

**P&S
Council**

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Welcome New Hires!

A huge welcome to all our new P&S Panthers! We are excited to have you join us and look forward to helping you as you grow in your new position. My door is always open and I hope you stop by to ask questions or just say hello.

- Nathan Arndt, P&S Council President

October 2024

Lee Westphal, *Director of Development Wilson COB, Development & Foundation*

Tamara Smith, *Instructional Development Specialist, Online Education and Individual Studies*

November 2024

Tony Carrillo, *Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid*

Danielle Jennings, *Academic Advisor, COE Academic Advising and Teacher Education Success*

Benjamin Kvigne, *Environmental Specialist, IWRC*

Mallory Sage, *Community Engagement Coordinator, Tallgrass Prairie Center*

December 2024

Trey Blaser, *Academic Coordinator, Upward Bound*

Bethany Brooks, *Director of Development GBPAC, Development & Foundation*

Todd Stepsis, *Head Coach, Football*

January 2025

Sisilia Algburi, *Programmer Analyst SIS, IT-AIS*

Marina Avdonina, *Programmer Analyst SIS, IT-AIS*

Sean Hupke, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Jack Johnson, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Michael McCourt, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Christian Nussbaum, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Jackson Ostroski, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Al Smith, *Assistant Coach, Football*

Nate Thompson, *Assistant Coach, Football*



Know Your Benefits: Retirement Planning

Eligible employees at the University of Northern Iowa are able to choose between two different retirement plans. The [Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America \(TIAA\)](#) is a defined contribution University Sponsored Retirement plan. Employees who participate are issued individually owned 403(b) retirement accounts. The [Iowa Public](#)

[Employees' Retirement System \(IPERS\)](#) is a University Sponsored Retirement plan option that offers a defined benefit at retirement. Each plan has a different contribution rate for the employee and employer.

All TIAA and IPERS participants are encouraged to schedule a FREE personalized meeting to review their retirement savings. These meetings are sponsored and scheduled with a TIAA financial consultant. Set yours up today by using the [online scheduler](#) or by calling 800-732-8353. Consultants are available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST, or are available for on-campus appointments as well.

Upcoming Events

Artificial Intelligence - Professional Development Sessions

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning invites you to participate in its Artificial Intelligence PD sessions this semester. There's something for everyone! If you're new to the topic, start with AI Literacy, a two-hour, hands-on workshop that provides an overview of this technology. For those seeking something more advanced, the center offers deep dives into various topics, such as prompt engineering, ethical considerations, and the latest developments in AI. You can find the complete list of sessions at the [CETL Events site](#).

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Games – Claim your complimentary tickets to UNI Winter Sports!

UNI is excited to show our appreciation to faculty and staff with complimentary tickets to two upcoming athletic events:

- UNI Men's Basketball: Tuesday, Feb 11 vs. Indiana State
- UNI Women's Basketball: Thursday, Feb 27 vs. Evansville

Faculty and staff can claim two free tickets to each event by visiting unipanthers.com. Simply click on "Tickets" and then find "Enter Promo Code" in the top right of the page. Enter the code FACSTAFF to unlock the promo. Additional tickets are also available for purchase.

Don't miss this opportunity to support the Panthers and enjoy some great games!

UNI Day at the Capitol

Monday, March 10, 2025

UNI Day is an excellent opportunity for students and staff to travel to the State Capitol to advocate for UNI and to speak with their legislators. This is also a day to highlight UNI programs, departments, and organizations in order to exhibit the impact UNI has on the State of Iowa. This event helps enhance the university's public image and showcases the outstanding opportunities the University of Northern Iowa offers.

