



Feb. 3

Life on the wild side

A group of undergrads staffs the student-run Wildlife Care Clinic in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Since 1984, hundreds of animals have been treated, rehabilitated and released back into their natural habitat.

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Five questions with the Drupal guy

By day, he's an IT systems analyst, providing support to several departments, perhaps most famously entomology. In the web world, John VanDyk is a rock star.



John VanDyk

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Tuition increase is on regents agenda Feb. 3

The state Board of Regents will take its first look at tuition and student fee rates for 2011-12 when it meets Feb. 3 in Iowa City. An audio stream of the meeting is available on the board's website.

Feb. 3

Finalist visits scheduled in VP for Extension search

Five candidates will interview on campus later this month for the vice president for extension and outreach position. Each visit includes an open forum. Candidate names and biographies will be posted next week.

Feb. 3

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert came upon this elemental mural?

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Energy savings drop during this year's winter break

Milder weather, no required furloughs and more people working on campus are just some of the

**Announcements**

- Volunteer for free nutrition counseling with a dietetics student
- Registration for sustainability symposium closes Feb. 15
- Interfraternity Council is looking for former Greeks among faculty, staff
- President Geoffroy will speak at P&S Council open forum Feb. 21
- Ag career day bumped from Feb. 2 to Feb. 3; same time and place
- IT proposals sought for innovative instruction
- Catt Hall south steps closed for repairs
- Funding available for undergraduate research assistant posts
- Learn about USDA's APHIS permits Feb. 9

Arts & events

Avatar

Giving Avatar its voice

Linguist and Hollywood consultant Paul Frommer will be on campus Feb. 3 to talk about his work on the blockbuster film *Avatar*.

Honors & awards


- Jim Twetten

Around campus

- ISU study finds TV ad violence and the Super Bowl impact kids
- Engineering college receives endowed dean post
- First seed grant recipients named

Inside tools

reasons ISU saw less energy savings during this year's winter break.



Where's Bob?

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First seed grant recipients named

Three university teams are the first to benefit from a new seed grant program offered by the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities. The teams are working on projects involving ethical science communications, a theatre production based on interviews and photos of immigrant farmers, and designing educational experiences for children with autism.

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Inside Tools

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Life on the wild side

Five undergraduate students, including from left Jacie Garden and Erica Eaves, seniors in animal ecology; and Tasia Nielsen, a junior in animal science; spend much of their time (sometimes up to 10-hour days) rehabilitating injured wild animals at the Wildlife Care Clinic in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The clinic is staffed daily and also offers 24-hour emergency service.

The student-run clinic opened in 1984. During that time, the staff has treated thousands of animals, including bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, barred owls, coyotes, mink and white-tailed deer. Most of the animals admitted to the clinic suffer injuries as a result of human activity, such as car collisions, hunting accidents and power line electrocution. The clinic staff treats the animals and releases them back to their natural habitat. Some raptors, like those pictured, are kept at the clinic and used for educational purposes.

The Wildlife Care Clinic is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and income from educational programs. All funds go toward supplies for the animals. [More information](#) about the clinic is online. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Photo by Bob Elbert.

Five questions for John VanDyk

by Diana Pounds

On campus, he's the guy who launched entomology's legendary insect gallery. At home, he's a father of eight. In the web world, he's a rock star.

ISU systems analyst John VanDyk has a few things going. He provides IT services to several departments, including entomology, the department that garnered internet fame for its early entry on the web, and particularly, for its VanDyk-built insect photo gallery. The early bugs were mostly Iowa crop pests, photographed by former ISU entomologist Marlin Rice, but they were an immense hit and soon, bug sites were showing up all over the internet. ISU's entomology department currently hosts [BugGuide](#), a massive collection of North American insects, photographed by the public.

Beyond campus, VanDyk was among a band of early developers of Drupal, a popular open source content management system for the web now used by millions of websites, including [The White House](#). With then-ISU colleague Matt Westgate, VanDyk wrote one of the most popular Drupal books ever, "Pro Drupal Development," which debuted in 2007. He followed up with a second

edition in 2008; the third edition is just out this month.

Quick! Do you know what a Blatella is?

In the event of a nuclear war, [this animal](#) is widely believed to inherit the earth.

How many hits do you get on the Bug Guide?

BugGuide.net had over 809 million hits in 2010, which averages to about 26 hits a second. BugGuide has become a huge encyclopedia of insects and spiders. We currently have 384,000 images in the guide and almost 34,000 written pages. This represents about 23 percent of the estimated insect species in North America.

So how were sales on your Drupal book?

