MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN RUSSELL GANIM

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present you with International Programs’ annual report for 2021. This year’s report conveys a narrative of resilience and optimism. Compared to last year at this time, we are in a much better place. Our office is fully open, with new and returning international students passing through our doors, having chosen Iowa to pursue their academic and career ambitions. Traditional study abroad has resumed, and while the numbers do not approach pre-COVID levels, seeing students leave for destinations such as Korea, Germany, Italy, and Ecuador points toward a much brighter future. We have our excellent advising staff in Study Abroad to thank for shepherding our students through the obstacles posed by the pandemic.

What follows in this report are stories of success. You will learn about students who took advantage of virtual study abroad programs and internships to enhance their global awareness and competence. Faculty are a large part of the story, as their globally focused teaching and research continues to expand international opportunities for our students. The success of the UI’s international students is another source of pride, as they have overcome numerous obstacles to excel in their research, teaching, and career training. The team in International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) worked tirelessly this past year to help our international community navigate multiple challenges posed by the pandemic and an uncertain political landscape.

As we turn the page to 2022, the focus is on sustaining and regrowing our success. We expect study abroad numbers to move upward, and, thanks to vigorous recruitment efforts, our international student enrollment to increase. Fulbright and Gilman awards have always been a highlight of our portfolio, and we anticipate that our winning trends will continue. Commitment to diversity and pluralism is a top priority in International Programs. We will continue our close relationship to the UI’s Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, sponsoring the Alpha Tau Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society—named Chapter of the Year in 2021—while again organizing this year’s International Student Affinity Graduation.

Perhaps the most tangible measure of our optimism comes in the form of opening our U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility this past November. The passport office is a public resource, available to all, whose purpose is to open the world to those seeking experiences beyond our shores. Such a facility expands our mission while reinforcing the goal of making International Programs a place to convene and connect people across time, borders, language, and culture, with Iowa becoming the link between worlds.

Please enjoy the report and accept my very best wishes,

Russ

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International Programs (IP) provides guidance and support for international students in the University of Iowa community, as well as scholarships and assistance for UI students who wish to study abroad. IP also provides funding opportunities for UI faculty engaged in international research. You can continue to support globally oriented programs and resources by contributing to International Programs, www.foriowa.org/international. For more information, please contact Jeff Liebermann in the UI Center for Advancement at jeff.liebermann@foriowa.org or 800.648.6973.

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**Internationalization Across Campus**

**College of Law**
Iowa Law welcomed the *Kenyan Judiciary*, the largest foreign delegation the law school has ever hosted. During their visit, they participated in courses on the U.S. legal system with an emphasis on the judiciary and visited federal, state, county, and tribal courts in Iowa. The Hon. Mr. Justice David Majanja of the High Court delivered a lecture on "Performance Management in the Judiciary: The Kenyan Experience." The event was co-sponsored by the International Law School Student Association, the International Law Society, and the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). The group also spent time with the Iowa State Bar Association, met with UI President Barbara Wilson, and attended the longstanding tradition of Supreme Court Day at Iowa Law.

**Graduate College**
The International Writing Program (IWP) welcomed 16 writers from 16 different countries to fall within their Residency program, bringing together emerging and established writers to participate in a unique intercultural experience on the UI campus. Over the course of eight weeks, aside from working on their own projects, the writers gave readings and lectures to share their work and cultures, collaborating with artists from other genres and art forms, and connected UI students and literary communities around the world.

**Grant-Writing Assistance**
The International Programs Grants Office assists faculty and staff in the development of grant proposals for external funding in support of their research, teaching, and service goals—especially those related to the mission of International Programs. In recent years, UI faculty received funding for a range of international programming and research activities. Such funding has been awarded from various sponsors, including the Japan Foundation, the Korea Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the Max Kade Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF).

**Tippie College of Business**
With international travel at a standstill, the Tippie College of Business quickly rethought its format for international education and global engagement. In response to the pandemic, the college designed a new course called International Business in a Time of Disruption: Five Global Business Challenges, which Tippie College of Business quickly rethought its format for international education and global engagement. In response to the pandemic, the college designed a new course called International Business in a Time of Disruption: Five Global Business Challenges. The course was offered entirely online and introduced students to the complexities of doing business in a globalized world.

