



Kick-off of the Year of the Arts and Humanities



As you may already be aware, I have declared the upcoming academic year as the "Year of the Arts and Humanities." During this year, we will celebrate the rich cultural tradition of the arts and humanities at the University and throughout Iowa and forge cultural linkages between the academic community and communities around the state.

The celebration will begin quietly this summer before moving into full gear with a kick-off festival in September and dozens of events, programs, and performances throughout the academic year. One highlight will be the October 6 campus visit and public lecture by Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Events will be organized around a unifying theme each month from September through April. September will celebrate "The Life of Discovery," beginning with a kick-off festival September 7 to 9 featuring music, art, lectures, readings and discussions. Other monthly themes include: Museums, Dance, Imagination, On the Road, Black Art and History, March Madness, and Carnival.

The "Year of the Arts and Humanities" steering committee is co-chaired by Christopher Merrill, Director of the International Writing Program and Professor of English, Jay Semel, Director of the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Charlotte Adams, Associate Professor of Dance in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Willard "Sandy" Boyd, UI President Emeritus and Rawlings-Miller Professor of Law. Committee members were selected from a wide variety of academic disciplines and backgrounds. Members then selected themes that they believed would encourage people to think broadly about how discoveries made by artists and scholars, can provide meaning for people from every background, bridging differences, creating sustainable economies, and adding to the fabric of life.

The steering committee will soon announce grants totaling more than \$120,000 to three dozen proposals from faculty, staff, and students eager to participate in the yearlong celebration. The wide variety of projects includes storytelling from Decorah to Red Oak, ethnic music and dance from Burlington to Sioux City, and an online art show featuring a different work by an Iowa artist each day. In addition to the grant-funded activities, a host of new and ongoing projects will also be identified as part of the Year of the Arts and Humanities.

This is an effort I have undertaken to increase public awareness and support of the rich tradition of arts and humanities on campus and statewide. I have also invited Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa and those involved in arts and cultural venues and activities around the state to join the effort. To complement our efforts, Governor Vilsack has declared 2004 the Year of Arts, Culture, and Recreation statewide.

Our Year of the Arts and Humanities celebration will extend to five long-term care facilities, a dozen art museums, historical associations throughout the state, and public schools in Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs and Coralville, as well as many other venues statewide, offering programs that highlight the rich arts and cultural traditions of the university and the state as a whole.

I firmly believe that as an academic, social and cultural force, the arts and humanities comprise the soul of the university. By this celebration, we will raise the profile of these fields and celebrate the immense reach and profound importance of academic arts and humanities. This effort will also build on our long partnership with many important cultural venues throughout the state.

I will continue to update you on the planning and activities of these events. I am hopeful that many of you can join us in one or more of these statewide activities.

In This Issue

- ◆ Year of the Arts and Humanities
- ◆ UIHC Specialty Rankings
- ◆ Medicaid Hearings
- ◆ Enhancing Diversity on the UI Campus

DID YOU KNOW?

- ... **that** as of June 2004, there are 216,629 UI living alumni?
- ... **that** The University of Iowa ranks 10th among public research universities in National Institutes of Health awards?
- ... **that** UI alumnae **Juanita Kidd Stout (B.A., 1939, Music)** was the first woman appointed as a federal judge (Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice)?

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UI Hospitals And Clinics Specialties Rank Among The Best



Recently the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) was ranked overall as one of "America's Best Hospitals" with 12 of the hospital's specialties listed among the nation's top 50 in an annual survey published by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine.

Three of the honored specialties -- Otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) listed at 2nd, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (eyes) listed at 6th and Orthopaedic Surgery (bones and joints) listed at 6th -- rank among the nation's top 10 in their respective categories in the July 12 issue of the magazine.

The complete list of ranked specialties at UI Hospitals and Clinics includes:

- Otolaryngology (2)
- Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (6)
- Orthopaedic Surgery (6)
- Urology (16)
- Psychiatry (17)
- Respiratory Disorders (21)
- Digestive Disorders (33)
- Hormone Disorders (36)
- Gynecology (39)
- Cancer (40)
- Geriatrics (42)
- Kidney Disease (45)

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The 2004 rankings represent the 15th time in the 15 years that *U.S. News & World Report* has published the "America's Best Hospitals" survey that UI Hospitals and Clinics has received the honor from the magazine. The ranking of so many specialties demonstrates the comprehensive nature and depth of the services provided at UI Hospitals and Clinics.

The *U.S. News & World Report* ranks medical schools separately from hospitals. In its most recent rankings, it rated the UI Carver College of Medicine among the best in the nation. As a primary care institution, the college was ranked ninth and its research enterprise was ranked 28th. In addition, it was ranked 13th in rural medicine, 22nd in pediatrics and 26th in internal medicine. Currently, 169 UI Health Care physicians, who are also faculty in the Carver College of Medicine, are listed on the "Best Doctors in America" database.

The UI Hospitals and Clinics is Iowa's only comprehensive academic medical center and serves patients from all 99 counties. University of Iowa Health Care describes the partnership between the UI Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and UI Hospitals and Clinics and the patient care, medical education and research programs and services they provide.

