Studying more than merely death

Sarah Hubner is one of five students who study pre-mortuary science at the University of Iowa.

By NICHOLAS MOFFITT
nicholas-moffitt@uiowa.edu

Sarah Hubner has known she wants to work in medicine since she was young. Combine that with an inquisitive mind and some by-chance networking, mortuary science came into the picture.

Hubner said death is one of the last human enigmas, because nobody knows what happens after death. She compared autopsies, what she’d like to do as a mortician, to a mystery.

“Autopsies are just a puzzle,” she said. “You’re adding clues and information to that story.”

Hubner makes up a small contingent of students, currently five, at the University of Iowa in the pre-mortuary science track.

The UI doesn’t have an official mortuary science program, and the only program in the state is at Des Moines Area Community College.

Kevin Patterson, one of three faculty members in that school’s mortuary science program, said around four or five students every year come from the UI of Iowa.

Sarah Hubner stands in a hallway in University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics on Nov. 13. Hubner interns at the UI Decedent Care Center and has a goal to study mortuary science.

“The University of Iowa doesn’t have a large representation in the state for those in mortuary science,” Patterson said. “A few students at the UI are currently in our pre-mortuary science program, and around four or five students every year come from the UI of Iowa.”

Visa durations have been extended for international students from China and the US.

By MICHAEL KADRIE
michael-kadrie@uiowa.edu

UI senior Ella Feng, who is from China, said she normally returns home once a year in the summer. Because of the length of the break, she said, she never had a problem getting her visa renewed, but the process continued to be frustrating.

But recently extended visa durations will allow Chinese students such as Feng to visit home without worrying about clearing bureaucratic hurdles.

Feng said she thinks the extension is great because it will save future students time and money, although she wished it had come sooner in her time in Iowa.

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New job excites Botchway

By ALYSSA GUZMAN
alyssa-guzman@uiowa.edu

Kinglsey Botchway, the new director of equity and staffing, hopes to use his new role to focus on positive changes in the School District and community.

At present, Botchway said, he’s trying to...
Iowa City received a perfect score on the Municipal Equality Index, which measures a city’s legal, economic, and social relationship with its LGBTQ community.

By CORY PORTER

In the 20 years Cindy Nagel has lived in Iowa City, she said, the city has opened up in surprising and positive ways to the LGBTQ community and the groups and the efforts of individuals who have invested themselves in it.

“Bluntly, bridges have been built between various community entities,” said Nagel, a co-founder of Iowa City Pride, an LGBTQ group. “What is so fantastic about Iowa City is that it has created this atmosphere where people in this community are in the forefront of that and are advancing the LGBTQ efforts on their own.”

Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBTQ civil rights organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, released its 2014 Municipal Equality Index on Nov. 15, giving Iowa City, and 39 other municipalities, a perfect score of 100.

This year’s index rated Iowa City’s use of inclusive language, LGBTQ issues like marriage equality and nondiscrimination laws, as well as the city’s efforts to provide civil rights protections to the community, an atmosphere of diversity, and a perfect score of 50, according to the report.

Nagel said she was very excited upon hearing the news. “Iowa City has never been a great place to call home,” she said.

Koth said the city’s perfect score was based on its “relationship with the LGBTQ community,” which is three out of eight, for lack of nondiscrimination language and policy efforts, but did award the city its bonus points for having openly LGBTQ businesses.

Iowa City also received a perfect score of 18 out of 20 possible points under the “Non-Discrimination Law” section of the index, which included housing, employment, and public accommodations laws.

The index also rated Iowa City’s “Relationship with the LGBTQ Community” as three out of eight, for lack of nondiscrimination language and policy efforts, but did award the city its bonus points for having openly LGBTQ businesses.

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Anthony Mauro, 19, 906 E. Jefferson St., was charged Nov. 15 with driving while barred.

Joshua Graves, 23, North Liberation Highway, was charged Sunday with presence in a bar with driving while barred.

