



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA

# Spectator

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▲ First-year students participated in an *On Iowa!* kickoff event at Kinnick Stadium, posing for a class portrait in a massive block I formation.



▲ In what's become a campus tradition, UI President Sally Mason hosted a block party at her place.



▲ *On Iowa!* was all about having fun, making connections, and building school spirit.



◀ More than 2,500 students rocked Hubbard Park during a concert by DJ team White Panda, delivered exclusively for first-year Hawkeyes.

▶ Herky welcomed a fireworks display at Kinnick — a stadium first.



# ON IOWA!

*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.

## For the Record

**“We wanted to do something really different.”**

**Jodi Schafer**, director of MBA admissions and financial aid in the Tippie College of Business, noting that because highly edited application essays weren't always getting at what made an applicant unique and exceptional, the school offered a \$37,000 MBA scholarship to the best application tweet — an online Twitter post no longer than 140 characters (MSNBC, July 13).

**“Both her parents were Muggles, but the stories show how you could have two Muggles who — surprise! — make a wizard.”**

**Martha Driessnack**, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, tracing the recessive genes of the fictional character Hermione to show how the Harry Potter books can help explain complex ideas about genetics (*Los Angeles Times*, July 16).

**“Yes, there are skeptics, but among individuals with actual knowledge about radon — the skeptics are few.”**

**R. William Field**, a professor of occupational and environmental health in the College of Public Health who oversaw the most comprehensive residential radon study ever performed, reflecting on the skepticism that first met radon regulation (*Tahoe Daily Tribune*, July 20).

**“Where you go matters less than how you do it and who you are with.”**

**David Gould**, a lecturer in leisure studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, offering practical advice on vacation planning, especially if an elaborate trip would break the bank (*ABC News*, July 26).

**“Journey is the ultimate embodiment of the people's rock band. Their songs were and continue to be the theme music of many a high school prom because they capture that spirit of melodramatic hope and angst one feels as a young person growing up into an adult world that does not make sense.”**

**Steve Horowitz**, an adjunct assistant professor of American studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who teaches an online course called Rock and Roll in America, and a staff writer for Popmatters.com, explaining why the band Journey's imprint on popular culture will not be forgotten (*Today*, July 29).

**“A lot of college students want to give it a try for themselves before they ask for any help and have that stigma attached to them.”**

**Jim Stachowiak**, associate director of the UI Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research, observing that discreet online programs and assistive tools that are accessible via smartphones have been a welcomed development for many students with disabilities (*eCampus News*, Aug. 3).

**“As for Mitt, I wouldn't quite say he's toast, but I don't see him winning the caucuses.”**

**Tim Hagle**, associate 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 poor showing at the Iowa Straw Poll (*Iowa Independent*, Aug. 15).

## The University of Iowa Heads to Jupiter — Again



When NASA's Juno spacecraft began a five-year journey to Jupiter in August, it took a little piece of the University of Iowa with it.

One of nine experiments onboard, an Iowa-designed-and-built radio and plasma wave instrument will examine a variety of phenomena within Jupiter's polar magnetosphere and its auroras when the device arrives at the planet in July 2016. The spacecraft will orbit Jupiter some 33 times in 12 months before descending into the planet's atmosphere.

Bill Kurth, UI research scientist and lead investigator for the Juno Waves instrument, says the Iowa experiment provides an opportunity to explore the solar system's most powerful auroras — Jupiter's northern and southern

lights — by flying directly through the electrical current systems that generate the auroras and radio waves.

The Juno Waves instrument will be the seventh UI instrument to make the trek to Jupiter. Previous UI instruments were carried aboard Pioneers 10 and 11, Voyagers 1 and 2, Galileo, and Cassini, currently in orbit around Saturn.

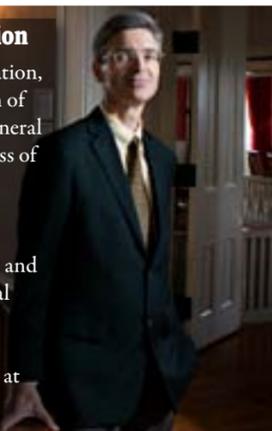
## Butler Selected for University of Iowa's Top Academic Position

Barry Butler, former dean of the UI College of Engineering, was named executive vice president and provost in May. He had served in the role on an interim basis since November 2010, shortly after Wallace Loh resigned to become president of the University of Maryland, and was one of three finalists for the position.

As provost, Butler oversees more than 100 academic programs in the university's 11 colleges, the

Division of Continuing Education, UI Libraries, and the Museum of Art, and is responsible for a general education fund budget in excess of \$440 million.

Butler, also a professor of mechanical and industrial engineering, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical engineering and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, all from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



## Course on Caucus Coverage Offers Real-World Experience to Student Journalists

The course description for Caucus Campaign Coverage reads, “Welcome to the Big Leagues,” and it's an accurate portrayal, given the real-world experience reporters-in-training at Iowa will gain this fall as the state prepares for the 2012 caucuses.

Offered by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to graduate and advanced undergraduate students, the class will produce print and video packages, live blog, tweet, and analyze news coverage of the campaigns.

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

“We don't want students to just regurgitate speeches. Anyone with a recorder can do that,” says Stephen Berry, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who is teaching the course with fellow UI journalism professor Jane Singer, an expert in new media. “We'll have fact-checking assignments to take a deeper look at statements made by candidates.”

The best in-depth work will appear on IowaWatch.org, an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that publishes investigative and explanatory reports.

## Business Professor Helps Design Fantasy Football App

As the fall semester got under way and NFL fans turned their attention to fantasy football, some got a little help from a UI business professor as they drafted their teams.

