

SUMMER 2017



Photo: Paul Gates

A Code of Their Own

According to Kelsey Hrubes, a senior in computer science at Iowa State, girls tend not to choose computer science careers partly because of a lack of role models.

“When hearing the word ‘programming,’ most girls think of the stereotype of the nerdy guy with few social skills, working all by himself at a computer. That’s definitely not what most girls want to see themselves doing.”

That’s why she founded the nonprofit Iowa Girls Code, a website-coding workshop for young girls. Hrubes, a recipient of the Carolee Raps M.D. and Lawrence J. Brecker M.D. Scholarship and the Computer Science Minority Student Research Award, teaches in a friendly and chatty way, which makes it easy to see how she would be a role model for girls with an interest in science, such as

Serena Brizard, a 15-year-old from Marion, Iowa, who attended one of the workshops. “Kelsey tends to see things the same way I do, and she’s good at sharing what she’s learned,” she said.

Hrubes chose her major almost on a whim, thinking she’d change it later in her college career when she figured out what she really wanted to do. Instead, she found that she was profoundly interested in – and good at – computer science. So far, she’s snagged internships at Google, Workiva, Microsoft and Rockwell Collins in Germany.

While working at Google’s headquarters, Hrubes noticed what news stories have pointed out: There’s a problematic lack of women in Silicon Valley and other tech innovation hubs. Hrubes said that early exposure is key. “Sure, some

girls are totally aware that they want to work in computers and technology – usually because their parents are familiar with that world – but other girls might see it as nerdy and uncool. And when you are younger, that matters. I’m trying to show them all that they can be.”

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– Traer Schon



Photo by Christopher Gammon/Iowa State University

RECORD # OF GRADUATES

Iowa State’s spring
2017 graduating
class was another
record breaker:

5,093

TOTAL GRADUATES



4,322 BACHELOR’S

49 MASTER’S

13 DOCTORAL

14 VETERINARY MEDICINE

Balancing Act

When Traer Schon walked across the field at Jack Trice Stadium in May, he donned his cap and gown — not his cherished Cy costume. Schon, a Jack Shelley Professional Development Endowment recipient, graduated with honors with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communications and a minor in Spanish.

While at Iowa State, Schon was involved in numerous activities, including serving as editor-in-chief of Ethos Magazine, reporter for ISUtv and, of course, his four years as

Iowa State’s mascot, Cy. “I saw activities as an equal part of my education,” he said. “In journalism, experience matters, sometimes as much as academics. I tried to balance it all.”

Schon’s adventure at Iowa State allowed him to gain a breadth of experiences needed to have a successful future, but he admitted he graduated with a heavy heart. “It wasn’t easy to say goodbye because it left a big hole,” he said. “Being Cy was such a fun job.”



AMES LAB CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF SCIENCE

Did you know? Ames Laboratory – established during World War II – marked its 70th anniversary in May. Iowa State is the only university that has a U.S. Department of Energy research laboratory physically located on its campus. The lab was founded by Frank Spedding, who also served as its first director.



GOING, GOING, GONE!

The wrecking balls came swinging to demolish Old Sweeney Hall, the original home of Iowa State's chemical engineering department, and the Nuclear Engineering building to make room for the Student Innovation Center. The new building, which will be a central hub for multidisciplinary student collaboration, is tentatively scheduled to open in early 2020.



*Left: Amador Hotel exterior design by Iowa State students Weicheng Chen and Anastasia Sysoeva.
Right: Hotel Ver exterior by Sinisha Daljevic, Sankalp Gupta and Miranda Spears.*

Sweeping the Competition

Designs by two teams of Iowa State students and recent graduates were the two finalists in the student project category of the 13th annual HD Awards competition sponsored by Hospitality Design magazine. First place went to Amador Hotel by Weicheng Chen and Anastasia Sysoeva. Sinisha Daljevic, Sankalp Gupta and Miranda Spears took home second place with their design, Hotel Ver.

The students developed their projects in the Panama Integrative Design Studio taught by Lee Cagley,

professor and chair of the interior design department, and Morrill Professor Tom Leslie, the Pickard Chilton Professor in Architecture. Students were required to design a luxury hotel incorporating sustainable elements and devoting part of the site to rainforest restoration or a biodiverse habitat.

Iowa State students have been winners, finalists or both in nine of the 13 years of the HD Awards competition. Iowa State students did not enter the contest in 2015 or 2016.

WELCOME HOME

On May 9, Iowa State University welcomed the return of **Benjamin J. Allen** as interim president. Allen previously worked at the university for nearly 30 years, serving as professor, department chair, dean of the College of Business and vice president for academic affairs and provost. He left Iowa State in 2006 to serve as president of the University of Northern Iowa for seven years before retiring with his wife, Pat, to St. Louis, Missouri. The 21-person Iowa State University Presidential Search and Screen Committee expects to appoint the 16th president in October.



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.

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