The first LAS Week kicks off today. Stop by Troxel Hall for breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. today.

Iowa State Wrestling has had many changes this season, including Chase Straw's successful move to 157-pounds.

For Michelle Spear, gaining access to her birth certificate is about control.

Spear is the founder of the Iowa Adoptee and Family Coalition whose purpose is to give Iowa adoptees access to their original birth certificate which law has blocked them from doing since the 1940s.

The main argument against granting access is the names of parents who wanted to remain anonymous would suddenly be revealed. Spear said her goal is not to find anything out. All she wants is to be like every other adult in Iowa.

“For our goals and our purpose, it has nothing to do with finding things out for us. It's that we're adults,” Spear said. “It is our desire to, just like anyone else in the state of Iowa, to have a copy of our original birth certificate.

“We feel that they're treating us like second-class citizens, so to speak, and that we are not worthy of handling our own affairs.”

The Iowa Adoptee and Family Coalition is a Facebook group with around 950 people from in and out of Iowa who follow it. Some of the followers are adoptee rights lawyers and concerned legislators. Many of them are Iowa adoptees themselves.

All are in favor of granting adoptees access to their birth certificates.

Spear’s cause has been tossed back and forth in the Iowa Legislature since about four years ago when Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, first wrote the legislation. This wasn’t the first time the issue was brought to the state level.

Wessel-Kroeschell said a woman contacted her after she filed the bill saying she was glad she was bringing the issue back to the state. This woman was a part of a group who tried and failed to give adoptees access to their original birth certificates in the ‘90s.

This time around, Wessel-Kroeschell is fairly confident they’ll get the legislation through.
Students pursue sustainability

Clubs share love of the environment

BY PAIGE ANSON
iowastatedaily.com

Sustainable living is not exclusive to people who care solely about environmental issues, according to three Iowa State sustainability advocates.

Lia Gomez, Aviana Pingel and Paige Myers are three students involved in campus sustainability organizations that feel living sustainably is for anyone who cares about taking responsibility for one's impacts on the world, others and themselves.

Environmental impacts like water, waste and energy use, are all areas of life that can be made more sustainable for anyone, Myers, a campus and community engagement intern with the Iowa State campus sustainability initiative, Live Green, said.

"Sustainability encompasses a lot of different things," Myers said. "It's an overarching theme of a lot of different themes and facets. It encompasses environmental, social and economic factors."

Maintaining healthy balances and an ability to recover from unbalances among these factors is a shared goal within the sustainability community on campus, Myers said.

Keeping social ties, saving money and protecting the environment from resource depletion and pollution are a few examples of how people achieve this goal, according to Aviana Pingel, a co-president of The Green Umbrella and the director of sustainability in Student Government.

The importance in maintaining these balances comes from the benefits they bring to others and the individual, Gomez said.

"People being sustainable" comes full circle, to benefit themselves. It doesn't have to be an environmental aspect. Being sustainable goes far beyond that," Gomez said.

As for how these students came to care about their balances and impacts, their experiences leading to sustainability advocacy differ.

Raised in Boone, Iowa, Myers's background in sustainability comes from her high school experience attending the World Food Prize Iowa Youth Institute at Iowa State.

After a few years attending the event as a global youth participant, Myers said, she discovered her interest in global environmental and agricultural issues, such as food insecurity and sustainability.

Aided by the context the World Food Prize Institute gave her on food scarcity and sustainable practices, and with desires to travel internationally, she was then inspired to major in geography at ISU in global resource systems and agriculture and society, with a minor in Spanish, Myers said.

Because of these interests, and a growing passion for environmental issues as well as event management, Myers later decided to leave her position as a CA to apply for the intern position with Live Green.

"On campus I struggled in finding people who were willing to change their lifestyles for sustainability. But I've found that clubs and organizations, and going to sustainability events, can be great for finding people like you that have those goals," Myers said.

Pingel's interest in understanding sustainability began in her childhood backyard in a suburb outside of St. Louis.

"We had these woods in our backyard, and I would explore [there] with my two sisters... we would go out there and see the younger parts of the forest... Once they knocked down the forest, when I was 12 or 13, there weren't really any animals. So I was like, O.K. now I see what happens," Pingel said.

From tending with life to silent, the loss of her backyard was a moment that stuck with Pingel as she went on to complete environmental courses in high school.

With more knowledge about how else the world changes when natural systems are disturbed, Pingel decided that understanding the impacts of people on the environment was something she wanted to pursue in college; inspiring her choice to double major in environmental science and global resource systems, Pingel said.

