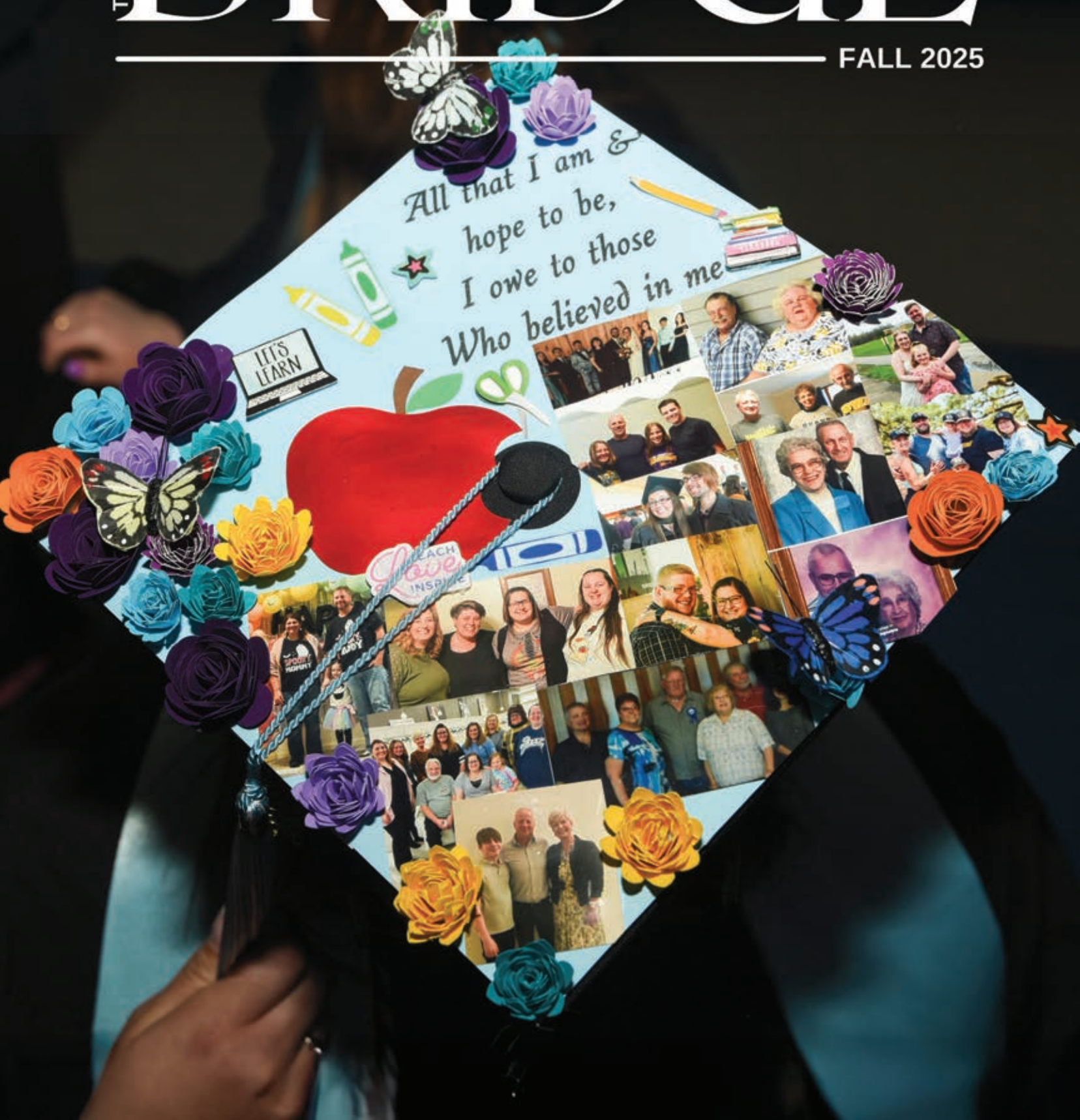


UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

THE

FALL 2025



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Front cover: Commencement often includes graduates adding personal touches to caps, stoles, and more—designs that reflect their unique journeys. This cover features one graduate's tribute to the family, friends, and mentors who supported her at UIU. Discover more Commencement photos and stories on page 12, and explore full galleries at uiu.edu/commencement.



OUR MISSION

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

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The Bridge is produced for UIU alumni and friends by the Office of Communications and Marketing

CONTRIBUTORS

- Abbie Brainard '23, Creative Services and Graphic Design Specialist
- Lynette Brandt, Executive Director, Office of Communications and Marketing
- Ashley Gredys, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Engagement
- Daryl Grove, Director of Annual Giving
- Howard Thompson, Senior Associate Athletic Director, External Operations
- Brenda Luzum, Executive Director of Advancement & Alumni Engagement
- Dawn Novak '06, '09, Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Services
- Beth Petsche, Director of Graphic Services and Publication Design

The Bridge is an official publication of Upper Iowa University—including Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Fayette, Quad Cities and Waterloo, Iowa; Fort Riley, Kansas; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, DeRidder, Fort Polk and New Orleans, Louisiana; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Letter from the President

Dear UIU Alumni and Friends,

At Upper Iowa University, we are proud of our strong tradition of resilience, innovation, and community. As we look ahead, I am excited to share a new chapter in our ongoing story—one that will shape not only the future of UIU, but the lives of every student we serve.

This summer, we officially launch Impact 2028, our new strategic plan. More than a document, Impact 2028 is a shared promise. It reflects the voices, hopes, and determination of the entire UIU family. Crafted through thoughtful dialogue and engagement across our university community, the plan sets a clear path forward with three essential priorities: enriching the student experience, strengthening relationships and connections, and ensuring long-term stability and growth.

Throughout this issue of *The Bridge*, you'll see how these priorities are already coming to life—from initiatives that elevate student success and faculty support to efforts that expand alumni engagement and build partnerships across the region and beyond.

Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant UIU—one rooted in our mission to provide quality educational opportunities and one inspired by our vision of academic excellence and student-centered innovation.

I am deeply grateful for your ongoing support, and I invite you to be part of this journey. Whether you're attending events, mentoring students, or sharing your Peacock pride in your community, know that your involvement makes a lasting impact.

Thank you for believing in Upper Iowa University and the difference we make together.

With gratitude,



Kathy Franken
UIU President and Chief Financial Office
Upper Iowa University



GET SOCIAL WITH UIU!

-  Like us on Facebook – facebook.com/uiualumni
-  Connect on LinkedIn – linkedin.com (Upper Iowa University Alumni Group)
-  View photo albums on Flickr – flickr.com/upperiowauniversity
-  Follow us on Instagram – instagram.com/upperiowa_alumni
-  Interact with us on Twitter – twitter.com/upperiowa
-  Watch us on YouTube – youtube@UpperIowaUniversity

THE BRIDGE IS AVAILABLE IN TWO GREAT FORMATS!

1. **DIGITAL** – Visit uiubridge.com to enjoy complete feature stories and archived issues online today.
2. **PRINT** – Contact the Alumni Office and request to be added to the mailing list at alumni@uiu.edu.



NEWS BRIEFS

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS



Dr. Paul Skrade, associate professor of Biology and Miriam Skrade, director of Honors and Experiential Learning, brought 19 herpetology and science and environment club students to the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium in Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to exploring the incredible exhibits, the group got an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Amphibian Conservation Area, where zoo staff work to protect and breed endangered amphibians.

The next morning, they went out before sunrise for the Fort Kearney Sandhill Crane Viewing and watched a heard of thousands of cranes take flight. These experiences were made possible by grant funding from the National Audubon Society.

Dr. Skrade also took students to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public meeting in Decorah, Iowa in February.



On April 12, Dexter Patterson @wiscobirder visited campus for a morning birding hike at Echo Valley State Park followed by a one o'clock lecture. Other highlights included a visit to Driftless Rock Farm to hold a goat, and a conservation management student uncovering a salamander in Volga Rec for him to hold.

Patterson brought messages of "Birding for All: brown, black, loud, quiet, disabled, young, and old!" He welcomed making noise, expressing your excitement, and paving the way for anyone looking to get out in nature!

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to the counseling graduates in the Mental Health and School Counseling tracks! As emerging leaders, they are poised to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals, families, couples, students, and the counseling profession. Their accomplishments are a source of great pride. Counseling graduates are pictured with Dr. Panos Markopoulos, Dr. Kim King, and Mr. Andrew Eisenmann.

FACULTY RECOGNITION



Michelle Jacobsen Dr. Panos Markopoulos Dr. Jennifer Stoffel

Congratulations to the recipients of the Roger & Alice Mangan Excellence in Teaching Award. This year, we received a record number of 139 nominations.

The award recognizes outstanding efforts in teaching across three faculty classifications: Tenured, Tenure-Track/Lecturer, and Adjunct. Annually, it honors faculty members who demonstrate exceptional dedication to their teaching roles. The selection committee, comprised of past recipients, carefully evaluated nominees and provided recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who concurred with the final selections. This year's deserving recipients are Dr. Jennifer Stoffel (Tenured), Dr. Panos Markopoulos (Tenure-Track/Lecturer), and Michelle Jacobsen (Adjunct).

Their commitment to teaching and their students exemplifies excellence in education. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! Their full bios are located at uiu.edu/Mangan-Award.

EXCEL HONORS



Mia Huberty '25 and **Abbie Riederer '25** delivered their senior honors research to the Honors and ExcEL advisory committee, President Franken, Dr. Cowley, their families, and honors peers.



The Excellence in Experiential Learning (ExcEL) Honors Program will officially

launch this Fall, 2025. The program includes a total of 20 new students, in addition to six returning Csomay Honors students. Fourteen of the ExcEL Scholars will be first-year students enrolled in the First Year Seminar (FYS) with ExcEL Director, Miriam Skrade. Beginning in Session 2, all 26 students will participate in EXEL 200: Leadership and Experiential Learning Seminar. This one-credit course will be offered Monday evenings during Sessions 2, 3, and 4. In addition to coursework, the 20 ExcEL Scholars will engage in their ExcEL Experiences—15 hours per week of meaningful work across campus.

Miriam Skrade, director of Honors and Experiential Learning, was invited to present for the annual Emerging Leaders Conference. She shared with student leaders as well as staff and faculty advisors how to effectively leverage their Top 5 CliftonStrengths to authentically provide Hope, Trust, Compassion, and Stability. These are the four basic needs of followers based on ongoing and extensive research by Gallup and shared in their Strengths Based Leadership book. You can borrow a copy of the book from Miriam anytime!

Miriam has also done CliftonStrengths workshops with the tutor center, student life, education students, and admissions! She looks forward to the continued implementation of strengths with FYS and beyond!

STUDY ABROAD



UIU participated in a 7-day study abroad program to Iceland in March. The trip was over Spring Break, March 1-7, 2025. UIU Faculty members Dr. NiCole Dennler and Dr. Gina Kuker led the group. There were 19 individuals on the trip, including not only students but individuals participating as part of the "Friends of the University." Plans are underway for a Study Abroad experience to Mexico and Costa Rica in 25-26 Academic year. Please watch for more details.

FACULTY AND STAFF NOTES

ANDRES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Ellie Kalb, Anne Muncie (2024 Iowa Teacher of the Year), Dr. Gina Kuker, and Lucero Torres attended the ISEA Aspiring Educators Conference in Altoona, Iowa on March 28–29, 2025.



What a great opportunity to present Newton's Laws of Motion at the Northeast Iowa STEM festival in Waukon, Iowa. Two Upper Iowa

University Noyce Scholars, Lucero Torres and Sarah McGee practiced their teaching skills on their path to becoming outstanding science teachers!

The Noyce Scholarship program is for those interested in becoming secondary science teachers and covers all expenses for the junior and senior years. Contact Dr. Barbara Ehlers, ehlersb@uii.edu for more information.



Upper Iowa University co-hosted the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE) 2025 Spring Conference, Beyond the Horizon: Charting the Course for Educator Preparation. Alex Hansen, Dr. Gina Kuker, Jodi Grover, Amy Updegraff, Michael Hagensick, and Dr. Staci Kinzebach attended the event on March 27–28, 2025.

PARTNERSHIPS

TPRA 2.0 Partners

The Teacher Education Program has partnered with two more school district consortiums for the TPRA 2.0 Program. Vinton Shellsburg and Panorama will work to "Build their Own" teachers through the TPRA 2.0 funding.

East Baton Rouge Outreach Efforts

This spring, two representatives from Upper Iowa University traveled to East Baton Rouge to promote our fully remote teacher licensure pathway to paraeducators within the district. During the visit, we hosted two open informational sessions designed to highlight the accessibility and flexibility of our program. Since that visit, we have seen a significant increase in inquiries from the East Baton Rouge Geo Market, with several individuals already beginning their licensure journey through our program. These early successes demonstrate a strong alignment between our remote offerings and the needs of paraeducators seeking a pathway to licensure while continuing to work in their local schools.

Waterloo Community Schools Partnership In Professional Development



Upper Iowa University has also played an active role in supporting the professional development initiatives of Waterloo Community Schools. Our faculty regularly lead high-impact sessions on Special Education, Literacy, Social Emotional Learning, and the integration of technology into instruction. A key highlight of these professional development days is the opportunity to promote our para-to-teacher degree pathway, emphasizing how our fully remote format makes this an attainable goal for working professionals. Additionally, we engage with licensed teachers to discuss endorsement opportunities and continuing education options. These ongoing efforts have contributed to notable growth in our remote program enrollment and have strengthened our partnerships with school districts across Iowa and beyond.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, AG BUSINESS & FINANCE

Student Spotlight: Gabe Christensen



Gabe Christiansen has accepted a prestigious accounting internship near Des Moines. Here's what he had to say about his experience thus far.

