New kickoff events give first-year students a running start

On Aug. 19, the University of Iowa welcomed its Class of 2015 with a literal bang, as fireworks lit the sky above Kinnick Stadium. It was the opening of On Iowa!, a program designed to welcome new students, introduce campus culture, and emphasize the transition to college life.

The Kinnick event — which also included large-scale icebreakers on the field, lessons on the Iowa fight song and other traditions, and inspiration from wrestling legend Dan Gable — launched a pre-semester weekend that closed with the annual Convocation ceremony on the Pentacrest and a block party hosted by UI President Sally Mason.

The program was more than a year in the making, driven by research showing that in-depth orientations and community-building initiatives correlate with improved retention and other student outcomes. It’s part of the university’s renewed focus on undergraduate student success.

The new undergraduate class — at 4,565 students, it is the university’s largest and most diverse — began their UI experience steeped in Hawkeye culture, arguably better poised to make the leap to college than any class before them.
Journey is the ultimate embodiment of the people’s rock band. Where you go matters less than how you do it and who you are with.”

Explaining why the band Journey’s imprint on popular culture will not be essays weren’t always getting at what made an applicant unique and improving the resume assessment process at the University of Iowa, associate professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, offering practical advice on vacation planning, especially cocoa, associate professor in the College of Nursing, traces of the skeptical knowledge about radon — the skeptics are few.”

“We too see major lessons bound less than one way and who we are with.”

David Guest, a lecturer in leisure studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, presenting the fundamental electricity systems that generate the auroras and radio waves.

Fry — also developed an app for fantasy teams. One of nine experiments onboard, an Iowa-designed-and-built radio waves — by flying directly through the electrical current systems that generate the auroras and radio waves.

Levine succeeds W.S. Merwin, and a number of candidates are expected to win the caucuses after the former Massachusetts governor had a strong showing in the Iowa primaries.

The course description for Caucus Campaign Coverage reads, “Welcome to the Big Leagues,” and it’s an accurate portrayal, given the real-world reporting experience training at Iowa will gain on the course state for the 2012 caucuses.

Offered by the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, the course provides an opportunity for students to explore how to cover the most important political and cultural events of the year.

One focus of the course will be accuracy and not just getting quotes right.

“We don’t want students to keep regurgitating speeches. Anyone with a recorder can do that,” says Stephen Berry, a professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, assessing Mitt Romney’s chances of winning the 2012 Iowa caucuses after the former Massachusetts governor had a strong showing in the Iowa primaries.

The best in-depth work will appear on IowaWatch.org, which is in its first year in the Big Ten Conference.

The poems and connections Levine forged in Iowa earned him a Pulitzer Prize in 1963, which led to his appointment as creative writing professor at the University of Iowa, where he taught literature and writing for more than 30 years. His books include On the Edge, Not Just Pig, What It’s Like, Poems New and Old, 7 Years from Now, A Constant Life, and the Pulitzer-winning collection, The Simple Truth.

Record Number of Contributors Helps Boost UI Coils Gifts

UI Researchers Help Make SIDS Breakthrough

UI Researchers Make SIDS Breakthrough

A team that included investigators from the University of Iowa as well as Harvard and Dartmouth reported a major advance that may help unlock the mysteries of a broad range of neurological disorders, including sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS.

The scientists obtained a strain of mice in which it is possible to selectively shut down their brain serotonin-producing cells, which control breathing, temperature regulation, and mood. When the serotonin cells were turned off, the animals failed to stop their breathing in response to increased carbon dioxide levels in the air, and their body temperature dropped to match the air temperature.

The study has implications for understanding SIDS, which is linked to low serotonin levels and is believed to involve abnormalities in breathing and temperature control.

The scientists are also turning the serotonin levels in mice using a new genetic technique in which receptors were inserted into serotonin neurons in the brain, and these receptors were activated with drugs given via a specific technique that involved running water or a small amount of water.

We’re Sorry for Our Spectator Slipup

You may have noticed something fishy in today’s May 29 — perhaps it was too much, or too much, or too much, or too much, or too much, or too much.

