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Out of Time, But Not Out of Mind

Student publication puts literary spin on all things defunct



Remember the vitality of the VCR? The jolting ringle of a wind-up alarm clock? The importance of wonderful handwriting, or when chalkboards were essential teaching tools?

Defunct Magazine remembers these things, taking readers back to the contemporary times of objects, ideas, TV shows, and belief systems of the past. Founded by a team of University of Iowa writers, the new online magazine is published at www.defunctmag.com.

Robin Hemley, director of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program and a professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, along with 15 graduate students, established the biannual publication. It features essays by students on the magazine's staff, along with work by established authors and contributions from the public.

"Anything that has had its day in society is fair game to write about," Hemley says. "Defunct religions, cultures, technologies, games, fads, trends, and people are all subjects of focus in this publication."

The concept developed last fall, after Hemley assigned graduate students to review defunct literary publications. Reading the reviews proved entertaining for the group. One evening after class, they tossed around the idea of starting their own literary magazine. They intended to focus on defunct products, but the idea evolved to include all things defunct—trends, fads, cultures.

Pieces in *Defunct Magazine* are written as reviews that take a position on the item or idea without assigning a score. Hemley says the content shares a common tone of irony and poignant humor.

"One thing I don't want is for our pieces to focus on nostalgia," Hemley says. "I don't want to see, 'Oh wouldn't it be nice to drive Studebakers again.' These writings are smart, witty, funny, and insightful. Nostalgia will find its way in somehow, but I don't want that to be the central focus."

Defunct Magazine's stances on topics of the past are expansive and entertaining. Some conclusions contributors have reached include how Jheri Curl

hairstyles foil everything; how the Internet has incapacitated the traveling encyclopedia salesman; and how leaf blowers are wrecking all lawn rakes in its wake.

Amy Butcher, graduate student in the UI Nonfiction Writing Program and the magazine's managing editor, says submissions are increasing weekly and that feedback from readers has been positive.

"People really like it. Although it is kind of a niche market, people have embraced the magazine's focus," Butcher

says. "I never thought we would publish as many people as we have."

Nearly 15 previously published authors have appeared in the first two issues of *Defunct Magazine*, and a recent blog appearance in the *Atlantic* is expected to fuel interest in the magazine.

"Really great published authors and fantastically skilled Iowa students are showing strong interests in what we are doing," says UI Nonfiction Writing Program graduate student Rachel Yoder, the magazine's senior editor. "I don't see us becoming defunct anytime soon."

—Travis Varner



For the Record

"It turns out, you can predict very well from infant fussiness to later problems."

Beth Troutman, clinical associate professor of psychiatry in the Carver College of Medicine, indicating that infants who are fussy when they're three to four weeks old are more likely to develop anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and behavior problems (MSNBC.com, Oct. 29).

"We're ready to go to Cuba as soon as we can."

Janis Perkins, assistant dean of International Programs in the Office for Study Abroad, anticipating a University-sponsored culture and language program in Havana during the school's next winter break (*Capitol News Connection*, Jan. 20).

"After the testimony, I got in the car and drove home, listening to the developments about Egypt. I thought it was pretty much open and closed."

Zach Wahls, a sophomore engineering major, expressing surprise that a video of his three-minute speech before state lawmakers in January to oppose a bill banning same-sex marriage surpassed a half million hits on YouTube within two days (*Des Moines Register*, Feb. 4).

"Looking at this piece is witnessing history. Students witness an actual event in this piece, the move from figurative art to abstract art. This is when he started throwing paint at the canvas, which becomes so important later on. This is early evidence of this approach."

Sean O'Harrow, director of the UI Museum of Art, explaining the significance of Jackson Pollock's *Mural*, a painting donated to the University in 1951 and worth an estimated \$140 million—prompting a state legislator to propose it be sold to fund student scholarships (*Inside Higher Ed*, Feb. 15).



Keynote, Kinnick, Convocation to Kick Off College for Class of 2015

This fall, The University of Iowa will welcome first-year students to campus in a new and exciting way.

On Iowa!, a three-day event in late August, will immerse students in the campus culture and introduce the traditions that define the Iowa experience, all the while providing an introduction to University life and an education about what it takes to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Health and wellness will be a focus as students get to know each other and interact with upper-class students. Incoming students will get to take the field at Kinnick Stadium, where

the Class of 2015 will be photographed as a group for the first time.

A surprise keynote speaker will help kick off On Iowa! the Friday before classes start, and the event will close Sunday afternoon with a convocation on the Pentacrest and a block party at the home of UI President Sally Mason.

Hawkeyes, Huskers to Meet Friday After Thanksgiving

When Iowa and Nebraska meet on the football field this fall as Big Ten Conference rivals for the first time, the game will take place on Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

The Hawkeyes and Cornhuskers announced in March that both the 2011 contest in Lincoln and the 2012 game in Iowa City will be played on Friday. The teams will meet in Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 23, 2012. Game times and television information have not been finalized.

"College football played on this day has a well-established rivalry history, and we feel it will be a great opportunity for our program to join in a new chapter of Big Ten history," says head coach Kirk Ferentz.



UI Senior Earns Rhodes Scholar Honor

Renugan Raidoo, a senior majoring in chemistry and anthropology, was among 32 people announced in November as 2011 Rhodes Scholars. Raidoo, who emigrated with his family from South Africa to Sioux Falls, S.D., will enter Oxford University in England in October for two or three years of all-expense-paid study; he will seek a master of philosophy degree in social anthropology. The last time a UI student received the distinction was in 1993.

Talk to Us

We'd love to hear your comments and suggestions about *Spectator*. Let us know what you think by e-mailing spectator@uiowa.edu. We also can be reached by phone at 319-384-0045 or by mail at *Spectator*, Office of University Relations, 300 PCO, Suite 370, Iowa City, IA 52242-2500.

Public Safety Department Offers Training in Violent Incident Survival Skills

More than 1,000 campus and community members have armed themselves with knowledge on how to react to violent situations.

The UI Department of Public Safety began offering in February 2010 a free, two-hour class called Violent Incident Survival Training. Through videos, lecture, demonstration, and discussion, the course presents a set of principles called ALICE—Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate—to help participants to recognize, assess, and respond to threats around them.

Joe Lang, a lieutenant and instructor in the department, says the course, which is open to the public, is not meant to frighten anyone.

"We're trying to prepare our people to protect themselves by empowering them with options," he says. "The threat doesn't have to be someone with a gun—it could be a bat or a knife—and it might not happen on campus. Violent incidents can happen anywhere."

Information is available at police.uiowa.edu.

Gerontological Nursing Gets Boost from \$2.2 Million Alumni Gift

Thanks to a gift commitment of more than \$2.2 million from UI graduate Barbara Csomay of Kanawha, Iowa, the UI College of Nursing's top-ranked gerontology program will be able to enhance its services to older adults.

The gift will establish the Barbara and Richard Csomay Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence, as well as a number of scholarships in the field.

