

Feather Notes

Upper Iowa University eNews



June 2007

UIU joins forces with Maize Maze

As part of Upper Iowa University's 150th anniversary celebration, the University has joined with the Country Heritage Community Maize Maze in Elgin, Iowa. This year's design for the maze cut into the cornfield will center on UIU and the celebration.

Assistant Professor of Art **John Siblik** has developed the design and, along with students in his Environmental Art class, helped lay the groundwork for the field. They helped maze organizer Laverne Swenson grid the field, separating the

area into sections to transfer the design from paper to field.

The maze, an annual attraction, is educational as well as fun. Visitors receive a sheet of questions about corn and its uses, as well as questions about the theme for the year. The answers are found within the maze.

This year, visitors will learn about Upper Iowa.

The maze is located at Gilbertson Conservation Education Area east of Elgin on Highway 64. The maze will open to explorers July 14 and will be open on weekends until Oct. 31.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12 and free for children younger than 5.

For more information, contact the Gilbertson Nature Center at 563-426-5740.



As part of their classroom experience for Environmental Art during May interim, Upper Iowa University students recently helped Art Professor John Siblik and maze operator Laverne Swenson lay out the Maize Maze in Elgin, Iowa, in 15-foot squares for this year's design developed by Siblik. Helping with the project were, front from left, Mary Ohloff, Noah Froelke, Marshall Lenth, Amanda Jepperson, Sarah Beckman, Jennifer Andree, Dana Bay and Rebecca Miller; and in back, Carlo Vottola, Jessica Bartels, Alex Schmidt, Travell Miller, Shihani Wallace, Amanda Goddard, Octavio Gomez, Elizabeth Geertsema, Breina Patterson, P.J. Gunn, Emily Bamlett, Sara Corpstein, Siblik, Katie Mortensen and Swenson.

RN-BSN program expands to Des Moines Center

By Raschelle Wurzer administrative assistant, nursing program

The RN-BSN program continues to grow, quickly expanding its sphere of influence in its early life at Upper Iowa University. Beginning this fall, the program will also be offered at the Des Moines Center.

Ten RN-BSN students started the program in January and are continuing their studies throughout subsequent terms. Modest registration goals for both

programs for the fall are 10 new students for the Fayette campus program and 10 new students for the Des Moines Center program.

Currently, required courses for the BSN degree will be taught by the same faculty at both locations, creating uniformity for students. A classroom/lab at the Des Moines Center has been dedicated for the exclusive use of nursing program classes.

Dr. Margaret Wimmer, director of nursing education, continues recruiting efforts in Des Moines by visiting area hospitals on her visits to the center. Individuals interested in the Des Moines program are able to meet



Dr. Wimmer

with her at the center to discuss degree plans and career goals.

Interest in the Des Moines Center RN-BSN program continues to

increase, as individuals benefit from the same services offered to prospective students at the Fayette campus.

For more information, contact Wimmer at (563) 425-5357 or wimmerm@uiu.edu.

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Professor uses new technology to increase learning

Thanks to a summer stipend grant from Upper Iowa University, one professor has found a new way to keep students involved during class.

Dr. Katherine McCarville, assistant professor of geosciences on the Fayette campus, used the stipend money last year to attend a workshop about retaining underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses and helping all students learn better.

While at the workshop, she learned about classroom response devices, called clickers by the students. The clickers had met with success elsewhere, and McCarville decided to give it a try.

"I noticed it was a humongous difference in attentiveness," McCarville said. Even students in the back row, a notoriously hard group to keep involved, paid attention.

Students in her class are given a grade for participating in the project during class.

The clickers are used to allow students to answer a variety of true/false, yes/no or multiple choice questions during a class. The questions are included in presentations or lectures, students are given time to answer with the devices, and the accompanying equipment and software collects and displays the group's answers. The answers are



shown to the class in a histogram format showing the percentage of the group that chose each answer. No one knows what answer individual students chose, thus eliminating potential embarrassment for wrong answers.

"Students reported that the immediate feedback helped them learn better," McCarville said, "and that they enjoyed the class interaction. Even though they are anonymous during the process, students said that the competition aspect of answering the questions was a motivating factor. It seemed that even just the small amount of physical activity involved in using the clicker kept students much more alert."

Students were required to purchase their clickers, but McCarville bought them back at the end of the term. Students also pay a small activation fee per semester.

Overall, the clickers seem to be a huge success. "Student response to using the clickers was overwhelmingly positive,"

McCarville said. "They stayed engaged during class because they never knew when I'd spring a clicker question on them." McCarville administered a pretest and posttest to the geologic concepts students in the Introduction to Geology class. She will compare those results to other classes around the country. She also plans to continue using the clickers.

"It resulted in a bunch of learning."

DRESS FOR SUCCESS...Put Your {Best Dressed} Foot Forward!



Whether overdressed or underdressed, people head off to work every day putting comfort ahead of appropriateness in clothing that undermines their credibility and downplays their talents.