That’s because we messed up by sending Spectator to an outdated mailing list. We still don’t know how this happened, as these lists are deleted immediately after each mailing. We’ll be double checking every list every time we go to press. But mistakes do happen, and we sincerely apologize for the error — and any inconvenience or hurt feelings it may have caused.

Dear The UI Alumni Association likely has your most recent contact information. You can update it online at www.uiowa.edu/alumni/ or e-mail alumni-records@uiowa.edu (a $10 fee will apply).

Please feel free to direct any additional questions, comments, or suggestions to the editor by e-mailing me at spectator@uiowa.edu (a $10 fee will apply).

It’s Hawksmevers Versus Hawks on the Gridiron — and on Facebook

The University of Iowa and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are competing to see which school will attract the most Facebook fans. As this game time is the Ivy Hawks football game team meet on the field of Iowa vs. Lincoln on Nov. 25. You can help boost your team’s Facebook presence by inviting your friends to “Like” them on Facebook.

What started out as an informal challenge via a Facebook group has become a full-fledged contest, with the University of Iowa leading the University of Nebraska-Lincoln by hundreds of thousands of fans.

What is SIDS? SIDS, or sudden infant death, is the leading cause of death in infancy among developed countries. It is the cause of death among 2-3 of 1000 live births each year, or about 1 in 400 deaths among infants under one year of age.

The best in-depth work will appear on IowaWatch.org, which is in its first year in the Big Ten Conference.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about this article, please feel free to direct them to the editor. You can update your contact information at www.uiowa.edu/alumni/ or e-mail alumni-records@uiowa.edu (a $10 fee will apply).
What are your priorities for the current academic year?

I’m starting to sound like a broken record, but there are two big things: food recovery and the budget. Although we will have quite a way to go before the finances, we’re making slow but steady progress. I’m very excited about what our arts campus is likely to look like in the not-too-distant future. I think next year will be a defining year for us in terms of how projects like building the Hancher Auditorium come about.

Regarding the latter, we need to stay on a good, stable budgeting footing. The economy is starting to show signs of moderate recovery, which I’m hoping is real, but if you look at what it supports, it’s a critical part of our budget. It’s what allows us to have a playground for conferences, camps during the football season. Stay tuned. I think we’re going to see some pretty fabulous football.

With another record first-year class this fall — Iowa welcomed 4,456 first-year students — how will the university be able to fund tuition?

the classes they need; in their respective majors to graduate in a timely fashion, and to do that we need more teaching staff. It is not just tuition — we’ve always worked hard to keep our students affordable. What would be most helpful would be if the state were able to support us with better budget appropriations, and that’s something that’s going to work hard on. It is absolutely essential that we continue to be good partners with the state and demonstrate how valuable we are.

State allocations make up only a small percentage of the university’s budget, so how significant is this funding?

If you look at our overall budget, which is approximately $2.8 billion, about $220 million of that comes from state appropriations. So, on a percentage basis, it’s small. But if you look at what it supports, it’s a critical part of our budget. It’s what allows us to provide the quality faculty and advising and other kinds of academic guidance that we need to continue to be good partners with the state and demonstrate how valuable we are.

How much progress has the university community made in reducing the excessive consumption of alcohol?

I don’t kid myself to think that students will simply stop drinking or engage in less risky behaviors that involve drinking. But I think there is a change in culture as a result of the 21-only ordinance. Some of the very dangerous drinking behavior downtown seems to have disappeared entirely. However, some of the downtown bars have disapp...
Prostate Cancer 101

What you should know:
• One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.
• Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men, behind only cancer of the lung.
• If you are between the ages of 50 and 75, talk to your doctor about whether you should have a PSA test.
• There is no evidence that prostate cancer screening tests are effective in reducing your risk of dying from prostate cancer.

What you should do:
• Get a PSA test between ages 50 and 75 if you have an above-average risk of developing prostate cancer.
• Talk to your doctor about the pros and cons of screening.

Lifelong Learning

Educator eager to promote field as new UI dean

Even before Margaret Crocco officially took the reins July 1 as dean of the UI College of Education, she was plugging into her role.

