ON THE GROUND
A day in the life of the
Campus Services crew

Shane Baumler's official title is tree trimmer. But on Nov. 2, his job from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. was to show me and a photographer the varying jobs Iowa State's grounds crew does.

Disclaimer, it's a lot of jobs. Much more than blowing leaves, shoveling snow and mowing the lawn — though those are key functions of Campus Services.

As I walked from my apartment west of campus to the General Services Building where the Campus Services shop is, I saw a total of three people. All of them looked like they were heading to work and were bundled up, as was I, for the just above freezing morning. Based on the time (between 5:30 a.m. and 5:45 a.m.), they probably weren't out and about for fun. Granted, they probably thought the same thing when they saw me.

Walking along, I remembered how much easier it was to get up this early for swim practice in high school than it seemed at the moment. Then, I recalled jumping into the ice-cold pool as the clock hit 6 a.m. and I quickly swept that thought away.

I arrived to the General Services Building the same time as the Daily photographer (who is also our sports editor), Brian Mozey. We tried two different doors that were locked before we made our way to the north side of the building where people seemed to be arriving.

I asked one of the men walking in if we were in the right place to find Barbara Steiner, supervisor of plant services for Facilities Planning and Management, who we were supposed to meet with first.

"You're close," the man laughed and walked us through the grounds crew's shop to meet Steiner. She had us wait outside her office until everyone had their duties for the day. Then, Baumler would take us around.

The crew trickled in, most wearing high-visibility reflective coats, steel-toed boots and jeans. Some swiped their ID cards on the time clock — I learned later that some had already been there for two or more hours. And most had facial expressions as bright as their coats, greeting us two strangers with the same "good morning" that they greeted their co-workers.

"Are we going to have them do a big belly?" one man asked as they were preparing the tasks we'd do. Honest to goodness, I couldn't imagine anything but Santa Claus, though I assumed that had nothing to do with what they were talking about.

Baumler returned to the hall, paper instructions and keys in hand.

"What's a big belly?" I asked him.

"Oh, that's the trash compactor," he said. Bigbelly, it turns out, is the name of the solar powered trash compactors found around campus. Nothing to do with Christmas.

That ended up being our first task of the day.

THE ‘WOW WALL’

The trash bag inside the Bigbelly was smaller than I expected. I guess that's the purpose of a trash compactor, though.

I asked Baumler if people were pretty good about putting trash in the trash and recyclables in recycling. And the short answer was sometimes.

We stood outside the Memorial Union waiting for the staff members who Baumler said would be there working on the area surrounding the building soon.

THE Campustide chime at 6:30 a.m., still lit up by the
Tax plan hurts graduate students

Students pay for tax cuts

BY JILL ALT
@iowastatedaily.com

On Friday, a new tax reform plan was released, providing tax breaks to big businesses and the wealthy if passed. However, it is graduate students that will be taking a hit to make it happen.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate President Vivek Lawana did some research after the tax plan was announced and found that students at Iowa State will possibly be paying several thousand dollars more in taxes. “Grad students will have at least $2,500 to $4,000 extra in their taxes,” Lawana said. “Basically saying that even though an average ISU student earns $24,000 per year they will pay taxes for more than $35,000.”

Several thousand dollars a year can make a big difference on whether or not students choose to pursue graduate school. Along with paying off debt for their undergraduate education, Iowa State graduate students pay from $4,364 to $12,672 in tuition and fees based on residency and area of study. Now, the tuition that is waived for grad students for teaching courses and doing research may be taxed.

Over the five years it typically takes to complete a doctorate program, a student could pay as much as $20,000 in taxes. “The prime reason many individuals, like me, even consider going for a Ph.D. is because it’s 100 percent funded scholarship (or fellowship) with tuition waiver,” Lawana said. “Having made these categories taxable items makes no sense and will just increase financial burden on grad students.”

The tax reform is making graduate school more expensive by adding extra taxes. How it works is the scholarships and stipends they receive—which aren’t a lot to start with according to Director of Student Financial Aid Roberta Johnson and Lawana—would now be considered taxable income.

