A student at Iowa State can spend as much as $347 on a single textbook in the Iowa State University Bookstore.

The book is "Solid State Physics." A student at Iowa State can spend as little as $7 on a book in the University Bookstore.

The book is "Narrative Life of Frederick Douglas." Each semester begins with both excitement and nervousness as students mill about campus trying to find their classes and figure out where they can do homework between classes.

Inevitably, many conversations heard by a passerby will pertain to what students believe are outrageous textbook prices. From a $182.70 sociology textbook to an $18 women’s and gender studies book, students seem to always have an opinion on what they’re paying.

Iowa State estimates undergraduate students will spend more than $500 on textbooks and supplies each semester in the 2018-19 academic year.

"You may have the list of the books you are required, wait until you go to the first couple days of class, see what the professor says."
– Dalton Grell, senior in supply chain management
Tips to prepare for May flowers

Richard Jauron, an extension specialist in the department of horticulture, offers his advice to those wishing to start their spring gardening.

The snow is starting to melt, the robins are starting to return and each passing day is becoming a bit longer. The start of spring is just around the corner and that means plants and flowers will soon be blooming.

Richard Jauron, an extension specialist in the department of horticulture, shares his tips for the upcoming spring season and what you can be doing now to prepare your gardens for springtime.

Vegetable Gardens:
For vegetable gardens, there is not too much to do yet, but if wanted, you can start sowing seeds indoors.

"Things like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, all those go outside early to mid-April," Jauron said.

"We typically want to start those indoors about four to five weeks before that, so right now for example."

But for things that need to be be planted in more of the warm season, like tomatoes and peppers, Jauron says you should wait until after the last frost, which is usually around early May.

But once again, you can start those inside, typically five to six weeks, or early to mid-March, before then.

The main thing you can do now is buy seeds in preparation for the growing season and take a look at the physical state of your garden space.

"When the weather is nice, you might just want to go out there and clean up things, move out the debris," Jauron said. "That's probably going to be, depending on the weather, a couple weeks or so, it's still kind of wet out."

For vegetable gardens, a suitable location needs to include at least six hours of direct sunlight a day. In addition to the direct sunlight, a good, well-drained soil is essential for the success of a vegetable garden.

For beginners, Jauron advises starting with a smaller vegetable garden.

"I would suggest they kind of start small, because they are going to run into problems," Jauron said. "They are going to have issues that they don't know how to deal with and so on a smaller scale it's easier to deal with that."

Flowering Gardens:
A flowering garden has more leeway for location. There are some that do well in the sun and some plants that do well in the shade.

When it comes to flowering plants, there are two major options, annuals and perennials.

Perennials come back year after year. They're popular because all you do is plant it once and it will bloom every year if it has sufficient sunlight. However, they only bloom for about 2-3 weeks every summer.

But if you want more than that, Jauron says there are two options to consider.

One is to space out the timing of your perennials. "You can obviously plant different perennials that bloom at different times," Jauron said.

The second option is to plant a lot of annuals that bloom from spring until frost.

With annuals you have to replant them every year, but there are a wide variety of annuals available. There are some that are shade and others that thrive in the sun.

Overall, the biggest mistake Jauron sees is things being planted in the wrong place.

If a plant or flower isn't getting enough of what it needs, whether that be sunlight or shade, it won't bloom or produce at its fullest potential, Jauron said.

Judiciary committee passes medical amnesty unanimously

A medical amnesty bill, SF 415, which is backed by Student Government, passed unanimously through the Iowa House Judiciary Committee.

Two years ago, former Student Government President Cole Staudt and current President Cody West set out to pass a bill that would protect underaged people from legal implications if they were drinking and needed to call for medical assistance.

Passing a medical amnesty bill was a campaign promise the two made when they ran for Student Government.

Those protected by the bill would be individuals who "experience a medical emergency caused by the illegal possession or consumption of alcohol, such as underage consumption, open container or public intoxication," according to a medical amnesty proposal.

After passing unanimously through the Iowa Senate during the last legislative cycle, the bill was ultimately postponed to this legislative cycle.

Staudt told the Daily in April waiting until the next session will allow legislators and constituents time to digest the bill and it will hopefully get passed early in the next cycle.

