Accessible art in Ames

The Octagon allows space for expression

BY CARI ANN. RASMUSSEN
@iowastatedaily.com

Despite art being embedded in the foundation of the way the world is experienced, it can be easily lost in the big picture. Art is a necessity, and the cost of being immersed in the arts all the time is it can be easily forgotten how art affects daily life. The Octagon Center for the Arts is serving the community of Ames by making art matter.

The mission of the Octagon Center for the Arts is to be an inclusive resource for interaction and creative expression through different spaces and opportunities to experience art that is accessible for everyone.

“The Octagon is a great way for art to be used to being people together,” said Heather Johnson, executive director for the Octagon Center for the Arts. “I think a lot of people think, ‘Oh, I may not be an artist, why would I go to the Octagon?’ But we think that all people can appreciate art or creativity or design. We think it is for everybody.”

Many may not see the existence in the mission of a community art center, but to put it into perspective, imagine trying to find another art gallery shop that also provides educational opportunities to explore their creativity and connect with each other through art.

The Octagon Center has a mission to give the Ames community opportunities to explore their creativity and connect with each other through art.

Lawmakers announce articles of impeachment against Trump

BY JAKE. WEBSTER
@iowastatedaily.com

Senior House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump early Tuesday.

The articles of impeachment cite abuse of power and obstruction of Congress by Trump.

“A president who declares himself above accountability, above the American people and above Congress’ power of impeachment, which is meant to protect against threats to our democratic institutions is a president who sees our national security.”

The resolution said Trump has demonstrated he will continue to be a “threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office” and acts in a manner “grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law.”

President Trump thus warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States, Nadler said in the resolution.

The House Intelligence Committee Chairman, Adam Schiff, spoke after Nadler.

“We stand here today because the president’s continuing abuse of his power has left us no choice,” Nadler said. “To do nothing would make us ourselves complicit in the president’s abuse of his high office, the public trust and our national security.”

The articles of impeachment are a political decision by Democrats, King said.

Brad Parscale, Trump’s 2020 campaign manager, also responded to the announcement of the articles of impeachment.

“The long saga of three years and one month of trying to come up with an excuse to impeach Donald Trump has finally come to pass,” King said. “The excuses are this: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.”

The FiveThirtyEight polling average of American public opinion on impeachment found 47.9 percent support impeaching Trump, with 43.6 percent opposed as of Tuesday.

Trump made several references to the two committee chairmen involved, Nadler and Schiff, in a series of tweets Tuesday morning.

“Nadler just said that I ‘pressured Ukraine to interfere in our 2020 Election,'” Trump said in a tweet. “Ridiculous, and he knows that is not true. The President, apparently referring to Schiff, in a series of tweets Tuesday morning, "had nothing to answer for this!"

The president, apparently referring to Schiff, called him “Shifty Schiff” in a tweet that also labeled Schiff “a totally corrupt politician” who read a “fraudulent statement” to Congress.

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Women’s Basketball, Hilton Coliseum at 7 p.m. Cy-Hawk Series: Iowa State vs. Iowa.

12.12.12
Caterpillar Club, Reiman Gardens at 10 a.m. Join us this winter for our popular Early Childhood Development program featuring stories and creative activities around a nature-based theme.

CODAC Fall Sale, College of Design Foyer at 10 a.m. First day of fall sale of work by students in the integrated studio arts (undergraduate) and integrated visual arts (graduate) programs, sponsored by CODAC, College of Design Art Club. Work may include ceramics, prints, photos, woods and textiles. Most items will range in price from $5 to $150. A majority of proceeds go to the student artists; the rest help fund club activities.

Barks@Parks, Parks Library; upper rotunda at noon Comfort dogs will be available during study week, along with chair massages and other stress reducing activities.

Wood-Burned Ornaments, Workspace at the Iowa State Memorial Union at 2 p.m. Need a last minute gift? Starting with a wood shape, design a one of a kind creation with a wood burner.

POLICE BLOTTER
12.9.12
Jenny Elizabeth Torres, age 22, of 3500 Grand Ave., Ames, Iowa, was arrested and charged with assault with intent, simple/serious assault, at 618 S 17 Street (reported at 10:57 p.m.).

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.
Reynolds speaks to the Board
Common ground sought out in tuition and funding talk

BY JACOB SMITH
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

Gov. Kim Reynolds spoke to the Iowa Board of Regents Tuesday, during which she thanked the Board for finding innovative ways to address rising tuition and education costs.

