



growing

THE FUTURE

Catherine Swoboda's early interaction with legendary Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug inspired a career influencing the world's food policies.

Catherine Swoboda once ran into Dr. Norman Borlaug, the late Nobel Peace Prize winner who was credited with saving a billion lives through disease-resistant wheat, at his birthday party.

It was March 2005 at the State Capitol, and Swoboda sat at a table with other college students who had taken part in youth programs of the World Food Prize, the Des Moines-based organization that awards what is billed as the Nobel Prize of agriculture. Borlaug, then a man in his 90s with a passion for young people, asked the students about their plans for college.

Swoboda, a kid from Des Moines' east side who played hockey and loved science, told Borlaug she was going to school to study agronomy, his field of expertise. "I just remember he grabbed me and said, 'God bless you,'" recalls Swoboda, now 28. "But that was enough inspiration for me to be putting in the long hours I am

YP SPOTLIGHT



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MORE ONLINE

Swoboda discusses the challenges and rewards of planning World Food Prize events at DesMoinesRegister.com

Catherine Swoboda, director of Iowa and Midwest education programs at the World Food Prize, is busy planning the organization's symposium, summit and award ceremonies this

SWOBODA

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right now. On a day-to-day basis.”

Since her first meeting with Borlaug in high school, Swoboda's pursuit of justice through science has taken her across continents and back to Iowa, back to an organization she works with to connect young people to the most pressing issues in agriculture today.

Lately you'll find Swoboda working long hours at the World Food Prize building downtown. She's a program director and one of just nine staff members organizing this week's World Food Prize events, a slew of ceremonies set to draw 1,300 people to Des Moines, including the president of Iceland, a former British Prime Minister and a high-ranking cardinal appointed by the Pope.

In the past month or two, the basement offices at the World Food Prize building have looked like those of a presidential campaign at the height of caucus season. The lights are almost always on. The computers rarely turned off. Young staffers work until 2 a.m. or later, with occasional breaks for takeout food or a nap beneath their desk.

Swoboda organized the prize's Iowa Hunger Summit this year, a statewide gathering of Iowans addressing hunger, set for Tuesday at the downtown Marriott. The logistics of a large-scale event that draws hundreds is demanding, Swoboda said, but it's rooted in bettering lives and ending hunger. So it's worth it.

“You're exerting physically and mentally so hard, but the sense of community keeps you going,” she said.

Last year, a World Food Prize staffer was injured by a car while walking home from work late one night leading up to the 2012 World Food Prize symposium. Kenneth Quinn, a former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia and the prize's president, relied on Swoboda to step up and run the entire week's events. She pulled it off and the week was a success, Quinn said, though he did send Swoboda home to sleep once after she worked 24 hours straight.

“It's the kind of dedicated person that she is,” Quinn said. “She has in her Swoboda genes, from her family, a deep heart.”

Those genes come directly from Rod Swoboda, an agricultural writer, and Eileen Swoboda, a social worker, both of Des Moines. Their daughter and older son, Frank, grew up knowing their father's passion for land stewardship. They knew their mother's heart for children in the foster care system.

“A lot of the focus on people and

social justice comes through both of our parents together,” said Frank Swoboda, now a teacher in Boston's public schools. “I think you definitely see that connection in her career, seeing ways science leads to a better world.”

The Swobodas sent their daughter through Hiatt Middle School and East High. She knew kids who couldn't afford school lunches, kids who grew up without the support she had. She also knew teachers at those schools, teachers like Patrick Byrnes and Richard Safris at Hiatt, who cared.

“Whatever support they could provide for those students, they wanted to do that,” Swoboda said. “That always had a huge impact in me.”

Those teachers also taught Swoboda, a kid who loved school and the outdoors in equal measure, that science was cool. In high school, her government and biology teachers encouraged her to apply for an education program conducted by the World Food Prize. In the program Swoboda saw the melding of her inherited interests of science and humanitarian issues. She saw where she could make an impact.

In time, Swoboda became the first to complete all of the World Food Prize's youth programs. She researched and presented on food insecurity in Brazil. She then spent a summer there researching disease resistance among soybeans. Later, she received a World Food Prize fellowship to intern with the USDA.

Swoboda also pursued Borlaug's vision in the classroom, completing a bachelors in agronomy and a masters in crop production and physiology at Iowa State University. When the World Food Prize came upon new funding for a youth programming position a few years ago, its president didn't have to think long for a possible candidate.

