Dear Reader:

2015-16 was a banner year for the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs (DIP). Our tireless directors and program coordinators spent the last twelve months working hard to expand the opportunities available to UI undergraduates, and I am excited to share the results of their efforts with you.

As you will see in this report, fall 2016 brings with it the launch of several new programs in DIP, including the Global Health Studies BA/BS, which serves students interested in studying the complex processes influencing health and disease both locally and globally. Additionally, the Magid Center has launched a fully online path to completing the Certificate in Writing, along with an innovative on-campus track in Literary Publishing that aims to prepare students for work in the field of editing and book production. In an effort to expand its ability to help students reach their collegiate and professional goals, the Magid Center also welcomed the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio (and its director, Stephen Lovely) into its group of programs, giving DIP and the College the chance to interact with more talented young students and future Hawkeyes.

Along with these new programs, DIP has also demonstrated a commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities to its students. Working collaboratively (often across the College), DIP has created several new and exciting courses over the past year, including Global Health Studies Service Learning (piloted spring 2016), Social Entrepreneurship in Global Health (slated for spring 2017), Publishing I (piloted fall 2016), Publishing II (slated for spring 2017), and Book Design for Publishing (piloted fall 2016). These courses epitomize the meaning of interdisciplinary, and I anticipate high student interest (and enrollment) for years to come.

In addition to these new programs and courses, DIP also saw some reshuffling, growth, and staff developments over the last year. We are quite excited to welcome the Latina/o Studies minor, which moved from the History Department to DIP under the conscientious direction of Claire Fox (English/Spanish & Portuguese). The program launched a new website, and its introductory course filled to capacity and beyond in spring 2016.

In terms of growth, the Enterprise Leadership BA continues to expand under the directorship of David Hensley. This essential major is now providing an interdisciplinary approach to the world of business to more than 400 students, a remarkable achievement after only two short years.

Finally, several of our programs welcomed new faculty directors this year. As you read the report, please take a moment to read the spotlights highlighting each of these dedicated and enthusiastic individuals.

The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs is an active academic unit working hard to promote interdisciplinary learning, student engagement, and student achievement among UI’s undergraduates. I hope you will take a few moments to peruse these pages and learn about the amazing things we are doing.

Best regards,

Helena Dettmer
Departmental Executive Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL STUDIES</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATINA/O STUDIES</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE MAGID CENTER FOR WRITING</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERDEPARTMENTAL STUDIES</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT INFORMATION</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who We Are
An interdisciplinary approach to the complex factors influencing health and disease around the world.
An interdisciplinary approach to the complex factors influencing health and disease locally and around the world.
The University of Iowa's Global Health Studies Program (GHS) is a model of interdisciplinary education that engages students and faculty in real-world health problems, and challenges them to embark on global health careers which place a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

The program is distinctive in that it builds upon the humanities, social sciences, and health sciences to help students better understand the underlying forces—such as technology, economics, politics, religion, law, gender and sexuality, history, and culture—that shape health and disease both locally and worldwide.
In June 2016, Global Health Studies Program Faculty Director Dr. Christopher Squier (Dentistry) and Associate Faculty Director Dr. Mariola Espinosa (History) oversaw the implementation of a new Global Health Studies major (both a B.A. and B.S.) for Fall 2016.
Interdisciplinary Learning

The Fall 2015 Global Health Studies conference, **Contagion: Causes, Costs, Containment—Infectious Disease in Global Perspective** was attended by over 100 UI undergraduates. Keynote addresses included “Ebola—Current Status, Risks & Cautions,” and “CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) as Infectious Disease Incubators: Iowa Risks, Roles & Responses.”
Student Achievement

“My research through a hospital’s community outreach office helped to form an understanding of the way that NGOs function, including a better understanding of resource limitation, culturally relevant health interventions, and the life of a full time advocate.”

