

Feather Notes



March 2009

Alumni magazine gets new look

When the spring issue of *The Bridge* hits mailboxes in early April, alumni will notice a number of changes. The magazine is now more colorful and contains more feature-length articles. Now produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications in collaboration with Alumni and Athletics, the new format provides commentary on current higher education issues as well as traditional faculty-, student-, staff- and alumni-centered features.

“Our goal is to provide a magazine that’s both entertaining and thought-provoking,” said Mary Rettig, Vice President, Advancement and Alumni. “We want to share the good things happening throughout the entire UIU community as well as the challenges facing colleges and universities.”

The magazine will be mailed to alumni biannually, in April and October. The spring is-



sue features a commentary that addresses both current economic challenges facing higher education and UIU’s unique position to confront those challenges. As President Alan G. Walker points out, our “nontraditional endowment” provides a steady, predictable cash flow, even in recessionary times. Together with a successful academic extension enterprise, Upper Iowa will continue moving forward at a time when other colleges and universities are entrenching. Also included are feature articles on recently honored alumnus Bob Firth; Randy Thomas, a Fayette campus

faculty member who taught a summer in UIU’s Hong Kong program; Des Moines Center faculty member Graeme Armstrong who celebrated his 50th birthday by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro; Cole Sanders, a student who is overcoming physical challenges to participate in the Paralympics; a profile on the “voice of the Peacocks” and more. Of course, the magazine continues to share information about alumni activities and achievements through Class Notes. Instructions for submitting items (including photos) is included in each issue of the alumni magazine.

Homecoming 2009

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2009, which will be celebrated the weekend of September 25-26. Upper Iowa will face St. Cloud State in a turf battle set to begin at 1 p.m. The weekend’s festivities also include an Alumni Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 26. 50-year medallions will be presented to members of the class of 1959. Members of the following classes will also be honored: 1949, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2004. Details will be sent by mail in July.

Athletic Hall of Fame

One of the most exciting events of the Homecoming weekend will be the annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet. Nominations are now being accepted for this prestigious honor. To recognize someone, download and complete a nomination form. ([Click here for form.](#)) Nominees should have received a varsity letter, been a varsity coach or made a significant contribution as an outstanding coach or player at Upper Iowa or through a distinguished career in athletics as a coach, athletic administrator or participant. Candidates are not eligible until 10 years after completing their careers at UIU. The award may be given posthumously. **Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2009.**

Legislative Reception

More than 140 people attended UIU’s third annual Legislative Reception held in February in Des Moines. In addition to more than 70 legislators, the crowd included trustees, administrators, faculty and staff. UIU students from the Des Moines Center also attended seeking continued funding for the Iowa Tuition Grant.

UIU graduate hits jackpot playing Fantasy Football

Upper Iowa graduate and Fort Collins corrections officer has bested thousands of other football fanatics from around the world to become the first-ever Fantasy Football millionaire.

“Who knew fantasy football could change my life?” Shane Schroeder, 31, who works with youth offenders in Fort Collins, said from Las Vegas, where, in late December, he won his prize.

Schroeder, who graduated in 2001, “drafted” a dream team and made all the right calls on who to start each week to become the winner of the \$1 million prize presented by Fantasy Football Open Championship at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas.

“I’m going to pay some bills and start a new business,” Schroeder said. “And I’m going to give some money to my folks, who have always been so supportive of me.”

Schroeder chose no Denver Broncos for his 20-man roster, but opted for Mason Crosby, the Colorado placekicker for the all-important field-goal and extra-point points.



UIU alumnus Shane Schroeder, '01

His quarterbacks were Philip Rivers of San Diego, who faces the Broncos this Sunday with the playoffs on the line; and Aaron Rodgers who came up big for the Green Bay Packers last Sunday.

Quarterbacks, receivers and running backs get points for rushing yards, touchdowns, touchdown passes and other measures of success. Sometimes they pile up enormous Fantasy Football points while

leading their teams to defeat after defeat.

The two teams he picked to earn defensive points were the Tennessee Titans and the Green Bay Packers.

Each week, the players have to choose which 10 players to start. As one of the 15 people worldwide with the most points going into the final week of competition, Schroeder won a trip to Las Vegas.

“Shane Schroeder took on all competitors and has earned the right to be called the best fantasy football player in the world,” said Stan Misthios, the architect of the Fantasy Football Open Championship.

Schroeder said he was thrilled to meet FFOC commissioner Jerry Rice, the all-time leading receiver in the NFL. Winning the million dollars was gravy.

Reprinted from the Rocky Mountain News (12/23/2008).

Nominations due

The deadline for Alumni Award nominations is approaching. Forms are due in the Advancement/Alumni office by May 1, 2009. Award recipients will be honored at the 2009 Alumni Banquet, which will be held Sept. 26, 2009, on the Fayette campus. [Click here to download a copy of the nomination form.](#)

First-ever federal appropriation for Upper Iowa

Upper Iowa University will receive \$238,000 in federal funding as a result of an omnibus appropriations bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by President Obama. The University will use the allocation toward the purchase of computer equipment for UIU's new e-Center building, which is part of a \$60 million capital outlay planned over the next several years.

“It is clear that our federal delegation saw the value in

Upper Iowa's e-Center,” said Andrew Wenthe, Director of External Affairs/e-Center. “We are developing strong local partnerships to support this venture and are grateful for the federal assistance during the appropriations process.”

The mission of the Upper Iowa e-Center is to aid and speed economic recovery at the local, state and regional level by supporting and assisting business owners along the Highway 150 corridor. UIU's e-Center will serve as

a regional hub for economic development, academic instruction and research supported by the dissemination of technology. The e-Center will also house an institutional data center, Information Technology academic program, and business incubation space.

“This appropriation will help us realize our potential for strengthening the local and regional economy through education and the use of technology,” said UIU President Alan G. Walker.