

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

THE BRIDGE

SPRING 2026



2025
ALBANESE CANDY
BOWL CHAMPIONS

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS



HOMECOMING RECAP – PAGE 18



ON THE ROAD – PAGE 20



FY'25 DONOR REPORT – PAGE 27

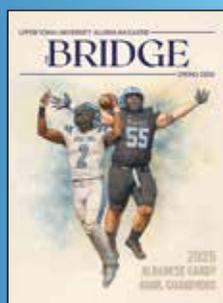
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A composite of two moments in celebration, this image features quarterback Darryl Overstreet Jr. and defensive lineman Eddy Latanauskas—separate plays, united in purpose. Honored as the game's Offensive and Defensive MVPs, they symbolize the effort behind a historic UIU football season that delivered the program's first winning record. Read the full story on page 14.



OUR MISSION

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

ADMINISTRATION

- Kathy Franken '12, President and Chief Financial Officer
- Dr. Billie Cowley '03, '08, Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Ashley Gredys, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Engagement
- Tim Guyer, Executive Director for Human Resources
- Rick Hartzell, Vice President of Athletics
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- Jen Webb '22, Vice President for Distance Education Enrollment
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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 Peacock Family,

As we continue our journey into the future with Impact 2028, I remain deeply grateful for the dedication, energy, and spirit that define Upper Iowa University. From classrooms to community partnerships, your collective efforts are helping us turn goals into reality—creating transformative student experiences, strengthening our connections, and ensuring the long-term vitality of UIU.

This year, I'm especially proud of the bold strides we've made—launching innovative academic opportunities like our ExcEL Honors Program, and expanding access through our new 90-credit hour Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, launching in Fall 2026. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to student-centered learning and accessible excellence.

As you explore this edition of *The Bridge*, I invite you to join us for a celebration that embodies the very heart of UIU: our 10th Annual Giving Days on March 25 & 26, 2026. Over the past decade, this event has brought together our incredible alumni, friends, and supporters—and together, we've raised over \$1 million to support student scholarships, academic programs, and campus initiatives. With your continued generosity, we can go even further.

Whether you choose to give, volunteer, or simply share your UIU story, your involvement helps shape a stronger tomorrow—for our students, our university, and the communities we serve.

Thank you for believing in Upper Iowa University. The future is bright because of you.

With gratitude,



Kathy Franken
President and Chief Financial Officer
Upper Iowa University



Spring Forward with UIU Giving Days 2026!

Upper Iowa University is excited to celebrate its 10th annual Giving Days on Wednesday and Thursday, March 25-26! This beloved tradition brings together alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of UIU to make a lasting difference in the lives of future Peacocks.

Giving Days is all about participation — not the size of the gift. Every contribution helps unlock major matching gifts through special Giving Challenges, which will be announced as the event approaches. Whether you give \$5 or \$5,000, your support helps UIU soar higher!

- JOIN THE FUN!**
- Follow the UIU Alumni & Friends Facebook page and UIU social media channels for challenge updates.
 - Share your favorite UIU memories and photos on social media using event hashtags.
 - Make a gift of any size during the two-day celebration at uiu.edu/givingdays.

Giving Days 2026 coincides with National Peacock Day (March 25) and Pete's Birthday (March 26): the perfect time to show your Peacock pride! Would you like to make an even greater impact? Consider becoming a UIU Challenge Leader by contacting Mark Danker or Daryl Grove to set up a giving challenge. Together, the collective spirit of Peacock Nation continues to strengthen the University we love. Thank you for helping shape the future of UIU! For more information, reach out to the UIU Alumni Office at alumni@uiu.edu or 563-425-5388.



American Legion of Iowa Foundation Funds Scholarship



Upper Iowa University is honored to be a recipient of The American Legion of Iowa Foundation Scholarship Program. Through their generosity, two UIU students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Eligible recipients must be Iowa residents who are either veterans, active-duty military personnel, or the spouse/dependent child of a veteran. The scholarship winners will be recognized at the UIU Honors & Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the Fayette Campus.

Pictured: Dennis Soppe, American Legion of Iowa Foundation Director and member of Post 339 in Fayette, presents the contribution to UIU President Kathy Franken.

UIU named Best for Vets college

Upper Iowa University has once again been named a “Best for Vets” college by Military Times. Military Times’ 2025 Best for Vets: Colleges rankings is the most trusted, comprehensive list of U.S. colleges and universities committed to supporting military service members, veterans and their families.

This year’s list includes 357 institutions, marking the largest field in the program’s history and a substantial increase from 304 in 2024. The growth underscores the expanding network of colleges prioritizing veteran success through targeted programs, financial support and student-veteran communities.

“The UIU faculty and staff deeply appreciate the commitment and sacrifices made by our veteran students for our country and in turn we are honored to assist and support our veteran students and their families with achieving their educational and career goals. We take pride in providing all students with an outstanding educational experience,” shared Brandy Branstetter, Director of Military and Veteran Affairs at Upper Iowa University.

Military Times collects data from an extensive survey from colleges across the country. Institutions are evaluated on academic quality, student support services, affordability, and outcomes for veterans, including graduation and retention rates.

Key trends from the 2025 survey include:

- Increased participation among public universities and community colleges, signaling broader institutional engagement.
- A surge in online and hybrid program options, which continue to support active-duty and Guard/Reserve students.
- Growth in dedicated veteran resource centers, peer mentorship networks and mental health services tailored to post-service transition.

Students Gain Hand-On Wildland Fire Training in Ecological Restoration Course

Students in Upper Iowa University’s BIO 433 Ecological Restoration course recently took their learning into the field with hands-on wildland fire training led by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service professionals. Through classroom instruction, FEMA/NWCG modules, and a full day of field exercises, students gained valuable experience in prescribed fire—an essential tool for restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems. The training also helped several students earn or renew their wildland fire certifications, preparing them for future careers in conservation and natural resource management. Read the full story online at [GO.UIU.EDU/ConvMGMTBridge](https://go.uiu.edu/ConvMGMTBridge).



UIU Alumna Kate Giannini Earns Fulbright Specialist Award



Upper Iowa University is proud to announce that alumna **Kate (Shank) Giannini ’06** has been selected for a prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award for her project, Advancing Water Resource Management Through Collaboration.

This six-week project will take Giannini to the Netherlands, where she will partner with Deltares, a world leader in water and subsurface research. Her work will strengthen collaboration between Deltares and U.S. institutions, including the Iowa Flood Center and IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, on shared challenges such as flood resilience, water quality, watershed planning, and nature-based solutions.

Giannini will lead presentations, participate in field visits, and engage with researchers, students, and government officials to promote knowledge-sharing and develop concepts for future international projects. Her efforts focus on improving water-resource management, enhancing communication between science and communities, and building long-term global partnerships.

UIU congratulates Kate Giannini on this remarkable achievement and celebrates her continued leadership in advancing innovative, collaborative solutions for water management worldwide.

UIU to be Featured on National Streaming Series

The College Tour ▶

Upper Iowa University is excited to announce that it will be featured in an upcoming episode of The College Tour, a nationally recognized series that showcases the unique stories, opportunities, and experiences offered by colleges and universities across the country. The UIU episode will officially launch on Amazon Prime in June 2026, as part of the show's next season.

alumni, sharing personal stories that reflect the heart of campus life.

UIU's episode will shine a spotlight on what makes our Peacock community so special—from our caring faculty and flexible learning options to the vibrant student experience that connects learners across the globe. Being featured on The College Tour not only gives prospective students a chance to "visit" UIU from anywhere but also offers our alumni a new way to share pride in their alma mater.

“This opportunity allows us to tell the UIU story on a national stage.”

Kathy Franken '12
UIU President and CFO

“This opportunity allows us to tell the UIU story on a national stage,” said President and CFO Kathy Franken. “It’s a chance for students and families everywhere to see how Upper Iowa University changes lives—wherever you are and wherever you’re going.”

The College Tour—created by Emmy-nominated host Alex Boylan, a former winner of The Amazing Race—was designed to bring the college search process to life for students and families around the world. Each episode highlights a different institution through the eyes of its students, faculty, and

More details and a preview of the episode will be shared in the months ahead. Stay tuned to UIU's social media and website for behind-the-scenes updates and interviews with the students who brought our story to life.

To view the full video, check out [GO.UIU.EDU/CollegeTourBridge](https://go.uiu.edu/CollegeTourBridge). 



FACULTY AND STAFF NOTES

From UIU to National Impact: Counseling Graduate Tonia Mayerle's Achievements



Congratulations to Master of Science in Counseling graduate, **Tonia (Penhollow) Mayerle '05** on receiving her temporary Licensed Mental Health Counselor (tLMHC) and beginning practice at Somatic Intention in Dubuque, Iowa. She was also selected for the CACREP-accredited Doctorate program in Counselor Education and Supervision at Viterbo University, reflecting the strong preparation provided by UIU's Counseling Program. Ms. Mayerle serves as Legislative and Public Policy Chair for the American Counseling Association of Iowa, President-Elect of the Counseling Program's at UIU Athena Counseling Honor Society, and recently presented at the Internal Family Systems Conference in St. Charles, Illinois. She continues to present at regional, national, and international levels.

UIU Counseling Graduate Secures Dual Licensure and Two Counseling Roles



Since graduating in August 2025 from the Master of Science in Counseling Program, **Nicole (Cote) Gilliam '22, '25** has earned both the Licensed Professional Counselor - Training License (LPC-IT) and Substance Abuse Counselor-in-Training (SAC-IT) master level credentials and accepted two positions. Gilliam is now working full-time as a trauma and substance abuse counselor at a methadone clinic and part-time as a psychotherapist providing in-home mental health therapy. Achieving dual licensure and employment in the field within a month of graduation highlights the strong preparation provided by Upper Iowa University and the dedication of its counseling faculty.

UIU Counseling Program Networking Success

Ela Fazlic, a graduate counseling student, has received an employment offer from her clinical site to begin immediately upon graduation, secured a full semester before completing her final clinical internship!



Above (left to right): **Caleb Hess '16, '18**, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Counseling Program Alumnus; **Dr. Kim King**, Assistant Professor and Assistant Counseling Program Director; **Ela Fazlic '22**, Counseling Graduate student; **Dawn Richard '12, '18** Owner and Founder of Sunrise Promise Therapy internship site, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Celebrating Counseling Excellence: ACHS Awards to Alumni and Students



The Athena Counseling Honor Society congratulates the following graduate counseling students and alumni:



Andrew Hopper '23 is the recipient of the Dr. Panagiotis Markopoulos UIU Vision and Innovation Award, recognizing innovative contributions to counseling practice, publication, and leadership.



Sadie Lampe



Sarah Rohret

Sadie Lampe and Sarah Rohret recipients of the Counseling Research Award, honoring recent research with strong potential to advance in the counseling profession.



ACHS is the Upper Iowa University Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society, with members distinguished by professional competence and service. Faculty advisor: **Dr. Kathy Jones-Trebatoski**, Assistant Professor of Counseling.

UIU Counseling Program Showcased at ACES Conference



Dr. Panagiotis (Panos) Markopoulos



Dr. Kim King

Dr. Panagiotis (Panos) Markopoulos, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Program Director (left), and Dr. Kim King, Assistant Professor and Assistant Program Director (right), attended the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Conference in Philadelphia in October 2025.

ACES, one of the largest gatherings of counselor educators, advances culturally relevant and effective counselor education and supervision.

Marketing students complete brand audits

Students in the Marketing-Branding 479 course recently completed brand audits on key areas across UIU, including athletics, student life, online/distance learning, the prison program, and the library. Over three weeks, each group analyzed current brand elements, surveyed campus and community stakeholders, reviewed secondary sources, and conducted a full SWOT analysis.

Their final reports offered insights into brand strengths, opportunities for improvement, and recommendations for strengthening UIU's brand presence. Several campus departments attended the student presentations and even requested copies to help inform their own future initiatives—an encouraging sign of real-world impact for the students' work.

Opening Doors Through Experience: UIU ExcEL Honors Program Sets Scholars on a Tuition-Free Path to Success

When Upper Iowa University launched the Excellence in Experiential Learning (UIU ExcEL) Honors Program, the goal was bold yet simple: to make high-quality education and hands-on learning accessible to ambitious students—without the burden of tuition.

Now in its early years, the selective, tuition-free program is already transforming lives on the Fayette campus. ExcEL Scholars don't just study—they immerse themselves in real-world experiences that connect coursework, careers, and community.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Twenty ExcEL scholars launched in their 15 on-campus positions during Session One in August, 2025. These Scholars dedicate about 15 hours each week to a variety of on-campus jobs, gaining practical experience that complements their academic major. They also engage in 200 hours of community service over four years, helping them develop a strong sense of purpose and civic responsibility.

Along the way, students participate in career-focused honors seminars, receive personalized mentorship from faculty and staff, and present their work through poster and oral presentations—skills that prepare them for the professional world.

The first semester was an eventful one for Scholars! During Homecoming week in September, students took part in the Experiential Learning Showcase & Reception, where they highlighted key takeaways from their ExcEL work experiences. The event drew more than 100 attendees, offering guests the opportunity to engage directly with students and learn about their hands-on learning journeys. Save the Date for next year's Experiential Learning Showcase & Reception on October 9, 2026!

In October, ExcEL students had a chance to reflect on their journey so far – this time through a formal presentation, where they shared highlights and key lessons from their first eight weeks on campus. Among the audience were President Franken, Billie Cowley, Seth Miner, members of the Honors/ExcEL Advisory Committee, several program supervisors, and 11 high school students. Together, they celebrated messages of belonging, self-discovery and the joy of learning.

SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEACOCKS

Alumni are invited to help the program grow by referring potential scholars, offering mentorship or internship opportunities, or donating to support ExcEL scholarships.

For more information or to meet current ExcEL Scholars—visit go.uiu.edu/ExcELBridge26. 



UIU Transitions to New Leadership within Board of Trustees and President’s Council

Upper Iowa University is proud to announce recent changes in leadership among its Board of Trustees and President’s Council, marking an exciting new chapter in guiding the University’s mission and vision for the future.

