



## University of Iowa makes big strides in flood recovery

The University of Iowa has returned to service more than 60 percent of the space that was closed when the Iowa River flooded campus in June 2008.

Many flooded buildings were open in time for the beginning of fall 2008 classes, including the Main Library, North Hall, Adler Journalism and Mass Communication Building, Becker Communication Studies Building, the English-Philosophy Building, and Mayflower Residence Hall.

Recovery work continued throughout the fall semester, and the first through third floors of the Iowa Memorial Union opened Nov. 1, while the Theatre Building was scheduled to be reoccupied by the start of the spring 2009 semester.

Voxman Music Building and Clapp Recital Hall remain closed, but the School of Music is scheduled to return to the arts campus in mid-January. Twenty-two mobile units will be set up in the parking lot west of the Theatre Building for use as practice studios, classrooms, and offices for the School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts. The University also recently completed a project to renovate the north section of the Museum of Art building for use by the School of Music.

The School of Art and Art History continues to be housed in the temporary Studio Arts Building southwest of campus. Art Building West is scheduled to be fully reoccupied by December 2009.

Stay up to date with the latest UI flood recovery news at <http://uiflood2.blogspot.com>.

## From the financial aid office: Iowa strives to make education affordable

*Because of the significant downturn in the economy, students and their families are more concerned than ever about the affordability of a college education.*

*The University of Iowa Office of Student Financial Aid, with the strong support of the UI administration, is positioned to assist students by continuing to help provide the financial resources they need. The University of Iowa has a well-established history of making access a high priority, and we continually strive to enhance financial aid resources, and to grow in our ability to provide the best services possible.*

*Here is some information that you should know and may find helpful in communicating with your students and their parents.*



- The University meets the full financial need of all dependent undergraduate Iowa residents through federal, state, University, and private scholarships, grants, work-study, and low-interest federal loans.
- The University first packages federal, state, University, and private scholarships and grants the student qualifies for, and only then packages work-study and federal loans. Private educational loans have never been packaged by the University and are discouraged.
- The University allocates close to 20 percent of its annual tuition revenue to support University scholarships and grants. For the 2009–2010 academic year, more than \$32.7 million from this source will be awarded as undergraduate scholarships and grants.
- The University participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program, which means students and parents borrow directly from the government, so the recent reduction of private lenders offering federal loans has had no effect on families' ability to borrow through low-interest federal loans.
- In 2007, 39 percent of UI undergraduates graduated without debt. That's the highest debt-free rate among the Regents universities. It's also well above the state average of 27 percent.
- For those students who needed or chose to borrow, the average UI student debt was \$22,181. That's 15 percent lower than the state average student debt.
- The UI Office of Student Financial Aid's primary mission is to address the financial needs of students in a way that enables access to The University of Iowa, facilitates enrollment of a well prepared, high achieving, and diverse student body, and encourages timely graduation rates.

### Mark S. Warner

Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services and Director of Student Financial Aid



Iowa City was named the world's third "City of Literature" by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in November 2008.

# iowa UPDATE

## Advisory board members learn, share, and network

The Office of Admissions' High School Counselor Advisory Board, a group of 15 Iowa high school counselors, advises the admissions office on issues related to the college admission process. Potential members are identified by admissions staff. Each board member serves a three-year term.

This is what some of our current board members have to say about participating on the board:



During a fall 2008 campus visit, members of the UI Office of Admissions' High School Counselor Advisory Board visited the wrestling room at Carver-Hawkeye Arena and met Iowa athletes and coaches, including head wrestling coach Tom Brands (left).

**Tom McGrane, Denison High**

**School:** "Having representatives of the University sit with high school counselors, listen to our concerns, and solicit our input emphasizes the respect that the University has for Iowa's counselors and students. I cannot imagine another venue in which I would be able to have lunch with the president of the University as she exchanged her thoughts and concerns about higher education with those of us who prepare students for the next step in their education."

**Tammy Riley, Creston High School:**

"Membership has given me the opportunity to network with other counselors from across the state and learn more about The University of Iowa."

**Stephanie Eckhardt, Davenport West High School:** "I can answer many of the questions that prospective students have about the University due to the information I gained from my experiences on campus."

**Mike Thompson, Solon High School:** "I thought I knew quite a bit about 'admission stuff,' but I am finding out I don't know squat. The breadth and depth of things I have learned from the admissions staff about the University has been amazing."

For more information on the board and its current members, visit [www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/counselors/hscab](http://www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/counselors/hscab).

### Tips for easy credit transfers

It's not uncommon for students to earn college credit in high school through Advanced Placement course work or courses from their local college. In fact, one-third of the 4,246 new first-year students enrolled at the University of Iowa in Fall 2008 earned an average of 14 semester hours of college credit before arriving on campus.

Additionally, more students are pursuing four-year degrees by first attending a two-year institution, and then transferring to the University.

