



Jan. 6

**Caught on campus**

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**Mark your calendar for intriguing campus lectures this spring**

The linguist who created the alien language in Avatar, the CEO who markets Fat Tire beer, and a pair of insiders from past Israel-Palestine peace talks are among those who will give public lectures on campus this spring.

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**Progress at the greenhouses**

The horticulture department's new greenhouses have been enclosed and workers now are erecting the interior wall structure and glass panels. The project is scheduled for completion in May.



Horticulture greenhouse

Jan. 6

**2011 will bring speedier wireless to campus**

Wireless spots on campus will become faster and more plentiful as information technology staff begin adding 100 new access points. The project results from a proposal submitted to the Computation Advisory Committee, the group that oversees spending of student technology fees.

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**Report: Climate change is impacting Iowa, Iowans**

Researchers at Iowa's three regent institutions were asked to study the effects of climate change on Iowa. The collaborative study found more rain, higher temperatures and longer growing seasons -- good for crops and agricultural pests.

**Announcements**

- Encourage students to apply for Social Justice Summit
- Forum on conflict of interest, commitment is Jan. 13
- Feb. 1 is deadline for fall alumni association award nominations
- Student leaders sought for Destination Iowa State in August
- Learn about Reiman Gardens' volunteer opportunities Jan. 20
- Feb. 21 is nomination deadline for P&S university awards; CYtation Award deadline is March 31

**Receptions & open houses**

## Reception

- "Line to Tone: A Drawing Salon" exhibit, Jan. 13

## Retirement

- Gary Osweiler, Jan. 13

**Arts & events**

Metropolitan Opera auditions

Opera auditions open to the public  
First-round auditions in an annual vocal competition sponsored by the Metropolitan Opera National Council will be held Jan. 8 in Music Hall.

**Honors & awards**

- Catherine Kling
- Morrill Hall

**Around campus**

- Landscape architecture program

makes the Top 10

- Grant funds will create library classroom
- Pruetz is a guest on Thursday's *Talk of the Nation*

#### Inside tools

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## **Good attitude**

With a nice locale, warm coat and plenty of snacks squirreled about, this Iowa Stater strikes a confident pose near the Memorial Union. *Photo by Barb McBreen.*

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Jan. 6, 2011

## History, literature, comedy, politics, the environment have their days in spring lectures lineup

by Anne Krapfl

The linguist who created the alien language in *Avatar*, the CEO who markets Fat Tire beer and a pair of insiders from past Israel-Palestine peace talks are among those who will visit campus this semester for public lectures. Their talks are part of the university's Lectures Program lineup. Events in this series are free of charge and typically begin at 8 p.m. in a Memorial Union ballroom, unless noted.

The schedule receives regular updates during the semester and can be checked online at [www.lectures.iastate.edu](http://www.lectures.iastate.edu). Here are a few dates you might want to consider for your calendar:

### Inventing the Na'vi language

Thursday, Feb. 3, MU Great Hall: Linguist **Paul Frommer**, by day a professor of clinical management communication in the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, was hired to create the language spoken by the inhabitants of the fictional moon Pandora in James Cameron's 2009 blockbuster *Avatar*. He also created the Martian language for the Disney film, *John Carter of Mars*, shot in 2010 and scheduled for release in summer 2012. He will talk about the process of developing a new language.

### Seeking life on Mars

Thursday, Feb. 10, MU Great Hall: The University of Arizona's **Peter Smith** was the principal investigator for the \$420 million Phoenix Mars Mission (May-October 2008), part of NASA's search for life in our solar system. Smith participated in other NASA space missions. For example, in 1997, it was Smith's camera on NASA's Sojourner Rover that captured images of Mars relayed back to Earth. He currently is a senior research scientist at Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory. He will talk about the search for life on Mars.