Board of Trustees Leadership Updates

The University extends heartfelt appreciation to **Scott R. Lebin ’64**, who has completed his term as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Scott’s steady leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to UIU have been instrumental in strengthening the University’s academic and financial foundation. He will continue to serve on the Board, and we are grateful for his years of dedicated service.

Succeeding him as Chair of the Board is Peter Clemens, who previously served as Vice Chair. Peter has been a member of the Board since 2011 and brings a strong background in business leadership—he holds a B.S. from University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from Indiana University. He currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Acura Pharmaceuticals in Palatine, Illinois.

Serving alongside him is **Mary Cheddie ’08**, who steps into the role of Vice Chair. Mary has been on the Board since 2015 and earned her M.B.A. from UIU. With more than 30 years of experience in human resources and global business operations,

she brings deep expertise and a commitment to our mission.

Continuing their valuable service on the Board are **Neil Wilkinson ’99** as Treasurer and Richard Andres as Secretary, both of whom continue to provide thoughtful oversight and stewardship of UIU’s resources and priorities. Neil graduated from UIU in 1999 and leads his own financial-services firm in Iowa. Richard brings a marketing and sales background, continuing a proud family legacy of service and philanthropy to UIU, and has served since 2010.



The University also proudly welcomes Steve Andres as the newest member of the Board of Trustees. His addition continues the strong tradition of leadership, service, and commitment shared by the Andres family, whose multi-generational dedication has helped shape the UIU experience for decades.

A resident of Plymouth, Minnesota, Steve brings valuable experience in business leadership, talent development, and financial portfolio management. His career began with Target Corporation, where he worked in both merchandising and talent acquisition across corporate and in-store roles. He now manages investment portfolios for several LLCs, focusing on stock and wealth management—expertise he looks forward to contributing to the Board’s strategic and financial stewardship.

Steve and his wife, Ashley, enjoy an active family life with their two children, Cameron (6) and Taylor (4). The family often spends time at their cabin in northern Minnesota, and Steve, an avid golfer, also serves as board chair for his local country club. Returning to Fayette for Homecoming has become a cherished tradition, and the Andres family loves being part of UIU's vibrant community of alumni and supporters.

Offering new energy and perspective that complements the Board's existing strengths, Steve brings experience in people-focused leadership and investment strategy and is eager to support UIU's mission and future direction.

New President's Council Members

In addition to Board updates, UIU is delighted to welcome two new members to the President's Council:



Dr. Billie Cowley '03, '08, who joined the University as Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2025. She began at UIU in 2008 as an instructor in the Education Department and has held many leadership roles including Dean of Academic and Educational Affairs. She

holds a B.A. and M.A. in Elementary Education/Instructional Leadership from UIU and earned her Doctor of Education in Special Education from the University of Northern Iowa.

Billie and her husband, **Matt '00**, a proud UIU alumnus, have built strong ties to the Fayette community through their shared dedication to the University. Together, they have served students, supported campus initiatives, and helped foster meaningful connections with alumni near and far. Their four children—Justine, Jayla, Maxwell, and Myra—have grown up as part of the Peacock family, often joining their parents at campus events and celebrations. The Cowley family's continued engagement reflects the heart of what it means to be part of UIU: commitment, service, and a deep belief in the power of education.



Seth Miner '14, who began as Vice President of Residential Admissions & Student Life in August 2025. He previously served in the Fayette Admissions office, has nearly two decades of experience in enrollment at multiple institutions, holds a B.A. in History/

Pre-Law from Waldorf College, a Master in Higher Education Administration from UIU, and is currently pursuing a doctorate. He and his wife, Jennifer, are deeply committed to supporting college students and building strong campus

communities. Together with their four children—Brooks, Cameron, Kaitlyn, and Phoenix—they are excited to be part of the Peacock family and are looking forward to being active around campus.

Looking Ahead

As Upper Iowa University continues to build on its foundation of academic innovation, student support, and community engagement, these leadership transitions mark a moment of renewal and optimism.

“We are deeply grateful for the leadership and dedication of all who serve on our Board of Trustees and President's Council,” said President Kathy Franken. “Their passion for UIU's mission ensures that we continue to provide transformative experiences for our students and position the University for long-term success.”

The University looks forward to continued collaboration and progress under this talented and dedicated leadership team. Together, they will help guide UIU toward an exciting and promising future. 

“ *We are deeply grateful for... our Board of Trustees and President's Council. Their passion for UIU's mission ensures that we continue to provide transformative experiences for our students and position the University for long-term success.*”

Kathy Franken '12
UIU President and CFO



The President's Council poses for a group photo at the 2025 Homecoming Ball, including **Dr. Billie Cowley**, Vice President of Academic Affairs; **Jen Webb '22**, Vice President of Distance Education; **Dawn Novak '06 '09**, Vice President of Marketing & Enrollment Services; Rick Hartzell, Vice President of Athletics; **Seth Miner**, Vice President of Fayette Admissions & Student Life; Ashley Gredys, Vice President of Advancement & Alumni Engagement; **Holly Wolff '10, '23**, Executive Assistant to the President; and **Kathy Franken**, President & CFO. Not pictured: Tim Guyer, Executive Director of Human Resources.

Celebrating the Lives and Legacy of **Steve & Diane** **Harms '73**

*A lasting tribute to two
beloved UIU Peacocks*

Something truly special took place on September 27, 2025. Standing arm-in-arm, members of the Harms family, dear friends, and representatives from the Upper Iowa University Board of Trustees and President's Council gathered at midfield during the Homecoming football game to honor two beloved Peacocks.

With deep emotion and pride, the University unveiled the stately new signage for Harms Family Field, a lasting tribute to the remarkable lives and unwavering legacy of Steve and Diane Harms. Their love for UIU and their Peacock family continues to inspire and shine brightly through all who knew them.

A Lifetime of Love, Loyalty, and Leadership

Born and raised in Sumner, Iowa, Steve Harms' connection to Upper Iowa University began early. His father and uncle, Cal and Mel Harms (both Class of 1948), were standout football players under the legendary Doc Dorman. That family legacy, coupled with Steve's love for sports and community, made UIU the natural place for him to call home.

Steve arrived on the Fayette Campus in 1969, where he studied physical education, joined the Foxes fraternity, and proudly wore Peacock blue as a member of the football team. It was also at UIU that he met Diane Kinkead, a psychology major and cheerleader whose energy and spirit lit up the sidelines. The two graduated together in 1973 and soon after began a lifelong partnership rooted in love, laughter, and shared devotion to their alma mater.

After graduation, Steve began teaching and coaching before transitioning to the insurance industry. Over the course of a remarkable 39-year career with Rain and Hail Insurance Services, Steve's leadership and integrity guided the company to new heights. He retired in 2012 as president and chairman of the board of Rain and Hail, LLC; Rain and Hail Insurance Services, Inc.; and Agri General Insurance Company—culminating a career defined by vision, dedication, and respect across the industry. Yet no matter how far life took them, Fayette always remained close to Steve and Diane's hearts.

A Legacy of Giving

The Harms family's story is one of steadfast generosity and faith in the power of education. Their first gift to the UIU Fund in 1985 marked the start of a tradition of giving that would shape the University for generations to come. Together, Steve and Diane's philanthropy touched nearly every corner of campus.

From the construction of the UIU Rec Center and the creation of Harms-Eischeid Stadium, to major enhancements like the 2022 turf replacement, their fingerprints can be found across UIU's landscape. Their support extended beyond athletics—helping fund renovations to academic spaces, the President's Residence, and contributing to the University's Reimagine UIU initiative, ensuring continued growth and opportunity for future Peacocks.

Rick Hartzell, Vice President for Athletics, reflected: "The generosity of Steve Harms is overwhelming. He and Diane



loved the Peacocks with all their hearts. Their support has transformed our athletics program and touched every one of our 400 student-athletes. What made Steve truly special was how deeply he cared—not just about facilities or wins, but about people and their success.”

Diane Harms was more than a proud Peacock; she was a force of joy and encouragement. A member of the EYE sorority and a former UIU cheerleader, she poured her heart into her alma mater and her teammates. In recognition of her love for the cheer program, the Diane Kinkead Harms Cheer Endowment was established in 2014 to support UIU cheer and help future generations thrive—an enduring testament to her spirit and the passion she carried throughout her life. When she passed away in 2021, the cheer team honored her memory in deeply meaningful ways, celebrating the legacy she had already built.

Cheer Coach Bri Lawrence recalled, “Diane was incredibly special—vibrant, supportive, and full of life. After she passed, our team honored her at a game that became one of the most memorable in UIU history. Her legacy will continue to inspire future Peacocks.”

That endowment now supports both the cheer and dance teams, providing uniforms, travel funds, and new opportunities for students to showcase their Peacock Pride.

A True Peacock Through and Through

Steve’s devotion to UIU deepened over the years. He served proudly on the Board of Trustees beginning in 2001, offering vision and steady leadership. He was also inducted into the UIU Hall of Fame alongside Diane in 2019 for their extraordinary philanthropy and lifelong commitment to the University.

Even in retirement, Steve rarely missed a home football game. He loved seeing the students’ energy and the sense of family that filled the stands. “Nothing is greater than seeing the impact on our students,” he once said. “You just have to get started—come back, get involved, and give back.”

Forever Part of Our Story

Steve passed away unexpectedly on July 9, 2025, joining Diane in eternal rest. Though their physical presence is gone, their spirit is ever-present—in the cheers echoing across Harms Family Field, in the smiles of students whose lives they touched, and in the pride that radiates from every corner of UIU’s campus.

They leave behind not only an enduring legacy of generosity but also a shining example of what it means to live as Peacocks—with loyalty, compassion, and heart. As we celebrate Steve and Diane Harms, we honor two remarkable lives that exemplified the very best of Upper Iowa University. Their legacy reminds us that the bonds forged here go far beyond a degree—they shape who we are and how we give back to the place we’ll always call home. 



Tanner Thompson '18, Finance & Economics Lecturer instructs students in a Corporate Financial Management course on the Fayette Campus.

UIU Launches Innovative 90-Credit Business Degree to Save Students Time and Money

Upper Iowa University continues its proud tradition of innovation and flexibility with the launch of a new 90-credit-hour Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, beginning Fall 2026. This reimagined degree program is designed to make higher education more accessible—helping students complete their bachelor’s degree faster and at a lower cost, without sacrificing quality or rigor.

A faster path to success

The 90-credit-hour structure allows students to graduate more efficiently, trimming unnecessary elective hours while preserving the essential core business curriculum that defines UIU’s strong academic reputation. Students can now earn their bachelor’s degree in as little as three years, depending

on transfer credits or course load, allowing them to enter the workforce—or graduate school—sooner.

“By focusing on what truly matters for career readiness, this program helps students achieve their goals more quickly and affordably,” said Dr. Billie Cowley, Vice President of Academic Affairs. “It’s a bold step forward in delivering high-quality education that meets the realities of today’s learners.”

While the new degree reduces total credits, it retains the same core business coursework, accreditation standards, and learning outcomes that make UIU’s business programs stand out. Students will continue to gain expertise across key areas such as management, marketing, finance, and leadership—preparing them for success in corporate, nonprofit, and entrepreneurial careers.

“*By focusing on what truly matters for career readiness, this program helps students achieve their goals more quickly and affordably.*”



Dr. Billie Cowley, '03, '08
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Save more, learn more

The shorter program length means lower overall tuition costs and fewer semesters of fees, housing, or textbooks. Students who transfer credits from another institution will find the new structure particularly advantageous, with UIU accepting up to 51 transfer credits. Those beginning their journey at UIU can still expect the same personalized attention, dedicated faculty, and flexible learning options across UIU's Fayette Campus, Centers, Online, and Self-Paced programs.

A seamless bridge to graduate study

For ambitious students, the new 90-credit-hour program also creates an exciting pathway to advanced study. Through UIU's Link program, students can earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in just four years—a unique opportunity that maximizes time, tuition, and career potential.

Continuing UIU's mission of access and affordability

With this launch, UIU reaffirms its commitment to delivering student-centered education that adapts to changing needs. The 90-credit Business Administration degree empowers learners to balance education with work, family, and other responsibilities—while still earning a respected degree from a regionally accredited institution.

More details on enrollment and advising for the 90-credit Bachelor of Science in Business Administration will be available in early 2026. 

SCAN QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE





Sweet Victory—UIU Claims the 2025 Albanese Candy Bowl Championship!

The Peacock football team went 9-3 (6-2 GLVC) for the program's first nine-win season in program history. UIU won 16 games over the past two seasons, also marking the most in program history. Upper Iowa finished the season 5-0 at Harms-Eischeid Stadium, posting the first undefeated home season in the Division II era. The team was also featured in the regional rankings for the first time in program history, making it as high as No. 7.

Upper Iowa earned a bid to the Albanese Candy Bowl and defeated Hillsdale (Mich.), 37-28, marking the first bowl win in the 132-year program history. Quarterback Darryl Overstreet Jr. earned Offensive MVP, throwing for 331 yards and scoring three touchdowns. Defensive lineman Eddy Latanauskas was the Defensive MVP with 1.5 sacks and an interception.

Senior tight end Eddie Burgess was an AFCA Second Team All-American selection. He became the second AFCA All-American selection in program history, with the last coming in 2015. Burgess totaled 641 receiving yards in 2025, ranking fifth nationally.

The program had 17 members earn All-GLVC postseason accolades, including kicker/punter Nathan Behne, who was named Co-Special Teams Player of the Year. Upper Iowa totaled five First Team selections, six Second Team selections, and six Honorable Mentions.

Behne became the first conference player of the year since running back Chris Smith earned NSIC Offensive Player of the Year in 2011. He is the first Special Teams Player of the Year in program history. He was 9-of-13 on field goals, going 5-of-5

beyond 40 yards with a career-long of 51. The sophomore had a GLVC-leading punt average of 43.3 yards with 11 punts downed inside the 20-yard line.

