

YOUR IOWA STATE

STORIES OF TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

WINTER 2015

Photo: University Relations



Turf's Up!

In the heart of winter, many Iowans don't think about the grass lying beneath the snow. Two graduate students at Iowa State, however, booked trips overseas because of it.

Kevin Hansen and Joshua Lenz study sports turf management in the horticulture department. Turf managers are those who keep the putting greens green and the yard lines aligned. As undergraduates, Hansen and Lenz were chosen by Toro's Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program to intern on the turf crews at Super Bowl XLVII and XLVIII, respectively. Besides preparing the fields and practice fields, painting field logos, and (in Lenz's case) removing snow, they networked and generally hung out with the top turf field managers from around the country.

Spending a week at the ground zero of, arguably, the biggest sporting event of any given year was the most awesome experience a couple of sports nuts/turf majors could have. And yet, they weren't quite finished.

A few months ago, Lenz talked to one of the aforementioned turf managers, who

told him about another exceptional opportunity: spending a couple of weeks in London preparing the Wembley Stadium field for NFL exhibition games. All expenses plus pay.

"It was the first year the NFL did three games there instead of two, so they needed more help," said Hansen. "We were in line for the job because we have experience working on the crew and know what's going on."

Lenz interned for the second game on October 26 (Atlanta Falcons and Detroit Lions) and Hansen staffed the third matchup on November 9 (Dallas Cowboys and Jacksonville Jaguars).

The natural grass field of Wembley Stadium was a whole different ball game than the turf Hansen and Lenz are accustomed to. "It was exciting for us because we got to practice new skills in a professional environment," said Lenz. Watching the sold-out games from the sidelines at the world famous 90,000-seat stadium might even beat – or at least tie – their Super Bowl experiences.

Lenz and Hansen credit much of their success in garnering world-class turf gigs to

their hands-on experiences at Iowa State. They are both recipients of donor-funded horticulture scholarships, allowing them to take full advantage of learning opportunities. During football season, they put in about 30 hours per week at Jack Trice Stadium working for turf manager Tim Van Loo.

"It says a lot that our experiences at Iowa State prepared us to work in these world-class stadiums," said Lenz.

Cy's Lovebirds

Have a Cyclone Sweetheart? Check out the back page to see how your #ISULoveStory could make our next issue!

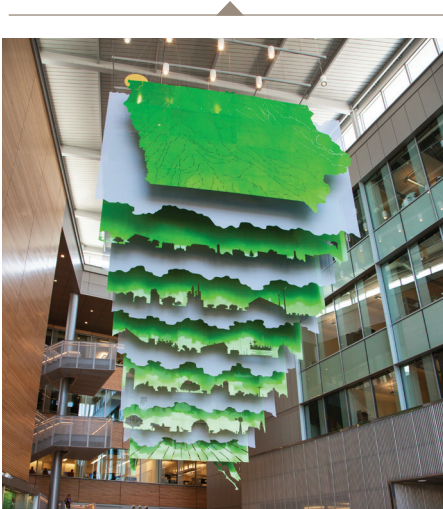


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SUSPENDED HISTORY

At the end of September, the recently completed **Biorenewables Complex** was dedicated to thank those behind the project and to celebrate the future of the department of agricultural and biosystems engineering. Phase II of the construction project included Elings and Sukup halls and the Sukup Atrium. Thanks to generous donors and alumni, the new space allows for more labs, modern classrooms, and offices for the entire department faculty under one roof.

Of all the updates, the most eye-catching is “Floating World,” the suspended panel art in Sukup Atrium. Each plane in the piece depicts different stages in the evolution of agriculture, and a prominent map of Iowa is featured on the last panel. The final landscape panel depicts the Iowa State campus, including landmarks such as the Marston Water Tower, the Campanile, the Memorial Union, and the Fountain of the Four Seasons.