Jeffrey Ohlmann, professor of management sciences in the Tippie College of Business, co-developed an application for iPhones, iPods, and iPads called DraftOpt. The app works by analyzing previous draft picks to project how the draft will unfold; by simulating thousands of scenarios, it identifies the players to select to increase a fantasy team owner's chances of winning his or her league.

Ohlmann and his colleagues — UI postdoctoral fellow Matt Gibson and University of Cincinnati professor Mike Fry — also developed an app for fantasy baseball, and they have plans to roll out versions of DraftOpt for additional sports and platforms.

## Prestigious Poetry Post Goes to Workshop Alum

Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Levine — whose work addresses the joys and sufferings of industrial life — was appointed in August as the 18th U.S. Poet Laureate.

Levine succeeds W.S. Merwin, and a number of previous U.S. Poets Laureate with ties to the workshop as visiting lecturers or students, including Louise Glück, Robert Hass, Rita Dove, and Mark Strand.

Levine came to the University of Iowa in 1953 to teach part-time and attend the Writers' Workshop, where he studied alongside poets Robert Lowell and John Berryman. The poems and connections Levine forged in Iowa earned him a fellowship at Stanford University, which led in 1958 to a job at Fresno State, where he taught literature and writing for more than 30 years.

His books include *On the Edge, Not This Pig, What Work Is, Ashes: Poems New and Old, 7 Years from Somewhere, The Names of the Lost*, and the Pulitzer-winning collection *The Simple Truth*.



## Record Number of Contributors Helps Boost UI Coffers

Gifts and gift commitments made to the UI Foundation and the University of Iowa approached record levels in fiscal year 2011, with \$213.9 million contributed by private donors — an increase of 12.2 percent over the amount raised during the previous fiscal year.

The fundraising total ranks second only to the \$227 million received in 2005. A new record number of contributors, 74,591, made gifts to the UI Foundation, and the 123,487 gifts those donors made constituted the second-highest number of gifts in a year in the foundation's history.

Just over a third of the fiscal 2011 giving, 34 percent, came from alumni. Non-alumni provided nearly a quarter of the giving at 23 percent, and the remaining 43 percent came from corporations, foundations, and other organizations. Giving overall in fiscal 2011 was designated by donors in the following proportions: programs (including research funds), 56.9 percent; student support, 18.2 percent; faculty support, 14.2 percent; facilities, 10.2 percent; and unrestricted, 0.5 percent.

The university acknowledges the UI Foundation as the preferred channel for private contributions that benefit all areas of the university.

## It's Hawkeyes Versus Huskers on the Gridiron — and on Facebook

Have you voted yet? The University of Iowa and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are competing to see which school can attract the most fans on its institutional Facebook page by the time the Hawkeyes and Huskers football teams meet on the field in Lincoln on Nov. 25. You can help boost Iowa's odds by “liking” it on Facebook.

What started out as an informal challenge via a Facebook post from the UI to UNL has been dubbed “The Race to Black Friday.” The rules are simple: whichever school has the most “likes” on its page by kickoff of the Heroes Game wins. The goal for both schools is to grow their audiences on Facebook and to create a more interactive environment on the world's most popular social media platform. But the Race to Black Friday also serves as a welcome to Nebraska, which is in its first year in the Big Ten Conference.

To learn more, see [www.facebook.com/universityofiowa](http://www.facebook.com/universityofiowa).



## UI Researchers Help 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 developed 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 down, the animals failed to step up their breathing in response to increased carbon dioxide levels in the air, and their body temperatures 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 were able to turn down the serotonin levels in the mice using a new genetic technique in which receptors were inserted into serotonin neurons in the brain, and those receptors were activated with a drug given while the animals were awake. Techniques used previously were more invasive and didn't produce clear results, says George Richerson, professor and head of neurology in the UI Carver College of Medicine, who led the Iowa portion of the research team.

The new approach is a much better tool for studying the portions of the brain that control breathing and body temperature. That may help researchers learn more about the possible causes of SIDS — as well as a large variety of neurological and psychiatric disorders, including depression, panic disorder, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and epilepsy.

## We're Sorry for Our Spectator Slipup

You may have noticed something fishy with our last mailing in May — perhaps it was sent to an old address, or to a loved one no longer with us, or to a child you thought had left the nest long ago.

That's because we messed up by sending *Spectator* to an outdated mailing list. We still don't know how it happened, as these lists are deleted immediately after each mailing and new ones are generated each time we go to press. But mistakes do happen, and we sincerely apologize for the error — and any inconveniences or hurt feelings it may have caused.

Rest assured that the UI Alumni Association likely has your most recent contact information. You can submit updates online at [www.iowalum.com/update](http://www.iowalum.com/update), or e-mail [alumni-records@uiowa.edu](mailto:alumni-records@uiowa.edu) if you have questions.

Please feel free to direct any additional questions, suggestions, concerns, rants, or praise to the *Spectator* editor by e-mailing [spectator@uiowa.edu](mailto:spectator@uiowa.edu), calling 319-384-0045, or sending snail mail to *Spectator*, University Communication and Marketing, 300 PCO, Suite 370, Iowa City, IA 52242-2500. We'd love to hear from you.



*Times are as trying as ever, it seems. Since Sally Mason joined the University of Iowa as president in 2007, she has led the campus through a number of challenges — including an economic recession and major flood damage — while also focusing on keeping undergraduate education affordable and of high quality. President Mason recently sat down with Spectator to address questions about the university in 2011–12 and beyond.*

# From Flood Recovery to Farmageddon

*President Sally Mason offers perspectives on prominent issues*

## What are your priorities for the current academic year?

I'm starting to sound like a broken record, but there are two big things: flood recovery and the budget. Although we still have quite a ways to go on the former, 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 rebuilding Hancher Auditorium come about.

