

STUDENTS LIVING **CARDINAL**, **GOLD** AND **GREEN**

Each year, student organizations across Iowa State bring their enthusiasm and energy to life through a variety of traditional annual events. Some raise awareness for important causes, some celebrate culture and some spread joy by bringing smiles to students and staff through showcasing their club's expertise. Organizing these events requires a lot of effort, and students dedicate themselves to ensuring that each tradition reflects their group's values and contributes to the Iowa State and Ames communities. These events not only foster a sense of connection among students but also play a key role in making our community stronger, more vibrant and sustainable.

This month's Students Living Cardinal, Gold and Green article highlights how The Fashion Show, Horticulture Club, Gaffer's Guild, Alpha Omicron Pi and the Sustainable Agriculture Student Organization at Iowa State University ensure traditions of service, outreach and cultivation of a welcoming and engaging environment, through events and initiatives.

A Tradition of Style

The Fashion Show (TFS) at Iowa State is one of the university's longest-standing traditions. Established in 1982, this student-run organization has hosted one of the largest student-led fashion events in the country for over 43 years. Its mission is to provide a platform for students to showcase their designs while fostering connections with industry professionals through guest speakers, corporate partnerships and industry judges. TFS enriches both the educational and community experience at Iowa State, offering students a unique opportunity to display their work and celebrate creativity and innovation in fashion.



Photo Courtesy of The Fashion Show

This tradition not only provides a valuable professional development opportunity for students but also embodies the values and culture of the organization. TFS consistently highlights its identity as a fully student-run initiative.

Together, participants foster an environment that is inclusive and celebratory of their peers' work and achievements. In addition to a commitment to inclusivity, TFS supports social sustainability by featuring models of diverse sizes and ethnicities, while ensuring that all committee

members, directors and models have a voice. TFS is excited to collaborate with individuals from all backgrounds and aims to offer them a platform to showcase their unique talents.

TFS promotes social sustainability by fostering a collaborative community for individuals passionate about fashion.



Photo Courtesy of The Fashion Show

It offers a platform for creative minds from all disciplines to come together, design and create a high-quality experience that engages the Iowa State community and beyond. Founded within a university with a strong focus on science and technology, TFS introduces a unique perspective that encourages students of all majors to collaborate and innovate in the fashion world.

TFS

Image Courtesy of The Fashion Show website



Photo Courtesy of The Fashion Show

The organization is committed to financial sustainability, expanding its initiatives only when it is certain they can be financially supported. TFS recognizes the value of long-term investments and focuses on initiatives that will deliver significant benefits over time, far surpassing initial costs.

In addition, moving forward the organization is dedicated to advancing environmental sustainability by promoting eco-friendly designs and practices across its events. TFS is focused on ongoing growth and aims to make a positive environmental impact through its efforts.

The organization aims to build not only a strong community within the Apparel, Merchandising, & Design major but also a broader connection across campus and with the Ames community, including those who may not yet be familiar with the show. They achieve this through a variety of

initiatives, such as on-campus events like the annual reveal of their guest company, an awards night honoring designers who create looks for the show and opportunities for alumni to return as guest judges for garment submissions.

One of their biggest and most engaging campus events is "Fashion Week," which features a different event each day to generate excitement for the show and expand their reach across Iowa State's campus.



Photo Courtesy of The Fashion Show

The Social Media, Public Relations, and Philanthropy Committees play key roles in engaging with the campus community, while the Behind the Scenes Day Committee focuses on showcasing the organization to prospective students.

TFS is thrilled to welcome participants from all majors and loves seeing both new and returning faces! There are many ways to get involved, whether as a committee member on one of 15 committees, a designer, a model or a director.

This year's show will take place on April 12, 2025. While directors, models and committee members have already been chosen, designers can still submit their collections or looks until early March. For more information about [The Fashion Show](#), visit their webpage on the Iowa State University Student Organization database website.

Tradition Through Art

Fashion is not the only art form with a longstanding tradition at Iowa State University. Many students and clubs have developed rich traditions of coming together to showcase their creative talents and inspire the campus community.



Image Courtesy of Gaffer's Guild website

These traditions help build a vibrant, inclusive environment where creativity thrives and continues to shape the campus culture. The annual Art Mart sale provides a great opportunity to show student artwork, and for the Iowa State Gaffer's Guild, it is a special tradition.



Photo Courtesy of Gaffer's Guild Instagram

The Gaffer's Guild is a student-run club dedicated to promoting the art and science of glassblowing through hands-on education and training. By sharing their craft, they aim to cultivate a community that appreciates the beauty and complexity of glassblowing. Art Mart has been an integral part of the Guild's activities for over three years, offering members a unique platform to display their work and inspire others to explore this captivating art form.

"Art Mart offers a unique opportunity for our club to highlight the significance of glassblowing and connect with the broader community," says Gaffer's Guild president Ben Beyer. "Without events like Art Mart, we would miss a crucial chance to engage with students and community members."

