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Oklahoma! has been gracing American stages for years, and few are immune to the catchy title song that has a tendency to infiltrate one's brain and leave them humming “where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain” long after leaving the theater.

Even since first hitting the stage in 1943, “Oklahoma!” has seen great success, enjoying long runs on Broadway, national tours, and many school and community productions.

Because of this success, many consider “Oklahoma!” to be one of the most well known shows of all time, and people all around the world have either seen the show, heard the music or have taken part in one of its various productions.

With its infectious song-and-dance numbers and its classic storyline, “Oklahoma!” has been captivating audiences for decades.

ISU Theatre hopes to continue this tradition with their production of “Oklahoma!” that will run in Fisher Theatre from April 5 to April 8.

“The musical overall follows Curly and Laurey as they try to figure out a way for them to express their love to one another,” said Lincoln Klopfenstein, sophomore in music who plays Will Parker.

“Living in the frontier of America, there are a lot more struggles to face everyday.”

In spite of its well known plot and characters, the cast and crew of Iowa State’s production are hoping to give “Oklahoma!” a modern spin that will allow it to relate more to today’s audiences, while still maintaining the heart of the show that many know and love.

“It’s been really cool to take such an old, classic musical and look at how we can apply it to today,” Klopfenstein said. “We can take something that is so old, but still has such common themes and motifs, and we can transfer that into everything we face today in the new world.

“We still have the same struggles, even if they aren’t surface level the same.”

One way that the cast and crew have implemented this modern twist is by changing the intentions and personalities of their characters and the way that audiences often perceive them.

During the first few weeks of rehearsal, the entire cast took time to do a deep analysis of all of the characters in the show and discuss how they could approach them from a different angle.

“This show definitely brings a modern spin to the classic show, especially surrounding the character of Ado Annie. She is usually played off as a flounce, as a flirt, but we’re kind of taking a modern spin on her character, and claims that she’s a little more relevant to today, especially for our generation,” Klopfenstein said.

“Usually she’s seen as kind of dumb, doesn’t know that all the boys like her … but in this version how we’re playing it off is Ado Annie knows exactly what she wants … We’re trying to portray women empowerment and where I only have one gun, Ado [Annie] has two guns … so there’s a lot of little things that you can pick up on,” Klopfenstein said.

Morgan Darrow, senior in music who plays the role of Laurey, is also planning on putting more of a modern spin on her character, and claims that taking on such a well known role has been both difficult and fulfilling.

“My director and I spoke a lot about how Laurey is usually portrayed as a fragile girly-girl who is usually seen as a victim and easily manipulated by men in the show,” Darrow said. “We decided to take this character in a different direction and make Laurey a hard working, strong, farm woman who refuses to be a victim.”

Darrow believes that this change more accurately portrays the women of today, while also staying true to the original character.

“We thought this would make her character a lot more relevant to today, especially with the Me Too movement,” Darrow said.

Not only has the cast of “Oklahoma!” tried to approach their female characters in a new way, but they have also taken time to look at some of their male characters as well.

“We, as a cast, analyzed how Judd, who is seen as more of the dark, kind of angry, misunderstood character, actually has a lot of a deeper side to him,” Klopfenstein said. “We starting touching on aspects of mental illness and how back in those days maybe he just wasn’t understood because there wasn’t the capability of educating someone who had a harder time learning.”

“We talked about so many of the themes that we could dive into with our individual characters … and for my character it’s more about getting the chance to enjoy life … and inspire people,” Klopfenstein said.

“It’s a way to look at how you can make a change in other people’s lives. Not by being serious, but by having fun and bringing joy.”

The director of the show, Brad Dell, has been the driving force behind this new portrayal of the famous story and claims that it is important that theatre continues to portray the issues of today’s society.

“When approaching all classic pieces of theatre, we cannot simply place this show on a pedestal … we tear it open and wrestle with it, and investigate how the play speaks to our world today,” Dell said.

Dell’s intention is to “dig even deeper and ask tough questions which challenge ‘Oklahoma!’ to inspire us in new ways.”

Klopfenstein believes that the changes that the cast and crew have made to this timeless musical will allow it to entertain older generations in the way that it has done for years, while also speaking to younger generations and giving “Oklahoma!” a new breath of life.

“No matter what age you are, where you’re at in life, I think that this show has so much depth to it, you’re going to be able to take something away,” Klopfenstein.