"Older adults comprise the fastest-growing segment of the nation's population, which is why it's more crucial than ever for nursing educators and researchers to address aging-related issues," says Rita Frantz, Kelting Dean and Professor in the College of Nursing.



UI Dance Marathon Tops \$1 Million—Again

The 17th annual University of Iowa Dance Marathon raised a record-breaking \$1,220,146.17 for pediatric cancer programs at University of Iowa Children's Hospital. That figure is up approximately \$160,000 from last year, and marks the fourth year in a row that the student organization has brought in more than \$1 million.

A total of 1,350 dancers participated in the February event—24 hours of nonstop dancing in the Main Lounge of the Iowa Memorial Union. More than 1,000 family members of patients also were in attendance, the largest turnout in event history.

The largest student-run philanthropic organization on campus, UI Dance Marathon has raised more than \$9.8 million since its inception to support pediatric oncology programs at UI Children's Hospital.

McCoy Named UI Press Director

Following a national search, the Graduate College named James A. McCoy the new director of the University of Iowa Press. He began his duties in January. McCoy had been with the UI Press for four years as assistant director and sales and marketing director. He also spent 10 years with the University of Chicago Press, where he was associate sales manager. Active in the community of university presses across the country, McCoy currently serves as chair of the marketing committee for the Association of American University Presses.



School of Music One Step Closer to Getting New Home

LMN Architects of Seattle will join Iowa City architect-of-record Neumann-Monson to design a new home for the UI School of Music, which was displaced in June 2008 when the Iowa River flooded much of the UI arts campus.

The new music facilities will be housed on two adjacent sites on the southeast and southwest corners of the Clinton and Burlington streets intersection, pending the successful conclusion of land acquisition negotiations. An overhead pedestrian bridge will connect the two sides of the street. Construction is slated for completion in 2016.

Founded in 1979, LMN is an award-winning firm whose work has included designing new and, renovated convention centers, cultural arts venues, higher education facilities, and commercial and mixed-use developments.



Picking Presidents

Why Iowa? examines state's key role in nomination process



NUMEROUS STOPS IN IOWA AND ON THE UI CAMPUS HELPED BARACK OBAMA WIN THE CAUCUSES—AND THE PRESIDENCY.



DESPITE A VISIT TO THE IOWA MEMORIAL UNION IN 2007, REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE RUDY GIULIANI LARGELY IGNORED IOWA—AND FINISHED SIXTH IN THE CAUCUSES.



VOTERS IN JOHNSON COUNTY HEARD FROM CANDIDATES FOR BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL OFFICE AT A DEMOCRATIC PARTY FALL PICNIC IN 2007.

Iowa picks corn.

New Hampshire picks presidents.

This jab at Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses is a running joke among politicians who dismiss the event as hokey or inconsequential. But the dig is a bit off base, according to a new book by The University of Iowa's Caroline Tolbert and fellow political scientists David Redlawsk of Rutgers University and Todd Donovan of Western Washington University.

Published in December by the University of Chicago Press, *Why Iowa?* argues that Iowa has a major influence on the presidential nomination—perhaps too much so. The book calls for reform that would preserve the best aspects of caucusing but create a national primary to give the entire country a say in the nominations.

"In the past it's been Iowa and New Hampshire, followed by Nevada and South Carolina, and a free-for-all on Super Tuesday," says Tolbert, professor of political science in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "The many states that went after Super Tuesday essentially had no voice because the deal was sealed."

Iowa landed its first-in-the-nation privilege entirely by coincidence. In 1972, Des Moines hotels happened to be booked for the typical weekend of the state convention, and the Democratic Party enacted new rules for publicizing its events in advance. So, the caucuses were pushed up.

"It bumped Iowa ahead of New Hampshire, and nobody really noticed," says Redlawsk, who taught in Iowa's political science department from 1999 to 2009. "It wasn't until 1976 when Jimmy Carter's crew thought, 'Iowa's first, we're relatively unknown, maybe we can get some play out of it,' that the legend of the caucus was born."

What happens in Iowa ... makes national news

The state contest serves as a litmus test for candidates. Hopefuls are forced to campaign on a grassroots level—shaking hands in small-town cafes, looking folks in the eye, and fielding queries from no-nonsense farmers.

"In our Hawkeye Polls of Iowa caucus-goers, more than half of respondents said they had personally met a candidate," Redlawsk says. "That's astounding. Nowhere else do you get that opportunity, and it molds the candidates because they have to respond—they can't just stay in the bubble of ads and tarmac visits."

And throughout this grueling process, media mania ensues. Reporters descend upon the state for months, speculating on who will win and blasting the results out to a worldwide audience. All that attention influences how voters in other states view the candidates, who gets funding, and, ultimately, who wins the nomination.

"There were many cases in the '80s and '90s where the winner of the Iowa caucuses did not go on to become the party candidate. But we've seen a punctuated change beginning in 2000. With the rise of online news and social media, frontrunners from Iowa are projected nationwide," Tolbert says. "So Iowa picks presidents, not just corn."

Lessons for 2012

With the next Iowa caucus season just around the corner, *Why Iowa?* might offer the 2012 Republican candidates a few lessons on how to win the state—specifically, that Iowans respond better to a personal, volunteer-driven operation than an ad-based effort. If there's any doubt whether grassroots campaigning makes a difference in Iowa—and whether Iowa caucus results affect the rest of the race—just look at 2008.

Barack Obama spent money on door-to-door canvassing, field offices, and live telephone calls. He finished ahead of Hillary Clinton, the leader in name recognition and money. His victory in a virtually white state demonstrated to the rest of the country that an African American candidate was electable, propelling his successful bid for the White House.

The caucuses changed the game for Republicans, too. Rudy Giuliani ignored Iowa, a tactical error that cost him exposure and led to a disappointing sixth-place finish. Mike Huckabee exceeded expectations with a decisive win over Mitt Romney. That hurt Romney's momentum going forward, and as doubts about Huckabee's electability emerged later in the game, the race opened up for John McCain.

"It's not so much winning the Iowa caucuses that matters, it's whether you beat the odds," says Tolbert, explaining a finding that coauthor Donovan contributed to the book. "We found that candidates who did better than expected in Iowa got more coverage beyond the caucuses, and that shaped events in other states."

A peculiar kind of primary

Influential as they are, the Iowa caucuses can seem obtuse and archaic—bundling up on a snowy January night, driving to a school gym, and shuffling into a corner to publicly support your candidate. The process can take two or more hours—a much more significant commitment than casting a ballot in a traditional primary.

But it has its benefits, according to *Why Iowa?* People engage in healthy debate as they lobby their neighbors to shift allegiances. Caucuses can be lively, with each candidate's supporters setting up card-table camps within the school gym, armed with homemade snacks, T-shirts, posters, buttons, and other enticements. In fact, Hawkeye Polls confirmed that

86 percent of Iowa caucus-goers had fun in 2008.

The caucuses also provide an opportunity to develop party platforms. And, the authors argue, caucusing is more representative than other methods of voting.