Like it or not, right or wrong, people make judgments on appearances all the time, so it's important to dress like the professional you are...or want to be.

You've spent incredible amounts of time, energy and (gulp) money on your education. And if you're looking for a new job, you're spending even more

time agonizing over every word on your resume. Why spend all of that valuable time perfecting the skills to set yourself apart from the competition and then hide it all behind clothing that's unprofessional, ineffective or sloppy?

Poor clothing choices can happen to anyone, regardless of background or education. Maybe you already have a job and spent extensive effort to get it, only to portray a lackluster everyday image. Many people go their entire careers missing out on promotions and opportunities

because no one took the time to explain the "unspoken" rules of business attire.

Image isn't everything, but it does matter—and it can be everything in a first impression. A Stanford & UCLA Medical School trained surgeon came to her first day of work at a prominent east coast hospital dressed in shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. She was delayed for nearly an hour by security as they attempted to verify her credentials.

Whether you are 21 or 51, whether you're new to the working world or a pro,

the rules apply to everyone. We've all heard it before, and it's unavoidable... "It only takes 30 seconds to make a first impression."

Need a place to post your resume and search jobs with EASE? EASE will help you find employers and let employers find you, as well as help you organize your job search process.
<http://ecampusrecruiter.com/uiu>

UIU Yesterdays

UIU Yesterdays are a chance for you to take a walk down memory lane. The following events were highlighted in the Collegian, UIU's student newspaper, during this time in the respective years. If you have memories of your time at UIU you'd like to share with the Peacock family, please e-mail them to alumni@uiu.edu and we'll try to use them in an upcoming issue of Feather Notes.

40 years ago ~

Completion of the Wilder addition to the David B. Henderson Library was on schedule. The addition was set to open in September.

An April Fool's Day edition of *The Collegian* announced T-bones and lobster would be served daily in the cafeteria, the Playboy Ski Resort would be opening soon near the Volga River and President Eugene Garbee was resigning his position.

Jerry Burns, defensive backfield coach for the world champion Green Bay Packers and former head football coach at the University of Iowa, spoke at the annual athletic banquet. Burns had helped the Packers triumph over the Kansas City Chiefs.

A 1620 IBM computer was expected to be delivered to campus soon for use by business students who would need to know how to use the devices. The computer, valued at \$156,000 in 1961, was purchased by Upper Iowa for \$14,000.

The Cryan' Shames appeared in concert on the Upper Iowa campus on April 28.

30 years ago ~

UIU's mime troupe, Silence, Inc., gave three shows in March.

Phi Beta Lambda students attended the state conference and brought home several awards. Ron Bergfeld took first in the Mr. Future Business Executive competition; Carmen Eichmann, third, Ms. Future Business Executive; Deanna Eichmann, first, business communication; Jim Hulsebus, first, data processing; D. Eichmann, second, poster event; Jacque Vilmain, second, salesmanship presentation; C. Eichmann, Who's Who in PBL; and the chapter, second, community service project.

Alpha Psi Omega produced the children's theater piece "The Calico Tiger" by Christian B. Garrison.

20 years ago ~

Scott Franklin was elected student government president for 1987-88. Other officers were Wendy Fullerton, vice president; Deanna Boswell, treasurer; and Steve Beevers, secretary.

The annual Honors and Awards Banquet recognized 89 students.

About half of the roughly 300 graduates attended the 129th commencement ceremonies on the Fayette campus. Sen. Charles Grassley of New Hartford and Stewart Sears of Madison, Wis., were given honorary doctorates. Grassley was the keynote speaker.

Welcome to our newest employees!!

Brian Bahl

Head Men's and Women's Soccer Coach/Instructor,
563-425-5369

Katie Barness

Security Officer

Amber Buffington

Assistant Registrar, 563-425-5822

Kara Corcoran

Administrative Assistant, Registrar's Office, 563-425-5268

Benjamin Jones

Associate Head Soccer Coach/Instructor

Gloria Lezala

Student Accounts Coordinator, Milwaukee Center,
414-475-4848

Eric Mattson

Assistant Football Coach/Instructor, 563-425-5342

Brian More

Admissions Counselor, 563-425-5775

Storm Schmitt

Financial Aid Assistant

Daniel Volker

Custodian

Ashley Zezulka

Assistant Registrar, 563-425-5363

Mike Himes finished second in the 190-pound weight class at the NCAA Division III wrestling finals. His work led the Peacocks to a national ranking of 16 and to March 20, 1987, being named Mike Himes Day.

10 years ago ~

Construction of Lee Tower, named after benefactor Stan Lee, was well under way. Students were expected to be living in the dorm by fall.

Andy Heilemeire was named president of student government. Other officers were vice president Randy Edge, treasurer Joel Franzen and secretary Jason McShan.

Kappa Zeta Tau became a new social sorority on campus. The group was a breakaway from Gamma Delta Phi.

Two more sculptures, "Proud Peacocks" and "Concentric," were added to the campus beautification project.

Angela Kuntz was crowned Miss UIU.