Students learn about Middle Eastern cultures

This year’s second annual Arabic Night set out, and achieved its goal of bringing the many diverse aspects from many different cultures and countries to as many people as possible.

With, according to the Vice President of the Arab Student Association Matthew Heinrichs, about 500 people in attendance. For many of Iowa State’s students, Feb. 3 was a night marked by either a slice of home and familiarity or a night of learning, unity, supporting and being exposed to a new culture.

Many students came to experience new aspects of Arabic culture and also to support their Arabic friends who were attending or involved in the event, including Elijiana Younger-Hoffman, freshman in open-option, who came in support of her friend, Khadija Ahmed, freshman in pre-business, who walked in the night’s fashion show.

For many students, Arabic Night was also a night of learning and exposure.

“I’m from India, I want to know about other cultures … I love travelling … and I want to explore more cultures,” said Vatsal Bhatt, sophomore in computer engineering.

For Bhatt, attending Arabic Night was a matter of exploring and learning about a culture that wasn’t his own. Bhatt’s favorite parts of the night were the live Arabic music and the Arabic food served.

Rithana Mompremier, junior in aerospace engineering, attended the event with a large group of her friends and having enjoyed last year’s event, returned this year to support the event again. As a Haitian, Mompremier enjoyed the opportunity to experience a culture she wouldn’t have otherwise had a chance to easily experience or interact with.

“It was a really fun experience seeing the different cultures because I’m from Haiti, so I’m from the Caribbean, and I don’t interact with the Arabic community as much, because I’m from the Caribbean. It was really fun to see how they promote their culture and love their culture and learn more,” Mompremier said.

Mompremier went on to speak about the diversity of the music played throughout the night by the Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble, an Arabic music trio from Massachusetts who plays both classic and contemporary music from around the Middle East.

“I love hearing the music from different places because to me it sounds a little bit similar, but there’s little distinct differences in each of them. So there’s a connection of the different countries, but they’re all different in their own way,” Mompremier said.

Fast Facts
- Booths and buffets
- Arabic Students, faculty, and participants sang ch means “my homeland”
- Arab Students Association performed the Dabke
- Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble performs
- Faculty advisor to the ASA Ghinwa Alameen and her daughter performed a Syrian comedy routine
- Students modeled clothes from a myriad of different Arabic countries in a fashion show.
Iowa’s gubernatorial candidates

BY ISD STAFF

Caucuses give the voters a chance to get the facts, make a decision and decide who they would want to represent them.

One Republican and four Democrats look to replace 15-year incumbent Rep. Steve King, Monday, it’s up to the voter to decide who will be the Republican and Democratic candidate for the 2018 race for the 4th District congressional seat.

Before Caucus day begins, read about each of the candidates.

**Kim Reynolds, Republican**
Kim Reynolds is the current governor of Iowa and the first female governor in the state’s history. During her Condition of the State Address, Reynolds said improving water quality is what she wants to see happen first from the legislative session, and also discussed the topic of sexual harassment.

“(Sexual harassment) has been a stain in all facets of life and it must stop,” Reynolds said. In terms of tax reform, Reynolds wants to see reduction in rates, modernization of the tax code and elimination of federal deductibility.

“This is an opportunity to free us from decisions made in Washington, D.C.,” Reynolds said.

**Ron Corbett, Republican**
Ron Corbett looks to move from current Cedar Rapids mayor to governor by the end of this election cycle with a new “game plan for Iowa.”

Corbett lists lowering the marginal tax rate and simplifying the tax code as priorities. He suggested lowering the marginal tax rate from 9 percent to 3 percent by eliminating deductions and credits for those earning above $10,000.

During a visit at the Iowa State Fair, Corbett said he would eliminate the Board of Regents and replace it with an independent board of trustees for each university.

Corbett made the statement days after Iowa’s public universities revealed five-year tuition proposals pitching 7 percent increases through 2022.

**Andy McGuire, Democrat**
Andy McGuire, Democratic gubernatorial candidate, visted Ames in November, and spoke to a group of voters at Stomping Grounds. She wants to put money toward community and mental health services across the state. McGuire also shared her passion to restore Planned Parenthood funding as well.