This event embodies the core values of the Gaffer's Guild by giving members a chance to share their passion and creativity

with others. It is more than just an exhibition; it is a celebration of the artistry, skill and dedication that drives the club.

Through the Art Mart event, the Guild fosters meaningful connections with students, alumni and community members alike, helping to deepen their appreciation of glassblowing as both as an art and a communal experience to be shared.

In addition to their involvement in Art Mart, Gaffer's Guild is committed to promoting social sustainability by creating inclusive opportunities for community engagement. The club regularly hosts glassblowing demonstrations to educate and inspire audiences about their craft.

Made up primarily of Iowa State students and alumni, the Guild strengthens its ties to the university and the surrounding community by connecting current and past Iowa State university students through this one-of-a-kind organization.



Photo Courtesy of Gaffer's Guild

The Gaffer's Guild is always welcoming new members. For more information or to apply to join, [visit the club's webpage](#) on the Iowa State University Student Organization Database website.

For more information about Art Mart and other events happening at Winterfest, visit the [events page](#) on the Iowa State University Student Engagement website.



Photo Courtesy of Gaffer's Guild Facebook

A Blooming Tradition

Iowa State University provides an ideal environment for fostering positivity, a commitment that is reflected in the efforts of numerous student organizations.

Through the celebration of cherished traditions, these organizations bring joy to both the Iowa State and Ames communities, while inspiring their members to pursue their passions and make a meaningful impact.

The Horticulture Club at Iowa State University, founded 124 years ago, is committed to fostering knowledge and excellence in horticultural practices among students and the broader horticulture community. One of its long-standing

traditions, the Valentine's Day Bouquet Sale, serves as both a fundraiser to support club activities and membership dues, and a celebration of the beauty of horticulture with the campus.

"This event reflects the Horticulture Club's values by promoting engagement with flowers and horticulture, while offering meaningful volunteer opportunities," said Sabrina Jankowski, president of the Horticulture Club.



The Valentine's Day Bouquet Sale is rooted in sustainability, making sure their organization touches on all three pillars—environmental, economic and social.

Environmentally, the sale emphasizes responsibly sourced flowers and eco-conscious practices in the preparation for the event and distribution of bouquets to customers.

Economically, the sale provides essential funding for the club's initiatives, enabling financial independence and supporting the growth of future horticultural

leaders. Socially, the sale fosters community by connecting students and faculty with a shared appreciation for horticulture, while giving club members the chance to develop teamwork and leadership skills.



Photo Courtesy of ISU Horticulture Club Facebook

"We give our customers as much control as possible over their order, from selecting flowers and greenery to adding personalized messages with pre-orders," said club member Gabrielle Tammarine. "It has been heartwarming to see parents ordering bouquets for their students, making the experience even more special."

The Horticulture Club offers many ways for students to get involved, with meetings every other Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. and numerous volunteer opportunities. The club actively engages with students through Instagram and encourages individuals to reach out to the executive team or committee heads for more information.



Photo Courtesy of ISU Horticulture Club Instagram

Volunteering with the club provides a hands-on experience that cannot be found elsewhere. To learn more about the [Horticulture Club](#), visit their webpage on the Iowa State University Student Organization Database website.



Photo Courtesy of ISU Horticulture Club Facebook

Growing Tradition

At a university with such a deep and storied tradition in farming and agriculture, it only makes sense that these values would extend far beyond the classroom and fields.

The rich history of cultivating the land naturally fosters a vibrant culture of community engagement and service, where giving back is seen not just as a duty, but as a way of continuing the legacy of growth and sustainability.

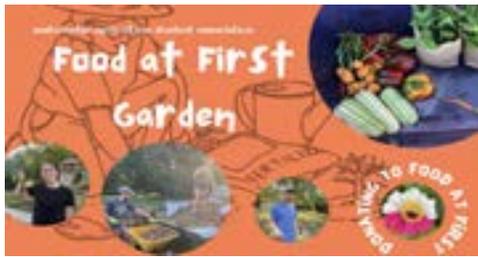


Image Courtesy of Sustainable Agriculture Student Organization Facebook

The Sustainable Agriculture Student Association (SASA) is dedicated to fostering a diverse range of student ideas and initiatives centered around sustainable agriculture.

Part of their mission is using their skills and resources to give back to their community. Since 2013, SASA has fulfilled the tradition of overseeing and managing the Food at First Garden, offering a hands-on opportunity to practice these values and has become a cornerstone of SASA's mission.

The garden is supported through a partnership between Food at First and Trinity Christian Reformed Church. It provides a space for SASA members to engage in sustainable food production that directly benefits the community.



Photo Courtesy of Sustainable Agriculture Student Organization

The garden also serves as an educational resource for horticultural students and those interested in agriculture, offering real-world experience in growing a variety of crops, managing plant health and implementing techniques for overwintering and weed suppression.



