

History of Iowa State

Iowa State University, located in Ames, Iowa, is one of the nation's leading land-grant universities. Chartered in 1858 as the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm, it became the nation's first land-grant institution when the General Assembly awarded it the state's land-grant charter in 1864. The college opened in 1868-69, and a class of 26 was graduated at the first commencement in 1872. Graduate study was offered almost as soon as classes began, and the first graduate degree was conferred in 1877. The college was renamed Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1898 and became Iowa State University of Science and Technology in 1959. Today, Iowa State University is a broad-based university of international stature with nearly 27,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 other nations.

Iowa State has led the development of several fields of study that are central to the land-grant movement, including engineering, agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and veterinary medicine. Extension, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003, traces its roots to Iowa and early outreach programs by Iowa State's Adonijah Welch and Perry Holden, and the legislation establishing the national Agricultural Experiment Station system was written by Iowa State faculty members Seaman Knapp and Charles Bessey in the 1880s.

Today, Iowa State is a recognized leader in many areas including plant and animal genomics, materials sciences, analytical chemistry, biology, physics, behavioral studies, information assurance, virtual reality, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, business, journalism, kinesiology, transportation and logistics, and education. Major research initiatives focus on the bioeconomy, food safety and security, combinatorial chemistry, human/computer interaction, and animal health.

George Washington Carver, one of the nation's most distinguished educators and agricultural researchers, received bachelor's (1894) and master's (1896) degrees from Iowa State. The electronic digital computer, one of the most important technological innovations of the 20th century, was invented at Iowa State in the late 1930s by John Vincent Atanasoff. Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters and a key strategist behind the final ratification of the 19th Amendment, graduated as valedictorian of the Iowa State Class of 1880.

Iowa State aspires to be the best university in the nation in advancing the land-grant ideas and putting science and technology to work. The university's mission is to create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.

Quick facts about Iowa State

Enrollment (Fall 2008)

Undergraduates—21,607
Professional programs—531
Graduate students—5,249
Total—26,856

Undergraduate enrollment by college

Agriculture and Life Sciences—2,845
Business—3,473
Design—1,844
Engineering—4,676
Human Sciences—2,919
Liberal Arts and Sciences—5,850

Approximately 43 percent women
and 57 percent men
Approximately 74 percent of
undergraduates are from Iowa

University officers

Gregory L. Geoffroy, President
Elizabeth Hoffman, Executive Vice
President and Provost
Warren R. Madden, Vice President
for Business and Finance
Thomas L. Hill, Vice President
for Student Affairs

University Extension

University Extension's six units extend Iowa State to all Iowans: Extension to Youth and 4-H, Extension to Families, Extension to Communities, Extension to Agriculture, Extension to Business and Industry, and Continuing Education. Extension programs throughout the state establish personal contact with more than 1,000,000 Iowans annually.

Iowa State songs

Iowa State Fight Song

O we will fight, fight, fight for Iowa State
And may her colors ever fly.
Yes, we will fight with might for
Iowa State
With a will to do or die, Rah! Rah! Rah!
Loyal sons forever true
And we will fight the battle through,
And when we hit that line
We'll hit it hard ev'ry yard for I.S.U.

The Bells of Iowa State

Green hills for thy throne,
And for crown a golden melody
Ringing in the hearts of all
Who bring thee love and loyalty;
Dear Alma Mater,
Make our spirits great,
True, and valiant
Like the bells of Iowa State.



The entrance to Iowa State College in 1912. Photo courtesy of University Archives.

University achievements and recognitions

Iowa State University...

- welcomed 26,856 students in fall 2008.
- offers approximately 100 undergraduate degree programs and nearly 200 fields of study leading to graduate and professional degrees.
- enrolls more Iowa high school graduates each year than any other higher education institution in Iowa.
- sent 1,101 students to 44 countries to participate in study, service-learning, and work abroad programs in 2007-2009.
- partnered with 100 other universities and colleges to pilot a new campus sustainability rating system to assess progress in promotion of environmental stewardship.
- has the world's largest concentration of faculty involved in sustainable agriculture and was the first to offer a doctoral degree in sustainable agriculture.
- is located in Ames, Iowa, which ranked 30th in "Best Small Places for Business and Careers" in 2008 by *Forbes* magazine.