“No matter what gender, what age, you’ll be able to come in and walk out with a different mindset.”
Students volunteer in Uganda

BY ANNELSE WELLS
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Spring break is a time when students go on vacation with their families, relax on the beach or head home for the week. But for nine Iowa State students, their spring break brought them to Uganda.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has a long history of helping out in the Kamuli District. Their service learning programs are usually held over the summer, and this is only the second time the program has gone over spring break.

Going over break allowed the small group to witness the grand opening of the new training facility. The addition is a lot larger so it can hold more students and workers. It is also built to be sustainable as possible by utilizing solar power and natural ventilation.

“It tells the community in the Kamuli District that Iowa State University is there to stay,” Kody Olson, senior in global resource systems said. “It cemented our long-standing commitment to the program.”

Olson also said that it was evident the amount of thoughtfulness that went into the design for the new facility. On some of the sidewalks, there are trees right in the middle of them because they didn’t want to cut them down.

Olson was a part of the summer program two years ago. Going back this year, he was able to see the progress in the development of the district.

“At night, I see more lights turned on than I did two years ago,” Olson said. “I see more solar panels around, kids studying at night and there’s new homes being built.”

Olson also got to see some familiar faces. Two years ago, Olson met a mother in the program who was deaf. Being deaf himself, he was able to talk with her and her family.

For extra money, the women in Uganda make handmade bowls and bags. Olson bought one of the bowls that she, along with a second deaf mother, made and brought it back to remember his experiences.

“In Uganda, people with disabilities don’t get opportunities. So when you get programs like Iowa State reaching out to the most marginalized populations I think that makes a really big impact,” Olson said.

There were also students who were going abroad for the first time. For Shayla Holland, sophomore in Animal Science, this was her first trip outside of the country.

“It opened my eyes to cultural diversity and really getting out of my comfort zone and forcing myself to become immersed in a whole new country, a whole new culture, and a whole new environment,” Holland said.

In the Kamuli District, they helped plant and labor in fields as well as interact with Ugandan students.

“It is a very fulfilling feeling to look back at the field that you just planted and think one of those sweet potato mounds is going to feed so many people,” Holland said.

Helping in the fields saved a lot of time for the mothers in the program. Women are usually the workers on the farms, and the students were able to give them a hand with their work so they could have a bit more time for other things.

“The program is very serving toward women in Uganda, because there is discrimination there, and something we reflected on when we came back was the gender imbalance,” Olson said.

At the center, there are opportunities for students in a variety of majors. Being an animal science major, Holland was able to help build a pigsty and talk to other students about handling livestock.

“It would be really interesting and enlightening to go back and then continue to see how their livestock industry is going,” Holland said.

They also met up with the few Iowa State students who were already in Uganda. These students are a part of the Semester on the Nile program, which is the first time a group has stayed a semester there.

Having been on both the summer and the spring break trip, Olson has a lot to reflect on. He said that there is a sense of hope in the district now that hasn’t been there before.

“The program has made incredible strides, and will continue to make progress and deliver on promises,” Olson said.
BY LINDSEY SETTLE
iowastatedaily.com

While there has always been a standard withdrawal policy for students who need to drop out of their classes for personal reasons, there was no medical withdrawal policy in place until Aug. 1, 2017.

The medical withdrawal policy allows for students to withdraw from classes if a physical or mental health concern starts to interfere with their academic success. According to Assistant Dean and Director of Student Assistance Kipp Van Dyke, a majority of the reasons students take a medical withdrawal are mental health, stress and anxiety related.

The new medical withdrawal policy is not aimed at stopping students from taking a withdrawal or even lowering the number of withdrawals, but rather identifying concerning patterns of students taking multiple withdrawals, connecting students to available resources and addressing the issue of whether or not a student can be successful after returning from a withdrawal.

Director of Undergraduate Programs and an advising voice to the medical withdrawal policy committee Diann Burright said the policy came to fruition because of a number of factors, including students and families assuming there was already a medical withdrawal policy in place.

Another reason was students taking multiple withdrawals with no progress of healing. “They weren’t addressing their health issues and they would reoccur,” Van Dyke said.

For the fall semester of 2017, 425 students, or 1.2 percent, of the total student population, withdrew for a standard, medical or out-of-term reason.

This semester’s drop deadline to drop without extenuating circumstances was March 23.

There is no separate medical withdrawal form from the standard form to fill out. To designate that you are dropping classes for a medical reason, students simply check a box on the standard withdrawal form.

What makes the medical withdrawal form separate from the standard form is that students who check the medical withdrawal form box will receive an in-person meeting with a student assistance staff member prior to their return.