### Sitting in at Woolworth's

Tuesday, Feb. 15, MU Sun Room: **Joseph McNeil**, one of the "Greensboro Four," will share that group's story. On Feb. 1, 1960, four black freshmen at North Carolina A&T State University, frustrated with segregation in the South, sat down at the "whites only" lunch counter in the Greensboro Woolworth's and asked to be served. They were refused. They promised to return every day until they were served -- and they did. The movement spread to lunch counters in 54 cities until on July 25, 1960, the Woolworth company agreed to integrate its lunch counters.

### Analyzing options for Palestine and Israel

Wednesday, Feb. 16, MU Great Hall: Two lawyers who worked for their states' prime ministers will analyze current approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and offer insights on possible actions the parties may take during the coming year. Israeli **Gilead Sher** was chief of staff and policy coordinator for former Israel prime minister Ehud Barak, and co-chief negotiator for the Camp David

summit in July 2000 and the subsequent Taba summit in January 2001. Sher co-chairs Blue White Future, a nonpartisan movement to promote the two-state-for-two-people solution.

Palestinian **Ghaith al-Omari** led the international relations department in the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (2005-07). al-Omari was a legal and policy adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team before and during the Camp David and Taba summits. He serves as advocacy director at the American Task Force on Palestine in Washington, D.C.

Former Ames resident and state senator (1973-82) **John Murray** will moderate their discussion. Since 2002, Murray has served as external adviser to the Negotiations Support Unit, an international organization of legal and policy experts that assists the Palestinian Liberation Organization with issues related to a permanent status for Israel and Palestine.

### **Sustainability symposium**

*Evening lectures on Feb. 21 and 22 are scheduled in conjunction with the university's third annual symposium on sustainability. The lectures are open to the public.*

#### **Creating 'green' ports**

Monday, Feb. 21, MU Great Hall: **Jerome Ringo** is a senior executive with Green Port, a private company that focuses on establishing sustainable "green" ports around the world. He has had a lengthy career in top environmental organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation and the Apollo Alliance. For the first 20-plus years of his career, Ringo worked in Louisiana's petrochemical industry, where he observed the impact of pollution on the local communities, primarily poor and minority. He will talk about diverse participation in the environmental movement.

#### **Brewing Fat Tire beer**

Tuesday, Feb. 22, MU Sun Room: **Kim Jordan** is CEO and, with her husband, co-founder of Colorado-based New Belgium Brewing, the country's third-largest craft brewer well known for its Fat Tire beer label. New Belgium also is recognized for its environmental commitment and progressive business practices, which include diverting 99 percent of brewery waste from the landfill and producing electricity from solar and wind power as well as methane harvested from its wastewater treatment plant. She will talk about business innovation and the environment.

### **Telling Atanasoff's story**

Thursday, March 3, MU Sun Room: Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former English department faculty member (1981-97) **Jane Smiley** returns to campus to talk about her latest book, *The Man Who Invented the Computer*, published last year. It's a biography of John Atanasoff, the Iowa State physics professor credited with inventing the first digital electronic computer in the late 1930s. Smiley received the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *A Thousand Acres*. She was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2001.

## Talking politics and leadership

Thursday, March 31 (7:30 p.m.), MU Sun Room: Public television's **Gwen Ifill** is moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week* and senior correspondent for *The PBS Newshour*. She covered six presidential campaigns and moderated the vice presidential debates in 2004 and 2008. Before joining PBS, she was a political correspondent for NBC News and covered the White House and politics for *The New York Times*. She is the Catt Center's spring 2011 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics, and will talk about leadership and politics.

## DIY projects á la Amy Sedaris

Monday, April 11, MU Great Hall: Actress and comedienne **Amy Sedaris** will stop on campus as part of a book tour. *Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People* has been in stores since November. The comic look at do-it-yourself projects is intended to help fans through dire economic times. Sedaris perhaps is best known for her role as Jerri Blank in Comedy Central's cult hit *Strangers with Candy*, of which she was a co-writer.

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## Progress at the greenhouses

With the horticulture department's new greenhouses enclosed since mid-December, workers now are erecting the interior wall structure and glass panels. The building project is on schedule for completion in May.

