



Oct. 8

Brazilian ensemble, with a Scottish flair

Brazil's Orqestra de Sao Paulo makes Ames on its 12-city U.S. tour. Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie joins the orchestra, which will be led by American conductor Kazem Abdullah.

Oct. 8

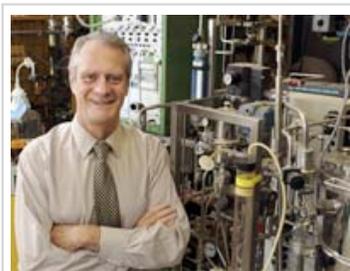
Council considers retirement recommendation

P&S Council members will vote on a motion that supports another early retirement program to alleviate both an anticipated mid-year reversion and predicted FY11 budget cuts.

Oct. 8

Preparing for the next 'fungal surprise'

Hans van Leeuwen has won back-to-back R&D 100 awards for his biofuels fungal research that could improve production efficiency, use byproducts to supplement animal feed and lessen the impact on the food supply.



van Leeuwen

Oct. 8

It's open change time

Want to change your benefits? The annual open change period for non-supervisory merit employees begins Oct. 23. Find out what changes are in store.

Oct. 8

'Stitch This!'

An exhibit of state fair "Stitch This!" winners is on display at the Extension 4-H Youth Building. The display is part of the celebration surrounding National 4-H Week, Oct. 4-10.



'Stitch This!'

Oct. 8

Swan song for ISU directory, facelift for online version

The 2009-10 ISU phone directory will be a collector's item. This year's book will feature past covers on the front of what will be the final printed edition. The newly revamped (and more user-friendly) online directory was launched this week.

Announcements

- University's sustainability grade improves to B-
- Help stuff a CyRide bus with food
- "Lord of the Dance" tickets on sale
- Work-study funds are depleted
- Applicants sought for Engineering associate dean post
- Learn dance styles at lunch sessions homecoming week
- ISUAA Honors and Awards Ceremony is Oct. 16
- Osborn Club lecture Oct. 12 is open to public
- It's not too soon to learn about Social Security benefits
- Innovative Lighting Inc. is topic of entrepreneur forum
- Vote for your favorite in campus photo contest
- Oct. 21 brown bag lunch topic is work-life balance
- Parents: Take a night off, courtesy of Dance Marathon
- ISU security report now available

Receptions & open houses

Retirement

- Janean Berhow, Oct. 8

Arts & events

'True Colors' of Homecoming Homecoming week kicks off Oct. 11 with lots of painting and yelling.

Around campus

Track the solar team

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Iowa State is one of 20 international teams competing in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C., Oct. 8-18. Track the team's progress online.

Tae Kwon Do leader

Grandmaster Yong Chin Pak, a senior lecturer in kinesiology, was recently named one of the 150 most influential leaders in tae kwon do worldwide. He will be honored at a week-long event in South Korea in November.

Punching out TB

A team led by ISU researchers has identified an enzyme that helps make tuberculosis resistant to human natural defenses. The team also has found a method to possibly neutralize the enzyme, which could lead to a cure for TB.

Inside tools

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Oct. 8, 2009



Brazilian ensemble

Brazil's Orquestra de Sao Paulo performs Sunday, Oct. 11, in Stephens Auditorium as part of its 2009 12-city U.S. tour. American conductor Kazem Abdullah will lead the orchestra's program, which features a Brahms symphony. Scottish percussion soloist Evelyn Glennie (pictured) also is part of the night's entertainment, performing composer James MacMillan's "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel!" with the orchestra. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show, available at the Stephens box office or through [Ticketmaster](#), are \$36-\$40 for adults, \$22 for youth and \$20 for ISU students. *Submitted photo.*

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Oct. 8, 2009

Council considering retirement recommendation

by Erin Rosacker

Although the Professional and Scientific Council's Oct. 6 meeting fell a day in advance of the state's revenue estimating conference, the compensation and benefits committee presented a motion based on an anticipated budget shortfall. The revenue estimating conference meets again in December. The figure the group announces then will be used to develop the state's budget for fiscal year 2011.