"I'm interning with Premier Tech, an international company with locations across the U.S. and the world, specializing in areas like engineering, automation, water and environmental systems, and life sciences. My internship runs from late April through November 2025 in the accounting department, mainly focusing on accounts payable. With a team member on extended maternity leave, I've had the chance to take on a significant share of her daily, month-end, and quarterly tasks. This has been a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on experience and deepen my understanding of how an accounting department operates."

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Faculty Representative



With great excitement, we are proud to announce the 2025–2027 NASPA Region IV–East Board of Directors! This incredible group of leaders brings a wealth of talent, vision, and dedication to

advancing our profession, fostering community, and shaping the future of student affairs in our region.

Included in the list is Dr. John Grummel as a Faculty Representative. Congratulations, John!

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING



RN-BSN Pinning Ceremony

Dr. Billie Cowley (far left) and Sheila Crook-Lockwood (far right) had the great honor of pinning RN-BSN students (left-right) **Emily Corkery '25**, **Courtney Crow '24**, and **Trisha Wiese '25**. These outstanding nurses are part of the final cohort of RN-BSN students at Upper Iowa University. More than 20 years ago, the university revived its RN-BSN program, which initially launched in Iowa in a hybrid format. It later expanded to Mesa, Arizona, and eventually to nurses in compact states as it transitioned to a fully online program. Throughout its history, the RN-BSN program has offered hundreds of working nurses and dual-enrollment students the opportunity to deepen their nursing knowledge and enhance the safety and quality of patient care.

Congratulations to all RN-BSN students on this achievement—well done!



UPPER IOWA[®]
— UNIVERSITY —



IMPACT 2028





IMPACT 2028: Shaping Our Tomorrow, Together

A New Era of Purpose and Progress at Upper Iowa University

With a clear vision and a united spirit, Upper Iowa University is proud to introduce Impact 2028 — our bold and forward-thinking strategic plan that will shape the next chapter of the University's legacy. Launching on July 1, 2025, this three-year initiative stands as both a blueprint and a call to action for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of UIU.

Rooted in our mission to provide quality educational opportunities that inspire success and empower lives, Impact 2028 is more than a set of goals — it is a shared commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community-driven growth.

Developed through months of collaborative planning — including small group work sessions and town halls with stakeholders across our campuses and beyond — Impact 2028 reflects the collective aspirations of the UIU community.

“Our new strategic plan is built on the voices of many,” said President Kathy Franken, who also serves as Chief Financial Officer. “This is a roadmap not just for the future of the University, but for every individual who believes in UIU’s transformative power. We will move forward together — with clarity, accountability, and heart.”

THE THREE PILLARS OF IMPACT 2028

At its core, Impact 2028 focuses on three interconnected pillars that define where we are headed:

1

EXPERIENCE & ENGAGEMENT

Creating a vibrant, inclusive, and student-centered learning environment is fundamental to our identity. This pillar prioritizes student satisfaction, academic success, and comprehensive support services. It also includes greater mentorship for adjunct faculty and increased awareness of career and co-curricular resources.



2

RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTION

Our strength lies in our relationships — with students, alumni, community partners, and each other. This focus deepens UIU's impact by enhancing engagement, fostering meaningful partnerships, and cultivating a stronger sense of belonging for faculty and staff alike.



3

STABILITY & GROWTH

A sustainable future depends on financial health, innovative revenue sources, and growing enrollment. This pillar drives strategic budgeting, expands fundraising efforts, and supports student retention across all delivery methods.




Our new strategic plan is built on the voices of many,” said President Franken. “This is a roadmap not just for the future of the University, but for every individual who believes in UIU’s transformative power. We will move forward together — with clarity, accountability, and heart.”

President Kathy Franken '12
President and CFO, Upper Iowa University

The launch of Impact 2028 represents more than a university-wide strategy; it's a reaffirmation of our values: Excellence, Stewardship, Respect, Accessibility, and Integrity. These guiding principles will inform every action and initiative from 2025 through 2028.

As our campus grows and evolves, one thing remains unchanged — our commitment to being a student-first, future-focused institution.

Whether you are a current student discovering your path, a proud alum shaping your community, or a faculty or staff member guiding the next generation, your role in Impact 2028 matters. Together, we will write the next chapter of Upper Iowa University's enduring story — one built on connection, purpose, and impact.

“The future holds immense promise, and I am confident that, united in purpose, we will achieve remarkable things,” said President Franken. 



MISSION

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

VISION

Upper Iowa University will be known for academic excellence and continual innovation in student-centered learning.



Accessibility



Excellence



Stewardship



Respect



Integrity



Unique UIU Mentoring Program earns high marks from adjuncts

Built by and for adjunct faculty



Peter Bemski

“This is the first time I’ve seen a mentor program that not only reaches out to adjunct faculty—but also uses adjunct faculty to help build the program and do the mentoring,”

said Peter Bemski, a long-time higher education instructor and one of eight mentors in Upper Iowa University’s Adjunct Mentoring Program. “When I heard about it, I couldn’t help but volunteer to participate.”

Now in its second year, the Adjunct Mentoring Program is helping new instructors feel more confident and prepared. The Faculty Development and Welfare Committee proposed the initiative’s structure, setting in motion the program’s launch in 2023 with full support from the academic leadership team. The program simply would not have happened without the advocacy and vision of Dr. Billie Cowley, vice president for Academic Affairs, who played a particularly critical role in its creation. The program matches experienced adjuncts with new faculty to ease their transition and foster a sense of belonging.

More than 30 new adjunct faculty participated this year, working closely

with mentors throughout their first teaching session, including bi-weekly check-ins. Mentors, who attended training in August, supported three to four mentees each and attended professional development and feedback sessions throughout the year.



Mary Love

A community of colleagues

Mentor Mary Love described the experience as transformative.

“Mentoring has reminded me that it isn’t just about guidance and support—it’s about learning, listening, and growing together as a community of learners,” she said. “When educators feel connected, that extends into the classroom and promotes academic success.”

The end-of-year survey results backed this up with 94% of mentees indicating that having a mentor was valuable—more than half said it was extremely valuable. One new adjunct shared, “Overall, I received everything I needed to succeed, including several people I could contact for help.”

Bemski added that a major benefit of the program is having a trusted colleague to count on, even for small, technical questions. “The mentee may be embarrassed to ‘bother’ someone [else], but it is easy to ask a colleague, and ideally, the relationship quickly becomes one between colleagues rather than a hierarchy.”

That collegial spirit is central to the program’s mission: to support and advocate for adjunct faculty, promote student success, and fully integrate new instructors into the UIU academic community. “It’s about helping one another become part of a culture and community in which students are served well,” Bemski said. 

**IMPROVE
SUCCESS
TRAINING
MOTIVATE
WORK
INSPIRE**

2024-25 UIU Senior Adjunct Mentors

include: Wanda Barber, Peter Bemski, Jimmy Cagle, Michelle Jacobsen, Megan Knight, Mary Love, Dennis Shea, and Jolene Whittemore—each bringing passion, experience, and collegial wisdom to their roles.

STUDENT LIFE

EXPERIENCE

Student Government elections took place in March, allowing the newly elected officers to connect with and learn from the current leadership team. Ahead of the vote, candidates delivered speeches in the campus servery, sharing their goals and vision for the year ahead.

Following the elections, outgoing and incoming Student Government Association (SGA) members met weekly for a seamless transfer of knowledge. Together, they collaborated on two major spring events: the always-popular Casino Night and the beloved Late-Night Breakfast, ensuring both traditions were a success and that leadership continuity remains strong.



Emerson

EMERSON BENNETT -- SGA PRESIDENT, 2025-26

Emerson Bennett, a senior has been elected the 2025-26 SGA President. Originally from North Liberty, Iowa, Emerson is majoring in Communications and is a proud member of the UIU football team. His campaign focused on making the university a more enjoyable and engaging place for all students, and he is committed to driving positive change on campus. With a passion for leadership and student involvement, Emerson is excited to represent his peers and enhance the student experience at UIU.



Rio

RIO JOHNSON -- SGA VICE PRESIDENT, 2025-26

Junior Rio Johnson of Atlantic, Iowa, will serve as SGA Vice President in 2025-26. She is double majoring in Agricultural Business and Accounting and is an active campus leader. In addition to serving as SGA Secretary, she participates in Wrestling, Cross-Country, and Track and Field, is President of EYE Sorority, a Resident Assistant, member of Best Buddies, and Vice President of Peacocks for Progress. Passionate about student engagement, Rio plans to boost campus involvement by organizing diverse, inclusive events.



Jasheana

JASHEANA TRACEY -- SGA SECRETARY, 2025-26

Des Moines, Iowa, native and sophomore Biology major, Jasheana Tracey will take on the role of SGA Secretary in the 2025-26 academic year. An engaged campus leader, she is a member of the Track and Field team, President of Peacocks for Progress, and is a Resident Assistant. Passionate about student advocacy, Jasheana aims to ensure student voices are heard by promoting open communication and fostering a more inclusive, supportive campus environment.



Amberlyn

AMBERLYN FORTIER-PETERSEN -- SGA TREASURER & ONLINE/CENTER LIAISON, 2025-26

Amberlyn Fortier-Petersen, a senior Management major from Racine, Wisconsin, has been appointed Treasurer and Online/Center Liaison for SGA in 2025-26. A student-athlete involved in Wrestling, E.Y.E, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Amberlyn is dedicated to enhancing the student experience. She plans to focus on improving study spaces, recreational facilities, and access to essential services, ensuring UIU remains a supportive and engaging environment for all students.

STUDENT LIFE

2025 FAYETTE APPRECIATION DAY RECAP

This year the student organization Peacocks for Progress organized the 19th Annual Fayette Appreciation Day (FAD)! This special UIU tradition, held each year near Earth Day, is a meaningful way we give back to the local community and honor our shared commitment to both people and the planet. Nearly 300 volunteers ranging from students, faculty and staff helped at 25 service projects in the community. Mark your calendars—next year's 20th Annual FAD will take place on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (with a rain date of April 22).



Members of BTQ Sorority volunteering at Grandview Cemetery clean up.



The football team was a huge help to Facilities, cleaning and organizing several spaces across campus during FAD.



Students gather for a quick photo at Rainbow Land before they continue working on outside projects.



Participants in Fayette Appreciation Day posed for a group photo in the Student Center to commemorate the day and all their accomplishments.

PUPPIES AND BABY GOATS BRING JOY DURING FINALS WEEK

The always-beloved Puppy Therapy event made a heartwarming return during Finals Week of Session IV. Students had the chance to unwind with cuddly basset hounds and their devoted owners, enjoying a much-needed break from the stress of exams.



Meghan Zwicker and Brycen Hendrix enjoy some puppy therapy from Shaffer's Dachshunds during finals week in the Atrium.



Angelina Monfrey '24, Becca Peterson '24, Savannah Weiss, and Jade Frye '25 enjoy goat therapy, one of several activities to help students unwind during finals week.



Reagon Proud poses with some adorable Dachshund puppies, taking some quality time for herself.

Adding to the joy, some baby goats from the family farm of Diana Hildabrand, our IT Support Specialist, have also visited campus during past Finals Weeks. Their playful presence delighted animal-loving students and brought a welcome dose of farmyard comfort just when it was needed most.

EXPERIENCE

RA-ISING THE BAR ON CAMPUS LIFE

This year's Resident Assistant (RA) team represents a vibrant blend of academic passions, leadership aspirations, and personal experiences—reflecting the diverse spirit of Upper Iowa University. Hailing from small towns in Iowa, bustling cities in the Midwest, and even as far away as Hawaii and the southeastern United States, these student leaders bring a wide range of perspectives to their roles in the residence halls.

Majors among the team include Biology, Psychology, Business Entrepreneurship, and more—some with plans to enter the medical field, law school, research, or launch careers in business and real estate. What unites them is a shared commitment to leadership, connection, and service.

Many chose to become RAs to help fellow students feel welcomed and supported, to grow their own leadership skills, and to build stronger connections across campus. Whether they're pursuing a future as a physician assistant, doctor, lawyer, or entrepreneur, these RAs are committed to creating a positive, inclusive living environment where students can thrive—academically, socially, and personally.



The 2025–26 RAs include, back row (left-right): Jasheana Tracey, Abraham Navarro, Gunnar Sims, Cadie Wolf and Damon Head Jr. Middle row (l-r): Haylee Allen, Aeryn Hatico, Natalie Lima, Lizzie Findling and John pranger. Front row (l-r): Jessica Ancheta, Kennedi Frost and Kate Potter. Not shown include Tura Dalu and Eduardo Gomez.

STUDENT LIFE YEAR-LONG ACTIVITIES

At Upper Iowa University, we will be curating an unforgettable year of student engagement filled with exciting events, vibrant campus traditions, and adventurous off-campus trips. The year will kick off with a warm welcome during Move-In, followed by PXP and Grocery Bingo to help students ease into campus life.

The first couple of weeks back to campus will include lively staples such as Pete's After Party and the Club and Organizations Fair. Students will also embark on fun trips to Lost Island Amusement Park, bowling, and shopping with dinner out before taking part in Fayette's annual Watermelon Days festivities in September.

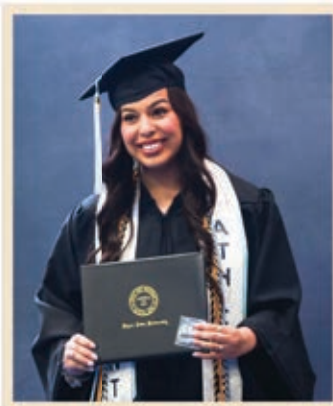
The fall semester is filled with activities and trips, from Laser Tag in the ballrooms and Pet Therapy to karaoke nights, Walmart outings, and Iron Peacock competitions, there will be something for everyone. Students will get the chance to rock out to the Jonas Brothers in Des Moines. Homecoming week will bring its usual energy, and Halloween will be celebrated with a costume contest and DJ party at Pete's.

