

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

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Collaboration key amid a *Crisis*

UI administrators have had practice leading through crises before. Those experiences helped them come together to respond to COVID-19 as a team.

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BREAKING NEWS

Phone: (319) 335-6030
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu
Fax: 335-6297

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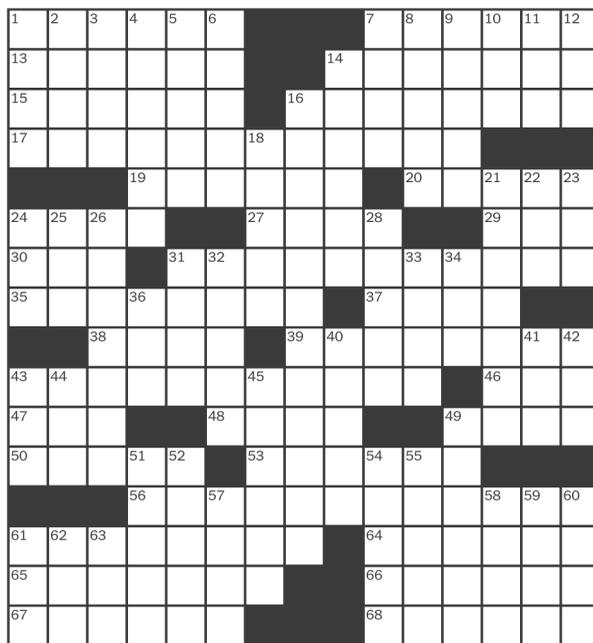
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 3

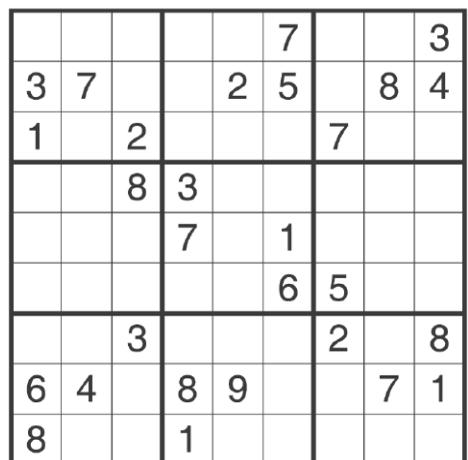
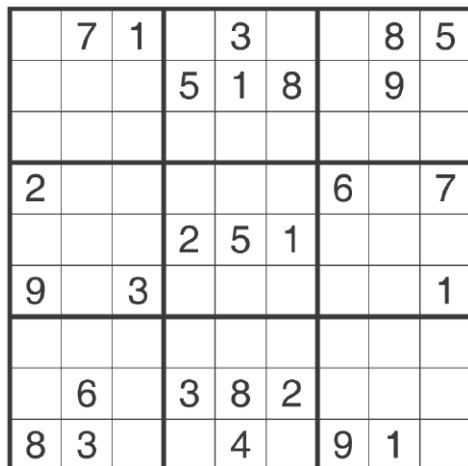
Across

- 1 Not be heard from anymore
- 7 Tom who created Jack Ryan
- 13 Shakespearean fairy king
- 14 Something to practice percussion on
- 15 Humorist Ambrose who once defined "alone" as "in bad company"
- 16 Fans that jeer the home team, informally
- 17 Quick attack groups
- 19 Club booklet
- 20 Blind followers
- 24 Tennis star Nadal, to fans
- 27 Like the leftmost stripe on le drapeau français
- 29 Deli loaf
- 30 "There you are!"
- 31 Like many TV news interviews
- 35 Emmy nomination number for which Susan Lucci finally won for playing Erica Kane on "All My Children"
- 37 Little bit
- 38 Comic actress Rudolph
- 39 Went 0 to 60, say
- 43 Producer of jingle-jangle in the pocket
- 46 "Good for the earth" prefix
- 47 Horror film director Aster
- 48 Grasp
- 49 Coffee or beer, informally
- 50 Coke and RC
- 53 Morn on "Modern Family"

- 56 Aid for a Thanksgiving chef
- 61 Reverse course, slangily
- 64 Wing it?
- 65 Cry at a revival
- 66 Kind of sale
- 67 Clicked the double vertical bar on a YouTube video
- 68 Precipitates unpleasantly, in a way

Down

- 1 Oodles
- 2 Dead space?
- 3 Howl : wolf :: bell : ____
- 4 Exuberant cry south of the border
- 5 Title film character who declares "Nobody owes nobody nothing"
- 6 Show obeisance
- 7 Gator's cousin
- 8 Some garage jobs
- 9 Eschewers of military service
- 10 "Ask Me Another" airtel
- 11 Scoundrel
- 12 Fabric measures: Abbr.
- 14 Real English county on which Thomas Hardy based the fictional Wessex
- 16 Where you might roll the starts of 17-, 31-, 43- and 56-Across
- 18 George Orwell's "Animal Farm," e.g.
- 21 Nook, e.g.
- 22 One of eight on most spiders
- 23 Part of an animal farm
- 24 Was in charge of
- 25 Fish on a sushi menu
- 26 Gushing letters
- 28 On drugs, say
- 31 Bump on a lid
- 32 Beaut
- 33 Driving test obstacle
- 34 GPS suggestion: Abbr.
- 36 What may have a ring to it?
- 40 10/24 celebration of global cooperation
- 41 Makeup of Elsa's castle in "Frozen"
- 42 Drag
- 43 Kind of fly
- 44 Whiz
- 45 Pawned
- 49 Next to
- 51 Part of some encyclopedias
- 52 Smooth
- 54 Certain building beams
- 55 Get tangled up
- 57 Had some second thoughts about
- 58 ____ Modern
- 59 Division politique
- 60 Rules and ____
- 61 One of 21 on a die
- 62 Actress Thurman
- 63 Sch. whose newspaper is The Daily Reveille



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BECOME A BIOTEST PLASMA SUPERHERO!