“What this proposal would do is they would be taxed on income, and they would be taxed on the amount of the scholarships they receive,” Johnson said. “It would be a huge disincentive for students to go to grad school.”

This will cost graduate students in the thousands, making finishing graduate school more difficult for current students, and steer undergraduate students away from pursuing a master’s or doctorate degree.

Both Johnson and Lawana said this new tax plan will be detrimental to the Graduate College at Iowa State, as the tuition waivers and stipends many students receive are the reason students are able to enroll.

According to a study done by the Brookings Institute from 2008 to 2012, 41 percent of international students at Iowa State pursue a higher degree past a bachelor’s program. Lawana said these international students are vulnerable and this plan indirectly targets the population who heavily rely on tuition assistance and waivers.

“Grad schools in a majority of big universities are made up of a high percentage of international students,” Lawana said. “They don’t understand this plan and they want to just get their higher degrees and move on. This [tax plan] is perhaps done to affect that population too.”

So who does the bill benefit? Corporate taxes will receive a 15 percent tax cut— from 35 percent to 20 percent— so businesses are going to benefit a large amount. Parents will also be receiving an extra $800 in tax credit per child.

Current lawmakers are hoping to bring the GOP tax plan bill to a vote next week, and if it’s approved, the plan will go into effect in January 2018, which brings up the concern of a disincentive for students to go to grad school.”

This will cost graduate students in the thousands, making finishing graduate school more difficult for current students, and steer undergraduate students away from pursuing a master’s or doctorate degree.

Both Johnson and Lawana said this new tax plan will be detrimental to the Graduate College at Iowa State, as the tuition waivers and stipends many students receive are the reason students are able to enroll.

According to a study done by the Brookings Institute from 2008 to 2012, 41 percent of international students at Iowa State pursue a higher degree past a bachelor’s program. Lawana said these international students are vulnerable and this plan indirectly targets the population who heavily rely on tuition assistance and waivers.

“Grad schools in a majority of big universities are made up of a high percentage of international students,” Lawana said. “They don’t understand this plan and they want to just get their higher degrees and move on. This [tax plan] is perhaps done to affect that population too.”

So who does the bill benefit? Corporate taxes will receive a 15 percent tax cut— from 35 percent to 20 percent— so businesses are going to benefit a large amount. Parents will also be receiving an extra $800 in tax credit per child.

Current lawmakers are hoping to bring the GOP tax plan bill to a vote next week, and if it’s approved, the plan will go into effect in January 2018, which brings up the concern of a disincentive for students to go to grad school.”

Graduate and Professional Student Senate President Vivek Lawana said because of how soon the vote is happening, there is no space to re-adjust.

“Noting that the bill is going for vote on Monday, we unfortunately don’t even have enough time to think about anything.,” Lawana said. “Once it passes, the new plan will be effective Jan 1, 2018. No space for readjustment.”
In discussions about new housing ordinances, Student Government representatives fight to have student needs considered as Iowa State is a large part of the Ames community.

Earlier this year, the Iowa Legislature passed a law pitting Ames residents against each other.

On one side were landlords and property managers, breathing a sigh of relief that Ames can no longer restrict occupancy based on familial status. On the other side were neighborhood associations, fearful that without the ordinance, their neighborhoods and houses would become largely renter-occupied.

"Caught in the middle? Students — unaware of the large impact their temporary presence has on Iowa State and Ames’ ordinances on housing."

Working under a deadline of Jan. 1, 2018, the city has discussed limiting low-density residential housing based on student status, number of bedrooms and even parking spaces. Other issues have been raised, too, such as: Is the city taking a proactive or reactive approach to rental enforcement? Which is the better option? As a way to better understand the issue of housing in Ames — specifically relating to rentals in single-family residential homes and neighborhoods — and its impact on students, the Iowa State Daily has created a series of articles looking at the issue that affects our city, our residents, our landlords and our students. This is the fourth article in that series.

For Kody Olson, Student Government’s senior director of governmental affairs, and Ames City Council Ex-Officio Robert Bingham, addressing the upcoming occupancy ordinance has been a contentious and often lonely battle for the two Iowa State students.

