



Jan. 14

**Where's Bob?**

Where did university photographer Bob Elbert find this monochromatic morning shot?

Jan. 14

**Geoffroy: Future of universities endangered**

In a recent op-ed in the *Des Moines Register*, president Gregory Geoffroy wrote that budget cuts endanger the excellence and service that state universities provide to Iowans. He also wrote that a tuition increase, although painful to students and families, "is essential if we are to have any hope of maintaining educational quality at the level they expect."

Jan. 14

**Learning with LEGOS**

Team T-shirts, loud cheers, goofy hats, LEGO bricks and fun lessons in science and engineering will be front and center during the FIRST LEGO League Championship at the College of Engineering Jan. 16.



FIRST LEGO League

Jan. 14

**Do you know where your keys are?**

A revised policy requires yearly audits of keys and access cards. Expect an e-mail in February.

Jan. 14

**CyRide fleet adds hybrids**

Using soy diesel and electric engines, "Cybrids" will reduce noise, carbon emissions and fuel costs. An online vote will determine what design will be used on the hybrid fleet.

Jan. 14

**Snowhere to go**

December's record-setting snowfall left campus crews with mountains to move. Literally.

Jan. 14

**Great place to work, learn**

The latest University Life Survey shows that faculty, staff and students believe ISU is a great place to learn and work.



Moving mountains of snow

Jan. 14

**Faculty athletics representative sought**

Applications for Iowa State's faculty athletics representative are due Feb. 10. The appointee will represent the university at NCAA and Big 12 Conference meetings and advise president Gregory Geoffroy on athletics matters.

**Announcements**

- University closed Jan. 18 for MLK Jr. holiday
- H1N1 clinics this week: Jan. 15, 19 and 21
- Remodeled Business Café in Gerding reopens Jan. 14
- Nominations for Student Employee of the Year due Feb. 12
- Register now for Feb. 11 follow-up academic advising workshop
- Patagonia founder to kick off sustainability symposium Feb. 23; register now
- Reminder: ISU has an ethics hotline provider
- Financial aid mini-conference is Jan. 28
- MU lounge to be rededicated as veterans' lounge

**Receptions & open houses**

## Retirements

- Rod Berryman, Al Christian, Dan Johnson, Randy Petersohn, Jan. 15
- Jan Breitmann, Jan. 15
- Sedahlia Crase, Jan. 15
- Harold Johnson, Jan. 15
- Betty Toot, Jan. 19
- Marcia Clendenen, Jan. 21
- Myrt Hanson, Jan. 22

**Arts & events**

Moscow Festival Ballet

**Swan Lake at Stephens**

The Moscow Festival Ballet brings this Tchaikovsky classic to Ames Jan. 17.

**Honors & awards**

- Mitchell Squire

**Around campus**

Alumni donate book proceeds to VetMed

The College of Veterinary Medicine will

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be the beneficiary of the proceeds from the sale of the world's No. 1 and No. 2 bestselling books on avian medicine. The total value of the gift is expected to be \$650,000.

#### Inside tools

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### **Where's Bob?**

University photographer Bob Elbert captured this frosty image at the university's coal pile east of Haber Road. Look closely to confirm that this is not a black-and-white photograph.

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*NOTE: This opinion piece, written by president Gregory Geoffroy, appeared in the Jan. 10 edition of the Des Moines Register.*

## Guest column: Future of Iowa's universities endangered

*Des Moines Register, Jan. 10, 2010*

Iowa State University is known throughout the world as one of the top research universities in the agricultural sciences, materials sciences, computer sciences and many other fields. We are also a place where generations of Iowans have received a superior education at a relatively low cost, and where Iowans in every corner of the state and from all walks of life have received help to increase their economic prosperity and improve their quality of life.

But all of that is now critically endangered because of the massive budget cuts we have experienced over the last 18 months -- \$62.9 million or 22 percent of our state appropriations -- and more cuts seem likely to come.

We have cut deeply in absorbing these reductions, with impact felt across the university and throughout Iowa. We have reorganized ISU Extension and cut extension staff and programs, instituted furloughs or mandatory unpaid days for all employees, reduced employee benefits, and cut by 10 percent the number of state and tuition funded faculty and staff positions.

Students are feeling the impact through increased class size, decreased access to faculty and advisors, and reduced services for those who need help with academic, financial or personal problems. And more changes are yet to come as we absorb the full impact of these budget cuts, with the inevitable elimination and consolidation of academic programs and departments, significantly reduced course offerings and limited access to programs of study.