Reynolds sent a letter to President Michael Richards on Aug. 17, 2018, discussing the need for predictability in the cost of college for Iowa families.

“I highly value Iowa’s public universities and am a proud graduate of one of them,” Reynolds said in the letter. “I know you feel the same way, and I know the Board of Regents has been working hard to improve the quality of Iowa’s universities while maintaining affordability.”

A problem Reynolds outlined is the rising tuition levels throughout the state.

“Our cost of living is going up, and our students need to keep the cost of higher education at a level that is affordable for those same families while also making sure our universities continue to be world class.”

Maintaining robust funding while exploring ways to more efficiently use resources that already exist on college campuses is the way to address the problem, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds spoke at the Elite Octane grand opening Sept. 2. At the event, which fell on Labor Day, Reynolds voiced her support for American workers.

Reynolds said Richards responded to Reynolds’ letter, later noting the common goal they have.

“You and I share a common goal of keeping Iowa’s public universities the top-notch institutions that they are,” Richards said in the letter. “Keeping our public universities accessible and affordable will continue to be the Board’s top priority. Creating predictability in tuition is a key and necessary aspect of this. As you mentioned, tuition and fees at our universities are already lower than those at many other public universities in the country. I know we can and should do more, Reynolds said in the letter. “We need to create predictability for Iowa families. And we need to keep the cost of higher education at a level that is affordable for those same families while also making sure our universities continue to be world class.”

Research around the cycling of phosphorus in soil-plant-water systems was discussed at a Tuesday lecture in a room full of people in Agronomy Hall.

Andrew Sharpley, distinguished professor of soils and water quality at the University of Arkansas, visited Iowa State to speak at the 2019 William H. Pierce Lecture in Soil Science titled “Agricultural Phosphorus and Food-Energy-Water Security.”

Sharpley is an international authority for assessing, managing and remediating the impacts agricultural management can have on soil and water resources.

The lecture began with Sharpley providing a background of how affects water quality including aspects of soil erosion and the production and leaching of phosphorus in soil runoff.

Some ways the water can be affected by soil is due to the phosphorus element.

Phosphorus is needed by plants in order to grow, it’s a part of human DNA, Sharpley said.

“So farmers have to apply it,” Sharpley said. “It’s a great fertilizer, it’s good for the plants, but it also can’t get into the water, it can’t get it. So it means that farmers need to apply fertilizer.”

The soil with the applied fertilizer can then runoff into nearby bodies of water. Sharpley compared it to a garden at home when it rains.

“Whenever lawns are watered or if you have a rainstorm or a lot of rain, the rainwater will wash through the garden without being seen. Where it’s on the land and it’s great to make plants grow, it also makes plants grow in water, algae, which can be a problem,” Sharpley said.

“And the part that makes it more of a concern is that you do not need as much F or phosphorus in water to make a plant or algae grow as you do need to make a crop grow. Water plants are much more sensitive, they need much less — a little bit goes a long way.”

Throughout his research on the effect of phosphorus, Sharpley has had the chance to work with farmers and have conversations with them, which he said has been beneficial for him. While it is not always possible, involving farmers can be an important part of agricultural research.

“Involve them at the beginning of the process rather than at the end of it, in the planning,” Sharpley said. “If you get them on board in understanding, at least seeing the logic, they’re more likely to accept the logic of the results, they feel like they’re being considered.”

Sharpley discussed the matter of conservation and how treating the management of it, as a type of human health could help to make people aware of it. If the information about conservation is presented almost like a human sickness, it can also catch the attention of more people.

Finding the cause of what is affecting the water was emphasized by Sharpley. He said that “We can’t find the plants, they can’t be. It means that farmers need to apply fertilizer.”

The soil with the applied fertilizer can then "prescribe the right treatment." The group studied the water considers the benefit and possible risks of the treatment. Relating to treating this issue like human health, Sharpley said the side effects of the treatment are discussed. For the future of agriculture research, Sharpley said it is important to make the public more aware of ecosystem health overall. Sharpley also said it’s good to look at the economic side of agriculture research.

“Doing agriculture research is kind of a journey,” Sharpley said. “So you start out in one area and you transition to another, so it’s kind of a longer winded road so the exciting part is that sometimes you don’t know where you’re going to.”

