And the Show Goes On

Without home venue, Hancher staff continues to present events

First they watched the flood of 2008 pour so much water into their beloved auditorium that it covered the stage and the seats up to row O. Since then, they’ve scrambled to put on events in 16 different venues over the past two seasons, and are planning events at 17 venues in nine cities for the 2010–11 season.

And now they’re dealing with the reality that they will never return to their old home and that it will be 2015 before construction of a new performing arts center is completed. Is the staff of Hancher complaining? Of course. They are human.

Mostly, however, the full-time staff of 15 is happy to follow the lead of Chuck Swanson, Hancher’s executive director, who says, “It’s been an adventure for us. We’re kind of having some fun with it. We’re making a lot of new connections and a lot of new friends.”

It helps that Swanson and crew can also draw on the connections with longtime supporters, who know and appreciate Hancher’s reputation as a statewide resource and as a nationally known arts presenter.

“It’s amazing that people all around the state and even far from Iowa know about Hancher,” Swanson says. “Because we have this history of bringing great art to Iowa, they are aware of our situation and they care.”

In response, the entire crew, from programming to ticketing and production, is drawing on its pride in “the Hancher way of doing things,” which demands excellence in all areas of the operation, regardless of the venue.

For instance, box office staffers have mastered the art of working in hallways.

“We have become very adept at packing lots of equipment into one large covered plastic tub that contains everything we need for a remote box office,” says Richard Gloss, who manages that office. “There is no going back for anything 15 minutes before curtain.”

Making arrangements for patrons with disabilities is among the dozens of details overseen by Connie Tipsword, director of patron services.

“After I’ve had a chance to visit a venue, I check to see if any audience members have requested assistance,” she says. “Then I make phone calls and discuss what will work best for getting them into the show.”

Tipsword also has created laminated “cheat sheets” of seating maps in the various venues for UI students employed as ushers.

And then there are those major details attended to by production manager Ken Schumacher, who has developed a “what-can-we-expect-from-XYZ-venue” listing that includes information on Internet and Wi-Fi availability, sound, lights, rigging, and dressing rooms. The production staff also has devised a “nomadic presenter,” a portable office of containers, checklists, wheeled carts, and the like that, Schumacher says, “allows us to pack up and move to another venue for a day or two and still transact the usual home office business, such as planning other shows.”

Still, pride and creativity do not mitigate the sadness of knowing that the existing Hancher building will eventually be razed.

“We’ve all made our peace with the fact that it’s going to happen,” says Julie Scott, an administrative assistant who recently retired after working for Hancher since it opened in 1972. “But personally I won’t watch it. I’ll go somewhere else.”

Swanson understands this sentiment, but he’s also looking ahead: “It’s weird, but I’m okay with the building being torn down because I know we’re going to get something fabulous. There won’t be many new performing arts centers built in the 21st century, but we’re getting one of them.”

For details on Hancher’s 2010–11 season, see www.hancher.uiowa.edu.

—Steven Parrott

World-renowned firm to design Hancher

The University of Iowa selected Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects in September to design the replacement for flood-damaged Hancher Auditorium.

The Connecticut-based firm has designed many of the world’s tallest and most recognizable buildings, including the World Financial Center in New York, the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, and the International Finance Centre in Hong Kong. The firm also worked on Bucksbaum Center for the Arts at Grinnell College, as well as several other performing arts centers.

Based on current projections, the design for Hancher will be bid in spring 2012, and the project will be completed in spring 2015.
The University Study Says Caribbean Coral Protection Efforts Miss the Mark

In a study funded by the National Science Foundation, Ann Budd, professor of geosciences in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and John Pandolfi of the University of Miami, have found that Caribbean corals will likely fare poorly in the face of rising sea temperatures.

Budd and Pandolfi have been working on the project for several years and have found that coral reefs in the Caribbean are facing significant threats. They have found that even small increases in sea temperature can have a significant impact on the health of coral reefs.

The study, published in the journal *Science*, found that coral reefs in the Caribbean are facing a number of threats, including rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and pollution. The researchers found that even small increases in sea temperature can have a significant impact on the health of coral reefs.

The study also found that the Caribbean is home to a number of unique species of coral, and that these species are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The researchers are calling for greater efforts to protect coral reefs, and are calling for more research to be done on the impact of climate change on coral reefs.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation, and was conducted in collaboration with researchers from the University of Miami and the University of California, San Diego.