As winter approaches, we will wrap up the semester with relaxing massage chairs, a Christmas Kickback, and our always-popular Late Night Breakfasts. Whether bonding over Bingo or cheering on the Vikings, our student life calendar will be filled with moments that foster joy, connection, and unforgettable memories.

MEET THE STAFF OF STUDENT LIFE

Back row, left to right: Abby Buchanan-Kenzinger, graduate assistant for Student Life; Zach "Z" Hoskins, residence area coordinator; **Kevin Dennis-Moncada '25**, coordinator of student engagement; **Lizzie (Van Dyk) Dingbaum '19**, coordinator of Student Life. Front row left to right: **Angelina Monfrey '24**, graduate assistant for Student Life; Zach Sparks, assistant dean of students/chief conduct officer; Danielle Rosario Cushion, assistant vice president for Student Life; Pam Barela, director of counseling services.





2025 *Commencement*

Upper Iowa University's Commencement ceremonies were held at the Fayette Campus on Saturday, May 3, 2025. To view all photos, visit our website at uiu.edu/commencement.



UIU celebrates graduates at 168th Commencement

Upper Iowa University celebrated its Class of 2025 during commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 3. The day honored the hard work and determination of the students, as family, friends, faculty, and staff gathered on the Fayette Campus to recognize their achievements.

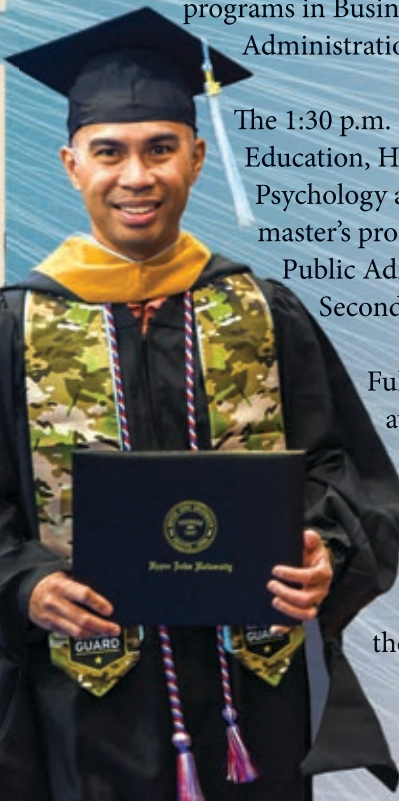
President Kathy Franken '12 addressed the graduates, saying, "You have worked tirelessly to reach this point, and we are all incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. No matter your reason for this accomplishment, as you continue to write your story, remember that leadership is defined by the actions you take, the inspiration and empowerment you provide others, and making a collective difference."

Alumnus Tony DiCecco, a 1971 UIU graduate and longtime educator and coach, delivered the keynote address, encouraging the Class of 2025 to stay positive as they embark on their next chapter. "You have to do everything you can to try and stay positive as much as you can in your life — it's not easy!" DiCecco reminded them. (Read the full article on Tony on the following page.)

The 10:00 a.m. ceremony celebrated degrees in Accounting, Agricultural Business and Finance, Business, Management and Marketing, Science and Mathematics, Nursing, and master's programs in Business Administration, Healthcare Administration, and Sport Administration.

The 1:30 p.m. ceremony honored graduates from Education, Humanities and Social Science, Psychology and Human Services, as well as master's programs in Psychology, Education, Public Administration, Counseling, and the Second Chance program.

Full recordings of the ceremonies are available at uiu.edu/commencement. Due to inclement weather, both ceremonies were held in Dorman Gymnasium, but there was plenty of celebrating and Peacock pride as graduates processed outside to greet their families and friends. 🦉



Making every day count: the Tony DiCecco journey

Tony DiCecco '71, UIU's 2025 Commencement Speaker, began his story in Niagara Falls, New York. Coming from a graduating class of 1,800, he wanted something different for college—a smaller place to grow and play his favorite sport, baseball. Though he had never visited Upper Iowa University before enrolling, the catalog photos drew him in. Still, nothing could fully prepare him for the small-town feel of Fayette, Iowa.

Leaving home wasn't easy. Sheltered growing up, the distance from Niagara Falls brought challenges but also growth. Fayette felt unfamiliar at first, but Tony soon found support through a tight-knit group of baseball teammates from Cedar Rapids. Frequent calls home to his dad for money to fly back became less common as he settled in and found his place.

By his second semester, Tony realized he was exactly where he needed to be. The friendships he built in 1968 and 1969 became lifelong bonds. With his outgoing

personality, he found his stride in the UIU community. Tony always knew he wanted to teach. As a Physical Education major, he was inspired by great mentors at UIU who shaped him as a student and future coach. His passion deepened when he began helping coach girls' basketball at Fayette High School, seeing firsthand how eager young athletes were to learn and grow—a lesson that fueled his 35-year career in education and coaching. Early on at West Central of Maynard, Tony coached nearly every sport, throwing himself into each role with energy and purpose. He knew he was teaching more than sports—he was teaching life skills.

As head coach at the University of Northern Iowa, Tony and his team laid a strong foundation. Despite a rough start, they stayed true to doing things the right way. Today, UNI women's basketball remains a competitive program, a tradition Tony is proud to have helped build. From Fayette High to college sidelines, his passion for coaching women's basketball never faded. He often called his players "sponges," eager to learn and get better. That drive, paired with his love for teaching, kept him motivated for decades.

After coaching, Tony naturally shifted to motivational speaking and fundraising. At Creighton University, he learned to fundraise out of necessity—skills that would later make him a successful advocate for student-athletes. His signature talk, "Making Every Day Count," shares lessons on staying positive, building resilience, and working hard. "Work ethic isn't a light switch you turn on and off," he says.

Tony's message is simple: find your passion, work hard and stay positive. These values shape his platform, The Tony D Connection, where he now helps others become the best version of themselves.

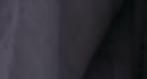
Looking back, Tony's advice remains clear: "Don't look for an easy way out. Everything important is hard—but it's worth it." His mantra, "Enjoy the Ride," sums up a life of purpose and passion.

Giving back to Upper Iowa University brings his story full circle. Speaking at Commencement was a dream come true, and he continues to invest in the university that shaped him. "There are so many ways to give back," he says. "It's the full circle of life." 



"Don't look for an easy way out. Everything important is hard—but it's worth it."

Tony DiCecco, '71, Educator, Coach, and
2025 UIU Commencement Speaker





Peacocks making a difference: Celebrating UIU's 2024 distinguished alumni

Meet five extraordinary graduates shaping our communities, inspiring students, and serving with passion.



2024 SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AWARD:

Todd McKay '98

In 1998, Todd McKay earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in

business from UIU, along with teaching and coaching certificates. A proud Fayette Campus football alumnus, Todd later completed his master's degree from Graceland University in 2011.

For the past 13 years, Todd has served Riverdale High School in Muscoda, Wisconsin, as Business Education Teacher and Dean of Students, while also coaching the track team and seventh-grade girls' basketball. Before that, he spent 15 years in Reedsburg and Cashton, Wisconsin, as an assistant football coach and head girls' softball coach, building strong relationships with students and families.

As Senior Class advisor, Todd developed an incredible partnership with UIU. For the last decade, he has worked closely with the UIU Admissions team to organize an annual visit day for Riverdale juniors. Students travel 186 miles to Fayette for a full Peacock experience — a campus tour, informative sessions with Admissions and faculty, lunch in the servery, and a special meeting with the UIU President. For many, it's their first exposure to a college campus. Todd says, "UIU is such a unique university that they need to see it."

Todd credits his professors and coaches at UIU for their constant encouragement during challenges, a lesson that guides how he supports his own students today — urging them to stay focused, learn from mistakes, and know that they are cared for both in class and in life. Todd and his wife, Rachel, live in Muscoda with their two daughters, Macy and Ella.



2024 EMERGING ALUMNI AWARD:

Jessica (Schubert) Goltz '21

In 2021, Jessica Goltz earned her Bachelor of Science in psychology from Upper Iowa University. She is the founder and CEO of Seva Health: Center for Wellbeing, a nonprofit organization serving rural Northeast Iowa. Inspired by her own struggles and the lack of mental health resources in her small town, Jessica set out to build a bridge where none existed.

Equipped as a National Board-Certified Health Coach, Jessica leads Seva Health in delivering an integrative approach to brain (mental) health. Services include coaching, mind-body wellness, youth support groups for at-risk teens, and programs for young people with learning challenges. Thanks to community grants and local fundraising events, Seva Health has grown its reach and, in 2023, partnered with the Clayton County Foundation for the Future to create the Clayton County Brain Health Coalition, tackling barriers to mental health care.

Jessica is also a sought-after motivational speaker with over a decade of experience, openly sharing her journey through postpartum depression, burnout, and rediscovering purpose. A high school dropout at 18, she earned her GED, a Medical Assistant diploma, and spent over 20 years working in healthcare before returning to school through UIU's self-paced program to complete her degree. Her story continues to inspire others to break through barriers. Jessica and her husband, Mike, live in Monona, Iowa, with their sons, Noah and Hunter — a 2024 UIU graduate.



2024 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARD:

**Heather (Beard)
Schrock '99**

Heather Schrock earned her Bachelor of Science in athletic training and fitness from UIU in 1999 and has dedicated her time, talent, and heart to serving others ever since. For more than a decade, Heather has been a passionate fundraiser and advocate for Type 1 diabetes (T1D) research, a cause close to her family's heart, as both her husband and youngest daughter live with T1D.

She has completed eleven Ride to Cure Diabetes events, biking 100 miles from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to Lansing, Iowa, to raise awareness and funds. Heather also organizes a Breakthrough T1D Walk team in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, supports the JDRF Annual Gala, and has led countless family fundraisers — collectively raising more than \$210,000 for her local JDRF chapter. In 2011, she was honored as JDRF Volunteer of the Year.

Heather's giving spirit extends to mentoring children through the Mount Mercy University Jump Start Program in Cedar Rapids. There, she coordinates free sports activities, creates safe spaces for students in grades 2–8, and ensures they are well-fed — providing full meals for over 80 kids at a time. Despite balancing a full-time role as a Grants Specialist for Ellucian and caring for her husband through health challenges, Heather never hesitates to lend a helping hand wherever it's needed. She and her husband, Mike Schrock '99, '21, live in Urbana, Iowa, with their children, Dylanne and Micheala.



2024 PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD:

Ezekiel "Zeke" Morris '76

Zeke Morris earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Upper Iowa University in 1976 and has spent over 30 years improving housing opportunities and community development in Chicago. From 1990 to 1998, he owned Realty Executives Residential, helping buyers and sellers while establishing his reputation for collaborating with developers to build affordable housing.

In 2000, Zeke joined Keller Williams Realty in South Chicago, rising to Operating Principal and eventually serving as president of the Chicago Association of REALTORS®, which named him REALTOR® of the Year in 2013. Today, he leads EXIT Strategy Realty / EMA Management in Chicago as Designated Managing Broker/Owner. In 2022, he made history as the first African American president of

the Illinois REALTORS® and earned REALTOR® of the Year again in 2023 for championing fair housing and promoting the "Everyone Deserves the American Dream of Homeownership" campaign.

Zeke also serves on the National Association of REALTORS® Board of Directors and provides leadership in areas such as fair housing, diversity, and federal policy. Beyond real estate, he chairs the Board of Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., a nonprofit delivering education, vocational training, mental health support, and residential services to underserved communities. Zeke and his wife, Adrena, have been married for over 30 years and enjoy time with their three children — Alexandria, Emmanuel, and Andra — and three grandchildren, McKenzie, Zoe, and Michael.



2024 SERVICE TO COUNTRY AWARD:

**Colonel (Retired)
Bradley G. Anderson,
U.S. Army '80**

Colonel (Retired) Bradley G. Anderson, U.S. Army '80 Brad Anderson graduated from Upper Iowa University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in history and was an active member of UIU's Army ROTC, Acacia Fraternity, and men's basketball team. He later earned an MBA from Webster University and an MA in Political Science from the University of Iowa.

Colonel Anderson dedicated three decades to the U.S. Army, serving in roles spanning tactical operations, combat, diplomacy, and stability missions worldwide — with deployments in Ethiopia, Tunisia, Morocco, Togo, Mauritania, Belgium, South Korea, the Persian Gulf War, and more. His expertise covered defense policy, security cooperation, foreign military sales and financing, intelligence analysis, and African and Middle Eastern affairs.

His distinguished service earned him numerous prestigious awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal for combat operations, and many others. Though retired, Brad continues to share his experience, spending part of each year working in Togo, West Africa. He and his wife, Ann-Christin — a retired European Union diplomat originally from Sweden — live part-time in Sweden, spend a few weeks in Canada, and winter in Florida. Their two daughters live in Toronto, and they have one granddaughter. 🇺🇸

**Alumni award nominations are
accepted year-round. To submit,
or view all past recipients, visit
uii.edu/alumni-awards.**

PEACOCKS IN *Paradise* HOMECOMING 2025



Sunday | September 21

HOMECOMING COURT ANNOUNCEMENT

LOCATION & TIME TBD

Excitement is in the air as we count down to the reveal of this year's Homecoming Court. Who will be crowned royalty? Stay tuned!

UIU MEN'S & WOMEN'S SOCCER

HARMS-EISCHEID STADIUM | 12:00 PM & 2:30 PM

Peacocks will face Lewis University. Ladies take the field at noon, with the men to follow. Let's flock to the stadium and cheer them on for a win!

