



Dec. 3

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert spotted this truism?

Dec. 3

Guidelines for FY11 budget planning

Executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman outlines the strategy for developing ISU's next few budgets in the face of declining state funding and anticipated declining enrollments.

Dec. 3

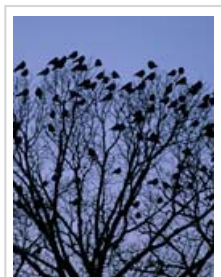
Crow countermeasures

Laser and sound shows are in the bag of tricks that facilities planning and management staff use to keep crows from feeling at home on campus.

Dec. 3

Recycle your phonebooks ... now

Locate the phonebook recycling area in your building before Dec. 11. Starting Dec. 14, campus services staff will pick up used phonebooks -- ISU and commercial -- for recycling.



Campus crows

Dec. 3

Stay on the right side of the gift law

The Iowa Gift Law, which applies to all state employees, puts limits on what you can give to, and receive from, coworkers and vendors.

Dec. 3

Environmental aromatherapy

The ISU compost facility is a collaborative campus effort to convert organic waste and expand sustainability efforts. One year into operation, it has converted more than 8,000 tons of manure into more than 3,000 tons of compost used in campus research plots, flower beds and landscaping.



ISU compost facility

Dec. 3

Sustainability symposium details

ISU's second annual Symposium on Sustainability is Feb. 23-24, 2010. Details about speakers, schedules and activities are now available.

Announcements

li> Horticulture Club poinsettia sale continues Dec. 3-5

- No phone, e-mail support for WebCT, clickers Dec. 24-Jan. 3
- Library reserve submissions for spring needed ASAP
- Limited number of seasonal flu vaccines available on Dec. 10
- H1N1 vaccination clinic in Ames on Dec. 3, 4 for priority groups
- P&S open forum is Dec. 3; topic is budget challenges
- Lecturer says exercise can reverse aging; find out how Dec. 10
- Science with Practice poster presentation is Dec. 9
- Geoffroy says ISU must use resources effectively for future
- Get trees and wreaths from the Forestry Club
- Ames a great place for those who hate long commutes
- Symposium focuses on 20th-century ethnicity, nationalism

Receptions & open houses**Reception**

- Honors program graduates, Dec. 3

Retirements

- Larry Huisman, Dec. 8
- Duane Smith, Dec. 8
- Jack Cummings, Dec. 11

Open house

- Metabolomics Research Facility, Dec. 3

Arts & events*Twelfth Night***Romantic comedy, with a twist**

One of Shakespeare's most popular comedies is on the Fisher Theater stage when ISU Theatre presents *Twelfth Night*, opening Dec. 4.

Holiday music festival

The music department's Dec. 6 Holiday Festival ensembles include the Iowa

State Singers, Statesmen, Cantamus, Lyrica and the ISU Symphony Orchestra.

Honors & awards

- David Cunningham, Kathleen Cunningham, Lina Del Castillo and Brian Steward
- Erin Hodgson and Matthew O'Neal
- Doug Kenealy

Around campus

Top ranking

ISU's landscape architecture and architecture programs are among the top 20 in the nation, according to a new survey of practitioners.

Student volunteers

Members of the Horticulture Club have assumed responsibility for the design and planting of the flower bed at the corner of Wallace Road and Osborn Drive.

New instrument

A \$180,000 grant from the Carver Trust will help Iowa State purchase a high-resolution, field-emission microscope.

Inside tools

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Dec. 3, 2009



Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert is shooting the east face of Parks Library, along Morrill Road.

Dec. 3, 2009

Hoffman outlines strategy for developing FY11 budget

by Anne Krapfl

Planning is under way on Iowa State's next fiscal year budget -- and that timing is normal. What's unusual this year is the depth of review and planning requested of college and division leaders, in the face of declining state revenues and the impact on state support for the three regent universities.

In a [Dec. 2 memo to senior leaders](#), executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman laid out plans for developing Iowa State's FY11 budget, as well as the budgets one to two years beyond.