In reality, students have the choice on whether to turn the form in as a regular withdrawal form or as a medical withdrawal form.

However, if a student becomes less likely to receive support on their return to classes if they do not use the medical withdrawal policy.

There are three periods of time when you can drop within the semester. Period One spans the first five days of the fall or spring semester, Period Two continues through weeks two through ten and Period Three goes from week 11 to 15.

An outside of semester withdrawal is called an out-of-term withdrawal and requires the most amount of evidence to be considered a medical withdrawal.

A medical withdrawal is relevant prior to the drop deadline even if you provide no evidence because students will still receive a check in on their return to classes.

Prior to returning to classes, a student must complete a meeting where they provide evidence that shows their wellbeing and readiness to succeed.

Students with minor medical issues, such as a broken or injured wrist, can easily be checked off as ready to go, while other students needing further aid will be assisted with finding accommodations and resources to make their transition back to Iowa State as easy as possible.

“It’s not that it’s a high bar. It’s just that there is a door to walk through on the way back. A check-in point is really a good thing back,” said Burright.

There are many available services at Iowa State that can provide students with support, and the check-in point connects students to those services.

Director of Student Enrollment, Advising and Career Services Jane Jacobson said that “putting that extra step on the return was intended to make sure that students are well connected with the support that’s available at the university.”

A student could potentially delay a request to drop with extenuating circumstances or out-of-term withdrawal.

A possible example of a student not being allowed to take classes right away after taking a medical withdrawal would be that they fill out a medical withdrawal form in the last few weeks of the spring semester and want to take summer classes following that semester. With only a few weeks until summer classes begin, that student could potentially be unable to show the university that their situation has changed and are ready to be successful.

Students can access the withdrawal form on the office of the registrar’s website.

ACADEMICS
Policy allows withdrawal for health

BY CAITLIN YAMADA
iowastatedaily.com

Roxane Gay, author of the renowned feminist collection of essays “Bad Feminist,” will be speaking at Iowa State on Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union.

“Bad Feminist” is a collection of essays that explore being a feminist while participating in or loving things that could be seen as against feminist ideology.

“Bad Feminist” is considered the quintessential exploration of modern feminism,” according to Iowa State’s event page.

Gay is the first black woman to write for Marvel Comics with “Black Panther: World of Wakanda.”

Gay has published many other books including “Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body,” released last year in which Gay reflects on her struggles with weight and identity, “Difficult Women” and “An Untamed State.”

In 2006, Gay co-founded PANK Magazine “a literary magazine fostering access to emerging and innovative poetry and prose,” according to PANKs’ website.

Gay received a master’s in English with emphasis in creative writing from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Ph.D. in rhetoric and technical communication from Michigan Technological University.

Gay is currently a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times and an associate professor of English at Purdue University.

Gay will also be participating in “Telling Necessary Stories: Q and A on the Craft of Writing” on Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Pioneer Room of the Memorial Union in which students will have the opportunity to ask questions and listen to Gay discuss her writing process.

Gay’s lecture is co-sponsored by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Division of Student Affairs, MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment, Margaret Sloss Women’s Center, National Affairs, Pearl Hogrefe Fund, University Libraries, Women’s and Gender Studies program, and Committee on Lectures.

“I embrace the label of bad feminist because I am human. I am messy. I’m not trying to be an example. I am not trying to be perfect. I am not trying to say I have all the answers. I am not trying to say I’m right. I am just trying—trying to support what I believe in, trying to do some good in this world, trying to make some noise with my writing while also being myself,” said Gay in “Bad Feminist.”

“Bad Feminist” Roxane Gay to speak at Iowa State

Thursday, April 5, 2018 ~ 8 pm
Great Hall, Memorial Union

Sponsored by: Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, Carrie Chapman Catt Cent
**POLICE BLOTTER**

4.3.18

An officer initiated a drug related investigation that was reported at 4:56 p.m.
Mandated by the Constitution, the decennial census is conducted every year ending in a zero. Its purpose is to count every resident and where they live. The Census Bureau believes that including a question on citizenship threatens the accuracy of the census and further divides our population.

Question on citizenship threatens our census

As the previously mentioned lawsuit alleges, including the question on citizenship may be unconstitutional if it leads to an inaccurate count. The alternative solution involves the Census Bureau spending more time, money and resources to ensure an accurate count. This would add to the ballooning cost of conducting a census which cost $13 billion in 2010 and is expected to cost $15.6 billion in 2020. Potentially unconstitutional, an inaccurate count and the fact that including the question doesn’t align with the Census Bureau’s own standards for adding questions leads one to ask ‘why?’ Is the Trump Administration’s hatred of immigrant populations so strong that they are willing to hijack a Constitutionally mandated survey that helps ensure we are a government for the people, by the people?

