

The **BRIDGE**

Summer 2020
Upper Iowa University

Alumni Magazine





Brooke Scott



Terrance Greer



Josi Baker

Produced for Upper Iowa University alumni and friends by the Office of Communications and Marketing

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations Class of 2020



Tianna Hardy

Photo courtesy of Kristina Freeman Photography



While the coronavirus has changed the way we have delivered classes, offered services and celebrated our graduates, our Peacock community is stronger than ever in our drive to persevere, our enthusiasm for lifelong learning and our commitment to student success. I congratulate the Class of 2020 for your outstanding achievements and hope that all of you are able to join us in person at our 2021 Commencement here in Fayette to celebrate in what you accomplished."

William R. Duffy II, Ed.D., Ed.S.
President



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2020 VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT WRAP-UP – Page 8



Homecoming Schedule – Page 13



President's Ball – Page 16

FEATURES

- 5 MBA research projects enhance business and life strategies
- 6 Peacock takes aim at pandemic one breath at a time
- 10 Alumnus shares the potential impact of a UIU education with his students
- 17 Internship provides alumna with vision for future
- 23 Growing a legacy in Jacob's honor

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 News Briefs
- 4 Faculty and Staff Notes
- 18 Athletics Wrap-Up
- 22 Alumni Association Update
- 24 Class Notes
- 28 In Memoriam
- 29 Celebrate UIU Days



Front cover photo: Employed as a human resources manager, Theresa Sander's '16 duties include safety training and administration. She is also a volunteer first responder and is EMT-Basic certified for an area that covers approximately 80 square miles. In addition, she serves on a critical incident stress debriefing team for the Southwest Wisconsin District.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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Student and faculty recognized at LSAMP Conference



Pictured after attending the recent LSAMP Conference in Cedar Falls, Iowa, are (l-r) Upper Iowa University associate professor of biology Dr. Rebecca Schmidt, UIU biology major Ryan Wooten, UIU professor of geosciences Dr. Kata McCarville, UIU professor of physics and mathematics Dr. Nigel George and UIU assistant professor of mathematics Dr. Dana Bates. Wooten placed first for his Brook Trout Sample Survey poster at the annual event, while George was bestowed the Excellence in Mentoring Award.

Attending the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Washington, D.C., provided UIU students and faculty the opportunity to discover firsthand how science assists in connecting people, ideas and solutions from across real and artificial borders and disciplines worldwide.

An Upper Iowa University junior and a faculty member were recognized at the annual Iowa Illinois Nebraska STEM Partnership for Innovation and Research and Education (IINSPIRE) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Conference in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Ryan Wooten, a biology major from Willowbrook, Illinois, placed first for his Brook Trout Sample Survey poster that described the results of a summer 2019 study led by Iowa State University graduate student Brett Kelly. Working as a field technician under Kelly's guidance, Wooten assisted in looking for potential brook trout restoration streams in northeast Iowa.

In addition to Wooten's honor, UIU professor of physics and mathematics Dr. Nigel George was presented with the Excellence in Mentoring Award at the annual conference.

In nominating her colleague, UIU professor of geosciences Dr. Kata McCarville noted George's longtime support of LSAMP and all STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields.

"Quantitative skills are critical for student success, and Nigel has developed curriculum and educational instruction that support student achievement in math and physics," McCarville said. "He helps students develop the ability to apply their knowledge to coursework, research, internships, graduate school and ultimately their careers. Nigel is an excellent role model and mentor for students as they grow and develop into effective learners, curious investigators and quantitatively adept professionals."

Wooten, George and McCarville were joined by UIU associate professor of biology Dr. Rebecca Schmidt and UIU assistant professor of mathematics Dr. Dana Bates in attending the 2020 LSAMP Conference.

IINSPIRE LSAMP is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The alliance brings together 16 two-year and four-year colleges and universities that are working to broaden the participation of underrepresented minorities in STEM education in the Midwest. The participating institutions collaborate to support and increase the success of students and provide students in the alliance with academic, research, training and mentoring opportunities, including scholarships and research stipends.

Additional information about Wooten's project can be viewed on Bridge Online at <https://bit.ly/2xqjmcn>.

Mock Trial team wraps up 2020 court proceedings

The Upper Iowa University Mock Trial team competed against 45 other collegiate teams in the 32nd National Mock Trial Invitational at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Following the event, UIU junior Payton Kastenschmidt was named an Attorney Award recipient. A native of Brandon, Wisconsin, she is majoring in biology, with a minor in prelaw. Kastenschmidt joined the UIU Mock Trial team last school year when contemplating whether to pursue a career in medicine or law.



Payton Kastenschmidt

"I've learned so much from the coaches as well as from other team members," Kastenschmidt said. "Mock trial has helped me become confident when speaking in front of people as well as presenting more clear and concise arguments. I have loved the entire experience and would like to go to law school and focus on civil litigation."

The UIU Mock Trial season later concluded during a regional tournament in Wheaton, Illinois. In addition to Kastenschmidt, the 2019-20 team included Elizabeth Creveling, a senior criminal justice major from Anamosa, Iowa; Robert Valladares, a junior criminal justice major from Moline, Illinois; Gabrielle Palomo, a sophomore biology major from Homewood, Illinois; Breanna Ellis, a senior biology major from Oelwein, Iowa; Abigail McKay, a sophomore public administration and criminal justice double major from Eldridge, Iowa; Nolan Schulte, a sophomore biology major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Elizabeth Goddard, a sophomore communication studies major from Clermont, Iowa. The team was coached by UIU assistant professor of criminal justice Tiffany Kragnes and associate professor of business Christopher Kragnes.

The regional competition included schools with long histories of competing in the national tournament, such as Loyola University Chicago, Drake University, University of Chicago, Indiana University, University of Iowa and Macalester College.

"It's a privilege to compete against these teams and work on our trial skills," Tiffany said. "Chris and I have seen significant improvement from these students, which culminated into some great performances. The team takes suggestions from the judges and incorporates them immediately into the next trial. While our returning members continued making strides in their performances, it has been especially fun to watch the growth of our first-year competitors. The team worked together all season long, ensuring a strong base for next year."

Student Government officers elected for 2020-21



The newly elected Upper Iowa University Student Government Association officers for 2020-21 are (l-r) Treasurer Ally Fink of Plainfield, Illinois; Vice President Lane Canny of Brownsdale, Minnesota; President Carter Harris of St. Cloud, Florida; Internal Relations Officer Kaitlin Niedert of Independence, Iowa; Secretary Alyson Carroll of Oswego, Illinois.

A St. Cloud, Florida, native has been elected Upper Iowa University Student Government Association (SGA) president. Carter Harris, a sophomore biology major, was recently elected alongside four additional officers at UIU's Fayette Campus for the 2020-21 academic year.

"I chose to run for Student Government president after (SGA) Secretary Alyson Carroll told me about the responsibilities of the office and all that the organization can do for the school," Harris said. "I

already have a good relationship with many of the students, and I want to be a voice for my friends here at Upper Iowa."

Harris, whose biology emphasis is in pre-med, is a member of the Beta Delta Pi fraternity and Peacock football team. In addition to Harris, the newly elected UIU 2020-21 SGA officers are as follows:

Vice President Lane Canny is a junior sports communication major from Brownsdale, Minnesota. A member of the football team, Canny sees his time with SGA as an opportunity to continue building his leadership skills.

Secretary Alyson Carroll was reelected to her SGA position. A junior from Oswego, Illinois, majoring in special education, she is currently involved in Peacocks for a Cure, Best Buddies and Education Club at Fayette Campus. Carroll sought another term with SGA because she wanted to continue playing a part in changes at UIU.

Treasurer Ally Fink is a junior from Plainfield, Illinois. Double majoring in biology and psychology, she is a member of Peacocks for a Cure and the women's basketball team. As an SGA officer, Fink believes she will have the opportunity to be more actively involved at UIU.

Internal Relations Officer Kaitlin Niedert is a junior from Independence, Iowa. An elementary education major, she is currently involved with UIU volleyball, the Student Athlete Advisory Council, Best Buddies, Peacocks for a Cure, Kappa Zeta Tau and the Csomay Honors Program. Niedert admits that SGA is somewhat out of her comfort zone but believes it will provide her the chance to learn more about herself, Fayette Campus and UIU's other education locations.

UIU senior leads 'Bird Friendly' project in Fayette



UIU senior conservation management major Jake Dale, Upper Iowa Audubon Society President Connie Hvitved, Fayette Community Library Director Annette Butikofer, and UIU assistant professor of biology and Upper Iowa Audubon Society board member Paul Skrade (l-r) display the birding action packs that will soon be available at the local library for public use.

Most people are familiar with the American goldfinch and northern cardinals that visit area bird feeders, but how many know the dark-eyed junco, the house finch, or the downy or red-bellied woodpecker? Local youth and other residents can soon check out birding action packs, complete with binoculars and field guides, from the Fayette Community Library for documenting these and other bird species native to the community.

As part of his Bird Friendly Iowa (BFI) Fayette certification project, Upper Iowa University senior conservation management major Jake Dale led the effort to raise funds for the newest library service. In addition to Dale, the items have been made available with the support and funding of state and local representatives, including the Upper Iowa Audubon Society's Donald C. Larsen Grant, Fayette Lions Club, UIU professor of graphic design and Fayette Lions Club member Don McComb, and UIU assistant professor of biology and Upper Iowa Audubon Society board member Paul Skrade.

A native of Hastings, Minnesota, Dale previously led a 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count presentation at the Fayette Community Library and took community members out to bird watch. The observations were submitted to eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project.

In addition, Dale has provided a BFI certification presentation to the Fayette City Council and gathered documentation about the city of Fayette, such as how its Department of Public Works does not use pesticides in public places.

For additional information, see the article posted to Bridge Online at <https://bit.ly/2K1zXpF>.

FACULTY AND STAFF NOTES



Dr. Dana Bates, assistant professor of mathematics, presented “Building Student Self-Assessment Tools” at the annual conference of the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics in October 2019.



Edyta Cichon-Barche, coordinator for international student/scholar services, was among a panel of speakers who presented “Advising Hacks for Small Schools: Tips and Tricks for Managing Student Advising in a Small School International Office” at the International Students and Scholar Services Practices and Technology Conference in June.

Bryce Corbin, adjunct professor, wrote “Students’ Wants and Preferences for Essay Feedback in College Level English Courses,” which was published in the fall/winter 2019 edition of *English in Texas*, a journal of the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts.

Dr. Adrienne Finlay, associate professor of English, sold the foreign rights to her novel “Cut Off” to a Hungarian publisher last spring, and then more recently sold the foreign rights to her novels “Cut Off” and “Your One and Only” to a Brazilian publisher.



Laura Gleissner, assistant professor of art, and **Elissa Wenthe**, interim dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and professor of art, held a two-person exhibition titled “Artificial Order” at the Waldemar A. Schmidt Gallery at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, from February 17 to March 29.



Dr. Melinda Heinz, associate professor of psychology, presented a number of papers and poster presentations at the November 2019 annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Austin, Texas. The titles included “I May be Alone, But I Don’t Feel Lonely: Insights from the Oral Narratives of Childless Centenarians,” “Promoting and Attracting Students to Careers in Aging Services,” and “Quality of Care in a Long-Term Care Community.” She also made a poster presentation, titled “Personality and Groups: Influence of Assertiveness on Group-Oriented Beliefs,” at the Midwestern Psychological Association’s November 2019 annual conference in Chicago.



Adriel Hilton, adjunct instructor, was among the editors of the new text, *Multiculturalism in Higher Education: Increasing Access and Improving Equity in the 21st Century*.



Tiffany Kragnes, assistant professor of criminal justice, was recently admitted to the Arizona Bar as a licensed attorney in that state. She also participated in a roundtable discussion on emotional labor in the classroom at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2020.



Dr. Sara Reed, assistant professor/director of public administration, was scheduled to present a paper titled “The Influence of Sociocultural Labeling on Graduate Student Perceptions of Writing Success” at the Midwest Political Science Conference in Chicago, Illinois, before its cancellation in April 2020.

Dr. Panagiotis Markopoulos, Master of Science in Counseling program director and lecturer, received a certification of recognition for academic/professional services while representing UIU as co-chair of the poster session review panel from Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International. He has been with CSI for eight years, chairing and co-chairing in different positions.



Amy Tucker, director of academic success, was selected as a 2020 Young Alumni Award recipient by Wartburg College. This achievement is awarded to recent graduates who have shown ability to live out the four pillars of the Wartburg College Mission Statement: leadership, service, faith and learning.



James Conroy, adjunct instructor, wrote the book, “Fraud Dog: Cases of a White Collar Cop.”