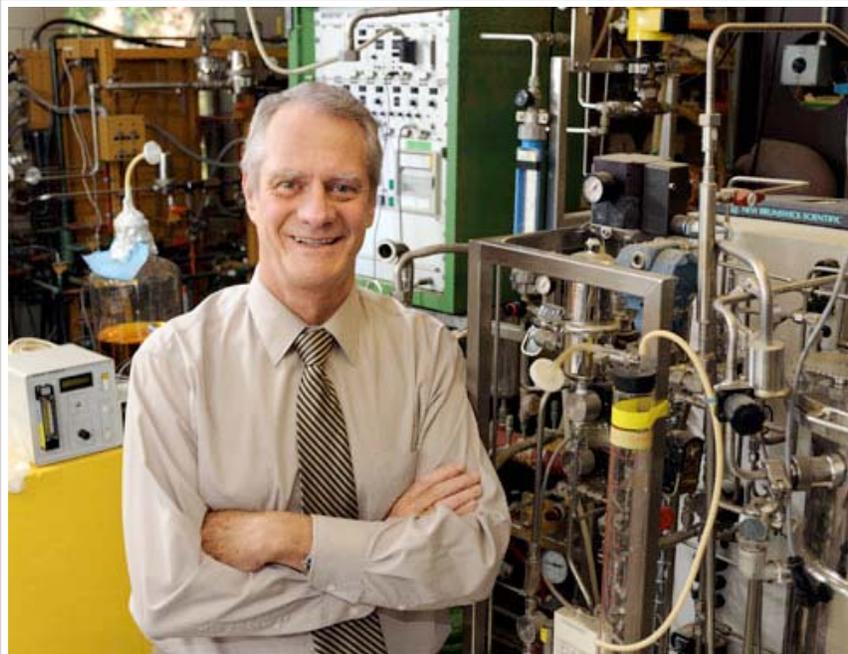
The motion recommends implementation of another retirement incentive option (RIO) program for the 2010 calendar year to help ISU meet a predicted mid-year budget reversion and additional cuts to the FY11 budget. The motion states that "retirement losses are preferred to layoffs" and that the RIO window should set the retirement date for no later than Jan. 31, 2011.

There were 210 RIO applications approved for the initial program. Those retirements must happen by Jan. 31, 2010.

Council members will vote on the motion at their Nov. 11 meeting.

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Oct. 8, 2009



Hans van Leeuwen is growing microscopic fungi in his Iowa State laboratory and putting the fast-growing crops to work for the biofuels industry. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Preparing for the next 'fungal surprise'

by Mike Krapfl, News Service

So Hans van Leeuwen, back-to-back winner of R&D 100 awards, what's next? van Leeuwen, a professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering, offered a big smile.

It was clear he has a lot going on, inside and outside his research lab.

There are his teaching, publishing, grant-writing and department duties. There's his work as president and founder of MycoInnovations, a company that's been a partner in some of his research. There's work as vice president of Mello3z LLC, a Cedar Rapids company that has developed technology for purifying alcoholic beverages. And don't forget the growing number of van Leeuwen grandchildren all over the world.

But, van Leeuwen said, there might be another "fungal surprise" to report sometime soon.

And it could be very soon. That's because van Leeuwen likes to say his research is really "farming at jet speed."

That's what happens when your crop is microscopic fungi. van Leeuwen can grow, harvest and use his crops in just a day or two. And he's very comfortable with those fast-growing critters (he's even trying to entice them to grow faster) and the pace of that research.

van Leeuwen, who was born in the Netherlands and grew up and went to school in South Africa, has been interested in microorganisms since he was a kid. That's when he started using bacteria to make homemade yogurt. (And he's still at it: homemade yogurt mixed with bran -- plus elderberries when they're in season -- is van Leeuwen's breakfast staple.)

It's obvious van Leeuwen can keep up with his fast-growing crops.

This is the second straight year he has been involved in fungal research that was awarded an R&D 100 Award from *R&D Magazine*. The *Chicago Tribune* once called the awards the "Oscars of Invention."

Back-to-back

In 2008, van Leeuwen led a research team that won an R&D 100 award for its work to grow microscopic fungus in leftovers from ethanol production. The researchers' goal was to improve the efficiency of the corn-to-ethanol conversion process while producing a food-grade fungus to supplement animal feed. van Leeuwen snacks on the fungus too, aiming to develop a product for human consumption.

"The process could change ethanol production in dry-grind plants so much that energy costs can be reduced by as much as one-third," van Leeuwen said.

This year, van Leeuwen led a research team that's studying how a fungus can be used to convert wastes from biomass processing to biodiesel.

"Biodiesel production from traditional oil-rich crops is limited by land availability, climate, and environmental and social issues regarding the use of feed and food crops for fuel," van Leeuwen said. "This method of producing biodiesel is green, sustainable and doesn't compete with food crops."

The research team will pick up that second award on Nov. 12 in Orlando, Fla. John Verkade, a University Professor of chemistry, contributed catalyst work to the project and also analyzed the resulting biodiesel for purity and yield. And he said the project was a good experience.