"The current financial situation presents an extraordinary challenge," Hoffman wrote in the memo to vice presidents, deans and the chief information officer. "The FY10 appropriations, reduced by the mid-year reversion, reflect a nearly \$150 million loss in purchasing power over the past 10 years."

That change, coupled with others -- shifting boundaries among academic disciplines and advancements in technology, for example -- puts Iowa State in an unprecedented position to reconsider, reorganize and resize, she said.

"It is time to consider a future in which we will continue to serve our basic, core missions, but we will do so in different ways," Hoffman wrote. "I realize and expect that departments and programs may be eliminated or restructured. I know that service levels will change."

Long-term, inclusive planning

Hoffman asked all units to do "serious, substantive planning" over the coming months that looks at least two years out and, when appropriate or necessary, to involve other units in their planning. She asked them to look at what she called "fundamental aspects" of programs, activities and services, such as:

- How a unit's programs and services serve the university's [core mission](#)
- The size of a unit, relative to the number of people who benefit from it or are served by it
- Staffing ratios within units, for example, students per academic adviser, administrative staff per faculty member, administrative staff per outcomes achieved
- Who would be affected if programs or services change, within the unit and elsewhere at the university

She said the planning process must be inclusive and involve those with significant interest in the ideas being considered. The impact on faculty and staff must be part of the planning, Hoffman wrote, and ISU policies and processes must be respected if/when changes in staffing levels seem likely.

To keep the planning process moving, Hoffman asked for monthly updates from each vice president and dean, beginning in January.

A special look at some cross-unit functions

Hoffman also announced that five small teams will review, by Feb. 15, 2010, several targeted activities that cross organizational lines such as college, department, ISU Extension or the student affairs division. The five are:

- Activities that support international students, programs, faculty and staff

- Recruitment of undergraduate students
- Activities and programs that support student academic success
- Programs that support diverse and under-represented groups (for example, women and minority populations)
- All Ph.D. programs, either offered through a single college or spanning more than one college

More information on these five reviews will be shared in the next few weeks.

Preliminary numbers for FY11

Hoffman offered some early guidelines for what the figures in the university FY11 budget may be. Those guidelines include:

- State funding for Iowa State will be no higher than \$220.8 million -- this year's appropriation minus the \$24.5 million mid-year reversion. Additional cuts to that funding level are possible during the 2010 legislative session.
- Units should develop expense budgets that are 5 percent to 10 percent lower than their original FY10 expense budgets. Units may choose to plan for even larger reductions according to their financial situations.
- Fall 2010 enrollment will be down from this fall. The change is a moving number, currently estimated at 275 students.
- Estimates for additional tuition revenue are based on the proposal currently before the state Board of Regents (6 percent increase for residents, 4.1 percent for non-residents). The board has delayed a final decision on 2010-11 tuition rates until its Feb. 4 meeting.
- Utility costs will increase an estimated 2.5 percent. Actual increases to units will vary according to their utilities use.
- The estimated cost of salary and benefits increases for merit employees covered by the AFSCME contract will be 2.4 percent for salaries and salary-driven benefits and 10 percent for medical and dental insurance. Medical and dental costs for faculty and P&S staff will increase an estimated 5 percent. There isn't a salary policy yet for faculty or P&S staff, but units likely will absorb the cost of those policies.

Dec. 3, 2009



Photo by Bob Elbert.

Crow countermeasures

by Diana Pounds

If you spend much time on central campus at dusk this time of year, you've probably heard it -- the amplified chatter of a bird echoing from a nearby rooftop. You're hearing a recording of an agitated crow. While the sound may not be unpleasant to you, it bothers crows, often driving them elsewhere. And that's the point.

Fall fly-in

Fall marks the beginning of crow season at Iowa State. Crows swoop down from the north to winter in Iowa. They hang out in rural areas during the day, feasting in farm fields, then head to campus for the evening. Iowa State's park-like setting is ideal for crows, said Dave Miller, director of facilities planning and management operations.