We didn't get rich (we would have made more working nights in fast food instead of writing) but that wasn't our aim. We were trying to entice good web developers to join the Drupal project by providing solid documentation. We found out how much pent-up demand there was when the book shot to No. 1 on Amazon.com. **That was just for 'geek' books on Amazon, not all books, right?** No, believe it or not, that was No. 1 for all books on Amazon!

What good is Drupal to non-tech folks?

An analogous question might be, "what good are pipes to non-plumbers?" In the same way that you don't have to know how to braze copper pipe to use a water faucet, you can surf the web without knowing that Drupal is creating the web pages. If you are a web content creator, Drupal allows you to easily create and update web pages without being a "techie."

For example, Drupal empowers entomologists Donald Lewis and Laura Jesse to publish the popular [Horticulture & Home Pest News](#) with very little support from me. I set up the website in Drupal and handed control over to them. Drupal allows me to put complex functionality together quickly. It's like a power toolkit for web developers.

As an open source project, Drupal welcomes all kinds of contributors, not just coders! That's one aspect of Drupal that seems key to why it is growing so quickly: there is an emphasis on people helping one another get up to speed. This is done through online forums, online chat, but importantly, also through in-person meet-up groups across the world. The Iowa group (groups.drupal.org/iowa) meets in Ames on the last Monday of each month. All are welcome, especially "newbies," and the atmosphere is accepting and relaxed.

Do you know who Tom Bradford* is and if so, do you ever feel like him?

Sorry, our old black-and-white TV was only on for essentials like the evening news, *Wild Kingdom* and *The Six Million Dollar Man*.

*Editor's note: Tom Bradford was Dick Van Patten's good-natured father figure in the 70s sitcom *Eight is Enough*.

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Regents to discuss 2011-12 tuition and student fees at Thursday meeting

by Anne Krapfl

The state Board of Regents is scheduled to meet Thursday, Feb. 3, in Iowa City. An interactive [meeting agenda](#) is online. Following a closed session to discuss a collective bargaining issue, the public meeting will begin around 9 a.m.

Board members will have their first discussion of a proposed tuition and fee increase for the 2011-12 year. The proposal would increase tuition for Iowa residents (undergraduates and graduates) 5 percent and nonresident students 3.5 percent. A proposed 20 percent increase in mandatory student fees (from \$895 to \$1,078 per student, per year) primarily is to begin to pay the debt on the new recreation facility that opens in August. The board won't make a decision on tuition and fees until its March 23 meeting. For the first time, any proposed increases in non-tuition-related student fees for next year also will be reviewed at this meeting. In the past, the so-called "miscellaneous fees" were presented to the board for approval later in the spring.

During ISU-specific items on the agenda, vice president for business and finance Warren Madden will provide another update on reconstruction and mitigation efforts following flooding on campus last August. University Professor of economics Peter Orazem will present the results of an ISU alumni career survey (graduating classes of 1986 to 2006) that focuses on entrepreneurship, job creation and factors that increase the probability of each.

Iowa State also will seek final permission to proceed with renovating the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system for the Laboratory Animal Resources central facility within the College of Veterinary Medicine building. As proposed, 99 percent of the \$4.4 million price tag would be covered by ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds via a grant from the National Institutes of Health; the office of the vice president for research and economic development would provide the rest.

Listen in live

Live audio streaming of all open sessions of the meeting will be available at the [board website](#).

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Campus visits scheduled for VP for extension candidates

by Anne Krapfl

Five candidates for the position of Vice President for Extension and Outreach will interview on campus during the time period Feb. 14-March 1. Their interviews will include meetings with a variety of stakeholders and an open forum with the university community. The open forums may be viewed live online via ISU Extension's [Adobe Connect system](#) and also will be archived for viewing after March 1.

Names and information about the five candidates will be posted on the [website](#) of the executive vice president and provost the week of Feb. 7.

All five open forums will be held in 1951 Food Sciences (an auditorium). Dates and times are as follows:

- Feb. 15, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22, 3:30-5 p.m.
- Feb. 24, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 1, 3-4:30 p.m.

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Where's Bob?

This campus mural by artist Brian Netten fills a wall (floor to ceiling) in the east foyer of Coover Hall. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Winter break yielded less energy savings this year

by Paula Van Brocklin

This year's partial university-wide shutdown during winter break (Dec. 23-Jan. 2) didn't impact Iowa State's energy savings as significantly as last year, and there may be several reasons for that.

Iowa State saved \$38,000 in energy costs during winter break this year compared to almost \$118,000 last year. Milder weather, no university-required furloughs and more people working on campus all contributed to the reduced savings, according to Bob Currie, assistant director of facility services. In addition, this year 47 buildings were either closed or locked to the public versus 55 last year. And two new research facilities, Hach Hall and the Biorenewables Research Laboratory, still were under construction during last year's winter break.

"In a lot of instances, providing heat for one office means providing heat for a whole floor or building."

