucke, M.A. ’92, and Susan Hucke, B.A. ’92, graduated from UNI more than 20 years ago, they were leaving behind more than a university.

They were leaving behind a family – specifically, the Panther Marching Band.
More than two decades later, Fred and Susan were reunited with that musical family for Homecoming at UNI, but with a couple additions from their biological family: their son Coren, a junior majoring in Choral Music Education, and daughter Loreena, a freshman double majoring in English and English Education.

All four were able to perform the “UNI Alma Mater” and “The Star Spangled Banner” together in the Panther Marching Band during Homecoming this fall, and the personal significance of that experience was not lost on Susan and Fred.

“Marching with [Coren and Loreena] at Homecoming is something we’ve been looking forward to since Loreena decided that she wanted to go to UNI, and that she wanted to be in marching band,” said Susan.

Fred and Susan did not push Coren or Loreena to attend UNI. Both Hucke children had their own reasons for choosing UNI – the widely recognized teacher education program being one of them – but both also admit their musical interests are a result of their parents’ influence. Loreena recalls growing up listening to Susan practicing her trumpet or Fred playing the guitar, and how it instilled a love of music in both her and Coren.

For us to have the opportunity to go back to the place where we first met and to share that experience with our own kids – making music in the UNI-Dome – it makes me so thankful to be there, so proud of my family, and so much a part of a bigger legacy,” said Fred. “I just have to soak it up and count my blessings.”

It was only natural for them to follow in their parents’ footsteps and become proud members of the Panther Marching Band. But for Fred and Susan, standing on the same field as their children and performing alongside them was a small part of a bigger picture.

“To have your kids attend the same college you attended, and to see them loving it every bit as much – probably more – as you did, is such an incredible feeling.” said Susan. “It’s every parent’s wish for their kids to be happy, and to find a place where they feel they fit in. For it to be at UNI? Best feeling in the world.”
For many people, the years spent at college are filled with memories and moments that truly impacted them and helped shape who they are today. For Matt Bries, who graduated in '09 with a degree in human resources management, many of these moments came form his involvement in the Honors Program at UNI.

“It was the opportunity to interact with some of the best faculty on campus, the opportunity to interact with the president,” said Bries. “The connections that I made while I was in the Honors Program will stay with me forever.”

The program was rigorous, but also gave him the opportunity to work in the Cedar Valley community and make personal and professional connections. Since his graduation, the Honors Program has continued to grow, with over 450 students from all of the colleges on campus. Bries, now a supply management specialist at John Deere in Waterloo, knows firsthand how influential the program can be and was inspired to give back through the establishment of the Honors Alumni Scholarship.

“I knew this scholarship wasn’t free. Someone had provided this for me. Someone was backing my education,” said Bries.

This fall, the Honors Alumni Scholarship became fully endowed at $30,000. Bries initiated the fund, and additional gifts from Rakshith Varadarju, '08, and Tim McCue, '07, helped make it a reality. This will allow the Honors Program to award a $1,000 scholarship each year, but that’s only the beginning. With new Honors students graduating every year, Bries hopes that their experience in the program will inspire them to contribute to the scholarship as it inspired him.

“I would encourage all Honors alums to think about giving back to the Honors Alumni Scholarship,” said Bries. “Simply because of the opportunities and experiences that the program has provided for each of us, and to reward the students who are making the decision to expand their learning by taking part in the Honors Program.”

For more information on the Honors Alumni Endowed Scholarship or other UNI Foundation giving opportunities, contact Jeremy Rosel, assistant director of regional development for the UNI Foundation, at 319-273-7111 or roselj@uni.edu. UNI
Outreach across Iowa hasn’t always been as simple and easy as the click of a button.

In the early days of UNI, instructors didn’t have online coursework and video conferencing to reach and educate non-traditional students at a distance. Instead, the university established study centers around Iowa to serve teachers on a statewide basis.

More than a century later, technology has improved by leaps and bounds, but the mission hasn’t changed for Continuing and Distance Education at UNI.

“Each semester, approximately 1,400 students take course work exclusively through distance education, and we have students from almost every county in Iowa,” said Kent Johnson, Dean for the Division of Continuing Education and Special Programs at UNI.