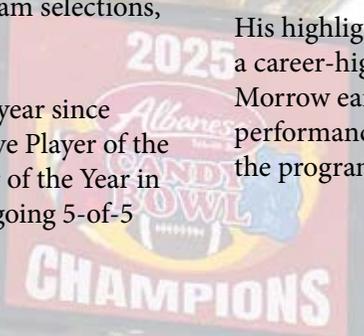


Eddie Burgess Mante Morrow Tade Parsons Shaquille Roman Klay Seehase

Burgess, Mante Morrow, Tade Parsons, Shaquille Roman, and Klay Seehase earned All-GLVC First Team honors. Morrow and Burgess earned this honor for the second time after being named All-GLVC First Team in 2023.

Morrow was also a nominee for the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to the Division II College Football Player of the Year. He also became the first player since 2015 to earn D2CCA First Team All-Region accolades. He totaled 1,007 receiving yards with 12 touchdowns, totaling a career-high in both categories. He ranked sixth in the country in receiving touchdowns and ninth in receiving yards per game. Morrow also had the third-most receiving yards and receiving touchdowns in a season in program history.

His highlight game was against South Dakota Mines, recording a career-high 216 yards and four receiving touchdowns. Morrow earned D2Football.com Player of the Week after that performance, making him the first player to earn the honor for the program since 2007.



ATHLETICS WRAP-UP



Connor Andresen Nathan Behne Avery Dixon Jayden Gordon Eddy Latanauskas Yashua Pettis-Taylor



Evan Dorn Demontay Mack Ryan McDonough Darryl Overstreet Jr. Nick Perry Trevor Thompson

Connor Andresen, Behne, Avery Dixon, Jayden Gordon, Latanauskas, and Yashua Pettis-Taylor earned All-GLVC Second Team. The honorable mentions for the Peacocks were Evan Dorn, Demontay Mack, Ryan McDonough, Overstreet Jr., Nick Perry, and Trevor Thompson.

Overstreet Jr. was named the James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award honoree for the Peacocks. The senior quarterback



was 248-of-344 (72.09%) for 2,798 yards and 23 touchdowns through the air. He had the second-best completion percentage in the nation and the 20th-highest passing efficiency rating (158.4).

Gordon paced the Peacock rushing attack with 640 yards and seven touchdowns. He was helped by the offensive line, which had four out of five members earn All-GLVC accolades. Seehase led the Peacocks at left tackle, only allowing three pressures and a sack in 2025. The UIU offensive line allowed 1.17 sacks and 3.73 tackles for loss per game, both leading the GLVC and ranking 23rd and eighth nationally, respectively.

On defense, Roman was a stud up front with 45 total tackles, 7.5 sacks, 12 tackles-for-loss, four pass breakups, a forced fumble, and an interception. He was named the team's "Ultimate Peacock," which is given to the player who embodies the core values of the team the best.

Dorn led the team in tackles with 92, making a career-high 18 against McKendree. Parsons had 71 tackles with a team-high three interceptions and seven pass breakups. Thompson was second on the team in tackles with 75, while Pettis-Taylor was fourth with 57.

The Peacocks earned seven GLVC Player of the Week awards during the season. Behne, Morrow, Overstreet Jr., Roman, and Thompson were all honored, with Behne and Roman earning the award twice. 🏆

Momentum surges for the Peacocks as they rally at the Albanese Candy Bowl, with (left to right) Wes Willis, Shaquille Roman, Demontay Mack and Yashua Pettis-Taylor feeding off the energy and pushing for the win.

Three New Members Inducted into UIU's Athletics Hall of Fame

This year's Upper Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame inductions once again took place as part of the Homecoming Ball on September 26. After **Derek Oelmann '12**, **Chris Smith '15**, and **Cole Jaeschke '14** were inducted into the prestigious group of Peacocks, the Athletics Hall of Fame grew to 223 members. Following the Homecoming Ball, the Hall of Famers in attendance gathered to take a picture with their newest members outside of the Student Center Ballrooms.



Front Row (left-right): **Wade Whitcher '02**, **Greg Atkins '85**, **Roger Mangan '62**, **Bill Prochaska '63**, **Dr. Darrel Lang '70**, **Gust Barbes '70**, **Rick Knipper '73** and **Lowell Tiedt '71**.
Back Row (l-r): **Bill Roths '74**, **Matt Cowley '00**, **Joe Stasi '91**, **Cole Jaeschke '14**, **Chris Smith '15**, **Derek Oelmann '12**, **Larry Borst '73**, **Vicky (Ringenberg) Rarick '00**, **James Rarick '99**, and **Marshall Richards '75**.

SPORTS SUMMARIES

Women's Cross Country



Eryn Sabelka

Women's cross country competed in five meets this season, featuring a second-place finish at the Sauk Valley CC Skyhawk Invitational and a fifth-place finish at the Hannibal-LaGrange Trojan Invitational. Eryn Sabelka placed sixth at both events, with a career-best finish of 21:56.2 in the 5K at the Trojan Invitational. Katie Kraft took 10th at the Skyhawk Invitational with a season-best time of 22:56.0 in the 5K.

Upper Iowa finished the season at the GLVC Championships, finishing 14th. Sabelka took 106th with a time of 26:57.0, and Lisbeth Trinidad-Valerio took 119th at 32:24.6 in the 6K race.

Women's Soccer



Isabelle Wagner

The Peacock women's soccer team tallied a 4-12-2 record while going 2-11-1 in GLVC play under first-year head coach Patrick Ritter. UIU picked up wins over Southwest Minnesota State, Jamestown, Southwest Baptist and Illinois Springfield.

Senior goalkeeper Isabelle Wagner totaled 17 saves against Maryville, the second most in program history. She followed that up two games later with her second-career shutout, ending the season with a 1-0 win over the Prairie Stars.



Haylie Hutchinson



Giovanna Alexa Garcia

Haylie Hutchinson and Giovanna Alexa Garcia each totaled seven points on the season. Garcia led in goals with three, while Hutchinson led in assists with three.



Haylee Allen



Rhea Buchanan



Myriah Roybal

Haylee Allen and Rhea Buchanan both added two goals as well. Buchanan was named the

James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award winner for the team. Myriah Roybal played every single minute for the Peacocks at defender, totaling 1,620 minutes. She added a goal on a free kick in the SBU victory.



Sienna Johnson

Freshman goalkeeper Sienna Johnson earned GLVC Defensive Player of the Week after posting back-to-back shutouts against SMSU and Jamestown. She became the program's first GLVC weekly award winner and the first conference player of the week since 2022. Johnson finished the year with a team-high 47 saves.

Men's Soccer

UIU men's soccer finished the season with a 4-11-2 record and 3-9-2 in GLVC play. The Peacocks defeated Viterbo, Lewis, Southwest Baptist, and Maryville. The Peacocks defeated No. 23 Lewis in the GLVC home opener, marking the program's first ranked win since 2023.



Alejandro Sanchez

Alejandro Sanchez earned All-GLVC Second Team and D2CCA All-Midwest Region Second Team accolades. He became the first All-Region selection for the program since 2017. His season was highlighted by a pair of two-goal performances against William Jewell and Lincoln, as well as two-assist performances against Viterbo and Missouri-St. Louis. He finished the season with six goals and six assists for a total of 18 points. Sanchez was the first Peacock to earn all-conference honors since 2023.



Noah Nymark-Pedersen



Timur Nagy

Noah Nymark-Pedersen started 16 games at goalkeeper, totaling 46 saves. Sophomore Timur Nagy totaled five goals and two assists, scoring the game-winner against Maryville. Dexter Garrett had six points with two goals and two assists during his senior season. Arnas Kurakinas finished with three assists while earning the James R.

Spalding Sportsmanship Award.



Dexter Garrett



Arnas Kurakinas

Volleyball

The Peacock volleyball team had a 7-19 record with a 5-8 mark in GLVC play. The team had a 3-3 record in Dorman Gymnasium during the 2025 season. UIU picked up its first win of the season in the home opener with a sweep over Missouri S&T. At the Midwest Crossover, the Peacocks went 2-1 with wins against Kentucky Wesleyan and Roosevelt (Ill.).



Senior outside hitter Martha Pace led the Peacocks in points with 293 (3.91 per set) and in kills with 255 (3.40 per set). She also added 190 digs (2.53 per set) while starting in all 23 matches she played in. Lydia Imbrogno earned the James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award for the team. The senior outside hitter led the team in service aces with 31 while adding 153 kills (1.89 per set) and 229 (2.83 per set). Imbrogno was second on the team in digs.



Morgan Block



Grace Fruzen

Sophomore standouts Morgan Block and Grace Fruzen made an impact at libero and setter, respectively. Block totaled 463 digs and led the GLVC

in digs per set, averaging 5.32. Fruzen totaled 710 assists (8.16 per set), ranking fourth in the conference. IN GLVC play, Fruzen averaged 9.63 assists per set.



Sarah Hull, Coach

After the season, interim head coach Sarah Hull removed the interim tag and was named the head coach of the program. The Peacocks went 7-9 with her as the interim head coach during the 2025 campaign. Hull previously played

for the UIU volleyball program as a libero from 2020-22, appearing in 166 sets over the course of 49 matches. She made six starts as a defensive specialist, accumulating 348 digs in her career for an average of 2.10 per set. The Lyons, Colorado native also earned the Myles Brand All-Academic Distinction Award Winner and graduated in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports studies, and earned a master's degree in sports administration.

Peacock Power

Peacock Nation once again proved its POWER. The Upper Iowa University Athletics Department's Fourth Annual Peacock Power 24-Hour Challenge inspired alumni, families, and friends from across the country to come together in support of Peacock student-athletes — raising a record-breaking \$237,296 from 881 donations.

During the four Peacock Power Challenges dating back to the inaugural challenge in 2022, Peacock Nation has generously donated nearly \$630,000 through 3,037 donations. This year's total eclipsed the previous record set in 2024 by more than \$90,000.

"We continue to be amazed and humbled by the generosity of our alumni, families, and supporters," said Rick Hartzell, UIU Vice President for Athletics. "We are very appreciative of the \$25,000 gift from **Roger '62** and **Alice '61 Mangan** toward our strength and conditioning program. Their gift will continue to fuel the gains made on a daily basis by all of our student-athletes across every sport."

In addition to the Mangan's generosity, several dedicated alumni and friends led the charge with transformational gifts. The inspired leaders included **Marshall Richards '75** (\$19,000), **Deo Sanders '03** (\$15,000), John and Sharon Orr (\$12,100), **Nate '11** and **Ben '11 Curran** (\$10,000), and **Keela Johnson '99** (\$10,000).

We continue to be amazed and humbled by the generosity of our alumni, families, and supporters."



Rick Hartzell
Vice President of Athletics

Several other Peacock alumni and friends made this year's challenge a huge success with gifts of \$1,000 or more including **Mike Prochaska '89**, **Bill De Lauro '78**, **Pam Whitmore '65** and Fred Koch, **Luke Wickham '00**, Doug and Carol Shull, Carl and Allison Behne, **Mike Eisheid '63**, **Bradly Loughren '14**, **Jim '74** and Vickie **Bushkofsky**, **Dylan Burns '25**, **Tom '69** and **Carol '01 Crandall**, Dick and Aubrey Hebert, T&S Farms, **Brian Benchley '94**, David and Tisha Davis, **Curtis '02** and Annette **Gunter**, Diane Hosey, Mike Manderfeld, DTS Pub and Primetime Pizza, **Tom '70** and Li **Palmer**, and five other donors that wish to remain anonymous.

The Peacock men's basketball program won the team total challenge with \$34,250, while football (\$33,385), women's wrestling (\$28,050), baseball (\$22,450), and softball (\$21,123) rounded out the top five in the challenge in total dollars raised. In terms of the number of donors, the top five programs included baseball (179), football (101), men's wrestling (97), softball (84), women's soccer (75), and women's wrestling (75). 

PEACOCKS IN Paradise

2025 HOMECOMING RECAP

September 21-27, 2025



Several Board of Trustees members gather for a photo during the Homecoming Ball. Pictured front row is Richard Andres. Middle (l-r): **Dr. Margaret Lawson '70, Angie (Kimball) Joseph '82, Mike Prochaska '89, Holly Wolff '10, '23** (Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees), **David Vaudt '76**, Peter Clemens, and **Bill Cook '65**. Back row (l-r): **Neil Wilkinson '99, Mary Cheddie '08, Kathy Franken '12** (UIU President and CFO), **Lowell Tiedt '71**, and Steve Andres.



Cheer & Dance brought the tropics to the parade, earning first place in the float contest!



Members of the class of 1975 celebrated their 50th Class Reunion on Saturday, September 27 at the Alumni Awards & Honor Class Brunch. Pictured left to right, front row: **Sherry (Scheidel) Cannon '75, Janis "Janny" (Aanes) Dupuis '75, and Steve Ryan '75**. Back row: **Jon Miller '75, Robert Culbertson '75, Marshall Richards '75, Kathy Krewer '75, Claudia (Northrup) Herman '75, and Tom Petsche '75**.



Maile Kehano (left) and Emerson Bennett (right) were honored as the 2025 Homecoming King and Queen during the Pep Rally, Coronation & Bonfire on September 23.



President Kathy & Chuck Franken wave to parade-goers during the Homecoming parade.



Alumni and friends gather at the Welcome Home Dinner, held September 25. Pictured, front row, left to right: Janet Prochaska and her husband, **Bill "Pro" Prochaska '63**. Back row (l-r): **David Vaudt '76, John Stavnes '75, and Martin Games**.



The Homecoming Ball ended on a high note, with students dressed to the nines, hitting the dance floor and showing off their best moves.



These Peacock besties reunited once again at the Alumni Awards & Honor Class Brunch. Pictured left to right: **Janice O'Connell '84, Tammy (Kral) Johnson '83, Matt Mickelson '86, Anne Berg '84, Kristie (Hayner) Perry '85, Gina Pitz '85, and Glenda Underwood-Mariani '83**.



Scott Pharmacy was honored as the 2025 Homecoming Grand Marshal; proudly representing this locally owned, Fayette business were Jeff & **Jill Scott '91**.



Peacocks flocked to the Alumni House Tailgate Party as a fun pre-game ritual. Pictured left are Peggy (Owens) Flaherty and Trina Saterdalen, who were instrumental in party prep and food/beverage contributions. Also, a special thanks to Thyron Mathews BBQ.