2019-20 Outstanding Staff and Faculty Service Award recipients

2019-20 Outstanding Staff and Faculty Service Award recipients

The 2019-20 Upper Iowa University Outstanding Staff and Faculty Service awards were presented to associate registrar Shon Bruns and professor of chemistry Jeff Butikofer. All potential award recipients were nominated by their peers.



Professor of chemistry Jeff Butikofer '00, accepted the 2019-2020 Outstanding Faculty Award from UIU President William R. Duffy II. Butikofer has served UIU for 15 years.

As recipients of the 2019-20 Upper Iowa University Outstanding Staff and Faculty Service awards, Bruns and Butikofer embody Upper Iowa University’s unwavering commitment to accessible higher education and lifelong learning, further ensuring that current and future UIU students are provided with the skills they need to be successful in the classroom, career and life. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3j0mPVv>.



UIU President William R. Duffy II presented associate registrar Shon Bruns '03, '04 with the University’s 2019-20 Outstanding Staff Award. Bruns has served UIU for 21 years.

MBA research projects enhance business and life strategies



Participating Upper Iowa University MBA student team members are eager to implement new strategies from their respective research projects into their lives and future careers. Pictured are (front, l-r) Andre Cheong, Jose Acosta Rosa, Sasha Zainal, Sabreena Zainal, Vu Nguyen and Bethany Stock; (back) Jayde Blue, Jie Jun Teng, Santiago Cordero, Jamie Gehling, Chung Ho Chee, Jack Cousin and UIU associate professor of management Redmond Humphrey. Anna Okolot is not pictured.

By examining the different management principles of various enterprises, three teams of Upper Iowa University MBA students hope findings from their corporate entrepreneurship and sustainability course project help improve the business strategies of not only those they researched but also other local establishments.

A study of restaurants within a 75-mile radius of Fayette examined whether the local food establishments implemented a quality management system (QMS) and if management was aware of the formalized system. Team members Sasha Zainal, Bethany Stock, Jamie Gehling, Ghanna Okolot and Sabreena Zainal contacted the restaurants through Facebook, email, phone and personal visits.

The students discovered that few of the participants knew of or executed a QMS, which is a business process that focuses on a collection of information to meet and enhance customer satisfaction. The team noted future studies could be conducted on how businesses manage their social media rate on investment. While finding the overall experience enlightening, the students especially enjoyed the opportunity to visit new places, talking with the business owners and managers, and sampling a variety of different restaurant items.

Team members Andre Cheong, Jose Acosta, Vu Nguyen and Jayde Blue studied Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), a charity cooperation that helps families with sick children find comfort and

support. The core RMHC programs—Ronald McDonald House, Ronald McDonald Family Room and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile—provide access to health care and enable family-centered care.

The students’ research focused on the efficiency and work satisfaction of RMHC full-time and part-time employees, including their future sustainability and if employees want long-term employment with the corporation. It was discovered that full-time employees were more dedicated to their employment with RMHC than part-time employees. The team suggested that UIU could utilize the same research model to evaluate faculty and staff satisfaction and potential improvements to the University.

As part of the third and final study, team members Chung Ho Chee, Jie Jun Teng, Jack Cousin and Santiago Cordero focused on exploring the impact of continuous improvement management practices on the organizational culture. More specifically, the students examined the continuous improvement practices of the printing and publishing industry and how the companies sustain their businesses during today’s “going green” culture.

The students found that while a bigger company has more funds to grow strategically and a smaller company lacks the funds to take higher risks, they would advocate that all publication companies practice continuous improvement. If a company were to practice continuous improvement, it could identify performance and development opportunities to promote employee growth and customer satisfaction. From their study, the team also noted that continuous improvement could influence future improvements and developments at UIU.

From their teams’ respective findings and other coursework, each student experienced an enhanced vision of their personal professional development and future employability. Much like their research subjects, they are eager to implement these new strategies in each of their careers and lives.



Chung Ho Chee, Jie Jun Teng, Santiago Cordero and Jack Cousin (l-r) provided a presentation on their MBA project, which examined the continuous improvement practices of the printing and publishing industry and how the companies sustain their businesses during today’s “going green” culture.

Peacock takes aim at pandemic one breath at a time

Theresa Sander's '16 greatest satisfaction in life has been affording individuals the basic human need to be safe and secure from whatever is troubling them. When all seems lost and people don't know where to turn, the Muscoda, Wisconsin, native takes great comfort in helping others and watching for a ray of hope to come back into a person's eyes.

A psychology major, Sander bears a positive outlook on what life throws at her and those she cares for. Needless to say, it comes as no surprise she is among the countless Upper Iowa University alumni who have risen to face the new challenges brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

After earning an associate degree at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Sander transferred to UIU with the assistance of the University's Prairie du Chien Center staff and graduated with her bachelor's degree through UIU's online programming.

"Deciding to go back to school at the age of 50 was scary, but it was the best decision I ever made," Sander said. "I wanted to improve my career and volunteer skill set, and UIU gave me all the tools I needed to do that. My education has provided me with the knowledge and tools for increased awareness and observation skills when working with individuals—whether it's the employees I work with, the patients we are called upon to help or the EMS personnel I volunteer



In between her various career and emergency volunteer duties, Theresa Sander '16 cherishes every opportunity to hold her first grandchild, Brue, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

alongside. I also have a better understanding of mental illness and substance abuse and how individuals may suffer more or experience severe episodes of illness during stressful times such as we are experiencing now."

Employed as a human resources manager with Biddick Inc., a seed corn, small grains and cattle producer in Livingston, Wisconsin, Sander's duties include safety training and administration. She is also a volunteer first responder and is EMT-Basic certified for an area that covers approximately 80 square miles. In addition, she serves on a critical-incident stress debriefing team for the Southwest Wisconsin District five-county area.

Sander's volunteer service and career often cross over when it comes to public safety, but this has been especially true since the onset of the pandemic. Her EMS training and experience helped her work with Biddick's management team in putting protective practices in place, such as wearing face masks, social distancing, cleaning, sanitizing and taking employee temperatures. She utilized her creativity in finding sources for personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and dust masks for employees to carry out their duties.

"Since our suppliers were unable to provide us dust masks, I put my sewing skills to use and made each of our employees a cloth dust mask to wear at work and at home," Sander explained. "In addition, I came up with my own version of a face shield for several employees who struggled to wear a face mask."

As part of her debriefing duties, Sander works with public service providers (EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement, etc.) who have been involved in a critical incident, such as a fatal accident, shooting or suicide. She assists the individuals in defusing the incident and working through a process of recovery so they can continue to provide service to others without experiencing post-traumatic stress or other long-term effects.

A group of five firefighters, who had been directly involved in a fatal house fire, provided the first test during the pandemic in ensuring everyone's safety at an in-person critical incident debriefing. Sander noted the reasons for the in-person meeting was that not all participants were familiar with Zoom and the team's need to closely observe the firefighters' body language to work through the defusing process. By following the guidelines to ascertain that no one was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and with all participants washing their hands and/or using hand sanitizer while maintaining social distancing, the debriefing proved successful and the firefighters quickly returned to their daily lives.

Sander praises state and county EMS administrators for the many new protocols put in place for personnel to follow when called to an emergency. She also noted dispatch centers ask pertinent questions to help determine the specific COVID-19-related procedures to follow during each call.

"Overall, I think I've had an easier time than most other employees because of my EMS training and knowing the importance of washing hands and wearing the proper PPE," Sander said. "I did find that it was important to become more available to the employees to answer



As a member of the Livingston, Wisconsin, First Responders, Theresa Sander (far right) is especially grateful to the state and county EMS administrators and the many new protocols they have put in place for personnel to follow when called to an emergency during the ongoing pandemic.

questions, provide information and calm their fears, especially those who were experiencing anxiousness or were considered at greater risk due to age or preexisting medical conditions. We continue to do everything we can to keep our employees safe so we can produce quality crops and cattle and provide for our customers."

“The more you know, the better prepared you will be to ensure your own health and safety. Don't get complacent and assume that because the number of cases is falling that you won't get sick.”

Theresa Sander '16

"While safety has always been a priority both in my career and volunteer work, the pandemic forced me to become hypervigilant about it," she added. "I couldn't afford to take chances if I hoped to remain healthy while working and helping others."

Sander credits her family for being an inspiration to her during the pandemic. Husband, Rodney, is a patrolman for an area township and serves as the Montfort, Wisconsin, fire chief. The couple have been married for 32 years. Daughter, Nicole, an elementary special education teacher, and her fiancé, Brandon Naeger, a county law enforcement deputy, are engaged to be married in September. Meanwhile, son, Luke, a civil and construction project engineer, and his wife, Anna (Moen), a hair and makeup stylist, have a newborn son, Brue, to care for.

"They all inspire me with what they do each and every day," Sander said. "It was because of them that I decided to sew the face masks and help keep them as safe as possible on the job and in their personal lives. Then it was a natural process to do what I could to keep the employees at work safe, as well as other friends and relatives."



Safety has always been a priority in both Theresa Sander's career and volunteer work. Sander (front, left) is pictured with other emergency personnel participating in an earlier STOP THE BLEED course.

Sander admits that the most difficult part for her during the pandemic occurred when she was unable to immediately see and hold Brue, her first grandchild, when he was born in April. And when she had the opportunity to do so on Memorial Day, the 55-year-old still had to wear a face mask outside and couldn't kiss and cuddle the baby like she so desperately wanted to.

As the pandemic persists and affects everyone's daily life, Sander recommends that people continue to educate themselves about COVID-19—research, read, watch documentaries, ask questions and talk to those working on the front line.

"The more you know, the better prepared you will be to ensure your own health and safety," Sander said. "Don't get complacent and assume that because the number of cases is falling that you won't get sick. Someone standing next to you may suddenly sneeze and forget to cover their mouth, and suddenly you're exposed."

At the same time, she wishes to convey the following message to other health and safety personnel and all other public servants: "Take care of yourself. Find time to get away and do things that make you happy. Don't worry about the things that you can't control. Make time for friends and family. Above all else—just breathe." 🛡️



Photo courtesy of Renee Miller, director of project management, West Liberty Foods.

UIU associate professor of nursing Sheila Crook-Lockwood, MSN-Ed, RN, CNE, was one of the Iowa Department of Public Health's Iowa Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers, who tested meat plant employees for COVID-19 at the West Liberty Foods plant in West Liberty, Iowa, in May. The health professionals conducted serology and nasal swab testing at the site. They also tested the Muscatine and West Liberty fire departments.

To view additional photos of alumni working on the front lines during the ongoing pandemic, visit The Bridge Online at uiubridge.com.



UIU CELEBRATES ITS GRADUATES VIRTUALLY

Tianna Hardy
Photo courtesy of Kristina Freeman Photography

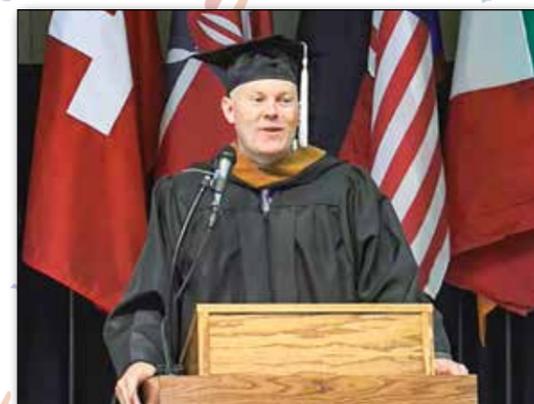
Zang Moua



Justin Folley



Extraordinary times call for extraordinary people," Upper Iowa University alumnus Neil Wilkinson '99 said as he addressed UIU's 2020 graduates during the University's first virtual commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 9. "Time after time, I hear of the remarkable achievements and accounts from this class and how you have triumphed over adversity. It's time that you unleash your talents, ambition and curiosity upon this great world."



University alumnus and guest speaker Neil Wilkinson '99 addresses graduates during the May 9 virtual Commencement ceremonies.

Wilkinson earned bachelor's degrees in finance and business management from UIU and later received a Master of Science in financial services from The American College. A native of rural Westgate, he has been in the financial services industry since 2000, and he specializes in business planning, retirement planning and estate planning strategies for Financial Decisions Group. A UIU Board of Trustee member, Wilkinson is also currently the chairman of Security Mutual Insurance and the Fortunaire Foundation.

He and his wife, Heidi, reside in Fairbank, Iowa, with their two sons, Tate and Cael.

"I don't know what your futures hold, but I can tell you this - each of you are extraordinary people," Wilkinson said. "You have already achieved so much in unusual times. Celebrate this moment with pride with your family and friends."

