

Feather Notes

Upper Iowa University eNews



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Iowa Kappa honors top upperclassmen at Residential University

A simple question from a student has led to the creation of Iowa Kappa, Upper Iowa University's chapter of the honor society Alpha Chi.

A student at one of the centers contacted the University asking why UIU did not offer the opportunity for students to join an honor society. Dr. Ed Ogle, senior vice president for the Residential University, heard of the request and passed the information on to Jean Merkle, associate dean of student services and director of residence life. He and Merkle began researching the options available to the University and decided on Alpha Chi.

Merkle said they chose Alpha Chi because it honors the top 10 percent of juniors and top 10 percent of seniors on the campus, regardless of major. They wanted to reach the most number of students possible, while still keeping membership selective.

Victor Clark, associate professor of marketing on the Fayette campus and an Alpha Chi alumnus himself, came on board a few days before the induction ceremony to act as advisor for Iowa Kappa. The name of the chapter comes from, of course, the school's location in Iowa and the fact it is the 10th chapter in the state, corresponding with Kappa's placement in the Greek alphabet.

"The real purpose of Alpha Chi is to recognize scholarship," Clark said. One of the benefits of membership is the chance to have academic papers published in the Alpha Chi *Recorder* and the chance to present works at regional

and national conferences. "We'll also promote scholarship on campus through whatever activities the students want to do," Clark said. One of the aims of the national organization is to promote academic activities on campus, such as bringing speakers to the university.

"Academics are as important as any experience (students) have here," Merkle said. Iowa Kappa gives students a chance to be recognized for their academic work. The honor society also offers scholarship opportunities for graduate-level studies, opportunities for networking at conventions, and looks good on a resume.

The group hosted its first induction ceremony Jan. 26 on the Fayette campus. Twenty-two were inducted into the invitation-only organization. Members then chose officers in what Merkle described as a competitive race. Luke Nielsen was elected president; Josh Handke, vice president; Jillian White, secretary; Dusty Drewes, treasurer; and Jodi Grover, student delegate.

"I have just a terrific group of officers," Clark said.

Other students inducted into Iowa Kappa included T.J. Beavers, Kristen Berns, Jana Bessey, Jill Boese, Zach Collins, Travis Donahue,



Attending the Jan. 26 induction ceremony for UIU's new honor society, Iowa Kappa, are, front from left, inductees T.J. Beavers, Mistie Holaday, Jenny Fangman, Jessica Mott, Jill Boese, Jillian White, Jena Kilburg, Jennifer Hennesy and Sabrina Martin and UIU President Dr. Alan Walker; and in back, chapter advisor Victor Clark and inductees Jessica Everding, Josh Handke, Jodi Grover, Lucas Nielson, Erin Jamison, Dustin Drewes, Zach Collins and Carlo Vottola. Other inductees included Kristen Berns, Jana Bessey, Travis Donahue, Whitney Henke and Lindy Tommasin.

Jessica Everding, Jenny Fangman, Mistie Holaday, Whitney Henke, Jennifer Hennesy, Erin Jamison, Jena Kilburg, Sabrina Martin, Jessica Mott, Lindy Tommasin and Carlo Vottola.

Merkle, Clark and Karri Davis, administrative assistant to the senior vice president of Extended University, serve as the group's three required sponsors.

Currently, the honor society is only for students on the Fayette campus, but organizers hope to expand the program.

Merkle said they are very invested in getting students in other areas of the University involved. The honor society would be for the top upperclassmen at each site, allowing for even more Peacocks to get involved.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program or any Alpha Chi alumni currently associated with the University are asked to contact Clark on the Fayette campus at 563-425-5254 or clarkv@uiu.edu. ■

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UIU's oldest building returns to its roots

Officials are using lessons learned while constructing UIU's newest building to save money and time renovating its oldest building.

