



April 28

ISU Library: By the numbers

The largest book. The smallest book. The oldest book. The book most frequently checked out. Discover some interesting facts about the ISU Library.

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Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer found this network of glass and steel?

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Regents approve Harkin institute

By a 6-2 vote, the state Board of Regents Wednesday approved a new public policy institute at Iowa State that will be named for alumnus and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin.

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Federal requirement and now ISU policy: Effort reporting

A new university policy and FAQ help research faculty comply with an existing federal requirement. The work ("effort") charged to a grant must be completed during the time period a researcher receives at least part of his or her salary from the grant.



Where's Bob?

Announcements

- Brunner Art Museum Store to close, liquidation sale is May 6-8
- Learning Communities Institute is May 9
- ISU team wins national ag contest
- Same copy paper, new purple box
- Student club members will plant trees for Arbor Day

Receptions & open houses

Reception

- Post-commencement, May 7

Retirements

- Michael Whiteford, April 29
- Walter Trahanovsky, May 5

Arts & events

Mamma Mia!

Mamma Mia! Here we go again

The touring hit musical *Mamma Mia!* will stop at Stephens Auditorium for two shows, May 2 and 3.

Honors & awards

- Max Rothschild

Around campus

- Students present business ideas in entrepreneurship showcase
- ISU senior will graduate after taking one class per semester for 19 years
- Solar car team will race at Indy

Inside tools

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Of all the books in ISU's library system, here are two that stand out -- the largest and the smallest. The largest book, at just over 40.5 inches tall, is *Birds of America* by John James Audubon (Reprint: New York: Abbeville Press, 1985). The smallest book, at a petite 0.787401 inches tall, is *Addresses of Abraham Lincoln*, part of a three-volume miniature series (Washington, Lincoln and Coolidge) published by the Training Division of the Kingsport Press of Kingsport, Tenn., as student exercises in 1929 and 1930. The *Bomb of 1901* Iowa State yearbook and a ruler help bring the extreme sizes of these books into perspective. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

ISU Library: By the numbers

by Paula Van Brocklin

ISU Library, including Parks Library and its branches in the colleges of Design and Veterinary Medicine, the mathematics department plus a storage building, are chock full of books containing more facts and figures than one can possibly imagine. But the library itself has a pretty interesting story to tell, too. Here's a look at some interesting facts and figures about ISU Library.

Collections

- Total volumes held (including branches): 2,626,074
- Books purchased annually (FY 10): 27,053
- Journals received annually (FY 10): 98,610
- Electronic journals: 85,655
- General collection equals 28.02 miles of books (that's roughly from Parks Library to Ankeny via I-35)
- The oldest book in the library, *Quaestiones de veritate* by Saint Thomas Aquinas, was printed in 1475

Interesting tidbits

- Library building visitors (FY 10): 1,829,230
- Non-ISU library visitor cards: 2,600
- Seats for patrons (including branches): 2,549
- Book checked out most often (2010): An e-book, *GRE Math Bible* by Jeff Kolby and Derrick Vaughn, was checked out 2,942 times
- Top three institutions ISU Library borrows from most: University of Iowa, University of Kansas and University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Top three institutions ISU Library lends to most: University of Iowa, Texas A&M University and University of Arizona

Size matters

- Parks Library: 325,488 square feet
- Design Reading Room (111 Design): 3,096 square feet
- Mathematics Reading Room (409 Carver): 552 square feet
- Veterinary Medical Library (2280 Vet Med): 6,631 square feet
- Library Storage Building (Daley Drive): 16,500 square feet

Art in Parks Library

- Murals: *Prairie Sky* by Kurt Anderson; *Unlimited Possibilities* by Doug Shelton; *When Tillage Begins*, *Agricultural Panel*, *Home Economics Panel* and *Engineering Panel* by Grant Wood; *What We Love About Iowa State* by Sticks
- Sculptures: *Boy and Girl* and *Old Woman in Prayer* by Christian Petersen; *Left-sided Angel* by Stephen DeStaebler; *On Shoulders of Giants* by Nina Ward
- Portraits: Iowa State presidents, William Robert Parks and Ellen Sorge Parks by various artists
- Other art: Judith Lazelere banner; Nellie Walker bas reliefs; Printers' Marks bas reliefs; and Henry Chapman Mercer fireplace tiles

Additional facts about [ISU Library](#) are available online.

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Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert is shooting the east facade of the Administrative Services Building (ASB) on the north side of campus.

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Regents approve Harkin institute

by Anne Krapfl

The state Board of Regents on Wednesday approved a new public policy institute at Iowa State that will be named for ISU alumnus and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin. The vote was 6-2, with regents Greta Johnson and Craig Lang voting no, and regent Ruth Harkin, spouse of the senator, abstaining from the vote.

