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Faculty take campus by day, hobbies by night

In kindergarten it was assumed that our teachers did not have lives outside of their classroom — they ate dinner in the cafeteria, slept in a murphy bed hidden behind one of their locked wall cabinets and waited for their students to return.

However, as we grew up and saw them shopping at Walmart we learned that this was not the case. Teachers and professors do in fact have lives outside of teaching which includes family and hobbies.

Earlier this year, The Iowa State Daily asked on Twitter for students to submit names of professors who they thought had an interesting hobby to be featured. This is the result.
Reynolds signs two mental care bills
Laws address mental health, suicide prevention

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed two bills Thursday morning that aim to help alleviate mental health issues in the state.

The first bill, SF 2113, “is an Act requiring school employee training and protocols relating to suicide prevention and the identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response.”

The bill defines adverse childhood experiences as one that is a potentially traumatic event occurring in childhood that can have negative, lasting effects on an individual’s health and well-being.

It would then require members of a school district’s board of directors, faculty and anyone who has regular contact with K-12 students to take an annual course on suicide prevention by July 1, 2019.

The training would also include “evidence-based, evidence-supported” ways to identify the adverse childhood experiences that can lead to lasting impacts.

One group in particular, the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC), lobbied for these changes.

In a social media statement they stated, “SIYAC has been working on this issue since 2013 and is excited to see it pass its final hurdle.”

The second bill, HF 2456, gained unanimous support from the legislature and makes significant changes to the mental health care system in Iowa.

In a statement at the capitol, Marion County Sheriff Jason Sandholz said, “The mental health system right now when we deal with somebody with a mental health issue, that person ends up in our jail where they don’t get the treatment they need.”

This bill aims to fix that by setting up six mental health care centers around the state that operate 24/7, create 22 community treatment teams and start intensive residential service homes that can treat up to 120 members at once.

These homes would serve to help those with mental illness or who are at risk to themselves in a better way than previously done in Iowa.

The core services the bill aims to provide include but are not limited to assessment and evaluation, mental health outpatient therapy, medication prescribing and management and mental health inpatient treatment.

Sen. Jeff Edler, R-State Center, stated “It sets up critical access centers to where we can give law enforcement that direct diversion, to where they aren’t waiting in emergency rooms with patients for days, trying to figure out what bed they can get the patient treatment at. That’s huge.”

Law enforcement and medical professionals all supported the bill before its final passage.

Dean of Graduate College shares his progress

Bill Graves took office as Dean of the Graduate College in July 2017. Here’s what he’s done since then.

Iowa State is experiencing a drop in applications now, something that has had a major impact on organizations like the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), as they have a $5,000 deficit in their budget as of their last monthly meeting — the first deficit in five years.

“This fall it was down by a small fraction,” Graves said. “Technically it’s stable and whether that’s meaningful I guess is debatable.”

Proceeding this year, GPSS President Vivek Lawana said the graduate college had been experiencing a steady growth in numbers, making this uncharacteristic drop come as a shock.

Graves said he does have a plan to improve enrollment, including several initiatives he has worked on this school year. Something in early development is a reduction in application costs for the Graduate College.

Currently domestic applications are $60 and international applications are $100. Graves is working on possibly eliminating this fee, as costs can be an issue when deciding where to apply.

“This is still in the very early stages of being discussed and is at least another year out,” Graves said. “But this could help keep us competitive, since costs can be a barrier when students are choosing where to apply.”

Graves is also eliminating the admission categorization of graduate students. Iowa State has had three statuses: full, provisional and restricted.

Full status is the most common, and students are simply fully admitted.

Provisional status students lack a few courses from undergraduate college, and once they complete these requirements, they are considered a full student.

Restricted status is for students who didn’t meet the typical GPA requirement and need to boost their GPA and complete certain classes in order to be fully admitted.

Students were required to be a full admit in order to graduate. Now, graduate students are simply admitted, and Graves has determined the categorization made Iowa State less competitive at recruiting.

“If makes (students) feel stigma
tized,” Graves said. “There’s no need for that — we’re simply going to admit them.”

Graves has also been involved in programs on campus for recruitment to increase funding, and he plans to use the additional allocated funds to make “bonus packages” as incentives to bring more qualified students to the university.

“This year was the first in several years where graduate students will not be receiving an increase in minimum stipends on campus. The current minimum stipend is $2,000 a month, however Graves said he encouraged professors to offer more if they can to keep their assistantships competitive.

GPSS President Lawana and GPSS Vice President George Weston both say it is rare that professors offer more than the minimum, so a majority of graduate students are making the same amount from month to month.

Part of the reasoning for this increase not happening this year is the switch to Work Day in the Iowa State system.