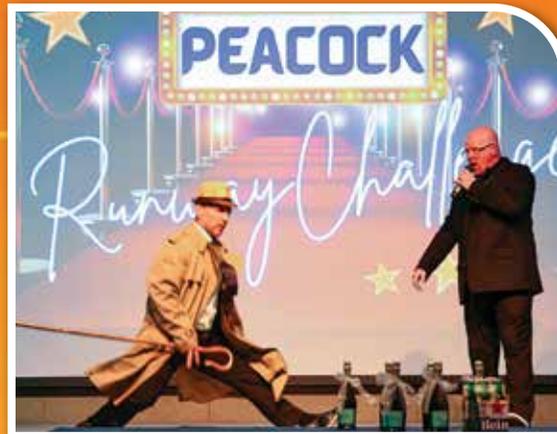
Josh Webb, conservation management student, explains his poster project to **Holly Streeter '80**, during the Experiential Learning Showcase & Reception.



Hall of Fame inductee **Chris Smith '15** (left) receives his 2025 Athletics Hall of Fame award from Vice President of Athletics, Rick Hartzel (right), during the Homecoming Ball program.



President Franken and her husband, Chuck, present a signature gift to **Kari Ratkovich '21** (middle), representing LocalIQ, in recognition of its generous \$25,000 Homecoming Ball Blue Diamond sponsorship.



Head Wrestling Coach, Heath Grimm, strutted his stuff in the Homecoming Ball's Peacock Runway Challenge, cheered on by co-emcee **Mike Schrock '99, '21**. The lively skit generated an impressive \$1,200 for the Homecoming fundraiser.



President Franken presents Fred Koch with an Honorary Alumni Degree of Distinction on behalf of the Board of Trustees, recognizing his selfless generosity, service, meaningful involvement, and unwavering devotion to UIU. Fred and his wife, **Pam Whitmore '65**, reside in Buckingham, Iowa.



Samantha Driscoll '24 adds her handprint to the Henderson-Wilder Library wall during Make Your Mark at UIU, an annual tradition honoring alumni achievements and lifelong Peacock pride.



Nearly 40 golfers teed it up on a picture-perfect fall day at Big Rock Country Club during the 5th Annual Homecoming Golf Outing, honoring Steve & Diane Harms '73. The special tribute event raised more than \$8,000 in support of the Peacock Athletic Fund.

Derek Oelman '12 (left), men's head soccer coach, Jason Carlson (middle), and Daryl Grove catch up during the Welcome Home Dinner.



Peacock fans brought the energy as UIU powered past Lincoln University of Missouri, cruising to a 31–10 Homecoming victory on September 27. Cheer and Dance sophomore, Bailey Nordyke, fires up the crowd with infectious enthusiasm.

ON THE ROAD WITH ALUMNI



Ashley Gredys, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Engagement (left) and **Keela Johnson '99** connected in Detroit, Michigan in October 2025.



Mark Danker (far right) visited with **Arsenio Tovar '04** (top left) and daughters Eloise and Harper in Livermore, California in October 2025.



(Left to right) **Arthur Kossack '64**, Connie Wimer, President and CFO, **Kathy Franken '12**, Terry Vaudt and **David Vaudt '76**, BOT member, at a UIU tailgate in August 2025.



Mark Danker (left) visited with **Jarrod Esquibel '09** in Morgan Hill, California in October 2025.



Kathryn Chopra '62 visited with Mark Danker in San Jose, California in October 2025.



President Franken (left) joined **Bill DeLauro '78** (center), and his wife, Ann Marie (right) in Austin, Texas in August 2025.



Ashley Gredys (left) and **Genna Chenoweth '24**, Assistant Director of Major Gifts (middle) met with Peter Clemens (right) in Chicago, Illinois in August 2025.



President Franken (left) visited Marla Jacobson (center), and **Jake Jacobson '78** (right) in Montgomery, Texas in August 2025.



Adrian Knuth '73 (left) visited with Mark Danker in Anamosa, Iowa in December 2025.



Ezekiel Morris '76 and **Genna Chenoweth** chatted in Chicago, Illinois in August 2025.



Ashley Gredys, Julie Games, **Kip Knight '62**, Eileen Knight and **President Franken** connected on Fayette Campus in August 2025.



Mark Danker visited with **Roger Pigg '85** in Bettendorf, Iowa in August 2025.

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.



Mark Danker (left) and **Genna Chenoweth** touched base with **Christian Archer '15** (middle) in Des Moines, Iowa in August 2025.

Dave Manion '05 (left) and **Matt Schaukowitz '99** (right) connected with Mark Danker (middle) in San Bruno, California in October 2025.

Pictured left to right: Mark Danker and **Genna Chenoweth**, joined **Tara '94** and Jeremy **Feldmann** in Des Moines, Iowa in August 2025.



Dick and Nancy Lear '66 (left) pose for a quick photo with Mark Danker (right) in Livermore, California in October 2025.

UIU alumna, **Wern Cheen Chang '10** (middle) and her husband **Jo** (left) caught up with Mark Danker (right) in San Jose, California in October 2025.

Students (left to right) **Jameson Kaiser**, **Binh Truong** and **Kyler White**, posed for a photo with **Roger Mangan '62** and **Alice Mangan '61** during Homecoming at the Fayette Campus in September 2025.



Joe and Sara Smith '97 (left) visited with Mark Danker (right) in Urbandale, Iowa in September 2025.

Erik Sorensen '09 (left) spent time with Mark Danker and **Genna Chenoweth** in Des Moines, Iowa in August 2025.

Mark Danker (left) joined **Ruben Zamora '91** (center) and his son **Jackson** (right) in Foster City, California in October 2025.



Genna Chenoweth (left) visited with **Joyce '66** and her husband, **Jerry Lang** (not pictured), in Cumberland, Maryland, in November 2025.

Glenda Underwood-Mariani '83 spent time with Mark Danker in August 2025.

Dr. Thomas Hallisey '83 (center), visited with **President Franken** (left), and **Ashley Gredys** (right) in Houston, Texas in August 2025.

Genna Chenoweth met with **Ryan Lennon '20** in Bethesda, Maryland in December 2025.

Pathways to success: The journey of Karla Radtke '97

For Karla Radtke '97, success was never a single moment—it was a pathway built one intentional step at a time.

Now the Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Administration at Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, Karla's path began much earlier as a working adult balancing full-time employment with night and weekend classes at Upper Iowa University.

Karla started her career with an associate's degree in accounting, but a transition into a sales role with Coca-Cola Enterprises shifted her perspective. She discovered her strengths—and passion—were rooted in people development and business strategy. Recognizing she needed the right educational foundation to keep growing, she turned to UIU to pursue a Marketing and Management degree.

"UIU gave me a pathway that fit my life," she shared. "The flexibility allowed me to continue advancing at work while moving toward my degree at my own pace."

While working full-time in Minneapolis, Karla took two classes at a time, leveraging UIU's self-paced, online format to shape her education around her career. She also maximized her employer's tuition reimbursement program, a resource she encourages today's students and professionals to explore.

That commitment laid the groundwork for the leadership role she holds now. Today, Karla supports more than 5,000 associates across Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, drawing on over 30 years of experience in the Coca-Cola system. Her work centers on what inspires her most: helping people grow.

Karla Radtke takes a moment for a quick photo with her son, DJ, and her husband, Rick.

"I have a tremendous passion for helping people advance their careers," she said. "My role allows me to live that passion every day."

“Mentoring is a way to pay it forward. I had great managers and mentors throughout my career, and supporting others is something I will continue long after I retire.”



Karla Radtke, '97

Along her pathway, Karla credits key mentors—and a career coach who helped her build strong networking skills—for shaping her growth. Those investments in her development now guide how she leads and gives back. She dedicates time each week to mentoring college students and early-career professionals, viewing it as an essential part of her journey.

"Mentoring is a way to pay it forward," she explained. "I had great managers and mentors throughout my career, and supporting others is something I will continue long after I retire."

Karla also emphasizes the importance of curiosity and self-care for anyone building their own pathway to success. She encourages students and adult learners to say yes to new challenges and to carve out daily moments of recharging—something she practices through early morning workouts five to seven days a week.

From a dedicated UIU adult learner to a senior executive leading thousands, Karla Radtke's pathway shows that success is not a straight line, but a journey shaped by perseverance, opportunity, and the courage to keep moving forward. 🏆



Learning without limits: The Herman Leybovich '10 story

For Herman Leybovich '10, education was never limited by a classroom, a time zone, or even a deployment schedule. As a U.S. Marine balancing service, work, and family life, he needed a university that could move with him—wherever the mission called. Through Upper Iowa University's online and self-paced programs, he found a way to keep learning without putting the rest of his life on hold.



"The Marine Corps offered excellent education benefits and UIU allowed me to take advantage of them all," Herman shared. UIU's flexible format put him in control of his studies, even when his military schedule was anything but predictable. He could stay engaged, maintain progress, and continue building toward his degree—on base, on the move, or in the few quiet hours between responsibilities.

That same mindset now carries into his professional life. One milestone Herman is especially proud of is reaching the two-year mark with Compass Strategy Design, the business where he pours his energy, experience, and values into helping others succeed. For him, that achievement is more than a business benchmark—it's "a testament to God's faithfulness and our belief that treating people well and giving them an opportunity to do great work leads to great outcomes."

Herman's educational journey has also shaped how he leads. Completing his degree while serving in the Marine

Corps gave him confidence that he can persevere and accomplish long-term goals, even in the face of adversity.

That resilience shows up in his leadership every day—in the way

Herman is shown here with his wife and three children.



he encourages others, navigates challenges, and keeps sight of the bigger picture.

He sees entrepreneurship, leadership, and service as inseparable. "To build a great business, you must serve your team and your clients to achieve great things," he reflects. "You keep none of the glory for yourself, but the delight you see when people achieve things they didn't think possible is a great reward."



“It’s a testament to God’s faithfulness, and our belief, that treating people well and giving them an opportunity to do great work leads to great outcomes.”



Herman Leybovich '10

For current UIU students—especially those juggling service, full-time work, and family—Herman's advice is both practical and encouraging: communicate openly with your loved ones and your workplace, look for synergies whenever possible, don't give up, and don't be afraid to take a break when you need it.

From the discipline of the Marine Corps to the flexibility of UIU's online classrooms and the creativity of entrepreneurship, Herman's story is a powerful reminder that learning doesn't have to fit within traditional boundaries. It can adapt, grow, and travel with you—wherever life leads.

That's learning without limits. 

Leading with Purpose: Michelle Romero '05 makes an Impact

Michelle Romero's commitment to public service began long before she held an elected office. "I knew at a young age that I enjoyed serving others," she recalls, noting that it was during high school student council that she first discovered her "natural aptitude for leadership." That early experience sparked a lifelong dedication to her community—and ultimately led her to become Mayor of Henderson in 2022.

Romero spent 25 years working for the City of Henderson, Nevada, building deep knowledge of local government and strengthening her passion for service. After retiring, she continued this path, choosing to run for City Council before being elected mayor. Her public leadership is grounded in both her professional experience and her academic preparation. "My degree in Public Administration prepared me well for city government and helped me to understand what skills and knowledge are required," she says. She especially appreciated studying leadership styles, adding, "I still employ those lessons today."

Throughout her career, Romero has remained focused on helping her city achieve excellence. One of her proudest moments came recently when the City of Henderson received national recognition. "The City of Henderson was recently awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, one of only five cities in the nation—and the largest—to ever receive the highest recognition for performance excellence bestowed by the President of the United States." For Romero, the honor reflects not only her leadership but the hard work and commitment of the entire community.

As a leader, Romero is guided by empathy, collaboration, and a genuine care for people. "As an empathetic 'people' person, I listen first to understand and collaborate to find common



Michelle with husband Ben, their four sons, and their families.

ground," she explains. She values a broad range of ideas and perspectives, noting, "I also value diversity of thought and encourage others to share their perspectives and ideas for the best possible outcomes."



“As an empathetic ‘people’ person I listen first to understand and collaborate to find common ground. I also value diversity of thought and encourage others to share their perspectives and ideas for the best possible outcomes.”



Michelle Romero '05

To future leaders and UIU students aspiring to careers in government, Romero offers straightforward advice: "Develop a thick skin and don't be afraid to fail!"

For Romero, serving her hometown is more than a professional role—it is deeply personal. "It is a privilege to serve as Mayor of my hometown, the city I grew up in and the community I love," she says. With four sons raised in Henderson and grandchildren now growing up there as well, she feels a strong responsibility to the city's future. "I strive every day to build a thriving, sustainable community for the generations to come."

Michelle Romero leads with purpose, guided by service, shaped by experience, and driven by a profound love for the place she calls home. 

Spotlight on UIU Facilities: The Team Behind the Scenes

Long before the first student arrives on campus—and long after most have gone home—the UIU Facilities Department is hard at work ensuring the Fayette Campus remains safe, welcoming, and beautiful for everyone who calls Upper Iowa University home. Their mission is simple: to meet the needs of a growing community by maintaining a safe, comfortable, and attractive environment.

The People Who Keep Campus Running

This dedicated team of 27 employees maintains the University's 141 acres, 29 buildings, and more than 674,000 square feet of space. Their work spans four service areas:

- Maintenance – repairs to campus infrastructure systems and safety checks
 - Custodial Services – clean, healthy, ready-to-use spaces
 - Grounds – landscaping, snow removal, and campus beautification
 - Fleet Management – supports travel for academic, student life, and athletics
- For generations of UIU alumni, this team quietly shaped everyday life—from warm classrooms in the winter to pristine lawns that became the backdrop for photos, gatherings, and memories.

A Day That Starts Before Dawn

Facilities is far from a traditional 8–5 operation.

- Maintenance arrives at 5 a.m. to unlock buildings, check temperatures, and address overnight issues.
- Grounds begins at 6 a.m., or 4 a.m. during snowfall, clearing sidewalks, steps, and parking areas.
- Custodial Services operates two shifts from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m., ensuring classrooms, residence halls, and offices are ready for use.
- Fleet management begins at 7 a.m., overseeing campus vehicles.

Their work ensures a seamless start to each day on campus.