Virus challenges Hawks from across the globe

For international students who will soon graduate from the university, COVID-19 has exacerbated preexisting post-graduation challenges.

BY MARY HARTEL
mary-hartel@uiowa.edu

Celine Kusnadi hasn't seen her family in two years.

The University of Iowa senior's parents were planning to travel to Iowa City this spring from their home in Jakarta, Indonesia to watch her graduate, and experience what it means to be a Hawkeye for the first time.

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Kusnadi's parents plans were canceled and her own plans for the future have become uncertain.

International students traditionally have various options for post-graduation pursuits. Amid spread of the novel coronavirus, however, many are facing unique challenges as a result of navigating adulthood in a foreign country and during a pandemic.

Kusnadi recently received her Optional Practical Training work authorization, which permits international students of F-1 status temporary employment in an area of their major field of study for up to 12 months, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Most international students at the UI have F-1 visas, said Michael

Bortscheller, UI associate director of International Student and Scholar Services, in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

Despite executive orders from the federal government targeting certain types of noncitizen, permanent employment, Bortscheller said people who come to the U.S. for temporary purposes such as studying are still eligible for work authorization.

For graduating international students, however, work authorization doesn't guarantee employment.

"If, due to current circumstances, a student cannot find a job within 90 days of the start of their authorization, then they would have to depart the United States," Bortscheller said. "The government has not announced any exceptions from these normal application deadlines and grace periods."

Facing a job market that has been disrupted by COVID-19 mitigation measures, Kusnadi said international students have scrambled to find employment so they can take advantage of the Optional Practical Training program.

"There's this whole argument that OPT is a staple for international students and university students," Kusnadi said. "That's what attracts them

here in the first place."

Kusnadi, an international-relations major with a minor in business administration, said she has yet to find a job, but has participated in several informational interviews with professionals in her field and UI alumni to scope out potential job opportunities. Kusnadi added that she's taken advantage of UI resources like the Pomerantz Career Center to guide her in the process.

"You really don't have the luxury of time and it's pretty stressful, especially with graduation and finals week, you really have to start early," Kusnadi said.

Had she known sooner that post-graduation employment opportunities would be this sparse, Kusnadi said she would have considered applying for graduate school — another means for international students to stay in the U.S. — but it was too late by the time COVID-19 ramped up nationwide.

In addition to applying for jobs, Kusnadi said she is also exploring different volunteer or unpaid intern work. Her main priority is to broaden her network and get experience in the U.S., Kusnadi said, even if it means sacrificing an income.

"For international students, your life can turn 180 degrees within months or weeks," she said. "So, I could be back home in Indonesia like next month or I could stay in the United States for the long [term]."

Since President Trump took office, Kusnadi said she is less hopeful about opportunities for international students than when she arrived in the U.S. four years ago.

UI graduating senior and international student Allison Kim said she plans to participate in the UI virtual graduation ceremony, but is unsure if she can partake in a future in-person ceremony because she doesn't know where she will be in the coming months.

Kim spent her middle and high school years in South Korea, where many of her friends and family live. But she was born and spent 10 years of her childhood in Minnesota, allowing her to attend the UI as a dual citizen.

"So, with the citizenship I'm technically a domestic student," Kim said. "But experience-wise, I'm an international student."

While she is not facing the same 90-day time constraint as Kusnadi, Kim said she is rethinking her decision to remain in the U.S. because of the depressed job market and racial disparities.

Kim planned to seek long-term employment and settle in the U.S. after her a summer internship, she said, but she has only heard back from a couple of the nearly 50 positions she's applied for.

Increased discrimination toward Asian Americans since the outbreak of COVID-19 also played a role in this decision, Kim said.

"I've always known about that side [of the U.S.], but it was always just like in the back of my head since I'd never really seen it out front," Kim said. "But with this, it has changed some thoughts of mine about the states."

Bortscheller said if international students do not seek work authorization, they have a 60-day grace period before falling out of status — which is different than being undocumented, because students entered the U.S. with the appropriate documentation.

Students who stay longer than the 60 days or fail to find employment within 90 days of work authorization are advised to depart from the U.S. as soon as possible, Bortscheller said.

Bortscheller said this should allow students ample time to make arrangements before falling out of status, and that many countries have been accommodating to citizens wishing to depart from the U.S.

"[International Student and Scholar Services] does advise students on all of their options after graduation, and we have been contacted by many students who have understandable concerns given the circumstances," Bortscheller said. "We are also monitoring the many updates that have been coming from the U.S. government, [and] have sent out mass emails if anything is announced which affects our students."