The study was published in the journal *Science* and is available online.
UI Children’s Hospital, Hawkeye football program join forces to share inspiring stories, highlight pediatric patient care

Maddie Strauss is 9-year-old Maddie Strauss of Dubuque, against Penn State University inside historic Kinnick Stadium, the field clear.

For more information on the Kid Captain program, visit www.uichs hc. iu d /s p inh aild childrens/ kidcaptain.

The goal of the project is to encourage people to read and discuss the selected book, which will generate a greater community awareness of human rights issues locally, nationally, and globally. More information is available at www.uicoh.org.

Insight into Structure of HIV Protein Could Aid Drug Design

A 3-D picture of an important protein involved in how HIV—the virus responsible for AIDS—proliferates inside human cells may help researchers design drugs that can prevent HIV from reproducing. A team of investigators, led by David Price, UI professor of biochemistry in the Carver College of Medicine, and Tahir Tahirov of the University of California, San Francisco, have determined the protein’s chemical structure, and the protein chemistry and X-ray crystallography—techniques for analyzing protein structure—to produce the first crystal structure of the HIV protein called Tat. The researchers showed Tat attached to the human protein, P-TEFb, that the virus hijacks during infection, and illustrated how Tat latches on to particular human proteins and how that interaction alters the shape of the human protein.

“By solving the long-standing structure of an important HIV protein, we have now laid a foundation that will provide some insight into how Tat and the form that is normal in human cells, that drug might target HIV replication without harming normal cell function. Such compounds also could be useful in combination with existing anti-HIV drugs to further narrow the lead in HIV-infected individuals. In addition, drugs that target P-TEFb may be useful in treating the growing problem of drug-resistant HIV. The HIV virus evolves very easily and can develop resistance to current drugs through random protein mutations. Targeting a human protein like P-TEFb, that the virus hijacks during infection, with a drug that cannot mutate may be a useful strategy to counter drug-resistant HIV.”

Sever UG Graduates Make New Yorker’s List of 20 Young Writers to Watch

The New Yorker magazine published its list of “20 under 40” writers to watch, and the list includes seven graduates of The University of Iowa: Chris Adrian, Daniel Alarcon, Sarah Shun-Lien Bynum, Joshua Ferris, Yiyun Li, ZZ Packer, and Salmon Rushdie. All but Ferris, an English and philosophy graduate, are alumni of The Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Yiyun Li, named an MacArthur Fellow in August, has an additional degree from The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The University of Iowa has helped Iowa become a second leading nation in volunteerism. According to a report released in June by Volunteering in America, Iowa college students rank second in the nation in volunteering within their college student demographic, up from 32nd in 2006, with 44 percent of college students volunteering their time in 2009.

As a state, Iowa has the second highest volunteer rate nationally for cities of its size, with 38.7 percent of its residents volunteering their time in 2009. According to a report released in June by Volunteering in America, Iowa college students rank second in the nation in volunteering within their college student demographic, up from 32nd in 2006, with 44 percent of college students volunteering their time in 2009.

14,306 in education awards.

Participants also can earn up to $1,000 toward tuition by recruiting 10 additional volunteers each during their period of service. This year, 14 UI students participated in the program, receiving a total of $24,386 in education awards.

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“One Community, One Book, which promotes a greater community awareness of human rights issues locally, nationally, and globally. More information is available at www.uicoh.org.

Volunteerism

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Someday this post may be a scrap of history, but I hope not for a long time. The events in this post are not necessarily the most important of the season, but they are the ones that the people who are living them will remember and pass on to future generations.

A Reason to Reflect

UI study suggests narrative inquiry helpful in social work

The findings on stress and resilience were published in the Journal of Women and Aging. The UI study suggests narrative inquiry helpful in social work.

Rural women's clubs were important sources of support and information throughout the 20th century; this one, organized near Bloomington, Iowa, in 1923, gathered talks by extension agents on various aspects of home-making and health, and remained in existence until 1999. University researchers in social work believe that narratives can help researchers in aging women successful coping strategies from the women’s past by talking with them about how they dealt with difficult situations or events.

