

# Flood of 2008 Affects the WiderNet Project



Iowa River Swells Dangerously Close to Burlington St. Bridge in Iowa City

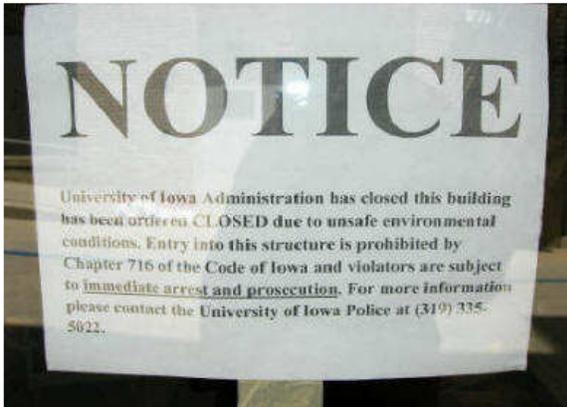
**The excessive rainfall received by the Midwest this spring caused ghastly damage and havoc for citizens all over the region. Local Iowa City and Coralville residents and business owners were forced to evacuate their homes and business as the Coralville Lake swelled over the spillway causing an uncontrollable rush of water into the already high Iowa River on June 10<sup>th</sup>.**



**As the Iowa River threatened to climb further up its banks, University buildings and local businesses all over downtown Iowa City were sandbagging and evacuating in anticipation of more rains and increasing floods on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>.**



**Outside the Linguist Center and the University Library, right next door to WiderNet's main office in the Communications Center, students, volunteers, and city employees lined the sidewalks filling sandbags and stacking them around buildings on Madison Street Friday afternoon.**



**All non-essential University of Iowa employees, including the WiderNet staff were instructed to not report to work for the entire week following the flood and most were not allowed to return to their offices until Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**The widespread flooding caused many travel difficulties for Iowans across the state as not only local roads in Iowa City and Coralville, like Riverside Drive and the Coralville Strip were flooded and closed, also long out of the way detours were posted on both I-80 and I-380 Friday and Saturday after the floods. Along with travel difficulties, many local citizens are battling flooding in their basements and are looking at costly damage to homes and property.**



**The aftermath and cleanup of the flood will be a long and difficult process but plans have already been set in motion to repair bridges and assist devastated communities across Iowa and the surrounding Midwest. Communities like Oakville and Columbus Junction suffered severe damage when a levee broke; causing extensive flooding that put a vast majority of their homes and businesses underwater.**

**Less than 30 minutes from Iowa City, Cedar Rapids was hit hard by the Flood of 2008, and is looking at a long road to recovery after the damage to their community. Citizens in Iowa City including the WiderNet Project's employees returned to work June 22nd and found that traffic and parking are more difficult than ever. Relief efforts and recovery plans are already underway to repair damage and assist affected communities across the state of Iowa and the Midwest.**



[www.daylife.com/photo/0aUb0ENdqb7A1](http://www.daylife.com/photo/0aUb0ENdqb7A1)

[Cedar Rapids \(CID\), Iowa, USA](#)

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**For more pictures, information, and opportunities to help aid in the relief visit;**

**[The University of Iowa Flood of 2008 web page.](#)**