1-22-2018

Iowa State Daily (January 22, 2018)

Iowa State Daily

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastatedaily_2018-01
Registration started at 7:30 a.m., run-in started at 9 a.m. and the reveal of funds raised happened at midnight. Some, if not all, of the participants were awake and on their feet for between 15 and 17 1/2 hours.

They wore teal shirts with the phrase “Saturdays are for the kids” along with teal accessories and the acronym “FTK” written in permanent marker on hands and faces.

While friends and team members milled about and socialized in different parts of the Memorial Union, Dance Marathon was, like every other year, about something bigger than themselves.

In 1998, Dance Marathon was a 10-hour event sponsored by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Governing Councils, and took place in the basement of State Gym, raising over $20,000 for families and children who have been treated at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital and have benefited from Children’s Miracle Network.

In its 21st iteration, Dance Marathon, or “DM” takes place in the Memorial Union, and has a wide variety of activities to keep participants energized and on their feet until “Power Hour” and the reveal of funds raised at midnight.

Some students stand for family members or close friends, and others feel such deep connections to Dance Marathon and its mission that they return to Iowa State to participate in Dance Marathon even after they have graduated.

Freshman Cami Schrier and alumna Becky Wrolson have two such stories.

Schrier stands for her sister

Schrier, freshman in elementary education, has had ties to Dance Marathon since 2009. Her little sister, Gracie, was born in 2007, and had both Down Syndrome and a hole in her heart. Gracie was treated at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, and Dance Marathon paid for a lot of the Schrier’s medical expenses during Gracie’s treatment.

“We’ve been coming since 2009,” said Schrier. “We stopped coming in 2014 for family reasons, but I stand because of her because she can’t stand here today.”

“Once you’re in dance marathon, it’s kinda part of your life.”

— Becky Wrolson, alumna
Exposing children to agriculture

Laura Irish, graduate student in horticulture, plans to take the knowledge she has gained through working for the Good Earth Student Farm to children in urban areas. Irish grew up in a suburb of Chicago but was exposed to agriculture through her parents’ love of gardening.

“I grew up loving food,” Irish said. “My parents were always growing veggies and ornamentals, but the thought of farming food they’re ingesting. Beyond just that, it’s not just about the food, it’s about growing as individuals. It’s about the gardening,” Irish said. “Watching it from seed to harvest is really empowering to me. It changed me. None of my friends have seen that kind of exposure as well.

“Youth need to be exposed to that for a successful future,” Irish said. “I believe rural communities and suburban communities have exposure to agriculture and nice gardens, but if you go more urban, you see less and less of home gardens and farms,” Irish said. “Youth need to be exposed to that for a successful future.”

Irish’s decision to do this didn’t come over night. She has faced a lot of hardship in her life. Both success and failure have brought her to where she is today, and she feels young people should have that kind of exposure as well.

“I’ve helped myself get through these hard things through gardening,” Irish said. “Watching it from seed to harvest is really empowering to me. It changed me. None of my friends have done that beyond egg carton plants, you know?”

Irish believes targeting urban communities can help those young people pursue a career as well as take an interest in the food they’re ingesting. Beyond just that, it’s not just about the farming and eating aspect. It is about growing as individuals.

“If you can become invested in your food, you’ll be empowered in it and care about this one thing and work through it, just like your problems and barriers,” Irish said. “If we can at least start somewhere, we can change how food is grown in our society and change our society as a whole.”

This series explores how the Iowa State community and its members prioritize sustainability as they interact with resources such as land, water and electricity. Sustainable steps: A look at green efforts in the Iowa State community is a collaborative project between the Greenlee School of Journalism depth reporting class and the Iowa State Daily.

More than 5,000 students are enrolled to get their undergraduate degrees from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University, making it one of the largest programs nationwide. But, what many people do not know is, even on campus students practice their knowledge with the Good Earth Student Farm. The College of Agriculture and Life Science, otherwise known as CALS, provides good farmland to students to practice with real-life situations.

