

Spring 2022 Newsletter

University of Iowa

Happy Summer, Hawkeyes!

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Pictured: Tea with President Wilson
Photos by Samm Yu Photography



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The Year in Review

A look into some of our events this year!

Meet and Greet



Presidential Welcome



Food Drive 12/9/21



Gingerbread Houses



Samm Yu Photography

Presidential Tea
Samm Yu Photography



Bingo 4/10/22



Will You PSP My Valentine?

Photos and write-up by Samm Yu Photography

In the middle of February, a community of craftsmen crouch over long tables littered with candy pink construction paper and purple conversation hearts. Honors students pass creative puns and slide sticky glue bottles across the room. Members of the Presidential Scholars Program gather to create Valentine's Day cards for their favorite academic mentors.



Outside of their peers, many Presidentials grow close with professors, teaching assistants, and Supplemental Instruction tutors.



As they progress through the program, students often return to PSP social events. Humor and joy is shared across multiple cohorts.



Walking out of BHC 440, various students are illuminated by a renewed sense of academic support and an expanded social network.



The vibrant community within PSP boosts retention in the UI Honors Program. Turner admits she feels much closer with fellow Presidentials than other honors students.

PSP Senior: Elly Vinton

First year:

Responsible,
reserved, hard-
working



Fourth year:
Spontaneous,
goal-oriented,
adventurous

In what areas of your life did you make the greatest improvements these four years?

When I came to college, school was my everything. I didn't want to spend time doing things I loved, because "I couldn't waste time." I spent every waking moment of my first semester either in class, studying at the library, or making flashcards in my dorm. I was miserable, but I did what (I thought) I needed to do to get an A. As time went by, I figured out that while school does matter, it really doesn't matter that much. I decided to take time to do things I enjoyed, and quickly discovered that everything school-wise still works out. I started traveling on the weekends, trying new restaurants with friends, joining student orgs, exploring state parks, going to concerts- doing things I loved. I decided to use my four years here to make memories and have experiences I might not otherwise have the opportunity for later in life. Yes, focusing on school is important, don't get me wrong! However, instead of filling my free time with getting ahead in class, and missing out on experiences because of an exam taking place the following week, I now spend my time doing fun things. All this to say, I learned how to stop worrying so much, and live life to the fullest throughout these four years.

What are you most proud of?

There are a multitude of things I am proud of after four years at this University. The first thing that comes to mind, has been my ability to adapt. My college experience has been nothing short of untraditional. If you would have told me that I would spend over half of my college experience in online courses, some of which I participated in from my hometown, I would have never believed you. Throughout all this chaos, however, I am very proud of my ability to stay focused on my goals and remain flexible. I was able to make the best of the less-than-ideal circumstances, and utilize my newfound spare time to better prepare myself for my future career with hands-on experience. Although it required a large adjustment to complete my courses online, I was able to hold myself accountable, and adapt fairly quickly to this new way of learning. I knew that in order to achieve my goals, I would have to really make the best of the circumstances, and I am very proud of my ability to do so.

What is your main takeaway from college?

In the best way possible, nothing really matters. Do your best, and do what makes you happy. Don't take life so seriously. No one really cares about what you're wearing, if you're eating by yourself at a restaurant, if you got an A on the last exam, if you spent a little too much money on coffee, or if you decided to spend an entire day watching movies. Work hard to reach your goals, and have some cool experiences along the way. Prioritize what is important to you, and recognize that your life doesn't have to look the same as the person sitting next to you.

What are places or people at Iowa that have made you feel like you belonged?

I can name so many spaces and groups at Iowa that made me feel like I belonged, the first being the Presidential Scholars Program. This group of students has made me feel so valued as not only a student, but as a person and friend. The PSP faculty, Camille Socarras in particular, has been so influential in reassuring my sense of belonging here at the University in general. She has consistently encouraged me and reminded me that my viewpoints are important and that my opinions are valuable. Camille has always reminded me to focus on what's important to me, and the rest will figure itself out- an idea that has proved vital to my success in the last four years. I could go on for pages about the impact she has made on my life, but ultimately, she has really made me feel like I belong here. My friends, but even more so my acquaintances, have made me feel like I belong. Tons of awesome people I have been able to meet through my student ministry, my courses, and even through friends of friends, are going to be some of the people I miss most. I absolutely adore my friends and I am so lucky to have them, but what really made me feel a sense of belonging at Iowa, are the people that I just say "hi" to on the sidewalk. The sense of community that is developed at this University throughout 8 semesters is so special. Even though these people may not even know what I am doing next year, or the name of my puppy, they make me feel so valued each and every day. Take the time to say hi to the people you sit next to in class! They might become your best friend, but even if not, the smile they give you in the hallway might be the one thing that gets you through even the worst of days.