Regarding the latter, we need to stay on a good, stable budgetary footing. The economy is starting to show signs of moderate recovery, which is good, but I'm hoping we can do some better planning for the future like adding back faculty positions. We're growing our student body nicely, but we've got to be able to grow the faculty to match.

## With another record first-year class this fall — Iowa welcomed 4,565 first-year students — how will the university be able to keep tuition affordable?

Theoretically, the more students we take, the easier it should be to keep tuition down. But with more students, expenses go up. We've got to make sure our students have

the classes they need in their respective majors to graduate in a timely fashion, and to do that we need more teaching staff. So it isn't just tuition — we'll always work hard to keep tuition 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 we're 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 approaching \$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 instructional staffing that we need to be certain that our students are well served and that they can succeed.

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

I don't kid myself to think that students will simply stop drinking or engaging in some of the more risky behaviors that involve drinking. But I do 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 disappeared as well. Obviously, we have to

help the City of Iowa City rethink what our downtown could look like and be, and also convince our students that there is appealing activity downtown that doesn't necessarily involve drinking. So, I think passing the 21-only ordinance was good first step, but it's going to take some time before we know the overall effects it will have on our community as a whole.

## This year we welcome the University of Nebraska to the Big Ten Conference. What will the Cornhuskers add to the conference — and to Iowa's schedule?

Farmageddon! Talk about rivalry games to cap a season — the Iowa–Nebraska contest will be spectacular from now on. I think adding Nebraska to the Big Ten is great because it allows us to have a playoff for conference champion during the football season. Stay tuned. I think we're going to see some pretty fabulous football.

## Is there anything else you'd like to address?

The new rec center, which opened in 2010, is just spectacular and has exceeded all expectations in terms of usage, and I think we're in for another exciting year: the new College of Public Health building will be coming on board, and we're making substantial investments in the library to make it a learning commons for students. All that, including the new high-tech TILE classrooms [spaces to Transform, Interact, Learn, Engage] we've been building all across campus, is really transforming the way we do our business.

—Sara Epstein Moninger

# Dramatic Discovery

*UI archaeologists unearth oldest human remains ever found in the state*

University archaeologists will be able to piece together what life was like in Iowa nearly 7,000 years ago, thanks to an unexpected discovery made during a routine excavation of a site in Des Moines.

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), based on the UI campus, confirmed in August that the exceptionally well-preserved site contains what are among the oldest-known structures and human remains ever discovered in the state. At the site were the remnants of four oval-shaped deposits, possibly houses, as large as 800 square feet and furnished with hearths. These structures were likely built of wooden poles sealed with clay. The field crew named the site “the Palace,” because of its size and preservation quality. Two partial skeletons were unexpectedly found late in the project; the remains of a woman and an infant are the oldest human remains found in the state by about 1,500 years.

“It became clear very quickly that the site was something spectacular — something none of us had seen before or probably will ever again, as well-preserved house deposits of this age are extremely rare west of the Mississippi River valley,” says Bill Whittaker, an OSA archaeologist who codirected the dig with OSA general contracts program director Melody Pope.

The OSA was contracted to excavate the site, found within the future location of a wastewater treatment facility in southeast Des Moines. The office routinely conducts such excavations on behalf of project applicants complying with state and federal laws.

The excavation took place from December 2010 to May 2011. The crew collected more than 6,000 artifacts and used laser technology to map more than 12,000 archaeological data points, which will allow them to develop 3-D representations of the Palace site with computer modeling software.

“We don't get many opportunities to see deeply buried,



well-preserved sites of this size,” Pope says. “This discovery will provide important clues about what the living environment was like 7,000 years ago. It's truly a treasure that will help us understand how the early people of Iowa made a living, what they ate, which technologies they had developed, and how they interacted as a community, especially their use of space and village organization.”

Archaeologists worked through winter, thawing the ground with heated blankets and keeping warm inside makeshift tents with propane heaters even as construction proceeded around them. By the end of May, OSA had completed excavation of the core of the site, which will be destroyed by construction of the \$38 million wastewater facility slated to open in 2013.

In late March, as part of planned sampling near the southeast margin of the site, the crew unexpectedly discovered a grave 7 feet below the surface. Researchers haven't determined the family relationship of the deceased, but preliminary analysis — including a radiocarbon date calculation based on wood charcoal from the burial feature — indicates that the individuals died 6,680 to 6,890 years ago.

The grave had been disturbed by erosion at some point after interment — long before modern construction activities began at the site. Systematic exploratory excavation of the surrounding area identified no additional burials.

Red ochre, a powdered mineral used by ancient cultures worldwide, was abundant, covering the remains. A spear point found beneath the woman's lower back appears to have been intentionally placed there during burial. Also found in the grave were a small polished stone, a flint chip from stone tool making, and wood charcoal.

The OSA Burial Protection Program is legally responsible for investigating, preserving, and reintering ancient human remains. Since Iowa's burial protection law passed in 1976, the program has handled over 2,000 projects in 98 of Iowa's 99 counties. Removal and reburial of the human remains found at the Palace site is taking place in consultation with descendant American Indian peoples and members of the OSA Indian Advisory Council, and in accordance with state and federal laws.

—Nicole Riehl

## University Attracts \$456.6 Million in External Funds

Despite a significant downturn in overall federal funding for research, UI grant and contract funding has remained remarkably steady, with a total of \$456.6 million received in fiscal year 2011.

The number marks the university's second-highest yearly total ever — just 2.2 percent below the record total of \$466.5 million received in 2010 — and the 10th consecutive year that UI funding exceeded one-third of a billion dollars.

The decline seen at Iowa and across the country was largely due to reduced levels of research funding associated with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds received, which totaled \$40.8 million for the university in fiscal year 2010 and declined to \$33.3 million this past year.

One strategy UI officials are employing to ensure the university's competitiveness for future funding is hiring interdisciplinary “clusters” of faculty focused on research and scholarship that are well aligned with state and national funding priorities.