Monday | September 22

SPLASH BASH

SOUTH VILLAGE LAWN | 3:00 - 5:30 PM *New!*

Slide into "Peacocks in Paradise" blue wave fun! Enjoy slip 'n slides, reusable water balloons, squirt gun battles, and more!

BLUE PRIDE WORLDWIDE

EVERYWHERE! | DECORATIONS IN PLACE BY 5:00 PM

Let your imagination run wild decorating your front porch, office, dorm room, windows, sidewalk, or vehicle with this year's theme, "Peacocks in Paradise." Use the hashtag #UIUHomecoming to share your creativity.

Tuesday | September 23

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—plus new DJ entertainment! Rain location: Pete's Bar & Grill.

Wednesday | September 24

SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

RAINBOW LAND PARK (NEAR DOWNTOWN) | 6:30 PM *New!*

Bump, Set, Peacocks! Gather a team of 5+, pick a beachy name, and hit the sand for friendly competition, gift card prizes, and bragging rights! Enjoy summer tunes, snow cones, and good vibes. All skill levels welcome—just bring the energy!

Thursday | September 25

WELCOME HOME DINNER

PETE'S BAR & GRILL (DOWNTOWN FAYETTE) | 5:30 PM

Kick off the weekend with a complimentary dinner for all alumni and guests! Join President Kathy Franken, her husband Chuck, and the UIU Board of Trustees. Casual attire. RSVP required.

Friday | September 26

5TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING GOLF OUTING

BIG ROCK COUNTRY CLUB | 9:00 AM (REGISTRATION) 10:00 AM (GOLF)

Tee off Homecoming weekend with a cherished Peacock tradition! Open to all, the annual Homecoming Golf Outing has raised over \$20,000 for Peacock Athletics in the past five years. This year, proceeds will honor Steve '73 and Diane Harms '73—UIU alumni, Athletics Hall of Fame members, and devoted supporters—by benefiting causes they held dear.

Steve and Diane were pillars of the Peacock community, known for their passion for student-athletes, generosity, and lifelong dedication to UIU. Their impact was felt across campus and beyond, embodying what it means to be Peacocks for Life.

Form a foursome or sign up solo and be matched with others. To register, contact Rick Knipper '73 at 319-530-2343 or Bill Roths '74 at 319-240-9411. Special thanks to the SOB's and Foxes for coordinating this meaningful tradition.

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.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SHOWCASE & RECEPTION

LIBERAL ARTS BUILDING | 1:00 - 3:30 PM *New!*

Students, alumni, and the campus community won't want to miss the homegrown Experiential Learning Showcase. Students will share insights from internships, research, study abroad, career exploration, and professional experiences. This year features the first presentations from ExcEL Scholars, alongside returning biology research and study abroad participants. Enjoy complimentary refreshments, celebrate student success, spark conversations, and support the next generation of leaders!

Interested in presenting? Contact Miriam Skrade, Director of Honors & Experiential Learning, at skradem791@uiu.edu

FAYETTE ADMISSIONS SOCIAL

PARKER FOX HALL | 2:00 - 3:00 PM *New!*

Alumni, current, and future peacocks are all welcome to stop by Parker Fox Hall to socialize with admissions staff. We would love to talk about all the possibilities of becoming a peacock but also hear your stories of when you were here to encourage and share to others. Take part in guided campus tours and the self-guided scavenger hunt—both with a fun twist you won't want to miss. Refreshments will be provided.

UIU VOLLEYBALL

DORMAN GYMNASIUM | 6:00 PM

Peacocks will face the Missouri S&T. Let's pack the gym and show the ladies our fan support!

HOMECOMING BALL "NIGHT OF THE PEACOCKS"

STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM | 5:00 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 2025 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.

Purchase Tickets Now!

HOCO BALL: AFTERGLOW

STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM | 9:00 - 11:00 PM *New!*

NEW! This epic afterparty is for EVERYONE! No dress code. No RSVP. Just show up, ready to party and turn it up with your Peacock crew! DJ spinning, dance floor jumping, free snacks (while they last), and a cash bar to keep the vibes flowing. Never been to the Ball? Now's your chance to catch some of the magic—without the heels and neckties. Don't miss this unforgettable Homecoming Ball finale!

Schedule Continued >>>

Saturday | September 27

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 1975. In addition, UIU Heritage Society Members will also be honored. All alumni and guests are welcome to enjoy this complimentary event hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors. 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, proudly hosted by the Peacock Tailgate Association.

HOMECOMING PARADE

FAYETTE CAMPUS | 10:30 AM

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!

Sign up to be in the parade today!

ALUMNI HOUSE TROPICAL TAILGATE PARTY

ALUMNI HOUSE | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

You won't want to miss this island-style tailgate bash! All alumni and guests are invited to soak up the sun, sip something cool, play yard games, and enjoy a wave of Peacock pride. Back by popular demand is the Bloody Mary Bar, plus lots of other complimentary drinks and snacks. Big thanks to Peacock extraordinaires Peggy (Owens) Flaherty and Thyron Mathews BBQ. Free will donations are welcome.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

HARMS-EISCHEID STADIUM | KICKOFF AT 1:00 PM

Let's cheer on the Peacocks to victory vs. Lincoln University of Missouri. 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. Tropical attire encouraged - let's bring the "Peacocks in Paradise" vibes to the field!

UIU VOLLEYBALL

DORMAN GYM | 5:00 PM

Let's cheer on the Peacocks to victory vs. Maryville.

Additional Information

SHOP THE CAMPUS STORE!

Stop by for some new Peacock swag for yourself or pick out a gift for a friend or family member!

HOMECOMING HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Monday: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Student Center)

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Student Center)

Wednesday: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Student Center)

Thursday: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Student Center)

Friday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (Student Center)

Saturday: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Student Center)

Saturday: 12:00 PM - end of 3rd quarter (Harms-Eischeid Stadium)

Shop online at shop.uiu.edu.

For Hotels & Travel Information visit

GO.UIU.EDU/HOMECOMINGTRAVEL

SUPPORT THE 2025 HOMECOMING FUNDRAISER!

Whether you purchase a ticket to or sponsor the Ball, make a gift in celebration of your reunion year, or contribute from afar, every gift—no matter the size—makes a meaningful impact on UIU. Your generosity supports the UIU Excellence Fund, fueling opportunities for students and addressing the University's most pressing needs.

New! The Alumni Association is also excited to host its first-ever Homecoming Raffle! Everyone is invited to participate! Prizes include a Peacock Swag Bag, VIP Suite Experience, a Signed Football by the entire Peacock Football Team, an exclusive Golf Outing with your favorite UIU Coach, a set of UIU China, and more! Raffle tickets are available online, at the Alumni House, and during Homecoming Week events. All proceeds support the HOCO Fundraiser!

Thank you for helping us reach our \$150,000 goal and for continuing to make a difference in the lives of our Peacock family!

HOMECOMING QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Please contact the UIU Alumni Office at 563-425-5388 or alumni@uiu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!



Save the Date

Upper Iowa University invites you to the 2025

HOMECOMING BALL
Night of the Peacocks

Friday, September 26th | 5:00 PM

Fayette Campus | Student Center Ballrooms

to sponsor the event or purchase tickets
for the ball, please visit:

[GO.UIU.EDU/HCBall25](https://go.uiu.edu/HCBall25)

A LEGACY ROOTED IN EDUCATION:

The Mangan Family Century-Long Bond with UIU



For more than a century, the DeLong, Hungerford, and Mangan families have shared a deep-rooted connection to Upper Iowa University—a legacy born on an Iowa farm and carried across generations, states, and careers. Today, **Alice (DeLong) Mangan '61** and her husband, **Roger Mangan '62**, continue that legacy with purpose, gratitude, and a passion for giving back.

From Humble Beginnings



Alice DeLong was born and raised on an 80-acre farm just outside of Maynard, Iowa—a property that had been in her family since the 1870s. Her childhood was shaped by simplicity, hard work, and the quiet resilience of rural life. The farmhouse had no electricity or plumbing until Alice was 11 years old, water was heated over a wood-

burning stove, and her father, George, used horses to work the land. She and her two older brothers learned to make do with little, cultivating not only a strong work ethic and competitive drive, but also a genuine appreciation for life's small blessings.

For the DeLongs and Hungerfords, education was never optional—it was essential. College degrees were more than milestones; they were expected. Alice's mother, Helen (Hungerford) DeLong (UIU class of 1925), along with her aunt Rena (Hungerford) Patridge, and several uncles, including Charles Hungerford (class of 1910), Louis and Lawrence Hungerford (class of 1916), and Judson "Ted" Hungerford (class

of 1932), all proudly graduated from UIU. The family's belief in higher education was woven into the fabric of their identity, even at a time when few in rural Iowa pursued such paths.



Alice's own journey to UIU wasn't a straight line. After attending Muscatine Junior College and briefly enrolling at Simpson College, she considered leaving higher education altogether—until her older brother, Norman, intervened. "You're going to Upper Iowa," he told her. "It was good enough for all of your uncles and your mother, it's good enough for you." And just like that, she found her way to Fayette—thanks to a wise brotherly nudge.

A Chance Meeting, A Lasting Bond

While Alice's roots ran deep in Iowa soil, Roger Mangan's story began in Chicago, Illinois. A serendipitous visit to a UIU admissions table in his high school library changed his life. Recruiter Vic Schmidt saw Roger's athletic potential and invited him to visit Fayette Campus. Coach Bill Rettko offered a full scholarship for wrestling, and Roger, the first in his family to attend college, accepted. "I was the luckiest man in the world," he recalls.

UIU quickly became more than a school—it became a home. Roger found a mentor in Professor Charlie Clark, whose advice: "If you're gonna do something, do it all the way, be the best you can be, and excel." This motto became a guiding

“Remember your roots,” Alice says. “Remember where you came from, remember those who led you down the path of success, and be forever grateful.” She credits Upper Iowa as the foundation for much of their personal and professional success. “Giving back is how we choose to honor that opportunity.”



Alice (DeLong) Mangan '61

A Lifelong Commitment to Giving Back

Though they left Iowa decades ago, the Mangans never left UIU behind. Over the last 40 years, they have supported nearly every corner of the University—academics, athletics, scholarships, capital projects, emergency funds, and more. Their names are tied to excellence awards, renovations, and student support initiatives. But ask them why they give, and the answer is simple: gratitude.

“Remember your roots,” Alice says. “Remember where you came from, remember those who led you down the path of success, and be forever grateful.” She credits Upper Iowa as the foundation for much of their personal and professional success. “Giving back is how we choose to honor that opportunity.”

Their commitment has only grown stronger with time. The leadership of former president Dr. Bill Duffy inspired them deeply. “He was a true leader,” Roger says. “He gave his energy and time, his knowledge and leadership, his treasure as well. That kind of example stays with you.”

“We saw a need, as we prospered, we decided to give back to the institution that made it possible for us to get to the point in life where we were,” said Alice. “We are not wealthy, we are generous.”

Shaping the Future, Honoring the Past

As AI and technology rapidly transform higher education, the Mangans believe UIU’s strength lies in its adaptability and commitment to personal connection. They praise President Kathy Franken for her outreach and communication—an essential piece of inspiring continued support.

“People who can give need to know why they should give,” Roger emphasizes. “We don’t give to just give—we give because the mission matters, and because we’ve seen the difference it

can make.” Their hope is that their gifts—and their story—continue to shape UIU’s future.

“I think we have crafted an outline for what our legacy can and may become,” said Alice. “Life is a balancing act. When we are able, we will make sure UIU will always be in the hearts and minds of the Mangans and DeLongs.”



principle throughout Roger’s career in education and later in financial services. He carried those words into everything he did, eventually becoming a top-performing State Farm agent and earning prestigious industry designations.

For Alice, mentorship came from Professor Andre Nadeau, who taught her Physical Education and extended a lifeline of compassion and support when she needed it most. One memory stands out: in order to graduate, Alice had to pass a swimming test—despite a deep-seated fear of water. With friends cheering her on and Nadeau gently adjusting the requirements, she paddled across the pool’s width (not length), passed the test, and promised never to teach swimming—an agreement she kept with heartfelt gratitude.



And of course, it was on Fayette Campus that Alice and Roger met—a moment that would define their lives. Their paths crossed at Colgrove-Walker Hall, and they’ve been inseparable

ever since. Married in 1962, the couple embarked on careers in education (teaching, coaching, and consulting), raised two daughters, Michelle and Melissa, and eventually relocated to Littleton, Colorado, where the couple launched a successful State Farm agency.

ATHLETICS WRAP-UP

GLVC Academic Honors

The GLVC recognizes each team from full-time and associate member institutions that have maintained a 3.30 grade point average for the academic year with a Team Academic All-GLVC Award. Upper Iowa had ten teams achieve this academic milestone, with women's basketball maintaining the highest GPA for the academic year with a 3.78. The honored Upper Iowa programs are listed in order of highest GPA; women's basketball (3.78), women's golf (3.73), women's cross country (3.73), softball (3.72), women's track and field (3.72), volleyball (3.64), men's soccer (3.45), men's basketball (3.38), women's soccer (3.37), and baseball (3.33).