Coming from New York City, where she served as professor and chair of the Department of Arts and Humanization at Teachers College, Columbia University, Crocco sought opportunity to connect with locals and to learn more about the issues they are passionate about, whether education, the environment, or the economy. So she spent three days in mid May traveling across the state with a group of other scholars through the UI Family Engagement Corps.

Since arriving on campus, Crocco has reached out to UI family, staff, and students. Spectator recently caught up with Crocco to learn what her vision is for the UI College of Education during a time when education is under intense scrutiny.

How did you first get interested in the field of education?

I think it may be because I've seen younger brood of mine growing up as the oldest of eight, I helped Mom and Dad raise with the kids. We are a family of teachers, intimately connected to education. It's in the family genes. I knew from a pretty young age that I wanted to be an educator, and I pursued my early passions of history and education. Many of us who love education are innuored in the growth and development of other human beings.

Tell us your vision and a few of your major education goals for the UI College of Education.

My vision is to contribute our faculty excellence in teaching, research, and service to the state of Iowa, education, and the world. A part of this vision is to make more visible all the good work that goes on in the UI, to do greater outreach to the community, and to increase external funding to the college. We will be engaging in a long-range planning process over the next year, but every much value this to be a collaborative planning effort that involves all segments of our college community.

What are some of the biggest challenges facing schools of education right now?

One of the biggest challenges is accountability. Just as there was an accountability movement for K-12 that gathered steam in the '90s, higher education is confronting many calls for greater accountability. Clearly, colleges of education are coming under greater scrutiny in the overall process of improving education nationwide in the face of global challenges. I understand why some people are looking at colleges of education and asking the question "Is the preparation in these colleges of education as rigorous as it should be?" We are always asking ourselves, what are we doing while they are there? We are tasked on using research to analyze our approach to teacher preparation and the preparation of future educators. Likewise, we need to consider how the preparation of others in "helping professions" such as counselor education and counseling psychology can be improved. Finally, we need to use our expertise in testing and measurement to help advance education generally.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen the past three decades?

Two big changes have been the role of technology in higher education and the increasingly international nature of higher education work. Both of these factors are compelling expectations about what we should be doing and how we should be doing it. Both can be productive to improving our work in higher education, but both demand a great deal of time, attention, and resources so that we are as responsive as possible to the issues changing the landscape of higher education in general and colleges of education in particular.

What advice would you give to someone considering going into the field of education?

A job in education is the best job you will ever have. If you love learning and care working with other people, if you want to make a difference in the world, if you're welcomed challenges, then you should consider working in the many fields of education. One thing that is often not widely understood is that education is a lifelong enterprise and career. As the UI College of Education, we are fortunate to include a comprehensive mix of programs that contribute to education in one way or another. Together these programs provide a great many interesting pathways into the broad area we call "education." As Harvard educator Howard Gardner has described it, education is good work: it contributes to making the world a better place.
When you see a historic photo of the University of Iowa campus taken in the 20th century, chances are that on the other side of the camera was Frederick W. Kent (1894–1984) was a photographer who documented university life for more than 50 years. As a photography instructor, curator of photographic apparatus, and founder of University Photo Service, he shot tens of thousands of images of everyday life around campus and the Iowa City community.

This fall, we sent Spectator photographer Tom Jorgensen out to the heart of campus — the Pentacrest, essentially — to revisit some of Kent’s perspectives. We can see on these pages that some things change dramatically, while others vary little.

The Frederick W. Kent Collection of Photographs, housed in Special Collections and University Archives at UI Libraries, contains about 50,000 prints and negatives. To see more images from the collection, check out the Iowa Digital Library at digital.lib.uiowa.edu.

Looking north on Dubuque Street toward the end of the 19th century. The peaked roof in the distance is Close Hall, located in the northeast corner of the intersection with Iowa Avenue; the building housed the School of Journalism from 1924 until 1940, when it was destroyed by fire.

The present-day photo was taken about a block farther north and shows the walkway that connects the university’s two biology buildings, one of which is where Close Hall stood.

