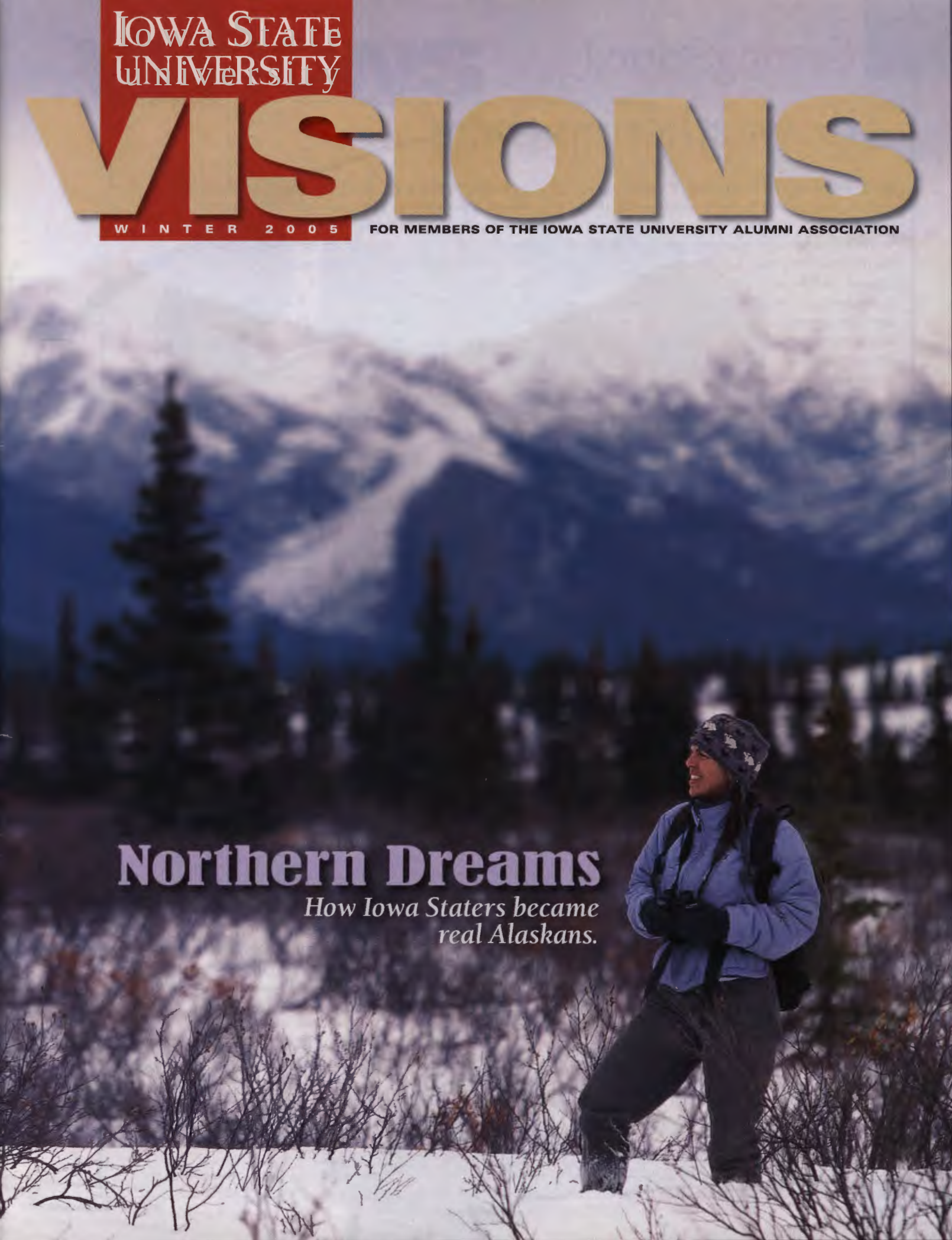
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

VISIONS

WINTER 2005

FOR MEMBERS OF THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Northern Dreams

How Iowa Staters became real Alaskans.

By Carole Gieseke

The weather up there

Sometimes it takes a cold blast of arctic air to remind you that you're not as tough as you think you are.

When I first began planning the cover story for this issue way back last summer, I called Mark Eliason, an ISU alum who owns a travel company in Anchorage. I told him I wanted to visit the state when there would be weather. I wanted to see snow on the mountains. I wanted to see fall leaves and dramatic sunsets. I wanted to see the Alaska the tourists don't get to see.

He said late September or early October sounded like a good time for me to come up. I took his advice and booked a flight to Fairbanks on Sept. 27.

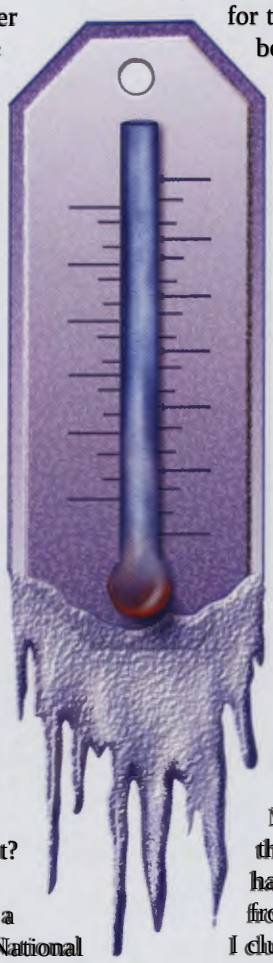
When I got there, it was 16 degrees and I had to scrape half an inch of ice off my rental car.

Be careful what you wish for. I wanted weather. I got weather.

I got knee-deep snow in Denali National Park. Rain in Anchorage. Plane-grounding fog on Kodiak Island. A snowstorm on the Parks Highway that turned the road into a big, white parking lot.

I had been romanticizing the Alaskan winters. Wouldn't it be fun to experience a couple of full years in Alaska? Prove that I've got what it takes to survive winter in the arctic?

Compared to real Alaskans, I am a total wimp. I mean, real Alaskans spend entire winters in this harsh, unpredictable, unforgiving climate. I encounter one sudden snowstorm on Sept. 30 and I'm ready to throw in the towel and go screaming back to Iowa. How do they do it?



I now know a lot more about Alaska's weather than I did before. Dan Hancock, a 1970 grad who's a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Fairbanks, said the average snowfall in Fairbanks is about 70 inches – and it stays on the ground all winter. That's, like, six feet of snow. And one year, he said, they got 147 inches.

Sue Deyoe ('84), an environmentalist who lives right outside Denali National Park, said sometimes it gets so cold there that you can throw a pan of boiling water out the window and watch it instantly turn to ice crystals. Apparently that's what passes for fun up north.

The weather on Kodiak Island is much less harsh. The winters are positively balmy compared to Fairbanks. But they still get their share of weather. When I was there, my plane was grounded because of dense fog that the flight crew back in Anchorage described as "really ugly." When my plane finally did land after an earlier aborted attempt, I was met at the airport by Dave Allen, a 1981 alum.

Dave, his wife Jolene ('80), and his hunting and fishing buddy Mark Withrow ('72) showed me a good time on the island. Mark, a physician, invited me to his house – which you can get to if you have four-wheel drive and some boots – for the best peanut-butter-and-salmonberry-sandwiches I have ever eaten.

This turned out to be sort of a "last supper," a bit of nourishment before going out in the rain and wind and choppy seas with Dave and Mark on Mark's fishing boat.

Actuallly, Dr. Mark said with a grin, a banana would be a good thing to eat before going out on the water. Bananas, he said, taste the same coming up as they do going down. Uh-oh. Where was my Dramamine? What the hell was I doing here, anyway?

But never let it be said that I am not up for an adventure. I was on Kodiak Island, by golly, and I was going halibut fishing with two guys I had known for a total of two hours.

I suited up, with orange rubber overalls pulled over my winter coat, hiking boots, wool socks, a baseball cap, a hooded rubber jacket, and gloves. I was immediately soaked to the skin.

But I was a good little shipmate. While Mark and Dave maneuvered the boat through the small islands, fishing for halibut, and generally keeping the boat from capsizing a la *The Perfect Storm*, I clung to the railing and kept my eyes glued to the horizon. My total contribution to the fishing expedition was A) getting very wet, B) not throwing up, and C) not falling overboard. I'm thinking they may not invite me back.

But hey, I wanted adventure. I got a taste of Alaska's weather and I saw a Kodiak brown bear and a bunch of moose and salmon and Stellar sea lions and eagles and a lot of really big dogs (Alaska's motto: "A big dog in every car.") And I got to meet a lot of cool alumni who are way tougher than I am.

I will be thinking about them this winter.

Iowa State University
VISIONS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Winter 2005 Volume 17 No. 4

Features

14 COVER STORY

Northern dreams

People are drawn to Alaska for different reasons: It's big, it's wild, it's beautiful, and the opportunities for adventure are practically endless.

by Carole Gieseke

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A gala weekend

Homecoming 2004 concluded the Alumni Association's 125th anniversary celebration in grand style – and with more than a few surprises.

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The ISU Alumni Association mission:
To engage the talents and resources of alumni, students, and friends in the life, work, and aspiration of Iowa State University

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On the cover:
An adventurous spirit and love of nature led Sue Deyoe to work at Denali National Park in the interior region of Alaska. Photo by Jim Heemstra.

Printed with soy ink on recycled and recyclable paper.

Letters

VISIONS magazine encourages you, the readers, to express your opinions by writing letters to the editor. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime phone number. Letters chosen for publication may be edited for length and clarity. Complete letters, as well as additional letters, may be viewed on the Alumni Association Web site: www.isualum.org/go/visions. Send letters to: VISIONS Editor, ISU Alumni Association, Fisher-Nickell Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1370; fax 515-294-9402; or e-mail cgieseke@alumni.iastate.edu.

Homesick for Iowa State

I JUST READ MY LATEST COPY OF VISIONS and instantly felt homesick for ISU ("A New View," *fall 2004*). I lived in Fisher-Nickell in 1981 and 1982. I transferred to ISU as a junior and roomed with three other students in the basement quad. To this day, I feel blessed having been placed in this residence hall and this room, where instant friendships blossomed. The next year, I got to move on up to a second-floor room that had the coveted sink in it. I hope each of you cherish the history of this place and create warm memories of your own in this space.

"I just read my latest copy of VISIONS and instantly felt homesick for ISU."

Linda Leier Thomason**
'82 public service and admin, in ag,
'84 MS rural sociology
Charleston, South Carolina

The history of Team Skunk

TEAM SKUNK ("RAGBRAI," *summer 2004*) was formed on the banks of the Skunk River in Ames more than 25 years ago. It is the prototype for most other [cycling] clubs. There were two founders; one was an ISU alum and the other went on to be a grand marshal of the VEISHEA parade. Some of ISU's most distinguished professors, employees, and alumni have ridden with the club that was once credited with "saving RAGBRAI."

Tim Lane
Via e-mail

Questionable cover choice

I HAVE RECEIVED VISIONS magazine for quite a few years and have enjoyed it very much. In the past, the articles and pictures have been very interesting and appealing. When I received the most recent issue, I was surprised by the picture that was chosen to be on the cover ("Surviving Stroke," *fall 2004*). It was not very appealing in general and looked more like a health publication. If you want to include health articles about alums, that's fine, but to be featured on the cover and in a negative (scary) way, the picture was not appealing. I looked at the other covers on past issues and they were very nicely done.

Karen Fliehler
'73 elementary education
Ames, Iowa

Harvested, not plowed

IN THE LATEST EDITION OF VISIONS, there is an error in the caption for the harvest moon photograph ("Iowa View," *fall 2004*).

The caption to the photograph is, "A full moon rises over a newly plowed cornfield near Mingo." Look closely: The field is not "newly plowed." The rows of corn stalks are clearly visible and the alternating pattern is likely the result of the direction of the corn picker. There has been no plowing. Anyone from a farm in Iowa can easily see this. The caption should read, "A full moon rises over a newly *harvested* cornfield near Mingo."

I grew up in Iowa. I went to Iowa State. As a freshman I recall driving west on Hwy. 30 with some fellow pledges who were from New Jersey and we saw a field that had been newly plowed and they asked, "What is all that black stuff?" They had never seen real dirt. Perhaps someone on your staff from New Jersey was assigned the task of writing a caption for the photo.

John Willers**
'65 civil engineering
Raleigh, North Carolina

Editor's Note: Thanks to John and to the many other readers who drew our attention to the error. We stand corrected.

A cheese whiz

YOUR ARTICLE REGARDING GOAT cheese and Maytag blue cheese ("Say Cheese!" *spring 2004*) was of particular interest to me. One of the great Swiss cheese plants in the United States is located at Luana, Iowa. Its development came about through education that some of us gained at Iowa State.

In the late 1960s, the company that I managed converted a butter/dry milk plant at Luana to cheese production. After much research, we decided to produce Swiss cheese at that location.

Swiss is one of the most difficult cheeses to produce. The flavor is very important, but equally important is the proper development of the "eye" formation in the finished product. Having taken graduate courses in cheesemaking under the late Professor E.E. Goss, I was confident that we could make the investment and make a good product. A key person in our Swiss cheese development was another Iowa Stater, the late Alan R. Rueter, dairy industry '65. Another ISU graduate, G. Joe Lyon, dairy science '51, still serves on the board of directors of Swiss Valley Farms, Co. and is a nationally known dairy leader.

The Luana Swiss cheese plant has contributed a lot to the Iowa economy. At the time of my retirement in 1997, after 38 years with Swiss Valley Farms, Co., we were converting 270,000,000 pounds of milk annually at Luana into Swiss cheese.

Carl Zurborg*
'52 dairy industry
Davenport, Iowa

Mea culpa

WE'D LIKE TO ISSUE A FORMAL apology to new ISU College of Veterinary Medicine Dean John Thomson, whose name we misspelled in the fall 2004 issue of VISIONS.

*Annual member of the ISU Alumni Association
** Life member of the ISU Alumni Association

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News with a twist

ABC News was just one of the media outlets that blew into Ames last fall to check out ISU's tornado simulator at Howe Hall. The tornado simulator was featured on "Good Morning America" in late October. **www.iastate.edu/Inside/04/1105/tornado.shtml**

. . . . . .

Among the best

Iowa State remains among the best public universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Colleges" rankings, released in late August. ISU ranks 38th among 126 public national universities that grant doctoral degrees. And Iowa State is among 26 universities said to have the best campus learning communities. **www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php**

ASK AN EXPERT

Home brewing: A growing trend

People with a passion for good beer often turn to homebrewing, both as a hobby and as a way to produce full-flavored beer at an affordable price. According to the American Homebrewers Association, there are around 250,000 homebrewers in the United States.

DAVE GIESEKE

Our campus expert on homebrewing is Rob Wallace, associate professor of ecology, evolution, and organismal biology, who has been brewing his own beer for 12 years.

Q. What are the basic ingredients required for home-brewing beer?

A. Homebrewed beer is made from barley malt or malt extract, hops, water, and yeast–just like most commercial beers. Some beers have additional flavorings added, providing a range of flavors that some people enjoy as alternative to more traditionally brewed beer.

Q. What are the general steps you have to go through to brew one batch of beer?

A. The process is remarkably simple. Beginning brewers need an initial period of about three to four hours to clean their brewing equipment, heat water, add malt extract, add hops, boil the liquid (now called wort) for about an hour, cool it to room temperature, and transfer to a fermentation vessel (usually a five-gallon glass carboy). Yeast are then added, and the fermentation allowed to take place for about a week. Following fermentation, the still (uncarbonated) beer is then transferred to bottles after a small amount of corn sugar is added; the bottles are capped and allowed to condition (carbonate) for about two weeks. The beer is ready to drink at this point, but many homebrewers agree that beer quality improves with additional conditioning time.

Q. What equipment do I need to get started?

A. The majority of home brewers temporarily convert their kitchen to a brewery for the brewing session. The kitchen stove provides the heat source to boil the wort, which is usually done in a four- to five-gallon stainless steel stock pot or enamel-covered canning pot.

A. The majority of home brewers temporarily convert their kitchen to a brewery for the brewing session. The kitchen stove provides the heat source to boil the wort, which is usually done in a four- to five-gallon stainless steel stock pot or enamel-covered canning pot.

A fermenter (either a glass carboy or plastic fermenter) that is capable of being sanitized and sealed during the fermentation is necessary. A few other inexpensive items (e.g. airlock, hydrometer, and liquid transferring tubes) are needed, as well as a supply of beer bottles and bottle caps, and a bottle capper. Many shops supply complete kits for the beginning brewer.

Q. How much will all this cost?

A. Like any other hobby, homebrewers can spend as much or as little as they desire. Beginners' equipment kits can be purchased from between $50 and $125. Complete ingredient kits are available from $25 to $50 to brew a five-gallon batch. While many homebrewers brew for the improved quality of the beer, homebrewed beer is often less expensive than commercially available beers, with the added bonus that the flavor is usually better, and you can also say, "I made this!"

Q. Can you recommend any good books or Internet resources for step-by-step instructions?

A. There are many inexpensive books available (including a free online book at howtobrew.com) to introduce the beginner to homebrewing; all provide detailed instructions about what equipment and materials are needed and how to use them. There are also many Web sites, discussion groups, and online homebrewing shops which provide the interested prospective homebrewer ample resources to get started. Here are some of the best:

Books

- *The Complete Joy of Homebrewing by Charlie Papazian (3rd Edition)*
- *Homebrewing – Volume 1 by Al Korzonas*
- *The Complete Handbook of Home Brewing by Dave Miller*
- *How to Brew by John Palmer*

Web sites

- Association of Brewers/American Homebrewers Association: www.beertown.org/homebrewing/beginning.html
- Brew Info: www.brewinfo.com/
- HowTo Brew: www.howtobrew.com/intro.html

Note: *Brewing laws vary from state to state. Be sure to check your own state regulations before embarking on your homebrewing journey. For more information, go to www.beeringo.com/brewstr/legal.htm.*

Building of the Century

JIM HEEMSTRA

Stephens Auditorium has been selected as "Building of the Century" by the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter.

Stephens was among 300 buildings nominated for the chapter's "Century of Iowa Architecture" exhibition. A jury chose one award winner from each decade and the top award, "Building of the Century."

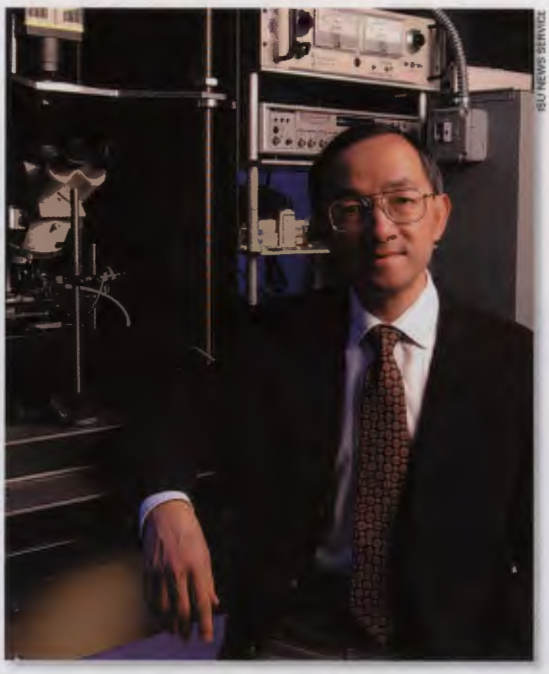
The first building constructed at the Iowa State Center, Stephens Auditorium was designed by architects Crites & McConnell and Brooks-Borg & Skiles and first opened in 1969. The $4.4 million facility is named for C.Y. Stephens, a 1925 graduate who headed the fundraising drive for the Iowa State Center project.