State-of-the-art features of the new facility include evaporative cooling, shade curtains for energy conservation and light control, grow lights controlled by the plants' needs based on solar conditions, and a computer system that automatically controls all aspects of the greenhouse. Rolling workbenches will help researchers maximize their space. At less than 14,000 square feet, the facility is about half the size of the former greenhouses, but will support the activities of the horticulture department -- on a year-round basis, something not feasible in the old space. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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## **2011 will bring speedier wireless to campus**

by Diana Pounds

Patience is a necessary virtue for Memorial Union food court patrons who engage in wireless web surfing while they lunch. As diners overwhelm the wireless access points in the court, connections slow to a crawl.

However, help is on the way for those toting wireless devices in the food court and other popular spots on campus. Information technology services staff soon will begin a project to add 100 new wireless access points to high-traffic wireless spots around campus. The project is a result of a fall call for proposals from the Computation Advisory Committee, the group that oversees spending of student technology fees.

### **Team-oriented routers**

The access points, which employ the latest technology, can be networked in high-demand places like the MU food court, said Jennifer Lohrbach, senior systems analyst in information technology services and leader of the project.

"Networked access points will work with each other to distribute the load," Lohrbach said. "If there's too much traffic on an access point in one section of the food court, for example, another nearby access point will extend its coverage and take on some of the load."

Lohrbach said half of the new access points will be installed in high-demand areas, determined by ITS staff. ISU students will determine where the other access points will go.

"Since this is leveraging student technology fee dollars, we'll do an online survey and let students vote on where they want us to install the remaining access points," she said.

### **Funded by student computer fees**

The \$350,541 wireless access project is funded by student technology fees. It was approved by the Computation Advisory Committee, a group that helps determine how computer fee money will be spent. The committee, a mix of students, faculty and staff, periodically seeks proposals that broadly impact student computing or demonstrate innovative uses of information technology for instruction. CAC will call for proposals for innovative projects again in spring 2011.

### **Wireless spots on campus**

Approximately 100 buildings on campus offer wireless access in one or more rooms. Outdoor areas that are wireless include central campus, the lawn between Parks Library and the Enrollment Services Center, and the courtyard on the south side of the Scheman Building.

While there is a longer term campus plan to replace and upgrade campus wireless access points, the 100 new access points resulting from this project will primarily go into areas that currently do not



have wireless access, Lohrbach said.

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## **Climate change is affecting how Iowans live and work**

by Mike Krapfl, News Service

Iowans are seeing increases in precipitation and temperature, a longer and warmer growing season, better conditions for the survival and spread of agricultural pests and the economic consequences of a changing climate, according to a report authored by researchers at Iowa's three regent universities.

"Climate change already is affecting the way Iowans live and work," reads the study by the Iowa Climate Change Impacts Committee. "Without action to mitigate these affects, our future responses will become more complex and costly."

Legislation approved in April 2009 directed the committee to study the effects of climate change on Iowa. That study was conducted by representatives from Iowa State, Iowa and Northern Iowa and coordinated by the Iowa Office of Energy Independence. The [study \(PDF\)](#) was sent to Gov. Chet Culver and the Iowa General Assembly on Jan. 3.

Iowa State contributors to the report were Gene Takle, professor of geological and atmospheric sciences and agronomy who directs the university's Climate Science Program; Richard Cruse, professor of agronomy; Dave Swenson, associate scientist in economics; and Natalia Rogovska, a post-doctoral research associate in agronomy.

### **More precipitation, warmer temps**

Takle reported on climate changes in Iowa. He noted Iowa has experienced a long-term trend toward more precipitation, an increase in extreme summer rainfall and warmer temperatures, particularly over the winter and at night.

"Current state climate changes are linked, in very complex and sometimes yet-unknown ways, to global climate change," Takle wrote in the report. "Some changes, such as the increased frequency of precipitation extremes that lead to flooding, have seriously affected the state in a negative way. Others, such as more favorable summer growing conditions, have benefitted the state's economy."