The recipients of the GLVC Council of Presidents' Academic Excellence Award exemplify the outstanding student-athletes in the GLVC. Each honoree has exhausted his or her eligibility in the intercollegiate sport in which they participated and maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average throughout their academic career. In addition, to be eligible for the award, the student-athlete must have competed in the GLVC for a minimum of two years and completed 96 credit hours. A student-athlete can only earn the distinguished honor one time in their career. *Upper Iowa saw six student-athletes achieve a perfect 4.0 throughout their career; they are highlighted in bold in the list below.*

GLVC Council of Presidents' Academic Excellence Award winners from Upper Iowa included; Bryce Hall/Baseball, Evan Hubatch/Baseball, Steve Marhefke/Baseball, Brady Stevens/Baseball, Junior Bodden/Men's Basketball, Jarrett Kruse/Men's Basketball, **Kayla Bohr/Women's Basketball**, **Mia Huberty/Women's Basketball**, Helen Staley/Women's Basketball, **Myah Brinker/Women's Track and Field**, **Genevieve Chenoweth/Women's Cross Country/Track and Field**, Connor Frasier/Football, Drake Kinney/Football, Baxter Bohr/Football, Rhett Smith/Football, Katie Schweers/Women's Golf, **Daigo Adachi/Men's Soccer**, Fabio Bender/Men's Soccer, Thomas Walle/Men's Soccer, Darci Faichnie/Women's Soccer, Nevaeh James/Women's Soccer, Natalie Lima/Women's Soccer, **Rae VanMilligan/Softball**, Delaney Vetter/Softball, Reagan Church/Softball, Kiana Maghanoy/Women's Track and Field, and Jordan Sekafetz/Women's Track and Field.

The GLVC Brother James Gaffney Distinguished Scholar Award is named after Brother James Gaffney FSC, former President of Lewis University for over 28 years and two-term Chair of the GLVC Council of Presidents, the award is presented annually to student-athletes competing in GLVC-sponsored sports who achieve a 4.0 grade point average during the course of the academic year.

GLVC Brother James Gaffney Distinguished Scholar Award winners from Upper Iowa included; Kyle Hrcir/Baseball & Men's Basketball, Evan Hubatch/Baseball, Brady Stevens/Baseball, Trey Kriener/Men's Basketball, Nathan Behne/Football, Gage Dunker/Football, Hayden Sathe/Football, Gavin Sweeney/Football, Daigo Adachi/Men's Soccer, Fabio Bender/Men's Soccer, Aadithya Vetriselvan/Men's Soccer, Gabriel Christiansen/Men's Wrestling, Caleb Olson/Men's Wrestling, Kayla Bohr/Women's Basketball, Steph Cink/Women's Basketball, Mia Huberty/Women's Basketball, Lilly Pepper/Women's Basketball, Abby Riederer/Women's Basketball, Anna Soler/Women's Basketball, Genevieve Chenoweth/Women's Cross Country and Track and Field, Eryn Sabelka/Women's Cross Country and Track and Field, Rio Johnson/Women's Cross Country and Track and Field, Brynn Bonefas/Women's Golf, Aeryn Hatiko/Women's Soccer, Emma Johnston/Women's Soccer, Natalie Lima/Women's Soccer, Addy Alber/Softball, Tristin Doster/Softball, Sara Reid/Softball, Aubree Terris/Softball, Rae VanMilligan/Softball, Myah Brinker/Women's Track and Field, Jillian Dodds/Women's Track and Field, Carolina Regalado/Women's Track and Field, Madelyn Hartman/Volleyball, Lydia Imbrogno/Volleyball, Emily Kono/Volleyball, Alexis Moses/Volleyball, and Martha Pace/Volleyball.

Meet the New Coaches

Upper Iowa will have three new head coaches heading into the 2025-26 academic and athletics year. Casey Kasperbauer comes to Upper Iowa from the University of South Dakota and will take over the men's basketball program for the Peacocks. Rachel Rhode arrives at UIU from Northeastern State University and will take the reigns of the Peacock softball program, while Jay Tiedemann comes to Fayette from Hiram College and will be the new head women's wrestling coach for the Peacocks.



Casey Kasperbauer
Men's Basketball



Rachel Rhode
Women's Softball



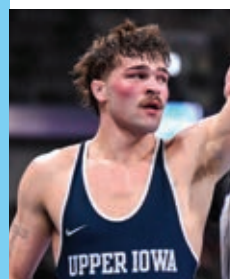
Jay Tiedemann
Women's Wrestling

Peacocks Strut

The following Peacocks had tremendous seasons and represented Upper Iowa in the best ways on the field and court.

UIU baseball's Gunnar Wicklund (Brainerd, Minn.) was named to the 2025 ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Division II Midwest All-Region Second Team... earned Second Team All-GLVC honors in 2025... started 45 games and posted a .327 batting average with 53 hits including a school-record 18 home runs and 8 doubles... slugged .710 with 46 RBI and 35 runs scored... broke the career home run record with 30.

Peacock men's basketball's Nick Reid (Central City, Iowa) was named to the 2025 D2CCA All-Midwest Region First Team and D2CCA All-America Second Team after earning GLVC Player of the Year honors for the 2024-25 season. He averaged 23.8 points and 8.3 rebounds per game... finished his career with 1,804 career points (6th all-time at UIU) and 931 career rebounds (5th all-time at UIU) after tallying 713 points, 249 rebounds, 62 assists, 29 steals and 23 blocks this year.



Lawson Losee

UIU wrestling's Lawson Losee earned NCAA Division II All-American honors after placing sixth at the NCAA Division II Championships in Indianapolis, Ind. in March. The sophomore finished the year with a record of 27-13 with 11 bonus-point victories including three falls, six tech falls and a pair of major decisions. Losee represented UIU along with Ethen Doty at the 2025 championships.

Nineteen Peacocks earned spots on their respective GLVC All-Conference teams as well. All-GLVC First Team nods went to Nick Reid (men's basketball), Mia Huberty (women's basketball), and Colter Bye (men's wrestling). All-GLVC Second Team honors were earned by Kyle Hrcir (men's basketball), Noah King (men's basketball), Dawson Schmit (men's wrestling), Ethen Doty (men's wrestling), Dalton Schams (men's wrestling), Lawson Losee (men's wrestling), Gunnar Wicklund (baseball), Thane Meiners (baseball), and Tristin Doster (softball). All-GLVC Third Team honors were collected by Kayla Bohr (women's basketball), Jackson Heaston (men's wrestling), Ryan Wehner (men's wrestling), Collin Altensey (men's wrestling), Geoff Freeman (men's wrestling), Clayton Ours (men's wrestling), and Serah Shafer (softball).

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

Three 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 September 26, 2025. To learn more or RSVP, visit uiu.edu/HomecomingBall. The class of 2025 inductees are:



COLE JAESCHKE '14
(ATHLETE) FOOTBALL

Exercise/Sports Studies major with a Sports Administration emphasis

- Three-time All-NSIC performer (2011 (Honorable Mention), 2012 (2nd), 2014 (HM))
- As a senior, Jaeschke threw for a single-season record 3,350 yards (8th NCAA, 1st NSIC); he broke his own record and surpassed 3,000 yards in a season for the first time in his career. The Moorland, Iowa native completed 307 passes (4th NCAA, 1st NSIC) at a 60.2% (4th NSIC) with 23 touchdowns (32nd NCAA, 5th NSIC) and 304.5 yards/game average (13th NCAA, 1st NSIC). Jaeschke added 23 yards and a pair of touchdowns on the ground as well.
- Started in all games for four seasons at quarterback and owns many records at Upper Iowa, but most importantly in the categories of career passing yards (11,714 yards), career total offense (12,174 yards), and career passing touchdowns (85).
- He is one of the best quarterbacks in the history of the NSIC; still ranked third all-time in career passing yards (11,581 yards) and is second all-time in career total offense (12,031 yards).
- Threw for 631 yards in a game at Sioux Falls in 2012 on 78 attempts



DEREK OELMANN '12
(ATHLETE) MEN'S SOCCER
Exercise/Sports Studies major with a Sports Administration emphasis

- Played for four seasons (2008-11) in 74 games
- Men's Soccer all-time leader in goals (44 – 2008-11) and points (102)
- Most Goals in a Season (18 – 2010) and 2nd Most Goals in a Season (14 – 2011)
- Most points in a season (37 – 2010) and 2nd Most Points in a Season (35 – 2011)
- Tied for Most Assists in a Season (8 – 2008)
- 2009 - Daktronics Second-Team All-Central Region Honors
- 2010 - Daktronics First Team All-Central Region
- 2010 - NSCAA All-Central Region and Second-Team All-America
- 2011 - NSCAA All-Central Region
- Played professionally in Canberra, Australia with Woden Valley FC
- Canberra National Premier League 2013 Golden Boot Award with a league-high 28 goals



CHRIS SMITH '15
(ATHLETE) – FOOTBALL
Exercise/Sports Studies major with an Exercise Science emphasis

- 2011 NSIC Football Player of the Year and NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year as a freshman
- Three-time All-NSIC First Team performer at running back (2011, 2013, 2014)
- Three-time All-Region performer at running back (2011 (2nd), 2013 (1st), 2014 (2nd))
- UIU's all-time leader in career rushing yards with 4,347 yards (second all-time in Northern Sun Conference history)
- As a senior, Smith fought through multiple injuries and still ran for 1,144 yards on 182 carries for averages of 127.1 yards/game and 5.9 yards/carry... he scored 19 touchdowns, the second-most scores in a season in Peacock history.
- Holds the program record for career touchdowns with 45 over his 35 games played

SPORTS SUMMARIES

Men's Wrestling (13-5 Overall/ 5-0 GLVC / Regular Season Champions)

- Captured the GLVC Regular Season Championship with an undefeated dual record, dominating league opponents including a 45-0 win over Quincy and 39-6 win over Drury.
- Placed 6th at the NCAA Super Region V Championships; Lawson Losee and Ethen Doty qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships.
- Finished 10th at the NWCA National Duals, competing against the top DII programs in the country and earning a pair of wins over No. 2 Glenville State and No. 9 Tiffin.
- Top Performers: Lawson Losee (27 wins, 11 bonus-point wins), Ethen Doty (31 wins, 15 falls), Colter Bye (25 wins, 9 bonus-point wins).



Lawson Losee and Ethen Doty

Men's Basketball (21-9 Overall/ 13-7 GLVC / 3rd Place)

- Knocked off #5 Missouri S&T at home in a 100-85 offensive showcase led by Kyle Hrnrcir's 35 and Nick Reid's 28 points.



- Advanced to GLVC Tournament Semifinals after an 80-66 win over Truman State.
- Finished the season ranked No. 6 in the NCAA Division II Midwest Region.
- Posted 20+ wins for the third time in the last four seasons.
- Top Performers: Nick Reid (23.8 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.1 assists), Kyle Hrnrcir (12.4 points, 4.7 rebounds, 2.8 assists), Noah King (16.4 points, 2.8 rebounds, 2.3 assists).

Nick Reid, GLVC Player of the Year

Women's Basketball (13-4 Overall/ 10-10 GLVC / 8th Place)

- Posted statement wins early over Augustana (79-58) on the road and Quincy (88-84) in double overtime at home behind 25 and 38 points, respectively, from Mia Huberty.
- Held both Missouri-St. Louis (56-44) and Rockhurst (65-49) under 50 points in a pair of wins in Dorman Memorial Gym in the middle of the season.
- Secured a spot in their second-straight GLVC Championships with a weekend sweep of Illinois Springfield (77-53) behind 24 points from Huberty and McKendree (68-66) on a last-second make by Helen Staley.
- Top Performers: Mia Huberty (18.4 points, 5 rebounds, 2.7 rebounds), Kayla Bohr (11.7 points, 3 rebounds, 1.2 assists).



Mia Huberty

Baseball (21-28 Overall / 15-17 GLVC / 9th Place)

- Recorded three wins in each of the four-game series against Truman State, Southwest Baptist, Rockhurst, and Missouri S&T.
- Offensively, posted a .306 batting average as a team with 485 hits including 59 home runs, 9 triples, and 72 doubles to slug .474.
- On the mound, the team struggled with a team earned run average of 8.25, but did record 298 strikeouts led by 39 from southpaw Brady Stevens.
- Top Performers: Gunnar Wicklund (.327 average, 18 HR, .710 slugging, 46 RBI), Thane Meiners (.310 average, 44 hits, 2.70 ERA, 10.0 IP, 9 Ks), Brock Zimmer (.355 average, 19 extra base hits), Ethan Sawyer (.348 average, 69 hits, 43 runs).



Gunnar Wicklund



Softball (12-35 Overall / 8-20 GLVC / 13th Place)

- Claimed a split at No. 17 Indianapolis behind a 5-4 win to open the GLVC schedule and moved to 4-4 in the GLVC after a split with Lewis at home thanks to a 3-2 win in game one.



Sara Reid

- Won three out of four games at home over Rockhurst and William Jewell to move to 7-4 and tie for third place in the standings.
- Struggled down the stretch winning one of their final 17 conference games.
- Top Performers: Tristin Doster (.329 average, 9 home runs, 45 RBI, .622 slugging), Sara Reid (5.21 ERA, 8 wins, 142.1 innings, 107 Ks), Serah Shafer (.406 average, 71 hits, 28 stolen bases), Delaney Vetter (4.98 ERA, 97 innings, 89 Ks).

Women's Track and Field

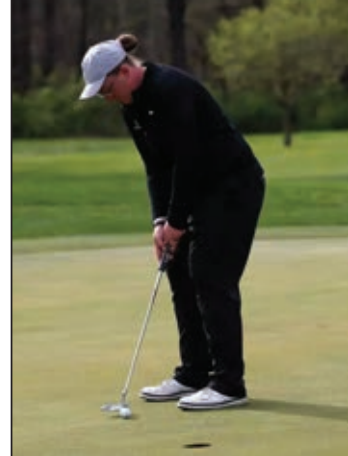
- UIU closed the indoor track and field season by placing 12th at the GLVC Championships.
- Seven Peacocks competed in five events, garnering five team points.
- Haylie Hutchinson led the way for the Peacocks, as she took fifth place in the triple jump (10.97m) setting a new school record.
- Hutchinson, alongside Jillian Dodds, Jasheana Tracey and Eryn Sabelka added an eighth-place finish in the 4x400m relay.
- In outdoor, the Peacocks wrapped up their season at the GLVC Conference Championships, finishing 11th overall in the three-day meet with seven points.
- Haylie Hutchinson scored 5 points as an individual after placing eighth in the triple jump with a top mark of 11.19m, seventh in the 100m hurdles (14.99) and seventh in the 400m hurdles (1:07.07).
- In the relays, the 4x100m team of Jillian Dodds, Haylie Hutchinson, Maile Kehano, and Carolina Regalado placed seventh with a time of 51.15.



