



New creative writing track for undergraduates wins approval



The University of Iowa, already considered a literary Mecca for its world-renowned graduate Iowa Writers' Workshop, now has a creative writing track for undergraduates.

Beginning in fall 2008, undergraduates majoring in English will be able to apply to a new creative writing track. This program will require 15 semester hours of course work in writing—including 6 semester hours of introductory courses in creative writing, fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and other forms of writing—and 9 semester hours of advanced courses in those areas.

Students in their junior year who have completed 6 semester hours of writing courses and 9 semester hours of other English courses, and have at least a 3.30 grade-point average in all English courses may apply for the creative writing track. Students in the writing track must also meet all existing requirements for the English major.



The University of Iowa is among the top 100 best values in higher education, according to the February issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine.

Project makes UI information accessible to prospective students, public

The University of Iowa will be among the first institutions taking part in a project to make information about colleges and universities more accessible to prospective students and the public.

The project, the Voluntary System of Accountability, is designed to improve public understanding of how public four-year colleges and universities operate by providing consistent, comparable, and transparent information about institutions. Through the web-based College Portrait, schools participating in the project will report common data, including costs of attendance, degree offerings, and learning outcomes.

"The Voluntary System of Accountability is a welcome opportunity for us to provide important information to students,

parents, school counselors, and other citizens in an accessible and useful form," said Tom Rocklin, vice provost for undergraduate education and dean of University College. "It's important to us that we do everything we can to help students and their families make good decisions."

The project is a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, with funding provided by a grant from the Lumina Foundation.

The University of Iowa has provided much of the information available through the Voluntary System of Accountability for some time, Rocklin said, but the

project will make the information even more accessible and allow the University to introduce new ways to present the data, such as through a financial aid calculator.

Beginning in early June, a link on the Office of Admissions web site will take the public to its College Portrait, which will be organized into three areas:

- Student and family information—including data about student demographics, success and progress rates, costs of attendance, student housing, and campus safety.
- Student experiences and perceptions—providing a snapshot of student experiences and activities, based on student surveys.
- Student learning outcomes—reporting evidence from one of three learning outcomes instruments.

iowa UPDATE

i Iowa City was named one of the top 10 “up-and-coming tech cities” by *Forbes* magazine in March.

Next step: submit Orientation reservation, take placement tests

Admitted students may submit their Orientation reservation through their Admissions Profile on ISIS at <http://isis.uiowa.edu>. Students receive invitations only if they have accepted their offer of admission and paid their \$185 acceptance fee.

Placement tests for entering students are offered online through ISIS, and must be completed at least 14 days before their Orientation session. All first-year students

must take the online Mathematics Placement Test, and any student considering a major in any of the health or natural sciences will need to complete the Chemistry Diagnostic Test. In addition, students who need to complete the foreign language requirement for their major, or who want to continue studying a language they studied in high school, will need to take the Foreign Language Placement Test.

Pen pal project brings Iowa to Chicago-area schools

A group of University of Iowa students brought a little bit of Iowa City to the Chicago area this winter.

Members of Students to Assist Recruitment (STAR), a volunteer student organization sponsored by the Office of Admissions, traveled to Chicago’s northwest suburbs on Jan. 11 to visit students in first, fourth, and fifth grades. A pen pal project inspired STAR members Kevin Farrell, a junior, and Rachel Leffring, a senior, to organize the trip.

“It started when we received our first letter from an elementary school in Hoffman Estates, Ill.,” Farrell said. “The teacher was interested in starting a pen pal letter exchange between students at Iowa and her fifth-grade class. We had a good response from the members at our meeting, so we decided to do it.”

A fourth-grade teacher in Palatine, a UI alumna, also requested that her 23 students be “adopted” by STAR as pen pals.

The UI students answer questions and offer encouragement to the fourth and fifth graders in their letters.

