

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Women's Club*

**February 2026 Newsletter**

***“Making a Difference, One Act at a Time”***

**ISUWC PRESIDENT, Michelle Cordes**



raised over \$1,000 for S.H.O.P. (Students Helping Our Peers), and many members gave the organization a direct donation that day as well. A big thanks to the Holiday Social Committee for organizing a fantastic event!

Just a reminder that this is the month when we are looking for members willing to step into leadership positions for 2026-2027. Please remember that in order for all of us to continue enjoying the ISUWC interest groups and events, we need women to volunteer to chair the committees and groups. It is only a one-year commitment and we will all support and help you during that time. You can contact anyone on the Nominating Committee (Carla Sacco, myself, Mary Bernau, Jonie Fitzsimmons) to find out which positions are open.

The next cabinet meeting will be February 16th at 12:30 pm followed by the General Assembly at 1:30 pm. Starting this month we will be having greeters to welcome you and let you know whether the meeting is still in progress. All members are welcome at the cabinet meetings and I would love to have more women see your cabinet in action.

Remember to continue your small acts of kindness! --Michelle

Greetings my friends,

Here we are in February already, one step closer to spring. I have to tell you that I am already looking forward to the daffodils popping their cheery faces out of the ground and thinking about what annuals I will plant this year.

I don't know about you, but I felt like December went by this year in a whirlwind of holiday gatherings and white elephant gift exchanges. We had a wonderful Holiday Social in December with a great turnout of almost 200 members (despite the nasty weather) to socialize and hear the hauntingly beautiful voice of Michael Londra. Our members were incredibly generous and the event

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, February 16–Member Assembly 1:30 pm**  
*Navigating Life as an Athlete, Entrepreneur, and  
Mental Health Advocate*

Bethesda Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

**Monday, March 16 – Member Assembly 1:30 pm**  
*Ames Development*

Bethesda Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

**Monday, April 20th – Spring Luncheon 12:00 pm**  
*Dr. Jennifer Rodgers*

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center

### OUR VISION

The vision of the  
Iowa State University Women's Club  
is to create unity through friendship;  
to promote a sense of belonging with each  
other  
and within the community; and  
as we grow, to have an impact on our society.

### OUR MISSION

To this end, our mission is to

1. Welcome and involve women of various interests, ages and experiences;
2. Provide opportunities for individual growth and enrichment;
3. Support scholarship and community service;
4. Grow and develop as an organization.

### CLUB INFORMATION

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|-----------------|--|
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### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Have you wondered where the yummy cookies, coffee and the decorations for the general meeting come from? We are the standing committee for hospitality of the four assembly programs. We come a bit early, make the coffee, arrange food trays, and set up the decorations. Each meeting we ask the two pre-assigned interest groups to provide four dozen cookies/bars and two volunteers to help us with clean-up. We hope you enjoy the refreshments and want you to know that there are many involved in getting things organized.

- - Linda Geil, Carla Persaud, Denise Vrchota,  
Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs

## Typists Wanted for 2026-2027 Yearbook

**Job Summary:** The Yearbook Committee is seeking two ISUWC members to join the Yearbook team as page typists. The ideal candidate will have familiarity with Word and be available to type a group of pages in late May-mid June using a page template. Coaching prior to typing will be provided to enable the candidates to become familiar with the process and be successful.

### Benefits:

- Satisfaction of helping to prepare an important document for ISUWC members.
- Meet and enjoy working with a great team of ISUWC members.
- Flexible, short-term task completed in your own time.

Contact Marlene Geiger, Yearbook Committee Chair, 515-451-0421, to learn more.

## Special Article on Volunteering

Food at First is a local nonprofit that feeds the hungry and repurposes food. The 21 years old organization started with feeding the hungry one meal a week. Now the organization has one paid staff, Patty Yoder, Executive Director, and provides one meal a day for about one hundred people. Food at First also provides a fresh food market three times a week where families shop and choose fresh food. The market serves about 150-180 at each market.

The organization is run by hundreds of volunteers who not only glean food daily from every local

grocery store and ISU Food Services, but they also prepare and serve all the meals. It takes a minimum of seven volunteers two hours to prepare the meal and eleven volunteers to serve and clean up after a meal. In addition, there are about one hundred volunteers that staff the market, run routes as gleaners and crews that work daily on special projects. ISU Women's Club supplies volunteers to the organization through the Give Group.

Food at First is a scrappy organization that works on a shoestring budget and shows the power volunteering can make to an organization!

--Terri Hasselman

## Business attire donations for students sought prior to February career fairs

22 Jan 2026: Excerpts from *Inside Iowa State*

Iowa State's free Business Attire Pop-Up Shop, which has a permanent space in the east Memorial Union, is accepting new or gently used business attire now to share with students in preparation for the spring career fairs ([www.career.iastate.edu/career-fairs/](http://www.career.iastate.edu/career-fairs/)) Feb. 10-March 9. Items sought most frequently by students are dresses, blazers, suits, slacks, large and tall menswear, loafers, flats, dress shoes, ties, steel-toed work boots, lab coats, goggles and accessories. All donations can be dropped off at Memorial Union Multicultural Center, (around the corner from the information desk) during building open hours. To request pick-up for a donation, contact [AR5466@iastate.edu](mailto:AR5466@iastate.edu) (Alyssa) or [cook2@iastate.edu](mailto:cook2@iastate.edu) (Austin). Monetary donations, can be submitted to the **professional attire closet fund** at the ISU Foundation. Questions can be emailed to [thecloset@iastate.edu](mailto:thecloset@iastate.edu). More information is shared on Instagram @isupopup.

