

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

INSIDE Iowa State *for faculty and staff*SEARCH INSIDE

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Nov. 17

State Gym construction hits the home stretch

Five semi truckloads of fitness equipment will be installed this week in a renovated State Gym and its west addition. Pending final approval of utility and environmental systems and staff training, the facility is on schedule to open early in the spring semester.

Nov. 17

Be weather-wise this winter

With one round of snow behind us, it's time for a reminder about Iowa State's severe weather policies and procedures.

Nov. 17

Blackboard Learn is much better, thank you

Happy days are here again for the Blackboard Learn course management system, which got off to a rocky start earlier in the semester. ISU support staff and Blackboard staff have cleared up several issues that slowed the system.



Nov. 17

Nov. 18 night game will impact afternoon campus parking

A Friday night home football game for the Cyclones means that stadium-area parking lots will open to fans at 1 p.m. Students and employees who normally park in stadium and Iowa State Center lots will need to move their cars, making campus parking spots scarce on Friday afternoon. General staff lots will open to the public at 11 a.m.; reserve lots and stalls for drivers with disabilities will not.

Nov. 17

Kuali software rollout stretches across campus

Whether you've heard of it or not, there's a good chance Kuali will impact your work at Iowa

Announcements

- Attorneys to summarize new patent laws at Nov. 29 lunch
- Haber Road closed at overpass for part of Monday
- Science Bowl volunteers sought
- Forestry club to sell trees
- Wellness presentations on healthful dishes, preventing diabetes
- Library to close for part of break
- ISU ranked among 'fittest colleges'
- Reminder: Benefits open change period ends this week
- Reading clinic accepting applications
- "Give Some Warmth" drive seeks hats, mittens, scarves

Receptions & open houses

Receptions

- "Reclaimed: Reflections of a River" exhibit, Dec. 1
- Gregory and Kathy Geoffroy, Dec. 8

Retirements

- Sandi Bishop, Nov. 22
- Al Vogl, Nov. 30
- Richard Poist, Dec. 2
- Jan Stoehr, Dec. 2

Arts & events*A Christmas Carol***Usher in the holiday season with *A Christmas Carol***

ISU Theatre's production of the Charles Dickens tale opens Dec. 2.

State in the near future. Find out how the Kuali organization builds and sustains open-source software for universities in this Q&A with Maury Hope, associate chief information officer.

Nov. 17

Campus wind energy use hits new high

Iowa State purchased 1.87 million kilowatt hours of electricity last month from a wind farm in northeast Story County, the highest production month since the university started purchasing wind energy in January 2010.

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Around campus

- Three will interview for Leopold post
- Inaugural Harkin Institute event is Nov. 29
- Goal: Better flood predictions
- Leaders chosen for 2012 calendar

Inside tools

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Nov. 17, 2011



Photos by Bob Elbert.

State Gym construction is in the home stretch

by Anne Krapfl

The two gym floors -- five basketball courts worth -- are painted and polished. The leisure pool is filled. A 40-foot climbing wall is ready to go. Elevators are operational. Offices for recreation services staff are starting to come together. And this week, five semi truckloads of fitness and weightlifting equipment are being installed in the renovated State Gym and its west addition.

It's all good, says **recreation services** director Mike Giles, arguably the most disappointed guy on campus that the \$38 million project didn't wrap up last summer as originally scheduled.

Giles said the building will open "as early as possible in spring semester." He expects to announce an opening date before fall semester concludes. Once the construction crews exit and all the building's utility and environmental systems are tested and approved, the (not small) task remaining is to train employees who will oversee activities there. Recreation services employs more than 500 part-time student workers during a calendar year.