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One for the Book

Donation fuels scholarship at UI Center for the Book

The confidence that donor shows in us is a real boost, as it supports a number of national arts and crafts offerings we have,” says Brown. “The meeting allowed us to show off our top-notch facilities, too. We continue to grow. This fall the Typographic Lab, a collection of presses and rare type previously under the jurisdiction of the late UI journalism professor Kay Amerl is scheduled to move to North Hall, the home of the center. And compared to its early years, the UICB has double the number of applicants today, according to Sara Sauers, assistant professor, who teaches letterpress printing and digital book design. UICB graduate students currently receive a certificate for 24 credits of course work, and a proposal is under administrative discussion for a Master of Fine Arts. Still, the continued and growing interest in a form of communication that many consider archaic may seem surprising. But Brown believes there are many reasons for it.

If the book arts are a long-standing craft with its own beauty and value in one aspect that interests students, and the skills they learn can prepare them for work in a variety of fields, including private printing enterprises, non-profits, University press, and museums,” says Brown. “The UICB also creates an environment where students integrate satisfying work with their intellectual development. We live in a more-faster-better world, and there is value in hands in sync with their intellectual development. We offer offerings we have,” says Brown. “The meeting allowed us to show off our top-notch facilities, too. We continue to grow. This fall the Typographic Lab, a collection of presses and rare type previously under the jurisdiction of the late UI journalism professor Kay Amerl is scheduled to move to North Hall, the home of the center. And compared to its early years, the UICB has double the number of applicants today, according to Sara Sauers, assistant professor, who teaches letterpress printing and digital book design. UICB graduate students currently receive a certificate for 24 credits of course work, and a proposal is under administrative discussion for a Master of Fine Arts. Still, the continued and growing interest in a form of communication that many consider archaic may seem surprising. But Brown believes there are many reasons for it.

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The researchers point out that recalling how to be more economical, or how to ‘get by with less’ is useful when operating on a fixed income later in life. Remembering where to look and how to ask for help is important, especially of a social support network. Dorfman says, “If a woman is bereaved because she lost her husband, who can she talk with? If she needs a ride but her kids are still at school, where can she turn?” Dorfman says. “It’s helpful to take inventory of her social network. Social workers can help fill the gaps with formal services, and older folks shouldn’t forget that it is possible to meet new people late in life, if they are able to get out to community events, a senior center, or a church.”

Dorfman says further research is needed to measure the effectiveness of using narrative inquiry to revive coping strategies later in life. But generally, older people enjoy reviewing their lives through conversation. “Some things can be painful to discuss, and not everyone wants to do it,” Dorfman says. “But often they identify a lot of things that they did right. A life review is very therapeutic because it increases one’s understanding of the self. In itself, it seems to be a technique that’s valuable for older people.”

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“The women talked about accepting things they could not change.” Dorfman says. “There are some advantages to that, early and late in life. There are certain things that you may not like but you have to learn to live with.”

The study focused on women in rural areas, who frequently face more obstacles than other aging adults. Often, Dorfman says, the women are widowed with little income, and have limited access to health care and social services. Even finding transportation to a doctor’s appointment or the grocery store can be difficult, and typical support team members, such as grown children, may have moved away for jobs or other reasons.

The findings on stress and resilience were published in the Journal of Women and Aging. The UI study suggests narrative inquiry helpful in social work.

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Lamaze Lowdown
How a popular childbirth method crossed the Iron Curtain

In 1948, French obstetrician Fernand Lamaze is introduced to psychoprophylaxis at a conference in the Soviet Union. As de-Stalinization ramped up, pressure to use communist ties, so administrators were eager to promote the technique. The Vatican declared it an acceptable method, and Lamaze died during an argument with clinic administrators, but his protégés dispersed, spreading psychoprophylaxis.

The first birth using psychoprophylaxis takes place in France after Lamaze, a Ukrainian psychologist I. Z. Velvoski develops psychoprophylaxis. Between 1948 and 1957, New York doctors were unfamiliar with the childbirth method she'd used in Paris. Her 1959 book, “Psychoprophylaxis, a Method of Obstetrics,” was a hit in Europe and the US.

The UniversiTy of Iowa
New study charts University’s 16-to-1 return on state investment

According to the study, the University provides a solid return on public investment: every dollar in state appropriations injects almost $963 million into the Iowa economy, making it one of the state’s leading economic engines.