As president, I am deeply concerned that these budget cuts seriously threaten our ability to maintain the high-quality Iowa State University education that generations of graduates have received and that Iowans expect us to provide. Tuition increases will help offset only a fraction of the lost state funding. It would require an enormous 33 percent tuition increase to fully cover the \$62.9 million loss, and that is simply not feasible, even though increases of nearly that magnitude are being implemented in California and Oregon. Still, our tuition is low compared to our peer land-grant universities, compared to our neighboring states (only South Dakota has a lower tuition), and as a percent of median family income. Although painful to our students and their families, a tuition increase is essential if we are to have any hope of maintaining educational quality at the level they expect.

Iowans have worked hard to build Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa into one of the best public university systems in the nation. Both Iowa State and Iowa are among our nation's most highly regarded public research universities. Together our three universities annually bring into the state more than \$765 million in sponsored funding -- \$165 million more than the state appropriations for all three universities combined. This funding pays for research

"Although painful to our students and their families, a tuition increase is essential if we are to have any hope of maintaining educational quality at the level they expect."

Gregory Geoffroy

in areas critical to Iowa's future, such as biorenewable resources, plant and animal sciences and human health.

Combined, our three universities attract nearly 23,000 students from other states and nations, who through their out-of-state tuition subsidize the cost of educating Iowa residents and who contribute to Iowa's growth and development. Our universities generate new businesses, strengthen Iowa industries and assist Iowans in every county through our many outreach services. But this level of excellence and service to Iowa is in grave danger because of the deterioration of state funding.

Iowans have a long tradition of valuing education at all levels, and it is critical to Iowa's future for that to continue. Today's economy requires our citizens to have advanced knowledge and skills if Iowa is to compete effectively with other states and on the global stage. If Iowa's public universities sink into mediocrity because of these massive budget cuts, then Iowa's quality of life and economic vitality will suffer a similar fate. For the future of Iowa, I call upon our elected leaders to give priority to Iowa's public universities, even in these tough economic times.

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Jan. 14, 2010



Action at the 2009 Iowa FLL Championship. Photo courtesy of Iowa State Engineering Kids.

## **Iowa FIRST LEGO League Championship challenges students to think about transportation**

by Mike Krapfl, News Service

Libby Swartley may be a veteran of three FIRST LEGO League seasons, but she says the annual contest -- featuring LEGO robots taking on tabletop missions -- still is a lot of work.

Swartley and her teammates from Cedar Falls have had to program their little LEGO machine to complete simulated missions that take them into some of the planet's biggest science and engineering challenges.

The first year it was energy. Then it was climate science. And this year it's "Smart Move," the transportation of people, animals, information and things. And while Swartley and her team still have a few things to figure out by the Jan. 16 Iowa FIRST LEGO League Championship at the College of Engineering, the 12-year-old sixth grader is ready to compete.

"It's really fun," she said. "It's not just the missions at the table. We have projects and teamwork and technical interviews."

Besides, she said, "It's fun to be there with lots of people and see how all the other teams do their missions."

### **Spectators welcome**

Swartley is right about the people. Organizers of the state championship for 9- to 14-year-olds are expecting 72 teams to compete, with as many as 10 members on a team. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. in the Howe Hall atrium, with closing ceremonies at 4:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

And while team T-shirts, loud cheers, funny hats and LEGO bricks are part of the show, there are some lessons in engineering, science and technology, too.

"It's amazing to see what the kids learn through FIRST LEGO League," said Brandon Newendorp, an Iowa State graduate student in human computer interaction and co-chair of the championship.

Chris Tourek, an Iowa State graduate student in mechanical engineering and the other co-chair, said the learning includes skills in computer programming, building a useful machine and presenting research work.

### **Real-world science**

The competition is all about showing young students that there's more to science than equations and lab worksheets, said Camille Sloan Schroeder, manager of Iowa State Engineering Kids, a program that promotes engineering to elementary and secondary students.

"We really want kids to see the other side of math, science, engineering and technology," she said. "In school, they learn with teachers working at the chalkboard. They often don't see a relationship between what they're learning and the physical world. We take what students learn in schools and apply it to something super fun and exciting."

There are now 215 FIRST LEGO League teams across the state. That's 73 more than last year. Worldwide, there are more than 12,000 teams. And Kenton Swartley, Libby's father and FIRST LEGO League coach, wishes there were even more.

"This competition is just a great opportunity for the kids," said the physics teacher at Cedar Falls High School. "I look at the 10 students on our team and compare them to all the students at our elementary school. Boy, it would be nice if all the kids had an opportunity to do something like this."

