



2006 Small Iowa Club of the Year Nomination

When the Memphis Iowa Club (MIC) was originally established in 1984, it was probably not conceivable to the founding members that over twenty years later the club would be continuing to grow and thrive at the rate that it is today. But with the right leadership and the perfect blend of members, that is exactly what has happened!

The MIC has always shown a commitment to the University of Iowa, the Memphis area and the members of the club.

What are the keys to success for the MIC? Communication and commitment! Through various forms of communication, monthly newsletters, emails, and website updates, our club members are continually informed as to the “latest and greatest” news and events. This opens up dozens of opportunities for the members to commit to club activities, whether it is the latest fund raiser or the next social event. There is never a lack of enthusiastic participation!

So what is MIC all about? First of all, it’s dedicated to the University of Iowa, both in academics and athletics. The MIC established a Scholarship Endowment fund in 1997, which has grown to over \$18,000. The scholarship is given to a Memphis area student who will be attending the University of Iowa. To date, there have been five recipients of the scholarship over nine academic years. The current scholarship is an initial \$750, along with a \$500 anonymous donation, matched by the University of Iowa, for a total of \$2,500. The current scholarship recipient is Ben Kapolitz.

The scholarship endowment fund received a great boost from a project conceived in 2004, a club cookbook titled “Hawkeye Style.” This project received the gold medal award in the Best Practices Category of the Case V (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) competition! “Hawkeye Style” was also named 2005 Iowa Club Program of the Year. Currently, the cookbook has generated profits over \$6,500, all going to the scholarship endowment fund.

The scholarship endowment is also funded by the club’s annual scholarship dinner. Since 1997, the MIC has held a yearly scholarship dinner with all proceeds from both the dinner and door prize drawings contributed to the scholarship fund. In 2006, the theme for the scholarship dinner was “Fine Dining Hawkeye Style” with a menu featuring some good old Iowa favorites such as stuffed Iowa pork chops, waldorf salad and apple pie. We were also fortunate to have Vince Nelson, President of the University of Iowa Alumni Association, as a special guest.

With the help of the University of Iowa, the MIC participates in the annual Memphis Area College Fair each year. Bart and Kevin Figg coordinated this effort this past October. They spent the evening visiting with approximately 100 area students, answering questions regarding the University. They distributed 67 preview books, 30 opportunity books, 5 engineering books and 42 information request forms (33 were filled out that evening and sent back). This has always been a great opportunity for the MIC to promote the University of Iowa to Memphis area students.

The MIC has also been a strong supporter of University of Iowa athletics. Game watches are held for nearly every football and basketball game throughout the season. Raffles are held at most game watches, with the proceeds going directly to the MIC Athletic fund. At special events such as tailgate parties held throughout the year, contributions are earmarked for specific funds, such as the Kinnick Construction Fund.

In a continuing effort to support U of I athletics, the MIC increased our yearly donation from \$600 to \$1000 to remain at the bronze support level. We also encourage all members to join the National I club as individuals.

A favorite tradition of the MIC is the annual trip back to Iowa City. Every year the club chooses one football game and makes the journey from Memphis back to historic Kinnick Stadium to cheer on our beloved Hawkeyes in person. About 50 club members, family and friends attended the Homecoming game versus Purdue in October. Of course this weekend also includes a good old tailgate party complete with Memphis barbeque!

The MIC hosts an annual golf tournament each May that is open not only to MIC members but also other Big Ten clubs in the Memphis area as well as friends of MIC members. Last year, over 40 people participated in this tournament. A BBQ lunch was prepared by MIC members Tim Theisen and Coach Schwager. Over \$200 was raised for our athletic department fund.

The MIC shows support to the University of Iowa in other ways, too. In an ongoing effort to stay as connected and up-to-date as possible with what's going on at the University of Iowa, Daryl Helle, MIC President, attended the University of Iowa Alumni Association (UIAA) Leadership Workshop held on September 29, 2006. We also encourage all club members to join the UIAA.