-Delaney Sillman (GHS Student)

Three University of Iowa students completed summer 2016 internships in Mysore, India with organizations affiliated with the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM—a grassroots, non-profit organization which advocates for improved health, education and socio-economic empowerment). In spring 2016 students prepared for their internships by completing independent study with UI Global Health Studies faculty and communicating electronically with their on-site mentors. Upon return to campus, students work with UI Global Health Studies faculty to produce a research paper in which they contextualize their internship experience and analyze international development, including both challenges and solutions.
Student Engagement

Global Health Studies Program faculty member Dr. Maureen McCue offered a new course in spring 2016 – GHS:4000 Global Health Service Learning: Practicing Global Health Locally. The course included both classroom sessions during which students learned about the social determinants of health, and hours outside of the classroom during which students volunteered with local service agencies. Keeping the global picture in mind, students learned about how the agencies addressed social and economic challenges to health faced by a variety of Iowa populations as a result of the local manifestations of the social determinants of health. Local agencies included Shelter House, Nisaa African Family Services, Local Foods Connection, and The Village Community.

In spring 2016, the UI Global Health Club co-sponsored a Just Living Theme Semester event, a lecture by Dr. John Lawrence of Doctors without Borders on “Advocacy in Humanitarian Health: The Role of Doctors Without Borders in Promoting Medical Care as a Human Right.”
In spring 2016, over 50 students enrolled in GHS:3035 Engaging in Global Health, a 1 s.h. workshop which invites global health professionals to present to UI students who are working toward careers in global health.

SPOTLIGHT: MARIOLA ESPINOSA

The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomes Mariola Espinosa as Associate Faculty Director of Global Health Studies.

Mariola Espinosa, Associate Professor of History and historian of medicine and public health in the Caribbean, is the author of Epidemic Invasions: Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, (University of Chicago Press 2009) and of recent articles on global history of medicine, published in Revista História, Ciências, Saúde - Manguinhos, and on understanding yellow fever immunities historically in Social Science History. Currently she is working on a manuscript on how medical understandings of fever shaped the modern Caribbean, a project for which she was awarded the University of Iowa May Brodbeck Humanities Fellowship for the year 2015-2016. She teaches undergraduate courses on the history of medicine and public health in Latin America, Cuban history, the relationships between diseases and power throughout the world, historical methods, and graduate courses on science and medicine in Latin America.
Global perspectives critical for life and career in the 21st century.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Global perspectives critical for life and career in the 21st century.
The interdisciplinary International Studies (IS) major combines the social sciences, humanities, and arts with world language study. Students learn about broad global processes and also tailor the major to individual interests and goals. IS students develop a range of transferable skills which equip them for careers in international education, translation/interpreting, non-profit work/non-governmental organizations, business, and government.

Recent IS alumni have also gone on to graduate and professional programs in urban and regional planning, public health, law, student affairs, international development, and non-profit management.
The IS major attracts a vibrant and diverse group of students.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING**


- **218 MAJORS**
- **11 PERCENT of majors = international students**
- **33 PERCENT of majors = US students of color**
- **19 minors**
Student Achievement

Student Engagement

IS senior Caitlyn Kavan won the spring 2016 CLAS Dean’s Achievement Award.

International student and IS senior Liqi Zhu completed a 2015-16 internship with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council.

IS student Ana Arzate received the Gilman International Scholarship (through the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) in summer 2016 to complete an internship in Paris.

IS senior Katie Rivera worked as UI Study Abroad Peer Assistant for the 2015-16 academic year.
SPOTLIGHT: EMILY WENTZELL

The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomes Emily Wentzell as the new faculty director of International Studies.

Emily Wentzell, Associate Professor of Anthropology, specializes in medical anthropology and conducts research on changing gender norms and sexual health care treatments in urban Mexico. She has been affiliated with the IS program for several years, teaching cross-listed courses and mentoring student research.

Student Achievement

IS senior Brian Donatelli joined the Peace Corps in July 2016 to teach English to high school students in Cambodia.

IS alum Julia Julstrom-Agoyo was awarded a 2015-16 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) in Malaysia.

