



Oct. 22

Sun? Fun!

Students took advantage of unseasonably warm weather and a sunny afternoon, as fall colors blazed a scenic backdrop on central campus.

Oct. 22

Senate focuses on budget

Most of the Faculty Senate's Oct. 20 meeting was a discussion of the mid-year budget reversion. The senate's resource policies and allocations council recommends using furloughs, expense cuts and carry-over funds to meet reduced state funding levels.

Oct. 22

A Boo-tiful evening

University Museums is again sponsoring "Haunted Iowa State" Oct. 28, a self-guided moonlit walk through campus with stops at spooky spots.

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Efficient shopping

ISU Purchasing's CyBuy online system combines ease and speed with competitive pricing from pre-approved vendors.

Oct. 22

Dumpster diving, for a good cause

Six dumpsters full of campus garbage will be overturned in an ISU Center parking lot Oct. 29, then sorted by volunteers. The point of the messy exercise: Find out what's being tossed in campus trashcans and assess potential for more recycling opportunities.

Oct. 22



'Haunted Iowa State'

Announcements

- Hotel MU adds business center, weekend breakfast room
- Applications sought for 2010-11 student scholarships
- Save the date: Sustainability symposium is Feb. 23-24
- Second "Healthy Eats at the MU" with ISU chef is Oct. 28
- Employee discount on Extension's 2010 garden calendar
- Web site recognizes academic advisers of the year
- Former soil tilth lab has a new name
- Nominations sought for students' Wallace Barron Award
- New web site provides budget updates
- Student survey pits social media against severe weather warnings
- Snowblower service days are Oct. 23-24
- Lab school, Ames partner for free preschool program

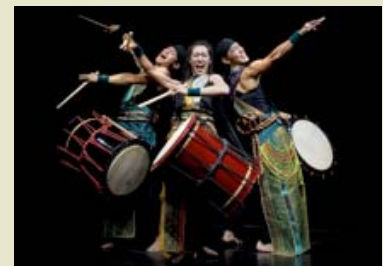
Receptions & open houses

Retirement

- Mary Fosse, Oct. 29

Open house

- "Studies in Creativity," Oct. 22

Arts & events

Yamato Drummers of Japan

A different drum

The Yamato Drummers of Japan bring the sound of traditional Wadaiko drums to Stephens Auditorium Oct. 25.

Honors & awards

Ice cream Wednesdays

The Dairy Science Club opens an ice cream shop every Wednesday during the academic year in Kildee Hall. A variety of flavors -- from vanilla to Snickers -- are available for \$1 per cup, from 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Oct. 22

Live Green tip: Revise your building's energy plan

Each campus building has its own energy usage plan. A little revision could make a big cost-saving difference.



Dairy Science Club ice cream sales

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- Michael Golemo
- Pat Thiel

Around campus

Ag pavilion gift

An agriculture pavilion for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences received a \$1.5 million pledge from Marvin and Janice Walter of Ames.

Gamers lack focus

A new ISU study has found that high volume action video game players -- those who play around 40 hours per week -- had more difficulty keeping focused on tasks requiring longer, more proactive attention than those who played video games less than a couple of hours a week.

Inside tools

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A day to enjoy

(Above) Students shed shoes, socks -- and in some cases, shirts -- to enjoy a game of Frisbee football in the sun on central campus Monday afternoon. Below, assistant professor of English Linda Shenk moved her Shakespeare class outside near the Farm House Museum for the day. *Photos by Bob Elbert.*



Oct. 22, 2009

Budget is focus of senate discussion

by Erin Rosacker

The Faculty Senate set aside the bulk of its Oct. 20 meeting to discuss ISU's mid-year \$24.5 million budget reversion. Executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman, senate president Arnold van der Valk and Gregory Palermo, chair of the senate's resource policies and allocations (RPA) council, delivered brief remarks prior to opening the floor for questions and discussion.

Palermo said the RPA council does not favor temporary salary reductions for all faculty and staff, or benefits cuts. Temporary furloughs, reducing expenses and using carry-forward funds were the "strongest" short-term options, he said.