On the web

A Century of Iowa Architecture: www.aiaiowa.org
Read the news release at: www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/04/oct/stephens.shtml

Yeung has a way with DNA

Edward Yeung, distinguished professor in liberal arts and sciences and professor of chemistry, has been named the 2004 Inventor of the Year by the Iowa Intellectual Property Law Association. He was honored for his development of a DNA sequencer that can detect, monitor, and quantify materials 24 times faster than earlier DNA sequencers. The system is a combination of several technologies for which Yeung holds patents. Yeung is director of the Chemical and Biological Sciences Program at the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory at Iowa State.



ISU NEWS SERVICE

On the web

Read the news release at: www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/2004/oct/yeung.shtml

Getting closer

Combined college proposal wins faculty approval

ISU President Gregory Geoffroy announced on Dec. 13 that he would recommend that the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, approve a plan to combine the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the College of Education into a new college: The College of Human Sciences.

Nearly 80 percent of the faculty from the two colleges who voted in early November favored the proposed combination, and Faculty Senate narrowly approved the plan on Dec. 7. If approved by the Regents, the new college would begin operations July 1, 2005.

On the web

Read the news release at: www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/2004/dec/combo.shtml

Fiscal fitness

The totals are in, and the ISU Foundation reports a substantial increase in private support for Iowa State in FY04. More than 53,000 donors, up from 47,000 donors in FY03, committed $63.2 million in FY04, up from $54.7 million in FY03. **www.foundation.iastate.edu/news/homepage.php/?id=203**

As seen on TV

Can't get enough of CSI? A new academic program in forensic science gives ISU students a behind-the-scenes view of the science of crime scenes. A certificate is now offered to grad students who take three graduate-level forensic science courses outside their major area of study and fulfill requirements that bring them in contact with the forensic science community. **www.grad.college.iastate.edu/ForensicSciences/**

AroundCampus

Over the top

Morrill Hall

Thanks to gifts from the ISU Alumni Association and MBNA America, and from Lyle and Nancy Campbell, fundraising for the renovation of historic Morrill Hall reached its $9 million goal in October.

Contributions from more than 2,700 private donors accounted for the majority of the funds needed to give life to the 114-year-old building on central campus.

The effort to provide funds to save Morrill Hall began and ended with Lyle ('66 agricultural business) and Nancy Campbell of Paradise Valley, Ariz. The Campbells kicked off the initiative in January 2003 with a commitment of $1 million, and they recently increased their gift by $200,000. The Campbells were co-chairs for the fundraising project, along with ISU President Gregory Geoffroy and his wife, Kathy.

The ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors approved a $200,000 gift to the project in October as part of its 125th anniversary celebration, putting the fundraising effort over the top. $125,000 of the gift came from revenues generated by the Association's MBNA credit card, with an additional gift of $75,000 coming directly from MBNA America.

"Most alumni couldn't imagine central campus without Morrill Hall," said ISU Alumni Association President Jeffery Johnson. "Therefore, the board wanted to assist the university with keeping those memories alive for alumni and help create new memories for present and future generations of Iowa Staters."

When it is completed in 2006, the renovated Morrill Hall will house the Christian Petersen Art Museum, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and a new Center for Visual Learning in Textiles and Clothing.

On the web

Read the news release at: www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/2004/oct/morrill.shtml

Can you hear me now?

Seeing couples walking hand-in-hand–and both talking to other people on their cell phones–inspired Michael Bugeja, director of the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication, to write a new book, *Interpersonal Divide: The Search for Community in a Technological Age.* The book traces media history to see how other eras of great technological advancement coped with communication and relationships. **www.las.iastate.edu/newnews/bugeja0920.shtml**

Towers are out, suites are in

It's been talked about for quite a while, but at the end of this school year, it's actually happening: All four Towers residence halls will be closed. Knapp and Storms Halls already sit vacant and are scheduled to be demolished in summer 2005. And the Department of Residence will also close Wallace and Wilson, the newer two of the four Towers that were recently renovated into singles for upper-division students, at the end of the spring 2005 semester as part of a $2.7 million budget reduction. The Wallace-Wilson Dining Center will also be closed. There are no plans at this time to demolish Wallace and Wilson Halls, and the department says it may re-open and use the halls for summer conferences or other needs.

In other residence hall news, the second Union Drive suite building was dedicated in November as "Archie and Nancy Martin Hall" in honor of a couple who was instrumental in providing opportunities to black students at Iowa State where they weren't otherwise available.

In 1919, the Martins built a house at 218 Lincoln Way. They opened the second floor as a rooming house for black students who were having difficulty securing campus housing – due mostly to an "unofficial" policy that black students could only secure housing if they roomed with other black students. Archie Martin met frequently with ISU president Raymond Pearson to address the problem of housing for black students, and the Martins were mentors to not only their own 13 children, but also the many students who came to stay with them in their home on Lincoln Way. Among the students the Martins housed over the years were James Bowman, who went on to serve with the Tuskegee Airmen and became a Des Moines school administrator, and Samuel Massie, who became the first black professor at the U.S. Naval Academy and would later go on to rank on a list of the world's 75 most distinguished chemists.

"My grandparents were just simple people doing something they had to do, coming from the South and knowing how hard it was to get an education and to be accepted," says Pauline Martin, one of several Martin grandchildren who live in Ames. "My dad would be bursting his buttons if he were alive...but it wouldn't have fazed Grandma and Grandpa much – they were just humble people." Archie Martin died in 1960 at age 102, and Nancy in 1947 at age 91.

On the web

Read the news release at: www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/2004/sep/martinhall.shtml **Read about the Martin's legacy in the summer 2002 issue of VISIONS at:** www.isualum.org/news/visions/summer02/looking.asp

Feed the world

Gifts totaling $10 million will help support an ISU program that helps developing nations address rural hunger and poverty.

The gifts are from Gerald A. ('62 agribusiness) and Karen A. Kolschowsky, Oak Brook, Ill., and the Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation, Inc.

The Sustainable Rural Livelihoods program (SRL) fosters collaboration with partners in developing nations to find sustainable solutions that improve the agriculture, nutrition, health, and economic opportunities of rural communities. ISU faculty and students work with organizations in developing nations to stimulate and support activities to counter problems that underlie local food shortages, disease, and inadequate income. The program also enables student exchanges between Iowa State and universities in developing countries. □

ISU NEWS SERVICE

Touring a project in Uganda (the SRL program's first partner country) are Lorna Michael Butler, Henry A. Wallace endowed chair for sustainable agriculture; Dorothy Masinde, SRL program coordinator; and Rukia Khamis, of Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns, a non-governmental organization in Uganda.

On the web

Read the news release at:
www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/releases/2004/nov/srl.shtml

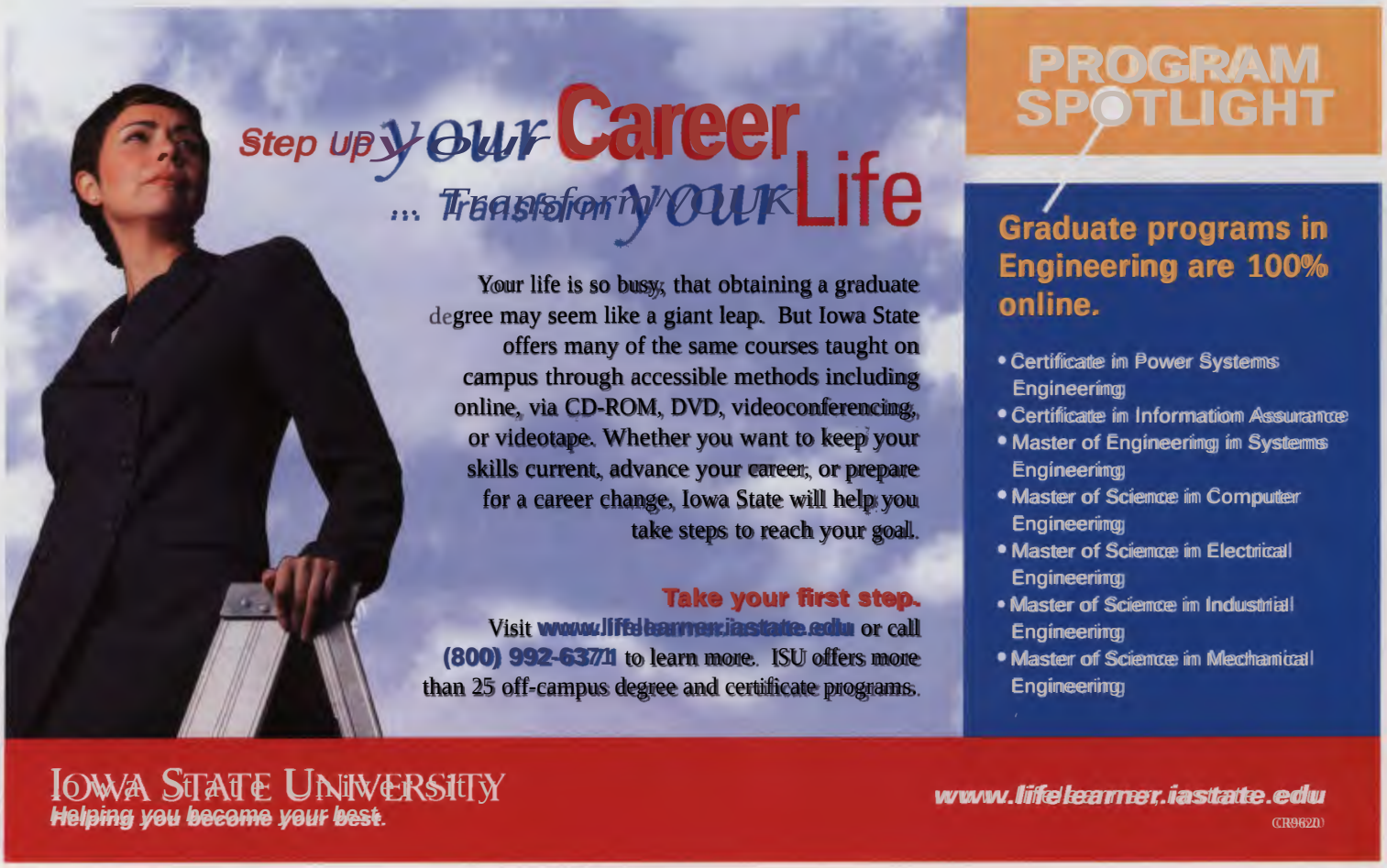
Charting the course... strategically

By the time you read this, Iowa State should be putting the finishing touches on its 2005-2010 Strategic Plan.

Drafts of the plan have been circulating for months in search of input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the community at large. The plan's mission, vision, priorities, and goals for the next five years should be ready for review by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, in February and March, with final implementation scheduled for July 1, 2005.

On the web

To read more about the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan, go to:
www.iastate.edu/~newplan/



A Gala

Clockwise from top left: Roy ('57 industrial engineering) and Sandy ('58 home economics journalism) Uelner of Brookfield, Wis., proposed a toast during dinner. • Jamie Stensland ('88, '93 journalism), chair of the 125th Anniversary Honorary Steering Committee, shares center stage with Jeff Johnson, president of the ISU Alumni Association. Stensland, who served as ISUAA Board of Directors chair from 1999 to 2001, was the evening's mistress of ceremonies. • Dinner entertainment was provided by the Ed Kaiser Trio of Ames. • "Edgar Stanton" (portrayed by ISU theatre professor Pat Gouran) made a surprise visit during the evening program. The late Mr.

Weekend

The Alumni Association concludes its 125th anniversary celebration in grand style

Champagne at midnight. Dessert and dancing. Five special announcements. Surprise guests. A festive tailgate. Reunions. Laughter. Fireworks.

These were all a part of Iowa State's gala weekend celebration, Oct. 7-9, 2004. From a special ceremony honoring former Alumni Association leaders to the commemoration of Cy's 50th birthday, the Association's yearlong 125th anniversary celebration culminated during a weekend that began and ended with splash, dazzle, and lots of fanfare.

PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

Stanton was a member of Iowa State's first graduating class and founder of the Alumni Association. He worked at Iowa State for 50 years, including four stints as acting president. He concluded his comments to the 420 alumni, students, and friends gathered at the gala: "I look around tonight, and I find it difficult to believe what has been created in my absence. But, my friends, know that what you see before you is also your past. I wish you well." At midnight, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends took part in mass campanilling, gala guests enjoyed champagne toast, and everyone marveled at the fireworks on central campus.

FIVE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE GALA

GLEN MENTE

1

Former Circle Chair Glen Mente ('61, '63 animal science) **presented the Official University Mace to ISU President Gregory Geoffroy.** The $18,000 mace and display stand were funded by the Circle of Former Association Leaders, University Museums, the

ISU President Gregory Geoffroy with artist Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation, the Registrar's Office, Bill ('66 DVM) and Judy Hoefle, Barbara Palmer ('46 household equipment), and the ISU Alumni Association. The artist, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman of Bellefonte, Pa., attended the gala – her first visit to the Iowa State campus. The Official University Mace is featured in the fall 2004 issue of VISIONS magazine.

JEN GELBMANN

2

Jen Gelbmann ('96 English) announced that the Association had **exceeded the phase-one goal of its 125th anniversary membership campaign** to reach 50,000 dues-paying members by the end of 2005. Association membership surpassed 47,500, and with this milestone the Association is fewer than 2,500 members away from its anniversary goal. Once the 50,000 mark is reached, the ISU Alumni Association will be the second-largest dues-paying member association in the Big 12, surpassing Kansas. Gelbmann is chair of the Alumni Association's Membership and Revenue Enhancement Committee and is an elected member of the ISUAA Board of Directors.

JEFF WHITON

3

Jeff Whiton ('71 economics) announced that **the future 30,000-square-foot, $9 million alumni center will be built on the hillside site at the intersection of Beach Avenue and Country Club Boulevard** near the Iowa State Center. He also announced that the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors' Facility Committee, following architectural firm interviews, had recommended to President Geoffroy that Herbert Lewis Kruse and Blunck (HLKB)

The site for the future ISU Alumni Center

Architects of Des Moines be selected as the architects for the project. The alumni center is scheduled for completion in 2007. Whiton is chair of the Facility Committee and is an elected member of the ISUAA Board of Directors.

DAN SAFTIG

4

Dan Saftig, president of the ISU Foundation, announced that **the total construction cost of $9 million for Iowa State's new alumni center has been donated by Roy**

Bobbi and Roy Reiman

and Bobbi Reiman of Glendale, Wis. In addition, $1 million of the remaining $2 million needed to fully fund the alumni center, including the operations and maintenance endowment, has been raised from approximately 50 other donors. Roy Reiman ('57 agricultural journalism) served as president of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1980-81. The Reimans are known for their service and generosity to Iowa State, including gifts to Reiman Gardens and an entrepreneurial scholars and lectures program in the College of Business.

CHOY CHUN LEOW

5

ISUAA Board of Directors Chair Choy Chun Leow ('85 architecture, '88 MAR) presented the Alumni Association's **125th anniversary gift of $200,000 to the Morrill Hall renovation fund.** $125,000 of the gift came from revenues generated from the Association's MBNA credit card, and

Morrill Hall in the early 1900s.

an additional $75,000 came directly from MBNA America. This gift, plus an additional $200,000 gift from Lyle ('66 agricultural business) and Nancy Campbell, completed the fundraising initiative for the Morrill Hall project. *(See more on the Morrill Hall project in Around Campus, page 8.)*

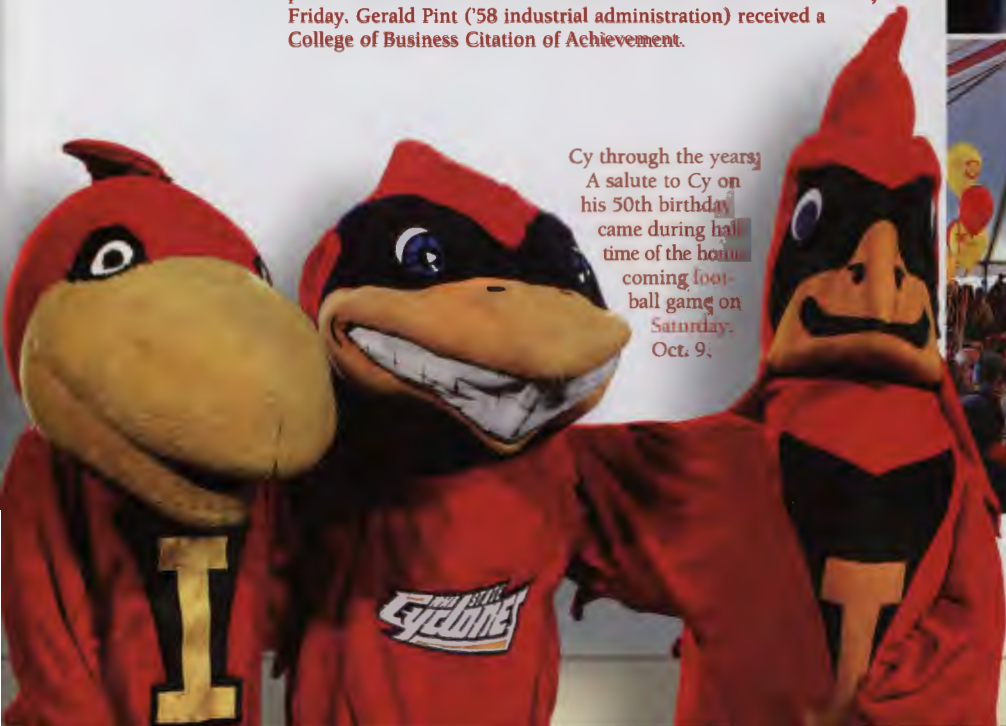
Homecoming 2004: Festivities abound

Eight new members were inducted into the Circle of Former Association Leaders on Thursday night, Oct. 7, at a special dinner and ceremony in the atrium of the Molecular Biology Building. *(See page 40 for a photo of the inductees.)*

Phyllis Lepke receives the Alumni Medal from ISU President Gregory Geoffroy during the Association's Honors & Awards ceremony. Lepke ('69 technical journalism, MS '74 journalism, Ph.D. '91 professional studies in education) was recognized for her long, loyal, and outstanding service to the university through alumni-related activities.