Free test drive

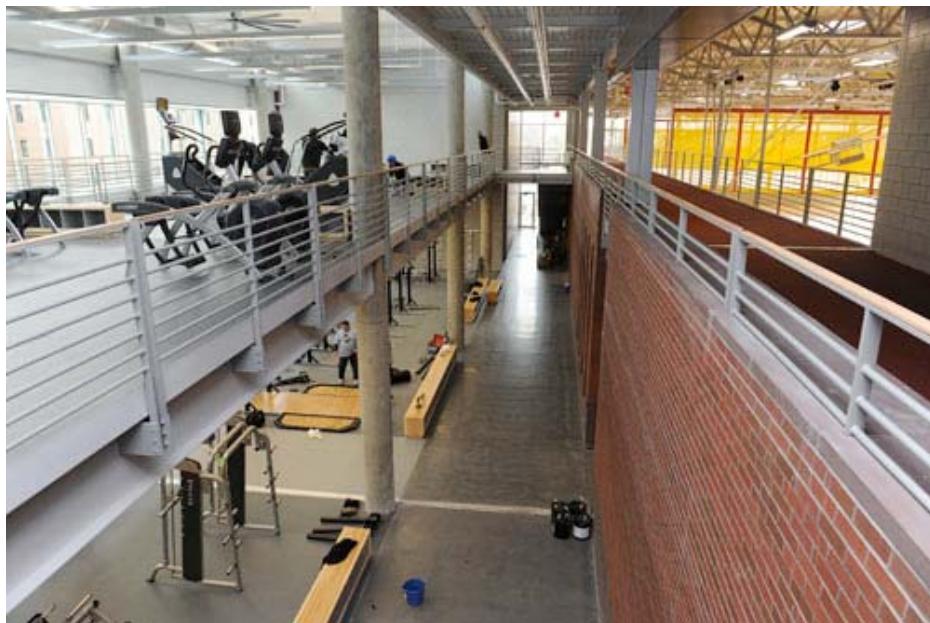
Giles said that anyone eligible to purchase a recreation services pass will have some time to "test drive" the building for free before deciding whether to pay user fees. Details on what that free period looks like still are being worked out. As previously announced, following a two-year fee phase-in for nonstudent users, the annual fee will be \$403, the same that full-time students pay. This fee gives people access to recreation services facilities in State Gym, Beyer Hall and the Lied center.

In addition to gymnasiums, the pool, climbing wall, one-eighth mile track and several fitness/dance studios, the facility will house 125 stations for individual workouts, half of which are related to weight training, the other half cardio-focused (think StairMaster, rowing machine, elliptical crosstrainer and the like).

Part of the former pool area in the east end of State Gym was converted to a mind/body fitness suite and includes space for Pilates, yoga, massage therapy and a private training room. The outdoor recreation program is returning to renovated space on the lower level of State Gym.

Iowa State will seek LEED® Gold certification -- the No. 2 spot on a four-tiered sustainable building scale -- for the recreation services project.





Photos by Bob Elbert.

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Photo by Bob Elbert.

Be weather-wise this winter

by Erin Rosacker

We've already heard the "s" word in the forecast, so it's time to remind the campus community about Iowa State's winter weather policies and procedures.

Cancellations and closures

For information on cancellations and closures, check the:

- University homepage (www.iastate.edu)
- Campus information center, 4-4357
- Local radio and TV news

Where to park

If your usual parking lot hasn't been cleared of snow by 7:30 a.m., parking is available at:

Severe weather policies and information

- [Winter Weather FAQ](#)
- ISU Policy Library:
"Severe Weather and Emergency Closings"
- AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement (PDF): See Article XI, Section 6, "Severe Weather/Emergency Closings"

- Iowa State Center (lots A3, A4, B5 and B6); CyRide will shuttle drivers to campus via the free orange route
- Lots 29 and 30, north of Molecular Biology
- Lot 41, north of General Services Building

If classes are canceled, but the university is *not* closed

- University offices will remain open
- Employees who can't make it to work should contact their immediate supervisors
- Employees may request to make up the time, use vacation, or take leave without pay
- Staff covered by collective bargaining agreements should refer to language in the severe weather part of the contract

If the university is officially closed

- Classes are canceled and most university offices are closed
- Vital operational areas (for example, security, food service, power plant, animal care, critical maintenance or snow removal) generally are not closed; employees will follow specific policies established for those areas
- Some staff members whose offices are closed may elect to work regular hours, with supervisor approval

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Blackboard Learn is much better, thank you

by Diana Pounds

Blackboard Learn got off to a rocky start this semester with many instructors who were using the course management system for the first time. Several issues with the Blackboard system made for a painful six weeks for both Blackboard users and support staff, who were working overtime to ensure system reliability.

The good news is the Blackboard system now is running fairly well, said Jim Twetten, director in information technology services (ITS).

"System reliability is back at a high level. "We still have some places where we feel the Blackboard software should be performing better, but with things stable right now, we'll wait till semester break before tackling those remaining issues," he said.

