

# Feather Notes

Upper Iowa University eNews



December 2004

## Recent graduate uses degree to help military advance during Operation Iraqi Freedom

Recent business degree graduate **Daniel Burrhus '03** worked hard to finish his senior project so that he could earn his degree prior to his year-long deployment to southwest Asia.

His senior project involved an analysis of the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support System (DMLSS) and how it could best be integrated into the Army. The focus was to analyze an information system known as Unit Level Logistics System—Ground. The system had been communicating inconsistencies, because new medical software was not being used how it was designed. His project explored this issue and developed two approaches to resolve this disparity and then made recommendations for the

course of action to be taken.

Based on his findings he has been able to identify shortcomings of the 25-year old system and is leading the charge for change. He briefed the system and the methodology that he developed to his commander, who agreed with his findings. The commander is now deploying Burrhus to various locations all over Iraq in hopes that his recommendations will in fact create a better system for all those stationed in Iraq. At each location, he gives personnel the hardware, software and training they need to use the system he developed through his project.

Burrhus is an active duty Army warrant officer currently assigned to the United States Army Medical Material Center

based in Doha, Qatar. They serve as the channel for all medical supplies and medical equipment maintenance services from the Horn of Africa

in the West to the various “Stans” to the East. He is currently on missions to train personnel in locations surrounding Baghdad. ■



Daniel Burrhus '03, right, with his buddy in Iraq.

## Hispanic Heritage at UIU a Success

This past September and October witnessed UIU's first-ever commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The series of events featured musical performances from the Latin-American duo Calle Sur and the Spanish guitarist Francesc de Paula Soler, a dance lecture and demonstration by Latin dance teacher Ignacio Anguiano (along with his wife and partner, Kristen Anguiano), and several Spanish language movies, as well as readings and lectures by **Bissell Professor of English Doug McReynolds** and **Assistant Professor of Social Sciences and Anthropology Roland Vazquez** at the Fayette Community Library.

Vazquez, who organized the

series of events with the help of his wife, **Spanish Instructor Magda Vazquez**, considered the



Magda and Roland Vazquez, KUNI radio's "Live from Studio One" host Karen Impola, and Guitarist Francesc de Paula Soler are all smiles after Soler's September 27 KUNI performance promoting his Fayette concert the following evening.

commemoration a success. "We accomplished our three goals: bringing arts and cultural events to Upper Iowa, engaging the town and the University in a joint project, and publicizing UIU throughout northeast Iowa."

Given the interest and help that came from members of the University, Fayette communities and others, the Vazquezes hope to be able to make this year's commemoration the first of many. ■

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Check out our web site for all the news and information on UIU:

[www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu)

## External Degree alumnus is grateful for UIU's program

For the average working person, it can be difficult to find time to manage a schedule—let alone take classes and earn a degree.

**Mark English**, a husband, father of three children, and a full-time employee of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Fire Department, found a way to do just that through Upper Iowa University's External Degree Program. English, a 2004 graduate of the program, received a bachelor of science degree with a major in public administration—fire science emphasis. He plans to use it to achieve advancement within the fire service field. English is a prime example of the External Degree student, and he understands what it takes to achieve success and earn a degree.

"My rank is Administrative District Chief, and I am the chief

of training and special operations. I am responsible for the training of all department members, as well as the development and maintenance of our special responses, including hazardous material response, technical rescues, and water or ice related rescues. I am also the task force leader for the Cedar Rapids division of the State's Urban Search and Rescue Team which is poised to respond to any rescue in the state, especially those involving structural collapse events."

When asked why he chose the External Degree program, English said, "This program offered me the opportunity to finish the work at my own pace—according to my schedule. It was just a better fit for me and my family."

English took just over three years to obtain his degree. "My

motivation to earn the degree was to advance to the next rank in our organization. I wanted to learn more and realized a degree was crucial for advancement within the fire service field," he said.

Another reason English chose the External Degree program was because of the tremendous amount of support he received from the staff. "My biggest support outside of my family was my advisor, **Carol Katsumes**. She helped me stay motivated and gave me information that made it easier to get started and stick with the program. She also helped me see the importance of attending graduation, and said I owed it to myself to walk across that stage and accept my degree," said English. "Aside from finishing, that was the best decision I've ever made with my education."

As a stout advocate for the External Degree program, English believes that it takes commitment, dedication, and a lot of hard work to earn your degree. "It is an outstanding program, and I encourage anyone seeking a degree to seriously consider the External Degree program at Upper Iowa University," he said. "It was the best thing imaginable for me and my family."

