



Aug. 18

This is how it begins

Auditions, rehearsals and marching practices are under way for the Cyclone Football Varsity Marching Band.

Aug. 18

Residence staff welcome 10,000-plus students to campus this week

A freshman class that tops 5,000 and high rates of returning students also opting for on-campus housing adds up to a record-setting fall for the residence department. More than 10,000 students will have moved into campus housing by Monday.



Residence hall move-in

Aug. 18

Transportation services standardizes vanpool guidelines

A flat fee that won't fluctuate, one-day parking passes and a guaranteed ride home if there's an emergency are changes that Transportation Services made to its vanpool program to encourage higher participation among ISU employees.

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Five questions for Kyle Holtman

Discover why August is a crazy time for Destination Iowa State coordinator Kyle Holtman, and why new students should avoid the first row at the event's opening assembly in Hilton Coliseum.



Announcements

- OLLI fall open house is Aug. 25
- Help the Wildlife Care Clinic by recycling old cell phones, ink cartridges, cameras
- Ames makes 'geekiest city' list
- Post part-time student jobs via AccessPlus
- Women's center book club begins in September
- English for adults starts Sept. 1
- 867 students completed their degrees this summer
- First Cyclone Central tailgate is Sept. 3

Receptions & open houses

Retirements

- Beth Weiser, Aug. 24
- Donna Millang, Aug. 26

Arts & events

Make time for your college's opening event
Here's a listing of fall semester opening events, including the all-university convocation on Sept. 26.

Honors & awards

- Bruce Babcock
- Tanya Zanish-Belcher

Around campus

- Cyclone Sports Medicine moves to Thielen facility
- Floods leave manufacturers with major challenges
- Prepping media for the straw poll
- Student club named nation's best chapter -- again

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Nominations, interest in presidential post running high

Nominations for the Iowa State presidency and interest in the position continue to run high, says Daniel Parker, who leads the Atlanta firm that's assisting in the ISU search. Parker provided an update at the Aug. 16 search committee meeting.



Kyle Holtman

Aug. 18

ISU's disaster recovery experience helping at Iowa Braille School

Iowa State personnel are helping with disaster recovery efforts at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School in Vinton, which was heavily damaged in a July 11 storm. Facilities planning and management oversees all capital projects at the state Board of Regents' special schools and Lakeside Laboratory.



Iowa Braille School

Inside tools

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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This is how it begins

Members of the 2011 Cyclone Football Varsity Marching Band began arriving on campus Saturday for their annual band camp, eight days of auditions, small group rehearsals and marching practices to launch their fall performing season. Portions of the week are spent on their practice field in the northwest corner of campus, near the ISU cemetery (pictured). Once classes begin, the band practices every weekday for 80 minutes under the guidance of associate director of bands Steven Smyth. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Brandon McWilliams, a member of this summer's volunteer move-in crew, deposits a load in one of the refurbished doubles in Wilson Hall earlier this week. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Residence staff welcome 10,000-plus students to campus this week

by Anne Krapfl

A freshman class that tops 5,000 and high rates of returning students also opting for on-campus housing adds up to a record-setting fall for the residence department. As of last week, director Pete Englin said he has 10,071 housing contracts -- about 7 percent more than last year at this time. The figure includes students living in residence halls (approximately 60 percent of all beds) and campus apartments.

Englin said the estimates on prospective residents already were running high most of the spring. But the July-August tradition of housing cancellations outpacing housing requests hasn't happened this year, either.

"We expect to open with only 41 openings -- all in dens -- within the entire residence community," he said. "The housing demand this fall is a testament to the overall student experience Iowa State offers."

Fall 2011 return rates for last year's residence system students

Sophomores	48%
Juniors	64%
Seniors	90%

He said the department is doing everything it can to provide rooms for students who request them, including converting dens into room spaces. The options were explained to those making late requests and some opted to live off campus this fall, Englin said.

"We believe living on campus greatly enhances their academic success," he said. "We're one of the few Big 12 schools that doesn't require freshmen to live on campus, but if they choose to live with us, we want to give them a great experience.

"Our hall directors, community advisers and custodial staff have a lot to do with that experience," he added. "There's very much a community culture here; the attitude is 'We'll get it done.'"

Full house: Solution one

A few years ago, the residence department converted Wallace (2007) and Wilson (2009) halls to large singles for upperclassmen and dropped the meal contract requirement for students living in the remaining two "Towers" halls. In May, Englin said he made the decision to convert Wilson back to double rooms to accommodate record numbers of freshman requests for campus housing. The department invested \$900,000 in 430 sets of new furniture, including microwaves and mini fridges, and renovated all the restrooms this summer.

"We expected both buildings to be full this fall with upperclassmen," Englin said. "We didn't anticipate we'd have 570 freshmen in Wilson."