"On behalf of our University community, I want to thank everyone for joining us today," UIU President William R. Duffy II said. "I would also like to thank members of the UIU Board of Trustees, family members, friends, loved ones and of course, our graduates who are all watching right now and beaming with pride for achieving this outstanding accomplishment. I sincerely wish we could be celebrating together today. And while that is not possible, we have already extended an invitation for all of this year's graduates to join us at the May 2021 commencement ceremony so you will all have the opportunity to experience Commencement and celebrate your achievements right here in Fayette."

In addition to Wilkinson and Duffy, Board of Trustees Chairman Dennis Murdock and Vice President of External Affairs Andrew Wenthe addressed the online audience. As the ceremony was conducted virtually, the honorees names were read, and submitted photos of graduates were shown on screen. In lieu of the traditional recessional, the virtual commencement concluded with a compilation of congratulatory messages from UIU faculty, coaches, advisors and staff.

In 2020, 1,275 students completed their associate, bachelor's or master's degree requirements at UIU. Of those, 203 graduated from Fayette Campus, 793 completed their degrees at one of UIU's 21

locations throughout the United States, 245 graduated through online or self-paced study programs, and 34 were from the University's international center in Hong Kong. UIU is one of the most diverse universities in Iowa; in all, the graduates represented 42 states and 10 countries.

UIU's 163rd in-person commencement ceremony at Fayette Campus was transitioned to the virtual format on March 19 due to COVID-19 and in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of students, visitors and employees upon consult with local and state public health officials.

Each virtual ceremony is available for viewing on UIU's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/UpperIowaUniversity.



Liz Winter



Dzeneta Jusufovic



Jeremy Jacobson



Jesse Pleggenkuhle



Toni L. Gibbs



Jenna Houg



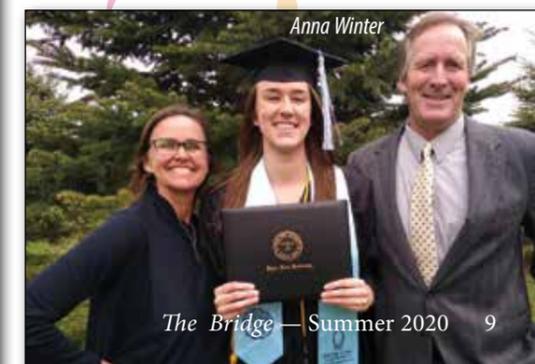
Jamie Suchomel



Seth Owings



Autumn Weaver



Anna Winter

Alumnus shares the potential impact of a UIU education with his students

For the past five years, an Upper Iowa University alumnus and current educator from Riverdale High School in Muscoda, Wisconsin, has brought members of the school's junior class to Fayette Campus. Todd McKay '98 enjoys showing the students where he received his education while providing them the opportunity to see how a university can impact their lives as UIU did his.

McKay earned a general business degree and teaching and coaching certifications at UIU. Now serving as Riverdale's dean of students, teaching business education and coaching high school track and seventh grade girls basketball, he is greatly appreciative of the school district and UIU for allowing the high school juniors to visit his alma mater's campus each fall. McKay and his students are typically welcomed by President William R. Duffy II before being provided an admissions presentation. In addition to a Campus tour and free lunch at the Servery, UIU provides the guests with a question and answer period with student and faculty panels.

"Following the day's activities, I always ask the students to observe how many other university presidents greet them when they visit other college campuses in the future," McKay said. "The students appreciate Dr. Duffy's sincerity when telling them the importance of weighing all their options in ultimately choosing a college that best fits their personality and needs. They also like UIU's class schedule, small class sizes, modern dorms and amount of food choices available."

"For most of these students, it is their first exposure to any college or university," McKay added. "I feel UIU is such a unique university that my students need to be exposed to it. The visit also introduces them to a small, outstanding university that is only two hours from their homes. UIU is unlike so many colleges where you have to bike or take the bus

from building to building. In Fayette, you can walk from one side of the campus to the other in minutes. I am so proud of how UIU has constructed new state-of-the-art facilities. I also take pride in showing my students how they can get a great education, where the university is committed to looking for ways to best care for them now and in the future."

A native of Houston, Minnesota, McKay's interest in an education career originated in high school, when he discovered an interest in working with and helping elementary students. In addition to the opportunity to play football at the college level, he chose to pursue his educational goals at UIU due to the small class sizes and family atmosphere.

“I feel UIU is such a unique university that my students need to be exposed to it.”

Todd McKay '98
Educator, Riverdale High School
Muscoda, Wisconsin

"Having a teacher know me by name and not by my Social Security number was a big thing for me," McKay said. "If I was not in class, they would call to see how and where I was. They went out of their way to make sure I was successful in all aspects. I feel that if I had gone to a larger university, I would not have experienced as much success. I owe a lot of my accomplishments to all the UIU faculty and lifelong friends I met along the way. It was four years that shaped me into the man and educator that I am today."

McKay praises his university professors and coaches for reaching out whenever he struggled and encouraging him to learn from mistakes and continue on his journey. He feels those UIU experiences taught him to go above and beyond to make sure his students and student-athletes know that he cares about them and wants them to succeed in class and in life.

Todd McKay '98 (left) and his Riverdale High School students are typically welcomed by Upper Iowa University President William R. Duffy II before being provided an admissions presentation during their annual visit to Fayette Campus.



Upper Iowa University assistant professor of art Laura Gleissner (far right) was among the faculty and staff who provided a Fayette Campus tour to Riverdale High School students during their November 2019 visit. For the past five years, alumnus Todd McKay '98, a current educator in the Muscoda, Wisconsin, high school has brought members of the school's junior class to visit UIU.

"I have enjoyed my 22 years of teaching," McKay said. "I am extremely grateful for having the opportunity to make a positive effect on so many young lives. To see my past students' accomplishments come to fruition puts a huge smile on my face."

The similar interest that the UIU faculty and staff continue to show for students and alumni is something that sticks with the 44-year-old to this day. He noted that he still frequently communicates with his former UIU Methods and Field Experience education teacher Gail Moorman Behrens and former running backs coach and baseball coach Mark Danker.

“I am extremely grateful for having the opportunity to make a positive effect on so many young lives. To see my past students' accomplishments come to fruition puts a huge smile on my face.”

Todd McKay '98

"UIU is a special place filled with a lot of great people," McKay said. "After over two decades, Mark (Danker) still asks how my parents are doing, and he still knows their names. It's examples like that which mean a lot to me. I hope every alum could take a day or two to come back to Fayette and see the changes and improvements that have been made to Campus. I am proud to say that I am a Peacock for life." 🦚



Alumnus Todd McKay '98 and his wife, Rachel (far right), are pictured with their daughters, Ella (far left) and Macy. Todd hopes someday that his daughters decide to attend Upper Iowa University and enjoy the same great experience he did when earning his general business degree and teaching and coaching certificates.



UIU celebrates fifth Csomay graduating class

This year, Upper Iowa University celebrated its fifth graduating class of Csomay Honors Program students. Receiving this year's Csomay medallions were Jacob Dale, a conservation management major from Hastings, Minnesota; Sierra Dirksen, a secondary education/all social science major from Plainfield, Iowa; Molly Doran, a double major in accounting and financial management from Wheaton, Illinois; Clayton Lieb, a double major in accounting and financial management from Pearl City, Illinois; Mac Spotts, an agricultural business major from Nora Springs, Iowa; and Julia Szeplieniec, a biology major from Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Bright futures

As an example of the bright futures that await this group of honor students, Doran and Szeplieniec have been accepted into the prestigious Mendoza School of Business at Notre Dame — Doran in the Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) program and Szeplieniec in the Master of Science in Management (MSM) program.

The Mendoza College of Business is an AACSB accredited program. Fewer than 5% of business schools worldwide have AACSB international accreditation, representing the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. The University of Notre Dame MSM ranked fourth in the nation in Financial Engineer's inaugural rating of specialty degree programs for non-business majors. In addition, the Notre Dame MSA is ranked fourth in the country by Public Accounting Report for its quality faculty, rigorous curriculum and focus on ethics.

While attending UIU, Doran served as Zappa Zeta Tau secretary, Best Buddies vice president and president, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee secretary and president and as a two-year captain of the women's soccer team. She was also an athletic peer educator and Peacocks for Progress member.

Doran gained valuable experience as an intern at Molex LLC in Lisle, Illinois, and Ernst & Young in Chicago. As part of her honors project, she investigated the feasibility of bringing renewable energy to Fayette Campus.

"UIU has challenged me academically and provided me valuable knowledge that I will use in graduate school and my future career,"

Doran said. "The entire UIU experience facilitated my personal growth and provided me with the leadership skills that I will use the rest of my life."

Szeplieniec served as Peacocks for Progress secretary and president, Fayette Appreciation Day co-chair and chair, and ENACTUS Nicaragua Service Trip coordinator/project manager. In addition to serving as an athlete peer educator, she was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Pre-Professional Club and women's golf team.

Csomay Honor students Julia Szeplieniec (far left) and Sierra Dirksen (second from left), and other Peacocks for Progress members Caitlyn Freese, Larissia Bultman, Alyssa Weber and Laycee Roys, proudly display their winning Homecoming Parade entry.



The 2020 Csomay Honor students pose with associate professor of business Chris Kragnes while attending Upper Iowa University's President's Fundraising Ball during their sophomore year. Pictured are (l-r) Clayton Lieb, Molly Doran, Sierra Dirksen, Kragnes, Jacob Dale and Julia Szeplieniec. Mac Spotts is not pictured.

Szeplieniec was one of only 1,200 interns nationwide to be chosen to participate in the 2019 National Institutes of Health summer internship program. Her Csomay project concentrated on increasing sun exposure awareness and improving skin care habits. A survey was presented to a selection of the student body to sample the typical sunscreen usage of Fayette Campus students. The survey asked questions pertaining to the common knowledge of the sun's effects on skin health. Answers to more scientific-based questions were revealed at the end of the survey with the hope that students would delve deeper into the topic.

The second stage of the project incorporated UV photography. The image revealed an individual's accumulated sun damage. Overall exposure and sunspots become obvious in the photograph. Participating students took headshots with their eyes closed. The results were then shared with the participants and the Honors Committee.

"All of the experiences I have enjoyed as a member of the Csomay Honors Program have been amazing," Szeplieniec said. "I have grown alongside some phenomenal students in the program, and we have become lifelong friends. The program gave me the support to personally develop at a fast pace, and the faculty has been relentlessly supportive of me in all aspects of my Upper Iowa education."

Entrepreneurs

Since their arrival on Fayette Campus, Dale and Lieb have also followed similar paths. Both were AZP fraternity members and Peacock baseball players. The two entrepreneurs also co-own Driftless Quality Wear. The business features outfitting gear emblazoned with artwork created by the two UIU alumni. They also offer seasonal, guided trout fishing and backpacking trips throughout the "driftless" region that stretches from southeastern Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin, to northeastern and mideastern Iowa, and even into northwestern Illinois.

Dale previously completed a summer internship at Carpenter Nature Center located in Hastings, Minnesota, and decided to seek Bird Friendly Iowa (BFI) certification for Fayette as his honors project. As part of his efforts, he led 2019 and 2020 Great Backyard Bird Count presentations at the Fayette Community Library and took community members out to bird watch. In addition, Dale provided a BFI certification presentation to the Fayette City Council and gathered documentation about the city of Fayette, such as how its Department of Public Works does not use pesticides in public places.

2020 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Art Reception: *Bing-Davis Memorial Gallery, 3:00-5:30 p.m.*

Contemporary drawings by artist Andrew J. Wroble will be featured.

Welcome Home Cookout: *Peacock Pavilion (tailgate area), 5:30 p.m.*

This all-class reunion BBQ dinner, hosted by the Alumni Association, is a perfect way to start your weekend. Rain location is at the Student Center. Cost is \$15 per person. **RSVP required.**

Pep Rally, Coronation & Bonfire: *Peacock Pavilion (tailgate area),*

7:30 p.m. Don't miss this Homecoming tradition, sure to energize your whole weekend of Peacock fun. Rain location is Dorman Gymnasium.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Research, Internship & Creative Endeavors: *Baker-Hebron Hall and Garbee Hall (lower level), 1:00-2:30 p.m.* Join the Department of Biology and Chemistry and the Department of Geosciences, Geography and Mathematical Sciences in viewing posters detailing the activities and work of many of the school's undergraduates.

Agates, Crystals and Geodes Display: *Garbee Hall (lower level),*

3:00-5:00 p.m. Featuring specimens from the collection donated to UIU by Burton and Dorthea (Olsen) '71 Odekirk and Leora (Oldenburg) Sullivan '61. Guests are invited to bring specimens or digital images of your own rocks or fossils for identification by Dr. Kata McCarville, UIU professor of geosciences.