Jan. 14, 2010

## Where are your keys? First annual key audit begins next week

by Anne Krapfl

A revised [Key and Building Access Card Policy](#), approved in October, requires annual audits of keys and access cards. The goal is to account for all keys and access cards, document their location and improve building security, said Maggie Hamilton, manager of building access services, a unit of facilities planning and management.

Hamilton said keys issued temporarily to students can be especially difficult to track down and retrieve. The revised policy sets limits for keys or cards issued to students: 60, 90 or 365 days. The annual audit should identify any missed deadlines.

"We're trying to be more aggressive about getting back keys that are no longer in use," Hamilton said.

### Three steps

Beginning Jan. 19, the first key audit will be done in three phases:

#### Building Access Services

- Phase I: Staff in building access services will e-mail all key holders, listing the keys currently issued to them. By Feb. 2, key holders are asked to respond and confirm the items in their list.
- Phase II: Between Feb. 3 and Feb. 16, ISU's 330 department key coordinators will be asked to follow up with any employees in their units for which building access services has not received a response to the e-mail. Key coordinators can complete these updates by logging into the key request form on the FPM web site.
- Phase III: By April 1, building access services staff will prepare a summary of the audit, including historical information about department space (as identified in the university's 2008 space survey) and all keying information. The department key coordinators should review the summary with the dean, department chair or administrative officer to evaluate the historical information, confirm the accuracy of the audit and decide if their areas are secure or if any rekeying should occur. Signed copies of the audit should be returned to building access services by April 30.

### Handling discrepancies

If key holders see a discrepancy in the e-mailed information next week, they should contact their department key coordinator for assistance. If key holders have issued keys in their possession that don't appear in the e-mail, the key coordinator should submit a key request to account for those keys. If key holders don't have a key or keys in their possession listed in the e-mail, the key coordinator should indicate how the department would like to proceed. Options include:

- Charge the individual key holder for the lost key(s)
- Evaluate the level of security for the lost key. Discuss with dean, department chair or administrative officer to request a rekey of the locks, if deemed necessary. The rekeying would be at the department's expense.
- Write off the key (no charge for the department). Key coordinators must contact [Allison Mickelson](#) to request that a key be written off. Include the name of the individual, ISU ID number and the key mark.

### Optional one-hour training for key coordinators



One-hour training sessions on the audit process will be offered in 146 General Services Building three times for department key coordinators:

- Jan. 14 (1 p.m. and 2 p.m.)
- Jan. 19 (1 p.m.)

Hamilton said the training is not mandatory, but may be beneficial to some coordinators prior to the first key audit. To register for a session, contact [Allison Mickelson](#), 4-4211.

Questions about the audit may be directed to Hamilton, 290-5200; or Mickelson. Access card audits are scheduled separately. Because this will be an annual process, Hamilton said her staff welcomes input from members of the campus community on how to simplify the audit.

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Jan. 14, 2010

## **CyRide will add hybrid technology to its fleet this year**

by Anne Krapfl

If you typically rely on the diesel engine rumble of an approaching CyRide bus to know whether you should stroll or sprint the last 50 yards to your bus stop, you may have to come up with another foolproof system.

CyRide will add 15 hybrid electric buses to its large bus fleet (currently 59 buses) this year. The vehicles, to be identified as "Cybrids," will run on biodiesel and electric engines. The first nine should arrive by late June; the other six will be ready later next fall, said Sheri Kyras, director of transit. Ames will have the largest hybrid bus fleet in the state, she added.

In addition to being quieter than diesel buses, the hybrids reduce carbon emissions by one-third and will help shrink the department's \$1 million fuel budget through improved mileage, Kyras said.

CyRide will supplement federal stimulus funds and a federal transportation grant with operating funds to pay for the new fleet. It will cost about \$6 million to purchase the buses and upgrade them with the hybrid technology. For the last week, CyRide has conducted an [online survey](#) to get input on three decorative finish options for the hybrid fleet. Voting closes at 8 a.m. Jan. 15, and CyRide staff will tally the votes and announce the winning design by Jan. 20. As of Jan. 12, more than 2,000 votes had been submitted.

Jan. 14, 2010



Truckloads of snow from campus parking lots are dumped near the coal piles on the east side of Haber Road. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

## Snowhere to go

by Erin Rosacker

With record-setting accumulations of snow in December, facilities planning and management's campus services crews have their hands full moving mountains (literally) of the white stuff.

"We've spent half of our budget for snow removal in the month of December," said Les Lawson, campus services manager.