Today, along with advocating for sustainable living in The Greenhouse Group, Pingel also participates in The Green Umbrella (TGU).

For sustainability-curious students who want to learn more about how they can balance their social, economic and environmental impacts, getting involved in sustainability groups and attending club meetings is a great first step, Pingel said.

"With a lot of them, it's not a huge commitment. You can just absorb information and learn. Also we have fun. The point of TGU is to engage people more in sustainability. We want to engage people in the stuff they want to do [socially, environmentally or economically]," Pingel said.

Like Pingel, Gomez developed her interest in sustainability after witnessing examples of how people impact and interact with the environment and other people.

The first examples for her came from her grandmother, a nurse living on the border of Mexico, Gomez said.

"She worked in [a] delivery room where babies were born with a variety of [illnesses]... and somehow the conversation always came back to water," Gomez said.

Hearing that water quality could alter lives as a little kid was hard to wrap her mind around, Gomez said.

In high school, however, she began to grasp more fully the impacts, and causes, of poor water quality.

"[A professor in high school helped me complete my] water quality analysis on treated human waste... From sophomore to senior year, that was my research," Pingel said.

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"[A professor in high school helped me complete my] water quality analysis on treated human waste... and seeing the effect that the treated water had on the environment... I fell in love with my research. From sophomore to senior year, that was my baby. Water quality and the environment, and seeing how they worked together and affected each other," Gomez said.

Iowa State to host annual ISCORE conference

BY TALON DELANEY
iowastatedaily.com

Every year, educational leaders and experts from across the country meet to facilitate systemic changes for racial and ethnic justice at post-secondary institutions at NCORE, or the National Conference On Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education.

In the same spirit, Iowa State is hosting a conference of its own. The Iowa State Conference On Race and Ethnicity (ISCORE) will model ISCORE in its goals.

Through presentations and workshops, the ISCORE staff will lead focused discussions on diversity and inclusiveness on campus.

The conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 2 in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union. Attendance is free, breakfast and lunch will be provided and registration is open on the ISCORE website registry.

ISCORE is available only to ISU students, faculty and staff.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Susana Muñoz, Iowa State alumna with a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies, will discuss the importance of educational leadership in facilitating systemic change for racial and ethnic justice in higher education.

She is the director of the Marion Institute for Education: The Journey Stories of Undocumented and Unafraid Community Activists, chronicling the experiences of undocumented activists in the U.S.

The ISCORE staff will consist of ISU students, faculty and staff with NCORE experience. The three major goals of ISCORE are:

- Develop and enhance ISU student, faculty and staff awareness of racial and ethnic issues in higher education around the country.
- Continue to promote addressing multiculturalism in the classroom and in American higher education.
- Make information, regarding issues of race and ethnicity, accessible to the entire university community and support the university’s ongoing efforts.

A pre-conference will be held exclusively for ISU faculty and staff from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 28 in the same location.
Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center, announced her retirement Friday morning after 22 years. Bystrom has served as the director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State since 1996.

She founded Iowa State’s interdisciplinary undergraduate Leadership Studies Program and has taught numerous courses including Women and Leadership and Women and Politics. Bystrom has also spoke on numerous occasions.

She earned a bachelor’s in journalism in 1975 from Kearney State College and a master’s in journalism and mass communication in 1982 and a doctorate in communication in 1995 from the University of Oklahoma.

Before coming to Iowa State, Bystrom worked for 17 years at the University of Oklahoma in public relations, higher education administration and political communication.

Over the years she has won many awards including the Martin Luther King Jr. Advancing One Community Faculty/Staff Award in 2016, the Faculty-Staff Inspiration Award from the Alumni Association in 2015 and the Institutional Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2014. Along with this, she was also the first recipient of the Iowa Network for Women in Higher Education Distinguished Higher Education Leadership Award in 2016.

In her announcement she states that she is “proud to have helped build a now nationally recognized center for women and politics.”

LAS WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY

LAS Week Kickoff Breakfast, Troxel Hall, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

“The Art of Language Invention” lecture by David Petersen, Great Hall, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Math and Computational Sciences Day

Lunch with Faculty Panel, Campanile Room, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Communications Day

Snack and Learn Publications Panel, Catt Hall room 302, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY

Art and Humanities Day

Trivia Challenge, Carver Hall, Music Hall, Pearson Hall, Ross Hall, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

FRIDAY

Social Sciences Day

Booth-fest, Great Hall, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Matthew Gregg Messer, age 23, of 839 Dickinson Ave Unit 2 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated and careless driving at Hayward Ave and Mortensen Rd (reported at 12:21 a.m.).