Looking west in 1918 from Old Capitol, where Iowa Avenue meets Madison Street. A 1912 proposed campus plan that never materialized called for a reflecting pool or lagoon to be placed at the intersection. A few years after this photo was taken, Old Capitol went through a major structural renovation, and construction was completed on the last of the four other buildings that anchor the Pentacrest.

Looking south on Clinton Street near the intersection with Iowa Avenue, between 1915 and 1920. Note the wagons on the east side and the autos to the west.

Looking northwest from just south of Old Capitol, likely early in the 20th century. The building between MacLean Hall and Old Capitol is the original armory, built in 1869 and razed by 1923. It was known as the Boiler House, the West Building, and — in 1905 — the Hall of Electrical Engineering.

Looking north on Washington Street at Clinton Street, between 1945 and 1950. Businesses in the left, occupying the present site of the Old Capitol Mall (parts of which house university offices and are known as University Capitol Centre), included Singer Sewing Machine, Maid-Rite, a garage, and a hotel.

Looking southeast on Clinton Street near the intersection with Iowa Avenue, between 1915 and 1920. Note the wagons on the east side and the autos to the west.
I had been overcast and threatening all day on Friday, Nov. 1, 1991. The forecast called for rain changing to freezing rain in the afternoon. It was two months into my job as a media relations writer in University News Services. My boss and her assistant director both lived out of town and left in mid-afternoon to head home. I had lived 12 miles out of town and decided to split for home about 8 p.m. when I started to accumulate on the windows of my office in the Old Public Library. I had my coat on and was thinking about the hassle it would be to clean my windows when the word came: there’d been a shooting. I turned around, thought about the hassle it would be to clean my windows when the word came: there’d been a shooting somewhere on campus, and the shot was still reverberating.

Somehow, I knew that making my way from the Old Public Library out to the parking lot would be the safest thing to do. I made it. At one point, someone yelled, “The police are coming in.” I thought about the hassle it would be to clean my windows when the word came: there’d been a shooting. I turned around, thought about the hassle it would be to clean my windows when the word came: there’d been a shooting somewhere on campus, and the shot was still reverberating.

The University’s Darkest Moment

On Nov. 1, 1991, a former graduate student shot and killed five people on campus and permanently paralyzed another before taking his own life. The shooter, Gregory Alan King, had recently received a Ph.D. in physics, and wasTs was thrown for a surprise party to celebrate his promotion to an associate professor of physics and astronomy. The party was held on the last day of class, and was attended by family, friends, and colleagues. The event was a success, with everyone enjoying the food and drinks. The guests included a mix of physics majors, professors, and other attendees from the physics department. Overall, the event was a great way to celebrate Gregory’s promotion and the achievements of the physics department.

The Place of Anthology

An anthology is a collection of literary works, often selected by a guest editor or a group of guest editors. In this case, the anthology is dedicated in honor of one of the victims of the Nov. 1, 1991, campus shootings: Ridge and Furrow, a sculpture carved from a 19-ton coarse granite boulder, is the newest addition to the T. Anne Cleary Walkway, a three-block stretch that links the outside residence halls to the pedestrian and at one time accommodated civilians as part of Capital Visitor. The sculpture, which was dedicated in 1992, was named for one of the victims of the Nov. 1, 1991, campus shootings: T. Anne Cleary, who had been the university’s associate vice president for academic affairs.

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Aluma archivist helps war-torn nations build paths to progress

Alma Peterson

A career in processing archives might not appeal to many when one is considering a job that involves working in the area of human rights, but Trudy Haskins Peterson thought it was a perfect pairing of her interest in history and her passion for human rights.

Peterson (M.A. ’72, Ph.D. ’75), former acting archivist of the United States, says archiving ensures that human rights are being respected, especially in countries that are experiencing conflict. During both political and social turmoil, she says, archivists also work to ensure that the people involved often is purposely destroyed to hinder a postwar society.

Throughout her career, Peterson has worked diligently to help war-torn countries preserve and use official records, and teach others to use them. Her work has paired her with the United Nations, the U.S. National Archives, Open Source Archives, and many other organizations, and has taken her around the globe — from the United States and Latin America to Africa and Europe.

