

The BRIDGE

FALL 2024
UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI MAGAZINE



FEATURED INSIDE!

Pioneering through philanthropy

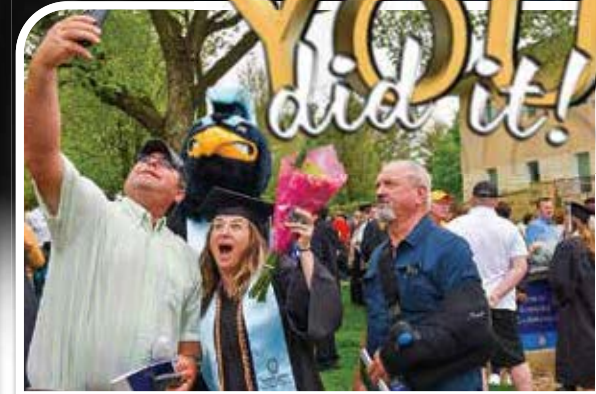
Commencement '24 Recap

Peacock Palooza Homecoming '24

2024

Class of

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



“Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on your remarkable achievement! We look forward to celebrating your successes and welcome you to stay connected with us throughout your personal and professional journey. We are peacock proud of you!”

Kathy Franken '12
President/Chief Financial Officer

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INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR MISSION

Upper Iowa University provides quality educational opportunities accessible through varied delivery methods to inspire success and empower lives.

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Front cover photo: The Inauguration Ceremony for President Kathy Franken '12, was held on May 3 on the Fayette campus. A full day of activities was planned to commemorate this momentous occasion, as she was the first woman inaugurated into office as the 22nd President in UIU's history. Congratulations, Kathy!

New Master of Education (M.Ed.) partnership

UIU and Happy Teacher Professional Development are now partnering to make earning a Master of Education degree more affordable. The new partnership allows teachers to transfer 12 Happy Teacher Professional Development credits into UIU's Master of Education programs. Learn more at uiu.edu/med.



New emphasis areas added to Master of Education Program

Beginning in fall 2024, three new emphasis areas will be added to the Master of Education Program. The new emphasis areas are designed for graduate students who are not seeking an endorsement in the state of Iowa. The three new emphasis areas are Talented and Gifted for Non-Licensure, English as a Second Language for Non-Licensure, and Special Education for Non-Licensure. For more information, visit uiu.edu/med.

Prepared Classroom—The Next Generation of Daily 5 and CAFÉ

Prepared Classroom – The Next Generation of Daily 5 and CAFÉ will be coming to Upper Iowa University in the fall. Prepared Classroom amplifies the best of Daily 5 and CAFÉ to help teachers prepare for the most effective teaching and learning classroom experiences. Replacing the existing Daily 5 courses will be three new courses: EDU 504 Prepared Classroom – Evidence Based Community Building; EDU 506 Prepared Classroom – Evidence Based Learning; and EDU 508 Prepared Classroom – Evidence Based Teaching. Additional information will be forthcoming on the Master of Education webpage.

UIU earns 2024-2025 Military Friendly® School designation

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey with 537 earning special awards for going above the standard.



The 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtorly with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"Upper Iowa University has a long legacy of working with military students and their families. We are honored to be identified as a military friendly school and we work tirelessly every day to live up to our military friendly designation," shared Brandy Branstetter, Director of Military and Veteran Affairs at Upper Iowa University. "UIU takes great pride in our large military student population and we are dedicated to helping these students complete their educations."

"Military Friendly® is committed to transparency and providing consistent data-driven standards in our designation process. Our standards provide a benchmark that promotes positive outcomes and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the Military Community. This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to evolve and invest in their programs consistently. Schools who achieve awards designation show true commitment in their efforts, going over and above that standard." Said Kayla Lopez, national director of military partnerships, Military Friendly®.

Learn more about Upper Iowa University's student veteran program at uiu.edu/military.

Two UIU individuals elected to Iowa School Counselor Association (ISCA)



Chambray Burk



Andrew Eisenman

In an exciting moment for the counseling community at Upper Iowa University, Chambray Burk, a proactive Master of Science in Counseling graduate student, and Andrew Eisenman, Lecturer of Counseling, have been elected to positions on the Iowa School Counselor Association (ISCA) Board.

This achievement not only reflects their dedication and expertise in the field of counseling but also highlights the growing recognition of the Upper Iowa University's counseling program. Their election to the ISCA Board will provide them with a platform to contribute to developing and advancing school counseling practices in Iowa.


Chambray Burk has been appointed to a two-year term as the Graduate Student Co-Chair. Burk is in her fifth semester at Upper Iowa and is the Student Success Coordinator at Boone High School. With this position, Chambray is excited to advocate for policies that promote inclusivity, resource accessibility, and the professional well-being of those dedicated to guiding the academic and personal success of students across Iowa. Her vision for this term also includes supporting professional development that focuses on the evolving needs of the profession and fostering continuous growth and development for all counselors and educators.

Andrew Eisenman will serve a three-year term as Vice President - Counselor Educator on the ISCA board, a role that aligns perfectly with his longstanding commitment to enhancing the field of counseling education.

Eisenman's election presents an exciting opportunity to advance his advocacy efforts across the state because of his desire to increase the involvement of practicing school counselors and counselor educators within ISCA.

His vision for his term includes bolstering support for counselors in their professional development, advocating for policies that benefit the counseling profession, and fostering a community of collaboration among counselors and educators.

The significance of Chambray and Andrew's elections cannot be overstated. Their roles on the ISCA Board offer a platform to influence the direction of school counseling in Iowa, from shaping policy and advocacy efforts to enhancing the quality and reach of practicing school counselors in Iowa. Moreover, their positions underscore Upper Iowa University's role as a leader in producing forward-thinking, engaged professionals who are ready to contribute meaningfully to their fields.

As members of the ISCA Board, Chambray and Andrew are poised to make substantial contributions to the counseling profession in Iowa. Their leadership and vision represent a beacon of progress for school counselors, counselor educators, and students alike, promising a future where the counseling profession continues to grow in recognition, efficacy, and impact. 

UIU recognizes two Csomay honors graduates during 2024 Commencement

During the 2024 May UIU Commencement ceremony, two graduates from the Csomay Honors Program were honored. The honorees included (left to right) **Varvara Ogorodnikova '24**, Russian Federation, and **Genevieve Victoria Chenoweth '24**, Hedgesville, West Virginia, who were recognized for representing the University through community involvement, leadership, engagement, and student success.




Graduates from Csomay Honors Program proudly display their Csomay Honors medallions as part of Upper Iowa University's 2024 Commencement Ceremony. Pictured above (left to right) are Varvara Ogorodnikova, Russian Federation, and Genevieve Victoria Chenoweth, Hedgesville, West Virginia.

The Csomay Honors Program includes challenging coursework and programs to prepare students for graduate school and careers. Double majoring in Software Engineering and Information Technology, Varvara responded, "The program helped me to develop a broader understanding of various fields in my majors by doing quantitative research about technophobia. We have also done a lot of extracurricular activities during the honors classes, like field trips, community events, etc., that made it enjoyable. This opportunity is one of the many reasons I love learning something extra outside of the university curriculum. It gives you a different perspective from just learning in the classroom. Plus, getting to know so many great people through this program."

In addition, Chenoweth said, "As an alumna of the Upper Iowa University Csomay Honors Program, I can attest to its excellence in fostering intellectual curiosity and providing enriching academic challenges that prepared me for a successful career as well as for life in the real world. The program's supportive community, research opportunities, and leadership development were instrumental in my personal and professional growth. Upper Iowa University, as a whole, offers a welcoming and inclusive environment, dedicated faculty, and a diverse range of extracurricular activities that create a holistic and fulfilling educational experience.

In her commitment to education, Barbara (Rankin) Csomay '46 generously established the Csomay Honors Program at Upper Iowa University's Fayette Campus. Her endowment enabled the creation of the Csomay Center for Honors and the Csomay Endowed Scholarship, enriching the culture of the University.

To gain admission to the Honors Program, students must meet rigorous criteria, including a minimum ACT score of 26 and a high school GPA 3.5. Once accepted, students join a cohort that engages in interdisciplinary, team-taught courses designed to foster active and participatory learning. These courses provide extensive, integrated, and advanced writing skills. In their senior year, the program requires students to complete an honors project and a thesis in their area of interest. Additionally, the program integrates extracurricular experiences such as service learning, attendance at professional conferences, and participation in special events, ensuring a well-rounded educational journey.

Csomay Honors Program graduates receive a commemorative medallion, symbolizing their academic excellence and dedication. This honor is for those who have completed the senior project and thesis. This year, these two exceptional students were honored as part of the ninth graduating class of the Csomay Honors Program. For additional information about the Csomay Honors Program and UIU, visit uiu.edu/honorsprogram. 

UIU travels to Germany and Switzerland

Dr. NiCole Dennler and Dr. Gina Kuker traveled with 14 individuals through the cities of Berlin, Munich, and Überlingen (all in Germany) and Zurich, Switzerland. The first stop in Berlin, Germany, students visited the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building, the Berlin Wall, and TV Tower as well as many other sites. The second stop was Munich, Germany, where most of the group visited the Dachau Concentration Camp and the Hofbrauhaus. The group visited Neuschwanstein (known in the US as the Disney castle) and Hohenschwangau Castles in Schwangau. During the stop in Überlingen, the Upper Iowa University group got to visit the Gymnasium Überlingen (a top-tiered school). The group appreciated this stop as they interacted with students and teachers in several different settings. The final stop on this Study Abroad program was in Zurich, Switzerland. The group toured the Lindt Chocolate Factory, so they learned facts about the industry and tasted delicious samples before they explored the rest of the city during the following two days.

Stay tune for more details coming in late September 2024 for the next Study Abroad opportunity. Get ready to travel and explore the world with UIU. 



FACULTY AND STAFF NOTES



Kelsey Kirby '24 and Emma Johnston's papers were selected for presentation at the Iowa Human Rights Conference which was held on April 20th at the University of Iowa College of Law.

Kelsey (left) and **Dr. Shilpa Karbhari** (right) were able to attend the conference and celebrate "Relevance of Iowa's Child Welfare Legislation and Criminal Justice - A Perspective."



In July, **Dr. Kathleen Jones-Trebatoski**, assistant professor in the department of counseling, attended the Athena Counseling Honor Society (ACHS) Inaugural Workshop with master of counseling student's presentations and awards. Dr. Jones-Trebatoski is the faculty facilitator for ACHS.



Several members from UIU's Department of Education attended the Iowa Association of Colleges with Teacher Education (IACTE) Conference in March. Those in attendance included (left-right) **Teresa Freking, Amy Updegraff, Alex Hansen, Dr. Gina Kuker, and Jodi Grover.**

The theme for this conference was "Thriving Amidst the Changing Landscape of Education." The group heard from Krystal

Colbert, the Iowa Teacher of the Year, with her presentation Teaching with G.R.A.C.E. In addition, the teacher shortages and the issues of education and politics were discussed by the Iowa Department of Education and panels of educators.

On April 8, 2024, the Fayette campus was fortunate to have the opportunity to experience a partial solar eclipse. While not in the path of totality, participants did get a deep partial look with 86% of the Sun's diameter covered by the Moon at maximum eclipse.



The Science and Environment Club and **Dr. Jeff Butikofer '00** provided several safe viewing methods including a colander for pinhole projection, eclipse glasses, a welder's mask outfitted with shade 14 welder's glass, and the department's Celestron Nexstar 130 Newtonian telescope outfitted with a full-aperture solar filter.

Our recently purchased Celestron Nexstar Evolution 8 Schmitt-Cassegrain telescope was used exclusively as a mount to "piggyback" a Canon Rebel T3i DSLR camera shooting through a Rokinon 500 mm mirror lens outfitted with another full-aperture solar filter. The clouds parted about 30 minutes prior to the maximum eclipse and we had an excellent turnout of students, faculty, staff, and community members who captured some great photos.



Students in the recently developed CHEM 450 Biochemical Techniques laboratory course, led by **Dr. Jeff Butikofer**, removed otoliths from various species of freshwater fish in order to study their proteins. Otoliths are structures that assist the fish with balance and equilibrium. They are composed of mainly calcium carbonate, but do contain some protein.

The harvested otoliths were decalcified and the proteins were precipitated, resuspended in buffer, separated by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, and visualized by staining. These preliminary results are the culmination of a year-long independent student research project followed by a multi-week project within the course.



In Spring 2024, the Science & Environment Club became the first student chapter of the National Audubon Society in Iowa. Led by **Dr. Paul Skrade**, faculty advisor, students in the club hold events on campus such as the educational geode cracking program, and the "Superb Owl" Party & Bonfire during the Super Bowl.

The group also spearheaded multiple trash pickup efforts along the Volga River and beyond.



This academic year, the Science & Environment Club received the Governor's Service Award for 30 years of Service maintaining the Adopt-A-Highway stretch along Hwy 150.