If you know of someone who would be interested in Upper Iowa University's External Degree program and the flexibility it can provide, contact the UIU External Degree office at PO Box 1861, Fayette, IA 52142; call toll free at 888-877-3742, or log on to our web site at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu).

## Prairie Center student named FFA Star Farmer of America

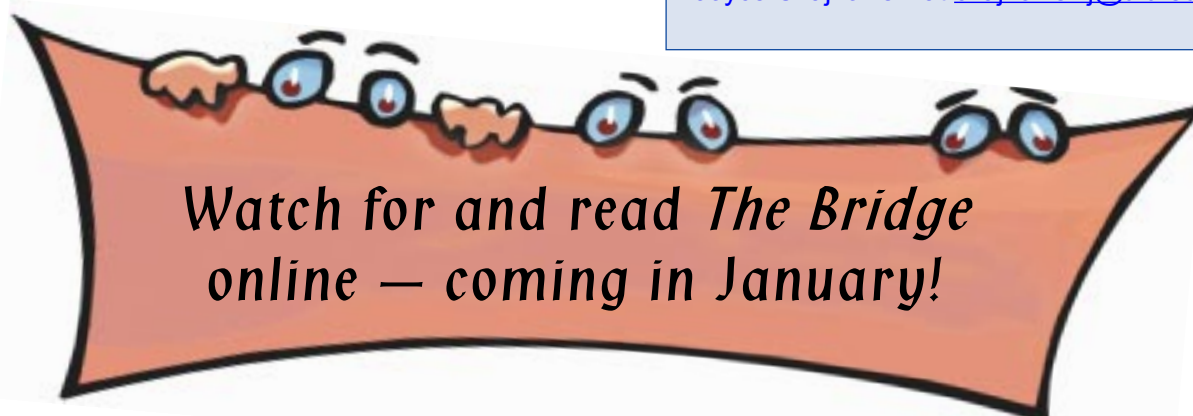
**Bill Erdenberger**, Bloomington, Wis., was recently named the Star Farmer of America by Future Farmers of America. This is one of the most prestigious awards offered by the National FFA Organization. Erdenberger, in partnership with his brother, farms an 850-acre operation that raises cattle and hogs, as well as corn and soybeans. He currently attends Upper Iowa University's Prairie du Chien Center, where he majors in business. He hopes that his UIU education will be a key factor in the future success of the farm.

Erdenberger also was named the Wisconsin FFA Star Farmer in June 2002.

## Extended University Scholarship Giving Opportunity

Through the generous donations of Extended University alumni and UIU employees, one student at each Civilian Center, one student at each Military Center, one External Degree student, and one Online Program undergraduate student will be awarded a tuition voucher good for one free class at UIU and \$100 toward the purchase of books through MBS Direct.

If you would like information on contributing to the Extended University scholarship fund, contact Joyce Czajkowski at [czajkowski@uiu.edu](mailto:czajkowski@uiu.edu).



## Around Campus

**Dennis Conner**, a 20-year member of the UIU maintenance staff, is pictured with his latest creation at the Henderson-Wilder Library. This summer Denny and the UIU Physical Plant installed a ramp in the library to allow wheel chair accessibility. Along with the new ramp, automatic door openers were installed on the library entrance doors and provisions were made to the men's and women's lower level restrooms for accessibility.

Colgrove-Walker, Garbee Hall, Baker-Hebron and Alexander-Dickman also received automatic door openers on their entrances this summer. In addition, Colgrove-Walker received treatments to its lower level restrooms and auditorium to make them disabled friendly. Special thanks goes out to all who helped with these improvements.



**Dave Wright**, housekeeping staff, drives the "Peacock Express" approximately 150 miles per week to and from the local post office and around campus. He delivers campus mail and UPS and Fed-Ex packages, and other duties include picking up recycling from offices and the café. Dave has retired two other Peacock Express vehicles and is a faithful UIU employee of 28 years.



### *If you'd only known then what you know now...*

Our seniors could sure use the advice and support from a community of UIU alumni who were once in their shoes. Throughout the school year, the Alumni Center will send periodic messages of encouragement to our seniors, and we'd like to include **YOUR** best advice to them as they make a strong finish to their formal education and prepare to take their "Peacock Pride" out into the world. **Please send your message of encouragement and well wishes for our seniors to Carol Lee at [leec@uiu.edu](mailto:leec@uiu.edu), or call 563-425-5231. Just a sentence or two is fine!**

**Do you have  
a penchant  
for poetry?**



The Alumni Center has, for the last two years, mailed February valentines to alumni in "UIUnions" (married couples who are both UIU alumni). In the future, we would love to feature alumni poetry in our UIUnion valentines. For more information, or to request a sample, contact **Carol Lee** in the Alumni Center at **563-425-5231** or **[leec@uiu.edu](mailto:leec@uiu.edu)**.