Standing in front of the Ames City Council in September, Olson had a plea: Please keep students in your mind. “The city of Ames should be doing everything in its power to make sure living here is as easy as possible,” he said, specifically in light of possible tuition increases.

During a council meeting just two weeks before, the language surrounding students had transitioned into a negative connotation.

A South Campus Area Neighborhood representative said if occupancy is not restricted in some shape or form, their neighborhood would inevitably turn into a “student slum.”

The question the council then prompted to investigate being: Can we limit occupancy based on student status?

“Student is not a protected class, so they can discriminate or categorize based on that, which I’m thoroughly opposed to,” Bingham said in a previous interview. This resonated with Bingham.

“It was very clear that they don’t have an issue with renters; they have an issue with student renters,” he said.

As the discussions continued and the council moved away from limiting occupancy based on student status but rather by the number of bedrooms and off-street parking, Student Government has advocated for the position they believe works best for the students: number of bedrooms.

In a resolution introduced as new business during the last Student Government Senate meeting and debated Wednesday,

Nov. 8 — Sen. Ian Steenhoek, who authored the legislation, requested the Student Government ask the city to not adopt an off-street parking clause into its new ordinance.

“The availability of living space should not be tied to ownership or use of a vehicle, as the city of Ames provides several sustainable forms of transportation, such as CyRide, biking lanes and trail systems,” the resolution reads. “All residents should have the right to live where they choose and with whom without arbitrary limits or limits tied to available parking.”

The Senate passed a resolution to be sent to the council to discourage them from including off-street parking as a clause in its new ordinance.

Student Government will send the resolution to council members ahead of its next meeting, which is Nov. 14.

Additionally, Student Government is also working to address other issues regarding rental housing in Ames for students, including an initiative being spearheaded by Vice President Cody West to revamp Rent Smart Ames.

Rent Smart Ames is a resource available to landlords and tenants with the “expertise to make renting in Ames a smart choice.”

Campaigning on “reinventing residency,” Smith and President Cody West promised to deliver on finding a middle ground with landlords and property managers to push back lease signing dates as well as refurbish Rent Smart Ames.

Student Government put the initial funding toward Rent Smart Ames five to six years ago.

“The way the city described it to me was that it was an intern for the city that was also in Student Government who had done the project,” Smith said. “So when he or she had left, it was just kind of done.”

Rent Smart Ames also ties in with the Iowa Housing Search, which Smith feels is currently underutilized as a resource and would like to see it more specific to Ames.

Additionally, Smith would like to see a rating system during his administration that would rank housing on things such as proximity to campus, accessibility to CyRide and rent prices.

“I essentially want to use Rent Smart Ames to encourage businesses to use student-friendly practices,” Smith said.

To do this, Smith said, Student Government would establish a criteria and then go to companies to discuss their program and what they are looking for in student housing.

“And if they meet our criteria, we’ll give them whatever we decided the certification is … that would become a part of the culture at Iowa State and Ames,” Smith said. “So, as a student coming in through orientation, I know that if it’s Rent Smart approved — then it’s probably a good company and I can trust putting my money there.”

All in all, Smith would like to see existing resources be put to better use to create better housing accommodations.

“I view it as our role because it is an issue that students face,” Smith said. “It’s a very important issue that we need to address. I know that there are surplus resources out there, and I’d like to partner with resources that we already have on campus,” Smith said.

Additionally, he would like to see more encouragement for the use of off-campus rentals in Iowa State’s Department of Residence.

“If the Department of Residence knows that students are going to move off-campus, then maybe we can direct them to this program,” Smith said. “In that way, we know that they are getting good care and making sure that they are not being conned out of any extra money.”

**By Alex Connor | acl@iowastatedaily.com**

**Housing**

**StuGov works to improve student housing**
City officials should consider students

Our message to the newly elected officials of the city of Ames is simple: Keep Iowa State students in mind.

While many students only stay in the city for about four years, they play a significant role. Beyond supporting the economy and working at local businesses, students provide diverse perspectives to the community. Not to mention the cutting-edge research and projects students head up at Iowa State.

While they are different from permanent residents, students should be seen as the important constituents they are. After all, the decisions made by city officials not only affect permanent residents, but Iowa State students, too.