In 2006, Marlys Smith, one of the founding members of the Memphis Iowa Club, was unanimously elected to serve on the University of Iowa Alumni Association Board of Directors. Her three-year term began July 1, 2006. She has already been assigned to two committees: Awards and Strategic Planning. The MIC is proud to have Marlys represent them and the University of Iowa!

MIC has also become proactive in helping launch other Iowa clubs in the area. This past year, Daryl Helle and Will Smith, worked with a group of Iowans living in the Little Rock, Arkansas, area to assist with the start-up of the Arkansas Iowa Club. Not only did the club provide them with moral support and guidance, we also tried to help with defraying some of their initial costs,

such as postage and supplies. The Arkansas Iowa Club is slowly moving from infancy stage to toddler and we hope to continue to support them and help them grow.

It has always been important to the MIC to become involved in the Memphis community. Several projects and activities have been held to support this belief.

Top of the list is the Corning Elementary School project. The MIC supports this one-hundred-percent poverty-level school with donations of supplies. Club members are asked to bring school supplies or donations to game watches. Board members, Kent Hayworth and Tim Theisen, work with the school administration to target specific needs of the school each month, such as Kleenex, notebooks, glue sticks etc. The club holds an annual drive each January to purchase project boards for the school's annual science fair. Money is raised during our annual Pizza Night game watch to purchase the project boards.

MIC club members have also become involved in various non-profit organizations on behalf of the Club. This past year we had several members become St. Jude Heroes and one member participate in the St. Jude 5K marathon. We also had 3 members participate in the American Breast Cancer Society Walk for the Cure.

Not only does the MIC provide support for Memphis area residents, they also try to support fellow Iowans. The MIC has been participating in the Fort Myers, FL/Paradise Iowa Club Troop Support project for the past two years. This project sends supplies to Iowa troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jacob Thompson has championed our efforts. Not only is Jake a member of the MIC, he is also enlisted in the United States Navy, stationed in Millington, TN. Money was raised and supplies donated for four different shipments to troops in Iraq. These shipments included such items as phone cards, sheets, pillowcases and various sundries. Our final drive in 2006 included raising money for watches.

While the MIC spends a lot of time and energy devoted to University activities and supporting the Memphis area, they also reach out to other Big Ten clubs. Within the Memphis area, there are clubs representing Ohio State, Michigan, Penn State, Michigan State and most recently, Purdue. One of the founding members of the Purdue club has reached out to the MIC Board of Directors for assistance on how to start up a club and attended one of our board meetings to gain insight into the workings of a Big Ten club. Because we have been a very successful club, we are more than willing to share what we have learned along the way.

While we can be opponents on the court or the field, we've all become friends. The Ohio State Club hosts an annual event for all the Big Ten clubs, a Memphis Redbird Baseball night. This has turned into a popular yearly event that MIC members enjoy attending. It is a great opportunity to get together and know other clubs and their members. The Big Ten clubs also attend an annual Big Ten Night at Gill's before football season starts. (Gill's is a Memphis area sports bar known as the Home of the Big Ten and the location of most game watches.) It's a chance to renew friendly rivalries and predict how the next football season will turn-out!

And last but not least, the MIC is committed to the club members. First of all, we strive to continue to involve all of the members in club activities. Members are called on to chair committees, volunteer for a variety of duties, and serve on the Board of Directors. As new members join MIC, we work to get them involved and they never hesitate to join in on the fun. None of the projects seem like work with the enthusiasm that the members bring to the projects.

We also enjoy a variety of social events together. It's not unusual for a group of club members to get together to throw horseshoes, hold a mini-golf outing, host a Super Bowl party, or watch the NCAA basketball tournament. Annual social events are also held for the club members. Each August, the MIC hosts a potluck membership drive. This is a great opportunity for club members (new and old) to get together. In December, our annual Holiday Mixer is a great time to celebrate the Christmas season.

The success of the Memphis Iowa Club doesn't just stem from the club members. The University of Iowa Alumni Association provides continued support to our club. Susan Griffith and Kerry Jones deserve recognition for all the work they do to help our club grow. These two never hesitate to answer questions and/or provide advice and assistance. A special thanks also needs to go to Bill & Jen (owners of Gill's in Memphis). They are always willing to provide the MIC a "home" for game watches, board meetings and other various social functions!