"The construction process is unusual for most universities," said Ron Crooker, executive director of operations for UIU and the person in charge of the Alexander-Dickman Hall renovation. "We are the general contractor." Crooker said they used this method while building the Andres Center for Business and Education and it saved an estimated 5-10 percent of the project costs.

According to Richard Barker, associate professor of management and UIU historian, the building, finished just before classes began in 1857, was not intended to be part of the university. It was built as a chapel for Fayette, which at the time had no church. Unfortunately, the Alexander family ran out of money, so The Seminary, as it was known then, became the school.

Its prominent place on the campus today is testament not only to its historic value to UIU, but also to the quality of the work. "They built it very

well," Crooker said. "They built it to be here a long, long time."

In the 1960s the building underwent its first major renovation and became known as Alexander-Dickman Hall. School officials updated the look of the interior to what was stylish at the time, taking away the period feel of the building.

"This renovation will try to bring some of that back," Crooker said. The renovation has several other goals, as well. Crooker said when the Business Division moved to the Andres Center, it opened up most of the third floor of A-D, so a renovation was necessary to use that space and it allowed school officials to move many of the services students need under one roof. The project also needed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Finally, updates were needed to make the building more energy efficient, repair windows and update the heating and air conditioning systems.

The Financial Aid and Business offices have temporarily moved to Edgar, freeing up the top two floors of A-D. The Registrar and President's offices remain in the building and will move later to complete the project.

Crews have removed asbestos from the building, and the interior walls for offices are being constructed.

As a precautionary measure, officials decided to install a sprinkler system in the building. Crews had to dig up part of the campus to install an 8-inch water line to accommodate the system, but officials feel the extra work was worth it. Crooker said President Alan Walker, a long-time firefighter, thought the system would be beneficial and would add extra safety.

In the midst of this, crews are putting in a new

elevator. Crooker said he hopes to have it up and running by mid March, weeks ahead of schedule.

This is one of the other benefits to Crooker being on site and making decisions as the need arises. "That has really allowed us a great deal of flexibility."



The second floor of A-D is in the midst of the renovation process. Seen here in early February, the floor had been gutted in preparation of new interior walls being erected.

It is also helpful when a problem arises, like when they realized the roof of the building would not hold the heating unit they had selected.

Officials decided to build braces that stretch across the top of the building, but are supported by the walls of A-D. These will distribute the weight of the units, but will also alter the outside of the building somewhat. Crooker said they were hoping to leave the exterior unchanged, so the braces and heating unit will be designed to blend as well as possible with the building.

The final touch will be the return of the Green Goddess to the roof of A-D. The campus landmark fell during a wind storm and sustained significant damage. An artist restored her, and she is currently in the lobby of the Andres Center.

Overall, the project is expected to cost about \$1.6 million, Crooker said. The money came from a low-interest bond with the city of Fayette. This compares to \$30,000 to build it in 1856 and \$300,000 to renovate it in 1964.

Crooker gives a lot of credit for the project to the

contractors. He said most of them have worked on other projects on campus, including the Andres Center.

Much of the work has been done in-house, as well. The UIU Grounds crew installed insulation, and the Physical Plant crew has installed the pneumatic controls. The House-keeping staff has also done considerable work.

"They have helped keep us moving along as economically as possible," Crooker said. Using in-house labor has saved an estimated \$30,000-\$50,000.

Overall, the project is going smoothly, though a little behind schedule due to the heating unit issue, Crooker said. When complete, UIU's oldest building will have a new look with an old feel, and a piece of Upper Iowa history will be ready for another 150 years. ■



Part of the renovation of A-D involved installing energy-efficient windows throughout the building. The arches at the top of windows like this one will also be replaced, UIU Director of Operations Ron Crooker said. The arches were covered during the last renovation.

Diverse activities reflect UIU's unique qualities

Students who come to UIU's Fayette campus are getting some opportunities not available at most college campuses.

Daryl Grove, director of student activities and outdoor pursuits, has been working for the past three years to find ways to best use the campus' unique setting in Fayette. From canoeing the nearby Volga River to pheasant hunting on a farm near Maynard, UIU students have a variety of activity choices at little or no cost.

