



Oct. 29

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert spotted this famous alumnus?

Oct. 29

Reversion discussion

The mid-year state funding reversion is agenda item No. 1 when the state Board of Regents meets Thursday. The members' discussion will be audio streamed live on the board's web site.

Oct. 29

P&S budget opinions

A staff survey shows that Professional and Scientific employees favor furloughs to position eliminations or smaller retirement contributions to meet a mid-year budget reversion.

Oct. 29

Bugs by day, stage by night

Entomologist Brendan Dunphy researches mosquitoes in an ISU lab, but it's his passion for acting that's landed him in the limelight.

Oct. 29

ISU Plan open change period begins Nov. 2

ISU Plan participants will have a chance to review and change their health and dental benefits Nov. 2-20 during the annual open change period. See what changes are in store.

Oct. 29

Live Green: Slamming the door on heat loss

A small project utilizing the Live Green Revolving Loan Fund will save lots of energy (and the plumbing) at the Bergstrom Indoor Training Facility.

Oct. 29

Tuesday Tea with a twist

Former Farm House curator and historian Mary Atherly will be a special guest at the Nov. 3 Tuesday Tea. Copies of her book about the historic building also will be available.

Oct. 29

Overnight rewards

The Hotel Memorial Union has launched a rewards program for departments and organizations.



Brendan Dunphy



Tuesday Tea at the Farm House

Announcements

- Demo of Google Wave scheduled for Nov. 6
- TIAA-CREF is hosting two retirement seminars next week
- Public H1N1 vaccination clinic for high-risk groups is Oct. 29
- Faculty are asked to bring research ideas to workshop Nov. 9
- Remember to vote for your favorite campus art photo by Oct. 31
- YWCA chocolate fund-raiser at The Knoll Nov. 11
- Extension's Growing Green Garden Calendar (\$6) can be ordered online

Receptions & open houses**Retirement**

- Mary Fosse, Oct. 29

Open house

- Microscopy and Nanoimaging Facility, Nov. 2
- Ada Hayden celebration, Nov. 3
- Protein, Proteomics and DNA Facility, Nov. 5

Arts & events*Sweeney Todd***Collaborative production**

The theatre and music departments are teaming up to stage the dark musical *Sweeney Todd* Nov. 5-8.

Postcard exhibition, auction

Printmakers from across the globe submitted postcards for the annual Print Society event.

Honors & awards

- Calvin Lewis, Kate Schwennsen
- King Pavilion

Around campus

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Remote soil tests

Iowa State agronomy researchers have a stake in the new Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity satellite the European Space Agency will launch Nov. 1.

Solar House headed to state park

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has purchased Iowa State's solar-powered Interlock House for use as an interpretive center at Honey Creek Resort State Park at Rathbun Lake.

Prediction: Long recovery

ISU economist says Iowa hasn't hit bottom yet, in terms of job losses, and recovery to 2007 levels will take years.

Exercise and the flu

A new study by an ISU research team on mice infected with the flu virus suggests that a daily moderate workout may diminish the severity of the flu's symptoms.

Inside tools

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Oct. 29



Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert captured a shot of this window "skin" of George Washington Carver in a corner window of the Soultz Family Visitor Center in the Memorial Union south addition. The skin doesn't block the view from inside the center. ISU Admissions hopes to honor other alumni with this art form.

Oct. 29

University presidents, regents to tackle mid-year budget cuts at Thursday meeting

by Anne Krapfl

How to tackle \$59.8 million in mid-year budget cuts is the first agenda item when the state Board of Regents meets Thursday in Cedar Falls. Iowa State's portion of the cut is \$24.5 million.

The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. President Gregory Geoffroy and his peers at the universities of Iowa and Northern Iowa will present proposed reduction plans at their campuses for board approval.

Live streaming of the audio portion of the meeting will be available at the [Board of Regents web site](#). *Inside Iowa State* will provide coverage of the meeting during the day.

Also on the agenda later in the morning is proposed tuition rates for the 2010-11 academic year. At Iowa State, proposed hikes include 6 percent for resident undergraduate (\$346 increase) and graduate (\$404) students, and 4.1 percent for out-of-state undergraduates (\$692) and graduate students (\$732). As proposed, mandatory student fees at Iowa State would not increase next year.

The board will not take final action on 2010-11 tuition rates until its December meeting.