Iowa City: Then-and-Now

The Brown Bottle was a popular restaurant known for its quality Italian food, unique artwork, and desirable proximity to the University of Iowa campus. A hotspot for students, The Brown Bottle closed in 2014 after 40 years of service due to changes in downtown and a need for expansion. The owners chose to focus their efforts on their North Liberty location, which allow for a Target to take over the space. Today, the Target is a staple in any Ulowa student's life, providing easy access to food and other materials essential for day-to-day life.



The Atlas World Grill was opened in 2001 by two Iowa alums who wanted to bring a variety of high-quality and creative cuisine to Iowa City. Atlas offered a frequently changing menu of fine but affordable dining, which made it a popular spot for celebratory meals close to campus. In 2018, Atlas was closed and the space was used to expand St. Burch Tavern which boasts a tavern-style atmosphere. With the menu, name, and decor being based on the history of the University, it's no wonder that today

St. Burch is a popular destination for visitors and students alike.



Opened in 1984, Givanni's was another popular Italian restaurant that held a coveted Ped Mall location.

Especially known for the unique interior of the building, which was constructed in the late 1800s, many were disappointed to see the restaurant close permanently in 2016. While the space was quickly overtaken by the Mexican restaurant El Patrón, however, El Patrón closed in 2018 after less than two years of business. Today, the space remains unoccupied like many other cozy locations on the Ped Mall.



Just a short walk from downtown Iowa City, the Yen Ching Cafe was a restaurant favored by students for its homey atmosphere and attractive prices.

Boosting separate Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and sushi menus, Yen Ching guaranteed a wide variety of dishes that anyone could enjoy. Today, the space the Cafe once occupied is now home to Asian Market, a Korean grocery store that serves the community. Overall, the landscape of buildings surrounding the former Cafe has also changed, as businesses have slowly moved away and additional residential spaces have been added, to accommodate the growing University population.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Jeff McKinney, 1986 BSE (Biomedical Engineering); 1995 MD and PhD (Microbiology)

What is your current professional role?

Pediatrics Department Vice Chair, University of Texas Southwestern. Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Was the presidential program influential in any way during your transition from undergrad to MD & PhD program at the same school?

Yes. Between my undergrad and graduate training years at Iowa, I was at Oxford studying physiology, supported by a Rhodes Scholarship. The Presidential Scholars Program was part of Iowa's educational encouragement to pursue experiences in different disciplines, and with varied colleagues. In my case, that included wonderful exposures to research work in the Colleges of Engineering, Medicine, and Education. It also helped cultivate awareness of and pursuit of thought-provoking experiences related to the University's vibrant arts environments, as well as engagement with UI links in partnership with Iowa City. All this made me excited to "come back home" to Iowa, from abroad; and then continue to savor interdisciplinary collaborations and programmatic development work.

How did education and opportunities at Iowa impact you in your current role as a practitioner and educator at UT Southwestern?