"The outdoor activities are extremely popular," Grove said. Students can hunt for morel mushrooms, compete in paintball tournaments, look for deer antlers, spend the weekend skiing and much more.

Whitewater rafting has been very popular, Grove said, adding one student in her 50s went on the last trip and had a great time.

The pheasant hunts are relatively new, having just started last year. Groups have gone six times so far to a pheasant preserve owned by Jeff Garnier near Maynard. On these trips, students need a valid Iowa hunting license and must provide their own guns. Usually, 12 to 15 students join the hunts, mostly conservation management majors.

Not all of the events Grove plans are outdoors,

though. Just before Valentine's Day students participated in a "Singled Out" event based on the dating game show on MTV. The winners went on an all-expense paid date for Valentine's Day.

Students are also able to join video game tournaments, join scrapbooking parties, go bowling or attend movie nights at the Fayette Opera House. One of the more popular events recently has been "Fear Factor," based on the NBC television show.

Grove also works to bring performers to campus. Recycled Percussion, a group who uses found objects as percussion instruments, was a recent hit. There is also a Fine Arts Series every year, and he is looking for more programming.

Grove said he makes an effort to have more structured programming in the fall of the year, so students new to campus have a chance to meet people and get more involved. Then, as the year progresses and his budget gets a little tighter, Grove plans activities which are less structured and lower cost, but which will still be of interest to the students.

Grove's biggest aim with all of this is to keep UIU students interested and happy with their time at Upper Iowa. ■

Welcome to our newest employees!!

Denise Clements

Campus Visit Coordinator and Database Assistant in Admissions, 563-425-5281

Chad Fenwick

Head Women's Tennis Coach, Assistant Recreation Center Director, and Instructor in HPER, 563-425-5206

Jake Flanders

PC Hardware/Software Support Specialist, 563-425-5768

Amy Frieler

Administrative Assistant, Financial Aid, 563-425-5716

Kimberlie Gregory

Administrative Assistant, Jackson Barracks Center, 318-542-2607

Mary Havlicek

Student Accounts Coordinator, Des Moines Center, 515-225-1800

Jackson Hayek

Director of Marketing Research, 563-425-5244

Fedelina Madrid

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications, 563-425-5773

Amanda Micheli

Online/Extended University Recruiter and Transfer Advisor, 515-369-7777

Eric Moe

Assistant Football Coach and Instructor in HPER, 563-425-5228

Derek Moore

Assistant Football Coach and Instructor in HPER, 563-425-5205

Kellie Rose

Regional Recruiter and Marketing Assistant, Milwaukee Center, 414-475-4848

Dianna Schneider

Office Manager, Ankeny Center, 515-965-6050

Deena Serra

Marketing Assistant, 563-425-5227

Jill Weigel

Academic Advisor, Elkhorn Center, 262-741-8454



"Biggest Loser 2" shares his story at Wellness Fair

Matt Hoover of Marion, Iowa, winner of television's "Biggest Loser 2," was a guest at Upper Iowa's annual Wellness Fair held Feb. 16. Hoover signed autographs and posed for pictures at the Fair, which was held in Garbee Hall East Cafeteria, and then spoke in Dorman Gym to a crowd of students, faculty, staff and the public about his addictions to food and alcohol and his experience on the TV show.

Wausau begins grant writing class for undergrads

Students in several disciplines at UIU's Wausau Center will have a slight edge over much of their competition when they enter the workforce.

The center recently began offering an undergraduate-level course in grant writing, mostly for students in human services, health services and other fields where grants are common funding options.

"Ever since we started the human services major here, I thought we

were lacking something," said Vicki Anderson, Wausau Center coordinator. She worked with other staff members to develop the grant writing class, and they found Patti Dreier, the grant writer for nearby Portage County, to teach the class.