In July, Becca Peterson, UIU pre-service educator, and **Dr. Gina Kuker**, professor of education, were invited to attend the National Education Association (NEA) Aspiring Educators Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They attended a variety of sessions about education, activism and solidarity.



The online RN-BSN program offers flexibility for working nurses like **Angela (York) Bradwell '24** to pursue their goal of a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing while balancing personal and professional commitments. "I've aspired to be a nurse since I was young," said Angela. "I am the first in my family to pursue a college education in the medical field, except for my grandfather, who served as a Medic in WWII. I am also grateful for the support of my family, friends, faith, and all those who have encouraged me to persevere. My future plan is to further my education as a Family Nurse Practitioner either in the fall of 2024 or the spring of 2025."



Sheila Crook-Lockwood, Interim Director of Nursing and Associate Professor (left) poses for a photo with Angela Bradwell (right) during Commencement.



Four of UIU's pre-service educators along with their professor attended the ISEA Aspiring Educators Conference in Des Moines in March 2024. During this conference, these educators learned about educational reform, legislation and governmental policies, technology, and social/political issues.

Pictured, front (l-r) Zoe Lampe and Becca Peterson. Back row (l-r) **Dr. Gina Kuker**, JT Monroe, and Quinton Jensen.



Adjunct instructor, **Cheryl Beatty**, encourages her elementary methods class to practice interactive learning by creating reading circles in the Dr. Harry J. Maue Atrium at the Andres Center for Business and Education.



Dr. Gina Kuker's Diversity for Teachers class learned about the culture and history of Mexico from a small group presentation, which ended with Mya Brinker bursting open the pinata!

2024 Recipients of the Roger and Alice Mangan 'Excellence in Teaching' Awards

Established in 2019 by **Roger '62** and **Alice (DeLong) Mangan '61**, these awards represent UIU's commitment to excellence in teaching. These distinguished awards are presented annually to faculty members who go above and beyond. UIU students provide the nominations, which are reviewed by the University's Faculty Development and Welfare Committee. The award recipients receive a financial stipend and a commemorative plaque for their exemplary teaching. The 2023–2024 award honorees are:



Tenure-track/Lecturer Faculty: Dr. NiCole Dennler, assistant professor of communication, 15 years

Dr. NiCole Dennler has been with the university since 2009 and has been an online advisor, adjunct professor, and lecturer. She is currently on the tenure track in Communication. She completed her dissertation in May of 2023. Her dissertation was on the use of tourism by the Majjuna community in the Amazon Rainforest, Peru.

Her area of expertise focuses on intercultural and interpersonal communication.

During her tenure with UIU, she implemented the campus internet radio station and created the mobile radio unit, allowing students to broadcast from multiple campus locations. She also created the media lab, allowing multiple majors and campus departments to access the large space for photography and production needs. She is actively involved in the study abroad program, taking students to Peru, Greece, and Germany.

Dr. Dennler has appreciated the opportunity UIU has given her to be mentored by amazing people and giving her the ability to mentor many fascinating students both on and off campus. She believes that UIU is a great place to work and grow because of our ability to know each other's stories and truths. "At UIU we become the people we are always meant to be."

NiCole expressed that her greatest joy from working at UIU is seeing her students excel in the classroom and achieve their goals after they leave Upper Iowa University.



Tenured Faculty: Associate Professor of Biology/Delano Professor of Science, 9 years

Skraide joined the faculty at UIU in 2015 after two years at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. At Knox he served as the Interim Director of Sustainability and taught in the Biology Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor & Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow.

Prior to Knox, Skraide earned his MS in Animal Ecology and Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. When asked how he felt about receiving this honor, Skraide said, "It's incredibly meaningful to receive this award and I am extremely grateful to the students that nominated me."



Adjunct Faculty: Dain Hendrickson, 1 year

Hendrickson holds a master's degree with an emphasis in Special Education from the University of Phoenix. He has served at Upper Iowa University since 2023, prior to that he worked as a High School Equivalency Instructor at Eastern Iowa Community College.

Hendrickson is currently enrolled in a post graduate program in Applied Behavioral Analysis through the University of Iowa. He earned his Special Education Consultant license from Morningside University. He also obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Hendrickson currently works as the Instructional Coach for Behavior for the Bettendorf Community School District in Bettendorf, Iowa. Prior to his current position he was an Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities teacher for both the Bettendorf and Davenport Community School Districts. 🏆



A native of Chicago, Illinois, Roger graduated from UIU in 1962, with a bachelor's degree in history. He was a wrestler and a 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee. Alice, originally from Maynard, Iowa, graduated from UIU in 1961, with a physical education degree; she helped organize UIU's first drill team.

Pioneering through philanthropy –

Seeds planted decades ago through rich memories and a passion for Upper Iowa University (UIU), have flourished through the impact of visionary alumni. When you walk onto the Fayette Campus, there is no denying the welcoming atmosphere and the magnitude of the beauty of the university. It's a place where character is built, ingenuity is developed, and educational dreams turn into reality for Peacock students. What started with Bill and Betty Andres and Steve and Diane Harms has grown into a culture of giving, service, and engagement allowing alumni to connect to their alma mater. Decades of giving to UIU has provided transformational change and a tremendous impact on UIU students. The philanthropic efforts have been innovative and profoundly effective, contributing to the university's progress and success.

The Harms family: A Legacy of athletic and academic support



For Steve Harms, Upper Iowa University has always been a constant. At an early age, Steve was very aware of UIU. His father and uncle had attended the university and played four years of football under the great Doc Dorman. Calvin (Cal) and Melvin (Mel) Harms graduated in 1948 with bachelor's degrees in Physical Education and Mathematics and Physical Education, respectively. Growing up in Sumner, Iowa, his roots were deeply planted in rural, northeast Iowa. Steve was passionate about sports; he played football, basketball, baseball, golf, and track. After graduating from Sumner High School in 1969, Steve came to UIU to pursue a degree in Physical Education with a minor in Biology and to play football. Steve was always involved with campus life; he joined the Foxes fraternity, his senior year and was a member of the Letterman Club. While on campus, Steve met Diane Kinkead. She majored in Psychology and was part of the cheerleading team. They both graduated in 1973 and then married. Steve went on to teach Biology in Grinnell, Iowa and started working for Rain and Hail Insurance Service, Inc., adjusting claims during the summer school break. Steve transitioned to a full-time position with the company until 2011. Refereeing basketball for high school and college became an essential pastime for Steve for over 30 years. This passion started when he refereed junior varsity basketball games while at UIU. Over the past two decades, Steve has served graciously on the university's Board of Trustees providing leadership, vision, and guidance.

Steve and Diane started giving back to UIU during the 1985-1986 academic year. They both gave to the UIU Fund. That contribution would begin a legacy of giving back to their alma mater. Over the years, there has been an overwhelming dedication to UIU's students through their giving to academics and athletics. The Harms family has been instrumental with the building of the UIU Rec Center as well as enhancements including new flooring, establishment of the stately Harms-Eischeid Football Stadium in 2006, turf replacement in 2022, assisting UIU in moving to the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) conference in 2023, and the transformational gift to assist in the Reimagining UIU initiative this academic year.

The impact that Steve and Diane Harms have made on UIU is remarkable. Rick Hartzell, Vice President of Athletics, has seen up close the impact: "The generosity of Steve Harms is very simply overwhelming to me. He loves the Peacocks, as did his wife Diane, and what Steve has done to support Upper Iowa University and our athletic program has been program-changing and has impacted each of the nearly 400 student-athletes we have on our campus annually. We would not have the athletics program we have without Steve. Not only is he so generous, but he is also a dear friend, a loyal supporter of all our programs, and someone who is always looking for ways to help us and our student-athletes. From Harms-Eischeid Stadium, the new turf, annual donations, GLVC entry fees, the list goes on and on regarding what Steve has done. But what I love most about Steve is that he truly cares about our success and competitiveness, and having someone who wants that success for our coaches and athletes makes it great fun to come to work every day and try to make this program better."

Diane was a proud member of EYE where she formed lifelong friendships. In 2014 these sorority sisters poured their energy into refurbishing the President's Home. Diane also had fond memories of her time as a UIU cheerleader. This passion led to her development of the Diane Kinkead Harms Cheer Endowment, which supports the entire program annually. Diane wanted to ensure the team has what it needs to be successful and competitive.

Cheer Coach Bri (Dahring) Lawrence '23 reflected on the profound impact Diane had on the UIU community, sharing, "Diane was an incredibly special and vibrant individual who unconditionally loved and supported our team. After her sudden passing in 2021, we

“We would not have the athletics program we have without Steve. Not only is he so generous, but he is also a dear friend, a loyal supporter of all our programs, and someone who is always looking for ways to help us and our student-athletes.”



Steve does the official coin toss at a home football game.

Rick Hartzell
Vice President for Athletics

transforming lives and inspiring change

dedicated the next football game day in her honor, creating one of the most memorable game days I have ever experienced.”

During that game, Diane’s legacy was celebrated in several meaningful ways. The entire team wore ribbons with her initials, which were also shared with friends, family, and the community. A touching video was created, featuring the team performing a cartwheel, with Diane’s own cartwheel included at the end. Additionally, Coach Bri, along with the then-head coach and current dance team members, choreographed a special halftime showcase set to Diane’s favorite song, while photos of her were displayed on the screen.

“Diane not only touched the lives of all the past team members who knew her personally, but her legacy will continue to inspire future generations,” Coach Bri added. Thanks to the Harms family’s generous endowment, which now supports both the cheer and dance teams, the program may thrive for years to come. This endowment has enabled the team to purchase new gear, uniforms, and equipment, enhancing their growth and allowing them to showcase their Peacock Pride at more events, as well as travel to competitions. “We couldn’t do nearly as much without the unwavering philanthropic support and love from Steve and Diane,” Coach Bri emphasized. “I am deeply grateful for the Harms family’s charitable investment into our programs. I hope they know that

their generosity is making a significant difference in many lives, allowing students to pursue what they love during their college careers.”

Steve’s life-long connection with UIU consistently become more and more profound, which is evident in his regular visits to Fayette Campus and his steadfast attendance at home football games. He cherishes the appreciation shown by the football and cheer teams for his contributions, noting, “Nothing is greater than seeing the impact on our students and the team. It’s wonderful to see how proud they are of their stadium and how much they enjoy playing at UIU. The updated turf has even allowed the soccer team to benefit from the stadium.”

Looking to the future, Steve shares the vision of UIU’s reimagining, emphasizing the importance of maintaining academic integrity, creating championship teams, growing Fayette campus enrollment, as well as expanding the opportunities for our online students and programs. Reflecting on his journey, Steve advises, “Come back, get involved. Nothing is too small; you just have to get started. Small colleges are struggling, and it’s important to reinvest where people have invested in you. UIU students need your support.”

The Harms family’s Peacock Pride is evident, and their generosity continues to leave a lasting impact on the UIU community.

The Andres Family: A vision of beautification and education



Growing up in Fayette, Iowa, William “Bill” Andres always had a passion for his small community and the university that dwelled within the town. Bill could be found around town delivering groceries, showing his skill in magic, and enjoying nature and the outdoors. Bill was such a great magician that he was awarded a “magic” scholarship to come to UIU. Bill would help with recruiting by setting up a magic show to draw people in to learn about coming to the university. Those experiences would help Bill develop a strong stage presence that continued to serve him well in the future. While attending UIU for Business Administration (class of 1948), Bill met Betty Follett (class of 1946), who was going to school to pursue Elementary Education. Going back to their first date, where Bill used his magic to pull a silver dollar from behind Betty’s ear, Upper Iowa University played a huge role in the couple’s lives. After marriage, the couple kept UIU in their thoughts by becoming members of the “Buck a Month” club. That contribution was challenging at the time; with a growing family, they always took great pride in giving back. Bill and Betty welcomed three sons, Richard, Charles, and

Robert. The foundation of the family culture of giving was thereby established. Their dedication continued to grow as their family grew.

Bill was a wise businessman, and he knew you only get the chance to make a first impression once. In the 1990s, Bill and Betty invested in a large-scale landscape project on the run-down campus to transform it into the beautiful campus it continues to be today.

This beautification project led to the addition of 13 unique outdoor sculptures throughout campus and the establishment of the iconic Peacock Plaza. They also contributed to building the back nine holes of golf at Big Rock Country Club to entice visitors to enjoy Fayette. It is the only 18-hole golf course within 50 miles.



Another area of pride was the education that they received from UIU. It was important to Bill and Betty that the university continued with a strong education and business programs. Building the Andres Center for Business & Education was such an area of joy. Unfortunately, Bill could not see that dream come to fruition since he passed away in 2000. With the help of staff member, Ron Crooker, and her eye for detail, Betty could continue completing the building. The establishment of the Andres Department of Education, the Andres Department of Education Chair, and multiple scholarships continue the investment in students. Betty served on the UIU Board of Trustees for 20 years. In 2011, Betty was awarded an honorary doctorate degree. She passed in 2015.