A motion by Lang to table a decision failed on a 3-5 vote, with regents Lang, Johnson and Jack Evans voting in favor and Harkin again abstaining. Lang said he first learned of the proposed institute last week and was receiving "numerous" emails expressing concerns from around the state. He added that he wanted more time to review the proposal.

Citing the federal Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and ethical concerns, Lang said it's wrong to seek funds for and name an institute "for a person in such a position of power."

Regent Bonnie Campbell said she supports the institute "because I trust President [Gregory] Geoffroy and Provost [Elizabeth] Hoffman.

"And because it is a good thing for Iowa State. Public policy . . . is to be honored. We're very, very lucky to have this opportunity to vote for it," she said.

"From the other side of the political fence, I echo regent Campbell's sentiments," said regent Robert Downer. Regardless of political affiliation, he said the institute is a positive development for the state and something all Iowans could be proud of.

At the request of board president David Miles, Geoffroy and Hoffman made a brief presentation that offered some insight into the institute and how it would be operated. Among the points they made:

- The institute will be run as an academic unit, with a tenured faculty director hired through a national search. The director will be a scholar in a not-yet-determined area of public policy, and he or she will report to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Sen. Harkin's papers, when they arrive on campus, will be archived in the library's special collections unit for both preservation and public use.
- Initial fund raising for the center, an estimated \$3-5 million, is being led by former Iowa Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson and will focus on gifts from Harkin's friends. Future fund raising will be handled

More regents coverage

During **Thursday action items**, the board approved faculty promotion and tenure lists, gave final sign-off to the Troxel Hall and outdoor sports complex projects and began its discussion of a presidential search at Iowa State.

by development staff in the LAS college.

- The institute will have an advisory board that is nonpartisan. It should not include any sitting elected officials or political party activists.
- Sen. Harkin will have no oversight of the center. Neither can its scholarly work be conducted to benefit the senator or any specific donor. Geoffroy said the university's academic integrity will not be compromised.

"From an academic perspective, there's strong, clear merit to establish this institute," Geoffroy said. "It will significantly enhance the university's profile in the public policy arena."

He added, "It would be a travesty if those papers were embedded somewhere in Washington, D.C., say at Catholic University" [where Sen. Harkin received his law degree].

Allocation of student fees next year

The board also approved Iowa State's proposal for allocating mandatory student fees during the 2011-12 academic year. The fees were approved last month with tuition rates and total \$1,077.60 per student. Here's the breakdown of what those dollars will support:

Fee	Amount
Technology	\$230
Health services	\$196
Health facility	\$16
Student activities	
Student government	\$70.50
Legislative relations	\$0.20
Student services	
CyRide	\$125.20
Athletics	\$63
Recreation*	\$321.60
Building	
MU	\$49.10
Multicultural Center	\$6
Total	\$1,077.60

*Includes \$179.90 for bond debt on new recreation facility

Phased retirement, parking permits

In other Iowa State business, the board approved:

- An extension of the application period for the [Phased Plus retirement program \(PDF\)](#), from April 30 to June 30.
- Increases to ISU parking permit prices, including the Memorial Union ramp, for the year that begins July 1. Most increases are in the range of 2.6 to 3.1 percent:

Permit	FY12	Current	Increase
Reserved	\$471	\$457	3.1%
24-hour reserved	\$846	\$821	3.0%
General staff*	\$132	\$128	3.1%

Departmental	\$132	\$128	3.1%
Vendor	\$171	\$166	3.0%
Motorcycle	\$44	\$43	2.3%
Memorial Union ramp			
MU employee	\$474	\$462	2.6%
Annual	\$474	\$462	2.6%
Seasonal**	\$202	\$195	3.6%
Summer	\$162	\$156	3.8%

*Includes Residence, Ames Lab staff permits

**Fall, Winter and Spring

- A name change for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' department of plant pathology, to plant pathology and microbiology, effective immediately. The change will help the department market more effectively its research in plant pathology and microbiology and its undergraduate and graduate teaching programs in microbiology.
- A five-year renewal period (FY 2012-17) for the regent system's phased retirement program, with no changes to the program. This is a longstanding and separate program from ISU's phased plus program. Among the differences in the two is that phased plus is limited to a two-year phasing period; the regents' program has a maximum five-year phasing period. The age and service requirements are different: Eligibility for the phased plus program is age 55 with 10 years of service; the regents' program requires age 57 with at least 15 years of service.

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Effort reporting: federal requirement and university policy

by Anne Krapfl

At risk is a black eye among federal funding agencies and the loss of hundreds of thousands of grant dollars. Those federal agencies require that the work -- or "effort" -- charged to a grant not only is completed, but completed during the time period a researcher receives at least part of his or her salary from the grant.