Daily Tasks You Might Not See

From minor fixes to major situations, the team responds to hundreds of requests around campus, including:

- Burnt-out lights
- Plumbing issues
- Event set-ups and tear-downs
- Water leaks
- Laundry and door lock problems
- Snow and ice removal
- Temperature concerns

Much of their effort happens behind the scenes—often before anyone notices something needed attention.

Recent Projects Making a Difference

Facilities has delivered several major upgrades, including:

- Transforming the former PAAC art and bowling area into Men's and Women's Soccer locker rooms, plus a space for prairie seed processing
- Converting Student Center 1st floor lighting to energy-saving LEDs
- Modernizing Graff Garden with a refreshed landscape design
- Completing a full renovation of the Baker Hebron Greenhouse

These improvements enhance the student experience while honoring UIU's commitment to growth and improvement.

Behind the Numbers

Maintaining a campus of this size requires significant resources:

- \$98,876 average monthly utility cost
- 7,000 jumbo rolls of toilet paper used annually
- 3,000 rolls of paper towels used annually
- 15 vacuum cleaners replaced each year
- Each custodian cleans 10–15 toilets daily

These figures highlight the work required to keep campus running smoothly.

Recognizing the Team

Because Facilities staff work across multiple shifts, a single group photo is difficult. Instead, photos by department—Maintenance, Grounds, and Custodial (1st and 2nd shifts)—best showcase the people behind UIU's day-to-day operations.



First Shift Custodial Staff

Front row: Cheryl Young, Karen Smith, Lori Swenka and Kelli Mochal '97

Back row: Benny Martin, Ray Congdon, Nick Congdon, Rickey Shurtleff



Grounds Staff

Left to right: Dennis Goddard, Lonnie Osmundson, Addam Holub and Josh Doty

Not pictured: Brian Schroeder



Maintenance Staff

Front row: Scott Beaver and Joshuwa Kuhn '17

Back row: Doug Conner, Tommy Brown, Delbert O'Dell, Tim Parker



2nd Shift Custodial Staff

Left to right: Evan Haupt, Alex Sass and Sandra Bahls

Not pictured: Mary Hertel

Not pictured: Jesse Pleggenkuhle '12, Director of Facilities and Barb Thompson.

A Legacy of Care

Though their work often happens quietly in the background, the Facilities team is essential to the UIU experience. They maintain the spaces where alumni studied, grew, and built lifelong memories—and they continue that legacy for every student who follows. 



Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future: The Henderson-Wilder Learning Commons

For more than 100 years, Henderson-Wilder Library has been one of UIU's most iconic spaces—and the only academic Carnegie library in Iowa still in continuous use. Now, the University is transforming this historic landmark into a modern Learning Commons designed to meet the needs of today's students.

The Learning Commons model brings together research assistance, tutoring, writing support, technology, and collaborative learning spaces under one roof. "It's not just about helping students become knowledgeable," shared Jeff Childs, Director of Learning Commons. "It's about helping them become knowledge able."

The reimagined space will include group and quiet study areas, technology-enhanced rooms, and a Learning Lab equipped with a 3D printer, vinyl cutter, digital creation tools, and flexible presentation setups. Centralizing these resources will strengthen student success, improve retention, and provide a more engaging academic experience.

The project also supports UIU faculty through close collaboration with the Center for Excellence in Learning and

Teaching, offering opportunities for innovative instruction, course development, and integration of library resources.

Early improvements are already visible: refreshed study spaces, increased natural light, repurposed furniture, and new technology in the Learning Lab. Future plans include upgraded furnishings, expanded technology, enhanced collaborative zones, and the development of a digital Learning Commons for distance learners.

This transformation is a true campus-wide effort, shaped by librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community partners who have contributed time, expertise, and even furniture.

As UIU honors the legacy of Henderson-Wilder, alumni and donors have the opportunity to help build its future. Support for the Learning Commons will ensure that generations of students have access to the tools, spaces, and academic support they need to thrive—keeping this historic space at the heart of the Peacock experience for years to come. Contributions for the library are always warmly accepted at uiu.edu/give. 

Class of 2025 CONGRATS, LOUISIANA GRADUATES!



UIU-Baton Rouge



UIU-Fort Polk



UIU-Alexandria



UIU-New Orleans



FISCAL YEAR 2025 DONOR *Report*

The Office of Advancement & Alumni Engagement extends sincere gratitude to every member of the Peacock family who supported Upper Iowa University during fiscal year 2025. Your generosity and engagement reflect a shared belief in the power of education and a deep commitment to the success of current and future Peacocks.

This annual Donor Report demonstrates our commitment to transparency and honors the individuals whose philanthropic support continues to strengthen UIU and advance its mission. The information presented reflects charitable gifts received between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, and illustrates the meaningful impact of your generosity.

Because of you, UIU is able to expand scholarship opportunities, enhance academic programs, and foster an environment where students can learn, lead, and thrive. As we look ahead, we are inspired by the momentum we have built together and remain confident in the University's continued growth and impact now, and long into the future.



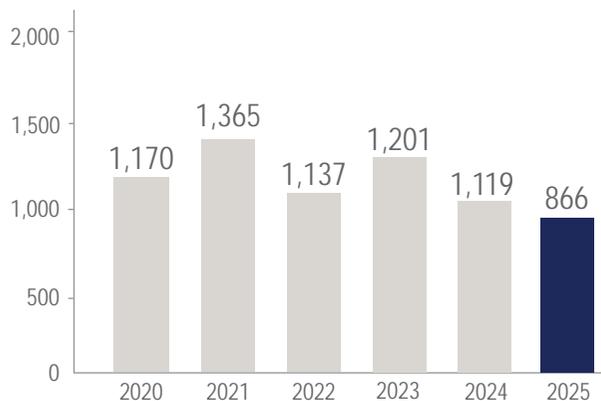
The Advancement & Alumni Engagement team poses for a team picture during the 2025 Homecoming Ball. Front row (left-right): **Anne Puffett '19**, Brenda Luzum, Julie Games, Ashley Gredys and **Genevieve Chenoweth '24**. Back row (l-r): Mark Danker, **Mike Schrock '99, '21**, Howie Thompson, and Daryl Grove.

BY THE *Numbers*

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

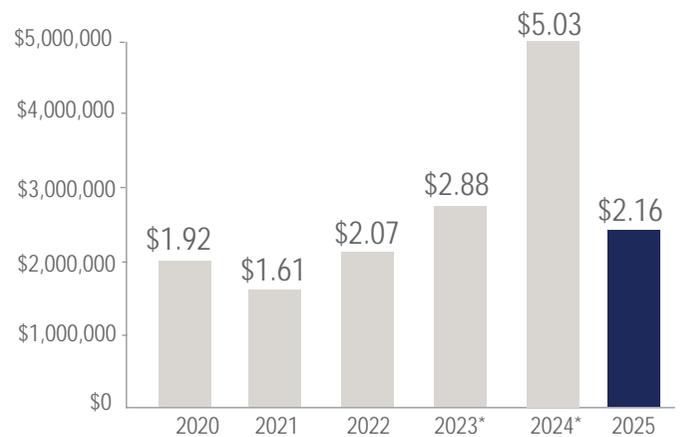
Donor Participation

Alumni Count



Total Charitable

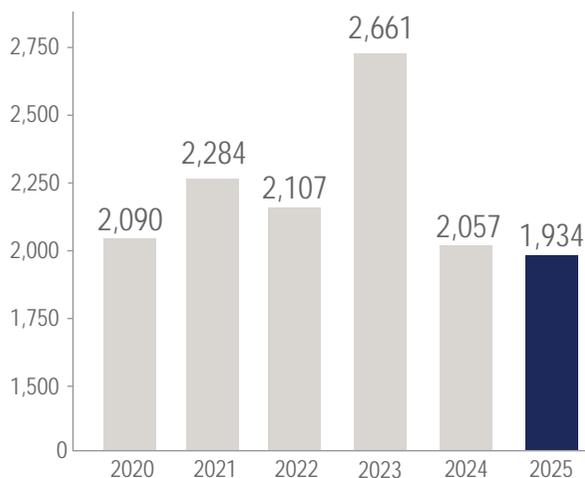
Donations



*Forever UIU Campaign

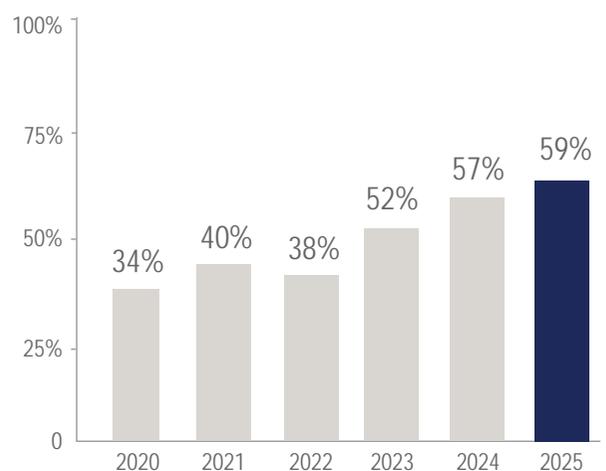
Donor Participation

All Donors



UIU Faculty & Staff

Donor Count



DONOR Clubs

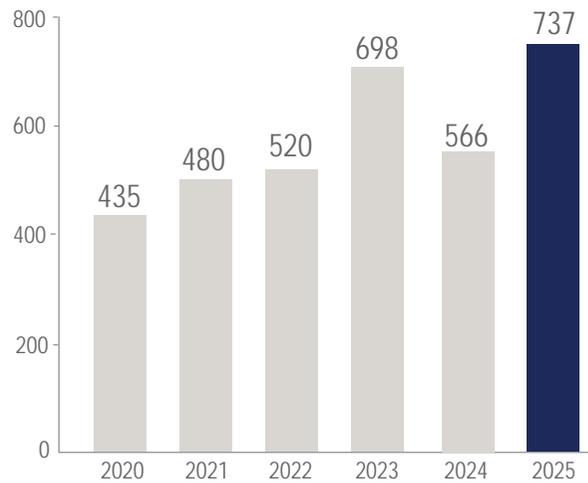
For more than a decade, the UIU Donor Club Program has honored the generosity and commitment of Upper Iowa University's supporters. The program celebrates those who believe in UIU's mission while inspiring others to step forward and make a meaningful impact. Through this generosity, a culture of giving continues to grow and strengthen the University.

On the following pages, we proudly recognize our FY25 Donor Club members. Membership is based on the total amount of charitable gifts made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

This includes outright donations, in-kind gifts, and pledge payments (excluding pledge commitments), regardless of designation.

During fiscal year 2025, we were proud to unveil the new Blue Chip Club, creating a meaningful entry point into this distinguished recognition program. At the other

Membership Donor Counts



end of the philanthropic spectrum, we were honored to introduce the Legacy Club for the first time, celebrating individuals whose lifetime charitable giving to Upper Iowa University has reached \$1 million, or more. Legacy Club members receive the University's highest level of recognition as UIU's most distinguished philanthropists.

To learn more about the UIU Donor Club Program or how to become a member, visit uiu.edu/DonorClubs.

Membership By Club



Blue Diamond Club (\$25,000+)

Allan & Kristin Bevans

Steve Harms *

Richard & Georgianna Harris *

Iowa College Foundation

Ralph & Erica Kauten

LocaliQ / Gannett

Roger & Alice Mangan

Dennis Murdock

Dr. James Parker

Susan Pearce-Rewoldt

Marshall Richards

State of Iowa Wildlife Grant

David & Jeanie Vaudt

Legacy Club
\$1 Million Lifetime

Chris & Richard Andres

William & Betty Andres *

Steve & Diane Harms *

Roger & Alice Mangan

Limestone Club (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Steven Anderson

Steve & Ashley Andres

Red & Nina Brickman

Matthew & Billie Cowley

Nathaniel Curran

May Davig

Kathy & Chuck Franken

Julie Goebel

Curtis & Annette Gunter

Armon & Beth Haagen

Kip & Eileen Knight

LaVerne McCoy

Matt & Cynthia Mickelson

Frederick & Cynthia Perry

Gina Pitz

Michael & Teri Salmons

Edward Smith

Burnell & Karen Smith

Tanner Thompson

James Wessels

We are proud to recognize our FY25 Donor Club Members (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)! Their generosity makes a lasting impact on the University's mission and on our students' success.

**Indicates deceased*

FY2025 Donor Club Members

Give a Gift. Leave a Legacy. Inspire Others.

Alexander Club (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Chris & Richard Andres
Nancy & Robert Betz
Bill & Deanna Cook
Bill & Ann Marie DeLauro
Kenneth & Sharon Erickson
Glenn George *
Edward & Jean Hupfer
Edward Jesle
Keela Johnson
George & Barbara Katsenes

Glen Kellerhals
NSA Labs / Jim & Josie Baun
Scott & Bobbi Lebin
John & Sharon Orr
Thomas & Dorinda Pounds
Michael & Sandra Prochaska
Jeff & Jill Scott
Glenda Underwood-Mariani
Pamela Whitmore & Fred Koch
Millicent Wiese *

1857 Club (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Merlyn Albaugh
Aramark
Allison & Carl Behne
Martha Brock
Mary & Shri Cheddie
Joshua & Veronica Cheek
Peter & Laura Clemens
DOT Foods Inc
Janet & Warren Dunkel

Donald & Barb Ehlers
Mike Eischeid
Jeremy & Tara Feldmann
Angie & TJ Joseph
Rick & Jane Knipper
Marjorie & James Macken
Thyron & Terrishane Mathews
Gail Moorman Behrens
Phil Powers

Principal Financial Group
Brian & Traci Sims
Matthew Snitkey
State Farm Company
Foundation
Ron & Mary Ann Stevens
Kenneth * & Donna Tedford
USI Insurance Services LLC

THANK YOU, Club Members!