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

**Katie Boggs**

Administrative Assistant, Des Moines Center, 515-225-1800

**Orlando Gonzalez**

Admissions Counselor, 563-425-5278

**Marta Grove**

Assistant Registrar, 563-425-5363

**Kay Harkness**

Administrative Assistant, Ankeny Center, 515-965-6050

**Brent Meyers**

Assistant Wrestling Coach/Instructor in HPER, 563-425-5317

**Sheila Miller**

Assistant Director of Public Relations, 563-425-5326

**Jennifer Northrop**

Tutor of Mathematics, Academic Support Center

**Sheila Roach**

Custodian, Physical Plant

**Lynne Seabrooke**

Administrative Assistant in Academic Assessment, 563-425-5385

**Renee Wolf**

Administrative Assistant, Fort Riley Center, 785-784-5225

## Faculty & Staff Notes

**Melle Starsen**, assistant professor of communications, has had her second novel accepted for publication. The book, "Not Quite Heaven," is about a man with a terminal illness who succumbs to the disease and ends up meeting a beautiful but sarcastic angel who makes him relive the mistakes in his life. The novel is scheduled to be released in 2005.

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**Manzoor Murshed**, assistant professor of management information systems, will present two papers at the 7th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT 2004), to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 26-28. The titles of his papers are "Steganalysis using LSB hiding" and "A survey on Neural Network Based Steganalysis." Both papers are already selected and published in the conference proceedings.

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**Karla Gavin**, director of career services, received the Fayette Mayor's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism for Community Betterment on Sept. 10. She is currently a member of the Fayette Community Tree Board, the Grandview Cemetery Board, the



Karla Gavin with son, Colin.

Main Street Improvement Committee and the Fayette Park/Sports Complex fundraising committee.

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**Joel Kunze**, director of Internet development, and **Melle Starsen**, assistant professor of communications, won first place in the community float division of UIU's Homecoming Day parade. Kunze and Starsen entered the parade with a seven-foot hand-built float celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary/birthday of Japanese movie monster Godzilla. Both entrants wore fuzzy grey Yeti feet, Tyrannosaurus Rex hats, and handmade dinosaur tails.

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First-place Homecoming float winners Joel Kunze and Melle Starsen.

**Tracy Griffith**, academic advisor at the Milwaukee Center, was recently elected secretary of SEWEC, Southeast Wisconsin Educational Consortium.

In congratulating Tracy on her new post and to celebrate her successes at Upper Iowa

University, and "because of her knowledgeable helpfulness to students, diligence in providing superior customer service, and care and precision in advising students



Tracy Griffith

and processing paperwork, the Milwaukee Center is happy to honor Tracy and to declare that December 15 is officially **TRACY GRIFFITH DAY** at the Milwaukee Center."

Please take a moment and thank Tracy for any special help that she has given you.

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**Dr. Richard A. Barker**, associate professor of management, has been selected for a panel discussion about teaching modern students entitled "Those Pesky Millennials" at the Midwest Business Administration Association meeting in Chicago next March. In addition, Dr. Barker will be presenting a paper entitled "Organizations Understood As Political Communities" at that same con-

ference. Dr. Barker's latest novel, a mystery entitled "Misplaced Faith," has been accepted for publication, and will be available sometime next spring.

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In August, **Dr. Mari Molseed**, associate professor of sociology, and **Dr. Don McComb**, associate professor of graphic design, took advantage of a UIU summer faculty scholarship stipend to travel to the Center for Rural and Regional Studies at the Minnesota State University-Southwest in Marshall, Minn., and the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Molseed and McComb met with faculty and staff at each center to discuss research projects, student involvement in activities at the centers, and potential curricular benefits that each center has to offer. The purpose of the trip was to explore the viability of developing similar activities at Upper Iowa University.

"We located colleagues in some nearby universities and colleges who share our commitment to understanding rural life. This project allowed us to exchange information with these colleagues and explore ways that we and our students can study and document features of rural life in northeast Iowa," Molseed said.

McComb added, "We met some great colleagues, and we see potential for curriculum development. Content in liberal arts classes could be enriched with assignments and exercises that bring students into direct contact with rural peoples, their lived experiences and their communities." ■