During the campaigns, there was notable discussion of student issues — some of it good and some of it, well, less than aware of how issues impact students. Now is the time to make progress on those issues.

Student Government Speaker Zoey Shipley told the Daily she hopes the officials will continue bringing students to the table now that the campaigns are done. “I don’t think we’ve all sat down to realize how much of an impact that Iowa State’s campus as a whole has on Ames and its citizens along with the students,” Shipley said. “I really would like to see more engagement between the citizens.”

Additionally, the discussion around students at the city level has at sometimes been less than ideal. “I’ll be looking for Mayor Haila to be more student focused than I think he ran on at the candidate forum,” Student Government Vice Speaker Cody Woodruff told the Daily after election results came in, adding the specific issue that he recalled was related to housing and whether the city should play a role in landlord contracts, which Haila said he opposed.

And sometimes, officials’ comments have been ignorant at best when talking about student issues. The ISD Editorial Board has a few particular issues that impact students that we’d like to see the city work on.

HOUSING

“Student slum” was a term recently thrown around in a housing discussion. Comparing students to those in the movie “Animal House” is not only stereotypical, but highly inaccurate. Moreover, at a candidate forum, one official said they’d never imagine telling them it’s just a university problem. This idea, while probably based in ignorance, is heartbreaking for the number of members in our community coping with sexual assault.

If a sexual assault occurs off campus, what agency could they report to? The Ames Police Department. If a survivor decides to go to the hospital for care, where do they go? Mary Greeley Medical Center. These are just two resources for sexual assault survivors that the City of Ames is responsible for.

And if that isn’t enough to show why it’s not just a university problem, we encourage you to think of all the sexual assault survivors — some Iowa State students and some not — and imagine telling them it’s just a university problem.

To help prevent this problem, the ISD Editorial Board encourages more education about consent. The Ames public schools should set a precedent for other public schools by including education about consent in sex-ed programming.

Listening

While these are just three of the top issues we feel you should prioritize to keep students in mind, there are plenty more. Things like CyRide, Campustown development, mental health and bike safety are just a few more.

Reach out and listen to students. There is no doubt students could be more engaged with local government. However, expecting students to show up to City Council when meetings are not held near campus and at a time when many are in club meetings and doing homework, may not be the best way to engage students.

Take it upon yourselves, to go listen to students by inviting feedback on social media or through email and by hosting discussions on campus.

Thank you for choosing to serve the community. Our only hope is that you’ll keep all members of the community, including students, in mind.

EDITORIAL

Mayor-elect John Haila reacts after learning he will be the next mayor of Ames at an event at Arcadia Cafe on Nov. 7. Haila will be the first new mayor Ames has seen since Ann Campbell was elected in 2005.

SAFETY AND A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

In the past year, we’ve seen white supremacy posters and stickers found around the community. The city of Ames officials should play an active role in showing we have zero tolerance for such actions.

Let’s create more education surrounding cultural competency and conversations that help us better understand someone who looks different, worships different, speaks different or identifies different than you.

It’s also important to understand that things like white supremacy posters or the continuous occurrences of sexual assault will make people feel unsafe. Things like lighting and cameras are not only a way to help make areas more safe, they also can help individuals feel more safe, which better helps their well-being. Moreover, pedestrian safety is something we need to look into further.

Opinions expressed in columns and letters are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Daily or organizations with which the author(s) are associated.

Feedback policy: The Daily encourages discussion but does not guarantee its publication. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter or online feedback. Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), major and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s). Phone numbers and addresses will not be published. Online feedback may be used if first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.
Iowa State's 74-59 loss at Missouri Friday night showed a lot about how this year may go.

There were positives for sure — redshirt junior Nick Weiler-Babb scored 14 points after the half-time break, three players hit multiple three-pointers, and the second half margin was just one point in favor of Missouri — but coach Steve Prohm knows there is a lot to improve upon.

Prohm called the team “a work in progress,” which seems fitting, given that two scholarship players haven't yet played for various reasons. Redshirt freshman Cameron Lard is still out due to a coach’s decision, and senior Hans Brase isn't playing as he recovers from his ACL tear a year ago.

