

## The Editor's Perspective

AS IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY approaches its sesquicentennial in 2008, it plays a prominent role in this issue of the *Annals of Iowa*. Jenny Barker Devine, a Ph.D. candidate in the university's agricultural history and rural studies program, writes about the role of women in the Iowa Farm Bureau, which has, from its beginning, had an intimate relationship with the Iowa State extension program. Megan Birk, formerly a student in the same program, describes a fascinating experiment in laboratory education within the school's highly respected home economics department.

These are just a couple of examples of the ways Iowa State University has been both a producer and a subject of rich historical research and writing over the years. A bibliography of materials published between 1952 and 1986 lists 70 books and articles about Iowa State published during those years, and there have been many more before and since then.<sup>1</sup> (In this journal in 2000, for example, Joanne Abel Goldman analyzed the role of Iowa State chemists in purifying uranium during World War II, an endeavor that was critical to the success of the Manhattan Project, which culminated in the production of the atomic bomb.<sup>2</sup>)

The approaching anniversary provides the occasion to step back and compile the university's history. Dorothy Schwieder, who has done as much as anyone in the state to promote research on Iowa history, both through her own research and writing and through teaching Iowa history to Iowa State University students from 1966 until her retirement a couple of years ago, is leading the effort to produce a book-length history of the university. It is due to be published in 2007.

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1. Patricia Dawson and David Hudson, comps., *Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published between 1952 and 1986* (Ames, 1989), 155–57.

2. Joanne Abel Goldman, "Mobilizing Science in the Heartland: Iowa State College, the State University of Iowa, and National Science during World War II," *Annals of Iowa* 59 (2000), 374–97.

I am grateful to all of the Iowa State University faculty and students who have been so supportive of the work of the *Annals of Iowa*, and who have contributed so much to Iowa history research and writing. Everyone associated with the university has much to celebrate as the significant anniversary of its founding as Iowa's land-grant university approaches.

—Marvin Bergman, editor

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