“Tis is about women being able to control their bodies and their lives,” McGuire said.

Global warming was another issue discussed during her visit to Ames.

“It’s a scientific fact. We need to start treating it as such,” McGuire said.

**Fred Hubbell, Democrat**
Fred Hubbell is running a campaign based on the idea of “getting Iowa growing.”

To make sure the budget gets funded, Hubbell would slash many of the corporate tax rate giveaways in the state as well as close tax loopholes.

On top of his budget plans, Hubbell wants to make a pro growth state aimed at facilitating increased wages and access to healthcare.

He would do this by first funding education “at all levels” and then supporting policies that would increase affordable access to healthcare. Hubbell has also pledged to support policy that would increase access to high speed-internet across the state.

**Jon Neiderbach, Democrat**
Jon Neiderbach gives two promises which he plans to follow during his campaign and if he is elected governor.

The first promise is he’ll except no more than $500 from any donor in the primary.

The second is that nobody you can vote for in 2018 will do more to shake up Iowa government to make it more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of Iowans,” his website states.

Neiderbach’s website states he has a combination of experience, knowledge and new ideas with 14 years with the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and 15 years with the Iowa Department of Human Resources.
4th District congressional candidates

BY ISD STAFF

Rep. Steve King, Republican

Steve King, 68, has held the 4th District U.S. Congressional chair since 2003 after holding a seat in the Iowa State Senate from 1996 to 2002. King currently serves on three committees and four subcommittees, according to Ballotpedia.

Pertinent to Iowans was the Farm Bill that King is involved with that he says will lessen the “regulatory burden” placed on farms.

“California, for example, is regulating cage size for laying hens in Iowa. They passed a referendum there, you know how they do things in California, they get something on the ballot and then it doesn’t have to be logical but now it’s their constitution. But the referendum required that they double the cage sizes for laying hens in Iowa,” King said.

Paul Dahl, Democrat

Democrat Paul Dahl has worked as a transit bus driver for Hamilton County since 2013. He announced his run on Aug. 21.

Dahl’s campaign centers around restoring the vitality of the middle class. His strategy for doing that includes raising the minimum wage to $15. He would also reform the federal tax code to make it shorter and less dense, as he feels its density opens the doors for corporate tax loop-holes.

Dahl also said universities are potentially paying their employees “more than they should.” He referenced University of Iowa head football coach Kirk Ferentz’s $4 million salary as an example.

“I think some of them focus on research so much that they don’t do the teaching. Research is important, but we need to look at what the focus should be.”

John Paschen, Democrat

John Paschen is a Democrat running for Congress because he has a “Paschen” for Iowa. Paschen spoke critically about Republican officials using the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, as leverage for the wall.

“Up to this point, everyone has always passed CHIP,” Paschen said. “Now all of a sudden this year, it’s being held up. They’re saying we’ll pass CHIP if you do the wall. At what point is our children’s health negotiable?”

He also stated that the tax reform plan is the only accomplishment of the Republican Party while having a majority of the House, Senate and the White House.

“I feel it was purely a tax cut for the 1 percent,” he said.

Cyndi Hanson, Republican

Cyndi Hanson is the only other Republican to oppose Rep. Steve King in the race the 4th District congressional seat.

“The political posturing, divisive rhetoric and refusal to collaborate have become standard operating procedure for the career politicians in Washington,” Hanson’s website states. “Our current Representative has forgotten who he represents.”

She also believes it is important that Iowans need a representative who supports agriculture, something King also focuses on.

Her last main point is fiscal responsibility listing the importance of moving toward a balanced budget by reducing subsidies and entitlements while not raising taxes.

Leann Jacobsen, Democrat

Leann Jacobsen is running for Congress in Iowa’s 4th District, hoping to stand up for Iowa’s struggling rural communities and to help revitalize them.

Jacobsen is going forward with her bipartisan message of “politics over people.”

“If there’s a good idea, I don’t think it matters whose idea it is,” Jacobsen said.

As a businesswoman herself, she feels government should be doing more to ensure quality of life for the nation’s workforce in order to provide a well-educated, healthy labor force.

She would also like to see a system where healthcare is treated as a right and not a privilege for those who can afford it. She also feels completely scrapping the ACA, or Obamacare, is not a good way forward.