The family speaks about giving time, treasure, and talent. The Andres family embodies that motto. The slogan continues to be seen at UIU today through establishing the Board of Trustee subcommittee called “Culture of Giving, Service, and Engagement.” This committee is chaired by their son, Richard Andres. Richard and his wife, Chris, continue his parents’ vision for UIU. Richard has served on the Board of Trustees for 14 years, while Chris is continuing the legacy through the beautification on campus. Chris was instrumental in refurbishing the President’s Home alongside Diane Harms and Sharon Duffy. Chris has contributed her time, resources, and skills each year to the President’s Ball. This cherished tradition at UIU for over a decade has been instrumental in raising scholarship funds for UIU students and rekindling alumni connections. The Andres Foundation contributed a transformational gift to assist in the Reimagining UIU initiative this academic year. This initiative lays the groundwork for growth and strengthens the university’s future for years to come.



“The impact of the Andres Family’s contributions to Upper Iowa has left an everlasting imprint... They are truly genuine people who have a giving heart that bleeds peacock blue.”

*Dr. Billie Cowley '03, '08
Dean, Academic & Educational Affairs*

Walking on campus, the Andres family contributions can be seen and felt wherever you are. The family’s vision has helped establish our Student Philanthropy Council. This group started the class gift-giving so upper classmen and soon-to-be grads could give back upon their graduation. Over the years, multiple students have been impacted by the scholarships established by the Andres Foundation. Richard & Chris Andres and Dr. Charles & Janet Andres take pride in knowing these scholarships not only honor their parents in an incredible way but will continue to make a difference for UIU students in perpetuity.

Dr. Billie Cowley '03, '08, dean of Academic & Educational Affairs, shared, “The impact of the Andres Family’s contributions to Upper Iowa has left an everlasting imprint. The story of Bill and Betty sending \$1 a month is inspirational. The dedication to continuous giving led to many more gifts from Bill and Betty. They modeled the importance of giving back to their children, grandchildren, and others. Their children and grandchildren have also been instrumental in the beauty seen around the Fayette Campus. Specifically, Richard and Chris have always supported our students, faculty, and staff. Whether it was contributing the final big gift to endow Betty’s Team Fund to make a larger impact in supporting professional development and instructional technologies for education students and faculty or donating money to repaint the Andres Center for Business and Education. I’ve been at President’s Balls, where Richard has challenged people to donate, and he would

match up to a certain amount. They are truly genuine people who have a giving heart that bleeds peacock blue. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful people in our Peacock Family.”

One memory that stands out for Richard was when he and Chris were in Fayette for a UIU event. They were eating downtown. They had just finished paying for their meal and their server noticed their last name on the credit card. This server stated that she was a UIU student and their family had donated for the scholarship she had been awarded. She was so grateful for that scholarship and its impact on her education and life. Each year, they receive thank-you notes from recipients of the scholarships. Those notes mean the world to them.

When driving around campus and looking at UIU, there is pride from the whole family. Bill and Betty would walk the entire campus when coming to Fayette. The vision for the university was so clear in their heads. Peacock Plaza is the cornerstone of campus, greeting all who visit UIU. When he sees the sculpture of Entrepreneur, Richard always thinks of his father. His mother is remembered through their campus visits together. Betty always felt like a princess when she came to Fayette, and the employees at UIU always made her feel so special. The Andres Family tradition of being connected and engaged continues with the next generation of their family. Richard & Chris’ three children, Steve (Ashley), Brad (Jess), and Emily (Gene) have contributed to UIU and attend Homecoming often. Seeing their children with a passion for UIU has been very rewarding for Richard and Chris. The couple’s grandchildren are also proud Peacocks and make it a point to find Pete the Peacock during every campus visit. Their family will continue with the vision their grandparents had and make a significant impact on future Peacocks.



The Andres family continues to get involved with the big projects, but they love helping with the smaller projects that have a notable impact. In the future, they want to continue to focus on the culture of giving, service, and engagement. Seeing alumni get involved and paying it forward is so rewarding. The emphasis on student philanthropy is critical to the framework of our future connection with alumni. Supporting our graduates to go on and be successful is evident in the 94% graduate outcome rate of those who are employed or continuing education. Keeping our student’s future success in mind will remain a focus for UIU for decades.

The Harms and Andres families have profoundly shaped Upper Iowa University through their unwavering support and generosity and we are forever grateful. Their legacy of giving, service, and engagement continues to inspire future generations of Peacocks. By reconnecting, getting involved, and sharing their time, treasure, and talent, these families have ensured UIU’s success and growth for decades to come. 🦚

The power of perseverance: Frank Huff's inspiring journey to a college degree



James “Frank” Huff knew he wanted to complete his college degree to better position himself for advancement in business and out of a sense of personal fulfillment. However, he didn’t know just how motivated he was until he found himself “sitting on a nothing mattress” in a hot, cinderblock dorm room in Fayette back in 1982 and still resisted the urge to throw in the towel on his academic dreams.

A native of Georgia, Huff worked as a shipfitter at a Newport News shipyard for many years and also served for 30 years in the Naval Reserves. Huff first learned about UIU’s innovative Coordinated Off-Campus Degree Program (COCDP) when he encountered a UIU administrator at an event in Norfolk, VA around 1980. He quietly started to work on his degree shortly thereafter, all the while dreading the program requirement that he attend four weeks of in-person classes at the Fayette Campus. Even up until the day of his departure to Fayette, and with nearly all of his degree requirements complete, Huff wavered, unpacking and re-packing his suitcase before finally asking a shipyard supervisor to drive him to the airport.

Upon arrival, Huff remembers sitting in his dormitory wondering if he had gone crazy for taking this education and career step well into his 40s. He even packed up his bags once more to head home, but before he could do so, encountered a gentleman he thought looked to be well into his 60s who was also enrolled in UIU’s adult learning program.

“If a guy his age thought a degree was important enough to suffer this much for it, and if he can do it, well then I can too,” Huff recalls thinking at the time.

Huff eventually learned to embrace his time in Fayette. He recalls learning a great deal from UIU’s professors and classmates and enjoyed becoming familiar with some of the regulars in downtown Fayette, many of whom were interested in his work at the shipyard. He remembers attending an event at the President’s Home and getting rides around town from the City Police Chief.


“If a guy his age thought a degree was important enough to suffer this much for it, and if he can do it, well then I can too.”

Frank Huff '82

One specific memory embedded in Huff’s mind involves a radio he had rented from a store on Fayette’s Main Street that he would listen to it while working on assignments or relaxing in his Maltbe-McCosh dorm room. One evening, another COCDP student shuffled by the room looking lonely and depressed. Turning back, the classmate asked Huff if he could borrow the radio for a bit. Huff recalled seeing him later that day, sitting in his room with eyes closed listening to the radio and a contented look on his face. This always stuck with Huff as he recalls the many different backgrounds of students who put in the work and made sacrifices necessary to complete the COCDP education program offered by Upper Iowa.

Huff eventually settled in Hampton, VA, and put his degree to use by working in commercial real estate for decades. Huff eventually became the owner of several commercial properties, including the Sans Souci Motel, the only motel on Buckroe Beach in Hampton. Recently, Huff sold the property and several surrounding it to the City of Hampton for development purposes.

Frank lives with his wife, Bettie, between two homes in Hampton, one on the beach and one inland. He enjoys spending time with his three children and seven grandchildren. Huff still thinks of his UIU experience often, and is proud that despite the challenges of pursuing his degree as an adult learner, he never gave up on his dream of earning a degree.

To read more COCDP success stories, visit uiu.edu/50Years. 



FOR WHEREVER YOU ARE AND WHEREVER YOU'RE GOING

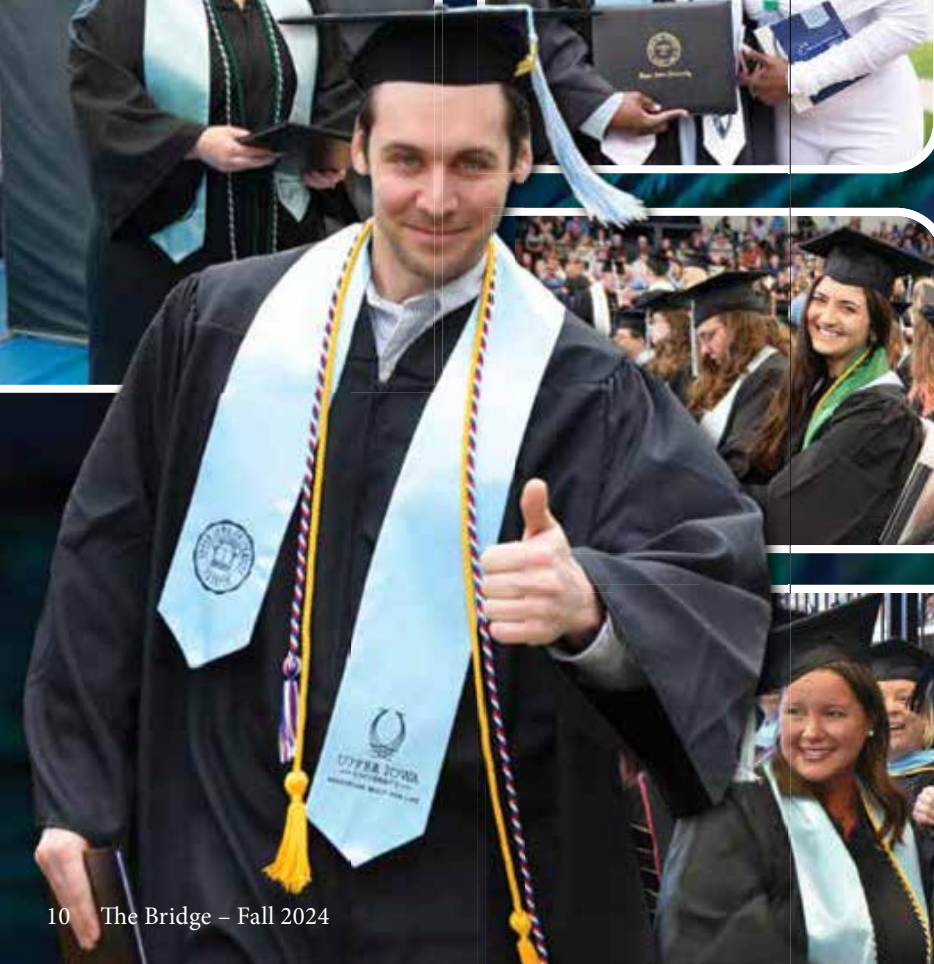
Going back to school at any age, no matter where you are in life is always possible!

To learn more about UIU's Self-Paced or Online degree programs, visit us online today!

uiu.edu/programs

COMMENCEMENT 2024 RECAP!

Upper Iowa University's Commencement ceremonies were held at the Fayette Campus on Saturday, May 4, 2024. To view all photos, visit our website at uiu.edu/commencement.





Inspiring messages challenge graduates to go forth, prosper, and support one another

Upper Iowa University celebrated the Class of 2024 at Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, May 4, on the Fayette Campus. Those present listened while Kathy Franken delivered her first commencement address as the 22nd President of UIU. “Graduates, you have worked tirelessly to reach this point, and we are all incredibly proud of your accomplishments. Despite challenges, you have persevered, developing critical thinking, communication skills, and valuable knowledge. Whether starting your professional career, seeking a new job or promotion, or achieving a personal goal, go forward and make a difference – you now have the power to shape your future. Congratulations to you all!”

The ceremony continued with the Commencement address from **Dr. Celina Peerman '99**, who stated, “I am convinced with more intention, gratitude, energy, and a healthy dose of humor, we can change the world. Note the word “we.” It is not possible with an ‘I.’ It must be done together! While individuals make a significant impact, to keep that momentum going, it takes the work we do together to make it happen.”

Dr. Peerman has over three decades of experience in organizational psychology. Her extensive career spans various industries and organizations, including 18 years at UIU. Her dedication to enhancing organizational results through innovative engagement of human resources is well recognized.

As a seasoned presenter, Dr. Peerman has shared her insights at countless conferences at local, state, and national levels.

Her international work in Asia, Canada, and Central and South America has further broadened her perspective, deepening her commitment to fostering conversations that challenge, explore, and pursue opportunities for performance improvement.

True to her word, she provided the graduates with three guideposts to life, which she encouraged them to live by in the years to come: 1) We will always need each other, so invest in those relationships. 2) Life is full of stages and phases. Remember, no one has it all figured out. 3) Organizations, large or small, are complex. Not one of them is perfect because people create them. However, we need you to lead from whatever role you are in. She wrapped up by reinforcing her main message: live by example and always be there for others.

Approximately 350 students from all UIU locations were recognized for earning their degrees during commencement ceremonies at Dorman Gymnasium in Fayette, Iowa. Special recognition was offered to our Csomay graduates, students graduating with honors, and military and veteran students. So, this class now joins a network of over 47,000 alums who can make a difference for UIU.