Iowa leaders react to signing of NAFTA replacement

BY JAKE WEBSTER
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

Dignitaries from Canada, the United States and Mexico signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) that will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Tuesday.

At a news conference at the signing of the agreement in Mexico City, Robert Lighthizer, the United States trade representative, said NAFTA “needed to be upgraded.”

“It’s nothing short of a miracle that we have all come together,” Lighthizer said. “I think that’s a testament to how good this agreement is.”

Gov. Kim Reynolds released a statement thanking Lighthizer and the Trump administration for their role in the renegotiation of NAFTA, culminating in the agreement signed Tuesday.

“Mexico and Canada are Iowa’s top two trading partners and are critical to our economy,” Reynolds said in the statement. “It’s why I have been calling on Congress to ratify USMCA for over a year.”

Renegotiating NAFTA was one of President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign promises.

In order to come into force, the USMCA must be passed by both the House and Senate before being signed by Trump.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the trade deal will not come up for a vote before Congress recesses next week, and it would come after a likely-January impeachment trial in the Senate.

Today’s announcement represents a positive step forward for Iowa’s entire economy,” Reynolds said in the statement. “USMCA is a strong, balanced, and modern trade agreement that will create opportunities for Iowa families, farmers, manufacturers, and small businesses by expanding markets for our world-class exports.”

Troy Price, the chair of the Iowa Democratic Party, released his own statement on the signing of the agreement.

“As one of the top exporters of agricultural goods to Canada and Mexico, this USMCA is a win for Iowa farmers and workers,” Price said. “House Republicans have been working for months to make sure this is the best deal for Iowa workers.”

All four members of Iowa’s House congressional delegation — Steve King, Cindy Axne, Dave Loebsack and Abby Finkenauer — released statements thanking the American trade representative on the signing of the trade deal.

Iowa’s two senators, Sen. Chuck Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley, also released statements.

“Iowans in every corner of our state have been waiting far too long for Congress to act on the USMCA and now, after months of delay, House Democrats are finally coming on board,” Ernst said in the statement. “President Trump and our Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer negotiated this modernized agreement with our nation’s farmers and workers in mind — knowing the USMCA will provide an economic boon and certainty to folks back home. I’ll be reviewing the updated language, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to ratify USMCA at the fastest pace possible.”

Grassley said the signing of the agreement was “long overdue but very welcome news” in his statement.

“Signing of USMCA will be a significant win for farmers, workers and all Americans,” Grassley said in his statement. “Renegotiating NAFTA was a central campaign issue by President Trump. [Trump] kept his word and Americans will enjoy the many benefits of this upgraded trade deal as a result.”
Iowa State's College of Design will be hosting a symposium on homelessness Wednesday. The ISU Homelessness Symposium is a one-day event examining the issues of homelessness in Iowa and around the country. The symposium combines the work of national experts on issues of homelessness and precarious housing with the on-the-ground knowledge of practitioners working on these issues around Iowa.

"The morning will include talks by national housing and homelessness experts Joe Leopold and Kimberly Skobba and panel discussions with local community leaders," according to the College of Design website. "The afternoon will feature presentations by architecture, community and regional planning and civil engineering students in the 'Contemporary Issues in Global Housing' class and the documentary film screening and discussion."

The symposium is free and open to the public, but attendees are requested to register online.

The schedule starts off with registration and breakfast from 8 to 8:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Scheman Building, which is followed by a welcome from 8:30 to 9 a.m. Afterwards will be a keynote by Josh Leopold from the Urban Institute and the panel "Housing Policy and Homelessness" from 9 to 10:45 a.m. in the Benton Auditorium of Scheman Building. Leopold is a senior research associate for the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. His work focuses on affordable housing policy and homelessness.

Leopold received a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College in 2003 and a master's degree in information science from the University of Michigan in 2005. From 2006 to 2011, he worked as an analyst for Abt Associates, where he was heavily involved in research regarding homelessness. Before joining the Urban Institute in 2013, he was also the management and program analyst at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

After a short break, the symposium will pick back up with a keynote by Kimberly Skobba from the University of Georgia and the panel "Housing and Homelessness Programs in Iowa" from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Benton Auditorium. Skobba is an associate professor in financial planning, housing and consumer economics and director of the Housing and Demographic Research Center at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on the housing needs of low-income families and the relationship between community development and social capital in rural and small towns.