Meal plans still are optional at the Towers, but in light of the large freshman population, the Knapp-Storms dining complex will serve meals Monday through Thursday. Architects also are in the design phase for up to a dozen cooking stations for student use in the Wallace-Wilson commons.

Full house: Solution two

Englin said the department also temporarily will house about 190 freshmen, two to a room, in residence hall dens this fall. (Den furniture has been stored and bedroom furniture moved in.)

As many as 60 students with residence hall contracts are no-shows at Iowa State each fall, he said. Following the 10th day of class, the process of moving students out of dens and into available room or apartment spots will begin. At the very latest, Englin said, all the dens will be reopened as community spaces at the semester break this winter.

"There will be opportunities to move after that official count day," he said, "but the current thinking is that no one assigned to a den has to move until the semester break."

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Transportation services standardizes vanpool guidelines

by Anne Krapfl

To encourage higher participation for better efficiency and reduce the number of vehicles coming to campus every day, transportation services modified -- and standardized -- the guidelines for its vanpool program, effective July 1. Transportation services manager Kathy Wellik said drivers and riders in each vanpool previously were allowed to set some of their own rules, such as pickup points or the adjusted rate for the driver.

"It proved costly [to the university] to frequently change payroll deductions as a vanpool's membership fluctuated. It also hindered our efforts to recruit new members when each vanpool was run differently," she said. "We think that having consistent rules among all the vanpools may help us grow the program."

The changes

So, on July 1, the following guidelines took effect:

- Each rider pays a flat fee that will not fluctuate unless a new vehicle is issued to the pool or fuel prices rise dramatically and transportation services needs to implement a fuel surcharge. (In the past, the fee fluctuated with the number of members in a vanpool.)
- One main driver per vanpool is free
- Each member receives 10 one-day parking permits to use on campus during the year (additional permits may be purchased in the parking office, Armory)
- Transportation services guarantees each member a ride home if an emergency occurs

Can I get home if I need to?

Wellik said common deterrents to potential members under the previous system were:

- Lack of campus parking options for occasional special circumstances
- Concern about getting home quickly when an emergency arises

"We think the changes will ease their concerns and allow them to enjoy the real benefits of a vanpool -- a relaxing commute to work, a greener way to travel and not worrying about maintaining and fueling their own vehicle," she said.

Currently, about 40 university employees participate in ISU vanpools from Boone, Story City, Roland and Des Moines. Wellik said transportation services would like to start vanpools in additional communities. For more information, contact Wellik, 4-1657, or JoAnn Charlson, 4-0181.

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Five questions for Kyle Holtman

by Paula Van Brocklin

Destination Iowa State is a three-day welcome event for new students just prior to the start of fall semester. Holtman makes sure that about 375 student team leaders and numerous university organizations work together to create an educational, entertaining and welcoming atmosphere for more than 4,000 new students expected to attend Destination Iowa State, Aug. 18-20.

What's the purpose of Destination Iowa State?

It's really to introduce the students to the resources available at Iowa State, to help them find out about opportunities and to make them feel welcome in their new home away from home.

How do you attempt to take a large university and break it down for each individual?

The Basics

Name: Kyle Holtman

Position:

Coordinator,
Destination Iowa
State

Years at ISU: Nearly
one

Education:

University of Iowa
(bachelor's, 2007),
Iowa State University
(master's, 2010)

One of the biggest parts of Destination Iowa State is creating connections. We put students on teams with an upper-level student leader. There are about 15 students on each team, and we put them into groups based on their housing assignment. So, students living in Martin and Eaton residence halls would have a team leader who has lived there before. We also put off-campus students in the same group, and transfers are together -- no matter where they are living.

Speaking of transfer students, what does Destination Iowa State offer them?

We added a session last year called "TRANSFERmation." We wanted to engage transfer students and really build a session with information that directly related to the questions they have. Later, we did a focus group with transfer students who had been through the session. They had positive things to say about it.

Are new students required to participate in Destination Iowa State?

No. I think that goes along with allowing students to customize their experience. But we do have a good participation rate. For last year's entering class (fall 2010), we had a 64 percent participation rate among all new students. The freshman participation rate was 78 percent.

What's a high moment for you?

On the first evening, everyone's in Hilton with the president, vice president [Tom] Hill and Jeff Johnson of the alumni association. The Destination Iowa State T-shirt we give students has the words to the fight song on the back. So they stand and, staring at the back of the person ahead of them, learn the words of the fight song. So, to be in the front row, you have to know the fight song. It's really high-energy, and I think the students leave that night feeling excited and that they chose the right place to be.

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Nominations, interest in presidential post running high

by Diana Pounds

Nominations for the Iowa State presidency and interest in the position continue to run high, says Daniel Parker, who leads the Atlanta firm that's assisting in the ISU search.

Parker, of Parker Executive Search, told the search committee Aug. 16 that nominations for the presidency are up to 94. In addition, he said, the search firm has contacted another 31 individuals who've expressed interest in the presidential post or are considering applying.