Many early adopters

ISU instructors are turning to Blackboard because the previous course management system, WebCT, is being phased out by its new parent company -- Blackboard. The rapid speed of ISU instructors' adoption of Blackboard Learn may have contributed to some of the new system's growing pains early this fall, Twetten said.

In fall 2010, a few instructors piloted Blackboard Learn on 10 ISU courses. When Blackboard course numbers rose to 70 in spring and 200 in summer, the system worked smoothly, Twetten said.

However, this fall, Blackboard Learn courses had climbed 700 percent to more than 1,400 courses, Twetten said.

"That surprised all of us," he said. "Based on the last course management migration in 2006, we were expecting a more gradual shift. Blackboard Learn is loaded with new features that apparently drew instructors to the system."

"Blackboard Learn touches 99 percent of students and nearly 80 percent of faculty."

Jim Twetten

As usage increased, a pattern emerged. When the load on the system went up, the system slowed, or in some cases prevented users from logging on. In addition to these issues, ISU and campuses across the nation experienced Blackboard software problems related to online tests and assessments.

Blackboard team visits campus

ITS staff and Blackboard staff continued plugging away at problems, and by the end of October, Blackboard was in good, if not optimal, shape, Twetten said. A Blackboard support team spent two days on campus in late October to help fine-tune the system and clear up a half dozen problems.

The Blackboard service at ISU is jointly operated by ITS and Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), the latter of which fields faculty questions about both software functionality and pedagogical use.

Allan Schmidt, CELT assistant director, reports that an unresolved issue with the Blackboard software is slow assignment and grade downloads for instructors teaching large classes. ISU will need to wait for Blackboard's future software releases and patches to address these issues.

Send in your issues

Schmidt encouraged those who encounter Blackboard problems to contact ISU Blackboard support staff at bbhelp@iastate.edu.

He also thanked instructors for their patience during the Blackboard ordeal.

"When we alerted instructors to the latest problems, they often responded with, 'Thanks, we know you're working on it,' " Schmidt said.

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Nov. 17, 2011



Parking tips for Friday's Iowa State-Oklahoma State game

by Annette Hacker, News Service

Iowa State's football home finale is set for Friday, Nov. 18, with a 7 p.m. kickoff against No. 2 Oklahoma State. The Jack Trice Stadium donor and public parking lots will open to fans at 1 p.m., several hours before classes and work end for the day.

As they do for all home games, people who normally park around the stadium and in commuter lots at Iowa State Center will need to move their cars. Campus parking spots will be scarce on Friday afternoon. Finding room for an extra 3,000 cars in campus parking spaces requires a little cooperation on everyone's part. Here's what you need to know before Friday.

Public parking

Public parking lots at Jack Trice Stadium will open at 1 p.m. Officials prefer that parking stalls be used by fans who have tickets to the game. Tailgaters are asked to limit their setup to one parking space and to keep routes open for other vehicles to park. Glass bottles, kegs and open fires are not allowed in parking lots. Smoking is not allowed in or near Jack Trice Stadium.

Public parking near the stadium is \$20 per car and \$40 for RVs and buses. Medical accessible parking is located in Lot S2.

Commuters

Motorists who normally park in the Iowa State Center lots will be directed to these locations on Friday:

- Kmart/Staples parking lot, 1405 Buckeye Ave. (east side only, along Buckeye)
- Lot 29, north of the Molecular Biology and Communications buildings
- Lot 29B, west of Frederiksen Court across Stange Road
- Memorial Union Parking Ramp (regular hourly rates apply)
- General Staff lots on campus after 11 a.m.

Commuters are receiving this information multiple times this week, and signs are posted in and around the Ann Campbell Transit Station. Commuters may ride CyRide's Orange route free from the east side of the Kmart lot to campus. Pickup from the Kmart lot will end at 6:34 p.m. Look for the bus stop signs.

Stadium permits

Those who usually park at Jack Trice Stadium -- primarily students -- must move their cars by 11 a.m. on Friday. They'll be directed to:

- Lots A, B, C and G at the Towers
- Lot 100, Lied Recreation Center
- Lot 29, north of the Molecular Biology and Communication buildings
- Lot 29B, west of Frederiksen Court across Stange Road
- East campus parking deck (upper level only)
- Lot 21, west of the Armory

Stadium permit holders may return their cars to the stadium anytime on Saturday. Stadium parkers also will receive an email with this information.