For those efforts, Peterson has received the University of Iowa’s 2011 International Impact Award, which was established by UI International Programs in 2000 to recognize distinguished alumni who have made important contributions internationally. “It’s heartening that doing work in human rights does earn an award,” Peterson states. “When you’re doing just a little bit, it’s difficult to see the impact until someone reminds you that your work is important.”

Peterson’s particular area of interest is in records created and used by institutions of the justice sector, such as courts, police, and prison commissions. When countries go through major changes in government and the new regime is less repressive than the former one, she explains, people have a lot of demands. They want the new regime to know who people are from prior regimes, to protect officials who served in the past to use them to support the new government, to reveal the truth about what happened during the years of oppression, and to provide reparations to those who suffered. In each of these cases, documents are crucial.

“Without documentation, you can’t have a story. There is no proof of who you are, what school you went to, how much property you own, etc.,” says Peterson, who offers free workshops and training in archival work to advising organizations.

One of the most interesting projects Peterson undertook was training a team in Guatemala to organize and describe the police records from the period of that nation’s civil war, a conflict that lasted from 1960 to 1996. The team spent three years training the team, repeatedly, reviewing work and providing additional support for the archival processes. Two police records, containing Class Action Litigation records, a recent case that resulted in the conviction of two police officers tied to the disappearance of a labor leader used more than 600 documents from the police archive.

A documentary film, La lida — Archivos de un Popoloca, tells the story of the project.

Making people understand the importance of the documents they create and the need to preserve them is a challenge, says Peterson. Her hope is that archivists and records creators will become ever more aware of the importance of documentation for human rights, and that to see and to visit the Universidad de Antioquia once spring to give lectures on archival topics.

The Entebbe, Israel, native says she was drawn to a career in archives when she was a graduate student in history working at UI Libraries. Every time she returns to campus, she stops by the Main Library to spend time at the Iowa Women’s Archives, which holds more than 10,000 accessioned collections that chronicle the lives and activities of Iowa women.

“People are very few archivists like this in the nation,” Peterson says. “It’s an extremely unique environment that shows a collection of history, and I always take time to visit it.”

Linda Kerber, professor of history in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, nominated Peterson for the International Impact Award, and UI President Sally Mason surprised her graduate school adversary when she shared her plan to study the comics of Argentina, Cuba, and Mexico, particularly their role in political discussions.

“Wherever you look, you find comics reflecting cultural and political issues in ways that other art can’t,” she says.

In Cuba, for example, comics of the 1950s adopted Mad magazine-like aesthetics to criticize the Batista dictatorship. After the revolution, artists pitted American influences to create a more diligently Cuban voice.

European scholars— especially in France and Belgium— had acknowledged the artistic merit and linguistic intrigue of comics, but Merino’s cultural studies perspective and binational approach were relatively new. “It was lucky to be in the right moment— now there is much more recognition,” she says. “As if the images they imagine are too important to set aside.”

Williams creates her own comics too, reconnecting her work with prison inmates, the history of juvenile justice in Illinois, race riots in Detroit and North Carolina, and more [see examples of her work at www.resolutionlibrary.org]. Like her subjects, she finds a sort of magic in the medium. “The best comics are sort of like watching a movie with subtitles — the words become voice, and your brain fills the gaps between images,” she says. “It’s a totally different experience of reading.”

For more about Peterson’s interests, go to peterson.com.

For more about the university’s International Impact Award, our international education outreach/communitImpact-award.asp.
Employee Training Might Actually Increase Turnover, UI Study Finds

A new Iowa study indicates that employee training and development programs may actually contribute to higher turnover rates. The study found that employees who participated in professional development programs were more likely to say they would stay with their employer only if they saw more attractive career possibilities.

The study was conducted by the UI College of Business and involved 246 matched employees and supervisors at a Fortune 500 firm, and found that employees who participated in professional development opportunities were more likely to say they would stay with their employer only if they saw more attractive career possibilities. The study suggests that employees may view professional development opportunities as a way to safeguard their career prospects rather than as a signal of increased engagement.

