



**Award Categories:**

**Overall Programs/Large Club** (alumni population of 1,501 or more)

**Overall Programs/Small Club** (alumni population of 1,500 or less)

**New/Reorganized Club**

**Individual Club Program** (service to university or community or unique programs or events)

**Volunteer of the Year** (individual recognized for outstanding service through his/her club)

Contact the UIAA with questions regarding eligibility for these categories

**RULES OF SUBMISSION:**

- o Programs sponsored between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 are eligible for awards.
- o Mark only one category on each nomination form. Forms may be copied for multiple entries.
- o Clubs may submit more than one nomination for the Individual Club Program category.
- o Nominations MUST include this form and a brief description of the club's qualifications, specifically addressing required criteria.
- o Multiple nominations may be submitted in one envelope.
- o Nominations will be reviewed by the IOWA Club Award Selection Committee.
- o All clubs will receive the selection results by Monday, October 3, 2016.
- o **Nomination deadline is Friday, September 2, 2016.**

**2015-16 IOWA Club Awards Nomination Form**

Award Category (please check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Programs/Large Club  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Programs/Small Club  
 \_\_\_\_\_ New/Reorganized Club  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Club Program  
 Volunteer of the Year

Club Name Columbia (SC) IOWA Club

Club Leader(s) Gordon Gillespie

Phone 803-312-3868

Email secromii@yahoo.com

Nomination completed by (if different than club leader) Nick Berigan

**Nomination deadline is Friday, September 2, 2016.**

Send your form along with description to: UI Alumni Association, IOWA Club Awards, P. O. Box 1970, Iowa City, IA 52244-1970.

Forms also available on the IOWA Club website at <http://www.iowalum.com/clubs/leaderforms/NominationForm2016.pdf>

I am writing to offer my full endorsement for Gordon Gillespie for Volunteer of the year. Gordon Gillespie has been integral to the development and growth of the Columbia (SC) IOWA Club.

When the club was founded in 2010, Gordon was extremely helpful in getting the word out to other Iowa natives living in the Midlands region of South Carolina. In addition to recruiting, he helped organize our first community outreach activities and with cultivating strategic relationships in the Columbia metropolitan area. Gordon helped plan activities such as the Big Ten Alumni Social Hour, happy hours in the off-season, and sorting clothes for the Oliver Gospel Mission.

The Columbia IOWA Club leadership saw some turnover in the beginning. First, the club's other founder (and first President), Martin Fahey, moved to Phoenix about a year into the club's operation. At this point there was a vacancy in the chapter's executive board, and Gordon stepped in without hesitation by helping to draft the first copy of the Columbia IOWA Club's charter despite not holding an official position.

I left Columbia a year later for a job in Tennessee, and Gordon assumed the role of Vice President. In his role as Vice President, Gordon committed himself to securing the infrastructure of the organization by talking best practices with other chapters of alumni clubs in Columbia, as well as by engaging with other IOWA Clubs. In fact, it was at this time that Gordon started to become a regular at the annual IOWA Club Leadership meetings in Iowa City during homecoming week.

Finally, Gordon was elevated to the position of President when former President Megan Hicks stepped aside to return to school. In his role as president, Gordon has continued to develop partnerships with businesses and other organizations all around the Midlands, serving as a tremendous ambassador for the University of Iowa.

What makes me most proud to nominate Gordon is his commitment to the initial vision of the Columbia IOWA Club. Martin and I initially started the club because we bumped into each other as strangers in a faraway city with no ties to the area. We just wanted to create a sense of "home" by gathering other people who could talk about Hayden Fry, Dan Gable, the Ped Mall, breakfast at the Hamburg Inn, and buying sweet corn and watermelons off the side of the road. Gordon has embraced that vision and taken the club to new heights. Martin and I merely discussed introducing a student send-off, transforming the Big Ten Alumni Social Hour into an annual event, and partnering for promotional events at our game watch location. Gordon has made all of these things happen, plus coordinated Club volunteer efforts with the local Ronald McDonald House. It is incredible how he has established a presence of University of Iowa alumni (and other Hawkeye faithful) in a city that has barely more than the 250 local alumni necessary to qualify for starting a chapter. His efforts have created an atmosphere at Columbia IOWA Club events which makes people feel like they're always among friends, whether they are longstanding attendees or just in South Carolina on vacation. In short, Gordon truly embodies the Hawkeye spirit. I am proud of what the Columbia IOWA Club has become in my absence, thanks in large part to the efforts of Gordon Gillespie.



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 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Club Program  
 Volunteer of the Year

Club Name Columbia IOWA Club

Club Leader(s) Gordon Gillespie, President; Megan Hicks, Vice President, Devin Johnson, Secretary

Phone Gordon (803) 312-3868

Email iowaClubSC@gmail.com

Nomination completed by (if different than club leader) Jim Gillespie

**Nomination deadline is Friday, September 2, 2016.**

Send your form along with description to: UI Alumni Association, IOWA Club Awards, P. O. Box 1970, Iowa City, IA 52244-1970.

Forms also available on the IOWA Club website at <http://www.iowalum.com/clubs/leaderforms/NominationForm2016.pdf>

I am pleased to nominate Gordon Gillespie, president of the Columbia IOWA Club, as Volunteer of the Year.

Ever since Gordon discovered there was an Iowa Club in Columbia, he has been an active member. Shortly after his first football season started, he was asked to join the club board. He hasn't looked back since. He has served as a board member, vice president and president.

When it comes to the Hawkeyes, Gordon doesn't know a stranger. By promoting the club and inviting others to attend game watches, Gordon never misses an opportunity to make connections with other Iowa fans and alumni around town. He keeps the PalmettoHawks informed of all Hawkeye functions, alumni news and information through social media.

In the heart of an SEC college town, Gordon has worked hard to maintain a solid game watch site for the Columbia IOWA Club. His diligence in having a working relationship with the management is recognized by members as it ensures a great game experience.

Hawkeye traditions have special significance to the club. From singing the fight song to a loud rendition of "In Heaven There Is No Beer" after each victory, Gordon starts them off. He introduced a new tradition during the 2015 season in which PalmettoHawks toast during game watches to honor notable alumni following their passing.

For his undoubted dedication, enthusiasm, and loyalty to the Hawkeye community, I am proud to nominate Gordon Gillespie as Volunteer of the Year.