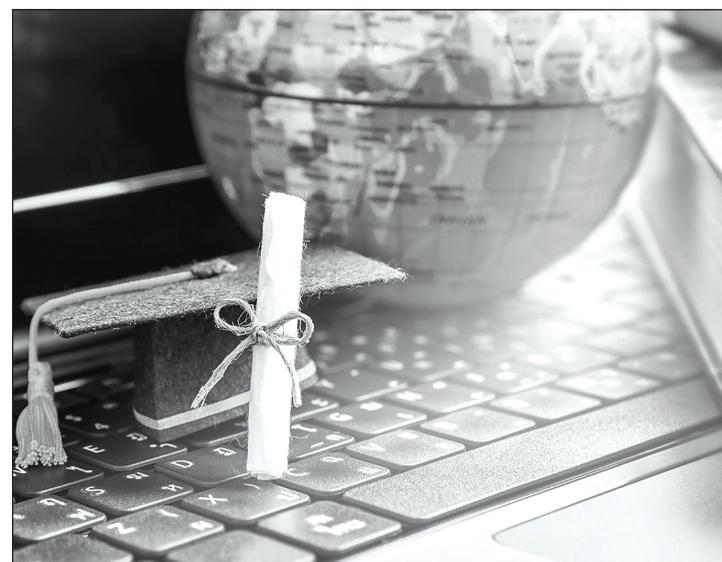
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Long
live
the
club
on

College Street

Design by Katina Zentz

With the Union Bar closed for good, *The Daily Iowan* looked back on the club's history and the artists who have come to the Pedestrian Mall party spot since the '70s.

BY ALEXANDRA SKORES
alexandra-skores@uiowa.edu

Ten-cent cold, foamy beer specials, hit tunes spun by nighttime DJs, and a slick glass dance floor illuminated by kaleidoscopic colored lights — since the late 1970s, 121 E. College St. has been where arguably tens of thousands of Iowa City residents and Hawkeyes have made their fondest memories.

Now known as the Union Bar, the two-story, brick building club has featured many names over its front doors. It served as a prime-time Hawkeye tailgate spot on game days, a place to listen to live music of various genres, and a place to have a drink or three with friends.

After breaking the news

that the Union Bar's doors are now closed for good, *The Daily Iowan* took a look at the history behind the hot spot for live music in Iowa City.

The very best in live rock 'n' roll

In 1970, the Pedestrian Mall building was home to the River City Free Trade Zone, a collection of shops that created handmade goods for patrons of the '70s. Deemed a "freak department store" in a *DI* archived article, the store sold records, books, drug paraphernalia, and leather goods.

According to an anonymous source from a '70s *DI* archived article, behind a curtained window upstairs of the College Street building sat building owners who would

"move hundreds of pounds of pot a week."

In August of 1974, a new bar, Maxwell's, would emerge in Iowa City, finding its home on College Street.

The bar was owned locally by a company called the Great American Saloon Company. Within the interior of bare bricks and locally weathered barn wood was the backdrop to a sunken dance floor and raised stage in the rear end of the bar, where live entertainment would play to crowds.

While advertising for the very best in live rock 'n' roll, the then-principal shareholder and manager Ken Williamson said he had planned to have bands of "five pieces and up to play top 40 music," at Maxwell's, according to a *DI* archive.

Iowa's legal drinking age in 1973 was 18. It was later bumped up to 19 in 1978. Williamson said at the time that the lowered age made him and other shareholders want to invest in the new bar.

Attracting crowds of 3,000 people in partnership with The Fieldhouse, there was plenty of room for customers, according to *DI* archives. Eager crowds of young adults would pay a pricey \$2 cover to get into Maxwell's on the weekends, where the bar would be playing top 40 music and disco.

The club on College Street

Bored in the '80s and itching to make mayhem, local DJs such as Jeff Charmin' Harmon and Dan Ambrisco

used to move between College Street Club and the Fieldhouse bar to try and confuse drunk patrons.

In the early-to-mid '80s, Charmin' Harmon spent most of his time as a radio DJ at KRNA radio playing classic rock. Under the wing of College Street Club owner Harry Ambrose, the music scene of the nightlife would soon become more oriented around dance and rock music.

As for the bar-goers who came in while school was in session, Harmon said he noticed a shift in how college students looked at music and the representation behind the songs of the time.

"People wanted to identify with something as their own — those College Street kids had their own thing," Harmon

said.

For Harmon, it was a bit of a shock seeing how downtown would light up with crowds of Hawkeyes, because he thought the area was more rural.

"I think it was probably more of the Chicago kids going there that made it more hip," Harmon said.

As the new wave of the '80s began, Harmon would depart from Iowa City after getting married, always remembering the nightlife and the 2:30 a.m. ends to his shift at the loud, brick building on College Street. As he would walk out of the club after a busy night, Harmon recalls staring straight at a gyro stand and smelling the greasy food and seeing the busy Ped Mall.

For DJ Ambrisco, starting out at the College Street Club as a DJ in the late '80s would be a time to unwind and reconnect with friends. Ambrisco said he spun artists such as Rick James and Michael Jackson for friends, all while watching the Iowa City nightlife dance right in front of him on the 25-by-20-square-foot glass dance floor.

For five nights a week in his undergraduate years, Ambrisco would work 5 to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. While spinning his own tracks, Ambrisco recalls all of his friends coming out to watch him spin on the nights he worked.

"If they wanted to impress a girl, I said, 'I got your back,' and played the song," Ambrisco said.

The sound system at College Street, Ambrisco said, provided for a "total party atmosphere." He spun for packed dance floors, noting that even Hawkeye athletes made an appearance from time to time in the crowds.

According to *DI* archives, College Street Club would close in December of 1989, after a forfeiture of the property to the U.S. government for its interest in the bar after trials of owners Harry Ambrose and Larry Regennitter. The two were serving sentences for conspiracy of distributing cocaine and other cocaine-related charges, leaving behind the club's six bar stations, dance floor, and 10-cent beer specials.

The Hawkeyes of the '80s will always know College Street Club as the place they lived out their best moments.

"Iowa City is the best place to be, if you never want to grow up," Harmon said.

The Union on College

Beginning in 1993, the Union Bar was born — crowded with hundreds of Hawkeyes attracted by its loud live, sticky dance floor, and \$1 drink specials.