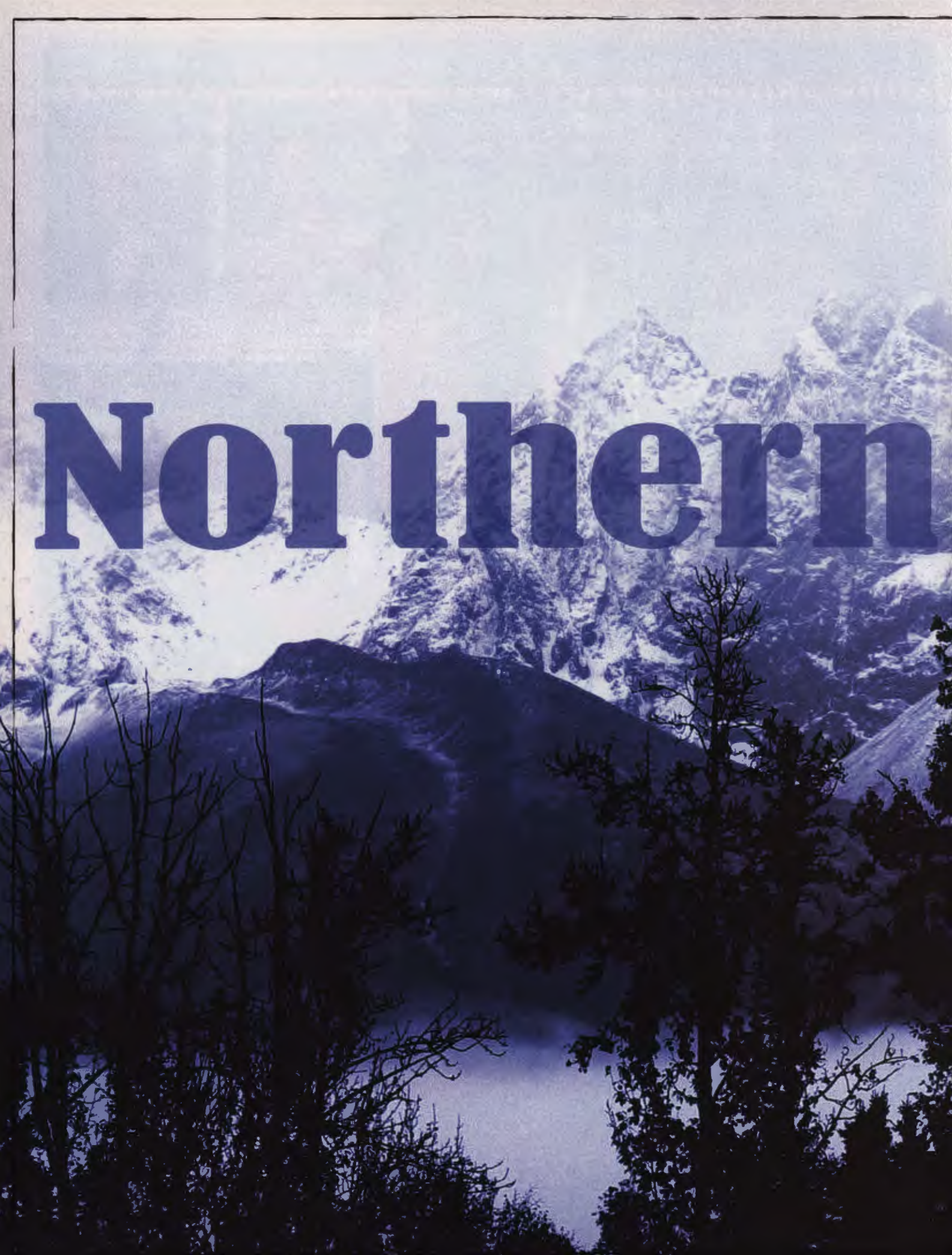
Martin Dostalik performs with the alumni band during the Alumni Association's tailgate on Saturday. Dostalik is a 1989 landscape architecture graduate from Urbandale.

Margaret and Gerald Pint of Naples, Fla., enjoy a luncheon at Scheman prior to the Association's 73rd annual Honors & Awards ceremony on Friday. Gerald Pint ('58 industrial administration) received a College of Business Citation of Achievement.



Cy through the years: A salute to Cy on his 50th birthday came during half time of the homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 9.

More than 750 alumni, students, and friends attended the Alumni Association's traditional homecoming tailgate lunch on Saturday. The tailgate featured ISU President Gregory Geoffroy, the spirit squad, Cy, the pep band, alumni band, and Cy's 50th birthday cake.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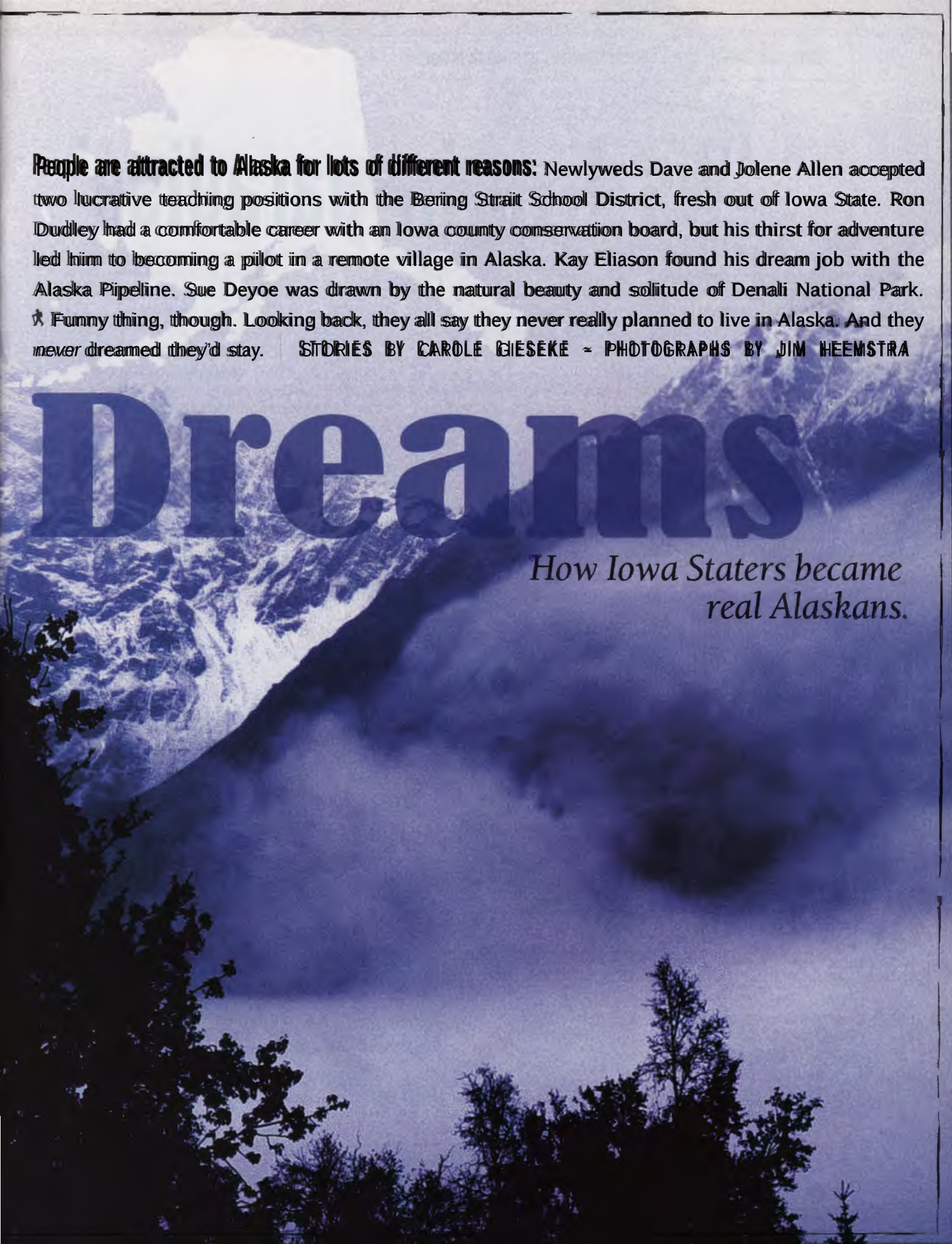


People are attracted to Alaska for lots of different reasons: Newlyweds Dave and Jolene Allen accepted two lucrative teaching positions with the Bering Strait School District, fresh out of Iowa State. Ron Dudley had a comfortable career with an Iowa county conservation board, but his thirst for adventure led him to becoming a pilot in a remote village in Alaska. Kay Eliason found his dream job with the Alaska Pipeline. Sue Deyoe was drawn by the natural beauty and solitude of Denali National Park. Funny thing, though. Looking back, they all say they never really planned to live in Alaska. And they *never* dreamed they'd stay.

STORIES BY CAROLE GIESEKE ~ PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

Dreams

How Iowa Staters became real Alaskans.

'We live in paradise'

Dave Allen likes to say that his wife Jolene was the frailest of the farmer's daughters, but the most mentally tough.

Indeed, as one of seven children growing up on a farm near Manchester, Iowa, Jolene Zumbach was always the one who chose to stay inside and make sandwiches and clean the house while her siblings drove the tractor.

You think you know a person.

CHAPTER 1: THE END OF THE EARTH

It's funny how Dave and Jolene Allen ended up in Alaska. It was 1981 and they were students at Iowa State, close to graduating, and both looking for teaching jobs. A representative from the Bering Strait School District was on campus interviewing prospective teachers and, on a whim, Jolene signed them up for an interview.

She figured it would be good practice, and if they botched the interview, what difference would it make?

Well, you know the punchline. Dave was offered a job, and Jolene was promised a position the following year if they signed on together. In those days, starting teacher salaries in Alaska were about double what they were in the lower 48. So that was it. They stuffed everything they owned in the whole world into six Army bags – plus the thousand dollars they got as a wedding present – and headed north.

It seemed like a good idea until they actually got on the plane and Jolene fell apart. She was terrified. The farthest she'd ever been from home and away from her family was Ames. What was she thinking? How could she move to Alaska? It seemed like the end of the earth.

When they got to Seattle, Jolene wanted to turn around. Dave convinced her to go as far as Anchorage. At that point, if she still wanted to go back, they could still afford the plane tickets.

On the flight from Seattle to Anchorage, they met a woman from Fairbanks who convinced Jolene that wild animals and even wilder natives abounded in the northern village where they would be teaching. Jolene spent three days in Anchorage throwing up at a friend's apartment before Dave could convince her to board a plane to Nome.

Flying into Nome wasn't at all what Jolene expected. She couldn't see roads. It looked nothing like Anchorage. When they landed, Jolene was shaking so hard she had to be helped off the plane and was instantly sick in the women's bathroom.

Not exactly the honeymoon of your dreams.

CHAPTER 2: ASSIMILATING

After such an inauspicious beginning, it's surprising then to learn that the Allens made it through that first year. On the initial drive from the Nome airport 80 miles to the remote village of Teller in the Bering Strait School District, the couple got their first taste of real Alaska: reindeer herds, mountains, salmon streams, and spectacular scenery.

Teacher housing in Teller was adequate by remote standards. Dave and Jolene had running water, but it was running salt water, used only for bathing and laundry. Dave had to get fresh water from the stream, and in the winter he had to collect ice in garbage cans to melt for drinking and cooking. Jolene's clothes were ruined, and her skin was unbearably dry from the salt water.

That first Valentine's Day, Dave filled the bathtub with melted ice so Jolene cold have a fresh-water bath.

But people were friendly in Teller. Instead of isolating themselves with the

other teachers, Dave and Jolene embraced the Inupiaq Eskimo culture. Following the advice of a native shopkeeper who told Jolene that the way she dressed was separating her from the local people, Jolene traded her city shoes and nylons and bows for jeans and sweatshirts and sneakers.

For three years, Dave and Jolene taught only Eskimo children – unless there happened to be a minister's or teacher's child in the classroom – learned to handle the weather extremes, learned about the culture, and learned to live without restaurants, theaters, and most of the conveniences they'd grown up with.

Jolene learned to sew skins. Dave practiced dog mushing. They got good at fixing their own things. They became self-reliant.

Kodiak Island is mostly wilderness, but it's the least remote place Jolene and Dave Allen have lived since they moved to Alaska in 1981.

Dave and Jolene (Zumtach) Allen

- Teachers, Kodiak Island Borough School District
- Jolene:
  - 1980 Elementary Education
  - Hometown: Manchester, Iowa
- Dave:
  - 1981 Industrial Education
  - Hometown: Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Have lived in Alaska since 1981.
Currently live in Kodiak, Alaska.

CHAPTER 3: THE PLYWOOD SHACK

To most people, living in Teller would be considered hard and remote. But compared to the year Dave and Jolene lived in the village of Selawik, Alaska, above the Arctic Circle, Teller was a walk in the park.

Selawik has the misfortune of being located far enough inland to receive bone-chilling temperatures, but close enough to the coast to pick up coastal winds. The combination made for a very, very severe winter: For five weeks, the temperature did not rise above 44 below zero, and wind chills were as much as 90 below.

During that year, 1984-85, Dave and Jolene lived in a 24-by-20-foot plywood shack with no electricity and no indoor plumbing.

They moved there – actually bought the place and the tract of land it was on for a dollar – after what they considered a worse housing situation in the teacher compound. Their original housing unit did have running water, but the unit was infested with mice. Dave set 10 traps every morning, and at noon they would be full. He set them again. At night they would be full. He set them again. In the morning they would be full. Jolene did not like the mice. At night, she hid under the covers and felt the mice running over the blankets.

Besides, Dave had the beginning of a dog team by then, and the 12 howling, yipping dogs were not popular with the other teachers.

So it was out to the plywood cabin, with no cooking stove and no bed and no lights and a "honey pot" for a toilet and snowdrifts inside the house.

They had a freezer, though. Kept it outside and didn't plug it in.

Jolene got pneumonia and stayed sick all winter. One day the school principal visited and was shocked to see Dave and Jolene's living conditions. He immediately brought them a bed.

It was a hard year for Jolene. She only had two really good friends in the village. One day while she was in her classroom, she learned that one of her friends, Anna, a Yupik Eskimo, and her son had been in a serious snowmobile accident. Jolene performed CPR on both of them before they were pronounced dead. Afterwards, Jolene went to Anna's house to pick out an outfit for her burial.

That was very, very tough.

CHAPTER 4: ST. MICHAEL

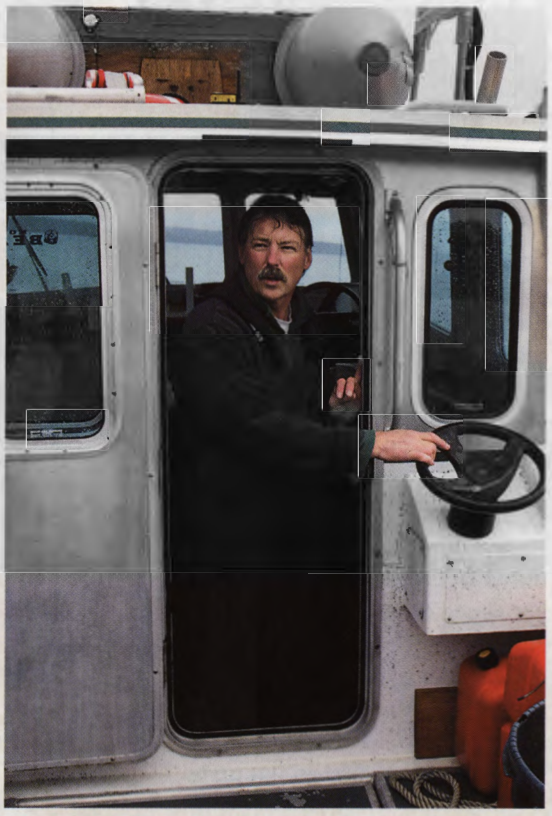
The next year, Dave and Jolene went back to the Bering Strait School District. The district covers the largest land area in the United States, and the village of St. Michael – their new assignment – was miles from Teller, across the Norton Sound from Nome.

St. Michael was a good move for Dave and Jolene. Their housing was much improved, with a makeshift running-fresh-water system and a loft to sleep in. It was in St. Michael that Dave built up his dog team, became an assistant wilderness guide, and commercial fished for herring.

Dave and Jolene stayed in St. Michael for five years. That's where their baby daughter Tianna was almost born in a blizzard. Luckily, a plane carried a very pregnant Jolene to Anchorage just in the nick of time, and Tianna was delivered in a hospital.

CHAPTER 5: RUNNING THE IDITAROD

After five years in St. Michael, Dave and



Above: Most days, when he's not at the clinic, you can find Dr. Mark Withrow out on his fishing boat. Right: Withrow and Dave Allen hike on Long Island, one of the small islands that make up the Kodiak Island archipelago.

Jolene knew they wanted to take a year off from teaching so Dave could train for the Iditarod, the ultimate dog-sledding race from Anchorage to Nome. They moved into a musher's cabin near Trapper Creek, not so much a town as a small collection of people living in the shadow of Mt. McKinley. When they first arrived in Trapper Creek, they had 100 dogs: Dave's team, plus about 50 dogs that belonged to other mushers. That year, Dave's father moved in to help Dave with the dogs while Jolene took care of the baby.

It was an exhilarating time for Dave, getting up every day and feeding the dogs and taking care of the dogs and hooking up small teams and running them, often until the middle of the night. He became more and more in tune with his team, running them in the moonlight, listening to the hissing of the sled runners and the *fft-fft-fft* of the dogs' feet. Those nights were so incredibly quiet, Dave could imagine the sled runners whispering to him. And then there were the brilliant, sunlit days, mushing in short sleeves, up in the mountain country.

Dave raced his dog team in the Knik 200, a mid-distance race. He not only won the race but broke the previous record.

The year at Trapper Creek was an isolating one for Jolene. They had no income, no insurance, and were living in a cabin with a young child, without the friendly neighbors Jolene had come to rely on in the native villages. The Trapper Creek area was known at that time for its free-style living and drug culture, not an environment in which Jolene felt comfortable.

In March 1991, when Dave ran the Iditarod, he discovered two things about himself: First, he learned that winning the mid-distance race was the worst thing that could have happened, because he had trained a middle-distance dog team, not a long-distance one. And second, he experienced the first average athletic performance of his life.

Dave Allen was a wrestler in college. A very talented wrestler. He was a two-time all-American for Iowa State and captain of the wrestling team. He continued to coach and wrestle into adulthood. He was master of every sport he attempted.

But the 1,200-mile Iditarod – that was too much. That year, three blizzards plagued the mushers and their teams. Dave found himself caught out in two of the snowstorms. At the start of the race, he ran his dogs too fast, and they gave out on him. One by one, his leader dogs went lame. He was forced to finish the race with a young leader he'd seldom ever run. His gear froze. The snow was blinding. Finally, Dave abandoned his desire to win. He made a deal with two other mushers that they would get through the race together, one checkpoint at a time.

Two miles outside of Nome, Jolene met up with Dave and put 21-month-old Tianna on the sled with him, and together they crossed the finish line.

Mark Withrow

- Physician
- 1972 Zoology
- Hometown: Edina, Minnesota
- Has lived in Kodiak, Alaska, since 1977

CHAPTER 6: AFOGNAK ISLAND

In the aftermath of the Iditarod, things looked bleak. Dave and Jolene were completely broke but were too proud to ask their parents for money. They moved into the basement of a friend's house and enrolled in classes so they could get back to teaching.

One night Jolene got a call from a former administrator from Bering Strait School District who had moved to the Kodiak Island Borough School District. He needed two teachers: a couple, one elementary and one high school. Dave and Jolene would be perfect.

But here was the catch: If they took the job offer, Dave and Jolene would be the only teachers on the remote island of Afognak, part of the Kodiak Island archipelago.

Broke or not, Jolene was sure these were not the jobs for them. They had done the remote-living thing. They had a child now. Jolene was used to cars and roads and stores. But the superintendent convinced Jolene to at least tell Dave about the offer.

That night, Jolene kept her promise. Dave knew about Afognak, about its legendary hunting and fishing, about the island's abundant deer and elk and salmon and Kodiak brown bears, about its natural beauty.

And so they went. They lived on Afognak as the island's only teachers. They stayed four years.

CHAPTER 7: CALLING DR. WITHROW

One day, Jolene went to the main island of Kodiak for a medical procedure. The doctor who treated her was Mark Withrow. As the two conversed, they discovered that they shared something in common:

Dr. Withrow attended Iowa State. In fact, he was captain of the football team.

Jolene introduced the doctor to her husband, and they became fast friends. Mark went to Afognak for an elk hunt with Dave, and they discovered they had a similar philosophy about the outdoors and about life in general. They developed a mutual admiration for each other's hunting skills.

In 1995, Dave and Jolene moved to Kodiak, not far from the house Mark built with his wife, Carol.

Not surprisingly, Mark had experienced his own rustic lifestyle when he first moved to Kodiak. (He actually lived in a tent for more than a year.) He bought five acres of land and built a small house about the size of an average kitchen in 1981. There was no road to the house, situated on a high bluff overlooking the Gulf of Alaska. Mark and Carol walked the 90 steps up to the house, carrying groceries, supplies, and, later, two children. They built a road in 1990. They expanded the house.

Mark could be a one-man chamber of commerce for Kodiak Island, that's how crazy he is for the water and the wilderness and the abundant wildlife. He takes full advantage of the island's bounty: hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, camping, kayaking, walking on the beach, watching the whales.

He rarely strays too far without his radio, because you never know when there's going to be an emergency C-section or something. It's too small of a place not to be available for emergencies. He likes the fact that as a physician he has to wear a lot of hats and figure things out for himself. There aren't a lot of specialists on Kodiak Island, so you have to develop into a real generalist and rely on yourself and your partners. Most importantly, you have to know what you don't know.