2006 was an exciting year for the MIC! The growth of our scholarship fund gave the club a much needed boost. Plans are already underway to "Make the Drive to \$25(K)" in the next few years. We also were fortunate this past year to welcome new members to our club. It's exciting to see new faces at game watches, people who support the University of Iowa and enjoy spending time with fellow Iowans. The MIC also continued to support many of the same community service projects, such as Corning Elementary school, but also broadened that scope with the addition of St. Jude Heroes.

As we begin 2007, we look back at 2006 and are proud of what we've accomplished. With hard work, commitment, and energy, we have reached many of the goals we set for ourselves early on in the year. We hope to continue this growth into 2007 and beyond. We continually look for ways to better current projects, add additional community service projects, grow our membership numbers and increase our scholarship endowment fund.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Helle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Daryl Helle
President, Memphis Iowa Club

M E M P H I S IOWA CLUB

2006 Project of the Year Nomination

In 1997 the Memphis Iowa Club (MIC) established a Scholarship Endowment Fund through the University of Iowa. The purpose of this fund was to award a Memphis area resident with a \$250 scholarship to the University of Iowa. In the short ten years since inception, through the hard work of the club's members, the fund has grown to over \$18,000 (between the account held by the University and the account held by the MIC). Eventually the MIC will be able to fund the scholarship award from the investment income. The endowment fund held at the University took a significant increase in 2006 growing from a balance of \$9,222 at the end of 2005 to \$15,694 at the end of 2006. The amount of the scholarship award has also increased to \$750. With help from an anonymous donation of \$500 from a MIC club member and the matching funds from the University of Iowa, the last four recipients have received a total scholarship of \$2,500.

To date, the Memphis Iowa Club Scholarship has been awarded nine academic years to five University of Iowa students, the latest being Ben Kapolitz. Recipients of the MIC scholarship are chosen by the University of Iowa Foundation following University guidelines. Preference is given to first-year students.

The largest contributor to the MIC Scholarship endowment fund is, undoubtedly, the MIC Annual Scholarship Dinner held every spring. The dinner was established in 1997 and themes have ranged from Mexican/Spanish, to Scandinavian, to the 2006 theme of "Fine Dining, Hawkeye Style." Last year's menu included such Iowa treats as stuffed Iowa pork chops, waldorf salad, asparagus and apple pie and as usual was prepared by club members.

The success of the Scholarship Dinner relies solely on the MIC club members and their willingness to volunteer for a wide-variety of duties, such as set-up and clean-up, food preparation, arranging all the logistics, and selling tickets. In addition to the proceeds from the dinner, funds are also raised via door prize drawings. Prizes are donated by many of the Memphis area business, with the exception of the grand prize. The MIC purchases a television each year to be given as the grand prize.

Another significant increase in the MIC scholarship endowment fund began in 2004 with the birth of our club cookbook "Hawkeye Style." Some of our ambitious club members began planning a cookbook in 2004, and with much perseverance, we saw this dream made into a reality in 2005 and continue through 2006. Cookbook sales have generated a \$6,239 profit since coming off the press. Along with the cookbook, the MIC club had aprons and grill towels custom made to match the cookbook cover design and to sell as part of a

“Cookout” package. The profit from the sales of these items was entirely earmarked for the scholarship endowment fund, thus putting the fund over the \$18,000 mark in 2006.

Early in 2006, the MIC appointed a committee to review the guidelines for the scholarship selection recommendation. These new guidelines were approved by the MIC in March of 2006. Will Smith and Bob Patterson co-chaired the committee and worked with 5 other club members to formalize the club’s selection processes.