As a private, nonprofit university, UIU provides undergraduate and graduate degree programs to 6,292 students at its main Fayette Campus and 11 U.S. education locations in Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. To view videos and images from the 2024 ceremonies, visit our website at uiu.edu/commencement. 





Empowering others: Business owner and UIU alumna Dr. Celina Peerman’s impact on workplace culture



Dr. Celina Peerman '99 currently serves as an organizational psychologist with over 30 years of experience from frontline to senior-level positions in several industries and organizations, including 18 years with Upper Iowa University. She has presented at several conferences for local, state, and national audiences. Additionally, her work worldwide further developed her desire to listen, learn, and lead conversations with various companies, explore challenges, and pursue opportunities to help drive performance within the workplace.

Celina is a UIU alumna with a master’s degree in business leadership, a Ph.D. in psychology, and undergraduate degrees in psychology and international studies. She is a two-time TEDx presenter, podcaster, and writer. She presents at over 250 events a year—including large and small groups and many one-on-ones. Yet, her main program helps team members make a more positive impact on others in the workplace, at home and in their community.

Undoubtedly, her career is impressive. But who is she, and what drives her to ensure businesses encourage their employees to develop a more positive impact on those in the workplace? First and foremost, she is a wife and mother of two grown daughters. She thrives on a positive outlook and credits her high school psychology teacher for helping her realize her main interest in helping people. During high school and college, she participated in several international trips to Australia and New Zealand, a service trip to Mexico, and a six-month study abroad opportunity in South America. So, these experiences cultivated her international perspectives and reinforced the importance of supporting one another in all walks of life.


After college, as a staff member at UIU, Celina wanted to differentiate herself from other candidates in the HR field, which made her eager to learn more and obtain her master’s degree. Later, she was encouraged to pursue her doctorate and earned the highest level of education in her field. “As a student, I went back into research and became a good consumer of information because you have to look at the data and evidence. Then you figure out how this applies to real life,” said Celina. “But what really interests me is how we make informed decisions in our lives, how we look at the world around us knowing our biases and the lens we see through it. So, for students looking to further their education, I challenge them to see this and continue to keep learning even after they earn their degree because there is always more to learn.”

When asked what she loved about UIU, she said, “I learned so much at UIU. Part of that was being able to lean on the network I had built over my 15 years of working there, both in administration and education. As a young mom, I realized I wanted more family-friendly options and the ability to teach, but I wondered how I would balance that with a growing family. Eventually, through my work experience and ambition, I began to pursue my own business and challenge myself with new growth opportunities.”

Celina has achieved this balance by advocating for organizations to support their employees and bring out the best in them. “The data proves that when companies put their employees first, it shows. People perform better, and businesses become more profitable and sustainable when you take care of your people,” she said.

Speaking of growth, she has picked up new business opportunities to work with international groups this fall, starting in Bali and next year in Africa. Additionally, she has a couple of books in the works that need to be completed by 2025. The possibilities for her are endless.

Overall, Celina’s main objective, aside from spending time with her family, is to support others in a way she feels supported. Celina’s father was a career-long preacher who was always called away on emergencies, no matter what was going on, day or night. This concept ingrained in her the importance of being there for others in her life and work. “If I can spend the rest of my life doing that, just showing up for people when they need me—that is all that matters,” said Celina.

This theory is one of the reasons why coming back to Upper Iowa to speak at Commencement brought her full circle. “For many years after I left UIU, I was an adjunct instructor, and I think I missed out on the opportunity to stay connected with some important people in my life at UIU. I felt like I lost that connection, and Commencement allowed me to reconnect. Not to mention, being able to contribute to an amazing weekend of events, such as the Inauguration of Kathy Franken and speaking at Commencement,” she said. “So, I’m just grateful for this gift, and I want to be able to support the staff, faculty, and students at UIU in any way I can. This opportunity is why I am proud to be an alumni of UIU and proud to be a Peacock!” 



Celina’s family (l-r) includes: Philip Zuhlke (son-in-law), Elizabeth Zuhlke (daughter), Annie Peerman (daughter), Celina and her husband, David Peerman ‘07.

Introducing a new Master of Arts in Psychology graduate degree

Upper Iowa University introduced a new graduate degree program in the fall of 2024. The Master of Arts in Psychology degree is 100% online and will provide student opportunities for career advancement, especially for leadership and managerial positions. For students aspiring to pursue a Ph.D., the Master of Arts in Psychology at UIU provides a robust foundation. The program's comprehensive curriculum and emphasis on scholarly interests make it an excellent stepping stone for those looking to advance into doctoral studies in a psychology subfield.

With a Leadership and Professional Development Emphasis, the Master of Arts in Psychology was designed to be affordable, flexible, and will equip students with career-related skills, including data analytics, professional communication, critical thinking and leadership skills. This completely online degree is student-centered with the flexibility for students in mind. Unlike some other online programs, students get to know the faculty teaching the program and also have direct opportunity to interact with their peers. UIU faculty will personally advise and mentor students throughout their time in the program.

"All of my students have different motivations for attending school—they vary being interested in behavior, wanting to work in an industry, or wanting to help others," said Hillary Wehe, assistant professor in the department of psychology and human services.



Dr. Hillary Wehe

"At the core of each is a desire to learn. That desire doesn't stop after their undergraduate program. The Master of Arts in Psychology program at Upper Iowa was designed with our students in mind. It was designed to support each student in fulfilling their passion to learn, while also providing skills that better prepare them for the workforce and further graduate training. The masters-level psychology program at UIU is a flexible, personalized, fully-online program that explores a variety of topics relevant to the field of psychology."


“The MA in Psychology at UIU is more than a degree—it’s an investment in a future that advances both individual aspirations and the collective good.”

Dr. Doug Binsfeld
Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Carrying a 31-credit hour requirement for completion, most students can complete their graduate degree in about one year. Putting further emphasis on the flexibility for the student, the Master of Arts in Psychology degree has two start times per year, Session 1 (fall) and Session 3 (spring), and also has convenient 8-week long courses.



Dr. Doug Binsfeld

"At UIU, we are committed to delivering top-tier educational programs that not only meet the demands of today's job market but also empower our students to achieve their personal and professional goals," says Dr. Doug Binsfeld, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. "The MA in Psychology program at UIU provides rigorous academic training and prepares graduates to excel in diverse settings. This program aligns with UIU's mission to inspire success and empower lives by offering accessible, high-quality educational opportunities. It is tailored to foster critical thinking, ethical responsibility, and a deep understanding of human behavior, all of which are integral to personal and community success. The MA in Psychology at UIU is more than a degree—it's an investment in a future that advances both individual aspirations and the collective good." 



OCTOBER 7 - OCTOBER 13, 2024

UIU.EDU/HOMECOMING

There's no better time to visit Fayette Campus than Homecoming! Reunite with your Peacock family, reminisce your favorite memories, and be proud Upper Iowa University is your alma mater. This schedule of events is jam-packed with something for everyone – regardless if you're able to make it to Fayette Campus or enjoy the week's activities from afar. We look forward to seeing you on Fayette Campus soon!

Peacock Palooza²⁰²⁴

UIU HOMECOMING

2024 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Window Painting

Let your imagination run wild with this year's theme "Peacock Palooza!" Use the hashtag #UIUHomecoming to share your creativity.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Virtual Reality Car Racing

Student Center | 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Students and the Campus community will love this simulated racing game. All are welcome to participate in this free event.

Pep Rally, Coronation & Bonfire

Peacock Pavilion (tailgate area) | 7:00 pm

Don't miss the crowning of this year's royalty, followed by the traditional bonfire!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Powderpuff Football

Harms-Eischeid Stadium | 7:30 pm

The gals take the field! Join in the competition or sit back and cheer on your favorite team - either way, Peacocks win!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Welcome Home Dinner

Pete's Bar & Grill (downtown Fayette) | 5:30 pm

This complimentary dinner is the perfect way to kick off the weekend for all alumni and their guests! UIU Board of Trustees looks forward to your company. Business casual attire. RSVP is required.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

4th Annual Homecoming Golf Fundraiser

Big Rock Country Club | 9:00 am

Hosted by members of SOB and FOXES, this golf tourney is open to all. The entry fee is \$250 and includes golf, cart, and lunch. Proceeds support the Peacock Athletic Fund. To sign up, contact Rick Knipper '73 at 319-530-2343 or Bill Roths '74 at 319-240-9411. Registration begins at 9 am with play to follow at 10 am.

"Make Your Mark" at UIU

Henderson-Wilder Library | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Alumni, students, and employees are invited to stamp their handprints on the library wall located on the third floor. Hosted by your friends at the library, this activity is free and all supplies are furnished. While you're there, share your favorite UIU story at the self-recording station on the main floor. This collection of stories will be added to the University Archives.

Guided Sculpture Tour

Student Center North Entrance | 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Enjoy a walking tour of the Fayette Campus and learn all about the unique sculptures and other iconic points of interest along the way. Be entertained by your Peacock tour guide and former Dean of Students, Louise Scott.

Research, Internship & Creative Endeavors

Baker-Hebron Hall | 1:00 - 2:30 pm

The event spotlights academics, featuring research project posters, internship posters, and creative works presented by students and faculty.

Peacock Soccer

Harms-Eischeid Stadium | 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Peacocks will face the Drury University Panthers.

Homecoming Ball "Night of the Peacocks"

Special thanks to Roger & Alice H. Mangan,
our Title Sponsors!

Student Center Ballroom | 5:30 pm

Guests may enjoy a cocktail reception, delectable food, games, and dancing! The dinner program will be an extra special treat as we recognize the Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2024 Inductees, among other surprises. Consider sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$1,000 (Silver) to \$25,000 (Blue Diamond). Advanced tickets are \$85; UIU student tickets are \$50. All proceeds of this fundraising celebration support the UIU Fund. Cocktail attire/black-tie optional. **RSVP is required.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Alumni Awards & Honor Class Brunch

Student Center Ballroom | 8:30 am

We are thrilled to announce the Alumni Awards honorees and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Class of '74. Also, the Classes of '84 and '79 will be recognized for their 40th and 45th reunions. UIU Heritage Society members will also be recognized. All alumni and guests are welcome to enjoy this complimentary event, hosted by the Alumni Association. *Peacock spirit attire. RSVP is required.*

Live Music!

Tailgate Area | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Ramp up for the big game while enjoying live music featuring Balvanz & Powers (acoustic rock). Proudly hosted by the Peacock Tailgate Association.

Homecoming Parade

Fayette Campus | 10:30 am

NEW Route! The parade begins near Peacock Plaza on Washington Street, loops around the Campus perimeter, and proceeds toward Victory Gate and even through the Peacock tailgate area! Submit a free entry at uiu.edu/Homecoming.

Alumni House Tailgate Party

Alumni House | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

All alumni and guests are welcome to stop by for complimentary drinks and snacks; freewill donations are accepted. Peacocks celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35-year reunions be sure to ask for your free gift! (Classes of 2019, 2014, 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994 and 1989.)

Homecoming Football Game

Harms-Eischeid Stadium | 1:00 pm kickoff

Let's cheer on the Peacocks to victory vs. William Jewell College Cardinals. Our Homecoming Grand Marshal will participate in the coin toss, plus, Hall of Fame Inductees, Alumni Award honorees, and the 50-year class will all be recognized on-field during the game.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Peacock Soccer

Harms-Eischeid Stadium | 12:00 pm & 2:30 pm

Peacocks will match up against the Southwest Baptist University Bearcats. Women's Soccer begins at noon, and Men's Soccer will follow at 2:30 pm.



Shop the Campus Store!

Located inside the Student Center. Stop by for some new Peacock swag or visit shop.uiu.edu

Homecoming hours are as follows:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- Thursday & Friday: 11:00 am-7:00 pm
- Saturday: 8:00 am -11:00 am
(Harms-Eischeid Stadium Store: 12:00 pm-end of 3rd quarter)

Support the 2024 Homecoming Fundraiser!

Whether you purchase an event ticket or step up with a sponsorship, give a gift in honor of your reunion year, or are unable to attend but still wish to show your support, please know ALL contributions are very much appreciated!

Gifts will support the UIU Fund, which directly impacts students and emerging needs of the University. Thank you in advance for helping us reach our \$220,000 goal!

For more information or to RSVP, visit

uiu.edu/Homecoming



or contact the Alumni office at

563-425-5388 or alumni@uiu.edu

Upper Iowa University
Cordially Invites You to the

HOMECOMING BALL

Night of the Peacocks

Friday, October 11th | 5:30 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom
Fayette Campus

Cocktail Reception * Dinner Program * Games * Dancing

The entire Peacock family is invited to this fundraising celebration. The dinner program will be an extra special treat as we recognize the Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2024 Inductees, plus intertwine many other fun surprises. It's a Homecoming event you won't want to miss!

Cocktail attire / black-tie optional.

