

**UNI POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:  
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Issue  
#3

**PANTHER P.A.W.S.**



Summer/Fall  
Review  
2006

**A Publication for UNI Postsecondary Education  
Alumni, Working Professionals, and Students**

**2006 COHORT: WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM!**

The 2006 Cohort first came together at 5:00, on August 21st, 2006 in the lounge of 5th floor Schindler Education Building. Those included in the 2006 Cohort are:

**Jamie Alhmaidi:** Jamie is from Crystal Lake, Iowa and earned her BS in Ethnic Studies and Sociology from Minnesota State University. She is interested in International Education or Multicultural Affairs.

**Jenny Connolly:** Jenny is from Dike, Iowa and earned a History Education degree from the University of Northern Iowa in December of 2005. Jenny's Student Affairs interest is in First Year Experience.

**Grant Cornick:** Grant hails from Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He earned a degree in Secondary Science Education from the University of Northern Iowa in 2005.

**Sarah Csukker:** Sarah is currently working as the Academic Advising & Career Services Employer Relations Coordinator. She earned her undergraduate degree in Communication Studies in 2005 from the University of Northern Iowa.

**Lisa Curry:** Lisa comes to us from Dunkerton, Iowa. She earned a degree in 2006 from Upper Iowa University in Secondary Education: Social Studies. Lisa's interests in Student Affairs include Academic Advising and Career Services.

**Michael Gleason:** Michael is originally from Cascade, Iowa and earned a degree in Economics from the University of Northern Iowa in May of 2006.

**Leah Johnson:** Leah is from Cedar Rapids, IA. She earned a General Communications degree with a minor in Family Studies from the University of Northern Iowa in December of 2005. Leah's interests lay in the fields of Academic Transition and First Year Experience.

**Solomon Odoom:** Solomon has joined us at UNI from Cape Coast, Ghana. He has earned a BA and MA in Religion from the University of Dubuque. Solomon spent the past summer in work study with the Study Abroad Office.

**Mike Peterson:** Mike is originally from Mazomanie, Wisconsin and earned a degree in Sociology with a History minor from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December of 2003. His Student Affairs interests are Admissions and Student Activities.



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**2006 Cohort at a Glance**

- 14 students make up this years Cohort: 12 full-time and 2 part-time students.
- Seven different schools represented for Undergraduate degrees.
- 10 Students hold, jobs, graduate assistantships, internships, or work-study positions in the field.

**UNISPA IS BACK!**

The Fall 2006 Semester marked the reorganization of the University of Northern Iowa Student Personnel Association. The Program had been disbanded for several years before second year students: Kara Park, Katie Erickson, and Ella Hoff decided that the program deserved a second chance.

The UNISPA organization was created for anyone in the UNI Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program. UNISPA's purpose is to create a

cohesive atmosphere among cohorts and to provide social and professional development opportunities for the student members.

The first official UNISPA meeting was held on Monday, October 2nd. Introductions went by fairly quickly because most members were already well acquainted. The meeting then moved into discussion about several topics, including: Ideas for Practica opportunities

(Continued on Page 2)



*"A college education should equip one to entertain three things: a friend, an idea and oneself."  
Thomas Ehrlich*

## UNISPA (Continued from page 1)

...for the coming semester, social events for UNISPA members, professional development opportunities, such as job search, resume and portfolio development workshops, Homecoming activities for the coming weekend and the discussion of making UNISPA t-shirts. A good time was had by all who were able to attend the meeting.

On October 23rd the second UNISPA meeting was held at Mulligan's Restaurant. Discussed at this meeting were: responses to the ISPA conference in Ames, discussion of Student Organization recognition, and more about professional development opportunities.

The major discussion topic for the second meeting was the possibility of having the UNISPA organization recognized as an official student organization. Benefits of becoming an official organization are many, including: receiving free access to Maucker Union for meetings and events and receiving University funding for special events, speakers,

and helping to pay for conference registrations.

One concern with becoming an officially recognized organization is that we will be required to be open to any and all UNI students who wish to join. We hope that undergraduate students who are interested in the Student Affairs program will join so they can get a better understanding of how the program is run and what opportunities they can receive from being in the Student Affairs program. We will require that the governing board of UNISPA be comprised of current Student Affairs program students to make sure the best interests of the organization are maintained.

This year's UNISPA membership includes the co-founders and Executive Board of Kara Park, Katie Erickson and Ella Hoff, with a total of twenty-one members. Fourteen of the members are first year students to the program, giving UNISPA a strong base for continuing on next year.

Information about the UNISPA organization can be found in various locations. The link to the main UNISPA page is:

<http://www.uni.edu/coe/elcpe/postsecondary/professionaldevelopment/unispa/unispa.htm>

This page can also be found by clicking on the Professional Development button on the main UNI Postsecondary Education site. A Facebook group has also been started for any members who have an account. Please feel free to contact the group coordinators with any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you!