Braxton Lawrence, 21, 2401 Highway 6 E. Apt. 3802, was charged Nov. 15 with OWI.

Ketra Davis, 60, Monroe, was charged Nov. 15 with public intoxication and discharge of a firearm.

Brady Yu, 21, College Park, was charged Monday with assault causing injury.

Patrick Lewis, 20, 205 S. Pakington St. Apt. 4, was charged with driving while barred.

Marcus Greenwood, 24, 20 Farmore Knoll NE, was charged Nov. 15 with OWI and driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Effie Hobbs, 20, 404 E. Johnson St. Apt. 4, was charged Nov. 15 with driving while on a suspended/canceled license.

Tyisha Robinson, 24, 42 1/2 S. Linn St., was charged Nov. 15 with disorderly conduct.

Mohamed Ahmed, 21, 1514 SW 8th St., was charged Nov. 15 with public intoxication.

Iowa City and Coralville: $20 for one semester, $40 for two semesters, $100 for full year.

Breaking News

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Boothway continued from front

"One of those key initiatives is the Diversity Staffing Plan," Murley said. "The board did encourage and send the message to the district to work for increasing minority staffing to 15 percent in each of those categories including administrators, teachers, and office staff."

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“Health Tourism” is a term that refers to people or companies going to the EU for medical treatment in order to keep the budget in check, but the outlook isn’t as promising. Cameron has said that the UK would like to restore the health service to its previous state. If 52,000 foreigners visited the UK in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. Cameron responded by saying that a EU referendum would be held before the general election, which is in May 2015. Cameron was already warmly welcomed by the British people when he took office in 2010, with 40,000 of those being from countries that are full of economic turmoils and depressions, including Greece and Spain, it would substantially contribute to the UK’s tax expenditures. At this time, Cameron has been closely involved in the negotiations with the EU, focusing on the issue of freedom of movement and the impact on the UK’s economy. If the UK’s relationship with the EU continued to deteriorate, it would be a major threat to the UK’s economic growth and employment. Cameron has repeatedly stated that the UK would seek to regain control of its borders and a significant increase in immigration and healthcare services. Cameron’s statements about the need for an EU referendum have been met with mixed reactions across the UK. Some have praised his stance, while others have criticized it as a move to distract from the real issues facing the country. The future of the UK’s relationship with the EU is uncertain, and the outcome of the referendum will have significant implications for the country’s economy and society.
With a variety of interest surrounding the space opened up earlier this year after the closure of The Wedge, Iowa City downtown district officials are hoping to retain support for a permanent retail shop.

The Wedge closed Nov. 15, ending 6 and a half years of business in downtown Iowa City.

Currently, the space, 136 S. Dubuque St., is set to temporarily lease to Ten Thousand Villages, a Fair Trade store that sells handmade products from across the globe.

Downtown District Executive Director Nancy Bird said the new lease will be in effect from Dec. 17-31, and the funds raised during that time will be put towards setting up a permanent shop in Iowa City.

“I’ve heard a lot of good things about this store, so I’m glad the city gave them this lease,” she said. “I think they’ll raise enough funds to set up a permanent shop in Iowa City.”

Bird said once the lease ends after Dec. 31, it will leave room for other potential tenants to take the space for themselves, which is the only thing standing in the way of Ten Thousand Villages setting up a permanent shop.

“Ten Thousand Villages is interested in this area,” she said. “After Ten Thousand Villages clears out, it will be the city’s decision whether or not they want to stay.”

Bird said even if Ten Thousand Villages does not take over the space, she would still like to see a retail shop.

Downtown District President Bill Nusser said while a third of the space will be occupied by the Fair Trade store, they are hoping to expand and maximize the amount of space in that area as it was originally built for three retail stores.

“If you ask me, I would like to see the other two thirds of that space occupied by something relevant to the library or the play area,” he said.