When he doesn't know something, he gets help over the phone, or on the Internet. When patients require the skills of a medical specialist, he puts them on a plane to Anchorage.

EPILOGUE

To look at Jolene Allen, you'd never in a million years guess she's been through the things she's been through. She still has the blond hair and quick smile of an Iowa farm girl. She's fiercely protective of her now-15-year-old daughter. And she clearly loves her husband.

She says her family was shocked when she and Dave moved to Alaska, and they expected them to move back home within a year. They still ask, though not as often, when Dave and Jolene might be moving back to Iowa.

Jolene's parents once visited St. Michael and were horrified at what they saw. Jolene chuckles, because their house in St. Michael was the second-nicest one in the village, and the cutest little house they'd lived in up to that point.

Her parents are happy now that Jolene and Dave moved with their granddaughter into the more civilized community of Kodiak. Jolene is happy, too, because Tianna goes to a good school with lots of opportunity, and Jolene is content to live in a house with running water – hot and cold – and electricity, and to have a Safeway and a Wal-mart and roads to get there. She still feels a tug of culture shock when she gets together with her sisters and they're all wearing nice clothes and makeup and have their hair fixed, because she's still comfortable wearing jeans and T-shirts and sneakers and no makeup, just like everyone she knows in Alaska.

Jolene doesn't regret the years she spent in the harsh environments of northern Alaska. She made a deal with Dave when they moved to Teller in 1981 that they'd evaluate their decision after 30 days, and if she still wanted to move back to Iowa, he would resign and they would go back home. They talked about it once, figured they could make it another 30 days, and never brought it up again. They're partners in this Alaska life. Kodiak is great, they say, but if you come straight to Kodiak, you miss out on the real Alaska.

But don't get them wrong: Kodiak is beautiful. Really, how many times can you say "beautiful" in a single description of a place? Jolene says Kodiak is beautiful even if there's horrible, awful weather. And when there's beautiful weather, it's the most beautiful place on earth.

It's paradise, says Dave Allen. "We live in paradise."

Web link: Kodiak, Alaska www.kodiak.org

Snow business

It's Dan Hancock's business to predict the weather for the interior region of Alaska, but it's not always easy, because, as Hancock says, there are "lots of big rocks in the way." Even as early as September, there is already snow along the Tanana River.

Today's forecast for Fairbanks, Alaska: Snow likely. Snow accumulation 7-10 inches. Highs 5 to 15 below. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Fairbanks is a tough place to work if you're a National Weather Service forecaster. Folks up here learn to deal with a lot of bad news. Average low temperatures during winter months reach nearly 20 below zero, and the highs aren't much higher. Days are short, averaging only about four hours of daylight in December.

Dan Hancock takes it all in stride. He's been a National Weather Service forecaster in Alaska for 24 years. That's 24 winters that stretched from October through April. Winters that dumped, on average, 70 inches of snow in the region – but sometimes got completely crazy, like in 1991 when the city was buried in more than 140 inches of snow.

"We don't get snow here like they do on the Alaska Range," Hancock said, downplaying the severity of Fairbanks winters. He says it's the lack of sunlight during the winter months, coupled with the long period of relatively cold temperatures, that get people down.

"You're looking at basically seven months of winter, depending on how you define winter," he says. "That's a long winter."

He says the summers are great, though.

"The summers are really quite pleasant," he says. "I guess that comes as a surprise to people."

Web link: National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov/

Dan Hancock

- Meteorologist, National Weather Service
- M.S. 1977 Meteorology
- Hometown: Davenport, Iowa
- Has lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, for 24 years

A stellar career

Ever since she was a little girl, Pam Parker wanted to study fish. It may be because she spent a lot of time as an infant observing the goings-on in the family fish tank located strategically across from her baby swing.

No matter. Parker, who grew up just down the road in Ankeny, was passionate about fish. During her senior year of high school she took a marine biology class at Central Campus in Des Moines, where there were more than 500 salt-water tanks. She wanted to go to college in the Pacific Northwest, but her dad "bribed" her into going to Iowa State.

PHOTO COURTESY ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

Pam Parker observes Stellar sea lions at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska, through a remote camera system set up on Chiswell Island, 35 miles away. Parker recognizes individual sea lions from their unique markings.

Now, when you think about studying marine biology, Iowa State doesn't exactly spring to mind. But it turned out very well for Pam Parker. She got a strong foundation in basic biology at Iowa State and then went to the University of Alaska in Juneau for upper-division marine biology courses.

In the summer of 1999, still an undergraduate at Iowa State, Parker landed a research internship at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. That summer, she worked on a research project with Common Murres, a species of birds, and after graduating from Iowa State in 2000 she returned to the Alaska SeaLife Center full time as a graduate research assistant.

Her current project is tracking Stellar sea lion breeding and reproduction on Chiswell Island, 35 miles south of Seward. Remotely operated cameras monitor the behavior of the sea lions and track their numbers.

Parker runs a computer program that zooms in on the animals and records their images. She enters location and behavioral data every other hour. During the summer months, the sea lions can be monitored from 4 a.m. until 1 a.m. because of Alaska's long daylight hours.

Although she doesn't interact physically with the sea lions, Parker knows them individually. "I probably have somewhere around 300 sea lions in my head, animals that I can tell by natural markings," she says. "It's pretty intense. You look up and there's 100 animals and you have to remember where everyone is, where they move, what they're doing at all times."

The Stellar sea lion population has declined by 80 percent since the 1970s. Parker says one of the SeaLife Center's goals is to determine the major stresses for these animals so they can figure out why the decline has been so drastic. Is it disease? Are there contaminants? More predators? Less food? Are the females not producing? Are the pups not surviving? Researchers just aren't sure yet.

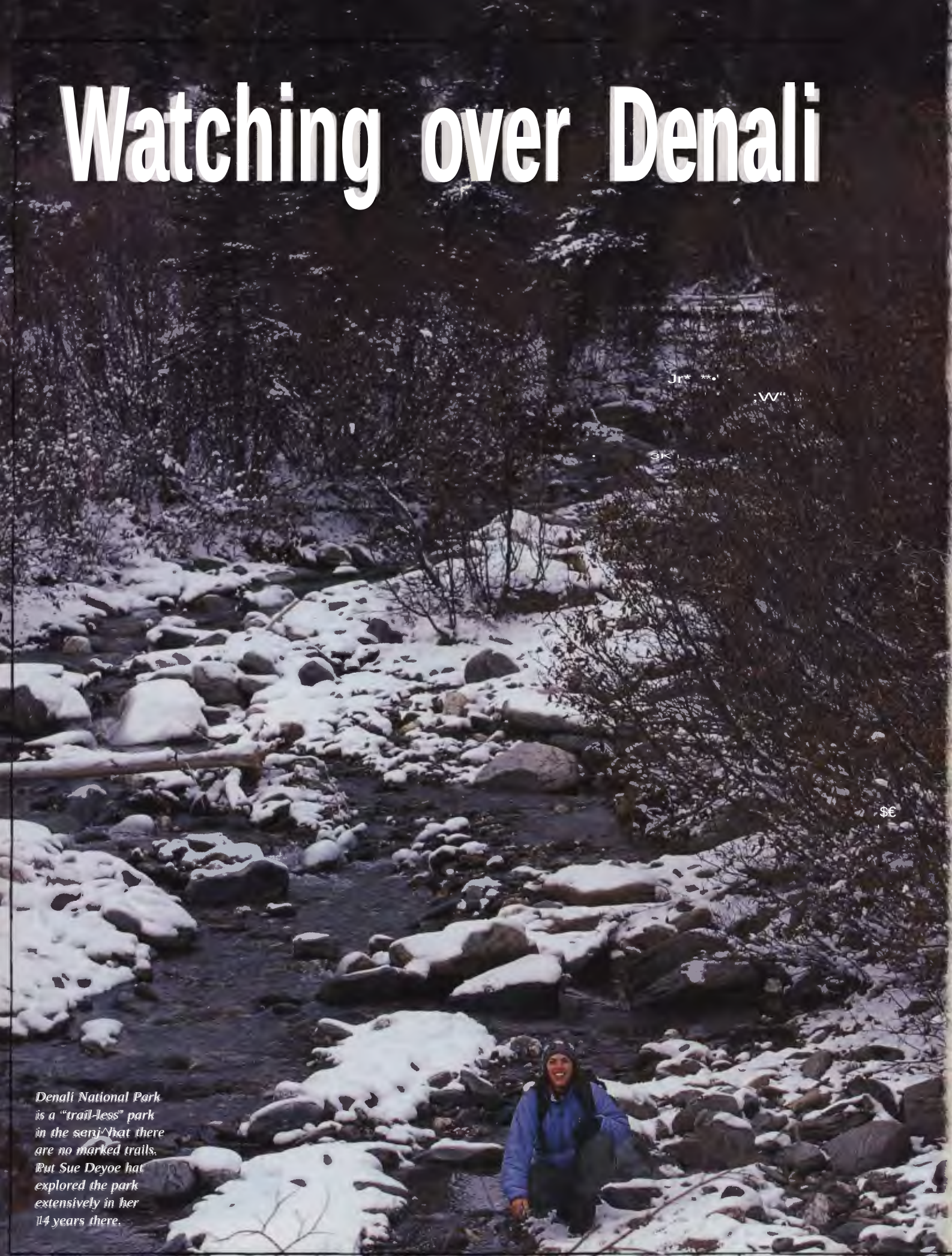
Parker hopes to continue working on the Stellar sea lion project for a few more years. She's completing a master's degree at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California, and after that, she'd like to teach marine science or get into research on fur seals or sea otters.

Pam Parker

- Graduate Research Assistant, Alaska SeaLife Center
- 2000 Biology
- Hometown: Ankeny, Iowa
- Has lived in Seward, Alaska, since 1999

Watch links: Alaska SeaLife Center
www.alaskasealife.org

Watching over Denali



Denali National Park is a "trail-less" park in the sense that there are no marked trails. But Sue Deyoe has explored the park extensively in her 14 years there.

Sue Deyoe: Environmentalist

Sue Deyoe loves Denali National Park. She has spent her entire career doing whatever it takes to live among its wilderness: cooking meals for the park staff, leading nature tours, working on the road crew. And now she's helping preserve Denali National Park for future generations.

Deyoe is the community organizer for Denali Citizens Council, a not-for-profit organization established in 1974 whose mission is preserving the natural integrity of Denali National Park and Preserve. The organization promotes sustainable tourism, wilderness protection, responsible land use, and community involvement, among other issues.

If you're imagining Deyoe at work in a bustling office complex, with employees gathered around the water cooler, think again. Think cabin in the woods. Think no running water. Think one person and a computer.

"It's just me," Deyoe laughs. "I'm it. I come to the office every day and sort of work by myself."

But the Denali Citizens Council has clout. Its 275 members, volunteers, board of directors – and Deyoe herself – get the attention of the National Park Service and state politicians. She spends her days talking about snow machines (what we in the lower 48 call snowmobiles) and tour buses and park boundaries and roads and drilling for coal bed methane and the continual encroachment of humans on the park.

The pristine wilderness of Denali National Park is the most important thing to Deyoe. She grew up in central Iowa, and the little she knew about the state of Alaska came from her dad, who worked on a project at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the 1970s. After graduating from Iowa State in 1984, she went to work for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. There she met a woman who had worked in Denali during the summer months and encouraged Deyoe to check it out.

All it took was a phone call, and Deyoe was on her way to Denali as a seasonal employee. That first summer, she was the assistant manager of the employee dining hall. After the season ended, Deyoe flew back to Minneapolis and back to reality.

That was the plan, anyway. But she couldn't go back.

"It's still so clear in my mind," she says. "As I landed in Minneapolis, I started losing my breath, and I thought, 'Oh my God, am I crazy? Why am I going back?' I'd had a summer up here with hiking and bears and caribou and all the things you see your first year here. So I packed up everything I owned and moved up here."

The cabin where Sue Deyoe does her work for the Denali Citizens Council is in a wooded area just outside Denali National Park.

That was in 1992. Deyoe worked another summer season of concessions for the park service. She didn't have a plan for the winter months when, on Sept. 9, three feet of snow fell in the park and closed everything down. Tourists were stranded, and there was little chance for Deyoe to leave the area in her little Honda Civic.

"I stayed the winter and I learned how to burn wood in a stove and to do everything with no electricity and no running water in the wintertime."

Since then, Deyoe has worked a series of seasonal and off-season jobs for the National Park Service, park service concessions, and assorted odd jobs in the Denali area. She was a park ranger for several years, leading hikes into the backcountry every day. She worked six years for the park's road crew. She worked part-time for Camp Denali, a private lodge located inside the park. She was a caretaker during winter months for a variety of facilities that close down when the snows begin to fly and the tourists go home. She learned to keep busy during the winter: to read and write and knit and paint.

Deyoe's position as community organizer for the Denali Citizens Council began as a winter job two years ago before turning into a full-time position last spring.

She's passionate about her work as an advocate for the national park. In an economic climate where $800,000 has been cut from the park's budget, Deyoe has become the voice for the mountains and the bears and the caribou and wilderness so deep that you can hike for days and never see another human being.

"I guess I'm a romantic," she says softly, brushing her long, fine hair out of her face. "I just think about all my friends who have babies – what are they going to see when they grow up? Shouldn't they be able to stand in the middle of the park in the springtime, when the sun is hot, and hear the snow melt? Or hear a wolf howl? Shouldn't they be able to do that? Or should they not be able to go out in a big, wide-open area without seeing a smoke stack or a whole bunch of cars or a shopping mall?

"We've got to save some of these areas. They should be treated like a cathedral."

Sue Deyoe

- Community organizer, Denali Citizens Council
- 1984 Home Economics Journalism
- Hometown: Nevada, Iowa
- Has lived near Denali National Park, Alaska, for 14 years

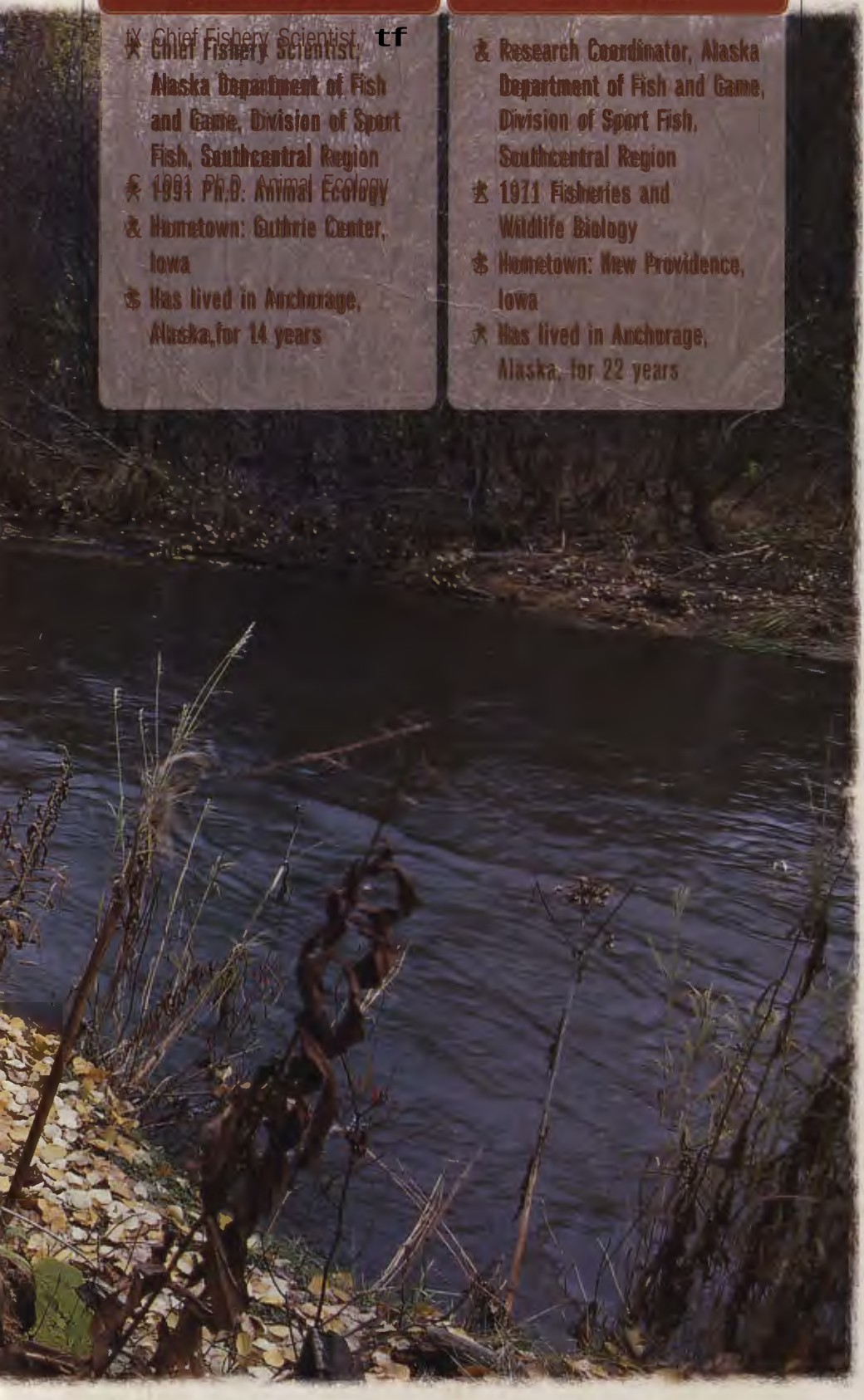
Web links: Denali National Park www.nps.gov/dena/ Denali Citizens Council www.denalicitizens.org

WINTER 2005 VISIONS 23

Jim Hasbrouck and Dave Bernard: Alaska Fish & Game

Big fish

Dore Bernard and Jim Hasbrouck visit Campbell Creek, a popular fishing spot not far from their office in Anchorage. The pair keeps an eye on the Southcentral Alaska sport fish population in their positions with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



Jim Hasbrouck

- Chief Fishery Scientist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Southcentral Region
- 1991 Ph.D. Animal Ecology
- Hometown: Guthrie Center, Iowa
- Has lived in Anchorage, Alaska, for 14 years

Dave Bernard

- Research Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Southcentral Region
- 1971 Fisheries and Wildlife Biology
- Hometown: New Providence, Iowa
- Has lived in Anchorage, Alaska, for 22 years

Fishing is big in Alaska. Really big. Sport fishing alone rakes in more than $535 million annually.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Sport Fish Division ensures the sustainability of the state's multi-million-dollar sport fishing industry by aggressively monitoring and assessing the fish population.

Dave Bernard and Jim Hasbrouck, both Iowa Staters, are right in the thick of the sport fishing world in the Southcentral Region, which encompasses Anchorage, Homer, Seward, and Kodiak, among other towns. The two pride themselves on being part of a program that keeps everyone healthy: the fish, the sport fishers, and the economy.

"We're proud of our stock assessment program," says Bernard. "We've made a very conscious effort here to do quality work, not just biologically but statistically."

Hasbrouck echoes, "When we've got all this data collected, we can translate it into information as opposed to going out and collecting a bunch of data and then wondering what we're going to do with it."