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Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), majors and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s).

Phone numbers and addresses will not be published. Online feedback may be used if first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.
‘All I need is a chance’
Evrett Edwards’ journey to the NFL

By Aaron Marner
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The journey to making an NFL roster can be incredibly tough. There are roughly 10,000 Division I FBS players on scholarship in college football, almost all of which share the same NFL dream.

But only 256 players will be selected in this month’s NFL Draft. Wide receiver Allen Lazard is predicted to break Iowa State’s three-year Draft drought, but for some players, the path to the NFL isn’t as glorious. They may never hear their name called on Draft day and their only chance to earn a roster spot is through training camp.

One of those players fighting for his NFL dream is Evrett Edwards. Edwards, who played two seasons at Duke before playing at Iowa State from 2016-17, has spent the last few months working out in Las Vegas in preparation for his professional career.

He returned to Ames for Iowa State’s pro day, which was a nerve-wracking experience.

The pro day drills don’t always tell the full story, which can cause some anxiety for players. A fast 40-yard dash time is great, but it’s rare for a football player to be in a straight sprint for that distance during a game. Players often avoid those if they can — Lazard, for example, didn’t participate in the 40-yard dash, bench press or vertical jump at pro day.

But Edwards didn’t have that luxury.

“I was very excited to be done with that and do something I actually feel comfortable doing on a daily basis,” Edwards said. “So when we got to position drills I was pretty excited and I felt that I did pretty well there.”

Edwards played in all 24 regular season games for Iowa State over the last two seasons, recording 103 tackles. He picked off one pass in a Cyclone uniform — against current NFL quarterback Pat Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Edwards and fellow defensive back Kamari Cotton-Moya have gone through the process on a similar path. Both have gone through the same workouts, just in two different cities.

“Just to be back with the guys, that was very exciting,” Edwards said. “Just warming up and talking to each other and going through the steps, having somebody who was familiar with what I was trying to accomplish... I felt like that made the atmosphere a bit more relaxing.”

As far as the NFL goes, Edwards hasn’t been too high on most draft boards. He said he’s heard his best chance is the last day of the Draft, which consists of the final four rounds. Even then, Edwards’ best shot is probably as an undrafted free agent.

Last year, five Cyclones — Jhaustin Thomas, Jomal Wiltz, Nigel Tribune, Nick Fett and Demond Tucker — signed with teams after going undrafted. Edwards may be the next in line.

“I feel that I can be a coach on the field,” Edwards said. “I feel that I demonstrated that in my time at Iowa State... I also understand that coming in, I’d have to learn the ropes first. The first thing you need to do is understand the personalities and how to communicate with people. Learn about them individually before you can lead. That’s what I’d like to do if I got the opportunity to be a part of an NFL secondary.”

At Iowa State, Edwards was a bit of a jack-of-all-trades. As a senior he ranked seventh on the team in tackles, eighth in tackles-for-loss and one was one of seven Cyclones to force a fumble.

Recording those kinds of numbers from the safety position isn’t very common from the secondary, which shows some versatility. Cornerback Brian Peavy was the only other secondary member to force a fumble, and only two of the seven players with more tackles-for-loss than Edwards were in the secondary.

He was instrumental in some of the biggest games of the season, such as his 10 tackles (third on the team) in an overtime loss to Iowa, and his nine tackles (tied for most on the team) and a forced fumble in a final-possession loss to Oklahoma State.

He hopes those performances don’t go unnoticed at the next level.

“I’m just looking to get my shot,” Edwards said. “All I need is a chance. If I get a chance, I’m a happy guy.”

Bio Box

Evrett Edwards
Hometown: Woodbridge, Virginia
Position: Defensive Back
Height: 6-foot
Weight: 188 pounds

High School: Woodbridge High School

Accolades:
- Played at Duke for three seasons and recorded 26 tackles.
- Was redshirted during his freshman year at Duke in 2013.
- Played at Iowa State for two seasons and recorded 103 total tackles.
- Had one interceptions during his Cyclone career.
- Started 14 games in his Iowa State career and played in all 24 regular season games.