"The trenches are going to be in our colleges -- as we really take a look at the programs we're offering, the levels of administration that we have, and the intensity of the administration with which they are led, advised or overseen," Palermo said.

Hoffman said administrators have been using various estimates to run a mix of budget-cutting scenarios. For example, she said a \$100 tuition surcharge would generate about \$2.4 million, one furlough day would save more than \$2 million, and a benefits reduction of one percentage point for the rest of the year would cut around \$1.3 million.

"We have been talking about graduated [furloughs], so lower-income people would take fewer days," she said.

Other answers Hoffman provided during the discussion:

- ISU assets, such as farms and land, generate income or are used for research and education
- A partial shutdown over the winter break would save \$64,000 in electricity
- The vice president for research and economic development is doing a cost/benefit analysis of the centers and institutes that report to that office, and deans have been asked to do the same
- Employee salaries and benefits make up 75 percent of the budget
- The three regent universities are communicating almost daily
- If temporary reductions are implemented in the university's contributions to retirement accounts, employees could increase their individual contributions
- One recommendation is to limit ISU's cost increase for medical benefits to 5 percent
- Administrators are looking at ways to lessen the impact on ISU Extension, which underwent a major reorganization after taking a 14 percent budget cut last spring
- Faculty would be expected to continue to teach despite temporary layoffs, especially since student tuition comprises more than half the operating budget

Although the discussion centered primarily on the short-term decisions for this year's budget reversion, FY11 budget concerns were noted. van der Valk said strategic decisions need to "enhance and

preserve" ISU's land-grant mission of teaching and research.

"Business can't go on as usual," van der Valk said. "There has to be some major adjustment somewhere, in the programs that we're offering -- both academic and non-academic. We're going to have to trim, we're going to have to refocus. How we're going to do that is very important."

Instruction percentages

Hoffman presented her annual report on non-tenure eligible (NTE) instructors. The Faculty Senate uses the yearly data to examine the amount of teaching done by non-tenure eligible instructors (including graduate students and professional and scientific staff), which the *Faculty Handbook* states should not exceed more than 15 percent of the teaching university-wide, or 25 percent within any department.

The 2008 fall semester figures showed more than 24 percent of the overall teaching was done by NTE instructors, whether broken down by section credits (25.6 percent), student credit hours (26.4 percent) or course sections (24.3 percent).

Hoffman said the good news is that the percentage of NTE instruction hasn't risen much. "The bad news is we're not making a lot of progress toward the goal that we set about 10 years ago."

Measuring with section credits, 32 of 55 departments fell below the *Faculty Handbook's* 25 percent limit, and nine were under 10 percent. Music, world languages and cultures, computer science and the Greenlee School topped the list of 23 departments over the mark, with 53.2, 46.5, 43.3 and 42.9 percent NTE instruction, respectively.

Overall, the percentage was slightly higher last fall (25.6 percent) than in 2007 (25.3 percent), but the amount of teaching done by P&S staff in 2008 (4.5 percent) fell off a fraction from the previous year (4.7 percent).

Hoffman said partner accommodations and introductory courses are some of the reasons NTE instructors are hired. Some departments also use professionals in their field to "enhance the instruction," she said, particularly in the Greenlee School.

"We get extraordinarily good teaching from our non-tenure eligible faculty," she said. "Sadly, we are losing a lot of our non-tenure eligible faculty because that is one of the ways departments are cutting budgets. So my suspicion is that when we compile the data for 2009, we will actually see a reduction in the direction we want to, and you might ask yourself if that is what you really want to see happen."

Oct. 22, 2009

Join the hunt at Haunted Iowa State

by Paula Van Brocklin

Bring a flashlight, a warm coat and all the courage you can muster Oct. 28 to "Haunted Iowa State," the annual Halloween trek across campus sponsored by University Museums. Self-guided tours begin at 7 p.m. at the campanile (rain or shine). The theme of this year's event is "Join the Hunt," a nod to the popularity of ghost-hunting reality television shows.

Allison Juull, education specialist with University Museums, said fewer stops are on this year's tour. Last year's event featured stops at 15 locations.

"We've pared it down a bit to focus on eight or nine sites," Juuhl said. "We've paid more attention to those sites."