IS alum Quinn Hejlik was awarded a 2015-16 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) in Russia.
An interdisciplinary perspective on the history, politics, and experiences in the United States. Culture, of Latinas/os.
An interdisciplinary perspective on the history, culture, politics, and experiences of Latinas/os in the United States.
The Latina/o Studies minor (LATS) developed from a series of Latino Midwest events that were held at the University of Iowa in 2012-13 and sponsored by the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. The Latina/o Studies minor is a versatile academic program which helps students understand the breadth and distinction of Latina/o experiences in the United States, and equips students to respond to the changing demographics of the U.S.

The minor is an ideal choice for undergraduates who plan to pursue careers in the arts, education, business, politics, social work, the health professions, community activism and communications.
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In fall 2015 the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs became the new administrative home for the Latina/o Studies minor. Dr. Claire Fox (English/Spanish & Portuguese) served as the faculty director for the program with the assistance of an interdisciplinary faculty advisory board whose members represented the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the College of Education, and the College of Public Health.

In spring 2016, Professor Tlaloc Rivas (Theatre Arts/Latina/o Studies) offered THTR:2405 Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance. The course is approved for the Latina/o Studies minor and focuses on the role of U.S. theatre as a complex tapestry of race, gender, sexuality, and disability; examines plays and performance outside the primarily white-male canon; and explores contemporary social practice and cultural politics in local and national contexts. Highlights of the course in spring 2016 included students spending time with Ida Beam visiting artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña, attending a new production exploring race on college campuses called Baltimore, and studying Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit musical, Hamilton.
In spring 2016, Professor Tlaloc Rivas (Theatre Arts/Latino Studies) offered THTR:2405 Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance. The course is approved for the Latino Studies minor and focuses on the role of U.S. theatre as a complex tapestry of race, gender, sexuality, and disability; examines plays and performance outside the primarily white-male canon; and explores contemporary social practice and cultural politics in local and national contexts.

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SPOTLIGHT:
RENE ROCHA

The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomes Rene Rocha as the new faculty director of Latino/o Studies.

Rene Rocha, Associate Professor of Political Science, is a leading scholar of immigration politics and policy. He has published in The Journal of Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Social Science Quarterly, Urban Affairs Review, and Review of Policy Research. His research on immigration and welfare policy received the 2014 Phi Sigma Alpha award from the Western Political Science Association. His research on racial and ethnic inequality across the US states, published in 2011, received the Lucius Barker Award from the Midwest Political Science Association.
Interdisciplinary teaching and research on Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Latino Global Diaspora.
Interdisciplinary teaching and research on Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Latino Global Diaspora.
The Latin American Studies Program (LAS) fosters cross-disciplinary teaching and research on a broad range of countries, disciplines, and themes. Students choose from courses which focus on a particular theme (e.g., health, human rights, popular culture), area of interest (e.g., U.S. Latinos, the Andes, Brazil), or disciplinary focus (e.g., literature, history, social sciences).

This approach prepares students for careers in business, communications, government, bilingual/bicultural education, secondary teaching, community organizing, and international work.
In spring 2016 Dr. Claire Fox (English/Spanish & Portuguese) offered **LAS:4700 Latin American Studies Seminar—The Latino Midwest.** Students presented on interdisciplinary projects which involved oral histories, professional interviews, archival research, and community-based investigations of Latinas/os in the Midwest. Topics included: Latina/o Midwest foodways; gender and sexuality; social movements and interracial relations; Latina/o Midwest cities; health, education and sports; and im/migration histories and stories.
In October 2015 the Latin American Studies Program hosted the Charles A. Hale Lecture. The Charles A. Hale Lecture brings distinguished scholars from a range of disciplines to the University of Iowa to share their knowledge and research. The lecture builds connections among faculty, students, and community members interested in Latin America and U.S. Latinos. The 2015 lecture was presented by Mary Louise Pratt (New York University), and was titled, “Linked In, Left Out, Uplifted, Downloaded: The Ecology of Language in a Globalizing World.”
The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomes Amber Brian as the new faculty director of Latin American Studies.