The first thing you need to do is understand the personalities and how to communicate with people. Learn about them individually before you can lead. That’s what I’d like to do if I got the opportunity to be a part of an NFL secondary.” - Evrett Edwards
Reading yields benefits

BY ALLISON MARTYR
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We all know that reading provides us with a way to relax, and unwind after a long day, but here are some of the different benefits reading can provide us.

Increases Attention Span & Youthfulness
According to Bustle, reading can both increase your attention span, and keep you more youthful. You may ask, “How can reading keep someone more youthful?” Well, reading can give people of any age social connections, and keep us from getting withdrawn. There are also many studies that claim reading “can create new connections between brain cells,” said one of those studies conducted at Harvard Medical School.

Stress Reliever
Reading is also a well known technique to reduce stress. According to Serious Reading, “Reading a book can relieve stress better than taking a walk or listening to music.” Many other studies have been conducted concluding that reading is a good stress reliever.

Cheap Form of Entertainment
Reading is also a great form of cheap entertainment. In a world where entertainment usually costs quite a bit, books are a cheap, or even free alternative.

There are many second hand stores around the Ames area with large book selections, as well as the public library, and other book suppliers, such as Books-A-Million.

Increases Your Knowledge & Vocabulary
Reading also provides knowledge, vocabulary expansion, the possibility of sleeping better, a stronger sense of empathy in our everyday lives, as well as a sense of encouragement in our lives, and the opportunity to escape for a little bit.

Goedjen finds a certain magic in books that can change your life, something you can’t anywhere else. “Sometimes we pick up a book to find ourselves in the stories we read—to discover solutions to the problems we’re going through—and sometimes we pick up a book to live vicariously, and sometimes, if we’re very lucky, we get entranced by a story and find ourselves relating to people and things that we never expected to,” she said. “That’s when we have ‘ah ha’ moments, and dramatic shifts in our thinking and in the way we view the world.”

So challenge yourself to pick up a new book, or an old favorite, and see how it benefits you towards the end of this semester.

From some of our favorite young adult books, to new and noteworthy releases, check out this list of three well-known young adult authors, and two emerging young adult authors for an easy start in the genre.

John Green
John Green has come out with an abundance of popular young adult novels since 2005. Green’s books will make you laugh, cry, and honestly feel all of the feels.

Green’s first book released in 2005 was “Looking for Alaska”. One of Green’s most popular releases was in 2012, “The Fault in Our Stars”. Green has also written “Paper Towns”, “An Abundance of Katherines”, and his most recent release, “Turtles All the Way Down”. If you haven’t read at least one of Green’s books, you should get on it, and if you aren’t a big reader, many of Green’s releases have been adapted into feature films.

Rachel Lynn Solomon
Solomon’s debut novel, “You’ll Miss Me When I’m Gone,” was released in January of this year. Solomon has another novel coming out in the Spring of 2019, called “Our Year Of Maybe”, with a sneak peak you can read on her website.

You can also check out Solomon’s writing in “It’s A Whole Spiel”, a young adult anthology by Jewish writers, coming out in the Fall of 2019.

J.K. Rowling
Rowling is a staple in the young adult fiction genre, who filled many childhoods full of magical creatures, an enchanting school, and a (mostly) delightful and memorableable book series.

We all know J.K. Rowling as the author of the “Harry Potter” book series, but Rowling has also written three companion books to “Harry Potter.” Keep the magical world alive by checking out “Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them,” “Quidditch Through the Ages,” and “The Tales of Beedle the Bard,” three companion books that expand the lore of the “Wizarding World.”

On top of all of that, Rowling has also written, “The Casual Vacancy,” and the “Cormoran Strike” trilogy. These releases show Rowling’s ability to write outside of her popular fantasy series.

Derek Milman
Like a good spooky, drama-packed book with the perfect touch of humor involved? Then check out Milman’s debut novel, “Scream All Night.” “Scream All Night” is expected to be published on July 24 of this year.

Milman’s themes and writing style are showing potential for a feature film adaptation.

Sarah Dessen
Dessen has been writing romance-filled realistic fiction books since 1996. Her first published book was called “That Summer.” One of Dessen’s most popular books is, “Along for the Ride.” She has written quite a lot of books, just a few of them include: “Just Listen,” “The Moon and More,” “This Lullaby,” and “The Fault in Our Stars.”

Two of Dessen’s books, “That Summer” and “Someone Like You,” were combined into a movie adaptation called “How to Deal” starring Mandy Moore, released in 2003.

If you are a Dessen fan, challenge yourself to read one or both of her books that got adapted into “How to Deal,” and even watch the movie. It’s always fun to find the similarities and differences between book and film.
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