"The campus has light, warmth and tall, mature trees -- all the things that they like," he said.

However, the warm feelings the crows have for campus aren't reciprocated.

"They're noisy, they make a mess and they scare people," Miller said.

The roust

FPM's solution is to roust the crows from their roosts. Keeping the crows on the move, even if they're only moving around campus, keeps the birds from causing too much trouble in one place.

"Our goal is to make sure they don't pattern themselves in an area," Miller said.

After years of experimentation on a variety of crow-scaring tactics, FPM staff have settled on two techniques to keep crows from settling in.

Distress signal



This **recording** of crow distress calls is broadcast from ISU rooftops to chase away the birds.

Portable audio boxes that play crow distress calls have proven useful in chasing crows from a favorite spot. Six units that randomly play crow distress calls in the evenings are rotated around the rooftops of campus buildings.

"We don't leave the boxes anywhere too long," Miller said. "Otherwise, the crows will get used to them and pay no attention."

The annoying red dot

A second useful crow crowd disperser is a hand-held laser designed for bird control. The device, which looks something like a state trooper's speed gun, can shoot a red laser beam into a tree a hundred yards away. When the red light starts dancing around a tree teeming with crows, the birds take off, Miller said.

Still, get used to the crows. Several thousand crows congregate on campus every fall and winter. They usually hit their peak numbers in December.

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Nov. 30, 2009

Phonebook recycling deadline is Dec. 11

With the delivery of new phonebooks to campus, efforts also have begun to gather last year's editions -- ISU, Ames and Des Moines -- for **recycling**. The goal is to exceed the record-setting 16 tons of phonebooks collected last December.

Step 1: Into a box

Building supervisors, custodians and recycling volunteers are coordinating multiple drop-off zones in each building and providing cardboard boxes for collection. The collection period runs through Friday, Dec. 11, when custodians and volunteers will move the boxes of used phonebooks to one of **80 designated outdoor pick-up sites**, frequently building loading docks. The boxes should be outside and in a visible location. If your building is not one of the 80 designated spots on the route, you're asked to coordinate your collection efforts with a nearby building that is.

Step 2: To a loading dock and onto the truck

Campus services staff will collect the boxes the week of Dec. 14 and deliver them to International Paper in Des Moines for recycling.

Kelly McCool, a program coordinator in facilities planning and management and member of the ISU recycling committee, said the university receives about \$25 per ton for the old phonebooks. More notable is what the university isn't paying -- about \$85 per ton -- to drop them off as trash at the Ames Resource Recovery Plant.

Dec. 3, 2009

How to stay on the right side of the gift law

by Diana Pounds

If you plan to do any gift giving (or getting) at the office over the holiday, you might want to brush up on the Iowa Gift Law, which applies to all state employees.

Here are the basics from Keith Bystrom, associate university counsel.

- An individual shouldn't accept a gift valued at \$3 or more from anyone who does business or seeks to do business at Iowa State. These "restricted donors" include a company selling products, an ISU student or someone seeking a job.
- Legal ways to handle a gift valued at \$3 or more are to: politely return it or donate it to a university department, another public body or a local charity. The gift law prohibits gifts to individual university employees, but not to the university.
- Employees may exchange gifts with colleagues and supervisors. Gifts *to* supervisors must stay under the \$3 mark. Gifts *from* supervisors, even those above the \$3 limit do not violate the gift law, but supervisors should avoid any appearance of favoritism or personnel issues could arise.
- Employees may participate in office exchanges in which each contributes a gift under a specified value according to Regent's rules. However if the person receiving a gift during an office gift exchange has the ability to set salaries, approve expenditures, or hire and promote another participant in the exchange, the gifts would be prohibited unless they are food and drink worth less than \$3.
- Employees can't accept cash gifts from "restricted donors" in any amount.

More details on the gift law are in the [policy library](#).