At first the Iowa students planned only to exchange letters with the fourth and fifth graders. But after a while it struck Leffring and Farrell (both Illinois residents) to meet their young pen pals face-to-face during the holiday break.

Kathy Bassett, senior associate director of admissions at Iowa, said the relationships the UI students are building with these children are about providing opportunities rather than recruiting.

“This is a great project for our students as well as the kids,” Bassett said. “Iowa students are encouraging young students to keep up with their academics. The relationships the students have built are important and could help these children further their education.”





Health insurance required in 2008

New first-year students are required to have health insurance coverage while enrolled at The University of Iowa. Students will be automatically enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) if they do not have health coverage or do not meet the University's minimum coverage requirements. For more information on health insurance requirements or SHIP, see www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/requirements/health-ins.

New portal will provide easy link to reports for counselors, educators

Iowa Reports, a new web portal on the Office of Admissions web site, will give counselors and administrators easy access to a variety of admissions-related reports. The portal has been designed for ease of access while keeping student information confidential.

The portal will provide links to a report of student admission status and the current and past years' Freshman Year Report. Iowa Reports will be accessible from the existing Counselors & Educators web page, www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/counselors. The Office of Admissions plans to pilot the new portal this spring with a full rollout planned for fall.

Students entering fall 2009 first to use Regent Admission Index

Students beginning their studies in the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in fall 2009 will be admitted based on their Regent Admission Index score and successful completion of the high school course requirements.

Regent Admission Index =

- (2 x ACT composite score)
- + (1 x high school percentile rank)
- + (20 x high school grade-point average)
- + (5 x number of high school core courses)

- Iowa residents must have a score of 245 or above to automatically qualify for admission.
 - Nonresidents must have a score of 255 or above to automatically qualify for admission.
- Go to www2.state.ia.us/regents/rai for help calculating the score.



UI Dance Marathon has record year

More than 1,500 UI students participated in the 14th annual Dance Marathon, held in February in the Iowa Memorial Union on campus. The event raised more than \$1 million—a record-breaking amount, and nearly \$4,000 more than its goal. Dance Marathon is a nationwide, student-run philanthropy that raises money for the Children's Miracle Network. The UI Dance Marathon supports programs that benefit children with cancer, and their families, at UI Children's Hospital.



Two University of Iowa students were among the 45 winners of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a highly selective international award announced in February.



Spring 2008 Volume 24:3

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Office of Admissions
107 Calvin Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1396

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 45
Iowa City, IA

inside

- **NEW CREATIVE WRITING TRACK APPROVED**
- **PROJECT MAKES UI INFO MORE ACCESSIBLE**
- **NEXT STEP: ORIENTATION**
- **PORTAL HELPS COUNSELORS ACCESS REPORTS**
- **DANCE MARATHON HAS RECORD YEAR**
- **NEW ADMISSION INDEX REMINDER**
- **PEN PALS PAY VISIT TO CHICAGO STUDENTS**

2008 fall program dates

Hawkeye Visit Day

Monday, October 13
Friday, October 17
Friday, October 24
Friday, October 31
Friday, November 7
Monday, November 10

Transfer Days

Friday, October 17
Friday, October 24
Friday, October 31
Friday, November 7

Register for program days at www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/visit/hawkeye or call toll free: **800-553-IOWA (4692)**.



The University of Iowa subscribes to the statement of principles of good practice in the admission process of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Iowa Update is published by the University of Iowa Office of Admissions and produced by University Relations Publications. It is designed for secondary school and community college staff concerned with the transition of students to postsecondary education. Editorial staff: Kathryn Bassett, Madelaine Jerousek-Smith, Joanna Malott, Jane Warner. Designer: Mike Tallman. Contributing writers: Anne Gannaway, Tom Paulsen. Photographers: Tom Jorgensen, Tim Schoon. Printed on recycled paper.

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preference. The University also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to University facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 319-335-0705 (voice) and 319-335-0697 (text), 202 Jessup Hall, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316. **69137-4/08**