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Oct. 29

Survey illustrates P&S budget opinions

by Erin Rosacker

Professional and Scientific employees favor furloughs to position eliminations or smaller retirement contributions to meet a mid-year budget reversion. The executive committee of the Professional and Scientific Council invited P&S staff to participate in a confidential electronic survey last Thursday and Friday to gauge opinions of budget-cutting methods. The answers -- and an additional 1,203 submitted comments -- were compiled and sent to president Gregory Geoffroy and executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman on Friday.

Regents' list

In response to the eight budget-cutting options outlined by the state Board of Regents, P&S employees agreed or strongly agreed with:

- Temporary layoffs/furloughs (62.8 percent)
- A tuition surcharge (58.6)
- Postponing deferred maintenance and repairs (86.5)
- Program eliminations (69.6)
- Selling non-essential assets (62.5)

Respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with:

- Temporary salary reductions (60.4)
- Temporary or permanent benefit revisions (63.2)
- Permanent layoffs (66.6)

Making comparisons

More than 50 percent of employees also agreed or strongly agreed with these statements:

- I would favor a furlough plan if number of days furloughed were relative to salary, 71.6 percent
- Mandatory furloughs are preferable to eliminating positions, 75.8 percent
- I would favor a furlough over a reduction in my retirement contributions by Iowa State, 68.8 percent
- I would favor a reduction in the employer's portion of my retirement contribution (eg. 10 percent to 8 percent) as a budget reduction tool if such a reduction had a specific end date (eg. 8-12 months), 56.3 percent

Who participated

Nearly 65 percent of ISU's 2,584 P&S employees completed the survey. A summary of the answers is available on the [P&S Council web site](#). P&S Council president Camille Sloan Schroeder will present the results at the Board of Regents' Oct. 29 meeting.

Oct. 29



As a producer of *The Skull of Connemara*, Brendan Dunphy also has created some of the stage sets in his Ames garage. Photo by Bob Elbert.

Mosquito researcher buggs about acting

by Tim Greene, News Service

Many an aspiring actor has waited tables or parked cars, but probably few have spent their days studying mosquitoes and malarial parasites. Brendan Dunphy, who graduated from Iowa State in 2007 with degrees in zoology, entomology and animal ecology, is making his run at show business while working as a research associate in the Medical Entomology Lab in Science Hall II.

Dunphy is thankful for the flexibility his job provides to allow him to pursue his acting passion.

"My supervisors realize that my artistic pursuits are integral aspects of who I am personally and professionally. They allow my schedule to accommodate my theatrical needs, and for that I am very grateful," he said.

But he's not just filling time in entomology. Dunphy reports that he really enjoys his research and will be published in the upcoming issue of *The Journal of Medical Entomology* for his findings on an exotic mosquito species in Iowa. He also is part of a surveillance program studying insect-borne viruses across the state.

From 'James' to the guild

Yet acting is his first love -- and it was almost love at first sight when Dunphy landed his debut role -- the title role in the ISU production of *James and the Giant Peach* in 2005.

Since that play, Dunphy has appeared in a number of commercials, corporate videos, films and theater productions, including an Iowa State "Choose Your Adventure" commercial. He landed a supporting role in the 2009 feature film *16 to Life*.

"I have a particular fondness for this film because it was the one that made me eligible for the Screen Actors Guild, and I have also been involved in marketing the film in the independent film festival

circuit," Dunphy said. "My commitment thus extended beyond my shoot days, which is something I haven't experienced with any other film project."

And now a production company

Dunphy is setting up new a theater company, Mooncoin Entertainment. Starting Thursday, Oct. 29, Mooncoin will showcase five plays, set in western Ireland by playwright and filmmaker Martin McDonagh, at the Des Moines Social Club, 1408 Locust St.

He grew interested in McDonagh's work after acting in a StageWest Theater production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. After reading all of McDonagh's published plays, he decided to produce the works of the Irish playwright. Last fall, he spent five weeks in Ireland conducting related research.

"I spent over a month traveling, taking photos of the landscape and collecting audio recordings. I brought scripts and recorded natives speaking the lines to get authentic records of the dialect," Dunphy said. "Although it is quite uncommon for producers to cross an ocean to do research, I thought it was essential to really experience the settings."

His travels connected him with new friends and some amazing stories of lost relatives.

"I went to Ireland with the intent to do research. I came back with connections to a family I didn't know I had, amazing stories, insight, an application for dual-citizenship (which is being processed) and a desire to go back," Dunphy said.

He returned to Ireland for two more weeks of research in the spring. He brought back a theater company name that links directly to his ancestry.

