



April 14

Colorful time of year

Early blooms are popping up across campus, including this patch of brave blue flowers near Carver Hall.

April 14

It's Veishea weekend

Open houses, music, food, performances, canoe races, a parade. It's all part of the annual Veishea celebration, which concludes this weekend. Much of it is free.



Veishea

April 14

Renovations will close café in Frederiksen Court for the summer

ISU Dining's Hawthorn Market and Café will close for most of the summer for a renovation that will reconfigure the food service area and create a secured hallway that gives students 24-hour access to the lounge.

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Well-connected students seek more mobile apps

A recent survey shows most ISU students are packing laptops and smart phones. On their wish lists are mobile apps to make campus life more convenient.

April 14

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert found this portal to the past?



Where's Bob?

April 14

Council favors FY12 salary increases

P&S Council members voted in favor of FY12 salary increases. The resolution, passed at the April 7 council meeting, also recommends keeping benefits at their current levels.

April 14

P&S staff survey: The results are in

P&S Council members learned the results from this month's survey of professional and

Announcements

- Institutional Research's 2010-11 *Student Profile* is online
- University Book Store adds inkjet cartridge refilling system
- Purchase advance tickets for Veishea's international food fair
- Three receive Margaret Sloss Gender Equity Award
- April 20 info session discusses responsible animal research
- Wanted: Grad student to co-chair 2012 social justice summit
- ISU Dining wants to know your thoughts
- April 17 campus reading focuses on Korean adoptees

Receptions & open houses

Receptions

- Centennial celebration for agricultural education, April 16
- Sylvia Munsen, April 20

Retirement

- Roger Smith, April 20

Arts & events



Cyclone tennis

Final Cyclone home stand

The Iowa State tennis team plays its final home matches this weekend.

Honors & awards

- Mary-Beth Golemo

Around campus

- New TV contract announced for Big

scientific staff. Performance reviews, salaries and recreation fees were among the topics covered.

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12 Conference

- Fifth annual undergraduate research symposium is April 19

Inside tools

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Here comes the color

A student passes a small field of Siberian Squill east of Carver Hall earlier this week. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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The Huber (red pinnies) and Boro teams battled it out Tuesday evening during the Veishea coed 4-on-4 basketball tournament at the Lied Center. Veishea week includes about a dozen competitive-but-fun events. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Your guide to Veishea weekend

by Annette Hacker, News Service

Iowa State's annual student-run Veishea celebration observes 89 years of tradition this week with Cyclone family favorites and an extensive entertainment lineup. Events began Monday; here are some highlights planned for the rest of the week:

Veishea favorites

Family fun underneath Cy's Big Top, canoe races on Lake LaVerne and carnival rides and games near the Molecular Biology Building will be back.

This year's "Stars Over Veishea" production is Cole Porter's classic play within a musical, *Kiss Me, Kate*. Remaining performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday in Fisher Theater. Tickets are \$21, or \$16 for ISU students and those under 18, available at the Iowa State Center ticket office or at the door.

Woo-eee! A dinger of a grand marshal

Legendary Cyclone men's basketball coach (1980-94) Johnny Orr will return to lead the Veishea parade, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. More than 100 parade entries will wind their way through campus (starting near the Armory and ending at the east campus parking deck).

Parade-goers will notice one change this year: fewer jumbo balloons. Parade co-chair junior Wes Strohbahn said high helium prices have left him expecting just two balloon entries in the 2011 parade.

The parade can be viewed statewide on the Mediacom Connections channel (cable channel 22 in central Iowa) at 5:30 p.m. April 16. ISU staffers Mike Ferlazzo (News Service) and Marc Harding (Admissions) will anchor the telecast. Strohbahn said airtimes still are being finalized, but he expects at least four to six opportunities for viewers to watch the parade on TV, and it should be available to Mediacom customers via video on demand, too.

Veishea Village

Academic organizations and student groups will present 70 displays on central campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. They will include demonstrations by the ISU Robotics Club at Black Engineering, outdoor shows by the taekwondo and judo clubs and, as usual, lots of interactive engineering displays. Students in the ISU Game Development Competition (sponsored by a \$50,000 Motorola grant) will show off their original video game designs (1-3 p.m., 0141 Pearson). Students Helping Rescue Animals will host a "Have a Heart" adoption event. And in the popular agronomy department tent, you can learn how crops are used; play in the dirt; see how water moving underground affects our wells, rivers and streams; and more (don't miss the free "soil profile" pudding cups and popcorn).