Amber Brian is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese. Her research and teaching focus on colonial Spanish American literature and culture. Her publications include Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s Native Archive and the Circulation of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico (Vanderbilt, 2016) and The Native Conquistador: Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s Account of the Conquest of Mexico (Penn State Press, 2015), co-edited and translated with Bradley Benton and Pablo García Loaeza. She is currently pursuing a second major collaborative translation project with the support of a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant.
An interdisciplinary approach to enhancing students' academic, creative, and professional written communication skills.

MAGID CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE WRITING
An interdisciplinary approach to enhancing students’ academic, creative, and professional written communication skills.
The Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing includes an array of academic and co-curricular programs that give students the opportunity to engage with the written word in a variety of ways.

Home to the Undergraduate Certificate in Writing, the Iowa Youth Writing Project, the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio, Ink Lit Mag, and earthwords, the Magid Center’s goal is to provide support and guidance to young writers looking to expand their knowledge and experience as creators, editors, readers, teachers, and active citizens regardless of their academic background or area of study.
In April 2016, the Magid Center became home to the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio. The IYWS hosts two two-week summer writing camps for aspiring high school writers.

The Writing Certificate has launched a new Literary Publishing Track to prepare students for work in the field of editing and book production.
New Classes

CNW:2991/WRIT:2991 Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing

CNW:2992/WRIT:2992 Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publishing

ARTS:2900/WRIT:2900/UICB:2900 Book Design for Publishing

“The Certificate in Writing program has given me confidence as a person and to express myself. It helped carve my critical thinking skills that are so vital in my journalistic profession. It made me feel comfortable with myself, and taught me to love life.”

--Alexander Boisjolie, Class of 2016
Beginning in fall 2016, students considering a career in literary publishing can now learn the ins and outs of the industry and gain a competitive edge by enrolling in the brand new **Literary Publishing Track of the Certificate in Writing**. This unique educational experience provides a substantial understanding of the editorial, design, and managerial work essential to this profession. Students who enroll in the track complete the Certificate's standard core courses, and take a series of three publishing-specific courses (collaboratively developed by the Magid Center, Nonfiction Writing Program, Department of Art & Art History, and UI Center for the Book) to fulfill the focused electives requirement. Finally, they complete a Capstone project or internship related to publishing.
The Magid Center had another successful year producing the literary magazines *Ink Lit Mag* (Issues 9 & 10) and *Earthwords* (Issue 36), continuing to build upon our incredible experiential learning opportunities for UI undergraduates. From first-semester freshmen to graduating seniors, these literary journals provide a large group of students with the unique chance to build professional skills while preparing themselves for future careers in publishing and beyond.
The IYWP expanded both its weekly and special programming in 2015-16, increasing the availability of high-quality, innovative writing and literacy workshops to K-12 students throughout Iowa. This year, we were proud to feature two brand-new programs that break the mold of our traditional weekly programming: with I-Belong, African-American students at City High enjoyed twice-weekly writing workshops focused on race and social justice. With Interface, students at Tate High School in Iowa City wrote with and for students in Hammond, Indiana, using digital media as a platform.
On April 20, 2016, the Iowa Youth Writing Project welcomed 140 junior high students to the Iowa Memorial Union for the organization’s third-annual (and by far largest) **Junior High Writing Conference**. These students, representing five schools in Johnson and Linn counties, enjoyed an immersive day of writing, collaboration, and creativity on the University campus. The Conference featured small-group workshops in specialized topics such as novel-writing, slam poetry, and comedy; an inspiring keynote speech delivered by nationally recognized YA novelist Michelle Falkoff; and a culminating open mic reading. Throughout the day, students had ample opportunity both to connect with young writers from other schools and to learn tips and tricks of the trade from practicing professionals. After the Conference, students submitted their writing from the day’s workshops for inclusion in a professionally designed and printed anthology.

