Climate scientist Bill Gutowski and many other College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty are working for **A More Sustainable Planet**

Meredith apprentices are learning from the media pros

Famous groundwater trial reenactment a hit for students
About ISU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a world-class learning and research community. Iowa State’s most academically diverse college, LAS educates students to become global citizens, providing rigorous academic programs in the sciences, humanities and social sciences within a supportive personalized learning environment. College faculty design new materials, unravel biological structures, care for the environment, and explore social and behavioral issues. From fundamental research to technology transfer and artistic expression, the college supports people in Iowa and around the world.
Dear Friends of LAS,

Spring in Iowa brings its own unique excitement: On the last Tuesday of April, temperatures soared well into the 80s but just two days later, the snow ploughs were out on the roads again and the wind chill was in the low 20s. Given such variety, it is hardly surprising that my first year as dean has gone by very quickly. This letter provides a good opportunity to reflect on the college’s accomplishments over the past year and look towards our goals for the one ahead.

We are more proactive than ever in communicating the outstanding value of an Iowa State education, especially in LAS programs, to prospective students and their parents. Over the past year, we reviewed and enhanced all aspects of our recruitment process, from web content to campus visits, and from scholarship offers to staffing. For the first time this year, we greatly expanded and simplified our scholarship process and made approximately 500 scholarship offers to our top applicants. We also put our friendliest faces in front of future students – and you all know how welcoming and supportive native and adopted Iowans can be! In addition to our committed faculty and staff, our very best recruiters are current and former students who are excited about their Iowa State experience and eager to share it with others. Please help us by letting potential Cyclones know how much your ISU education meant to you, and please continue to support our scholarship funds.

After extensive college-wide discussions, our five “Signature Themes” are now officially launched. They will define our research programs for the foreseeable future and provide the unifying framework to hire new faculty, build collaborations, and award competitive seed funding for “high-risk, high-reward” research. We are very excited about the integration and focus that we are creating with this approach. In this edition of Link, you will read about one of our themes, entitled Economic, Environmental, and Societal Sustainability. We believe that true sustainability – of life on this planet – can only be achieved when all of these facets are brought together to develop solutions which are scientifically sound, economically affordable, and acceptable to policy makers and citizens alike.

Next year will see a continuation of these initiatives, along with an increased focus on helping our students move successfully through their programs. Beyond the borders of the college, we will build stronger relationships with our alumni and private sector partners. We want to do a better job staying in touch with you, and we can do an even better job helping our students find good internships and rewarding career opportunities. Did you know that six months after graduation, more than 92% of our students are either working in a job related to their major or enrolled in graduate or professional programs? I cannot imagine a more convincing argument to document the value of an LAS degree.

Every day, I enjoy the privilege of witnessing, first hand, the impact of your support on the people in our college. I see the joy in the eyes of a student who has just received a scholarship, and I share the excitement of a faculty member who has just made a ground-breaking discovery, thanks to the resources provided by a named professorship. You are truly critical to our success, and we cannot thank you enough.

Beate Schmittmann
Dean

Dean Beate Schmittmann
Spalding named new LAS associate dean

Martin Spalding became the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ permanent associate dean of research and graduate studies on Jan. 1. He oversees the LAS research enterprise and acts as an advocate for all graduate programs and graduate students in LAS.

Spalding has been on the Iowa State faculty since 1984. He is a professor and former chair of the Department of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology, and maintains an active research laboratory with a focus on understanding photosynthetic metabolism in algae and plants.

Famed ISU ensemble has new members, new name

Iowa State’s renowned resident chamber ensemble, for years named the Ames Piano Quartet, has two new members and a new name. The Amara Piano Quartet is the successor to the former chamber group. New musicians Boro Martinic-Jercic, violinist, and Mei-Hsuan Huang, pianist, have joined former Ames Quartet members Jonathan Sturm, violist, and George Work, cellist. Former members William David and Mahlon Darlington retired from ISU in 2012.

Work explained the new name was chosen for phonetic associations. “Amara” means paradise in Ethiopian, and “immortal” or “unfading” in Sanskrit, he said, but also suggests the Latin root for love or affection (“amor”). “We did not choose it to mean any of these specifically, but to hopefully suggest them all.”

Ejim accepted into Phi Kappa Phi, earns Big 12 Scholar-Athlete honor

A lot has happened to history junior and Cyclone basketball player Melvin Ejim since he was featured in last fall’s edition of Link. The Toronto, Ont., native was accepted for membership into the ISU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. In March Ejim was chosen as the Big 12 Conference’s men’s basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and was named to the Capital One Academic All-District VI squad.

On the court the 6-foot-6 forward led the Big 12 in rebounding and double-doubles (double figures in points and rebounds) as ISU reached the NCAA Tournament’s round of 32 for the second straight year.

Sisters talk tech in D.C.

Cassidy and Camryn Williams, two ISU computer science majors, were two of only 10 students selected by the National Center for Women and Information Technology to speak at the White House Tech Inclusion Summit in January. The sisters spoke about their experiences as Hispanic women studying computer science and their perspectives on pursuing careers in a traditionally male-dominated field.
Steffen Schmidt class taped by C-SPAN
C-SPAN’s “American History TV” production crew recently set up in Steffen Schmidt’s class to tape his lecture on the political parties in America. Schmidt, a University Professor of political science, said he wants students and C-SPAN viewers to understand how political parties rise and fall and reshape themselves based on moments in history. C-SPAN expects to air the lecture on American History TV in early summer.

ISU’s Barton is president-elect of American Chemical Society
Tom Barton, an Iowa State Distinguished Professor Emeritus of chemistry and associate of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory, has been elected president-elect of the American Chemical Society, the world’s largest scientific society. Barton will serve as the society’s president-elect this year and its president in 2014.

Women in Iowa Politics database provides valuable resources to all
For the first time in Iowa’s history, women held two top leadership roles simultaneously – Senate President and House Majority Leader – for the 2013 legislative session.
Curious about how it happened? The analysis of the 2012 election results can be found in the new “Women in Iowa Politics” database, created and maintained by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State.
The new database includes reports and fact sheets on the women elected to state, county and municipal offices, and provides an accurate picture of the political involvement of women in Iowa, according to the Catt Center’s Valerie Hennings.