Current Student Government Vice President Cody Smith posted on his Instagram Thursday that the bill passed through the House Judiciary Committee.

"For two years, #isustugov has been working to get S.F. 415 passed to protect students who become incapacitated due to alcohol and those who call for emergency services on their behalf. I am so happy to report that S.F. 415 passed the Iowa House Judiciary Committee today with a UNANIMOUS VOTE," the post said.

Staudt has seen firsthand the decision one must make when they face facing legal repercussions, but have a friend who needs medical attention. With a friend on the verge of alcohol poisoning in his care, Staudt was faced with a decision: Get his friend medical attention and face the police or avoid the hospital and put his friend’s life in danger.

Staudt, like many other students, went for the latter.

The night didn’t end with Staudt putting his friend to bed, though. A simple decision to stay up and watch Netflix may have saved his friend’s life.

With his friend sleeping below him, Staudt eventually heard a gurgling sound as he was lying on the top bunk. Realizing his friend was choking, Staudt jumped down, put him on his side and saved his life.

About three years later, when Staudt and West were discussing policies to campaign on, they looked into passing a medical amnesty bill, and the idea stuck with Staudt because of his experience.

“Once I kind of made that connection to my personal history with this policy idea and we looked into it and we were like, ‘Wow. Why haven’t we done this before,’ Staudt said.
Blazing new trails: An editor’s experience on an Alternative Spring Break trip

BY JILL O'BRIEN
@iowastatedaily.com

I'm jolted awake by the sound of my alarm on my windowsill. It's 4:20 a.m.

As I peel myself away from my warm bedsheets, I take a minute to remember why I'm awake this early, and suddenly I get out of bed with a bit more energy.

I throw toiletries into my shower caddy and fold extra T-shirts into my already packed backpack, all while checking the "Alternative Breaks — Georgia Edition" group chat impatiently. The entire week has dragged up until today, almost like I've been holding my breath and now I can excitedly exhale. All I could do the job.

Our vessel — a 15-passenger van with the university’s name written across it — sat parked about 100 feet from my front door.

I opened the back door, threw my bags in and then got in on the passenger side, where I'm greeted by four or five other tired faces.

We crack a few jokes about where our HR person is or if the driver will be able to see with the mountain.

As I peel myself away from my warm bedsheets, I breathe in the fresh morning air and suddenly I get out of bed with a bit more energy.

At 6:22 a.m., the group arrived to pick me up. Our vessel — a 15-passenger van with the university’s name written across it — sat parked about 100 feet from my front door.

At 7:45 a.m. and I had little to no time to spare snoozing. The Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park — the group we would be serving for the week. Our first stop of the week was in Rising Fawn, Georgia — our final destination — was anywhere between 12 and 14 hours.

However, the combination of running into two snowstorms and a torrential downpour followed by a detour through Illinois due to an accident, we reached Cloudland Canyon State Park around 1 a.m.

After arriving at the "group lodge," our home for the week, we unpacked the mountain of groceries and rushed off to set up our bedrooms and get what little sleep we could before beginning work in the morning.

If the five hours of sleep I got that night were indicative of anything, they taught me it didn’t matter if I got five or 15 hours of sleep; the days ahead would leave me exhausted no matter what.

I couldn't wait.

Monday

My alarm went off at 7:45 a.m. and I had little to no time to spare snoozing. The Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park — the group we would be serving that week — had made breakfast for us, and we were going down to their shelter to eat and get acquainted with the work we'd be doing.

During the meal, we got to know not only the friends, but also a bit of history about the park. Cloudland Canyon State Park spans 3,488 acres and is home to cottages, yurts and backcountry campsites, along with more than 60 miles of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails.

The trail relies heavily on help from volunteers, all of whom were passionate and eager to share the park with us for the week. Our first stop of the week was in the ruins village, at the top of the West Rim Loop Trail.

Our first task? Build a sustainable trail. When we heard that, we looked at one another as if to say, "how?"

The volunteers spared no time telling us not only what we were about to do, but why we were doing it this way.

To be sustainable, a trail must meet the following three requirements:

— Protects the environment
— Meets the needs of those using the trail
— Requires little maintenance

To do this, we had to abide by certain principles of building these sustainable trails.

