



Sept. 29

Leath named Iowa State's next president

Steven Leath, vice president for research and sponsored programs for the University of North Carolina system, will become Iowa State's 15th president. His appointment is effective Feb. 1, 2012.

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Geoffroy delivers final convocation speech

Maintaining high student enrollment and increasing sponsored research funding are among the goals president Gregory Geoffroy identified for the university community this year during his Sept. 26 convocation address.



University Convocation

Sept. 29

Survey: ISU remains a great place to work and learn

The results of the 2011 University Life Survey, distributed to faculty, staff and students last February, are complete. Responses are positive and consistent with the previous two surveys, despite three years of budget challenges.

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Central funding will support new initiatives: Apply by Oct. 14

A new funding request process awards dollars from the central Institutional Excellence Fund to units or interdisciplinary teams for new initiatives grounded in the university's strategic plan. Proposals require a cash or in-kind match of undefined size. Requests are due Oct. 14.

Sept. 29

Semester break again will include partial shutdown

Iowa State will be partially closed for an 11-day stretch (Dec. 23-Jan. 2) during semester break

Announcements

- All-Iowa 1K is Oct. 7 at noon
- Oct. 5 CESMEE brown bag seminar looks at Iowa Project Lead the Way
- Nominations for Emerging Leaders Academy due Oct. 10
- Faculty, staff invited to Family Weekend kickoff Sept. 30
- CHS online auction benefits United Way; bid by Sept. 30
- HeartReach Mobile Lab comes to campus Oct. 26

Receptions & open houses

Receptions

- Cyclone Family Weekend kickoff, Sept. 30
- [Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Oct. 6](#)

Open house

- Margaret Sloss Women's Center, Oct. 4

Arts & events



Hedda Gabler

Season opens with dramatic flair

ISU Theatre kicks off its 2011-12 season this weekend with the dramatic tale of *Hedda Gabler*.

Around campus

- Banned books observance is this week in the library
- Student use of financial literacy

again this winter. The period includes three university holidays, four weekend days and four work days. Units are encouraged to make plans and communicate them with employees and clients as soon as possible.

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- Student use of financial literacy offerings is increasing
- Groundbreaking for ABE building is Friday

Inside tools

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Regents Craig Lang and Bruce Rastetter congratulate Steven Leath shortly after he is announced as Iowa State's next president. Looking on is regents communicator Sheila Doyle Koppin (center), Janet Leath, and president Geoffroy. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*



GSB president Dakota Hoben (left), vice president for extension and outreach Cathann Kress and a bevy of photographers greet Leath. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Leath will be our next president

by Anne Krapfl

Steven Leath will become Iowa State's 15th president on Feb. 1, 2012. The state Board of Regents on Tuesday announced Leath as its unanimous selection following an intensive 13-week search process.

"I'm excited to be your new president and I promise to work tirelessly to become the citizen and servant you all expect me to be," Leath said when he was introduced Tuesday afternoon. "I will need your help, and I look forward to participating in the robust shared governance process that's so in place at Iowa State University.

"I look forward to serving, and I'm proud to be a Cyclone," he said.

Leath said his first priority will be to get to know people -- faculty, staff, students, alumni and "the whole family" well.

"I'll be trying to balance the time I spend on campus, learning the campus and learning the priorities of the folks on campus, as well as going out in the state meeting our supporters there. It will be a busy start," he said.

Following Leath's introduction, president Gregory Geoffroy and his wife, Kathy, were the first people to reach Leath and his wife, Janet, to congratulate them on the appointment. Geoffroy has pledged to do all he can to make the transition to the next administration as smooth as possible.

26-year career in NC system

Leath has been vice president for research and sponsored programs for the University of North Carolina system since 2007. He's also serving this year as interim vice president for academic planning.

At North Carolina State University, Raleigh, he held several positions, including professor of plant pathology, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of the NC Agricultural Research Service. He also was a research leader and plant pathologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service; and an extension plant pathologist at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Leath helped develop the North Carolina Research Campus, a private-public venture that fosters advancements in biotechnology, nutrition and health.

"Dr. Leath has demonstrated extensive expertise in all areas that are critical to leading Iowa State University," said Craig Lang, president of the board of regents. "His specific experience with university research and technology transfer, and their application to economic development, will be an invaluable resource in leading Iowa State and its many contributions to the state of Iowa, particularly for Iowa's bioeconomy industry."

Leath received three plant sciences degrees -- a bachelor's (1979) from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park; a master's (1981) from the University of Delaware, Newark; and a doctorate in plant pathology (1984) from the University of Illinois.

Leath's salary will be \$440,000, approximately Geoffroy's current salary.

More about Leath

- [Info, photos](#)
- [Video: Announcement of the new president, Sept. 27](#)

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Executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman congratulates entomology professor Joel Coats, one of three faculty to receive the title of Distinguished Professor for 2011-12, during the university convocation Sept. 26. (Joining Coats on the distinguished list are food science and human nutrition professor Jay-lin Jane and agronomy professor Kenneth Moore.). Thirty-nine individuals were honored during the ceremony, including double winner Richard Mansbach, professor of political science (Louis Thompson undergraduate teaching award and Regents Award for Faculty Excellence). *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

Smooth transition among Geoffroy's top priorities

by Anne Krapfl

Maintaining high student enrollment and increasing sponsored research funding are among the goals president Gregory Geoffroy identified for the university community this year during his Sept. 26 convocation address.