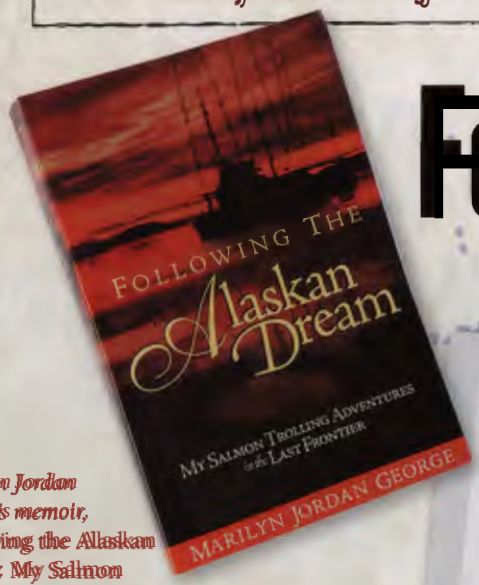
Although Bernard and Hasbrouck work inside most of the time at the division's regional office in Anchorage, they've had their share of outdoor adventures. Hasbrouck goes on frequent caribou hunting expeditions in southeast Alaska. And Bernard says he's had some "fabulous on-the-job experiences."

"I've chased bears and been chased by bears," he says. "I've walked down a stream in Misty Fjords, picking up dead salmon on a carcass survey, armed to the teeth because the bears are out there picking up the same carcasses.

"It's just a different experience," he says. "Something you generally don't have back in Hardin County."

Web links: Alaska Department of Fish & Game Sport Fish Division
www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/sf_home.cfm

Following the Alaskan dream



Marilyn Jordan George's memoir, Following the Alaskan Dream: My Salmon Trolling Adventures in the Last Frontier, is now in its seventh printing.

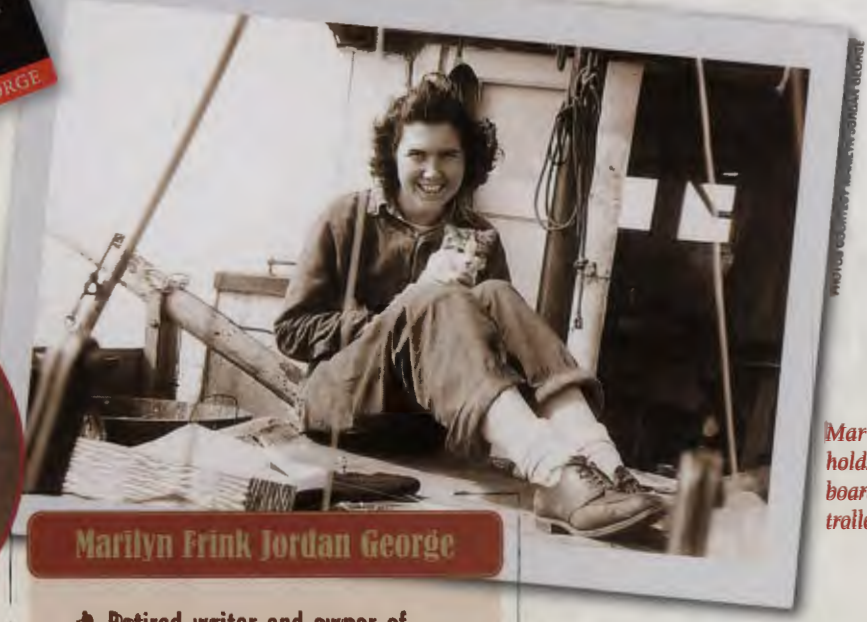


Photo courtesy Marilyn Jordan George

Marilyn Jordan holds a kitten on board the salmon trailer Salty in 1946.

Marilyn Frink Jordan George

- Retired writer and owner of Little Norway Press, and retired salmon troller
- 1944 Home Economics
- Hometown: Tama, Iowa
- Moved to Alaska in 1946. Currently living in Petersburg, Alaska.

The adventures Marilyn Jordan George has had in Alaska could fill volumes.

Instead, she collected her stories into one book and titled it *Following the Alaskan Dream: My Salmon Trolling Adventures in the Last Frontier, 1946-1986.*

George's adventures began in 1943 when she met Wilhelm "Skip" Jordan, a handsome Norweigan-born Navy man, at a party on the Iowa State campus. George was instantly smitten, and the two spent every spare moment together before Jordan left for active duty.

Meanwhile, George graduated from Iowa State with a degree in food science and began working in a test kitchen in Decatur, Ill. But she kept in touch with Skip Jordan, and in 1946, after the end of World War II, he convinced her to marry him and move to Alaska to live on a salmon troller.

Alaska wasn't exactly what George had in mind. She was raised for a comfortable life in Iowa with an engineer or doctor. Heck, Alaska wasn't even a state yet. But she was in love.

George's book chronicles those early years at Iowa State – where she and Skip Jordan watched the swans on Lake LaVerne – and continues through their early married years and the birth of their children, all the while living on a salmon troller.

She writes of her husband's death to leukemia, leaving her to raise their four young children, ages 4-16, and how she picked up the pieces of her life and continued as a strong, single mother. The memoir concludes with tales of the years she and her family lived in the Pacific Northwest, and then her marriage to her present husband, Bill George, and her return to Alaska and the life of a salmon troller.

George began writing her stories in 1947 as a series of articles for the *Alaska Sportsman*. She always wanted to write a book, but motherhood and career kept her busy until she retired in 1986.

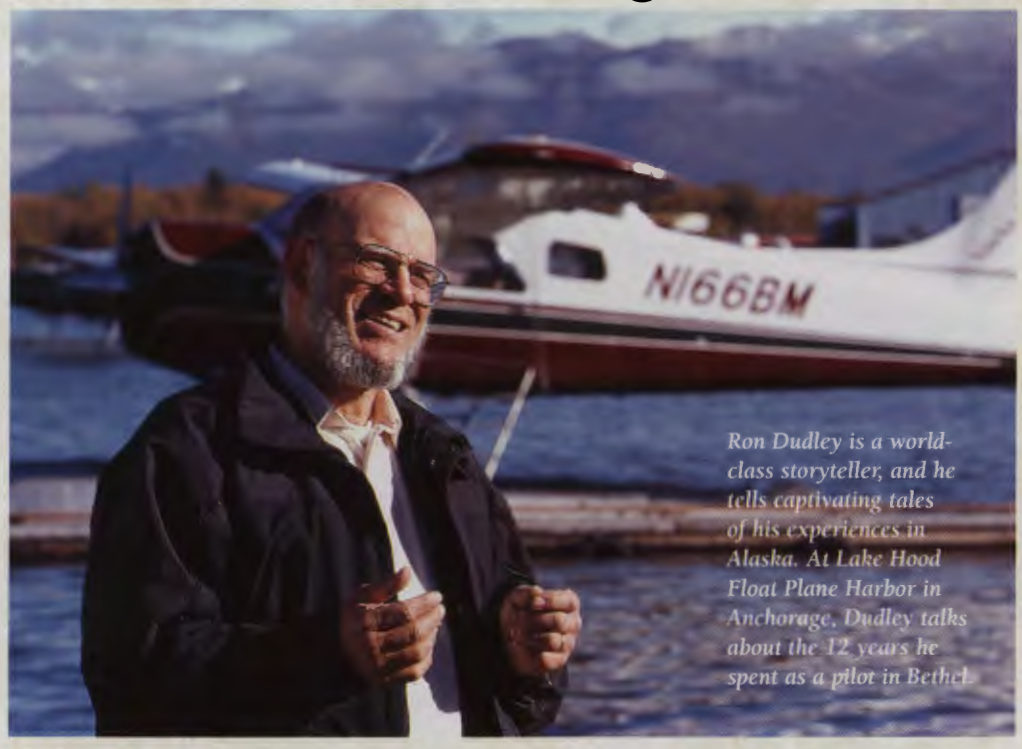
"After the '86 season, I said, 'Well, I'm really going to work on that book,' and my daughter said, 'Mother, you've been working on that book all these years.'" The book – originally planned as three separate volumes, but in the end condensed into one – was published in 1999. *Following the Alaskan Dream* has sold 6,500 copies to date and is currently in its seventh printing.

George still lives in southeastern Alaska, the land of glaciers and eagles and humpback whales – and, of course, salmon.

"I never regretted that I came up here," George says. "I woke up one day and I said, 'Think what I would've missed if I hadn't come to Alaska.'"

Web link: Marilyn Jordan George's home page: www.alaska.net/~margeorg//

Flight of fancy



Ron Dudley is a world-class storyteller, and he tells captivating tales of his experiences in Alaska. At Lake Hood Float Plane Harbor in Anchorage, Dudley talks about the 12 years he spent as a pilot in Bethel.

Ron Dudley was comfortable. The executive director for Iowa's Cherokee County Conseiyation Board, Dudley was a self-described big fish in a little pond. He had a wife and three kids at home, and he liked what he did. It was a good life.

"We were fat, dumb, happy, and comfortable," Dudley remembers. "Then BANG, we were 40 years old." And something just hit them. Dudley and his wife, Joyce, decided it was time to try something new.

So they moved to Bethel, Alaska.

"We had an auction in Cherokee," Dudley says. "We rented out our house and sold all our worldly possessions except for a couple of steamer trunks full of stuff that we packed up and put in the airplane and flew up to Bethel. We hit Bethel cold. We were pretty naive."

Bethel is a remote community of 6,000 – about half Yupik Eskimo and half "everything else" – in western Alaska. It functions much like a county seat, a hub city for 56 native villages in a 150-mile radius.

"Bethel has no access, no roads to anywhere," Dudley says. "The nearest road is Anchorage, 400 miles away. Bethel has a big airport, and every one of those 56 villages has a runway."

Dudley had learned to fly a small plane back in Iowa in the early 70s. His flight experience landed him a job as a pilot in Bethel after he discovered that his natural resources background wasn't going to get him hired anywhere.

"I double majored in forestry and soils at Iowa State and moved to a place that has neither forests nor soil," Dudley jokes. "Bethel has scrub brush and berry bushes and a lot of grassy, soggy tundra."

So Dudley began flying a single-engine airplane. He flew villagers to funerals and weddings and potlatches. He flew teachers and students and coaches to school and events and games. He hauled supplies and groceries and everything else it takes to keep a town of 6,000 going: cases of soda pop and Dinty Moore stew and dill pickles and mail and pails of berries and freshly caught seal meat.

Dudley lived and flew in Bethel for 12 years. During that time, he learned the dangers of flying in remote Alaska. He got "just about wore out" going to other pilots' funerals. He had five close friends survive what he calls a "C-FIT" – controlled flight into terrain – or what most people would call a plane crash. He personally survived five engine failures. He survived flying in bush conditions. He survived "whiteout" flights – "like flying inside a milk bottle." He survived the odds: One in eight career pilots "ain't gonna make it."

Joyce worried about her husband flying in such dangerous conditions, and around 1995 she also began to get "itchy" for a slightly more urban existence. Her husband encouraged her to look around for someplace new to live, and she found it: a house on three acres north of Anchorage, with lots of trees. She moved there, and a couple of years later, Dudley joined her, leaving behind the remote Bethel existence and trading in his life as a pilot for a mostly supervisory job as director of operations at Yute Air.

Ron Dudley

- Director of Operations, Yute Air Alaska
- 1971 Forestry
- Hometown: Worthington, Iowa
- Lived in Bethel, Alaska, from 1985-1997. Currently lives in Eagle River, Alaska.

He still flies, but not so many hours a week as he did before. He and Joyce enjoy their grandkids and hiking and the incredible natural beauty of Alaska.

"The sunsets, and the rainbows, and the long, lazy alpenglow – I can't describe it," Dudley says. "To fly hour after hour and not see the hand of man on the land – no telephone poles, no roads, no culverts, no buildings. Flying along and there's a bunch of bears frolicking around the riverbank, chasing a salmon or a moose. Fishing where the water is so crystal clear you can see right down forever. Those are neat impressions."

Puppy love

What could be better than to be outside... with dogs... in Alaska! For Marian Frost, it's the perfect life and the perfect job.

Frost is a veterinarian with a small-animal practice in Eagle River, just north of Anchorage. Her clients include your standard-issue cats and dogs – but also sled dogs, the' creme de la creme of dogs in this part of the world.

"Sled dogs are wonderful patients because they're so used to being handled," Frost says. "They're really well socialized with people, and their owners are very tuned in to subtle changes of what's right and what's wrong, because not only are they pets, they're their teammates, their athletic companions."

Frost works at Ravenwood Vet Clinic, and she and her partners work with up to 50 sled dog kennels, most of which are owned by "hobby mushers" – that is, owners who are not competing in distance races such as the Iditarod.

Hobby mushers generally keep their dogs – as few as six or as many as 20 – in "dog yards" or "dog lots" near their homes. Each dog has its own doghouse, own space, food, water, and bedding. The mushers have specially designed vehicles to transport the dogs.

Frost tried her hand at mushing about 10 years ago when a friend insisted that she compete in the local "Cheechako" (or "Newcomer") Race. Frost surprised everyone – especially herself – by winning the race. And then she promptly retired.

"The Cheechako is a little two-mile sprint race with three dogs," she said. "I did three training runs, and each time I fell off the sled and lost the team. I was hanging on for dear life."

She promotes mushing as a sport, because she says it's a tremendous experience for animals and their owners.

"Having animal partners – dogs in particular – having that bond with them, and getting outside during the wintertime when there's so much darkness – it just appeals to me on a lot of levels."

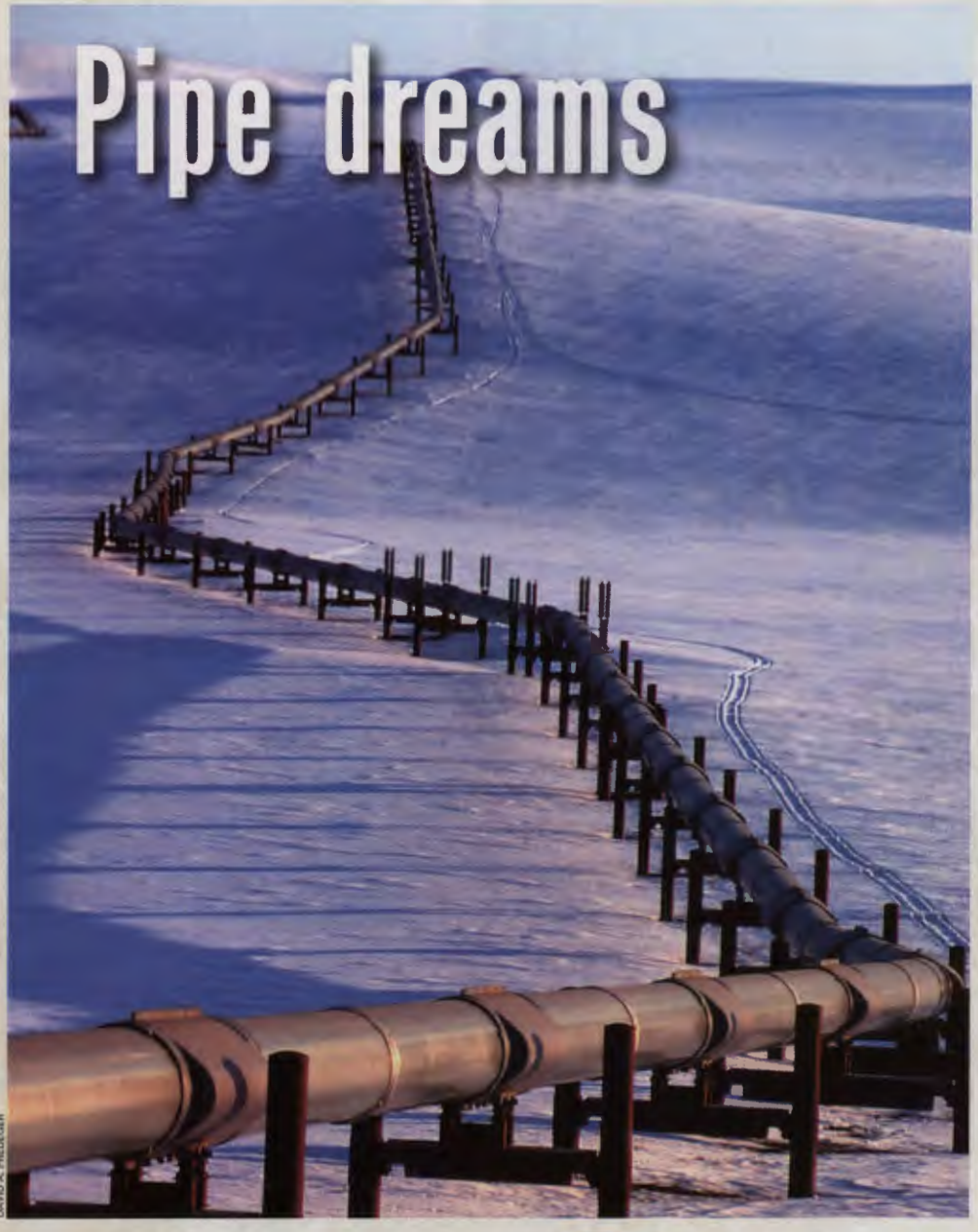
Marian Frost examines an Alaskan Husky – a mix of Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Husky – at a sled dog yard in Eagle River. Most sled dogs are mixed breeds, and dogs expected to run distance races are bred differently than those expected to sprint.

These three Alaskan Malamute puppies are nearly four weeks old and were born as part of a litter of seven.

Marian Frost

- Veterinarian, Ravenwood Vet Clinic
- 1979 Fisheries and Wildlife
- Hometown: Winnetka, Illinois
- Has lived in Chugiak, Alaska, since 1990

Pipe dreams



DAVID A. FREDEEN

Kay Eliason

- Retired Construction Manager, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- 1951 Agricultural Engineering
- Hometown: Letts, Iowa
- Has lived in Alaska since 1969. Currently lives in Anchorage.

One of the most massive engineering and construction projects ever undertaken in Alaska was coordinated by an Iowa farm boy.

Kay Eliason, who grew up on a farm near Letts, Iowa, in the southeastern part of the state, was the construction manager for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, commonly known as the Alaska Pipeline.

Eliason, now 78 years old and still living and working in Anchorage, is matter-of-fact about the accomplishment.

"I didn't do a very good job of planning my career," he says. "I just took things as they came along. I was always interested in construction."

Eliason was the section project manager of the "haul road" that ran 360 miles from the Yukon to Prudhoe Bay.

It's been nearly 30 years since the Alaska Pipeline was completed, but Kay Eliason still tells engaging stories about its construction. Eliason was one of the key managers for the pipeline from 1974 to 1977.

He then moved to construction management for the 800-mile-long pipeline from the North Slope to Valdez. At the time it was completed in 1977, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System was the largest privately funded construction project, at a total of $8 billion.

It was difficult work, he admits.

"We worked seven days a week, 10, 12, 14 hours a day," he remembers. At its peak in 1975, pipeline construction employees numbered 28,000 in 30 separate construction camps.

Eliason was headquartered in Fairbanks but spent much of his time in the camps, where he said he often filled the roles of mayor and counseling psychologist, despite the fact that "engineers aren't supposed to have social skills."

"The sociology of the camps was very interesting," Eliason says. Workers suffered through cold and snow; hazardous working conditions; equipment problems; environmental constraints; encounters with wolves, bears, and moose; and flagging morale.

The Alaska Pipeline was completed in less than two and a half years, and Kay Eliason moved on to other projects. Today he works as a computer programmer for his son's travel company. But he'll never forget the pipeline.

"I've always enjoyed being out on the edge," he says. "That was about a far as you can get."

Web link: Alaska Pipeline: www.alyeskapipe.com

TRAVEL ALASKA

On your own or with a group, travel to Alaska is the adventure of a lifetime

Mark Eliason, president of USTravel, likes to joke that on his road to success, somehow a "bad investment turned into a mediocre career." Eliason is way too humble. Although he stumbled sideways into the travel industry (he owned a building in Prudhoe Bay that was leased to a travel agency, and when the price of oil plummeted from $30 to $9 a barrel, he found himself taking over the day-to-day operation of the travel business just to keep it afloat), he has taken his company far beyond the mediocre.

USTravel has 19 locations in Alaska, Washington, and Idaho. The company also owns AFS (Air Fulfillment Service), Doug Fox Travel, and Explore Tours, an Alaska travel company.