Since erosion was such an issue with the trails at Cloudland, one of our solutions was creating a contour trail that traverses a hill.

A lot of the time, we had to imagine where water would go on the trail, and then ask ourselves where we wanted water to go to get a better idea of how to do the job.

We had three tools at our disposal to assist us: the McLeod, to clear away leaves; the rogue hoe and the Pulaski, for clearing away dirt and organic material. However, we couldn’t just dig away at the tread — there was far more to consider when blazing the trail.

The average trail grade, or slope, should be less than 10 percent to be sustainable. A grade reversal, marked by a small dip and rise, pushes water off the trail.

Our goal was to build a trail that would push water down into the brush beside it, so that excess water wouldn't end up our work.

To do this, we would use the McLeod to clear away leaves and branches from where we wanted the trail, then use the Pulaski to establish the cuts in the dirt where we wanted the trail and "pizza slice" the dirt so it could easily be pulled up by a rogue hoe and the lighter organic material could be tamped down by the McLeod.

Back home in Illinois, I never had to do a lot of outside work. Whenever my parents were doing yard work, I would stay inside and avoid getting my hands dirty at all costs.

However, when I was handed a Pulaski to begin cutting away at roots buried deep in the ground, I went to town, hacking them in half and discounting them into the brush.

I felt like Paul Bunyan, chopping roots and small trees that stood in our way. Halfway through our first day, I learned very quickly that trails don't just happen — they're made.

At the end of the day, we found ourselves standing on a stretch of fresh, new trail. Six hours ago, leaves and branches caused us to trip and tangle our way down the hill. Now, the trail looked as though it had been there for six years.

On the drive back up to the group lodge, I was exhausted. Three months after my bunionectomy, my feet were tired and in need of a long night of rest. It was a good kind of exhaustion, though, the kind that made me feel I could take on whatever task the next day brought.

Tuesday

After learning we had no coffee filters in the lodge, I emerged into the kitchen expecting a long, caffeine-free struggle of a day. I found Saravona, our resident former Girl Scout, pouring a freshly brewed pot of coffee into a mug during breakfast.

"I used a paper towel as a filter," she said. "What a relief."

At 8:50 a.m., we piled into the van and drove downhill to the opening of the Sutton's Gulch Trail, where our leaders, Larry, Bob and Gary waited for us to begin the hike up the trail close to the waterfalls near the end of the trail.

The waterfalls were a common site for accidents or dangerous situations, and people who got hurt had to be driven down by emergency vehicles or an ATV. Our task for the day was to create smooth rock paths for these vehicles to drive down, as well as lay a new pipe in the trail for water to flow out.

Alternative Break participants take a break next to a swimming hole at Cloudland Canyon State Park in Rising Fawn, Georgia.

Alternative Spring Break trip
POLICE BLOTTER

3.8.18

Jonathan Seth Savaedra, age 22, of 312 Hayward Ave Unit 202 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated and operation without registration at Lincoln Way and Campus Ave (reported at 1:27 a.m.).

An individual reported a motorcycle exited the ramp without payment at Memorial Union Parking Ramp (reported at 2:45 p.m.).

Officers responded to a report of a suspicious substance at Durham Center (reported at 12:20 p.m.).

3.9.18

Hongchuan Li, age 22, of 5308 Mortensen Rd Unit 211 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated (reported at 5:46 p.m.)

Emma Elizabeth Young, age 22, of 5308 Mortensen Rd Unit 204 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with excessive speed and operating while intoxicated at Mortensen Rd and Pinon Dr (reported at 2:44 a.m.).

Officers assisted another agency with a criminal investigation at 3800 Lincoln Way (reported at 3:46 p.m.).

3.10.18

An individual reported being harassed at 2311-103 Chamberlain St (reported at 2:44 p.m.).

Shane Michael Lash, age 19, of 218 Richardson Ct Unit 301 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief 5th degree at Linden Hall (reported at 11:42 a.m.).

James Michael Dillon, age 25, of 916 16th St - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with interference with official acts, possession of drug paraphernalia, and 4 counts of burglary 2nd degree at 3920 Maricopa Dr (reported at 11:52 p.m.).

