

# HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

Iowa State history	41
Iowa State traditions	42

## IOWA STATE HISTORY

Iowa State University is one of the nation's leading land-grant universities. Chartered in 1858 as the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm, it became the nation's first land-grant institution when the General Assembly awarded it the state's land-grant charter in 1864. The college opened in 1868-69, and a class of 26 graduated at the first commencement in 1872. Graduate study was offered almost as soon as classes began, and the first graduate degree was conferred in 1877. The college was renamed Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1898 and became Iowa State University of Science and Technology in 1959. Today, Iowa State University is a broad-based university of international stature with more than 34,000 students.

Iowa State has led the development of several fields of study that are central to the land-grant movement, including engineering, agriculture, human sciences, and veterinary medicine. Extension, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003, traces its roots to Iowa and early outreach programs by Iowa State's Adonijah Welch and Perry Holden. The legislation establishing the national Agricultural Experiment Station system was written by Iowa State faculty members Seaman Knapp and Charles Bessey in the 1880s.

Today, Iowa State is a recognized leader in many areas including plant and animal genomics, materials sciences, analytical chemistry, biology, physics, behavioral studies, information assurance, virtual reality, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, business, journalism, kinesiology, transportation and logistics, and education. Major research initiatives focus on the bioeconomy, food safety and security, combinatorial chemistry, human/computer interaction, and animal health.

George Washington Carver, one of the nation's most distinguished educators and agricultural researchers, received bachelor's (1894) and master's (1896) degrees from Iowa State. The electronic digital computer, one of the most important technological innovations of the 20th century, was invented at Iowa State in the late 1930s by John Vincent Atanasoff. Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters and a key strategist behind the final ratification of the 19th Amendment, graduated as valedictorian of the Iowa State Class of 1880.

Iowa State aspires to be the best university in the nation in advancing the land-grant ideas and putting science and technology to work. The university's mission is to create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT IOWA STATE

### Enrollment (Fall 2018)

Undergraduates—29,621  
Professional students—597  
Graduate students—4,774  
Total—34,992

### Undergraduate enrollment by college

Agriculture and Life Sciences—4,397  
Ivy College of Business—4,612  
Design—1,742  
Engineering—8,193  
Human Sciences—3,770  
Liberal Arts and Sciences—6,907  
Approximately 43 percent women and 57 percent men  
Approximately 60 percent of undergraduates are from Iowa

### University officers

Wendy Wintersteen, President  
Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost  
Martino Harmon, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs  
Pamela Cain, Interim Senior Vice President for University Services

### University Extension

University Extension's six units extend Iowa State to all Iowans: Extension to Youth and 4-H, Extension to Families, Extension to Communities, Extension to Agriculture, Extension to Business and Industry, and Continuing Education. Extension programs throughout the state establish personal contact with more than 1,000,000 Iowans annually.

### Iowa State songs

#### Iowa State Fight Song

O we will fight, fight, fight for Iowa State  
And may her colors ever fly.  
Yes, we will fight with might for Iowa State  
With a will to do or die, Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Loyal sons forever true  
And we will fight the battle through,  
And when we hit that line  
We'll hit it hard ev'ry yard for I.S.U.

#### The Bells of Iowa State

Green hills for thy throne,  
And for crown a golden melody  
Ringing in the hearts of all  
Who bring thee love and loyalty;  
Dear Alma Mater,  
Make our spirits great,  
True, and valiant  
Like the bells of Iowa State.

# IOWA STATE TRADITIONS

## Campanile

The story of the campanile is, in essence, a love story. Edgar Stanton graduated with the first class of Iowa State in 1872. He spent 50 years on campus as a student and faculty member, becoming the head of the Department of Mathematics, secretary to the Board of Trustees, dean of the junior college, vice-president, and on four different occasions, acting president.

His first wife was Margaret MacDonald Stanton, first dean of women. When she died, July 25, 1895, she had been closely identified with the university for almost 25 years. Stanton wanted to establish a monument so all students and friends of Iowa State would remember her. He finally decided to purchase and have installed a chime of 10 bells in a detached tower on central campus. President William M. Beardshear helped him

choose the site, and the state legislature appropriated \$7,500 for the construction of the tower and its clock.

Stanton died September 12, 1920, and his will provided that after certain bequests were taken out, the residue of his estate should be turned over to the university for furnishing a memorial to him. His second wife, Julia Wentch Stanton, and the children, decided to request that the university install 26 additional bells, thus forming a musical instrument which became known as the Edgar W. and Margaret MacDonald Stanton Memorial Carillon.

