

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

COMPUTER SCIENCE

LISA DIERCKS

BY CHRISTINE EFFERDING

Lisa Diercks is a senior from Denver, IA, double majoring in Computer Science and Criminology with a minor in Mathematics. She originally came to UNI to study Secondary Math Education, but after dabbling in both secondary and elementary education, Diercks decided to check out her passion for computers.

“I’ve always had a knack for computers, but had no programming experience, so I decided to try a couple Computer Science classes. I immediately loved the work we were doing in those classes; they were challenging, engaging and hands on,” Diercks says. One of her favorite things about the Computer Science Department is how close knit it is. “It isn’t a very large department, so all of the professors know the students, and even better, the students know each other,” she says.

In her time at UNI, Diercks has been involved with the Women in Computing Club. Through this involvement she had the opportunity to go to Texas for the Grace Hopper Celebration, a nationwide celebration of women in technology fields. At the conference, Diercks says she “was able to meet lots of new people and even interview with potential employers through their incredible career fair.” Diercks also says that being involved in the Women in Computing Club has been a great opportunity for the female community to bond in a fairly male-dominated major.

Along with her school accomplishments, Diercks has also gained a lot of practical experience during her time at UNI. She worked at John Deere as a part-time student for 2 years, interned with the Cedar Falls Police Department (CFPD), and eventually worked for the CFPD as a Community Service Officer. Those experiences led her to intern at the FBI last summer, and has continued to do so throughout this school year. After graduation, Diercks hopes to gain a full-time position with the FBI. Eventually she would like to end up in Denver, CO, but says it might be a few years before she can transfer there.



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