Johnson has no illusions that distance education will ever replace the experience of a traditional education, but he believes it to be an opportunity for working adults to receive a high-quality education that fits within their work-life balance.

The university has been able to serve students in all of Iowa’s 99 counties during the 2015-16 academic year, through off-campus and online courses and workshops.

About 80 percent of the students taking course work at a distance are graduate students seeking a master’s degree, certificate, teaching endorsement or professional development. These students also benefit from small class sizes that are taught by full-time, campus-based faculty – a unique benefit that sets UNI apart from other programs.

“We want students who study at a distance to experience the same high-quality instruction available to on-campus students,” said Kavita Dhanwada, associate provost and Dean of the Graduate College at UNI.

For more information about Continuing and Distance Education at UNI, visit uni.edu/continuinged/. UNI
A New Chapter for the UNI Alumni Association

It’s the end of the UNI Alumni Association as you know it.

Well, not quite.

Effective next August, the Alumni Association will discontinue their dues-based model, shifting towards a more inclusive model.

Instead of membership being exclusive to 7,000 people, the Alumni Association will expand to more than 115,000 alumni – at no cost to anyone. Thousands of alumni will have access to the programs, events and services offered by the Alumni Association.

So why the change? In a word: inclusivity. Students come to UNI with the expectation that they’ll be supported from the moment they step on campus and long after they’ve collected their diploma. This is a literal fulfillment of that promise.

The UNI Alumni Association is not the first to undergo this type of ambitious transition. Several alumni organizations across the country are shifting toward similar universal membership models that emphasize engagement over fees.

So what does this mean for you if you’re a current annual member? For now, nothing will change. But come August 2017 – or whenever your membership is set to expire – your restaurant, hotel and entertainment discounts will be phased out at that time. And from this point forward, you will no longer need to renew your membership.

For current lifetime members, your situation is the same, but because you made a lifetime commitment to supporting UNI, you’ll have access to invitation-only events, discounts with UNI Athletics, the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and University Book & Supply.

“Our Mission is to connect all alumni and friends to this amazing university.”

– Leslie Prideaux

The mission of the UNI Alumni Association is to bridge the gap between this university and the alumni and friends who want to help it thrive and succeed. This new membership model will only bolster efforts to make a positive and lasting impact on this campus, across the country and around the world.

Those who wish to offer further financial support can make a gift to the Foundation and designate it for the Alumni Engagement Fund.

On behalf of the UNI Alumni Association, thank you to those have who paid their dues over the years as members. Regardless of your membership level, your passion and commitment has helped us build this program to the point where we can now actively engage all alumni and better serve the university overall.

For that, we can’t thank you enough.

UNI
Impact on UNI

HOSTS OVER

80 EVENTS

30 WEBINARS

ENGAGING WITH OVER

8,000 ALUMNI EACH YEAR

ESTABLISHED

7 CLUBS IN HIGH-ALUMNI POPULATED CITIES

COMMUNICATE WITH ALUMNI THROUGH

3 UNI TODAYS

8 FACEBOOK PAGES

10 E-NEWSLETTERS

18 LINKED-IN PAGES

166 EMAILS

REACHING ALUMNI & FRIENDS OVER

2.5 Million TIMES PER YEAR
The University of Northern Iowa welcomed a freshman class of 2,000 students this fall – the largest since 2008. This is the fourth consecutive year that freshman enrollment has increased. In addition to having the most domestic out-of-state students ever, this was also the most diverse freshman class in UNI history.

The retention rate of 85.9 percent for the 2016–17 academic year is the highest ever recorded at UNI. In addition to the historic retention rate, UNI also saw record 4- and 5-year graduation rates – 40 percent and 64 percent, respectively.

UNI’s record retention rate stands out both on a regional and national scale. Retention rate is the percentage of first-year freshman students who continue at the university the next year.

Kristin Woods, director of student retention and success, and Deirdre Heistad, director of undergraduate students, have led efforts to retain students.

“UNI has created and implemented a number of student success and retention initiatives ranging from UNI NOW to First-Year Cornerstone and most recently, Success Coaching,” said Heistad. “Faculty and staff have worked together in unprecedented ways to have an intentional and systematic way of wrapping campus resources around incoming students.”