Cyclone Battalion again among nation’s elite
The Iowa State Army ROTC unit, the Cyclone Battalion, has won a MacArthur Award for the second consecutive year. The honor, one of eight awarded by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation, recognizes ISU as the top battalion in the Cadet Command’s 3rd Brigade, made up of 40 senior Army ROTC programs in the Midwest. The award recognizes the eight schools, selected from among the 273 senior ROTC units nationwide, as the top programs in the country.

Steffen Schmidt teaches in front of the C-SPAN camera.

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg and her Dust Bowl books.

Riney-Kehrberg brings Dust Bowl expertise to Ken Burns film
Filmmaker Ken Burns’ latest production, “The Dust Bowl,” prominently featured Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, professor and chair of history, who was interviewed on camera for three hours. She also helped edit the script for historical accuracy, and assessed the historical appropriateness of the visual images used to illustrate content.
Riney-Kehrberg has written and edited books about the Dust Bowl, and served as a historical consultant for the Steward-Gazit Productions film, “Surviving the Dust Bowl,” in 1998. The two-part, four-hour PBS program was first shown in November.

Valerie Hennings
Wendel leader on project that mapped cotton genome sequence

An Iowa State professor was part of an international consortium of scientists who mapped the genome sequence for cotton. The paper was published in the internationally distributed journal Nature in December.

Jonathan Wendel, Distinguished Professor and chair of the ISU Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology, is the second lead author of the paper. His lab carried out much of the biology experimentation and research that went into the genome-sequencing project, which will have sweeping ramifications for cotton growers, plant biologists and producers who grow other cash crops.

Researchers focused their efforts on *Gossypium ramondii*, a wild species of cotton native to a small region of Peru, and one of the progenitors of the modern polyploid cottons that are commercially important.

The study represents the first time a polyploid plant has been compared to its progenitors at a whole genome level, and reports that this variety of cotton underwent genetic doubling between 30 and 36 times throughout its history, resulting in a complex genetic structure.

Wendel said millennia of human domestication of cotton and its wide geographic dispersal across the globe yield a wealth of insight into the evolutionary process.

“This genome sequence achievement is a watershed moment in our understanding of the origin, and ultimately the function, of complex plant genomes,” he said.

The sequencing of the cotton genome will benefit producers of corn and soybeans, which are also polyploid plants. Insights gained from the cotton genome will increase understanding of the genetics of other crops and enable producers to increase yields and combat disease and pests.

The paper lists 74 co-authors representing 31 institutions. Ten of the paper’s co-authors work, or recently worked, in Wendel’s ISU lab.

—ISU News Service

A little bit of narrative makes it easier to forgive

It’s common to have negative thoughts about the man who cuts in front of you in line.

However, was he being rude, or was he given permission to get into the line? Was he simply returning to his place in the queue?

Iowa State’s Kristi Costabile, assistant professor of psychology, asks these sorts of questions as she studies how people make inferences as they perceive others in our environment.

And she’s finding that when people explain a seemingly negative situation by telling a story, they tend to be more forgiving and put the situation into context.

“Throughout millennia humans used narrative as a method of communication,” Costabile said. “We find creating a story reduces trait inferences. If someone does something that really seems rude, we’re less likely to think of it as rude because we’re more likely to take the situation into account.

“With narrative, we tend to make fewer hasty personality judgments.”

Costabile believes her research could have implications for conflict resolution with, for example, married couples and those in long-term relationships.

“Perhaps by engaging in these narrative construction activities, it might encourage you to see the situation your partner is in and, therefore, allow you to come up with more constructive problem solving that does not involve blame and defensiveness.”

Costabile conducts a variety of research projects in the psychology department’s Social Cognition and Perception Lab. In one project, student subjects were shown several photos of people, each with a one-sentence explanation of the person’s behavior that is implicative of a personality trait. Half of the students created a story about each person who was pictured, and the remaining students only had to give their impressions of each person.

Upon analysis, results show that those who write the stories consistently put the behavior into context more often and, accordingly, are more forgiving than those who simply gave their impressions.
Several risk factors influence whether an offender walks out of prison for good or one day returns to the correctional system. To reduce the rate of recidivism, states make a significant investment in treatment programs, and researchers at Iowa State say that investment is paying off.

Sociologists Andy Hochstetler and David Peters analyzed data about treatment programs and recidivism rates in Iowa last year, and presented their findings in January. They expected most of the benefits to appear in the short term, but found that many still benefitted from treatment two years after the initial investment.

Hochstetler said the study shows that treatment works and, therefore, dollars spent on treatment are worth it.

Substance abuse treatment is the most common type of assistance for offenders, followed by programs that help improve cognitive and decision-making skills. Though research shows treatment works, 65 percent of offenders in Iowa do not complete any treatment program while they are incarcerated or during the first year following parole because of personal choice or psychiatric problems.

The research uncovered a significant disparity between urban and rural parolees. Treatment for urban parolees reduced the recidivism rate by 40 percent; however, treatment had no effect for rural parolees.

Researchers know that drug and alcohol problems increase the risk of recidivism and that rural parolees continue to struggle with substance abuse, even if they have received treatment. Urban parolees typically face fewer barriers to accessing treatment because there are more substance abuse programs available and they have greater access to public transportation.

Peters and Hochstetler want to know if limited access and distance to programs in rural areas may increase the chances that parolees will relapse and violate the terms of their parole. They hope the second phase of their study will help them understand why treatment doesn’t work for rural parolees.

– ISU News Service

The human body has more than one trillion cells, most of them connected.

Sanjeevi Sivasankar, an Iowa State assistant professor of physics and astronomy and an associate of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory, is leading a research team studying the biomechanics and biophysics of the proteins that bond cells together.

The researchers discovered three types of bonds when they subjected common adhesion proteins to a pulling force: “Ideal,” “catch” and “slip” bonds. The three bonds react differently to that force — ideal bonds aren’t affected, catch bonds last longer and slip bonds don’t last as long.

The online Early Edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published the findings.

Sivasankar said ideal bonds had not been seen in any previous experiments. The researchers discovered them as they observed catch bonds transitioning to slip bonds.

“Ideal bonds are like a nanoscale shock absorber,” he said. “They dampen all the force.” He said catch bonds are like a “nanoscale seatbelt” and become stronger when pulled. Slip bonds are more conventional — they weaken and break when tugged.

The researchers propose that cell binding is a dynamic process. Cadherins (common adhesion proteins) tailor their adhesion in response to changes in the mechanical properties of their surrounding environment. Problems with cell adhesion can lead to disease, including cancer and cardiovascular problems.