This program change will involve paying graduate assistants in terms of half semester, a full semester and a full year.

Lawana and incoming GPSS President Norin Yasin Chaudhry expressed concern that this will have a negative impact on graduate students, and Chaudhry said she plans to make this a priority during her time as president of GPSS during the 2018-19 school year.

Chaudhry and Lawana believe this to be problematic for students studying abroad as well as international students, and problems with VISA can prevent students from getting here right away as well as other reasons regarding travel, resulting in them not receiving pay for an entire half semester possibly.

“Let’s suppose [a graduate student] were to work over the summer and they miss two weeks of work — they miss the minimum time and they might not be paid for it,” Chaudhry said.

Graves says the Graduate College’s website is their main recruiting tool, so making sure the website is effective is a primary concern.

“We need to make sure the website is up to date in order to stimulate interest,” Graves said.
How did Patrick Halbur end up as interim dean of the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine? Well, the story is: “the provost just called me up and asked.”

Halbur, who holds degrees in veterinary pathology from Iowa State, is no stranger to holding administrative positions.

“I have a lot of experience working my way up through levels of faculty,” Halbur said. “My guess is that the provost looked at that and thought I could hold it together.”

After receiving his first degree from Iowa State, a doctorate of veterinary medicine, Halbur was a private veterinary practitioner in Williamsburg, Iowa. His wife, Therese Halbur, decided to take a job in Ames as a pediatrician, so he “somewhat reluctantly” sold out of his private practice and came back to graduate school in Ames, where he received his masters and doctorate, both in veterinary pathology.

“I am best known in Ames as the spouse of Dr. Halbur. It’s true,” Halbur joked.

Dave Gieseke, communications manager of the College of Vet Med, was also present during the conversation.

“It is true! She was my kids’ pediatrician,” Gieseke said, backing up Halbur.

Halbur has four children of his own — a high school student, a dentist in Cedar Falls, Iowa, a student at the University of Southern California and a student finishing a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

Halbur speaks passionately about the College of Vet Med. His words show a pride and allegiance to the college.

“We serve the most progressive livestock and poultry producers in the world. That keeps us on the cutting edge of research,” Halbur said. “And if we are producing vets to serve in those positions, we have to be on the cutting edge for teaching.”

The college implemented a $1.25 million budget cut during Halbur’s first month on the job. He believes they did it in a way that had very little, if any, effect on the students.

Halbur shared the first question the college asks before doing something administratively is: “How will this affect the students?”

“Because the most important thing we do here is educate future veterinarians,” Halbur said.

Since stepping in as interim dean, Halbur has also been a part of three “rigorous” accreditation processes. One from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), one in regards to the diagnostic lab and one in regards to the college’s hospital.

The college was successful in accreditation of its diagnostic lab and hospital, and will find out its results from AVMA very soon.

The college has been working to educate the public and the legislature on the need for a new diagnostic lab.

“We have the largest, and I’m quite sure the most progressive, veterinary diagnostic lab in the nation,” Halbur said. “But it’s in a 42-year-old facility.”

Halbur said the college has been working extensively over the last couple of months to make sure legislators understand the college’s needs, and he is hopeful the college will be successful in getting some money to start the project.

The new diagnostic lab will cost $124 million.

On the topic of issues within the college, Halbur noted mental health and wellness and student loan debt as two significant ones.

Halbur said the college brings in wellness speakers on a regular basis and is working closely with the senior vice president for the student affairs office to bring wellness and mental health counseling services on site at the college.

“It’s difficult for our students to get over to main campus [for counseling services] during regular hours, and they deal with some issues that under-graduate students don’t,” Halbur said. “For me, it’s a very high priority to address wellness and mental health of our students.”

Halbur said student debt is another issue and a challenge nationally for the veterinary profession.

Iowa State’s veterinary medicine program is number 26 out of 30 vet schools in the nation for highest resident cost of education, so 25 of the other vet schools have higher costs.

“I think we have a quality product at a fair price,” Halbur said. “But I still think it costs enough to go here and the debt is high enough that there’s a substantial number of students who would like to become veterinarians, but they’re choosing other careers because of the debt.”

Halbur was announced as the third and final candidate for the permanent dean position in February.

The Vet Med dean search is ongoing, the college announced it will continue looking for new dean after holding open forums for the three candidates. The college doesn’t feel like it has found the right person yet.

“Interim Dean Halbur has done an amazing job with the school since filling in the position in June of 2017. He has increased the transparency between administration and students and really takes students’ concerns seriously and acts upon them quickly,” said Abbey Smith, president of the Iowa State chapter of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA).
POLICE BLOTTER
3.28.18
Officers assisted another agency with a criminal investigation at Mortensen Pkwy and Welch Ave (reported at 2:53 a.m.).