J.D. Scholten, Democrat

J.D. Scholten, 37, former Sioux City baseball player, is a freelance litigation paralegal running against U.S. Rep. Steve King in Iowa’s 4th District. The campaign will be Scholten’s first run for public office.

“It’s an uphill battle because I’ve never run for office before. Being competitive means being diligent in everything I do,” Scholten said if elected, Scholten said he would seek a more “common sense” approach to immigration reform. In terms of education, Scholten said his main focus would be reducing student debt.

“We’re going to see a change in the economy,” Scholten said. “We can’t continue to let people come out of college with great debts and expect them to find great jobs right away.”

K RAMBO/IOWA STATE DAILY

DOUGLAS BURNS/DAILY TIMES HERALD
POLICE BLOTTER

2.1.18

Alexander Ranger Gulden, age 37, of 1400 Gateway Hills Park Dr Unit 710 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with Criminal trespass at Memorial Union (reported at 1:39 a.m.).

An officer initiated a drug related investigation at Army Corps Building (reported at 11:35 a.m.).

An officer investigated a property damage collision Stange Rd and 13th St (reported at 4:40 p.m.).

Sebrina Kay Roeder, age 25, of 3709 Tripp St Unit 137 - Ames, IA, was cited for driving under suspension Stange Rd and 13th St (reported at 4:40 p.m.).

IOWA STATE WINS QUAD MEET

Iowa State freshman Sophia Steinmeyer competes on beam during the quad meet against Yale, West Virginia and Northern Illinois on Feb. 2. The Cyclones won the meet with their highest team score of the season with a total of 196.200 points.

SUDOKU BY THE MEPHAM GROUP

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.suduko.org.uk

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about errors that warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-294-5688 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.
Biblical suffering refers to Ames construction
Inspires Christian revival

BY DAVIS.PATTON @iowastatedaily.com

In a statement released Tuesday, local Bible scholars believe mysterious texts regarding centuries of suffering in Christianity’s Holy Bible are actually referring to road construction in Ames.

“The Bible, regarded as a sacred text by most Christians, predicts numerous times that there will be years of horrific hardship on Earth before their God returns. These texts have inspired many interpretations, including multiple beliefs on how long the hardship will last and whether or not the suffering has already begun. The most recent interpretation was developed here in Ames by a handful of Biblical analysts.”

“This took us nearly eight months to reach a conclusion, and along the way we hit many bumps in the road, literally,” said Pastor George Sandolven of First Lutheran Church of Ames. The scholars recall many times every week where at least one of them arrived late due to interference from road construction somewhere in Ames. Sandolven said, “from the median construction on Duff all summer to the new ramp on Interstate 35 and Highway 30, everyone was affected.”

After experiencing this for months, the team finally connected their experiences to a Biblical passage from the Book of Mark. The passage states the years of suffering will be worse than any suffering in history of mankind and worse than any to come in the future.

“This once we found that passage in Mark it was so clear to all of us that we are living in, and being detoured around, the Great Tribulation,” said Carol Vuong, a professor of Greek and author of many Biblical commentaries.

“To the surprise of the scholars, the statement has sparked something of a Christian revival in the Ames community.

“Many have come to believe in the Christian faith because of the statement, including Marcus Schroeder, Iowa State freshman in landscape architecture. Schroeder said he never believed the Christian idea of a divine creator of all things, instead, “it’s more likely that everything came from nothing.” Additionally, he stated he has never seen proof that humanity is inherently sinful or in need of any moral redemption.

“But now that I see the Bible accurately predicting the intolerable suffering that I experience with the road work in Ames, it all clicks,” Schroeder said. “After reading the statement, I drove straight to church, surrendered my life to God and was immediately baptized.”

“The scholars said that they are inspired by the massive revival that the statement has instigated. Vuong added, “the best part is now knowing that God will return when all of the construction is done!”

Regarding when it will be completed, the city of Ames predicts it will be finished by November 2018, which likely means sometime during 2030.

Guantanamo Bay is too expensive

Last Tuesday, President Trump gave his first State of the Union address to the country. Among other things, like the construction of the border wall, Trump mentioned Guantanamo Bay, promising to keep it open.