**College of Education**
A grant funded by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, is targeting STEM education at Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech). Four College of Education faculty members have designed a Community of Practice model and Professional Development Series highlighting high-impact practices in STEM Education. The long-term goals of this initiative are to promote the development and launch of the Centre for Teaching Excellence at Skoltech modeled after the Baker Teacher Leader Center at the University of Iowa College of Education. Faculty members include Drs. Mark McDermott, Richard Velasco, Mariana Colombo, and Global Education Initiatives Director Will CoogHL Behrends.

**College of Engineering**
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Jerry Schnee was selected as the 2021 Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP) Fellow for his 40-year career in global environmental research and teaching. Schnee is internationally recognized for his work on water-quality modeling, environmental health and risk/exposure assessments, and especially climate change.

**College of Public Health**
In Summer 2021, a team of three Masters of Public Health (MPH) students competed in the Fulbright Canada Post-COVID Challenge. Out of 500 team entries from around the world, the Iowa team was one of just 27 selected to advance to the semi-final round. The Iowa team’s proposal was focused on the category “enhancing public health and well-being.” As part of the proposal development process, the team conducted focus groups with diverse local organizations in Johnson County, Iowa. The Global Public Health Initiative supports global learning opportunities at home and abroad for the College of Public Health community.

**Carver College of Medicine**
Medical students continue to work with our partners throughout the world to address health inequities. While some students worked virtually to sustain research initiatives in India and Uganda, others helped with patient needs and public health efforts on the ground in Ecuador, South Africa, and Brazil. The medical students also continued their work into the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in Iowa with an emphasis on immigrant and refugee communities. The Carver College of Medicine is also excited that our international exchange opportunities for medical students resumed in October and we are once again able to invite international colleagues back into our setting!
During Fall 2021, over 60 students were approved to study or participate in internships or research on carefully selected programs in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Virtual faculty-led courses and virtual internships continue to attract students, making international engagement opportunities accessible to students who are not ready to travel just yet, or those who may not have considered pursuing a global learning experience previously. Twelve students participated in virtual global internships and 165 participated in virtual coursework during 2021.

Undergraduate students in the class of 2021 who studied abroad were 26% more likely to graduate in 4 years than those who did not study abroad.

EMILY BROWN, senior advisor and program director, reflects on the COVID-19 pandemic

At the beginning of the pandemic, students wanted assurances. When we feel the ground shifting beneath us, we want someone to tell us that all will be well if we can just hold on. Students and their families sought guarantees about travel, financial reimbursements, and grading options for disrupted courses. I shared what I knew, advocated as appropriate, and was honest about what I could reasonably promise. Even so, I had the sense that the lack of definitive answers was disheartening.

Then something shifted. Put simply, students’ ability to navigate uncertainty has increased exponentially. Now when I explain options, students no longer fish for an answer; instead, they seem empowered to make the best choice they can at the time. I call this “serenity prayer-ing,” e.g. the ability to see and accept what is within and beyond our control.

Through it all, students have demonstrated such grace. Rather than assigning blame or wallowing in disappointment, they recognize the extraordinary circumstances we all face and are genuinely grateful for assistance. They are gentler to themselves and to others. I am confident that this generation of students will carry that grace forward into the next chapter of their lives.

STUDY ABROAD HIGHLIGHTS

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“I have yet to stop gloating about [my internship]. On an occupational level, it opened so many doors, including the one I walked through to find my current position as a public relations coordinator.”

Deja Williams (BA journalism and mass communication ’20) reflecting on the importance of her global internship in London

$100,130 was awarded to students for study abroad in 2020–21. Included in the figure are awards totaling more than $91,880 from the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, including support from the Ann Morse Scholarship Fund and the Stanley-UI Foundation Support Organization (SUIFSO). Due to COVID travel restrictions, fewer scholarships were awarded in 2020–21.
STUDY ABROAD goes virtual

Student interest in learning about the world around them did not diminish just because international travel wasn’t possible during the pandemic, so an inspiring group of faculty members accepted the challenge to create virtual study abroad courses that allowed students a rich learning experience—featuring small-group discussions with in-country experts and scholars, hands-on cultural activities, livestreamed performances, and guided tours of historical sites.