This year's tour includes spooky favorites Beardshear and Morrill halls, the Memorial Union and ISU cemetery. But don't expect to see the same ghostly antics as last year. Several of the traditional venues have been revamped to give visitors new thrills and chills. Food Sciences Building and Lagomarcino Hall will have their ghoulish debuts this year, and Gilman Hall, a new stop last year, is again part of this year's walk.

Farm House Museum is still sure to be a favorite on the tour, with free hot beverages and popcorn. Inaugural Haunted Iowa State T-shirts will be available for \$15. The shirts, which feature the campanile, cemetery and Farm House, also are for sale at the Brunnier Art Museum Store (295 Scheman), Christian Petersen Art Museum (1017 Morrill) and Farm House Museum. All proceeds will fund next year's Haunted Iowa State.

Haunted Iowa State is free and open to the public.

More spooky fun

If Haunted Iowa State leaves you wanting more Halloween fun, University Museums also is hosting a Final Friday event, "Resurrection: Night at the Museum," Oct. 30 (5:30-7:30 p.m., Farm House Museum).

If you choose, come dressed as your favorite artist or artwork, and enjoy ghost stories, games, raffle prizes and refreshments. Visitors will get a special tour of the Farm House, peering into hidden spaces not usually seen by the public. Admission is free.



University Museums staff created T-shirts this year to promote their popular "Haunted Iowa State" tours. The shirts are \$15 at the museum store in Scheman, the Christian Petersen Art Museum and the Farm House. One would look good on you, too. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Oct. 22, 2009

Shop quickly, efficiently on CyBuy

by Anne Krapfl

Ten months after it was launched, the university's online "e-procurement" system is processing 60 to 80 orders a day. ISU Purchasing's CyBuy allows any Iowa State employee to shop online with approved vendors and place an order -- without a purchasing card, voucher, paper invoice or check.



So far, the catalogs of eight companies selected through competitive bidding are online at a third-party web site accessible through [AccessPlus](#). Unlike the vendors' home web sites, the prices in CyBuy reflect ISU discounts established in the bidding process.

The ISU Central Stores and Chemistry Stores inventories also are available in CyBuy.

Purchasing director Nancy Brooks said the goal is to finish the bids and load the catalogs of another 10 vendors into CyBuy in the next five months.

"With those 20 catalogs, we hope we can cover 80 percent of what people need and are purchasing," she said. Noting that ISU Purchasing uses nearly 18,000 vendors -- some of them one time for one thing -- 100 percent coverage probably is not realistic.

Employees can buy from multiple vendors in one purchase on CyBuy. Orders may be up to \$25,000, but any single item that costs \$5,000 or more is sent through the purchasing department for review before it goes to the vendor.

The beauty of CyBuy for university departments, Brooks said, is paying lower prices from pre-approved vendors without chewing up a lot of employee time to make a purchase. She said the online system gives the purchasing department useful data to track volume, conduct quality audits and bid future contracts with vendors.

Using CyBuy

With a built-in system of checks and balances, it takes three people to complete a purchase on CyBuy: the registered employee shopper, a designated department "releaser" who submits the order to the vendor electronically, and a department funding approver who gives final approval to pay the vendor via electronic payment.

All this is completed without vouchers, checks or paper copies of invoices and receipts. Departments control their budgets while allowing employees to order the products they need.

The department registers all these players in the CyBuy system up front to expedite the process when it's actually time to shop.

More than 1,000 employees have been trained to use CyBuy since February and training is held each month. Lesley Lackore is the CyBuy system administrator in ISU Purchasing and coordinates training. There also is a PowerPoint training presentation on the [CyBuy web page](#).

The first step in using CyBuy is to contact Lackore to submit a list of players, schedule training and receive access to the CyBuy system.

"We think CyBuy speeds up the purchasing process, eliminates paperwork and meets some of the expectation for immediacy," Brooks said.

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Oct. 22, 2009

Dumpster diving, for a good cause

by Diana Pounds

Volunteers will do some serious dumpster diving, minus the actual dives, in the Iowa State Center parking lot on Oct. 29. At least six dumpsters full of campus garbage will be overturned in lot D1, south of Hilton Coliseum.