Iowa Supreme Court's Decision on HF 692

In a 7-0 decision, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled on June 16, 2004 that House File 692, which among other things created the Grow Iowa Values Fund, was nullified. The University of Iowa had projects that had been approved by the Grow Iowa Values Fund Board and commitments had been made. Those projects include building a biotechnology business incubator which could be used by start-up companies in the University's Technology Innovation Center. Additionally, the UI intends to extend the contract production capacity of its already successful Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing so that active pharmaceutical ingredients can be prepared under the Good Manufacturing Practices standards that are required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for clinical testing clinical testing. That will enable the Center to produce proteins and other certified biopharmaceutical materials for human use.



UI Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing

At the present time, the Center represents one of the world's strongest clusters of faculty scientists, laboratory personnel, and graduate and postdoctoral students in the areas of biocatalysis and bioprocessing. The group is already recognized for its individual and collective scientific talent as evidenced by its high degree of success in securing external industrial and peer-reviewed scientific support for its research. Through its outreach efforts, the Center has taken hundreds of visitors from industry through the laboratory, including many from Iowa-based firms with an interest in using the facilities.

The Governor and Legislative leadership are still negotiating to this issue which may include a special session this summer to pass legislation "re-creating" the Grow Iowa Values Fund.

You can find the complete opinion of the court at:

<http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/supreme/opinions/20040616/03-1948.asp>

Medicaid Hearings Open To Public In Six Iowa Cities

As part of the University of Iowa's strategic plan, the University is committed to maintaining and enhancing strong ties with its external constituencies. To emphasize the importance of that principle and to reinforce the University's recognition of its responsibility of service to the entire state, President David Skorton has agreed to be chair of the Medical Assistance Crisis Intervention Team. The Medical Assistance Crisis Intervention Team (MACIT) was created by legislation approved earlier this year by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Vilsack. This legislation was primarily initiated by two factors: Medicaid costs were escalating at the same time state revenues were constrained.



David Skorton is chair of MACIT

Medicaid pays for medical assistance for individuals and families with low incomes and resources. This program became law in 1965, is jointly funded by the federal and state governments, and assist states to provide medical and long-term care assistance. It is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with limited incomes. In fiscal year 2004-05, Medicaid expenditures in Iowa are expected to be nearly \$2 billion, of which \$568 million will come from the state. The federal government will fund the remainder in the current fiscal year, but future changes are being contemplated on the national level.

On December 1, 2004, the Team will submit a report to the General Assembly that will include projections of costs for the Medicaid program through June 30, 2008 and may also include recommendations on services, eligibility, rates, care management and program administration. Information will be gathered with assistance from the Iowa Department of Human Services staff and through public hearings held in six Iowa cities: Ottumwa, Sioux City, Dubuque, Mason City, Red Oak and Des Moines. Input will also be accepted by e-mail at: medicaid-publiccomment@uiowa.edu or mailed to: Medicaid Public Comment, 105 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

In addition to President Skorton, members of the Team include representatives from: the Iowa Health Care Association; the Iowa Pharmacy Association; the Medical Assistance Advisory Council; the Director and CEO of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; the Iowa Hospital Association; the Iowa Medical Society; Positive Alternatives to Hospitalization (PATH) Program; the Iowa Association of Community Providers; and the Federation of Iowa Insurers.

ENHANCING DIVERSITY ON THE UI CAMPUS

The Diversity Administration Review Committee

In March of 2003, President Skorton appointed a Diversity Administration Review Committee. Its charges were: 1) to review central administrative structures at Regent and peer institutions; and 2) to suggest changes in central administrative structures and responsibilities aimed at improving effectiveness and efficiency of diversity efforts at the UI.

Recommendations were made in September 2003 by the Committee. Skorton implemented three of the committee's suggestions shortly after the Committee report was presented:

- ◆ Changing the name of the Office of Affirmative Action to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.
- ◆ Initiating regular meetings between Equal Opportunity and Diversity staff with the University's Vice Presidents and Deans.
- ◆ Exploring private sector funding possibilities to support diversity activities.

Recently, President Skorton indicated in the coming weeks the University will continue to work on implementing the spirit of three additional Committee recommendations. Implementation methods will be flexible and will take into consideration budget constraints. For instance, personnel may be reassigned instead of creating new positions.

- ◆ Creating new programmatic agenda within the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its efforts, including separate initiatives on equal opportunity, diversity and compliance.
- ◆ Assigning primary and secondary responsibility for diversity-related functions among various UI offices, including Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the President, the Provost, Vice Presidents, Deans, Department Heads, and the University's Ombudsperson.
- ◆ Creating an external funding specialist position to ensure that diversity-related external grants are procured and retained.

Vice President Jones Receives Award for Providing Higher Education Opportunities

Phillip E. Jones, Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students, is known nationally for promoting equal opportunity in higher education. He is also the founder of the UI's Office of Support Service Programs. Recently, in recognition of these efforts, he received the 2004 Access Award from Introspect Youth Services. Introspect is a non-profit organization in Chicago that seeks to build brighter futures for young adults by providing accessibility to opportunities in higher education. The award recognizes individuals who have exhibited dedication and compassion in uplifting the minds and spirits of thousands of young adults that society has deemed 'hopeless' because of their difficult backgrounds.

In a letter of congratulations to Vice President Jones, U.S. Senator Durbin of Illinois indicated that his dedication to providing low-income students the same kinds of opportunities in higher education that others possess made VP Jones truly deserving of praise. Senator Durbin went on to indicate that in these uncertain times, when low-income young adults face more and more financial and educational hurdles, it is imperative to provide them with every chance to succeed. He commended VP Jones for helping them overcome such obstacles.