Swoboda accepted the job offer and now runs the same programs that once changed her life. She has picked up other titles on the way: Swoboda is the youngest alumni to win ISU's Outstanding Young Alumni Award for her work. She's also the youngest member on the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Advisory Council.

“We like to think of Norman Borlaug as the patron saint of STEM,” Swoboda said.

Whether working long days to shine a light on Borlaug's legacy this week or through education programs the rest of the year, Swoboda wants to inspire young people with the same spark her hero placed in her.

“They want to do something, they want to have an impact,” she said. “I feel like it's an easy sell. You just have to show it to them.”



Ballet Des Moines residents Jose Gamero and Serena Chu share a duet in last fall's triple bill. BALLET DES MOINES/SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

BALLET

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Schubert's “Death and the Maiden” quartet, seven dancers in elegant dove-gray costumes lay flat on their backs and then rose together, as if from a grave. They coupled up in a series of graceful duets, before Death (Orza) approached the odd maiden out (Chu). Her time had come, and their pas de deux was a study in surrender and control, in airy lightness and weight.

The ensemble's all-male and all-female unison sequences weren't as precise as they could have been on Sunday afternoon, especially in contrast to the vigorous rhythms from the string quartet (Kathy Naja, Kris Shay, Julie Stroud and Curtis Barr from the Des Moines Community Orchestra).

But the duets were lovely, and the cold spotlights (Felix Campbell) gave the

work a jolt of drama.

Cong's piece, “Within the Bodies,” which he premiered here in 2007, was generally smoother and warmer, as four couples danced through four different stages of romance in flesh-toned costumes that left to the imagination nothing except how they might have gotten those tan lines. (Susan Roemer designed the outfits, as well as the gray ones from before.)

This dance was set to Schubert, too (a piano and cello recording), but it used a broader vocabulary of moves. In my favorite sequence, set to Schubert's sweetly melodic “Ständchen,” Chu grabbed Orza's outstretched arm and slowly walked up the side of his torso. Later they both bent flat at the waist, locked arms and walked together like a sawhorse.

Cong is the resident choreographer at Tulsa Ballet, and he has a knack for balancing jaunty angles and fluid grace in a way that still looks cohesive. His danc-

ers' limbs are willowy, then rigid, then akimbo, like one of those multi-armed Hindu gods. In Sunday's show, Grooters and her moppetted partner, Amand Pujaj, articulated Cong's vision especially well, gliding from one position to the next as naturally as the rest of us might walk down the street. They could have been figure skating on a rink.

Grooters stepped aside for the work she choreographed herself, “Vivaldi in Motion,” which tossed local students in with the pros. And to the students' credit, it was hard to tell much difference.

Their moves were more traditional — and on pointe this time — but most leaps and twirls looked as polished as the next. With the sparkling music (another recording) and each new burst of dancers in black tutus, the overall effect was like an artillery of Champagne bottles. It reminded me of “Be Our Guest” from “Beauty and the Beast.”

Correction

A story in Monday's IowaLife section on the Iowa Mission of Mercy free dental clinic should have noted that no registration is available ahead of time. Services are first-come, first-served only.