I think the environment - and most importantly, the people - at Iowa encouraged a nuanced sense of problem solving and resilience in ways that I still profoundly enjoy. I am grateful for my engineering teachers' helping me learn how to define and break down challenges in ways that are rigorous, creative, and rewarding. Multiple dialogs on campus invited me to question my perceptions and assumptions in ways that I think help me stay curious and committed. In some cases (e.g. how to better define and advance childhood health, in the context of real [or imagined] constraints) the most challenging problems I started to think about at Iowa are what now occupy most of my time. I also think that the University's active roles in state, national and international communities continue to push me. Indeed, specific people I met at Iowa still inspire me to try to fight the good fight, in specific ways that I don't think I would be capable of even trying without their examples. I am fortunate to have now helped parent two Texans, and I have also had the privilege of training more than 400 MDs at UT Southwestern; I suspect that almost all of them have heard me speak fondly of the positive and inspirational examples Iowa's educational legacy offer our current efforts - here in Texas, and beyond. I firmly believe the concepts of multidisciplinary academic education I experienced at Iowa still influence me. As an educator, examples include our individualized curriculum for UT Southwestern's Pediatric Residents. This offers our MDs the benefits of both broad and deep exploration and insight. This educational approach remains influenced by my PSP experiences at Iowa, by concepts like co-op education, and by the book *How College Works* by the sociologists Daniel Chambliss and Christopher Takacs.

As a physician, I have an affinity for international collaboration that draws from approaches I admired in Iowa among medical faculty like Hans Zellweger and David Skorton; and a joy for problem solving that draws from lessons I learned from many people, including but not limited to: Ed Bell (pediatrics and physiology) and David Wacker (pediatrics and psychology), as well as VC Patel (fluid dynamics and applied mathematics) and Barry Butler (thermodynamics and so-called black box analysis).

As a citizen, I remember "sitting out" some social-justice efforts by Iowa students (e.g. anti-apartheid divestment dialogs); something I've tried to revisit now that I'm older - albeit mostly vicariously, and still without shouting in a megaphone.

If you could come back to the University of Iowa for one day, what would you make sure to do?

Campuses have special memories for alumni, yet dynamic universities can and should evolve in ways that make their returning alumni a bit physically disoriented. I'd like to map special places from my memories to their current state and roles. This would range from some of my favorite views along the Iowa River, to various study spaces (in libraries, labs, museums and elsewhere) I felt were temporarily "mine" from frequent use, to new University initiatives and Iowa's resilience in rebuilding from the flood and safely addressing the COVID pandemic. Depending on the season, sailing or cross-country skiing on/around Lake McBride would be great. Prairie Lights and Record Collector, and their creative and passionately independent sensibilities, were part of my off-campus education at Iowa, too. So, it'd be a full day.



Dr. McKinney and his wife by the Old Capitol

"My wife Holly Hertel McKinney and I hope we can age together as gracefully as the Pentacrest has. Here we are during a springtime visit to Old Capitol - savoring some great memories, and wearing lots of layers, given our acclimation to Dallas weather."

What was your favorite club or organization at the University of Iowa?

Jennifer Horn-Frasier
BA English Education 1992
Sigma Alpha Iota, the women's music fraternity
Vice President/Pledge Educator

It was a great way to make and keep friends in the School of Music even after I had changed to a non-music major. We had a great mix of service, learning, and fun. My favorite memory is from when I was the VP/Pledge Educator and gave our pledge class members plastic toy nose flutes and added one "bonus" piece to the end of their pledge recital program: "Ode to Joy." They made it through without cracking up...till the end.



The Hawkeye Marching Band

"Nothing can compare to the thrill of performing in Kinnick Stadium, the pride of representing the University of Iowa in the Rose Bowl, the Peach Bowl and the Gator Bowl and making life-long friends during the four years I was in the HMB!"

Anne Steele Koho '84



University of Iowa Student Government

"[this club was memorable due to] the diversity of membership, dedication of members, outreach, and ability to make university-wide impact"

Kara Westercamp '05

"We made meaningful, impactful change for our fellow students"

Megan Bygness Bradley '00

Riverfest

"A great team, leadership opportunities, and it brought people together to have fun together.

It was a spring festival back in my day"

Lee Roorda Schott '85



Newman Singers Choir at the Newman Catholic Student Center

"It was a non-academic outlet for me that gave me a performance stage and didn't get me in too much trouble. I met my wife and several great friends through the choir!"

Tom Ferris '03

Adam Weis (back row, 2nd from right)
BSE Chemical Engineering 2019
Member of the Iowa Track and Field Club

"Through this club I met some of my best friends, discovered how to expand my impact, and found a fun escape from schoolwork."



Alumni Survey

For the Spring 2022 survey, we are asking alumni, "What advice would you give a younger version of yourself?" Please take a few minutes to answer

[HERE.](#)