“Horticulture keeps you in the science, but sustainable agriculture teaches more about social aspects of it,” Irish said. “And that’s the cool part about it; when it impacts people’s lives.”

The ISU Good Earth Student Farm is sustainable and organic student run farm on the Iowa State campus. The farm is about 2- acres in size and is run by undergraduate and graduate students, as well as members of the Ames community.

Irish does not come from the background that farmers sometimes come from. She grew up in the suburbs of Chicago in an area where not many people knew about agriculture and its importance. “The one thing that made her family stand out from her neighbors was her parent’s love of gardening.

“Those were the moments that were the most important to me,” Irish said. “I lived 4 years, in the suburbs, and then the entire time we were packing up and heading to Ames, Iowa. Once settled into Iowa State, she found her niche and began studying agricultural education.

Although Irish began studying agricultural education here at Iowa State, Irish was not satisfied with the structure of the program. Students planning to study agriculture and horticulture to teach diversity to students of any age take one introductory course. The introductory agriculture education course is to prepare students for a lifetime career in education, but Irish felt that it was not enough.

“I care about sustainable systems and the agriculture of horticulture,” Irish said. “One course is not going to teach me everything I need to know to teach people about this, so that was when I joined the Good Earth Student Farm.”

Irish said she is someone with big dreams. She wants to work somewhere larger than Ames, hopefully with 100,000 to 300,000 people, a greater diversity of people and a more urban setting.

“I think it’s important to acknowledge other people and their differences,” Irish said. “If you can connect youth with food relevant to them, you can essentially bring them closer together.”

The process all depends on where Irish goes. She said she would be open to any types of young people in any type of community. From at risk youth, to public youth systems, to Boys & Girls Clubs, Irish is open to any and everything. The next step would be beginning the garden. Irish said amending soils and irrigation could get expensive, so if she gets to work in a more urban community, that could be a challenge faced.

“There are so many questions and conflicts I could be faced with,” Irish said. “I would need to promote the garden to the youth and the community, hold informational meetings and give nutritional education sessions, but it all comes back to trust.”

Rejoining a community unaware of therapeutic horticulture and establishing that trust between her and the community are Irish’s biggest fears at the moment. Building connections throughout a community could and most likely would take time. Beyond that, simple trust between the youth and their parents are worrisome for Irish, but she is ready for any challenges she could face.

“I believe rural communities and suburban communities have exposure to agriculture and nice gardens, but if you go more urban, you see less and less of home gardens and farms,” Irish said. “Youth need to be exposed to that for a successful future.”

Irish’s decision to do this didn’t come over night. She has faced a lot of hardship in her life. Both success and failure have brought her to where she is today, and she feels young people should have that kind of exposure as well.

“I’ve helped myself get through these hard things through gardening,” Irish said. “Watching it from seed to harvest is really empowering to me. It changed me. None of my friends have done that beyond egg carton plants, you know?”

Irish believes targeting urban communities can help those young people pursue a career as well as take an interest in the food they’re ingesting. Beyond just that, it’s not just about the farming and eating aspect. It is about growing as individuals.

“If you can become invested in your food, you’ll be empowered in it and care about this one thing and work through it, just like your problems and barriers,” Irish said. “If we can at least start somewhere, we can change how food is grown in our society and change our society as a whole.”
Women’s March takes over DSM

BY K.RAMBO
@iowastatedaily.com

Voices demanding change and equality echoed off of buildings surrounding the Capitol plaza in Des Moines on Sunday, as over 1,000 protesters gathered.

The event titled Des Moines Women’s March 2018 took place without issue — but with a caveat. There was no organized march.

Speakers said a permit for a march was not secured from the city. The protesters gathered and listened to music from local singer Ruthless Ruth before two hours of speeches.

Among the many present were Iowa State students who drove from Ames to participate.

"It’s a message of how we’re all united," said Sara Gonzalez, freshman in pre-biological/pre-medical illustration. "We can all still get together and spread this joy and happiness.