General staff (gold) permits

General staff lots will be open to the public after 11 a.m. on Friday. If you have a general staff permit, you'll have no problem tackling a parking space first thing in the morning, but you may lose your spot if you leave for a meeting or lunch. Consider walking or riding CyRide to appointments if at all possible.

Reserved (cardinal) permits

It's business as usual in reserved lots on gameday Friday. These parking spots are not up for grabs. Reserved spaces will remain available only to those with reserved permits for an assigned lot.

Disability, 24-hour reserve permits

Parking in spaces for holders of these permits will be strictly enforced.

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Kuali software rollout stretches across campus

by Paula Van Brocklin

Kuali (pronounced ku-WAH-lee). You may have heard about it, or perhaps not. But odds are that sometime in the not-so-distant future, it will impact your work at Iowa State.

So, what is Kuali? *Inside Iowa State* takes a closer look at the Kuali organization with help from Maury Hope, ISU's associate chief information officer. Look for additional information and updates about Kuali on the [chief information officer's](#) website and on www.kuali.org.

What is Kuali?

Kuali is a community of universities and other organizations using a structured collaborative method to build and sustain open-source software for university administrative systems. Because Kuali software is open source, it's [shared freely](#); there are no software license fees.

The Kuali Foundation, established in 2004, is a nonprofit organization originally comprising six universities and two commercial organizations. Today, there are more than 50 universities (including Iowa State) and 10 commercial businesses involved with Kuali's software development.

How is Iowa State involved with Kuali?

ISU became a member of the Kuali Foundation in 2008, and helped fund the Kuali Rice, Kuali Coeus and Kuali People Management for the Enterprise administrative software projects. Iowa State contributes staff resources to the projects and also pays annual dues.

Why did ISU get involved with Kuali?

Iowa State's involvement with Kuali helps support the university's strategic goals by allowing it to maintain, enhance and expand administrative systems in a cost-effective manner. By working with staff from other universities, Iowa State is able to replace aging information systems with contemporary technologies by leveraging resources from other universities. ISU decided to migrate to the Kuali systems over several years to implement new technologies that match the current budget. The implementation timeline will be longer, but Iowa State's estimated total cost of ownership will be up to 50 percent less than with commercial vendors.

How will Kuali impact most employees?

Administrative systems based on the Kuali technology will be implemented in phases over many years. As the new technology and business processes evolve, each major system will have its own

implementation plan. Most employees will have difficulty distinguishing a Kuali system from an ISU-built system using the Kuali tool set. But for those who work with administrative processes everyday, Kuali will change how they accomplish tasks.

What kind of training is planned for employees who need to learn the new Kuali software?

An administrative unit sponsors each major system and that unit will conduct training sessions prior to production. Videos and websites also will be available for self-instruction and reference. Pilot groups across campus are testing some of the new systems. The first major training effort will begin this spring in preparation for the Kuali Financial Systems and Kuali Coeus (Phase 1) implementations in July 2012.

How much money has ISU invested in the Kuali project, and where do those funds come from?

ISU's investment in Kuali is mostly in staff members, who work on system requirements and develop software. At the end of FY11, there were eight full-time staff assigned to Kuali projects. Annual dues to Kuali in FY11 were \$75,000. One-time consulting costs in FY11 were \$250,000. Since several ISU employees from ITS and administrative units work on Kuali projects, most of the university's costs are reallocated during development and will return to support after implementation.

What are the components of Kuali that ISU will be implementing, and when will they be rolled out?

- Kuali Rice -- is a suite of integrated software products that allows new applications to be built quickly. Some of the Kuali Rice tools that Iowa State currently uses include workflow, identity management and notification. Kuali Rice was implemented at ISU earlier this year. The most recent installation was a workflow system to handle voucher approvals electronically. Most employees will not access these tools, but they will benefit from their applications to other systems.
- Kuali Financial Systems (KFS) -- is a modular financial accounting system. ISU has installed the general ledger, chart of accounts and financial transaction components of KFS. Testing of the financial system continues, with full implementation planned for July 2012.
- Kuali Coeus (KC) -- manages the complexities of research administration, including pre-award, post-award and compliance. KC will be implemented in phases beginning July 2012. The following systems will be impacted by KC after its full release, planned for the end of 2014:
 - LiquidOffice and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration (OSPA) database will be replaced with KC
 - InfoMaker will be replaced by Cognos as a reporting tool delivered through the university data warehouse (eData)
 - The Conflict of Interest (COI) module will help manage financial conflicts of interest and will replace the current system available in AccessPlus
 - The Institutional Review Board (IRB) module will help the Institutional Review Board and Office for Responsible Research manage human research subjects
 - The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) module will assist the Institutional Review Board and Office for Responsible Research manage animal research subjects