3.11.18

No cases this date.

3.12.18

An officer initiated a drug related investigation (reported at 3:14 p.m.).

An individual reported being the victim of a fraud at Lagomarcino Hall (reported at 3:11 p.m.).

3.13.18

Officers checked on the welfare of an individual at Memorial Union (reported at 12:20 a.m.).

An individual reported being harassed at 2311-103 Chamberlain St (reported at 2:44 p.m.).

Sunghyun Kim, age 24, of 2508 Blankenburg Dr Unit A - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at Stange Rd and Blankenburg Dr (reported at 5:14 a.m.).

An individual reported the theft of a registration sticker at 2713 Luther Dr (reported at 12:20 a.m.).

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

CORRECTIONS

The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about errors that warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-294-5688 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.
Jackson receiving excessive criticism

Scrubtity based on quarterback’s race

BY JOSHUA HOLST
@iowastatedaily.com

The NFL Draft is set to take place in April, and recently, the country’s best college football players went to Indianapolis to show off their skills and athleticism to 32 potential employers.

Five young men in particular are going to be scrutinized because they are considered the most talented prospects at the most demanding position in football: quarterback.

These young men are Josh Allen (Wyoming), Josh Rosen (UCLA), Sam Darnold (USC), Baker Mayfield (Oklahoma) and Lamar Jackson (Louisville).

The first four men I am all near certain to go in the first round, but a lot of questions have been asked of the last one, Jackson. He won the Heisman Trophy in 2016. He is doubtlessly the most dynamic athlete of the five, and he lit the college football world on fire with his electrifying speed and arm talent.

So why do most mock drafts have him ranked the lowest of the five quarterbacks?

His numbers would suggest his 2017 season might have been even better than his 2016, but a less talented roster combined with Mayfield strung together one of the best seasons of any college quarterback ever meant he missed out on back-to-back Heisman trophies.

Sure, he has a couple of mechanical issues. His feet are typically too close together when he’s in the pocket, and he doesn’t lift his elbow high enough in his throwing motion. These mechanical issues do negatively affect his accuracy. But they seem fixable with coaching, and even if they aren’t, these flaws haven’t served as much of a hindrance to him thus far.

The problem I have is that a number of other criticisms and requests NFL scouts and analysts have appear to be racially motivated.

First of all, during the combine, a few reports said a few NFL teams asked Jackson to run drills with the wide receivers. For those of you who don’t know, quarterback is a position that has been played predominantly by white players, while most wide receivers in the NFL are black.

Allen is big and can run, but nobody is saying he should give up his position to Jackson. The idea that Jackson would make a good wide receiver simply because of his speed is a gross simplification, and taking such a dynamic player away from the position he has been playing his entire life is incredibly counterintuitive.

A number of scouts have pointed out that Jackson has issues with accuracy. However, his receivers dropped 12 percent of his passes and Allen, who is almost universally regarded as a top 10 pick, posted lower accuracy numbers than Jackson in college.

A few scouts have suggested Jackson can’t make the necessary reads for the NFL because the offense he ran at Louisville was not very complex. This is potentially the most racially motivated critique, and also one of the most easily contradicted. Louisville head coach Bobby Petrino’s offense is one of the more pro-style systems you are likely to find in college football, and Jackson ran that offense masterfully.

All of those critiques are levied against Jackson without being thrown toward his white competitors, even when the criticisms seem more appropriate for the other prospects.

What the problem seems to be is that NFL scouts have an idea of what their ideal quarterback is, and Jackson doesn’t fit that tall, white and slow description.

Lamar Jackson, Louisville quarterback, is receiving criticism as the NFL Draft approaches. Columnist Joshua Holst argues this criticism is because Jackson does not fit the image of the ideal quarterback, a tall, white player.
Cyclone Hockey’s season comes to an end

BY SPENCER SUCKOW
@iowastatedaily.com

It wasn’t a year anyone associated with the Cyclone Hockey team expected.

Sure, things started out the way the team hoped it would, with a preseason top five ranking in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) polls and an 11-2-1-0 start to the season.