## Campaniling

Since the story of the campanile is a love story, the "campaniling" tradition makes sense. The original 10 bells have increased to 50, and their influence has grown exponentially. A student officially becomes an Iowa Stater when he or she is kissed under the campanile at the stroke of midnight. During homecoming, hundreds of students gather for mass campaniling. Couples kiss, the band plays, and fireworks go off at the stroke of midnight.

## Cardinal and Gold

In 1891, a college committee selected gold, silver, and black as the Iowa State College colors. In 1899, when the Athletic Council decided to provide sweaters to the student-athletes in recognition of their efforts, the council found that it was too difficult to dye sweaters in these original school colors. President Knapp had also had problems tying the diplomas with three ribbons representing the colors, and according to the student newspaper, the student population was ready for "a distinctive and striking set of colors." In October of 1899, the Athletic Council voted to change the colors to cardinal and gold.

## Cyclones

Iowa State became the Cyclones after they leveled Northwestern in 1895. On September 29, 1895 the *Chicago Tribune* noted: Struck by a Cyclone It Comes from Iowa and Devastates Evanston Town. "Northwestern might as well have tried to play football with an Iowa cyclone as with the Iowa team it met yesterday. At the end of 50 minutes' play, the big husky farmers from Iowa's Agricultural College had rolled up 36 points while the 15-yard line was the nearest Northwestern got to Iowa's goal."

## Cy

In 1954, members of Iowa State's Pep Council decided that Iowa State needed a mascot to symbolize new spirit for the athletic teams. Since a cyclone was difficult to depict in costume, a cardinal was selected, from the cardinal and gold of the official school colors. Pep Council ran a contest to select a name for the new mascot. The winning entry, "Cy," was submitted by 17 people. The first to submit the name, Mrs. Ed Ohlsen of Ames, won a cardinal and gold stadium blanket.

## Lancelot and Elaine

It was the climax of VEISHEA 1935. A large float, shaped like a swan and carrying flower-bedecked and white-robed Iowa State maidens, emerged from a smoke screen and glided its way to the middle of Lake LaVerne. And then the plaster swan unloosed its feathered passengers: four swans. Two of the swans were named Lancelot and Elaine by student Jean Nesinwanger, who won \$10. Since that time, there have been numerous Lancelots and Elaines (including a pair of trumpeter swans reintroduced to their original Iowa habitat) and in 1944, 1970, and 1971 cygnets (baby swans) were born. Swans take a mate for life unless one of the pair dies or is moved away.

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

## Iowa State University...

- Enrolled 34,992 students in Fall 2018 from all 50 states and more than 100 other countries.
- Offers approximately 100 undergraduate degree programs and nearly 200 fields of study leading to graduate and professional degrees.
- Sent 1,686 students to 58 countries to participate in study, service-learning, and work abroad programs in 2016-2017.
- Has Cyence, the university's newest supercomputer, which performs more than 183 trillion calculations per second.
- Is home to the world's first electronic digital computer and the encoding process essential to nearly all fax machines.
- Has the world's largest tornado simulator for wind energy research and the world's largest highest resolution immersive virtual reality lab.
- Is located in Ames, Iowa, which was named Best College Town in America by the American Institute for Economic Research in 2015.

## Points of Interest

- Iowa State University belongs to the Association of American Universities, which comprises 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada.
- Money Magazine named Iowa State the best college value in the state.
- In its annual "America's Best Graduate Schools" issue, U.S. News & World Report ranked Iowa State programs in agricultural, aerospace, and materials engineering among the country's top 25.
- Iowa State's agricultural and biosystems engineering program ranked No. 1 in U.S. News & World Report's 2017 Best Colleges rankings.
- Value Colleges ranked Iowa State's graduate school as the No. 5 best value, and its criminal justice program No. 9 nationally in 2017.
- Iowa State was chosen for the Fiske Guide to Colleges as a Best Buy school for the 2017 edition.
- Fashion Schools ranked Iowa State No. 1 in the Midwest and No. 3 nationally for fashion merchandising.
- Iowa State made the Military Times' 2016 list of Best for Vets schools.