Ten Thousand Villages Board Member Cindi Schrock said the store is nonprofit and sells handmade items from third world countries across the globe.

She said this will be the store’s first set in the state of Iowa.

“The city’s been gracious enough to let us stay here for six weeks,” she said. “Schrock said if they are unable to renew their lease at the Dubuque St. space, they will not be looking for another space.

“In that time, we hope to educate the public to let them know who we are and show the city that we would be a great addition to their many shops,” she said.

Customers shop in a pop-up shop Nov. 15 in the former location of The Wedge. The Wedge closed after 6.5 years of business in downtown Iowa City.

To help you get the most out of your visit to MCHS, allow a minimum of 3-4 hours for your visit. You may also want to consider joining the Museum Society. It is a great way to support the Museum and save on admission prices!
HAWKEYES RUN WILD IN CHAMPAIGN

‘They bounced back from a defeat last week and they played, as I guess you would say, Iowa football.’

— Kirk Ferentz, Iowa head coach

IOWA 30, ILLINOIS 14

RUSHING

- IOWA: Weisman, 23-134; Canzeri, 12-68; Rudock, 8-39-1; Parker, 3-34; Bullock, 3-18; Wadley, 5-11; Beathard, 1-0
- ILLINOIS: Ferguson, 9-29; O’Toole, 5-29; Young, 5-25; Bailey, 1-6; Davis, 1-3; Dudek, 1-1; Lunt, 3-minus-5

PASSING

- IOWA: Rudock, 14-21-210-2; Beathard, 3-3-73-1
- ILLINOIS: Lunt, 14-25-102-1; O’Toole, 3-6-45-1

RECEIVING

- IOWA: Hamilton, 4-20-2; Duzey, 3-110; Smith, 3-46; Martin-Manley, 2-56; Powell, 2-25-1; Plewa, 2-19; Bullock, 1-7
- ILLINOIS: Dudek, 6-80-2; Ferguson, 6-12; Davis, 1-15; Allison, 1-11; Turner, 1-11; Hardee, 1-10; Barr, 1-8

BOX SCORE

IOWA       30, ILLINOIS 14

FIRST QUARTER
- 4:55, IOWA: Trinca-Pasat, Safety
- 2:29, ILLINOIS: Dudek, 31-yard pass from Lunt, (Reisner kick)

SECOND QUARTER
- 10:56, IOWA: Hamilton, 1-yard pass from Rudock (Koehn Kick)

THIRD QUARTER
- 2:56, IOWA: Hamilton, 6-yard pass from Rudock (Koehn kick)

FOURTH QUARTER
- 13:41, IOWA: Rudock, 6-yard run (Koehn kick)
- 8:05, IOWA: Powell, 19-yard pass from Beathard (Koehn kick)
- 3:52, ILLINOIS: Dudek, 31-yard pass from O’Toole (Reisner kick)

TEAM SCORES

IOWA: 1-10, 7-21, 7-28, 7-30

ILLINOIS: 0-0, 0-7, 7-14, 14-14

BY THE NUMBERS

1 three-and-out for the Iowa offense against Illinois.

30 career touchdown passes for Jake Rudock, which ties Brad Banks for ninth all-time in program history.

7 tackles for loss by eight different Hawkeyes.

72 degrees in the Memorial Stadium Press Box.

QUOTED

‘A tough football game, no question about it. We battled there for about three quarters, and then they just jumped may out of our handles. I think credit goes to Iowa for coming back to do a great job and the preparation of their football team.’

— ILLINOIS HEAD COACH TIM BECKMAN

PRIME PLAYS

Has to be Damond Powell’s touchdown reception in garbage time. With 1.1 seconds left in the game, Powell ran toward the right pylon of the south end zone. Brubard sent a laser toward Powell, who snatched it right above his defender for a 19-yard score. The touchdown gave Iowa a 30-7 lead.