Much of the sentiment was directed at President Donald Trump, with many signs referring to his administration as sexist, racist, intolerant or stupid.

"I’ve seen smarter cabinets at IKEA," one sign read.

Trump has faced backlash for comments and actions that many deem sexist or chauvinistic. He has suggested that Planned Parenthood uses federal funds to perform abortions, which is illegal and not the case.

According to Planned Parenthood, they provide services for over 2.5 million women and men nationwide. While Planned Parenthood provides abortion services and contraception, they also provide preventative medicine at an affordable rate.

The pink pussyhats that have been worn during the Women’s Marches in 2017 and 2018 are a reference to Trump saying “grab them by the p**s” while filming an Access Hollywood video. The idea first came from Krista Suh and Jayna Zweiman, founders of the “Pussyhat Project.”

Other than attempting to draw attention to how Trump spoke of touching women without their consent, the “sea of pink” concept was intended to show solidarity and provide a visual representation of a unified movement.

Trump garnered a reputation as a chauvinist through other phrases like “you know it doesn’t really matter what [they] wear as long as you’ve got a young and beautiful piece of ass,” which he said to Esquire Magazine in 1991.

When speaking to New York Magazine in 1992 about how to treat women, Trump said “you have to treat ‘em like sh**.”

Trump has also described women as “pigs,” “disgusting” and “s**mbols.” “He has said multiple times he would date his daughter Ivanka, and has commented on her body and appearance.

“Yeah, she’s really something, and what a beauty, that one. If I weren’t happily married and, ya know, her father...” Trump told Rolling Stone.

Trump, Mike Pence and others within his cabinet are vehemently opposed to abortion and have worked to limit access to birth control by rolling back the Affordable Care Act mandate for employer’s insurance plans to provide contraception.

The Trump administration also supports defunding Planned Parenthood.

Beyond criticism of Trump and his policies, speakers like Christine Nobiss, co-founder of Indigenous Iowa, addressed systemic inequality which protesters believe has existed long before the Trump administration.

Nobiss said she had to make a concerted effort to speak at the event, as before her, there were no speakers to represent indigenous communities. Nobiss specifically mentioned the Meskwaki Nation as being the only First Nation still in Iowa.

"We can’t forget all of the other nations that thrived in this area of the world before they were murdered or removed for the farmlands," Nobiss said.

Nobiss referred to Trump as a white-supremacist who is continuing a manifest destiny agenda. Trump has made repeated remarks about respected Andrew Jackson, who Nobiss referred to as “the Indian killer.”

Jackson was responsible for the Indian Removal Act which led to the Trail of Tears and the deaths of over 4,000 members of the Cherokee nation, according to the USDA.

The Indian Removal Act also effected the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Creek nations.

Nearly 100,000 indigenous people
POLICE BLOTTER
DATE
Andre Allen Young Jr, age 35, of 710 S 11th St Unit 123 - Nevada, IA, was arrested and charged with driving while revoked at Lincoln Way and Sheldon Ave (reported at 2:25 a.m.).

Austin Alonso Castillo-Leovan, age 22, of 1504 Jefferson Ave - Des Moines, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated and excessive speed at Lincoln Way and Hyland Ave (reported at 2:51 a.m.).

An individual reported being harassed at the Memorial Union (reported at 5:40 p.m.).

An officer investigated a property damage collision at Union Dr and Welch Rd (reported at 7:15 p.m.).

CORRECTIONS
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.
EDITORIAL

Improve sex ed to remove taboo

With gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted infections on the rise, it’s time we rethink sex education and the stigmas surrounding STIs. If we stop making sex a taboo topic and actually talk about it as the health topic it is, we might not be facing the 145 percent increase in gonorrhea cases the state is currently seeing.

Not surprisingly, millennials are the age group most affected by this uptick in cases. And among the many reasons why sex is a taboo topic, the way we teach sex ed is certainly a factor. Making sex a taboo topic is helping no one.