165
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN VIRTUAL COURSEWORK

12
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A VIRTUAL INTERNESHIP

10
VIRTUAL FACULTY-LED COURSES CREATED

• Cultures of Spain
• Shakespeare’s England
• Women’s Empowerment in the Dominican Republic
• Virtual International Medicine
• Virtual International Business in Italy
• Introduction to Global Business: Asia Pacific
• Travel Writing from Home
• Virtual International Medicine
• Virtual International Business in Italy
• Virtual International Business and Consulting Project

“Most students who dream of studying abroad probably struggle to decide which country they will travel to. I was able to learn from four, including Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.”

Shelby Enger, Diversity Ambassador Scholarship recipient, participated in the virtual study abroad course, Introduction to Global Business: Asia Pacific, during the summer of 2021

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

“I have taught courses abroad for many years, and I always made sure that my students felt intellectually and emotionally engaged with the locations we visited; encountering many nice people and occasionally chatting with them. But we could not take hours of their time to bombard them with questions—an opportunity made possible by the virtual course format.”

Luis Martín-Estudillo, professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, taught Virtual Abroad Experience: Cultures of Spain

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Facts at a Glance

2,176 International students studied or conducted post-graduate research at the UI in Fall 2021 from 109 foreign countries and territories

TOP 10 HOME COUNTRIES OF UI INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to alter plans and on-campus experiences for our international students and scholars, we happily welcomed 340 new international students to campus in August. We are immensely proud of this new group of international students—many of whom waited months to obtain visa appointments while dealing with numerous travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Numbers for graduate and professional students are up significantly from Fall 2019—proving that our global reputation for advanced degrees in the health sciences, the STEM fields, and business remains quite high.

Divija Sharma, a psychology major, spent the first year of her academic experience in India due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is thrilled to be on campus this year.

DIVERSITY CATALYST AWARD
The International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) was recently recognized by the UI Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with a Diversity Catalyst Award to honor the group’s work in promoting a diverse and inclusive campus community. Established in 2014, ISAB is a joint initiative between UI Student Government, Graduate & Professional Student Government, International Programs, and the Division of Student Life. Board members aim to provide a voice for international student concerns as well as advocate for the needs of international students—with the goal of creating a more inclusive campus environment and improving the experience of international students.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SHUHI LIN
Shuhui Lin, international student support and engagement coordinator in International Programs and the Division of Student Life, was recently recognized with the University of Iowa Outstanding Staff Award. Lin’s work involves advocating for international students and building collaborations across campus to create programming and resources that meet the needs of international students—particularly during the recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mishima Naisel, undergraduate student from Sri Lanka, feels that virtually all international students have benefited from Lin’s leadership and mentorship. “It would not be an overstatement to claim that every international student on campus has had a substantial interaction with Lin that had somehow shaped or influenced their college careers,” said Naisel. “It is so rare to meet an administrator who takes such personal care about the students she mentors and talks to and continues to advocate for the students in various platforms and capacities.”

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Hancher hosted WorldCanvass on September 10 for an outdoor celebration of Wellspring: The Power of Partnerships.

On SEPTEMBER 10, Bread & Puppet Theatre Company performed in an exploration of the power of partnerships to enrich and enliven community life.

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The UI’s 2021 International Impact Awards and Global Student Awards were presented on this program, the kick-off event of International Education Week. International Impact Awards went to Dr. Martín López-Vega and Dr. Nina Jovanovic. Global Student Awards went to Anma Haider and Hadley Galbraith.

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The following funding opportunities are supported in whole or in part through the generous contributions of the Stanley-Ul Foundation Support Organization (StUFSo):

- Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Grants
- Global Curriculum Development Awards
- Global Research Partnership Awards
- Major Projects Awards

For more information, visit international.uiowa.edu/faculty

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD**

Nicole Esposito, professor in the School of Music, received an International Travel Award to help fund costs associated with travel to the International Piccolo Festival in Grado, Italy. The festival is the most important and prestigious annual event organized for piccolo players in the world, and Esposito was invited to participate as a headlining artist. Esposito performed the Vivaldi A minor Piccolo Concerto with the festival orchestra in the Grado Cathedral and also taught master classes and workshops to 20 students from over 10 countries. Reflecting on the experience, Esposito said, “The International Piccolo Festival was my first major public performance after/during COVID times. It was thrilling to perform the music of one of Italy’s most famous composers, Antonio Vivaldi, in Italy.”