Today on Television

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Broadcast Local Channels

	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
WOI	The Chew Fast, Cheap & Easy (N)	General Hospital (N)	Steve Harvey (N)	The Doctors (N)	Katie (N)	News	World News	News	Entertainment	Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (N)	Goldbergs	8:31 Trophy Wife	Scandal	News	10:35 Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)	11:37 Nightline								
KCCI	KCCI 8 News	Bold/Beautiful	The Talk (N)	Let's Make a Deal (N)	Dr. Phil (N)	The Dr. Oz Show Juicerexia (N)	KCCI 8 News	Evening News	KCCI 8 News	Inside Edition	NCIS: Los Angeles Was a Woman (N)	NCIS: Los Angeles Reznikov, N. (N)	9:01 Person of Interest (N)	KCCI 8 News	Late Show With David Letterman	Ferguson								
IPTV	Clifford-Dog	Caillou (E)	Fetch! With Ruff Ruffman (E)	Dinosaur Train (E)	Peg and Cat (E)	Cat in the Hat	Martha Speaks	Arthur Fifteen	WordGirl (E)	Wild Kratts	Curious George	PBS NewsHour (N)	Woodsmith	Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle	(Series Premiere) (N)	Business	Last of the Wine	Globe Trekker (DVS)						
WHO	Channel 13 News at Noon (N)	Days of our Lives (N)	The Queen Latifah Show (N)	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)	News	Nightly News	News	Wheel of Fortune	The Biggest Loser (N)	The Voice (N)	9:01 Chicago Fire A Nuisance Call (N)	News at 10	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Jimmy Fallon								
KDSM	Maury (N)	The People's Court (N)	Judge Judy (N)	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Detroit Tigers ALCS, Game 3.	Post-game	Two and a Half Men	Big Bang	Dads Oldfinger	Brooklyn Nine	New Girl	Mindy Project	13 News at 9 on Fox 17 (N)	Raymond	Two and a Half Men	The Arsenio Hall Show (N)									
KCWI	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Divorce Court (N)	Judge Ross	The Office	The Office	The Bill Cunningham Show (N)	King of Queens	Community	The Middle	The Middle	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Originals Tangled up in Blue (N)	Supernatural Devil May Care (N)	TMZ (N)	Community	Engagement	Engagement	How I Met	How I Met			
ION	The Matrix (1999) ***	Criminal Minds Our Darkest Hour	Criminal Minds The Longest Night	Criminal Minds JJ	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds Safe Haven	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds Devil's Night	Criminal Minds Middle Man	Criminal Minds Reflection of Desire	Flashpoint A World of Their Own	Flashpoint Below the Surface									
KDMI	The Organization (1971) ** Sidney Poitier, Barbara McNair	K-19: The Widowmaker ** Harrison Ford A nuclear reactor malfunctions aboard a Russian submarine.	The Opponent ** Erika Eleniak, Aunjanue Ellis	The Silencer ** Michael Dudikoff, Gabrielle Miller	The Crying Game **** Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker	Bones																		

Basic Cable Channels

	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
A&E	Criminal Minds Zoe's Reprise	Criminal Minds	The First 48 Caught Up	After the First 48	The First 48	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC	House on Haunted Hill (1999) * Geoffrey Rush	Eight Legged Freaks ** David Arquette Giant spiders terrorize residents in a small town.	Slither *** Nathan Fillion Alien organisms infest a small town.	Friday the 13th -- A New Beginning * John Shepard, Shavar Ross	Friday the 13th, Part VI: Jason Lives * Thom Mathews, Ron Palillo	Friday the 13th Part VII -- The New Blood * Lar Park Lincoln																		
CNN	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Newsroom (N)	The Lead With Jake Tapper (N)	The Situation Room (N)	5:28 Crossfire	Erin Burnett Out-Front (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Piers Morgan Live (N) (Live)	AC 360 Later (N)	Erin Burnett Out-Front	Piers Morgan Live													
COM	Austin Powers Tosh.0	12:22 Tosh.0	12:52 Tosh.0	1:22 Tosh.0	1:52 Tosh.0	2:23 Tosh.0	Always Sunny	Community	3:56 Futurama	4:27 Futurama	South Park	5:29 Tosh.0	Colbert Report	Daily Show	Workaholics	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Brickleberry (N)	Daily Show	Colbert Report	11:01 Tosh.0	Brickleberry
DISC	Pure Evil: American Legend	Dual Survival Bugged Down	Dual Survival Swamped	Buying the	Buying the	Buying the	Tickle	Tickle	Tickle	Fast N' Loud No Bull Bonneville	Fast N' Loud Killer COPO Camaro	Tickle (N)	Buying the	Buying Alaska	Buying Alaska	Tickle	Buying the	Buying Alaska	Buying Alaska	Tickle	Buying the	Buying Alaska	Buying Alaska	
DISN	A.N.T. Farm	Jessie	12:55 Jessie	1:20 Jessie	Good-Charlie	Good-Charlie	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Good-Charlie	Jessie	Gravity Falls	Good-Charlie	Wolf-blood (N)	Halloweentown II: Revenge ***	Kalabar's	Austin & Ally	Dog	A.N.T. Farm	Good-Charlie	Good-Charlie	Good-Charlie	
ESPN	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	NFL PrimeTime	NFL Insiders	Best of the NFL	NFL Live (N) (Live)	NFL Live (N) (Live)	Around the Horn	Interruption	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	E:60 (N)	30 for 30 (N)	2013 World Series of Poker Main Event From Las Vegas.	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)										