8th Annual President's Fundraising Ball: *Student Center Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.* We're "Puttin' on The Glitz," and you're invited for an evening of fun, friendship and fundraising. During this year's Roaring '20s-themed event, guests may enjoy a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., with dinner program and dancing to follow. Advance tickets are \$85 per person. **RSVP required.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Archives Take-Away Display & Social: *Student Center (main level), 8:30 a.m.* Take a trip down memory lane! If you RSVP'd for the weekend, we will do our best to pull photos and articles from UIU Archives that you are featured in. Feel free to take items home with you! Coffee available for guests.

Alumni Awards & Honor Class Brunch: *Student Center Ballroom, 9:30 a.m.* This event will honor the classes of '60, '70, '80, '90, '95 and '00. A special gift will be presented to members of the 50-year class. In addition, our distinguished Alumni Award honorees and members of the Heritage Society will be recognized. The brunch is complimentary to all alumni and friends. **RSVP required.**

Homecoming Parade: *Downtown Fayette, Noon.* Make your way downtown, and enjoy the parade with your UIU family. To complete a parade entry form, visit uiu.edu/Homecoming.

Live Music at the Tailgate Area: Featured performer will be announced soon!

To keep up-to-date on all Homecoming events visit

UIU.EDU/HOMECOMING



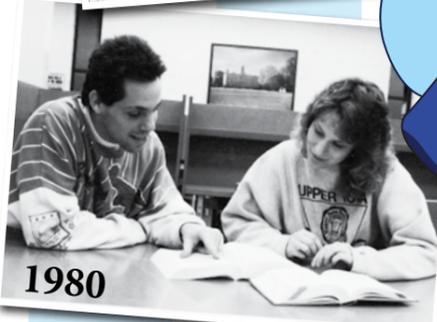
SATURDAY – continued

UIU Heritage, History and Headstones Tour: *Henderson-Wilder Library, 1:30-3:00 p.m.* Meet in the library to carpool to Grandview Cemetery for a guided tour by Dr. Kata McCarville. Self-guided tour maps will also be available for pickup at the circulation desk.

Alumni Tailgate: *Tailgate area, 1:00-3:00 p.m.* All are invited to our pregame party! The classes of '05, '10 and '15 are celebrating their 5-, 10- and 15-year reunions and will receive a special gift for stopping by.

Football Alumni Victory Walk: *Tailgate area, 1:45 p.m.* Gather with fellow Peacock football alums and lead our team to the field.

UIU Homecoming Football Game: *Harms-Eischeid Stadium, 3:05 p.m. kickoff.* Come cheer the Peacocks to victory! Admission prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 5-18, and kids under 5 are free.



ONGOING

TELL YOUR UIU STORY – Henderson-Wilder Library: Share your stories of your time at UIU and after graduation. Write your story on our online Peacock Proud Discussion Board, or add your verbal history to the UIU Archives self-service recording booth in the library. Contact UIU Archivist Janette Garcia at 563-425-5722 or archives@uiu.edu.

UIU ART EXHIBITION – Bing-Davis Memorial Gallery: Artist Andrew J. Wroble's contemporary drawings will be featured. The gallery will be open Friday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – noon.

ALUMNI ACCESS TO LIBRARY JOURNALS AND ARTICLES – Henderson-Wilder Library: The Library's Gale Databases are available to alumni to search articles in a wide variety of subjects. Gale is a family of full-text databases of content from academic journals and general magazines.

GUIDED CAMPUS TOURS: To arrange a guided campus tour, please contact the Alumni Office at 563-425-5388 or email alumni@uiu.edu. Be sure to mention any accessibility needs we can help accommodate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES: Please contact the Alumni Office at 563-425-5388 or alumni@uiu.edu.

All events and activities are subject to change. We will continue to follow recommendations from federal, state and local public health agencies to host a safe and enjoyable weekend for all. The current schedule and all announcements are located at uiu.edu/Homecoming. We hope to see you in Fayette soon!



UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS THE

8TH ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S
FUNDRAISING BALL

Puttin' on the Glitz

OCTOBER 2, 2020

5:30 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH
DINNER & DANCING TO FOLLOW

FAYETTE, IA

Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to join us at the 8th Annual President's Fundraising Ball. With generous support from our alumni, friends and incredible sponsors, we are delighted that this spectacular event has raised over \$660,000, which has directly supported UIU students and capital projects.

This year our theme celebrates the Roaring '20s, "Puttin' on the Glitz." The evening will feature keynote speaker, former Dean of Students and lifelong Peacock Louise Scott. Special fundraising efforts will support student housing and experiences. Join us for dinner, games, prizes and music among the finest—our Peacock family. It wouldn't be a party without you. We look forward to your presence and your support!

Sincerely,
Bill & Sharon Duffy

uiu.edu/PresidentsBall

Tickets

Enjoy the early registration price of \$85 per person. Tickets are \$100 after September 7.

Seating will likely be limited due to COVID-19 precautions.

Sponsorships

An array of sponsorship opportunities are available:

- Small Business • \$300
- Silver • \$1,250
- Gold • \$2,750
- Platinum • \$5,400
- Diamond • \$10,500
- Blue Diamond • \$15,000

Those who are unable to attend but wish to show their support can select the "Peacock Proud" sponsorship. Please direct questions to Andrew Wenhe, Vice President for External Affairs, at wenthe@uiu.edu or 563-425-5348.

Internship provides alumna with vision for future

Upper Iowa University's unique course schedule within a small college atmosphere initially drew Amanda Cartney's '19 attention to UIU, but after attending her first classes, the junior college transfer was especially happy to discover that the faculty members shared a passion for teaching and genuinely cared for the success of their students beyond graduation.



The hands-on knowledge Amanda Cartney (right) gained from her School of Business and Professional Studies internship and overall UIU education piqued her interest in data analytics and resulted in her being hired as a support specialist at Hudl headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska.

From these inspirational experiences, Cartney successfully gained the skills needed to thrive in the classroom, career and life. Graduating with a double major in marketing and financial management, she acknowledges especially benefiting from the knowledge, skills and personal connections attained in the UIU School of Business and Professional Studies internship program.

As part of her internship, the Hudson, Iowa, native served as a data analyst in the Performance Improvement Department at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her duties included analyzing and presenting clinical performances using EPIC, EPSI, BI and other software platforms. In an effort to improve the overall experience of the health facility's patients and their families, she also managed and updated database information for accuracy and use in employee performance reviews.

In addition to working on an OB-GYN project that researched procedural efficiencies in delivering a baby, Cartney assisted in presenting more effective quarterly reviews by bringing to light the most important information in a more organizational manner. She also welcomed the opportunity to sit in on a nursing staff meeting to discuss how to resolve departmental issues.

"Like any job, I would say the biggest challenge was learning and adapting to the hospital's data systems," Cartney said. "It is not practical to think that you will study everything in school you need to apply in the workplace. Learning how to navigate through the extremely specialized programs took time to master. From this experience, I learned how to react to adversity and to use all the resources available to me."

The internship provided Cartney a glimpse of what life was like after a college education. She gained skills outside of the classroom and created new relationships with experts in her field. It provided her valuable feedback from not only her supervisor and co-workers, but

also her teacher, associate professor of business Summer Zwanziger Elsinger.

"I was able to ask Summer questions and dive into skills that I hadn't learned in the classroom setting," Cartney said. "Summer has played a great influence on my life. She always made herself readily available to provide me feedback, even when I wasn't on Campus. During my time at UIU, she had my best interest in mind and always challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone. She was truly the best part of my UIU experience."

The hands-on knowledge she gained from her internship and overall UIU education piqued Cartney's interest in data analytics and resulted in her being hired as a support specialist with Hudl. The performance analysis company provides online tools, mobile and desktop apps, smart cameras, analytics, and professional consultation to coaches and athletes. Working from the company's headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska, the former Peacock women's basketball player serves as a main source of contact for product information to coaches and various Hudl departments.

“Applying the knowledge I learned in the classroom to the real world gave me great confidence going into the interviewing process.”

Amanda Cartney '19

"I owe a great amount of this employment opportunity to UIU," Cartney said. "My internship provided me tremendous experiences outside of the classroom and the chance to better understand my strengths, as well as make me aware of areas that I needed to improve on. Knowing I could talk about applying the knowledge I learned in the classroom to the real world gave me great confidence going into the interviewing process. The result of which is that I am now employed by an amazing company with which I share a vision for future growth, both professionally and personally."

Alumni career guidance and networking opportunities

Similar to the benefits provided to students by the UIU School of Business and Professional Studies, and other internship programs, Peacock alumni can give back to the University, while extending a sense of pride, by joining Handshake and mentoring students or other alumni with career-related tips, resume advice, interviewing tips and more.

To serve as a mentor, create and confirm your account by visiting <https://uiu.joinhandshake.com>. Here you will make your profile visible to the community so that students and alumni are able to search for individuals associated with UIU.

For additional information about UIU Office of Career Development services, visit uiu.edu/careers. To make an appointment or to discuss how you can become involved, call Hope Trainor at 563-425-5208 or Anne Puffett at 563-425-5229 or email careers@uiu.edu.

ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

Five Peacocks to be inducted into the UIU Hall of Fame

Five Peacocks are scheduled to be inducted into the Upper Iowa University Athletics Hall of Fame Friday, October 16. The five honorees include a former UIU baseball player, two wrestlers and a pair of sibling golfers. The 2020 UIU Athletics Hall of Fame inductees are:



MAX EDMOND (ATHLETE)
Baseball/ B.S. Degree/Management Information Systems

- Two-time All-Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IAC) 1st

- Team in 1998 and 2nd Team in 1999
- NCAA Division III All-American 3rd Team and All-Central Region 1st Team in 1998
- 1998 - .436 batting avg., .660 slugging per., 57 RBI, 24-25 stolen bases
- 1999 - .301 batting avg., .466 slugging per., 37 RBI, 35-36 stolen bases
- Holds UIU record for triples in a season with six (1998) along with Tommy Martinez



TRAVIS EGGERS (ATHLETE)
Wrestling/B.S. Degree/Fitness and Wellness

- Named to Jim Koch Division II Hall of Fame in 2018
- Three-time NCAA Division II All-American, including NCAA Champion in 2010, second place in 2009 and fourth in 2008

- Four-time NCAA Division II National Qualifier; placed second at the NCAA Regional for three years before claiming the title as a senior and earning the regional's Outstanding Wrestler honor
- Twice named the Northern Sun Conference Wrestler of the Year: once after his senior season and once after his sophomore campaign; he capped off his impressive career with a 19-match win streak sending his record to 100-34



MITCH NORTON (ATHLETE)
Wrestling/B.A. Degree/Agricultural Business

- Two-time NCAA Division II All-American (3rd place in 2010 and 5th place in 2009)
- Four-time NCAA Division II National Qualifier (2007-10)
- Two-time NCAA Regional Champ (2009, 2010) and third place (2007, 2008)
- Named 2007 NSIC Rookie of the Year
- Three-time All-NSIC 1st Team (2008-10)



RACHAEL SCHMIDT (ATHLETE)
Women's Golf/ B.S. Degree/ Sports Management

- Rachael and Rochelle led the Peacocks to the NCAA Super Region 3 Title and qualified the

- team for the NCAA Division II Championships in 2009
- Named to the NGCA All-American team four times while qualifying for the NCAA Division II Championships every spring (2006-09)
- Earned 20 tournament wins during her four-year career at UIU
- Carried a 78.13 stroke average in her four NCAA championship appearances: 10th (2006), 32nd (2007), 15th (2008 and 2009)
- Named 2008 NSIC Women's Golfer of the Year
- Holds the top two season scoring averages in UIU history: 77.30 in 2007-08 and 77.43 in 2008-09



ROCHELLE (SCHMIDT) ENGELS (ATHLETE)
Women's Golf/B.S. Degree/Sports Management

- Named to the NGCA All-American team as a senior in 2009
- Earned eight tournament wins during her four-year career at UIU
- Named 2009 NSIC Women's Golfer of the Year
- Earned medalist honors at both the NSIC Women's Golf Championships and NCAA Super Region 3 Championships as a senior
- Holds the third-best season scoring average, and four of the top 12, in UIU history at 77.89 in 2008-09

Peacocks reign on the mat and in the classroom



Justin Folley



Nick Baumler

The Upper Iowa University wrestling team finished 12-5 in dual action this past season, including a 5-3 mark in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). Upper Iowa finished the regular season ranked No. 8 in the final National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Division II poll and scored wins over No. 24 Gannon University, No. 18 Colorado School of Mines and No. 7 Tiffin University.

197-pounder claimed 17 bonus-point wins this season thanks to 115 takedowns, averaging nearly 3.5 takedowns per match. In his four-year collegiate wrestling career, the West Union, Iowa, native pushed his record at UIU to 104-29. Nearly half of Baumler's victories came with bonus points (50), including 32 by major decision, 13 by fall and five by tech fall.