Eliason's 20 years' experience in the travel industry and living in Alaska – make him the perfect person to give travelers advice on when, where, and what to see when traveling to Alaska.

When is the best time to travel to Alaska?
I think the most undervalued month is May, just before the high season. If you come in May, you have fresh guides, fresh everything. May is also a very dry month, so we have a lot of clear, sunny days – and the days are long. The prices also tend to be a little lower.

Which is better: Group travel or independent travel?
It's hard to beat a cruise for your first time to Alaska. That's like the easy, introductory method. Southeast Alaska is hard to see any other way, because there's no road system. We find that most people do a cruise for their first trip and then realize they've just touched a small piece of Alaska and decide to come back and do a custom tour.

How do travelers decide what to see and do when they visit Alaska?
There are two distinct trips in Alaska: the southeast maritime experience and what we call the "rail belt," which is Seward to Fairbanks. To see maritime Alaska – the whales and the glaciers – that's a cruise-ship experience. If you want to see wildlife, mountains, and get a sense of Alaska, that's when you do the rail belt. It's a small piece of the state, but it's a good cross-section of mainland Alaska.

What's the difference between the big cruise ships and the smaller ones?
It really goes to taste or the person's preference. The smaller ships are a lot more intimate. They can get closer to the shore, and you can see a lot more wildlife. You get to know the staff by name and you get to know most of the passengers, so it becomes kind of a relationship experience. But the big cruise ships are great. I actually prefer them. They are ideal for families with kids. There are a lot of activities.

How do the prices compare?
You're paying a premium for the smaller ships because they're more exclusive.

How many people travel to Alaska in a given season?
During the 2004 season, 1.4 million people came to Alaska, about 800,000 of them on cruises.

So how did you end up in Alaska, anyway?
I went to mooch off my parents and never left! That's my favorite line. My parents lived in Fairbanks at that time [because Dad was working on the Alaska Pipeline] and I had gone up there every summer [as a student at Iowa State] to work construction. I thought Fairbanks was very isolated, but then my family moved to Anchorage, and I really liked it there. I planned to work one summer and then go get my master's down in Arizona, but the opportunities here were just fantastic.

The travel business in Alaska is really a cross section of the whole state, and I like that because one day I'm dealing with an oil field service company in Prudhoe Bay, the next minute it's a fishing company in Dutch Harbor. Our client base is just ALASKA. And that makes it really fun.

TRAVEL ALASKA WITH THE ISU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The ISU Alumni Association sponsors an Alaskan cruise each summer as part of its alumni travel program.

"Alaska has always been our most popular travel destination," says Jan Breitman, director of the travel program.

This year's itinerary includes a cruise Aug. 6-13, 2005, with an optional Alaskan wilderness land tour beginning July 31. For more information, go to www.isualum.org/services/travel/2005/alaska.main.html

Mark Eliason

- President, USTravel
- 1978 Industrial Administration
- Hometown: Fort Madison, Iowa
- Has lived in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1978

Web link:
Alaska tourism
www.travelalaska.com

Online bonus:
4
for more Alaska images, go to
www.isualum.org/news/newvisions/winter05/alaska.asp

Finding the profound in the ordinary

Ames native is nation's newest poet laureate

Ted Kooser threw his $12 slide rule into Lake LaVerne.

Forty-plus years ago he was a junior at Iowa State University. He was studying architecture at the suggestion of an Ames High School adviser who knew Kooser liked to draw. But "Theoretical and Applied Mathematics" was more than he could handle.

So Kooser tossed that slide rule. And because ISU didn't offer an English major back then, he decided on an English emphasis in the university's distributed studies program. Why not? He was always interested in writing. He was part of a writers' roundtable on campus. He was writing poems. There was no way he was going to throw his pen into the lake.

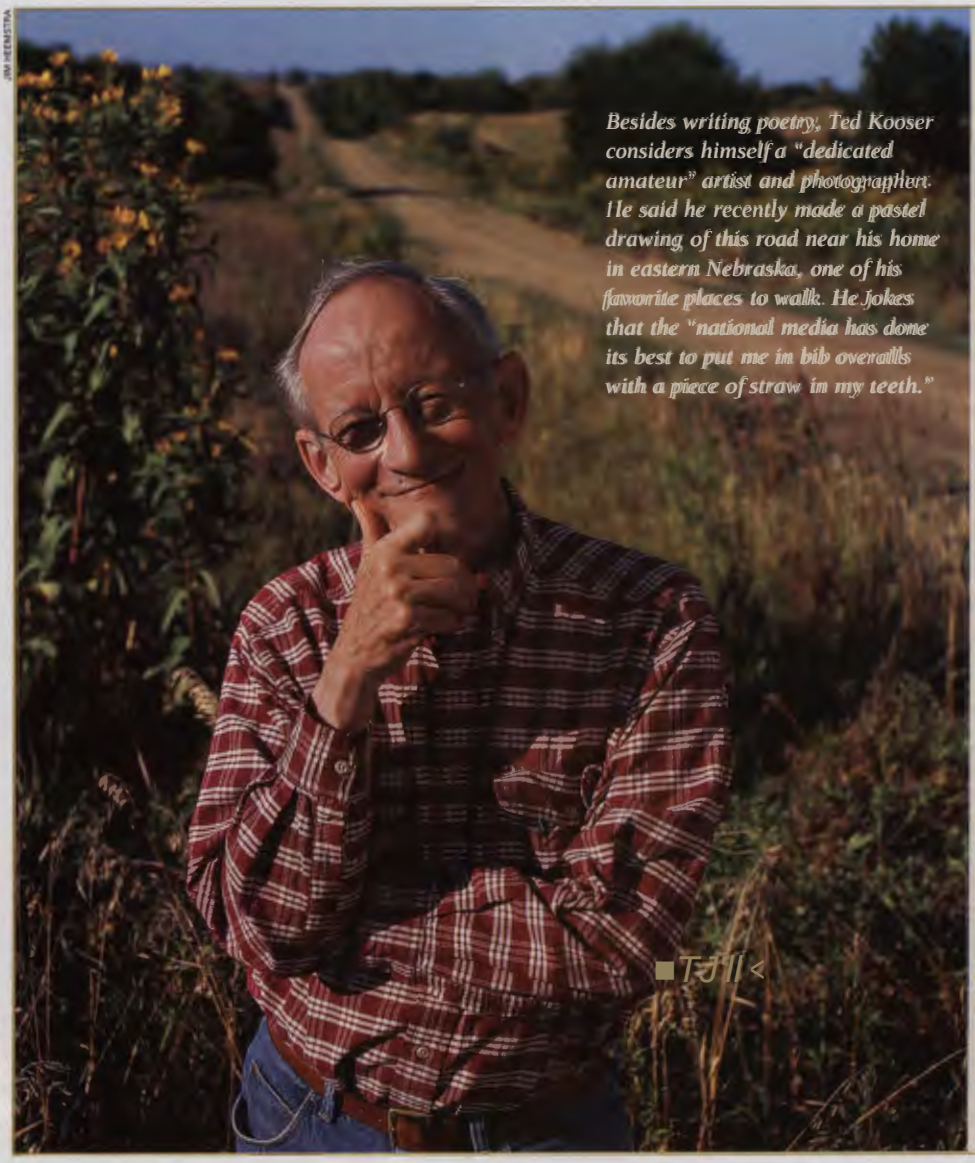
Well, he did earn that ISU degree in 1962.

He did teach for a year in Madrid, Iowa.

He did move on to graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study with Karl Shapiro, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet.

When he needed to pay the bills and took a job at a Lincoln life insurance company – a job that eventually turned into a vice president's post – he did develop an early morning poetry habit.

And now the retired insurance man and cancer survivor and visiting professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and chief carpenter around the



Besides writing poetry, Ted Kooser considers himself a "dedicated amateur" artist and photographer. He said he recently made a pastel drawing of this road near his home in eastern Nebraska, one of his favorite places to walk. He jokes that the "national media has done its best to put me in bib overalls with a piece of straw in my teeth."

Ted Kooser, U.S. poet laureate

- Born in Ames, Iowa, in 1939
- B.S. in distributed studies from Iowa State, 1962
- Master's degree from the University of Nebraska, 1968
- Visiting professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Retired vice president for public relations at the Lincoln Benefit Life Company
- Became the 43rd U.S. poet laureate on Oct. 7, 2004
- Author of 10 collections of poetry, including:
  Sure Signs
  One World at a Time
  Weather Central
  Winter Morning Walks: One Hundred Postcards to Jim Harrison
  Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps
  Braided Creek: A Conversation in Poetry
  The Blizzard Voices
  Delights & Shadows
- His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. He also writes fiction and literary criticism.
- Lives on 62 acres of hilly prairie near Garland, Neb., 20 miles northwest of Lincoln

family's 62 acres of hills and sheds is the nation's poet laureate.

"Ted Kooser is a major poetic voice for rural and small-town America and the first poet laureate chosen from the Great Plains," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington when he announced his pick last summer. "His verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways."

Jim Harrison – a Kooser friend, poet and novelist – said Kooser's talent is finding the profound in the ordinary.

"He seems able to look at everything when he's at his best with very fresh eyes," Harrison said.

And what about this national poetry stage? How will Kooser fill that role?

"I don't know if it's a good fit for him," said Harrison, who sometimes describes his friend as a county-agent type. "He's sort of agoraphobic."

But this summer Kooser seemed ready to take the laureate's $35,000 salary and office on the third floor of the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building and get right to work for poetry.

He talked about meeting with the National Council of Teachers of English to try to encourage and inspire classroom enthusiasm for poetry. The husband of a newspaper editor, he talked about finding ways to get poetry back in newspapers. And he talked about a University of Nebraska commencement address he had suddenly been asked to deliver.

"I've always been shy about readings," Kooser said within weeks of learning he'd be America's 43rd consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress since 1937. "All of a sudden I have 200,000 volts of confidence. I'm not at all intimidated about it."

Mike Krapfl is managing editor of The Tribune in Ames, Iowa.

'A VERY TALENTED MAN'

The danger with the everyday in Ted Kooser's poetry is that it can be underestimated, said Joseph Bednarik, the marketing director at Copper Canyon Press, the publisher of Kooser's latest book.

"This is not a folksy uncle telling a neat story on the porch," Bednarik said. "He worked his tail off for those eight lines. He's not just throwing those things down. He's a very, very talented man with language."

Here's a sample from Ted Kooser's latest book, *Delights & Shadows:*

Old Lilacs
Through early April cold,
these thin gray horses
have come near the house
as to a fence, and lean there
hungry for summer,
nodding their heads
with a nickering of twigs.

Their long legs are dusty
from standing for months
in winter's stall, and their eyes
are like a cloudy sky
seen through bare branches.

They are waiting for May
to come up from the barn
with her overalls pockets
stuffed with the fodder
of green. In a month
they will be slow and heavy,
their little snorts so sweet
you'll want to stand
among them, breathing.

A Happy Birthday
This evening, I sat by an open window
and read till the light was gone and the book
was no more than a part of the darkness.
I could easily have switched on a lamp,
but I wanted to ride this day down into night,
to sit alone and smooth the unreadable page
with the pale gray ghost of my hand.

Poetry published with permission of Copper Canyon Press, www.coppercanyonpress.org

About the poet laureate position

The poet laureate consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress serves as the nation's official lightning rod for the poetic impulse of Americans. During his or her term, the poet laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.

The poet laureate is appointed annually by the Librarian of Congress and serves from October to May. The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties in order to afford incumbents maximum freedom to work on their own projects while at the Library. The laureate gives an annual lecture of his or her poetry and usually introduces poets in the Library's annual poetry series.

On the web

From the Library of Congress Web site:
www.loc.gov/poetry/laureate.html

New worlds of discovery

BY PAM REINIG AND DENNIS SMITH

In 2002, Iowa State President Gregory Geoffroy announced six flagship interdisciplinary research initiatives to lead the university into the 21st century. Of the six, four are led by faculty from the College of Engineering, men and women who embody the essence of the university's motto of "Science with Practice."

College of Engineering researchers are at the helm of major projects in combinatorial discovery, human computer interaction, information infrastructure, and the development of a new "bioeconomy" to replace an economy overly dependent on finite and unreliable petroleum sources. Their leadership in these highly collaborative efforts responds to critical needs in Iowa, the nation, and the world – and elevates Iowa State's stature as one of America's leading land-grant universities.

College of Engineering researchers are at the helm of major projects in combinatorial discovery, human computer interaction, information infrastructure, and the development of a new "bioeconomy" to replace an economy overly dependent on finite and unreliable petroleum sources. Their leadership in these highly collaborative efforts responds to critical needs in Iowa, the nation, and the world – and elevates Iowa State's stature as one of America's leading land-grant universities.

Back to the future: Biorenewables break the bonds of oil dependency

With 60 faculty and researchers and $12.4 million in external funding, the bioeconomy initiative is the largest of the six programs. The initiative is directed by Robert C. Brown, who was also instrumental in establishing Iowa State's graduate degree program in biorenewable resources, the first of its kind in the nation.

One key to improving national security, Brown believes, lies in using new discoveries to return to older ways of living. By exploiting emerging technologies, he says, we can replace our current fossil-fuel economy with one based on renewable resources. For example, the initiative's current projects include making plastics, lubricants, and fuels from soybeans and commodity chemicals and building materials from corn stover, the biomass usually left in the field after corn is harvested.

"Many people don't realize that less than 300 years ago we were a bio-based economy," says Brown, a professor with joint appointments in mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, and agricultural and biosystems engineering. "It's only since our grandparents' generation that we've come to rely so completely on products derived from fossil resources."

Substituting domestic biorenewable resources for imported petroleum will lessen our dependence on energy stocks from politically unstable regions of the world, Brown stresses. In addition, biobased products will help to improve and sustain the environment by reducing pollutants associated with fossil fuels, while revitalizing rural economies by introducing new crops and markets.

That last point is especially important to Brown and his colleagues. Charged with developing and promoting technologies that use agricultural crops and residues to produce fuels, chemicals, materials, and energy, Brown has successfully converted a native Iowa prairie grass into the hydrogen-rich gas required by fuel-cell vehicles. The emission- and petroleum-free cars are still in the developmental stage but could reach

"It's only since our grandparent's generation that we've come to rely so completely on products derived from fossil resources."

As part of the biorenewables initiative, Robert Brown has successfully converted switchgrass, a native Iowa prairie grass, into fuel.

the mass market by 2010, giving Brown a few more years to perfect his process.

Combinatorial discovery: Ideal combinations of knowledge, skill, and vision

The Combinatorial Discovery Institute, created to coordinate the efforts of its namesake initiative, currently joins 34 faculty from five colleges and 12 departments. Among other projects, engineering researchers in the initiative are investigating new catalysts for fuel cells and new high-performance materials for adhesives, microelectronic devices, and other applications.

Research in the Combinatorial Discovery Institute could lead to worldwide immunization from deadly diseases such as tetanus and diphtheria.

The institute's Balaji Narasimhan, associate professor of chemical engineering, is focusing on a method of delivering stable, single-dose vaccines that would protect against common childhood ailments. By eliminating the need for multiple injections – a problem in developing nations where access to health care is often unreliable – his work could lead to worldwide immunization from deadly diseases such as tetanus and diphtheria.

Narasimhan specializes in the design of tiny biodegradable polymers that can be infused with a vaccine and injected into the body. To be effective, the vaccine must remain active until it confers protective immunity. It must therefore undergo minimum degradation from interactions with the encapsulating polymers.

"There are many choices of polymers to stabilize a vaccine," says Narasimhan. "If you study each possibility, it could take a long, long time to find a carrier that will protect the vaccine." Using combinatorial methods, however, Narasimhan can assemble hundreds of combinations of compounds for rapid testing over hours or days, instead of the weeks or years of traditional approaches.

In addition to human vaccine delivery systems, Narasimhan is using combinatorial science to develop better ways to inoculate animals that require multiple doses of vaccine, like swine. His colleagues in the biomaterials field are using combinatorial methodologies in a number of applications, including gene therapy and disease detection. They're also looking at ways that fibers in the body react to implants like hip replacements.

Stow the flight suit: You can fly this mission in your pajamas

Given the choice, you'd rather not accept an assignment to fly a fighter past surface-to-air missile batteries deep into hostile territory. If engineers of the human computer interaction (HCI) initiative are successful, you just might not have to.

HCI researchers are developing technologies to replace manned combat planes with unmanned, remote-controlled aircraft. The project would remove pilots from dangerous situations while allowing a single operator to monitor and manage numerous planes from a safe location halfway around the world.

Remote-controlled planes, such as the Predator currently used by the military in Afghanistan and Iraq, are difficult to operate and limited mostly to reconnaissance work. By contrast, the next generation of unmanned aerial vehicles will have greater maneuverability and will carry more sophisticated weapons systems, making them capable of undertaking more demanding missions.

"To give the defense department what they want, we need to develop a

About the College of Engineering

- One of the original divisions of Iowa State University
- Dean: Mark J. Kushner
- First degrees conferred in 1872; more than 1,100 degrees awarded in 2003-2004
- Among the nation's 10 largest engineering programs, with combined graduate/undergraduate enrollment over 5,600
- Home of the Engineering Teaching and Research Complex, the largest building project in the history of Iowa State
- Eight academic departments: Aerospace; Agricultural and Biosystems; Chemical; Civil, Construction, and Environmental; Electrical and Computer; Industrial and Manufacturing Systems; Materials Science; and Mechanical
- More than 200 faculty members, including two members of the National Academy of Engineering
- Over $50 million in annual research expenditures
- More than 300 patents held by engineering faculty (more than half of all patents held by ISU scholars)
- Over 39,000 living alumni worldwide, including
  - Commissioner who supervised construction of Hoover Dam
  - Inventor of a decoding process essential to fax machines
  - Creator of "smart card" technologies for electronic funds transfer (ATM, debit cards)
  - Current and past CEOs and presidents of Boeing, Honeywell, Texas Instruments, 3M, US West, Rockwell Collins
- More than 8,185 graduates who are ISU Alumni Association members

WINTER 2005

The project would remove pilots from dangerous situations while allowing a single operator to monitor and manage numerous planes from a safe location halfway around the world.

technology that enhances situational awareness over present systems," says Adrian Sannier, associate director of Iowa State's Virtual Reality Applications Center (VRAC) and a professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering. "In other words, we need to give the operator a wider view, a 'real-time' feed of what's happening in the immediate environment. We can do that by putting a camera on a plane, but the minute you add a camera, you introduce signal delay, which makes the vehicle harder to operate."

Researchers are using a combination of computer simulation and visualization to develop technologies that will compensate for such delays. They've turned the C6, Iowa State's six-sided virtual reality lab, into a giant video game to create an environment where operators feel as if they have direct control. The results of their work will be used to help create ways that operators can better pilot unmanned vehicles.

The HCI initiative has received nearly $3 million from the U.S. Department of Defense for the project. And the results of their work may be suitable for other applications, including unmanned vehicles for border patrol, probes for surveying contaminated sites, and dangerous search-and-rescue missions.

PHOTO COURTESY ISU VIRTUAL REALITY APPLICATIONS LABORATORY

Researchers in the human computer interaction initiative have turned Iowa State's six-sided virtual reality lab into a giant video game to create an environment that simulates operator control of unmanned flight vehicles.

Power to the people: Information technology initiative electrifies engineering education

The college's varied research efforts in information technology have been consolidated under the umbrella of information infrastructure, a fourth initiative that has developed its own institutional platform in the Information Infrastructure Institute, or "i-Cube."

The i-Cube team brings together 30 faculty members from four colleges who seek to improve information handling for critical infrastructures. Although their efforts include projects in a number of areas from semiconductor materials research to software design and beyond, all have high-performance computing as a common denominator.

Jim McCalley, professor and associate chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a key player in the i-Cube initiative, focuses on the efficient and economic operation of the nation's electric grids, an information collection and processing problem as formidable as any mankind faces today. He is particularly interested in technologies to ensure the continuous and efficient flow of electricity to consumers.

