

Engagement at Iowa Updates



May 2022

The end of a successful academic year marks new milestones for collaboration and partnership



This May, we join with the campus community in celebrating the achievements of students across the University of Iowa. They are on the cusp of completing their degrees and realizing new careers and pursuits in higher education. Along the way, community engaged learning, and research opportunities have helped prepare them to make an impact in communities throughout the state of Iowa and beyond.

We also applaud the funding opportunities made available through the Vice President of Research and Development (RDO) office and the Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC), along with the important work of the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC). These partnerships are furthering the goals of community engagement minded graduates who understand the value of this critical work in establishing and enhancing a brighter tomorrow for us all.

As awards and degrees are bestowed upon many deserving Hawkeyes this month, at the many events celebrating their achievements, we reflect on the many milestones that have been achieved in collaboration with campus and community partners over the past year, and we look forward to new community engagement activities and initiatives to come.

In partnership,

Nick

Nick Benson
Executive Director

Research Development Office (RDO) Seeding Excellence Initiative

We are proud to share the 2022 winners of the collaborative, one-year OVRP Community Engaged Scholarship awards helping student, faculty and staff researchers with community engagement.

Up to \$50k was awarded to support creating and solidifying community research and scholarship partnerships within Iowa that reciprocally benefit the University and Iowa communities.



[Learn More](#)

OVPR Community Engaged Scholar Awards 2022

- Building Community Capacity for Documenting Vanishing Local Archaeology. University Team Leaders: John Doershuk (Office of the State Archaeologist), Katina Lillios (Anthropology). Community Leaders: Marilyn Schaer (Elgin Historical Society), Johnathan Buffalo (Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa {Meskwaki Nation}).

- Building Connected Communities in Rural Watersheds: Collaborative Partnerships for Actionable Science. University Team Leaders: Kate Giannini (IIHR), Gabriele Villarini (IIHR), Brandi Janssen (Occupational and Environmental Health). Community Leaders: Ross Evelsizer (Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development), Rod Marlatt (Turkey River Watershed Management Authority).
- Experiencing Health Services in Iowa Prisons: Descriptive Case Studies Examining Care and Treatment During Incarceration. University Team Leaders: Ebonee Johnson (Community and Behavioral Health), Heather Erwin (Transform{ed} Justice Collaboratory and Liberal Arts Beyond Bars), Christopher Veeh (Social Work). Community Leaders: Jeremy Mask (Hope Street Scholars), Helen Neumann (Independ Counselor and Art Therapist), Michelle Heinz (Inside Out Reentry Community), Dan Tallman (Independent Counselor).
- Language and Culture Contextualization: Digital Intervention in Intercultural Communicative Competence Development with Iowa's Non-profit Community Organizations. University Team Leaders: Carolyn Colvin (Teaching and Learning), Yuchen Liu (Office of Teaching and Learning), Kate Magsamen-Conrad (Communication Studies), Nicole Novak (Community and Behavioral Health), Duhita Mahatmya (College of Education Grants & Research Services Center), Elizabeth Constantine (College of Education Grants & Research Services Center), Amy Chastain (English as a Second Language), Julia Rajan (Spanish and Portuguese), Peter Gerlach (International Studies). Community Leaders: Deb Dunkhase (Open Heartland), Elizabeth Bernal (Open Heartland), Teresa Stecker (African Communities Network of Iowa {ACN}/International Studies).

Event Spotlight

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) Partnership Celebration



IISC will be celebrating 2021-22 partnerships with Jackson County and the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority. Students groups will make final presentations, followed by a social hour at Maquoketa Brewing!

Over the last year, nearly 200 University of Iowa students have been working with Eastern Iowa officials and residents to complete 36 local projects.

The collaborations are made possible through the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), the University of Iowa's foremost community engagement program. IISC connects University of Iowa faculty and students with local communities to complete mutually beneficial projects.

Students from a variety of disciplines, from law to engineering to art, benefit from unique real-world learning experiences while helping communities address local needs and opportunities.