University of Northern Iowa Student  
Personnel Association

## HONORS AND AWARDS

The past year has seen three individuals in the Student Affairs program earn accolades from the faculty and their peers. **Kara Park** received this year's Paul C. Kelso Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship is awarded to a Student Affairs Masters Program student who is selected by the faculty for their merit, accomplishments and contributions to the program.

An ISPA Scholar Award was received by **Katie**

**Erickson** this year. The ISPA Scholar Award was designed to recognize undergraduate or graduate students who show a strong interest and dedication to the field of Student Affairs. The award is selected based on the students career and educational goals,

campus involvement and leadership roles and academic standing.

A program co-developed by **Beth Thompson** was

selected to be presented at this year's ISPA Conference held in Ames. Beth Co-presented a program entitled, "Creating Communities in Diverse Environments." The emphasis of this program was to demonstrate how one Residence Education plan can be implemented in different ways to ensure strong communities. The program compared a freshmen high rise tower to a small upper class single residence hall. Beth, who is currently the Shull Hall Coordinator presented this program with Christina Baker, the Hall Coordinator in Bender Hall.

*"The ISPA Scholar Award was designed to recognize undergraduate or graduate students who show strong interest and dedication to the field of Student Affairs."*

## 2006 COHORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**Andy Rubly:** Andy hails from Farley, Iowa. He completed his undergraduate degree in Communications in 1998 at Upper Iowa University. Andy also spent two years as a Resident Assistant and Hall Director at Upper Iowa.

**Megan Stull:** Megan is from Reinbeck, Iowa. She attended Luther College and earned a Communication degree with a minor in English in 2000. Megan worked as a Admissions Counselor and Area Coordinator at Luther from 2000-2006, she is now working as an Admissions Counselor here at UNI.

**Kara Trebil:** Kara is originally from Manly, Iowa and earned a degree in Communication Arts from Wartburg College in 2006. Kara is currently working as a Residence Life Graduate Intern at Wartburg. Her Student Affairs interest is in Service-Learning.

**Paul Waterman:** Paul calls Manchester, Iowa his home. He earned a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa in 2006. Paul is the ROTH Complex Residence Life Coordinator.

**Jessica Wenthold:** Jessica's hometown is Ossian, Iowa. She attended the University of Northern Iowa and received a degree in Health Promotion with an Emphasis in Women's Health in 2002. Jessica is currently the Continuing Education Program Manager at Northeast Iowa Community College: Calmer Campus.



*"The purpose of the university is to make students safe for ideas, not ideas safe for students."*  
Clark Kerr

## CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

### Welcome President Allen

The Installation ceremony for UNI's ninth President, Benjamin Allen, was held on Friday, September, 29th at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, a reception followed the ceremony. The previous day, meet and greet gatherings were held for both students and faculty and staff members.

President Allen comes to us from Iowa State University where he was serving as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. A transcript and video of the Installation ceremony can be found at: <http://www.uni.edu/installation/president.shtml>. As a side note, our very own Jenny Connelly was mentioned in President Allen's speech, WAY TO GO Jenny!

### McLeod Center Opening

The much anticipated Grand Opening of the McLeod Center, UNI's new home for men's and women's basketball, volleyball, and wrestling took place on November, 18th. The Panther Volleyball team defeated Bradley 3-0 to earn the Missouri Valley Conference regular season championship in the first game played in the new building.

On November 19th the men's basketball team defeated UW-Milwaukee 69-58 in their first McLeod Center game. The following day the women's basketball team lost an overtime game to Iowa State 80-74 after holding a 13 point second half lead. Finally, on Tuesday, the Panther wrestling team lost a very tight match to 5th ranked Iowa 18-15 to round out the opening week events.

### Contact Information

The new contact for the web page and newsletter is first year graduate assistant Michael Peterson. You can contact Michael by email at [petemich@uni.edu](mailto:petemich@uni.edu) or by phone at 319-273-3139.

### UNISPA MENTORS

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter the UNISPA organization is back. If you would like to share your knowledge and experience as Student Affairs Alumni in the form of a UNISPA Mentor please contact the executive officers whose email addresses can be found on the UNISPA web page.

## ALUMNI FEATURE: KRISTI MARCHESANI

Kristi Marchesani is a 2003 graduate of the Postsecondary Education Student Affairs Program at UNI. Although Kristi graduated in 2003 she has had some very interesting experiences both before and after graduation. Prior to enrolling in the Student Affairs program Kristi graduated from UNI with a degree in Communication: Public Relations in 1995. She then spent the next few years working at the American International School in Salzburg, Austria while she backpacked around Europe. Kristi then returned home in 1999 and began work as an international student recruiter here at UNI.

Currently Kristi continues her work with international students through her position as the Assistant Director of Admissions/International at UNI. Responsibilities of this position are to recruit international students to UNI, coordinating the undergrad and graduate admissions for international students and overseeing the International Services office.

