



Oct. 21

Beauty from above

A birds-eye view of central campus in the full grip of autumn reminds us why Iowa State is nationally recognized for its park-like beauty.

Oct. 21

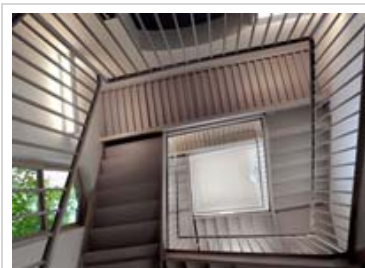
Flood recovery progresses

FEMA officials have visited about 90 percent of ISU's flood- or storm-damaged properties. Some key facilities, closed since Aug. 11, are set to reopen within two weeks.

Oct. 21

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert spotted this labyrinth of lines and squares?



Where's Bob?

Oct. 21

It's that time of year: Benefits change period

The benefits open change period for non-supervisory merit employees runs Oct. 29-Nov. 29. Find out what changes are in store this year.

Oct. 21

Council hears more about FY11 cuts

The latest numbers on jobs and employees affected by FY11 position eliminations were shared with P&S Council members at their Oct. 7 meeting.

Announcements

- RSVP by Oct. 27 for YWCA chocolate event at The Knoll
- Donate nonperishable food items to stuff the bus
- Free health screenings available
- Learn about ISU's MBA program Nov. 3
- Alumni association's Oct. 29 awards ceremony is moved off campus
- Club to hold Scholastic book fair Oct. 21-22

Receptions & open houses

Reception

- Opening: "Toward Sustainable Cities Series," Oct. 25

Retirements

- Dorothy Abendroth, Oct. 29
- Tom Baird, Oct. 25
- Sandra Gartz, Oct. 29 (no public event planned)
- Deb Patterson-Engelhorn, Oct. 25
- Donna Wiegand, Oct. 29

Arts & events

Spirits in the Gardens

Halloween happenings

University Museums' Haunted Iowa State is Oct. 27, and Reiman Gardens' Spirits in the Gardens is Oct. 23-24.

Around campus

- Researchers study wetland health
- Student scores "dream" internship

Inside tools

Print this edition (PDF)

RSS | Twitter

Oct. 21, 2010



From up here

University photographer Bob Elbert took to the skies Wednesday to record physical changes to campus from above, as he does periodically. The east side of the campanile caught the morning sun in this image. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Published by University Relations, inside@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7958, Ames, Iowa 50011.
Copyright © 1995-2010, Iowa State University of Science and Technology. All rights reserved.

Oct. 21, 2010

Flood-damaged facilities set to re-open; restoration work will continue

by Anne Krapfl

Ten Wednesdays ago, parts of campus were swamped with either flood or rain water. This week, university leaders say we're on schedule to reopen most of the facilities that sustained the most damage. The Lied Center and the Family Resource Center in University Village are partially open; Hilton Coliseum and the Scheman Building each will be used for the first time in the next two weeks, said associate vice president for facilities Dave Miller.

By the end of this week, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) representatives will have visited 90 percent of Iowa State's 99 storm or water-damaged sites -- including buildings, parking lots, farms and athletic fields.

"We're asking lots of questions to better understand the regulations, and they're being very helpful, very supportive," said Pam Elliot Cain, associate vice president for business and finance and chair of the university's 12-member Disaster Recovery Coordinating Team. She said that, when they can, committee members combine restoration and mitigation requests to expedite the process. The FEMA representatives have been receptive to that, she said.

The FEMA team assigned to Iowa State likely will be working in Ames into December, Cain said.

ISU officials continue to refer to a range of \$40 million to \$50 million in total damages, although a complex layering of insurance coverage and an anticipated 75-25 percent cost share between FEMA and the university should whittle down the final price tag. Vice president for business and finance Warren Madden will provide a flood update to the state Board of Regents next week (Oct. 28).

Following is an update of progress made since mid-August:

Flood-damaged facilities

Hilton

The Cyclone women's basketball team's first exhibition game is scheduled for Nov. 4, and Miller said Hilton will be "game day ready." The new wood floor is being installed this week and at least part of the scoreboard system in the building will be operational. Teams will use temporary, relocated locker rooms; work on reconstructing the four permanent locker rooms and restoring full electrical service will continue into spring semester.

In a letter this week to basketball ticket holders, athletics director Jamie Pollard also noted that the game-day ticket office and will-call window has been permanently relocated from underneath the exterior south stairs to the lower level of the "pod" addition on the southwest corner of Hilton. Miller said this location will have an exterior door and be fully accessible. Pollard also wrote that new seats for the arena circle sections (rows 1-5) will arrive after Jan. 1, 2011.