Other researchers publishing the discovery include Sabyasachi Rakshit, an ISU post-doctoral research associate in physics and astronomy and an Ames Laboratory associate; Kristine Manibog and Omer Shafraz, ISU doctoral students in physics and astronomy and Ames Laboratory student associates; and Yunxiang Zhang, a post-doctoral research associate at the University of California, Berkeley.

The project was supported by a $308,000 grant from the American Heart Association, a $150,000 Basil O’Connor Award from the March of Dimes Foundation, and Sivasankar’s Iowa State startup funds.

– ISU News Service
When I was 5, I discovered a book left over from my older brother’s infatuation with space. It was called The Golden Book of Astronomy. That “astronomy” word was a complete mystery. Still, I opened the book and was instantly taken by the colorful drawings of the moon, planets and spaceships.

Soon thereafter, during my first look at the moon through a small telescope, I decided I was going to be an astronaut. And I wasn’t alone. Most kids then (and now) really loved space, and growing up as the Apollo program progressed had us all excited for our future exploring the solar system.

I soon realized that the Apollo astronauts came from the top ranks of military pilots and had nearly superhuman physical and intellectual prowess, while I was a skinny kid with a fear of heights. By the time I started junior high, my goals shifted to becoming an earth-bound astronomer. A few treasured high school teachers and other mentors encouraged my out-of-this-world interest, and I eventually entered the appropriate academic track in college and beyond.

Not so for most of my former-future-astronaut friends who, like my brother, moved on to alternate career paths. I’m back in touch with many of my old friends, thanks to Facebook. They are not at all surprised that I’ve stayed close to the path that I had embarked on with them, and always provide warm and proud commentary to my posts describing the work I do.

NASA Kepler mission

My research these days centers around NASA’s Kepler mission – a space telescope designed to discover planetary systems around other stars. The Kepler mission’s price tag is upward of $600 million. Is that really a good way to spend other people’s money?

Those fond of pointing out waste in federal spending have no shortage of ammunition, but most of us are weary of those sorts of arguments. These arguments work, to some extent, in that we really don’t want to take “ownership” of a $750 airplane toilet seat (to cite an old example). But I rarely meet a person who minds having a few pennies of their tax dollars spent in search of other worlds, or exploring stars, galaxies or the early universe. In fact, most take pride in the accomplishments even though they, personally, have no direct part in the discovery.

Why? Kepler costs about $2 per American. We expect that by the time its mission ends, it will have discovered and characterized 3,000 planetary systems. So, one penny from each American’s pocket will have paid for the discovery of 15 new planetary systems.

Few, if any, will tolerate even a clear and well-illustrated discussion of why an airplane’s toilet seat has special properties – and even so, they’d still be outraged at the price tag. But those same people, when hearing about the latest discovery of a planetary system, will then wonder about how life might exist in that system without a thought about the material cost of the instrument, the costs of the salaries of the researchers and their students, or the ultimate value to our economy or national security.

Exploring the universe

I think that the reason why most Americans enjoy hearing about discoveries in space is that they remember their early days in school, as children, innocently wondering about space and wanting to grow up to explore the universe. Though they may have been thwarted by the math, or physics, or by the distractions of embarking on a useful life, their fascination with the universe has not diminished. They are glad that someone else is working on making these discoveries. Still they want (and deserve) to be told about these discoveries in ways that they can appreciate.

It is a fair bargain – a partnership. Taxpayers don’t have to commit to a quasi-monastic life studying obscure math and physics, yet for a few pennies they can be a part of the exploration of the universe. To those of us who have spent our lives developing those peculiar skills, those aggregated pennies provide us with the support needed to do the work behind those headlines, while living relatively normal lives, raising families and developing ancillary technologies for application to more down-to-earth problems.

So, from one “monast” who has, by one route or another, been enabled to do something as eclectic as exploring the universe, a hearty “thank you!” And have you seen this crazy new system we just found with Kepler? Here, let me show you...

– Steve Kawaler is a professor of astrophysics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy
“I didn’t breathe under water. I didn’t stop my prayers. And I didn’t give up hope…”

Six years ago, Onalie Ariyabandhu began writing those words about her family’s harrowing experience during the Sri Lanka tsunami in 2004.

Ariyabandhu, a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences student, only recently was able to finish the story, which she submitted to an essay contest. More than 700 international students studying abroad entered the competition with essays about an experience from their lives and how it influenced who they are today. Ariyabandhu won, earning the 2012 International Student Voice magazine $2,500 scholarship.

Ariyabandhu, her mother, sister and cousin were swept away in a van as the tsunami hit the town of Galle. Her father watched in horror from a nearby supermarket, jumping into the water after his family. Amazingly, Ariyabandhu’s family survived by escaping in the van and grabbing tree branches as the deadly surge carried them along.

“‘I didn’t breathe under water. I didn’t stop my prayers. And I didn’t give up hope…’”

Two excerpts from Onalie Ariyabandhu’s winning essay:

“… that’s when I took my last breath inside the van”

“’The van began to submerge. We were in the middle of the Galle town. Galle was one of the worst tsunami affected towns in Sri Lanka. I felt the water rising inside the van from my toes, to my knees, my thighs, to my waist to my shoulders, to my neck… and that’s when I took my last breath inside the van, keeping my mouth to the ceiling of the van. I could feel my cousin’s hands tightly around my waist, gradually releasing. It was certainly our luck that I had smashed open the left side screen at the back of the van, moments before the entire van got submerged.’”

“There was no way that I could swim in that water. The water rushed at high speed. I just had to go with the flow. I tried holding on to street lamp posts several times, but failed. I had no idea how long I had been dragged with the water current, but the moment I saw my [cousin] on a small tree I knew I should do the same.”

“‘It’s not only the cash reward,’ she said about the competition. “It was a chance for me to express my feelings and everything I went through.”

Ariyabandhu was 14 at the time of the tsunami. She is now a triple major at Iowa State studying economics, international studies and environmental studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences. She plans to graduate in spring 2014 and then attend graduate school to study education policy.

This summer she will return to Sri Lanka to help host a new ISU study abroad program she helped establish. Part of the trip will include visiting Galle and the tree that Ariyabandhu said saved her life during the tsunami.

She said the experience made her more confident. “I realized that if I could overcome that trauma, there can’t be anything I can’t come out of.”