First of all, Verkade said van Leeuwen fostered independence in the group and let everybody do their part. And second, "this won us an R&D 100, so it must have been a good experience."

Besides, "He's a fellow Dutchman and we speak Dutch once in a while."

An entrepreneur?

Back in his office on the fourth floor of the Town Engineering Building, van Leeuwen said Iowa State has been one of the longest stops in his professional career. He likes it here.

So much so, that even if his research projects turn into business ventures, he doesn't see himself running off to manage a company. And that wouldn't be something new for van Leeuwen. Back in his student days at the University of Pretoria where he earned a doctorate of engineering, he ran a flower exporting business and a company that made fiberglass body panels for sports cars.

"It's not my major desire to leave here and be an entrepreneur," van Leeuwen said. "I'd like to have it all together. That could mean being a technical director of a company and still being here. I enjoy everything I do here."

Oct. 8, 2009

Open change period for non-supervisory merit begins Oct. 23

by Paula Van Brocklin

All non-supervisory merit employees will have an opportunity to change benefits selections during the annual open change period, Oct. 23 through Nov. 23. The open change period for ISU Plan participants is Nov. 2-20, and will be covered in a future edition of *Inside Iowa State*.

What's changing

The Iowa Department of Administrative Services and the State Executive Council, which determine benefits for Iowa State's non-supervisory merit employees, has frozen out-of-pocket premiums through June 2010 for both the Iowa Select and Program 3 Plus family health insurance plans. The freeze does not apply to single coverage plans or to dental insurance. Coverage also will remain the same.

The new premiums for these plans will not be known for some time, perhaps May 2010. Jane Walter, human resources specialist, said the state is responsible for releasing that information and she doesn't expect it anytime soon. The question is, will the rates be higher or lower?

"[Employees] can probably assume an increase," Walter said. "It hasn't increased dramatically from year to year, but it typically increases. There have been a couple years when we've had a decrease, but not normally."

There will be no opportunity to change your selection once the new premiums are announced.

"Whatever you choose during this open time will be the plan you have through all of 2010," Walter said.

If you're concerned about a significant premium increase with the Iowa Select and Program 3 Plus options, Walter's advice is to consider switching to the Blue Access or Blue Advantage HMO plans, which require no employee contributions for either single or family coverage.

The new Iowa Select and Program 3 Plus premiums will be deducted from paychecks beginning June 30, 2010.

Dental coverage

This year's open change period also offers a rare opportunity -- a chance to select dental coverage. Walter said this option hasn't been available for a few years, so it's a good time to enroll either yourself or your eligible family members. Employees pay nothing for single dental coverage. The cost of family dental coverage will be known after Oct. 15.

How to sign up

You must complete a paper form to make changes to your benefits (an electronic version is in the works, but won't be ready this year). Pick up forms at the Human Resource Service Center, 3810

Beardshear. Completed forms must be turned into the service center by 5 p.m. Nov. 23.

Forms also will be available at a vendor fair planned for Nov. 3 (9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Pioneer Room, Memorial Union). Insurance company representatives and human resource services employees will be present to answer questions.

For more personal benefits counseling, consider setting up an appointment with a human resources specialist. However, Walter said, try not to wait until the last minute.

"Appointments are needed, especially between Nov. 2 and Nov. 20, because there's an overlap with the ISU Plan open change period," Walter said.

Expect to wait if you drop by HRS to speak to someone during this time. And you may have to leave a voice message if you call the service center, due to high call volume.

"We encourage people not to wait until the last minute to take care of their changes," Walter said.

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Oct. 8, 2009



Photo by Bob Elbert.

It's National 4-H Week

Dee Bierschenk, a freshman from Newhall, stands beside the first-place design she and three other team members created during "Stitch This!," a 4-H fashion design competition at the Iowa State Fair in August. Sponsored by the College of Human Sciences, the competition required teams of Iowa 4-H teens to use 75 percent of the material from a wedding gown to create a new garment. Thirteen teams competed over two days for top honors. The winning designs from the top four teams are on display through the end of fall semester at the WOW Center in the Extension 4-H Youth Building (corner of 13th Street and Stange Road) to commemorate National 4-H Week, Oct. 4-10.

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Oct. 8, 2009

Swan song for print directory, facelift for online version

by Diana Pounds

A 108-year tradition of printing a student, faculty and staff directory comes to a close this fall. The last print version of the Iowa State University Directory arrived on campus this week and is available in the residence halls and University Book Store.