True Blue CLUB (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Tyler & Carmen Adams	John & Carolyn Falb	Jim & Ronda Parsons
American Legion of Iowa Foundation	Robert & Angela Flannery	Richard Patrick
Diane & Andrew Anderson	Boone Fox	Kelli & Alex Pech
Dr. Charles & Janet Andres	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	Tom Petsche
Barclays PLC	Jack & Sue Frey	Jimmy Pomeroy
Jason & Maggie Berggren	Timothy Frey	Becky Read
Stephen & Maureen Bergman	Julie & Martin Games	Stephen & Marianne Regan
Scott & Barbara Best	Ashley & Josh Gredys	Keith & Debby Scholle
Jennifer & Steve Bohr	Barry & Ann Hall	Lynette Schweers
Larry & Dianne Borst	Dr. Thomas Hallisey / East Loop	Mike & Susan Sciutto
Dennis* & Judy Brumm	Chiropractic Clinic Inc	Louise Scott
Sheila & Greg Bryan	Diane Hosey	David & Andrea Scott
Mark & Joni Burling	Robert Jacob	Al Seabrooke
Adam Burling & Larry Feigenbaum	Adrian & Lori Knuth	Larry & Tracey Seals
Jeffrey & Annette Butikofer	Brent & Gina Kuker	Mike & Lori Sedam
Lynda Carlson	Dr. Darrel Lang	Martin Sher
Phyllis Carpenter	Joyce & Jerry Lang	Joe Smith
Benjamin Curran	Bradly Loughren	Frank & Nicole Spatafora
Chas Daker	John Lundgren	Kevin & Jackie Stahle
David & Tisha Davis	David Manuta	Michael & Carolyn Suggett
Christine DeLong	MARCO Inc	Anita Swanson
The Dietz Foundation	Ron & Mary Maxson	Neil & Heidi Wilkinson
Pat Dolan	Jim & Carolyn* Middendorf	Nancy & Tim Wulfekuhle / DT's
Andrew & Barbara Doty	Janice Mundt	Pub & Primetime Pizza
Bill & Sharon Duffy	Dean Nihart	
Stuart Dunkel	Dawn & Adam Novak	
Beverly Evans	Kieth & Debra Osborn	
Steven & Anita Exline / The Borg LLC	Norman & Elaine Parker	

Peacock Patron CLUB (\$500-\$999)

John & Beth Alverson	Sidney Bunger	Kathy Dolan
Phyllis & Marlin Anderson	Ryan & Dawn Burns	Patrick & Kathleen Doland
Marcia Andrews	Jim & Vickie Bushkofsky	Larry & Carolyn Erenberger
Gregory & Robin Atkins	Wayne & Meg Carl	Gregg & Judy Eschweiler
Patrick Bailey	Jim Clark	Stephen Foley
Sonya Becker	Jalen & Jackie Cooper /	Todd & Denise Foss
Brian & Debbie Benchley	Cooper Seed Solutions	Tony & Faye French
Chad & Laura Bernard	Thomas & Carol Crandall	Kathy & Joel Gabrielson
Jeanne Blaes	Mark & Sarri Danker	Jerry & Barbara Gazaway
Timothy Brennan	Millie Devine	William & Melissa Grimes

Peacock Patron CLUB (cont.)

Kari & Eric Gunderson
 Joseph & Bettye Gwinn
 Jann Henkes
 Trevor & Ashlen Hook
 Heidi Hove
 Jason & Bri Huedepohl
 Jake & Marla Jacobson
 Cole & Chelsie Jaeschke
 Everett Johnson
 Amanda & Jon Jones
 Joe Keith
 Randy & Wendy Kies
 John & Connie Kinley
 Joseph Koppenhaver
 Marty Kraus
 Daniel & Rebecca Kruse
 Mike Lewis
 Andrey Lisoff
 Kim & Chris Lundgren
 Whitney Maass
 Samuel & Olivia MacMaster
 Mark & Lou Anne Malak
 Robin & James McVeigh
 Todd & Angela Meiners
 Claudette Sinnott
 Frank & Stacy Monfrey
 Larry & Maggie Mulholland
 Patricia Jo Murphy
 Bill & Louise Murray
 NEIA Mechanical
 Cheryl & Gary Northrop
 Andrew & Marcy Oberbreckling
 Joe Peluso
 Richard & Sheryl Peshek
 Kenneth & Jane Pospisil
 Bill & Janet Prochaska
 Jesse & Bethany Rawley
 Lisa Reid
 Kirk & Jane Rentschler
 Owen & Gloria Rentschler
 Warren & Connie Reyerson
 Bill & Mary Roths
 Bonnie Sadler
 Wayne Safranski
 Charles & Heidi Salva

David & Mirian Satkus
 Matthew Schaukowitch
 Gary Schichtl
 Brian Schneider
 Mike & Heather Schrock
 Logan Schweinefus
 Sea Tow Foundation
 Andrea & David Scott
 Merlin & Lynne Sebastian
 Todd & Melanie Shaull
 Allan Smalley
 Pamela Spear
 Jeffrey & Janis Stavnes
 Daryl & Debra Steen

Jon & Sarah Stellmacher
 Rob Sullivan
 Ann Testolin
 Staci & Jason Thompson
 Sarah & Ricardo Vargas
 Brian Voigt
 Dianna Voigt
 Jen & Eric Webb
 Tom & Mary Webber
 Paul & Victoria Weller
 Wade Witcher
 Al & Linda Wilson
 Holly & Tim Wolff
 Jim & Kay Yanecek

To view all FY25 Contributors Club, Blue Chip Club Members and all club perks, visit uiu.edu/DonorClubs or scan the QR code below.

Legacy Club (\$1,000,000+) NEW!
 Honoring those whose lifetime charitable giving to Upper Iowa University totals \$1 Million or more, members receive distinguished recognition as UIU's most elite philanthropists. Supporters are prominently acknowledged across all Donor Club materials and communications.

Blue Diamond Club (\$25,000 +)
 Perks include: Signature Gift, Double the Rewards for the UIU Campus Store, Two Tickets to the Homecoming Ball, Public Recognition at Harms-Eischeid Stadium, VIP Suite Experience Access for Home Football Games, Early Digital Access to *The Bridge* Magazine, Annual Donor Report Recognition in *The Bridge*, Donor Club Webpage Recognition, and Gift of Gratitude.

Alexander Club (\$10,000-\$24,999)
 Perks include: Digital Rewards for the UIU Campus Store, Two Tickets to the Homecoming Ball, Public Recognition at Harms-Eischeid Stadium, VIP Suite Experience Access for Home Football Games, Early Digital Access to *The Bridge* Magazine, Annual Donor Report Recognition, Donor Club Webpage Recognition in *The Bridge*, and Gift of Gratitude.

Limestone Club (\$5,000-\$9,999)
 Perks include: Two Tickets to the Homecoming Ball, Public Recognition at Harms-Eischeid Stadium, VIP Suite Experience Access for Home Football Games, Early Digital Access to *The Bridge* Magazine, Annual Donor Report Recognition in *The Bridge*, Donor Club Webpage Recognition, and Gift of Gratitude.

1857 Club (\$2,500-\$4,999)
 Perks include: Public Recognition at Harms-Eischeid Stadium, VIP Suite Experience Access for Home Football Games, Early Digital Access to *The Bridge* Magazine, Annual Donor Report Recognition in *The Bridge*, Donor Club Webpage Recognition, and Gift of Gratitude.

True Blue Club (\$1,000-\$2,499)
 Perks include: Early Digital Access to *The Bridge* Magazine, Annual Donor Report Recognition in *The Bridge*, Donor Club Webpage Recognition, and Gift of Gratitude.

Peacock Patron Club (\$500-\$999)
 Perks include: Annual Donor Report Recognition in *The Bridge*, Donor Club Webpage Recognition, and Gift of Gratitude.

Contributors Club (\$250-\$499)
 Perks include: Donor Club Webpage Recognition and Gift of Gratitude.

Blue Chip Club (\$120-\$249)
 Perks include: Donor Club Webpage Recognition.

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY DONOR CLUB PROGRAM
uiu.edu/DonorClubs

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

RENEWED BEAUTY AT GRAF GARDEN



The Zinita B. Graf Garden, located near the front entrance of UIU's Andres Center for Business and Education, has received a beautiful refresh. The Andres Center is located on the former site of Zinita B. Graf Hall Residence for Women. The gorgeous garden and Andres Gazebo now offer an inviting outdoor space for reflection, gathering, and campus enjoyment.

Thanks to donor support, this historic site continues to honor tradition while providing a welcoming environment for students, faculty, and visitors alike.

LEE TOWERS GETS A FRESH LOOK

There's no place like home, and now, Lee Towers residence hall feels even more like one. Thanks to donor contributions, each room has been brightened with brand-new curtains that add warmth, color, and comfort. Students are already noticing the difference, saying the new look makes their rooms feel more welcoming.



These updates may seem small, but they make a big impact. Creating spaces that feel comfortable and cared-for helps students relax, connect and thrive, turning Lee Towers into not just a dorm, but a true home away from home.

ELEVATING ATHLETICS

Among the most exciting recent upgrades are the newly completed locker rooms for the men's and women's soccer programs. Made possible through donor generosity, these modern facilities provide our student-athletes with dedicated spaces designed for preparation, team connection, and pride.



The new locker rooms feature updated amenities that reflect the professionalism and spirit of the Athletics department. More than just functional spaces, they serve as a symbol of investment in our students' success—on the field and beyond. These enhancements

foster a sense of unity and belonging that will inspire current players and future generations alike.

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE: ENHANCEMENTS FOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the women's basketball team has enjoyed several exciting upgrades that reflect both pride and progress, including Nike winter parkas and new wall decals that highlight the program's spirit, success, and tradition.



Donor support has also made possible meaningful team-bonding experiences—from visiting the College Basketball Hall of Fame to attending the historic Iowa Women's Basketball game at Kinnick Stadium, and more—all of which strengthen camaraderie, leadership, and team culture.



BECAUSE OF YOU, WE SHINE

Because of you, our campus feels more alive than ever. Your generosity doesn't just build buildings or fund programs, it changes lives. Every gift, no matter the size, helps a student chase their dreams, discover new opportunities, and find a home here at Upper Iowa University. Every improvement, every new space, every scholarship tells the story of your kindness and commitment. From all of us students, faculty, staff, and the entire Peacock family, thank you for everything you make possible.

HENDERSON-WILDER LIBRARY: A HUB OF LEARNING AND INNOVATION



The Learning Lab continues to thrive, and new updates from fresh paint, ceiling tiles, and lighting are transforming the main floor into an even more welcoming hub for study, collaboration, and creativity.

Next Steps: Updates include fresh paint, new ceiling tiles, and upgraded lighting to modernize the space and improve comfort.

TECHNOLOGY AT UIU

The UIU Excellence Fund supports our University in all day-to-day operations. From scholarship funding to technology upgrades to maintenance and repairs, giving to the UIU Excellence Fund provides dollars that



directly support our students, faculty, and staff to be successful in every way possible. Here our IT staff prepares new campus laptops for disbursement across the campus.

Thank you to the donors that make these technology updates a reality for Upper Iowa University.

WRESTLING PROGRAM: ENHANCING TRAINING AND SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the wrestling program has received upgrades to support both athletes and visitors. New bikes provide student-athletes with advanced training tools, improving strength, endurance, and overall performance.

And, upgraded indoor bleachers allow friends, family, and fans to comfortably watch practices and matches, enhancing community engagement within the wrestling facility. These improvements create a stronger, more supportive environment for student-athletes while ensuring that the wrestling room is welcoming for spectators.



PEACOCK FOOTBALL THRIVES THANKS TO GRIDIRON CLUB GENEROSITY

In just two years, the Gridiron Club has raised over \$75,000 to support the Peacock football program. Their generosity has directly enhanced the student-athlete experience through the upgraded student-athlete lounge, branded football floor at Edgar Fine Arts, gear, and sideline technology that improves communication between coaches and players during games.

Thanks to the Gridiron Club, Peacock football student-athletes enjoy improved facilities, resources, and opportunities to excel on and off the field.



NEW PORTABLE HEATERS FOR ATHLETIC TRAINERS

New heaters help our athletic trainers keep students safe and ready to perform during cold-weather games and practices.

HERITAGE Society

The UIU Heritage Society honors those who have chosen to include Upper Iowa University in their estate plans or make other planned gift commitments. We are deeply grateful to the individuals listed below, many of whom have left a lasting legacy that continues to shape UIU and future generations of Peacocks.

Thoughtful estate planning is a meaningful way to care for loved ones while supporting the causes closest to your heart. UIU is proud to partner with FreeWill to offer alumni a free, secure online tool to create a legally binding will in as little as 20 minutes. To date, 267 Peacocks have taken advantage of this valuable resource.

If you are working with a financial advisor, we commend your proactive planning. To be recognized as a member of the UIU Heritage Society, please complete a UIU Letter of Intent. For more information, contact Ashley Gredys, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Engagement, at gredysa@uiu.edu or 563-425-5348, or visit uiu.edu/HeritageSociety.