For the last 13 years, "DJ Paimon" Alipour has been spinning at the venue he credits with exposing locals to the live music scene. He said local artists have grown to become more and more accepted as time went on. Alipour said he found himself introducing crowds to local artists — and the crowds would react, asking him for song titles and engaging with the music.

"Union had the reputation for the music — ownership and management really focused on that," Alipour said.

Local music provided a cheaper option for club management, Alipour said. However, local DJs quickly found that hip-hop would soon become the No. 1 genre in music.

"When hip-hop became pop, places didn't have a choice," Alipour said.

With the arrival of the EDM scene's popularity, DJs became more of the focus of the club experience, Alipour said. In particular, Iowa's local music scene for EDM would help places such as Union gain notoriety.

However, Alipour noticed his crowds die down in 2007, when the Iowa City City Council passed the 21-ordinance preventing persons under age of 21 to enter the premises past 10 p.m.

"The 21-ordinance really changed how people experienced," Alipour said. "I saw the minors in the crowds from 8-10 p.m. and then from 10 to about 11:30 it would be slow ... and then pick back up again with the 21-plus group."

Before the ordinance, Alipour remembers leaving Union after his set to a crowd still hanging around in the Ped Mall and enjoying themselves: now, there are few people that remain after the bar closes.

The practice of the Iowa City police conducting bar checks in the downtown area stems back to the '90s, according to a *DI* archived article. Police would patrol bars checking for underage patrons and intoxicated persons every few months. According to a March 2020 bar check report from the Iowa City police, in the previous 12 months there had been 68 checks, amounting to 10 PAULAs and 95 bars-past-10 citations.

As for the bar, the Tailwind Group purchased the three-story building for \$2.9 million in 2017, the *DI* reported in April. This evaluation comes from one parcel that includes 117 and 119 E. College St., and another that includes 121 and 123 E. College St.

According to data from the Iowa City Assessor, the assessed value for both properties is \$893,000 and \$1.53 million, respectively. Currently, the parcels house Union and clothing store Revival.

As all nightclubs are closed in the midst of COVID-19, Alipour said he and other DJs are just trying to survive.

"Livestreaming is the way for now — there are still opportunities to tip your DJs with Venmo," Alipour said.

For Alipour and the many others that came before him, the 121 E. College St. spot will hold some of the fondest memories with him for his life, some of which include dropping new albums the minute they were released.

"It's the most fun I've ever experienced — people wanted to turn up," Alipour said.

The History of 121 E. College St.

1970
121 E. College St. is occupied by the River City Free Trade Zone, a handmade goods store.

August 1974
Maxwell's Tavern opens at 121 E. College St. with an emphasis on the "the very best in live rock 'n' roll."

1976
Maxwell's Tavern plays "The Little Mahogany." The cabaret performance is conducted in both French and German and is called a "scenic cantata."

1979
BB King hits the stage at Union. BB King was known for his string bending while playing the blues.

1980s
College Street Club opens at 121 E. College St.

1989
College Street Club closes

1993
Union Bar opens at 121 E. College St.

November 1999
American heavy metal band Slipknot plays Union

October 2009
American rapper Afroman plays at the Union

March 2020
Union officially closes its doors. The venue is planned to become an apartment complex owned by the Tailwind Group.

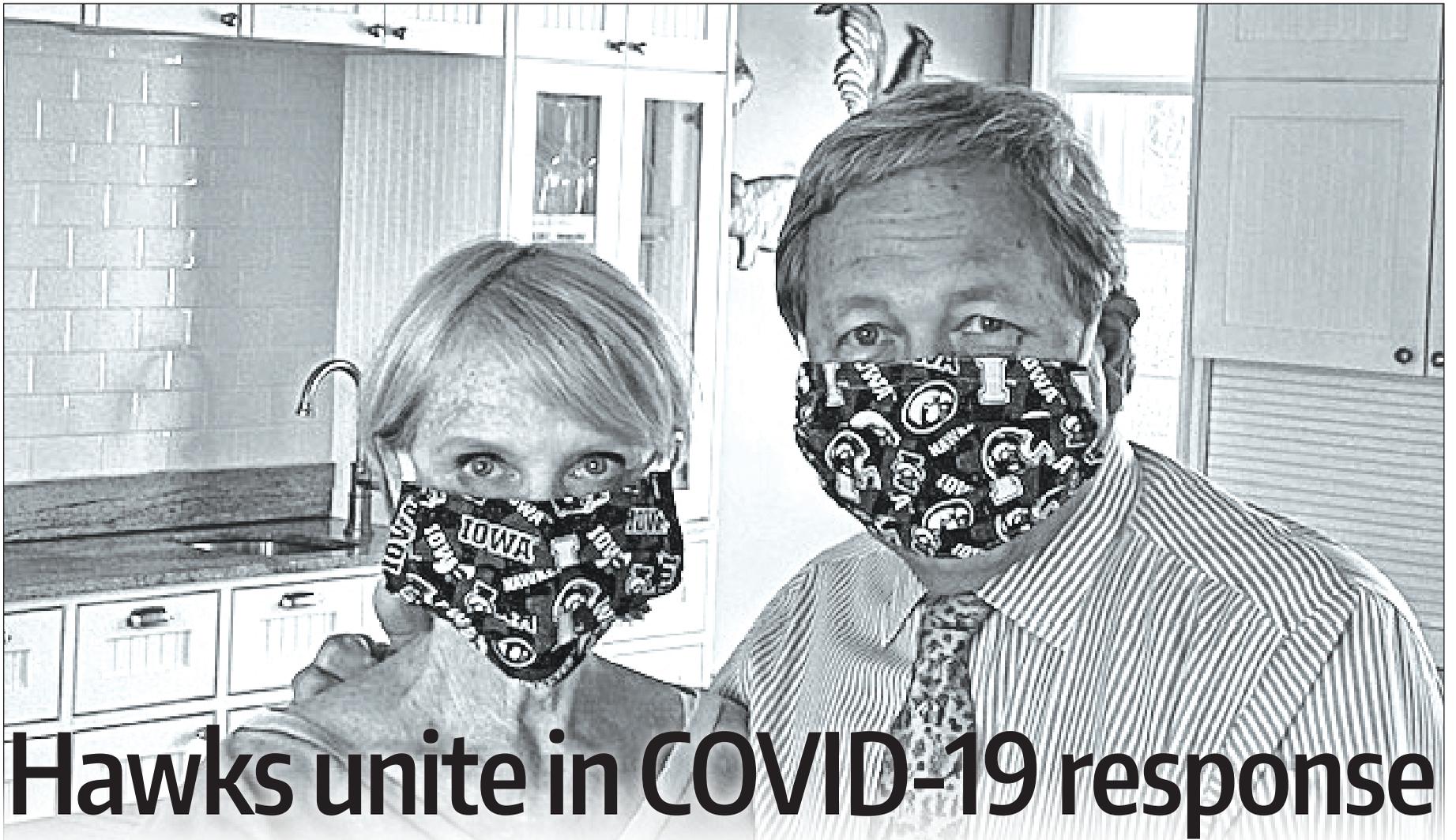
Iowa City's College Street Club: Hits of the '80s