Survey Says: Student Binge-Drinking Rate Drops Sharply

University of Iowa students reported an 8 percent drop in the binge-drinking rate between spring 2009 and spring 2011 — the lowest level in a decade and a notable about-face following years of steady increases. The study found that programs sponsored by the American College Health Association to help schools collect data about students’ habits, negative consequences of binge drinking decreased and protective factors increased. Between spring 2009 and 2011 — the lowest level in a decade and a notable about-face following years of steady increases. The study found that programs sponsored by the American College Health Association to help schools collect data about students’ habits, negative consequences of binge drinking decreased and protective factors increased.

Survey says: Student binge-drinking rate drops sharply

UI launched a simulated driving platform for teens, New College

The National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS), a research unit of the UI College of Engineering, is designing a driving simulation software platform for an Arizona-based firm that provides driving instruction for teens and drivers of all ages. The firm is particularly interested in software-driven simulations, which will help produce a large, custom driving facility.

The simulator will be used to train students in the UI College of Education’s driving program, which is designed to teach teens how to drive safely. The program focuses on challenging teens to become responsible decision makers and, through practice, to learn about the consequences of their actions.

Survey says: Student binge-drinking rate drops sharply

UI program launches global disability rights library

Advocates for the rights of people with disabilities around the globe now have a new way to find the knowledge and information they need — without requiring actual Internet access. More than two dozen offline deployment sites have been set up around the world, from the Philippines to Nigeria to Peru, which provide skill development, educational training, and other services to students who are legally blind.

The WiderNet Project, a service program in the UI School of Library and Information Science, recently completed a study of the GDRL (Global Disability Rights Library), which contains more than 10,000 resources on disability rights. It is available in both an online version (gdrl.org) and an offline version. The offline version of the Global Disability Rights Library is delivered on a computer hard drive with an interface that emulates the appearance and function of the World Wide Web without requiring actual Internet access. More than two dozen offline deployment sites have been set up around the world, from the Philippines to Nigeria to Peru, which provide skill development, educational training, and other services to students who are legally blind.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded investigators in the UI College of Public Health studying Staphylococcus aureus — commonly called “staph” — a $2.1 million grant that aims to reduce foodborne illnesses and deaths.

Tom Smith, interim director of the UI Center for Emerging Infectious Disease and assistant professor of epidemiology, will lead an investigation of whether staph is present on meat and may contaminate individuals who handle raw meat. While staph has been considered a foodborne pathogen in previous studies, research examining staph in food has largely focused on the treatments produced for foodborne bacteria, the UI researchers will examine meat as a potential source and test for contamination in the food industry.

“WE expect to determine the impact of contaminated meat on human colonization with Staphylococcus aureus,” Smith says. “This work will have important implications for public health policy, including whether to begin routine surveillance for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, on meat products.”

UI launches an interactive platform that turns coffee waste into useful substances, like pharmaceuticals, animal feed, or biofuels.

Scientists at the UI College of Engineering have identified four different protein molecules that can be converted into pharmaceuticals. These proteins can be used to create new types of drugs, such as blockers for drugs used to treat asthma, improve blood flow, and stabilize heart arrhythmias.
Staging a Goodbye to Hancher
Though it’s been closed since the summer floods of 2008, Hancher Auditorium took center stage in September as 3,500 patrons and friends turned out to pay tribute to the University of Iowa performing arts center at a special farewell event over Labor Day weekend.

Greeted by cool, fall-like temperatures and a luminous moon that lingered in the sky, people young and old set up lawn chairs and blankets and gathered before an outdoor stage on the Hancher Green. The building’s iconic outline loomed in the background. Audio recordings of solicited Hancher memories kicked off the event, and then Hubbard Street Dance Chicago gave a free performance that included an audience-participation number that brought the crowd to its feet. Fireworks lit the sky to cap the evening, sending the auditorium off with a bang.

The building, which has hosted some 4 million patrons since it opened in 1972, will be demolished at a yet-to-be-determined date, and a new facility will be constructed to the north — on higher ground along Park Road.

In the meantime, the shows go on. To learn more about Hancher’s current season, see www.hancher.uiowa.edu.