-- Bob Currie

Closed ... sort of

Currie added that more employees remained on campus during break, working in labs or offices, despite the fact that their buildings may have been closed.

"It appeared that many buildings were closed for normal business activity, but still had faculty and staff working through the holiday period," he said. "In a lot of instances, providing heat for one office means providing heat for a whole floor or building."

Another explanation for the reduced savings could be an ongoing conservation effort happening across campus. In other words, buildings are operating at higher efficiency levels, so a partial university-wide shutdown would not garner as much savings. And, it may be that faculty and staff are not conserving as much as they used to.

"The biggest impact on energy savings comes down to individual decisions, like deciding to shut off the lights when you leave your office," Currie said. "I think people are getting a bit more relaxed [about conserving energy]."

For the past two years, university officials have encouraged departments and units to shut down, if possible, during winter break. While energy savings is a positive outcome of a partial university-wide shutdown, administrators also recognize the opportunity for employees to take time off while students are off campus.

A comparison: 2010 vs. 2009

2010

2009

Electric savings	\$18,900	\$29,500
Steam (heat) savings	\$19,000	\$88,400

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Funds focus: Science communication, theatrical production, new approach for autistic kids

Three university teams are the first to benefit from a new seed grant program to help initiate collaborative, interdisciplinary research or artistic production. The grants, offered through the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, are intended to support projects with the potential to compete for national recognition or sponsored funding. CEAH provides grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Following are seed grant recipients this year:

Ethical science communication

Jean Goodwin, Mike Dahlstrom, Kevin de Laplante and the Science Communication at ISU research group received a grant to begin building an interdisciplinary program focused on effective, ethical use of science communication within controversial policy-making. Goodwin is assistant professor of English; Dahlstrom, assistant professor in the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication and deLaplante, chair of philosophy and religious studies. They will:

- Explore ways to guard against politicization of scientific information and promote informed decision-making
- Host a summer symposia series at which science communicators from around the world will discuss the challenges of maintaining scientific credibility during heated policy debates
- Design a seminar course for graduate students in science, technology, engineering and math fields to disseminate the results of their research

"Scientists are being called to bridge the gap between science and policy, which is a communicative role that is poorly understood and filled with significant pitfalls," Goodwin said. "When policy makers confuse scientific information with political advocacy, democracy cannot function as it should."

The [Science Communication at ISU](#) research group invites interested faculty to attend its monthly colloquium series or contact a member of the group to get involved.

Immigrants' words, photos, form backdrop for theatrical production

Mary Swander and Dennis Chamberlin will create a readers' theatre production based on interviews and photographs of immigrant farmers from the Hmong, Mexican, Sudanese and Russian traditions. Immigrants' own words will become the text of the script created by Swander, Distinguished professor in English. Chamberlin, assistant professor in the Greenlee School of Journalism and

About the grants

For more information about the seed-grants program, see [Seed Grants for Collaborative Work \(PDF\)](#).

Communication, will photograph the immigrants, and photos will be projected on the face of the venue building and on the back wall of the set, becoming the backdrop for the staged production.

The play will be produced on campus and tour throughout the United States and Europe. Swander and Chamberlin also will create a website archive that will allow scholars around the world to post and share agricultural documentary materials. This data will be available for the study of sustainable agricultural practices, immigrant and labor relations, gastronomy, photojournalism, play wrighting and interviewing techniques.

New experience for autistic children

Art and design faculty Debra Satterfield, Sunghyun Kang, Anson Call and Steve Herrstadt will conduct research to design and evaluate an educational experience for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). This play experience, called Play•IT, seeks to create a learning environment that allows a child with ASD and a typical child to play together in ways that are socially, emotionally, behaviorally and motivationally appropriate for both children, thereby enhancing their social experiences.

The team will conduct ethnographic research with children, caregivers and other collaborators who have expertise in autism, design, disabilities, physical therapy, occupational therapy, neurology, computer science, game design and education.

The long-term goal of the research is to develop a new approach for the design and evaluation of the learning experiences. The research will be shared so that products and services designed for children with autism better meet their unique needs and enhance their quality of life.

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Na'vi: Sprechen sie? Habla? Parlez-vous?

Linguist Paul Frommer will talk about his work on James Cameron's 2009 blockbuster movie, *Avatar*, in a Feb. 3 lecture. "Giving Avatar its Voice: Creating the Na'vi Language," will begin at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Union Great Hall, and is free and open to the public. Frommer, a professor at the University of Southern California and Hollywood consultant, developed new languages for both *Avatar* and Disney's upcoming film, *John Carter of Mars*. His presentation is the Quentin Johnson Lecture in Linguistics, and the first lecture in this year's national affairs series on innovation. *Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox.*



Paul Frommer