Contributed photo

A Semester Abroad, A Lifetime of Impact

Collecting stamps on a passport isn't just for the “select few” anymore. At Iowa State, an abundance of opportunities and important scholarship support for traveling abroad open the doors to more students than ever before.

There's an intriguing hook: leave the country for school and return with a broadened view of the world, one's major and one's self. The ability to view one's major in a global context is increasingly important for students to be successful after graduation. It's so critical, in fact, that if study abroad weren't so cost-prohibitive, many universities would make it a requirement for an undergraduate degree, says Linda Serra Hagedorn, associate dean of undergraduate programs for the College of Human Sciences.

For Rachel Lukowski, support from a number of donor-funded scholarships allowed her to travel to India for a service learning project that proved life-changing. “India was the farthest from home I'd ever been, and being in an unfamiliar place taught me so many valuable lessons,” she said.

There, Lukowski, a dietetics and exercise major from Omaha, helped with a school lunch program. “As one child walked over to get his food, I remember thinking I could be providing him with the only meal he'd have that day,” she said. “It was a memorable moment.”

Now she's considering changing her major from sports nutrition to international nutrition. “This experience made me more interested in making a difference in the world beyond our borders.”

THE INCEPTION OF MAGIC

“Hilton Magic” was born on February 14, 1989, after the Cyclones rallied the spirit of the Hilton crowd to produce a stunning **82-75** victory over No. 3 Missouri. The following day's headline read “**Hilton Magic Spells 'Upset' One More Time.**”

Just over 25 years old, our coliseum superstition shows no signs of letting up.





Happy anniversary, COB!

The College of Business marked two anniversaries in 2014: the 30th anniversary of the college's establishment and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Gerdin Business Building, the college's home.

Mixing Business with Practice

When he graduated from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978, **Rodney "Butch" Baker** had zero business training. Instead, he learned via "the entrepreneurial school of hard knocks."

Baker went on to build a three-hospital veterinary practice in Kentucky, work for pork production and breeding stock companies, and own hog farms in Kentucky and Georgia. Now Baker, who holds the David R. Trask Professorship in Entrepreneurial Studies, gives Iowa State veterinary students the kind of training he missed up-front.

"My goal is to help students try not to fall into the same pitfalls I did and teach them some business savvy" with classes in veterinary entrepreneurship and veterinary practice management. "Good

medicine and good business go together," he said.

Most veterinary students graduate deep in debt, but entrepreneurial skills can help them recover: Those who own practices will, over a lifetime, earn about a third more than those who remain associates. And with greater competition for veterinary jobs nationally, entrepreneurial skills will help graduates reach clients and run efficient businesses.

Katie Weigman, a 2013 graduate, says Baker's influence led her to buy the Dubuque veterinary practice her family patronized as she grew up. "He was a good mentor for me," said Weigman. Her business training "gave me the tools to give it a try. I know I can call Dr. Baker at any time and he can help dig me out of a hole."



Contributed photo

CY IN SPACE

Iowa State's "astronaut in residence," Clayton Anderson poses with AstroCy, one of the decorated CyclONE City statues located around Ames. Anderson, a distinguished faculty fellow in aerospace engineering, debuted a prototype workshop in spaceflight operations last summer for Iowa State students. Some objectives during the workshop included scuba certification, wilderness survival, skydiving, flight simulation and a virtual visit to the International Space Station.



Photo: Paul Gates

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Welcome to **YOUR IOWA STATE**,
the newsletter that keeps you connected
with **Iowa State University**. Look inside to
find out what's happening on campus as
well as to relive some of your own Iowa
State memories.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Turf's Up!
- A Semester Abroad, A Lifetime of Impact
- Mixing Business with Practice
- Suspended History



#ISUlovestory

Is your Iowa State love story waiting to be told? Share with us a heartwarming anecdote of your campus romance on our Facebook page, tag our page in your post and use #ISULoveStory, or submit it on our website at www.isuf.info/isulovestory. One lucky winner will receive a prize and be published in our next issue!