"Most elections are winner-take-all," Tolbert says. "There's one seat, and the person with 51 percent gets it, while the person with 49 percent gets nothing. In the caucuses, on the Democratic side, you may have six delegate votes that are divided up through proportional representation. It's fairer."

Calling for change

What's not fair, caucus critics say, is the power one small state has compared to the rest of the country.

Why Iowa? proposes a "caucus window" during which any state could hold a caucus. Then the candidates would meet in a national primary in which all states would resolve the nominations by voting on a single day.

"We think this would provide the best of both worlds," Redlawsk says. "The caucuses would still winnow the field and force candidates to talk to voters, but the national primary would provide a meaningful chance for everyone in the country to vote on the nominations."

Within the caucus window, the authors believe small states should go first.

"Part of what's special about the Iowa caucuses is that they're a great leveler," Tolbert says. "Candidates who can't afford media advertising but have good ideas can come here and have a chance. It's a small state, so it's possible. You can't do that kind of grassroots campaigning with 40 million people in California."

It doesn't have to be Iowa, but Iowa has 30 years of practice going first—and picking a little more than corn.

—Nicole Riehl

Caucus Countdown

In Iowa, with its first-in-the-nation caucuses, it seems like one presidential campaign season runs into the next. Even when a politician is not openly seeking the top office, a visit to the state immediately ignites speculation that he or she is considering a run. Iowans are scheduled to meet in precinct caucuses on **Feb. 6, 2012**. Will they pick the nation's next president?

Caucus winners* since 1980 (Democratic Party/Republican Party):

2008 – **Barack Obama**/Mike Huckabee

2004 – **John Kerry**/*George W. Bush* (unopposed)

2000 – **Al Gore**/*George W. Bush*

1996 – **Bill Clinton** (unopposed)/Bob Dole

1992 – Tom Harkin/**George H. W. Bush** (unopposed)

1988 – Dick Gephardt/Bob Dole

1984 – **Walter Mondale**/**Ronald Reagan** (unopposed)

1980 – **Jimmy Carter**/George H. W. Bush

* Candidates in bold won their party's nomination, while those in italics won the general election

Research Examines Damage to Stock Market by Housing Collapse

The ongoing housing market collapse rippled into the stock market in ways that previous collapses had not, according to a study by UI finance experts.

Jon Garfinkel and Jarjis Sa-Aadu, professors of finance in the Tippie College of Business, compared housing prices, bank stock performance, and the S&P 500 during the first two years of the current bust—from 2006 to 2008—to the 1990–91 housing market collapse. Both bank profits and the stock market tanked at the outset of the current bust, setting it apart from the 1990 bust that had little impact on bank performance or stock prices.

The difference, they say, is due to significant changes in the nature of mortgage lending. The current slump was caused in part by excessive and imprudent mortgage lending by banks using financial tools that were used less frequently in the 1990s, such as derivatives and mortgage-backed securities.

In addition, lending in the most recent boom period was heavily dependent on adjustable-rate mortgages, many of which required little equity from the homeowner. These mortgages gave homeowners an incentive to simply walk away from the house when they could no longer afford their monthly payments because they had little equity to lose; this wasn't the case during the 1980s housing boom, when banks still required customers to make down payments and build equity, discouraging homeowners from walking away from their mortgage.

As a result, banks in the 1990s weren't saddled with the ownership of thousands of empty foreclosed homes, as they are today.

Food in America

UI professor discusses how identity, politics, and culture meet at the nation's tables



Lauren Rabinovitz has researched gender and American cinema, amusement parks, popular culture, and technology and culture, but what really piques her interest these days is food.

The professor of American studies and cinema and comparative literature in

the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has taught the increasingly popular class Food in America for the last few years. The course is both a historical survey of food and a look into the business of food in American life today—from the rise of the meatpacking and other industries at the beginning of the 20th century to America as a “fast food nation” to the politics surrounding organics and sustainability issues.

Rabinovitz received a 2010 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, which honors faculty members for work representing a significant contribution to excellence in public education.

What does the food we eat tell us about American culture and history?

This is a big question. One author of a book on food and America as a multicultural society says, “We are what we eat.” That’s a great sound bite insofar as American food has always been a continuing hybridization of different ethnic, immigrant, and regional cultures mixing and crossing over food traditions.

For many people, now and in the past, their first exposure to or experience with an ethnic group different from their own is through food. It’s certainly

nonthreatening, and it’s often what allows people to say they know something about another ethnic group.

Have you discovered any food myths that people might be surprised to find out are true?

My favorite food myth is Johnny Appleseed. Johnny Appleseed was a real person, John Chapman (1774–1845), who did go to the western frontier, which was then Pennsylvania and Ohio. But he went to buy land on the outskirts of new boomtowns, where he cleared the land and planted nurseries. As the towns extended and the land became more valuable, he sold the land back to the towns. In short, he was a land speculator who became in his lifetime one of the richest men in America.

Since you can’t produce edible fruit on an apple tree grown from seed—it has to be a graft—the trees he planted produced sour crab apples that were pressed for hard cider. Johnny Appleseed only became a name in an 1871 *Harper’s Magazine* story about him, where he was mythologized as a figure of democratic action and heroism, a story Walt Disney made even more popular in 1948. But if Johnny Appleseed is an American icon, it’s because he was a true American entrepreneur buying and selling real estate to make millions while spreading liquor on the western frontier.

Have there been any events in the history of the United States that shifted people away from eating a certain thing at a certain time?

At the heart of your question is really a question about the safety of the food supply, and has that affected what and how people eat. Since the creation of the FDA in 1906 to check on and regulate the safety of the food supply, there

have been numerous times when a disease outbreak due to tainted food—produced in an industrialized environment—has caused recalls or boycotts. But these always seem to be temporary.

Perhaps a more interesting incident was the government’s effort to ban saccharine as carcinogenic in 1977. More than one million people protested through letters and petitions to the government. They said it was a positive influence in their lives, questioned the research on which the finding was made, and told the government to butt out of their individual food choices. The outcry—not to mention the diet industry’s lobbying—was so strong that the ban was overturned. At that time, people especially argued that if the government allowed them to smoke cigarettes, it had no business telling them not to eat saccharine.

What is something in American food history that people might be surprised to learn?

My students are always surprised to learn that the tomato is indigenous to the Americas—that something so central to Italian food was brought to Italy by Columbus. In addition, potatoes, chocolate, peanuts, corn, pumpkin, and wild rice were all indigenous to the Americas and only exported to Europe after the first contacts. Indeed, American food has always been an import-export trade and part of what we would call a global economy.

—Kelli Andresen

Building a Nation

Iowa hosts Iraqi students

aiming to improve their homeland



As an international educator, Scott King constantly looks for ways to impact change in higher education. Rarely, however, does an opportunity like this come along.

Through the Iraq Education Initiative, King, assistant dean of International Programs and director of the Office of International Students and Scholars at The University of Iowa, and his colleagues nationwide are helping Iraq become a full member of the global academic community.