“Deans are actively recruiting in the strategic cluster areas of water sustainability, the aging mind and brain, digital public humanities, genetics, and obesity,” says UI President Sally Mason. “All of these areas represent emerging and growing areas of research inquiry and education that address societal issues of national significance.”



# Vaccine Vetting

*UI researchers gaining ground in prostate cancer fight*

Here's a stat: 80 to 90 percent of men at autopsy show evidence of existing prostate cancer that never was diagnosed.

So, for most of us, it's a matter of when, not if, our lives will be touched by the disease that will kill close to 35,000 men in the United States this year. Whether it's voice of the Hawkeyes Gary Dolphin or your brother Bill or Uncle Ned, there is no hiding from the fact that one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death in American men behind only cancer of the lungs.

Enter David Lubaroff, professor of urology and microbiology in the Carver College of Medicine and associate director of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

Lubaroff and a team of UI researchers for the past decade have been engaged in a clinical trial developing a vaccine immunotherapy that could be a game-changer for prostate cancer patients. Midway through Phase II of the trial, during which they test to see whether the product has any clinical benefit, results are promising.

"We still don't see any serious side effects," Lubaroff says. "Matter of fact, we're seeing fewer side effects in Phase II than we saw in Phase I (when patients received a single injection to test dosage, as opposed to three injections in Phase II).

"We're studying immune response. We're studying clinical benefits. And we hope by the time we're finished we'll have an idea of whether the vaccine is going to have a benefit."

Here's how it works:

- An antigen is an invader of the body, something that normally triggers an immune response that neutralizes the invasion.
- Prostate Specific Antigen, or PSA, doesn't trigger an immune response, since both normal and prostate cancer cells produce PSA. Elevated levels of PSA, however, can indicate the presence of prostate cancer cells.
- Lubaroff's team developed a vaccine that would combat prostate cancer cells and engineered it with adenovirus, the virus associated with the common cold.

They first tested the vaccine in mice, finding a significant benefit — a 70 percent survival rate, tumor free.

**"Vaccine immunotherapy for cancer is groundbreaking."**

**Professor David Lubaroff**

The question going in, Lubaroff says, was "Could we immunize mice with this adenovirus PSA vaccine and would they generate strong anti-PSA immune responses?"

"The answer to that, overwhelmingly, was yes," he continues. "If so, would those immune responses cause the destruction of PSA-secreting tumor cells? And the answer to that also was yes."

A decade later, Lubaroff and his team are on the cusp of a breakthrough that would, at the very least, provide an alternative to the lone FDA-approved prostate cancer immunotherapy, Provenge, which carries a \$93,000 price tag and extends a patient's life by only four to four-and-a-half months, or about the same as chemotherapy.

"It's good for the field because it demonstrates that this type of approach — immunotherapy — can be successful," Lubaroff says of Provenge. "There is some criticism by some people around the country, because four-and-a-half months is not significant, unless you're the patient, and it's very expensive.

"Vaccine immunotherapy for cancer is groundbreaking. What will end up being truly groundbreaking is the first one that proves a prolonged clinical benefit, a prolonged survival rate. Whether it'll be ours, I don't know. I'd like to think so, but that's why we're doing Phase II, to let us know if Phase III is warranted."

Phase III is a massive undertaking, and it is very expensive. It will be multi-institutional with hundreds of patients. Right now, Lubaroff is working on the tail end of a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, and he just applied for an extension with funding that should carry the trial through the end of Phase II. To move beyond that, "you either have to find a venture capitalist to fund it and form your own company, or you have to license it to a big pharmaceutical company," Lubaroff says.

For now, the vaccine appears to be working, and that has Lubaroff very excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

"It's doing what it's supposed to do," Lubaroff says. "It's generating immune responses in the patients like it did in the mice, and there is some preliminary indication that it might be slowing the growth of the tumors."

—Eric Page

## 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 lungs.
- 80 to 90 percent of men at autopsy show evidence of existing prostate cancer that has gone undiagnosed.

What you should do:

- Get tested in your 40s to establish a baseline PSA.
- Get screened annually starting at age 50, or starting at 40 if there is a first-degree family member who has had prostate cancer or if you're African-American.

If you're diagnosed:

- Seek advice. There are a number of prostate cancer support groups available, one example being Us TOO (see [www.ustoo.org](http://www.ustoo.org)).
- Talk to survivors about the pros and cons of various treatments, and choose the one that is best for you and your lifestyle.



# Lifelong Learner

## 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 plunging into her new role.*

*Coming from New York City, where she served as professor and chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Teachers College, Columbia University, Crocco sought opportunities to connect with Iowans 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 Faculty Engagement Corps.*

*Since arriving on campus, Crocco has reached out to UI faculty, 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 have seven younger brothers and sisters. Growing up as the oldest of eight, I often helped Mom and Dad out with the gang. We are a family of readers intensely committed 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 twin passions of history and education. Many of us who love education are interested in the growth and development of other human beings.

I'm also interested in writing, English, art, and art history. A whole variety of things shaped my fundamental desire to be a lifelong learner.

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

My vision is to contribute our faculty's excellence in teaching, research, and service to the state of Iowa, the nation, and the world. A part of this vision is to make more visible all the good work that goes on here, 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 I very much want 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 great scrutiny in the overall process of improving education nationwide in the face of global challenges. I do 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? Who are we admitting, and what are we doing while they are there?"

We need to rely on research to analyze our approach to teacher preparation and the preparation of future professors. 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 in your field over the past three decades?

Two big changes have been the role of accreditation in higher education and the international context of higher education work. Both of these factors are reshaping 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 enjoy working with other people, if you want to make a difference in the world, if you welcome challenges, then you should consider work in the many fields of education. One thing that is often not widely understood is that education is a lifelong enterprise and extends beyond formal schooling.