While it's not known how many ultimately will apply for the post, he said nomination numbers far exceed the norm at this stage in a presidential search process.

Parker said president Gregory Geoffroy and Iowa State have strong reputations among potential candidates. The candidates are attracted not only to what Iowa State has accomplished, but its future prospects as well, he said.

Following Parker's report, the search committee began initial evaluation of nominees during a closed session.

Potential candidates may request that their names be kept confidential during the early part of the search. The names of those who become finalists will be released. Finalists will visit campus sometime in the fall.

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The Iowa Braille School's historic Old Main building sustained the heaviest damage from a July 11 storm. Nearly the entire roof and its support structure were swept away. *Contributed photo.*

ISU's disaster recovery experience helping at Iowa Braille School

by Erin Rosacker

A year ago, facilities planning and management personnel were responding to the aftermath of a record-setting flood that damaged several parts of the Iowa State campus. That emergency response and recovery experience has played an important role in the work being done at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School in Vinton, which suffered extensive storm damage last month.

State Board of Regents policy designates Iowa State as overall administrator of capital projects for its special schools and the Lakeside Laboratory near Spencer. That means staff members in FPM, purchasing, environmental health and safety, and risk management help coordinate construction projects at those sites.

Dean McCormick, FPM director for design and construction services, and Bob Catus, FPM senior construction manager, have been working nearly full time on the Iowa Braille School's recovery. Catus still treks to Vinton at least once a week to oversee the efforts. FPM project manager Robert

Holzwarth also is involved.

Emergency response

In the early hours of July 11, strong winds swept through Vinton, causing heavy damage to the town and the school. More than 150 trees were downed and none of the school's 11 buildings were left unscathed.

"Every building on that campus was damaged to some extent," McCormick said. "Old Main had the most significant damage, where two-thirds of the roof literally left the building -- structure and all."

Fortunately, there were no injuries. McCormick said most of the school's buildings and residence halls currently are leased by AmeriCorps, a national community service organization. He said more than 100 AmeriCorps staffers are living on site.

Wind, flying debris and trees caused damage to windows, screens, roofs and gutters throughout campus. Interior water damage also must be repaired. McCormick said most of the recovery work should be complete by the end of the year, with the exception of Old Main. Currently, all but one of the buildings (The Cottage) are back in use.

Old Main, completed in 1865, houses the school's administration and classrooms. Temporary restoration work will protect the building through the winter months, but a long-term solution for the building still is being considered by the regents.

Cooperative effort

McCormick is quick to point out the immediate response by the University of Iowa, which was early to the scene with equipment -- including much-needed generators during a days-long power outage.

"Iowa responded right away. They have proximity of equipment and manpower," McCormick said. "This has been a very cooperative effort with the University of Iowa."

"We've applied a lot of lessons that were learned a year ago. It's unfortunate that Iowa State and the University of Iowa have a certain amount of disaster recovery experience."



Iowa Braille School's Old Main building.
Contributed photo.

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Fall semester: Opening events

A new academic year means a fresh start and a variety of "firsts." The annual university convocation and awards ceremony will be held Sept. 26 (3:15 p.m., Sun Room, Memorial Union). The program will include president Gregory Geoffroy's final convocation address and presentation of annual all-university awards to faculty and staff. A reception follows and the university community is invited.

College events

Inside also compiled this list of college-specific events:

Agriculture and Life Sciences: Sept. 21 (4 p.m., MU Sun Room). The program includes brief comments from dean Wendy Wintersteen and the introduction of the college's new faculty and staff since last fall. A reception follows.

Business: Aug. 19 (5 p.m., Big Bluestem Shelter, Moore Memorial Park, Ames, serving begins at 6 p.m.). Annual fall picnic for faculty, staff and their families.

Design: Aug. 22 (6-8 p.m., King Pavilion, program at 6:45 p.m.). A welcome reception includes presentation of the 2011 Christian Petersen Design Award to landscape architecture alumnus Ken Smith.

Engineering: Aug. 31 (3:10 p.m., Howe Hall auditorium). The program includes remarks from dean Jonathan Wickert and recognition of college faculty award recipients. A reception follows in the atrium.

Human Sciences: Aug. 18 (8-11 a.m., Reiman Ballroom, ISU Alumni Center). The program includes a "state of the college" address from dean Pam White and introduction of new faculty and staff.

Liberal Arts and Sciences: Aug. 31 (4 p.m., MU Sun Room). The program includes a "state of the college" address from interim dean David Oliver, presentations to LAS awards recipients; recognition of university awards recipients and recognition of new faculty and promoted faculty. A reception follows.

Veterinary Medicine: Sept. 21 (9 a.m. convocation preceded by continental breakfast beginning at 7:15 a.m., 1226 Vet Med). The program includes remarks from dean Lisa Nolan and department chairs, and presentation of annual college awards.