After lunch, from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Scheman Building will be "Case Studies on Addressing Housing Precarity" and student presentations from 2:15 to 4:00 p.m. in room 130 in the College of Design.

The day will round out with a film screening and discussion of "PUSH" from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. in the Kocemski Auditorium, room 105 of the College of Design. "PUSH" is a documentary on the global housing crisis, directed by Fredrik Gertten. The film screening is open to the public without registering for the symposium.

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BY KATHERINE KEALEY @iowastatedaily.com

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, said she will not participate in the next Democratic presidential debate scheduled for Dec. 19, even if she qualifies for it. Instead, she will spend her time campaigning for president in New Hampshire and South Carolina.

The cutoff for qualifying for the debate is Thursday and each candidate must receive at least four percent in polls of Democratic primary voters in four national or early-voting states or six percent in two approved early-state polls. Gabbard has met the donor requirements of $200,000 unique donors as of Tuesday failed to meet the polling requirements.

The crossover campaign strategy was not an option and Gabbard did not respond to an email requesting an interview for this story.

Mack Shelley, Iowa State professor and chair of the political science department, said he believes Gabbard is not as polished as the other candidates on the debate stage.

Gabbard might be avoiding the debate in the hope of maintaining good relations with the eventual nominee for a possible cabinet position, Shelley said.

"This is just a supposition, but you kind of wonder with candidates for presidential nomination, especially if they are not polling well, do they start to think of themselves as vice president?" Shelley said.

As the member of Congress for Hawaii's 2nd District and a veteran, Gabbard's campaign is focused on anti-war policies, such as ending "regime change wars" and ending the "new Cold War and arms race."

Gabbard has not been able to reap the benefits of her military background compared to opponent Mayor Pete Buttigieg, D-South Bend, Ind., Shelley said.

"I think she has receded in the background, and it has been much harder to use her military experience as a way to attract support," Shelley said. "She has been much less successful when you go by poll numbers."

Gabbard shares similar beliefs on war with opponent Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., but Shelley said this is not an original platform and Gabbard does not have her own "sticker."

It may benefit her to be a Democrat in her home state of Hawaii, but in battleground states such as Iowa her "far-left" policy views could hurt her, Shelley said.

"Hawaii has been a majority-minority state for a long time and Iowa is anything but, so candidates that come from places different from Iowa — which is almost everybody — it is easy to understand how they would have trouble getting acclimated," Shelley said.

Gabbard has also had a history of being opposed to LGBTQ+ rights, and although she has changed her view, Shelley said these past beliefs could still hurt her.

Gabbard is only 38 years old — Shelley said that is a benefit of being young and having plenty of time to work her way up to high political positions, but her being one of the younger candidates may cause party leaders to view her as a liability.

"We are on the lower of the end of the age spectrum, which means she has plenty of time to evolve," Shelley said. "There is almost a trend for the South to have candidates up at the top and Gabbard and Buttigieg. It's just so painfully obvious that the ones in the center of the stage just look old."
Students will be a top priority with Warren

BY SEHBA FAHEEM
sfahem@iastate.edu

In February, I will be caucusing for Elizabeth Warren to put in power a candidate dedicated to helping students like me.

While working towards my major, I’ve not only gained maturity and knowledge but a mass of loans. Just a few months out of college, and the loans will begin to take effect.

When I graduate, the weight of loans will carve my career path towards a high paying job out of necessity. I will need to pass on jobs that I am interested in if they cannot provide enough to cover my loan payments.

Most students will be choosing the secure, well-paying job, choking out creative and non-traditional employment avenues.

Iowa’s state government is doing little to alleviate the burden upon students, as every year that I’ve been at Iowa State University funding for higher education has declined.

This results in higher tuition, as students are needed to cover the difference.

If the state is not investing in higher education, the federal government needs to step in to prioritize our right to an education.

We need a president who will make students a top priority. Elizabeth Warren has a two-field plan to address the student debt crisis. She knows that we need to help those currently struggling with debt by providing them loan forgiveness based on their household income.

To help those going into college, she knows we need free public college for everyone.

Her signature policy, the wealth tax on the ultra-rich, will be used to pay for this plan.

To tackle the student debt crisis, we need a candidate who understands its severity and has a clear path towards remediation.

Elizabeth Warren is that candidate.

Reaching all the gifted

Programs help kids prosper intellectually

BY CONNOR BAHR
@iowastatedaily.com

Across America, there are children who are in school who are missing their normal classes to go to a specific room and do special activities. These kids are known as the gifted and talented kids.