RodCon 2025

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RodCon is a mini-comic book convention held in UNI's Rod Library with a welcoming environment where people with common interests come together to share their love of all things pop culture. The event is always free and open to the public and highlights guest speakers, artists, vendors, trivia competitions, youth and adult costume contests, prizes, giveaways, video gaming, live-action role-playing, youth crafts, and much more! Learn more at: <https://rodcon.library.uni.edu/>

P&S Council Meetings (Rod Library 287)

February 13 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

March 13 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

April 10 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

UNI WRC Family Memberships

JANUARY – AUGUST

\$175 for UNI employees

If you love a good workout at a great price then UNI Rec Services has just the thing for you! Membership includes access to leisure & lap pools, fitness areas, climbing wall, & all sports courts.


Sign up at the UNI WRC Welcome Desk OR in WRC 101
We can't wait to get moving with YOU!

TEDxUniversity of Northern Iowa

Application Deadline: February 17, 2025

Do you have an idea that changes everything? TEDxUniversity of Northern Iowa is coming to campus, and we're looking for staff to take the stage! This event will feature over 15 speakers and performances, showcasing innovative ideas from across UNI and the Cedar Valley. Whether it's a fresh perspective or a personal story, your voice matters. If you or someone on your team has an idea worth sharing, we invite you to apply to be a speaker!

 [Click here to apply](#)

 **17** Deadline: February 17, 2025

Don't miss this chance to share your story on the TEDx stage on October 25, 2025. For questions, ideas, or more information, email us at tedx@uni.edu.



Campus Curiosities

Did you know there is a polar bear in the McCollum Science Hall?



The polar bear was donated to the UNI Museum in 2004 by Gene and Betty Buckles as part of a large taxidermy collection that they had amassed during their life. This example was collected from February through mid-April of 1968. Polar bears are now protected under the Marine Mammal Act of 1972 and can no longer be brought into the United States, making this specimen of special interest since it cannot be replaced.

The museum staff created a custom plexiglass case in 2005 with the "Museum Quasi Endowed Fund" to exhibit this in McCollum Hall with the permission of Dr. Hetrick. It was installed in 2006 where the museum has left it ever since.

Meet Our Members



Mary Grieger

Information Technology Specialist, IT-Client Services

Describe the best trip you have experienced.

It's a toss up between my 30th wedding anniversary cruise to Hawaii and a trip to Europe with my best friend. Hawaii was absolutely gorgeous and Pearl Harbor (on 12/8) was surreal. Europe was lovely and a dream trip for a history major.

What are you good at doing?

Problem solving. Whether it's computer support at work or genealogy research at home, I'm good at using logic, data, and intuition to find answers.

Do you have a favorite podcast? Favorite music?

I'm really into movies and TV. But genre wise is Science Fiction.

What was the last thing you read?

Weapons of the Gods by David Leadbeater. I enjoy books in a series I can really get to know the characters. This is the 18th Matt Drake book...an action-adventure-suspense-thriller with a heap of archeology and government conspiracy.

What is your favorite UNI memory or tradition?

RodCon.

Campus Photo Challenge

Do you think you know where on-campus this photo was taken?



Email your guesses to jc.last@uni.edu. Everyone who guesses correctly will get their name listed in the summer edition of the P&S Council newsletter, alongside a description of where the plaque shown above can be found.

Meeting Recaps

September 2024

Meeting Minutes: [2024-09-12](#)

October 2024

Meeting Minutes: [2024-10-10](#)

November 2024

Meeting Minutes: [2024-11-14](#)

December 2024

Meeting Minutes: [2024-12-12](#)

P&S Council Representatives

Academic Affairs

- [Nathan Arndt](#), President
- [Bethany Botchway](#)
- [Nickole Dillard](#), President-elect
- [Kristina Kofoot](#), Past-President
- [Katie Kreis-Voigt](#)
- [Chris Shaw](#)

Finance & Operations

- [Tristan Aldous](#)
- [Jesse Heath](#)

President's Division

- [Andrea Greve Coello](#)
- [Mary Grieger](#)
- [Anton Reiter](#)

- [Andrew Scott](#)

Student Life

- [Janel Alleyne](#)
- [Dawnell Johnson](#)

University Advancement

- [Dan Breitbach](#)
- [Amy Mohr](#)

At-Large

- [Molly Taiber](#)



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