But noting that "it's necessary to give the new president plenty of freedom and space to establish his own agenda," Geoffroy stopped short of laying out a full agenda for the academic year ahead.

"I have made it one of my absolute top priorities for this year to ensure a very smooth transition to my successor," he said.

Geoffroy, other university leaders and state Board of Regents president Craig Lang presented 40

Slide show

[Slide show](#) accompanying president's remarks (PDF).

university- and regent-level **awards** to faculty and staff members during the second part of the convocation.

Among recent achievements Geoffroy highlighted:

- An all-time record **enrollment** of 29,887 students this fall
- A third straight year of securing more than \$300 million in **externally funded research**
- The largest private fund-raising **campaign** in the university's history: \$867.4 million (July 2003-June 2011)

"Faculty and staff gave \$37 million to support the university," he added. "We had to raise the faculty and staff goal three times because we kept exceeding the goal, thanks to your generosity and that of your colleagues."

Building progress

Geoffroy said several new facilities -- new greenhouses at Horticulture Hall, the west campus recreation complex and a portion of the new small animal hospital -- will be used for the first time this year. He said there will be notable progress on several other significant building projects this year:

- Construction will begin next month on Troxel Hall, an \$11 million, 400-seat teaching auditorium facility east of Horticulture Hall
- Work is under way on two athletics projects: the outdoor Cyclone Sports Complex for the softball, soccer and track and field programs east of the Towers residence halls, and a building adjacent to the Bergstrom facility that will house the Cyclone football program
- Pending final approval from the state Board of Regents, construction should begin in the spring on phase 2 of the Biorenewables Complex on the west side of campus. The \$74.5 million second phase features two wings -- teaching/research and office/classroom -- and will become the new home of the agricultural and biosystems engineering department.
- Phase 2 at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center -- the small animal hospital -- is on track for completion next fall (2012). The \$45.1 million phase 2 renovates about 88,000 square feet and adds about 17,000 square feet for the small animal hospital.

Noting that it was his last convocation as university president, Geoffroy added, "I do want everyone here to know how much I've really enjoyed my service as president and really how proud I am of everything that we've accomplished working together in so many different ways -- faculty, staff, alumni, students -- a great big team working to advance the university. The future of Iowa State is very, very bright."

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Survey: ISU still is a great place to work and learn

by Paula Van Brocklin

Last February, staff from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost asked faculty, staff and students to complete the third University Life Survey since 2007. The 2011 survey results are compiled and the responses are positive and consistent with the previous two surveys, despite three years of budget cuts.

Response rate

The 2011 survey was sent to 30,559 faculty, staff and students via email. A total of 7,273 people responded for a 23.8 percent response rate. The 2009 response rate was just over 20 percent. By demographic, professional and scientific staff responded most often (59.16 percent), followed by faculty (47.98 percent), merit staff (40.12 percent), graduate students (27.49 percent) and undergraduate students (16.12 percent). More people answered the 2011 survey in all demographic categories than in 2009.

High marks

As in 2007 and 2009, the 2011 survey shows a majority of faculty, staff and students think ISU is a great place to work and learn. In 2011, 68 percent gave the university's working environment high marks, and 88 percent agreed ISU is a great place to learn.

Another topic that received more positive responses in 2011 than in 2009 include Iowa State's commitment to conserving natural resources (59.7 percent versus 46.4 percent). Questions related to the university's athletics programs also garnered more positive responses in 2011 than in 2009. For example, 53.8 percent of respondents agreed that ISU's athletic programs strive for integrity, an 18 percent jump since 2007.

Consistent goals

Respondents also were asked to choose the top three of nine university life sub goals they felt were most important to the university. Just as in 2007 and 2009, the same three goals rose to the top.

- Recruit and retain faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to individual and organizational excellence and achievement.
- Foster an environment in which all members of the university community can contribute their fullest while pursuing satisfying personal lives.
- Achieve a sustainable balance between responsibilities and resources that will allow the university

to efficiently and effectively realize its vision.

The fourth-highest overall goal -- expand the diversity of people, ideas and cultures, and nurture an environment in which diversity can thrive -- was chosen as the top priority by graduate students and minorities.

Executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman said she is pleased with the survey's outcome, but concedes there still is work to do.

"We have increased overall satisfaction in the areas of athletics, being a great place to learn, sustainability and the environment, and recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students," she said. "But going forward, we need to improve our campus work environment, our optimal resource allocation and our external connections with alumni and friends."

A [summary](#) of the 2011 survey results is available online.