### The method behind the madness

Plowing is just the first step. Lawson said there is little room in parking lots for snow storage, so the snow piles are loaded onto dump trucks and trucked to open areas along Haber Road (south of the coal pile) and 13th Street (near the disc golf course).

The mounds of snow that build up between sidewalks and streets are the biggest challenge, Lawson said. With a double-whammy of castoff snow from both sides, the piles grow quickly and need to be removed often. That's when the Bobcat machines mounted with snow blowers move in and shoot the piles onto the lawns.

The hours dedicated to snow removal come at a price for campus services crews, and not just financially. Regular winter chores, such as tree and shrub pruning or equipment repairs, are postponed until ISU's roads (23 miles), sidewalks (34 miles) and parking lots (162 acres) are cleared.

The university's winter weather procedures have not changed, but staff reductions have impacted how quickly campus services crews can get the snow and ice removed.

Jan. 14, 2010

## **ISU is a great place to learn, work**

by Paula Van Brocklin

One year ago, staff from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost asked ISU students, faculty and staff to participate in a second University Life Survey to determine whether Iowa State is a "great place to learn and work." The same survey also had been distributed in 2007. The 2009 results are in, and the news is positive.

### **Better response rate**

The 2009 survey was distributed to 29,115 faculty, staff and students via e-mail using an outside survey vendor. A total of 5,886 individuals responded, a response rate of just over 20 percent. In 2007, 4,879 individuals responded, more than 1,000 fewer than 2009. The upswing in 2009 is credited to a direct e-mail link to the survey versus the 2007 option, which required survey-takers to first log into AccessPlus before reaching the survey link.

### **ISU is a great place**

As in 2007, the 2009 survey results show that a majority of faculty, staff and students think Iowa State is a great place to learn and work. In 2009, 89.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed that ISU is a great place to learn, a slight increase from 86.5 percent in 2007.

A higher number of individuals said ISU is a great place to work in 2009 versus 2007, 72.1 percent compared to 60 percent. Merit employees agreed most with this statement (87.3 percent), followed by professional and scientific staff (85.8 percent) and faculty (73.6 percent).

Respondents also were asked to choose the top three of nine university life sub goals they believed were most important to the university. The three goals selected in 2009 were the same as 2007. They are:

- Recruit and retain faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to individual and organizational excellence and achievement.
- Foster an environment in which all members of the university community can contribute their fullest while pursuing satisfying personal lives.
- Achieve a sustainable balance between responsibilities and resources that will allow the university to efficiently and effectively realize its vision.

Associate provost Susan Carlson said university leaders are pleased with the survey's outcome.

"We were pleased with the results of this survey and the increased contentedness of our faculty," Carlson said. "It shows that the efforts we've taken to make this a better place and climate for people to work in have been successful."

A [summary](#) of the 2009 survey results is available on the executive vice president and provost's web site.

There are no plans to distribute this survey again since it's tied to the university's current strategic plan, which ends this year. However, a similar survey could be offered in the future.

Jan. 11, 2010

## **Faculty athletics representative sought**

A committee chaired by library dean Olivia Madison is accepting applications for a faculty member to serve as Iowa State's faculty athletics representative, effective July 1. Current faculty athletics representative Paula Morrow is stepping down June 30 after six years in the position.

Each NCAA-member institution must appoint a faculty athletics representative to represent the university at NCAA and Big 12 Conference meetings, and to advise the university president on athletic matters. The representative must be a full-time tenured faculty member with "demonstrated credibility in the academic community." Applicants must have the consent of their department chairs and deans.

President Gregory Geoffroy appoints the representative. A typical term of service is one year with renewals, based on performance and mutual agreement, for up to five years. The person selected will receive financial support from the president's office for 50 percent of his or her position plus all expenses related to the position.

A [complete description](#) of the position and application process is available on the Employment Opportunities web site (faculty tab).

Send applications by Feb. 10 to ensure consideration. The committee also seeks nominations. Send to: FAR Search Committee, c/o Office of the President, 1750 Beardshear Hall, or by e-mail to [omadison@iastate.edu](mailto:omadison@iastate.edu).

Jan. 14, 2010



### ***Swan Lake at Stephens***

The Moscow Festival Ballet brings Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* to Stephens Auditorium on Sunday, Jan. 17 (3 p.m.). The classic romantic tale follows Prince Siegfried's quest for his true love, Odette the Swan Queen, while battling the evil sorcerer Von Rotbart. Tickets for the four-act ballet, available at the Stephens box office or through [Ticketmaster](#), are \$37 and \$33, \$25 for youth and \$20 for ISU students. *Submitted photo.*