Haylie Hutchinson

Women's Golf

- Upper Iowa placed 11th overall with a 1,026 (+174) score across three rounds of golf at the GLVC Championships this past April.
- Katie Schweers recorded Upper Iowa's best score, as she finished in 10th place with a 235 (+22) score. Schweers recorded scores of 77, 78, and 80 over the tournament, while accumulating a total of three birdies.
- Lizzy Ellis garnered a 58th place finish, as she posted a 262 (+49) score with one birdie. She opened the meet with a 93 score on round one, before bouncing back with scores of 85 and 84 on rounds two and three.
- Delaney Martin and Addison Weber each tied for 62nd place, with scores of 266 (+53).



Katie Schweers

Men's Golf

- Upper Iowa wrapped up their 2025 Spring Season by placing 13th overall at the GLVC Championships.
- The Peacocks recorded a score of 935 (+71) over three rounds of golf.
- Jack Miller posted the Peacocks best score at 226 (+10) to take 37th place. Miller had a phenomenal start to the tourney as he recorded a 71 (-1) score on day one with four birdies.
- Owen Davison added a 41st place finish, as he garnered a score of 228 (+12).
- Christian Burkhardt placed 50th overall for the Peacocks, as he recorded a score of 231 (+15). He recorded five birdies across the competition, with three coming on the final round.



Coach Mike Lewis and Christian Burkhardt

Women's Wrestling

- Members of the Peacock women's wrestling team competed at six tournaments during their inaugural season on the mat.
- Toyia Griffin claimed 18 wins with 9 by fall and 4 by tech fall, while Makayla Matson posted 10 wins with 5 falls.
- Tiffany White added 8 wins with 4 falls, while Rio Johnson notched 5 wins with 2 falls.



Trinity White and Toyia Griffin

DONOR DOLLARS AT

Growing Greener: Hands-on learning through sustainability

Your gifts have allowed us to enhance landscaping around campus, providing beautiful green spaces that foster hands-on learning opportunities for students in environmental science and related fields. These projects help UIU thrive while teaching students about sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the impact they can have on the world around them.



Pathways to Progress: Building a welcoming campus

Donors to the UIU Excellence Fund helped reimagine the entrance to Edgar Hall, creating a new sidewalk, entrance, and refreshed feel that welcomes every student, parent, and guest to campus. Your support is quite literally paving the way for students to step confidently into their futures each day.



Safety First: Protecting our future scientists

Fulfilling our commitment to safety and innovation, we've installed new medical safety cabinets—made possible through your generous support. These



upgraded safety measures allow our Science and Mathematics Department to continue providing innovative, hands-on opportunities that prepare students for careers in health, research, and science industries, all while fostering a culture of safety and excellence.



Room to Wrestle: Empowering our women athletes

Women's Wrestling now has a dedicated training space because of supporters who believe in the power of athletics

to transform lives. This space provides our women student-athletes with the resources they need to excel, build confidence, and develop leadership skills that will serve them on the mat and beyond.



WORK

Brick by Brick: A legacy that lasts a lifetime



Thanks to alumni and friends, Edgar Hall bricks have found their forever home, updated and proudly placed on campus

as a symbol of the strong foundation our alumni have built for future generations. These bricks are more than just a walkway; they are a legacy of pride and commitment, reminding all who pass by of the lifelong connections made at UIU. Email alumni@uiu.edu for a form to add your part to UIU's path.

Hands-on Innovation: Expanding opportunities in science

A new science and seed processing area has been added to the PAAC, giving students access to real-world equipment and experiences in science fields.

This addition enhances our academic offerings and helps students prepare for careers that will feed, pollinate, and sustain our communities.



UIU is thriving because of your support!

Thanks to you, UIU is brighter, safer, and thriving. Your generosity drives meaningful change—enhancing student life, strengthening programs, and shaping a stronger future for all Peacocks. The projects highlighted below are possible because of the unwavering support of alumni and friends like you. Every gift makes a lasting impact, helping our students succeed today while building the foundation for tomorrow. Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in UIU!

Game-changing support for our athletes

UIU Baseball and all Peacock athletics benefit from your generosity all year long. Your gifts help our student-athletes grow in the classroom and on the field. Now, they proudly represent UIU in brand-new jerseys made possible by donor support. Thank you for believing in our Peacocks and fueling their success!



Fueling connection, celebration and pride

The Student Government Association (SGA) is deeply grateful for your support in raising funds that directly enhance the student experience and build a vibrant community rooted in connection and Peacock pride. Because of you, students form lasting friendships, celebrate meaningful milestones, and discover a sense of belonging that extends far beyond the classroom. From first-year students seeking connection to seniors making final memories before graduation, your generosity ensures each event leaves a lasting, positive mark on the UIU journey.

Thank you for believing in our mission to foster school spirit and a strong, engaged campus community.



Bright Ideas: Lighting the way for student success

With 325 new LED light fixtures installed in the Student Center, our campus is brighter and more energy-efficient, providing a safe,

welcoming environment for students to gather, study, and build community. These upgrades save on energy costs while investing in the well-being and comfort of our Peacock family.



Graduation Garb: Celebrating student-athlete achievements

Support from the Peacock Athletic Fund has allowed us to honor our student-athlete graduates with stoles for graduation, recognizing their hard work, discipline, and commitment to both academics and athletics. Your gifts help student-athletes succeed on the field, in the classroom, and in life beyond UIU.



Servery Chic: Nourishing Student Potential

The Student Center dining space now features new flooring and epoxy touches that brighten and modernize the space where students fuel their minds and bodies. This upgrade, made possible by alumni support, creates a more welcoming environment where students can connect and recharge throughout their busy days.



Student Scholarships: Direct impact on student lives



Your gifts to General Scholarships are a lifeline for many UIU students, providing critical financial support that allows them to continue their education and pursue their dreams. At the 2025 Honors & Awards

Ceremony, held on April 12, more than \$432,000 in scholarships were awarded across 212 individual awards, thanks to the generosity of donors like you. Each scholarship represents a story of perseverance and potential made possible by your belief in the transformative power of education.

Coming in the next issue of The Bridge:

Watch for updates on campus tuckpointing and a refreshed Graf Gardens as well as Home Sweet Dorm: Residential rooms now feel homier with fresh new curtains.

Honoring the Legacy of Darwin Dean '99

A Lifelong Champion of Peacock Athletics



Upper Iowa University proudly honors the legacy of Darwin Dean '99, a devoted alumnus whose unwavering support for UIU—especially Peacock Athletics—left a lasting mark that will be felt for generations.

A graduate of UIU's Management Information Systems program, Darwin exemplified what it means to be a Peacock: loyal, humble, generous, community-minded, and committed to helping others succeed. His legacy was built not just through words, but through consistent action and presence.

Darwin was a beloved and constant figure at UIU athletic events. Whether in the bleachers or along the sidelines, his enthusiasm never wavered. Rain or shine, heat or cold, Darwin showed up—ready to cheer, support, and celebrate. He held a special place in his heart for women's athletics, especially softball and basketball. For many student-athletes, seeing him in the stands became a reassuring and motivating part of game day.

Beyond his steadfast support, Darwin made numerous personal contributions to UIU Athletics. His generosity



helped the softball team purchase new uniforms, and he actively supported the women's soccer team—visiting players and assisting with fundraising. These gestures came not from obligation, but from genuine care and a desire to give back to the programs he loved.

Darwin didn't just donate—he built relationships. He showed up, encouraged, and celebrated every victory, large and small. His presence reflected a belief in kindness, commitment, and the power of showing up.

Through thoughtful estate planning, Darwin ensured his legacy would live on. As a proud member of the UIU Heritage Society, he established the Darwin Dean Endowed Scholarship, awarded annually to a rising junior or senior student-athlete with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. He also created a permanent endowed fund supporting women's athletics—benefiting teams such as softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross country, track and field, and golf. Notably, he also included former programs like women's lacrosse, tennis, and bowling, underscoring his deep loyalty and inclusivity.

Darwin Dean passed away on May 14, 2025. Though his familiar seat may now be empty, his presence remains deeply felt—in the athletes he championed, the programs he empowered, and the future he helped shape.

His is a legacy rooted in purpose, pride, and Peacock spirit, and Upper Iowa University is forever better because of him. Thank you, Darwin. You will always be a true champion of UIU. 🏆



Darwin Dean '99 was a devoted presence at UIU athletic events—always cheering, always supporting, always showing up. His legacy lives on through the athletes and programs he championed with heart and humility.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Team Peacock: So much more than a bike ride

More than 20 riders and support crew members teamed up for another unforgettable RAGBRAI adventure, July 23–26, 2025. Team Peacock has proudly represented Upper Iowa University in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa for over two decades—and it's become much more than just a summer tradition.

RAGBRAI, the oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycle touring event in the world, might be known for its scenic routes and camaraderie—but for Team Peacock, it's also a powerful opportunity to make a difference.

Each rider selects a cause close to their heart—whether it's a scholarship, sports team, campus program, or another UIU initiative—and sets a personal fundraising goal to support it. Thanks to their dedication, and the support of 18 generous sponsors who helped fuel the ride with everything from bug spray and sunscreen to coffee and bus fuel, Team Peacock raised an impressive \$23,310—surpassing their \$20,000 goal.

Beyond dollars and miles, the team also made a big impact through visibility and school pride. Decked out in their Team Peacock jerseys, riders were frequently met with enthusiastic cheers like “Go Peacocks!” or “I’m an alum!” from fellow cyclists and spectators alike. These moments served as meaningful reminders of the University’s far-reaching community and the pride our alumni carry with them.

Relive the Adventure! Check out daily photos from this year’s ride on the UIU Alumni & Friends Facebook page (www.facebook.com/uiualumni), and learn more about the team’s mission and impact at uiu.edu/TeamPeacock. 



Team Peacock proudly dipped their tires in the mighty Mississippi on July 26, 2025, marking the celebratory finale of RAGBRAI’s ride across Iowa! Pictured left to right is Miriam Skrade, director of Honors & Experiential Learning, Dr. Paul Skrade, association professor of Biology, **Joshua Crosbie '20**, Land Management coordinator, Bridgette Griffin, women’s basketball assistant coach, **Jackson Hayek '02**, director of AV Production & Events Marketing, and **Jesse Pleggenkuhle '12, '20**, director of Facilities.



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Join us in honoring the memory of
Steve Harms '73,
during a special recognition at the
UIU Homecoming football game.

Saturday, September 27, 2025
Harms-Eischeid Stadium
Fayette Campus



*We’re proud to celebrate Steve’s lasting
impact on our Peacock community.*

*If you’re unable to attend, but wish to share a memory or a contribution to the
Steve Harms Memorial Fund, visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/steveharms.*

Climbing Higher: How one UIU graduate reached new heights in career and Life



Jenie Wyant '18, '25

When life brought Jenie Wyant to a crossroads, a determined and forward-thinking graduate from Upper Iowa University's Class of 2025 chose the path of resilience, growth, and higher education. After being laid off from her role at John Deere in 2016, she knew it was time to rewrite her story—and that journey began at UIU.

"I didn't have a business background, but I knew I needed something more," she said. "I wanted a career with growth potential, and earning my degree felt like the first step toward a future full of possibilities."

With grit and determination, she enrolled at UIU and quickly turned her academic success into a professional breakthrough. She landed a job in Des Moines as an Origination Specialist—despite being the only person on her team without prior experience. That didn't slow her down. In fact, she became the first in her department to achieve the highest funding authority.

But her journey didn't stop there.

While a bachelor's degree opened the door, she soon found herself standing at another crossroads. After advancing to Compliance Analyst, she realized a graduate degree would be essential in order to continue climbing. So, she took the next bold step—and in May 2025, she proudly earned her MBA with an emphasis in Organizational Development.

All along the way, she found motivation in unexpected places. When she completed her bachelor's degree, she received a commemorative UIU coin engraved with the phrase "*Education Built for Life.*"

"I carry that coin with me every day," she said. "It reminds me that as long as we keep learning, we keep growing."

As a single mother and non-traditional student, she credits UIU for helping her make it all work.

Jenie currently works at DLL Finance as a Jr. Compliance Analyst and resides in Waterloo, Iowa, with her two children Elliana and Jace.

"UIU has been the perfect fit for my life—flexible, supportive, and affordable," she shared. "With financial aid and Iowa tuition grants, I've been able to pursue my education and still provide for my family. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend UIU to anyone looking to advance their life and career."

Now, standing tall as a member of the Class of 2025, she's not just a graduate—she's a testament to perseverance, lifelong learning, and the power of investing in yourself.

She's truly on top of the world—and the view looks bright. 🏔️



CLASS NOTES

1960's

Bonnie (Ahrens) Hooyman '68, Lakeland, Florida, has been retired for 19 years and has traveled to many national parks, and cruised to Cuba. She and her husband, Dan, relocated to Florida in 2015, live in the home of their dreams and enjoy golfing to keep active and healthy.