Floyd E. Alber *
Dr. Marcia K. Anderson
Wayne & Nancy Anderson*
William & Betty Andres*
Stephen Arneson
Darrel & Gladys Arthur*
Carleton & Genevieve Baker*
Ruth Baker*
Ronald William Bergfeld
Shannon Blackburn-Hawkins
Roberta Brannon*
Donald & Pat Brattebo
Jodi & Jason Bonnett
Robert & Kathryn Burr
Orville & Fran Bunting*
Cassie Bye
Paula Cameron
Bruce Campbell*
Phyllis Carpenter
William "Foster" Cass*
Matthew Chapman
Marvin Chevalier*
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James Collins
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Peter Farougi
Deborah Foster
Robert Fox*

Raymond "Jack" Gager*
Bess Greenley*
Jessica Gonzalez-Gallardo
LaVonne Gutches*
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Chrystol & Oliver Hansen*
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Jacquelinne Hawkins*
Bernard & Susan Hay
Michelle Marie Hayes
Steve & Jennifer Heeren
Jann Henkes
Louise Herring*
Craig Jackson
Betty Jensen*
Nicole Johnson
Lawrence Kancius*
Mary & Donald Kimball*
Rupert & Margaret Kneef*
Carlton & Maxine Knight*
Kip & Eileen Knight
Anthony Koran
Rudolph* & Marty Kraus
Michelle & Bob* Lane
Stan Lee*
Earl Lewis
Jo Love
James Marik*
Roger & Alice Mangan
William Maurer
Becky Maxson*
LaVerne McCoy
Douglas & Tamara McReynolds
Edward & Judith Menuey
William Merkle*
Michael E. Miklus
Torrie Moffett
Albert Montgomery
Warren Morgan*
William Murray

William* & Sandra Naylor
Timothy "Muggsy" Nevelle*
Lilian & Sol Oestreicher*
James Olsen*
Joseph & Judith* Peluso
Frederick & Cynthia Perry
Lorna & Lyle Peterson
Andrew & April Ransom
Robert H. Rewoldt* &
Susan Pearce-Rewoldt
James & Vicky Rarick
Brent & Pamela Richter
Nicole Riha
John Rippe*
Lucile Roberts*
H. James Rogan*
Elizabeth "Betty" Ryan*
Steven Sales
Michael & Teri Salmons
Mike & Heather Schrock
Louise Scott
Dale & Susan Sevig
Joshua & Andrea Schnell
Serge & Paula Sisler
Brian Smith
Burnell & Karen Smith
Edward Smith
Pamela Spear
Robert & Marie Steinburg
Karen Stinson
Leora & Merle Sullivan*
Anita Swanson
Vicki Terpening
Tanner Thompson
Stephanie & Harold Waterman
Millicent Wiese*
Wayne Whitney
Kurt & Jennifer Wood

**Indicates deceased*

STUDENT Connection

The Office of Advancement & Alumni Engagement is deeply committed to working alongside students to create meaningful opportunities that foster learning, connection, and professional growth. Through hands-on involvement, students engage with alumni, build valuable skills, strengthen their resumes, and gain real-world experience that prepares them for life beyond the classroom.

Student Philanthropy Council

One shining example is the Student Philanthropy Council (SPC), a dynamic, student-led team of philanthropic ambassadors who channel creativity and school pride into impactful fundraising initiatives. Through their efforts, students gain real-world experience in communication, project management, event planning and stewardship, while inspiring generosity across the Peacock community.

From November 25 through December 31, 2025, SPC hosted the first-ever Holiday Countdown, inviting Peacocks everywhere to give back in the spirit of the season. The response was incredible: nearly 100 donors participated, raising more than \$55,000 to support key campus priorities and enhance the student experience.

The energy and pride generated by the Holiday Countdown reflect the strength of our community and the dedication of loyal donors and sponsors who make it all possible.

To view everyone who helped make the event a success, visit go.uiu.edu/Holiday25.

Student Advancement Interns

When your phone rings, it might just be a current Peacock reaching out. Our Student Advancement Interns play an essential role in keeping the UIU family connected—one conversation at a time.

These students love hearing alumni stories, learning how graduates are using their degrees, and sharing warm greetings with favorite professors or coaches. Along the way, they often collect Class Notes to be featured in a future issue of Bridge Magazine.

There's no sales pitch—just an authentic conversation rooted in shared Peacock pride. By taking a few minutes to visit with our students when they call, you help strengthen the bonds that make Upper Iowa University such a close-knit community. Together, alumni and students ensure the UIU spirit continues to thrive for generations to come.



SPC students greeted guests during the Holiday Open House on December 2, 2025. Pictured (left-right) is Eryn Sabelka, Jaidyn Duvel, Binh Truong, and Kyler White.



Listening to alumni stories shows me the many paths a UIU degree can take and helps shape my own career journey. Those deep conversations are inspiring and motivating."



Addyson Alber '27
Student Advancement Intern
Elementary Education Major / UIU Softball

ALUMNI Association

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize outgoing members, welcome new volunteers, and celebrate a new slate of officers, all united by a shared commitment to Upper Iowa University and its alumni community.

The Board extends sincere thanks to three dedicated alumni whose service leaves a lasting impact. **Jann (Schellhammer) Henkes '78** concludes more than a decade of leadership, having served in every officer role and consistently championed alumni engagement. **Bill Roths '74** departs the Board but remains an active supporter, especially through his long-standing involvement with the Homecoming Golf Outing. **Virgil Coleman '01** brought valuable insight on engaging alumni nationwide and was a strong advocate for the Second Chance Commencement program.

We are pleased to welcome **Deana Cannon '15**, **Monica (Patterson) Reed '96**, **Gregg Eschweiler '76**, and **Bill DeLauro '78**, who began their two-year terms in November 2025. Together with the full 17-member Board, they will help strengthen alumni connections, increase involvement, build loyalty, and generate support for the University.

The Board is also pleased to announce its new officers: **Glenda Underwood-Mariani '83** will serve as Secretary, **Tom Petsche '75** returns for another term as Vice President, and **Ron Bergfeld '77** steps into the role of Alumni Association Board President. A proud Fayette graduate, Ron looks forward to expanding alumni involvement, supporting events throughout the year, and encouraging Peacocks everywhere to stay connected.

With renewed leadership and fresh perspectives, the Alumni Association Board is excited to continue serving UIU's 47,000+ alumni—strengthening connections and celebrating all that it means to be a Peacock.

To learn more, or step up and offer to serve as a volunteer, visit uiu.edu/AlumniAssociation.



Association Board Members enjoying the Alumni House Tropical Tailgate Party during Homecoming 2025 included, front row (left-right) is **Bob Krueger '77**, **Glenda Underwood-Mariani '83**, **Jeff Stavnes '76**, **Jill (Northrop) Buchan '02**, and **Ron Bergfeld '77**. Back row (l-r) is **Jann (Schellhammer) Henkes '78** and **Danny John '16, '18**.



Pete the Peacock proudly marches out of Dorman Memorial Gymnasium during Commencement 2025.

Second Chance Commencement

The Alumni Association is thrilled to offer a meaningful opportunity for alumni who were unable to attend their original Commencement ceremony, no matter the reason. Participants are invited to take part in Upper Iowa University's Commencement on the Fayette Campus and be recognized alongside the Class of 2026 on Saturday, May 9.

Advance registration is required. The participation fee is \$40 for those needing regalia or \$15 for alumni who already have their own. Registration closes March 20, 2026. It's never too late to celebrate this milestone—join us for the moment you deserve and “officially” walk across the stage. Register today at uiu.edu/Alumni-Events.

CLASS NOTES

1970's



Lowell Tiedt '71, Anamosa, Iowa, has retired as Assistant Beef Superintendent of the 4-H Cattle Barns at the Iowa State Fair. For years, Lowell coordinated show

schedules, helped with check-in and offered encouraging words to nervous first-year exhibitors.

Bill Roths '74 (middle) Cedar Falls Iowa, and **Rick Knipper '73** (left) Iowa City,



Iowa, were recipients of the UIU Service to University Alumni Award during Homecoming

2025. Five years ago, they launched what is now the Annual Homecoming Golf Fundraiser, an event designed to bring Peacocks together for fun and fellowship. Through their hands-on leadership—managing everything from promotion to pairings, they've helped raise more than \$20,000 for the Peacock Athletic Fund.

Known for their inclusive approach, Bill and Rick offer flexible entry fees to ensure alumni of all ages can take part. Their 5th Annual Homecoming Golf Outing, held September 26, 2025, honored their late friends Steve and Diane Harms '73 and raised over \$8,000 thanks to golfers and supporters near and far. What began as a simple idea rooted in friendship among the SOBs and FOXES, has grown into a Homecoming tradition for all that strengthens UIU pride year after year.

Bill earned his degree in elementary education and physical education, later becoming a teacher, coach, referee, and longtime banking leader. He and his wife, Mary, live in Cedar Falls and have two daughters and two grandsons.

Rick earned his degree in physical education, excelled as a four-year baseball letter-winner, and went on to a successful entrepreneurial career. He and his wife, Jane, live in Iowa City and have three children and nine grandchildren.



Rev. Robert Culbertson '75, Windsor Heights, Iowa, received the UIU Service to Community Alumni Award during Homecoming 2025.

During his time on campus, he was active in Acacia Fraternity, the Religion Club, and several service groups, and played a key role in establishing a chapel in Maltbie-McCosh Hall, a testament to his early leadership and commitment to creating meaningful spaces for faith and fellowship.

After earning his Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Robert was ordained as a United Methodist minister in 1979 and spent more than three decades serving congregations across Iowa. Known for his compassion and steady guidance, he also served as Chaplain at the Door of Faith Mission, an experience that inspired his book, *Tough Love: My Ten Years as a Chaplain for the Homeless*.

In retirement, Rev. Culbertson continues to embody faith in action through volunteer service with The FreeStore, youth mission trips, community meal programs, and support for individuals in prison work-release programs. He and his wife, Julia, have three children: Jeniece, Chris, and Elizabeth.



Michael Salmons '76, Columbia, Maryland, received the UIU Service to Country Alumni Award during Homecoming 2025. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Health Science and

Pre-Physical Therapy at UIU, where he was recognized as a distinguished Military Graduate through Army ROTC and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. Over his 21-year military career, he served as an instructor, completed aviation training, spent a decade as a medevac pilot across multiple states and overseas, and later held key leadership roles including Program Manager for the Office of the Surgeon General and Medical Advisor for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

After retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Michael continued his service to the nation as Director of Security and Emergency Operations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. On September 11, 2001, he stood ready on the hospital rooftop, later leading the Pentagon Rapid Response Team during recovery efforts. In 2007, he joined the Library of Congress as Emergency Management Program Officer, where for 13 years he protected national treasures, oversaw large-scale safety operations, and provided security briefings to high-profile leaders and guests.

Michael has served the Tri-State Alumni Chapter, and the Alumni Association Board of Directors, leaving a legacy of leadership and mentorship. He and his wife, **Teri (Vanderheiden) Salmons '76**, reside in Columbia.



Dr. Keith Freeseemann '77, Yorba Linda, California, was honored with the UIU Professional Accomplishment Alumni Award during

Homecoming 2025. He graduated from UIU with a Bachelor of Science in physical education, spending four years as a student athletic trainer and finding community in Acacia Fraternity. He went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a doctorate from the University of Southern California, bringing his friends' old nickname, "Doctor Keith," to life.

Keith built a remarkable 45-year career at California State University, Long Beach, where he spent 35 years as a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and director of the nationally accredited Athletic Training Program. In his later years, he served as University Ombudsman, guiding conflict resolution and student advocacy while also contributing to numerous committees and leadership initiatives.

A respected scholar and leader, Keith published in national journals and earned multiple honors, including induction into the UNI Hall of Excellence, the CSULB Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Long Beach State Athletic Training Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Suzanne, have one son, Max.

CLASS NOTES

Jann (Schellhammer) Henkes '78, Saint Paul, Minnesota, retired after a 40-year career in administration, database management, and project management. In her final role, Jann had the joy of being paid to be a little silly while caring for a very energetic 25-year-old woman with special needs who loved staying active and playing the occasional prank. Jann resides in St. Paul with her fiancé, Les.

1980's



Lori Meyer '82, Mankato, Minnesota, retired from Minnesota State as the Head Softball Coach after 41 Seasons on June 30, 2025. Lori joined the softball program in 1983 as a graduate assistant and was invited to join the volleyball program in the same capacity that fall. In 1985, she was named the softball program's fourth head coach. In 2013, she was inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame. Her 1,444 career wins stand as the most in NCAA Division II history.

1990's

Dewee (Sundara) DeBusk '98, Sierra Vista, Arizona, was promoted to Colonel within the United States Army Reserve in November, 2024.

2000's



Thomas Albert '01, Chino, California, is the Head Athletic Trainer for the Los Angeles Dodgers and has been with the team since 2016. In November 2025, he celebrated his third World Series

championship with the organization. A native of Burlington, Iowa, Thomas earned his degree in athletic training and sports science at UIU. He and his wife, Mandi, are proud parents to three daughters.

Donna (Moore) Zell '05, Sumner, Iowa, is currently a Para Educator at Waverly-Shell Rock Schools. She is the grandmother of three boys and a granddaughter is on the way. Donna and her husband, Mark, reside in rural Sumner.



Jessie Bushman '06, '10 West Union, Iowa, has been named a 2025 Leadership Influencer and invited to attend the Leadership Network for Women Conference in Washington, D.C. She is one of just twenty-five women selected nationwide for this honor. Jessie's SEL (Special Education Leader) Program earned the distinction of being the top-nominated social-emotional learning initiative in the country. As an honoree, Jessie spoke at the conference on behalf of North Fayette Valley's SEL Program, highlighting its meaningful impact on the district's students and staff. She has served West Union Elementary for 20 years in multiple capacities and currently leads as North Fayette Valley's SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Teacher and Program Manager.

Kate (Shank) Giannini '06, Riverside, Iowa, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will be hosted by Deltares in Delft, Netherlands, for six weeks in 2026. Her project will focus on knowledge exchange and capacity building in areas such as flood risk and mitigation, science communication, community-engaged research, water quality, watershed management, governance, and

policy. The Fulbright Program is a U.S. government-sponsored initiative designed to promote international educational and cultural exchange. Kate and her husband, Ryan, reside in Riverside, where Kate serves as a Program Manager at the Iowa Flood Center, a unit of the University of Iowa's College of Engineering.

Natasha (Rochford) Boettger '07, West Des Moines, Iowa, recently graduated from Drake University with a Master of Science in Engineering Degree. She is currently employed as a teacher at Valley West High School in West Des Moines, Iowa. Natasha and her husband, Mike, have three children, Jude, Chance and Finn.

Darcy (Hageman) Einck '08, Fort Atkinson, Iowa, is teaching Biology, Environmental Science, and Authentic Learning at South Winneshiek High School in Calmar, Iowa. Darcy and her husband Darren live in Festina with their four children. Darcy previously taught at North Fayette Valley in West Union, Iowa.



Brian Sims '08, '10, 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.

Amanda Reiling-Pasket, '09, '22, Elgin, Iowa, has been hired as the Assistant Professor of Marketing at Upper Iowa University, Fayette.



Wedding Day Bliss *Congratulations!*



Rachael Anello '14, Brookings, South Dakota, married Birgit Anello on September 28, 2025. Rachael currently works as the Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities, Events & Operations at South Dakota State University.