Iowa welcomed five Iraqi doctoral students—Adnan Abdulwahib (mathematics), Khalid Al-Gharrawi (chemical engineering), Sabah Enayah (biology), Diar Ibrahim (petroleum geosciences), and Mohand Nada (immunology)—to campus in August 2010. Three more Iraqi graduate students joined them in the spring of 2011.

King was among a delegation of 22 U.S. educators who traveled to Baghdad in January 2009 at the invitation of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki to attend the Iraq Education Initiative Symposium. The students’ arrival in Iowa City was an outgrowth of this trip.



“This is an opportunity for us to be a leader,” King says. “We were the only Big Ten university that sent a representative to Iraq. That gives us a chance to actually take some leadership in this and make a name for the institution.”

Top scholars

In fall 2010, an estimated 80 students representing the “cream of the crop” of Iraqi scholars were placed at universities across the country.

The Iraqi government pays for the students’ tuition, living expenses, and medical insurance with the stipulation that they return home after graduation to help rebuild Iraq’s higher-education infrastructure. The students, who were selected through a highly competitive process based on merit, will work for the government for the same amount of time they study abroad.

Ibrahim came to the United States by himself, without family by his side to live out his life’s dream.

“This is the No. 1 dream of my whole life, and my dream came true,” says Ibrahim, who is visiting the United States for the first time. “The education system, the social and cultural system, the interaction with people—everything is better here. It couldn’t be better for my future career.”

Ibrahim was greeted with smiles from American students on the UI campus, giving him a good feeling about leaving his homeland to earn a PhD.

A dream fulfilled

Enayah, the only woman among the first five UI students, was eight months pregnant when she made the 13-hour flight from Iraq to Chicago, but she wasn’t worried about going into labor on the airplane.

“I dreamed of coming to the USA to study for my PhD. I didn’t think about anything else in my life—my doctor or that I was pregnant,” she says. “I wanted to come to the USA. When I got on the airplane, I felt tired and sad. But when I arrived in Chicago, I forgot about all that and became happy.”

Within a week of arriving in Iowa, Enayah gave birth to her third child, a daughter named Elaf. Her husband stays home and takes care of their three children while she attends school.

Enayah and the other four students who arrived last fall earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at universities in Iraq, where all were lecturers or assistant lecturers.

The students were conditionally accepted into different graduate programs, and are taking ESL classes in preparation for the Test of English as a Foreign Language. King expects them to pass the test and begin degree courses as early as summer 2011.

Fixing what’s broken

These scholars came to the United States knowing their homeland’s academic infrastructure needs fixing, and willing to do their part to help.

“We have a good theoretical background in Iraq, but the practical side is poorer over there. Iraq is Iraq, and we had a war each decade in the last three decades,” Al-Gharrawi says. “The infrastructure over there in my university [Baghdad University] is broken. The engineering industry in Iraq is broken. We need the raw materials, we need the equipment, and we need the measurements. Most of this stuff is unavailable, so it’s a good opportunity to come here and study.

“Leaving Iraq was not easy, but I have a plan for myself. Getting the PhD is a good opportunity, and not everyone can get it. I thank my government for sending us here in this new program. It’s a good opportunity to change my life, and in the future I will be able to change a piece of Iraq.”

The goal of the Iraq Education Initiative is to develop a five-year national scholarship program in which the Iraqi government sends 10,000 students a year to study abroad with all expenses paid. King says Iowa is committed to the initiative, adding he wouldn’t be surprised to have around 40 Iraqi students on campus by fall 2011.

So far, the Iraqi students have been popular presences on campus.

“I think sometimes they’re feeling like rock stars, because there’s been a lot of interest in them being here,” King says. “But they seem happy with the community. I’m hoping this semester that we know a little more how they are and get them a little more involved in some outreach to tell their stories.”

—John Riehl

Write of Passage

For 75 years, the Iowa Writers' Workshop has been cultivating scribes



David Pryce-Jones, R.V. Cassill, Robert Williams, Richard Yates, Paul Engle, Mark Strand, Eugene K. Garber, George Starbuck, and Frederic Will, 1960s

“Good poets, like good hybrid corn, are both born and made. Right criticism can speed up the maturing process of a poet by years. More than that, tough and detailed criticism of a young writer can help him become his own shrewd critic.”

Paul Engle
Former workshop director (1941–65) and founder of the UI International Writing Program



R.V. Cassill, a workshop instructor from 1948–52 and 1960–66, with workshop student, 1960

“The workshop has a reputation for cutthroat criticism, and it’s true the commentary became heated at times. But there was never a finer group of souls assembled than those I was privileged to work with. We supported each other even while we dismantled each other.”

Karen Stolz (MFA ’82)
Author of *World of Pies* and *Fanny and Sue*

We know that the Iowa Writers’ Workshop is the grandfather of the hundreds of creative writing degree programs that have taken root in the United States and around the world in the last 75 years, and the godfather of the International Writing Program, the University’s unique residency program. We’ve all seen the impressive lists of Pulitzer Prizes, National Book Awards, Guggenheim fellowships, and poets laureate affiliated with the UI Graduate College program.

We have also heard—from both within and outside the institution—that the Writers’ Workshop does not really teach anyone to write. So what does it do? What made it not just an innovative idea in the cornfields but an enduring and influential institution whose name usually is preceded by “prestigious” or “world-famous”?

Here is just a sampling of recollections, assessments, and testimonials from writers who have attended or taught in the workshop.



Workshop director Lan Samantha Chang, third from left, with students, 2007

“I was always trying to do what my parents wanted me to do. But then I entered a community where nobody told me I’d done the wrong thing. Everyone believed in writing. Writing was the most important thing to everybody there. I was surrounded by peers whose concerns were my own, and who held dear what I held to be the most important thing in the world, which is writing.”

Lan Samantha Chang (MFA ’93)
Workshop director since 2006 and author of *Hunger*, *Inheritance*, and *All Is Forgotten, Nothing Is Lost*



Professor James Alan McPherson, left, with a student, 2006

“It is the quality of the students more than that of the faculty that makes a good writing program. Students learn from one another, not from the hostile ones of course, but from the two or three whose work they admire and who signal approval with perhaps no more than a nod and brightening of eyes.”

John Leggett
Former workshop director (1969–87) and author of *Making Believe* and *A Daring Young Man*

“The workshop, for me, was above all else a singular group of readers and writers, each of whom I respected utterly, all of whom had profound effects on me and my work. I still think about them. I still, in some way, write for them.”

Michael Cunningham (MFA ’80)
Author of *The Hours* and *A Home at the End of the World*

“The workshop never claimed to teach writing; there was no system one could follow, no dogma (unlike medicine) to memorize and hang your hat on. But what the workshop did was give me permission to write, permission to take myself seriously as a writer.”

Abraham Verghese (MFA ’91)
Author of *My Own Country* and *Cutting for Stone*



Robert Coover, Mario Picchi, Mani Sankar Mukherji, William Murray, and Wilfrido Nolledo, 1967



Professor Marilynne Robinson, center, with students, 2006

“It has never surprised me that young American writers want to come to the Iowa Workshop. A place to read, write, and talk, a place to test ideas and to experiment. A literary community of some sophistication. Of course they want to come.”