Two partnering organizations, the Jackson County Economic Alliance and the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority, worked closely with IISC to identify and support the projects that served communities in Jackson County and across the Maquoketa River watershed.

The event begins with presentations by student teams, taking place in several venues in downtown Maquoketa from 3:00-5:00pm. After the presentations, event goers will meet at the Maquoketa Brewery from 5:00-6:30pm for socializing and a short program.

Food and beverages will be provided. Attendees that register in advance will receive one complementary drink ticket to redeem at the Maquoketa Brewery.

May 5th | Maquoketa
Presentations 3:00-5:00
Social Hour 5:00-6:30

[RSVP Here](#)

Voices of Community Engagement



UI WILD (Wildlife Instruction and Leadership Development) department connects University students with communities across Iowa

Our Voices of Community Engagement series this May features UI WILD Director David Conrads.

The UI WILD (Wildlife Instruction and Leadership Development) department houses a group of outreach programs within the University of Iowa College of Education. The programs consist of the Iowa Raptor Project, Iowa Wildlife Camps, and School of the Wild and primarily work out of the University of Iowa's Macbride Nature Recreation Area.

These programs aim to awaken awareness, nurture appreciation, and inspire action for all things wild. Each program provides out-of-the-classroom educational experiences focused on wildlife and Iowa's natural habitats.

The roots of UI WILD began in 1985, when Recreational Services took over management of the Macbride Nature Recreation Area for the university and a graduate student started a raptor (birds of prey) rehabilitation and education program that would eventually be known as the Iowa Raptor Project.

While Wildlife Camps began to grow within the Macbride Nature Recreation Area during the summers, Conrads was hosting one-day conservation education field trips for schools during the school year.

"The one-day field trip model during the school year was frustrating because we struggled to form meaningful relationships with the kids in such a short amount of time," Conrads said.

By 1995, Conrads began to form the idea of growing the Iowa Wildlife Camps model into a week-long experience during the school year to reach a more diverse group of kids whose families may not have access to the traditional summer camp experience.

"By bringing the program into the school year, my vision was that we would provide every kid with an opportunity to be in the wild for a week," Conrads said.

For thirteen years, the programs continued to flourish. In 2013, Conrads returned full-time to the University of Iowa to oversee the UI WILD programs.

With Iowa Wildlife Camps nearing capacity, he began exploring ways to bring them to other areas across the state of Iowa. Eventually, Dr. Jay Gorsh was hired to oversee School of the Wild, as well as the expansion of Iowa Wildlife Camps into Iowa DNR State Parks.

"We developed a great relationship with the DNR, and this year we'll be in 14 state parks with our Iowa Wildlife Camps program," Conrads said.

During those summer camps at state parks, Gorsh was asked about school-year programming and through that word of mouth, more communities across Iowa began to request bringing School of the Wild experiences to their area.

What began at MNRA is now spreading throughout Iowa. School of the Wild operates in local parks throughout the state and the staff trains teachers and county naturalists to teach and lead it.

"We equip teachers and county naturalists on how to deploy the School of the Wild. We play an advisory role because they are under our accreditation. We have a responsibility to make sure the experience is educational and impactful, whether it be here at MNRA or Decatur County or anywhere else in the state," Conrads said.

By the end of the 2022-23 academic year, School of the Wild will be in 40 counties and will reach about 3,000 elementary students in Iowa City and across the state of Iowa, a number that is growing each year.

"Our ultimate goal is to make sure that every Iowa school child gets an opportunity to spend an extended weeklong educational adventure in the wild," Conrads said.

School of the Wild also provides practicum field experiences for over 330 College of Education students annually, as well as student teaching opportunities. Meanwhile, Iowa Wildlife Camps hire undergraduate and graduate students and provides them hands-on experience in teaching outdoors.