**Writers in the Community (WiC)**, a six-week, 1 s.h. course offered by the Magid Center for the first time in 2015-16, affords University students the opportunity to try volunteering with the IYWP—or to enrich and expand their volunteer experience—for course credit. Enrolled students lead six generative writing workshops at Mark Twain Elementary, the Iowa City K-6 school with the highest percentage of students living below the poverty line.

To supplement and inform this hands-on community experience, students spend class time discussing best teaching-practices, current trends in Iowa education, and the connections between literacy and social justice.
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In August 2015, the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomed Mallory Hellman as the new director of the Iowa Youth Writing Project.

Mallory received an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a BA in English and American Literature from Harvard. Her nonfiction has appeared on the Forbes Booked Blog and in the Indiana Review, and her short story "October, Forest River" was a finalist for the Room Of Her Own Foundation’s Orlando Prize. She has taught writing courses at Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the Duke Talent Identification Program, and elementary and secondary schools throughout Eastern Iowa.
The **Iowa Young Writers’ Studio** was formed in 1999 to give promising high school-age creative writers the opportunity to spend two weeks studying writing at The University of Iowa, in the thriving literary community of Iowa City, with teachers and counselors from the renowned Iowa Writers’ Workshop. The Studio receives applications from all over the United States and abroad, and accepts approximately 132 students per summer. Students at the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio share their writing with teachers and peers, receive constructive critique, participate in writing exercises and activities, and attend readings and literary events. The Studio operates under the philosophy that the study of creative writing is essential not only to students who want to pursue writing as a career but to any student hoping to function effectively in a writing-centric world, and to any adolescent who seeks to understand his or her identity and experience.
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In April 2016, the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs welcomed the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio and its director, Stephen Lovely. Stephen Lovely has been the director of the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio since 2005. Stephen was born in Dallas, Texas and spent most of his childhood in Ohio. He attended Kenyon College, where he majored in English, and then attended the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he studied with Deborah Eisenberg, Margot Livesey, Ethan Canin, and Frank Conroy. His first novel, Irreplaceable, was published by Hyperion/Voice in 2009 and translated into German, Dutch, and Chinese. Irreplaceable received the Dana Award for the Novel and a James Michener-Copernicus Society of America Award. Stephen lives in Iowa City with his wife and several dogs and cats. He is working on a second novel.
Student Engagement

In November 2015, the Iowa Youth Writing Project was pleased to host poet and activist Andrea Gibson. Andrea’s poetry focuses on gender norms, politics, social reform, and the struggles LGBTQ people face in today’s society. While in Iowa City, Andrea held a Spoken Word in Action workshop and Q&A with local high school students, and performed at the Englert Theater.

Andrea Gibson (right)

Lydia Davis

The Magid Center was honored to host the powerhouse novelist, short story writer, essayist, and translator Lydia Davis as our 2015-2016 Writer-in-Residence. During her visit in April, Lydia gave a public reading to a packed audience in Van Allen Hall, hosted an intimate lunch with undergraduate students in downtown Iowa City, and led a vibrant Q&A session in the Dey House library.
Student Achievement

Isabel Baldrich (a non-native English speaker who majored in art history and added the Writing Certificate) used her increased writing skills to gain admission to the art history MA program of her choice.

Alisa Hrustic (a journalism major who added the Writing Certificate) saw her improved understanding of how language impacts its audience land her a full-time job as an assistant editor with Men’s Health magazine in Pennsylvania.

David Freeman (a former Editor-in-Chief of both Ink and Earthwords) used his unique professional skill set to land an internship with The Iowa Review here on campus and then at Graywolf Press, one of the premier publishers in the country.
Engage in real life entrepreneurial experience and skills by planning, working for, or consulting with a business.
Engage in real life entrepreneurial experience and apply knowledge and skills by planning, working for or consulting with a business.
The enterprise leadership major (EL) presents a unique blend of skills, theory, and content, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and skills to entrepreneurial concepts and ventures. The program offers a combination of business and liberal arts approaches and allows students to hone their skills in critical thinking and communications.

