



University of Northern Iowa American Humanics

April 2006—Welcome to the 2nd edition of the American Humanics Newsletter. We hope this newsletter keeps you up-to-date about American Humanics' programming & results.

American Humanics Promises No Graduate Left Behind

*National Certificate in hand,
all six 2005 UNI graduates secure employment*

It's not just a theory that gaining American Humanics certification at UNI secures a job after graduation; it's a fact. In May and December of 2005, six students walked across the stage, diploma and AH certificate in hand. By January of 2006, the same six students walked into their first job, with experience, knowledge, and confidence in themselves.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Katie Albrecht, working at The Heart Connection, Des Moines
Christina Heth, working with Prevent Blindness, Des Moines
Matt McAllister, working with YMCA, Marshalltown
Jama Ohrt, working with DHS, Cedar Rapids
Val Steinbeck, working with NE IA Foodbank, Waterloo
Amy Vetter, working with American Red Cross, Waterloo

The Intern's Turn

The goal of American Humanics is to prepare college students for nonprofit work. Currently, the following six UNI AH students are completing a 600 hour internship:

Colbie Andes, Young Life Heartland Region,
Mt. Horeb, WI
Heather Billups, Rocklands Christian Camp &
Conference Center, Capetown, South Africa
Michelle Breuss, Volunteer Center of the Cedar
Valley, Waterloo
Jennifer Hemesath, Make-a-Wish Foundation of
South Carolina
Abby Hess, South Suburban YMCA, Des Moines
Amber Kuecker, CrawDaddy Outdoors, Waverly

Thanks to all of the nonprofits for supporting our students with internship opportunities! **If you have internship opportunities, contact stacy.vangorp@uni.edu.**

Follow that Grad: *Christina Heth's story*

When I first came to UNI I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life except that I wanted to work with kids. I chose the Leisure Youth and Human Services, and I decided that I wanted Nonprofit Youth Administration as my emphasis. One of my teachers told me to join American Humanics. I was apprehensive at first because I didn't really know anyone and I didn't know a lot about nonprofits. One of my friends and I decided that we would join together, but the first semester I was not that involved. By my last semester, I had become more active, and it seemed as if everything I would do in my classes had something to do with AH. I was so excited that I had actually found something that I felt passionate about and was able to gain so much experience and knowledge that I tried to participate in everything that I could. I attended the American Humanics Management Institute in Atlanta where I met other students interested in nonprofit management and applied my skills. I was also a part of planning the AH golf tournament, putting together the American Humanics Advisory board and coordinating the first Nonprofit Awards Luncheon.

Through my experiences with American Humanics I truly found what I had been looking for and I could not be happier with where I am now. After my internship and graduation I moved to Des Moines to work on the United Way campaign. That ended in November and ever since I have been working at Prevent Blindness Iowa as the Development Coordinator. Prevent Blindness Iowa is a small organization and I am able to work closely with the Executive Director to enhance my knowledge of nonprofits. I am able to apply my skills I learned in AH throughout most aspects of my job. Right now I am soliciting sponsors for our events and I am comfortable doing so because of all my experiences in and out of class for American Humanics. Being a part of AH prepared me to be in this field and also led me to some great friends.

University of Northern Iowa American Humanics is part of a national network that transforms today's students into tomorrow's nonprofit leaders by helping them gain professional experience, skills and certification.

Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards : Students Honor Area Nonprofits

The UNI American Humanics Student Association announces the second annual Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards to be held on Friday, April 7, 2006, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. at the UNI Commons Ballroom. Planned and implemented by UNI students to recognize the frequently overlooked contributions of nonprofit professionals, the luncheon is designed to honor the outstanding efforts of local nonprofits and their staff.