Dr. Stephen Regan '69, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, attended the Commissioning of the U.S.S. Iowa, a new Virginia-class submarine, in New London, Connecticut. A former

Navy veteran, he is the former President of the Iowa Chapter of the Navy League and was on the original Commissioning Committee. Regan also writes *Beyond the Horizon*, a monthly blog on maritime and nautical affairs at docregan.net.

1970's

Lou Wiegand '70, Iowa City, Iowa, and his wife, Janet, moved back to Iowa after living in The Villages, Florida for 10 years and they are loving life.



This group of Peacocks enjoyed a fishing trip on Lake Erie in Oak Harbor, Ohio, in July 2025. Pictured from left: Greg Lantz (whose daughter Annie

is a current UIU student), **Bill DeLauro '78**, Bill Calhoun (former Director of Admissions at UIU), and **Jeff Stavnes '76** (current president of the UIU Alumni Association.)

Keith Freeseemann '77, Yorba Linda, California, retired in August 2024 from California State University, Long Beach after 45 years of service. During his employment at CSULB, he had numerous roles, including Athletic Trainer, Associate Professor, and Director of Athletic Training Education. During his last 10 years, Keith served faculty, staff, students, administrators, and the local community as the University's Ombudsman.

Debra (Richardson) Shelton '78, Duncombe, Iowa, retired from Prairie Lakes AEA in June 2023, where she worked for 45 years in Early Childhood Special Education. She is now a part-time independent ECSE Consultant volunteer at multiple non-profits. She enjoys baking with her grandson.

1980's



Julie (Scott) Soat '87, Galena, Illinois, was honored by The American Legion Fickbohm-Hissem Post 193 for meritorious service during a May 1, 2024, banquet. She and two fellow colleagues who work at Midwest Medical Center, received special recognition for "Outstanding Public Service Benefiting Our Community, State, and Nation." Julie serves as a licensed physical therapist assistant (PTA, BS, LCM).

1990's

Kris (Andrews) Martin '94, Independence, Iowa, has accepted a position as the Principal at Oelwein High School. Previously, Kris was the Middle School/High School Principal at Starmont Community Schools in Arlington, Iowa. Kris and her husband, David Martin '91, currently reside in Independence, Iowa.

Daryl Dotson '95, Newton, Iowa, is currently the Berg Middle School Principal with the Newton Community School District. Previously, he served as Dean of Students and Assistant Principal at Bondurant High School from 2022-2024. Before that, he was a teacher and coach at Des Moines Public Schools from 2010-2022. He currently resides in Newton and has three grown children and one grandson.

Monica (Patterson) Reed '96, Laveen, Arizona, has been a licensed social worker for 23 years and is currently an Acute Care Social Worker at Banner Health Network. She is working towards clinical licensure and plans to become an independent contractor. Monica and her husband, Carl, will celebrate 10 years of marriage in September 2025.

Dr. Tim Burgess '98, Rockville, Maryland, recently completed a multiyear assignment in Italy and continues his work with the federal government in the Washington, D.C., area.

Russell Wilson '99, of Big Lake, Alaska, recently retired from teaching Emergency Medical Services at Barton Community College in Fort Riley, Kansas. Following the retirement of his wife, Linda, from a career in nursing, the couple relocated to Alaska to be closer to family. Now enjoying their new surroundings, they have front-row seats to two iconic Alaskan events—the Iron Dog snowmobile race and the Iditarod sled dog race. Next on their bucket list: hunting and fishing adventures, just as soon as they finish settling into their home and sprucing up their yard.

2000's

Dr. Billie (Hunt) Cowley '03, '08, Fayette, Iowa, has been named the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Upper Iowa University. She has worked for the University since 2008 as a faculty member; Teacher Education Program Chair, Master of Education Program Director; Dean, Andres School of Education; and Dean, Academic & Educational Affairs.

Brenda (Beckman) Hernandez '05, Dubuque, Iowa, retired as a 911 dispatcher after 20 years of service. During her career as a dispatcher, she became classified as a protective servant in the public service field.

Scott Muller '06, Grundy Center, Iowa, has been named the Iowa Football Coaches Association 2024 Class 1A Assistant Coach of the Year. He currently serves as an assistant football coach at Grundy Center High School.

CLASS NOTES

Ashley (Zezulka) Welch '07, Ossian, Iowa, is a Special Education Teacher with the South Winneshiek Community School District in Calmar, Iowa. She and her husband, Randy, have three children, Sophia, Francis, and William.

Jeremy Ansel '08, North Port, Florida, was honored with the City of North Port "Greenest Citizen Award" on April 22, 2025.

Dan McCready '08, Grapevine, Texas, was inducted into the Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Hall of Honor after 17 years of coaching wrestling. He is currently the Assistant Principal at Coppell High School in Coppell, Texas.



Brian Sims '08, '10, of Pasco, Washington, has been named Chief Executive Officer of Lourdes Health. He brings more than 17 years of executive experience in rural and community hospital leadership. Prior to this role, he served as CEO of Lucas County Health Center in Chariton, Iowa. Brian has also served as a member of the Upper Iowa University Board of Trustees since 2021.

2010's

Michael '13 & Anita (Calhoun) '14 Miklus, Ankeny, Iowa, recently returned to Iowa from the Twin Cities. Michael is the Director of Customer Care for Mom's Meals, which provides meals to individuals who are managing chronic conditions, recovering from a hospital stay, or needing nutritional support to maintain their independence. Michael & Anita have four children.

Michele (Sinur) Ott '13, '16, of Roseburg, Oregon, was promoted to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Oregon Department of Human Services in September 2024. She previously served as a Human Services Assistant II in Vocational Rehabilitation since 2022. Michele and her husband, Anthony, are proud parents of two sons, Alex and Tyler.

Seth Miner '14 has accepted a position as the Vice President for Fayette Admissions and Student Life at Upper Iowa.

Matthew Chapman '16, Beaufort, South Carolina, has been honored as the 2024 Firefighter of the Year and is also the recipient of the 2024 Life Saving Award. He currently serves as a Firefighter/EMT with Parris Island Fire & Emergency Services. Previously, Matthew was recognized as the Firefighter of the Quarter (Group 7) in 2022.

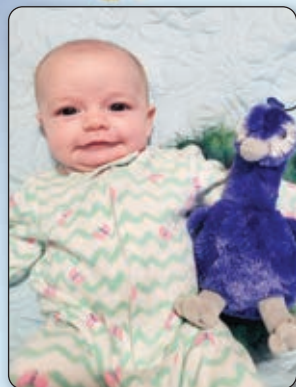
Aleesha (Cleaver) Rabedeaux '16, Oskaloosa, Iowa has stepped down as William Penn Athletics Director. She has served as AD since February 2024 and will transition into a role as the Director of University Operations.

Edward Jackson '19, Des Moines, Iowa, is working at Titan International as an Employee Relations Advisor in Human Resources. He and his wife, Amanda, have four children: Tara, Brenda, Ethan, and Gideon.

Levi Manor '19, '21, of Roscommon, Michigan, has been named Director of Athletic Performance for William Penn University Athletics. He previously served as Director of Strength and Conditioning at Petoskey High School through the Northern Michigan Sports Medicine Center. In addition to his strength and conditioning



Welcome to the Peacock family, little ones!



Benjamin and **Brandy Branstetter, UIU director of military and veteran affairs**, announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Elizabeth, on May 2, 2025. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Big sister Charlotte is excited to welcome Emily, who already loves cuddles and chewing on her left hand.



Kaitlyn (Mohwinkel) '21, '23 and **Carter Harris '23**, Aplington, Iowa, are the proud parents of a baby boy, **Kyler**, born January 18, 2025.



Alexis (Lloyd) '18 and **Sam Broome '18**, Grundy Center, Iowa, welcomed baby girl, **Emerson Ray**, to the world on October 3, 2024. Alexis earned her

M.S. Ed. through Buena Vista University in May 2025, and she'll start her new position as School Counselor at GMG Elementary (Green Mountain Garwin) in August 2025.



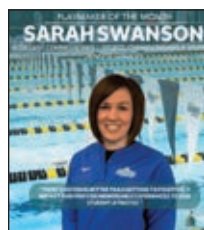
Cody Booker '16 and **Macy (Wilharm) Booker '21**, North Mankato, Minnesota, are proud parents of baby boy, **Owen William**, on July 16, 2025. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 22 inches long.

CLASS NOTES

role, Manor was an assistant track and field coach specializing in sprints, helping athletes achieve school records, All-State honors, and national qualifications. He is also a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

2020's

Travis Eggers '20, Denver, Iowa, was inducted into the MFL MarMac Bulldog Wrestling Hall of Fame on January 18, 2025. Travis began his wrestling career with the Bulldogs and became a state champion in his senior year. At UIU, he was a four-time national qualifier, three-time national semi-finalist, two-time national finalist, and one-time national champion. Twice, Eggers was named Northern Sun Conference Wrestler of the Year. In 2018, he was inducted into the Jim Koch Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame, and in 2021, he was welcomed into the UIU Hall of Fame.



Sarah Swanson '20, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was recognized in February 2025 as the "Playmaker of the Month" by Iowa City Area Sports Commission. She

currently serves as Assistant Commissioner for Sports, Championships, and Student-Athlete Services for The Summit League, where she oversees a variety of sports, including volleyball, softball, soccer, and swimming and diving. In February, Sarah led the coordination of the Swimming & Diving Championships at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.



Dejah Smith '23, Belvidere, Illinois, has been accepted to Northern Illinois University College of Law and will be attending law school in the fall of 2025. Dejah is

currently a paralegal with the Patterson Law Firm.

Nick Peck '22, Austin, Texas, released his first novel, *Only Way Out*, loosely inspired by real-life experiences. He also signed a publishing contract with Manhattan Book Group.



Reanne Kietlinski '24, Smithville, Missouri, is now Manager of Athletics Communications for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Formerly, she worked at Upper Iowa as the Director of Sports Communications.

Jenna (Berger) Anderson '24, Rock Island, Illinois, has accepted a Long-Term Substitute Teaching position at Mark Twain Elementary in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Bryce Baker '24, Rochester, Minnesota, is now teaching physical education at Red Wing High School in Red Wing, Minnesota.

Andrew Cowell '24, Ankeny, Iowa, accepted a position to teach 3rd Grade at Westwood Elementary in the Ankeny Community School District.

Lauren Demotta '24, Clinton, Iowa, accepted a position as an Instructional Strategist I Teacher at Eagle Heights Elementary in Clinton, Iowa.

Sara Dopler '24, Wapello, Iowa, is teaching 6th grade English Language Arts at Mount Pleasant Junior High in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Genevieve Chenoweth '24, Fayette, Iowa, has accepted a position as Assistant Director of Major Gifts at Upper Iowa University.

Taylor (Coots) Fox '24, Bettendorf, Iowa, has accepted an Inclusive Pre-K Teaching position at Pleasant Valley School District in Riverdale, Iowa.

Emily Goldsberry '24, Davenport, Iowa, accepted a Strategist II ID position at Eisenhower in the Davenport Community School District, assisting students with intellectual disabilities.



Marissa (Foels) '21 and Conner Ariss '22, Ossian, Iowa, were united in marriage on November 23, 2024 in Decorah, Iowa.

Lance Butikofer '21, Ossian, Iowa, married Leah (Wegmann) Butikofer on July 12, 2025 in Manchester, Iowa.

CLASS NOTES

Emily (Routh) Haines '24, Des Moines, Iowa, has accepted a teaching position with the Des Moines Public School District. She will join Cowley Montessori as a 4th–6th grade teacher for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Amanda (Beede) Harden '24, Des Moines, Iowa, is a new Instructional Strategist I Teacher at Valerius Elementary in the Urbandale Community School District in Urbandale, Iowa.

Lory Hart '24, Laurel, Iowa, is teaching Special Education at Focus Middle School in the Des Moines Public School System.

Lindsey (Gillon) Hanke '24, Altoona, Iowa, has accepted a Second Grade Teaching position at Clay Elementary at the Southeast Polk Community School District in Des Moines, Iowa.

Quinton Jensen '24, Marion, Iowa, has accepted a 7th Grade Literacy Teaching Position at Hoover Middle School in the Waterloo School District in Waterloo, Iowa.

Rochelle Merrifield '24, West Des Moines, Iowa, has accepted a Reading Interventionist teaching position at Morris Elementary in the Des Moines Public School System in Des Moines, Iowa.

Maddie Rettler '24, Fayette, Iowa, has been named the Senior Admissions Recruiter at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa.

Jane (Earp) Sharp '24, Altoona, Iowa, has accepted a Preschool Teaching Position at Clay Elementary at the Southeast Polk Community School District in Des Moines, Iowa.

Allyson Schmidt '24, Eldridge, Iowa, has accepted a Kindergarten/1st Grade Special Education Teaching position at the Pleasant Valley School District in Riverdale, Iowa.

Bradie (Knapp) Weeter '24, Johnston, Iowa, has accepted a position with the Johnston Community School District at the Summit Middle School as a Special Education Strategist II - BD Teacher for 6th and 7th graders.

Sharon Windschitl '24, Davenport, Iowa, is teaching 6th grade Language Arts at Smart Intermediate School in the Davenport Community School District.

Kylee (Dunham) Busch '25, Aledo, Illinois, has accepted a 4th grade teaching position at Monmouth-Roseville Community Unit School District 235 in Monmouth, Illinois.

Renee Clearman '25, Buffalo, Iowa, has accepted an Early Childhood Teaching Position at Children's Village West in the Davenport Community School District in Davenport, Iowa.

Jane Cue '25, Oelwein, Iowa, accepted a position to teach third grade at Eastern Allamakee Elementary School in New Albin, Iowa.

Holly Finley '25, Truro, Iowa, has accepted a Middle School Special Education Teaching position at Clarke Middle School in Osceola, Iowa.