Officers checked on the welfare of an individual at Marston Hall (reported at 8:13 p.m.).

An individual reported the theft of clothing at Larch Hall (reported at 2:00 p.m.).

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President Trump is dragging the GOP down

BY TOM KELLY
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Recently, Democrat Conor Lamb won the special election in Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional District — a district Republican President Donald Trump won by 20 points in the 2016 presidential election.

While a 20 point swing in a single Congressional district is noteworthy and in itself, more remarkable is the overall electoral pattern which has emerged. According to FiveThirtyEight, in the eight special elections held since President Trump took office, “Democratic candidates in federal special elections have now outperformed the normal partisan lean of their state or district by an average of 17 percentage points.”

This electoral trend, along with President Trump’s approval ratings and the generic ballot, suggests the GOP will lose their majority in the House come November and likely lose seats in the Senate as well.

Now, it should be noted the president’s party often loses Congressional seats in midterm elections. But it is undeniable that President Trump’s erratic and ludicrous behavior is toxicifying the Republican Party, motivating his opponents to ensure no one who shares his political affiliation is given any governmental power.

Although it is difficult to determine what, if any, effect a president has on the U.S. economy, a president’s approval rating tends to go up when the economy is doing well, and the stock market has hit several highs during Trump’s presidency. ISIS has nearly been defeated, unemployment has gone down and in December, Trump signed into law a tax bill which will lower most Americans’ taxes. Yet Trump’s approval rating has hovered in the low 40s and sometimes lower for most of his presidency.

By contrast, only two of the last twelve presidents have, at any time in the first 400+ days of their presidencies, had approval ratings as low as Trump’s.

The only explanation for Trump’s uncommonly low favorability is that his personality is driving voters to the polls to show him the consequences within a democratic governmental framework of routinely behaving in a reckless and childishly manner.

Democrats are determined to #Resist Trump and his agenda no matter what, a stance which is somewhat unreasonable. But on character grounds, they have an air-tight case. Months of taunting the despotic North Korean regime, quarreling with celebrities and television personalities on Twitter, refusing to denounce barhaintic dictators such as Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan and lying routinely has shown that Trump’s personality unquestionably affects his ability to lead the United States. Voters are right to notice this.

Conservative Republicans have expressed disapproval of Trump’s irresponsible behavior and, evidently, even those who are indifferent toward Trump’s behavior or believe it is often just unfair are unwilling to publicly express support for the president and his agenda by voting for candidates he favors.

Case in point, PA-18. Trump, who holds the support of nearly 90 percent of Republicans, held a rally in Pennsylvania — a state he won in 2016 — in support of Rick Saccone, a relatively mainstream Republican and the GOP candidate in Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional District; Saccone still lost the special election. Trump boasts of the size and loyalty of his “base,” but it is apparent that the group of his most ardent supporters is not numerous enough to swing elections and is not widespread.

President Trump is likely unbothered by the reality that he is dragging his party down. After all, he has openly attacked Republican politicians, including members of his own administration, and has expressed no remorse for doing so. For the president, one’s loyalty to Trump matters far more than one’s allegiance to a political party.

However, if the president wants to “get things done,” he will have to gain the support of millions of voters, convince some politicians on the other side of the political aisle that he is capable of defending the policies he would prefer to see enacted by coherently explaining the reasoning behind his beliefs and is also willing to compromise on some issues. All of this would require a drastic behavioral shift; the odds of which are extremely low given Trump’s inability to go more than a week without tweeting or saying something inane, erroneous, divisive or some combination of the three.

It is clear Trump’s behavior is politically toxic and has tarnished the public’s view of anyone who shares the president’s political affiliation. If Republicans do not distance themselves from Trump and seriously consider denying him the 2020 GOP nomination, Democrats will control the levers of governmental power in less than two years time.
BY NOAH ROHLFING
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Transferring to a new college can be a hassle.

With all of the paperwork to be done, the appointments, living arrangements and ‘exit surveys,’ it’s not easy to finalize the process of leaving, and that’s not to mention adjusting to a new school generally requires a transition period for any college student. It takes time to adjust to a new environment with new faces, new classes and new friends to make. Starting over isn’t easy for normal students, much less college athletes.

Generally in collegiate athletics, transfers don’t make a huge impact right away. In many sports, transfers have to sit out for a season unless there is a case of NCAA violations at their old school or they are a junior college/graduate transfer. Iowa State softball players Sydney Stites, Taylor Nearad and Hannah Carter are bucking that trend in style.

All three are new to the Cyclones for the 2018 season and they’ve already carved out key roles for themselves in head coach Jamie Pinkerton’s first season at the helm.

