

Jan. 7

Where's Bob?

Where did university photographer Bob Elbert find this metallic montage?

Jan. 7

Right time for a swine expert

As president of a national swine association last year, Dr. Rodney "Butch" Baker made good use of the work in ISU's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to educate people about the H1N1 virus.



Rodney Baker

Jan. 7

Quiet campus, conservation yield energy savings

Iowa State saved an estimated \$117,500 in energy costs during the partial university-wide shutdown.

Jan. 7

New provider selected for employee assistance program

Des Moines-based Employee and Family Resources will become Iowa State's new employee assistance program provider, beginning Feb. 1. The change means more support and resources for employees.

Jan. 7

Pammel after dark

A late-night streetlight experiment on Pammel Drive may point the way to tens of thousands of dollars in energy savings.



Pammel Drive

Jan. 7

Winter winds will generate electricity for community

The city and university recently began buying wind-generated electricity from a farm north of Zearing.

Announcements

- Next Osborn Club lecture is Jan. 11
- Undergrad researchers have chance to present work this spring
- Next MBA informational lunch is Jan. 15
- Maximum mileage rate reduced
- Mentors sought for PWSE summer internship program
- Seasonal flu vaccines still available
- Nominate alums, faculty/staff for 2010 Homecoming awards
- Reiman Gardens volunteer form, scheduling process is now online
- Nominate an outstanding online course for a STTAR
- New CIO web site

Receptions & open houses

Retirements

- Marcia Clendenen, Jan. 7
- Jan Breitmann, Jan. 15
- Rod Berryman, Al Christian, Dan Johnson, Randy Petersohn, Jan. 15
- Sedahlia Crase, Jan. 15

Arts & events

MLK events begin Jan. 13

A series of lectures, concerts and celebrations will honor Martin Luther King Jr. into February.



Ultimate Elvis Tribute tour

Happy birthday, Elvis

The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artists tour brings The King to life in Stephens Auditorium on Jan. 15.

Around campus

Associate ag dean visits Iraq

Gerald Miller, associate dean in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, joined six ag college deans from across the country for a visit to Iraqi ag colleges.

Physicists see collider data

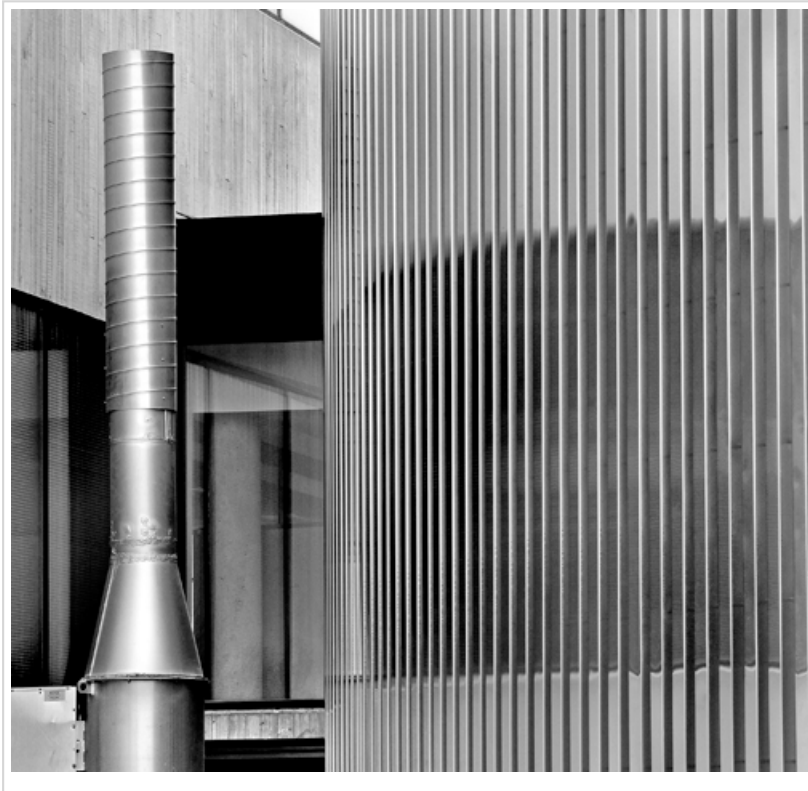
ISU physicists who took winter trips to the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, are starting to see real data from the planet's biggest science experiment.