"She has energy that just won't stop," Anderson said. Right now, there are about 20 people in the class, but Anderson hopes to expand the program, hopefully to include the rest of UIU.

At this time, the 400-level class is only offered at Wausau.

"It's been a lot of work, but it's been a real positive thing," Anderson said. She reported students have nine proposals which look like they may receive funding. "It's going to be a good elective course these people can take."

Anderson said students going into many fields benefit from even being exposed to grant writing, a skill which can give them a real edge after graduation.

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 ~

Athletic Director Eb Eischeid said the new Recreation Center below the lobby of Dorman Gym was well used. It included a shuffle board unit and two table tennis sets.

The Lettermen, "the freshest, most significant vocal blend offered by any group on today's entertainment scene," was to appear on UIU's campus April 20, 1966.

James Meyer, a junior political science major from West Branch, was elected student body president for 1966-67. Terry Doland was elected vice president, Adelaide Clark was chosen as secretary and Janet Abbinanti, treasurer.

Garbee Hall was expected to be completed by July 15. The Peacock Lounge would seat 200 people in an Old

English setting. The area would also include a card room, pin ball machine, bowling alley and cigarette machine.

Esther Liffing, professor of business administration, retired in May 1966.

Frank Bauder, president of Central National Bank in Chicago, was the commencement speaker when 82 seniors graduated.

30 years ago ~

No *Collegians* were available for this time period. They will be available for the next issue of *Feather Notes*.

20 years ago ~

The Marketing Club of UIU organized with Kevin Jensen as president and Marvin Duff as vice president.

Mike Himes took the National Championship in wrestling at 190 pounds.

UIU Telefund 1986 raised \$6,658 for the university. The Marketing Club raised the most with \$3,175. The cheerleaders brought in \$1,380, the softball team raised \$1,005 and staff members raised \$50.

Due to lack of interest and budget problems, the sociology and psychology programs were cut from majors to minors.

Janitor Floyd Chase retired after 25 years of service to UIU. "His faithfulness

and dedication to the biology department" led to the naming of the Floyd Chase Electron Microscopy Room, according to professor Lew Churbuck.

The Jacks and Verandas came to campus to play during Spring Concert 1986.

10 years ago ~

E-mail arrived on the UIU campus.

Walida Hawkins became the fourth Peacock woman to score 1,000 points in a varsity basketball career. Head Coach Linda Olson presented her with the game ball.

A victory over Wartburg sent the Peacock men to the NCAA postseason tourna-

ment as the No. 4 seed in the West Region. Team members included Sigmund Sanders, Kevin Cunningham, Malcolm Harris, Greg Von Arx, Audi Roberts, Tony Seehase, Ray Lewis and Kevin Clipperton and Head Coach Stu Engen.

William Gates, the star of the documentary *Hoop Dreams*, spoke to students as part of UIU's celebration of Black History Month.

RAGBRAI XXIV spent the night in Fayette, with many riders staying on the UIU campus.

Hoffmaster Apartments was to be remodeled into a new residence hall. ■

Team Peacock readies for ride

The roster for Team Peacock is complete. Twenty-six students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Upper Iowa University signed up to ride RAGBRAI and will soon be seeking sponsors for their ride.

Rick Klann, Bob Lange, Fedelina Madrid, Roy Neese, Cliff Ozmun, Alan Walker, Kristie Austin, Don Carpenter, Lea DeLuca, Daryl Grove, Cindy Carpenter, David Lammers, Louise Scott, Holly Wolff, Tim Wolff, Jackson Hayek, Phil Hayek, Holly Pardekooper, Lynn Booth and Gene Ockinga are asking supporters for pledges to raise money for scholarships at UIU. Pledges can be a one-time gift or a per-mile pledge.

Members of The Blue Crew, Team Peacock's support crew, are Stu Dunkel, Sheila Miller, Stan Woodson, Sue Woodson, Marlys Brownlee, and Kata McCarville.

For more information about how to make a pledge, contact one of the riders or go to www.uiu.edu/teampeacock.