

# Feather Notes

Upper Iowa University eNews



December 2003

## UIU sign and landscaping have symbolic meaning

When giving directions to rural Fayette, Iowa, students and residents have likely warned travelers, “Don’t blink, or you’ll miss it.” Highway 150 once ran right down Fayette’s Main Street, adjacent to the University. In the early 1960s the highway was rerouted and now bypasses much of the town and University by a quarter mile. Passersby would hardly know that a quiet community and an international university are settled just beyond the trees.

Five years ago Upper Iowa University joined with the city of Fayette to improve signage on the roadside, offering travelers a warmer welcome to both the town and the University. The idea originated between retired Upper Iowa President Ralph McKay and Fayette Mayor Bill Dohrmann, and was approved through the Fayette City Council. City Clerk Christie Dennis worked to secure land on the north and south edges of town along Highway 150, and this summer the idea became a reality.

Three limestone signs were designed by Waterloo landscape architect Craig Ritland, bearing the silhouette of Alexander-Dickman Hall’s “green goddess.” One sign is located on the north edge of Fayette and the other on the south edge of Fayette on Highway 150. The limestone was cut in a local quarry just as Ritland had envisioned, and a mason was called to assemble the signs in late spring. The third sign is situated on the southwest corner of campus, and landscaping design fell to Upper Iowa’s director of grounds, **Mike Estrem**.

As Estrem considered the landscape design, he carefully selected plant material that would symbolize elements of both University tradition and the unique northeast Iowa terrain. The white pine, to the right of the sign, represents other



pinus planted along Pine Allée in front of Parker-Fox Hall by “the boys of the senior class and other friends” in 1881. The day lilies around the base of the white pine are a favorite flower of two Upper Iowa alumni and benefactors, Bill and Betty Andres. Both have served on the Board of Trustees (Betty currently) and together were instrumental in providing the campus-wide relandscaping project in the early 1990s.

To the left of the sign is a young Norway maple, symbolizing the row of maple trees that line the sidewalk leading from the historic arch up the hill to the old “College Hall.” Beneath the maple tree is planted blue oat grass. The plumage of this ornamental grass is meant to evoke the attractive tail feathers of a peacock, the University’s mascot since 1890. Blue delphinium and blue and white geraniums were planted to represent the school colors, also chosen by Upper Iowa students in 1890. Anthony Waterer Spirea, Limerock Ruby Coreopsis, and Tiny Rubies Dianthus

display even more colors that are found in the brilliant display of peacock tail feathers.

Stories are told through a variety of media, and these new additions in Fayette do more than simply identify a location for tourists; they provide Fayette students and residents a sense of history, and welcome them home. ■

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## Organizations honored for volunteerism

E.Y.E. and Alpha Nu Omega, two Greek social/service organizations on campus, were honored recently by the State of Iowa for their volunteerism at a ceremony held September 22 at Lin-Mar High School in Marion. The organizations had been nominated for the Governor's Award for Volunteerism by the Iowa Department of Transportation, and were among 200 groups and individuals recognized at the ceremony by Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson. Both groups are actively involved in volunteer work in the Fayette and UIU communities. Some of their efforts include highway clean-up, helping local farmers at harvest time, food drives, and helping with programming at local schools. Representing UIU at the ceremony were, (photo, left to right): **John Augustus** (president of Alpha Nu Omega), **Erin Sandersfeld** (president of E.Y.E.), Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson, **Casey Nye** and **Joseph Pena**. ■



## Guitarist Soler a smash hit at UIU

On Friday evening, September 26, through the cosponsorship of Upper Iowa University's division of liberal arts and the Catalan Consortium of Foreign Promotion of Culture, the internationally acclaimed Spanish guitarist, Francesc de Paula Soler, performed in Colgrove-Walker Auditorium.

Known as "The Poet of the Guitar," Francesc de Paula Soler's wide international activity as a performer has led critics to hail him as the most notable name of the new Spanish guitar. Soler lived up to his billing. His performance captivated the large audience as he gracefully moved from Spanish dance to Cuban lullaby to contemporary rock and blues. As co-organizer **Roland Vazquez**, assistant professor of social science and anthropology, rightly noted in the introduction, having performed throughout Europe and America, and in various venues, Francesc de Paula Soler is now a friend of the City of Fayette and Upper Iowa University.

Following the performance, Vazquez and fellow organizer, Spanish instructor **Magda Vazquez**, received exhilarated feedback from concertgoers. Many individuals from the UIU community, especially associate professor of management **Richard Barker** and associate professor of design **Don McComb**, gave of their time and effort to make the event a success. ■



Left to right: Francesc de Paula Soler, Richard Barker, Magda & Roland Vazquez, Barbara Barker.