Iowa State always has adhered to this requirement, with its EASE (Employee Activity Summary of Effort) manual and form. What's different, an outcome of a 2009 internal audit, is a university policy that puts some teeth to the practice. The heart of the new [Effort Reporting and Certification](#) policy, which took effect Feb. 1 after a year under development, reads:

University departments are responsible for ensuring that the salaries charged to federal and other sources are allowable, appropriate and reasonable. Departments are also responsible for the timely monitoring of salary allocations to sponsored projects and regular reporting through an effort reporting system ...

Inaccurate, incomplete or untimely effort reporting may result in funding disallowances and lead to disciplinary action and/or other sanctions against the responsible individual.

What it means

The university is not telling researchers when to work or how much to work, said director of academic policy and personnel Brenda Behling, noting that the policy deliberately makes no reference to hours in a work week. But all faculty and P&S staff who serve as principal investigators (PIs) on sponsored research are personally responsible to certify the amount of effort they and their employees spend on those research activities.

An individual's paid "effort" always equals 100 percent, regardless of the number of hours worked during a reporting period. With budgeting and payroll encumbrances, researchers with federally sourced grants initially make a best estimate of when the work gets done. And then every six months on an EASE form, they certify that the effort reasonably matches the source of pay for the reporting period.

Behling noted that the flexibility of Iowa State's payroll system to actually pay from separate sources for specific months, weeks or even days supports effort reporting.

"We've heard lots of reasons people don't like this practice," Behling said. "It's a federal requirement per the Office of Management and Budget. It's about being in compliance. We don't want to be in a position of having federal funds disallowed."

Summer coverage

A common practice at Iowa State also happens to be one that doesn't comply with the spirit of effort

A new FAQ

Get answers to common questions about [effort reporting](#) at Iowa State.

reporting: B-base (nine-month) faculty whose summer salaries are covered by federal grants. They'll need to charge part of their salaries to the grant during the academic year if that's when the work is done. Behling said it's unlikely that the university will pay higher than 90 percent of an employee's salary from his or her federal grant during any pay period.

This cap builds in a little flexibility to effort reporting, but executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman asked researchers to be especially mindful of two problematic situations:

- Making a conference presentation (unrelated to the grant) while receiving salary from the grant
- (For B-base faculty) Taking personal time away while receiving salary from a grant

To take the guesswork out of effort reporting for their faculty, leaders in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences developed guidelines, one of which caps an individual's federally funded research at 75 percent of total effort during any summer month (May through August). Exceptions require the dean's approval.

Math professor and department chair Wolfgang Kliemann, who is using the LAS guidelines, expressed empathy for both sides of the issue. Research faculty understandably resent administrative add-ons that consume their time; but grant agencies have the right to set reporting requirements for the work they fund, he said.

"Agencies like NSF are not in the business of supporting every minute of someone's time," he said, noting that no one in the math department has more than two months of grant-funded summer salary.

"At the department level, we need to help our faculty do the right thing -- because they want to do the right thing -- but not overburden them," he said. In some cases, that could involve moving summer (grant) funding into the academic year. Other situations demand less paperwork.

Encouraging faculty to rethink their effort projections at the outset and accurately track their grant-covered work days, he said, also achieves the desired outcome: compliance.

Required training

The 2009 university internal audit also recommended mandatory training in effort reporting and certifying for all PIs. Staff in the sponsored programs administration office created a course that will be offered via WebCT beginning in mid-May. The office of the vice president for research and economic development will notify all PIs and co-PIs with federally sourced grants -- an estimated 650 people -- who are required to complete the 25-minute training.

In the future, first-time PIs must complete the training within 60 days of their ISU grant accounts being opened.

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***Mamma Mia!* will spend two nights at Stephens**

Stephens Auditorium will play host to a rare two-night tour engagement when the musical *Mamma Mia!* stops in Ames for 7:30 p.m. performances on May 2 and 3. Written by Catherine Johnson, the story incorporates hit songs by ABBA, a Swedish pop music group that topped the charts in the 1970s and 80s.

The story follows Sophie's quest to find her father -- one of three possible candidates from her mother's past. She secretly invites all three to her wedding on the Greek island where they met her mother, Donna, 20 years earlier. Meanwhile, Donna's best friends -- and former members of their girl group trio -- have arrived for the wedding celebration. Toe-tapping tunes and outlandish costumes add to this fun tale of rediscovered relationships.

Tickets are \$51-\$55 for adults, \$34 for youth and \$27 for ISU students. They are available through [Ticketmaster](#), or at the Stephens ticket office. *Contributed photo.*