Points of Interest

- Iowa State's Bioeconomy Initiative is a leader in developing new sources of energy, fuels, and other products from renewable resources.
- The Institute for Social and Behavioral research is conducting the largest-ever longitudinal study of 800 African American families, focusing on family and community factors that contribute to healthy outcomes in children and adults.
- *Muscle & Fitness* magazine ranked Iowa State in the top three of America's fittest colleges. The intramural sports program has been ranked eighth in the country the last two years by the *Princeton Review*.
- Iowa State houses CyBlue, one of the nation's fastest super-computers.
- Iowa State's Christina Hixson Opportunity Awards program is the only scholarship program in Iowa that provides financial assistance to a student from every Iowa county.

Office of Institutional Research
(Source: Office of University Relations)



Freshman Days meets in the Armory, 1954. Photo courtesy of University Archives.



Destination Iowa State, 2008.

Traditions of Iowa State

Campanile

The story of the campanile is, in essence, a love story. Edgar Stanton graduated with the first class of Iowa State in 1872. He spent 50 years on campus as a student and faculty member, becoming the head of the Department of Mathematics, secretary to the Board of Trustees, dean of the junior college, vice-president, and on four different occasions, acting president.

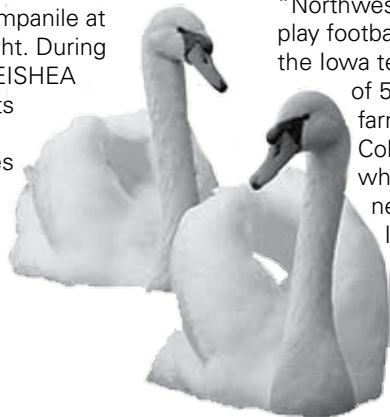
His first wife was Margaret MacDonald Stanton, first dean of women. When she died, July 25, 1895, she had been closely identified with the university for almost 25 years. Stanton wanted to establish a monument so all students and friends of Iowa State would remember her. He finally decided to purchase and have installed a chime of 10 bells in a detached tower on central campus. President William M. Beardshear helped him choose the site, and the state legislature appropriated \$7,500 for the construction of the tower and its clock.



Stanton died September 12, 1920, and his will provided that after certain bequests were taken out, the residue of his estate should be turned over to the university for furnishing a memorial to him. His second wife, Julia Wentch Stanton, and the children, decided to request that the university install 26 additional bells, thus forming a musical instrument which became known as the Edgar W. and Margaret MacDonald Stanton Memorial Carillon.

Campaniling

Since the story of the campanile is a love story, the "campaniling" tradition makes sense. Today, the original 10 bells have increased to 50, and their influence has grown exponentially. A student officially becomes an Iowa Stater when he or she is kissed under the campanile at the stroke of midnight. During homecoming and VEISHEA hundreds of students gather for mass campaniling. Couples kiss, the band plays, and fireworks go off at the stroke of midnight.

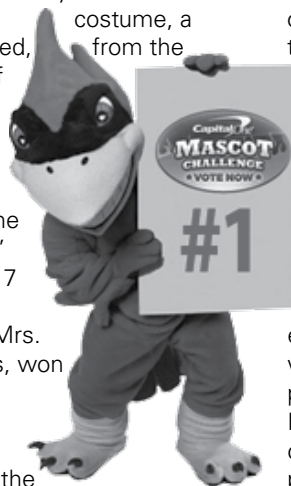


Cardinal and Gold

In 1891, a college committee selected gold, silver, and black as the Iowa State College colors. In 1899, when the Athletic Council decided to provide sweaters to the student-athletes in recognition of their efforts, the council found that it was too difficult to dye sweaters in these original school colors. President Knapp had also had problems tying the diplomas with three ribbons representing the colors, and according to the student newspaper, the student population was ready for "a distinctive and striking set of colors." In October of 1899, the Athletic Council voted to change the colors to cardinal and gold.

Cy

In 1954, members of Iowa State's Pep Council decided that Iowa State needed a mascot to symbolize new spirit for the athletic teams. Since a cyclone was difficult to depict in costume, a cardinal was selected, from the cardinal and gold of the official school colors. Pep Council ran a contest to select a name for the new mascot. The winning entry, "Cy," was submitted by 17 people. The first to submit the name, Mrs. Ed Ohlsen of Ames, won a cardinal and gold stadium blanket.



