

FALL 2017

Photo: Paul Gates



## Saving Creatures Great and Small

**When Greg Walth researched a parasite that causes frogs to grow extra limbs, he knew he'd found his career.**

Walth initially considered pursuing a degree in paleontology or entomology. Then, as a freshman at the University of Colorado, he did research on the parasite called *Ribeiroia ondatrae*. That experience sparked in him a passion for healing animals and saving endangered species, and put Walth on a new career path.

“ I like sticking up for the little guys like amphibians and reptiles that are a little less glamorous but just as important to save.”

– Greg Walth

Now a third-year veterinary medicine student at Iowa State University, he is studying to become a zoo and wildlife veterinarian.

Last year, Walth landed a competitive internship at the Houston Zoo, which has a captive breeding colony of the highly-endangered Houston toad, an amphibian indigenous to the area.

He did a retrospective study of medical records to better understand how a bacterium was affecting the toad. The virus typically presents itself as skin lesions, but Walth found a more prevalent symptom: X-rays showed the virus was literally dissolving the toad's bones.

“It's a valuable finding, and I'm excited to bring some of this information back to Iowa State,” said Walth, who is a recipient of the Sexton Memorial Scholarship and a Christian Petersen Veterinary

Medicine Scholarship. He hopes to present his research at a zoological conference, and is doing a paper for journal submittal.

He also shared his finding with radiologists at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine and is now working on a research project with Dr. Jacob Ewing, a resident in diagnostic imaging within the department of veterinary clinical services.

It's a major step forward for Walth, who views himself as a champion for the small, underappreciated creatures that are nevertheless incredibly valuable to ecosystems. “A lot of conservation efforts focus on charismatic megafauna like tigers and polar bears,” he said. “They're important, but I like sticking up for the little guys like amphibians and reptiles that are a little less glamorous but just as important to save.”



## Dream of Green this Winter

With the deep winter months ahead, it's time to dream of spring – and rooftops.

Iowa State University has more than 50,000 square feet of green roofs, with plants covering portions of the State Gym addition, Troxel Hall, Memorial Union, Horticulture Hall, Biorenewables Research Laboratory, Sukup Hall, Elings Hall and even a CyRide shelter.

Iowa State established its first green roof in 2009 on the King Pavilion, an addition to the College of Design building. Since then, the inventory of campus buildings topped with vegetation has grown to a dozen separate spaces on nine structures, with two more in the works.

One is the Student Innovation Center, under construction between Sweeney and Hoover halls. It will have a total of nearly 13,000 square feet of rooftop plants when it opens in 2020.

Stormwater management is the chief functional benefit of rooftop vegetation, but it also protects the roof's membrane from the sun, which extends its life. The plants also soak up solar energy, reducing heating and cooling costs.



## Rachel 'Roles' With It

Rachel Dankbar is a woman of many roles, including college student, logistical specialist in the Iowa Army National Guard and single mom of an adopted child. A senior double majoring in international business and marketing from Johnston, Iowa, and recipient of the Schuler Study Abroad Business Scholarship, Dankbar shares how she acquired such a fierce drive to thrive.

### What made you interested in pursuing an international career?

Traveling and studying around the globe has opened my mind to new cultures and ways of life and has helped me rethink stereotypes.

### How would you describe your personal motto?

Every day, life presents you with a variety of opportunities. It's what action you decide to take with these that define who you are.

### What's one thing you'd want a stranger to know about you?

I am a very determined person who has yet to accept the word no, unless it is by my own standards. I see it as a challenge word that encourages me to find my way around what others say is impossible.



## Enrollment Numbers

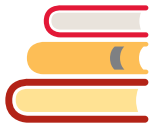
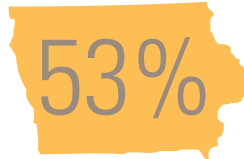
Iowa State's fall 2017 enrollment is

36,321

the second-largest in school history.



Iowa State's new freshman class of 5,944 students includes 3,174 lowans.



The freshmen class has an average ACT score of greater than 25.

The freshmen class average high school GPA was 3.61.



Total U.S. multicultural and international enrollment at Iowa State is

8,789

or 24.2 percent of the student body – a new record exceeding last year's number of 8,748.

## Iowa State Names 16th President

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, has named Wendy Wintersteen the 16th president of Iowa State University. Wintersteen



most recently served as the Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station at Iowa State. She has led the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences since 2006. Wintersteen's appointment concludes a nearly six-month national search for a new president. Wintersteen will succeed Benjamin Allen, who has served as interim president since May 8. Steven Leath, Iowa State's 15th president, assumed the presidency at Auburn University last spring.

## Marching Band Earns Sudler Trophy

The John Philip Sousa Foundation awarded the Iowa State University Cyclone Football 'Varsity' Marching Band the prestigious Sudler Trophy, which recognizes collegiate marching bands with the highest of musical standards and innovative marching routines and ideas. Not only does Iowa State's marching band have a reputation as one of the top bands in the country – it's also known as being a tight-knit community. "It was nice to come to the first day of classes and already have 350 new friends," said Jarod Bodensteiner, a sophomore in materials engineering. Craig Parker, a junior in mechanical engineering, agreed. "The biggest impact marching band had on me was all the friends I got to make before the year even started."



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

- Saving Creatures Great and Small
- Dream of Green this Winter
- Rachel 'Roles' With It
- Iowa State Names 16th President
- Marching Band Earns Sudler Trophy



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