- Prince - "Kiss"
- Micheal Jackson - "Billie Jean"
- Rick James - "Super Freak"
- Kool and The Gang - "Celebration"
- Rob Base and DJ EZ - "It Takes 2"
- Madonna - "Papa Don't Preach"
- Salt-n Pepa - "Push It"
- Tecnotronic - "Pump up the Jam"
- Ton - "Ioc"
- Miami Sound Machine - "Conga"
- Frankie Goes to Hollywood - "Relax"



Iowa City's Union Bar: Today's Hits

- Chris Borwn - "Yeah 3x"
- Chief Keef - "Love Sosa"
- Drake - "God's Plan"
- Fetty Wap - "Trap Queen"
- Kid Cudi - Pursuit of Happiness (Steve Aoki Remix)
- Childish Gambino - "Redbone"
- Ginuwine - "Pony"
- Daddy Yankee - "Gasolina"
- Usher - "Yeah!"
- The Killers - "Mr. Brightside"
- Beyonce - "Crazy in Love"
- Cardi B - "Bodak Yellow"
- Kanye West - "Stronger"



Hawks unite in COVID-19 response

Contributed photo of Mary and Bruce Harreld

University of Iowa leaders reflect on the collaboration needed to get through COVID-19.

BY MARISSA PAYNE
marissa-payne@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa President Bruce Harreld was searching for a guiding star in March to lead the institution through the COVID-19 pandemic amid a horizon filled with uncertainty.

As the number of novel coronavirus cases first began to rise in Iowa, the 21st UI president met with the deans March 11, the Wednesday before spring break. At this meeting, Harreld said, he could see his collegiate leaders wrestling with how to minimize the virus' upheaval on campus operations — the financial toll, the human impact.

"What we're doing is trying to trade off things," he told *The Daily Iowan*, recalling his struggle to come to terms

with the tough decisions that lay ahead of him and his team. "I kind of pounded on the table to make it very clear that we are going to do a lot of damage to a lot of things across the institution, but the one thing we're not going to do damage to are the people.

"We are going to make sure our students are safe, our faculty is safe, and our staff [is] safe. If we need to go into our homes, we are all going to go into our homes. If we're going to have to teach online, then we're going to teach online. And if we have to cancel graduation, we will have a virtual graduation. It's terrible, but we have to keep people safe."

As President Emeritus Sandy Boyd often said, it's the people, not the buildings, that make the UI great.

So, Harreld and the UI team set out to keep Hawkeyes at the heart of the

university's response to the unprecedented COVID-19 public-health crisis.

"As you're moving through a situation like this, what are we focused on optimizing? What's the one thing we have to make sure we get right?" Harreld said. "... Once I got fixed on the guiding principle in the middle of March, I will say things didn't get easier but they got clearer. I don't think people come here as students or join our institution as faculty or staff or anything else to put themselves in harm's way."

Since the first case of the virus was identified in Wuhan, China, in November, the UI has made sweeping operational changes in a matter of months, sometimes days, to keep the Hawkeye community safe — recalling students from study-abroad programs, shutting down campus

buildings, canceling events including commencement, moving students out of residence halls, and switching to entirely virtual instruction.

Though these actions all made for a jarring change from typically vibrant campus operations, this isn't the first time the UI has responded to a crisis. Having most recently faced the 2008 flood, the university has fine-tuned its reaction to emergencies, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Rod Lehnertz said. Away from campus in his temporary home workspace, Lehnertz oversees university operations with his seven-pound dog Swift (named after chart-topping musician Taylor Swift) nearby.

UI officials created the Critical Incident Management Team to chart the UI's course to coordinate with constituents across campus to plan and make

operational changes amid disasters. The group brings together leaders from key campus units and central administration who are tasked with protecting human life and restoring normal operations amid a crisis.

This includes crises that can't be seen, such as COVID-19.

Sitting in a "pretty confining" closet inside his home that's been converted into a miniature sound studio, Lehnertz said via a Skype video interview that the UI handled COVID-19 effectively out of the gate because of lessons learned from the flood. It was a time to come together as a university to problem-solve — of lacking answers but searching for solutions, he said.