## November Assembly

Rick Sanders, President of the Iowa State University Research Park, gave a CyTown update. Sanders provided an excellent history of the project as well as very informative update on the current progress and plans.

Please join us at our Feb 16 assembly to hear from Mental Health Advocate Lyndsey Fennelly.

-- Shari Glenn and Karla Drapel



## Highlights from a Successful Holiday Social

### ISU Tells Us about SHOP - Quilt Raffle



### Lovely Holiday Decorations



### Yummy Holiday Treats and Hot Drinks



### Michael Londra Serenades Us!





**ISUWC All-Member Assembly**  
**February 16 - 1:30 pm**  
**Bethesda Fellowship Hall**



*Navigating Life as an Athlete, Entrepreneur, and  
Mental Health Advocate*

*by*

*Lyndsey Fennelly*

*Former WNBA Point Guard, Player Development Coach*

**Hostesses**  
**Card and Games, Culture Sharing**



**ISUWC All-Member Assembly**  
**March 16 - 1:30 pm**  
**Bethesda Fellowship Hall**



*Ames Development*  
*by*  
*Justin R Dodge*  
*Project Manager, Hunziker & Associates, Inc*

**Hostesses**  
**G.I.V.E., Newcomers**

## Spring Luncheon

**You are cordially invited**  
**ISUWC Spring Luncheon**  
**April 20 ~ 12 noon**  
**Gateway Hotel & Conference Center**

Enjoy a great afternoon with your ISUWC friends! #  
Plated meal with vegetarian option  
2026-27 Scholarship Award Recipients Revealed  
Guest Presentation



**“RAISING WOMEN’S VOICES”**  
BY  
**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**DR JENNIFER RODGERS**  
**ISU ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHORAL**  
**ACTIVITIES/ASSISTANT TEACHING**  
**PROFESSOR OF VOICE**



Tickets \$25  
Available at Burgie’s Coffee locations,  
O’Donnell Ace Hardware,  
Cook’s Emporium,  
February 16 and March 16 ISUWC Assemblies,  
committee members and some interest groups.

The Spring Event Committee warmly invites you to join them for the ISUWC Spring Luncheon, celebrating empowerment and community. Our speaker, Dr. Rodgers, is renowned for her expertise and passion for music and vocal expression, making her the perfect speaker to uplift and inspire us all. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and celebrating the power of women's voices in our community.

Besides locations listed in the flyer, tickets will also be available during the ISUWC Assemblies on February 16 and March 16, as well as through various interest groups. Make sure to grab your tickets early to ensure your attendance at this exciting event!

## Group Photos



**Top:** The Not-So-Newcomers toured our community radio station, 89.1 FM KHOI, and learned about the station's history, programming, and how to volunteer. One member was selected to record the station identification message. Afterwards lunch was enjoyed at Cornbred Barbecue.

**Bottom Right:** About 20 members of the Art and About Group, including President Michelle Cordes, enjoyed a guided tour of the Brunnier Museum on November 13, 2025. Curator, Adrienne Gilette, gave an interesting and informative program.



## Group Photos



**Top Left:** Paddlers enjoyed a night paddle at Ada Heyden Heritage Park Lake on November 4. The intention was to see the moon rise but due to clouds and a time miscalculation, the moon rise was missed but the sunset was amazing. Eventually, the group saw the moon, too.



**Bottom Left:** Over 20 ISUWC Garden Club members heard Stephanie Shepherd, IA DNR, speak about Bumble Bees at the Nov 12 meeting at Ames Library.

## Group Photos

**Top Right:** The G.I.V.E group made holiday cards for local nursing homes through the Bring Smiles to Seniors program.



**Middle Left:** The Lunch Ladies dined at the Fuji Japanese Steak House in December.

**Bottom Right:** The Biking Babes held their holiday party at Janell Eby's house.



## Group Photos



**Top Left:** Paddlers met for a potluck in December and shared pictures and videos of their water adventures. Thank you to Tammy for hosting!



**Middle Left:** The Not-So-Newcomers took a full 3-story tour of the artist and creative spaces in the Octagon Center of the Arts and learned about the variety of programs they offer. Afterwards they purchased holiday gifts in the wonderful gift shop and then reconvened at Sweet Caroline's for lunch.

**Bottom Right:** Taste Buds, hosted by Ellen Janke, enjoyed a delicious lunch and fun cookie exchange in December. They even painted a cookie!



## Group Photos

**Top Right:** The Not-So-Newcomers enjoyed a fascinating tour of the ISU Farm House Museum and are looking forward to the Museum's upcoming special exhibit, *America 250: Prairie, Plows, and the People's College*. Lunch followed at Wallaby's Bar and Grille.



**Bottom Left:** The Crazy Plant Ladies learned about the benefits of pruning holiday cactus and then took to pruning plants. Everyone had the opportunity to take home pruned cladodes to propagate.

## Group Photos

**Top Right:** Iowa Cafe Adventures ventured to Applebee's Grill & Bar for their January lunch outing.



**Bottom Left:** Eighteen ISUWC Nature Studies members and over 20 Green Hills residents met at Green Hills Retirement Community on January 28. Gabrielle Edwards, Ames City Forester, gave a thorough and excellent description of the Ames Community Tree Planting Program.