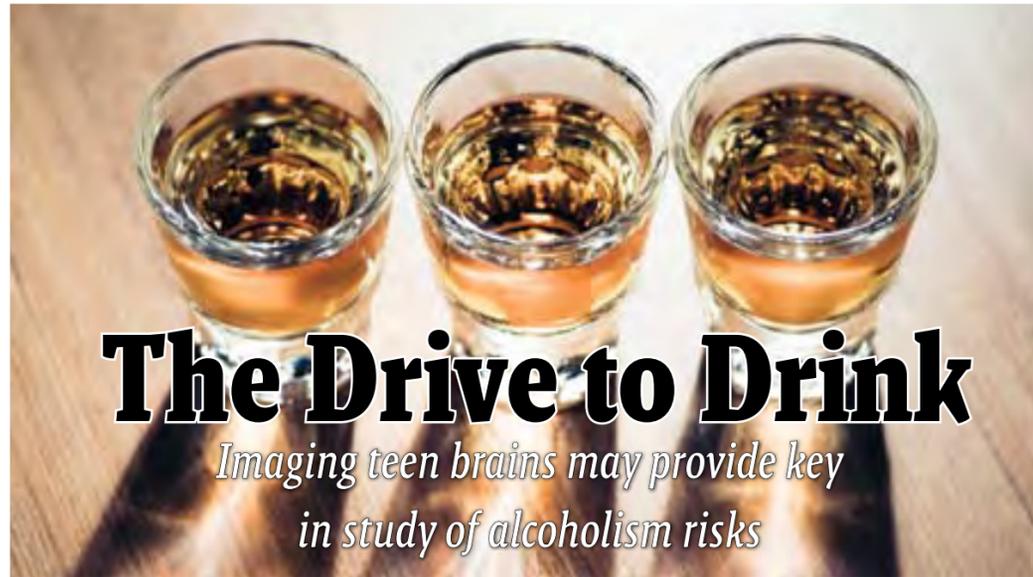
Frank Conroy
Former workshop director (1987–2005) and author of *Stop-Time* and *Body and Soul*

Alumni to convene for workshop anniversary

The Program in Creative Writing at The University of Iowa—known informally as the Iowa Writers’ Workshop—has been shaping writers for 75 years. To celebrate the milestone, the graduate program is holding an alumni reunion in Iowa City June 9–12. It will include a keynote address, panel discussions, and even a traditional softball game pitting poets against fiction writers. Several of the events will be open to the public.

To learn more and see a reunion schedule, visit iw75th.uiowa.edu.

—compiled by Winston Barclay,
from *The Eleventh Draft* and *Seems Like Old Times*



The Drive to Drink

Imaging teen brains may provide key in study of alcoholism risks

Dan O’Leary sees way too many problems with alcoholism running in families. He doesn’t see enough solutions.

He hopes to change that with a \$2.6 million grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Over the next five years, the professor of psychiatry in the UI Carver College of Medicine will lead a team of researchers using state-of-the-art technology to monitor brain development in teens. The aim is to identify risk factors associated with alcoholism, which O’Leary says could lead to preemptive interventions.

“It’s clear there are families who have problems. It’s not so clear whether it’s genetic or environmental. Environment plays a part, but it’s not everything.”

The research will benefit not only the health and well-being of teens in families with alcohol issues, but also society as a whole, O’Leary says.

“Alcoholism costs billions of dollars to the economy every year, and it ruins lives,” says O’Leary, whose previous research has centered on schizophrenia and on how marijuana affects the brain and behavior. “If we could find something that indicated that a kid had a predisposition to alcohol, it would be possible to potentially develop an intervention or a therapy to train self-control.”

Using advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), O’Leary and his team will be able to observe the blood flow to the brain’s reward center as 13- to 18-year-old subjects complete a task in which they can earn money if they respond quickly enough to a visual symbol. Another task, during which they will react to a series of letters

before trying to inhibit a response to the letter X, is designed to activate frontal lobe inhibitory regions.

The Collaborative Studies on Genetics in Alcoholism (COGA) group, which includes Iowa, Indiana University, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of San Diego, and the State University of New York, has been conducting genetic research for 20-plus years but has yet to venture into brain imaging. Samuel Kuperman, UI professor of psychiatry, and John Kramer, UI associate research scientist, run the COGA program at Iowa and assisted in drafting the grant proposal. They will continue to be involved.

With help from the other COGA institutions, O’Leary is assembling two groups of 96 teens—one with a family history of alcoholism and one without. Unlike

previous studies, O’Leary’s also will control for externalizing disorders, like attention deficit disorder or conduct disorder, within the at-risk group. That will help determine whether alcoholism can be isolated or if it is part of a spectrum

of abnormalities.

After studying the brain for more than 30 years, O’Leary remains fascinated by its mystery and enamored with the new technology that allows him to dive deeper into the complexities of its function.

“It used to be that you just sort of looked at gray and white,” he says. “Now, you can actually trace white matter fiber tracts that are connecting different parts of the brain. To be able to see what parts of the brain are doing is extremely exciting. It’s the last frontier for science. We know a lot about the brain, but we don’t know how it works.”

—Eric Page

Researchers Use Common Car Sensors to Detect Drunk Driving

Nearly a third of all U.S. traffic fatalities involve alcohol-impaired driving. That could decrease in the future, thanks to a study of car sensors led by researchers in the UI College of Engineering.

The study, conducted on campus at the National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS) and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, successfully demonstrated the feasibility of a non-breathalyzer, vehicle-based system to detect alcohol impairment based on driver behavior.

“The goal was to demonstrate that existing sensors on a typical vehicle can be used to detect impaired driving from alcohol,” says Timothy L. Brown, the study’s coprincipal investigator and NADS’ driver impairment program manager. “These are common sensors that look at how drivers steer and use the accelerator and brakes—and they do not include breathalyzer technology.”

Some 108 drivers in three age ranges took part in the study at three blood alcohol concentrations (BAC): 0.00, 0.05, and 0.10 percent. Using rural, urban, and interstate roadways, they took simulated, 24-minute drives home from a bar.

The data collected supported the development of three algorithms, or mathematical formulas—one that used speed and lane-keeping measures, another that was based on cues that police officers often use to identify impaired drivers, and a third that used support vector machines (a data-mining technique).

The results showed that it is possible to design a vehicle-based system that will detect alcohol impairment based only on driver behavior. In addition, the algorithms differentiated between drivers with BAC levels at and above 0.08 percent and below 0.08 percent with an accuracy of 73 to 86 percent, a result comparable to a standardized field sobriety test.

The investigators since have received a new \$1 million contract to explore the possibility of using similar systems to detect driver drowsiness.

PHOTO BY ISTOCKPHOTO

125 Years of Care

Iowa’s pioneering pharmacy program balances science and service

Pharmacy student Hillary Charmichael is on a five-week rotation at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, monitoring patients who are taking the drug warfarin to prevent blood clots. The drug interacts with many other medications and certain foods, so she and colleagues play a critical role.