The flood hit the eastern Iowa region, including Iowa City, hard. It took eight years for the UI to cross off each step toward recovery — reviving



Photo courtesy of the UI College of Engineering

Colleen Bringman, lecturer of biomedical engineering and director of the Carver Medical Device Design Lab, constructs a face shield.

classroom spaces, rebuilding portions of the IMU, completely reconstructing Hancher Auditorium and a new home for the School of Music in Voxman. But Lehnertz said the university emerged better and more prepared once the recovery efforts wrapped up.

With COVID-19, the UI isn't alone in its experiences the way it was during the flood. It's among many institutions and Hawkeyes are among millions of people across the globe whose lives have been altered because of the pandemic, leaving everyone to wrestle with unknowns while experts race to learn more about the virus.

"... Those kinds of less than predictable crises are ones that, even as we get through this, we can't say, 'And now bring it on. Let's have another one like that, because we will tackle it.' We don't know what it will be," Lehnertz said. "What we do know is we'll be ready as an institution to organize on behalf of the institution and its students, and its faculty, and its staff, and I'd say do so better than other in-

stitutions because, whether it's a good thing or a bad thing, we're good at it because we've done it."

Watching the world and waiting

Iowans watched the coastal coronavirus activity and waited in the Heartland for it to reach Middle America.

The coronavirus crept toward the Hawkeye State slowly — first spreading from China in November, then beginning the global outbreak as cases were confirmed in Japan, Thailand, and South Korea on Jan. 20. By Jan. 21, the first case in the U.S. was identified in Washington state, and within weeks New York became another U.S. epicenter for the virus' spread.

At that time, Russ Ganim had just transitioned Jan. 1 to his new role as International Programs dean, only three weeks before the UI would send its first message to international students and scholars on Jan. 23 regarding the institution's awareness of COVID-19.

Keeping in touch with students

and alumni in the virus' first epicenter in Wuhan, Ganim said he gained an understanding early on of some of the public-health measures taken there to address COVID-19, such as contact-tracing with people who may have come into contact with individuals who have tested positive.

The former director of the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures traveled to China off and on for the last decade, so he said it's not uncommon for visitors to have their temperature taken or to be called aside for special screening. Those initial measures didn't alarm him.

"Some of us who had been through those experiences previously thought, 'OK, well this might be like SARS or H1N1 where this is serious, but we're not at the level of a global pandemic,'" he said.

"Well, it turned out that the coronavirus was very serious, and that it spread on a scale that I don't think anyone could have imagined in January."

That month, UI Emergency Management Director Anna Lumpkin said the Critical Incident Management Team began working with UI Health Care's Bioemergency Response Team to gear up on the medical side of the institution, and then with the university's in-house epidemiological experts.

The Critical Incident Management Team was not formally activated un-

til March 2 and first met in-person the next day, but the campus-wide coordinated coronavirus workgroup began meeting several times a week Jan. 27.

"We learn from the other states. We learn from the other institutions. We've learned from everyone that had this first before us," Lumpkin said of the early days of the university's COVID-19 response. "And that's an important component, is reaching out to our partners, understanding lessons learned, what didn't work, and being prepared for when it happened here."

The UI had just begun communicating with the campus community about its understanding of and resources to combat the coronavirus in January. But after the initial outreach, for almost a month, at least outwardly, the university remained mum on its COVID-19 response.

Soon, the situation began to spiral across the globe.

Reports



emerged from Italy of hospitals that were overflowing with too many COVID-19 patients and too few beds, of newspaper obituary sections packed with more than double the usual amount of tributes to the dead as world leaders struggled to keep up with the coronavirus' rapid spread across borders.

Ganim said that's when it became clear the world would have to grapple with a pandemic.

The UI canceled CIMBA Italy, its popular study-abroad program geared especially toward business students, on Feb. 28 as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State Department issued travel advisories warning of the risk of venturing to the country. Then, within a week came the decision to recall students studying abroad in Japan and the state Board of Regents banned international travel for all faculty, staff, and students.

The people on the UI's coronavirus work group transitioned to the Critical Incident Management Team when Lumpkin activated it March 2, less than a week before officials confirmed the first COVID-19 cases in Iowa.

By March 8, when Gov. Kim Reynolds reported three Iowans were infected with the virus, the world had seen nearly 110,000 confirmed cases and just under 3,900 deaths from the disease.

Since then, there's been push and pull between the state and Johnson County officials as the Board of Supervisors has urged Reynolds to issue a shelter-in-place order with more stringent restrictions on movement within the state to keep people at home and ensure social distancing.

SEE COVID-19, 8

1/23/2020

UI sends first message regarding COVID-19 to international students



3/3/2020

UI cancels all study-abroad programs in Japan and the Critical Incident Management Team begins meeting to prepare campus



3/11/2020

University recalls students studying in Spain, France, and Germany



3/12/2020

University recalls students from 26 other countries designated a CDC-level 3



UI COVID-19 RESPONSE



2/28/2020

UI cancels CIMBA Italy program



3/5/2020

State Board of Regents bans university-sponsored international travel



3/11/2020

UI announces move to virtual instruction for at least two weeks after spring break

COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM 8

Iowa's Republican governor refused to issue one, but maintains she took the steps of such an order by ordering schools, restaurants, and nonessential businesses to close.

As politics played out between the state and its 99 counties, the Hawkeye team remained focused on helping Hawkeyes stay safe and healthy through their collaborative emergency-management structure.

It's this collaboration that's contributed to a successful COVID-19 response so far, said Lumpkin, whose central role involves coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies, including the Iowa Department of Public Health and CDC.