“I'm so glad we played this game,” Prohm said after the Missouri game. “There’s a lot to work on.” That starts Monday when Iowa State (0-1, 0-0 Big 12) takes on the Milwaukee Panthers (1-0, 0-0 Horizon) at 7 p.m. at Hilton Coliseum.

Milwaukee is coming off a season-opening victory over Division III University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on Friday. Milwaukee finished with an 11-24 record a year ago and hired former Northwestern assistant coach Pat Baldwin to take over head coaching duties in the off-season.

The Panthers had five players score in double figures in their opener, so they should have a balanced attack when they come to Ames.

Milwaukee provides a favorable matchup for Iowa State after a tough game against a lengthy and athletic Missouri squad. The Panthers are smaller and led by guards — their three leading scorers in game one were their three starting guards, ranging from 5-foot-11 to 6-foot-4 — which should keep Iowa State from having to double-team in the post, something that hurt the Cyclones in the loss to Missouri.

“Everywhere,” Weiler-Babb said of Iowa State’s defensive breakdowns Friday. “We had breakdowns in the past. We had breakdowns on guys getting past us.”

For now, the main thing is just to get a win on the board. Iowa State’s 2017 non-conference schedule sets up differently than in recent years, since it started with a road game against a solid opponent.

And with just the Milwaukee game standing between Iowa State and the Puerto Rico Tip-Off, Iowa State has a perfect chance to get some confidence before the three-day tournament begins. That confidence may start by hitting open shots.

“It’s my job to make it easier for the guys,” Prohm said. “I’m the head coach, that’s my job. If we’re not making shots, if we’re not making free throws, I hope we do, but I’ve got to get these guys in better position to be successful.”

The Cyclones hit 5-of-20 on three-pointers in the exhibition win over Emporia State, then went 6-for-19 from behind the arc at Missouri. Two of those three-pointers were from Donovan Jackson, late in the game when the margin was too big to overcome.

Free throws haven’t been much better. Iowa State got to the line frequently against Emporia State but hit just 61 percent (22-for-36) and left a lot of points off the board.

Against Missouri, the Cyclones were even worse at the charity stripe. They went 5-for-11 overall and had four empty trips to the line.

With a team that loses a lot of scoring production from last year’s squad, it’s crucial to hit free throws and open jumpers. If Iowa State can do that against Milwaukee, it will be a success.

“The hard thing and the thing I’ve got to do a good job of is I can’t overload these guys,” Prohm said. “Let’s just find one thing and we can be really good at it and get really darn good at that.

“I thought we probably did have some looks that you’ve got to make, but we have to continue to get more looks and better looks and that’s my job to do that.”
Go to State, meet your mate

BY WILLA.COLVILLE
@iowastatedaily.com

According to Business Insider, just 28 percent of all married couples attended the same university, showing the odds may not be in favor of meeting the love of your life in college.

While this may be true for most students, a few couples at Iowa State have beaten the odds.

Nov. 11 marks 45 years of marriage for alumna Marti Beck and Gordon Klatt, who met in 1967 in their junior year of college. Both Beck and Klatt held the position of activities chairperson in their respective residence halls. After hearing about Beck’s relationship ending, Klatt decided to take a chance and ask her on their first date.

“On Nov. 4, 1967, for our first date, I took her to Des Moines to see the ‘The Sand Pebbles,' starring Steve McQueen,” said Klatt. “It wasn’t the worst date of my life, so on the following Monday I called her to ask her out again.”

Attempting to be clever when asking for a second date, Klatt asked Beck, “How would you like to get married Saturday night?”

Much to his surprise, Beck replied yes and asked what time he would pick her up.

That Saturday, the two went to a movie in Campustown, ate dinner and cake, a ring and of course my car, a 1962 Oldsmobile Cutlass Jeffire, got decorated.

Beck and Klatt continued to date the rest of their junior year at Iowa State. However, that spring Klatt decided to enlist in the Navy and finish his degree after returning from military discharge.

When Klatt returned home to Sioux City, he reconnected with Beck. However, Klatt learned Beck was engaged to another man.