**SPECIAL PROJECTS AWARD**

A Special Projects Award supported the 2021 Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Graduate Symposium, a two-day virtual conference that was hosted by the Department of Teaching and Learning and the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Drawing nearly 100 attendees and featuring 25 presenters, the theme of the symposium was “Access to Language: Empathy and Equity from Theory to Practice.” GuMee Park, postdoctoral research scholar in the Graduate College, helped coordinate the symposium. Park reflected, “As different perspectives of second language acquisition compete in the field of multilingual education, this symposium was a wonderful opportunity to meet scholars that are working and advocating for alternative views that include translingual approaches.”

**SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Katina Lillios, professor of anthropology, received a Summer Research Fellowship to conduct research in Portugal in the cities of Lisbon and Évora to identify evidence for Islamic uses of pre-Islamic sites. While in Lisbon, Lillios consulted archives housed in the Direção-Geral do Património Cultural, references housed in the library of the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia, and archaeological collections stored in the Museu Geológico. Her time in the Évora region was spent meeting with archaeologists and visiting archaeological sites. “Just being able to travel to see archaeological sites, to work in museums and libraries, and to meet with Portuguese colleagues and friends after over a year of relative confinement was incredibly powerful and memorable, and I felt especially grateful to be able to do so,” reflected Lillios. “The work I carried out this summer represents a new direction of research for me, so it was particularly exciting to explore the potentials of this project and to visit buildings and landscapes with long histories of use and reuse/transformation and discuss these with colleagues.”

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**PASSPORT OFFICE**

International Programs is proud to announce the opening of a passport office to serve the University of Iowa community and the general public. Conveniently located on campus in 1111 University Capital Centre, the University of Iowa Passport Office opened its doors on November 1.

“The opening of a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility on the UI campus demonstrates Iowa’s commitment to international education and Iowa’s openness to the world. In this day and age, a passport is just as important as a driver’s license. Our goal is to help Iowans learn about the world by giving them the tools to explore it.”

Russ Ganin, associate provost and dean of International Programs

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**GLOBAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS**

International Programs, in partnership with the Global Education Program at the Stanley Center, the UI Stanley Museum of Art, and the UI College of Education, offered a professional development workshop for teachers focusing on international topics and issues of critical importance. At this year’s free Global Education Institute for Teachers, 45 of Iowa’s K-12 teachers learned about global perspectives on social justice.

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**GLOBAL ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

The International Programs Global Alumni Spotlight Series features in-depth conversations with University of Iowa alumni who have international backgrounds or experiences. This series is designed to bring together current and prospective students, alumni, and the greater Iowa City community for engaging conversations highlighting diverse experiences and expertise. Guests during 2021 included:

- Pilar Quintana, Colombian novelist, writer, and University of Iowa Writing Program alumna (MFA ’11)
- Shirley Hwei-Chung Shao (MS statistics and actuarial science ’79), former CFO of AIA China
- Alfredo Vergara (PhD ’91, MS ’90, BSE ’86), CDC country director and Division of Global HIV and TB program director for Mozambique
- Luka Garza (BBA economics ’21), former UI basketball player, now playing for the Detroit Pistons

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For more information, visit community.uiowa.edu/award.
The African Studies Program helps students gain a broader understanding of African history and contemporary life in Africa and provides an environment of cooperation and collaboration among students and faculty that leads to increased opportunities for research and teaching.

The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies promotes teaching, research, and outreach related to East and Southeast Asia, as well as the Pacific area.

The European Studies Group at the UI coordinates research projects, a multidisciplinary curriculum, lectures and panel discussions, and other events focusing on European issues.

The Iowa Global Health Network is an interdisciplinary group of scholars at the University of Iowa whose research and interests lie in the study of real-world health problems and challenges.

The Jewish Studies Network focuses on Jews, Judaism, and Jewish communities worldwide, from the ancient world to the present day and into the future.

The King Sejong Institute is an educational institution which offers various Korean language and culture classes. Sponsored by the South Korean government, its purpose is to spread Korean language and culture throughout the world.

The Korean Studies Research Network aims to bring together scholars whose research focuses on Korea-related topics and to provide mentoring to the younger generation of scholars.