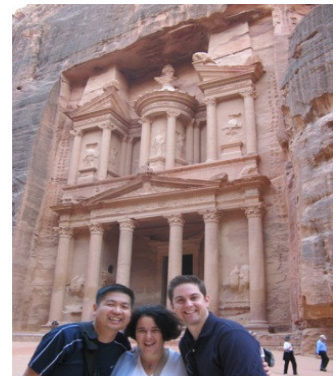
As a perk to her job, Kristi gets the chance to do quite a bit of traveling while recruiting students to UNI. She spends about two to three months each year traveling the world promoting UNI and talking to students about our university. Kristi travels to North and SE Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East, Europe, and South America. This past fall she visited her 60th country.

Kristi does stress however, that the traveling and seeing the world is great but the greatest satisfaction she gets from her job is working with the students who come from around the world to be part of our community here at UNI. She not only becomes a support system and a resource for our international students but a friend as well. Working with international students allows Kristi to share in the students struggles and disappointments as well as see them succeed. As she says, "Each day is a new experience and it is never boring."



Kristi wearing her burka in Saudi Arabia with an UNI alum. (above)

Kristi and fellow recruiters at Petra in Jordan.





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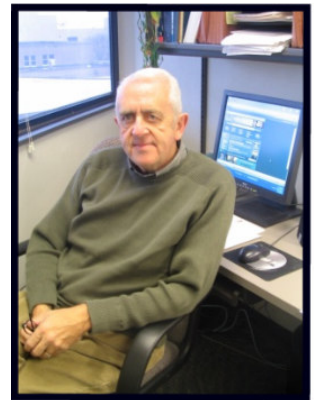
UNI Postsecondary Education:  
Student Affairs

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[www.uni.edu/coe/elcpe/  
postsecondaryed](http://www.uni.edu/coe/elcpe/postsecondaryed)

### A Word from Dr. Mike Waggoner

*Greetings everyone. I hope this finds you enjoying a good year in your life and work. It is all of that here at UNI mixed with a healthy dose of challenging leadership transitions. Our new President, Ben Allen, brings fresh energy, vision, and skills to our campus. He is emphasizing the importance of education which provides us with great opportunities as well as equally significant responsibilities. At the same time, our Dean of the College of Education is leaving, so we're entering a transition there as well. I am co-chairing that search committee and we are hard at work looking for the right person. We are guaranteed an interesting spring. We are thankful for the excellent adjunct faculty that have stepped up to help with the program since Dr. Phillips left for an excellent opportunity as Associate Vice President at Winston-Salem State University. We are examining options for more permanent staffing, but are competing with many other needs around the college; however, there are some interesting opportunities here as well. We'll report on how these things turned out in our spring/summer issue of the newsletter. The best to you all.*

*Sincerely,  
Mike Waggoner*



## SECOND YEAR SUMMER UPDATE

Second year Student Affairs students kept themselves busy this past summer with various classes, practicum and internships ranging from right here at UNI to all the way around the world. Practicum and internship experiences are extremely important as they provide opportunities to work with professionals already in the student affairs field, who can lend their advice, experiences and other important information.

**Ella Hoff** organized an experience for herself at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs working in the Career Center. Ella worked with numerous students helping them decide majors, critiquing their resumes and assisting in career searches. By working as a conference assistant and resident assistant for UCCS she was able to afford living in "the Springs."

**Katie Erickson** had a very busy summer, she took two courses and also worked with Academic Services to help CLEP test incoming freshman students. The highlight of the summer for Katie though was traveling to the Yokota Air Force base in

Japan with Camp Adventure. While in Japan Katie taught swimming lessons to military dependents and saw Tokyo, Kyoto and climbed Mt. Fuji.

**Beth Thompson** spent her summer in Wisconsin Rapids, WI at Mid-State Technical College. Her practicum involved working with the Enrollment Services, Student Life and Athletics departments. Some tasks that Beth worked on were, working a recruitment event for 6-8 grade students, identifying diversity activities and speakers for the up coming school year, and worked on a marketing plan for Cougar athletic sponsors.

**Kara Park** fulfilled her summer practicum at Hawkeye Community College working in the Student Services—Advising office. She spent her time working with students beginning in Associate of Arts and Technical programs as well as transfer students, many of whom transferred to UNI!

**Consuela Cooper** spent the summer working as part of the Hawkeye Community College admissions team, she continues that job today while still working on her

masters degree here at UNI. Consuela recruits new students to Hawkeye through outreach with the local high schools as well as working with Focus on Fridays.

**Sheila Shaw** traveled to Marietta, Georgia for two months this summer. While there she visited Morehouse and Spelman Colleges and Clark University as these are the institutions that she is interested in working for when she graduates from the Student Affairs program. She had time as well to visit the Martin Luther King Jr. home, the new aquarium, and Six Flags.

**Sara Galm** had a practicum here at UNI with Academic Advising and Career Services. The practicum involved working the UNI Summer Orientation program giving presentations and advising first year and transfer students. Sara would recommend her experience to anyone interested in academic advising!

**Joseph Carrillo** has held an assistantship in the UNI Financial Aid office and continued that work through the summer and into the current semester.