After being named the 2007 "Most Dominant Mascot on Earth" in a CBS Sportsline online contest, Cy was crowned the 2008 Capital One National Mascot of the Year during halftime of the Capital One Bowl on New Year's Day.

Cyclones

Iowa State became the Cyclones after they leveled Northwestern in 1895. On September 29, 1895 the *Chicago Tribune* noted: Struck by a Cyclone It Comes from Iowa and Devastates Evanston Town. "Northwestern might as well have tried to play football with an Iowa cyclone as with the Iowa team it met yesterday. At the end of 50 minutes' play, the big husky farmers from Iowa's Agricultural College had rolled up 36 points, while the 15-yard line was the nearest Northwestern got to Iowa's goal."

Lancelot and Elaine

It was the climax of VEISHEA, 1935. A large float, shaped like a swan and carrying flower-bedecked and white-robed

Iowa State maidens, emerged from a smoke screen and glided its way to the middle of Lake LaVerne. And then the plaster swan unloosed its feathered passengers: four swans.

Two of the swans were named Lancelot and Elaine by student Jean Nesinwanger, who won \$10. Since that time, there have been numerous Lancelots and Elaines (including a pair of trumpeter swans reintroduced to their original Iowa habitat) and in 1944, 1970, and 1971 cygnets (baby swans) were born. Swans take a mate for life unless one of the pair dies or is moved away.

Lake LaVerne, the home of Lancelot and Elaine, was created with a \$10,000 donation in 1916 by LaVerne W. Noyes. Noyes, a wealthy Chicago philanthropist and member of the first graduating class of 1872, funded a lake in what had been a three-acre marsh area, fed by College Creek. Another Iowa State tradition: If you walk around Lake LaVerne three times in silence with your beloved, you are destined to be together.

Homecoming

Alumni first began returning home for an official Homecoming in 1912. Since then, the celebration continues to entertain both young and old Iowa Staters with traditional events, including tailgate parties, fireworks, lawn displays, "Yell Like Hell" cheering competition, and mass campaniling. The student committee helps plan all of the Homecoming events as part of the Student Alumni Leadership Council.

The Hub

The Hub was formerly the depot of the "Dinky," a tiny, narrow-gauge steam engine that ran between the college and downtown Ames from 1891 to 1907. The Dinky was replaced by an electric trolley which operated from 1907 to 1929. The Hub served as the bookstore until 1958 and was remodeled in 1987 and 2008. It now houses a Caribou Coffee concept which features Caribou's full line of beverages and tasty treats, as well as the Hub Grill & Café, a great place to get a made-to-order deli sandwich, grilled sandwiches, soup, as well as a variety of sides and desserts.

VEISHEA

Imagine planning an event like VEISHEA, but with no office space for student meetings and no financial reserves. The year was 1922, and the VEISHEA Central Committee was meeting for the first time. They met at Beardshear (the Memorial Union hadn't been built yet), and for each meeting they had to ask a janitor to help them find and unlock a room. But the administration was

solidly behind their effort: to combine the celebrations of the different divisions (today called colleges), which had resulted in too many unauthorized student holidays. The engineers skipped classes for their St. Patrick's Day parade; the home ec women skipped for their May Day dance; the aggies skipped for their Ag Carnival. But could one festival combine all the traditions of the separate divisions—Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Industrial Science, Home Economics, and Agriculture?

The answer was a resounding “yes!” Not only did the student planners combine the first letter of each division to name the festival, they also wove together a combination of traditions that has stuck: college open houses, a student musical performance (now called “Stars Over VEISHEA”), canoe races, a parade, and, of course, cherry pies.



The Zodiac

Who knows what prompted that first student to step over the bronze zodiac relief on the floor of the Gold Star Hall in the Memorial Union? But for more than 70 years, subsequent students have done likewise, understanding that to step on the zodiac is to ensure that they will flunk their next exam. It should be noted that staff, faculty, and alumni members also detour the enchanted circle, indicating the solemn belief that bad luck may befall more than just test-takers. The bad luck can be dissipated by throwing a coin into the *Fountain of the Four Seasons* directly outside the door, but most students don't want to risk it.