Lake LaVerne, the home of Lancelot and Elaine, was created with a \$10,000 donation in 1916 by LaVerne W. Noyes. Noyes, a wealthy Chicago philanthropist and member of the first graduating class of 1872, funded a lake in what had been a three-acre marsh area, fed by College Creek. Another Iowa State tradition: If you walk around Lake LaVerne three times in silence with your beloved, you are destined to be together.

### Homecoming

Alumni first began returning to Iowa State for an official Homecoming in 1912. Since then, the celebration continues to entertain both young and old Iowa Staters with traditional events, including tailgate parties, fireworks, lawn displays, “Yell Like Hell” cheering competition, and mass campaniling. Student Alumni Leadership Council helps plan all of the Homecoming events.

### The Hub

The Hub was formerly the depot of the “Dinky,” a tiny, narrow-gauge steam engine that ran between the college and downtown Ames from 1891 to 1907. The Dinky was replaced by an electric trolley which operated from 1907 to 1929. The Hub served as the bookstore until 1958 and was remodeled in 1987, 2008, and 2018. It now houses The Roasterie, a coffeeshop which features beverages and tasty treats. Another new addition to The Hub is Heaping Plato, a Mediterranean-themed spot that features homemade pitas, high-quality shaved gyro-style meats and fresh ingredients. There also will be vegan, vegetarian and halal options.

### The Zodiac

Who knows what prompted that first student to step around the bronze zodiac relic on the floor of the Gold Star Hall in the Memorial Union, but for more than 70 years, subsequent students have done likewise, understanding that to step on the zodiac is to ensure that they will flunk their next exam.

It should be noted that staff, faculty, and alumni members also detour the enchanted circle, indicating the solemn belief that bad luck may befall more than just test-takers. The bad luck can be dissipated by throwing a coin into the *Fountain of the Four Seasons* directly outside the door, but most students don't want to risk it.

### Campus

Campus and recreation areas cover 1,984 acres. The following are descriptions of some of our outstanding facilities and collections.

**Alumni Center**—Completed fall 2008, the Alumni Center was built to house the Alumni Association and Student Alumni Leadership Council. The Alumni Center serves as an enhancement to student life, alumni homecomings, and community and alumni engagement.

The center was built using donations to the Alumni Association with Roy and Bobbi Reiman donating \$9 million toward the building's construction. The building is part of Iowa State's “Live Green!” campaign and uses geothermal energy for heating and cooling.

**Art on Campus Collection**—Iowa State is home to one of the largest campus public art programs in the United States. Over 2,000 works of public art, including 600 by significant national and international artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces, and offices.

Programs, receptions, dedications, university classes, Wednesday Walks, and educational tours are presented on a regular basis to enhance visual literacy and aesthetic appreciation of this diverse collection.

**Biorenewables Research Laboratory (BRL)**—This 70,000-square-foot-building houses the Bioeconomy Institute as well as research centers closely affiliated with the Bioeconomy Initiative.

The Biorenewables Laboratory Building keeps in the spirit of sustainability and environment stewardships as an inherent part of architectural design. The BRL complies with guidelines adopted by Leadership in Engineering and Design (LEED). The greening of this new facility includes sustainable products and building materials, optimized energy performance, rain water recovery, a chilled beam cooling system, and native plants in the landscape incorporating biomass crop specimens.

**Cyclone Sports Complex**—The \$13 million Cyclone Sports Complex opened in the fall of 2012. It is the home of Iowa State track and field, soccer, and softball. On-site restrooms, a concession stand, home and away locker rooms, officials' locker rooms, team meeting rooms, an athletic training room, a press box, bleachers, and a scoreboard are among the new features that make it a state-of-the-art facility.

**Hach Hall**—Houses cutting-edge classrooms, lab space, and equipment. Iowa State received a \$10 million commitment from Kathryn Hach Darrow for the new chemistry building. The building opened Fall 2010.

**Hixson-Lied Student Success Center**—

Dedicated to improving academic achievement and increasing student retention and graduation rates. This \$10 million facility is home to the Academic Success Center, which provides services directed to any Iowa State student in need of academic counseling or support.

The center includes a resource library, computer labs, individual and group study rooms, and meeting and classroom space. It is also home to the Hixson Opportunity Awards program and the Rod and Connie French Athletics Academic Center.

**Iowa State Center**—This complex was completed 1969–1975 by the Iowa State University Foundation, entirely without the use of appropriated funds.