However, that promising start ended with a thud for the Cyclones after a 3-2 quarterfinal loss to Robert Morris University in the ACHA National Tournament, which put an end to one of the most trying seasons for the Cyclones in recent memory.

“This is certainly the most disappointing season that I’ve ever been a part of in my time here,” said head coach and general manager Jason Fairman.

From an outsider’s perspective, one might wonder how a national tournament berth and top 12 finish in the ACHA computer polls could be considered a disappointment.

Well, it’s relative to expectations. Before the season even started and throughout its course, players and coaches repeatedly mentioned how the team believes it should compete for a national championship every year.

With the Cyclones’ recent track record, it’s hard to blame them for having that mentality. With a national championship appearance in 2015 and a stint as the No. 1 team in the country in 2016, there is a certain standard the team has set for themselves.

This year, for a multitude of reasons, the team didn’t live up to those standards.

To be sure, there were flashes. The team had a number of wins against top teams, including a combined three against national semifinalists in Illinois and Lindenwood, and the Cyclones’ 10 wins against teams ranked in the top 10 proved they could consistently compete with just about anyone.

On the other side of that, despite occasional strong showings, the team frequently had consistency issues.

A great game one night was frequently followed with an equally poor outing the next night, much to the frustration of the coaches and players.

“We had trouble with consistency all year,” Fairman said.

“We just could never seem to put together good performances on back-to-back nights.”

Although plenty of that was their own doing, Fairman also mentioned that factors outside of the team’s control couldn’t be ignored either.

The Cyclones were decimated with injuries for a good chunk of the year, particularly late in the fall semester, and there were several off-ice issues that Iowa State was forced to deal with privately.

This led to a considerable shortage in depth, which, when coupled with the ACHA’s toughest strength of schedule, factored into the derailment of a talented team that had high expectations. If there is a silver lining, however, it’s that a lot of that talent is coming back.

The Cyclones only graduate three seniors from their Division I team (albeit, this includes a team captain in Kody Reuter and nearly all of their experience at goalie), and the team is expected to be loaded with seniors from what Fairman called his “most heralded” recruiting class back in 2015.

This includes forwards like leading scorers Tony Uglem, Aaron Azevedo and Colton Kramer, along with key defenders like Nick Sandly and Jake Arroyo.

This means the expectations may be even higher going into next season, despite the disappointing end to this season.

The three aforementioned forwards, in particular, all of whom have played on the same line together for multiple seasons, will be expected to produce big numbers once again. According to Azevedo, just how big those numbers get is usually determined in the offseason.

“We create those opportunities with a lot of training in the offseason,” Azevedo said. “Just kind of working on small areas and creating that time and space.”

In addition to the team’s veterans, the Cyclones are also expecting big contributions from this freshman class going into their sophomore season.

Players like Dylan Goggin, Jared Erickson and Justin Paulson gradually improved as the season went on this year, to the point where they became key contributors who consistently ended up in the score column on a nightly basis near the end of the season.

That production, coupled with their combined work ethics, earned them the confidence and trust of their teammates and coaches. Now, they’ll be expected to carry that momentum into the offseason and, hopefully, have it lead to larger contributions next season.

“Our rookies worked extremely hard all year,” Uglem said.

“They’re a group of guys that you don’t really have to tell to come to the grind and work, they’re always just there and ready to go.”

That type of mentality, not just from the freshmen, but from the team as a whole, will come in handy when the team eventually gets to its offseason workouts.

For now, however, Fairman says he and the team will use the season’s end to slightly decompress and, in his particular case, recruit. The Cyclones’ head coach admits he hasn’t thought ahead to next season as of yet, and he plans to let things sink in before going forward.

Eventually, though, the team will get back to the grind and the new season will be here before they know it. With a seemingly loaded senior class and a maturing group of young players, the team is feeling a sense of urgency to make a run with its current core.

Because of that, even with some questions and inexperience in net, outsider expectations will undoubtedly be high going into next season. However, as the team has made perfectly clear time and again, they won’t be as high as what the Cyclones expect from themselves.

“Our first goal is to win the regular season title, then obviously the (Central States Collegiate Hockey League) tournament title and then the national championship,” Fairman said. “We want to check those boxes in order.”