The Latin American Studies Program fosters cross-disciplinary teaching and research on Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

The South Asian Studies Program is devoted to the enhancement of instruction and research and the dissemination of knowledge about India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The Korean Studies Research Network Inaugural Conference

KOREAN STUDIES RESEARCH NETWORK INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

IN SOLIDARITY WITH ASIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN AMERICA

The Pork Belly Fallacy: Korean and Yemenis at the Gastronomic Crossroads

THE PORK BELLY FALLACY KOREAN AND YEMENI AT THE GASTRONOMIC CROSSROADS

FEATURED STUDENT RESEARCH

MFA, CREATIVE WRITING

ADAM BEASER

“Funding from the Stanley Award allowed me to pursue international research in which I was able to practice global communication and research skills important for a future career in healthcare on the global scale.”

Country of research: India
Project title: Analysis of the Palliative Care Models of Non-governmental Organizations in India

STANLEY AWARDS

C. Maxwell (Max) and Elizabeth (Betty) M. Stanley were visionary leaders in philanthropic and educational endeavors, striving to promote public understanding, constructive dialogue, and cooperative action on critical international issues. As alumni of the University of Iowa, longtime volunteers, and generous supporters of the institution, the Stanleys created the Stanley-University of Iowa Foundation Support Organization (SUFSO) in 1979. Funded with an initial gift of more than $1.5 million, the SUFSO has funded projects all across the UI, including the tremendous support of International Programs’ outreach, programming, and faculty and student awards.

Undergraduate, Global Health Studies and Microbiology

SARAH LUKE

“My most memorable experiences were related to communicating with filmmakers and film festival programmers. It was a source of great joy and insight to learn from these professionals themselves, in addition to finding information that is available in published sources.”

Country of research: Taiwan
Project title: Moving Images: LGBTQ+ Taiwan

AWARD SHOUTOUT

Hao Zhou received a 2021 Student Academy Award for his film Frozen Out (which contrasts Iowa landscapes with images from southern China). He received the Gold Medal award in the Alternative/Experimental category. “The Student Academy Awards are the most significant and iconic film award for students, so I feel grateful and seen,” said Zhou during the awards ceremony.
NATIONALLY-COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY AWARDED IN 2021

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

ANNA CURRIER (BA candidate, art; ancient civilization) Italy

RIN SWANN (BA candidate, English and creative writing, journalism and mass communication) Italy

KATARINA NEWCAMP (BA, political science), Kosovo

MARGARET COOPER (JD candidate, law), to study Arabic in Jordan

I ISABELLE DAVIS (BA candidate, international studies), to study Turkish in Azerbaijan

SARAH DAY (MA, rehabilitation and counselor education), Montenegro

FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP RECIPIENTS

DILON GONÇALVES (BA, journalism and mass communication), Estonia

FULBRIGHT STUDY/RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

MARGARET CONTRERAS (PhD candidate, chemical engineering), Germany – engineering

JULIA CONRAD (MFA, literary translation), Italy – creative writing

MARISOL CONTRERAS (PhD candidate, chemical engineering), Germany – engineering

MEGAN LENSS (BS, geoscience), Norway – oceanography

KATHLEEN MARIS PALTRINERI (MFA, literary translation), Norway – translation

SARAH SCHLOSSER (MFA, book studies), India – book arts

KATARINA NEWCAMP (BA, political science), Kosovo

FULBRIGHT STUDY/RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

BRANT WALKER (BS, mathematics and economics), Germany – economics

SARAH SCHLOSSER (MFA, book studies), India – book arts

CHRISTOPHER MERRILL, director of the International Writing Program, in the School of Art and Art History, Poland

KATARINA NEWCAMP (BA, political science), Kosovo

FACULTY FULBRIGHT GRANT AWARDEES

MARIAN MUSTE professor in the College of Engineering, Hungary

SARAH SCHLOSSER (MFA, book studies), India – book arts

For the sixth consecutive year in 2020-21, the UI was named a top-producing institution of Fulbright students nationally by the Chronicle of Higher Education. During that six-year period, nearly 100 UI students received awards to more than 30 different countries, supported by faculty and staff mentors with world region and country expertise.

Fewer Fulbright awards were issued this year, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and deferrals for awards given for 2020-21.

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Cover photo:
Hancher hosted WorldCanvass on September 10 for an outdoor celebration of community, and an exploration of the power of partnerships to enrich and enliven community life.
Photo by Justin Torner

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international.uiowa.edu