The center includes three buildings:

- C. Y. Stephens Auditorium—Showcases internationally renowned performances of ballet, musical theatre, and classical music. Selected as Iowa's Building of the Century by the American Institute of Architects. Seats 2,750.
- J. W. Fisher Theater—Provides an intimate setting for the Iowa State theatre department's student productions and dance events. Seats 450.
- Scheman Continuing Education Building—Ideal for seminars, conferences, group meetings, and art instruction. Houses Brunner Gallery and Museum. Includes Benton Auditorium which seats 450.

### Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture

**Student Learning Center**—Unique to Iowa State and nearly all of the Midwest, this learning center allows animal-human interaction through teaching laboratories, outreach activities and a variety of functions for future and current students. With four classrooms and a large arena, this space is also utilized by the community for a multitude of events.

**King Pavilion**—Provides a home primarily for freshman students in the College of Design's Core Design Program and sophomore students in the first year of their professional programs. King Pavilion was the first new green-constructed building on campus and features Iowa State's first green roof.

**Memorial Union**—After World War I ended, there was an interest on campus in erecting a memorial to Iowa Staters who died in the war. After talking about a bronze plaque or a gateway arch, an outspoken group headed by the editor of the student paper lobbied for a living memorial—a building that would provide

service to the college and preserve the memory of those who were lost.

Students successfully rallied support on campus and then widened their campaign to alumni. By 1927, enough pledges were collected to begin construction.

The Memorial Union opened in September 1928. Gold Star Hall, at the north entrance, serves as the memorial with names inscribed on the walls of Iowa Staters lost in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism.

The Memorial Union lives up to its mission to nurture common ground, enrich and sustain individual lives, and remember, by serving as a student gather space and a hub for campus activities and events. When students want to get involved in one of 900+ student organizations, catch a bite to eat, attend a lecture or a job fair, or even just sit down and catch up with a friend over coffee, they come to the MU. The MU food court is a popular place for meals on campus, and the MU houses offices for Student Activities, New Student Programs, Event Management, Study Abroad, International Students and Scholars Office, the Veterans Center, the Center for LGBTQIA+ Student Success, and many clubs and organizations. CyBowl and Billiards provides bowling and billiards for recreation purposes, The Workspace offers art studio space plus classes and walk-in events, The Maintenance Shop hosts live music and events, and ample study space is available throughout the Memorial Union.

**Morrill Hall**—Home to the Christian Petersen Art Museum, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and the Center for Visual Learning in Textiles and Clothing. Throughout the years, Morrill Hall has housed zoology, entomology, and geology classes and labs; a library; chapel; and even a barber shop from 1905-1908.

Constructed in 1891, Morrill Hall sat vacant from 1996 until the \$10 million renovation began in the spring of 2005.

**Parks Library**—Parks Library holdings include more than 2 million volumes and over 97,000 current serial titles. The library provides a rich array of information available through an online catalog system that may be accessed from campus computers or personal computers located off-campus. The system includes more than 1,100,000 bibliographic records. The e-library ([lib.iastate.edu](http://lib.iastate.edu)), accessed through the Internet, provides access to the library's online catalog; indexing and abstracting databases; electronic journals; and selected Internet sites.

**Reiman Gardens**—The largest public garden in Iowa, Reiman Gardens creates a striking entrance to Iowa State and the city of Ames on a 14-acre site. The year-round facility features an indoor conservatory, 2,500-square-foot indoor butterfly conservatory, butterfly emergence cases, gift shop, and five supporting greenhouses. The Gardens provide opportunities for learning through a year-round education program and special events.

**State Gym**—State Gym provides space for open recreation programs, fitness programs, intramurals, Outdoor Recreation, and sport club activities. The facility features three full size basketball/volleyball/badminton courts, two additional basketball courts, two running tracks, an indoor leisure pool, a 40' climbing wall and 13' bouldering wall, and 12,000 square feet of weight and cardio space with approximately 125 pieces of equipment. Additionally, the facility has a fitness and wellness suite and a Whirlybird's smoothie bar operated by ISU Dining.

**Troxel Hall**—Troxel Hall is a state-of-the-art science auditorium. It is one of the most sustainable buildings on campus, which incorporates sustainable strategies such as zero run-off, natural daylighting and energy recovery. The building is named for Douglas D. Troxel, a 1967 graduate in mathematics. Troxel is the chief executive officer of The Change Happens Foundation, which provided the lead donation.