

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  Office of  
**Outreach & Engagement**

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Linda Snetselaar, Associate Provost for Outreach and Engagement

### Partnership Highlights

It has been an exciting fall semester in the Office of Outreach & Engagement. Fall semester has provided the foundation for our featured programs' work and impact to continue this spring. A few highlights from the fall include new community partners for the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, a terrific biennial Grant Wood Symposium hosted by the Grant Wood Art Colony, and a handful of preview events as we prepare for the spring's Our Lives Online Theme Semester.

There are numerous opportunities on the horizon as we prepare for spring semester, including our third annual Theme Semester, exciting and informative Hawkeye Lunch & Learn lectures, and continuing our arts outreach. I encourage you to share your outreach and engagement successes with us using #OutreachIowa on social media.

Stay connected with us on social media! You can [like us](#) on Facebook, [follow us](#) on Twitter, and [view us](#) on Instagram.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Arts Share

Arianna Russ, a graduate student in the Department of Dance and Arts Share graduate assistant, taught hip-hop dance workshops at Kirkwood Elementary this past month as part of the [Iowa City Community School District's Any Given Child initiative](#). Any Given Child is a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, and aims to provide an arts education to all children. The teachers at Kirkwood Elementary were happy to be able to provide their students with a new experience, and were thrilled with how engaged their students were. From the artist perspective, Arianna said it was even more rewarding than teaching in the studio because the children viewed this as a special treat! She will be teaching more workshops during the spring semester.

Rossina Liu's essay "Tensions between vulnerability and public literacy spaces: Writers at a homeless shelter negotiate personal narratives for community" was selected as the Literacy Research Association's 2016 J. Michael Parker Award Winner. The award committee said they were "excited about the implications of this work for adult literacy scholarship and practices" and Liu's "sustained engaged scholarship with this community." This paper is based on Liu's ethnographic study of the Community Stories Writing Workshop at Shelter House since fall

## Grant Wood Art Colony

The Fellows embarked on their annual Grant Wood Orientation Tour on Dec. 7. To better understand the namesake of their fellowship, Director Maura Pilcher led the group to sites related to Iowa's native son, including a tour of the [Grant Wood home and studio](#) led by Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Director, Sean Ulmer; a visit the [sleeping porch at Brucemore](#) designed and installed by Wood; an exploration of Anamosa and [Stone City](#); and a discussion with Art History Professor Joni Kinsey. This annual event helps the fellows, who come from across North America, appreciate the full scope of Wood's talent and impact on the region.



Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Executive Director Sean Ulmer describes Grant Wood's ingenuity to the Fellows at 5 Turner Alley, Grant Wood's studio.



Dean Letendre and two Doctor of Pharmacy students presented *The Global Impact of Drugs* in November.

## Hawkeye Lunch & Learn

The Hawkeye Lunch & Learn lecture series is celebrating the end of another successful semester. The lecture series engaged nearly 700 Iowans in learning about art, history, pharmacy, residence life, and how they can collaborate with the University of Iowa. All lectures will be available on the [2016-17 YouTube playlist](#). Stay tuned for the spring 2017 semester line up announcement coming soon!

## Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC)

With students, faculty, and staff hailing from more than 110 countries outside of the United States, cultural diversity is certainly one of the University of Iowa's greatest assets. The diverse university population enhances the educational experience for our students, while helping to connect our state to the global community. Undoubtedly, globalization has impacted economic and demographic landscapes all across Iowa, bringing both exciting opportunities and significant challenges. The University of Iowa, through the talents of our students and faculty, is well-equipped to partner with Iowa communities as they navigate a rapidly changing environment.



Priyanka Rayamajhi (left) and Akanksha Tiwari (center) speak with faculty advisors about their projects.

As IISC works to build partnerships with Iowa communities through our university outreach efforts, we value the many opportunities to bring both local and outside perspectives to community-oriented projects. In particular, international students who participate in IISC engaged-learning projects can offer unique and valuable insight based on experiences in their own countries. Not surprisingly, they also appreciate the small-town values famously found in the great state of Iowa. As part of our continuing efforts to profile IISC partners, IISC interviewed two Urban & Regional Planning students about their experience working with Mason City on their comprehensive plan update. [Read the interview](#) and learn how these two international students are helping to make an Iowa town more sustainable and resilient.

## RC&D Partnership

The RC&D Partnership enjoyed a night of good food and community at the annual Iowa Valley RC&D Local Foods Banquet on Nov. 11. The event is a chance to celebrate the work that [Iowa Valley RC&D](#) does to strengthen eastern Iowa's food system, and highlighted Cedar Rapids Mercy Medical Center's efforts to integrate local foods into their operations. RC&D Partnership staff were delighted to attend!

Project development for the spring semester continued throughout the month of November; a few

highlights of upcoming spring projects include: a housing needs assessment project for the City of Bloomfield in partnership with Pathfinders RC&D, Arts Share performances at local high schools in the Southern Iowa RC&D area, and several civil and environmental engineering projects that will be completed in partnership with Golden Hills RC&D and Northeast Iowa RC&D. Watch for a complete list of spring RC&D projects coming up next month!



**Event Highlight:** Patrisse Cullors will speak on Feb. 6 at the Englert Theatre. Credit: Keppler Speakers.

## Theme Semester

Big things are happening during the spring 2017 Theme Semester, Our Lives Online. The full line-up of the semester's marquee activities, which are organized by the central planning committee, will be released in January. Our Lives Online has partnered with multiple UI departments on the marquee activities. Here's a sneak peek:

- [Jan. 17:](#) UI International Programs' WorldCanvass will explore topics related to Our Lives Online with campus and community experts.
- [Jan. 18:](#) Luvvie Ajayi will present a lecture on her intersection of comedy, technology, and activism as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week.
- [Feb. 6:](#) Patrisse Cullors will talk about her work as a social activist and co-creator of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

For more information visit [theme.uiowa.edu](http://theme.uiowa.edu).



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