Specific programs for “gifted” children were being created as far back as Plato’s lifetime. In America, however, the Gifted and Talented Program began its history after the launch of Sputnik by the Soviets. The idea was to push academically talented kids into STEM fields so that they could help bear the Soviets to space.

The gifted program has had some very beneficial effects on the education system. The biggest one being that the advanced coursework allows the children who are excelling to be academically challenged.

This prevents them from becoming bored with their classwork and to continue to grow their mind. It has also been proven that the gifted system works as it was intended. Students who participated in gifted and talented programs have a higher chance of academic success and career success in the future.

Another, although two-sided, benefit would be making the gifted students feel better about themselves. Being recognized for talent feels good. However, on the other side, it can make kids who did not get picked feel worse about themselves.

On the other hand, the gifted and talented program has been facing heavy critiques in the past decade or so. The main argument is that the program actually harms the gifted children.

A psychologist based out of Stanford conducted research where he attempted to differentiate kids who thought that intelligence was something you were born with from kids who thought intelligence was something you could gain. He found that the kids who believed they could gain intelligence had more motivation to solve problems and overcome challenges.

He also found that the students who had been labeled “gifted” were more likely to believe that intelligence was a raw talent, something that you were born with. Three kids then see struggling with problems as a sign of low intelligence, and therefore will avoid challenges and become incredibly demotivated at the slightest hint of failure.

There is even a movement to label being gifted as an “asynchronous development condition”. This means that a child’s mind grows faster than their social skills, and are therefore seen as “gifted,” but largely socially awkward.

The major problem with the program is that it puts so much emphasis on “talent.” It doesn’t foster hard work or dedication, but instead promotes the idea that the only way to be smart is to naturally be intelligent. This is obviously false and instills mindsets into impressionable kids that can have an effect on their entire life.

While there does need to be some sort of advanced learning program for “gifted” kids, these programs should simply be one of many programs that aims to further shape education toward individual needs. For example, reading programs that aims to further shape education toward individual needs. For example, reading programs that aims to further shape education toward individual needs.

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The focus should not be on giving special benefits to kids who are naturally talented, but trying to overhaul the entire education system to allow for more specialized learning that suits the wants and needs of every student.

Tulsi Gabbard is who we need

BY JEFF SALZMAN
jeffresalzman52@gmail.com

When the current election cycle started there was one candidate that I felt should just go away. That person was Tulsi Gabbard.

Based upon everything I had heard or read, she was being portrayed as a blight on the people in it.

Across America, there are children who are in school who are missing their normal classes to go to a specific room and do special activities. These kids are known as the gifted and talented kids.

Specific programs for “gifted” children were being created as far back as Plato’s lifetime. In America, however, the Gifted and Talented Program began its history after the launch of Sputnik by the Soviets. The idea was to push academically talented kids into STEM fields so that they could help bear the Soviets to space.

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Iowa State wrestling returns to Ames after its sixth-place performance at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational this past weekend. The Cyclones experienced plenty of ups and downs at Cliff Keen, but now they shift their focus to the Southern Scuffle, so the lineup for the Cyclones may not be making the trip out to Chattanooga.

The Battle at 133

Austin Gomez came into the 2019-20 season as one of the top-ranked guys at 133 pounds, but questions surrounded his return to 133.

Gomez weighed above 133 during the summer and right as the wrestling season began, he suffered a concussion, keeping him out of action and even delaying his original return date to 133 at Cliff Keen.

Redshirt junior Todd Small has been holding down 133 so far this season, and he’s had his ups and downs. Small started the season off by winning the open 133 title at the Cliff Keen Open, but proceeded to lose both of his matches against Bucknell and Iona, including a 16-5 decision loss to Austin DeSanto.

Small surprised many with his fourth place finish at the NCAA championships last year, and he’s having a really good start this season. However, in Iowa State’s three-point-loss to Iowa at Hilton Coliseum, he’s had a couple of losses to the Hawkeyes, so the Cyclones will be facing a tough test against Iowa this time.

The starting lineup is headlined by three seniors, guard Makoseni Meyer, guard Kathleen Doyle and forward Amanda Ollinger. Doyle and Meyer are two of the Hawkeyes’ best scorers, as Doyle leads the team in scoring with 14.7 points per game and Meyer is third on the team with 14.3 points per game.