Pancakes, cherry pies and whole lot more

A \$5 button will score you a picnic lunch through Friday on central campus. The buttons also are valid for discounts at participating Ames businesses during Veishea week. Midnight pancake feeds will be held on Friday and Saturday. Taste of Veishea vendors will be located on Union Drive and near Molecular Biology Friday through 3 a.m. Sunday.

And don't forget to pick up your cherry pie -- an Iowa State tradition since 1919. Hospitality management students will make and sell 12,750 of the delectable little tarts on Friday and Saturday (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily or until they're sold out). Pies are \$1 each in 16 MacKay. Proceeds help fund scholarships.

Spring football

The Cyclone football team will conclude its spring training with an intrasquad game Saturday (2 p.m., Jack Trice Stadium). Admission is free. A radio broadcast of the game will air on KASI (AM 1430).

Nearly 20 student organizations will share food favorites from their home cultures during the annual **international food fair** Saturday (11 a.m.-3 p.m., MU Great Hall). Admission is \$3 plus the cost of food samples. To avoid lines at the door, pre-purchase your tickets Thursday or Friday (11 a.m.-2 p.m., west ticket booth, MU ground floor).

The Showoff Show

At 9 p.m. and midnight Friday on central campus (rain location: MU Great Hall), Evan Young and Jonathan Burns ("the showoffs") will guide audience members on a bizarre journey of comedy, circus-style stunts and pranks. Young, a professional juggler, and Burns, a comedian and contortionist, get the crowd in on the action as they teach them stunts to "try at home." You can preview the Lancaster, Pa., duo's show on YouTube.

Donald Glover's "I AM DONALD!" tour

Actor and comedian Donald Glover will bring his stand-up tour to Stephens Auditorium on Saturday for a free show at 9 p.m. Most recognized for his role as Troy on NBC's *Community*, Glover was hired as a staff writer on the hit show *30 Rock* while still a resident assistant at NYU. During his time at *30 Rock*, the show won two Emmys for outstanding comedy series and a Writer's Guild Award for best comedy. His first Comedy Central stand-up special aired last spring. In addition to acting, Glover raps under the moniker Childish Gambino. His latest recording, *EP* (extended play), was released in March.

Concerts in the Molecular Biology parking lots

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday night **outdoor concerts** are available to ISU students, faculty, staff and alumni. Concerts will be held rain or shine; tickets are nonrefundable. Tickets will be exchanged for wristbands at the concert venue.

Student, faculty and staff tickets are on sale at the MU Maintenance Shop from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. From April 11 to 15, anyone with a valid university ID may purchase up to five tickets (\$10 each or \$15 for both nights). Night-of-concert tickets will be \$10, subject to availability.

ISU alumni may purchase up to two tickets for the either of the concerts through the **ISU Alumni Association**. The RSVP deadline is 3 p.m. Friday.

A full **schedule of Veishea events** is online.

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Renovations at Hawthorn Market and Cafe planned for summer

by Anne Krapfl

ISU Dining's 10-year-old Hawthorn Market and Cafe will close next month for most of the summer. Renovations will reconfigure the food service area and create a secured hallway in the Frederiksen Court Community Center that gives students 24-hour access to the lounge/study area.

The market and cafe will close following commencement on May 7 and reopen by mid-August.

The estimated \$650,000 construction project is scheduled to be awarded to a contractor next week. ISU Dining also will replace some of the food preparation equipment as part of this project. ISU Dining operating funds will pay for both components of the renovation.

"It was important to the students that they have 24/7 access to the lounge," said ISU Dining director Nancy Levandowski. "We knew when we started discussing this renovation that we needed to make that a priority."

In addition to round-the-clock access to the community center lounge, the renovation will rearrange the food preparation and serving island, with the aim of making it easier and quicker for customers to navigate. These changes include:

- Adding (and moving to the west side) kiosks where customers place their orders for prepared foods.
- Adding a one-time-through buffet on the south side of the food preparation area.

Temporary offices for staff

Frederiksen Court residence staff will continue working out of the community center through summer move-in. They'll relocate to building 42, located immediately southeast of the community center, from approximately May 16 to mid-July. Staff phone numbers will remain the same in their temporary location. Student check-ins, check-outs and general resident assistance will be handled through this location.

Other services in the community center -- fitness center, cash machine, public computers and printers, meeting spaces -- will be unavailable during the renovation.

