May 1, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

As the spring 2020 semester winds down, I want to take a moment to celebrate. Despite a set of incredible challenges, you – our students, faculty, and staff – have excelled. These are a few selected outstanding achievements during the course of the spring semester:

1. It’s no longer a tie for first – Iowa State University’s graduate program in agricultural and biosystems engineering is in sole possession of the nation’s No. 1 ranking.
2. Paul Canfield, who designs and discovers new materials and properties, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
3. Juan Bibiloni-Rivera is one of only 62 students nationwide named a 2020 Truman Scholar, the premier graduate fellowship for those pursuing careers in public service.
4. Johnny DiBlasi was selected for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in Creative and Performing Arts – Visual Arts award to Austria.
5. Madeline Farringer, Divyesh Kumar, and Behnia Rezazadeh Shirazi are 2020 Goldwater Scholars, the premier undergraduate scholarship in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering.
6. Iowa State’s first-ever Boren Fellow is Steven Sleder, who will combine his passions for cybersecurity, machine learning, and the Russian language during his study in Estonia.
7. The full-time MBA program in the Ivy College of Business is ranked in the top 11% in the country and makes history with gender balance in the program.
8. Toni Sleugh is one of just 55 students in the U.S. selected for the Udall Scholarship, to recognize leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to the environment or Native American nations.
9. Tom Mansell (chemical and biological engineering) and Julie Zaikina (chemistry) have been selected for prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER awards.
10. The College of Veterinary Medicine is ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. and No. 24 in the world.
11. The Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence, led by director Alicia Carriquiry, has earned a 5-year renewal by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to continue its work transferring scientific findings to investigators.
12. Four Cyclone Engineers: Courtney Beringer, Jordyn Koenig, Nikita Kozak, and Brandon Vance received the National Science Foundation’s prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship.
13. Lee Anne Wilson and Steve Kawaler are part of the first class of fellows of the American Astronomical Society, recognizing original research, innovative contributions, and significant outreach.
14. A traveling art exhibition, *20 Artists, 20 Parks*, features the work of faculty, graduate students, and extension specialists from the Colleges of Design, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences, commemorating the centennial of Iowa’s state parks.

15. Paul Plummer was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, joining Locke Karriker, who was appointed in 2019.

16. Hridesh Rajan leads the new, federally funded Dependable Data-Driven Discovery Institute to increase confidence in daily decisions rooted in data.

17. The new Robert T. Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farm is up and running, after its dedication in early March.

18. The National Academy of Engineering named Iowa State a top institution for diversifying engineering education.

This list could be ten times longer. I am so very proud of all of you! Thanks to you, I know for certain the list will continue to grow as every day the Iowa State community learns, innovates, and creates. Thank you for making our university, our state, and our world a better place — and for taking a moment with me to celebrate.

Wendy Wintersteen
President

P.S., Campus is blooming with beauty! Enjoy the spring colors in the latest Postcard from Campus and see the love growing for Iowa State in the Agronomy Department’s garden at the corner of Osborn Drive and Wallace Road.