"There are numerous financial and technical decisions involved in supplying power, from the price of various raw fuel sources to the operating costs of the physical infrastructure that supports it," McCalley notes. "Providing reliable and affordable energy depends on our ability to manage all of this information."

McCalley's efforts are keyed toward optimizing the overall movement of

energy and characterizing the state of the equipment embedded in power systems, two closely related problems in ensuring the integrity of the electric grid. As part of a project for a major power control center in Texas, for example, he's developing software to estimate the likelihood of failure based on the condition of the equipment and variables such as consumer demand for energy. Whether by cutting system loads or taking other steps to keep equipment from failing, power operators will be able to use the information generated by McCalley's software to respond more effectively to crises in real time.

In addition to providing powerful new tools for practicing engineers, the initiative is also paying dividends for Iowa State students and the companies that hire them. "We are one of about 20 schools in the nation with a viable program in electric power and energy systems," McCalley observes. "That makes us a major supplier to the utility industry of people who are competent in this area."

McCalley's observation is hardly limited to power systems or even to the information infrastructure initiative that comprehends them. Whether in bioeconomy, combinatorial discovery, human-computer interaction, or information technology, virtually every field in every department of the College of Engineering is breaking through to new worlds of discovery by breaking down disciplinary boundaries.

Pam Reinig is director of ISU's College of Engineering Department of Communications and Marketing. Dennis Smith is a communications specialist for Engineering Communications and Marketing.

On the web

www.eng.iastate.edu

Points of pride

- Birthplace of some of the 20th century's most significant technological achievements, including the world's first electronic digital computer, the encoding process essential to nearly all fax machines, discovery of the world's second hardest substance, and the development of "smart materials" that make air travel safer.

- Home of the nation's first formal program in agricultural engineering and model for the rest of the nation's programs. Fully one-quarter of the presidents of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers have come from Iowa State. The Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering celebrates its centennial year in 2005.

- Iowa State is the home of Ames Laboratory, one of two dozen major research centers supported by the U.S. Department of Energy. Ames Lab and the College of Engineering enjoy a close collaborative relationship, sharing significant scientific staff and facilities.

- Doug Jacobson ('80, MS '82, Ph.D. '85 electrical and computer engineering), associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, has earned two R&D 100 awards for innovations in computer network security.

- The Engineering Teaching and Research Complex is home to one of the world's only six-sided virtual reality labs (C6), which supports the research of more than 40 faculty and over 160 undergraduate students. More than $10 million in ongoing research for industry and government agencies is underway in C6.

- The college hosts the nation's largest indoor career fair. Nearly 800 recruiters from more than 200 companies participated in 2004. The event drew more than 5,000 students.

- The National Security Agency (NSA) has designated the Information Assurance Center as one of seven charter Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance. The college is one of the first in the nation to offer a certificate program in information assurance.

- Partha Sarkar, associate professor of aerospace engineering and civil engineering, and Fred Haan, assistant professor of aerospace engineering, are part of a research team that is designing and building the world's largest tornado simulator. Their work has been featured on two national news programs with a combined audience of several million.

- Chemical engineering associate professors Surya Mallapragada and Balaji Narasimhan are recipients of TR 100 awards, given by Technology Review to individuals under the age of 35 whose innovative work is having a profound impact on today's world.

- The college is engaged in numerous entrepreneurial activities that are significantly impacting Iowa's economy. More than one-third of the high-tech start-up companies located at Iowa State's Research Park have ties to the College of Engineering.

- Bruce Thompson, distinguished professor in two engineering disciplines–aerospace engineering and materials science engineering – is one of the nation's top technology advisors to the government. He also serves as director of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE) at Iowa State. CNDE is a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center that focuses on the research and development of new theories and techniques for use in quantitative non-destructive evaluation. The center applies its expertise to aerospace, nuclear energy, automotive, materials manufacturing, and other industries.

A fabulous night... and an exciting future

"Absolutely exciting." "It was great to be in this room full of friends." "Those were great announcements." "Wow, what a night."

Those were among the many sentiments shared with Association staff following the Alumni Association's 125th Anniversary Gala. The Memorial Union was truly the place to be on the evening of Oct. 8, 2004. The "It's great to be a Cyclone!" feeling engulfed us all during this event and lingers on to this day. You can see photos and more information about the gala weekend on pages 10-13, and additional photos can be found at www.isualum.org/gala/index.html. Enjoy!

I wish to express my heart-felt thanks to President Geoffroy and his wife, Kathy; Alumni Association Board Chair Choy Leow and his board colleagues; Jan Breitman and the entire staff of the Alumni Association; 125th Anniversary Gala Committee Chair Jamie Lucas Stensland and the Honorary Steering Committee; event coordinator Joan Greiner; Pat Gouran, who portrayed the late Edgar Stanton during the gala; writer Karol Crosbie; designer Scott Thornton; photographer Jim Heemstra; Karen Larson and University Dining Services; the staff of the Memorial Union; our 32 gala sponsors; ISU Foundation President Dan Saftig and the ISU Foundation board and staff; Glen Mente, past chair of the Circle of Former Alumni Association Leaders, and members of the Circle; Lynette Pohlman and the staff of University Museums; the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation; the Registrar's Office; alumni Bill and Judy Hoefle; alumna Barbara Palmer; Official University Mace artist Jeanne Stevens-Sollman; and MBNA America (for their special $75,000 gift to the Morrill Hall renovation project). Thank you all for making our 125th anniversary a year to remember!

A very special thank-you is in order to Bobbi and Roy Reiman for their $9 million gift that will help us realize a 30-year dream to build an alumni center. Through their generosity and support – and the more than $1 million of additional gifts from 50 other special donors – we are very close to raising the $11 million needed to build and endow the operations and maintenance of this facility.

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY A YEAR TO REMEMBER!

The Alumni Association board, staff, and I are thrilled beyond words that this dream is becoming a reality. This center will truly position your Alumni Association to engage a greater number of Iowa State alumni, students, and friends. We are working with architects Herbert Lewis Kruse and Blunck of West Des Moines to design this facility. Please get involved with this project! There will be many opportunities to donate memorabilia, create memorials, and provide financial support.

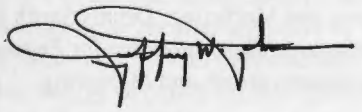
The future of this Alumni Association has never been more exciting. As we look to the future, we will not rest on our laurels. We will continue raising the bar. What will this mean? Here's what you can expect:

- I will ask you to become active in our **legislative advocacy** program to ensure the continued excellence of Iowa State University.
- I will ask you to help us **recruit students.**
- I will ask you to enroll your children and grandchildren in our **Legacy Program.** (We can't recruit them if we don't know who they are!)
- I will encourage you to give **gift memberships** to your family members and colleagues.
- I will continue to encourage our board and staff, as well as our alumni and student volunteers, to help us engage a greater number of **students, international alumni, and alumni of color** in the life and work of the university and the Association.
- I am especially asking you to **seek out non-members.** Give them a call. Give them a nudge. Give them an application. Send them to our membership Web site (www.isualum.org/join). Let them know that we are less than 2,500 members away from becoming the second-largest dues-paying member alumni association in the Big 12 – surpassing Kansas. Help us reach our 125th anniversary goal of 50,000 members by the end of 2005!
- I will encourage you to increase or begin using our very successful **Cyclone credit card.** Did you know

that more than 32,000 Cyclones now carry this card? Did you know that by using this card, you help the Alumni Association support student leadership and scholarship programs, homecoming, and many other campus and Association projects? Royalties from the Cyclone card allowed the Alumni Association Board of Directors to give a $125,000 gift to the Morrill Hall renovation. This card is a phenomenal philanthropic tool. Every time you use your card, MBNA America provides a percentage of the purchase amount to the Association. Plus, for every dollar you spend on the mileage version of this card, you earn air miles. What are you waiting for? Get and use the Cyclone credit card!! (www.isualum.org/services/creditcard.html)

Happy New Year, and thank you for being an active member of this wonderful team of loyal Cyclones.

As always, I remain yours for Iowa State,



Jeff Johnson
President, ISU Alumni Association

New faces *Hamilton and Smack join ISU Alumni Association staff*

Susanne (Susie) Hamilton, former assistant director of residence life at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, is the new ISU Alumni Association assistant director for student outreach, and Elaine Smuck, who has spent five years as administrative assistant to the director of ISU's Memorial Union, is the Association's new administrative specialist.

Susie Hamilton

Hamilton advises Iowa State's award-winning Student Alumni Leadership Council (SALC) – a program of 66 student leaders who plan and organize such programs as homecoming, Senior Class Council, and Cyclone Alley.

"Susie has excellent experience working with students and is a welcome addition to the Alumni Association staff," said Julie Larson (MS '84 education), the Alumni Association's director of outreach and events.

Hamilton joined the Cornell College staff in 2002 after spending three years as a high school theatre and communications teacher with Hampton-Dumont Community Schools. She earned a B.A. in communication and theatre arts teaching from the University of Northern Iowa.

Elaine Smuck

In her role, Smuck will provide administrative support to Association President Jeff Johnson, supervise members of the Association's clerical staff, and coordinate special internal projects.

"We are very excited about Elaine joining our staff," said Johnson. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and people skills to this role."

Smuck has more than 20 years of administrative, secretarial, and supervisory experience in retail, health, and education. The administrative specialist position was created following the June 30, 2004, retirement of Carolyn Ringgenberg. Hamilton replaces Ellen Shertzer, who accepted a position last summer in Greek affairs at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Top of the heap

The Student Alumni Leadership Council (SALC) received two top national Association of Student Advancement Programs awards at that organization's Network Convention in Portland, Ore., in August.

SALC received the overall 2004 Outstanding Organization Award and the 2004 Outstanding Web Site for the organization's www.isusalc.org site. SALC shares these honors with two other schools in each category.

"The quality and dedication of our student leaders and the partnerships we have with many campus departments make our programs special and unique," said Julie Larson, ISU Alumni Association director of outreach and events.

Jeff Johnson, Alumni Association president, said, "The strengths of these partnerships, on and off the campus, coupled with the work ethic, intelligence, maturity, and creativity of our students makes winning these honors no surprise. We are blessed to be working with some of Iowa State's top student leaders."

SALC was formed by the Alumni Association in 1973 as the Student Alumni Association. The organization currently sponsors homecoming activities, Career Preview Days, a chili cook-off, Senior Class Council events, and many other activities. The organization also co-sponsors Cyclone Alley, the student spirit section at men's and women's basketball games, with the Department of Athletics.

JIM HEEMSTRA

Members of the award-winning Student Alumni Leadership Council worked at the Alumni Association tailgate during homecoming 2004.

Ellen Shertzer, former assistant director for student outreach, advised SALC during the 2003-2004 academic year. Kate Bruns ('99 journalism and mass communication), assistant director for electronic communications, designed and maintains the award-winning SALC Web site.

In April, SALC was named the top organization at the District VI Association of Student Advancement Programs conference. Iowa State will host the District VI conference in February 2005.

NEW LEADERSHIP

Erin McKeown has been named president of the Student Alumni Leadership Council for 2005. McKeown, a senior from Ottumwa, Iowa, with a major in marketing and management, was one of this year's homecoming central co-chairs and a member of the SALC Executive Council. She also served as one of the public relations/marketing directors for homecoming 2003. McKeown follows outgoing president Andrea Rheinhart, a senior management, French, and international business major from Bettendorf, Iowa.

A gift of membership, 39 times

Jon Fleming ('75 meteorology), an Ames physician and member of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors, has made a special gift to 39 members of Theta Chi Fraternity, for which he sits as chair of the chapter advisory board and serves on the chapter's alumni corporation board.

"I'm very happy I'm in a position to be able to offer this to Theta Chi members. It's a tremendous group of young men," Fleming said. "This organization has shown outstanding leadership on campus."

Fleming said he was motivated to make the gift because he feels strongly that his role as an adviser to the fraternity is to prepare fraternity members for life after college, which includes staying connected to the fraternity and Iowa State.

"I just felt that getting them involved now is more likely to keep them involved after graduation," Fleming said. "I feel very strongly that Alumni Association membership provides them with a strong vehicle to stay connected after graduation. This will go a long way; it will continue the trend of having many of our Greek grads be involved with the university after finishing school."

JIM HEEMSTRA

Jon Fleming and ISU Alumni Association President Jeff Johnson with members of Theta Chi Fraternity. Fleming purchased Student Alumni Association memberships for each member of the fraternity.

Fleming says he challenges other alumni leaders of Greek organizations to look into buying memberships or encouraging members to join. Membership in the Student Alumni Association provides students with the opportunity to participate in activities and events, receive numerous discounts around Ames, receive the award-winning ISU events calendar and VISIONS magazine, and wear the always-popular SAA T-shirt to show their Iowa State pride.

More information about the Student Alumni Association and membership benefits can be found online at www.isusaa.org.

Inside the Circle

New Circle members are, front row: Richard "Dick" Pecaut, Jill Wagner, and Roy Uelner. Back row: Jamie Lucas Stensland, Don Greiman, Marvin Walter, Martha Lagomarcino Gleason, and Les Omotani.

Eight new members of the Circle of Former Alumni Association Leaders were inducted Oct. 7, 2004, as part of the Association's gala weekend events.

Martha Lagomarcino Gleason ('80 elemetary education), Donald E. Greiman ('52 an sci), Les Omotani (Ph.D. '92 ed), Richard Pecaut for the late Dorothy A. Pecaut ('52 home ec), Jamie Lucas Stensland ('88, MS '93 journ), Roy Uelner ('57 indust engr), Jill Wagner ('76 indust admin), and Marvin Walter ('62, MS '64 an sci) were inducted during a special dinner and ceremony in the atrium of the Molecular Biology Building.

Roy Uelner, Brookfield, Wis., became chair of the Circle replacing Glen Mente ('61, MS '63 an sci).

From our house to yours: Season's greetings from the ISU Alumni Association

The staff celebrated the season by decorating the Association's new home in Fisher-Nickell Hall. *On the ground from left:* Jeff Johnson, Breck Breitsprecher, Beth Lott, Elaine Smuck, Pat Thiede, and Shellie Siders. *On the porch:* Susie Hamilton, Cecilia Dunlay, Cindy Marquardt, and Jan Breitman. *On the ladder at left:* Kate Bruns; *center ladder:* Scott Dahl and Barb Meyer; *right ladder:* Carole Gieseke and Karen Knight. *On the roof:* Suzanne Bandas, David Orth, Shellie Henry, and Julie Larson. *In the upstairs window:* Don Kockler; *downstairs window:* AshLea Anderson.

JIM HEEMSTRA

Two families

The Phillips family of Rapid City, S.D., and the Armbrecht family of Rockwell City, Iowa, were chosen as 2004 Families of the Year. This is the first time more than one family has received Family of the Year honors.

Robert and Lora Phillips recently moved to Rapid City from California. Their two children, Jennifer ((a senior in performing arts) and Brian ((a freshman open option major), are the first traditional college students in the family.

The Armbrecht family includes Paul ('71 DVM) and Marlene ('69 home ec. ed., MS '70). All five Armbrecht children – Eric ('95 an. ecology), Todd ('98 hotel, rest., & instit. mgmt), Amy ('98 text. & cloth.), Alyssa ('02 chem. engr. *I* food sci.), and Aaron ((a sophomore in civil engineering) – have also chosen to attend Iowa State.

The Family of the Year program, which began in 1968, is sponsored by the Student Alumni Leadership Council, ISU Family Weekend Committee, and ISU Parents Association.

From the Board of Directors

The ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors held its annual planning retreat and meeting on Aug. 13,2004. Board Chair Choy Leow presented his goals for the year, reviewed the accomplishments of the pastyear, and discussed the board's objectives for the upcoming year.

In the afternoon, the board and Association staff listened to a presentation by the Kansas State Alumni Association President Amy Button Renz and two members of the K-State Alumni Association Board of Directors. The three presented an overview of the planning, fundraising, construction, and management of the new K-State Alumni Center.

Following the K-State panel, Chris Ahoy, ISU vice president of facilities, and Dean Morton ('71 architecture, '74 MAR), ISU architect, explained the university's capital planning process and presented a timeline spreadsheet for the ISU alumni center.

AT THE FALL MEETING of the Board of Directors on Oct. 8,2004, the board met new Association staff members Susie Hamilton and Elaine Smuck.

The board also heard a Facilities Committee update and the announcement that the architectural firm of Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck (HLKB) had been recommended, following interviews with a number of architectural firms, as the committee's choice. The recommendation was forwarded to ISU President Gregory Geoffrey for his approval and then to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa. (Update following the board meeting: At the Nov. 4 meeting of the Board of Regents, the regents approved the selection of HLKB to design the alumni center.) The committee also announced that alumni center will be constructed at the intersection of Beach Avenue and Country Club Boulevard, near the Iowa State Center complex.

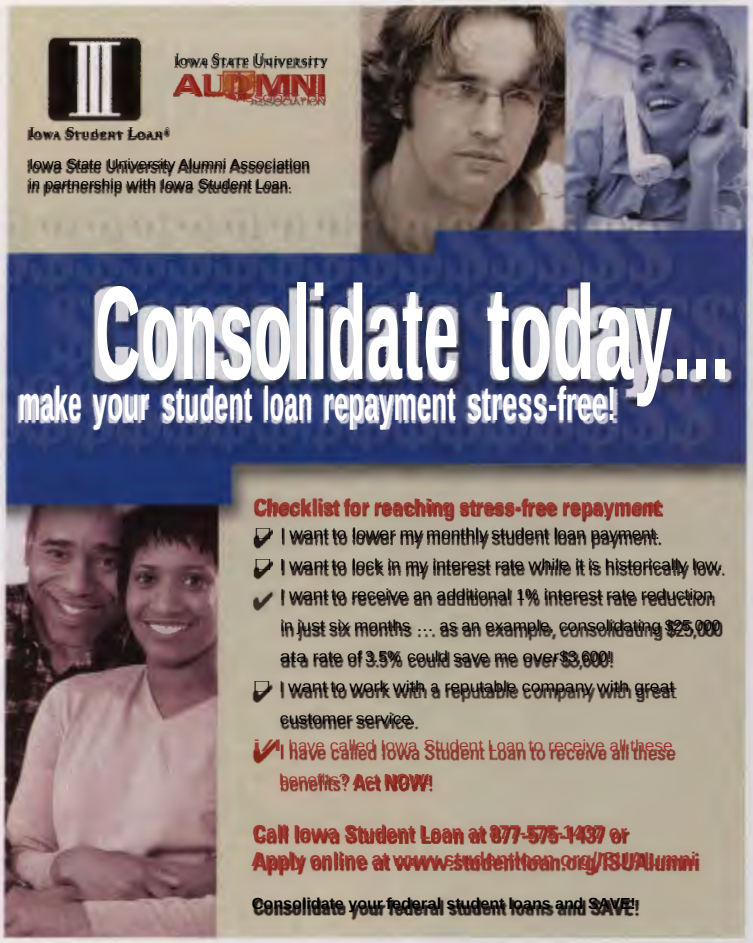
ISUAA President Jeff Johnson announced that the Association's contract extension with MBNA America is moving forward, and he outlined the details of the contract.

In other business, the board accepted the FY04 Audit and financial statements as presented and voted to move the winter 2005 meeting to Feb. 18.

Those were the days

2005 Alumni Days Class Reunions set for May 19-20

Mark your calendars for Alumni Days: May 19-20, 2005. Alumni Days is the golden anniversary reunion for the class of 1955. Special reunion years 1950,1945,1940,1935,1930, and 1925 will also be honored. ISU graduates from 1955 and earlier are invited to attend. Registration materials will be mailed in February to the special reunion classes and to anyone else requesting more information. To receive a brochure, call toll-free 1-877-478-2586, e-mail Pat Thiede at pthiede@alumni.iastate.edu



Thank you, Professor Hoover

Alumni create endowed chair to honor a special mentor, friend, and colleague

Craig Denny ('71, MS '73 civil engineering) and his wife, Terry ('72 elementary education), have created the James M. Hoover Chair in Geotechnical Engineering. The chair honors the late engineering faculty member Jim Hoover, who was a professor and role model during Craig's days as an ISU student – and his mentor, friend, and colleague for many years thereafter.