Facilities

Campus and recreation areas cover 1,984 acres. The following are descriptions of some of our outstanding buildings.

Hixson-Lied Student Success Center—Dedicated to improving academic achievement and increasing student retention and graduation rates. This \$10 million facility is home to the Academic Success Center which provides services directed to any Iowa State student in need of academic counseling or support. The center includes a resource library, computer labs, individual and group study rooms, and meeting and classroom space. It is also home to the Hixson Opportunity Awards program and the Rod and Connie French Athletic Academic Center.

Iowa State Center—This complex was completed 1969-1975 by the Iowa State University Foundation, entirely without the use of appropriated funds. The center includes three buildings:

- **C. Y. Stephens Auditorium**
Showcases internationally renowned performances of ballet, musical theatre, and classical music. Selected in 2004 as Iowa's Building of the Century by the American Institute of Architects. Seats 2,750.
- **J. W. Fisher Theater**
Provides an intimate setting for the Iowa State University Theatre department's student productions and dance events. Seats 450.
- **Scheman Continuing Education Building**
Ideal for seminars, conferences, group meetings, and art instruction. Houses Brunner Gallery and Museum. Includes Benton Auditorium which seats 450.

Lied Recreation Athletic Center

Lied Recreation Athletic Center provides space for open recreation programs, indoor athletic practice and competition, and fitness programs. The main feature of the building is a 120,000-square-foot multipurpose room which houses a 60-yard-long turf area, a 300-meter competition track, and 20 basketball/volleyball courts. Adjacent to this space are nine racquetball courts, recreation and athletic locker rooms, and equipment check-out rooms. The second floor of the building houses athletic department space for wrestling and weight training. The third level includes a large recreation fitness center and a 1/5-mile jogging track that looks out over the multipurpose room.

Memorial Union

After World War I ended, there was an interest on campus in erecting a memorial to Iowa Staters who died in that war. After talking about a bronze plaque or a gateway arch, an outspoken group headed by the editor of the student paper lobbied for a living memorial—a building that would provide service to the college and preserve the memory of those that were lost.

Students successfully rallied support on campus and then widened their campaign to alumni. By 1927, enough pledges were collected to begin construction.

The Memorial Union opened in September 1928. Gold Star Hall, at the north entrance, serves as the memorial with names inscribed on the walls of Iowa Staters lost in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Today, the Memorial Union serves as a student gathering space, hotel, and meeting space. Its food court serves as a popular place for meals on campus, and it houses offices for Student Activities, New Student Programs, and many clubs and organizations. The Underground provides bowling and billiards for recreation purposes and ample study space is available throughout the Memorial Union.

The recent renovation to the Memorial Union resulted in the expansion of the University Book Store; also updated were the food court, copy center, and meeting spaces.

New additions include the Multicultural Center and Soult's Family Visitors Center.

C.Y. Stephens Auditorium was selected as Iowa's Building of the Century by the American Institute of Architects.



Morrill Hall

Newly renovated Morrill Hall is now home to the Christian Petersen Art Museum, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and the Center for Visual Learning in Textiles and Clothing. Throughout the years, Morrill Hall has housed zoology, entomology, and geology classes and labs; a library; chapel; and even a barber shop from 1905-1908.

Constructed in 1891, Morrill Hall sat vacant from 1996 until the \$10 million renovation began in the spring of 2005.

Parks Library

Parks Library contains more than 2 million total volumes and 66,000 current periodicals and serials. The library provides a rich array of information available through an online catalog system that may be accessed from campus computers or personal computers located off-campus. The system includes more than 1,100,000 bibliographic records. The e-library (www.lib.iastate.edu), accessed through the Internet, provides access to the library's online catalog; indexing and abstracting databases; electronic journals; and selected Internet sites.

Reiman Gardens

Established in 1995 through a gift by Bobbi and Roy Reiman. Now the largest public garden in Iowa, Reiman Gardens creates a striking entrance to Iowa State University and the city of Ames on a 14-acre site. The year-round facility features an indoor conservatory, 2,500-square-foot indoor butterfly conservatory, butterfly emergence cases, gift shop, and five supporting greenhouses. The Gardens provide opportunities for learning through a year-round education program and special events.



Reiman Gardens is the largest public garden in Iowa.

Enjoy the adventure.