Klatt, nevertheless, knew Beck was his soulmate.

“I eventually convinced her I was the one for her,” he stated. “We got married, for real this time, in Le Mars, on Nov. 11, 1972, five years after our first wedding.”

Another couple, Bailey Price and PJ TeKippe, met at Iowa State in 2012 and have been together ever since. Before graduating, the couple participated in the camping tradition multiple times.

The morning of the Homecoming game against TCU, Price and TeKippe took a walk through Central Campus with TeKippe’s parents and their golden retriever, Chuck.

As the group reached the Campanile, TeKippe put a new collar on Chuck which read ‘Dad has a question.’ While Price read the dog’s message, TeKippe got down on one knee and proposed.

“We love everything about Iowa State so I figured Homecoming and one of biggest football games in the history of the program set the stage for a proposal,” said TeKippe. “As the story goes, you’re not an official Iowa Stater until you kiss under the Campanile at midnight on Homecoming. I wanted to make our engagement official at the same place.”

Much like Price and TeKippe did in college, hundreds of students participated in mass campaniling during Homecoming this year.

Maybe one of the couples that kissed at midnight this year will end up like Klatt and Beck or Price and TeKippe.

Listening to music can distract from studying

BY LAUREN.KLINE
@iowastatedaily.com

Whether you’re listening while waiting on the bus, jamming out in the car, or dancing to it while you party, listening to music can be an integral part of a person’s daily life, and can be incorporated into one’s routine in a number of ways.

As college students, what value does listening to music have when it comes to doing homework? Does listening to music take us away from focusing on our studies? Or is it essential in focusing?

The “Mozart effect” describes an experiment done where it was believed that listening to Mozart helped the brain with special-rotation skills.

Nick Perham, a professor for the School of Health Sciences at the University of Wales Institute, did a study on students listening to music while doing homework. After playing a variety of songs for students while they were focused, the results were all the same among them- music is a distraction to the brain.

According to Perham, “If you can understand the lyrics, it doesn’t matter whether you like it or not, it will impair your performance of reading comprehension.”

A study by Middle Tennessee University also came to the conclusion that music can inhibit focus on studying. The final results were decided that silence is the best way to stay focused on a homework task.

Despite these results, some students prefer to listen to music when they study. See what some of them had to say about their playlists here.

“I do listen to music while studying. I listen to classical music. I like Mozart or orchestra type music- nothing with lyrics.” - Ryan Foreman, sophomore in vocal performance.

“I sometimes listen to music while studying. I listen to Sta, Imagine Dragons, or country if I do. One of my go-to songs is Sangria by Blake Shelton.” – Lexi Flake, sophomore in early childhood education.

“I do not listen to music while studying. I don’t think it helps me study. I think white noise is okay though.” – Kelsey Hill, junior in business management and management information systems.

“It depends. If the music is already playing, that’s fine. But if it’s a distraction, I don’t like that.” – Ruby Boman, junior in psychology.

“I do listen to music while studying. Indie, and folk are good. I really like Nahko and Medicine for The People.” – Margo Wilwerding, senior in apparel merchandising.
“Our goal is to create and maintain the beauty of campus.”

Shane Baumler

CAMPUS No1

clock tower and the lights on the stone wall directly across from the Memorial Union. The sun was no-
where in sight, though the sky was turning from a
dark black to charcoal gray.

Most of the 58 members working for Campus Services, which is a division of Facilities Planning and Management, come in at 6 a.m. to get their
tasks and then deploy to their locations to do them.

Some come in a few hours before that and others a few hours after depending on their main duties.

In the winter, it’s a whole different story.

Members sometimes come in at midnight or even
spend the night to remove snow and make sidewalks
safe for those on campus. It’s a badge of honor to be
an equipment operator on those days, as shoveling
by hand in the bitter Iowa cold and piercing wind

can be a bit more physically demanding.

Getting to operate equipment during storm seasons is a matter of seniority and is a token to those who
work with Campus Services for a longer period of
time. The shop’s mechanic has to be on call during
these storms, if he isn’t already plowing snow, to be
available to fix equipment if it goes down.