An officer investigated a property damage collision at Hayward Ave and Mortensen Rd (reported at 12:21 a.m.).
Students walk between Curtiss and Beardshear halls during a snowstorm on Jan. 11, 2018. Columnist Megan Petzold argues Iowa State should be more careful when canceling classes.

The Severe Weather and Emergency Closings document from Iowa State was updated and reviewed on Aug. 1, 2017. The introduction states “in the event of inclement weather or other emergency, the president or other designated representatives, in consultation with appropriate university administrators, may declare one of the following emergency situations to be in effect.” The two “emergency situations” that could be held are either classes can be canceled or the university and its buildings close. I think this is a great policy to have in place but I believe it can be more specific. What exactly is “inclement weather” and who decides what weather is dangerous?

I can only assume there is a panel of people who decide if classes should be cancelled during a massive snowstorm or not. But with it being Iowa, there are quite a few snow storms. College is stressful and demanding, so I can understand why the board or whoever decides to keep classes or cancel them would choose to not cancel classes at non-life threatening costs. But walking, riding a bus or driving can be very dangerous in snowstorms.

During the snowstorm on Feb. 6, there was a 50-car pileup on I-35 highway near Ames. Story County Sheriff’s Office Capt. Barry Thomas said he could not see from one end of the pile up to the other.

Between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Monday, police responded to 185 car crashes, including the one mentioned above. Between all of these crashes, eight people died and at least 10 people were injured.

After hearing about this, I am left wondering how the board decided what inclement weather is. The snow storm on Monday could have left Iowa State students injured or killed. It could only take one mistake of someone driving a car on campus to ruin someone’s life.

I don’t think classes should be cancelled with a light dusting of snow, but the recent snowstorms have held dense snow and lots of it. I think one day of classes being cancelled during a snowstorm like these isn’t too much to ask.

Weather shouldn’t stop classwork

In “Subterranean Homesick Blues,” Bob Dylan sang, “You don’t need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows...”

This week we’re seeing you don’t need a weatherman — or woman — to know how deep the snow blows.

This past week has brought Iowa more snow than we had seen previously all winter. But the predictions by meteorologists have not been entirely accurate.

To be fair, weather forecasters are better than the average person at estimating how frequently they are correct and how frequently they are incorrect in their professional predictions.

In other words, they are better “calibrated” than most of us. But weather forecasters are certainly not always right. Last Thursday their predictions were dire. Snow was falling and another six to seven inches were predicted for Friday.

A winter storm advisory was issued, we were told driving was ill-advised. People cancelled meetings and activities scheduled for Thursday and Friday, but classes at Iowa State were held. They were not officially cancelled.

If short-term weather predictions are fallible, the university cannot be expected to make perfect calls on canceling classes. Sometimes weather can be treacherous and the university remains open.

Other times, admittedly rarely, the university has cancelled classes only to have relatively mild weather ensue, leaving people shivering and wondering why the forecasters were so alarmist. Given the inevitable bad calls, we need to be flexible. As more students commute to Iowa State, faculty need to be understanding and allow students to stay home when driving is dangerous.

In those circumstances, students need to be willing to meet class requirements and expectations from home as much as possible, rather than asking professors to rewrite exams or repeat lectures.

Some imagination and creativity may be useful from all sides. Rigidity is unfair and unreasonable. But treating a snow day as a no work day can also be unreasonable.

With a constructive attitude and the creative use of technology, we should be able to move our classes along, with or without the occasional interruption of unexpectedly deep snow or especially severe weather.
Redshirt sophomore Chase Straw wrestles Bryant Clagon Nov. 26 in Stephens Auditorium during the Cyclones’ meet against Rider. The Cyclones were defeated 15-22. Straw has switched to the 157-pound spot after wrestling at 149-pound last season.

“The Cyclones lost 15-22. Straw has improved to 9-8 in duals. “I don’t know if [my offense has] gotten better, [I’m] just more confident in my training and knowing that I’m not going to get dead tired,” Straw said.

While Straw finds himself just over the 500 threshold, the redshirt sophomore has faced strong competition. Straw knocked off Wyoming’s Archie Colgan, the No. 10 157-pounder according to InterMat, via a 4-3 decision. Straw also wrestled North Dakota State’s No. 9 Clayton Beem and South Dakota State’s Luke Zilverberg, losing by decision in both matches.

In the eight dual matches he’s lost, Straw minimized the damage. Only one loss—a 10-2 major decision to Arizona State’s No. 6 Josh Shields—resulted in sacrificing bonus points to Iowa State’s opponent. Straw’s losses have been close and some of his wins have been close, but at times, Straw piled on the points en route to victory.