“We build relationships with patients’ doctors and work with them on dosage adjustments,” says Charmichael, who graduated in May. “We’re also responsible for teaching patients about the drug and its effects.”

Charmichael’s previous rotations include a stint studying pharmacy law, an advanced management experience with Walgreens, and even field work in Belize—in short, the multifaceted education that’s typical for today’s UI pharmacy students.

Pharmacy education and practice have changed radically since 1885, when the first UI pharmacy program was founded. Iowa’s program has been quick to embrace scientific discovery, shifts in the pharmaceutical industry, and new ideas about pharmacists’ role in health care.

“Iowa was at the forefront of many of these movements, responding like few other schools,” says Donald Letendre, dean of the UI College of Pharmacy. As they celebrate their program’s 125th anniversary, he and colleagues are also shaping what’s next for the profession.

Home remedies

Late 19th-century pharmacy training was scattershot. Outside a few private education programs, most pharmacists learned the craft through apprenticeships. Methods and medications varied widely.

“This was the era of home remedies and drugs made entirely from natural products,” says Letendre, noting that plant-based components remain part of many modern medications. “A cadre of pharmacists wanted to inject more science into the field.”

The drive for scientific and professional rigor prompted state licensure programs. Iowa’s 1880 pharmacy law set standards for selling medicines and established separate roles for physicians (prescribing) and pharmacists (preparing and dispensing).

Pharmacy programs at public universities soon followed, most mandating two or three years of formal education. Iowa’s became only the fourth such program based at a state school.

PHOTO BY TOM JORGENSEN



Soul searching

Scientific, industrial, and social changes propelled pharmacy’s evolution through the 20th century. Degree programs kept pace, expanding to four, then five, years.

Iowa’s pharmacy program emerged as a pioneer. In 1938, the University established the first graduate program in hospital pharmacy. In the early 1960s, it introduced the Unit Dose System, which became a national model for centralized drug distribution in hospitals.

By the sixties, chemistry and manufacturing advances had revolutionized pharmaceutical development, and pharmacists found themselves largely distributing mass-produced drugs rather than formulating compounds behind the counter. The shift prompted some soul-searching for the profession.

“Early in my education, I remember being told not to discuss a drug or disease with a patient—that was the doctor’s job,” Letendre says. “But pharmacists soon realized we could and should do more.”

The resulting emphasis on direct patient care drives contemporary pharmacy education, especially at Iowa. Students frequently learn alongside peers from medicine and other fields, and practicing pharmacists commonly collaborate with fellow health professionals in hospitals, clinics, and communities.

“Pharmacists bring a world of knowledge that complements physicians’ knowledge,” Letendre says. “Our clinical practitioners and faculty are making collaborative practice the norm, and creating new models for other schools to follow.”

“Our alumni reflect what our college is all about,” he adds. “In their example, students see everything that’s possible.”

—Lin Larson

Beyond the old-time drugstore

Today’s Iowa students take on a rigorous training program much like medical or dental students, earning a Doctor of Pharmacy—or PharmD—that prepares them for practice in a host of settings. Many continue to work in pharmacies, but the proliferation of pharmacy chains has changed that practice, too.

“Our state is actually one of the last great bastions of independent pharmacies, with more than 200 across Iowa,” Letendre says. “They’re essential to the fabric of their communities—in some towns, the pharmacist may be the only primary care professional.”

Other grads have found opportunities throughout the pharmaceutical industry, in drug discovery, research, marketing, and management roles that once might have been held by physicians. This expansion has drawn students who may not have considered pharmacy in the past, including many more women.

Iowa’s College of Pharmacy has launched a sweeping overhaul of its curriculum, looking to new methods and technologies that stress teacher-student dialogue, hands-on practice, and self-directed learning. The goal: an even more adaptable and future-proof pool of graduates.

As part of its anniversary year, the college inaugurated the 1885 Society, an organization designed to foster alumni connections. Alumni also joined last fall’s White Coat Ceremony to officially induct the first-year pharmacy class. The 19th-century apprentice system may be long gone, but mentoring relationships between students and practitioners have never been more important, Letendre says.

“Our alumni reflect what our college is all about,” he adds. “In their example, students see everything that’s possible.”



Healing Through Harmony

Prison choir aims to help rehabilitate inmates

Six nights a week, inmates at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) in Coralville, Iowa, hear the same, monotonous sounds echoing through the correctional facility's halls. For 90 minutes every Tuesday, however, there is a break in the repetitious dings.

This is when community volunteers visit a group of prisoners for a choir rehearsal, allowing the inmates to escape into a world of choral harmony. Together, the two disparate sets unite as one musical team, the Oakdale Prison Community Choir.

The vocal group was created in February 2009 by Mary Cohen, UI assistant professor of music education, as a means to help the incarcerated population communicate with others through song; the project also is coordinated with graduate seminars in music education. Approximately 30 volunteers, including University students and faculty as well as local residents, participate with about 30 inmates. The result is a melodious blend of stability, support, and strength.

"Prison is extremely repetitive, possessing a lot of dehumanizing aspects," says Cohen, who holds a joint appointment in the UI Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts and Sciences. "This program gives them a chance to express themselves. Working together in a chorus alongside society allows them to convey those emotions through music—a human activity."

Finding a connection

The beginning of each rehearsal is marked with anxious anticipation. Choir members enter the room with wide smiles and bright eyes, and are seated by vocal part. Nametags are the only thing that distinguish the inmates from the volunteers.

After briefly reacquainting, the singers begin with a familiar piece, "Beauty Before Me," and then spend the remainder of the session practicing pieces for the group's next concert program. The choir always concludes with "May You Walk in Beauty." Individuals exchange good-byes, and the long wait for the next rehearsal begins.

Daniel Craig, IMCC warden, says he approved the choir for the quality rehabilitative possibilities it presented to inmate participants.

"Anytime we are able to provide opportunities for offenders to interact with members of the community, filling idle time, it is positive," says Craig. "Not only do the offenders learn an appreciation for the art of music, but they also learn social skills via positive role models as they relate through a common connection—music."

Changing perceptions

Cohen says that before the choir's first rehearsal, many volunteers expressed uneasiness about interacting with prisoners. Despite those early concerns, their intrepidness has created worthwhile results—and almost every volunteer's initial perceptions of inmates have switched to positive.

Rose Schmidt, a UI senior and music education major from Williamsburg, Iowa, joined the choir in January 2010 after learning about the program through Cohen. Because her impression of inmates was rooted in media portrayals—prisoners in orange jumpsuits, shackled together and possessing an incredible potential for violence—Schmidt admits she had some reservations. But she says the experience has facilitated her growth as a singer and as a person.

"The first time I went in I was nervous because of the barbed wire fence, the cameras constantly watching, and the huge, metal double doors," says Schmidt. "Once we began singing, I realized these people are just like everyone else, except they made a mistake, and I thought, 'Yes, they may have done something wrong, but they aren't doing anything wrong to me.'"