Read her winning essay at: www.isvmag.com/2012scholarshipwinner
Learning from the pros  By Jess Knight

The highly competitive Meredith Apprenticeship Program has been opening career doors for students in the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication for a decade.

So much has changed in the magazine publishing industry in the past decade, and Iowa State journalism students have been there to experience it all.

This fall marks the 10th anniversary of the Iowa State University Meredith Apprenticeship Program, which connects students from the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication with the media and marketing powerhouse in Des Moines.

The program was created in the fall of 2003 through collaboration between Greenlee School Director Michael Bugeja and Meredith’s corporate leaders, including Art Slusark, vice president of corporate communications, and Steve Lacy, president and CEO.

Meredith’s current partnership agreement provides Iowa State $500,000 over five years. The bulk of the gift funds the apprenticeship program, but it is also providing enhancements to the Meredith Integrated Media Suite in ISU’s Hamilton Hall and the continuation of the Meredith Professional in Residence position.

“The goal was not just to create an apprenticeship program,” Bugeja said, “but also to be of service to Meredith with our talents and our interns. We consider ourselves part of the Meredith family, and we hope they consider themselves part of the Greenlee family. We are deeply appreciative to them.”

A decade later, the program continues to produce stellar writers, editors and graphic designers who go on to work for leading magazines in New York City, Chicago, Des Moines and beyond. It’s highly competitive, and known for the doors it opens after graduation.

“The students like the program because it gives them real-world experience,” Slusark said. “They establish real relationships and do real work. They make real contacts and walk away with a portfolio that can stand up to any institution in the country.”

Those who are selected work for a full academic year at Meredith, which is known for its national brands including Better Homes and Gardens, Ladies’ Home Journal, Midwest Living and others. The students receive an hourly wage and academic credit.

A day in the life

At 1:30 p.m. on a Wednesday afternoon, Taylar Jacobson seats herself at a large wooden table in the dining area of Meredith’s Test Kitchen to sample more than a dozen recipes.
Taylor Jacobson, left, and Diabetic Living art director Michelle Bilyeu. LAS photo

Jacobson, a graphic design senior at Iowa State, is a design apprentice for Diabetic Living magazine. She’s sitting with her art director, nutrition editor and Test Kitchen product supervisors who all participate in tasting and approving recipes. As an apprentice, she isn’t at her desk sorting papers and checking addresses. She’s in the action, tasting the Orange-Kissed Date Waffles, giving her feedback on the sugar substitute that was used to make the current batch, thinking about how the colors, the portion size and the extras – with or without syrup? – will look in a photograph and in the final page design.

Seated next to her is Caitlyn Diimig, a senior majoring in dietetics and journalism and the editorial apprentice for the same publication. As they move on to a Carrot Ginger Curry Sauce, Diimig considers the words in the story and helps edit the recipe for clarity.

After the taste test panel, Jacobson heads to the photo studio, where colorful popsicles will be artfully arranged on trays for a photo shoot. The predetermined color scheme (shades of creamy orange sherbet, mint and melon) is inspiration for Jacobson, who heads to the prop room to find items to stage the frozen treats.

Later, upstairs in Diabetic Living’s conference room, pages of the 2013 summer issue are pinned up for tweaks and edits. Jacobson points to spread after spread that she’s designed or helped design.

“This one, this one, this one,” she says, waving her finger in front of several colorful pages. “I’ve pretty much had at least a small role in almost every one of these layouts.”

Jacobson, who has also interned for NFL Enterprises in Tampa, Fla., and the Iowa State football program, has accepted a full-time position as a graphic design specialist with the Minnesota Vikings, which she will begin after graduating this spring. She credits her apprenticeship at Meredith for her success.

“I have learned all of the behind-the-scenes processes that make a magazine run, including the color proofing process, the dynamic between design and editorial, and all aspects of in-house photography,” she said.

Bringing ISU to Des Moines

“Meredith is just 35 minutes down the road, so it made sense to take advantage of such a great opportunity for our students,” Bugeja said. “The partnership was a collaboration of alumni who made a case for the school, and the faculty and students who were willing to step up to the challenge.”

The first four years of the program, Greenlee staff selected just five editorial apprentices from stacks of applicants. In 2008, they added three positions for graphic designers, creating eight coveted spots in a school with more than 580 undergraduate students.

“These students go to school full time, work at Meredith for 15-20 hours a week and are still heavily involved in campus publications,” said Debra Gibson, the Meredith Professional in Residence and the coordinator of the apprentice program. “They really are a shining example of the talent we have here, and they work hard to prove that.”

Getting a foot in the door

Kelly Eagle, associate digital home editor of BHG.com, was in the first class of apprentices in 2004-2005 for Better Homes and Gardens magazine. She said the experience taught her the real inner workings of a major magazine.

“Going to class is great, but if you don’t get into the real world and experience it yourself, you’re not going to understand how publishing works,” she said.

Her experience demonstrates the value of the apprenticeship.

“Meredith is not an easy place to get into,” Gibson said. “So this opportunity for students to work with some of the best talents in the world is just amazing. It really prepares them for a great career in magazine publishing, and I feel very blessed that we have this partnership with them.”

– Jess Knight was a Meredith apprentice in 2007-2008.
Bill Gutowski is a frequent visitor to Ames' scenic Ada Hayden Heritage Park. An Iowa State University climate researcher, Gutowski has seen Ada Hayden's connected lakes spill over in a recent flood after radically shrinking during 2012’s drought.

“Naturally available water will fluctuate in volume,” he said. “But with climate change, we are seeing more feast and famine.”

Gutowski’s research predicts increased climate variability due to global warming. As a result, he is leading several ISU faculty in a novel research and outreach project to help local governments produce sustainable water management plans that serve citizens while being cost effective and environmentally friendly.

He is one of many of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty who do research and scholarly work under one of the college’s new Signature Research Themes: “Economic, Environmental and Societal Sustainability.” Building on strengths across the entire college, the theme is based on the premise that the environment cannot be truly sustainable until there is societal and economic sustainability in addition to environmental sustainability.

“Humans are impacting the planet in unprecedented ways,” said Beate Schmittmann, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, “whether it’s the use of fossil fuels,
large-scale agriculture, or increasing urbanization. For us in the college, this theme has to bring together economic, societal and environmental aspects.”

Solving major challenges

Schmittmann explained that Iowa State, as a land-grant university and a university of science and technology, can contribute to solving some of the major challenges facing the world now. “Sustainability is key as we address many vital issues including population growth, climate change, energy security, food safety, and the preservation of natural resources,” she said, adding that Liberal Arts and Sciences is a leader in the university’s goal of making our world more sustainable.