For Tickets & Sponsor details,
uiu.edu/HomecomingBall



**Special Thanks to Title Sponsors,
Roger & Alice H. Mangan!**

New to UIU – uiuFlex semester learning

In today's fast-paced world, balancing education with personal and professional commitments can be challenging. Recognizing this, Upper Iowa is excited to introduce the uiuFlex Semester course schedule—a revolutionary approach to learning that combines the freedom of self-paced, online coursework with the personalized support of one-on-one mentorship. This innovative program is designed to give students the flexibility to succeed academically without sacrificing their other responsibilities. Whether you are a working professional, a busy parent, or simply someone looking for a more adaptable educational experience, the uiuFlex Semester offers the perfect solution to help students achieve their academic goals.

“The uiuFlex Semester, specifically for Master of Business Administration (MBA) students, is a fantastic option for students needing more flexibility with their course work. Staying true to the university mission, students of the uiuFlex Semester can now take advantage of the flexibility when needed while still taking classes through our online classes offered each session,” said Becki Wissmiller, MBA program director and business lecturer. “We recognize the need for options when life throws curve balls, and we are excited to offer this new opportunity to students and meet them where they are in life.”


Upper Iowa's uiuFlex Semester combines the flexibility for students to work at their own pace and submit coursework online with the guidance and support of one-on-one personal attention via 14-day check-ins, all with the familiar, semester-based schedule. With the uiuFlex semester, students can access their course materials online, including textbook information and detailed instructions for completing the course. With the flexibility of the course structure, the student can navigate the course at their own pace, with faculty scheduling check-ins every 14 days for guidance and support. As assignments are complete, students submit them electronically using uiuLearn.

“ We recognize the need for options when life throws curve balls, and we are excited to offer this new opportunity to students and meet them where they are in life.”

Becki Wissmiller,
MBA Program Director and Business Lecturer

Advantages of the uiuFlex Semester Program:

- Allows students to learn in new ways
- Makes learning available to those who cannot attend a traditional class
- Three start dates a year with rolling admission
- Flexibility for students to work at their own pace on coursework from anywhere
- Personalized one-on-one contact with faculty
- Transfer up to 78 lower division and 12 upper division credits to UIU
- Ability to complete courses at an accelerated pace
- Proctored exams are not required for students taking web-based courses

With the traditional semester format, combined with flexibility and personalized attention, Upper Iowa is excited to introduce this new learning experience that meets students where they are in life! 

Cultivating tomorrow's environmental leaders:



Students take a break along the Volga River and reflect on a job well done during their annual river cleanup effort. This volunteer community service project, held during Fayette Appreciation Day 2023, included the UIU Science & Environment Club and students from Herpetology and Principles of Biology II classes. Together, they have removed truckloads of garbage on this canoe/kayak float over the years. Pictured (front row, left-right) are Delaney Miller, Gus Joyce, Daniel Pranger, (middle row) Colton Heintz-Kuderer, Christian Cutsforth, Lucas Riberich, and standing Eli Van Roeckel.

Peacock students pursuing a Conservation Management degree come from diverse backgrounds and geographic areas, but they all share genuine care and concern for natural resources. In addition, they possess a strong work ethic, work collaboratively, encourage one another, have a love for the outdoors, and strive for similar long-term career goals - which all help the environment in some way, shape, or form. Future professions may include conservation officer, fisheries biologist, naturalist, environmental services specialist, park ranger, wildlife biologist, and beyond.

So, what does a day in the life of a Conservation Management student look like? Some of these degree-seeking students are also athletes, so it's common to start with a 5 or 6 a.m. lifting or workout, then head to class, which could be identifying birds in the Churburck Prairie (located within Fayette city limits) or fieldwork collecting soil and water samples in nearby streams. In the afternoon, after primarily field-based labs, they might meet up for group study or fun; it might entail fishing, a kayak float, or hunting on nearby public land.

Fayette, Iowa, is a mecca for students pursuing a career in natural resources. Surrounded by forested hills, tranquil rivers, scenic parks, and prime fishing and wildlife areas, its geography alone is a significant advantage UIU has over competing universities.

However, what sets UIU apart from the rest are its dedicated and passionate faculty members.



Dr. Jennifer Stoffel



Dr. Paul Skrade

Lead professors for this program include Dr. Jennifer Stoffel, professor of biology, and Dr. Paul Skrade, associate professor of biology. Combined, they have 24 years of educating Upper Iowa students. They believe that experiential learning, personalized

attention, and high standards and expectations have resulted in a unique brand for this program, which has been offered for over 50 years.

"The real-world skills, techniques, and landscapes we expose our students to help them hone in on which career path to take," said Dr. Jennifer Stoffel. "Our graduates are career-ready and highly sought after."

UIU has earned an excellent reputation within the industry, where there is a high demand for jobs. It's estimated that hundreds of Peacock graduates work within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. One standout alum is Pete Hildreth '01, the DNR's Conservation and Recreation Division Administrator.

Inside UIU's Conservation Management Program

“The biggest reward is seeing students come into the program with interest and leave with passion. Likely, they aren't getting rich with this career path, but they will make

the world a better place.”

Dr. Paul Skrade



Dr. Skrade is shown here banding overwintering Rough-legged Hawks. Photo by Erik Murry '18 (not pictured).

“Oftentimes, I'm fortunate to work with my students long after they graduate,” said Dr. Paul Skrade. “We're so connected! Our alumni have a broad range of experience, and they are willing to offer internships and serve as guest speakers to share their knowledge.”

Internships are a required component of the Conservation Management degree program, and Dr. Skrade and Dr. Stoffel firmly believe these are crucial to students' future success.

“This summer, we have a student researching land management with a goat herd, another is propagating rare species plants in Colorado, and another is working water patrol in Northwest Iowa, assisting with devastating flood damage from earlier this spring,” said Skrade. “These real-world experiences are incredible resume builders and a true gateway into securing jobs immediately upon graduation.”

UIU is incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with conservation programs all over the country. Partnerships




with local, state, federal, and private-sector agencies make research and grant programs possible, positively impacting our students, faculty, and the industry. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that industry growth will continue.

Dr. Jennifer Stoffel (left) and Gunner Mohs '18, conducting forestry assessments using a ceptometer in the Volga River Recreation Area. The ceptometer helps estimate canopy density through the leaf area index.

“While it's hard to think ten years into the future, we know people are needed within this industry now,” said Dr. Stoffel. “What fills my pot is knowing that I'm helping more diverse students get into this field where they will make a difference tackling little things that have substantial, long-term impacts.”

In order to achieve growth, UIU must continue to adapt. On the horizon is a pilot program to expand UIU Conservation Management beyond the Fayette Campus called *uiuWorks4U*. Students living throughout the country will now be able to participate in the degree program from afar. Students will join lectures via Zoom or from recordings and, for select classes, have lab interaction with professors in the field in Iowa. They still work closely with fellow students and continue to develop field skills in their area. A limited number of students are accepted into the program each semester, but UIU faculty members and current students are excited about this venture.

“For me, the biggest reward is seeing students come into the program with interest and leave with passion,” said Dr. Skrade. “Likely, they aren't getting rich with this career path, but they will make the world a better place.” 

How can Alumni help?

Alumni also have the power to make a difference for the program and ensure it continues to thrive. Three ways to help our students succeed within Conservation Management include:

1. Refer students to UIU! Dr. Stoffel and Dr. Skrade tout that this program has a high rate of conversion. Once a student comes for a Campus visit and receives a better understanding of the unique program offerings, they often enroll! Share a referral at uiu.edu/Alumni/Referral.
2. If you work within natural resources, make internships available to UIU students or volunteer to be an alumni guest speaker. These opportunities are priceless! Contact Dr. Stoffel at stoffelj@uiu.edu or Dr. Skrade at skradep@uiu.edu.
3. Field supplies, technology, student travel, and professional development will always be needed. Gifts to the Churback Deans Fund are very much appreciated and may be made online at uiu.edu/Give.



Above, Delaney Miller '24 is electroshocking fish in BIO 480 Stream Ecology. Understanding current stream populations and water quality metrics can help conservationists appreciate how their land management changes improve water quality.

To learn more about this program, scan the QR code or visit uiu.edu/ConservationManagement.



ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

Peacocks to welcome four new inductees into the Athletics Hall of Fame

Four new inductees to the Upper Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame have been announced. The honorees will be recognized as part of this year's Homecoming Ball on October 11, 2024. To learn more or RSVP, visit uiu.edu/HomecomingBall. The class of 2024 inductees are:



TYLER ADAMS
(ATHLETE) – BASEBALL
Graduated in 2014
Financial Management/Management Major

- Named to the Capital One Academic All-America Second Team and Academic All-District for NCAA Division II in 2014
- Named as a NCBWA Division II All-America Third Team selection in 2014
- Named to three separate All-Region teams (one first team, two second team) in 2014
- Named All-Region First Team in 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Named to All-Region Gold Glove team in 2012
- Named to the All-NSIC First Team and NSIC Gold Glove Team three times (2012, 2013, 2014)
- Named as one of Upper Iowa's two honored student athletes and nominated for the NSIC's Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award in 2014.
- As a senior, the center fielder hit .424 overall (13th NCAA/2nd NSIC) with 67 hits and a slugging percentage of .557 thanks to 9 doubles, 3 triples and a pair of homeruns. The Onalaska, Wisconsin native led the team in runs batted in (24) and runs scored (34). Adams recorded multiple hits in 21 games while registering 4 hits in a pair of games and 3 hits five times. Adams' long hit streak for the season was 29 games which included the last 8 games of 2013 and the first 21 contests of 2014. He closed the season on a 8-game streak of reaching base safely; his longest streak for reaching base this season was 31 straight games. Adams also registered 7 games with multiple runs batted in including one game with 3 driven in and 6 with a pair of rbi's.
- Adams has accumulated 217 career hits, the most in UIU's 130-year program history, and has a career average of .401 with only 52 strikeouts in his 541 at bats. Over his four seasons in Peacock blue, he has tallied 184 singles, 25 doubles, 6 triples and two home runs with a career slugging percentage of .480. He's scored 118 times, driven in 73 Peacocks and swiped 31 bases with a 75.6% success rate.



TIM BELL (COACH)
Graduated in 1976
Physical Education Major

- Inducted into Iowa High School Athletic Association Boys' Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020
- Coaching - Teaching Career - AR-WE-VA, High School,
- 40 Years - Head Basketball Coach, 527-302 Record



BRIAN BLACK
(ATHLETE) – WRESTLING
Graduated in 2006
Life Science Major

- 3x NCAA National Qualifier
- 2x All American
- Member of the 2002 team that finished at NCAA National Runner Ups - highest team placing by any sports team in UIU history. Brian was an All-American that season.
- 2002 - D3 All American (7th place)
- 2003 - D3 All American (6th place)
- 2004 and 2005 - UIU transitioned to D2, not eligible for NCAA postseason
- 2006 - D2 National Qualifier
- 2x Academic All American
- 2x Florida High School State Champion - Oviedo High School (Florida)
- Served as a team captain.



SAM BARBER (COACH)
Graduated in 1995
Recreation Major

- Head Wrestling Coach at Air Force for the last 10 years
- Coached 27 national qualifiers at USAFA. In addition to success on the mat, Barber has also mentored the Falcons in the classroom, as he guided 17 Falcons to become NWCA Scholar All-Americans. 81 wrestlers were named to academic all-conference teams.
- Served as the head assistant coach at Upper Iowa from 1995-99 before being named head coach in 1999. Barber also spent the 2002-01 season as a graduate assistant coach at Minnesota State-Mankato, where he earned his master's degree in educational leadership and experiential education in 2004. While there, Barber helped the Maverick's to a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Division II Championships in 2001.
- Won NCAA Division III National Championships at Augsburg in 2002, 2005 and 2007. In 2006, Barber was named Division III Co-National Assistant Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. Additionally, he coached 16 national champions and 60 All-Americans prior to coaching at Air Force, including a spectacular 2005 season in which 10 Augsburg wrestlers earned All-American honors on their path to the national championship.
- Barber's resume extends to the international stage where he was the head coach of the 2015 Junior Pan American Greco team, which finished second in competition. In 2012 he coached the FILA cadet Junior Pan American Freestyle and the 2013 FILA Junior Pan American Freestyle team, which captured gold medals; testament to his coaching ability across the wrestling arts. Barber is responsible for coaching Jesus Wilson, who placed second in the 1999 World Team Trials.