"The name 'Mooncoin Entertainment' was named after the birthplace of my grandfather James Dunphy, who was born in Mooncoin, Ireland," Dunphy said. "He emigrated 60 years ago."

The shows

Mooncoin Entertainment's presentation of *A Skull in Connemara* starts at 7 p.m. Oct. 29-30 and Nov. 5-7. The Oct. 31 performance begins at midnight, and there will be two Sunday matinees (2 p.m. curtain) Nov. 1 and Nov. 8. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Additional information is available at www.desmoinessocialclub.org. Tickets can be purchased at www.iowatix.com.

Oct. 29

ISU Plan open change period is Nov. 2-20

by Paula Van Brocklin

ISU Plan participants will have a chance to review and change their health and dental benefits during an annual open change period, Nov. 2-20.

Differences in medical and prescription drug plans and some changes in employee's share of costs highlight benefit changes for 2010. While Iowa State's health care costs are rising more than 11 percent annually, the university limited its contributed health care increase to 5 percent for 2010. The university benefits committee recommended plan changes to bridge the difference, and to minimize the impact to employees in 2010.

Following is a look at what's changing, how to review your current elections and where to get more information. New benefits elections go into effect Feb. 1, 2010.

What's changing?

Wellmark Alliance Select (PPO plan)

- Co-payments will increase from \$10 to \$20.
- Within the PPO provider network, out-of-pocket maximums for all spouse, child or family plans will increase from \$1,500 to \$3,000, but out-of-pocket maximums for single contracts will remain \$1,500.
- Outside the PPO provider network, out-of-pocket maximums will increase from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for single plans, and rise to \$6,000 for spouse, child and family contracts.
- Beginning Feb. 1, 2010, the most one person in a family will pay for in-network eligible services is \$1,500. After that, the other family members on the contract will share the remaining \$1,500 out-of-pocket cost, for a maximum of \$3,000. If a family member receives services outside the network, the most he or she will pay is \$3,000. The other family members will share the remaining out-of-pocket cost, up to \$6,000.

Wellmark Blue Advantage (HMO plan)

- Co-payments for office exams will increase from \$0 to \$10. Chiropractic and acupuncture services will remain \$10 per visit.

Medco prescription plan

- ISU is enhancing clinical programs for certain medications to protect the health and safety of employees. This means some prior authorization may be required before Medco will dispense certain medications. For example, a doctor may prescribe a medication for a health issue not normally indicated for that condition, though it may work for you. Medco will not approve payment for the medication without first consulting with you and your doctor to receive authorization.
- Co-payments for retail (your local pharmacy) purchases are not changing. They will continue to be \$10 for generic, 30 percent for preferred brand-name drugs and 50 percent for non-preferred brand name drugs.
- Mail-order generic prescriptions will continue to cost employees nothing. Mail-order preferred brand-name drugs will have a 25 percent co-payment, compared to 20 percent for 2009. For

non-preferred brand names, the mail-order co-payment is 33 percent.

- Out-of-pocket maximums for family contracts are increasing from \$1,500 to \$3,000. So, if one family member reaches \$1,500 out-of-pocket, he or she will have no further costs for prescriptions the rest of the year. Other family members will have co-payments until the \$3,000 maximum is met. Single contracts will continue to have a \$1,500 out-of-pocket maximum.
- Co-payments for preferred and non-preferred brand-name drugs will be capped. When purchased at a retail store, the maximum cost for a 30-day supply of a preferred brand-name drug will be \$100; it will be \$200 for non-preferred brand name drugs. For a 90-day supply, the maximum retail cost will be \$300 for preferred drugs and \$600 for non-preferred drugs.
- Co-payments for mail-order preferred brand-name drugs will be capped at \$250; the co-pay cap will be \$500 for mail-order non-preferred brand-name prescriptions.

Credits will be called shares

Iowa State will continue to contribute to employees' benefits, but those contributions now will be called a share, not credits or premiums. The reason? Consistency and clarity.

"We hope [the change] will help the employee know the real cost," said Jane Walter, human resources specialist. For example, in 2009 a person with a single PPO may think he or she pays \$452 each month when that individual really pays only \$15.

Employees will continue to receive contributions from ISU toward their benefits when they do not elect certain coverage. For example, employees who choose not to purchase life insurance will have that share go toward their health or dental share, or to a flexible spending account.

How to make changes

Human resource services will send an e-mail to all ISU Plan participants and other eligible employees at the beginning of the open change period, alerting them that open change has begun. There will be no notification sent to employees' homes this year.