The study found that the pro¬

Big Game Brings In Big Bucks
The economic impact of a women’s football game on the county is more than $14.5 million, while the impact of one women’s soccer game is more than $2.6 billion in University expenditures and calculating how businesses and individuals re-spending money within Iowa.

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Thank You,
American Marjorie Karmel, a former patient of Lamaze’s, writes “Thank You, Lamaze.”

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New 215,000-square-foot recreation and wellness facility opens

Evidence suggests that students who use campus recreational facilities are more likely to have higher grade-point averages and stay in school. In that case, The University of Iowa’s mission just got a little easier.

The $70-million, 215,000-square-foot facility, located a block south of the Main Library, is home to a 52.5-foot climbing wall, an Olympic-sized pool with spectator seating for up to 2,000, a high-dive pool, two full-size basketball courts and a multi-activity court, an indoor track, a fitness pool with a ‘lazy river’ feature and a giant video board for movie screenings, and loads of natural light. It also features a lounge area and café, and is open until 1 a.m. Thursday–Saturday nights.

“It’s pretty impressive,” says Paula Plathe, a junior from Granville, Iowa, majoring in social work. “It’s important for everyone to get exercise and it’s a lot of students are busy throughout the day, so it’s nice to have it close to the center of campus. I think it’s great that the University is providing it.”

Plathe previously frequented the Field House once a week for its indoor track, rock climbing wall, and pool, but says she intends to use the new facility more often.

Planning the construction project, says Recreational Services director Harry Ostrander, was a long, thoughtful process that began a decade ago and involved visiting facilities across the country, conducting focus groups, and hiring a consulting firm. It also considered local and national trends in recreation.

“Recreational activity on campus used to center on the male-dominated intramurals, and then there was a shift toward fitness and group exercise, which were very female-oriented activities,” says Ostrander, who joined the department in 1969. “But with the tremendous growth in outdoor recreation—with more people concerned in rock climbing and bicycle touring”—explains Ostrander, who joined the department in 1969—“Students told us they wanted more fitness space, more basketball courts, and more group exercise. This new facility places The University of Iowa within the top 10 campuses in the nation for fitness and group exercise programs.”

The fitness area in the new building spans more than 20,000 square feet over three floors, with exercise machines featuring embedded televisions and iPod hook-ups and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Burlington Street and Gibson Square. Along with the fitness and recreation space, the facility houses administrative offices for Recreational Services as well as UI Wellness, a human resources unit that offers health services to UI faculty and staff, and Health Iowa, the health promotion and education branch of Student Health Services.

Students told us they wanted more fitness space,” Ostrander notes. “That building, which opened in 1927, was renovated in 1985, re-opened for scheduled activities such as intramurals, club sports, and lesson programs, and still operates its basketball and racquetball courts; the Field House pool will operate through May 2011, when it will be converted for another, yet-to-be-determined use.

Now, however, all patrons of the Field House and the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center must have a Recreational Services membership, or pay a daily walk-in fee. Membership includes access to all campus recreation facilities, group, climbing walls, pools, racquetball and badminton courts, jogging tracks, and group exercise classes and is free for enrolled students—the facility is funded primarily through students’ mandatory fees. Discounted memberships are available to faculty, staff, UI retirees, alumni, and their families. The general public also may purchase memberships.

Long-term plans, Ostrander adds, include the construction of additional recreation space immediately south of the new facility, at which point the Field House likely will close.

Wayne Fett, senior associate director of Recreational Services and building project manager, says while the Field House continues to be functional, having a more modern facility is valuable to the University.

“It’s easier for us to manage and supervise. Plus, it will be an incredible recruiting tool—new students now are expecting the kind of facilities they have in their local communities,” he says. “And it’s also good for retention.”

“Modern facilities are more likely to have higher grade-point averages and stay in school. In that case, The University of Iowa’s mission just got a little easier.”

“Our mission is student success, and student health is part of that,” he says. “It’s important to have recreational opportunities and also to develop teamwork and leadership opportunities in recreation. This new facility will offer fun, alcohol-free activities and help keep students grow.”

To learn more about Recreational Services and the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center, visit them online at www.recserv.uiowa.edu.