The volunteers, outfitted with garbage grabbers, rakes, shovels and gloves, will surround the piles, and start sorting. By day's end, organizers of the event hope to have a pretty good idea of what's being tossed in campus dumpsters and what part of the trash might be reclaimed through expanded recycling opportunities.

The massive garbage sort is the culmination of an independent study of university recycling programs by ISU psychology major Kevin Marquardt. Joining the effort in lot D1 will be director of sustainability Merry Rankin as well as staff from ISU's facilities planning and management and environmental health and safety units and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The dumpsters were carefully selected to provide a good overview of the different kinds of spaces on a campus -- from classrooms to cafés -- and the kinds of trash they produce, Rankin said.

"As we do the sort, we'll look for items that already can be recycled on campus, such as newspaper, white paper and cardboard," Rankin said. "More importantly, we'll look for areas to expand recycling efforts. For example, if the trash includes a lot of plastic beverage and food containers, we can note these items as potential recyclable items for an expanded recycling program."

Volunteers needed

Rankin said volunteers from the Iowa State and Ames community are welcome to show up at the site anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Youth should be 15 years old or older. Volunteers are advised to wear old clothes and close-toed shoes, and preferably, leather gloves. Gloves and protective outerwear will be provided.

Volunteers are encouraged to preregister by contacting Rankin, mrankin@iastate.edu, or Marquardt, kevmarq@iastate.edu.

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If it's Wednesday, that must be ice cream

It's summer for a couple hours every week in Kildee Hall. Members of the Dairy Science Club sell their ice cream, four to five flavors each week, from 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Wednesdays (during the academic year) outside Lush Auditorium. Standard flavors are vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, M&M, Reese's, Butterfinger, Snickers and Oreo. There always are a few experimental flavors in the mix, including the current Twix and -- breakaway seller -- mint. Club members start with an ice cream mix purchased from AE Dairy, Des Moines, and build their recipes from that. An 8-ounce cup costs \$1; depending on the weather, the club sells 50 to 200 servings each week. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Oct. 22, 2009

Revise your building plan

by Merry Rankin, director of sustainability

Did you know that each building on campus has its own unique energy usage plan -- a plan that takes into account the idiosyncrasies of the building and its occupants?

Unfortunately, once a plan is put into place, it's often easily forgotten. Occupants should regularly review building plans to see if any adjustments should be made. Such adjustments can be significant when creating an energy usage plan that maximizes energy savings. For example, lowering the winter temperature setting just one degree can save up to 10 percent in heating costs.

Check out your plan

Ensuring your building's energy plan is current and efficient is easy. Here are some useful tips:

- Find your current energy plan at www.fpm.iastate.edu/utilities/bldg_energy_plans/default.asp.
- University standard settings for weekdays (7 a.m.-6p.m.) are 68 degrees during winter months and 74 degrees during summer. If your building has information that varies from these standard settings, it was implemented through building occupant request.
- Within your building's plan, click on the various system names to learn more about how those systems operate.
- For additional questions about your building's plan or to review plan adjustment options (which can be even more energy-efficient than the standard settings), contact Clark Thompson, (cthompso@iastate.edu, 4-9812). FP&M staff can help you set up trial periods to test more efficient settings.

And don't stop at your campus building. Review your home energy plan and see what efficiency opportunities you have there. Some great tools to get you started are available on the [City of Ames web site](#).

Over the next few weeks, take a minute to review your building plans (and make sure to put a note on your calendar for another review next semester). A little revision can make a significant impact.

Oct. 22, 2009



A different drum

The beat of Japan's traditional Wadaiko drums will resonate in Stephens Auditorium Oct. 25 (3 p.m.). The Yamato Drummers of Japan make Ames a stop on the U.S. portion of their world tour. The show fuses an energetic performance with the pulsing sounds of men and women playing a wide ensemble of drum sizes. Tickets are \$37 or \$33 for adults, \$25 for youth and \$20 for ISU students, and available at the Stephens box office, or through [Ticketmaster](#). *Photo by Lucienne van der Mijle.*

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