The College of Engineering recently installed Vernon Schaefer, professor of civil, construction, and environmental engineering, as the first recipient of the Hoover Chair. Craig recounts for VISIONS his relationship with Professor Hoover ('53, MS '56 civil engineering), and his reasons for remembering his mentor and friend with an endowed faculty position.

"I first met Professor Hoover in 1969. He taught CE 360, which met that fall quarter at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On that first day, I remember seeing Professor Hoover come through the door, walk to the podium, set his notebook down, place his head on the podium, and then, as he looked up at the class, announce, 'I don't like being here this early any more than you do.'

"Later that fall, Professor Hoover hired me to work part-time in the soil lab, where I worked closely with graduate students and faculty during my junior and senior years. I found the field of soil engineering very interesting, and I decided I would be a 'soil engineer.'

"It soon became apparent to me – actually Jim and other faculty members told me – that to successfully practice geotechnical engineering, I would need more than a bachelors degree. With Professor Hoover's help and encouragement, I was admitted to the graduate college and became one of Professor Hoover's graduate students in November 1971.

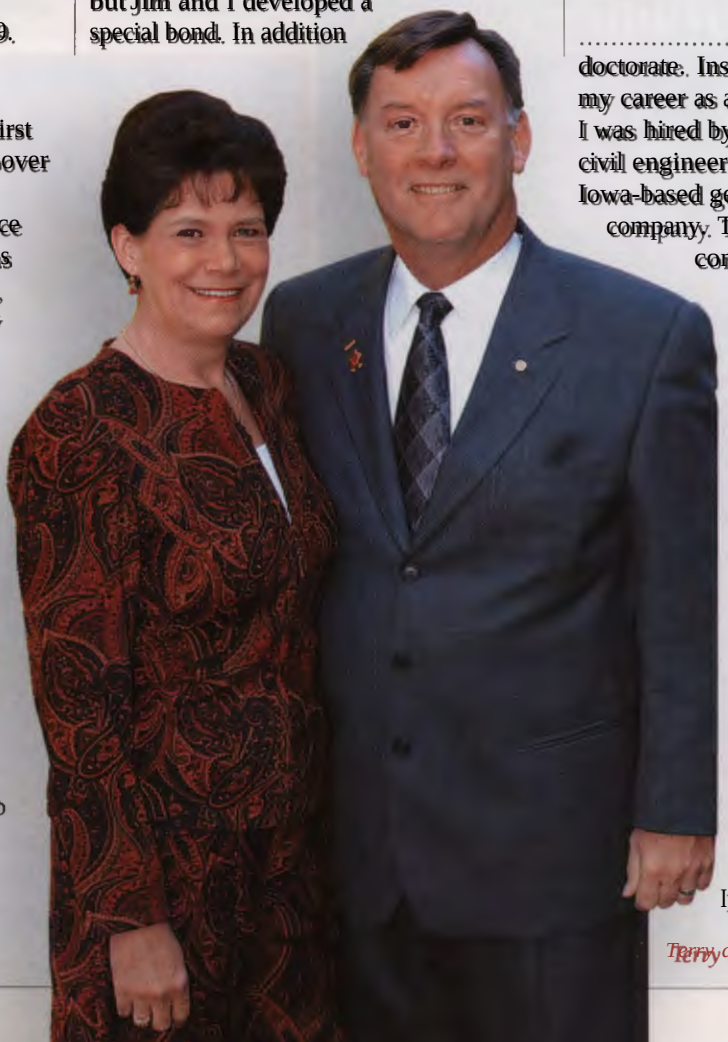
"Jim always set the tone of, 'Don't be afraid to try. Do all you can on your own. If you get really stuck, ask for help, but don't expect it to be handed to you.' Jim had a sense of humor, was easy to talk to, and encouraged his students to try things they might not normally attempt. That style made Jim an excellent teacher. He could get more out of his students than they thought possible.

"As my major professor, Jim Hoover was the person I went to for advice about classes, my research, and a variety of other things. (Terry reminded me that Jim came to our wedding – he probably had some advice for us that day, too.) Most graduate students develop a close relationship with their major professors, but Jim and I developed a special bond. In addition to being my role model, he became my mentor, colleague, and good, good friend. For years after I graduated, I continued to seek his advice.

"When I received my MS from ISU in 1973, Jim encouraged me to pursue my doctorate. Instead, I decided to begin my career as a consulting soil engineer. I was hired by Gerald Olson [MS '58 civil engineering], founder of a small Iowa-based geotechnical engineering company. Thirty-one years later, I continue to work for Terracon Consultants, now one of the largest geotechnical, environmental, and materials engineering firms in the nation.

"From time to time, I thought about going back to graduate school as Jim had suggested, but family and career obligations came first. In 1991, when Jim retired from ISU, I realized I had missed my opportunity to study with Jim at Iowa State. So, at age 42, with the encouragement and support of my family, Terracon, and Jim Hoover, I decided to pursue my

> **"The years I spent at Iowa State were special. I met my wife at ISU, and I made many long-lasting friendships, but interest shown in me by Professor Hoover had a profound and everlasting influence on my life."**



Terry and Craig Denny

doctorate. It took awhile because I continued to work full time, but I earned my Ph.D. in 1999. I am absolutely convinced that had it not been for Jim's guidance and encouragement over the years, I could not have done it.

"The years I spent at Iowa State were special. I met my wife at ISU, and I made many long-lasting friendships, but the interest shown in me by Professor Hoover had a profound and everlasting influence on my life.

"Sometimes all it takes is for someone to show a little interest in a student, and I sure think that was the situation with me. I think I would have succeeded at some level based on sheer determination, but the fact that Jim Hoover really took a personal interest in me made the difference. Because Terry and I believe that many of the wonderful things that have happened to us since we attended Iowa State can be traced back to the role Jim Hoover played in our lives, establishing the James M. Hoover Chair in Geotechnical Engineering was for us, quite simply, the right thing to do.

"Today, to compete for outstanding faculty and staff, Iowa State must continue to offer excellent teaching and research opportunities. As state budgets grow tighter, funding from other sources becomes more important. Establishing this endowed chair in geotechnical engineering in Jim's name enables Terry and I to give something tangible back to Iowa State University. We are proud to be Iowa State Cyclones!"

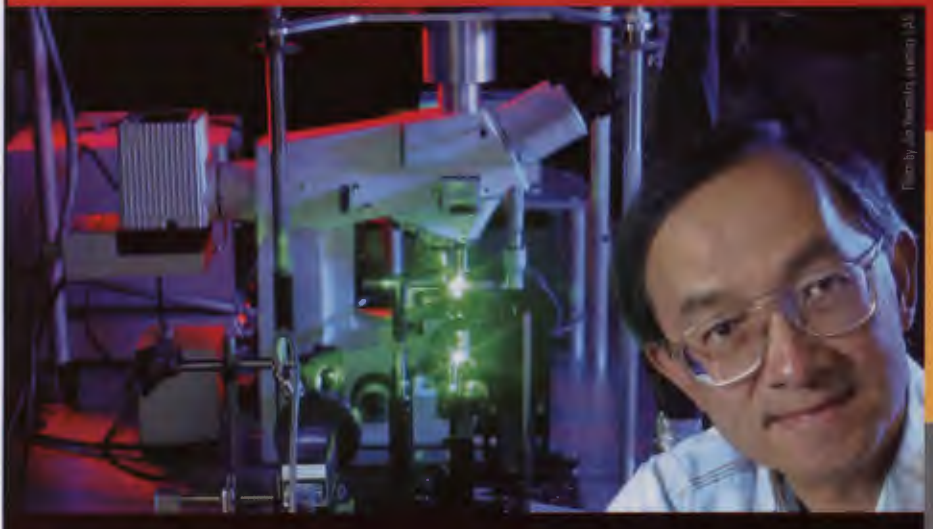
Craig Denny is a senior principal engineer with Terracon Consultants. Terry Denny is a paraprofessional with Shawnee Mission Schools. They have three grown daughters and reside in Lenexa, Kansas.

Endowed Faculty Positions

Endowed faculty positions allow Iowa State to recruit and retain world-class leaders by providing the highest level of faculty recognition. Endowed positions help support course development, graduate assistants, laboratory equipment, salary enhancements, professional development, and research projects.

To learn more about establishing an endowed faculty position at ISU, contact the ISU Foundation at 1-866-419-6768.

"YOUR GIFTS MAKE IOWA STATE GREAT"



EDWARD YEUNG, PH.D.

Distinguished professor of liberal arts and sciences and professor of chemistry

"The Robert Allen Wright Chair is a perfect example of how private support enhances research efforts at Iowa State. The discoveries made with the help of these funds expand our understanding of the world around us, and lead to breakthroughs that ultimately enhance our everyday lives."

The list of awards ISU chemistry professor Dr. Edward Yeung has received includes four awards considered the "Oscars" of applied science. Keeping world-class faculty like Dr. Yeung at ISU is made easier through private support. He was recently named the Robert Allen Wright Chair – established through a bequest to build and enhance the general excellence of academic programs.

To do your part to enhance the excellence of academics at Iowa State, call the ISU Foundation at 1-800-621-8515, or visit us at www.foundation.iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Adapting

How Bronx native Curtis Stinson became a basketball star in corn country

In the mid-1980s, Curtis Stinson was a kid at Third Avenue Park in the Bronx, watching his brother slash through the lane, a trademark sweatband encircling his head. As early as age six, Stinson remembers wanting to achieve what seemed at the time to be that unattainable epitome of cool, something that only a brother 11 years his senior could possibly be.

On March 25, 2004, the 21-year-old Stinson, all grown up and considerably more comfortable in his basketball shoes, pulled a red sweatband off his shaved head and held a golden apple in the air as he made a lap around the floor of Hilton Coliseum. It was a moment of joy and relief as he realized his team had made it to the semifinals of the National Invitational Tournament at New York's Madison Square Garden. Curtis Stinson was going home.

JIM HEEMSTRA

Home for Curtis Stinson is, and probably always will be, the Big Apple – the place where, Iowa State coach Wayne Morgan says, a person who says hello to you on the street is most likely going to either con or rob you. It's a different world from Ames, where Morgan has observed that it's actually a person *not* saying hi that is looked upon with suspicion.

But right now Ames suits Stinson, the 2004 Big 12 Freshman of the Year who is now an Iowa State sophomore, just fine. It's a peaceful place, Stinson says, where you don't have to worry about problems. Well, okay, so they're different problems: figuring out how you're going to handle a full day of class, workouts, and basketball practices while managing to stay focused on your own personal goals of winning a Big 12 championship and doing well in school as your name is bandied about as a potential early NBA draftee and a preseason candidate for All-America honors.

But that's just the life of Curtis Stinson.

It was Morgan, also a native New Yorker, who gave this life to the scrappy East Coast guard with the killer "teardrop" move. He recruited Stinson out of New England's prestigious Winchendon School, a preparatory school located in a place Morgan says is actually "smaller and less diverse than [Ames]."

"So it wasn't like he was taken straight from the Bronx and plunked down in the middle of Ames," Morgan says. "But coming from the Bronx and going through some of the things he has gone through have put him in a situation of

having to overcome a few more things."

In the transition process, Stinson has learned to lean on Morgan, who Stinson says has been instrumental in helping him learn to develop a Midwestern level of trust. And now, Stinson says, he trusts everyone until he's given a reason not to.

"I'll tell you this for sure," Morgan says. "If you get Curtis Stinson to trust you, you couldn't have a better friend. If I had to go into a foxhole tomorrow and fight for my life, I'm taking him with me."

It is this fighting-in-a-foxhole kinship between Morgan and Stinson that was perhaps key in convincing the young talent to come all the way to Iowa State to attend college. After hearing from a friend who had coached Stinson about a "Jamaal Tinsley-style player" who was the "toughest kid he ever coached," Morgan's interest was instantly piqued. "But sometimes they say that [a player is tough], and then you go to see the kid and he can't walk and chew gum at the same time," Morgan says. After seeing Stinson play, Morgan knew Stinson could do more at once: he could walk, chew gum, penetrate the lane, and exude mental toughness, leading his underdog team to greatness. And when Morgan actually met Stinson, the two were instantly close.

Close relationships have helped define Stinson's life as a basketball player and as a man, relationships that Morgan says start with the love and appreciation he has for his family.

"My mom, when she was raising me, did a whole lot for me," says Stinson, who has three brothers and two sisters. "It was a rough life growing up, but my brothers and sisters helped hold us together. My family is funny; they care, and they're respectful. They're just cool people to hang around with."

Morgan remembers that Stinson was the only recruit who would always be home when he was allowed to make his weekly recruiting call. "You expect to hear, 'No, can I take a message?' but Curtis was always there," Morgan says. "He has had great responsibilities in helping his mother Rosezine with his younger brothers and sisters. He has tremendous respect and love for his family. He understands that it's most important; there's no confusion there. I think that shows a lot of maturity."

Like in New York, Stinson can often be found at home in Ames. "I'm not a rowdy person," he says. Stinson says he's happiest when he's just hanging out in his apartment with friends like teammate Will Blalock ("He's like my little brother," Stinson jokes), eating a Culver's butter burger with cheese, and listening to rap music with the television tuned to *Sportscenter*.

Stinson admits that basketball is the biggest part of his life right now. And when you're one of the most recognizable student-athletes on campus, you never forget the fact that you're a hoops star. "It's kind of awkward for me, because I never thought I'd be at this level," explains Stinson. "But I put in enough work to get where I am, and I'm happy with it. My ultimate goal is to get to the top – to go to the NBA. But you've always got to have a back-up option if that doesn't work. Coach Morgan has taught us that. I'm just learning from him what the real world's all about."

In the real world, hard work is rewarded with opportunity, and on March 30, 2004, Stinson seized his. "I will never forget the NIT semifinal game. I played my heart out in the second half of that game," he remembers, his chin dropping slightly toward his chest and his voice fading even softer than usual. While it wasn't the ultimate achievement of reaching the NCAA Tournament, the NIT meant something big to the New Yorker from the first moment he found out the team had qualified. "As soon as I found out we were in the NIT, I thought, 'The championship is in New York City. I didn't think about the first, second, or third rounds," he says. "I wanted to get there."

When he was still dreaming hoop dreams as a youngster in New York, Stinson saw friends play in Madison Square Garden, but he never played there himself. In his first chance on the storied orange and blue court he dazzled, scoring 32 points in a heartbreaking overtime loss. He would not go on to play in the final championship game. But when the dust had settled, Stinson had had the opportunity to play in front of his whole family – an opportunity that can never be taken away. And it is still the comforts of home that mean the most. He followed his heart to Ames, he says. But there's certainly a big piece of him that still, as the T-shirt says, "hearts" NY. ◻

Sports Briefs

'The biggest name in wrestling'

Cael Sanderson, fresh from his gold-medal performance at the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, has joined the Cyclone wrestling staff as an assistant coach.

Sanderson ('01 art and design), a former four-time undefeated NCAA champion, has worked at ISU as an administrative assistant to Athletics Director Bruce Van De Velde ('82 physical education) for the last two years.

"I've always wanted to coach, and there can't be a better place to coach than right here with Bobby Douglas and Chris Bono ['97 exercise and sport science]," said Sanderson, who was honored on campus with "Cael Sanderson Day" on Sept. 17 after his Olympic win.

Douglas, ISU head wrestling coach, said, "Cael is the biggest name in wrestling, period. We're thrilled he will be staying at Iowa State."

Beyond the game

In the fall issue of VISIONS, we told you about 37 things to do in Ames on an ISU football weekend. Now a new book by Susan Kraus highlights 37 things and more to do in every town of the Big 12 during football season, basketball season, and beyond.

A Game Day Guide to Towns of the Big 12 uncovers local treasures in towns from Boulder to Waco: restaurants, hotels, coffee houses and bakeries, golf courses, bars, shops, museums, outdoor recreation, and activities for kids. The book is available in the Alumni Association's online store: www.isualum.org/store/ac618.html.

Calendar

Iowa State University ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Here's a sampling of upcoming events on the ISU campus and of alumni events across the country and around the world. Events are subject to change. For more information, visit the Alumni Association Web site: www.isualum.org or call toll-free 1-877-ISU-ALUM.

JANUARY

7 **Regents Universities Iowa Job Fair, Polk County Convention Complex**

14-15 Madrigal Dinner, Great Hall

22 Alumni Travel: Among the Great Whales (through Jan. 30)

23 Alumni Travel: Panama Canal (through Feb. 7)

27 St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre in *Romeo and Juliet*, Stephens

FEBRUARY

1 **Deadline for ISUAA homecoming 2005 awards nominations**
More information: www.isualum.org/services/AWARDS/nominate.html

1 ISU Choral Concert in Los Angeles

6 Musical: *Crazy for You*, Stephens

18 ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors winter meeting

18 National Acrobats of Taiwan, R.O.C., Stephens

21 Alumni Travel: Treasures of South America (through March 6)

24-25 ASAP District VI Conference (for student alumni programs)

25 Musical: *Fiddler on the Roof*, Stephens

27 Ladysmith Black Mambazo gospel performance, Stephens

MARCH

2-4 Ring Week

3 Prague Symphony Orchestra, Stephens

4 Ailey II dance performance, Stephens

8-12 **Big 12 Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments, Kansas City *(see the ISU Alumni Association Web site for pregame activities: www.isualum.org)***

16 Alumni Travel: Australia and New Zealand (through March 31)

30-31 Senior Cyonara grad fair

APRIL

3 Student Scholars and Leaders Recognition Ceremony

5 ISU Community Visit and Alumni Reception in Cedar Falls/Waterloo

8 **Distinguished Awards Ceremony**

15 Alumni Travel: Imperial Vienna (through April 23)

18 Official ISU Ring Ceremony

21 Cookin', Stephens

25 Alumni Travel: Alumni College in Orvieto, Italy (through May 3)

25 Alumni Travel: Antebellum South Along the Intracoastal Waterway (through May 3)

26 Alumni Travel: Portrait of Italy (through May 12)

30 Montana Repertory Theatre presents *Steel Magnolias*, Stephens

Save the date

- **Alumni Days:** May 19-20, 2005
- **Family Weekend:** October 8, 2005
- **Homecoming:** October 22, 2005

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*2003, Morgan Quitno Press; 2003, Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy; and 2003, Expansion Management Location Study.

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The only things certain in life are death and taxes ... and that Abby Thayer will be running around like a madwoman, doing a million things all at once. And doing them all well.

As an Iowa State student, Abby made her mark on campus as a multi-faceted student leader, tireless worker, and high-achieving scholar. But what makes her a legend in the ISU Alumni Association's Student Alumni Leadership Council office is her uncanny ability to sell Student Alumni Association memberships. This woman could sell an SAA membership to your grandmother. When the Association set a goal to increase SAA membership from 3,100 to 3,400 members in 2001 – the year Abby was vice president for membership – Abby set her own goal: 4,000. And guess what? That year, the Student Alumni Association grew to 4,229 members, ranking it as the second largest SAA program in the nation. The program has since topped 5,000 members.

Abby is just one of the 47,507 fascinating, involved, diverse individuals who make up the ISU Alumni Association's membership. In celebration of the Alumni Association's 125th anniversary, we've set a **milestone membership goal of 50,000** by the end of 2005. So if you're a member of the ISU Alumni Association, you're in good company! If you're not, please join or renew your membership today by calling toll-free 1-877-ISU-ALUM or joining online at www.isualum.org/join.

Or just call Abby.

Recruit a friend! The ISU Alumni Association is just 2,500 members away from its 50,000 membership goal!