—Sara Epstein Moninger
I'm tricky keeping up with technology. A mere 15 years ago, people were very, very commonly used method of preserving digital information. Today, you might as well use them as coasters. Even if you remembered what was on those old disks at the back of your desk drawer, you well use them as coasters. Even if you remembered what was on those old disks at the back of your desk drawer, you
Decoding Anorexia Nervosa
UI researcher probes cause of deadly eating disorder

Eating disorders affect about 10 million people in the United States, but anorexia nervosa (AN), after characterised as an obsessive fear of gaining weight due to a distorted self-image, is the deadliest psychiatric disorder. The recovery rate for AN is around 50 percent, and the recovery process can take five to seven years. Recovery is common, many patients only partially recover, and up to 20 percent of those affected will eventually die from the disorder.

Lauren McCorkell, assistant professor of psychiatry in the UI Carver College of Medicine, hopes to improve those aforementioned statistics. The Iowa City native, whose work has taken her to Japan, Italy, and Germany, is conducting research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to better understand functional and structural brain changes associated with anorexia.

What sparked your interest in anorexia nervosa research?

I started thinking about the basic functional changes occurring in many psychiatric disorders, but we knew virtually nothing about what causes eating disorders, particularly AN. The NIH has recently identified eating disorders, particularly AN. The NIH has recently identified eating disorders, particularly AN, as a high priority for funding, and I decided to focus on this brain region because it is involved in emotions and cognition. I decided to focus on this brain region because it is involved in emotions and cognition. I decided to focus on this brain region because it is involved in emotions and cognition.

The degree of atrophy in this brain region varies widely depending on demographic factors (e.g., characteristic of severely affected patients with AN). Interestingly, the anorexia nervosa brain region is also related to weight, and problems with this brain region may explain why affected patients with AN have such difficulty in losing weight.

Anorexia Nervosa
Many anorexic patients have low weight. Among those with AN are patients who tend to completely repress self-awareness, which is a typical feature of severe depression, and AN patients are more likely to develop anorexia nervosa. As mentioned before, it is much more prevalent in females than in males, and occurs primarily during the teenage years. I am working with several medical students on an eating disorders education and prevention effort intended for fifth- through eighth-grade teachers. I hope that the findings will help teachers and parents.

What is your next step?

Our ultimate goal is to find treatments that can help people recover from this disorder. If we can identify the underlying cause of the disorder, we may be able to develop new treatments that can help people recover. We are also exploring whether certain brain regions are associated with the disorder.

UI Teen Driver Study Improves Driving Safety

Young drivers often blame something other than their own performance for the failure. For example, a parade of CEOs has for decades blamed something other than their own performance for the failure. A new Utah study suggests that when a company goes under, it’s more often the result of bad leadership decisions.

Bad Leadership Wrecks Companies, Utah Study Says

For more information, visit www.uiowa.edu/coh.org/.

UI College of Engineering's
IHRP—Hydrodynamics and Engineering, UI College of Medicine, and the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health will work closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to develop floodplain maps for the 95 Iowa counties declared federal disaster areas following the 2008 floods. The project will map all streams draining into one square mile of each county.

Iowa Floodplain-Planning Project

Floodplain-Planning Project

University of Wisconsin—Madison—made a major contribution to our understanding of how smoking contributes to global warming.

UI professor and colleagues.

Regional Environmental Research. Sulfates occur in the atmosphere largely as a result of various industrial processes.

Global Warming

Floodplain-Mapping Project

Floodplain-Mapping Project

leading greenhouse gas.

University Grants Bring In Record $4.6 Million

The University generated impressive University Grants Bring In Record $4.6 Million

Spectator fall 2010

Students, faculty—and provide research and education opportunities for students.
A Year for the Record Books

University of Iowa officials received a double dose of positive enrollment news this fall: not only did the number of incoming first-year students set a record at 4,557—494 more first-year students than last year, and 268 more than the previous record-breaking incoming class, back in 2006—the retention rate at Iowa is the highest it’s been in at least a decade.

The incoming class also is among the most diverse, due to an increasing number of U.S. minority students choosing Iowa and a large jump in international student enrollment.

To officially kick off the 2010–11 academic year and welcome the class of 2014, the University hosted an annual convocation celebration on the Pentacrest on Aug. 22, followed by a block party at the President’s Residence. Nearly 4,000 students attended the events, taking home goodie bags that contained water bottles, sunglasses, spirit bracelets, highlighters, 2014 tassels, and more.