Cyclone Hockey team lines up on center ice after its first game of the season. The 2017-18 season started strong but ended with a disappointing loss in the ACHA National Tournament.

BY SPENCER SUCKOW
@iowastatedaily.com

Cyclone Hockey Season at a Glance

Final record: 20-19-2-1

Final ranking: No. 11 (High: No. 5; Low: No. 13)

Longest winning streak: Sep. 22 - Oct. 15 (five games)

Longest losing streak: Nov. 17 - Dec. 9 (six games)

Most goals scored in a game: 7 (Arkansas, Oct. 20)

Most goals allowed in a game: (Robert Morris, Nov. 17; Indiana Tech Dec. 9)

Leading scorers: Tony Uglem: 41 points (22 goals, 19 assists), Aaron Azevedo: 35 points (15 goals, 20 assists), Colton Kramer: 30 points (10 goals, 20 assists)

Graduating seniors: Kody Reuter - Defense, Derek Moser - Goalie, Matt Goodke - Goalie, Nick Sandy - Forward, Jake Arroyo - Forward

MIKINNA KERNS/IOWA STATE DAILY
Alternative Breaks participants help one another lay a pipe on the Sitton’s Gulch Trail at Cloudland Canyon State Park. The pipe’s purpose was to divert water down the hill so as not to erode the trail.

Walking up the trail and carrying various tools, my arms grew tired within a few hundred steps or so. Nevertheless, we found ways to entertain ourselves on the long walk uphill. We sang songs and came up with trail names based around inside jokes that came up during the day’s work.

The seven girls became the ‘Seven Dwarves,’ and we assigned one another a dwarf persona based on our personalities. Being the “one with the attitude” as I was called by Greg, one of the Friends, I was Grumpy. To the left of us was a stream, peppered with boulders and rocks and clear, rushing water. I was shocked at just how clear the water was — you could see the bottom of the river from hundreds of feet above. We got work at a spot that sloped uphill and would continue upward until we reached the pipe.

One by one, we built berms for water to run off of the trail and hauled rocks into place like puzzle pieces to create the smooth trail for a vehicle to drive over. We continued this pattern uphill until we reached the four guys and Bob, who was operating a small John Deere in place of an ATV. The trail was rough, but we all had to get our hands on the pipe to lay it in place. Once that was done, we climbed over it to build the rock path.

It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again. It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again. It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again.

Wednesday

“Y’all going to watch the sunset tonight?”

This was one of the first things Greg, one of the Friends, said to us on our hike down the Bear Creek Trail to our first work site of the day. The trail wound downhill to another secluded river spot and was marked by different colored pin flags that had a designated task assigned to them, like re-establishing bench cuts in the trail, installing knicks or building smooth rock paths to act as steps for hikers to get over hills on a trail.

It was on Wednesday that my hands began to blister and my muscles began to crave. I was starting to feel as though I was going to drop out. Nevertheless, we found ways to entertain ourselves on the remainder of Sitton’s Gulch, I returned back to the top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again.

It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again. It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again. It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again.

The final day. The first three hours would be spent finishing up at Simon’s Gulch and then traveling to Chattanooga. I wasn’t sad about leaving quite yet. There was still much more to get done.

After the hike back up the pipe we had laid, we were given our final task of the trip: dig out a place for an emergency vehicle or ATV to turn around and drive uphill during rescue. It was a dangerous task, so several people played the role of ‘safety buffer’ while others threw rocks downhill to clear a path.

Upon seeing me without a task, Larry sent me uphill to clear graffiti off of a wooden kiosk next to the waterfalls. It was the first time I had seen the falls all week, and also the first time I had been alone with my thoughts all week.

While the beginning of the trip had been marked with what seemed to be smooth sailing, with every member of our group enthusiastic and excited to work, no matter what kind of experience they would have and how much I would learn. Not only had I made such amazing friends, but I would never look at a trail on a hike the same way again. There is so much that goes into the building and maintenance of a trail that it gives you a new appreciation for the natural world. I don’t think I can go back to McDonald’s sweet tea ever again.

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At first we were hesitant. Then, Greg told us that he lived behind one of the best sunset watching spots in the area and would give us some pointers. So after finishing up for debate — we grabbed our shoes, jackets and cameras and piled into the van.