"If the law requires it, then we have to make sure we're in compliance with it... So, you know, I decide to put all politics aside, so we just do what we have to do," she said.

UI team comfortable in crisis mode

The month of March seemed to last for years as UI leaders said they worked around the clock to keep up with the flow of constantly changing information.

No matter the mandate, the Critical Incident Management Team has kept the UI functioning through the onset of the public-health threat and

is now composed of different planning teams. These groups work to coordinate health and safety procedures, classroom sizing and scheduling, information-technology support, human-resource policies, facilities maintenance, finance/budget, and research.

Just three days after Reynolds announced Iowa's first cases, all three in Johnson County stemming from travel on an Egyptian cruise, the UI on March 11 canceled study-abroad programs in Spain, France, and Germany, before pulling Hawkeyes out of 26 other countries with a CDC-level 3 travel advisory.

Students and parents were concerned about the risks associated with travel, Ganim said. Those returning from abroad feared becoming infected with COVID-19 by remaining in high-risk countries, and they feared coming back to the U.S., which seemed to grow more unsafe as Americans saw the virus beginning to surge here as well.

"While it was certainly regrettable that the student experiences — many of which can't be replaced — had to be cut short, we felt that the health and security of our students was really the only priority, and that's what guided our decision-making process," Ganim said.

Hawkeyes already at home in Iowa City would soon see a shakeup to their semester as well.

University College Dean Tan-ya Uden-Holman remembers

when it sunk in that COVID-19 would have far-reaching implications for the UI.

She spent her birthday, March 9, meeting with all of the colleges to discuss their plans for moving to online instruction — a day before the regents directed the universities to prepare for the "eventuality" of a switch. Uden-Holman works on the planning group within the Critical Incident Management Team.

"It really hit me," she said. "And as we started working with the colleges on their communications for their faculty, staff, and students, put in some really long days... It almost in some ways seems surreal at times."

On March 11, the UI shared plans to move instruction entirely online for at least two weeks after spring break beginning March 23. University leaders had been quietly preparing for the move to distance learning, with no formal announcement until March 11 and the only visible sign of shifts before then coming from the regents' directive and from a March 4 Tippie College of Business email to students warning them of the possible change to come.

Already strong in its distance-learning offerings coming into the COVID-19 response, the UI integrated its Information Technology Services through a regent-led efficiency review in 2015. The move prepared it to embrace the large-scale move to online education this spring.



Contributed photos of Russ Ga...

Executive Vice Provost and Senior Associate Provost for Faculty Kevin Kregel, who leads the Critical Incident Management Team's planning group, said the UI was well-equipped for the transition thanks in particular to the Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology and the Center for Teaching.

"We have the infrastructure. We have the expertise. These are two offices that have really talented people, so faculty have already been engaged with those processes," he said. "Now, the challenge in mid-March was to be able to serve a much larger clientele over a short period of time."

At the time, Lehnertz said

UI officials knew enough to understand they didn't know enough. By taking incremental steps to move online, he said the UI wanted the ability to more easily revert back to face-to-face instruction should COVID-19 "clear up."

As cases in Iowa and across the U.S. continue to surge, administrators decided the UI needed to continue offering instruction virtually for the whole semester and, later on, through all five summer class sessions.

The timing coincided with spring break on the week of March 15, as the UI made the final call to send Hawkeyes home from residence halls and to end in-person instruction March 18.

"That meant two things: The campus was primarily empty, and it also meant that it gave us a very valuable week of spring break to convert classes that had not been virtual to a temporary virtual format," Lehnertz said.

The change in instructional methods has come with flexibility in course-grading options. Hawkeyes could already opt to take courses pass/nonpass before the pandemic, but the UI extended the deadline to take advantage of that grading option through May 8.

Colleges backed the decision, Uden-Holman said, allowing students to satisfy general-education requirements and pre-requisites with courses taken

3/13/2020

UI cancels events through April 30, closes Campus Recreation and Wellness Center through end of spring semester



3/17/2020

UI directs employees to work remotely following public-health disaster declaration by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and issues Hawk Alert on declaration to encourage social distancing



3/17/2020

UI delays and extends virtual instruction, cancels in-person commencement ceremonies, and closes additional campus buildings (IMU, Hancher, Libraries)



3/14/2020

Regents recall all faculty, staff, and students abroad



3/18/2020

UI suspends in-person instruction, cancels commencement, and closes all residence halls but two and schedules move out from March 19-29



3/19/2020

First self-reported COVID-19 case on campus (College of Dentistry student)



anim and Rob Lehnertz (with his dog, Swift)

as pass/nonpass. Given the abrupt midsemester campus shutdown and other life disruptions students are facing, she said this option was especially important for students.

"I thought that was a great example of coming together and really doing what was in the best interest of students," she said.

Students and faculty, especially those in more hands-on fields such as lab sciences and the arts, have reported some hiccups with the instructional switch.

Dance students don't have the same space in which to practice freely, music students are struggling with lower sound

quality while learning over Zoom, and students studying in lab-based courses aren't able to complete important experiments and projects in a physical environment.

Despite the obstacles, Kregel and Uden-Holman said Hawkeyes rose to the occasion to get creative with the classroom experience.

"The faculty met the challenges and students understood and accepted the limitations that were thrown their way," Kregel said.

Faculty have approached teaching with a "we're-going-to-make-it-work" attitude, Uden-Holman said. Students have followed suit to persist in their education.

"Some of [the students] stayed in Iowa City, others went home. Some of them lost jobs, some of their parents lost jobs," she said. "And so, the fact that they were resilient and continued learning sometimes in difficult situations, I think that they really deserve to be recognized for that as well."