Men's Basketball Showcases Season to be Remembered




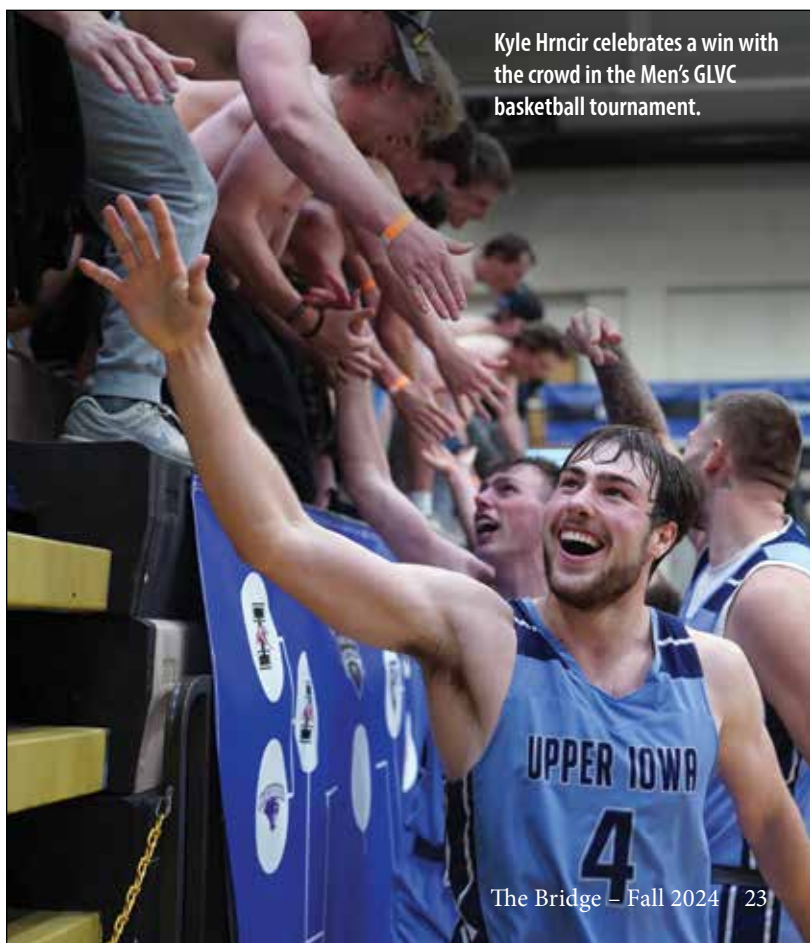
He shoots, he scores! Jake Hilmer broke UIU's all-time scoring record, finishing his five-year tenure with 2,552 points.

Peacock men's basketball ended their monumental campaign in the Regional Semifinal of the NCAA Division II Tournament as they came up just shy against Lake Superior State in an 88-80 decision. The squad finished with a 22-10 overall record and a 15-5 mark in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, placing second for the regular season. Men's basketball advanced to the second round of the NCAA DII postseason tournament for just the second time in program history, their last appearance coming in 2021-22.

The team boasted three All-GLVC Honorees; Jake Hilmer took home the GLVC Player of the Year, Noah King was named to the first team, while Kyle Hrnrcir was listed on the all-defensive team and all-freshman team.

Nationally, the Peacocks ranked first in turnovers per game with only 7.6 per contest and fifth in assist-to-turnover ratio, with 402 assists and 243 turnovers. They were slotted 17th in scoring offense with 96.4 points per game and 18th in free throw percentage (77.41%),

Jake Hilmer graduated as the program's most decorated player, securing a plethora of postseason awards; GLVC Player of the Year, D2CCA First Team, D2CCA Midwest Region Player of the Year, NABC All-District and NABC All-America. He broke the men's basketball all-time scoring record this past season, finishing his five-year tenure with 2,552 points. In addition, he cracked the all-time assist record, concluding his career with 623 dimes. 



Kyle Hrnrcir celebrates a win with the crowd in the Men's GLVC basketball tournament.


Women's Basketball Reaches New Heights in 2024-25 Campaign



Mia Huberty

UIU women's basketball finished the 2023-24 season with their best record since 2001-02, as they posted a 15-13 mark while going 12-12 in GLVC play. Their postseason run concluded in the GLVC Tournament Semifinals as they were unable to overcome the nationally-ranked Drury Panthers in an 88-82 decision. The Peacocks knocked off the two-seeded McKendree Bearcats 79-66 the day prior to advance to the semifinals behind four double-digit scorers; Kayla Bohr (21), Katie Tornstrom (15), Alaina Brenning (13) and Brooke Evenson (12).

UIU garnered three all-conference honorees for the first time in program history. Graduate senior Katie Tornstrom was named to the All-GLVC First Team, junior Mia Huberty was honored as an All-GLVC Second Teamer and graduate senior Brooke Evenson was named to the All-GLVC Third Team.

Within the conference, the team finished first in three-point field goals made (233), third in both field goal percentage (44.2%) and three-point field goal percentage (35.4%), and fifth in scoring (73.8 PPG). 

Men's Wrestling Captures Share of GLVC Crown

The 2023-24 Peacock wrestling team finished the season with a 9-5 record, a 5-1 mark in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and a share of the GLVC Championship.

A pair of All-Americans, Chase Luensman and Tate Murty, led the Peacocks to a 17th place finish at the 2024 NCAA Division II Championships. Luensman (165) concluded his wrestling career at UIU with a second-place finish at the 2024 NCAA Championships to close out a run that included the 2023 National Championship, three NCAA All-American honors and four trips to the NCAA Championships.

Murty earned his career-best finish at the NCAA Championships this year, placing fifth. The three-time All-American ended his season and his career on a high note as he posted a 9-0 major decision in the fifth-place match. In his four times at the NCAA Championships, Murty placed sixth in 2021 and eighth in 2023.

In December, Upper Iowa placed fourth at the 44th Annual Midwest Classic with 108.5 points behind five place winners in Indianapolis, Ind. Luensman (165) placed second, Murty (141) and Ethen Doty (149) came in fourth, Eric Faught (157) took fifth and Colter Bye (184) placed seventh.

Upper Iowa posted a 2-1 record on day one of the NWCA National Duals to claim a spot in the top eight after entering the event unseeded. The eighth-place finish marked the 14th time in the last 16 years that UIU placed in the prestigious event. UIU defeated Ashland (38-4) and Northern State (31-6).

Seven UIU wrestlers earned All-GLVC honors, including Bye and Faught were named to the First Team All-GLVC, Murty, Luensman, Jordan Baumler and James Davis earned All-GLVC Second Team honors, while Treyton Ackman grabbed a spot on the All-GLVC Third Team. 

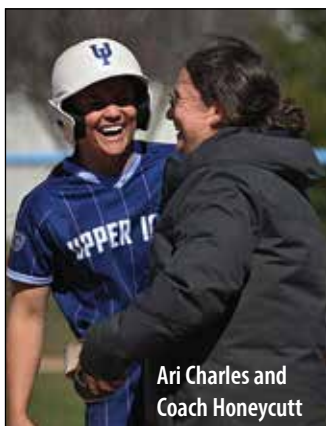


SPORTS SUMMARIES

Softball

Upper Iowa softball concluded their season with a 17-35 mark overall and a 7-19 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference under new Head Coach Aubrey Honeycutt. They swept both William Jewell and Quincy at home to help fuel their 4-6 record at the Eischeid Softball Complex.

In their inaugural season in the GLVC, Peacock softball was awarded the GLVC James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Team Award, becoming the first team in school history to receive this honor.



Ari Charles and Coach Honeycutt

Center fielder Ari Charles concluded the 2024 campaign as a GLVC Third-Team honoree after posting a team-high .324 batting average with 57 hits and 27 runs. During her tenure as a Peacock, she broke the single-season records for triples with nine (2024) and stolen bases with 36 (2023).

Baseball

The Peacocks finished the season 13-34 overall and 10-26 in the GLVC under new Head Coach Brian Voigt, placing them in a three-way tie for 12th. They improved from the 14th slot prior their last season series versus Truman State, where they picked up three out of the four games.



Gunner Wicklund

Gunner Wicklund was named GLVC Second Team following the season. He concluded his first year with the Peacocks, collecting a team-high 12 home runs on the season, good for 13th in the GLVC. The Brainerd, Minn. native batted .327 (53-162) at the plate and recorded a slugging percentage of .623. In addition to his 12 homers, he added eight doubles and three triples.

Women's Track and Field

The women's track and field program placed 10th out of 14 teams at the GLVC Track and Field Championships in Kirksville, Missouri, after collecting 15 team points.

In the running events, Haylie Hutchinson and Jordan Sekafetz each qualified out of the preliminary round for the 100m hurdles. In the finals, Hutchinson placed fifth with a time of 15.15 and Sekafetz added an eighth-place finish with a time of 16.02. Hutchinson also qualified for the 400m hurdles finals, garnering a seventh-place mark in a time of 1:08.01.

In the field events, Hutchinson notched a fifth-place finish in the triple jump with a mark of 11.31m, and Katie McEnery added a tie for seventh in the pole vault, posting a leap of 2.28m.

Cheer and Dance

The Upper Iowa cheer team attended Global's Hit Town Nationals in Clarksville, Tennessee in March and received first in their division.

The squad participated in two full days of the competition while down in Tennessee. On day one, the team received first in their division and found things they could improve upon for the next day. UIU cheer kept the title of first in the division at the conclusion of day two.

They fell short of receiving the award for overall grand champion, but they were the team with the highest improved scores from day one to day two, increasing their total by ten points.

Women's Golf

Upper Iowa competed in their first-ever GLVC Championships this season, where they placed 12th as a team. The Peacocks recorded a team score of 1081 (+229) over the course of three rounds of golf.

The unit was led by Katie Schweers, who earned a team best score of 260 (+47), which tied her for 41st place. Schweers notched a birdie in round one, while her best performance came during round two as she recorded a score of 85 (+14).

The squad hosted their annual UIU Invite in Waterloo, Iowa, in April where they placed a season-high of third place behind a score of 744 (+168).

Men's Golf

Upper Iowa closed out their first season in the new conference with an 11th place finish at the GLVC Championships. The Peacocks posted a team score of 942 (+78) over the three-day tournament, where one round of golf was played each day.

Tate Carlson led the way for UIU with a 15th place finish as he recorded a score of 221 (+5). Carlson hit one below par on day one, finishing with a score of 71 with five birdies. He hit five above par on day two with three birdies, and he added another four birdies on the final day, hitting one above par for a score of 73. Carlson's 12 birdies tied for the second most at the GLVC Championships.

The team finished with a season-best of fifth place at the golf meet in Spring Hill, Kansas, hosted by Rockhurst University.



Women's Golf (l-r): Katie Schweers, Ryah Bergeron, Delaney Martin, Brynn Bonefas and Lizzy Ellis.



Men's Golf (l-r): Dylan Burns, Christian Burkhart, Clayton Liddle, Caden Postma and Tate Carlson.

DONOR DOLL

SOFTBALL UNIFORMS



Peacock Softball supporters made things happen during the Peacock Power 24-Hour Challenge. Over \$21,223 was raised, enabling them to purchase new uniforms; as well as fund their 12-game trip to Florida over spring break.

STATE FAIR



Upper Iowa University has been a vibrant part of the Iowa State Fair for nearly two decades, and this year is no different! This incredible event is our chance to connect with alumni, future students, and fellow fairgoers. We owe all the thanks to the alumni donors and sponsors who keep us engaged at the fair.

PEACOCK EMPOWHERMENT FUND



The Peacock EmpowHERment Fund is dedicated to improving educational and athletic resources for our women's sports programs and reaching out to the next generation of girls in our communities. In December 2023, a total of 19 donors contributed \$2,632 during the Student Philanthropy Council Gift of Giving event.

Additionally, in May 2024, President Franken directed her Inauguration Fundraiser to support the Peacock EmpowHERment Fund, resulting in 47 donors, contributing \$18,754. These generous gifts will help inspire, empower, and support the success and excellence of our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators.



BASEBALL IMPACT



The Hot Dog Club offers former UIU baseball players an opportunity to support Peacock Baseball. For the price of a hot dog, or \$5 a month, 182 former players invested in the program.

The financial impact totaled \$23,605 over the past year,

translating into new uniforms, new equipment, and alleviating travel expenses. The continued support from the Hot Dog Club members plays an essential role in the growth of Iowa's only D2 baseball program.

DR. PARKER ELM TREE



The original Dr. Parker Elm Tree was planted around the time UIU opened its doors in 1857. It was transplanted from Bear Creek to the west campus gate by Dr. Charles Coleman Parker. He was the first physician for the town of Fayette and a longtime UIU Board of Trustee member.

It has been the university's commitment to keep an elm tree in place to honor the Parker family. Thanks to generous donations, the replacement Dr. Parker Elm Tree will be able to live and thrive at UIU for many years to come.

REFUELING STATION



Generous donors raised \$13,712 for the Athletics Refueling Station on Giving Day. Our Peacock student-athletes rely on this nutrition following their workouts to regain their strength and focus for the classroom.

ARS AT WORK



When we say your dollars will make a difference, we mean it! All of the projects below have been made possible by our incredible alumni donors and friends of the University. **THANK YOU!**

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD



We are pleased to feature the new mobile Smart Board/ViewSonic board for our classrooms on the Fayette Campus. These interactive tools will significantly enhance our instructional capabilities, providing our students with

dynamic and engaging learning experiences. Additionally, they will help prepare our students for the modern, technology-equipped classrooms they will encounter in the future.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Giving to General Scholarships provides dollars that directly support our students. On Giving Day in 2024, supporters generated \$11,582.