“We have the expertise in our college’s academic departments that we believe can be bundled and brought to bear on these issues in a truly innovative fashion.”

Arne Hallam, an economist and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, teaches the course Globalization and Sustainability. He uses a Venn diagram to explain that a true sustainable system only comes at the intersection of the economic, societal and environmental circles (sometimes called the “triple bottom line”).

“If societal sustainability and economic sustainability are present, it might be equitable and good,” Hallam explained. “But if it doesn’t include the environment, it’s not sustainable because you eventually run out of materials.” Likewise, if we have societal and environmental components, “it’s bearable for people but it’s not viable because people can’t make a profit and they won’t do it.”

The environmental component is best exhibited by “green” or earth-friendly practices and technologies. The economic aspect means the practices and technologies must be profitable and affordable to be adopted. And the societal aspect entails that citizens have to participate in the political process to arrive at broadly acceptable, ethical decisions.

“None of this works unless people are able to make a profit doing it,” Hallam said. “You want to be efficient. At the same time you want people flourishing in a just and equitable society.”

Gutowski’s project was recently awarded “seed” funding by LAS. It was one of five research proposals selected that align with the college’s Signature Research Themes. The basis of the project is to ensure the infrastructure for storing and providing water is adequate in a time of climate uncertainty without overbuilding and creating an unneeded tax burden.

Optimizing water resources

“We know climate change is causing more heavy rainfall events and also increased periods of little rain,” said Gutowski, a professor in economics. The goal is to develop a prototype water resources model for Ames’ Squaw Creek watershed that can be applied elsewhere. The project is different from most because it will engage local officials (such as water resource managers and city engineers) and other stakeholders throughout the process.

“We will work with people who are responsible for providing a reliable source of water in order to produce sustainable water-management planning,” Gutowski said. “We will learn from each other.”

Sustainability is often defined as...

“Meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

– The Brundtland Commission, 1987

Gutowski – one of three ISU researchers who contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the collaboration that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize – said the research is about improving lives.

“We will be employing fundamental research for the express goal of improving the understanding and treatment of a most basic human need, water,” he said.
Economist John Miranowski, above, had a keen environmental interest when he joined the ISU faculty in 1975, but “sustainability” wasn’t yet a buzzword. “I didn’t think of my work in terms of being sustainable. But it was underlying what I was trying to do,” said Miranowski, who has a joint appointment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Scientists worldwide are concerned with the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The science community says unprecedented high levels of human-made and naturally occurring carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane are increasing global temperatures.

Iowa State biologist Kirsten Hofmockel believes the way to help our atmosphere above is to look below. Hofmockel studies the billions of invisible microorganisms in the soil and their interactions with plants.

“At the most basic biological level, microorganisms are key to determining whether carbon and nitrogen stay in the soil, or go into the atmosphere,” she explained. “It’s sort of mind-blowing that single-cell organisms can affect the global climate.”

Hofmockel is part of a new federally funded climate change study in a carbon-rich peat bog in north central Minnesota. She said scientists will artificially raise temperatures inside large tube-like climate chambers in the boreal forest to see how it will respond to climate change. Hofmockel aims to understand how microbial communities control ecosystem responses to large increases in carbon dioxide and temperature.

LAS boasts a long list of faculty engaging in economic, environmental and societal research and scholarly work. For example:

- Hydrologist Kristie Franz examines water flow through streams and rivers, shedding light on flood predictions, and hydrogeologist Bill Simpkins studies groundwater (see the story on page 14).
- Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology researchers were part of a team that unlocked secrets of the genome of a common turtle, the findings of which may have human biomedical applications.
- Improving lives globally, anthropologist Max Viatori is studying Peruvian fishers amidst recent attempts to regulate small-scale fishing, and sociologist Robert Mazur looks at sustainable rural livelihoods in Africa.
- Economist Harvey Lapan has analyzed the effects of trade liberalization on environmental policies.
- And in Iowa, Distinguished Professor of English and Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander brings attention to agrarian and rural issues through her poems, stories and plays.

Mental health concerns among U.S. military personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are no secret. Depression, posttraumatic stress disorder and suicide are too prevalent.

As a result, Iowa State psychologists David Vogel and Nathaniel Wade are designing an internet-based intervention...
A turtle-friendly permit system

Quinn Weninger and Rajesh Singh hope to lower the number of protected sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico from becoming “bycatch” – the unintended capture by commercial fishing boats.

The Iowa State economists are working to understand what motivates fishermen to take independent measures to avoid and protect the endangered turtles. One approach they explored is a cap-and-trade system in which fishermen purchase a fixed number of bycatch permits each season. Permits grant their holders the right to encounter sea turtles while continuing to fish commercially. They also can be traded to the highest bidder.

Singh and Weninger show that market forces cause permits to gravitate into the hands of fishermen who are able to extract the highest quantity of value of the target species per turtle encounter.

In this way, the permit system provides the incentives to avoid turtles by the most cost-efficient means possible.

– Kristin Senty, Department of Economics

program for those in the service. They believe the program will reduce the stigma of obtaining mental health services and increase the likelihood of more personnel seeking assistance.

“There is a critical need to increase the willingness to access mental health services among military personnel,” Vogel said. He explained that psychological treatment is effective for “a broad range” of concerns. However, its social stigma discourages too many men and women from getting the help they need.

Working with the National Center for Telehealth and Technology and military collaborators, Vogel and Wade want to create new web-based technologies – including a website and mobile apps – that military personnel are willing to use. The project could help other underserved populations also, including rural residents and minorities.

Facility from more than 10 LAS academic departments are affiliated with Iowa State’s Bioeconomy Institute, which advances the use of biorenewable resources to produce chemicals, fuels, materials and energy. One of those researchers, Martin Spalding, a professor in the Department of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology and an LAS associate dean, is leading a team that discovered a genetic method that can increase biomass in algae by 50 to 80 percent. He said the discovery opens up possibilities for more and better biofuel development.

A stellar research identity

Sustainability has also found its way into science labs where many Iowa State faculty and students are involved in “green chemistry.” Student Stephen Todey is on a 10-week internship this summer at a national lab in France researching green synthesis related to biorenewable fuels. “Green synthesis is essentially environmentally friendly chemistry,” said Todey, who is majoring in chemistry and global resource systems.