Marlene (Franzen) Thompson '24, Volga, Iowa, married Hunter Thompson on November 8, 2025. Marlene is a Science Teacher with the Wapsie Valley School District in Fairbank, Iowa.



Mollie (Franzen) Mohs '20, Wadena, Iowa, married Holly Mohs on October 11, 2025. Mollie is a First Grade Teacher at Cora B. Darling Elementary/Middle School in Postville.

CLASS NOTES

2010's

Travis Eggers '10, Denver, Iowa, has been sworn in as a Police Officer with the Waterloo Police Department. Previously, he worked as a Police Officer in Hudson, Iowa, for over three years; has worked with the Black Hawk Aerial Response; and holds a drone license, which adds a valuable skill set for search and emergency support. Travis and his wife, Stacia, have two daughters, Kiaya and Peyton.

Dr. Fashawn (Meeks) Jones '11, '13, Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, is currently the CEO/Education Consultant at Bridge2Success, a non-profit organization that assists college students to matriculation and graduation through their degree plans by implementing writing skills. After receiving her UIU degrees, she also received her Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from DePaul University. Fashawn and her husband, Sean, currently reside in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin.

Amber (Kahler) Linderbaum '13, Ossian, Iowa, is teaching English as a Second Language and Fifth Grade Language Arts at South Winn Community Schools as well as St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School. She previously taught at Postville and North Fayette Valley in West Union, Iowa. Amber and her husband, Scott, have two children, Lenya and Lenix.

Abigail Driver '16, Pinehurst, North Carolina, was promoted to First Lieutenant within the United States Army Reserve in February 2025.

Shannon (Jacobsen) Tietz '17, Decorah, Iowa, is a Special Education Teacher at South Winn Elementary in Calmar, Iowa. Shannon previously taught at the Postville and Northwood-Kensett School Districts. Originally from Clermont, Iowa, Shannon and her husband reside in Decorah, with their son, Mason.

Brandy Willingham '18, '20, Chicago, Illinois, is currently working as a Cheer Coach at Perspectives Charter School in Chicago, and has begun pursuing her Master's in Sports Administration.

Brock Sorensen '19, West Union, Iowa, is teaching High School Industrial Tech at North Fayette Valley High School in West Union. He and his wife, **Lindsey (Richard) Sorensen '18**, have two sons.

position at Hoover Middle School in the Waterloo School District in Waterloo, Iowa.

Emil Neitzke '24, Sanford, Michigan, was promoted to Second Lieutenant within the United States Army Reserve in January 2025.

Bailey Winter '24, McGregor, Iowa, is an Elementary Education Physical Education teacher at North Fayette Valley in West Union, Iowa. Previously, she taught at St. Joseph Community School in New Hampton, Iowa.



Josie Kidd '25, Louisville, Tennessee, received the UIU Emerging Alumni Award during Homecoming 2025. She entered the neuroscience industry in 2006 and now

serves as co-owner of NSA Labs in Knoxville, TN, where she leads a team specializing in world-class neurohistology services that support researchers advancing Central Nervous System science. While building her career, Josie chose to pursue her education through UIU's self-paced program, proving that growth and transformation are possible at any stage of life.

Her commitment to service is equally inspiring. Josie serves on the Board of Directors for Team 4Moe, promotes literacy as a Little Free Library steward, and has volunteered for years as a hospice caregiver, offering comfort and compassion to patients and families during difficult times. Through these roles, she demonstrates that true leadership is grounded in service to others. She earned her Associate's Degree in liberal arts in 2025 and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in psychology. Josie and her husband, Jim, reside in Louisville.

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

2020's

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

Quinton Jensen '24, Marion, Iowa, has accepted a seventh-grade literacy teaching

Welcome to the Peacock family, little ones!



Nicole (Meyer) Havenstrite '17, and her husband, Shane, of Elgin, Iowa, welcomed a daughter, Gracie Jo, on October 26, 2025. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and measured 19.5 inches long. Gracie joins big brothers Tucker (5) and Levi (3). The Havenstrites own Euphoria Coffee in West Union and Fredericksburg.



Carson '19, '21 & Madison (Meier) Parker '18, Cedar Rapids, welcomed their first baby, a little girl named Meier Sue, in October, 2025. Madi is a Professor at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and Carson is the General Manager at Shoot360, Hiawatha, Iowa.



Chayz Holt '15, Fontana, California and his fiancé, Jacquelyn Quezada, welcomed a baby girl, Snoh Sistine Holt on April 17, 2025. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.



Jordan '16 & Sierra (Lichty) Rinken '16, La Porte City, Iowa, announce the birth of their daughter, Maisyn Lane on October 2, 2025. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Maisyn joins big sister, Josie (2).

Do you have something special to share?

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



IN MEMORIAM

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

William "Foster" Cass '41
9/5/2025, Los Alamitos, California

Helen J. (Paige) Delozier '50
3/7/2024, Iowa City, Iowa

Loren K. Whitver '52
1/9/2026, West Union, Iowa

Keith E. Ostrander '53
8/31/2023, Harlingen, Texas

Vonna R. (Streeter) Schmitz '55
11/23/2025, West Union, Iowa

Leland R. Stiles '57
8/5/2025, Sebring, Florida

Mary Beth C. (Chismore) Wendland '57
10/13/2025, Brandon, Mississippi

Donald W. Wendland '58
10/28/2024, Brandon, Mississippi

Glenn M. George '59
10/16/2025, Nashua, Iowa

Judy C. (Bender) Moyna '59
12/11/2025, Elkader, Iowa

John N. Sullivan '60
12/29/2024, Littleton, Colorado

Rupert R. Kneef '60
5/25/2025, West Plains, Missouri

Verona (Sherman) Freyermuth '61
10/10/2025, Independence, Iowa

John Eveland '63
9/28/2025, Waterloo, Iowa

Randall M. Northrop '65
3/3/2023, Tiffin, Iowa

Edgar E. Ganfield '65
9/18/2025, Cascade, Iowa

Jerome Mykiety'n '65
10/27/2025, Wayne, New Jersey

Edward Brown '66
12/23/2024, Owatonna, Minnesota

Gary Lundsberg '66
8/18/2025, Lake Forest, Illinois

Steven A. Yuza '67
11/28/2023, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

George W. Nolte '67
2/15/2025, Nicholasville, Kentucky

Virginia H. (Hadley) Hall '68
6/23/2024, Williamsburg, Iowa

James M. Garvin '69
5/16/2025, Asheville, North Carolina

Jerry D. Crozier '69
9/6/2025, Fairfax, Iowa

Don R. Haven '69
12/28/2025, Granville, Ohio

Karen A. Alderson '69
1/20/2026, West Union, Iowa

Sandra L. (Peck) Ellis '70
5/26/2025, Union, South Carolina

Robert G. Hines '70
1/2/2026, Monticello, Iowa

Carol J. Irvin '71
11/10/2023, Riceville, Iowa

John M. Riordan '71
12/2/2023, Westgate, Iowa

John P. Lauer '71
1/2/2024, Colorado Springs, Colorado

James L. Ferguson '71
8/10/2025, Hayden Lake, Idaho

Chester L. Cavil '71
11/26/2025, Decatur, Georgia

Gordon D. Austin '72
6/18/2025, Altoona, Iowa

Reinald W. Carter '75
12/8/2023, Severna Park, Maryland

Richard W. Hoover '75
12/15/2023, Niceville, Florida

Jerry N. Gordon '75
4/23/2025, Lewisburg, Tennessee

Joel A. Menuey '75
11/10/2025, Dexter, Minnesota

Robert L. Walker '77
2/25/2025, Rochester, Minnesota

Manuel P. Supnet '78
4/27/2023, Owatonna, Minnesota

Howard T. Curry '80
2/25/2024, Oak Grove, Missouri

Fred E. Blough '80
7/28/2024, Williamsburg, Virginia

Elwood E. Currier '81
7/5/2023, Victoria, Texas

Carolyn D. Moeller '81
12/18/2024, Atkins, Iowa

Joaquin A. Jones '82
12/22/2025, Mason City, Iowa

Barry D. Burt '84
9/20/2023, Brimley, Michigan

Carl J. Martin '84
5/29/2024, Pine Island, Minnesota

Eric A. Stevens '84
5/29/2025, Coralville, Iowa

Marcia M. (Klimesh) Knutson '85
7/14/2025, New Hampton, Iowa

Cecily A. (Smith) Westermann '86
3/14/2024, Florissant, Missouri

Charles R. Souza '87
11/26/2024, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Mark A. Challis '87
4/7/2025, Des Moines, Iowa

Mary R. (Spotts) Van Dorn '87
12/27/2025, La Porte City, Iowa

Thomas W. Person '89
7/25/2024, Adel, Iowa

Terry J. Kile '91
6/21/2025, Des Moines, Iowa

Maxine D. Udelhoven '94
12/21/2023, Newton, Iowa

Darren E. Uhlenhopp '94
3/6/2025, Waverly, Iowa

Alice J. (Hofstadter) Baruth '95
3/26/2025, Albia, Iowa

Eric T. Montgomery '95
4/29/2024, Clayton, North Carolina

Ronald R. Rogers '96
8/1/2023, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

Roland E. Jones '97
8/2/2025, Norfolk, Virginia

Margaret L. (Schlagel) Rempt '98
3/3/2025, Manchester, Iowa

Harry N. Thulstrup '98
7/31/2025, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Michael L. Coughlin '99
9/5/2023, Garnavillo, Iowa

Jane L. (Reynolds) Kincaid '99
9/4/2024, Beloit, Wisconsin

Belinda A. (Hammonds) Kittling '00
12/13/2024, Junction City, Kansas

Malcolm G. Armstrong '01
3/9/2025, West Des Moines, Iowa

Donald J. Portice '04
6/23/2025, Lansing, Kansas

Wayne L. Jacobs '06
12/28/2024, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Charise L. Boyd '11
11/21/2024, Waterloo, Iowa

Nathaniel Bland '12
11/30/2023, Leesville, Louisiana

Scott A. Schellhorn '12
3/12/2025, Sumner, Iowa

Andrew R. Payton '12
11/2/2025, Waterloo, Iowa

Terry L. Jones '16
1/16/2025, Swartz Creek, Michigan

FORMER ADJUNCT FACULTY
Lawrence J. Landwehr
2/5/2023, Middleton, Wisconsin

Rebecca S. Johnson
2/26/2023, Lawrence, Kansas

Sister Mary A. Blank
3/30/2023, Ferdinand, Indiana

Gerald J. Chrisman
4/21/2023, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

John L. Wesley
5/4/2023, Leesville, Louisiana

Melanie L. Taylor
5/11/2023, New Orleans, Louisiana

Jo A. Stephens
5/23/2023, Fort Madison, Iowa

Terry J. Shay
10/3/2023, Waterloo, Iowa

Bruce H. Stephan
12/28/2023, Piermont, New York

Timothy R. Ruppert
9/10/2024, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Ronald G. Evans
12/11/2024, Topeka, Kansas

Gary S. Colonna
1/16/2025, Lansing, Kansas

John A. Domini
3/27/2025, Des Moines, Iowa

Adrienne H. Sager
4/3/2025, Madison, Wisconsin

Toni J. Merfeld
5/20/2025, Clive, Iowa

Maureen M. McCarty
7/16/2025, Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin

FORMER STUDENTS
Ramona (Fram) Cook
3/2/2025, Clermont, Iowa

Loretta L. Rex
3/5/2025, Browning, Montana

Sarah J. Ellenbolt
5/11/2025, Fitchburg, Wisconsin

Ronald L. Jirak
8/28/2025, Protivin, Iowa

Noe A. Arguello
12/6/2025, Bartlett, Texas

Eleanor M. (Maier) Taylor
12/7/2025, Le Claire, Iowa

Marvin Adams
12/16/2025, Atlanta, Georgia

Joseph R. Abbinanti
4/20/2024, Cardiff by the Sea, California

Peacock alumni and friends of Upper Iowa University are always welcome at our gatherings! No matter the occasion, each event offers a wonderful chance to reconnect with fellow alums, reminisce about your UIU memories, meet new people, and most importantly—have fun! To learn more or RSVP, visit uiu.edu/Alumni-Events. We'd love to see YOU at an upcoming event!

- February 28:** Peacock Night at the Black Hawks (Waterloo, Iowa)
- March 25 & 26:** 10th Annual Giving Days (Online)
- April 11:** Annual Honors & Awards Banquet (Fayette, Iowa)
- May 9:** Commencement (Fayette, Iowa)
- June 5:** 31st Annual Peacock Golf Classic (Fayette, Iowa)
- June 16:** Peacock Grand Slam Gathering at the Iowa Cubs (Des Moines, Iowa)
- July 22-25:** Team Peacock rides RAGBRAI (Iowa state-wide)



- August 6:** Peacocks in the Park at the Five Seasons Water Ski Show (Cedar Rapids)
- August 13-23:** UIU at the Iowa State Fair (Des Moines, Iowa)
- October 4-10:** Homecoming Week (Fayette, Iowa)



Team Peacock

Is RAGBRAI on your bucket list? Make 2026 the year you finally check it off with TEAM PEACOCK! Registration is now open, and we're inviting all alumni—and their guests—to join us for the adventure of a lifetime, July 22–25, 2026. It's your chance to ride with an incredible crew, create unforgettable memories, and make a meaningful impact during our half-week journey.

Since 2005, Team Peacock riders have raised more than \$1 million in support of students and University initiatives. And this summer, we're ready to keep the momentum going!

Learn more about riding, volunteering as a crew member, or supporting the cause with a sponsorship gift at uiu.edu/TeamPeacock.



Alumni Speaker Series

You're invited—virtually! Tune in to the UIU Career Development Speaker Series on Facebook and hear directly from inspiring Upper Iowa alumni. They'll share their educational journeys, career insights, and a behind-the-scenes look at the paths that led them to where they are today.

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





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Get social and stay connected.

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-  [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)
(search for Upper Iowa University Alumni Group)
-  Flickr.com/upperiowauniversity
-  Instagram.com/upperiowa_alumni
-  Twitter.com/upperiowa
-  Youtube@UpperIowaUniversity
-  TikTok@UpperIowaUniversity

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