Then there’s Louie Hayes of Virginia and No. 7 seeded Tim Rooney of Kent State, as well as a 16-5 major decision loss to Austin DeSanto.

A 11-3 decision loss to Austin DeSanto, moving down 133 so far this season, and he’s had a couple of losses to the Hawkeyes, so the Cyclones will be facing a tough test against Iowa this time.

Cyclones prepare for Southern Scuffle

BY STEPHEN.MCDANIEL
@iowastatedaily.com

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Amy Popillion, professor of teaching in the human development and family studies department at Iowa State, found her passion for teaching in unexpected places.

Originally from a town of only 500 people in Southeast Iowa, Popillion found her passion for higher education when she decided to give graduate school a shot. Popillion said that even toward the tail end of her bachelor’s degree college career, she still wasn’t sure what she wanted to do, so she tried a bit of everything.

Popillion was a first-generation college student and received her bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminal justice. After her graduation she worked at a drug treatment center for teens, a homeless shelter and in foster and adoption care. Popillion was very passionate about foster and adoption care, so much so that she and her partner were foster and adoptive parents for 14 years. She and her partner now have four children who were adopted through foster care as teenagers, as well as three biological children. Popillion and her partner also have six grandchildren — soon to be seven.

Popillion first worked for Iowa State in 1996 as a work-study student. One day, her task was to fold recruitment brochures about graduate school. While looking at these brochures herself, Popillion couldn’t help but wonder if graduate school would be the right next step for her. This wasn’t the first time graduate school had piqued her interest, though. During college, she had a professor write feedback on one of her assignments that she should consider going to graduate school. Popillion said she still has that paper today. Despite her professor’s encouragement, Popillion was still unsure about pursuing higher education, as she said she didn’t know what it was all about. However, she decided to take a risk.

“I tried it out, fell in love with the world of higher education and I’ve never pursued it as a lifelong endeavor. “Education dramatically changed my life trajectory and I value the opportunity to be a small part of that for my students,” Popillion said. Currently, Popillion teaches human sexuality and sociology of sex and gender classes. She says her courses are available to all students from all majors. Popillion believes students can gain important life skills to “enhance their everyday lives” — and fulfill their diversity requirements, which is an extra bonus.

“I hope students challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zones, consider perspectives they are not familiar with and ultimately use their knowledge to make the world a better place,” Popillion said. Amy says that not only do her students learn from her, but she gets the privilege of learning from them as well. “Two things I most enjoy about working on campus is the excitement each fall as new adventures await and observing students discover their passions,” Popillion said. “I love having the opportunity to meet students with diverse backgrounds from around the world.” Popillion also said that with the end of each semester comes a bittersweet feeling, as she’s always ready for break, but saying goodbye to her current students and classes is hard.

Learning to find a passion

Professor shares how she fell in love with teaching

BY VICTORIA.REYNA-RODRIGUEZ @iowastatedaily.com

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“I think having a great art center is a reflection of the community,” Johnson said. “I think it kind of shows welcoming to the community. We want people to gather together to share experiences for all ages to foster learning and growth in artistic skills. A place that specifically caters to local artists and that has been the backbone of the art district for over 50 years.”

The concept of the Octagon was born in the 1960s by four women, Veronika Ruedenberg, another way to communicate with people.”

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The Octagon also has these spaces like the large exhibition hall and the dance studio available for rent to private events, such as anniversary parties or wedding receptions.

Despite having a prime location on Douglas Avenue downtown, Johnson expanded on the difficulties of connecting all of the facets of the Octagon to more people.

“It’s hard because as a non-profit, we don’t have much of a marketing budget, as most non-profits do, so a lot of people are like, ‘I didn’t know this was here!’ Or walk by and just see the shop and don’t see all the other education studios or the dance studio or the main gallery,” Johnson said. “We’d love to take art out to the community because it’s hard to bring people here when they don’t know it exists.”

“This variety of spaces provides opportunities to serve the community in many different ways. The Octagon offers an inviting place for emerging artists from young kids to grown adults, from a broad range of artistic experience — be it someone who has never tried art before but who is interested in learning; someone just looking to discover a new activity or hobby; or a professional artist who wants a space to create and interact with other creators or partake in special collections.

“We really want to help emerging artists; too; I think that’s part of our mission,” Johnson said. “Whether it’s a college student or a young artist in the area or an experienced artist. On our website four times a year you can apply [to be a shop artist].”

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