Pollard wrote that the men's basketball team's Nov. 5 exhibition game is scheduled for Hilton, the volleyball team likely will return to Hilton on Nov. 6 for its match with Missouri, and the wrestling squad is set to compete against Boston University on Nov. 11, also in Hilton.

Lied Recreation Center

Facilities in Lied are open again except for the climbing wall, racquetball courts and saunas. A project to replace the turf area on the main floor is being bid; Miller said the goal is to have that project completed in time for the first home meet of the Cyclones' indoor track season on Dec. 10. The track itself also was damaged. It is being repaired for the indoor season and will be replaced after the season ends.

Scheman Building

Reconstruction work in Scheman is well under way, Miller said, and the building will reopen Oct. 30. Plans still are being considered for changed uses of the first floor space -- for example, meeting space vs. employee offices -- that would minimize losses in any future flooding. University Museums has a separate air handling system from the rest of the building and generators have kept that system operational since Aug. 12. He said environmental air tests are done regularly in the museums' space to ensure the collection is protected.

University Village

Contractors doing repairs to 27 apartments in University Village expect to wrap up their work next week, with the apartments ready for occupancy on Nov. 1. Restoration work in the Family Resource Center on Bruner Drive is 75 percent complete, Miller said, and employees have returned to the building. University Community Childcare, temporarily relocated to the Collegiate United Methodist Church on Lincoln Way, is scheduled to return on Nov. 15.

Veenker golf course

Following about five weeks of offering a 9-hole round of golf on nonconsecutive holes, Veenker staff opened all 18 holes on Sept. 29. The course has been reseeded and play could continue into mid-November, weather allowing, said clubhouse manager Tess Balsley. The maintenance building was heavily damaged, but still is being used, pending a decision from FEMA on whether it should be replaced.

She said a contracted tree service wrapped up its work last week to remove trees damaged in the July 18 windstorm. Balsley said that in the end, "upward of 200" trees either were pushed over during the storm or damaged so extensively that they had to be removed. She said they hope to replant some of those lost.

Storm water-damaged buildings

In addition to campus facilities inundated with floodwater, 42 buildings -- most on central campus -- sustained some type of damage from storm water on Aug. 11, Aug. 31 or both, Miller said. Employees and students are making do in those buildings, he said, until the damaged areas are repaired. Typically, the water came up through floor drains or seeped in through doors or windows. In about half of the locations, eliminating the excess water and cleaning carpets or removing mold was all that was required. The other cases are in various stages of repair: design, bid, contractors on site, or completed.

Horticulture Hall (6 inches of water in the lower level) and Hamilton Hall (4 inches) sustained some of the worst damage. Other buildings with water damage include Lagomarcino Hall and the General

Services and Student Services buildings.

Published by University Relations, inside@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7958, Ames, Iowa 50011.

Copyright © 1995-2010, Iowa State University of Science and Technology. All rights reserved.

Oct. 21, 2010



Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert shot this stair tower at the west end of Lab of Mechanics. Elbert is shooting toward the ceiling.

Published by University Relations, inside@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7958, Ames, Iowa 50011.
Copyright © 1995-2010, Iowa State University of Science and Technology. All rights reserved.

Oct. 21, 2010

Non-supervisory merit open change period begins Oct. 29

by Paula Van Brocklin

Non-supervisory merit employees will have a chance to review and change their health care benefits during the annual open change period, Oct. 29-Nov. 29. The open change period for faculty, professional and scientific, and supervisory merit begins Nov. 1; details will be covered in next week's *Inside Iowa State*.

Coverage changes

Most of the benefits changes that will impact non-supervisory merit employees this year are due to federal health care reform. For example, employees may cover children up to age 26 on their medical and dental plans beginning Jan. 1, 2011, and on the Avesis vision plan effective Feb. 2, 2011. But there is a stipulation: Children must be under age 26 on Jan. 1, 2011, to qualify. Children still can be covered if they are married, or if they have a job with health care benefits. In the latter case, the child's employer would provide primary coverage, and ISU only would supplement that coverage.

If children turn 26 in 2011, coverage must end on Dec. 31, 2011. However, if the children are unmarried and enroll as full-time students during the year, they may remain on their parents' ISU health or dental plans until they get married or cease full-time student status. There may be tax implications for employees insuring students over age 26.

Another federal health care reform change mandates that beginning Jan. 1, 2011, over-the-counter medications and drugs (except insulin) no longer will be reimbursed through flexible spending accounts without a prescription. This means your doctor will need to write a prescription for medicines such as ibuprofen, aspirin or antacids in order for you to be reimbursed for those items through your flexible spending account. Other **health care items**, such as bandages or hearing aids, still may be claimed without a prescription. Review the open change guides [online](#) for more information on this change.

If you have family members who need dental coverage, now is the time to act. This year's open change period will allow employees to add spouses or dependent children (including those up to age 26) to their dental coverage, something that does not happen every year.