Westerlund had a tremendous senior season at heavyweight. The first-time All-American went 25-5 and capped off his final campaign by winning 15 of his final 16 matches. Over the last two seasons, Westerlund has been UIU's mainstay at heavyweight, twice garnering All-NSIC accolades. The Albert Lea, Minnesota, product recorded a 69-27 mark at UIU with 22 bonus-point wins, including 18 falls, three tech falls and a major.

A true freshman All-American, Luensman moved into the varsity lineup at the NWCA National Duals and made the most of his opportunity in placing third at regionals. The Monticello, Iowa, native racked up a 30-9 record, collecting 12 bonus-point wins, including five majors, four tech falls and three falls.

Academically, a dozen UIU wrestlers earned NWCA Division II Scholar All-American honors. The number of Peacocks recognized for their work in the classroom was the third most among the 273 award winners across 50 Division II institutions.

Peacocks Jamie Gehling and Mac Spotts were among only nine student-athletes across the nation to earn the honor for the fourth time. Three-time award winners included Baumler, Aaron Maloy, Dalton Nelson and Tanner Prochaska; two-time honorees were Jordan Baumler, Connor Manderfeld and Donny Schmit; and first-time award winners were Folley, Luensman and Dalton Hahn.

UIU tallied 125.5 points and finished runner-up at the NCAA Super Region V Tournament in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Peacocks qualified five wrestlers to the NCAA Division II Championships, before its cancellation due to the pandemic. Nick Baumler (197) and Triston Westerlund (285) both won title bouts in the regional competition.

Justin Folley (133) placed second, while Chase Luensman (149) and Dalton Hahn (184) were victorious in their third-place matches. Folley, Baumler, Westerlund and Luensman were tapped as NWCA Division II All-Americans.

Folley earned his fourth All-American honor while going 26-2 as a senior. The Matteson, Illinois, product posted 18 bonus-point wins, including nine majors, six falls and three technical falls. Over his two seasons in Peacock blue and white, the Ellsworth Community College transfer recorded a 58-11 mark with 37 bonus-point wins, including 17 falls, 16 majors and four tech falls.

Baumler went 31-2 while claiming the NCAA Super Region V title and earning Co-NSIC Wrestler of the Year honors. A three-time All-American, the senior



Justin Folley

ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

Musgrave named Freshman of the Year in women's hoops

The Peacocks went 3-26 in head coach Nate Oakland's first season and scored a pair of NSIC wins to go 2-20 in conference play. Jessica Musgrave earned Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Freshman of the Year honors and a spot on the All-NSIC Freshman Team. Musgrave became just the third Peacock to earn a spot on the All-Freshman Team (Whitney Kieffer, 2011-12, and Carly (Pagel) Parker 2016); and to earn NSIC Freshman of the Year honors (Carly (Pagel) Parker 2016 and Andrea Downs, 2006-07).



Jessica Musgrave

Musgrave amassed 324 points against conference opponents. She led the team and ranked ninth in the NSIC with a 14.7 points per game average. Musgrave shot 40.5% from the floor, 36.7% from beyond the arc, and 71.7% at the free throw line. She added 32 assists, 18 steals and seven blocks. On the glass, Musgrave hauled in 6.7 rebounds per game to rank 12th in the league and brought down the sixth most offensive boards, with 52 (2.4/game). She recorded a career-high in scoring against the eventual regular season champs, University of Minnesota Duluth, when she netted 26 points on the Peacocks' home court. The Toledo, Iowa, product recorded 16 games in NSIC play with five or more rebounds and grabbed a career-high 13 on two occasions. She finished the conference season with four double-doubles.

The Peacocks say goodbye to five seniors but return all four leading scorers next season in Musgrave, Natalie Dinius, Megan Peterson and Brooke Evenson.

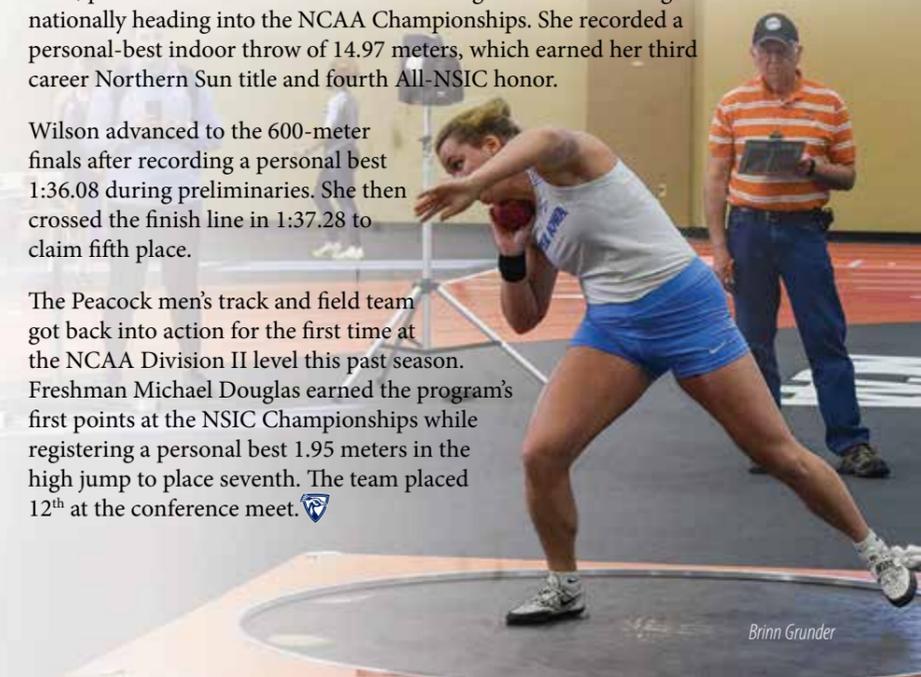
Grunder named All-American, Douglas leads men's track back to competition

Led by senior Brinn Grunder's first place throw in the shot put and junior Cassidy Wilson placing fifth in the 600 meters, the Peacock women's track team finished 13th at the NSIC Championships.

Grunder earned a pair of postseason accolades from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. UIU's senior thrower became the first Peacock in UIU's Division II era to earn All-Central Region and All-American accolades. The Durant, Iowa, product ranked third in the Central Region and had the eighth best throw nationally heading into the NCAA Championships. She recorded a personal-best indoor throw of 14.97 meters, which earned her third career Northern Sun title and fourth All-NSIC honor.

Wilson advanced to the 600-meter finals after recording a personal best 1:36.08 during preliminaries. She then crossed the finish line in 1:37.28 to claim fifth place.

The Peacock men's track and field team got back into action for the first time at the NCAA Division II level this past season. Freshman Michael Douglas earned the program's first points at the NSIC Championships while registering a personal best 1.95 meters in the high jump to place seventh. The team placed 12th at the conference meet.



Brinn Grunder

Seasons canceled

In addition to many in-season cancellations and no season championships in many sports, the men's and women's golf and outdoor track and field teams did not have the opportunity to compete this spring due to the pandemic.

Peacocks flourish on home court, 2019-20 campaign

Upper Iowa University finished second in the NSIC South this past season with an overall record of 19-11 and a conference mark of 15-7. The Peacocks were dominant on Prochaska Court, winning 12 of their 14 home games. Three Peacocks were honored by the league following the regular season. Junior guards Joe Smoldt and Jareese Williams were named to the All-NSIC Second Team, while freshman point guard Jake Hilmer was named as an All-NSIC honorable mention.



Joe Smoldt

Smoldt, the 2017-18 NSIC Freshman of the Year, started all 22 conference games this season and averaged 13.6 points and 3.3 rebounds to go along with a 40.9% field goal percentage. Smoldt scored a career-high 29 points in a come-from-behind victory over Augustana University at home, but the highlight of his season may very well have been a 25-point performance versus Concordia University, St. Paul, in which Smoldt surpassed 1,000 career points just 10 games into his third season.



Jareese Williams

Williams, a two-year starter for the Peacocks, averaged 13 points and 4.1 rebounds in 22 conference contests. The Mason City, Iowa, native led the NSIC in three-point field goal percentage (42.8%). Williams registered a career-high 30 points in a comeback victory over University of Sioux Falls, the NSIC South Division Champion. All 30 points came in the last 11:03 of the second half when Williams went a perfect 6-6 from deep and 10-10 from the free throw line.



Jake Hilmer

Hilmer started all 22 NSIC matchups for the Peacocks as a true freshman, tallying 13.4 points, 4.6 assists and 2.9 rebounds per contest. His 102 total assists over the conference slate was the third highest total in the NSIC. Hilmer totaled 17 double-digit scoring performances and four 20-plus-point nights during the 22 conference contests. The freshman dished out five or more assists nine times, including an 11-assist game in a win over Concordia.

Eight of the nine players that contributed major minutes to the team are ready to suit up again next season, with the lone loss from the group being Josh Carter, who averaged 9.1 points and 4.5 rebounds in his only season in Peacock blue. In addition to the return of the three All-NSIC performers, redshirt sophomore Lucas Duax, who averaged 9.3 points and 3.8 rebounds per game, returns to cause havoc on the court. Duax grabbed 65 steals this season, finishing just one theft behind UIU Hall of Famer Kevin Clipperton's single-season record of 66.

ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

First-year bowlers earn scholar-athlete awards

The UIU bowling teams completed their inaugural season in 2019-20, with three Peacock women bowlers earning National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete awards. Isabelle Bergsbaken, Nicole Reynolds and Deanna Hopkins all earned above a 3.5 grade point average during the fall semester.

The women's team posted a win-loss record of 36-63, including a season-best fifth-place finish at the Flyers Classic hosted by Lewis University. The Peacocks recorded a total pin count of 12,018, besting seven other squads at the tournament held in Tinley Park, Illinois. Hopkins led the women with a 181.4 season average, including a high mark of 234 at the Columbia Saints 300 Invitational.

The men's team placed in the top 10 at seven tournaments, including a third-place finish at the Lions Classic hosted by Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. Joshua Edgin and Brian Roulson led the team throughout the season, posting averages of 185 and 181.3, respectively, in traditional play. Edgin's top score of 278 came during the Great Lakes Bowling Conference's first weekend of competition, while Roulson tossed a high score of 241 at the Warhawk Open.

Eighty-four Peacocks earn spots on NSIC All-Academic teams

The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) announced its list of winter and spring sport student-athletes who have earned NSIC All-Academic and All-Academic Team of Excellence Award honors. To be eligible for the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence, a student-athlete must have a 3.6 cumulative GPA or higher. NSIC All-Academic Team members must have a 3.2 cumulative GPA or higher. Additionally, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his or her institution (true freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible), and must have completed at least one full academic year at that institution.

Below is the full list of UIU student-athletes selected for those teams; those listed with an asterisk (*) were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence.

Men's Basketball - Jackson Foley*, Cade Moritz*, Joe Smoldt*, Sam Allen*, Jareese Williams, Jackson Joens. **Wrestling** - Jamie Gehling*, Tanner Prochaska*, Dalton Nelson*, Mac Spotts*, Nicholas Baumber*, Jared Hensley. **Women's Basketball** - Bekka Pierson*, Kelsey Simpson, Ally Fink, Marina Peinado, Erica Armstrong. **Women's Indoor Track and Field** - Kortney Lightfoot*, Kenzie Soeken*, Cassidy Wilson*, Ashley Brady*, Breyanna Hill*, Sidney Schnor*, Jenna Ross*, Caitlin Himes*, Madison Brownrigg*, Brinn Grunder*, Ashley Donovan*, Christonna Shafanski*, Seriana Dehmlow.

Baseball - Jack Thode*, Conner Klostermann*, Clayton Lieb*, Dalton Steere*, Parker Kray*, Logan DeWulf*, Jake Dale*, John Magnuson*, Riley Braughton, Alex Baker, Chris Webber, Duncan Snider, Colin Lacey, Kyle Routhieaux, Mac Wolfe, Chris Harsh, Cody Ryan, Hogan Penny, Blake Thiese. **Men's Golf** - Noah Antes*, Logan Schweinefus*, Hunter Schulte*, Chris Cooksley, Anthony Emanuel, Nolan Leaton, Will Babcock. **Women's Golf** - Molly Wenthold*, Julia Szeplieniec*, Kaitlyn MacCharles*, Jaden Schweinefus*, Brooke Knutson. **Softball** - Emily Draeger*, Sydney Wilcox*, Michaela Schumacher*, Kennedy Newell*, Katie Crogan*, Ali Green*, Jordyn Brennan*, Emily Kisch*, Kaylee Frenette. **Tennis** - Deimante Krivickaite*, Shakhnaza Zhanatova. **Women's Outdoor Track and Field** - Kortney Lightfoot*, Kenzie Soeken*, Cassidy Wilson*, Ashley Brady*, Breyanna Hill*, Sidney Schnor*, Jenna Ross*, Caitlin Himes*, Madison Brownrigg*, Brinn Grunder*, Christonna Shafanski*, Seriana Dehmlow.