Creating hope

Participating in the choir has been a positive experience for the inmates, too. Ron, an inmate and choir member who requested his last name be withheld, says the choir gives everyone a feeling of value and creates a wonderful environment.

"There is a fear we all have, 'Will I be accepted when I get out?'" he says. "In the choir, people from the outside do accept us, and the cumulative effect of everyone's efforts ends in great joy."

Noting that 95 percent of all prisoners eventually will be released, Cohen says programs like the choir are pivotal in helping inmates transition back into society.

"It is time for U.S. citizens to think about prisoners as people," Cohen says, "and to consider more educational programs and activities behind bars that will heal the harm caused by criminal behavior, as the tenets of restorative justice suggest."

—Travis Varner

University Teams Up with Homeless Shelter to Create Community Choir

Volunteers in the UI community have partnered with residents and staff at the Shelter House in Iowa City to share a mutual love of singing.

"I wanted to start a choir for people who are homeless ever since I came to Iowa," says Mary Cohen, assistant professor of music education with a joint appointment in the UI Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts and Sciences. "This choir provides opportunities for all of us to broaden our social relationships."

Cohen says she believes the choir, which had 18 participants when it met for the first time in March, has the potential to build valuable bridges between different groups of people who otherwise might not have the chance to connect.

"Through my work with the Oakdale Prison Choir [see story on page 12], I have learned that bringing two disparate groups together to form one choir is a safe and easy way to build bridges and learn about one another," she says. "It can give both groups a sense of self-esteem."

There are a number of other successful partnerships between the University and Shelter House, including a weekly writing class facilitated by UI graduate students. Crissy Canganelli, Shelter House executive director, says these experiences are an important way to help raise awareness about homelessness and how everyone can make a difference.

"The Shelter Choir and growing partnerships with the University provide important opportunities to

break down a divisive belief system of 'the other,'" she says. "It is the false belief that people who are homeless are somehow fundamentally different than me and my family."

Canganelli says people often define themselves by their work, families, relationships, achievements, talents, joys, and sorrows.

"People residing at Shelter House are no different," she says. "The Shelter Choir allows people experiencing homelessness to recognize and affirm that homelessness does not define who they are in relationship to other people or this community, but a love of music and song can."

Computers Can Effectively Detect Diabetes-Related Eye Problems

People with diabetes have an increased risk of blindness, yet nearly half of the approximately 23 million Americans with diabetes do not get an annual eye exam to detect possible problems. But it appears that cost-effective computerized systems used to detect early eye problems related to diabetes can help meet the screening need, a UI analysis shows.

The Iowa team compared the ability of two sets of computer programs to detect possible eye problems in 16,670 people with diabetes. Each of the two programs (known as EyeCheck and Challenge 2009) are based on technology developed at the University, and the programs performed equally well.

The systems require a trained technician to use a digital camera to take pictures

of the retina, located inside the eye. The images are then transferred electronically to computers, which can automatically detect the small hemorrhages (internal bleeding) and signs of fluid that are hallmarks of diabetes damage.

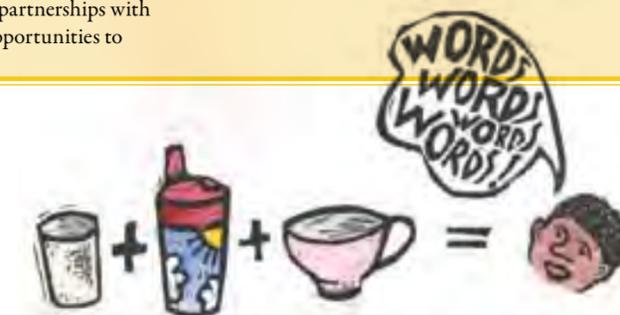
"The computerized programs are accurate and allow ophthalmologists to spend time on patients who actually need care and provide better care to those patients," explains Michael Abramoff, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the Carver College of Medicine and an ophthalmologist with UI Hospitals and Clinics. "Also, through this technology, people with diabetes can have an opportunity for screening that they might not otherwise have."

\$2 Million Gift to Further Research into Bipolar Disorders

A \$1 million gift from Iowa alumnus Roger L. Koch of North Miami, Fla., will spark pioneering interdisciplinary research into bipolar disorders at the UI College of Engineering. In addition, Koch made a second \$1 million gift to provide unrestricted support for the college's chemical and biochemical engineering department.

The new research fund will promote interdisciplinary research in bipolar disorders to discover the relationships of brain morphology, function, external stimuli, physiologic status of the body, and other influences on the onset, treatment, and prediction of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia events.

Koch earned bachelor's degrees from Iowa in 1973 and 1977 in general science and chemical engineering.



Exposure to More Diverse Objects Speeds Word Learning in Tots

Two toddlers are learning the word "cup." One sees three nearly identical cups; the other sees a tea cup, a sippy cup, and a Styrofoam cup. Chances are, the second child will have a better sense of what a cup is and—according to a new University of Iowa psychology study—may even have an advantage as he or she learns new words.

The research showed that 18-month-olds who played with a broader array of objects named by shape—for example, groups of bowls or buckets that were less similar in material, size, or features—learned new words twice as fast as those who played with more similar objects.

Outside the lab, one month after the training, tots who had been exposed to the diverse objects were learning an average of nearly 10 new words per week. Kids in the other group were picking up four a week—typical for children that age without any special training. Researchers aren't sure how long the accelerated learning continued for the variable group, but they can explain why it may have occurred.

All of the children given extra training with words figured out that shape was the most important distinguishing feature when learning to name solid objects. This attention to shape, called a "shape bias," is not typically seen until later in development. However, the researchers believe that kids exposed to more variety took the knowledge a step further, also learning when not to attend to shape. Tots in the variable group learned, for example, to focus on material rather than shape when hearing names for non-solid substances.

"Knowing where to direct their attention helps them learn words more quickly overall," says lead investigator Lynn Perry, a UI doctoral student in psychology. "The shape bias enhances vocabulary development because most of the words young kids learn early on are names of categories organized by similarity in shape. And, developing the ability to disregard shape for non-solids helps them learn words like pudding, Jell-O, or milk."

New Course Takes Aim at Student Veteran Dropout Rate

During a practicum at the Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), College of Education doctoral student Tamara Woods detected an emerging pattern of veterans returning to school only to drop out shortly thereafter. So she decided to take action.

Noting that student veterans often struggled with failing or poor grades due to issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, anxiety, sleep problems, chronic pain, and musculoskeletal problems, Woods collaborated with her mentor—Michael Hall, a VAMC neuropsychologist and adjunct faculty member in the Carver College of Medicine and the College of Education—to create a course titled Life After War: Post-Deployment Issues.

“Post-deployment issues are a common, natural reaction to the combat experience. They are not weaknesses,” Woods says. “Being surrounded by other comrades, veterans report an increased sense of security that allows them to better attend, focus, and concentrate on class material.”

The pair first offered the course on campus in fall 2010; in spring 2011, they expanded to include a satellite classroom in Des Moines via distance learning.