At 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 offer 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.

—Lois J. Gray



Looking north on Dubuque Street toward the end of the 19th century. The peaked roof in the distance is Close Hall, located on the northwest 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.

# Campus Then ... and Now

*Re-creating scenes captured by Kent's lens*



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. 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](http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu).

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 west on Washington Street at Clinton Street, between 1945 and 1950. Businesses to 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 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 1880 and razed by 1923. It was known as the Boiler House, the West Building, and — in 1905 — the Hall of Electrical Engineering.



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.



## UI staff member recalls grim day in University of Iowa history

It had been overcast and threatening all day on Friday, Nov. 1, 1991. The forecast called for rain changing to freezing rain in the afternoon. I 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 beat the weather. I lived 12 miles out of town and decided to split for home about 4 p.m. when ice started to accumulate on the windows of our offices 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 somewhere on campus, and the shooter was still at large.

"Stay away from the windows! Lock the doors!" We didn't have to be told twice. A colleague, Gary Galluzzo, turned on his transistor radio, but the reports were incoherent. There had been shots fired. People had been hit. We didn't know where the shootings had taken place, how many people were hurt, or how badly they were injured.

Word of shootings on the UI campus spread very quickly, but details were sparse. As we were to learn, in a situation like this, official information tends to come out in dribs and drabs. Rumors are conflated with fact, facts get mistranslated, errors must be corrected, officials become cautious. In an information vacuum, people freak out. The people who freaked out the most were parents.

In 1991, there were no cellphones, no texting. There was no Internet, no email. In our News Services offices, there was a total of five phone lines shared by a staff of about 30. If you wanted to make a call, you picked up the receiver, punched an unlit button, and dialed. All the calls into and out of the building traveled via one of

those lines. It was the same way all across the university. When the word got out about the shootings, thousands of frantic parents started calling to see if their kids were OK. The volume of calls overwhelmed the Iowa City phone grid.

Even though our offices were only a few blocks from Jessup Hall, for two hours we were as clueless as everyone else. With the bosses gone, there was no one in charge. Our boss's boss, Ann Rhodes, vice president for university relations at the time, was huddled with law enforcement and UI officials trying to make sense of the chaos. We all wanted to *do* something but there was nothing to do but wait.

About 6 p.m., a call came from Jessup asking us to put together bios of the victims. It was then that the scale of the horror hit home: three physics professors, an administrator, a graduate student, and the shooter were dead. A student office worker had what turned out to be permanent injuries.

Galluzzo, who covered engineering and science for News Services, headed off to the physics building to get the CVs of the dead professors. Somehow he talked his way past the police line and into the departmental files. While he was gone, we combed the photo archives for pictures.

Reporters from national media desks in Chicago couldn't make it to Iowa City because of the icy roads. When Rhodes announced there would be a news conference at the Old Public Library, the place started filling up

with people hungry to find out what had happened. Every light on the phones was constantly lit; if one went out, it immediately flashed back on as someone stabbed the button to get an open line.

About 7 p.m., Rhodes arrived for the news conference. Her composure and grace under incredible pressure were remarkable. She laid out a detailed account of how events had unfolded, sticking to the facts as she knew them and refusing to speculate on the motive of the shooter. After taking dozens of questions, she ended the briefing by promising to return with more information.

As soon as the news conference was over, the place exploded. People pushed and shoved to get at a phone. It was bedlam. At one point, someone yelled, "The *New York Times* is on line three ... they want to talk to anyone who can file a story with them." The offer was quickly snatched by a kid from the *Daily Iowan*.

Nov. 1, 1991, was the day the University of Iowa lost its innocence. Even though 20 years have gone by since that horrible day, the memories will be seared on my brain as long as I live.



Steve Maravetz came to the University of Iowa in August 1991 as an associate editor covering the Colleges of Law and Business for University News Services. In his current position as director of new media for University of Iowa Health Care, he is responsible for the web, design, photography, and video units that serve UI Hospitals and Clinics and the Carver College of Medicine.

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 eastside residence halls to the Pentacrest and at one time accommodated vehicles as part of Capitol Street. The popular walkway, 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.

### 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, Gang Lu, had recently received a Ph.D. in physics, and was disappointed when another graduate student won a prestigious dissertation prize he felt he should have received. He began the rampage during an afternoon physics department meeting in Van Allen Hall, targeting two of his professors as well as the prizewinner. He then sought out the department chair before heading west to Jessup Hall, where he fatally wounded the associate vice president for academic affairs, injured a student employee, and committed suicide.

#### The victims were:



T. Anne Cleary, associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of education



Christoph Goertz, professor of physics and astronomy



Dwight Nicholson, professor and chair of physics and astronomy



Linhua Shan, recent recipient of a doctorate in physics



Robert A. Smith, associate professor of physics and astronomy



Miya Rodolfo-Sioson, student employee who was seriously wounded

# Book Smarts

## UI experts eye advantages of booming e-book industry

Amazon sells three times as many e-books as it did a year ago, and in May 2011 its e-book sales surpassed those of the printed book. As prices drop and emerging technology brings new features, the popularity of e-books continues to rise.

Some people wonder, however, whether electronic reading will short-circuit our senses or limit our concentration. UI experts on books and contemporary reading culture hold a range of opinions on e-books — some say that books lose their essence in translation to e-books, while others argue that the new medium transforms the writer-reader relationship, more than compensating for potential loss of fidelity.

But rather than pick a winner between print and electronic, many view e-books as part of the lineage of written expression. While they acknowledge that the electronic format offers some advantages, they remain confident that e-books will never cannibalize printed books. Matthew P. Brown, director of the UI Center for the Book, believes it is the rich history of the written word that will drive the future of the book.