- Kuali People Management for the Enterprise (KPME) -- is a software system designed for human resources and payroll offices in higher education. It includes tools for human resources administration, payroll, benefits, leave management, time and attendance, and others. The time and attendance module (KPME 1.0) was released in September. Future releases (see below) will be rolled out in phases over the next few years. The first implementation phase will begin in late 2012 with time, attendance and leave management.
 - Phase 2: Electronic core human resources transactions, including personnel and position management transactions, employee activities and demographic data
 - Phase 3: Payroll and financial processing, and benefits administration

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October wind energy use topped 11 percent

by Anne Krapfl

A dry windy October not only gave area farmers ample time for their harvests, it also set a record at Iowa State for wind energy usage. The university purchased 1.87 million kilowatt hours of electricity last month from a wind farm in northeast Story County, the single highest production month since Iowa State started purchasing wind energy in January 2010. Director of utilities Jeff Witt said that's equivalent to the electricity consumption for October in the Vet Med complex and chemistry's Hach Hall combined.

As a result, wind energy production accounted for 11.5 percent of the university's total electrical use for October, second only to an 11.6 percent ratio last April.

"Campus demands for energy are changing all the time," Witt said. "Wind energy availability floats in and out, but we're continuing to monitor campus use of it. October's record use was good news, but still less than projections."

Iowa State's wind energy comes from a 100-turbine farm constructed north of Zearing by NextEra Energy Resources.

So far in calendar year 2011, 7.7 percent of Iowa State's electrical demand is being met with wind energy. Last year, the first year of wind energy use, 4.4 percent of the university's electricity came from the wind farm. Iowa State's goal is 10 percent annually.

April, October and November tend to be peak months for wind energy production, Witt said. June, July and August, which happen to be high-need months due to air conditioning demand, typically are low production months. Wind energy can't be stored; it has to be used as it's generated.

Besides the obvious reliance on Mother Nature, Iowa State and other local purchasers of wind energy are at the mercy of a transmission system that can't support greater electrical output at the NextEra farm. Upgrades scheduled to be completed next summer will help, but other necessary upgrades won't be done until 2015, Witt said.

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ISU Theatre presents the holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 2-4 and 9-11 in Fisher Theater. Pictured from left to right are freshman Ethan Day (Bob Cratchit), Carter Pilcher (Tiny Tim) and junior Mark Klooster (Scrooge). Photo by Patrick Gouran.

ISU Theatre ushers in holiday season with *A Christmas Carol*

by Paula Van Brocklin

Nothing gets you in the holiday spirit quite like the time-honored tale of curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens in 1843. ISU Theatre brings this Christmas classic to life at Fisher Theater during multiple performances Dec. 2-4 and Dec. 9-11.

The story chronicles Scrooge's Christmas Eve adventure, seven years after the death of his business partner Jacob Marley. The evening begins when Scrooge begrudgingly lets loyal employee Bob Cratchit spend Christmas Day with Cratchit's family. He then rejects an invitation from his nephew, Fred, to Christmas dinner, declaring "Bah! Humbug!" and also denies a request to share money with the poor. After leaving work, Scrooge arrives home, nestles into bed and endures unsettling visits from the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, who try to redeem him.

ISU Theatre's performance is true to Dickens' original tale. Director Jane Cox, also ISU Theatre chair, even added four narrators to the cast to read aloud excerpts from the book, not normally heard in most stage portrayals.

"I put them into the play because the lines are so wonderful," Cox said.

One of the challenges of this play, according to Cox, is the large cast of 55 actors. Most are ISU students, but about a dozen are children from the community who play the parts of Tiny Tim and his siblings, Scrooge as a child and the ghosts of Ignorance and Want.

Appropriate for all ages, audience members will enjoy the play's special effects, such as the ghost of Marley rising from underneath the stage in a fog of dry ice and doors spontaneously opening and closing as the ghosts visit Scrooge.

Performances for *A Christmas Carol* are Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 2-3 and 9-10 at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays Dec. 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, \$8 for students) are available through the Stephens box office or [Ticketmaster](#).

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