Other students have also embraced sustainability with passion. The new ISU minor in sustainability has been a great fit for Dylan Gaudineer, a technical communication and environmental studies major. He said the minor has made him more globally aware. “Every day I leave class with a different mindset.” Sponsored by Liberal Arts and Sciences and three other colleges, the minor looks at the factors required to improve human life while also supporting ecosystems.

As time goes on, Dean Schmittmann said the five LAS Signature Research Themes will become more focused. Workshops will explore common research interests within the themes, which will also help reshape LAS educational programs.

“As a large and diverse college, we have an amazing opportunity here,” she said. “LAS is home to all these outstanding researchers and scholars who pursue different facets of these broad themes within their own disciplines. Our vision is to bring them together and create interdisciplinary research teams, which will build a stellar research identity for the college.”
Learning by trial and Darcy’s Law

By Steve Jones

For 10 years Professor Bill Simpkins’ hydrogeology students have reenacted a famous groundwater trial. They learn a lot, and have some fun with it.

The courtroom was quiet when the plaintiffs’ first witness stepped forward to be sworn in by the judge. The jury watched from seats nearby.

The bailiff asked, “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Henry Darcy?” The witness replied, “I do,” with one hand raised and the other resting not on a Bible, but a used hydrogeology textbook.

For 10 years Bill Simpkins’ hydrogeology (groundwater) class at Iowa State University has been reenacting a landmark 1986 Massachusetts environmental trial. The case became a popular book by Jonathan Harr in 1995 and a major motion picture starring John Travolta with the same title, “A Civil Action,” three years later.

This annual reenactment teaches important hydrogeology concepts, such as Darcy’s Law that was referenced in the oath. (Darcy’s Law is an equation formulated by Henry Darcy that calculates the amount of groundwater flow in an aquifer). However, the students also mix in a little fun along the way.

Massachusetts lawsuit

Harr chronicled a lawsuit brought by Woburn, Mass., residents who charged that three companies – W.R. Grace, Beatrice Foods and Unifirst Corp. – had allowed the solvent TCE (trichloroethylene) to leak into groundwater and be drawn in Woburn city wells.

The case used expert testimony by well-known groundwater hydrologists to prove or disprove that the companies could have contributed to the wells’ contamination. The plaintiffs alleged that the TCE had contributed to increased instances of leukemia cases among Woburn children, some of whom ultimately died.

“It’s really a great learning experience for the students,” said Simpkins, a professor in the Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences. “It’s exciting to see how anxious they are every year to show what they have learned in the course about groundwater and how it is all relevant to this particular case.”

Simpkins knows of a couple other universities that reenact “A Civil Action.” However, his trial, which takes place in one evening, is the only one that serves as a capstone event for an upper-level hydrogeology course.

Students in the ISU course are divided into two groups, one representing the residents suing the companies (plaintiffs) and the other the companies being sued (defendants).
Using witness testimony, scientific concepts and equations such as Darcy’s Law, students feverishly prepare hour upon hour to argue their cases.

“After reading the book, the students can see how the testimony was correctly or incorrectly used to make key points,” Simpkins said. “The case also highlights the problem of using scientific experts to unravel a complex geologic and groundwater problem for essentially a lay jury.” (Simpkins’ 20-member jury was made up of students from the Geology 100 course.)

Dressing their parts
The hydrogeology students – most of whom are geology or environmental science majors – take their courtroom roles seriously, but with some humor. Suits are the norm for the attorneys, and witnesses also dress for their parts. Geology graduate student Nick Hamden played the role of Steve Goodman, a geology expert witness for the defense. Hamden sported a bright green shirt, a bow tie, a pocket protector and a big scientific calculator. Another geology major, Garrett Westland, wearing a fake handlebar mustache and a safari hat, posed as witness Jack Guswa, a well-known groundwater expert.

Westland enjoyed the project. “There are not many times when you get to dress up and do some acting while in college, especially for a project in your major. The types of groundwater concepts illustrated in experiments throughout the semester made more sense after an activity like this.”

Nicholas Morton, one of the plaintiffs’ lawyers, said the trial was more than just a spirited competition, although both sides work long and hard to win. “This was a look at how well we could use our knowledge in hydrogeology,” Morton explained. “We learned so much in Dr. Simpkins’ class, and this was a perfect way to allow us to articulate our knowledge in a fun and interactive way.”

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Few people at a university have a bigger impact on students than advisers do.

In a sea of more than 31,000 students, a labyrinthine curriculum and seemingly endless paperwork, it can be difficult for students to determine if they are on the right track. Will they graduate when they want to? Do they really have to take Statistics 101? What if they’re double majoring in two different colleges?

Fortunately, the wealth of advisers at Iowa State University and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences keeps students from getting lost at sea. They do more than ensure students are on the right track academically, they act as mentors, lending a sympathetic ear when school gets rough. They encourage involvement, showing them the clubs and student organizations that may match their interests. They keep an eye out for leadership, scholarship and work opportunities.

Most importantly, advisers look for places a student may get disconnected, and get them reconnected.

Luiza Dreasher, multicultural liaison officer and academic adviser for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, works hard to ensure the students she advises – mostly students of color – feel like they belong at Iowa State.

“I want them to feel like Iowa State University is home, that they aren’t just a visitor,” she said. “Visiting with students on a regular basis helps me monitor their academic success and connect them with key resources on campus, which ultimately impacts retention.”
Dreasher, along with other advisers in the college, spend as much time as possible with individual students, making sure they know about the Academic Success Center, Writing and Media Center, and other campus resources.

Connie Ringlee, a lecturer in speech communication and adviser for the speech communication and the communication studies programs, has been working with students since 1997. She currently advises about 200 students.

“Every relationship is different,” she said of her advisees. “Some come in and spend time with me, others just get the signatures they need and go on their way. The students who are more diligent about coming in are usually more successful.”

In addition to helping students plan their academic paths, Ringlee plays a role in their academic success. When an advisee’s GPA drops below a 2.0, she asks to see them every two to three weeks. Through her guidance, she has helped students go from being on “academic warning” to the Dean’s List.

“Being a good adviser means having a heart for these kids,” she said. “I’ll do whatever I need to do to help them get to where they want to go.”

“Students all have the same goal: To succeed,” Mark Hagley, advising coordinator for the Department of Sociology, said. “They have a wide range of abilities, desires, motivation and preparedness, but they all want to be respected and have someone to go to for questions, complaints and concerns. That’s where the advising staff comes in.”