Inside tools

[Print this edition \(PDF\)](#)

 [RSS](#) | [Twitter](#)

Jan. 7, 2010



Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert shot this metallic image along the south side of the College of Design, next to the exterior of Kocimski Auditorium (right).

Jan. 7, 2010



As president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians during 2009, Dr. Rodney "Butch" Baker served on the front lines in educating people about the H1N1 virus. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

2009 'flu by' for swine expert in the media spotlight

by Dan Kuester, News Service

Last April, television, newspaper and magazine reporters started to seek out Dr. Rodney "Butch" Baker as an expert on the novel H1N1 virus, which was misnamed swine flu. That month, the pandemic made national and international news headlines when early cases were found in Mexico and California.

Having just become president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) in March, Baker was a good source for reporters looking for answers to questions about the disease.

Since then, Baker has been sought out as an expert by professional journals (eight to 10 science and other magazines, according to his count), local broadcast news (KCCI TV and Iowa Public Television, twice each), national news (*Fox Business News*) and several other online journals.

"I can't begin to count the number of times in the past year I've been quoted, or misquoted, in the media," Baker laughs.

Being president of the AASV usually involves time to look at big-picture issues and direct the group while others carry out day-to-day duties. Not for Baker. He estimates that he spent 10 to 20 hours a week working on H1N1 flu issues, in addition to his duties as senior clinician in the veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine department at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the news

Baker in an April 28, 2009, feature on [KCCI TV](#)

Straight talk

Rather than a burden, Baker felt the extra work was an opportunity to set the record straight on the

H1N1 flu that affected pork producers already suffering from low prices, dwindling exports and a bad economy.

Having access to ISU's top-notch Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory helped him be the best source for information on the science behind H1N1, Baker said.

"From that standpoint, it's been a good year, because probably very few others in the association would have access to information that I have," he said.

"I guess I've been a good choice to be in the line of fire, but I will be more than happy to pass the gavel on to the next president."

From swine to sailboats

When the Kentucky native gets through the year, he likely will have more time to spend with his wife, daughter and grandkids. They were, after all, part of the reason Baker came to Iowa State four years ago.

"My daughter came up here (from Kentucky) and stayed. She works at the National Animal Disease Center," said Baker, who let out a slow, Kentucky laugh when he remembered the decision to move north.

"With all the women -- my daughter, my two granddaughters and my wife -- saying we needed to come up here, I didn't have much choice," he said. "They have all the influence and the controlling votes."

Baker added that the College of Veterinary Medicine's reputation also was important.

"Even without (the family pressure), I probably would have come," he said. If you're interested in food animals and food animal medicine, this is the mecca."

The move north meant colder weather, but Baker seems to have acclimated to that pretty quickly. He even adapted his passion for sailing to the icy winter conditions.

"You can sail in winter; you just need to have a boat that has runners," he said.

Baker's summer boat, a 25-foot Catalina he keeps on Saylorville Lake, is his refuge from work and a family gathering place in the summer. Left on his own, he is much more likely to race his boat with his sailing club. The speed and action are a thrill for the veterinarian.

"Going from a 12-mile-an-hour wind to a 15-mile-an-hour wind is like going from boredom to terror," he said. "And that's part of the challenge. It's an action-packed hobby.

"There are just so many things to learn," he said. "And the more you learn, the more you realize how much more you don't know. It's a mental challenge."

Almost as big a challenge as a year in the media spotlight.

Jan. 7, 2010

Quiet campus, conservation efforts yield energy savings

by Diana Pounds

Iowa State saved an estimated \$117,500 in energy costs during the partial university-wide shutdown Dec. 24 through Jan. 3.

University officials encouraged units and employees to consider participating in the partial shutdown to help alleviate a state-mandated budget reduction, and many did just that.

During the 11-day period, 22 buildings were closed entirely, said David Miller, director of facilities planning and management operations. In another 33 buildings, some staff were working, although the buildings were locked to the public.

Thermostats were set back in many facilities and it appears that faculty and staff heeded requests to help conserve, Miller said.