As someone who works with words for a living, I’m not often left speechless. The view I saw that night, however, did.

The sky was blue, orange, yellow and pink, and we could not see the entire only one of Trenton, Georgia below us, but the border of Alabama on the horizon. I sat down on a rock and just admired what I was lucky enough to be seeing. You definitely don’t see a sight like that in Iowa.

Thursday

The first of two half days, we had a bit more of a spring in our step on Thursday. We returned to Simon’s Gulch to re-establish the berms we had built Tuesday to make them a little more effective in water drainage, and surprisingly it didn’t take us very long to complete the task. After we had reached the rock path we had built two days prior, we set our tools down next to a tree and headed back to the van.

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While the beginning of the trip had been marked with what seemed to be ‘little disasters,’ the rest of the week was relatively smooth sailing, with every member of our group enthusiastic and excited to work, no matter what kind of experience they would have and how much I would learn. Not only had I made such amazing friends, but I would never look at a trail on a hike the same way again. There is so much that goes into the building and maintenance of a trail that it gives you a new appreciation for the natural world. I don’t think I can go back to McDonald’s sweet tea ever again.

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$200 to spend on that book,” Claussen said. “I don’t know if any book is worth $200.”

Each student interviewed by the Daily felt the prices, even when reduced, sometimes didn’t match the value of the book.

Heather Dean, course materials manager at the Iowa State University Book Store, said value is all about usage.

“Even if the book is only $10, if they’re not using it, there’s still no value,” Dean said. “Now, how many books are $10? Not very many.”

Dean said publishers set prices of their books and the University Book Store upcharge is only enough to cover operating costs.

Dean recently won an award for pursuing textbook affordability. She said she’s inspired to address the cost of educational materials and how useful they are because of her time as a student at Iowa State.

“That was a big pain point for me as a student and I still see it today as a pain point of if I had to buy this book and we never even opened it.” Dean said. “So it’s my goal to eliminate that.”

Instructors choose the classification of their book on the course materials list, whether it’s required, recommended or optional. Dean said the bookstore will negotiate with instructors to change the classification when they hear a professor is not actually using the book for required readings or exams.

Claussen said more technical books he has purchased have been very helpful, but some books with more remedial content haven’t been worth the purchase. Some books, Claussen has only purchased to be able to complete homework for a class.

Cody West, 21, senior in biology and Student Government president, had also purchased books specifically to complete homework.

West is an advocate for Open Educational Resources (OER), which are openly licensed textbooks and other course materials.

“It’s really kind of been a movement and it’s a hard one because I think the biggest problem right now is our faculty aren’t aware of it,” West said. “They don’t really know what open resources are and I think a lot of them see a threat as far as getting rid of academic journals or these things that we’re all kind of attached to.”

West, being in the STEM field, has routinely spent more than $500 per semester on textbooks in his time at Iowa State. This semester, West spent $200.50 on textbooks and $270 in course delivery fees.

“This was actually the cheapest semester I’ve had during my time at Iowa State,” West said.

West prefers hard copies over ebooks but said he’ll do what he can to save money.

While students can charge textbooks to their U-Bill, the money still has to be paid in-semester and savings have an immediate, tangible impact on some students.

“I much, much rather prefer a hard copy but if you can save $60 on three books, I mean that all adds up really quickly,” West said. “That’s groceries for two months.”

West was aware his textbook costs are higher than some students because of his major.

“I think all the intro classes for those have those really outrageous prices because the editions change all the time,” West said. “Students are always expected to buy the newest edition.”

Other students felt the newest editions were often too similar to the prior editions to warrant a steep price increase.

Erin Wagner, 22, is a senior in agricultural business and animal science. Wagner said the University Bookstore should be selling, and buying, past editions of textbooks that are new enough to be used.

“In most cases, either the professor understands that if they’re brand new, they’re really, really expensive, and they’ll allow for that one edition [older],” Wagner said. “For the most part, a lot of that information doesn’t change.”

This article was in partnership with an Iowa Watch project to examine textbook affordability. Caitlin Yamada, Naye Valenzuela and Alex Connor contributed reporting to this article.