On Illinois’s 11th play from scrimmage, Wes Lunt took a three-step drop in shotgun and dropped a dime pass into the hands of freshman receiver Mike Dudek for a 31-yard touchdown. There wasn’t a ton cornerblog Desmond King could do to defend it, either. The pass was that good, and it gave Illinois a 7-2 lead in the first quarter.

IOWA GAME BALL

RAY HAMILTON

The senior tight end caught his first- and second-career touchdown passes. On Hamilton’s second touchdown catch, Jake Rudock hit him for what looked to be a 5-yard gain just in front of the end zone, but Hamilton pushed forward and fell into the end zone. In all, Hamilton caught 4 passes for 20 yards.

INDIANA GAME BALL

MIKE DUDEK

The freshman receiver is going to be something special. Dudek caught 6 passes for 80 yards and 2 touchdowns. The first was that dime throw from Lunt, and the second, Dudek burned Greg Mabin for another 31-yard touchdown.

Go to dailyiowan.com for more photos and coverage from this weekend’s game.
IOWA 30, ILLINOIS 14

IOWA GAME BALL
RAY HAMILTON

The senior tight end caught his first- and second-career touchdown passes against Illinois. On Hamilton’s second touchdown catch, Jake Rudock hit him for what looked to be a 5-yard gain just in front of the end zone, but Hamilton pushed forward and fell into the end zone. In all, Hamilton caught 4 passes for 20 yards. The freshman receiver is going to be something special, no doubt. Dudek caught 6 passes for 80 yards and 2 touchdowns. The first was that dime throw from Lunt, and the second, Dudek burned Greg Mabin for another 31-yard touchdown.

THUMBS UP

Total Offense: Iowa amassed 587 total yards of offense, the most it has had in a single game this season and the fourth-highest total under Kirk Ferentz. Of that total, 304 came on the ground on 55 carries, good for a cool 5.5 yards-per-carry average.

THUMBS DOWN

Illinois’s Student Section: The student section at Memorial Stadium was so empty that it was tough to see what, exactly, the card stunt they were trying to pull off was. That said, we understand, Illini fans, that it’s probably been tough to watch your team at times. Iowa fans feel your pain every other week.

THUMBS UP

Jake Rudock hit wide receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley for a 39-yard touchdown to give Iowa the first down in Illinois territory. Martin-Manley had 2 catches for 83 yards and a touchdown.

THUMBS DOWN

Neither touchdown passes against Rudock hit him for what we expected, but Hamilton pushed forward on his second TD.

LOOK AHEAD

Iowa has one, maybe two, meaningful games left on its schedule. Both are at home. We say “maybe two” because Iowa has to beat Wisconsin this weekend in order to make the Nebraska game on Black Friday matter. In the words of the late Al Davis, Iowa has to “just win, baby.”

SCHEDULE

Aug. 30, vs. Northern Iowa (W, 31-23)
Sept. 6, vs. Ball State (W, 17-13)
Sept. 13, vs. Iowa State (L, 20-17)
Sept. 20, @ Pittsburgh (W, 24-20)
Sept. 27, @ Purdue (W, 24-10)
Oct. 11, @ Maryland (L, 38-31)
Oct. 18, vs. Minnesota (W, 26-10)
Nov. 1, vs. Northwestern (W, 45-29)
Nov. 8, @ Minnesota (W, 42-14)
Nov. 15, vs. Illinois (W, 30-14)
Nov. 22, vs. Wisconsin
Nov. 28, vs. Nebraska
The ledge

Andrew R. Juhl

STEM News

Plain Talk

Diabetes and Obesity Talks Monday, Anna McElroy, Antiochus Cancer Research Centers, 1 p.m., 1239 Iowa Memorial Union, 4th floor. 7-9 p.m.