Peacock Spirit recognized at cheer and dance championships

The Peacock Spirit Team collected several pieces of hardware at the 2020 WoW Factor Sports Cheer and Dance Championships in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The team claimed Collegiate Stunt Group championship title, first runner-up honors in the Collegiate All-Girl Stunt and Collegiate Pom competitions, and sixth place in Collegiate Dance. Ryan Heck earned individual titles in Collegiate Cheer Solo, Collegiate Jumps and Collegiate Tumbling. Following his efforts, Heck was named a WoW Factor Triple Threat Champion.



Pictured are Peacock Spirit team members (l-r) Kaitie Connelly, Ryan Heck, Autumn Weaver, Hunter Clark and Jayde Blue.

Myles Brand All-Academic recognition

The NSIC Commissioner, Erin Lind has announced the 11th annual NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award winners. UIU boasted the highest number of award winners among the 16 member institutions, with 23.

The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility and are on track to graduate.

This senior class claims the highest total of award winners in the 11-year history of the award for UIU. The honorees are as follows: Ashley Brady, track and field; Molly Doran, soccer; Nolan Friedrichs, baseball; Breyanna Hill, track and field; Caitlin Himes, track and field; Gabby Holmes, volleyball; Carlee Ketchum, volleyball; Conner Klostermann, baseball; Parker Kray, baseball; Clayton Lieb, baseball; Kortney Lightfoot, track and field; Jayna Morikawa, soccer; Kennedy Newell, softball; Billy O'Neill, football; Bekka Pierson, basketball; Logan Schweinefus, golf; Michaela Schumacher, softball; Kenzie Soeken, track and field; Dalton Steere, baseball; Julia Szeplieniec, golf; Jack Thode, baseball; Haley Weepie, volleyball; Anna Winter, volleyball.

Peacock receives NCAA Woman of the Year nomination

Peacock volleyball player Anna Winter '20 is among four NSIC student-athletes nominated for the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year Award. The nominees represent all three NCAA divisions, including 259 nominees from Division I, 126 from Division II and 220 from Division III. Nominees competed in 24 sports, with multisport student-athletes accounting for 128 of the nominees. After a continuing nominating process, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year, who will be named this fall.

Winter, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, garnered UIU's first AVCA All-American recognition in 2019. The 2020 graduate became the first Peacock to earn All-Central Region honors and was named All-NSIC First Team and to the NSIC All-Tournament Team. She earned the NSIC Elite 18 Award for volleyball and was a Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award winner. She set the individual season program records for kills, kills per set, attack attempts and points and became the fifth Peacock to reach 1,000 career kills. She was also named the 2018-19 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for being the NSIC's top female student-athlete as a junior.



Anna Winter '20

ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

Schweinefus earns NSIC Elite 18 Award



Logan Schweinefus

Upper Iowa's Logan Schweinefus earned the NSIC Elite 18 Award for men's golf after achieving the highest grade point average among the NSIC's 10 men's golf-playing member schools. The Peacock senior became the fifth student-athlete from UIU to earn the NSIC Elite 18 Award, joining Anna Winter (volleyball, 2019), Kortney Lightfoot (outdoor track and field, 2019), Ethan Ducharme (men's golf, 2018) and Monica Rohe (women's golf, 2017).

Schweinefus, a native of Ossian, Iowa, holds a 3.87 grade point average while majoring in agricultural business. A three-time NSIC All-Academic team member and a recipient of the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award, Schweinefus averaged a team low 73.6 stroke average on the golf course, which tied for seventh best in the NSIC. His low round score of 71 came during the Watkins Invitational back in September 2019.

Women's tennis led by trio of Peacocks

UIU was 3-7 overall and 2-6 in NSIC action when the season on the court was canceled in March. The Peacock wins came against nonconference opponent University of Dubuque and NSIC members St. Cloud State University and University of Minnesota Crookston. Shakhnaza Zhanatova went 4-0 in singles before fighting an injury. Deimante Krivickaite went 6-3 in her singles matches, including a perfect 4-0 at No. 2 before moving up to No. 1 to replace Zhanatova. Newcomer Varvara Ogorodnikova was 6-2 with time split between No. 2 and No. 3 in singles.



Shakhnaza Zhanatova

Softball season ends in nonconference

UIU was 6-11 overall and preparing for the final nonconference tournament before transitioning to the 30-game NSIC slate when the softball season was halted. At the time, Jordyn Brennan was hitting .345, with 20 hits and a slugging percentage of .500. Kaylee Frenette was batting .319, with 15 hits, and Katie Crogan was leading the team with 15 RBIs and four homeruns. In the circle, Emily Kisch (4.65 ERA) and Abby McKay (5.21 ERA) split the majority of innings, with each earning three wins.



Jordyn Brennan

UIU baseball season shortened

The Peacock baseball team was 1-13 when the final 36 games of the season were canceled due to the pandemic. A.J. Friedrich and Conner Klostermann led the offense with averages of .318 and .286, respectively. Klostermann was slugging .810 when the season ended, with four doubles and six homers. He and Friedrich combined for 20 of the team's 63 runs batted in. On the hill, Colin Lacey, Blake Thiese and Jake Hilmer led the staff with a combined 52 strikeouts.



A.J. Friedrich



Conner Klostermann

Women's lacrosse inaugural game

The UIU women's lacrosse team dropped an 18-7 decision to Quincy University in its inaugural game in February. Peacocks Taryn Leonard, Paige Nicklaus and Kaylin Mertens each scored a pair of goals, while Imani Cornelius scored one goal in the road game. Due to the pandemic, the game also proved to be the last of the season.



UIU finishes second in Iowa League of Legends tourney



UIU esports team members (front-back) Brady Jahr, Justin Hoffman, Hunter Hoffman, Merrick Kowalski, Trace Woodward and Titus Bell competed in Overwatch.

The Peacock esports team typically plays against outside competition in several games, including League of Legends, Fortnite, Super Smash Brothers Ultimate and Overwatch. The team continues to explore new games to compete in, and the menu of offerings varies based on the team's roster configuration.

The team spent the spring competing in the IGG League-sponsored Iowa League of Legends. The Peacocks defeated Waldorf University in week one setting season highs in both kills (48) and assists (114). UIU's record rose to 5-0 after a forfeit and victories over Clarke University, the University of Iowa's Rose Gold team and Simpson College. UIU ended the regular season with a 5-2 record after dropping the final two matches to the University of Iowa's Matte Black team and the University of Northern Iowa.

In tournament action, the No. 4-seeded Peacocks defeated both Iowa's Rose Gold team and Simpson

by 2-0 counts in the best-of-three series format. Led by team captain Jose Acosta, as well as Robert Ngo and Elaina Lebron, UIU fell to Northern Iowa 2-0 in the finals.



Jose Acosta

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE



Board members (l-r) Angie (Kimball) Joseph '82, Jann (Schellhammer) Henkes '78 and Lisa Chensvold '14 pose with Executive Director of Alumni Development Brenda Luzum at the Peacock Alumni Social held February 27, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Alumni Association board of directors is focusing on two priorities for 2020: student recruiting and fundraising. In March, board members collaborated with UIU Admissions and attended spring college fairs to connect with prospective students and promote the University. Board volunteers attended events throughout Iowa and Minnesota and were able to share their experiences and learn what is important for students in their search for the right school.

"I was very happy to help," said board volunteer Jeff Stavnes '76. "Knowing that I contributed to the recruiting effort for my alma mater is a very rewarding feeling."

Taking on a more active role in fundraising, five board volunteers served as "ringmasters" for Celebrate UIU Day. Collectively they generated 16 donors and raised \$1,676.34 that contributed to the total amount raised. Fundraising projects continue as several board members are currently working in partnership with the Student Philanthropy Council to unveil a series of student-led crowdfunding projects later this fall.

"We feel if students can actually see alumni supporting their projects, they'll be more likely to be an active alum in the future," said Don Lyons '82. "In addition to showing them fundamentals of carrying out a fundraising project, we also want to roll up our sleeves and physically, and, even financially, help as well."

“Knowing that I contributed to the recruiting effort for my alma mater is a very rewarding feeling.” Jeff Stavnes '76

To learn more or express interest to serve as an association board member, visit uii.edu/AlumniAssociation.

Where there's a will—there's a way!

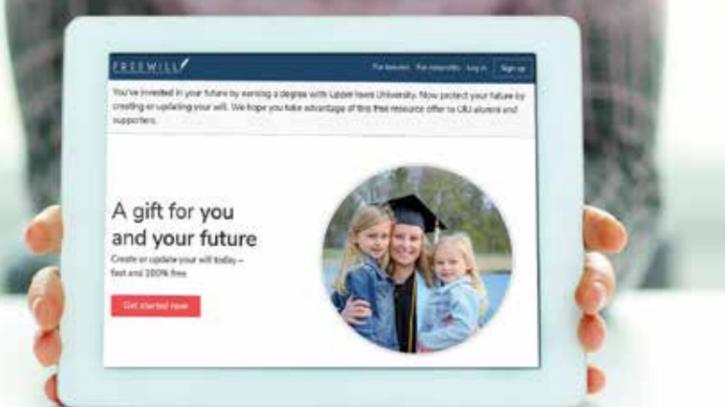
Earlier this year, the UIU Alumni Office collaborated with a company called FreeWill to unveil a new resource for our University community. FreeWill is an intuitive, online will-writing tool that allows anyone to produce a legally binding will in about 20 minutes—and it's completely free to use. As we all continue to endure a global health pandemic Upper Iowa University is proud to offer this service to alumni because we know how important it is to have your plans in place for the future.

We understand that for many it may seem complicated, daunting or even frightening to create a will, but it is the best way to protect what matters most. It's also an incredible way to leave a lasting impact on the causes and institutions, such as UIU, that have meant the most to you in life.

Those who have included UIU in their estate plans or have made some other type of planned gift commitment are recognized and honored with membership to the elite UIU Heritage Society. These members believe in UIU's mission and want to ensure the University's valuable educational programs and services will continue for future generations. If UIU is named in your estate plan, it is beneficial for the University to know in order to carry out your specific charitable intentions.

Since first announcing this resource, nearly 50 wills have been completed. If you choose to take advantage of FreeWill, we hope you find it to be useful and practical for you and your family while also providing you peace of mind. To start writing your will, visit freewill.com/uiu.

To learn more about FreeWill or the UIU Heritage Society, please contact Andrew Wenthe, vice president for External Affairs, at wenthea@uii.edu or 563-425-5348.



Three Easy Steps to Complete Your Will:

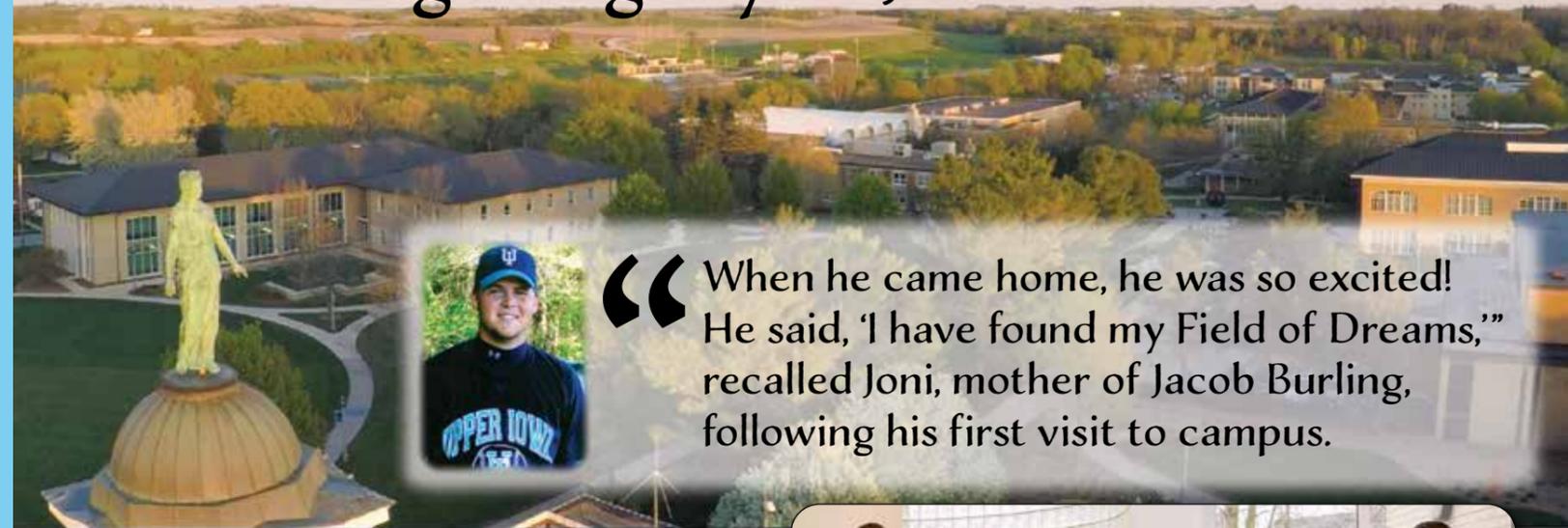
- Fill out online** – Visit freewill.com/uiu to get started. It only takes 20 minutes to fill out the information needed to create your last will and testament.
- Print out forms** – The information you provide is combined with the precise language of our legal forms, and provided back to you as a printable will.
- Sign and keep safe** – To make your will official, sign and initial the document in person with your witnesses. Keep your new will somewhere safe but accessible.

