

LEVI BOSTIAN

Cruising around in a tribe of scooter enthusiasts is one of the many activities senior, Levi Bostian, enjoys doing around campus. Programming is another passion for the Oelwein native, which influenced his decision to major in Computer Science.

“In my hometown, my friends and I used to ride our scooters around town together. When I came to UNI, I brought my scooter along hoping to do the same with some new friends,” said Bostian. “Within the first day of moving in, I already met friends who rode scooters in their town as well. If you have ever seen a group of people riding scooters around campus, chances are, that was us.”

Bostian said that he chose to attend UNI because of the size and the friendliness of the community. Once he began class, he found that these factors helped him build strong relationships with his professors.

“The staff at UNI truly does try to make this the best university for the students. They are always extremely helpful with any questions that you have about any subject. They listen to the students and tailor the whole university around us to make us all as happy as possible,” said Bostian. “Other universities may do the same, but I believe UNI excels in it.”

As a youngster, Bostian spent much of his time on the computer, building a reputation as the “computer guy” in his hometown. He viewed computers as more than just a hobby and sought to understand more about the technical aspects of how computers operate. Upon coming to UNI, he began to learn the answers to the questions he had, making the Department of Computer Science a perfect fit for him.

“I love how every day of the week when I walk into the ITTC, I will feel challenged. The department has so much information and resources for students that I am never bored,” said Bostian. “Class is always exciting and informative. Professors’ doors are always open for you when you need them. All the faculty members are involved with different fields of interest, so once you find your favorite fields, taking classes with those professors is very entertaining. The professors at UNI have a passion for not only the subject they teach, but also teaching itself.”

The passion of his professors has been evident in his interactions with them.

“Last semester, I went into Dr. Wallingford’s office asking why I was not very efficient when answering questions, even though I read the material over and over



again. I felt that because I had memorized the books information, I could quickly answer questions,” said Bostian. “He told me, ‘when I want to improve my mile time, I run. I don’t think about running, I go out and run.’ This has really stuck with me since and showed me how books can only do so much. After that, it is the practice and experience that takes you far.”

The experiences Bostian has had at UNI have given him a sense of preparedness for his future career.

“UNI has a great reputation with employers, especially from around the area. I have met with dozens of UNI grads and every single one of them has said that UNI has done a great job preparing them for their careers today.”

Stories like these have given Bostian a positive outlook on what his future has in store.

“I would love to raise a family here in the Midwest, as this is where my home is and where it will always be. I hope to have a job where I can geek out all day everyday and write code with a group of very intelligent people always looking to make me better. I want to always wake up ready to tackle a new challenge every day,” he said.

TIM BIEDERMAN

Senior, Tim Biederman is majoring in Manufacturing Technology with concentrations in both Advanced Manufacturing and Design. He grew up on a farm near Osage, IA and has three brothers. Before enrolling at UNI, Biederman lived on the UNI campus while attending Hawkeye Community College for his AAS in CNC Technology.

“UNI has taught me the skills and given me the knowledge I need to succeed in manufacturing. The leadership abilities that I have learned during my time here will also greatly benefit me throughout my career,” said Biederman.

Biederman is already applying these leadership skills in his involvement with student organizations.

“I am very active in the UNI Society of Manufacturing

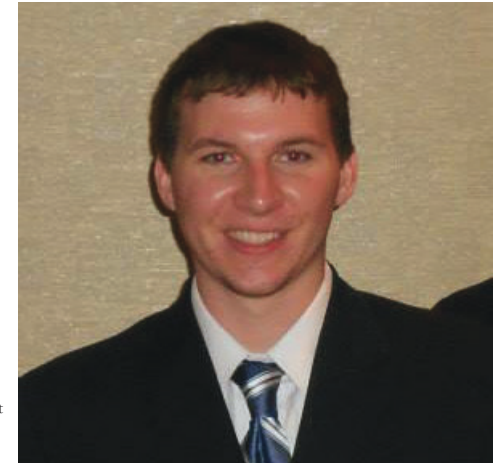
Engineers (SME) student chapter in which I have been the president for a year and a half now. SME has been a fantastic experience. It has opened my eyes to the many opportunities there are in manufacturing,” he said.

These opportunities are some of the aspects Biederman appreciates most about UNI.

“I would say that - is just the right size. It is large enough to have a lot of opportunities for involvement and leadership, but small enough so that you don’t just feel like a number and the student-to-teacher ratio is smaller.”

The small size of his classes has allowed him to build relationships with professors.

“Many of the industrial technology professors have been very influential and have greatly



helped me prepare for my dream career. I would especially like to thank Dr. Giese and Jay Hileman for being great manufacturing mentors and friends.”

Overall, he is glad to have taken advantage of the opportunities presented to him at UNI.

“I’ve spent a lot of time studying and doing homework to be successful and have made a lot of friends while attending UNI,” he said. “The most important aspect of being in college is to prepare oneself for a career, but it is just as important to make memories and get the most out of all the opportunities presented.”

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