Hagley began advising in 2000 in the College of Engineering before moving to sociology in 2001. He said the way students communicate – now through social media and email – plays a role in his advising style.

“Higher education has changed quite a bit during the past 13 years I’ve been here,” he said. “The rules change and the duties change, but what hasn’t changed is communication. That is still key.”

The need for effective communication is what keeps advisers at the forefront of a student’s ultimate success. Their job is to communicate what courses to take (and when), what resources a student can utilize, what to do if a student is struggling, and what fun can be had through clubs and student organizations.

In a research project by Dreasher that measured the success rates of students of color attending predominately white universities, she found that an overwhelming majority credited their success to their adviser.

“Students said their advisers took a personal interest in their success,” Dreasher said. “They made course recommendations, showed them opportunities around campus and introduced them to faculty members in their departments. That personal relationship can start as early as a campus visit.”

Some come in and spend time with me, others just get the signatures they need and go on their way. The students who are more diligent about coming in are usually more successful.

– Connie Ringlee, adviser for speech communication and communication studies programs

Advice from the advisers: ‘Go to class,’ ‘visit us often’

Be open to suggestions. “Don’t think you already know it all,” Connie Ringlee said. “We’re here to help and make sure you’re on the right track, so consider our suggestions before dismissing them.”

Be aware of what’s happening on campus. There are bulletin boards, posters, social media updates and news stories with information on study abroad programs, internship and work opportunities, class openings and more. “Be aware, then talk to your adviser about it. There is so much out there that is ready for the taking,” Ringlee said.

Go to class. “Success is going to class, not missing it,” Ringlee said. Knowing what’s going on in the classroom can help you in your adviser’s office, too. Getting good grades will help you graduate on time.

Have confidence in your adviser. They know what they’re doing, and want to make it easy for both you and them. “Be sure you voice your concerns, but have confidence in their recommendations,” Mark Hagley said.

Visit often. “Let us know how things are going,” Luiza Dreasher said. “The better we know you, the better we can make scholarship and internship suggestions, and write a great letter of recommendation for you.”
“Students tell me I’ve ruined films for them,” Stacey Weber-Fève laughed. However, she’s “ruined films” in a good way. “They tell me they can’t watch films the same way again without applying the analytical practices they have learned in class.”

An associate professor of French at Iowa State University, Weber-Fève enjoys hearing those words at the end of a semester. It means she’s accomplished her goal of helping students view films differently, with the added benefit of learning more about the French language and culture.

Weber-Fève researches women in film in France and Francophone countries. She uses her research in an array of French film studies and other classes in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, which now features a popular new world film studies minor.

As an undergraduate, she had an interest in literature and story telling, and was drawn to this different method of telling stories through the visual medium of film. “I noticed in my French courses how the French use the medium differently. It helped me understand it better as an art form,” she said.

Challenging dominant trends

In her film classes, students examine how filmmakers use cinematic language, vocabulary and techniques to communicate their messages. Most women filmmakers have been able to challenge dominant filmmaking trends in creating their messages and constructing their worldviews, Weber-Fève said.

“Women’s cinema, including mainstream films made by female directors, generally still feels different today in varying degrees,” she said. “Although we are seeing an important evolution in French cinema and women’s filmmaking more generally, I take up this question of ‘difference’ and explore it in terms of content, styles and themes; but more importantly, in the technical ways women make films.

Enhancing student learning

Using French-language films in the French classroom helps students develop listening comprehension skills, accent, intonation, body language and gestures, phrasing and rhythm, she said, as well as seeing how people interact.

In film, the linguistic and paralinguistic aspects of learning a language and learning how to interact within and across one’s cultures come to life in an authentic way. Weber-Fève said film and video add an additional layer to enhance student learning beyond what they read in course case studies.

“I am especially interested in how female directors often subvert dominant trends in filmmaking in crafting their stories.”

Webb-Fève said women’s cinema also often represents voices from the margin – the other story that’s not often told – which presents a more complete picture of the film industry and the culture or cultures from which the film originates.

The films also help French majors and students in Languages and Cultures for Professions – a program that integrates languages and cultures with professional courses for engineering, business and agriculture students – become more conversational with the language and more culturally competent, she said.

The French call filmmaking “the seventh art.” “It ranks up there with architecture, sculpture, painting, dance, music and poetry,” she said. “Film is a part of our everyday lives in its own unique ways.”

In Weber-Fève’s classroom, students are seeing this art form differently…in a good way.
ISU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Impact Award
James K. Olberding
BS History 1963
Ames, Iowa
Retired, veteran

Alumni Merit Award
Eric Imerman
BS Sociology 1991; MS 1996; PhD 1999
Baku, Azerbaijan
Agriculture Training Advisor
Pragma Corporation

Alumni Service Award
Tim Coble
BS Computer Science 1977
Ames, Iowa
Former business owners
Temptations on Main

Alumni Service Award
Mary Katherine (Pattie) Wells
BS Spanish & English 1962
Ames, Iowa
Retired District Supervisor of Counselors and Social Workers
Campbell County School District, Gillette, Wyoming

Award for Superior Service to Alumni
Michael Golemo
Ames, Iowa
Professor and Chair, and Director of Bands
Department of Music and Theatre

James A. Hopson Alumni Volunteer Award
Lisa M. Ferichs
BA Journalism & Mass Communication 2003
Ames, Iowa
Corporate Communications Coordinator
Krell Institute

James A. Hopson Alumni Volunteer Award
Sophia Magill
BA Political Science 2005
Ames, Iowa
Assistant Director of Federal Relations
Iowa State University

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AWARDS

Carrie Chapman Catt Public Engagement Award
Joan Urenn Axel
BS History 1964
Muscatine, Iowa
Vice President, Director and Shareholder
Stanley, Lande & Hunter, PC.

