

On Campus: Education 2002-03

New Major Equals World of Opportunities

Eventually, UI student Johanna Laing wants to be a United States Foreign Service officer, after a stint in the Peace Corps. So when she heard that The University of Iowa would start offering an international studies major in fall 2003, she was pleased—except for one thing. How could she possibly change majors as a senior?

"I maintained close contact with Blythe Burkhardt, coordinator of International Academic Programs, and my academic adviser," Laing says, "and all of my credit hours transferred directly to the new program. I am currently an international studies major with emphases in international business and international politics and relations, as well as minors in business and Spanish. I have had the opportunity to focus on my particular areas of interest for a strong international education foundation."

According to Christopher Roy, associate dean of International Programs, the major builds on the expertise of 200 faculty members who helped plan the major and who will support its students and act as academic advisers. The curriculum absorbs 11 former certificate programs and minors. Roy is preparing for at least 300 students by 2005.



Bad News Bearers

Until recently, many doctors have had to learn the hard way how to give their patients bad news. Marcy Rosenbaum, assistant professor of family medicine in the UI Carver College of Medicine, has been studying how best to provide this training in the classroom.

In a recent project, she assigned third-year medical students to small groups and had them practice presenting bad news to volunteers trained to act in hospital scenarios. The scenarios included having to tell a patient that he or she has cancer, that the patient has contracted a sexually transmitted disease, that a loved one has died, and that cancer has returned to a young patient. Students also practiced discussing hospice care with a patient's family member.

Surveys administered to 341 students (before, four weeks after, and one year after Rosenbaum's training class) indicated that the training had made the students generally more effective at communicating bad news to patients.

Something to Write Home About

In a ceremony at the White House on Feb. 27, President George W. Bush honored the Iowa Writers' Workshop in recognition of its contributions to American life and culture.

Workshop director Frank Conroy accepted the National Humanities Medal for 2002 on behalf of the famous program. Since 1988, the National Endowment for the Humanities awards the medals to honor work that has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened citizens' engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities.

Considered the highest honor in the humanities, the award adds another flourish to a distinguished history of education at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The award recognizes the workshop's pioneering creative writing programs and its world-famous alumni, including key figures of the literary world such as Marvin Bell, John Irving, and Jane Smiley. Former faculty members include Kurt Vonnegut, Philip Roth, and John Cheever. About 15 Pulitzer prize winners, four of the last five U.S. poet laureates, and many winners of the National Book Award and other major literary honors have studied at the workshop.

Begun in 1936, the Iowa Writers' Workshop is the oldest graduate-level creative writing program in America. At its inception, the program offered the only creative writing degree in the country. Although there are now about 300 similar programs in the United States, Iowa's program consistently ranks in U.S. *News & World Report* annual listings as the top program.

The workshop is a graduate program in the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



"We have one umbrella program that gives students the option to choose an area or a thematic emphasis," Roys says. "It is a flexible program for students so that they have the content of the former programs without the complexity of trying to enroll for separate courses in the areas they wanted to pursue."

All students will be strongly urged to complete a study abroad experience, and a \$1,000 scholarship from International Programs is designed to help them do that.

Coach Rallies Support for College

Head Hawkeye football coach Kirk Ferentz and his wife, Mary, have pledged \$100,000 to the UI Foundation to support the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ferentz says the gift, establishing the Kirk and Mary Ferentz Excellence and Innovation Fund, is motivated by his respect for the University's high educational standards and reputation for inventive approaches to education.

With resources from the new endowed fund, Linda Maxson, dean of the college, will make awards on a competitive basis to departments or programs. She expects to make the first award in the 2003-04 academic year.



Young Imaginations

From schools all over Iowa, eleven students displayed their inventions at The University of Iowa booth at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines this past August. Their inventions were selected by the University's Office of University Relations from among hundreds showcased in April during the 2003 Invent Iowa convention on the Iowa State University campus.

Invent Iowa is sponsored by the Connie Belin and Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, which is part of the UI College of Education, and by The University of Iowa and Iowa State University colleges of engineering. The annual convention brings together students in third grade through high school to demonstrate inventions that they believe will make life easier for people.

"Inventing involves problem finding, reading, writing, researching, building, and speaking," says Clar Baldus, Invent Iowa coordinator. "Teaching the invention process is a fun and creative way to integrate math, science, English, social studies, and kinesthetic experiences in a unique way that can motivate even the most reluctant student."



Tippie MBA Program Continues to Expand

This year, more than one thousand students are enrolled in one of the MBA programs in the Henry B. Tippie College of Business at The University of Iowa. In the past two years, the Tippie MBA program has expanded into Des Moines, while on the other side of the world the program is now offered in Hong Kong and, in the near future, will be taught in China.

The Tippie School of Management offers several different versions of its MBA program designed to fit the needs of today's business professionals. Students have options that range from the Full-time Program, offered on the Iowa City campus, to the Evening Program, offered in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines/Newton, and the Quad Cities. In addition, several versions of the Executive Program provide concentrated experiences that allow seasoned working professionals to complete an MBA program in two years.

For the second time, the Tippie School of Management collaborated with Iowa State University's College of Engineering to offer the Executive Engineer Dual Master's Degree Program. Participants in this class earn both an MBA from The University of Iowa and a master's degree in Engineering in Systems Engineering (MESE) from Iowa State University. Nineteen students have just begun this unique program.

Tuition Scholarships—A Recruiting Boon

Since John Keller became dean of the Graduate College, one of his main initiatives has been to further develop recruitment efforts for graduate education at The University of Iowa. The new tuition scholarship policy is a major accomplishment that will make the University even more attractive to prospective students.

Although Iowa's teaching assistant and research assistant stipends have been among the most generous in the Big Ten, the University has not offered tuition scholarships for most graduate assistants until now. In FY03, all full-time graduate assistants began receiving a minimum of \$750 per year; next year the amount doubles. Ultimately, the University hopes to provide full coverage for tuition costs.

What does this mean for recruitment efforts? Tuition costs are now rising faster than annual increases in stipends. By offering scholarship incentives, the University and the Graduate College have created a package that is more attractive to prospective students. The tuition scholarship also means that traditionally under-funded departments in the arts and humanities can offer a more competitive package, and grant writers in the sciences can budget for more research assistants.

Campus Connections

Family, career, and other obligations prevent many people from furthering their education. But, with the touch of a button, students now can enter a classroom the size of Iowa and secure a college degree by transcending the usual constraints.

Administered in part by the UI Division of Continuing Education and supported jointly by Iowa's three Regents universities, the Bachelor of Liberal Science Across Iowa program uses the Iowa Communications Network to broadcast college courses to sites across the state. Unlike traditional correspondence and web-based courses that restrict students to working privately, the program's courses allow students—through video and audio connections—to contribute to classroom discussions, ask questions of instructors, and even make presentations in "real time."

The new program is designed primarily for students from two-year colleges who want to earn a bachelor's degree from a Regents university without moving to campus. According to Wayne Prophet, assistant dean for Credit Programs in the University's continuing education division, students who take traditional guided correspondence courses sometimes need as long as 10 years to obtain a degree. This degree could be completed as few as five years.