Dec. 3, 2009



Ag specialist Steve Jonas turns one of the windrowed piles of compost. Temperatures within the piles reach 140-160 degrees. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Environmental aromatherapy

by Erin Rosacker

The white, vinyl-clad hoop structures at Iowa State's new dairy farm aren't protecting equipment, livestock or hay bales. These hoop barns were constructed in 2008 to serve as the university's compost facility, a collaborative campus effort to convert organic waste and expand sustainability efforts.

The recipe

The compost facility accepts materials from several campus departments, blending them into an assortment of usable products. Ingredients include:

- Manure from the dairy farm
- Used bedding materials from ISU livestock farms
- Food waste from ISU Dining
- ISU greenhouse waste, such as plant materials
- Biomass, such as cornstalks and leaves
- Ground-up wood from discarded pallets
- Topsoil from campus construction projects

Composting essentially speeds up the decomposition of organic materials, producing a rich soil additive. A proper mix of nitrogen (manure) and carbon (such as biomass waste or bedding) will heat up and cook as it sits in windrowed piles. Temperatures within the piles reach 140-160 degrees. The windrows are turned once or twice weekly over the 10 to 12 weeks they are cured in the hoop barns.

The finished -- and remarkably odorless -- products are used several ways. One of the compost mixtures is used for livestock bedding (in place of sawdust), and the windrowed compost is distributed on ag and horticulture field plots. A compost mixture with added topsoil and sand is used in flowerbeds and landscaping, including planted areas around newly constructed campus buildings.

Benefits

Composting benefits the environment by diverting organic materials from landfills and the water supply. The ISU facility also benefits the bottom line, operating as a self-supported unit. Departments are charged for materials brought into the facility, and campus units and researchers also can purchase the finished compost products -- an economical alternative to commercial sources. The facility is for campus use only, and not open to public drop-offs or purchases.

More than 8,000 tons of manure have been processed since the composting facility opened in December 2008, generating approximately 3,000-4,000 tons of compost.

ISU Dining started sending some of its food waste to the facility this fall, averaging about 36 tons per month when classes are in session. Expect to see that amount increase in the future, when more dining locations start sending food waste to the facility.

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Dec. 3, 2009

Preview: 2010 Symposium on Sustainability

by Paula Van Brocklin

Details are coming together for Iowa State's second annual [Symposium on Sustainability](#), Feb. 23-24, 2010. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the conference for free, which also will be web cast live. Others outside the university may attend at a cost of \$60 per person. A sustainable buffet lunch catered by ISU Dining is part of the Feb. 24 activities.

Following are highlights of the two-day event. For a developing list of symposium activities, periodically check the [Live Green](#) web site.

Feb. 23

The symposium opens Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, with a reception and poster session (7 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union). Students, faculty and staff are invited to submit posters that detail specific research projects that support campus sustainability. Submission deadline is Jan. 15. Additional poster guidelines are available from the symposium web site.

The symposium's opening lecture begins at 8 p.m., featuring Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia Inc., an outdoor clothing company concerned with environmental ethics. Patagonia developed an Earth Tax, pledging 1 percent of its sales to the preservation and restoration of the natural environment. In 2001, Chouinard was instrumental in creating One Percent for the Planet, an alliance of businesses that contribute at least 1 percent of their net annual sales to approved environmental organizations.

Feb. 24

A full day of sustainability discussion kicks off Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 8 a.m. (Sun Room, MU) and continues through 5 p.m. A keynote address by Leith Sharp, founding director of Harvard University's Green Campus Initiative, begins at 8:20 a.m. In her presentation, "Green Economy Campus: Change Management for Sustainability," Sharp will address green strategies for a campus community, including cost-effective building design and operations, purchasing, renewable energy, organic landscaping, cleaning, greenhouse gas reduction and more.

Panel discussions

Four panel discussions make up the bulk of the day's events. The first session begins at 9:30 a.m., focusing on how ISU students are implementing green practices. A small group of ISU students will participate in the panel, which will be moderated by Chandra Peterson, vice president of the Government of the Student Body.

At 10:15 a.m., ISU green teams will discuss their initiatives. Panelists include Sarah Passonneau, chair of the library's green team; Darryl Knight, chair of the residence green team; and John Miranowski, chair of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences green team. Moderator is Merry Rankin, director of sustainability.

