

## Luncheon – Creative Scholarship Presentations

### **Jeremy Schraffenberger, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, English Language and Literature**

With Hunter S. Thompson, ZZ Packer, Sue Grafton, and Louis Brandeis, Jeremy Schraffenberger is a native of Louisville, where, from the University of Louisville, he took a BA as well as an MA, before going to SUNY Binghamton for his PhD, which he took from a department that includes such estimable writers as Thomas Glave, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, and wide-ranging union tool maker, poet, literary journal *Black Swan* founder, and pianist, Joe Weil. With such company, it is easy to see how Schraffenberger is already so accomplished and recognized, having published a covertly learned and overtly thrilling collection of poems that gives expression to the lyrical life of concupiscence, song, cancer and faith in a contemporary US hospital bed. The collection, *Saint Joe's Passion*, is enthusiastically praised, as by one reviewer, Charles Martin, who says that Schraffenberger's collection gives the experience of a "dazzling projection of masks over and under other masks, voices parodying other voices, or interrupting them, or guiding them into unanticipated channels." Schraffenberger will be reading some of his poems interwoven with some poems by the estimable late Iowan poet and long-time English professor at UNI, James Hearst.

### **Daniel Wells, Ph.D., Instructor, Theatre and School of Health, Leisure, & Youth Services**

Daniel Wells started dancing at the age of four. He spent his teenage years in Belgium studying at the Royal Academy. Daniel did his undergraduate work at UNI, majoring in Asian studies. He joined International Dance Theatre in 1988 under the direction of Don Allen, and continued under the direction of Dr. Kathleen Kerr. After leaving UNI in 1993, Daniel went on to perform with several professional dance companies. He started in Minneapolis, where he danced with Ethnic Dance Theatre, The Philippino American Society, Ballet Arts Minnesota, and Zenon Dance Company. After accepting a position with The National Ballet of Canada, he relocated to Toronto. While in Canada, Daniel also danced with Les Sortilèges, a professional folk dance ensemble, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and finally with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

International Dance Theatre is an American and International dance performance company and social group. They not only perform but also learn many recreational dances from all over the world. The group sponsors regular international and ballroom dance lessons and dance events on campus, free of charge and open to the public. International Dance Theatre, a part of this group, presents on-campus performances including Family Fest Weekend Dance Concert (with Orchesis), Fall and Spring Dance Festivals and Spring Concert.

### **Francesca Soans, M.F.A., Assistant Professor, Communication Studies**

Francesca Soans is Assistant Professor of Electronic Media in the Department of Communication Studies. She is an independent filmmaker, with an M.F.A in Film and Media Arts. Her films and videos, exploring memory and identity, have screened at film festivals in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, and been broadcast on public and cable channels. She has received several grants from the Iowa Arts Council and Humanities Iowa for her work. She has written and directed **notes towards a history**, on representation, desire, and the act of storytelling; **Tele/Kinetics**, on borders and identities; **What Are Little Girls Made Of?**, on gender, color, and nursery rhymes in India; **Body Politics**, a satire on social responsibility; and **Tell Me Your Story.....**, on documentary forms and grandmothers. Her film **Rebirth** has received several awards from the Iowa Motion Picture Association for directing, acting, art direction, and original music. She is currently in post-production on **Waterloo: A History of Place**, a unique documentary series on community memories of place.

Film Synopsis: Set in a time of endless wars and tensions over national identity, REBIRTH is an ironic tale about death, life, and second chances. Kalpa, an Indian immigrant, seeks a home away from her past in a small town in Iowa. Helen, owner of a local bakery, cares for her orphaned granddaughter. On Memorial Day weekend, as the nation remembers its war dead, the two women face a moment of choice.

Show Times: 1:40 pm and 2:30 pm in the University Room, MAU