It is important to provide these students general guidance regarding their proposed course work and how it might be used toward their future degree.

Some basic guidelines:

1. Determine how the student's prospective college(s) accepts the credit. (Credit and grade, or credit only?) Not all colleges follow the same policies.
2. Ask how the credit might be used toward a degree: to satisfy a general education requirement, as an elective, or for credit toward his or her major?
3. Consider whether it is preferable to complete a specific course or sequence at the future school.
4. Learn whether there is a limit on the amount of credit a student may transfer to his or her future school.
5. Ask what the student should do if he or she earns a low grade in a college course.
6. Ensure that college transcripts and AP test results are sent to the student's future school for inclusion in his or her academic record.
7. Refer to transfer information web sites to address the student's questions/concerns. For the Iowa Regents schools, visit [www.transferiowa.org](http://www.transferiowa.org).

If you have questions concerning transferring credit to The University of Iowa, call 800-553-IOWA (4692) to speak with an admission counselor.

## Counselors say Iowa Reports is easy, helpful

Last fall the University of Iowa Office of Admissions and Information Technology Services launched Iowa Reports, a secure web site where high school officials can review the admission status of their students.

Iowa Reports provides access to the Admission Status Report for First-Year Students, a confidential report reflecting the students' progress through the application and admission process. This electronic report also provides the names of students who enrolled at the University for the fall 2008 session, and previous sessions throughout the past five years.

To date, approximately 400 users at more than 170 high schools are using Iowa Reports.

To request access to the site, contact Matt Kroeger, associate director in application and inquiry services, at [matthew-kroeger@uiowa.edu](mailto:matthew-kroeger@uiowa.edu), 800-553-4692 or 319-335-3847.

*"I like that I can quickly check who's applied, and their status, for my own knowledge and for students who would like to check during the school day who may not have other access to a computer."*

**Jeannine Hisel**

Kee High School, Lansing, Iowa

*"I have used Iowa Reports numerous times and find it to be an extremely helpful counseling tool. Actually, I like it so much that I demonstrated it to an admissions representative from another school and encouraged them to consider adopting a similar tracking system."*

**Jon Koll**

West High School, Sioux City, Iowa



## Need to know: Residence hall news

### Remind students to submit housing forms ASAP

Residence hall rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so the University encourages newly admitted students to apply as soon as possible.

Admitted first-year students receive a housing brochure in their admission packet. Both first-year and transfer students should apply for housing online through their Admissions Profile on the Iowa Student Information Services (ISIS).

To make changes to a housing application, students may refer to the Change/Cancel Request Form link on their Admissions Profile. Or, they can find the form on the University Housing web site, <http://housing.uiowa.edu>, and submit it via fax (319-335-2979) or mail it to: University Housing, 4141 Burge Hall, Iowa City, IA, 52242-1214

### New living-learning community in fall 2009

In fall 2009, the University will add a new living-learning community: Honors Nexus. The community, which is housed in Mayflower Residence Hall, is open to first-year, second-year and transfer students in the University of Iowa Honors Program. The community focuses on pursuing projects in art, research, or service. Students from all fields of study are welcome to participate with support from faculty and staff mentors.

For more information, or to see a list of other living-learning communities, visit [www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/housing/learning-comm](http://www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/housing/learning-comm).



Check out The University of Iowa's admissions' page on Facebook for UI news and events, admission information, photos, and videos.



# iowa UPDATE



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## 2009 spring program dates

### ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

#### Hawkeye Visit Days

Monday, Feb. 16  
Friday, Feb. 27  
Friday, March 27  
Friday, April 3  
Friday, April 10

#### Transfer Days

Friday, Feb. 27  
Friday, March 27  
Friday, April 3  
Friday, April 10

### OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

#### Next Step Iowa Counselor Breakfasts

Thursday, Feb. 12  
Quad Cities, Iowa/III.  
Tuesday, Feb. 17  
Iowa City, Iowa  
Wednesday, Feb. 25  
Edina, Minn.  
Tuesday, March 3  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Wednesday, March 11  
Tinley Park, Ill.  
Thursday, March 12  
Oak Brook, Ill.  
Friday, March 13  
Lincolnshire, Ill.  
Wednesday, March 18  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

#### Next Step Iowa Admitted Student Receptions

Wednesday, Feb. 11  
Quad Cities, Iowa/III.  
Tuesday, Feb. 24  
Edina, Minn.  
Monday, March 2  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Tuesday, March 10  
Tinley Park, Ill.  
Wednesday, March 11  
Oak Brook, Ill.  
Thursday, March 12  
Lincolnshire, Ill.  
Tuesday, March 17  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### Feb. 1

Priority deadline for admission

### Feb. 6-7

Dance Marathon

### Feb. 22

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Festival

### March 16-20

Spring break:  
no classes in session

### April 1

Final deadline for admission

### April 24-26

RiverFest

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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.