University to Build New Children’s Hospital

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, has approved plans for a new \$270 million, 371,600-square-foot University of Iowa Children’s Hospital. The facility will be located adjacent to UI Hospitals and Clinics, and also will encompass 56,250 square feet of renovated space in John Pappajohn Pavilion. The new UI Children’s Hospital tower will be built immediately south of Hospital Ramp II.

The eleven-story structure, with three levels below ground and eight above, will offer 195 beds, an increase from the 164 beds in the current UI Children’s Hospital; there also will be eight pediatric operating rooms.

Construction is targeted for completion in 2016. The project will be paid for with a combination of health care revenues, hospital bonding, and private gifts.

UI Energy Consumption Viewable Online

UI Facilities Management has a new online tool to monitor energy consumption and utility costs for campus buildings. The web-based dashboards (see tinyurl.com/energy-dashboards) provide real-time displays of energy consumption in all UI buildings connected to the campus utilities system.



The dashboards feed data from the UI Energy Control Center, which collects real-time data from more than 100,000 measurement and control points across campus. Part of an ambitious University goal to significantly reduce energy use overall and increase the percentage of energy derived from renewable energy sources, the center serves as a centralized location for the monitoring, analysis, and forecasting of energy supply and consumption.

This cutting-edge energy management software enables energy engineers to optimize the production and distribution of steam, electricity, and chilled water while reducing costs and energy use. The new technology also allows for better strategies in purchasing as well as provides trending tools for predictive maintenance and troubleshooting.



Scottish Highlanders Celebrate Anniversary with Reunion, Exhibit

For decades, a squad of bagpipe-bearing, kilt-clad University of Iowa students roused Hawkeye football fans, rubbed shoulders with celebrities, and routinely toured the United States and Europe. The UI Scottish Highlanders officially disbanded in 2008, but proud alumni are keeping their story alive.

In fall 2011, the University’s Karro Athletic Hall of Fame will unveil a permanent exhibit featuring Highlander uniforms and reproductions of three bass drum heads the group used to collect signatures from notables like Bob Hope, Art Linkletter, and President John F. Kennedy, as well as other memorabilia and historic info. The Highlanders also will mark the 75th anniversary of their founding with a Sept. 1–4 reunion on campus. The event coincides with the annual Fry Fest and the Iowa–Tennessee Tech football game. For more details, see www.iowalum.com/highlanders.

Former Highlanders have started a Facebook group and are building an alumni database. Past members who’d like to update their info can contact Heather (Adamson) Stockman at Tstockman@aol.com or 319-351-3614.

Hancher Resurrects UI President for Twitter Persona



The University of Iowa’s Hancher has launched a new official Twitter stream that will update followers on the organization’s news while paying homage to Virgil Hancher, the UI president from 1940 to 1964 and after whom the performing arts presenter is named. Users can follow @Virtual_Virgil on Twitter.com for the latest Hancher updates—or access it, along with the organization’s other social media efforts, via www.hancher.uiowa.edu.



Need Campus Info? There’s an App—or Two—for That

The University has launched UI Mobile, a smartphone application that provides users easy access to news and event headlines, campus maps, library services, course information, and even the status of residence hall laundry machines.

The app, currently available at m.uiowa.edu/app as a free download for Apple iOS or Android devices, is the latest mobile initiative led by UI Information Technology Services. Previous efforts focused on creating mobile web services available at m.uiowa.edu. The new app provides alternative ways to access these services.

Another new application for iPhones and iPads focuses on the writing tradition of The University of Iowa and Iowa City, a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature app—“City of Lit”—is available at cityofliteratureusa.org. It features information on the community’s rich literary history, highlighting authors and local sites of interest.



New Service Tracks Bus Locations in Real Time

Bus riders in the University of Iowa community now have a little extra boost to get them to the bus stop on time: technology.

Using an information system called Bus on the Go—or BONGO for short—the Iowa City, Coralville, and UI Cambus transit departments can provide real-time route and vehicle information via a smartphone, text message, web site, or telephone. A GPS transmitter on each bus sends a signal every 10 seconds that updates the latitude and longitude of the vehicle along its route, and relays that information online. Riders can check bus locations and expected arrival times using a handheld smart device or computer, requesting a text message with the information, or calling in.

Route updates also are posted to electronic signs in the Iowa Memorial Union and other heavy foot traffic areas, and more signs will be added across campus in the future. For more information, see www.ebongo.org.



Steads Commit \$10 Million for Children’s Medicine, Cochair Fund-Raising Campaign for UI Health Care

A multifaceted \$10 million gift commitment from Jerre (BBA ’65) and Mary Joy Stead of Scottsdale, Ariz., will advance children’s medicine at Iowa by creating endowed faculty positions, supporting

research and staff excellence initiatives, and funding innovative support services for patients and their families.

The gift from the Steads, natives of Maquoketa, Iowa, will be used by staff at UI Children’s Hospital and by faculty and researchers in the Department of Pediatrics in the Carver College of Medicine to improve patient treatments and increase understanding of how pediatric diseases can be combated.

Also, the Steads are serving as cochairs of “Iowa First: Our Campaign for Breakthrough Medicine,” a \$500 million, seven-year fund-raising campaign launched in May for University of Iowa Health Care, which includes the Carver College of Medicine and UI Hospitals and Clinics.



Advocacy Network Gives Alumni a Voice

Help spread good news about The University of Iowa by participating in the Hawkeye Caucus.

The Hawkeye Caucus is an advocacy network for University alumni and friends in which they help share the University’s goals with state legislators. Members sign up to receive regular e-mail updates filled with timely information that can empower them to advocate on behalf of the University.

Join with Hawkeyes across the state—and the nation—in raising your voice to support The University of Iowa. For more information, see www.iowalum.com/advocate/form.cfm or check out www.facebook.com/UIHawkeyeCaucus or @hawkeyecaucus on Twitter.

Making Copy—page 1

Students start literary magazine about all things obsolete

Caucus Clout—page 4-5

Does Iowa have too much power in the nominating process?

A Legacy in Literature—pages 8-9

Iowa Writers' Workshop celebrates 75th anniversary

Anticipating Alcoholism—page 10

Professor studies teens' brains to predict potential disease

More Than Counting Capsules—page 11

Pharmacy education has evolved in its 125 years on campus

Soothing Soul Through Song—page 12

Oakdale Prison Choir aims to help inmates rehabilitate

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page 12



pages 8-9



page 10



page 6

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What's in a Name?

In an area near Selma, Iowa, that is believed to have housed the last large village of the loway Indian tribe in the state, volunteers sifted through soil last November to search for artifacts.

The University of Iowa's Office of the State Archaeologist received a grant to study the site—home to up to 1,000 people between 1765 and 1820—and determine how best to preserve it.

By analyzing results from the dig, which included a geophysical survey, metal detecting, surface collection, auger testing, and soil coring, researchers hope to learn more about the State of Iowa's namesake.



PHOTO BY KIRK MURRAY