"The design of e-books will be influenced by designers who have a thorough knowledge of the history and the use of books," he says. "When we think of how books are used, we tend to think of how a novel is usually read, from cover to cover. However, most of the reading we do involves dipping in and out of text. Skimming and surfing have a long history. The indexes and concordances developed centuries ago are evidence of this. These were the first search engines."

A typical e-reader device offers portable, searchable access to at least a thousand books. That means reading materials can reach more people, notes Christopher Merrill, director of the UI International Writing Program.

"In earlier centuries, pamphlets were written, printed, and distributed to small audiences in specific cities. Now we can do that for audiences around the world," says Merrill, adding that our reading habits also have changed. "When I was a student, I occasionally read with the stereo on, whereas today's students have grown up accustomed to reading on-screen with e-mail popping up and the TV on. Chaucer had a library of only 40 books. Compare

that experience with having access to hundreds of thousands of book titles that can be instantly delivered."

James McCoy, director of the University of Iowa Press, sees the current e-book climate as a great opportunity for small presses. With such rapidly changing technology, the playing field is level for small and large publishers alike.

"Writers, editors, and publishers are currently reacting to e-book technology, which is being developed by IT companies. It will be our [the publishers'] responsibility to have a say in what e-books become," he says. "Our technical resources are limited. Even the largest publishers can't compete with Google or Apple on the engineering and development front, but we have to leverage the importance of our content to have a say in how e-books evolve."

From a leisure studies perspective, David Gould, UI adjunct lecturer in health and human physiology, looks at time Americans spend working versus time spent immersed in a book. He thinks e-books could help equilibrate work-life balance.

"We are an overworked society. We're missing the rich experiences of spending time with a book. Reading a book involves a commitment of time. Will e-books be a more rich form? Will there be more people reading? No one knows for sure," says Gould, who also is academic coordinator of the Interdepartmental Studies Program in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "However, e-books are instantly available. You don't have to go to the store, wait for the book to be in stock, or wait for it to come in the mail. If a book is instantly available and comes in a very pleasing visual form, why wouldn't you choose it?"

Ultimately, Merrill sees a place for both printed and electronic books.

"I hope that the deep reading experiences that lead to transformations will, in some fashion, continue. I believe they will," he says. "For those who can see what happens when different art forms, different media bump up against one another, this is an incredible environment in which to work. At its best, e-books will make for extraordinarily rich experiences."

—Jennifer Masada

For a more in-depth look at e-books and their influence on reading and literature, visit [www.grad.uiowa.edu/profiles/ebooks-ready-or-not-here-they-come](http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/profiles/ebooks-ready-or-not-here-they-come).



# The Power of Preservation

## Alumna archivist helps war-torn nations build paths to progress

A career in processing archives might not leap to mind when one is considering professional work in the area of human rights,

but Trudy Huskamp 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, documentation 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 to teach others to care for them. Her work has paired her with the United Nations, the U.S. National Archives, Open Society Archives, and many other organizations, and has taken her around the globe — from the United States and Latin America to Africa and Europe.

For these efforts, Peterson has received the University of Iowa's 2011 International Impact Award, which was established by UI International Programs in 2010 to recognize distinguished alumni who have made important contributions internationally.

"It's heartening that doing work in human rights deserves an award," Peterson states. "When you're doing a job for years, 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 in the justice sector, such as courts, police, and truth 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 hold people accountable for past crimes, to review officials who served in the past to see if they are suitable to serve in the new government, to reveal the truth about what happened during the years of repression, and to provide reparations to those who suffered. In each of these cases, documents are crucial.

"Without documentation, you can't live. There is no proof of who you are, what school you went to, how much property you own, etc.," says Peterson, who offers freelance services ranging from training people in archival work to advising organizations

on policies related to archives. "Everyone has a trail of documentation, and when it's destroyed, people can lose the right to return to their home country or the ability to make claims that they had civil and political rights."

One of the most interesting projects Peterson undertook was training a team in Guatemala to organize and describe police records from the period of that nation's civil war, a conflict that lasted from 1960 to 1996. She spent three years visiting the team repeatedly, reviewing work and providing additional support for the archival processes. These police records now are being used in prosecutions; a recent case that resulted in the conviction of two police officers tied to the disappearance of a labor leader used more than 650 documents from the police archives. A documentary film, *La Isla — Archives of a Tragedy*, 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 to that end she visits the University of Iowa each spring to guest lecture on archival topics.

The Estherville, Iowa, 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 1,000 manuscript collections that chronicle the lives and activities of Iowa women.

"There are very few archives like this in the nation," Peterson says. "It's an extremely unique institution 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 will present it to Peterson in a public ceremony during International Education Week in November.

—Brittany Caplin

For more information about Trudy Huskamp Peterson, go to [trudypeterson.com](http://trudypeterson.com).

For more information about the university's International Impact Award, see [international.uiowa.edu/outreach/community/impact-award.asp](http://international.uiowa.edu/outreach/community/impact-award.asp).

### What exactly is an archivist?

According to the International Council on Archives, archives are the documents created or received and accumulated by a person or organization in the course of the conduct of business and preserved because of their continuing value. An archivist selects and preserves the documents to be saved (e.g., email, photographs, databases, or letters) and describes them so people will know what the archives hold and how to gain access to them.



# Comics and Culture

## UI scholars take a new look at 'sequential art'

Corey Creekmur sometimes opens his comics class with a text that might seem odd even to comics aficionados: *Nancy* newspaper strips.

"Early *Peanuts* and *Nancy* strips seem so simple," he says. "But read carefully, they are more subtle than they look — they demonstrate how comics work."

Creekmur, associate professor of English, and other UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences scholars like Ana Merino and Rachel Williams are introducing students and colleagues alike to the study of comics. Together they're charting comics' storytelling language, political and cultural rhetoric, and creative potential.