UNI Now helps prepare new students for success at UNI. It serves as an extension of summer orientation at the beginning of the fall semester, with fun and engaging events designed to connect new and returning students and help acclimate them to campus.

First-Year Cornerstone is a unique year-long course – integrating topics of writing, speaking, civility and student success – that allows students to take a course for a full academic year with the same professor, satisfying two Liberal Arts Core requirements.

Success Coaching provides one-on-one mentoring for students who are experiencing academic difficulties during their first or second year of college.

Together, these initiatives have allowed new students at UNI to thrive.
**UNI Retention Rate**

(Percent of first-year freshman students who continue at the university the next year)

- **NATIONAL AVERAGE**: 65%
- **PEER GROUP AVERAGE**: 79%
- **UNI AVERAGE**: 86%

**Discover UNI at a Glance**

- **11,905** current enrollment (10,104 undergraduate, 1,801 graduate)
- **90+** majors
- **250+** student organizations
- **$22.2M** awarded in scholarships
- **17:1** overall student/faculty ratio
- **23** average undergraduate class size
- **5:7** male/female ratio
- **93%** of classes have fewer than 50 students

**Panther Push**

Panther Push is an outreach program where UNI students return to their high school to offer prospective students insight about life on campus at UNI. Currently, more than 150 students have volunteered to be a part of this year’s Panther Push.
The UNI Alumni Board is made up of at least 25 members serving three-year terms. If interested in serving, please contact Leslie Prideaux at leslie.prideaux@uni.edu.

**TOP ROW, L TO R:** Willie Barney, ‘96, ‘01, ‘07; Grant Erwin, ‘07; Virgil Goodrich, ‘67, ‘74; Nicole Juranek, ‘00, ‘04; Jake Rudy, ‘11; Dustin Toale, ‘16; Kevin Mote, ‘87; David Boyer, ‘90.

**2ND ROW:** Ron Rubek ‘62; Christine Robovsky, ‘98; Drew Conrad, ‘93; Dan Fick, ‘85; Shirley Pantini, ‘58; Megan Stull, ‘08; Connie Peters, ‘73.

**3RD ROW:** Lindsay Wagoner ‘04; Kelly Neiber, ‘85; Jerry Glazier, ‘67, ‘74; Allison Rickels, ‘01; Bonnie Malone ‘53; Beth Primrose, ‘66.


**Not Pictured:** Steven Jackson, ‘96; Scott Klinefelter, ‘76; Anne Mendelke, ‘07.
UNI alumni and friends were recognized for their professional accomplishments and serve to the university during the Distinguished Awards Celebration on Nov. 18, 2016.

Heritage Honours Awards Recipients

SHELLIE PFOHL, '85
Alumni Achievement Award

WADE ARNOLD, '10
Young Alumni Award

MERLIN TAYLOR, '61
Alumni Service Award

GARY RIMA
Honorary Alumni Award

REX AND KATHY, '71, ENO
Purple and Gold Award

DEBORA BLUME, '94
Emerging Philanthropist

MARLETA MATHESON
Faculty Staff Award

THE ROY J. CARVER CHARITABLE TRUST Corporation and Foundation Award

2016 Hall of Fame

The University of Northern Iowa Department of Athletics inducted six individuals and the 1982 Panther softball team into its 2016 Athletics Hall of Fame Class.

This year’s Hall of Fame inductees include: Ben Jacobson, B.A. '06, men’s basketball; Ray Pedersen, B.A. ’67, football; Rich Powers, B.A. ’92, wrestling; Kim (Kester) Tierney, B.A. ’02, volleyball; the 1982 UNI softball team; Sandy Stevens, who received the Dr. Jitu D. Kothari Meritorious Service Award; and Ellie (Blankenship) Reagan, who received the Merlin Taylor Academic Hall of Fame Award.
Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled from information sent in personally by alumni or submitted via news release to the Alumni Association office. If you would like to share your news, go to unialum.org/submit-class-notes.

Send address changes and Class Notes submissions to info@unialum.org or by mail to University of Northern Iowa Today, UNI Alumni Association, 304 Commons, Cedar Falls, IA 50614–0284.

1950s
’55 Olabelle Reed, 2-yr Cert., BA ’60, MA ’70, Waterloo, IA, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 over 80.

1960s
’65 Myra (Stewart) Boots, MA, Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier’s 8 over 80.