The major in enterprise leadership is offered jointly by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the John Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurial Management in the Tippie College of Business. The program is administered by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Management Center and the degree is awarded by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
Iowa JPEC lecturer Bob Walker recently returned from San Pedro Columbia, Belize, where he was teaching his second international course. This trip was a 10-day, hands-on experience working with microenterprises. Walker and nine students helped local craft women, restaurant owners, and a local primary school to pivot their businesses to make the best use of tourist traffic moving through the area. They also assisted in establishing a greenhouse, teaching locals how to grow sustainable produce to help feed the village. Each project focused on making their enterprise sustainable and increasing revenues and quality of life.
On April 15, 2016, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community members came together in the Iowa Memorial Union to celebrate all things innovative at the University of Iowa. The 2016 Hawkeye Innovation Expo provided a venue for collaborative festivities involving many different organizations on campus, from student organizations and businesses, to faculty and staff research projects. The Expo featured over 50 booths displaying the innovative works of a variety of business ventures, as well as the liberal arts and sciences.

In February 2016, the Summerwill Lecture Series featured Diana Kander, who gave a lecture at the Englert Theater; met with small discussion groups of entrepreneurs, supporting community members, UI faculty, staff, and students; and met with educators about best practices for teaching entrepreneurship.
Enterprise Leadership senior Matthew Rooda, along with business partner Abraham Espinosa (Computer Science), have made their mark across the country as student entrepreneurs. SwineTech, winner of the 2016 International Business Model Competition, is working to help improve the pork industry by saving piglets. SwineTech is an Ag-Tech company founded in 2015 that uses technology to reduce pre-wean mortality and improve herd health on sow farms. This farrowing monitoring system encourages sows to stand up, preventing the piglets from being accidentally crushed underneath their mother. Rooda and Espinosa have spent the past year participating in pitch competitions and have won a stunning sum of over $100,000. As they continue to pitch their product throughout the country, the team is also currently in the process of analyzing data collected from behavioral trials. SwineTech seeks to launch their product at the World Pork Expo, to be held in Des Moines in June 2017.
Design an individualized plan of study or choose a preapproved plan in applied human services, business studies, or health science.
Design an individualized plan of study or choose a preapproved plan in applied human services, business studies, or health science.
The Interdepartmental Studies Program provides an alternative to traditional undergraduate majors. Whether a student chooses a preapproved plan of study or designs their own, each track includes coursework from a variety of departments. In addition, the gaged social innovation (ESI) track encourages implementation of community social engagement projects using entrepreneurial strategies.

The flexible curriculum offered by Interdepartmental Studies allows students to meet their individual educational and career objectives, whether they intend to seek employment right after graduation or continue their studies at the graduate or professional level.
The gaged social innovation (ESI) track encourages implementation of community social engagement projects using entrepreneurial strategies.

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The Interdepartmental Studies Program provides an alternative to traditional undergraduate majors. Whether a student chooses a preapproved plan of study or designs their own, each track includes coursework from a variety of departments. In addition, the Interdepartmental Studies Program offers 285 majors, 5 individualized plans of study, 14 ESI track honors students, and a student achievement story.

Benjamin Marks, an ESI student, helped develop an on-campus food pantry for students, staff, and faculty needing assistance to make ends meet.
The Engaged Social Innovation (ESI) track is designed for doers. Highly-motivated students are encouraged to seek out and develop solutions to social problems. Designed to pair with an existing major and extend that major’s scope into areas of social concern, the ESI track enables students to apply their learning in real world settings. It prioritizes the experiential component of education, and also helps students construct personal and professional networks with community partners.

**Interdisciplinary Learning**

**Student Engagement**

*APPROVED INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS OF STUDY INCLUDE:*

- Social Entrepreneurship and Environmental Restoration
- Music Production and Engineering
- Romani Studies
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MAGID CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE WRITING

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- [http://www.iowajpec.org/enterpriseleadership/](http://www.iowajpec.org/enterpriseleadership/)  
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