### Learning the language

The comics universe encompasses comic books, newspaper strips, and graphic novels in genres that stretch across superhero stories, Japanese manga, memoir, journalism, and beyond.

Uniting them all: combinations of words and pictures that unspool in what pioneering comics creator Will Eisner dubbed "sequential art."

Creekmur met no skepticism when he proposed his first comics course in 2005. By then, Art Spiegelman's *Maus* — a Holocaust story that casts cartoon mice as Jews and cats as Nazis — had won a Pulitzer Prize, and Chris Ware's *Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth* had received a First Book Award from

England's *Guardian* newspaper.

But even today, comics scholars sometimes feel they're exploring the last pop-culture medium to earn critical and aesthetic examination.

"We don't have an established formal vocabulary like we have for film," says Creekmur, who holds a joint appointment in cinema and comparative literature. "What do you call sweat beads that indicate a character is worrying, or the little lines that show surprise?"

For students already steeped in comics, academic study exposes the mechanics of the medium — how page layouts manipulate space and time, for example. For students who've never read a comic book, courses like Creekmur's introduce new worlds (starting with good-old *Nancy*).

### Probing the politics

Growing up in Madrid, Spain, Ana Merino read widely from her father's library of literature, art books, and comics.

"They were part of the cultural landscape for my family," she recalls. But only later did she consider how they colored the culture of entire nations.

Today a scholar, poet, and an associate professor in the UI Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Merino surprised her graduate school advisers when she shared her plan to study the comics of Argentina, Cuba, and Mexico, particularly their role in political discourse.

"Wherever you look, you find comics reflecting cultural and political crises in ways no other art can," she says.

In Cuba, for example, comics of the 1950s adopted *Mad* magazine-like aesthetics to critique the Batista dictatorship. After the revolution, artists jettisoned American influences to create a more distinctly 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 historical emphasis were relatively new.

"I was lucky to be in the right moment — now there is much more recognition," she says. "But we still have a lot of work to do to remember, archive, and respect comics' past."

**"The best comics are sort of like watching a movie with subtitles."**

Associate Professor Rachel Williams

### Cultivating the creators

Unlike Merino, Rachel Williams grew up a virtual stranger to comics, save for a few Snuffy Smith books she found in a neighbor's backyard. Her epiphany came when she saw the film adaptation of Harvey Pekar's autobiographical series *American Splendor*.

"I bought every kind of comics I could get my hands on," she says. A visual artist and scholar fascinated by personal narratives, she saw vast opportunity in merging pictures and words.

Williams, associate professor of women's studies and art, teaches students to create their own comics. Her class draws a mix of artists, writers, and others who have stories to tell.

"Some people just seem wired to picture their stories in comic form," she says, "as if the images they imagine are too important to set aside."

Williams creates her own comics, too, recounting her work with prison inmates, the history of juvenile justice in Illinois, race riots in Detroit and North Carolina, and more [see samples of her work at [redmagpie.org](http://redmagpie.org)]. Like her students, 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."

### Teaming up

In October, Creekmur, Merino, and Williams organized a three-day campus symposium on comics and related events that put the UI on the comics studies map. It's the kind of collaboration that should ring especially familiar for comics fans, says Merino.

"It's like the superhero teams where each character brings a unique ability," she says. "Comics scholars do fantastic work together — we accomplish so much more than any of us could alone."

—Lin Larson



### Maxson to Resign as CLAS Dean

Linda Maxson will resign as dean of the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), effective June 30, 2012, the end of her third five-year term as dean. A search for her replacement is under way.

CLAS is the university's largest and oldest college, comprising almost 50 departments and programs in the fine and performing arts, natural and mathematical sciences, and humanities and social sciences. Maxson, who came to CLAS in 1997 and holds a doctoral degree in genetics, plans to continue to serve the university as she pursues her scholarly interests, including writing a book about collegiate leadership.

### Iowa to Develop Simulated Driving Platform for Teens, New Drivers

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 teen drivers and new drivers of all ages.

NADS, the world's most sophisticated research-driving simulator, will develop a large, custom virtual city with urban, suburban, and residential driving areas having a wide variety of road and intersection types to support the curriculum of DrivingMBA and its partner, DMBA Global Inc. The specific dangers of cellphone use of any type is an integral component of the program; cellphones are prohibited during training for all students.

Beyond teaching driving skills, the curriculum is sharply focused on challenging teens to become responsible decision makers and, thus, responsible drivers. Parental involvement is required to actively reinforce the danger of distractions of all types and the danger of driving while under the influence any substance.

### Law School Publishes Its First History



The UI College of Law has played a significant role in the life of the University of Iowa, the state, and the nation: Mary Beth Hickey became the first woman law graduate west of the Mississippi, for example, when she received her Iowa law degree in 1873. The school also graduated the university's first African-American student in 1879, when Alexander Clark Jr. received his Iowa law degree and became the second African American to graduate from a public law school in the United States.

But no complete history of the school's first 140-plus years has been undertaken — until this year. In May, the college published a detailed academic history, *The History of the Iowa Law School: 1865–2010*.

"The Iowa law school has had a long history during which a talented faculty and a challenging curriculum produced outstanding lawyers and leaders for the state of Iowa and around the country," says N. William Hines, law professor and dean emeritus who edited the book and wrote a third of the chapters. "We wanted to tell those stories about the law school that are both informative and inspirational."

### Employee Training Might Actually Increase Turnover, UI Study Finds

American businesses spend billions of dollars training employees to produce a better, more productive workforce. But a new study by UI researchers finds that many of these programs might actually increase turnover while driving up a firm's costs.

Employees feel little compulsion to stay with an employer that provides professional development if they don't see any career advancement opportunities, say Scott Seibert and Maria Kraimer, associate professors of management and organizations in the UI Tippie College of Business.