1970s
’71 Gloria (Kajewski) Campbell, BA, MA ’79, MBA ’84, Waverly, IA, retired after teaching in the department of business administration at Wartburg College for more than 36 years.

‘73 Robert Creel, BA, Dunlap, IL, retired after a 42-year career in sales and sales management.

‘74 Cheryl Mullenbach, BA, Panora, IA, is an author of nonfiction history books for middle school and young adult readers. She has been recognized by the American Library Association, National Council for Social Studies, International Literacy Association, FDR Presidential Library and Museum and C-SPAN Book-TV.

1980s
’80 Marlys (Sassama) Hazen, BA, MA ’89, Mission, TX, tutors all ages in all subjects and teaches piano, dance and the organ. She also helps elderly citizens find retirement homes and plays piano in retirement homes.

’81 Ted Savas, BA, El Dorado Hills, CA, was selected as the inaugural recipient of Emerging Civil War’s first Brigadier General Robert Greely Stevenson Award for Service.

‘83 Duke Dierks, BA, Cedar Falls, IA, qualified for the president’s cabinet of the Ozark National Life Insurance Company for the 31st year. He was the 4th highest

JPEC AWARD/20TH ANNIVERSARY

UNI’s John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) received the Student Entrepreneurship Program of the Year Award this year, presented by the International Business Innovation Association (InBIA).

The JPEC is the inaugural recipient of this international award. The team traveled to Orlando, Florida, in the spring to attend the 30th International Conference on Business Incubation, where they were recognized at a dinner at the Kennedy Space Center.

The award is a direct reflection of the JPEC’s mission to create a comprehensive program in entrepreneurship education for students while incorporating UNI’s intellectual property and technology transfer activities. Specialized educational opportunities offered to students by the JPEC include the R. J. McElroy Student Business Incubator, a minor and certificate in entrepreneurship, competitions and a student organization.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the JPEC. For the last two decades, the center has served students and entrepreneurs alike through its innovative opportunities, excellent interactive education and trailblazing programs.
individual producer in 2015 and is Ozark National’s all-time producer.

‘85 Dale Emmert, BS, Cedar Falls, IA, is the president of the new Art Van Furniture store in Cedar Falls, which replaced Simpson Furniture Co. He started working at the store in 1984 while attending UNI.

1990s

‘91 Ann Osborne, BM, Traer, IA, started a new position as orchestra director for Cedar Falls Community Schools in Aug. 2016. She’s happy to be back in the area and able to frequently see her daughter, who is a UNI student.

‘91 Rodney Zehr, BA, MA ‘02, Mason City, IA, was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in Mathematics Education for Career and Technical Education at North Iowa Area Community College.

‘93 Brian Figge, BA, Denver, CO, is executive partner with Brick Staffing Recruiting Services where he helps business professionals find career opportunities in Denver, Phoenix and throughout the US. He was previously managing partner for Exclusive Level Meetings & Incentives.

‘96 Karen (Norby) Fannin, BM, Omaha, NE, is director of bands and assistant director of the School of Music at the

Joel Waggoner, B.A. ’08, made his Broadway debut in November as a member of the ensemble for “School of Rock: The Musical.” Waggoner, who was the subject of a feature story in our fall issue, was cast in the role of Mr. Williams for the production.

TWO PROUD ALUMNI!

Col. Patrick Williams, ’86, was inducted into the UNI ROTC Hall of Fame the morning of Oct. 1 and got to meet Sen. Chuck Grassley, B.A. ’55 and M.A. ’56, later in the day at the football game. Not a bad UNI Homecoming at all!

Go to unialum.org/uni-links. Show your Panther Pride wherever you go and help support the UNI Alumni Association with every purchase you make, at no extra cost to you.
Homecoming next year is the week of October 1 - 7, 2017.
University of Nebraska at Omaha. She conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting.

2000s

‘00 Emily Neuendorf, BA
Waverly, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently the foundation director for the Waverly Health Center.

‘00 Tamar Sanikidze, MM, Austin, TX, joined the faculty of the Butler School of Music in Austin, TX, in Jan. 2015. Sanikidze is also an official pianist for Plácido Domingo’s Operalisa, The World Opera Competition and has performed regularly in the Marilyn Home Foundation’s “The Song Continues...” and “On the Wings of Song” series.