Human and Particle Physics Seminar: Tony Delide, Columbia University, Quantum Chromodynamics. 1:45 p.m., 301 Van Allen

Plasma Physics Seminar: Shuang Yang, plasma physics. 1:45 p.m., 301 Van Allen

Cosmology Seminar: The Faith is Magica. 1:45 p.m., 301 Van Allen

Biology Graduate Student Seminar: ‘Differential gene expression in a hybrid salmon,’ Kyle McElroy. 1:45 p.m., 301 Van Allen

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider what everyone around you is doing. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your current approach is what will help you deal with a precarious situation. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You’re extremely careful when handling relation- ship issues. Any show of instability will end up costing you. Put your effort into improving your personal or professional life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participate in an event that will help you understand different cultures. Exploring will help take your mind off of your current lifestyle. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get involved in a cause you believe in, and explore opportunities that will help you raise your awareness. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what everyone around you is doing. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you can’t stand being stuck in one’s generosity. Get involved in a cause you believe in, and explore opportunities that will help you raise your awareness. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help, and you will discover valuable infor- mation. Making an impulsive move will be out of character, but an effective way to deal with competition. Form an alliance with someone insightful and practical. Don’t let your personal life interfere with your work.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Examine what’s going on around you. Pay attention to detail as well as to what your peers are up to. Don’t argue over trivial matters. Make the necessary changes and keep moving forward. Don’t be disillusioned by what others do or say.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Help colleagues, and you will build a strong alliance that will help you advance in your chosen field. Be a patient partner who will lead to opportunities and greater expertise. Sign up for courses that will help hone your skills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don’t trust anyone with your personal or professional life. You will have to trust the words behind someone else’s one’s generosity. Get involved in a cause you believe in, and explore opportunities that will help you raise your awareness. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participate in an event that will help you understand different cultures. Exploring will help take your mind off of your current lifestyle. Make changes to your current lifestyle that will help you reduce your over- head. Consider a residential move or updating your skills to raise your income.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You’re extremely careful when handling relation- ship issues. Any show of instability will end up costing you. Put your effort into improving your personal or professional life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be extremely careful when handling rela- tionship issues. You may have to work harder to get the backing and support you need to get ahead professionally and financially.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be flowed by what others say. Go to the source, and get your facts straight. Knowledge will make the difference when facing a decision. A change at home can bring benefits in the long run.

The New York Times

Crossword

The Horoscope

The New York Times

Crossword

The Horoscope

Gold medals aren’t really made of gold. They’re made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts.

— Dan Gable
game against the Spartans, it became fairly evident that the Nittany Lions would give the Hawkeyes all they could handle. Luckily for Bluder, her team was able to respond to this early test with a more complete second half, snatching out a 85-67 win in the process.

“This wasn’t an early season puddle-giever game,” Bluder said. “This was a good team, and they played us tough.”

A veteran squad, Iowa’s experienced senior corps seemed unflappable by the game’s tightness; however, for a small sample size, Dicker- son’s inexperience is going to be considered as valuable learning opportu-
nities.

“We’re growing and getting better in the team,” Bluder said. “I think as a freshman, sometimes you get in there and think you have to score your way out of it. But there is a small sample size, Dicker- son’s inexperience is going to be considered as valuable learning opportu-
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nitie.
**Volleyball loses momentum**

The Iowa volleyball team lost to Wisconsin in straight sets on Nov. 15.

**By COURTNEY BAUMANN**

courtney.baumann@uiowa.edu

Wisconsin defeated the Iowa women's volleyball team in straight sets on Nov 15, but it seems as though the Hawkeyes lost momentum. What seemed to have disappeared for Iowa was momentum and physicality, as an important mentality, rather than emotion, was deflected the past few days to prepare for two coming matches.

"The challenge is that we had momentum going into the next week, the Hawkeyes only have two away games coming up in the next week, the Hawkeyes had battled hard in the first set, losing to a close 20-19 game, the second and third sets did not see the same kind of fights," said head coach Kevin Hambly, "I liked the continuation of what we did in the third set, but we lost a lot of that momentum." The Nittany Lions had not been the only prob-

Alm has become instrumental in the team's success throughout the season, and she belied Iowa in kills against the Badgers.