"Decreases in peak demand point to the fact that people likely took more time to shut off departmental and personal equipment before leaving for the holidays," he said.

"People likely took more time to shut off departmental and personal equipment before leaving for the holidays."

David Miller, director of FPM operations

Utilities staff compared energy usage over the 2009 winter break to the corresponding 11-day break in 2008. The university used 7.2 percent less electricity during the recent break, Miller said. That amounted to a savings of \$29,500 over the previous year.

The comparison of steam consumption is more difficult because steam use is dependent on weather, he added. However, when weather was taken into account, figures showed decreased steam use during the most recent break, with a estimated savings of up to \$88,000 compared to the previous year.

Energy use at Parks Library, 2009

When	Average daily costs*
Dec. 14-18 (finals week)	\$2,940
Dec. 21-23 (most students home on break)	\$1,680
Dec. 28-31 (during partial shutdown)	\$ 673

*Includes electricity, steam and chilled water use.

Jan. 7, 2010

New provider selected for employee assistance program

by Paula Van Brocklin

Beginning Feb. 1, **Employee and Family Resources (EFR)**, Des Moines, will become Iowa State's new employee assistance program (EAP) provider. ISU has been contracting EAP services through **The Richmond Center** in Ames.

The Richmond Center offers only one-on-one counseling services. And while counseling is important, human resource services staff decided ISU employees need access to additional resources.

"We were looking for more tools for employees than what we currently had available," said Mike Otis, associate director of HRS.

Web-based information, eldercare support, legal consultation and financial management are just some of the services EFR can provide employees.

"They have a great web site, a lot of online resources," Otis said. "They also have resources for supervisors to help them with their relationships with employees."

Counseling still important

In addition to its other resources, EFR also provides one-on-one counseling services through a statewide counseling network. There are 23 EFR counselors in the Ames/Des Moines area alone. Iowa State offers employees and their dependents three free counseling sessions each year.

Employees who are in the middle of their counseling sessions with a counselor from The Richmond Center may continue seeing the same therapist after Feb. 1. The Richmond Center will assist these employees with the transition to EFR.

"It will be a great new service for employees," Otis said. "We're not giving up anything; we're getting a lot more."

Beginning Feb. 1, call EFR at (800) 327-4692 for employee assistance. Or, see the **HRS web site** for more information.

Jan. 7, 2010



Photo by Bob Elbert.

Slightly darker Pammel part of pilot program

by Diana Pounds

A late night streetlight experiment on Pammel Drive may point the way to tens of thousands of dollars in energy savings annually.

The experiment involves turning off half of the 14 streetlights along Pammel Drive between midnight and 6 a.m. A similar experiment is under way in parking lot 41, north of the General Services Building.

Campus streetlights are controlled by photocells that turn them on at sunset and off at sunrise, said David Miller, director of facilities planning and management operations. In mid-December, FPM staff installed special photocells that could be programmed to turn off Pammel and lot 41 lights at midnight.

Miller pointed out that none of the lights programmed for midnight shutdown are at Pammel crosswalks or corners. Lights in those key areas will remain on all night as usual.

Your opinions sought

Miller anticipates that half lighting will prove to be adequate after midnight, when there is very little traffic on campus. However, FPM wants to hear from the campus community on this issue.

"This is just a pilot," Miller emphasized. "We want to know if people feel safe, if they have concerns, if they do or don't like the idea of reducing late-night lighting." Comments can be directed to:

- FPM service desk, 4-5100
- Miller, 4-2631, djmille@iastate.edu

Potential savings

Shutting off half the streetlights on Pammel Drive from midnight to 6 a.m. would result in an annual

savings of about \$285, Miller said. That may not seem like much, but Miller points out that there are 1,900 streets, walkways and parking lot lights on campus.

"If we could manage to live with lower light levels by shutting off just half of the fixtures at midnight, we could save up to \$32,000 annually," he said. "And at the same time, we would conserve about 1 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions."

Published by University Relations, inside@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7958, Ames, Iowa 50011.
Copyright © 1995-2009, Iowa State University of Science and Technology. All rights reserved.

Jan. 7, 2010

Winter winds will generate electricity for ISU, Ames

by Diana Pounds

The winds of January are a good thing if you're getting electricity from a wind farm, and that's the case for the City of Ames and Iowa State University. The city and university recently began buying wind-generated electricity from a new wind farm north of Zearing.