The researchers surveyed 246 matched employee and supervisor pairs 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 attractive career possibilities. Few felt a responsibility to stay with their current employer if they saw no career advancement opportunities.

Not all employees interpreted career advancement opportunities as the traditional climb up the management ladder, such as promotions or raises, however. The study found that programs like mentoring and job rotations as well as having a good relationship with one's immediate boss can create the feeling that career opportunities are available.



### Survey Says: Student Binge-Drinking Rate Drops Sharply

UI 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 and rising high-risk drinking rates on and near campus.

According to findings of the 2011 National College Health Assessment, nearly all of the negative consequences of binge drinking decreased and protective factors increased. Between 2009 and 2011, the percentage of students who reported doing something they regretted after drinking decreased 24 percent, and 29 percent fewer students physically injured themselves because of alcohol.

#### Additional findings include:

- a 22 percent increase in the number of students who stayed under the legal limit (.08) the last time they drank
- a 24 percent decrease in driving after drinking
- a 36 percent drop in the number of students who said they were involved in a physical fight
- a 38 percent decrease in students who reported having sex under the influence of alcohol without giving consent

The data comes from the National College Health Assessment II, a research survey provided by the American College Health Association to help schools collect data about students' habits, behaviors, and perceptions on the most prevalent health topics.

Tom Rocklin, UI vice president for student life, says the data doesn't indicate which of the many changes implemented by the university and the community may have contributed to the drop, although he suspects all of them collectively played a role.

"I'm sure that setting the minimum bar entry age to 21 after 10 p.m. in Iowa City contributed significantly," he says. "I'm also confident that at least some of the university actions we have taken in the past two years contributed."



### Caffeine-Consuming Bacteria Could Lead to Bountiful Benefits

As it turns out, humans aren't the only organisms that turn to caffeine for a pick-me-up

Scientists in the UI College of Engineering have identified four different bacteria that can live on caffeine — a discovery that could lead scientists to convert waste from leftover coffee, tea, and even chocolate into useful substances, like pharmaceuticals, animal feed, or biofuels.

While previous studies also have discovered caffeine-degrading bacteria, the UI team of chemical and biochemical engineers took the research one step further by identifying the gene sequence that enables the bacterium known as *Pseudomonas putida CBB5* — which was found in a flower bed outside a UI research laboratory — to consume caffeine.

Led by doctoral student Ryan Summers, the study found that the bacterium uses four newly discovered digestive proteins to break down caffeine. These proteins can be used to convert caffeine into building blocks for drugs used to treat asthma, improve blood flow, and stabilize heart arrhythmias.

"With one or two methyl groups removed, the remainder of the molecule can be used as the base for a number of pharmaceuticals," Summers says. "You basically use the new genes and enzymes that could take something we have a lot of — like caffeine — and make drugs that are typically very expensive. And that process could lower the costs for people who need them."

The digestive proteins also could be used to remove caffeine and related compounds from large amounts of waste generated from coffee and tea processing, which pollute the environment, adds Summers; the decaffeinated waste from these industries could then be used for animal feed, or for production of transportation fuel.

### Investigators Nab Grant to Study Bacteria in Raw Meat

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded investigators in the UI College of Public Health studying *Staphylococcus aureus* — commonly called "staph" — a \$1.2 million grant that aims to reduce food-borne illnesses and deaths.

Tara 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 colonize individuals who handle raw meat. While staph has been considered a food-borne pathogen in previous studies, research examining staph in food has largely focused on the toxins produced by food-borne bacteria; the UI researchers will examine raw meats as a potential origin and vector for colonization of consumers who handle raw meat products.

"We expect to determine the impact of contaminated meat on human colonization with *Staphylococcus aureus* and determine the origin — human versus animal — of meat contamination," Smith says. "These results will have important implications for public health policy, including whether to begin routine, nationwide surveillance for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, on meat products."

### 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 resources they need: the Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL), an innovative technology that delivers digital information anywhere in the world — even to places the Internet does not reach.

The WiderNet Project, a service program in the UI School of Library and Information Science, recently released the first prototype version of this library, which contains more than 500,000 resources on disability rights. It is available in both an online version (see [gdrl.org](http://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 selected, including test locations in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Peru, and Zambia.

The GDRL is a partnership between the UI WiderNet Project, the U.S. International Council on Disabilities, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.



### UI 'Storm Troopers' Assist with Braille School Cleanup

University of Iowa Facilities Management sent crews to Vinton, Iowa, in July to provide assistance to the Iowa Braille School, which was damaged by severe weather. UI workers provided power generators and helped clear storm debris. There were no injuries reported from the storm, although the school's roof was damaged.

The Iowa Braille School — an Iowa Board of Regents educational institution — houses and provides skill development, educational training, and other services to students who are legally blind. The school was opened in 1852 as the Iowa College for the Blind. Mary Ingalls, sister of Laura Ingalls Wilder (author of the *Little House on the Prairie* series), attended the school.

**On Iowa! — page 1**

Forging fun, new traditions for first-year students

**A True Treasure Trove — page 5**

Iowa archaeologists find human remains nearly 7,000 years old

**Kicking Cancer — page 6**

UI team uses vaccine to gain ground against prostate cancer

**The Camera Chronicles — pages 8-9**

Photographers past and present focus on Pentacrest, downtown

**Two Decades After UI's Darkest Day — pages 10-11**

Staff member reflects on 1991 campus shootings

**Preserving for the People — page 12**

Alumna earns UI international human rights award

**How are we doing?**

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PHOTOS: (PG 5) TOM JORGENSEN; (PG 10-11) TOM JORGENSEN; (PGS 8-9) FREDERICK W. KENT COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

**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](http://www.hancher.uiowa.edu).

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