‘01 Heidi (Kautza) Fuchtman, BA
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently a team leader for Youth Art Team.

‘01 Cary Wieland, BA, MA ’09
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. He is currently principal at Expo Alternative School in Waterloo.

‘02 Brian Gabel, BA
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. He is currently general manager for Panther Sports Properties at Learfield Sports.

‘02 Ryan Hallenbeck, BA
Olathe, KS, was appointed regional vice president of oncology services for Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute at HCA Midwest Health in Kansas City.

‘03 Laura (Massman) Hand, BA
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently vice president of marketing for VGM Group.

‘04 Laura (Seamans) Folkerts, BA
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently an attorney with Dutton, Braun, Staack & Hellman.

‘05 Katie (Albrecht) Snell, BA, MA ’10
West Des Moines, IA, was named by the Des Moines Business Record as one of the 2016 40 under 40 honorees.

‘06 Philip Jones, BA
Waverly, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. He is currently vice president of Rada Corp.

‘07 Ryan Risetter, MBA
Waterloo, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. He is currently vice president for commercial lending at Farmers State Bank.

‘07 Jordan Vernoy, BA
Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. He is currently vice president of Feeding America.

Carol Hundling Walker, ’54, received a pre-professional certificate from the Iowa State Teachers College after two years of study. While at school, Carol became close friends with three students in her program, Norma Bakker Hager, ’54, Helen Pietan Meints, ’54, and Dolores Grosch Meissner, ’53. All of the women went on to teach in elementary schools in Iowa communities. Though the friends each had their own lives after school, they knew they did not want to lose contact with each other, and started a round robin letter after graduation.

Today, Carol lives in Oregon, Norma in Iowa, Dolores in Minnesota and Helen in Illinois. The four friends are all over 80, and have all been married over 55 years to their same spouses. Though they have not met as a group since a picnic in the 1970s, their bond remains as strong as ever.
MARK FARLEY
ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACH

34 years ago, Mark Farley was a walk-on Panther linebacker from Waukon, Iowa.

Today, he is the UNI football program’s all-time winningest head coach, having notched his record 130th career victory with a 25-20 comeback win over the Iowa State Cyclones to open the season back in September.

Since taking over as head coach of the football team in 2001, Farley has led the Panthers to nine playoff appearances, including seven Missouri Valley Football Conference championships and one appearance in the national championship.

Even though his storied coaching career at UNI is chock full of wins and losses, Farley hopes for a legacy that will go beyond his record on the football field.

“Behind every one of those 130 wins, there’s a face, there’s a name, there’s a supporter, there’s so many people that have helped me, our program get to this point,” said Farley. “It’s about thanking them for allowing us this opportunity to get to this game and win it.”

Even with this latest milestone under his belt, the end is not near. You can expect to see Farley standing on the sidelines in the UNI-Dome for years to come, continuing to build on the program that has come so far in the last 15 years.

‘08 Ellen Johnston, BA, MA ’11, Rippey, IA, was selected by the US Department of State for a 10-month fellowship project teaching English in Nigeria at Kaduna State University. She is one of only 165 US citizens selected for the 2016–2017 English Language Fellow Program.

‘09 Drew Van Woert, BA, Waukee, IA, is the property and casualty claim manager for Farm Bureau P&C Company’s South Dakota business unit.

‘09 Mark Watje, BA, Waterloo, IA, is the president of Wayne Engineering. He was previously district sales manager for Daimler Trucks N.A.

2010s

‘10 Whitney Jackley, BA, Cedar Falls, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently the marketing director and district executive for the Boy Scouts of America Winnebago Council.

‘11 Michael Conrad, BM, Greeley, CO, was selected as a recipient of ASCAP’s 2016 Herb Alpert Young Composer Award. He also won first place in the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers Jazz Arranging Contest in Dec. 2015, which was followed by a performance and recording of the arrangement by Kim Richmond’s Jazz Orchestra in Los Angeles. Conrad is currently pursuing a doctorate in jazz studies at the University of Northern Colorado and continues to remain active as a composer and performer.

‘11 Adam Oleary, BA, Muscatine, IA, was admitted to the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and is pursuing the weekend MBA program.