### Welcome! to our newest employees!!

#### Tammy Carolan

Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Ext. 5337

#### Rick Eftink

Extended University Recruiter/Transfer Advisor  
515-225-1800 (Des Moines Center)

#### Martin Hamel

Science Laboratory Coordinator, Ext. 5381

#### David Hannum

Online Program Recruiter, 515-225-1800  
(Des Moines Center)

#### Kim Knapp

Housekeeping Staff, Physical Plant

#### Amanda Matherne

Temporary Administrative Assistant,  
Jackson Barracks Center, 504-278-0936

#### Margaret Monroe

Center Coordinator, Brooks City Base Center,  
210-536-4033

#### Katherine Russell

Administrative Assistant, Fort Polk Center,  
337-537-4465

#### Marie Summers

Spirit Squad Coach/Recreation Center Assistant  
Director, Ext. 5669

#### Sara Weichman

Extended University Recruiter/Transfer Advisor  
319-232-6980 (Waterloo Center)

## Faculty & Staff Notes

The book, *Possible Paradises: Basque Emigration to Latin America*, written by José Manuel Azcona Pastor and translated from Spanish by **Roland Vazquez**, assistant professor of social science and anthropology, was released by the University of Nevada Press in October 2003. The book paints a portrait of the Basque diaspora in the “New World” from the time of the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the present. For more information, see: <http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/p/possible.html>.

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**John Siblik**, assistant professor of art, presented a lecture as a visiting artist for the Department of Art and Design at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, this past October. The topic of the lecture was “Siblik’s Recent Paintings and Drawings.”

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This past October **Nick Serra**, assistant professor of English, presented a paper on “Yeats Transformational Alchemy” at the Central New York Conference on Language and Literature. He will be chairing an invi-

tation-only panel on Yeats’s technical esoterica at the conference next October as well.

“The Yonderland Review: A Not-Quite Broadside of Poetry,” an unofficial publication of the UIU Division of Liberal Arts, will soon begin print on the 1880s Pearl letterpress that is located in Nick Serra’s office. The quarterly publication will present a single contemporary poem every three months. Subscription information will be released soon. ■

## Extended University Updates

### Brooks Center

Brooks Center, the newest off-campus site in the Extended University, opened its doors in September. The center is located in San Antonio, Texas, on Brooks City-Base (formerly Brooks AFB). Upper Iowa was invited to the base by the Education Office, and is the only four-year institution with a permanent presence on the base. Majors offered include business, public administration, criminal justice, human services and social science. The first class began in Term 2, and we plan to expand our offerings in the terms ahead. **Margaret Monroe** has assumed the reigns as the center coordinator. She brings a wealth of university experience to Upper Iowa having served as a center director for military educational programs at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Troy State University, both overseas and in the States. She holds a master of science degree in counseling and guidance from Troy State University.

### Fort Polk Center

In February, the center will be moving to a new location in the soon-to-be-completed, state-of-the-art education center and library located on South Fort. The new complex features high-tech classrooms and brings all higher education programs at Fort Polk under one roof. The new location will be a tremendous upgrade over current facilities and will be more convenient for our students and faculty.

### Wausau Center

Beginning with Term I and continuing in Term II, the four courses which are required by human services students to be eligible to sit for the State and National Social Work Certification exams are being delivered via interactive television. In Term I we delivered from Edgar High to Ashland, Wisconsin. With the increase in enrollments, we have expanded delivery to Boyceville and Mosinee, Wisconsin. This type of delivery

is a very big “plus” for students already working in the field of social work and needing to meet their two-year deadline to obtain certification by the State of Wisconsin. In the past, students were driving a minimum of two hours one way to attend classes due to the lack of educational institutions within the state delivering the course work. We are happy to report that after some technical difficulties at the start, things are going well and reviews were favorable. ■

### Tuition Reduced for Military Students

Upper Iowa University has long recognized the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the challenges they face while trying to continue their education. As a result of recommendations from the Extended University senior management team and actions taken by the Board of Trustees, UIU will offer a reduced tuition rate for all military personnel (active, guard, reserve, and retired) and their family members who are DOD identification card holders. As of January 1, 2004, these students receive a 10% tuition discount at all civilian centers and through the Online and External Degree programs.

This now allows the University to recognize all military students enrolling in an Extended University program, not just those located at our military centers. The change for our military student is twofold: 1) the 10% discount on published tuition applies worldwide; and 2) the discounted rate applies to all our modalities of delivery—on site, online, or external degree.

We believe this worldwide 10% reduction in tuition recognizes all military students and will prove to be a benefit for our military students as they travel the world throughout their military careers. ■