UV VIEWING CABINET



Kaiden Martin, a senior Conservation Management student looks within the new UV viewing cabinet that allows students to view objects in UV light safely.

Next to that is our four decimal place balance used for very precise measurements of mass. Both items were purchased thanks to donors who support the Churburck Dean's Fund.

CHOLESTECH LDX STARTER KIT



Fayette Business course students will be learning in style. The Exercise Science program recently purchased a Cholestech LDX System. The Cholestech LDX System is able to generate a lab-accurate, comprehensive measurement of a patient's cholesterol levels.

CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION



Our amazing donors stepped up once again to bring new life to campus. The Student Philanthropy Council secured \$632 to enhance the Fayette Campus beauty.

STREAM DRIFT NETS



The Science and Environment Club purchased stream drift nets to quantify the availability of cicadas to stream fish. This past summer a focus occurred on the conservation of native fishes, but it also provided UIU Conservation Management students an opportunity to strengthen

their collaboration, networking, communication, and scientific methods skills. Gifts totaling \$5,938 was generated thanks to 74 donors.

NEW INCUBATOR



The Science and Mathematics Department at UIU continues to provide an innovative and hands-on college environment, which is vital to student success. Churburck Dean's Fund supporters stepped up in a big way when presented with the need for a new incubator.

WRESTLING TRAVEL



The UIU Wrestling team won the Peacock Power 24-Hour Challenge generating \$46,879, thanks to lead donors, Roger and Alice Mangan and other wrestling fans.

Thanks to their generosity, airline travel was made possible for the Peacock trip to the NCAA Regionals held in North Dakota in March 2024.

CLASS NOTES

1960s Dr. William “Bill” J.

Daniels ’62, Rochester, New York, received the prestigious Eight Over 80 Award, from the University of Iowa. Awardees are honored for their passion, profession, or volunteerism—proving that age really is just a number. After receiving his BA at Upper Iowa University, Bill furthered his education earning his MA in 1964 and PhD in 1970, at Iowa.



Pictured left to right are Trisha Smith, Maryann Tully, **Fred Tully ’63**, **Bill Daniels ’62**, Twanda Christensen (Bill’s daughter), and **Nelson Evans ’64**.

1970s After taking several group European trips together with Destinations Unlimited, this group realized on a river cruise through France in July 2023 that six of them attended Upper Iowa University.



Pictured are front row (L-R): **Arlyn Robinson ’73** and **Joe McGillicuddy ’71**; middle row: **Vicky (Robison) Grover ’73**; back row (L-R): **Angie (McGillicuddy) Laures ’73**, Joe Baldus attended 1968-1970 and Jeri (Schroeder) McGillicuddy, attended 1967-1969.

1980s Karen (Johnson)

Damjanovic, ’81, Orchard, Iowa, retired and currently lives and manages her family’s century farm in Orchard, Iowa, with her husband of 30 years, Al, who is also retired.

Eric Dettbarn ’87, Monona, Iowa, earned his 500th career win in January 2024 coaching boys’ basketball at MFL MarMac. He has been coaching at MFL for over 36 years. Dettbarn retired from teaching in 2020.

1990s Bob Lape ’90, ’18, Oelwein,



Iowa, was inducted into the 2023 Iowa Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Bob is the head football and softball coach at Oelwein Community

Schools. He and his wife **Renee (Chapman) ’93** have three children.

Pam (Stadler) Erickson ’92, Valders, Wisconsin, has been teaching elementary physical education, middle school health, and K-12 Adapted Physical Education for the Kiel Area School District for 23 years. She also coaches varsity volleyball at Valers Schools. She has been married to her husband, Stuart, for 23 years and they have two daughters who are teachers and coaches.



Bruce Dall, ’93, Stout, Iowa, accepted the girls’ basketball coach position at Cedar Rapids Prairie. Previously, he coached at Dike-New Hartford for 14 seasons as their

girls’ basketball coach where he led the team to four state championships in Class 2A. His 29-year career record is 542-144.

Monica (Patterson) Reed ’96, Laveen, Arizona, has been married to husband Carl for 8 years. They moved from Texas to Arizona in 2021. Monica has been a

licensed social worker for 22 years in the emergency department at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa, Arizona.

Jeffrey Paul ’98, Grinnell, Iowa, retired after over 22 years from Priority Plastics as a shipping supervisor.

Janell (Curtis) Schmidt ’98, Linn Creek, Missouri, accepted the Chief Human Resources Officer position for Lexicon, Inc. in Little Rock, Arkansas. Janell has been the Vice President of HR for Elgin Fasteners Group and is an active-duty veteran.

2000s Rod Peterson ’00, Ankeny,



Iowa, was named Sales & Customer Service Manager for LeMar Industries, a Division of CTB Midwest in Des Moines, Iowa. Previously, Peterson was the parts and service sales manager

for a European-based agricultural machinery and heavy equipment corporation.

Amy (Carrier) Holst ’03, Elkader, Iowa, was named the new Economic Development Director/Main Street Elkader Director. She is also a small business owner, a real estate agent, and serves on the Elkader Fitness Center board.



Mike Augustine ’06, Strawberry Point, Iowa, was honored by the Iowa Football Coaches Association as the Class A Regional Head Coach of the Year. Mike is the head football coach at Starmont Community School District. He also coaches wrestling and teaches science to grades 9-12. Mike and his wife, Molly, have two children, Gabe and Rylee.



Samuel Moultrie '08, Hockessin, Delaware, has been named a shareholder in the Delaware office of the global law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Moultrie was named a 2024 ALM

attorney on the rise for a large firm. Samuel and his wife, LaKresha, have two children, Maximus and Mahalia.

Ryan Christoffer '09, Waterloo, Iowa, will assume the role of Principal at Lincoln Elementary in Waterloo, Iowa on July 1, 2024. He previously served as the district's elementary curriculum coordinator and has over 15 years of experience in the Waterloo School District.

Christa (Noel) Ardoin '10, Mamou, Louisiana, achieved the rank of Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, which provides organizations with tools to improve the capability of their business processes. She is a Child Welfare Specialist-3 at the Department of Social Services for the State of Louisiana.

Bryanna (McFarland) Mangrich '10, '22, Waterloo, Iowa, accepted a role as Complex HR Manager for ADM in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, prior to graduating with an MBA from UIU in 2022 and receiving her SHRM-CP certification.

2010s Blair Bonds '10, East Point, Georgia, was recently named to the Board of Directors of the East Point Historical Society as its Secretary/Treasurer.

Craig Jackson, Jr. '11, Las Vegas, Nevada, accepted a position at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement. He previously was the Associate Vice President of Development at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Kyle Reisinger '11, '19, Cedar Falls, Iowa, joined First Security Bank (Waterloo) as a credit analyst. He has several years of experience in banking and ag lending

and has also completed various credit and lending courses through the Risk Management Association.

Rob Sullivan '12, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has accepted a position at Wapsie Valley Creamery Inc. in Independence, Iowa as an Environmental, Health & Safety Specialist.

Kylee (Knop) Vargason '12, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been inducted into the Kirkwood Community College Athletic Hall of Fame as a softball player. She played for Kirkwood from 2008-2010.

Andrew Wenthe '12, Brookings, South Dakota, has accepted a position as the Associate Vice President for Development at South Dakota State University Foundation. For the past 19 years, Andrew worked for Upper Iowa University, most recently as the Vice President for External Affairs.

Tiffany (Jones) Malone '13, Madison, Wisconsin, is being recognized by Madison365 as one of Wisconsin's 28 Most Influential Black Leaders. Tiffany is a real estate agent with the Alvarado Group and co-founder of OWN IT: Building Black Wealth, a program that assists Black families to become homeowners.

Tyler Nelson '14, Stuart, Iowa, is the new Poweshiek County Conservation Director. Previously, he was the Natural Resource Manager for Guthrie County.



Zach Carlyle '15, Abilene, Texas, is the new communications specialist for the Iowa Department of Corrections. Zach, his wife, Emily, and their son, Tyler moved back to his home state of Iowa.

Shelby (Crist) Kobliska '15, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the Recreation Manager at Four Oaks in Hiawatha, Iowa. For the last four years, she was the Development Director of Eastern Iowa for the American Heart Association. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Cedar Rapids.

Earl Lewis '15, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, obtained a second master's degree in Computer Science with a concentration in Cybersecurity Engineering from Colorado Technical University in December 2023.

Aric Bishop '16, West Des Moines, Iowa, accepted a position as a circulation assistant at the West Des Moines Public Library in April 2024. He is currently working towards

his Doctorate of Education in Leadership at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2026.

Liu Ching Man '16, Stanley, Hong Kong, has been named the Executive Director of China New Consumption Group Ltd.



Aleesha (Cleaver) Rabedeaux '16, Oskaloosa, Iowa, has been appointed Athletics Director at William Penn University. Previously at the university, she

served as Associate Athletics Director and Senior Women's Leader. Rabedeaux resides in Oskaloosa with her husband, Beau, and daughter, Bloem.

Hope (Schmitt) Trainor '16, Waverly, Iowa, has been promoted to the Assistant Director of Online Education & Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. Hope and her husband, Jerad, reside in Waverly, Iowa with their four children.

Nicole (Meyer) Havenstrite '17, West Union, Iowa, and her husband, Shane, took ownership of Euphoria Coffee on January 1, 2024. Nicole has worked as manager of the coffee shop since 2018. The Havenstrites reside in West Union and have two sons.

William "Mike" Baker '18, Elgin, Illinois, has announced his retirement from the Buffalo Grove, Illinois Fire Department as their Fire Chief. Baker started his career in 1979 as a firefighter and paramedic in Hanover Park and rose through the ranks to Interim Fire Chief from 2011-2012. He joined the Buffalo Grove Fire Department in 2013 as a deputy chief and was promoted to Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director in 2015.

Elizabeth "Liz" (Cooley) Paulus '18, Mesa, Arizona, and her husband, Gerald, continue to strengthen their nonprofit, College Bound Arizona, serving low-income families in their community. Their organization, founded in 2010, supports high school students with college applications, financial aid application assistance, budgeting, and career development. Liz received her Master's degree in Education with a teacher leadership emphasis.

CLASS NOTES



Tanner Thompson '18, Fayette, Iowa, recently earned his Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation through Northwestern Mutual. He is a Financial

Advisor at Tanner Thompson - Northwestern Mutual in Fayette, Iowa.



Eric Van Horn '18, Guttenberg, Iowa, was hired as the Chief of Police for the City of Garnavillo, Iowa. He has been a Clayton County Deputy since 2021.



Ashley Wells '18, Jefferson, Iowa, joined the Floyd County Medical Center in Charles City, Iowa, as a nurse practitioner.



Ashley (Zietlow) Coy '19, LaValle, Wisconsin, has completed her certified public accountant exam and obtained her licensure. She is currently a Tax Manager at MBE CPAs LLP in Reedsburg, WI, having been with the company since 2016.



Trevor Crall '19, Albia, Iowa, has been promoted to manager of Commercial & Agriculture Lending at Community 1st Credit Union in Ottumwa, IA, where he has been with

the company for six years. Trevor and his wife, Allison, reside outside of Albia on his family farm with their three children.

2020s Bridget Saffold '20,



Waterloo, Iowa, is being honored as one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses for the Class of 2024. This program recognizes Iowa nurses who go above and beyond. She was instrumental in launching the "Focus

On Diabetes COVID-19 Assist Program," which provided supplies to more than 200 individuals. In addition to her non-profit, Bridget is also a Clinic Administrator for MercyOne in Waterloo, Iowa.

James Perry '21, Waverly, Iowa, has been recognized by the Waterloo Courier as a "20 Under 40" honoree. The newspaper recognizes 20 Cedar Valley business leaders who are under the age of 40. James has been the Chief Financial Officer for Exceptional Persons, Inc., in Waterloo since 2022. James and his wife, Megan, have two children, Ben (5), and Hazel (3).

Sarah Stevelinck '21, West Union, Iowa, joined Upper Iowa University as an assistant volleyball coach. She was a part of the UIU Volleyball team from 2020 to 2022.

Ashlyn (Ciesielski) Ackerman '23, Jesup, Iowa, accepted a position at Orange Elementary within the Waterloo Community School District as an early childhood teacher.

Joe Davis '23, Waterloo, Iowa, accepted a position with Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School as a fifth-grade Instructional Strat Teacher.

Hannah Dunn, '23, Altoona, Iowa, accepted a position with the Ankeny School District at Terrace Elementary as a transitional kindergarten teacher.

Anna (Voderik) Eppert '23, Perry, Iowa, accepted a position at Meadow View Elementary in the Adel DeSoto Minburn School District as a second-grade through fourth-grade special education teacher.

Welcome to the Peacock family, little ones!



Hannah (Miller) Schweigner '16, West Union, Iowa, and her husband, Chris, welcomed a son, Kasyn John, on June 12, 2024. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. Kasyn joins his siblings Tinley (3) and Breckyn (2).