‘11 Teresa (Davis) Pope, BA, Johnston, IA, is an attorney with Branstad Law, PLLC and specializes in family, criminal defense and juvenile law.

The UNI Alumni Association (UNIAA) has partnered with University Book & Supply to offer a special alumni collection. A portion of these sales will go to the UNIAA to enhance programs and services for alumni and students. Items will be added periodically, so check back often!

panthersupply.com/alumni.asp
How great is this? Panther Pride… in Nebraska! Mandy Colpitts, a third grade teacher at LaVista West in Omaha, encourages all of her students to get to know UNI right away!

**Passing on that Panther Pride**


*12 Ben Steines, BA*, Cedar Falls, IA, received the Iowa Motor Truck Association Maintenance Professional of the Year Award at a ceremony in Cedar Rapids. He is the service manager for Ruan Transportation.

*13 Rebecca Buseman, BA*, Waterloo, IA, completed the graduate program at the University of South Florida in May 2015. She works at Wells Pianos helping the business owner to operate the business and facilitate piano deals. She also volunteers within the community, plays piano, teaches piano lessons and more.

*13 Sarah Draffen, BM, MM* "15, Chicago, IL, attended the Chicago Summer Opera program in 2015 and 2016. She also recently relocated to Chicago to pursue vocal opportunities.

*13 Emily Hanson, BA*, Waterloo, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently executive director of the Waterloo Schools Foundation.

*13 Stephanie Opsal, BM*, Farmington, NM, recently completed her MM degree at the University of New Mexico. While completing her studies she served as woodwind tech/clinician at La Cueva High School, leading clarinet sectionals and working with their marching band. She also taught beginning band and beginning strings at St. Mary’s School in downtown Albuquerque.

*14 Brett Copeland, BA*, Clinton, IA, is pursuing the MM degree in tuba performance at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. He is also the current president of the New-Music Consortium and vice president of the College of The Arts Council at USF. In fall 2016 Brett enrolled at the Eastman School of Music to begin working towards the DMA in tuba performance and literature while also serving as a teaching assistant for the Eastman Computer Music Center.

*15 Benjamin Owen, BM*, Cedar Falls, IA, accepted the position of director of music at First Congregational UCC in Waterloo.

**Marriages**


*’06 Holly (Hinkhouse) Garcia, BA, MA ’13, married Paul Garcia on 6/4/2016.*

**Deaths**

*’34 M. Enid (Staker) Burkhart, 2-yr Cert., died 4/26/2016 in Perry, IA.*

*’53 James Livingston, BA, died 5/11/2016 in Sacramento, CA.*

*’62 Gayle Creswell, BA, died 10/21/2016 in Montezuma.*

*’63 Abe Waters, BA, died 9/3/2016 in Saint Cloud, MN.*

*’78 Rosemarie (Mundy) Mundy-Shephard, MA, died 7/1/2016 in Albany, GA.*

*’78 Bev (Wynn) Riess, MA, died 8/23/2016 in Rochester, MN.*

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**UNI Day at the Statehouse**

The university will host UNI Day at the Statehouse from 12 to 2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 13, at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. The event will highlight UNI programs and inform legislators about the impact UNI has on the state. Please join us to tell your UNI story.

unalum.org | 29
If you recognize anyone in these photos or can tell us what year they were taken, contact Christy Danielsen in Alumni Relations at christina.danielsen@uni.edu or by calling 888-UNI-ALUM.
You asked, we listened! From exotic ports of call to majestic natural wonders, the UNI Alumni Association has expanded our travel options. So pack your bags – and your Panther spirit – and head off to a new adventure!

**IRISH GOLD – ST. PATRICK’S DAY IN IRELAND** | March 12–19, 2017
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland! This private escorted tour will take in all the highlights of the Emerald Isle . . . Dublin, Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry, Waterford, etc. Deluxe accommodations, most meals and sightseeing by luxury coach. Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

**PALMS IN PARADISE** | April 24–May 10, 2017
Admire the pristine natural wonders, spirited cultures and grand colonial architecture of Florida, Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico while sailing aboard Oceania Cruises’ Regatta.

**MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE** | May 10–21, 2017
From multicolored towns cascading toward glittering seas to timeless cities awash with perfectly preserved monuments, experience classic sights in Italy, France, Monaco and Spain on the perfect luxury cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Marina.