This is a mistake.

Guantanamo presents a slew of issues for America. It is expensive to run and there have been serious claims of torture taking place there.

There are only 41 prisoners in Guantanamo at the present moment. Now that may seem low, and it certainly is, but the craziest part is the amount of money we are spending on each prisoner.

In 2015, Guantanamo Bay cost $445 million dollars to operate. That means we are spending nearly $10 million dollars for each prisoner there. Clearly, this is waste of money.

And the Department of Defense agrees. They estimate that if Guantanamo Bay was to be closed, after the short-term expenses of moving the current inmates to other maximum security prisons, we would “generate at least $135 million in net savings over 10 years and up to $1.7 billion in net savings over 20 years.”

The monetary benefits of closing Guantanamo Bay alone could be enough of a reason to close the facility. But there is also the problem of torture.

An independent U.N. human rights investigator said he had information about a prisoner in Guantanamo Bay is being tortured.

The Department of Defense has denied the allegations. Guantanamo Bay has a long history of torture, so to hear that this is still taking place is horrifying. America cannot continue to fund a place that is torturing its inmates. Torture is a violation of human rights, something that America believes strongly in protecting. It would be hypocritical of us to claim to defend human rights while torturing prisoners in our own facility at the same time.

So why does Trump want to keep Guantanamo Bay open? Besides showing the world he has a hard-line on terrorism, it is likely he is determined to keep it open because it was one of Obama’s goals to close it.

Trump has been against almost everything Obama stood for simply because Obama fought for it, like the Paris climate agreement and Obamacare.

This childish way of conducting politics isn’t going to help anyone, especially America.

We need to close Guantanamo Bay. There is no reason to keep it open. Guantanamo Bay will only continue to waste our money and make us hypocrites in our protection of human rights. We have to close Guantanamo Bay.
Matt Campbell has certainly made an impression on Iowa State fans in his two years as Iowa State's football coach. But a Twitter account in his likeness has made waves throughout the internet as well.

"People have certainly brought that to my attention," Campbell—the real Campbell, that is—said with a laugh. "I just laugh. Sometimes I feel like that person's in my head and sometimes I think 'this guy's crazy,' whoever the person is. I find it humorous. Do I follow it? No, but I certainly get updated on what wildness gets said on there sometimes."

But who runs the account? How did it start? The Daily spoke with Jay from Toledo, Ohio, who runs the @NotMatCampbell account, to answer those questions and more.

Iowa State Daily: How and when did the account start?

Ya Boy Matt Campbell: I actually just got a notification on Twitter a couple days ago that said the account had turned five years old. I started this when I was in school at Toledo and I can't remember exactly if there was one defining moment that gave me the idea or not, but I just figured there were a lot of parody accounts back then for a lot of different coaches and I just thought maybe I could turn this into something. There wasn't anything like that for Matt Campbell, that is—said with a laugh.

"I'm definitely gonna get out there in 2018. What I'll probably do is take a selfie or something so people can see what I look like. Then I'll just say 'hey, come find me' and walk around the tailgates. I think we'll have a good time. There is something in the works, a potential @YaBoyMattCampbell tailgate, for whatever game I decide to get out there for. The wheels are in motion. I'm planning to be out there for the opening game or the home game against Akron, that's what we're shooting for."

BY AARON MARNER
@Iowastatedaily.com

Iowa State head coach Matt Campbell argues a call during the 59th Annual AutoZone Liberty Bowl.
Michel Moushabeck of the Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble addresses the audience in the Great Hall prior to performing on Saturday night.

"I feel like there's so much we don't know about Arabic culture, and I'm from an Indian background. I never was exposed to it, so coming here I learned a lot about the culture. I think it's a really good learning experience," said Smruthi Sandhanam, sophomore in computer engineering, on why she feels that learning about the vast amount of Arabic cultures is important to her.

Sandhanam then went on to speak about the importance of exposure and education about Arabic culture in general.

"I think education is the most important thing. I feel like a lot of people assume things when they're not [educated]. I think it's easier to learn things when you're talking to people from the culture. You get to know a lot more," Sandhanam explained. "I think it's important that we are exposed to Arabic culture and I'm glad that we're getting exposed to Arabic culture at Iowa State."

