

# Feather Notes

Upper Iowa University eNews



December 2007

## e-Center helps students, community, businesses

Upper Iowa University is thriving. Now the administrators want to help Fayette.

“The University would like to see the economy in Fayette and the surrounding region grow,” said **Andrew Wenthe**, director of external affairs and of the new Upper Iowa University e-Center.

The e-Center is a multi-faceted program designed to help local businesses, UIU students and the local economy.

One tier of the program will help local businesses market themselves on the Internet. Wenthe said the plan is to use the University’s resources, such as knowledgeable people and server access, to help new and existing businesses increase their presence on the Web.

“In developing that idea, several things have sprung from that,” Wenthe said. The University has applied for a USDA rural development grant to help pay for an asset inventory of the region, an optimized Web site and salaries for an e-Center director and Web master. For the grant application, UIU partnered with the cities of Fayette, Oelwein and Maynard along with local economic development groups.

As part of the e-Center project, representatives from three tech firms from the Minneapolis area have visited the Fayette campus to see what UIU and the e-Center have to offer. There is a possibility these groups would relocate to Fayette. “Clearly, that’s good for our students – potential internships – our faculty – potential

research projects – and good for the area,” Wenthe said.

While most of the e-Center is in the early stages, two Peacocks have taken it upon themselves to ensure

one major component of the program will be up and running very soon.

“The first true initiative is the Upper Iowa Business Development Grant,” Wenthe said.

The program is being offered thanks to a \$500,000 donation from **Bob** (’89, ’00) and **Betty Firth**, both members of the UIU Board of Trustees.

“To grow the University, we need to grow Fayette,” Bob Firth said. He said there is a cycle where each must thrive for the other to be healthy. When the e-Center project came along, the Firths saw it as a positive step that just needed funding. “That’s where Betty and I stepped in.”

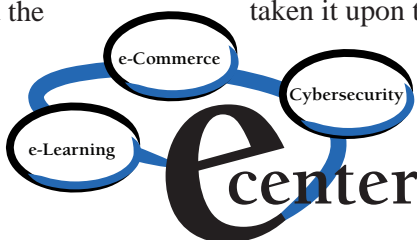
The funds the Firths donated will be used to endow a fund to provide competitive, annual grants to businesses within Fayette city limits. Administrators plan to raise matching funds to bring the endowment to \$1 million. The goal is to attract and grow businesses that provide amenities to Fayette and the University,

thus making the community more attractive to potential students and employees. Each grant can be as high as \$40,000 and is awarded based on an application process. A committee is working on developing the application, and officials hope to award the first grant by summer.

The Firths are excited about helping Fayette and, through that route, helping the University. “Fayette needs the University and the University needs Fayette,” Betty Firth said. The hope is to use the University to de-

velop the workforce and use the e-Center and the businesses it helps to ensure there is work for the students. There are too many opportunities available to the community and the University to not try this program, Bob Firth said. “It’s an exciting time.”

To learn more about the e-Center or the Upper Iowa Business Development Grants, contact Wenthe at 515-225-1800 or [wenthe@uiu.edu](mailto:wenthe@uiu.edu).



Betty & Bob Firth

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## UIU hosts DII wrestling nationals



# 2008 WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division II • Cedar Rapids, Iowa

In March, Division II wrestlers and fans from across the country will converge on Cedar Rapids, Iowa, thanks to Upper Iowa University.

More than 8,000 people are expected at the U.S. Cellular Center March 14-15 for the 2008 NCAA Division II National Championships Wrestling Tournament, an event UIU staff have been working on for three years. **Mike Powicki**, associate director of athletics for external affairs, began working on a bid when he first started at UIU. The original plan was to host the event in Waterloo, Iowa, but any facility large enough wasn't available at the right time. So, UIU began looking at Cedar Rapids. In cooperation with the city, Upper Iowa applied for the 2007 championships, but lost to Kearny, Neb. They resubmitted the bid and won for the 2008 go round.

While it has been a long road with much work, Powicki sees many rewards. "We're really trying to market Upper Iowa University as a Division II school," Powicki said, and hosting this tournament should solidify the school's reputation. "Obviously they don't just give it to anybody." Powicki said the NCAA looks for solid schools they are confident will be able to handle such a large undertaking.

In addition to securing our reputation in DII wrestling, the athletics staff hopes the tournament will get UIU some recognition in a state known for outstanding wrestling programs. "There was the hope we could go from a prestigious Division III to a prestigious Division II wrestling program, and obviously we've done that," Powicki said.

UIU's head wrestling coach **Heath Grimm** is excited to be keeping his boys close to home.

"It's a great opportunity to not only showcase Upper Iowa wrestling, but to showcase Division II wrestling in the state of Iowa." Last year, the Peacocks took eight wrestlers to the national tournament and came home with a national champion. Five of those eight have returned, and **Ryan Phillips**, who brought home the championship last year, is now an assistant coach.

The hope this year is to qualify 10 guys for the nation-

als, the most one school can take. Grimm said his team is a close group who are all pulling for each other, on and off the mat. While Cedar Rapids isn't exactly the Peacocks' home arena, it's close enough there should be plenty of fan support to cheer on Upper Iowa.

Grimm credits the talented coaching staff for the likelihood the Peacocks will make a good showing in Cedar Rapids. In addition to Phillips, **Justin Decker** joined the group this year. He has a solid background coaching at the high school level and was ready to make the move to college coaching. **Todd Schmauss** ('04), a UIU alumnus, returns to the staff this year. Rounding out the group is volunteer coach **Brandon Heying** ('06), who works as an admissions counselor at UIU.