Starting at a young age, Americans should be exposed to healthy conversations about sex which focus on topics like consent and how to prevent risks like pregnancy or STIs. These conversations don’t have to be complex. For example, a popular video compares consent to asking if someone would like a cup of tea and can open up a discussion about how to attain consent.

Psychological impact of sex — Sex ed should also talk about the mental health effects of sex. In particular, this portion of a program could discuss how to effectively talk to a partner about whether you’re ready for sex and any parts of it that make you anxious. This could also talk about emotional feelings that may or may not come along with sex.

Protection, STIs and pregnancy — And of course, sex ed should talk about using condoms, forms of birth control and other protection to decrease the risk of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

Let’s make sex ed a program that shows potential outcomes of pregnancy and STIs, without making it seem like abstinence is the only option. Let’s have an educated public that feels more comfortable addressing topics like STIs to keep people safer.

COLUMN

Remove bias from elections

Gerrymandering has to end

It is an assumption that, in America, elections are fair and representative of the wants and needs of the population. At least, they should be.

One of the biggest threats to fair and balanced elections is gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is when a political party draws district boundaries in a way that unfairly favors them.

And this isn’t a new phenomenon. Elbridge Gerry was the first governor to redraw district lines in 1812. He contorted the state lines in a way that would give Republicans in Massachusetts at the time an advantage in state senate elections.

Others have continued to follow his example. Now to be clear, both parties are guilty of gerrymandering, I’m not here to attack either party, but there have recently been enormous and unfair uses of gerrymandering in order for Republicans to win seats in Congress, especially in the 2016 elections.

In 2016, Republicans won “as many as 22 additional U.S. House seats over what would have been expected” due to gerrymandering. This helped give them an unfair majority in the House.

A similar phenomenon happened in the 2012 elections. Despite House Democrats earning more than 3.17 million more votes than their Republican counterparts, they lost the majority in the House of Representatives. How do you win the popular vote but lose your seats in the House?

Gerrymandering, that’s how. The two primary methods of gerrymandering are packing and cracking.

Packing is when you place voters of the opposing party in a few select districts so they are limited in the number of seats they could win. It is similar to a scheduled loss in basketball. A team knows they aren’t going to win every game, so they plan on losing certain games so they can rest key players and avoid injuries while getting to the playoffs in a good shape.

Cracking is a little different. Cracking is when you spread the opponents voter base thin across a bunch of different boundaries so their votes carry less power.

These two strategies have led to some incredibly obvious gerrymandering. Many of the strange shapes gerrymandering creates get their district fun nicknames, like “The Praying Mantis” or “Goofy Kicking Donald Duck.” It is frankly, unbelievable.

In 2016, Republicans won “as many as 22 additional U.S. House seats over what would have been expected” due to gerrymandering. To get this done, they manipulated the district boundaries to replace the current system.

How do we go about fixing this structural problem? I believe the best way to fix gerrymandering is to redraw district lines using an algorithm that is fair and unbiased. This would remove the problem of politicians drawing district lines and it would allow for the proper representation in each district.

So that remains a pipe dream at the moment. But what is not a pipe dream right now is the fact that there is currently a case at the Supreme Court which could find gerrymandering unconstitutional.

Gill v. Whitford challenges the redrawing of Wisconsin’s congressional districts by Republicans that would assure them a majority in almost any voting scenario in subsequent years.

If the Supreme Court finds partisan redistricting unconstitutional, we might be able to restore balance to these elections that have been manipulated by gerrymandering.

I have faith the Supreme Court will see the obvious dangers of gerrymandering and find it unconstitutional. No matter which party is drawing the lines, gerrymandering dilutes the power of a single vote and can incorrectly represent the will of the people.

Gerrymandering has to end, clear and simple.

COLUMNIST Isaac Sinclair argues gerrymandering is unfair and should be ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the case Gill v. Whitford. Sinclair suggests using an unbiased algorithm to draw district boundaries to replace the current system.

