

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  Office of
Outreach & Engagement

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Linda Snetselaar, Associate Provost for Outreach and Engagement

Partnership Highlights

Our work in the Office of Outreach & Engagement allows us to partner, support, and showcase programs and initiatives taking place across campus and the state.

One example of collaborative work by campus and community partners includes [Out of Bounds](#), the play written by [Working Group Theatre](#)'s Jennifer Fawcett. The play will be performed in Des Moines February 15 - 17, and I encourage you to attend and participate in the conversations surrounding

the topics it addresses.

Out of Bounds is play focused on the topic of cyber bullying. On a dare, 14-year-old Amy posts a picture of herself online that she shouldn't have. Now that she's transferred to a new school, she hopes she can make a fresh start. But when a rival finds the whole embarrassing history online, this time Amy has nowhere to run.

The play was developed through interviews with students, administrators, teachers, and parents. It has been performed across the state of Iowa and has toured nationally, providing students and teachers a wonderful way to start a discussion about the difficult topic of cyber bullying.

Out of Bounds will be performed for fifth and sixth graders at the [Des Moines Social Club](#) Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 15 - 17. The hour-long play will be performed at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday and at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The public is invited to attend. All told, more than 600 students from six different schools will see the play.

Out of Bounds was commissioned by the University of Iowa's Hancher Auditorium in collaboration with the UI College of Public Health.

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Arts Share

Arts Share graduate student writers and actors, as well as Grant Wood Fellow Tameka Norris, are teaming up to



Skyley Matthias and Caitlin Edwards lead students in a Shakespeare workshop.

help youth at Iowa City's [Dream Center](#) prepare for a presentation that will take place as part of Black History Month. A [Living Museum Presentation and Art Exhibit](#) will be held Saturday, February 18, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center. Students of the Dream Center will be "on exhibit" enacting 20+ biographies of African American fore-bearers. Student and local artists' works of art will also be on display.

workshops for students at East Union High School. Skyley and Caitlin led the students in a workshop designed to help break down the language of Shakespeare. Skyley and Caitlin performed the "Balcony Scene" from *Romeo and Juliet*, which is currently being studied by the students.

UI Theatre students Skyley Matthias and Caitlin Edwards traveled to Afton, Iowa, to present Shakespeare

Grant Wood Art Colony

In September of last year, the University of Iowa announced that they will be naming the new [Madison Street residence hall](#) after renowned alumna Elizabeth Catlett. In June 1940, with Grant Wood's explicit support, Catlett received one of the first three Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees from the university and was the first woman of color to earn this honor. After leaving Iowa City, she went on to become one of the most important American sculptors and printmakers of the last century.

According to the chapter dedicated to her in the book [Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa During the Long Civil Rights Era](#), Catlett overcame many challenges while living in Iowa City. The chapter's author and University of Iowa Museum of Art curator Kathleen Edwards stated that Catlett was attracted to the university's program because she wanted to study under Grant Wood, and "Catlett's tutelage under Wood had a profound impact on her creative development," (p. 59). Wood believed in this talented student. The MFA was a new degree and, at graduation time, Catlett's required coursework was questioned. According to Edwards, Wood called Catlett and said, "I have something to tell you. We are going to try and get you the MFA degree. Come prepared for a battle," (p. 64). They won.

Learn more about Catlett and the experiences of other black students at Iowa during the 1930s-1960s on [February 19 at the Iowa City Public Library](#). Editors Dr. Lena M. Hill, Sr. Associate to the UI President, and Dr. Michael D. Hill, UI Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, will discuss the creation of the book *Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa During the Long Civil Rights Era*.



Professor Shafiq will present *Big Data, Big Brother* in March.

Hawkeye Lunch & Learn

In March, Zubair Shafiq, Assistant Professor of Computer Science will present *Big Data, Big Brother*. The "free" web is powered by a multi-billion dollar online advertising industry. Advertisers track users across the Web to show them targeted advertisements. Professor Shafiq will discuss the scope of online tracking, including its implications on user privacy and government surveillance.

RSVP today:

Iowa City on Thursday, March 9: <https://bit.ly/shafiqIC>

Des Moines on Tuesday, March 7: <https://bit.ly/shafiqDSM>

View upcoming lectures at outreach.uiowa.edu/HawkeyeLL.

View the [2016-17 YouTube playlist](#) to watch past events online.

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC)

January marked the beginning of a second semester of our year-long partnerships with the City of Mason City and East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), which will support local community development efforts and promote engaged learning experiences for more than 80 University of Iowa students. With one semester of work complete, students have benefited from the IISC partnerships by learning from



Civil and Environmental Engineering students, accompanied by faculty member

real-world experiences while also helping partnering communities move projects forward. The spring 2017 semester brings another round of projects and some new faces, helping Iowa communities become more sustainable through civil and environmental engineering, strategic communications, public art, flooding risk assessment, storytelling, digital media, and more. Thanks to the broad support of the UI community, IISC estimates that UI students and faculty from 10 areas of study will have collectively contributed more than 20,000 hours of work to the two regions by the end of the partnerships in May 2017. [Learn more about projects for the 2016-17 academic year.](#)

Jacob Odgaard, met with officials from the City of Preston to discuss their Pocket Neighborhood design project.

RC&D Partnership

In January, 10 new student-led community engagement projects were launched through the RC&D Partnership. Staff are thrilled at the variety of work that will be completed this spring semester. A sample of projects occurring this semester includes:

- the design of storm water structures and trails for the City of Dunkerton by students in Civil and Environmental Engineering,
- the development of a housing needs assessment for the City of Bloomfield by graduate students in Urban and Regional Planning, and
- business management consulting for the historic Herring Hotel in Belle Plaine by students in the Entrepreneurial Management Institute.

In addition, the RC&D Partnership looks forward to collaborations between the Office of Outreach & Engagement, the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Iowa Valley RC&D and Johnson County. Through this partnership, students who took part in the Obermann Center's Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy will have the opportunity to undertake projects that assist Johnson County and Iowa Valley RC&D's efforts to re-imagine and develop the [Johnson County Poor Farm](#). These projects are supported by \$1,000 grants provided through the Office of Outreach & Engagement.



Joan Kjaer talks with panelists at WorldCanvass: Our Lives Online in January.

Theme Semester

Our Lives Online celebrated a successful start to the semester with marquee activities including 4CAST ([read the recap](#)), WorldCanvass ([watch or listen to the segments](#)), Luvvie Ajayi's lecture *Speaking Truth To Power*, and the opening of the Old Capitol Museum's newest exhibit, [Connected: The Internet of Everyday Things](#).

There are still opportunities to get involved throughout the spring semester! Upcoming marquee activities include:

- [Feb. 17, Informatics Symposium](#): the UI Informatics Initiative (UI3), with Theme Semester and other cross-campus partners, will host the Informatics Symposium designed to showcase on-going informatics-related research, central resources available to support informatics activities, and the educational and career opportunities in informatics.
- [March 3, Day of Unplugging](#): join UI Libraries as they observe the National Day of Unplugging. There will be activities, snacks, and prizes to keep your hands busy and your mind entertained.
- [Through March 6, Places & Spaces: Mapping Science](#): this digital exhibition features compelling visualizations of research data. The exhibition's maps and images transform big data into viewable narratives that illuminate scientific endeavors, discoveries, and possibilities for the future. The exhibition is located in the UI Main Library Learning Commons.

Download the [Marquee Activities Poster](#) to share with your colleagues and friends! For more information visit theme.uiowa.edu. Join the conversation online using #UITHEME.



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