Also released on campus this week is a new and improved version of the online directory, available at www.info.iastate.edu. The new directory is fast, offers keystroke-saving features and provides nice search options for those who don't know how to spell a name or aren't sure of a name. And the dreaded "too many entries to print" is gone. If you want to see every "Smith" on campus, you can.

Going green

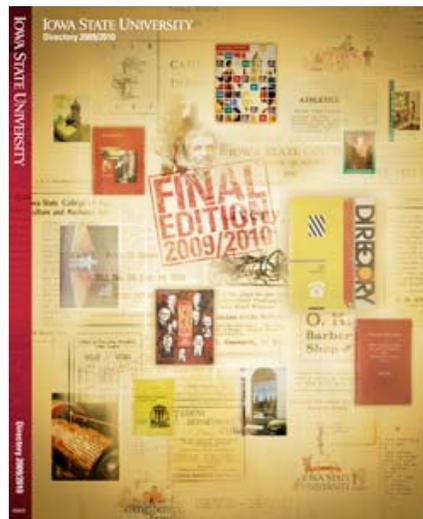
University-wide efforts to conserve and declining use of the publication were key factors in the decision to make this year's printed directory the last, said associate chief information officer John Kingland.

The popularity of the print directory has dropped in recent years, as many in the campus community have turned to the contact lists within their own cell phones and ISU's online directory, Kingland added.

Fewer students pick up the directories, which are distributed free in residence halls, and bookstore sales of the \$1 books have been declining. In fall 2006, ISU officials ordered 17,000 printed directories. This fall's order is 9,000.

ISU's beefed up sustainability efforts sparked interest in dropping the directory to reduce paper use on campus, although the ISU directory is no stranger to sustainability. Conservation-minded individuals and groups on campus have been organizing phone book collection drives for 16 years, and last year, collected 16 tons for recycling.

"Many people like the printed directory," Kingland said. "But when you add all the factors together, it seems like it's time to stop."



Oct. 8, 2009

'Show Your True Colors' for homecoming

by Erin Rosacker

The annual homecoming week festivities, this year infused with the theme "Show Your True Colors," begin Oct. 11. Here are some highlights of the week's events, which culminate with a 6 p.m. kickoff for the Oct. 17 Iowa State-Baylor homecoming football game in Jack Trice Stadium.

- Spirit display competitions begin Sunday, Oct. 11. Groups will paint storefront windows along Welch Avenue, and squares along "Victory Lane" (a portion of the road running through the Iowa State Center parking lots). The competition is open to all groups. [Registration forms](#) are due with entry fees (\$10 for Victory Lane and \$15 for windows) by 4 p.m. Oct. 9.
- Yell Like Hell -- a student competition of spirit-laden skits -- opens with first-round cuts on Sunday (noon, Iowa State Center parking lot A3). Second-round qualifiers compete Oct. 14 (6:30 p.m., central campus) and the finalists will perform at the central campus pep rally on Friday, Oct. 16 (6:30-8 p.m.).
- A \$5 homecoming button buys a week's worth of lunches (11 a.m.- 1 p.m.) on central campus, beginning Monday, Oct. 12. Buttons can be purchased at the homecoming table outside the Memorial Union food court this week, or at the lunches and the Alumni Center during homecoming week. The [week's menu](#) is online.
- ISU Dining will cater a central campus picnic dinner (4:45-7 p.m.) on Thursday, Oct. 15, with barbecue ribs, chicken sandwiches, corn muffins, potato salad, veggies, chips, apples, cookies and drinks. Use your faculty/staff charge plan, or pay \$9. Union Drive Marketplace and the Linden dining center will be closed, unless bad weather moves the picnic indoors.
- A free concert featuring The Envy Corps also is planned Oct. 15 on central campus. The Des Moines-based rock band (that formed in Ames) will play from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- The alumni association's annual honors and awards ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, in the Scheman Building's Benton Auditorium. A dessert reception will follow the event. The public is welcome.
- Friday's pep rally will take place on central campus from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by ExCYtment in the Streets (a presentation of the Greek community's lawn displays) from 8 to 10 p.m., a central campus pancake feed (\$2, 10 p.m.-12:30 a.m.), the presentation of homecoming awards (11 p.m.) and mass campaniling with fireworks at midnight.
- Saturday's football game is preceded by the alumni association's tailgate and silent auction (3 p.m.). [Meal reservations](#) (\$15 members, \$20 public) must be purchased online by Oct. 9.



Tickets for Saturday's homecoming football game are \$30 (\$15 youth) for hillside seating, or \$60 for reserved seats. [More information](#) about homecoming week (and many other activities leading up to it),

are online.

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