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Improve sex ed to remove taboo

With gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted infections on the rise, it’s time we rethink sex education and the stigmas surrounding STIs. If we stop making sex a taboo topic and actually talk about it as the health topic it is, we might not be facing the 145 percent increase in gonorrhea cases the state is currently seeing.

Not surprisingly, millennials are the age group most affected by this uptick in cases. And among the many reasons why sex is a taboo topic, the way we teach sex ed is certainly a factor. Making sex a taboo topic is helping no one.

Starting at a young age, Americans should be exposed to healthy conversations about sex which focus on topics like consent and how to prevent risks like pregnancy or STIs. These conversations don’t have to be complex. For example, a popular video compares consent to asking if someone would like a cup of tea and can open up a discussion about how to attain consent.

Psychological impact of sex — Sex ed should also talk about the mental health effects of sex. In particular, this portion of a program could discuss how to effectively talk to a partner about whether you’re ready for sex and any parts of it that make you anxious. This could also talk about emotional feelings that may or may not come along with sex.

Protection, STIs and pregnancy — And of course, sex ed should talk about using condoms, forms of birth control and other protection to decrease the risk of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

Let’s make sex ed a program that shows potential outcomes of pregnancy and STIs, without making it seem like abstinence is the only option. Let’s have an educated public that feels more comfortable addressing topics like STIs to keep people safer.
Samantha Budai played for Iowa State tennis on April 23, 2017. This was the final home match for Budai. She is currently working to be a professional tennis player.

Samantha Budai has been in love with the sport of tennis since she was five years old. Her dream of playing professional tennis is becoming a reality with the support of her family and friends, making a GoFundMe page to support Budai financially to pursue her lifelong dream, becoming a professional tennis player and playing on the professional circuit.

Budai, 22, is a recent graduate from Iowa State where she obtained a scholarship to play Division 1 tennis.

"I’m not expecting to receive any incredibly large and generous donations, but I am hoping to seek out a sponsor for that," Budai said.

During Budai’s time at Iowa State, Budai was consistently a key player. Budai began playing the No. 2 position in singles her freshman year followed by the No. 1 position for the remainder of her career, while playing at the top doubles spot throughout as well.

Budai was introduced to tennis by her parents when they took her to lessons in a summer camp. Her parents noticed early on that she picked up the sport very quickly. Budai had to later be switched to a group of older and more advanced kids.

"It’s hard to say when the exact moment was that I fell in love with the sport, but I always loved the competitiveness of it and the fact that it was different than the other sports I played," Budai said. "I love that it was just me on the court and I had control over what happens, something you don’t get in a team sport.

"In a team sport you could play your heart out, play exceptionally well and still lose because there are other players influencing you."

Budai did not end up at Iowa State by choice. She had been looking at other schools and whenever she applied to a Division 1 school they would tell her they had picked someone else. This took a heavy toll on Budai and she contemplated if she should have even kept applying herself to the sport she loves.

"I felt like giving up because it was so late in my senior year that I was a couple weeks away from graduating and I still wasn’t signed," Budai said. "I saw on a recruiting website that Iowa State had a couple spots open so I gave it one last shot. Iowa State contacted me back right away and offered me the scholarship. It was an opportunity I had to take even though I knew nothing about the school.

"I’m forever grateful they took a chance on me and offered me a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Traveling and playing tennis was a drastic change for Budai since she had never been a part of a team before. Budai never had the luxury of traveling around the world playing the sport she loves.

"My favorite memory about ISU and tennis would have to be the traveling and playing tennis as both an individual and a team which is something you are not used to in juniors," Budai said. "I had the privilege to travel the country doing what I love, train, have access to a great strength coach for training, all for free which is truly a blessing.”

Budai has had a tough road to get where she is today, such as not being financially stable in parts of her life, as well as being told she was not good enough to play for a certain program. The thing that kept her going was knowing how much effort, time and money her parents put into tennis for her.

"I worked too hard and struggled too much to not have something positive come out of it," Budai said. Budai’s dream has always been alive burning inside of her. She sees herself at Wimbledon waving to her fans and family, lifting the trophy above her head and loving every second of it.