Nonprofit Award Categories

The following will be presented at the luncheon

**Business Partner of the Year
Collaboration Award**
**Exceptional Nonprofit of the Year
Gordon Mack Student Leadership
Award**
Ingenuity Award
Legacy Award
New Nonprofit Employee of the Year
Nonprofit Staff Leader of the Year
Nonprofit Board Member of the Year
**Veridian Credit Union Community
Engagement Award**

The cost of the event is \$25.00, which includes the meal and valet parking. Proceeds help students attend the AH Management Institute, a requirement of the AH Certificate. Last year, the awards luncheon raised over \$800.

To make reservations:

Email: stacy.vangorp@uni.edu
Mail: American Humanics
203 WRC
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Call: Stacy Van Gorp 273-5600

ASPIRE Update

As part of a year long, 500 hour community service partnership with ASPIRE Therapeutic Riding Program, American Humanics has been working on a feasibility study. AH students have committed many hours to equine research, community member interviews, surveys, grant writing and funding research. In the next month the information will be compiled in a final document. The goal is to make recommendations to ASPIRE about the feasibility of launching a capital campaign for a state-of-the-art facility. The partnership has been beneficial for both parties. The information provided to ASPIRE directs their future, and the students develop skills and competencies relevant to the nonprofit field. The results of the study will be presented in April.

The 10,000 Hours Show:

Because together, UNI and the Cedar Valley will rock.

Oblivious to the “rockin’” project that a University of Iowa student was soon to introduce, UNI students casually gathered together, expecting another ordinary American Humanics meeting. One hour later, the students ardently awaited an answer to the question, “Who’s the band?”

Entitled *The 10,000 Hours Show*, the “rockin’” project encourages student community volunteerism throughout Iowa by rewarding civic engagement with a concert ticket. The *10,000 Hours Show* originally sought 1,000 volunteers to each contribute 10 hours of volunteer service. Now in its third year, the nonprofit has exceeded twice its goal and is anxiously awaiting the 10K3 concert, where volunteers from the state of Iowa will rock together in Des Moines, celebrating another year of community service.

The April 8th concert is open to all volunteers and nonprofits in Iowa, and the UNI American Humanics students are quickly signing up with 10K’s “Ground Team” in order to increase the project’s local awareness in the Cedar Valley community.

The 10,000 Hours Show is more than just a rock concert for students. 10K also helps nonprofits recruit and reward volunteers by:

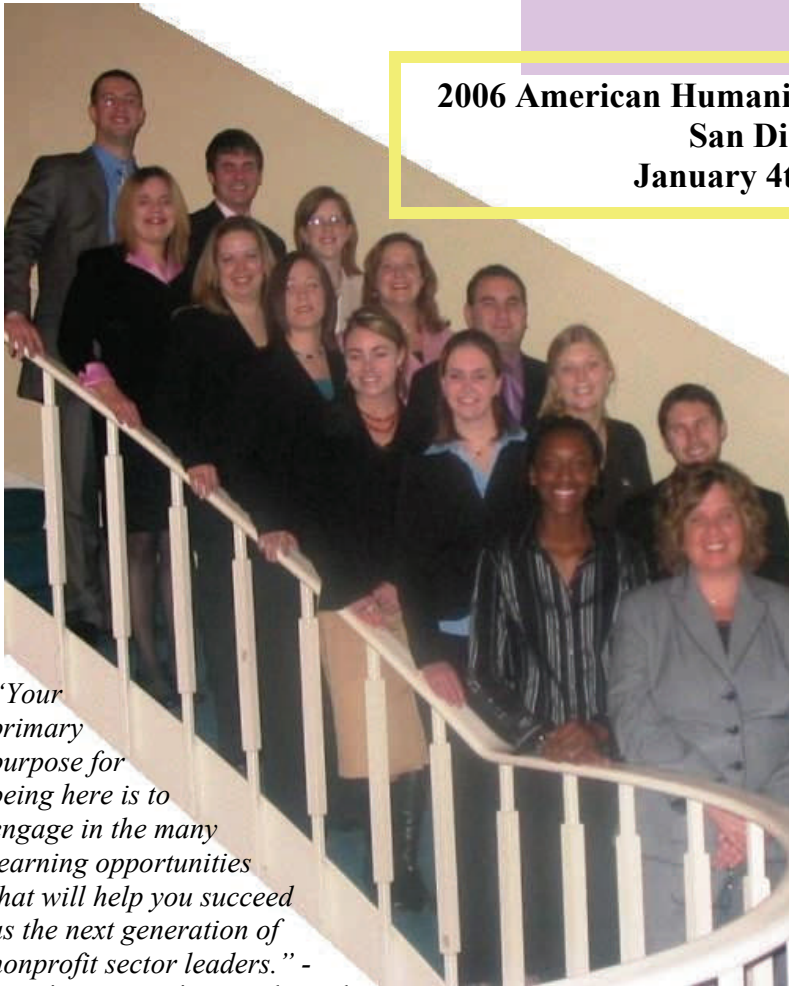
1. Publicizing your existing volunteer opportunities to large numbers of potential volunteers through volunteer fairs, our web site, and other marketing media.
2. Recruiting new pools of volunteers for the community.
3. Rewarding volunteers in the community through a free concert.
4. Promoting community awareness.
5. Providing a resource to assist organizations in any way that we can.