Non-supervisory merit employees also can expect some changes to mental health outpatient coverage, but those details are not yet available. Look for more information about these changes beginning Oct. 29 on the [non-supervisory merit benefits page](#).

Important dates

- **Oct. 29:** Open change period begins at 8 a.m.; participation statements available on AccessPlus
- **Nov. 4:** Webcast, 9-10 a.m.
- **Nov. 29:** Open change period ends at 5 p.m.
- **Dec. 3:** Confirmation statements available on AccessPlus
- **Dec. 10:** Final day to report errors on confirmation statements
- **Dec. 20:** Final statement of 2011 elections available on AccessPlus

Procedural changes

For the first time, non-supervisory merit employees will be able to change medical, dental, flexible spending and Avesis coverage online through AccessPlus. However, a paper form still is required for any additions or changes to employer-sponsored life insurance. If you prefer to make all your changes on paper forms, contact human resource services at 4-4800.

HRS also asks employees to look over their list of dependents, to make sure the information is correct and up to date.

More information

HRS is hosting an interactive webcast for non-supervisory merit employees Nov. 4 from 9 to 10 a.m. To get access, log on to <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/benefits>. At the login page, enter your name under the "Enter as a Guest" heading, then click "Enter Room."

No vendor fair will be held this year. If you need additional help, you may set up an appointment with a human resources specialist as soon as possible during the open change period.

Published by University Relations, inside@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7958, Ames, Iowa 50011.
Copyright © 1995-2010, Iowa State University of Science and Technology. All rights reserved.

Oct. 21, 2010

Council hears more about FY11 cuts

by Erin Rosacker

At their Oct. 7 meeting, Professional and Scientific Council members received a requested update on FY11 position cuts that have or will result in eliminations or reduced full-time equivalent (FTE) hours.

"It's always important to note that there is a difference between positions and people," said Brenda Behling, assistant to the executive vice president and provost.

She reported that 43 P&S positions were cut and five more had FTE reductions. For merit staff, 45 positions were eliminated and two spots had FTE reductions. In terms of people, there were 27 P&S employees and 32 merit staff members whose positions were affected.

Kristi Darr, associate director of human resource services, said the number of affected P&S and merit employees will continue to change until the close of the fiscal year (June 30, 2011). The merit layoff plan -- approved last month by Gov. Chet Culver -- is being implemented now.

Early retirements (six P&S and eight merit) account for some of the position eliminations that did not affect individuals, along with employees who found other positions -- on or off campus -- and positions that were restored by alternate funding sources. Vacant positions were not considered in the tally.

Behling said administrators encouraged units to consider internal searches for open P&S positions, which helped 10 displaced P&S staff move into other campus positions. Another four P&S employees were able to find jobs elsewhere after given their notices.

Oct. 21, 2010

Halloween happenings

by Paula Van Brocklin

Rustling leaves, cool days and harvest moons. Autumn has a firm grip on campus, which means ghosts and goblins abound.

University Museums' fifth annual moonlit walk around campus, "Haunted Iowa State," is set for Oct. 27. Those brave enough to attend the three-hour tour should meet at the campanile promptly at 7 p.m. to receive maps and instructions. This event is free and open to the public. Flashlights and appropriate attire for the weather are recommended.

The self-guided tour will take ghost hunters to familiar campus haunts, including the cemetery, Memorial Union and campanile. Other stops include Morrill and Beardshear halls, and the Lagomarcino Hall and Food Sciences Building courtyards. Refreshments and commemorative "Haunted Iowa State" T-shirts (\$7) will be available at the Farm House Museum during the tour. T-shirts also may be purchased at the Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill, through the end of October.



"Spirits in the Gardens," Reiman Gardens' kid-friendly Halloween celebration on Oct. 23-24, will feature interesting characters, like Ivan the Troll (pictured here). *Contributed photo.*

University Museums still needs volunteers to play ghostly roles and to help with crowd control. If interested, contact [Elizabeth Grant](#) by Oct. 25.

Fun for kids

For more child-friendly Halloween antics, check out Reiman Gardens' "Spirits in the Gardens," Oct. 23-24 from 4 to 7 p.m. The event is free for children under 17 and members. Adult admission prices apply. Children are encouraged to dress in costumes.

Living lawn ornaments -- like trolls, fairies and gnomes -- will inhabit the gardens' outdoor trails during the event. And in addition to trick-or-treating for candy, kids also can create "green" candy bags using pillowcases and transform pasta into works of art. Games, story telling and temporary tattoos also will be part of the festivities. A new activity this year is the Funny Bones Comedy Walk, where friendly ghosts and goblins will share silly Halloween riddles with the children as they trek through the outdoor gardens.

Contact Reiman Gardens, 4-2710, for more information.