QCD Fast Facts

Peacocks over age 70 ½ may also benefit from tax savings through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Also referred to as an IRA rollover, individuals can distribute up to \$100,000 each year to Upper Iowa University, or other charity of choice, from their IRAs. CARES Act legislation made this optional for 2020, but in other years, a distribution is required.

QCDs are another option for generous individuals to be aware of. For more information, visit freewill.com/qcd/uiu.

Growing a legacy in Jacob's honor



“When he came home, he was so excited! He said, ‘I have found my Field of Dreams,’” recalled Joni, mother of Jacob Burling, following his first visit to campus.

At age 21, Jacob Burling lost his life in a tragic car accident during his senior year at UIU. He was team captain of the baseball team and pursuing an agriculture degree to utilize on the family farm located in Carthage, Illinois. Jacob was scheduled to graduate in 2006. Since 2017, family members, teammates, friends and a former coach have been working toward endowing the Jacob D. Burling Memorial Scholarship in his memory.

"Jake considered Fayette his second home," said Adam Burling, Jacob's brother. "We established the scholarship to honor Jake's time at UIU and his passion for agriculture. We are grateful to those who have contributed to his scholarship and made it self-sustaining."

In November 2019 a final fundraising push was made by the family, and the scholarship reached its \$25,000 goal. Earnings from the fund will support an annual scholarship for years to come. Scholarship criteria established by the family gives preference to a student majoring in an area with an agriculture emphasis. Christopher Cooksley of Winthrop, Iowa, is the 2020 recipient.

Although this year's annual banquet was canceled due to the pandemic, the 2020 Honors & Awards program proceeded with awarding more than 210 scholarships (totaling over \$347,000) to current UIU students. Generous donors who establish annual or endowed scholarships not only directly benefit our students but create a lasting legacy at UIU.

If you would like to establish a scholarship, contact the Alumni Office at 563-425-5388 or alumni@uii.edu.

“We established the scholarship to honor Jake's time at UIU and his passion for agriculture. We are grateful to those who have contributed to his scholarship and made it self-sustaining.”

Adam Burling



Jacob's family includes, back row (l-r), Luke Burling, Kortney Burling, Mark Burling (Jake's dad), Adam Burling, Ruth Burling (Jake's grandma), Larry Feigenbaum, Joni Burling (Jake's mom), Ashley Burling, Zack Burling. Front row: Brooks Burling and Annie Burling.

Save the Date

Honors & Awards

2021 Banquet

Saturday, April 10

Student Center Ballrooms
UIU Fayette Campus

CLASS NOTES

1960s **Bill Huntoon '64**, Marion, Iowa, currently serves on the school board for the Marion Independent School District. He is the longest-serving member of the board at 46 years, which is longest board tenure in the state of Iowa.

1970s **Tim Bell '76**, Westside, Iowa, was inducted into the Iowa Basketball Hall of Fame on March 13, 2020. He won 527 games over 40 seasons at Ar-We-Va Community School in Westside, Iowa.

Bill Neal '72, Iowa City, Iowa, was selected as the high school track starter for the 2020 Drake Relays. He has served as the starter for eight consecutive Iowa state high school track meets and five NCAA national cross country and track and field championships.

Jann (Schellhammer) Henkes '78, Saint Paul, Minnesota, accepted a job at Northern Technologies LLC, an engineering firm. She leads the administration department in the office.

Denice Vandersee '79, Fayette, Iowa, retired from teaching at North Fayette Valley (NFV) in West Union, Iowa. She taught middle school and high school special education from 2001 to 2020 while also serving as the NFV Special Olympic Coach.

1980s **Karrie (O'Hare) Gericke '83**, Fort Worth, Texas, was named Workforce Professional of the Year at the 2019 Annual Workforce Solutions of Central Texas Awards Luncheon.

Brian Reed '87, Bellevue, Iowa, retired from Northeast Community Schools after 32 years of teaching. The previous 19 years were spent teaching secondary mathematics and coaching various sports.

1990s **Timothy Reisch '94**, Howard, South Dakota, was appointed to represent South Dakota as a new civilian aid to the secretary of the Army.

Dan Livengood '98, St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minnesota was named vice president of sales and marketing at Seven Corners Print and Promo in St. Paul.

Chad Thurm '98, Williamsburg, Iowa, was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award. Thurm currently teaches in the Williamsburg Community School District.

Kali (White) VanBaale '98, Bondurant, Iowa, released her third novel, "The Monsters We Make," on June 9. The book was inspired by the real-life Des Moines paperboy abductions and was released as hardcover, ebook and an audio.

2000s **Shayla Nelson '06**, Hopewell, Virginia, was named the chief of police for the Maxton Police Department in Maxton.



Russell "Doc" '08 and Jennifer (Nevins) '19 Saffell, Ankeny, Iowa, are pictured with their winter edition of The Bridge magazine. They visited the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., after attending the National Legislative Conference for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Russell was recently installed as the 99th state commander of Iowa for the VFW.

Tia (Williams) Shaffer '05, Arlington, Iowa, was named Iowa's 2020 American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year. Tia currently teaches in the Independence Community School District.

John Bennett '09, Woodbridge, Virginia, completed his doctoral degree from California Southern University.

2010s **Senada (Aibasic) Agic '10, '15**, Waukee, Iowa, was promoted to manager at Access Systems. She has been at Access System as a recruiter for four years.

Fashawn (Meeks) Jones '11, '13, completed her doctorate in educational leadership from DePaul University. Fashawn is the accounts payable manager at Mechanical Services Industries in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

Kari (Cammack) Yauk '11 Fayette, Iowa, has taken a position at Luther College as coordinator of Student Services and administrative assistant for Student Life.

Emily (Reinert) Boge '12, Farley, Iowa, was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Dental Hygiene from the American Dental Hygienists' Association and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.

Deborah (McCullum) Graham '12, Alexandria, Louisiana, was selected by the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as the 2020 School Social Worker of the Year.

Locksley Knibbs '12, Fort Myers, Florida, was hired as the new advising administrative division committee chair for the Inclusion and Engagement Committee of the National Academic Advising Association.

Christina (Hanson) Christensen '13, Elk Run Heights, Iowa, was promoted to manager of account resolution with Veridian Credit Union. She has worked at Veridian for seven years.

Billie Tuvshinbayar '13, Arlington, Virginia, is set to publish her first book, "Almost American." This work is her firsthand experiences as an American immigrant.



Hadeel Osman '14, Abu Dhabi. Photo courtesy of Mohamed Jazar.

Hadeel Osman '14, Abu Dhabi, was named to the Forbes Africa 30 under 30 list. She has been in the arts industry as a creative director, stylist and founder of DAVU Studio and has over seven years of experience in the media and fashion industries.

CLASS NOTES

Chris Barren '15, Oelwein, Iowa, was sworn in as reserve deputy for the Fayette County Sheriff's Office.

Zach Carlyle '15, Fayette, Iowa, is currently working as a play-by-play television announcer on ESPN for Abilene Christian University's home football and men's and women's basketball games. Carlyle was the voice of the Peacocks during many athletic events from 2011 to 2018.

Earl Lewis '15, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, earned his Master of Science degree, with an emphasis in information technology and project management, from Colorado Technical University on May 9, 2020.

Sydney Michael '15, Osage, Iowa, joined Fayette County law enforcement in June 2020. She was sworn in as a deputy. She started her career in Worth County and later moved to Mitchell County.

Whitney (Pflughaupt) Nobsch '15, Vinton, Iowa, joined CBE Companies as a manager of client relationships.

Sanda (Muminovic) Abdic '16, Waterloo, Iowa, was promoted to account resolution team lead at Veridian Credit Union. She has been with the company for 10 years and also serves as a board member at Grin & Grow Child Care.

Jacob Greco '16, '18, Kearney, Nebraska, was named director of Facilities and Operations for University of Nebraska-Kearney athletics.

Megan (Neelans) Young '16, Cedar Falls, Iowa, was promoted to manager of payroll and benefits at Veridian Credit Union. She has been an employee of Veridian for nine years and previously worked as its learning and development specialist.

Chelsea Berry, PA '17, Arlington, Iowa, accepted a position with Medical Associates Clinic & Health Plans as a member of its Orthopedic team. Berry will assist outpatient treatment of disorders related to muscles, joints and bones, as well as injuries caused by trauma, sports or chronic disease.

Vinny Otdoefer '17, Strawberry Point, Iowa, took ownership of the gym in Strawberry Point, Iowa. It has been renamed to Vinny's Gym.

Alexis (Barth) Volker '17, Cedar Falls, Iowa, joined CBE Companies as a contract and licensing administrator.

Sam Broome '18, Grundy Center, Iowa, was accepted into the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He began in June 2020 and is continuing to work for the Grundy Center Police Department.

Josi Baker '19, Clermont, Iowa, was hired as a family development specialist for Northeast Iowa Community Action.

Mike Brosenne '19, Forest City, Iowa, began as the area coordinator and intramural program director at Waldorf University after completing his master's degree in sports administration.

Teresa Hageman '19, Lawler, Iowa, is the new graphic/digital designer for the Office of Communications and Marketing at Upper Iowa University.

Ryan Mulligan '19, Rockford, Illinois, was hired as the sanitation specialist for Smithfield Foods.

Jake Van Besien '19, Waterloo, Iowa, joined the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier as an advertising consultant. The Courier is a daily newspaper serving Northeast Iowa.

2020s **Destiny Benson '20**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was hired at NRG Media as the promotions director for four local radio stations (105.7 KOKZ, ROCK 108, KXEL and HANKFM) across the Cedar Valley area in Iowa.

Jeffrey Hughes '20, Oelwein, Iowa, had "A Tale of Love and Adventure" published in the Why I Came Back to Iowa section of Our Iowa magazine in March 2020.

Sarah (Tovar) Miller '20, Waterloo, Iowa, has been promoted to senior administrative assistant at the Reinbeck branch of Lincoln Savings Bank.

Welcome to the Peacock family, little ones!



Jerome '12 & Sze Wei "Isabel" (Sin) '12 Chong, St. Paul, Minnesota, announced the birth of their baby girl, Emma. She was born on March 26, 2020.



Winston '12 and Megan (Snyder) '12 Robbins, West Union, Iowa, welcomed their son, Elijah Jeffrey, on October 24, 2019. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 19.25 inches. He joins little sister, Estella, 2 years old.



Seth '14 and Jennifer (Ranheim) Miner, Las Cruces, New Mexico, welcomed Phoenix Olivia Joy Miner on November 14, 2019. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19.25 inches long.

CLASS NOTES ALUMNI IN EDUCATION

2010s **Mitzi Rasmussen '17**, Milo, Iowa, was hired to teach third grade at Irving Elementary in Indianola. She will begin teaching in July for the 2020-21 school year.

Jordan Stewart '17, West Des Moines, Iowa, was hired to teach sixth grade at Adair-Casey Elementary School in Adair, Iowa.

Gage Harden '19, Redfield, Iowa, was hired to teach business, coding, programming and computer technology at Hoyt Middle School with Des Moines Public Schools. He started his position in January 2020.

Paul Alsted '19, Delta Junction, Alaska, was hired to teach grades K-5 at Gerstle River School, Delta Greely School District, in Delta Junction, Alaska.

Taylor Dubois '19, Marshalltown, Iowa, was hired to teach special education at Franklin Elementary in Marshalltown starting in January 2020.

Meghan (Nelson) Guiter '19, Des Moines, Iowa, will be teaching fifth grade at St. Joseph's school in Des Moines in the fall of 2020.

Casey (Bacon) Hope '19, Mitchellville, Iowa, was hired to teach preschool at Fisher Elementary in Marshalltown.

Robert "RJ" Howard '19, Clinton, Iowa, accepted a position as a special educator in the Clinton Community School District.

Seth Hundley '19, Cedar Falls, Iowa, began teaching special education at Waterloo East High School following student teaching in December 2019.

Kayla Lancaster '19, De Witt, Iowa, accepted a position with Davenport Community Schools. She will work with students with behavior disorders at Wood Jr High School.