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Well-connected students seek more mobile apps

by Diana Pounds

Typical Iowa State students have laptops and smart phones. They check their Facebook pages several times a day, but they seldom tweet. They believe educational technology (like WebCT or Blackboard) enhances learning. And they're clamoring for more mobile apps that will make campus life a bit more convenient.

These are some of the findings from a fall 2010 survey of student technology use. Nearly 1,300 students responded to the survey, developed by ComETS, a group of faculty and staff interested in educational technology, and the Research Institute for Studies in Education.

"The survey was intended to help us identify how students use technology in and out of class and how satisfied they are with educational technology at Iowa State," said Jim Twetten, director in information technology services and member of the ComETS steering committee.

Educational technology surveys

- [Students](#) (PDF)
- [Faculty/staff](#) (PDF)

Well-equipped

There were some surprises in the survey. Ninety-one percent of surveyed students reported owning a laptop. And 68 percent own a smart phone, capable of connecting to the Internet.

"We didn't anticipate such high numbers," Twetten said. "However, the smart phone statistics are in line with similar surveys around the country."

Social media

Not so surprising, Facebook was the runaway favorite in the social media category, with 94 percent of students reporting they use the site. Of that group, about 77 percent drop in daily and well over half check their page multiple times per day.

Running a distant second to Facebook among ISU students was Twitter. Only 24 percent of surveyed students had a Twitter account and, of those, only 27 percent used it daily. About 16 percent of surveyed students said they had a LinkedIn account and 4 percent, a Foursquare account.

Students split along seniority lines when asked if they thought it was OK for instructors to ask students to use their social networking sites for class. A slight majority of upperclassmen and grad students disapproved of leveraging social media for academic purposes, while a slight majority of freshmen and sophomores approved.

In class

Students generally reported satisfaction with educational technology at Iowa State. Ninety percent said educational technology, such as WebCT and Blackboard, enhances learning, and 77 percent said it makes class time more effective.

Twetten said IT staff will conduct focus groups to dig deeper into concerns expressed by students who were not satisfied with the use of educational technology at Iowa State.

What students want: Mobile apps

One thing that came through clearly in the survey is that students want more mobile access to ISU information, both in and out of class, Twetten said.

Students indicated they'd like to see mobile applications for grade checks, assignments, syllabi, class announcements, dining hall menus and hours, AccessPlus, CyCash, athletics tickets and more.

Recommendations

The survey prompted several recommendations:

- Develop strategies and systems to meet growing demand for mobile-friendly information.
- Find ways to expose freshmen to educational technologies that they'll experience during their academic careers.
- Build an optional instructor template for WebCT/Blackboard that includes the primary tools students indicated they want in their course management system.
- Given increasing laptop ownership and decreasing computer lab use, take a closer look at students' needs for lab space.
- Re-survey students frequently to assess their needs in fast-moving technology fields.

Twetten said the ComETS steering committee will work with administration and the colleges to implement the recommendations made in the report.

Faculty/staff technology survey

ComETs also did a survey of faculty and staff on their uses and needs in educational technology. That report is available on the [ComETS website](#).

ISU student survey results

Tech gear ownership	%
Cell phone	99
Laptop	91
Desktop computer	29
Digital camera	72
Kindle/Nooks	4
Smart phone	68
iPhone/iTouch	42
Droid	9
Blackberry	12
Windows mobile device	7
Net-book	9

Numbers are rounded to nearest integer.

Educational technology	Agree Disagree	
	%	%
Learning is enhanced	90	10
Interaction with classmates is enhanced	59	42
Interaction with instructors is enhanced	67	33
Class time is used more effectively	77	23
Instructors seem comfortable using WebCT	72	28
It is easy to access WebCT	90	10
I like to have technology integrated into my classes	90	10
I can get adequate technical assistance when I need it	83	17
Overall, I'm satisfied with WebCT	85	15

Numbers are rounded to nearest integer.

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Where's Bob?

The Bell System manhole covers on campus -- like this one near the Black Engineering Building-- identify an underground system of vaults and conduits that provided phone service to the university until December 1985 when Iowa State began operating its own telecommunications system. Today, it's part of the Qwest Communications system serving residential and commercial customers in northwest Ames.

In Iowa, the Bell name became US West in 1984, when the federal government-ordered breakup of the monopoly was completed. It's not known precisely how old these campus manhole covers are, but they could date back to the 1940s.