Key points to the scholarship selection process included:

- 1) The MIC would establish the number of scholarships, the amount of the scholarships, and the criteria to be used in awarding the scholarships.
- 2) The University of Iowa Alumni Association acts as the liaison between the MIC and the University of Iowa Financial Office for the awarding of the scholarship.
- 3) The UI Financial Office determines who gets the scholarship based on the club’s criteria and the student’s academic level and financial need.
- 4) The University of Iowa Foundation handles the MIC Endowment fund.

The combination of the commitment to the scholarship fundraisers and the newly established guidelines ensures that the MIC Scholarship fund will continue to prosper in the year’s ahead.

There is no doubt that 2006 was the most successful year by far for the MIC Scholarship Endowment program. The monetary growth alone was the greatest achieved in one single year for the club. Add to that, the new guidelines established by the club. What’s in store for 2007? How can we continue to make strides to better the program? First of all, preparations are underway for the next scholarship dinner. As a matter of fact, this coming year the club, in effort to maximize raffle ticket sales, made the commitment to more than double the amount of money available for the purchase of the grand prize. Along with an anonymous donation, the club purchased a 32” High Definition HD television as the grand prize for the coming year. Second, there has been mention of another large undertaking, similar to the cookbook project. Third, continuing to work with Memphis area residents, encouraging high school students to consider the University of Iowa. And last but definitely not least, involving scholarship recipients and their families with the Memphis Iowa Club. The new MIC motto for the scholarship endowment fund is “Making the Drive for \$25K.”

Thank you,



Daryl Helle
President, Memphis Iowa Club

M E M P H I S IOWA CLUB

2006 Volunteer of the Year Nomination

The Memphis Iowa Club (MIC) is extremely proud to nominate Nancy Carter for the Iowa Club Volunteer of the Year. Nancy has been a member of the MIC for 5 years now and in that short period of time has become a major contributor to the success of the club and club projects.

Since Nancy joined MIC, she has never hesitated to volunteer where needed. Nancy's first call was to become a member of the MIC Board of Directors. This, in itself, is no small commitment, primarily because it is a three year term. Not only has Nancy committed for this once, but she re-enlisted last year for another three-year term. During Nancy's first term, she "volunteered" for the position of Board Secretary, responsible for all meeting minutes. This title also bestowed onto her, the responsibility of sending weekly emails and updates to all club members regarding club activities. Nancy's email updates not only provide members with upcoming events, they are also filled with trivia and/or statistic, mostly covering Iowa sports, one of Nancy's greatest passions. In addition to emails, Nancy has also taken ownership of the MIC Club website. Nancy was granted some relief when she agreed to a second term, she no longer had to be "secretary" but she was granted the title of "coordinator". She continues to be the overseer of our emails and our website.

Along with Nancy's board of director's duties, she has always been willing to become involved with club projects. Three years ago, along with club member Tim Theisen, Nancy agreed to co-chair a cookbook committee. Tim had a vision of creating a cookbook, "Hawkeye Style", with all proceeds going to the MIC Scholarship fund. Nancy, of course, caught on to Tim's enthusiasm, and jumped right in, with both feet and both hands! Nancy's great computer skills were invaluable to the typing, editing, and re-writing that a project of this size required. Nancy also made sure that all the club members became involved by sending numerous emails, requesting recipes and volunteers. She made sure that the MIC website was updated with information regarding the cookbook (at all stages) and was instrumental in the communications regarding the cookbook sales.

Nancy has also been instrumental to the success of the yearly MIC scholarship dinner, including co-chairing the dinner committee. The MIC scholarship dinner is undoubtedly the largest annual event of the club, planning begins early in January for a dinner to be held in April. Nancy's love of "googling" allows us to come up with great ideas regarding themes, menus and decorations. Her organization skills and attention to details, assures that this annual event will be a great success. And there is no doubt, that

the day of the dinner, Nancy will be among the first to arrive for set-up and the last to leave after clean-up.

Anyone who has worked on projects with Nancy will attest that her enthusiasm is contagious. She provides all of us with some much needed energy to commit to the MIC. As president of the Memphis Iowa Club, I respectfully nominate her for your consideration as Iowa Club Volunteer of the Year.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Helle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

Daryl Helle
President, Memphis Iowa Club