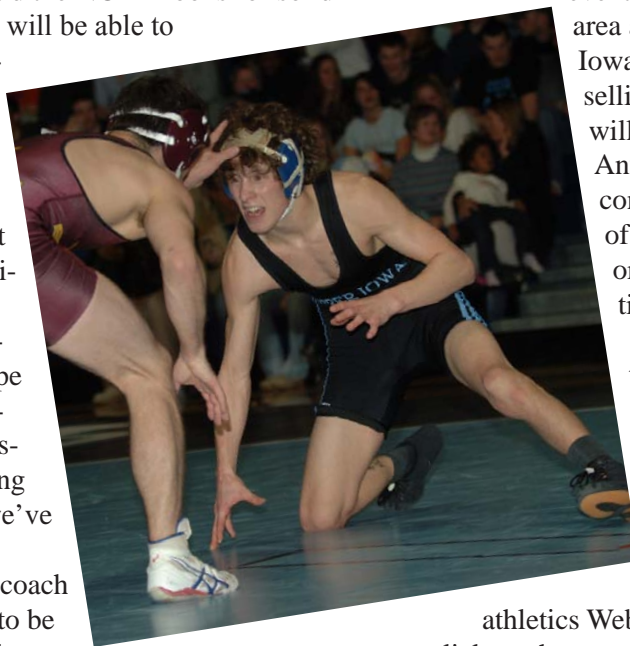
Just as the team needs its staff, the event needs a group of people working to make everything go well. While this is an NCAA event, Upper Iowa is responsible for all planning and providing all staff at the tournament. UIU people have been working to reserve rooms and arrange transportation for the tournament officials, lining up food for the event, dealing with hotels and restaurants in the area and much more. During the event, Upper Iowa people will be manning the score clocks, selling souvenirs and more. Much of the help will come from volunteers, Powicki said. Anyone interested in offering a hand should contact **Kent McElvania**, associate director of athletics for compliance, at 563-425-5285 or [mcelvaniak@uiu.edu](mailto:mcelvaniak@uiu.edu) for more information.

For those wishing to see the action firsthand, tickets go on sale Dec. 17. Call the U.S. Cellular Center box office at (319) 398-5211 for more information. Cost is \$45 for reserved section and \$40 for general admission. To learn more about the tournament and what's available in Cedar Rapids, visit the UIU

athletics Web site at [www.upperiowaathletics.com](http://www.upperiowaathletics.com) and click on the wrestling championships link. This will include information on the event schedule, local restaurants and hotels and more.

If you'd like to keep up with the event but can't make it to Cedar Rapids, UIU will post active updates on its Web site, [www.upperiowaathletics.com](http://www.upperiowaathletics.com).

Staff in the UIU Alumni and Athletics offices are planning an alumni event in conjunction with the tournament. Details will be available in the near future.





*With the correct preparation of your resume and cover letter, your job search will prove to be successful.*

## **Don't wish for that job to happen...Make it happen!**

### **The importance of a well-written resume...**

- To show off your achievements, attributes, and accumulation of expertise to your best advantage.
- To minimize any possible weaknesses.
- It gives the impression of you being more organized and prepared.
- Your resume will speak loudly and clearly of your value as a potential employee. The value must be spoken in a few brief seconds—in the business world, that's all the attention a resume will get.
- It gets your foot in the door. Because you can't be there to answer questions, it has to stand on its own.

**“Good resume writing focuses attention on your strengths and shows you as a potential powerhouse of an employee.”**

### **And don't underestimate the importance of a cover letter...**

- Your cover letter is the personalizing factor in the presentation of an otherwise essentially impersonal document—your resume. A good cover letter sets the stage for the reader to accept your resume as something special.
- When the envelope is opened, your cover letter is the first thing seen. It can make an indelible first impression.
- Your cover letter lets your potential employer know that you are aware of their needs and that you have the skills, abilities and experience to meet those needs.

Source: *Resumes That Knock 'Em Dead* by Martin Yate

## **Welcome to our newest employees!!**

### **M. Graeme Armstrong**

MHEA Coordinator and Faculty Member, 515-369-7778

### **Brett Barber**

Online Recruiter and Advisor, 515-225-1800

### **Keven Bradley**

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

### **Becky Conner**

Custodian

### **Grace Conrad**

Assistant Volleyball Coach

### **Justin Decker**

Assistant Wrestling Coach

### **Elizabeth Flanders**

Administrative Assistant, RN-BSN Program, 563-425-5318

### **Tiffany Hansen**

Admissions Counselor, 563-425-5715

### **Elisabeth Hostetler**

External Degree Academic Advisor, 563-425-5783

### **Bryan Jackson**

Assistant Volleyball Coach

### **Kristen Jorgenson**

Administrative Assistant in International Programs, 563-425-5251

### **Vivian Rourke**

Assistant Registrar, 563-425-5815

### **Deetra Sallis**

Manager of Student Accounts, Rockford Center, 815-624-7777

### **Christopher Sanders**

Executive Director of International Programs, 563-425-5832

### **Julie Schick**

Student Accounts Coordinator, Fayette Campus, 563-425-5234

### **Tim Sievers**

Center Coordinator, Rockford Center, 815-624-7777

### **Steven Smith**

Assistant Professor of Business, Milwaukee Center, 414-475-4848

### **Jennifer Sullivan-Hadsall**

Academic Advisor, Cedar Rapids Center, 319-363-2642

### **Randall Thomas**

Assistant Professor of Business, Waterloo Center, 319-232-6980

### **Kristi Tisl**

Center Coordinator, Cedar Rapids Center, 319-363-2642

### **Barbara Vandegrift**

Academic Advisor, Rockford Center, 815-624-7777