“Everything I’ve accomplished I did shorthanded and self-motivation,” Budai said. “I know I’m not even close to reaching my peak and I all I need is an opportunity and I can do great things.”

Since tennis is such an international sport and there are not many opportunities in Canada where Budai is from, she is hoping to train in Europe or in the United States as there are tournaments close, which would limit the cost of travel. Budai will always represent Canada, as you must represent the country in which you hold citizenship.

“My heart and loyalty will always be to whoever takes a chance on me and provides me with an opportunity and that is what matters the most to me,” Budai said. “People who believe in me and show endless support even when times are tough, not just when things are going well.”

Armando Espinosa, who has been the Iowa State’s women’s tennis coach since 2008, also recruited Budai after seeing an online video of her serve and other practice drills.

“After seeing her online drills, she had a very powerful serve and a fast-pace style to her game," Espinosa said. "I knew after watching the video I wanted to coach her and bring her to Iowa State.”

At the very beginning, it was quite the challenge for Budai, changing up her techniques along with learning an all new set of rules for college tennis.

"Towards the beginning of her career here at Iowa State, she had little experience in how to go into a match and have the right mindset," Espinosa said. "Toward the end of her career she started going into the matches more strategically and taking it more slow instead of going in the match aggressively.”

Espinosa has plenty of good memories with Budai throughout her career in the cardinal and gold, but there’s one specific memory that sticks in his brain.

Iowa State was playing West Virginia and had the opportunity to win the conference meet. Budai was the last one to play and she won her match giving the Cyclones the lead and later the conference met with the Mountainisers.

Espinosa knew he could depend on her for leadership and her skill to earn points for Iowa State in every match the Cyclones played throughout the season.

"Budai is a hard worker and puts in everything she does for the sport of tennis," Espinosa said. “Nothing has been given to Budai, she’s had to fight for what she wants.”
Editor's note: This article is part of a series of contributed pieces from Joe Fetherling, member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and vice president of philanthropy for the Interfraternity Council. This series will highlight different philanthropies taking place in Iowa State’s sorority and fraternity community, as well as what philanthropy means to members of the community.

Why I decided to start Philanthropy of the Month:

Being involved in the Greek community at Iowa State has taught me many values and created new interests for me including the concept of philanthropy. Throughout my experience here at Iowa State, I have come to realize how much of a positive impact the Greek community has on the world. However, not everybody is aware of these events taking place each semester. As a means to increase awareness of these events and impact, I have created this recurring segment to highlight an outstanding Greek philanthropy each month. The philanthropy of the month can be an event from either of the four Greek councils at Iowa State. These councils include the Collegiate Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

What philanthropy means to me:

“Philanthropy to me is the generation of monetary funds for an organization or cause that better the lives of a person, a community or even the world. This can be done in various ways.

The main form of philanthropic contribution that I see within our community is the creation of philanthropic events that raise awareness and fundraising for a specific charitable organization. Philanthropic events range from selling food, hosting competitions, dancing for hours on end and much more. No matter what these events entail, they always end up raising awareness for and monetarily benefiting a charitable cause.

Overall, philanthropy is a selfless act that betters the world around us by improving the lives of others.” - Joe Fetherling, vice president of philanthropy, Interfraternity Council

“Philanthropy has been an opportunity for myself to give back to nonprofit organizations that have positively affected my own life and the lives of my loved ones. I have been able to see the benefits of supporting these local and national philanthropic organizations. These benefits have helped many individuals and given me a sense of purpose in my roles during my collegiate career. Philanthropy is something that I will be able to carry on after college and continue to impact the lives of many for years to come.” - Jennifer Sigmon, vice president of philanthropy & community service, Collegiate Panhellenic Council

“Philanthropy is an opportunity for our organizations to give back to the community. Many of our organizations have philanthropy or community service as a part of their foundational values. Philanthropy is important because it gives us an opportunity to recognize that there are people who invest in us, and this is one way of being able to say thank you. It also is a chance for organizations to work towards a goal that they’re passionate about while spreading awareness to others.” - Micaela Choate, Multicultural Greek Council president

