

The Noon News

January 5, 2009

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Waterloo Exchange Club

U.N.I. Update - Nancy Showers invited U.N.I.'s 9th President, Dr. Ben Allen, to give us update on happenings at the University. Dr. Allen first visited us in April, 2007, shortly after he came to U.N.I. We were very im-



U.N.I. President, Dr. Ben Allen, discusses the program with William and Nancy

pressed with him then, so it was great to get a chance to hear what has been accomplished and to get his views on what the future holds.

Dr. Allen framed his discussion of progress with an overview of the "economic uncertainties" affecting the university and we learned another buzz word—reversion. *Editor's note: At this point we are not sure if reversion is a noun or a verb, but the Thesaurus synonym is 'deterioration' and the antonym is 'improvement'... Interesting choice of buzz word.*

What we do know is that's what the term is now for spending cuts. Taken together, U.N.I. has been reversioned to the tune of a 2.5% in their general fund spending. Dr. Allen went on to describe three goals that the University is using to guide their decision making as funding is reduced as well as plan for the future. First—Elevate achievement of under graduate students. He told us he likes to think of it as U.N.I. becoming the premier provider of post-secondary education in Iowa. Second—Be the unquestioned leader on all pre-k through 12 grade issues. Dr. Allen says that 23-24% of the teachers in Iowa are U.N.I. graduates. That's a strong base to build on. Third—Increase the efforts to assist the State of Iowa in strategic initiatives such as economic development, etc, etc. Wouldn't it feel great to work in place with a leader that can describe what's critical to the success of the organization in such clear terms like Dr. Allen can...

Then Dr. Allen talked about accomplishments in the context of U.N.I.'s involvement in the community. Again Dr. Allen boiled his philosophy down to a few words when he said "What's good for our neighbors is good for us". He highlighted national recognition by the Carnegie Foundation for U.N.I.'s program activities for the community. Wartburg College was also recognized. Two awards for our area from more than 3,000 institutions!!!

NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

Program : Student of the Month (3)
Prayer : Tom Jennings
Pledge : Robin Rogers
Menu : Tuna Salad Croissant w/Fruit Cup

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Jan 12: Student of the Month (3)
Jan 19: Closed Business Meeting
Jan 26: A.C.E. Students
Feb 02: Student of the Month (3)
Feb 09: Police Officer of the Year

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Jan 12: Tuna Salad Croissant w/Fruit Cup
Jan 19: Cheeseburger with Fries
Jan 26: Orange Roughy with Vegetable
Feb 02: Breaded Tenderloin with Fires
Feb 09: Chicken Salad Croissant & Soup
Order Chef Salad one week in advance

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 06: Gale Shinkle
Jan 10: Kevin Gillette
Jan 11: Lori Falk
Jan 11: Shawn Harrington

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Kissing is a means of getting two people so close together that they can't see anything wrong with each other." - Rene Yasenek

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U.N.I. Update Cont'd - Dr. Allen went on to describe the selection of their *American Humanics* program as the #1 in the nation from among 85 institutions providing leadership development programs for non-profit organizations.

University Connection is a partnership with KBBG to provide information and encouragement to the community about the benefits of higher learning, especially for folks who wouldn't normally consider attending college.

The University is leading a statewide initiative to improve the effectiveness of math and science instruction. A focused effort is underway in the metro area to expand math and science programs.

Then we reviewed programs such as the *Life-Long Learning University*, the *Performing Arts Center*, the *Regional Business Institute*, *U.N.I.'s Tall Grass Prairie Institute* and many more. What a great community asset— U.N.I. and its visionary leader, Dr. Ben Allen.

Visitors - No guests today.

Social Events - Don Faris rose to acknowledge Patty Foster's work on the Christmas Party. Seventy+ people attended the festivities at Bridges. We found out that Patty can sing just as well as she can plan, organize and host a great event. Thanks Patty and committee for the all work expended.

Then Don updated us on the hockey game event. Forty folks turned out for that one. Thanks Tony Fischer and committee for all the work on this.

Don promises more details on upcoming events. The next one is a Mardi Gras festival coming up after the Home Show in February. Stay tuned.

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