Kimberly (Teno) Poe '19, Urbandale, Iowa, was hired to teach English at Saydel High School starting in January 2020.

Travis Rigdon '19, Dunkerton, Iowa, accepted a position as a secondary special educator in the Center Point-Urbana School District.

Jill (Leistikow) Schwickerath '19, Readlyn, Iowa, began teaching fourth grade at Tripoli Elementary following student teaching in December.

Abby Smith Woods '19, Evansdale, Iowa, was hired for a special education Instructional Strategist I position at East High School in Waterloo.

2020s **Sarah (Martens) Becker '20**, Atlantic, Iowa, accepted a position with CAM Community School District at CAM South in Massena, Iowa. She will be teaching middle school English and language arts.

Shawna (Cleghorn) Cooper '20, Colfax, Iowa, was hired to teach inclusive preschool at Mitchell Early Learning Center with Des Moines Public Schools.

Caitlyn Freese '20, Dumont, Iowa, accepted a teaching position with the Ruthven-Ayrshire School District for the upcoming school year. Caitlyn will teach grades 8-12 language arts.

Megan Gavin '20, Fayette, Iowa, will begin teaching math at Pocahontas High School in Pocahontas, Iowa, starting fall 2020.

Meghan (Mclaughlin) Gillespie '20, Johnston, Iowa, was hired to teach second grade at Cattell Elementary with Des Moines Public Schools.

Meghan Kleitsch '20, Fairbank, Iowa, has accepted a position with the North Butler Schools as the 7-12 art teacher, varsity football cheer coach and yearbook advisor.

Madison Lombard '20, Ankeny, Iowa, was hired to teach fifth grade at Studebaker Elementary with Des Moines Public Schools.

Julie (Phillips) Parnau '20, West Des Moines, Iowa, was hired to teach special education at Dallas-Center Grimes Community School District at South Prairie Elementary School in Grimes, Iowa.

Wendy Pint-McGill '20, Independence, Iowa, accepted the early childhood special education teacher position at the Little Husky Learning Center in Oelwein, Iowa.

Rieley Rodman '20, Fayette, Iowa, has accepted a first grade position at Starmont Elementary School.

Jordan Rommes '20, Calmar, Iowa, accepted a job as the K-8 PE teacher at New Hampton Elementary/Middle School.

Autumn Weaver '20, Garner, Iowa, accepted a science teaching position at West Hancock High School in Britt, Iowa, and will begin fall 2020.



Lee and Carly (Pagel) Parker '16, Ionias, Iowa (center), were wed on June 22, 2019. They celebrated their wedding in Peacock style with a number of UIU alumni including (back, l-r) Joe Smoldt, Bekka Pierson, Samantha (Thrapp) Grunder '14, Olivia Winkler '15, Megan Todd, Kari Fitzpatrick, Justin Siefken '13, Chelsea (Garcia) Siefken '13, Karlee Grabau, Sarah Benson '17, Carissa Nelson '14, Blake Bergren '18, Jordan Rinken '16, Sierra Lichty '16 and Nate Skare '19; (front) Alexis Lloyd '18, Taylor Doermann '17, Kaisha McCaffrey '14, Laura (TerHark) Odland '15, Jennifer (Herrick) Strobl '13, Aleesha Cleaver '16, Sam Ofstad '18, Casey Miles '18, Ashley Rosenstiel '18, Lindsay (Carroll) Fix '15, Madison Meier '18 and Taylor Yezek '16. Carly currently works as portfolio manager at U.S. Bank in Waterloo, Iowa, and coaches girls basketball for Sumner-Fredericksburg High School.

Congrats!

UIU Alumni recognized for standout coaching

Mark Scott '82, Lawler, Iowa, coached the Turkey Valley Trojans to the Class A football playoffs. The Trojans were undefeated Class A District Champs but lost in the semifinals.

Marty McKowen '83, Fairbank, Iowa, coached the Wapsie Valley Warriors to the 2020 IHSAA Boys 1A Basketball State Championship. The team was the eighth seed in the tournament and finished as state champions.

Dan Hovden '87, West Union, Iowa, was selected as head coach of the Small East All-Star Series Team in the IHSBCA in 2019. Hovden is the head baseball coach for North Fayette Valley in West Union.

Matt Miller '98, Knoxville, Iowa, returned to his hometown and was hired as the Independence High School baseball coach. He previously taught in Texas and southern Iowa.

Dan Anderson '00, McGregor, Iowa, was named The Gazette's 2019 Coach of the Year. Anderson is the head football coach for the MFL Mar Mac Bulldogs.

Jesse Montalto '04, Iowa Falls, Iowa, was named ICCAC Conference Coach of the Year in football.

Do you have something special to share with us? We want to know about it!



Contact the Alumni Office today at 563-425-5388 or alumni@uiu.edu.

Csomay graduating class – continued from page 12

"I quickly discovered how much goes into organizing community events and influencing city policy," Dale said. "Dr. Skrade and I worked with a number of people throughout the project. It gave me a newfound respect for city and community leaders, who lead organizational and planning efforts. This project is an example of how the Csomay program enhanced my time at UIU and opened doors to many opportunities that I wouldn't have otherwise experienced."

Lieb interned as a tax assistant with G.W. Bond and Company Inc. He is currently employed as an auditor and tax accountant for the offices of Benning Group LLC in Freeport, Illinois, and Monroe, Wisconsin. As part of his Csomay project, he created Fayette Bucks as an incentive to support Fayette small businesses.

"The challenges provided in being part of the Csomay program have inspired me to strive higher in multiple aspects of my life," Lieb said. "I have learned so much about small business and how communities are the driving factor in its success. I learn new aspects of the business world every day I operate Driftless Area Guide Company with Jake."

Future educator

A Peacocks for Progress member, Dirksen joined the Csomay Honors Program to get the most out of all the opportunities UIU has to offer its students and to be further challenged during her educational experience. A native of Dows, Iowa, she hopes to instill the knowledge she gained from her Csomay English as a second language project to best serve her future second language students the best way possible.

"I think I most benefited from the Csomay program by being pushed to do my best and was taught that you never stop learning," Dirksen said. "My entire UIU education will help me in the future because it showed me how to push myself and think outside the box. My UIU professors were role models in what it takes to be an amazing teacher."

Friend of the family farm

A UIU wrestler, Spotts is currently pursuing an MBA. He interned with Kerns Homegrown, a local produce business that delivers fresh-picked vegetables to eastern Iowa Hy-Vee and Fareway stores.

"I joined the Honors program because I felt like I needed to be pushed and find out more about myself," Spotts said. "It ultimately helped me realize that I want to be an agricultural lawyer. My honors project focused on issues ag lawyers currently face and will potentially have in the future. Due to my lifetime connection to the ag industry, I feel like I can make a difference by helping farm families with things like estate planning, taxes and farm succession."

Spotts now intends to take the LSAT exam and enroll in the Drake University School of Agricultural Law. He hopes to eventually start his own practice near his hometown of Nora Springs, Iowa, while remaining actively involved on his family's farm, which has been in operation for nearly 150 years.

Csomay Honors Program admittance

Prior to her death at the age of 90 in 2015, Barbara (Rankin) Csomay '46 established UIU's Csomay Honors Program. To be accepted into the Honors Program, students must have at least a 26 ACT score and at least a 3.5 high school grade point average. Students admitted to the Honors Program in any given year take the same courses as their fellow honors students. Each course is generally interdisciplinary and team taught, with active, participatory learning. All honors courses require extensive, integrated, advanced writing skills. Seniors complete both an honors project and a thesis in their area of interest. Extracurricular experiences—such as service learning, attending professional conferences and other special events—are an integral part of the program.

Extracurricular activities are an integral part of the Csomay Honors Program. In addition to clubs and organizations, many members, such as wrestler Mac Spotts, are active in Peacock athletics.



IN MEMORIAM

In honor of their memory, we proudly recognize these Peacocks and their special connection to Upper Iowa University.

Genevieve (Belknap) Baker '36, '63
04/04/2020, Tucson, AZ

T. Nick Toutsch '63
01/20/2020, Maquoketa, IA

Vivian (Hamblin) Cramer '73
03/17/2020, Manchester, IA

Delanor Myrick '17
12/14/2019, Marianna, FL

Viola (Caldwell) Lundry '43
04/11/2020, Oelwein, IA

James Treat '63
03/22/2020, Storm Lake, IA

Margaret (Hinde) Harvey '73
06/30/2020, Strawberry Point, IA

Kolton Gonnerman '18
07/10/2020, Cincinnati, IA

Charles Underwood '43
12/26/2019, Arlington, VA

Judith (Miller) Davis '64
01/05/2020, Wild Rose, WI

Judy Brown '74
02/10/2020, Fayetteville, NC

Meghan (Powers) Slessor '19
01/13/2020, Wilton, IA

Clyde Burnett '46
05/27/2020, Rollinsville, CO

Richard Frank '64
02/07/2020, Lincoln, AR

Connie (Sparrgrove) Blume '76
02/06/2020, Springfield, OR

FORMER STUDENTS
Norman Brown
03/15/2020, Dumont, IA

Arthur Sensor '46
03/19/2020, Muscatine, IA

Russell Newlin '64
03/09/2020, Cedar Rapids, IA

Robert Adams '77
04/10/2020, Annandale, VA

Shirley (Winn) Grulke
01/24/2020, Cedar Rapids, IA

Orlan Reimer '49
02/08/2020, Elkader, IA

Leona (Nelson) Cook '65
05/28/2020, Waverly, IA

Firmo Lopez '78
01/22/2020, Aldie, VA

David Holmes
02/17/2020, Wilmington, OH

Mary (Hulbert) Bock '56
03/04/2020, West Union, IA

Rod Cameron '68
04/08/2020, Manchester, IA

Wallace Webster '82
12/06/2019, Washington, DC

Milton Sivels
04/15/2020, Richton Park, IL

Joe Craig '56
06/06/2020, Carmel, IN

Robert Sanger '68
02/05/2020, Britt, IA

Kenneth Kamper '84
02/14/2020, Knoxville, TN

Alan Steinlage
12/11/2019, Ionia, IA

Gene Rima '57
01/08/2020, Strawberry Point, IA

Steve Staker '68
04/28/2020, Lisbon, IA

Ronnie Henry '87
06/02/2020, San Antonio, TX

Fred Schoentag '57
02/16/2020, Cedar Falls, IA

W. Sheldon Davis '69
02/17/2020, Delhi, IA

Elsie (Davenport) Duncan '88
12/28/2019, Hyattsville, MD

Dale Buenzow '58
04/06/2020, Marion, IA

Lynneen (Cheeseman) Blate '70
02/21/2020, Elkader, IA

David Fox '88
12/20/2019, Oelwein, IA

Robert Johnson '59
04/15/2020, Manchester, IA

Virginia (Kristiansen) Grace '70
01/29/2020, Le Roy, MN

Verna (Gross) Medberry '93
12/19/2019, Elgin, IA

John Tierney '60
04/10/2020, Frankfort, IL

Janet (Gode) Mooney '70
03/11/2020, Harpers Ferry, IA

Gayle Isaac '95
04/03/2020, Des Moines, IA

Edward McKibbin '61
04/02/2020, Ellijay, GA

Edna (Olmsted) Heitmann '71
06/12/2020, Reeds Spring, MO

Suzanne (Andre) Duggan '97
01/02/2020, Cedar Falls, IA

Gene Wellman '62
06/03/2020, Stoddard, WI

Kenneth Meyer '72
04/11/2020, Oelwein, IA

Nancy Hoffman '03
07/04/2020, Cedar Falls, IA

save the date for celebrate **UIU** days April 22-23, 2021

Next year marks our 5th Anniversary, and it's high time we celebrate! Enjoy *cake, balloons, confetti and gifts* while supporting UIU. Mark your calendars for **April 22-23, 2021**, cause it wouldn't be a party without YOU!

The last four years have been nothing short of impressive. Our generous supporters have helped raise a grand total of **\$432,217**. This online fundraising event has become a Peacock tradition and has made a significant impact on our students while advancing a number of capital projects and programs.

While 2020 has had its ups and downs, we are very thankful that this virtual event generated over **\$95,000** for important projects and services. During a time when we needed it most, Peacocks past and present shared stories, memories and photos across social media throughout the entire event. Special thanks to everyone who participated!

#CelebrateUIUDays



'IN MEMORIAM' SUBMISSIONS

Should you learn of the passing of a fellow Peacock, please notify the Alumni Office at 563-425-5388, alumni@uiu.edu or send us a note to P.O. Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142



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Please be aware that we rely heavily on your help for the accuracy of our alumni database. Contact the Alumni Office with any name or address changes at 563-425-5388 or alumni@uiu.edu. Thank you.

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