

Contact: Jean Friedrich

**PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF LAND GIFT FOR IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider authorizing the acceptance, for the benefit of Iowa State University, of approximately 76 acres of land located in Boone County, Iowa, from Everett Casey, subject to approval of the final documents by the Board Office and Attorney General's Office.

**(ROLL CALL VOTE)**

**Executive Summary:** The Board is requested to authorize acceptance of approximately 76 acres of land located in Boone County, Iowa, from Everett Casey to establish the Everett Casey Nature Center and Reserve, which will enable the ISU English Department to fully implement its new Masters in Fine Art (MFA) program in Creative Writing and Environment. (The program, in its third year, has achieved its steady-state enrollment of 30 students, who currently come from 13 states and two countries.) The rich ecological dynamic of this undeveloped property and its close proximity to Iowa State University (15 miles from campus) make it a perfect research and laboratory site for students and faculty.

Initially, an access road and parking lot (estimated cost of \$17,000), and minor improvements will allow faculty and students to use the property, and cash rent from approximately 15 tillable acres included in the land gift will sustain educational activities. Additional improvements, including a permanent structure, may be made in the future as resources become available; future development will depend upon rental income or fundraising, and not existing University resources.

Iowa State University's Department of English and its MFA program in Creative Writing and Environment promise responsible stewardship of the Everett Casey property, with the first priorities being the preservation and the enhancement of its "wild" character.

Several departments (e.g., forestry, landscape architecture, wildlife biology, environmental science, environmental studies, and ecology, evolution, and organismal biology) will be approached to explore the possibility of interdisciplinary projects involving students and faculty.

The gift will be contingent upon completion of an environmental survey. The gift agreement will contain a provision that after 25 years, ISU could sell the property and invest the proceeds to support programs in the Department of English. If during the first 25 years the University's use is no longer appropriate, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has indicated a willingness to manage the property.

Everett Casey, a 1946 Engineering graduate of ISU, continues to work 60-75 hours a week as an attorney and owner of a small manufacturing company that primarily manufactures molded plastics and airframe structural components. He and his wife reside in Farmington, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Mr. Casey has indicated a desire to thank those who were so much a part of his education and enrichment some 55 years ago (his interest in technical and legal writing stemmed from a combination of both English and Engineering) by gifting this wooded property to the University for the development of the University's creative writing program.

The University is very appreciative of this very generous gift from Everett Casey, estimated to be worth approximately \$300,000. Subject to completion of the necessary agreements, the University is requesting approval from the Board of Regents to accept this gift.

Additional information is available from the Board Office.