### **Changes both good and bad for ag**

Cruse and Rogovska reported on agriculture in Iowa. They noted that some recent climate changes are good for agriculture. The longer growing season and reduced drought stress have helped increase corn and soybean yields.

But, they wrote, higher monthly rainfall, more atmospheric moisture from crop transpiration and reductions in winds also create favorable conditions for crop pests and pathogens. An increase in the intensity and amount of rainfall also is increasing soil erosion in farm fields.

Swenson reported on Iowa's economy, infrastructure and emergency services. He noted that the most prominent impacts of climate change likely are to be seen in agriculture. Longer, warmer and wetter

growing seasons should increase corn yields, and higher amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide could increase soybean yields. The result should be stable or lower food and feed costs.

But, he wrote, by mid-century warmer drier conditions are expected to decrease crop yields and livestock health.

## **Seven recommendations**

To address these and other impacts of a changing climate, the committee recommended seven policy initiatives:

- Consider the rising financial and human impacts of Iowa's recent climate trends -- including more extreme rain events that can result in summer floods -- in policy and appropriation decisions.
- Take strong steps to protect Iowa's soil, water quality and long-term agricultural productivity.
- Increase investments in state programs that enhance wildlife habitat and management because changes in climate will directly impact game and nongame species.
- Ask the Iowa Department of Public Health to report annually on how changing climate is affecting the health of Iowans.
- Advocate for federal highway construction standards that consider the effects of climate change and encourage the Iowa Department of Transportation to explore interim construction designs that account for trends in Iowa's climate.
- Authorize the Iowa Insurance Division to periodically issue reports and recommendations about the risks and costs of property insurance related to climate-related claims and payouts.
- Fund ongoing research of Iowa's climate and how climate changes will affect Iowa and Iowans.

"Iowans already are living with warmer winters, longer growing seasons, warmer nights, higher dew-point temperatures, increased humidity, greater annual streamflows and more frequent severe precipitation events than were prevalent during the past 50 years," the committee wrote in its report.

"Some of the impacts of these changes could be construed as positive, and some are negative, particularly the tendency for greater precipitation events and flooding. In the near-term, we may expect these trends to continue as long as climate change is prolonged and exacerbated by increasing greenhouse gas emissions globally from the use of fossil fuels and fertilizers, the clearing of land, and agricultural and industrial emissions."

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Iowa State Center general manager Mark North presented career development awards to (left) Karen Jesse (Oberlin Conservatory, Ohio, and Curtis Institute, Philadelphia) and Allison Czer (University of Iowa) at last year's Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in Ames. *Submitted photo.*

## The next great Metropolitan Opera star just might audition in Ames Saturday

by Sara Compton, Iowa State Center

On Jan. 8, nearly 30 up-and-coming opera singers will pin their hopes on the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions being held in Tye Hall, Music Building. Auditions begin at noon and the public is invited to sit in for some or all of them.

Ames entrants will come from as far away as San Francisco and Philadelphia, but also as close as Iowa City and Marshalltown in this "sing-off" of sorts. Following the auditions, a reception during the judges' deliberation provides audience members an opportunity to meet the singers.

The Met auditions are designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in developing their careers. The feedback participants receive from nationally recognized judges ranges from career advice to recommendations for advanced study or apprenticeships. At each level, singers vie for cash awards to assist with further study.

Annually, approximately 100 former audition contestants appear in productions of New York City's

Metropolitan Opera.

## **The tradition**

Each year, more than 1,500 aspiring young singers enter the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 41 districts in the United States and Canada. Winners of the district auditions advance to one of 14 region finals where they compete to win a trip to New York to participate in the national semifinals, held on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House. Approximately 10 singers make it to the final round and compete in a public concert, accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The jury awards approximately five Grand Winner awards (\$15,000 for music studies).

Winners also are eligible to audition for additional grant money over the next three years. In this way, the council has the opportunity to track the singers' progress and assist in their career development.

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