Young Alumna Award
Lauren S. Hughes
BA Spanish 2002
BS Zoology 2002
Seattle, Washington
Family Medicine Resident Physician
University of Washington

Distinguished Service Award
Gillian Murphy
BA Distributed Studies 1983
Stockton, California
Dean of Applied Science, Business and Technology
San Joaquin Delta College

John V. Atanasoff Research and Discovery Award
John R. Ohlfest
BS Biology 2001
Deceased
Formerly Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neurosurgery
University of Minnesota

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Alumni Achievement Award
Thomas J. Miller
BS Computer Science 1972
Yarrow Point, Washington
Software Consultant

ENGLISH
Outstanding Alumni Award
Elizabeth Wardle
PhD Rhetoric and Professional Communication 2003
Orlando, Florida
Associate Professor, Department Chair, and Director of First-Year Composition
University of Central Florida

GEOLOGICAL AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
Distinguished Alumni Awards
Thomas Black
BS Meteorology 1976
Lothian, Maryland
Research Meteorologist
NOAA/NWS/National Centers for Environmental Prediction

Lyle V. A. Sendlein
PhD Geology and Soil Engineering 1964
Key Largo, Florida
Retired Professor of Geology and Director of the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute

Jack C. Troeger
BS English 1967
MS Earth Science 1971
Ames, Iowa
Retired earth science teacher
Ames Community School District

GREENLEE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION
James W. Schwartz Award for Distinguished Service
Barbara Riedesel Iverson
BA Journalism 1976
Minneapolis, Minnesota
President, Financial Services Industry Practice
Weber Shandwick

MATHEMATICS / WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES
Distinguished Alumni Award
Donald D. Steiner
BS Mathematics 1976
BA German, MS Mathematics 1978
PhD Mathematics 1984
McLean, Virginia
Principal Technologist and Technical Fellow
Northrop Grumman Information Systems

MUSIC & THEATRE
Outstanding Alumni Award
In Memory of Joseph Wilgenbusch
BM Voice Performance 2005
Victor, Iowa

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Alumni Achievement Award
Marcia F. Bisenius
MA Public Administration 1984
Alexandria, Virginia
Retired, federal service
Federal Aviation Administration

PSYCHOLOGY
Distinguished Alumni Award
Paula Goolkasian
MS Psychology 1972
PhD Experimental Psychology 1974
Clemson, North Carolina
Professor of Psychology and Director of Cognitive Science
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Leslie Hogben is named next Dio Lewis Holl Chair in Applied Mathematics

Leslie Hogben, an Iowa State professor with long-standing commitments to teacher education and mathematical research, has been named the new Dio Lewis Holl Chair in Applied Mathematics at ISU.

“I am very honored to be selected for the Dio Lewis Holl Chair,” said Hogben, an ISU faculty member since 1978. The chair recognizes Hogben’s professional achievements and will provide her with supplemental annual funds to advance her research and teaching program.

Dio Holl served as head of the ISU Department of Mathematics from 1945 until his death in 1954. Holl was well known for his excellent teaching skills and his interest in high quality education. Dio Holl’s three children created the Holl Chair: Elizabeth (Beth) Holl Bierbaum (ISU class of ’56) of Wellesley Hills, Mass.; William Holl (’52) of Surprise, Ariz., and Bruce Holl (’50) of Savannah, Ga.

“My brothers and I are very pleased with the choice of Dr. Hogben for our father’s chair,” Bierbaum said. “She exemplifies his love of teaching and the importance of teacher education.”

“I’m really pleased that Leslie is the next Dio Lewis Holl Chair,” said Beate Schmittmann, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “Endowed faculty positions, such as the Holl Chair, are essential to enhancing Iowa State’s academic reputation and are vital to our efforts to attract and retain the best faculty. We are very grateful for the generosity of Dio Holl’s family for creating this valuable faculty position.”

Hogben said she will direct some of the chair funds to involve teachers in mathematical research.

Neel Bal joins LAS development team

The newest member of the Liberal Arts and Sciences development team is back home.

Neel Bal, a 1994 graduate of LAS’ speech communication program, is a new director of development in the college. Bal grew up near Iowa State where his father, Dr. H.S. Bal, was a faculty member in veterinary medicine.

“It’s great to be back at Iowa State,” Bal said.

Bal also has a Master of Public Administration degree from Drake University, where he served in development and alumni relations positions. He also worked in the nonprofit sector for several years.

Since returning to ISU earlier this year, Bal has enjoyed traveling and meeting alumni and friends of the college. “I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know so many wonderful people connected to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” Bal said. “It’s amazing to see the impact these people have had on our nation and world. It makes me realize the value of an Iowa State education.”
Alumnus who served U.S. presidents creates new professorship

An Iowa State alumnus who served in executive positions for seven U.S. presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower to Ronald Reagan, has restructured a previous faculty award to create a new professorship in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dwight Ink, a 1947 graduate in history and government, established the Dwight Ink Policy Implementation Professorship. His intent is to extend the scope of the ISU Department of Political Science to the policy implementation dimension by developing linkages between education and federal, state and local governmental institutions in Iowa.

Ink said it was his family and Iowa State that prepared him for a career in public service, which he calls “the most interesting, exciting, fulfilling career in the world.” He said his years in public administration showed him that “it’s fruitless to put a lot of effort into developing sound policies if you don’t have the capacity to implement them.” That’s why, he explained, ISU students must learn not only how to create policies but also how to execute them.

For nearly 20 years, the Ink Policy Implementation Fund has provided scholarships for graduate students in public administration. The fund also supports the Ink Public Service Award that honors an Iowa public servant for excellence in the implementation of a public policy.

Ink’s 2012 will bequest allowed his previous faculty fund to be restructured as a professorship for a faculty member to be named. Professorships provide valuable supplemental funds for faculty members to advance their teaching and research efforts.

“The establishment of the Dwight Ink Policy Implementation Professorship is not only a wonderful tribute to our distinguished alumnus, but it is also crucial to the future of the department as we build our focus on public policy,” James McCormick, professor and chair of political science, said.

Order of the Knoll award to Meredith Corporation Foundation

The Meredith Corporation Foundation has received the Order of the Knoll Corporation and Foundation Award for 2013 from Iowa State University. While the generosity of The Meredith Corporation Foundation has reached all corners of the Iowa State campus, a primary beneficiary has been the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and its strong magazine, graphic design and advertising programs.

The centerpiece of the Meredith-Greenlee relationship is the innovative and highly competitive Meredith Apprentices in Service Journalism Program. The partnership is part of Moving Students Forward, a five-year Iowa State initiative to raise $150 million for scholarships and other student support.

See the story on the apprenticeship program on page 8.
Students and alumni know Iowa State provides a life-changing experience. A world-class university in a friendly setting gives students countless opportunities for learning, growth and leadership. Through philanthropic support from alumni and friends like you, Iowa State students can achieve their dreams. You can move students’ lives forward. Give forward.