For Nearad and Carter, the opportunity to play ball in their home state was far too good to pass up. Nearad, a junior outfielder from Solon, Iowa, spent the first two years of her collegiate career at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. She said it was a dream of hers to play for Iowa growing up, and during her final year with Kirkwood she visited both the Hawkeyes and Iowa State.

But if it was her dream school, why not go to Iowa?

“I actually didn’t really like [Iowa],” Nearad said. “I came on a visit here and I loved it here.”

So, after a two-season run at Kirkwood in which she named the NJCAA Division II Player of the Year twice and hit an astonishing .602 at the plate in 2017, Nearad arrived in Ames. Nearad has started every game for the Cyclones this season, batting .298 (third on the team) with 13 of her 37 hits being doubles (tying her for the second-most doubles nationwide).

One of the biggest adjustments for Nearad has been the time management aspect. She says the practices are longer at Iowa State, and she’s had to do a better job of making the quick turnaround from class to position practices.

Pinkerton said Nearad is “catching a little bit of fire” and has overcome some early season failures.

“Defensively, she’s been really good for us and has anchored down the outfield,” Pinkerton said.

Carter’s path to Ames was a little more unconventional.

The sophomore outfielder from Altoona, Iowa, went to high school at Southeast Polk, but wasn’t offered by the Cyclones or Hawkeyes. Instead, Carter went to Bellevue University, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school in Nebraska. In her one year at Bellevue, she was named first-team All-Nebraska School Activities Association and batted .389 in 61 games. She tallied 26 multi-hit games for the Bruins and hit three home runs.

But, as a central Iowa native, she always wanted to come back home and play for her family, so when Iowa State came calling she jumped at the chance.

The difference between the two schools was vast, both in size and stature.

“There’s a lot more resources here,” Carter said. “It’s nice representing your state.”

Even when then-coach Jamie Trachsel left after just one season to coach the Minnesota Golden Gophers, Carter stuck with the Cyclones. Carter says even though she committed to play under a different coach, learning from Pinkerton has been a positive experience.

“I think it’s been awesome,” Carter said. “I really enjoy him and his coaching style.”

Pinkerton praised Carter for getting off to a hot start this season and catching opponents off guard, but said she still is learning to adjust to opponents. He has high hopes for the sophomore once she finds her rhythm again.

“When she starts cutting through that, I think she’ll be fine,” Pinkerton said.

Stites was the only transfer to arrive on campus after the hiring of Pinkerton, and she had good reason.

Stites was at Montana for the last two seasons of Pinkerton’s tenure with the Grizzlies and had cemented herself as one of the star players of an up-and-coming program, earning Big Sky Freshman of the Year honors in 2016 and batting .383 in 56 games.

She followed Pinkerton to Ames and has become an instant infield starter, hitting .302 and carrying a .952 fielding percentage, fifth-highest on the team. She ranks second on the team with six home runs as well.

Stites says she had to take up a leadership role in the infield this season.

“We’re the first ones that get action with the ball,” Stites said. “It definitely helped to have some seasons under my belt.”

Pinkerton said when he first got here, he had no idea who was going to step up after fall ball and earn starting roles.

Through 37 games, three newcomers to the Cyclone program have made a noticeable impact, and along the way they’ve proven sometimes starting over isn’t as difficult as it’s cracked up to be.
Dyeing for Easter eggs

BY JILL OBRIEN
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With Easter coming up on Sunday and family and friends coming together for new and old traditions, one tradition remains a staple of the spring: dyeing Easter eggs.

While dyeing Easter eggs can be a messy task, it can be made fun with bright colors, putting stickers on eggs and drawing on eggs with white crayon to bring out a specific design.

If you’re looking to bring back that bit of childhood and dye eggs before the holiday, here’s a step-by-step guide on how to dye them in a relatively mess-free manner.

What you’ll need:
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 1/2 cup room temperature water
- Easter egg dyeing kit

Step 1
Fill a cup or bowl with 1/2 cup of room temperature water and 1 tbsp of white vinegar. Take a colored tablet from the egg dyeing kit, drop it in the water and wait for it to dissolve.

Step 2
Take an egg and place it in the bowl or cup using the egg holder from the dyeing kit. Let sit in water for five minutes or more. Remember — the longer the eggs sit in the dye, the deeper the color will be!

Step 3
Using the wire egg holder, take eggs out of the water and place either in a drying tray or in an egg carton (a drying tray should come in the egg dyeing kit, depending on which kind you purchase). Let eggs dry.

Step 4
Have some fun with the eggs you have just dyed! If they come in the kit, throw some flower or spring-themed stickers on the eggs. For eggs that aren’t simply solid color, draw a pattern on the eggs before you dip them in the dye. The dye will not adhere to the area that has crayon, and the design that you have drawn will show up.