**REGAL ROUTES OF NORTHERN EUROPE** | Aug. 12–23, 2017
Embark on an odyssey to northern Europe, where beautiful medieval buildings edge tranquil canals and cobbled lanes lead to regal monuments. From London to Copenhagen, sail to enchanting ports in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Sweden aboard Oceania Cruises’ Marina.

**BALTIC & SCANDINAVIAN TREASURES** | Aug. 17–28, 2017
The treasures of the Baltic and Scandinavia are revealed on this magical voyage aboard Oceania Cruises’ Marina. Discover medieval towns, onion-domed cathedrals and stunning harbors as you cruise from Denmark to Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Sweden.
GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST  |  Sept. 17-25, 2017
Discover the timeless majesty of the Columbia and Snake rivers as you immerse yourself in the natural grandeur of the Pacific Northwest. From Portland to Clarkston, cruise to charming towns and historic sites aboard the elegant American Empress, stopping at Astoria, The Dalles, Stevenson and Sacajawea State Park.

THE ENCHANTING RHINE  |  Sept. 23–30, 2017
Experience the magic of the Rhine. Begin in the legendary city of Amsterdam, with its myriad canals and distinctive architecture. Visit the majestic Gothic cathedral in Cologne, the German university town of Heidelberg and medieval Strasbourg. Relax onboard your AMA Waterways cruise and marvel at the stunning Rhine gorge, lined with ruins of medieval castles and fortresses.

CAPITALS & COASTLINES OF CANADA & NEW ENGLAND  |  Sept. 30 – Oct. 10, 2017
Experience the glorious autumn foliage along North America’s East Coast aboard Oceania Cruises’ Insignia. Savor stunning landscapes and visit historic sites from Montreal to New York, stopping in Quebec City, Saguenay, Sydney, Halifax, Saint John, Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport.

IMAGES OF INDOCHINA & ANGKOR WAT  |  Oct. 8–21, 2017
Immerse yourself in the romance and hospitality of Southeast Asia with expert local guides and luxury hotels. This small journey, limited to 18 guests, will take you to Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Danang, Ho Chi Minh City, Angkor Wat and Bangkok. Delve into the history, culture and cuisine of this fascinating part of the world.

MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECE  |  Nov. 5–14, 2017
Incredible medieval monuments and spellbinding scenery intertwine on this Mediterranean voyage aboard Oceania Cruises’ Riviera. From magical Venice to legendary Rome, discover beautiful cities and landscapes with interludes in Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece and Malta.

For trip details, visit unialum.org/alumni-travel.
COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

May 11 — Dubuque
May 12 — Quad Cities & Cedar Rapids
May 18 — Des Moines
May 19 — Clear Lake & Minneapolis
May 25 — Waterloo
Interested in getting involved? Do these three things:

1. Update your record at unialum.org/update-alumni-contact-information so we can send you updates from UNI and invite you to future events.
2. Check out the events calendar at unialum.org/events.
3. Follow the UNIAA on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter as well as your local alumni club Facebook pages.

CEDAR RAPIDS–IOWA CITY CORRIDOR ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/cedar-rapids-iowa-city-corridor-alumni-club
facebook: CRICCorridorAlumniClub

CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/central-iowa-alumni-club
facebook: UNIDesMoinesAlumniClub

CHICAGO ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/chicago-alumni-club
facebook: UNIChicagoAlumniClub

DENVER ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/denver-alumni-club
facebook: UNIDenverAlumniClub

KANSAS CITY ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/kansas-city-alumni-club
facebook: UNIAlumniClubofKC

OMAHA–COUNCIL BLUFFS ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/omaha-council-bluffs-alumni-club
facebook: UNIOmahaCouncilBluffsAlumniClub

TWIN CITIES ALUMNI CLUB
unialum.org/twin-cities-alumni-club
facebook: UNITwinCitiesAlumniClub

For more events and details, visit unialum.org.
Is this person no longer at this address?
Let us know so we can keep them in touch with their classmates and peers!
Email info@unialum.org
or call 888-UNI ALUM.

Save the date!

UNI DAY OF GIVING

04.05.17

#LIVEPURPLEGIVEGOLD