The afternoon panels begin with a 1:30 p.m. discussion on the university's interdisciplinary sustainable education programs, moderated by Arne Hallam, LAS associate dean. The final panel begins at 3:15 p.m. and features ISU Extension's efforts in creating sustainable farms, families and a bioeconomy. Extension specialist Andrew Larson -- a small farm sustainability coordinator -- is the moderator.

Let your voice be heard

At the close of the symposium on Feb. 24, attendees will have an opportunity to share their thoughts, questions and suggestions on how ISU can enhance its sustainability initiatives. The open forum begins at 4 p.m. in the Sun Room, MU.

How to register

Though the Symposium on Sustainability is free to the campus community, you need to register if you plan to attend. Online registration will open later this month. If you can't stay for the entire event due to class or work conflicts, you may come and go. However, Rankin encourages faculty and staff to rearrange their schedules to spend as much time as possible at the symposium.

"This is a very informative event, and it should be very beneficial," Rankin said. "I would encourage people to make other arrangements if they can."

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Dec. 3, 2009



Sophomore Madison Welterlen stars as Viola, who disguises herself as a young man, Cesario, in ISU Theatre's production of *Twelfth Night*. Photo by Patrick Gouran.

***Twelfth Night* will run for six, actually**

by Steve Jones, LAS Communications

One of William Shakespeare's most popular comedies is on the Fisher Theater stage this month when ISU Theatre presents *Twelfth Night*. The performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4, 5, 11 and 12; and at 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13.

Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy of mistaken identity, infatuation and broken hearts. It also is the second-most produced Shakespeare work after *Hamlet*, said director and music and theatre faculty member Adam Heffernan. He has directed several of Shakespeare's plays but never *Twelfth Night*.

"It is a very funny, witty and moving play," Heffernan said. "It was Shakespeare's last real joyous comedy. His later works had a much darker tone."

The story features Viola, who is shipwrecked and swept onto the shores of Illyria. Disguising herself as a boy, she assumes a post in the duke's court and, on his behalf, attempts to capture the heart of his loved one, Lady Olivia.

The arrival of her assumed-drowned twin brother further complicates the plot.

The play's title comes from the "12th night" holiday that historically is Jan. 6 -- the last of the 12 days of Christmas. In Shakespeare's time, the 12th night was an evening of great celebration and "merrymaking," Heffernan explained.

Tickets

Tickets are \$15 (\$13 for seniors, \$8 for students) and can be purchased through **Ticketmaster**, at the Stephens ticket office (weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.), or at the door before the performance.

The cast features sophomore Madison Welterlen as Viola. Also with lead roles are freshman Kelsey Kovacevich as Olivia, and seniors Mat Wymore as Orsino, Nick Juelsgaard as Sir Toby Belch and Don Watts as Malvolio.

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Dec. 3, 2009

Music groups spread holiday cheer Dec. 6

by Paula Van Brocklin

More than 450 student musicians will converge on Stephens Auditorium Sunday, Dec. 6, for the 54th annual ISU Holiday Festival. The concert begins at 3 p.m.

Featured ensembles include the Iowa State Singers, Statesmen, Cantamus, Lyrica and the ISU Symphony Orchestra. Each group will perform a couple of seasonal pieces, followed by the concert's grand finale -- a combined performance of all ensembles.

Concertgoers will hear seasonal music and other pieces from the groups' repertoires.

"There will be some carols of the season, and also a Hanukkah piece and an African piece," said James Rodde, professor of music and director of choral activities.

Rodde added that he hopes the musical selections leave the audience with a sense of hope, and the spirit of the holiday season.

Also during the concert, the music department will honor Wayne Tigges ('96) with its Outstanding Alumni Award. Tigges, who sings leading roles in opera houses around the world, will perform an aria from Handel's *Messiah*.

Tickets

Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for students and youth). Tickets are available at the Iowa State Center box office (weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) and through [Ticketmaster](#).