When Straw loses, his opponents’ win by an average margin of about three points. When Straw wins, the redshirt sophomore wins by an average margin of seven points.

“I still don’t think the Iowa State fans have seen the real Straw yet,” Dresser said before the Virginia Duals. “I think he’s still a little conservative when he goes out there. He doesn’t really let it fly, but he’s figuring out how to win and sometimes you have to figure out how to win before you start blowing guys out.”

Since then, Straw has compiled a 5-6 record with two of his wins ending with a technical fall and one win from a major decision.

On Jan. 21, Cyclones fans caught a glimpse of the let-it-fly version of Straw. Iowa State trailed West Virginia 11-5; the Cyclones needed a spark before intermission. Straw matched up with Zachary Moore. Straw showcased more aggression on offense than the 157-pounder generally does.

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“I shot a lot in that match, and slowly it started to wear on him,” Straw said. “Then I could start getting my offense more from the start.”

In the third period with a decision locked up for Straw, the redshirt sophomore purposely let Moore up after a takedown, using a technique called catch and release.

Straw thought Moore was gassed and would give up more takeowns easily. Straw fell short of tactics on bonus points, winning by a 13-6 decision, but a different mindset appeared: an aggressive mindset. A mindset Dresser envisions will help lighten the load for Straw’s teammates in the future.

“I think down the road, only being a sophomore, I think he’s a guy that could turn into a bonus-point guy for us,” Dresser said.

Iowa State claimed its eighth dual win on Friday over Fresno State. In the 2016-17 season, the Cyclones nearly finished winless, but Iowa State managed to scratch out one win.

What’s been the key to Iowa State’s turnaround? Anytime a coaching change takes place, and the program hires a head coach from outside the program, changes will take place.

Iowa State coach Kevin Dresser and his staff’s arrival, along with their coaching approach, helped lead that change.

“We are very hands on – intimate is a word that comes to mind. We really invest and we really care,” said associate head coach Mike Zadick at wrestling media day. “We’ll take someone who maybe is decent and hopefully develop them to be very good and we’ll take somebody who is very good and make them great.”

“Chase is one of our leaders,” Dresser said. “He’s one of our quiet leaders. He’s a tough guy in the room.”

Before Straw claimed the 157-pound spot, he paid his dues. Straw initially redshirted his first year on campus. During his redshirt campaign, the Winthrop, Iowa, native accumulated a 13-5 record, and his teammates crowned him as the Iowa State Freshman of the Year.

During Iowa State’s tough 1-12 season, Straw received his first chance at Big 12 wrestling. The Cyclones slotted Straw in the 149-pound spot for a majority of the season.

Straw accumulated a 14-10 record, but the redshirt freshman’s record slumped to 1-5 in dual matches.

“I think that I’m naturally a 157-pounder, but I was just doing it for the team last year,” Straw said. “I think it was a little too much for me, but now that I’m at 157, things are starting to work out for me.”

Bumping up to 157 has paid dividends for Straw this season.

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Women give back and bond in music

BY MIKAILA GONDREAU
@iowastatedaily.com

Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), a service-based Greek organization, is empowering women in music and giving back to the community through their unique philanthropy projects.

The 105-year-old international music fraternity is well-known for their service to the community and their efforts to better the lives of individuals through music and sisterhood. The Sigma Lambda chapter at Iowa State is showing how their efforts are making a difference on a local and international scale.

The chapter originated as Lambda Mu (Love of Music) at Iowa State on Nov. 6, 1912 when a group of women formed a local group to promote interest in music among other female students. They first appeared in April 1924, serving as the ushers at a recital for Sigmund Spaeth. SAI is still ushering concerts at the Martha Ellen-Tye Recital Hall to this day.

Soon after, in 1925, Lambda Mu was accepted as an official part of Sigma Alpha Iota International Fraternity and became the Sigma Lambda Chapter of SAI.

Fast forward to today; there are currently 15 members of SAI in the Sigma Lambda chapter, eight of whom have leadership positions.

Samantha Schmitz is a junior in music and the president of the Sigma Lambda chapter. She enjoys the unique qualities of having a leadership role.

“If you’re really wanting leadership positions and a small type of atmosphere, this is what you should join because you get to know everyone on a really personal level,” Rachel said. “If you love music and want to share it with people, that’s the biggest reason why women want to join.”