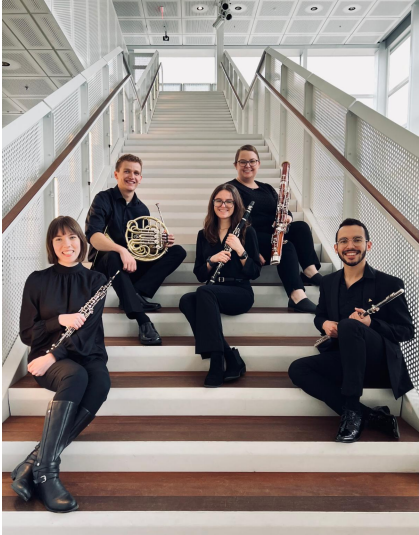
"Through both School of the Wild and Iowa Wildlife Camps, University of Iowa students are engaging with children across the state who are participating in a tremendous opportunity to connect with the important work being done here at the University," Conrads said. "And that is cool; we feel blessed to see it take off."

Read the full story here

Engagement and the Arts

Arts Share

Summer Chamber Music



[Learn More](#)

Tour

Each year, several chamber music ensembles are chosen to have the chance to bring their artistry to lowans outside of Iowa City. A collaborative effort between the University of Iowa String Chamber Music Program and Arts Share, the Summer Chamber Music Tour offers presenting organizations throughout the state the chance to provide high quality artistic experiences to their communities while giving students from the University a meaningful opportunity to get to know people from all across the state.

The tour will kickoff Sunday May 15th at the Concert Hall.

Grant Wood Art Colony

The Bee Project has landed in Gibson Square Park

The Bee Project, an interactive public art exhibit designed to raise awareness about the importance of bees in our community has been installed on the University of Iowa Campus.

Community members are invited to create their own bees out of durable, recycled materials and attach them to the hive during the month of May.



[Learn More](#)



7:30 p.m., May 3, 2022
Concert Hall

[Learn More](#)

Josh Henderson, Beethoven Triple Concerto

Grant Wood Fellow Josh Henderson will join School of Music Director Tammie Walker and Cello Professor Anthony Arnone to play the *Beethoven Triple Concerto* with the UI orchestra.

It will be Josh's "farewell" from the UI stage. Walker says, she has "thoroughly (!!!) enjoyed preparing this music with him this semester. The Beethoven Triple is not an easy piece... He can truly do it all and I stand in awe at every rehearsal."

Elena Smyrniotis, "Anxious Landscapes"

Anxious Landscapes revisions human constructs such as maps, topography, space, and architecture and underlines the tensions between realities and fictions of a fabricated landscape.

Smyrniotis's work focuses on human's relationship to the environment and demonstrates art's ability to provoke emotional response to the climate change. Smyrniotis's installation *Dispossessed* represents a surreal seascape of icebergs floating in the middle of the dark ocean.



7 p.m., May 9, 2022

[Zoom Link](#)

Upcoming Events and Activities

Josh Henderson, Beethoven Triple Concerto

May 3, 2022 - 7:30 p.m
Voxman Music Building

CMYK - A Collaborative Exhibition Featuring SAAH graduate and undergraduate students - School of Art and Art History

May 2 - 3, 2022 - 8:00am to 8:00pm
Art Building West

GAPS - Chris Trost BFA Exhibition - School of Art and Art History

May 2 - 4, 2022 - 8:00am to 8:00pm
Visual Arts Building

Refugees and Immigrants: How Their Stories and Experiences Inform Public Policy .
May 04, 2022 - 12:00pm
[Virtual](#)
Iowa City Foreign Relations Council in partnership with the UI Public Policy Center

**Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC)
Partnership Celebration**
May 5, 3:00pm - 6:30pm
Maquoketa
[RSVP Here](#)

Elena Smyrniotis, “Anxious Landscapes”
May 9, 2022 - 7:00pm
[Virtual](#)

Summer Chamber Music Tour Kickoff Concert
Sunday, May 15, 2022 - 7:30pm
Concert Hall - 2101
Voxman Music Building

[Learn more about these and future events](#)

Office of Community Engagement | [Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