Amber (Schuster) Tanner '08, Waverly, Iowa, and her husband, Mathew, welcomed their second child, a son, Elway, on September 29, 2024. He joins sister, Elaine.



Travis '08, '14 and Jenna (Rinehart) Hunt '14, Marion, Iowa, welcomed a baby girls, Lydia Faye, on January 24, 2024.

Kathryn Jaeger '23, Clinton, Iowa, accepted a position as a Strategist I Teacher at Jefferson Elementary, within the Clinton Community School District.

Carley Jeanes '23, Oelwein, Iowa, has been accepted into graduate school for veterinary medicine at Iowa State University.

Christina (Gigilo) Jesuroga '23, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, accepted a position as a seventh-grade language arts teacher at the Southeast Polk Junior High.

Marisol (Castillo) Lopez '23, Davenport, Iowa, accepted a position at Jefferson Elementary teaching second grade.

Christine (Harmening) McCubbin '23, Waverly, Iowa, accepted a position with the Waverly-Shell Rock School District as an early childhood teacher.

Scot Moenck '23, Delhi, Iowa, accepted a position as a history teacher and activities director at Maquoketa Valley Community School District.

Cristine (Wahl) Mehmen '23, Aplington, Iowa, accepted a position as a special education teacher with the Clarksville Iowa School District.

Kearston Norman '23, Fulton, Illinois, has accepted a position with the Fulton Elementary School as a third-grade teacher.

Anna Richards '23, Fairbank, Iowa, is the new Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor for the Clarksville School District, which is a newly created position. Clarksville students previously merged with the Nashua-Plainfield Future Farmers of America program for activities.

Michaela Uhlenhopp '23, Prairie City, Iowa, accepted a position as a first-grade teacher at Carlisle Elementary in the Carlisle Community School District.

Hunter Brooks '24, Joliet, Illinois, accepted a high school social studies teaching position at Wapello High School.

Andrew Cowell '24, Ankeny, Iowa, accepted a position third-grade teaching position at Westwood Elementary in the Ankeny Community School District.

Heather (Donahue) Daemen '24, Ankeny, Iowa, accepted a K-2 special education teaching position at Whittier Elementary in the Indianola Community School District.

Kenny Draeving '24, Beloit, Wisconsin, joined the Rockford Rivets Baseball Team in Loves Park, IL as a sales associate.

Marcus Gulley, Jr. '24, Peoria, Illinois, accepted a fourth-grade teaching position at Dr. Maude A. Sanders Elementary School within the Peoria Public School District in Peoria, Illinois.

Angie (Kriz) Hallett '24, Traer, Iowa, accepted a position at North Tama as the school's business teacher.

Brett Hejde '24, West Des Moines, Iowa, accepted a position at Waukee Elementary as a K-5 Instructional Strategist I.

Brittany (Thompson) Johnson '24, Maquoketa, Iowa, has accepted a position at Easton Valley Elementary in Miles, Iowa, as an Instructional Strategist II.

Chase Junk '24, Bellevue, Iowa, accepted a position as an Instructional Strat 1 Teacher for Middle & High School with the Bellevue School District in Bellevue, Iowa.

Paige (Norland) Kaperka '24, Des Moines, Iowa, accepted a position as an eighth and ninth-grade math special education teacher at Southeast Polk Junior High in Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Kayla Kelly '24, Fayette, Iowa, accepted a position as an admissions counselor at Upper Iowa University.

Elizabeth (Utterback) Miller '24, Des Moines, Iowa, accepted a first-grade teaching position at Studebaker Elementary in the Des Moines Public System.

Jayden Moeller '24, Waterloo, Iowa, accepted a position with Irving Elementary, Waterloo, as an Instructional Strategist.

Allison (Wagner) Nathem '24, Davenport, Iowa, has accepted a position as an elementary art teacher at Jackson Elementary.

Colton Sanders '24, Des Moines, Iowa, has accepted a position as a social studies teacher at Norwalk Middle School.

Christina (Brasmer) Schnede '24, Wheatland, Iowa, accepted a social studies teaching position at DeWitt High School.



Do you have something special to share?

Submit a class note at uiu.edu/alumniupdate, or contact the Alumni Office at alumni@uiu.edu.

Wedding Day Bliss Congratulations!



Riley '17, '20 and Breyanna (Hill) Braughton '18, '20 from Stanwood, Iowa, were married on June 8, 2024.

IN MEMORIAM

In honor of their memory, we proudly recognize these Peacocks and their special connection to UIU. Should you learn of the passing of a fellow Peacock, please notify the Alumni Office via email at alumni@uiu.edu or send us a note to P.O. Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142.

Richard Shimeall '50
09/15/2023, Magnolia, TX

Clara (Hendrickson) Wagner '55
04/18/2024, Artesia, NM

Rodney Rakowicz '57
03/04/2024, Olympia, WA

Jean (Garbee) Smith '57
01/11/2024, Winslow, AZ

Lloyd Haberkorn '58
03/06/2024, Ankeny, IA

Karl Moe '58
06/24/2024, Waverly, IA

David Pleggenkuhle '59
06/26/2024, Hawkeye, IA

Richard Bivona '60
02/25/2022, Brookfield, CT

Virginia (Schara) Youngberg '61
03/27/2024, Yucca Valley, CA

Robert Falck '63
08/23/2022, Grinnell, IA

Vincent Popolizio '63
07/12/2024, Bolingbrook, IL

Paul Wendt '64
08/01/2024, Traer, IA

Myrna (Laue) Moore '65
03/11/2024, Fredericksburg, IA

Frank Randall '65
06/18/2024, Maquoketa, IA

Arlene (Schutte) Taylor '66
12/31/2023, Clermont, IA

Sandra (Bodde) Szalkowski '68
02/04/2024, Nashua, IA

Rosemarie (Allen) McCoy '69
01/06/2024, Grundy Center, IA

Bennett "Buddy" Black '69
06/07/2024, Palatine, IL

Richard Butikofer '70
02/17/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Layton Lamb '70
03/31/2023, Springfield, IL

Delpha (McLaury) Andrusyk '72
10/23/2023, Tucson, AZ

Robert Greene '72
04/21/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Julia (Elsberry) Lorig '73
04/04/2024, Bicknell, IN

Karen (Harger) Aldun '74
06/15/2024, Georgetown, TX

Raleigh Amyx '74
06/30/2019, Hernando, FL

Severna (Johnson) Cowell '74
06/14/2020, Monona, IA

Alice Michel '74
09/24/2021, Bremerton, WA

Robert Pedersen '74
02/04/2023, West Liberty, IA

Larysa (Wanshula) Robinson '74
11/14/2020, Sandusky, OH

John Wilcox '74
06/17/2020, Geneseo, IL

Ralph Kitts '75
03/04/2024, Roanoke, VA

Sally (Dunn) McLaughlin '75
01/02/2023, Port Charlotte, FL

Bruce Steege '75
07/10/2024, Fredericksbrg, IA

Craig Bucknell '80
11/19/2022, Le Roy, MN

Logan Calhoun '80
05/31/2024, Lexington, KY

Madonna (Hughes) Cashman '80
01/18/2024, Waverly, IA

Cheryl (Everson) Cullison '83
03/24/2024, Beatrice, NE

Helen (Bunting) Lack '83
03/15/2024, Orchard, IA

George Tietz '85
04/01/2024, Walnut, IA

Eugene Woolsey '85
04/01/2023, Pekin, IL

Janice (White) Jensen '88
01/18/2024, Cedar Falls, IA

Kersten (Werner) Shepard '88
01/28/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Cindy (Deeds) Pecenka '90
02/05/2024, Washington, MO

Shirley (Engelhardt) Amos '91
05/30/2024, Greeley, IA

James Grant '91
04/23/2024, Norwalk, IN

John Williams '91
04/25/2024, Winthrop, IA

Elizabeth Audas '92
01/12/2024, Des Moines, IA

Deanna (Hon) Collins '93
05/25/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Georgia Conner '93
01/05/2024, Oelwein, IA

Dena (Brown) Shannon '93
05/23/2022, Huntley, IL

Georgia (Zuercher) Taylor '93
04/27/2024, Des Moines, IA

Jill (Branch) Lechtenberg '96
6/21/2024, Marion, IA

Joseph Bierman '97
03/19/2023, Prairie Du Chien, WI

Kenneth Hootman '97
03/01/2024, Marion, IA

Margaret (Egbert) Chari '99
01/22/2024, Cedar Falls, IA

Michelle Hackley '02
03/26/2024, Ottumwa, IA

Lynda (Swift) Brown '05
04/23/2024, Grimes, IA

Lorenzo Humphrey '05
07/19/2020, Indianapolis, IN

Janel Oster '13
04/14/2024, Deforest, WI

Daniel Zych '14
05/08/2024, Fridley, MN

Jennifer (Cole) Conner '16
05/18/2024, Maynard, IA

Former Adjunct Faculty
John Giallombardo
02/17/2024, Merrill, WI

FORMER FACULTY
David Mitchell
10/25/2023, Point Reyes Station, CA

FORMER STAFF
Mary Lou (Wedemeier) Blaschke
01/27/2024, Sumner, IA

Kent McElvania
03/05/2024, West Union, IA

Michael Steinbronn
02/10/2024, Fayette, IA

Sally (Kugel) Muller
03/12/2024, West Union, IA

FORMER STUDENTS

James Barnes
02/01/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Celeste "CeeCee" (Baum) Busby
05/07/2024, Waverly, IA

Thomas Busenbark
05/23/2024, Shellsburg, IA

Lois DeJoode
04/09/2024, Pleasantville, IA

Dolores "Dee" (Sorensen) Farrell
05/01/2024, Cresco, IA

Jacob "Bill" Ehr
06/12/2024, Mineral Point, WI

Lena (Gilley) Hiddleston
11/12/2023, Yukon, OK

Marilyn (Guyer) Knutson
06/16/2024, Clermont, IA

Michael Krzac
02/06/2024, Elmhurst, IL

Marsha (Montgomery) Maschmann
05/24/2024, Malcom, IA

Monica (Brunkhorst) Piersall
04/26/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Eugene Severson
06/11/2024, Belle Plaine, IA

Larry Toenges
03/16/2024, Sumner, IA

Victor Washington
11/22/2023, Milwaukee, WI

FORMER UIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George Woodard
04/06/2024, West Union, IA

FRIENDS OF UIU
Steve Greenwaldt
07/31/2024, Harpers Ferry, IA

Kenneth Keenan
02/06/2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

Jason Winter
09/01/2023, McGregor, IA



2024-25 ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Peacock alumni and friends of Upper Iowa University are invited to all of our get-togethers. No matter the occasion, these are great opportunities to reconnect with fellow alums, reminisce about your UIU experience, meet new friends, and most importantly—have fun! It would be our pleasure to see YOU at an upcoming event.



September 10: C.C. Parker Herbarium & James Parker Science Museum Dedication
– Fayette, Iowa

September 21: Men's Basketball Golf Outing
– Fayette, Iowa

September 25: Fall Internship & Career Fair
– Fayette, Iowa

September 27-29: Baseball Alumni Weekend
– Fayette, Iowa

October 3-5: Acacia Fraternity 50th Anniversary
– Fayette, Iowa

October 4-5: Volleyball Alumni Weekend
– Fayette, Iowa

October 7-13: Homecoming Week
– Fayette, Iowa

October 11-13: Soccer Alumni Weekend
– Fayette, Iowa

November 11: Veterans Day Program
– Fayette, Iowa

November 14: Peacock Power 24-Hour Challenge
– Online Fundraiser

February 19, 2025: Spring Virtual Career Fair – Online

March 15, 2025: Peacock Night at the Black Hawks
– Waterloo, Iowa

March 25-26, 2025: 9th Annual Giving Day
– Online Fundraiser

April 12, 2025: Honors & Awards Banquet
– Fayette, Iowa

May 3, 2025: UIU Commencement
– Fayette, Iowa

October 11-12: Sigma Alpha Tau Reunion
– Fayette, Iowa

ΣΑΤ Fraternity is excited to celebrate its all-class reunion. To learn more or register for the weekend, contact **Daniel Cuadra '03** at **305-205-1532** or **cuadrad8@gmail.com**.

Dates and locations are subject to change. For more details or to RSVP, visit uiu.edu/alumni-events.





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ALUMNI REFERRAL AWARD!



Providing up to **\$4,000**
for new students

Not only are Peacock alumni incredible ambassadors for the University, but they also have the power to provide new students with a tuition award of up to \$4,000!

Since its launch in 2021, nearly 200 alums have stepped up and utilized the Alumni Referral Program. This initiative provides significant tuition savings for students who attend as a direct result of these referrals.

Referrals are encouraged for any prospective UIU student, regardless of whether they wish to take classes on the Fayette Campus, other UIU locations, self-paced, or online.

This is a golden opportunity for a family member, friend, or acquaintance you believe could benefit from a UIU experience. To learn more or submit an online referral now, visit: uiu.edu/Alumni/Referral.