Jerrod Johnson '25, Earlham, Iowa, has accepted a Special Education Teaching position at Winterset Middle School District in Winterset, Iowa.

Billie (Herriage) Matelski '25, Monona, Iowa, has accepted a 9-12th grade Social Studies teaching position at Postville High School in Postville, Iowa.

John "JT" Monroe '25, Ossian, Iowa, accepted a position as Middle School Language Arts Teacher at West Central Community School District in Maynard, Iowa.



Asia Nash '25, Waterloo, Iowa, was recently promoted from HR assistant to the Clinical Contract Labor Coordinator in Nursing Operations at Allen Hospital - UnityPoint Health in Waterloo, Iowa.

Acacia Fraternity Celebrates 50 Years!



Acacia gathered on the Fayette Campus, October 3–5, 2024 for the 50th reunion of its national charter. Nearly 50 alums traveled in from all corners of the country (and one from Sweden) to come back “home” for the celebration. Pictured above (front row, l–r): **John Stavnes '75, Craig Frost '77, Mike Tritle '75, Jon Miller '75, Steve Reid '75, Joe Tillman '73 and Ron Rydell '82**. Second row (l–r): **Rick Radcliffe '80, Dave Stevens '77, Jeff Stavnes '76, Dave Christoffer '76 and Jerry Wessels '80**. Back row: **Ted Koester '79, Bill Delauro '78, Dennis Langley '81, Keith Freesemann '77, Al Tweedy '78, Ron Patterson '76, Bruce Kisner '82, and Rick Dillinger '76**.

Do you have something special to share?

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



ON THE ROAD WITH ALUMNI



Bill DeLauro '78 and **Jeff Stavnes '76** visited campus on June 25, 2025. Pictured with them is **Mark Danker** (second from left) and **Brenda Luzum** (far right).



President Kathy Franken '12 and her husband, **Chuck**, visited with former UIU President **Dr. Bill Duffy** and his wife, **Sharon**, in Land O'Lakes, Florida, in April 2025.



President Franken visits with **Jan Munoz '72** in Denver, Colorado in May 2025.



President Franken with **Dr. James Parker** in Annapolis, Maryland in March 2025.



President Franken and her husband, **Chuck**, spend time with **Roger '62** and **Alice '61 Mangan** in Littleton, Colorado.



Genna Chenoweth '24 and **Ashley Gredys** meet with **Matthew Morton '11** at the University of Chicago in August 2025.



President Franken visits with **Eugene Matthews '99** in April 2025.



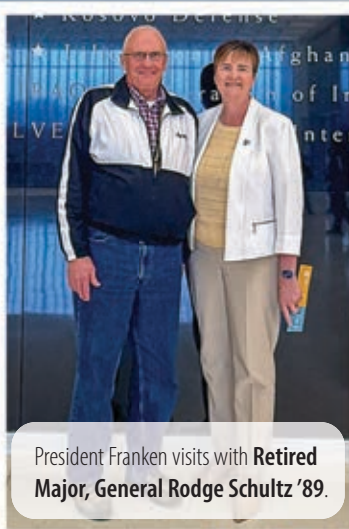
Mark Danker (second from left) is pictured with **Joe Smith '78**, **Jesse Curry '78**, and **Chuck Salva '77** (left to right) in East Aurora, New York.

Over the past few months, President Franken and our Advancement team have had the pleasure of meeting with fellow Peacocks across the country—from living rooms to local landmarks—sharing memories, celebrating UIU pride, and building meaningful connections.

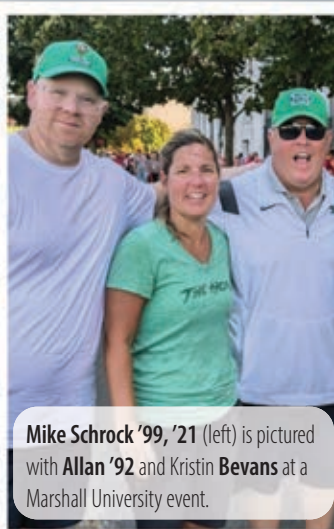
If you're interested in meeting with a member of our team to talk more about your UIU experience, engagement, or philanthropic interests, we'd love to connect with you. To arrange, reach out to us anytime at alumni@uiu.edu or 563-425-5388.



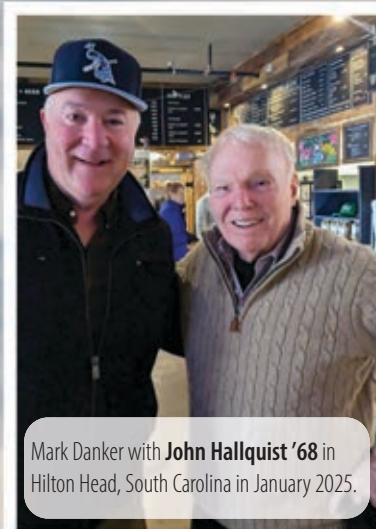
Rowdy Farrell '94, spends time with Mark Danker in Hershey, Pennsylvania.



President Franken visits with Retired Major, General Rodge Schultz '89.



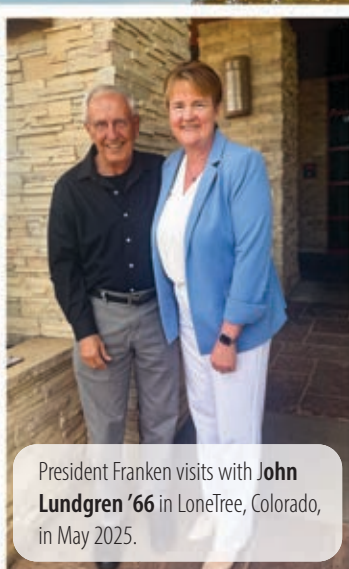
Mike Schrock '99, '21 (left) is pictured with Allan '92 and Kristin Bevans at a Marshall University event.



Mark Danker with John Hallquist '68 in Hilton Head, South Carolina in January 2025.



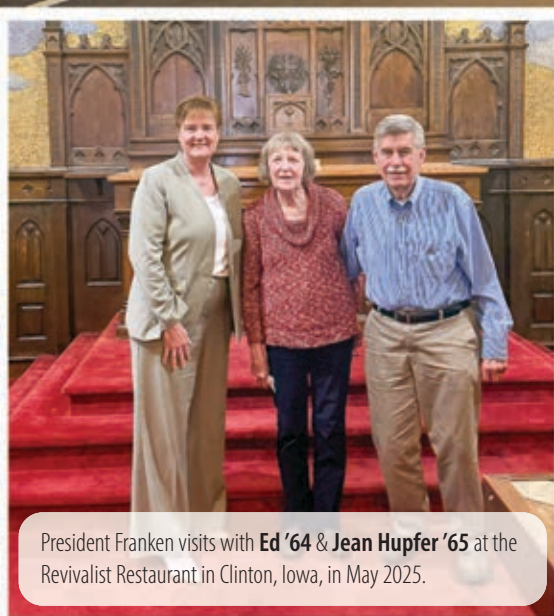
President Franken with Joe Peluso '67 in Land O'Lakes, Florida, in April 2025.



President Franken visits with John Lundgren '66 in LoneTree, Colorado, in May 2025.



Chuck Franken (standing), President Franken, Vice President Ashley Gredys, and UIU Trustee Richard Andres and his wife, Chris, visited in Bonita Springs, Florida, in April 2025.



President Franken visits with Ed '64 & Jean Hupfer '65 at the Revivalist Restaurant in Clinton, Iowa, in May 2025.



Teddy Travis '20, and his parents, visited the Fayette Campus from the Philippines, in May 2025.



President Franken with Karla Radtke '97 in St. Petersburg, Florida, in April 2025.

2025-26 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 important, have fun! It would be our pleasure to see YOU at an upcoming event.



- | | |
|--|--|
| August 21: Peacock Parent Bon Voyage
(Fayette Iowa) | January 17: Cheer & Dance Alumni Reunion Day (Fayette, Iowa) |
| August 28: Peacock Tailgate Party @ Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa) | January 31: Basketball Alumni Day (Fayette, Iowa) |
| September 12-14: Baseball Alumni Weekend & 1996 World Series Reunion (Fayette, Iowa) | February 1: Mike Olson Alumni Wrestling Dual (Fayette, Iowa) |
| September 20: Men's Basketball Golf Outing (Fayette, Iowa) | February 28: Peacock Night at the Black Hawks (Waterloo, Iowa) |
| September 21-27: Homecoming Week (Fayette, Iowa) | March 25: National Peacock Day |
| September 27: Beta Theta Phi 60 th Anniversary (Fayette, Iowa) | March 25 & 26: 10 th Annual Giving Days (Online) |
| September 27: Volleyball Alumni Day (Fayette, Iowa) | March 26: Pete the Peacock's Birthday |
| October 1: Fall Internship & Career Fair (Fayette, Iowa) | April 11: Honors & Awards Banquet (Fayette, Iowa) |
| October 22: Peacock Power 24-Hour Challenge (Online) | May 9: Commencement & "Second Chance" Commencement (Fayette, Iowa) |
| November 11: Veterans Day Program (Fayette, Iowa) | June 5: 31 st Annual Peacock Golf Classic (Fayette, Iowa) |
| December 2: Giving Tuesday Online Fundraiser | |



Beta Theta Phi 60th Anniversary »» September 27

Let's round up the fraternity brothers— Beta Theta Phi will celebrate its 60-year reunion during this year's Homecoming weekend! Reconnect with old friends, share memories, and make new ones during this milestone event. Whether you were a founding member or joined years later, this is a celebration you won't want to miss.

For more details or to sign up, contact Peacock organizer, Mark Dix, at markdix2000@yahoo.com or 515-205-5122.



Alumni Speaker Series

You're invited—virtually!

Join us for the UIU Career Development Speaker Series, hosted on Facebook. Hear from inspiring Upper Iowa alumni as they share their educational journeys and provide a behind-the-scenes look at their unique and diverse career paths.

To view upcoming events or enjoy pre-recorded sessions, visit uiu.edu/Careers.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Elaine J. Grimes (Gottschalk) '49

11/6/2024, Decorah, Iowa

Harlan D. Carley '52

7/29/2024, Bettendorf, Iowa

Dixie L. Cook (Wilkes) '59

7/10/2025, Jackson, Missouri

Joan P. McCallum (Latham) '59

7/26/2025, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Dennis W. Brumm '61

7/30/2025, Britt, Iowa

Mary Ellen Carlson (Leverington) '62

7/25/2025, Ogden, Iowa

Dorothy Zeman (Lundeen) '63

9/16/2024, Chicago, Illinois

Carolyn A. Middendorf (Meyer) '63

3/27/2025, Monona, Iowa

Gary M Peterson '67

7/29/2025, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

David M. Malausky '68

6/9/2025, Manchester, Iowa

Neil J. Carolan '69

3/1/2025, Superior Township, Michigan

J. Richard Lawrence '69

6/14/2025, Commerce, Texas

James M. Zurbriggen '71

1/30/2025, Ontario Canada

Gary B. Palmer '72

7/18/2025, Wheaton, Illinois

Steve C. Harms '73

7/9/2025, West Des Moines, Iowa

David Hoppe '74

4/25/2025, Omaha, Nebraska

John C. Hoy '74

7/16/2025, Mechanicsville, Iowa

Earl J. Carnley '75

5/25/2021, Pensacola, Florida

Richard L. Hinkel '75

9/8/2021, Waukon, Iowa

Vera F. Blair (Darter) '75

6/3/2022, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

Bonnie S. Brimer (Vezzoli) '75

5/1/2023, Dayton, Texas

Edward K. Barbara '75

7/17/2023, Vienna, Virginia

Susan G. Wilson-Paul (Wilson) '75

6/4/2025, Le Claire, Iowa

Mitchell W. Murphy '77

1/28/2025, Oelwein, Iowa

Vincent G. Petroy '83

2/4/2025, Indianapolis, Indiana

Steven M. Alber '84

3/7/2025, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Lynne A. Seabrooke (Landt) '90

11/27/2024, Calmar, Iowa

Barbara M. Breunig '91

6/23/2025, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

Lyle B. Potter '96

2/17/2025, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Richard D. Peterson '97

4/25/2025, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Darwin D. Dean '99

5/14/2025, Fayette, Iowa

John F. Reicks '03

6/8/2025, Lawler, Iowa

CURRENT STUDENT

Touissant Lancina

6/22/2025, Eldridge, Iowa

FORMER FACULTY

Evangeline M. McCort (Johnson)

3/19/2025, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

FORMER STUDENT

Donald R. Simmons

2/7/2025, Coventry, Connecticut

Shawna M. Sisk

2/24/2025, Janesville, Iowa

Judi C. Peluso (McElhinney)

2/28/2025, Land O Lakes, Florida

Ramona Cook (Fram)

3/2/2025, Clermont, Iowa

FRIENDS OF UIU

James A. Gilbertson

5/2/2024, Cedar Falls, Iowa

William B. Dohrmann

2/20/2025, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Alice L. McKay

3/5/2025, Altoona, Iowa

'IN MEMORIAM' SUBMISSIONS

*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*



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We count on your help for the accuracy of our alumni records.
To submit an update to your name or address, please visit
uiu.edu/alumniupdate.

PETE'S GIVING CALENDAR

HOMECOMING FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2025

10TH ANNUAL GIVING DAY

MARCH 25-26, 2026

PEACOCK POWER 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 22, 2025

31ST ANNUAL PEACOCK GOLF CLASSIC

JUNE 5, 2026

GIVING TUESDAY & HOLIDAY YEAR-END GIVING

DECEMBER 2 & 31, 2025

UIU FISCAL YEAR-END GIFT

BY JUNE 30, 2026