To signup your nonprofit or as a volunteer, go to www.10000hours.org.



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**2006 American Humanities Management Institute
San Diego, CA
January 4th-7th, 2006**



“Your primary purpose for being here is to engage in the many learning opportunities that will help you succeed as the next generation of nonprofit sector leaders.” - American Humanities Board Members

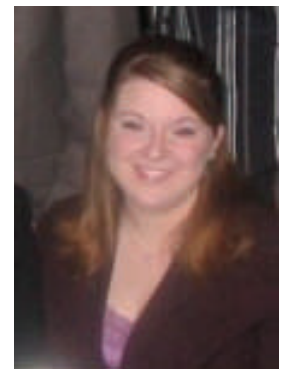
As written in the event program, “AHMI is not for spectators- it is for dreamers and doers!” With this in mind, the UNI American Humanities association sent fifteen visionary students to the 2006 conference in San Diego. A requirement for earning AH’s certification, The AH Management Institute (also referred to as AHMI, pronounced ah-mee) is the “capstone educational experience” that strengthens students’ knowledge of the nonprofit sector through extraordinary learning workshops and networking opportunities.

During the three days in January spent in California, UNI students listened to speakers who addressed some of the most pressing issues in the nonprofit sector, attended workshops, teamed with colleagues from over sixty other college campuses, and enjoyed the warm and beautiful city of San Diego. Through it all, the students acquired a better understanding of the important responsibility they have taken on as the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

Thanks to our 2005 AHMI sponsors!

A Life Changing Experience at the Institute: *Amanda’s story*

When I began in American Humanities this fall, I had no idea of the opportunities and wealth of growing experiences it would provide me with! I had expected to meet new people and have another resume builder but not much more than that. Many of my experiences in American Humanities have helped me grow and learn about myself as well as finding out where I will fit in the non-profit sector. **I would attribute much of this growth to my experiences at the American Humanities Management Institute.** When I went to the Institute I really had no expectation for growth, let alone that it would change my life! While at the institute, I had the opportunity to hear many great speakers. One workshop in particular made me examine who I am and create my own mission statement. This was something I had never considered before. It became about my goals and no longer about the degree I was trying to earn. At the conference I realized that I was feeling drawn towards health related non-profits, especially those dealing with children. Finding this out has guided my search for an internship this coming summer. The conference also gave me a more solid understanding of my own skills. **At the conference I had the realization “Hey I really do know what I am doing!” and came to believe that I will be an asset to any non-profit. So thank you to all the donors who made my trip possible and gave me such an outstanding experience!**



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University of Northern Iowa American Humanics' Website:

www.uni.edu/studentorgs/americanhumanics

National American Humanics Website:

www.americanhumanics.org

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and our friends of American Humanics....

Thank you for your support in building the nonprofit sector!

If we have overlooked your name, please let us know so we acknowledge you.