

Contact: Joan Racki

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PROPOSED NAMING –
MARY LOUISE PETERSEN RESIDENCE HALL**

Action Requested: Consider recommending to the Board approval of the University of Iowa's request to name the new west campus residence hall as the Mary Louise Petersen Residence Hall.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa requests that the west campus residence hall, currently under construction, be named as the Mary Louise Petersen Residence Hall. The University's request is in recognition of Mary Louise Petersen's long and distinguished record of service to higher education in the state of Iowa and, more specifically, for her unwavering support of her alma mater, the University of Iowa. She graduated *summa cum laude* in 1951 from the University's College of Education with a bachelor's degree in science education. As an undergraduate, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and served as President of her class and President of the Association of University Women.

Ms. Petersen was appointed to the Board of Regents in 1969 by Governor Robert D. Ray and served as Board President from 1973 to 1981. During that time she advanced a vision of higher education that embraced not just fiduciary responsibility and sound business practice, but also focused on the careful nurturing of academic culture, respect for diverse points of view, and collaboration and partnership. She guided the Board to fulfill its public responsibilities which earned her the respect of a broad range of constituencies including the governor, the legislature, students, faculty, staff, University alumni and the citizens of Iowa.

Ms. Petersen was well respected in national higher education circles and was appointed to the Carnegie Corporation of New York Board of Trustees and was elected chair of the Board of Directors of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) for Colleges and Universities. She served as an advisor to the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and on the steering committee for an American Council on Education (ACE) project on the financial indicators of the condition of higher education.

Ms. Peterson and her husband, Rand, have given generously to support University programs, especially the Pentacrest museums. Their gifts have made possible the Mary Louise Petersen Chair in Higher Education in the College of Education and the Walter and Margaret Anneberg (Mary Louise's parents) Scholarship Fund in the Carver College of Medicine. Ms. Petersen was a member of the University of Iowa Foundation Board of Directors from 1991 to 2006 and is now a lifetime honorary member. She co-chaired the University's \$1 billion *Good, Better, Best* capital campaign (1999 to 2005) and the Old Capitol Museum campaign. She received the state of Iowa's Distinguished Service Award (1983) and is a member of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. In 1997, she donated her papers to the Iowa Women's Archives located in the University of Iowa Libraries.

For decades Ms. Petersen has been a staunch advocate for and ally of the University of Iowa. This naming is a highly appropriate recognition of her lifetime of service and is in keeping with the naming guidelines specified by the Board of Regents naming policy.