On top of being able to put an SAI leadership position on a resume, the women of SAI get to have a part in impacting the country and even the world. SAI holds an annual spring benefit concert to support Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc. This non-profit organization was created in 1974 to support the educational and charitable goals of SAI through many philanthropy and service projects in the coming years.

Along with the national community, the Sigma Lambda chapter is hoping to reach out to even more nationally based philanthropy projects in the coming years.

Another way the women of SAI are helping out the national community is through a program called Bold Notes. The purpose of Bold Notes is to provide large-print versions of scores, method books and sheet music to visually impaired musicians. Rachel mentioned they will hopefully be starting this project in the next few weeks.

Although impacting the U.S. and the world through their efforts is a large part of their mission, the women of SAI believe bettering the Ames community is just as important.

“Individual chapters like college chapters and alumni chapters, do their own thing to give back to their local communities in ways that the national chapter can’t,” said Morgan Muell, senior in biology and vice president of membership for the Sigma Lambda chapter.

Every year, SAI also puts on a Toys for Tots Benefit Concert which features performances from ISU students and faculty. This concert is to help the Toys for Tots campaign distribute toys to kids around Iowa.

Along with the annual Toys for Tots Benefit Concert and the spring benefit concert, SAI has a few smaller projects in the works. The women of Sigma Lambda have begun collecting Box Tops for Education to donate to local elementary schools to raise money for their music programs. They also donated $400 to the ISU Symphony Orchestra this semester to support their funding for a composition. Outside of the music realm, the members of SAI enjoy making and sending uplifting cards and tie blankets to hospitalized children.

The service component is so huge compared to other organizations. It really gives you something to talk about that you’ve done with your time for someone else who needs it,” Muell said.

Samantha Schmitz is a junior in music and the philanthropy chair for Sigma Lambda chapter. Schmitz enjoys being a part of this organization not only for the community service, but for the ways in which it pushes women forward.

“It’s about service and empowering women,” Schmitz said. “Especially in the choral world… it’s very male dominated, like you see a lot of choral conductors are men. So to be able to honor women who have made contributions to music and to show them that you can do this and we are here to support you, it’s just a really great thing.”

The Sigma Lambda chapter is hoping to reach out to even more nationally based philanthropy projects in the coming years.
“We feel ... that they’re treating us like second class citizens, so to speak, and that we are not worthy of handling our own affairs.”
– Michelle Spear
Founder, Iowa Adoptee and Family Coalition

people have difficulty when getting a passport. Spear said that person would be required to produce other information which they do not have access to—including their original birth certificate.

Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization that’d be off limits to adoptees in Iowa since they require an original birth certificate to prove lineage.

Other amended certificates offer vague or incorrect information. One women in the organization has a certificate that says she was born in Des Moines but fails to disclose a hospital or exact location.

Her husband’s time of birth was incorrect on his birth certificate. This law is antiquated,” Spear said. “It’s not, it doesn’t need to be in today’s world. We are trying to educate them, the legislators, to understand why this is important and I think that once you hear why you want it and what it is about it’s pretty cut and dry.”

For Spear, she was adopted not long after her birth, so her amended birth certificate is similar to her original birth certificate. The law as a whole is fairly uncontroversial, but still has difficulty make it through legislatures around the country.

“The controversy arises in the fact that there are some women who have never disclosed to their current family that they had children previously,” Wessel-Kroeschell said. “Before they met a husband or before they had the children that they’ve been raising, they haven’t disclosed that and if they haven’t disclosed that and they’re afraid to disclose it and they’re afraid of the reaction that their family will have, then it becomes an issue.”

Though, with easy accessibility to DNA testing, the state wouldn’t be the first to disclose the biological parents’ identity.

Provisions in the current legislation would require that the state sends out notices that the birth certificate with the parent’s name will be made available.

“When you sit down, and you talk to the individuals who are promoting it, their question is or their argument is it’s a document that’s only about me,” Wessel-Kroeschell said. “It’s a legal document and it’s only about me and I’m not allowed to see it, I’m not allowed to have a copy.”

Missouri is one of the most recent states to grant compromised access to adoptees. Parents are still able to ask not to be contacted or to only be contacted by an intermediary.

There are currently eight states including Iowa with pending legislation. During the 2017 legislative cycle, the bill received a hearing for the first time which resulted in a request to refine the language.

“We shouldn’t be hiding things from adults,” Wessel-Kroeschell said. “We shouldn’t be hiding heritage from adults, and another argument they made is they said, ‘You know, my biological mother and father decided they wanted to be secret from me, but nobody asked me and so that was their decision. I’m an adult, now I get to make some decisions about me.’”