The timing is excellent, says ISU assistant director of utilities Jeff Witt, because "winter is the best time for wind energy in Iowa and January is probably the peak month."

Ames and Iowa State officials plan to buy enough wind power to supply 30 megawatts of output for Ames and six megawatts for ISU. That's more than 15 percent of Ames' electricity needs and approximately 10 percent of Iowa State's needs.

The electricity comes from a 100-turbine, 150-megawatt farm recently constructed by NextEra Energy Resources, the top generator of wind power in North America. The new wind farm is the second such farm that NextEra has built in the area and the firm's eighth in Iowa.

"The City of Ames has a long history of supporting new energy technologies including our first in the nation waste-to-energy facility," explains Donald Kom, director of Ames Electric Services. "Adding wind energy helps bolster our portfolio of renewable fuels."

Witt said Iowa State officials look forward to adding wind power to the university's energy lineup. There will be some challenges to utilities staff, who will need to balance wind conditions with electricity needs, he said, but "it's a good thing and we're pretty excited."

Ames and Iowa State have been partnering to buy electricity since the early 1990s and began looking for a renewable energy source a couple of years ago. After reviewing proposals from companies that generate energy from wind, biomass and the sun, they chose NextEra and subsequently developed a 20-year contract for wind energy.

Jan. 7, 2010

MLK events start Jan. 13

by Erin Rosacker

A Jan. 13 carillon concert is one of several events scheduled into February to honor the life of Nobel Peace Prize winner and civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. All events are free and open to the public.

Carillonneur Tin-Shi Tam will feature hymns, spirituals and inspirational arrangements during her daily lunchtime performance on Jan. 13. The 20-minute concert, "Let Freedom Ring," will be **webcast live**, beginning at 11:50 a.m.

An Ames community celebration is planned for the national holiday on Jan. 18 (6 p.m., Ames Middle School, 3915 Mortensen Rd.). Songs, stories and cake are part of the collaborative MLK birthday festivities, highlighted by ISU alum Paxton Williams' performance as George Washington Carver.

The annual campus celebration of the MLK holiday is planned for Jan. 21 (4 p.m., Great Hall, MU). Speakers include retired ISU faculty member Lenola Allen-Sommerville, Government of the Student Body president Jonathan Turk and Black Student Alliance president Bryan Woodson. The event also features a musical performance by Gospel Soul Innovators and recognition of the Advancing One Community award winners.

Lectures lineup

R. Steven Lewis is the first of three speakers scheduled to visit campus for the 2010 MLK series. He will present "Who Will Tell the Story? The Black Architects' Epic Journey Toward Equal Opportunity" on Jan. 25 (8 p.m., Great Hall, MU). Lewis is president of the National Organization of Minority Architects, which estimates there are fewer than 2,000 licensed black architects nationally.

Film director Patrick Mureithi will lead a discussion, "Trauma, Reconciliation and Forgiveness after the Rwandan Genocide," after a 45-minute screening of his documentary, *ICYIZERE: hope*, on Jan. 26 (8 p.m., Great Hall, MU). The film chronicles a reunion of survivors and offenders from the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The series wraps up Feb. 8 with "Unclaimed Legacy: Who Will Lead?" at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall. Jeff Johnson, a political commentator and journalist, covers issues ranging from race and politics to popular culture. A regular contributor on BET Networks, he also served as national director of the youth and college division of the NAACP.

Advancing One Community Awards

Kinesiology senior lecturer Yong Chin Pak and Thomas Harmsen, a senior in marketing from Muscatine, are this year's Advancing One Community Award winners. The annual awards honor individuals and groups that foster a multicultural community at ISU utilizing the principles and goals of Martin Luther King Jr.

Jan. 7, 2010



Thank you, thank you very much

Stephens Auditorium is the first stop for the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artists' 26-city national tour, a live showcase event in honor of Elvis Presley's 75th birthday. The Jan. 15 show features award-winning Elvis performers, representing "The King" during different stages of his music and movie career. Tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are \$25 or \$36, and are available through [Ticketmaster](#) or at the Stephens box office. *Contributed photo.*