Today, all university utilities are located underground, so the plain manhole covers around campus could be on vaults containing sanitary or storm sewers, steam tunnels, high voltage electrical lines or telecommunications systems. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

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Council approves salary recommendation

by Erin Rosacker

Members of the Professional and Scientific Council approved a resolution on salary adjustments for fiscal year 2012 at their April 7 meeting. The vote followed the council's review of feedback from the latest (April 2011) [P&S staff survey](#).

The resolution supports salary increases for employees with satisfactory or better performance appraisals, and recommends using additional funds for market and equity gaps, performance rewards and retention needs. It also calls for benefit levels to remain the same, a reference to the temporary reduction last year in the university's TIAA-CREF contributions and an increase in employee's health care insurance costs.

Some discussion surrounded a proposed amendment from Mike Miller, information technology officer in the College of Design. The amendment would have added the statement that "every effort" be made in "maintaining current staffing levels."

"It is a very nice sentiment, but it's not possible," said executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman. "You're putting in something that I can't enforce and it's not possible for units to enforce. There are going to be units like the [Agriculture and Home Economics] Experiment Station and Extension that are going to suffer very large losses in their budget."

The amendment failed to pass, but the resolution passed 34-4. It is the first agenda item this year that did not receive unanimous approval.

Other business

A motion in favor of the conflicts of interest and commitment [draft policy](#) was introduced and will be voted on next month. The policy, which cleared the Faculty Senate on April 5, outlines employee disclosure of external activities that may impact performance of duty, objectivity and appropriate use of state resources.

P&S staff survey

- [Complete survey results \(PDF\)](#)
- [P&S Council presentation \(PDF\)](#)

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P&S staff survey: The results are in

by Erin Rosacker

More than 1,100 professional and scientific staff participated in the latest P&S Council survey, which included questions about performance appraisals, salary policy and recreation fees. The [survey results](#) are available on the council's website.

In a presentation of [selected results \(PDF\)](#) at the April 7 council meeting, survey organizers compared data to results collected in past years. Virgil Schmitt, chair of the council's compensation and benefits committee, said his group drew the following conclusions:

- Implementation of the performance management policy has increased participation in performance appraisals
- Satisfaction with salary levels is declining
- Support is growing in favor of salary increases over position retention (24.2 percent), although many still don't favor sacrificing positions to achieve salary increases (41.8 percent)
- A 2 to 3 percent salary increase is appropriate, despite lack of additional funding

This year, the council's recruitment and retention committee added retention-based questions to the survey. Respondents ranked benefits, rewarding/challenging work and financial compensation as the top three reasons they stay at ISU.

When asked about supervisors, more than half of the participants agreed or strongly agreed their immediate supervisors communicate expectations and provide positive/constructive feedback on their work. However, more than 16 percent of those surveyed viewed their supervisors as unskilled or incompetent. Committee chair David Meisinger said his group found that percentage unacceptably high.

Recreation fees

Survey organizers also added questions to gauge P&S staff views on new recreation facility fees. Of the 1,124 staff who answered the question, about 68 percent said they do not use campus recreation facilities.

Only 6.4 percent of those who responded as current users (358) said they would pay the full \$403 annual charge to use the facilities. When given alternatives, 36.8 percent said they would pay \$100 annually, 32.7 percent would pay \$200 and 3.4 percent would pay \$300. More than 27 percent said they would only continue using the facilities if there was no charge.

More P&S news

Council members reviewed the survey results at their [April 7 meeting](#), prior to voting on a salary recommendation.

Basic demographics

The bulk of survey respondents were age 50 to 59 (30 percent), age 40-49 (25.6 percent) or age 30-39 (23.3 percent). Nearly 60 percent were female, and more than 95 percent work full time. The best response rate came from employees who have worked at ISU from two to four years (23.2 percent), 15 to 24 years (19.6 percent) and five to nine years (19.3 percent).

A combined 920 comments were submitted to the survey's two open-ended questions. Kevin Kane, a former council leader who helped administer the survey, said those comments, concerns and questions will be forwarded to the executive vice president and provost once any specific identifiers are deleted.

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Final home stand for Cyclone tennis

The Cyclone tennis team closes out its home schedule this weekend with matches against Big 12 Conference rivals Texas A&M (April 15, 2 p.m.) and Texas (April 16, 2:30 p.m.). Matches are played at the Forker tennis courts, or move to Ames Racquet and Fitness (320 S. 17th St.) in inclement weather. Sophomore Simona Cacciuttolo, pictured above, plays at the No. 4 singles spot and owns an 11-7 record at No. 2 doubles. *Photo by Steve Pope.*

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