For more information contact:
Joe Fetherling: jfether@iastate.edu
Jasmine Scott: jsscott@iastate.edu
Micaela Choate: mgcpresident@iastate.edu
Jennifer Sigmon: cpcphilanthropy@iastate.edu

LIFESTYLE 07
At the end of 2008, Schrier’s family was invited by Iowa State Dance Marathon to attend the event in 2009 as a “surviving child.” Schrier’s family has only ever attended Iowa State’s Dance Marathon, as they were the ones to personally invite the family to their event.

“One of the nurses at the U of I hospital that my sister was staying in...kind of told my mom a little bit about it [Dance Marathon] and they also told Dance Marathon...my mom went and researched and they kind of just contacted each other,” Schrier said.

After the initial invitation, members of Iowa State Dance Marathon have remained involved in the Schrier’s lives, even going so far as to bringing Dance Marathon to the Schrier’s home in Muscatine, Iowa when they could not make it to Iowa State’s campus for the event.

“In 2012, we got snowed in at our house the day of Dance Marathon,” Schrier said. “A couple weeks later, our morale team came to Muscatine to our church and brought a whole bunch of stuff for us to do a mini Dance Marathon at our house. That was really impactful. They took the time out of their busy schedules to drive there and a half hour to spend time with this little girl because she couldn’t make it.”

Gracie’s morale team, a group assigned to a specific family, has also come to her cheering competitions and made an effort to meet up with the Schrier family when they were in town. One year, Gracie’s birthday fell in the peak of Dance Marathon, and her morale group, a group of fraternity brothers, serenaded her for her birthday.

“They’re kind of just a little support system,” Schrier said. “They change every year, but we still see them every year. I think it’s really helpful for her because she has this little body, just running around trying to have a blast, and she has all these people that stand behind her—no matter if she needs something or if she doesn’t need something, they’re still there.”

While Schrier’s family has been participating since 2009, the meaning of the event has changed for Schrier now that she has participated as a dancer and member of a team, not just a family member.

“As a family member you get to sit down, you get to be recognized as the family, whereas I’m a dancer now, I have the choice to stand with them [families] and I do stand all day,” Schrier said. “My mom would ask me ‘Are you gonna do it? ’ I didn’t know if you’d do it and I was like ‘No, I have to do this’ because these kids are depending on people to be there for them, and I want to be that person.”

Dancing as an alumna: Becky Wrolson’s story
Among the students and family members participating in Dance Marathon, one has returned to Iowa State to continue to support the philanthropy she fell in love with three years ago.

Wrolson graduated from Iowa State in December 2017 with a degree in supply chain management. She got involved in Dance Marathon through her roommate, but Wrolson also had friends who had been treated for illnesses at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital. As an alumna, she was part of Recruitment and Dance Relations, and was tasked with keeping dancers pumped up at all times.

“You gotta have your Disney face on all the time,” said Wrolson. “It’s still the same experience, purpose and mindset. I’m glad I was able to come back.”

Despite graduating, Wrolson was able to recruit friends who are still attending Iowa State to participate in Dance Marathon with her this year. She said her favorite part of being involved with the event was “when families tell their story” every hour.

“You could be exhausted or have three finals, but then go to a Dance Marathon meeting and a family tells their story...it puts you back up and reminds you why you are there,” Wrolson said.

Despite graduating, Wrolson still plans to come back to Iowa State’s Dance Marathon and participate in what is now the largest philanthropy on campus.

“Once you’re in Dance Marathon, it’s kind of part of your life,” Wrolson said.

As the clock ticked closer to midnight, participants gathered in the Great Hall at the end of “Power Hour” and watched the amount of money raised increase on the big screen onstage.

The lights went out and when they came back on, participants onstage flipped over the large white posters they had been hiding from the crowd.

The room erupted in cheers as it was revealed that Dance Marathon had raised $332,763.21 for its 21st year.