Sarah May, senior in animal science, said she has attended many of the other culture nights on Iowa State's campus, and felt that it was important to expose yourself to as many cultures as possible.

"It's incredible to learn about the different people and cultures of the world and not get close minded to things we're familiar with, but stepping out and seeing the rest of the world is really incredible," said May, elaborating on her takeaways from the many culture nights she's attended.

May went on to say she appreciated being able to experience the wide range of different cultures and traditions of the many different countries that make up the middle east that were showcased in the food, the art, and the clothing showcased at Arabic Night.

Ben Reichert, senior in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology major, and a student in one of Iowa State's Arabic language courses said the night gave him an opportunity to experience the many diverse aspects of Arabic culture outside of a classroom setting.

"I've taken the Arabic culture class in the past, but it's just really cool to see firsthand rather than academically. Seeing it firsthand is just a lot better I think," said Reichert.

Senior in electrical engineering Omar Elsherbiny said that he sees the event as important in multiple ways. He spoke about how it was important that Arabic Night was able to give so many Arabic students from all over different parts of the Middle East a chance to not just remember or talk about, but experience and live their culture, even if it was just for a night, while they were in Ames.

"If we educate everyday people about cultures from all around the globe, not just the Arabian culture then we're on route to making the world a better place," Elsherbiny continued.

Saif Jamal, sophomore in industrial engineering also felt that educating people about the diversity of Arabic cultures was an important purpose that Arabic Night achieved.

Arabic Night celebrated and represented many of the diverse aspects of Arabic culture and achieved its intended goal to educate those in attendance, while also giving many international and Arabic students an opportunity to feel at home.
Ross Wilburn, Democrat
Ross Wilburn, former Iowa City mayor, is saying “Let’s be Iowa” as he looks to become Iowa’s next governor. Wilburn is currently the diversity officer and associate program director for Community and Economic Development for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

He believes all Iowans should have equal access to shelter, nutrition, justice, education and health care, with “Developing a strong and sustainable economy from rural to urban communities that provides ample work as well as accessible, affordable education to all Iowans,” as main priorities, according to Wilburn’s website.

Gary Wells, Democrat
Gary Wells, 68, is a Cedar Rapids Democrat hoping to become Iowa’s next governor with a focus on helping the middle class.


Another priority for Wells is helping businesses by removing regulatory barriers. Other priorities include helping small businesses, farmers, ranchers and manufacturers from Iowa.

Wells’ background is in electronics sales and auto and truck repair and rebuilding.

Nate Boulton, Democrat
Boulton, a state senator and lawyer focused on labor law, has many plans when it comes to improving the state. If elected, Boulton has also pledged to push for a living wage tied to inflation by 2024.

When it comes to the budget, he would prioritize funding to Iowa’s educational institutions and mental health facilities while also getting rid of the Medicaid privatization that affects 1 in 6 Iowans.

By 2025, Boulton said he would work to make 50 percent of Iowa’s energy come from renewable sources. He sees this as an economic and climate opportunity for the state to take advantage of.

John Norris, Democrat
John Norris has described his campaign as the one “for every Iowan.”

Norris also has a child centered policy array that he believes will help ensure a quality future for Iowa. This plan includes prioritizing pre-K-12 education as well as expanding early learning programs.

Norris wants a better focus on Iowa’s agriculture as well. This focus would include policy aimed at helping small and family farmers rather than the large few around the state. To improve water quality, Norris would support responsible farming practices that would eliminate the use of confined animal feeding operations (CAFO).

Gubernatorial candidates continued

Cathy Glasson, Democrat
Cathy Glasson’s former experience as a nurse and health care union leader has prepared her to reform Iowa’s healthcare system. She would start by moving away from Iowa’s current privatized Medicaid system to a universal single payer system.

Glasson also supports an immediate increase in Iowa’s minimum wage, saying “workers can’t wait five or ten years for this to happen.”

Glasson plans to strengthen unions in the state. To help unions and their workers, Glasson would also get rid of “right to work” laws in the state.

Ross Wilburn, Democrat (continued)
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