Photo Courtesy of Sustainable Agriculture Student Organization

The club promotes environmental sustainability through local practices in Ames, encouraging students to explore how sustainability can integrate into their daily lives—both through agriculture and beyond.

They also support sustainability events across Iowa and broaden perspectives through national and global programs like the Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture and its annual Research Symposium. This garden initiative also promotes social sustainability by providing fresh produce to Food at First, a vital organization that works tirelessly to ensure food security for

everyone in the Ames community, regardless of their circumstances. Food security is a key pillar of a sustainable future.

The SASA garden is open to more than just club members—it invites everyone in the Iowa State and Ames communities to contribute their passion for gardening and make a meaningful impact.



Photo Courtesy of Sustainable Agriculture Student Organization

“We welcome all students and community members to join us in the garden,” says SASA president Elizabeth Ortiz. “The support we receive from the community is reflected in the abundance of crops we grow and manage. Everyone’s help is appreciated.”

The best way for community members to get involved is by volunteering in the garden or assisting SASA at the Food at First Kitchen every third Friday of the month. SASA stays active on social media and can be reached via Instagram ([@sasa.iowastate](https://www.instagram.com/sasa.iowastate)), Facebook ([Sustainable Agriculture Student Association](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableAgricultureStudentAssociation)), and by emailing enortiz1@iastate.edu or hollisj@iastate.edu.

Tradition through Charity

Many student organizations at Iowa State University are committed to fostering positive change, both within the Ames community and beyond, at the state and national levels.

These organizations have developed meaningful traditions that empower members to contribute their time, skills, and resources toward supporting various important causes. Alpha Omicron Pi's (AOII) international philanthropy helps raise funding for arthritis awareness, research and improving the lives of those that are afflicted.



Image Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi

The Iowa State University chapter has made it a tradition to host events each fall and spring to raise money for the Arthritis Foundation. Since 1987, AOII has partnered with the Ames Area Running Club to organize Run for the Roses, a 5k/10k race that has raised over \$366,000 for the Arthritis Foundation. Run for the Roses provides a special opportunity to support the Arthritis Foundation's mission of

advancing arthritis treatment and research, while also enhancing the quality of life for those affected by arthritis. For AOII members, it offers a chance to gain valuable leadership experience. Chapter members can take on roles in event organization, planning and promotion, helping them develop teamwork skills and foster personal growth. This event reflects AOII's core values by promoting health, wellness and community engagement.



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi

"Run for the Roses encourages participants to set goals, aligns with AOII's commitment to scholarship, and fosters an inclusive, positive environment that builds character and dignity," said Grace McEvoy, AOII chapter president. "By raising funds and awareness for the Arthritis Foundation, the event reflects our dedication to philanthropy.

It also unites the Iowa State and Ames communities, showcasing AOII's commitment to loyalty and forming lasting connections."

Sustainability is also a key focus of Run for the Roses. The event promotes environmental sustainability by prioritizing reusable materials, minimizing waste and reducing any unnecessary purchases.

Economic sustainability is supported through long-standing relationships with local sponsors, whose contributions help reduce event costs and direct more funds to the Arthritis Foundation.

Sponsors also benefit from the exposure provided by the event, strengthening their ties to the community. Social sustainability is achieved by bringing together the Ames and Iowa State communities for a shared cause, fostering a sense of unity. The event also helps raise awareness about arthritis, increasing public understanding of the disease and deepening community engagement with the cause.



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi

chapter's perspective. Students interested in learning more about the Run for the Roses event and AOII's philanthropic efforts can attend informational meetings, follow AOII's social media or visit campus activity fairs.

Additionally, new students who are passionate about AOII's mission can consider joining the chapter to become more involved in its initiatives. These opportunities allow students to make a meaningful contribution, develop leadership skills and connect with both the campus and local communities.

connects students from diverse backgrounds, and ensures that both the university and Ames thrive together through meaningful engagement and shared experiences.

These are just a few of the many traditions supported and sustained by Iowa State University student organizations. To learn more, visit the [Iowa State University Student Organizations Database website](#) or by attending [ClubFest](#) on January 29.



On campus, AOII encourages students, faculty and staff to get involved through participation, volunteering and spreading the word about the event. Run for the Roses is promoted across campus through social media, flyers and word of mouth, generating excitement and support.

The Ames Area Running Club plays a key role in engaging the local community, encouraging runners and fitness enthusiasts to join in. Local businesses also contribute as sponsors, further strengthening the event's impact. New students can get involved with Run for the Roses by volunteering to help with event logistics, such as setup, registration or race day operations. Information on how to participate is available on the [Ames Area Running Club website](#). AOII chapter members can run for leadership positions to help with event planning from the



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi

Iowa State University's student organizations play a crucial role in preserving traditions, creating memorable experiences, and fostering a sense of community on campus.

Through their events and initiatives, these groups embody the values of service, inclusivity and sustainability, making a lasting impact not only at the university but also in the Ames community. Their dedication strengthens bonds,