Brandon Kadner is an equipment operator. His
truck pulled up behind us just a few minutes after
we’d emptied the trash. He was there to fix the trash
can’s door, which was a little loose.

I asked him the type of equipment he uses for his job.

“Pretty much everything,” Kadner said, going on
to explain that his job could range from maintaining
the farm roads on the outskirts of campus, putting in concrete for broken sidewalks, fence around campus,
operating dump trucks, driving the snow plows, wa-
tering main breaks and other duties as assigned.

His favorite task, which he said would be a very
unpopular opinion amongst his co-workers, is plow-
ing snow. Not because of the time that they do it,
but because it’s serene.

As I finished talking with Kadner, Andy Dou-
gan and Mary Schrunk rounded the corner of the
plant beds separating the sidewalk from the area
surrounding the Fountain of the Four Seasons.
The two were blowing the leaves from the bed and
chopping them up.

Dougans and Schrunk walk on the flower displays
in high-profile areas on campus. Right now, they’re
preparing the beds for winter. Some of the plants go
into a greenhouse located by the General Services
Building to keep them growing during the cold
months of the year.

During the warmest months, the two are still
outside. Schrunk said one of the funniest questions
she gets is whether they’ll be working outside today.
Because no matter the temperature, they will be.

After all, you can’t tend to outdoor plants when
you’re inside.

Essentially, their job is to ensure the flowers in the
beds not only stay alive, but look great.

The tan stone wall, with Iowa State University
carved into it, is surrounded with flowers during
the warm months, adding an unshirk to the photos
prospective Cyclones, student organizations and


campus visitors take in front of it. The grounds crew
members simply call it the ‘wow wall.’

“You can’t have a wall named the ‘wow wall’ and not have it look good,” Schrunk said.

NOT JUST ANOTHER BRANCH

After finishing up learning about these jobs, we
headed over to the site where Baumler would have been if he wasn’t giving us a tour. On the very east
side of campus, past the intramural fields on the east
side of Maple-Wilson-Larch halls, the arborists were
cutting down a tree almost as wide as I am tall.

The tree crew — Kevin Doyle, Brad Spainhower,
Matt Rochford and Baumler — were tasked with
cutting down the 60-inch-diameter tree. A task they
believed would take them two to three days.

Usually their job involves tending to branches,
roots or looking at diseased trees. If a tree gets to
the point where it’s dangerous or on grounds where
construction will be happening, the crew helps to
take the tree down.

Another set of members of the Campus Services
crew is responsible for planting. This includes the
grass and other plants. Sometimes areas have to be
blocked off to keep people from walking on it. Often
times, the crew sees that a patch of grass is so walked
on — they call it a cattle path — that they put in a
sidewalk there.

The tree crew has a new app they are using to fill
in when a tree is planted, being fixed or taken down
— more trees are put up than taken down.

Working with trees is one of the most dangerous
jobs in the country. When they have a tree in a high
traffic place, the crew said they often get dirty
looks for having a zone blocked off that’s in people’s
normal path.

Tree removal doesn’t come without controversy.
Students petitioned against the removal of some
trees in 2015. The crew recalled times when people
walked up to them and called them tree murderers or
asked what they were cutting down today.

“We go out of our way to save trees,” Spainhower
said, refuting the stereotype about killing trees.

STAY BEAUTIFUL

All of these jobs play a larger role than just upkeep
and safety — “enriching, supporting and preserving
our campus” is the mission of Facilities, Planning
and Management.

“Our goal is to create and maintain the beauty of
campus,” Baumler said.

Being raised as one of the most beautiful cam-
puses in the world, might be considered a testament
to achieving that goal.

Visit www.theatre.iastate.edu for more information. E-mail the director, Amanda Petefish-Schrag, apschrag@iastate.edu with questions.

AN ENSEMBLE OF 12-15 ACTORS, PUPPETEERS, AND SINGERS/INSTRUMENTALISTS WILL BE CAST. NO ADVANCE PREPARATION NECESSARY!

Stop by the callboard outside of 0310 Carver Hall to sign up for an audition time or sign up online at:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0448adaec2b5fd0-isu-theatre