Beginning Nov. 2, ISU Plan participants may check their 2009-10 participation statement online by logging into [AccessPlus](#) (Employee > Benefits Info) to review their current elections. If you're happy with your selection and wish to make no changes, do nothing. The benefits you had in 2009 will carry over to 2010.

"But know that on Feb. 1, 2010, there are changes to some coverage of your plan," Walter said.

All new elections must be completed by 5 p.m., Nov. 20.

On Dec. 4, the 2010 confirmation statements will be added to [AccessPlus](#) (under Benefits Info) for most employees. You will have one week to review the statement, and to report any corrections or errors.

More information

If you need more information about the ISU Plan changes, you have multiple options this year.

- Vendor fair, Nov. 3 (9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Pioneer Room, Memorial Union). Stop by and meet with representatives from Wellmark, Medco, Delta Dental, Avesis (vision), John Hancock (long-term care) and Principal (life and long-term disability insurance). ISU Benefits staff also will be available to answer questions.
- Web cast, Nov. 6 (10:15-11:15 a.m.). You'll be able to log in to the web cast at your desk (HRS will send an e-mail prior to the event with detailed instructions). HRS will provide an overview of this year's benefits changes, and you'll have a chance to ask questions in real time by typing questions into your computer.
- Professional and Scientific Council benefits [open forum](#), Nov. 11 (noon-1 p.m., Gallery, MU). Mike Otis, associate director of HRS, will address benefit changes and lead a Q&A session.

- **HRS web site.** Check out the HRS web site for answers to your questions.
- **Personal appointments.** Human resource specialists will be available for brief appointments at the beginning of the open change period.

"If everyone calls on Nov. 20 to get an appointment, it could be too late," Walter said.

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Oct. 29

Live Green: Slamming the door on heat loss

by Diana Pounds

Homeowners sometimes close off unused rooms in the winter to save a few dollars in heating costs. They're doing the same thing at the Bergstrom Indoor Training Facility this year. However, in this case, the room is the size of a football field, and the energy savings are expected to be equally as grand.

Athletics events assistant Allison Schmitt says the addition over the summer of a set of double doors and a glass wall to the indoor practice field will save at least \$6,000 in heating costs annually. That's a quick return on the original investment of \$6,000.

The indoor facility, completed in spring 2004, consists of a 92,000-square-foot practice area for Iowa State's football, softball and soccer teams, and a small lobby with entryway and restrooms. Because the lobby opened onto the practice field, the entire building had to be heated, even when no athletes were working out, just to keep the water pipes in the lobby from freezing, Schmitt said.

Last spring, officials concluded that considerable energy savings could be realized by walling off the lobby from the training field. With funding from the ISU Live Green Loan fund, energy-efficient doors and the glass wall were installed.

Now, officials are keeping the pipes in the lobby at pipe-friendly temperatures while cranking down the heat (and the expense) on the empty training field.

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Oct. 29



Tuesday Tea with a twist

Nancy Gebhart, program coordinator with University Museums, delicately places a teacup in preparation for the weekly Tuesday Tea at the Farm House Museum. If you're an Iowa State history buff, you'll want to attend the Nov. 3 tea from noon to 1 p.m. with Mary Atherly, former Farm House curator and historian. Atherly will share her in-depth knowledge of the Farm House, followed by a unique guided tour. She also will sign copies of her second-edition book, *Farm House: College Farm to University Museum*. Books will be available at the tea for \$22.50. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Oct. 29

Hotel Memorial Union introduces rewards program

by Anne Krapfl

The Hotel Memorial Union has launched a "rewards" program for ISU departments and recognized campus organizations: Earn a complimentary room night for every 10 room nights purchased. The program will capture room purchases retroactively to July 1, and keep counting through June 30, 2010. Complimentary room nights must be redeemed on or before Dec. 31, 2010.

"Nearly all hotels have this kind of program," explained hotel manager Laura Helmus. "We hope to develop some loyalty and repeat use with departments on campus, as well as any recognized campus organization."

The logistics

To qualify, a room must be billed to an ISU account. Usage will be tracked by department or organization, and multiple account numbers may be linked to the same group. For example, the chemical engineering department may use several accounts to count toward its room tally. Each department should designate a single liaison to the Hotel Memorial Union for communications about the rewards program.

Blocks of rooms purchased don't qualify for this program, and room nights can't be traded or sold among departments.

