

SPRING 2019

Photos from "Orpheus in the Underworld" Rehearsal: Paul Gates



Scenes of Change

There's new energy in the ISU Theatre program these days. Support from the Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences endowed fund, established through the historic gift of \$159 million from an anonymous alumni couple, has inspired and empowered faculty and students to rethink their mission.

"We've taken a deep dive into who we are and who we want to be," says Brad Dell, director of ISU Theatre. "We're getting to the heart of why theatre matters. How are we using our gifts and passions to be engaged, responsible citizens within our community?"

Scene I

Evening rehearsal has begun for "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" in the program's Carver Hall practice room. Artist-in-residence Eglá Hassan, who has Skyped with the students and

faculty for almost two months, is now on campus for six weeks, where she will direct the play and lecture in multidisciplinary classes. The extended residency contributes to the program's commitment to equity and diversity, Dell says.

Scene II

The curtain has fallen on the opening night of the department of music and theatre's opera collaboration – Offenbach's rollicking "Orpheus in the Underworld." Hundreds of audience members have congregated in the lobby of Fisher Theater for refreshments and a reception to meet the cast and crew. Opening night receptions like this are a new part of the program's outreach, Dell says.

Among the group are students attending an ISU Theatre production

for the first time. With the help of the Transforming LAS fund, performing arts majors were supplied with free tickets to introduce friends to a new experience.

Scene III

This spring, Assistant Professor of Theatre Amanda Petefish-Schrag is collaborating with Iowa State's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and with local community partners to tell Iowa's immigrant stories. "Iowa Odyssey (Or How We Got to Here)" was performed at Fisher in April, followed by various versions of the production performed off-campus in local communities.

"We're connecting with our history as a land-grant university and with our unique position to be an innovator," said Petefish-Schrag.



Photo: Paul Gates

Community spirit

Logan Dunn gets in the spirit at a recent Thursday Night Dinner hosted by the ISU Veterans Center.

At Their Service

Graciela Orantes is a West Point graduate who served nearly eight years in the U.S. Army, including deployments to Afghanistan and Kuwait. Logan Dunn served four years in the Coast Guard and can tell you stories about dramatic sea rescues.

Military service doesn't necessarily prepare you for college life, though. That's why Iowa State student veterans like Orantes, who is studying veterinary medicine, and Dunn, a Colleen Beaman Ellis Scholarship for Veterans recipient studying civil engineering, turn to the university's Veterans Center.

"Many in Iowa State's student veteran community are nontraditional by virtue of being older, and having families and children," says Jathan Chicoine, Veterans Services coordinator and a former U.S. Navy SEAL. "They've had extraordinary experiences and come to college with additional responsibilities beyond earning a college degree."

Established in 2012 and stationed on the third floor of the Memorial Union, the center is a "base camp" where student veterans connect and access services.

Services include one-on-one academic coaching and educational workshops to help students with study skills, time management and exam preparation. Center staff helped Orantes get military benefits and financial aid in order and provided funding from the donor-supported Veterans Community Gratitude Fund to assist with finances while she awaited scholarships.

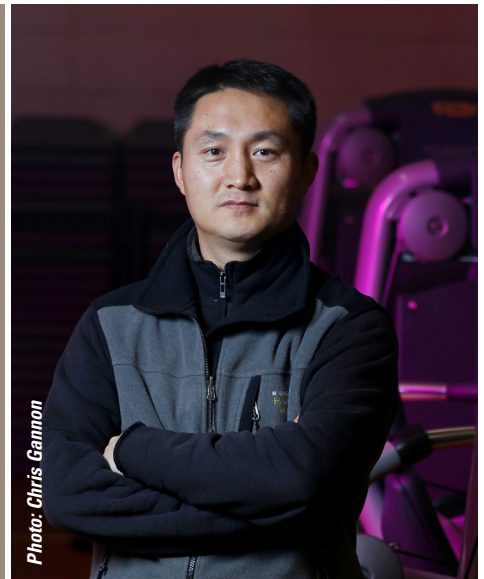
Iowa State has more than 2,500 military-affiliated students, drawn, in part, by the university's strong ranking among military-friendly colleges. The ranking is based on the range of academic, financial and social support provided for student veterans.

Pumping Iron for Your Heart

Lifting weights for as little as an hour a week may reduce your risk for a heart attack or stroke by 40 to 70 percent, according to a new Iowa State University study.

“People may think they need to spend a lot of time lifting weights, but just two sets of bench presses that take less than five minutes could be effective,” said **DC (Duck-chul) Lee**, associate professor of kinesiology.

The results – some of the first to look at resistance exercise and cardiovascular disease – show benefits of strength training are independent of running, walking or other aerobic activity. The study is published in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*.



Rolling 'Clone



Double buck. Pulp toss. Underhand chop.

These aren't karate moves. They are a few of junior **Abby Zabrodsky's** favorite competitive events at the annual Midwestern Forester's Conclave, an intercollegiate timber sports competition.

During her freshman year, Zabrodsky and her partner won first place in the logrolling event. This past year, Zabrodsky participated on the co-ed and women's logrolling teams at Conclave and took home second place in both events, helping Iowa State secure third place overall.

Zabrodsky, a Dean's Leadership Scholar in the College of Agriculture and Life Science and recipient of the Elaine Boge Scholarship, notes that taking advantage of experiential learning opportunities – like competing at Conclave and studying at the Rod and Connie French Conservation Camp in Montana – has helped her confirm her ultimate career goal: to make an impact on the world's forests and connect people with the natural world.

Photo: Dan McClanahan

Oliver Directs Student Innovation Center

James Oliver has been named the first director of the Student Innovation Center. Oliver, University Professor and Larry and Pam Pithan Professor of Mechanical Engineering, has directed the Virtual Reality Applications Center since 2004, and the university's interdisciplinary graduate program in human computer interaction since 2003. The Student Innovation Center, under construction on the west side of campus, will be completed in 2020. Oliver will provide overall leadership, vision and direction for the facility, including planning and implementing academic programming.



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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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