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Excellence fund will support new initiatives; requests due Oct. 14

by Anne Krapfl

A funding request process announced last week awards dollars from the central Institutional Excellence Fund to units or interdisciplinary teams for new initiatives grounded in the university's [strategic plan](#). Any department, unit or group may develop proposals. Their ideas should fit one of two broad categories:

- Mission-driven initiatives that support teaching and learning, research, outreach and service, and diversity
- Initiatives that strengthen administrative processes or the administrative infrastructure of the university

Examples of the first could include new interdisciplinary research, programs to enhance student outcomes, ideas that support those involved in teaching activities, efforts to improve diversity recruitment and retention efforts, and programs that extend the university's outreach mission.

Examples of the second could include IT systems to improve workflow efficiency, professional development, infrastructure improvements such as classroom or equipment upgrades, and deferred maintenance projects.

Every proposal requires a "sponsor" at the dean, chief information officer or vice president level, as well as a cash or in-kind match, the size of which isn't defined. Sponsors are required to prioritize all the funding proposals coming out of their respective units. Proposals should have measurable outcomes. Those that include a plan for sustainability will receive strong consideration.

Deadline approaching

Director of university budgets Dave Biedenbach said the strategic funding process is intended to be ongoing, but an Oct. 14 proposal deadline was set to jump-start it and encourage units to invest now in ideas that address the university's strategic plan. Awards will be made by Oct. 31 and most of the award dollars should be spent (or encumbered) by June 30, 2012. The leadership team in the executive vice president and provost's office will recommend proposals for funding to provost Elizabeth Hoffman, who makes the final decision.

Biedenbach said there is not a predetermined portion of the Institutional Excellence Fund committed

to this fall's requests. Awards are expected to be in the \$10,000 to \$250,000 range, but larger ones are possible.

Excellence fund

The Institutional Excellence Fund, currently at about \$6 million, allows the president and provost to "fund important new initiatives, accomplish strategic goals and position the university to compete for cutting edge opportunities." However, because of cuts to state appropriations, in the last several years the fund was used more frequently as bridge funding to help units meet budget reductions.

"We hope we're at a point to use the fund as a tool to make strategic investments, and not to manage budget cuts," Biedenbach said.

Getting started

Because of the sponsorship requirement, Biedenbach said faculty and staff should contact their unit's dean or vice president office with their idea. If there's support for the idea, those offices have copies of the request form and an information document. The documents are not online.

Questions about the funding process should be directed to associate vice president for budget and planning [Ellen Rasmussen](#), 4-0831.

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Partial shutdown approved again over semester break

Iowa State will be partially closed for an 11-day stretch during semester break again this winter. The Dec. 23-Jan. 2 period includes three university holidays (Dec. 23, 26 and Jan. 2), four weekend days and four work days (Dec. 27-30). Employees who don't work Dec. 27-30 would be required to take paid or unpaid leave for those days.

Vice president for business and finance Warren Madden noted that this is not a mandatory closing. And it is not intended to limit units' decision to operate.

"Units involved in critical services, maintenance and research programs will remain in operation," he said. "And there may be partial staffing in some units. Supervisors should set their operating schedules in consultation with their deans or vice presidents."

However, he said he and other university officials are encouraging units and employees to take advantage of the partial closing. He said he anticipates most Iowa State facilities will be closed and locked during the 11-day period, just as they are on holidays or weekends.

Shutdown benefits

Madden said the university's two previous partial shutdowns were successful at delivering several benefits:

- Many employees like to take leave over winter break and it's a good time for them to do so, because classes are not in session and campus activity slows down.
- The university saves energy through reduced demands for electricity and steam (heat). Estimated savings are \$4,800 per day.

Leave contact info

Units that shut down over the extended break will need to leave emergency contact numbers on websites and voicemail, turn down thermostats, turn off equipment and designate someone to periodically check work spaces for plumbing, heating or cooling problems.

"We encourage units to work out partial closing plans for the semester break, communicate them to staff and post them on their websites as soon as possible so that students, customers and staff members can make their personal plans," Madden said.

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Senior Madison Welterlen plays the title character Hedda Gabler in ISU Theatre's first production of the season. The 19th-century Victorian drama opens Sept. 30 in Fisher Theater. *Photo by Dan Neubauer.*

Victorian drama launches new ISU Theatre season

by Erin Rosacker

ISU Theatre begins its season in dramatic style, staging *Hedda Gabler* for a two-weekend run in Fisher Theater, beginning Sept. 30.

Senior Madison Welterlen takes the role of the title character against the backdrop of 19th-century Norway. Gabler is a restless newlywed who is discontent in her marriage to George Tesman, played by senior Matt Meldrem.

Used to the pampered life of an aristocrat, Gabler struggles against the confines of an average Victorian existence and begins to meddle in the lives of others. Her actions have serious consequences, in which her fascination with her father's gun collection plays no small part.

"She's definitely not a villain," said Brad Dell, assistant professor of theater and the show's director. "She's bouncing around, trying to figure out what to do. She has no idea how to have interests or hobbies outside of herself and just can't find her place in the world."

Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 7-8), 2:30 p.m. on Sunday (Oct. 2, 9). Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and \$8 for students, and can be purchased at the Stephens ticket office or through [Ticketmaster](#).

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