Dixon led with 21 points, while Peschel finished with 10 points, and quickly outletted to Doolittle closed the door.

"At this point in the season, there is our preparation that way, how are we building each other up as teammates, how can we help him do that as a coaching staff?" Dixon began the second half with 8 points on 3-of-4 shooting, 0-of-2 from 3, while Doolittle scored 6 points on 2-of-6 shooting. Robert Morris closed the gap to 55-48 by the 13-minute mark, but af-

**Dixon, Peschel shine**

The Iowa volleyball team hosted Robert Morris for its second game of the season, and though it had to work for it, came out on top for an 85-71 victory.

Melissa Dixon began the game with a deep 3, but Morris wasn't going to let this game get away too quickly. With her offense looking relatively stag-

Dixon had just scored and it looked good for what the first set, where it looks that same thing going in Shymansky said. "We had Wisconsin," head coach Bond though we lost, and we set at Penn State even 

Dressing room - Photo: Ken Montgomery

The Colonials put forth a big effort but not a lot of momentum, and just in-

dining Sunday. With one change added contribution, she believes the team is sitting pretty to begin the season. "I think we've definitely coming out a lot more in-

We do, what we can do.**

**By KEVIN MANN**

kevin.mann@uiowa.edu

"It means a lot, but it really have two practice days available to practice. We felt like we were prepared. We were ready to go," head coach Kevin Hambly said. "We had momentum going into the next week, the Hawkeyes had battled hard in the first set, losing to a close 20-19 game, the second and third sets did not see the same kind of fights."

Alm has become instru-

**FOR A PHOTO SLIDE SHOW FROM SUNDAY'S GAME**

**GAS UP AND GRILL OUT**

"The challenge is that we had momentum going into the next week, the Hawkeyes only have two away games coming up in the next week, the Hawkeyes had battled hard in the first set, losing to a close 20-19 game, the second and third sets did not see the same kind of fights."

Alm has become instru-

"It's what we do physically this time of the year, he said. "It's what we do mentally and emotionally — and where is our preparation that way, how are we building each other up as teammates, how can we help him do that as a coaching staff?" Dixon began the second half with 8 points on 3-of-4 shooting, 0-of-2 from 3, while Doolittle scored 6 points on 2-of-6 shooting. Robert Morris closed the gap to 55-48 by the 13-minute mark, but after-
Defense doesn’t rest against Illinois

The Hawkeye defense made sure to not let the mistakes that doomed them against Minnesota dwell again.

BY JACOB SHEYKO

The Hawks hold off tough Colonials

Robert Morris gave Iowa all it could handle on Sunday as the Hawks defeated the Colonials, 85-67.

BY DANNY PAYNE

Football down to the wire

Despite all the struggles and inconsistencies, Iowa’s final two games of the season carry meaningful implications in the Big Ten West Division.

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois — We’ve talked about how college football coaching moves quickly, as if it shouldn’t come as a surprise at all when I tell you that Iowa, at 7-3, has a better chance — yes, there’s still a chance — to play in the Big Ten championship game than 8-2 Nebraska.

In August, when Iowa was still in the “talking” stage of the 2014 season, there was a lot of chatter about expectations and what the Hawkeyes could accomplish. We looked at the roster and saw great talent. We looked at the schedule and saw great potential. Things had fallen into place.

The goal, we said, was to ensure those last two games in November had meaningful implications in the Big Ten’s West Division.

For as inconsistent as Iowa has been this season — for all the weird and quirky things that have happened, both on and off the field — that potential has been met. The Hawkeyes enter this final two-game stretch with a chance to shake up the conference.

“Right now, we’re enjoying this one today,” quarterback Jake Rudock said. “This week, we’re going to focus on what we need to do [on Saturday].”