Redeeming a complimentary night

Reservations for complimentary rooms must be made in advance with Helmus. There are several blackout dates, during high occupancy times or because the hotel is closed, when complimentary rooms can't be redeemed. These include home football game weekends, two to three nights at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Veishea weekend and spring commencement weekend.

More information

The rules of the campus rewards program will be posted soon on the hotel's web site. In the meantime, call Helmus, 4-5025, for details or to request a PDF file on the program.

Oct. 29



ISU Theatre and the music department's Opera Studio will stage Stephen Sondheim's musical version of *Sweeney Todd* Nov. 5-8. Senior Chris Ebke plays the title character, and junior Nicole Conetzkey fills the role of Mrs. Lovett. *Photo by Casey Gradishnig.*

Sweeney Todd comes to ISU Theatre stage Nov. 5-8

by Steve Jones, Liberal Arts and Sciences Communications

ISU Theatre, in collaboration with ISU Music's Opera Studio, presents Stephen Sondheim's musical version of *Sweeney Todd* Nov. 5-8 at Fisher Theater.

Sweeney Todd deftly combines intricate and beautiful music into a love story that takes on "an extra level of horror," said Brad Dell, the play's director and assistant professor of theatre.

"Our production will focus on the music and its intricacies and complexities," Dell said. "There is a lot of richness to Sondheim's lyrics and score. The music is interesting in that it creates complex characters and relationships in a production that ultimately becomes a terrifying thriller."

Sondheim's operatic score for *Sweeney Todd* won a 1979 Tony Award. Based on 19th-century myth and legend, the story has been presented on stage, television and the big screen. The most recent film version starred Johnny Depp in 2007.

The story begins when *Sweeney Todd* returns to London after 15 years of unjust imprisonment in Australia. His landlady, Mrs. Lovett, tells him that his wife poisoned herself after being raped by the judge who condemned him to exile. *Sweeney Todd* vows revenge, and Mrs. Lovett finds a way to increase her sales of meat pies.

ISU Theatre is collaborating on *Sweeney Todd* with the music department. Musical direction is by Mary Creswell, associate professor of music, and Jodi Goble, lecturer. Jacob Harrison, assistant

professor of music, will conduct the show.

"It's really exciting to work with the best voices and instrumentalists we have on campus," Dell said, who added the music is both challenging and complex.

Chris Ebke, a senior music education major, plays the lead role of *Sweeney Todd*, and Nicole Conetzkey, a junior music major, is Mrs. Lovett. Also starring in the production are Jessica Hay as the Beggar Woman, Jocelyn Ascherl as Joanna, Aaron Hoffmeyer as Anthony and Tom Wilson as Judge Turpin.

Sweeney Todd is on stage Nov. 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$12 for students, and can be purchased through [Ticketmaster](#), at the Stephens ticket office weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or at the door before the performance.

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Oct. 29

9th annual postcard exhibition, auction runs through Nov. 6

by Heather Sauer, College of Design Communications

Iowa State's University Print Society will host "Two of Five," its 9th annual Postcard Print Exchange Exhibition and Silent Auction, Nov. 2-6 in Gallery 181 on the main level of the College of Design. The show features the work of 320 artists from 33 states and four other countries: Australia, Canada, Finland and Northern Ireland.

The project began last spring when printmakers from around the world were invited to send 13 original, identical 4-by-6 inch prints to April Katz, faculty adviser to the group and an associate professor of art and design/integrated studio arts.

The theme for this year's exchange is "Two of Five;" artists were asked to select any two of these five words -- star, impostor, hallucinogenic, monster, fast -- and consider all possible variations and meanings of these words in creating their prints.

Eligible methods included any multiple edition printmaking technique -- woodcuts, litho, intaglio, relief, photography, silkscreen, digital printmaking, etc. Prints were to be stamped and mailed separately as postcards, so they would bear the markings of travel and postal services.

Every artist who submitted prints received 12 prints from other artists in return (hence the exchange). The print society kept one print from each artist and these will be on display as a part of the exhibition and available for bid in the silent auction.

Silent auction

The exhibition is an opportunity to collect interesting pieces of art, purchase unusual gifts, and help a student cause. All prints displayed as part of the exhibition will be for sale through a bidding process, which will be described in the gallery.

Proceeds will help fund club activities, including student attendance at the annual Southern Graphics Council Conference in Philadelphia in March 2010 and a visit by engraving expert James Ehlers, who will present a workshop for printmakers and metals students in February 2010. His campus visit will include a public lecture about his work.

Bidding ends at 5 p.m. Nov. 6. Winners will be notified by e-mail.