Normally, this time of year brings the campus community together to celebrate the end of another academic year, and especially to send off those finishing their college careers. On sunny May days, soon-to-be alums donning black and gold still flock to the Pentacrest to take photos with their friends and pop open champagne bottles on the Old Capitol steps despite social-distancing guidelines.

Some are clinging to the

graduation-season traditions, but thousands of Hawkeyes will fly out of the nest this weekend without walking across the commencement stage. The traditional celebrations will now take place online, though graduates may return to partake in in-person commencement in December or in spring 2021.

While it was a tough call to make, Uden-Holman said, the university's guiding principle — the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff — pushed the UI to make the right decision.

"It was a really difficult decision because commencement is like the culmination of your time with us and it's a time of the year that we all love, being able to see our students and your families and friends come together, so it was a decision that everyone took really seriously," she said. "We just knew that we couldn't safely do it in person — that just was not going to happen."

Hawkeyes look to uncertain future

Tell Harreld where the virus will go next, and the UI will figure out its next steps, the head Hawk challenged rhetorically.

That's something even the experts can't do just yet.

For now, Harreld told the *DI* that his days consist of strange and bizarre meetings facing his computer screen instead of people. He's a leader whom many have praised as team-oriented,

now leading without his team physically by his side.

The UI president, now wrapping up his fourth full academic year at the institution's helm, said he thinks of advice from one of his mentors about how great leaders respond to a crisis: They deal with it, and they prepare for the future.

"... New opportunities emerge from a situation like this," he said. "And so I'm trying to — we're trying to — balance both of those at the same time."

Kregel, who still reports to work to his now-empty Jessup Hall office, said this is a once-in-a-century opportunity to change for the better. He pointed to the integration of on-

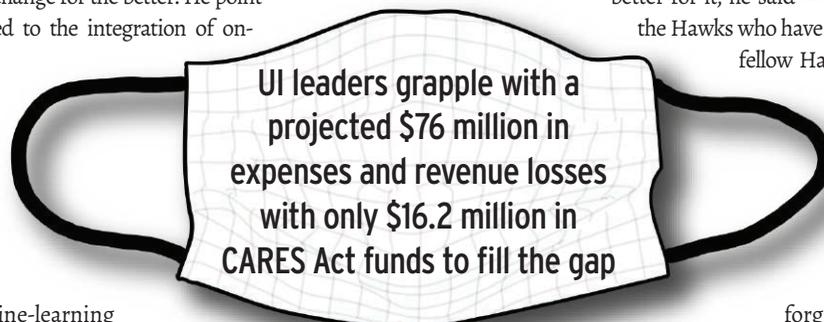
line-learning opportunities in a hybrid setting as one such possibility to seize upon and thrive in.

Concrete plans for the fall semester are still in the works, but administrators have said university operations will likely emphasize social distancing and offer more distance methods of instruction in case of another surge in COVID-19 cases.

"This is just my perspective, but institutes of higher education generally don't change," Kregel said. "There's

a lot of inertia. They don't change unless there's a reason, and we obviously have a reason now."

While UI leaders reckon with an uncertain future, they will be forced to grapple with a projected \$76 million in expenses and revenue losses through August and another \$70 million for UIHC through April, with only \$16.2 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to fill the gap. Harreld said all options are on the table to address the shortfall — salary reductions and hiring freezes among them.



Tough calls are ahead, but as these leaders have overcome the onset of the pandemic, they said the university community's collaborative nature has emerged clearly.

"It would have been very easy for people to become siloed or to think, 'Oh, this is my turf,' and that just didn't happen," Uden-Holman said.

In his makeshift sound studio and as he roamed around his basement later in the call, Lehnertz reflected

on Hawkeyes' collaboration amid crises quietly while his daughter took an online test upstairs.

He led campus through the 2008 flood recovery efforts — the senior vice president knows a few things about rebirth after devastation. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds and UI leaders tread on a path with no clear final destination, Lehnertz said past crises have proven to be opportunities to rebuild what was damaged and make it stronger than it was at the start.

When the UI emerges from COVID-19, the campus will be better for it, he said — as will the Hawks who have helped fellow Hawks in

the
un-
forgettable
year of 2020.

"... With the stresses we have going on, we also see those moments where people have remembered things they had forgotten about — being generous and being kind and reaching out, even if it has to be virtual," he said. "I think a silver lining in all of this is we may have a society that's ready to remember how to care for one another, more than would have been the case before this, and I'm hoping that those lessons we learn will stick."

3/19/2020
UI announces pass/nonpass option for students and tenure evaluation extension for faculty



4/8/2020
Spring virtual commencements to be live-streamed and graduates to have the chance to walk at a fall 2020 or spring 2021 ceremony



4/8/2020
Students may apply on MyUI for funds from the UI's \$16.2 million share of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act — \$8.315 million of which is dedicated to emergency aid grants to eligible students



3/27/2020
UI keeps employees in paid status through the end of the spring semester



4/30/2020
President Bruce Harreld tells the regents the UI faces \$76 million in expenses and lost revenue from March through August, and UI Health Care must grapple with \$70 million losses through April because of COVID-19 response efforts



Opinions

SENIOR COLUMN

DI taught me I can do anything

After a four-year career at *The Daily Iowan*, sports guy Pete Ruden looks back on what the *DI* has taught him.

BY PETE RUDEN

peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

I remember being scared in first grade.

One afternoon, I walked in on my mom looking up information on stuttering on the website for the Stuttering Foundation of America.

I had just started stuttering for the first time. I was scared. I didn't know what it meant. I didn't know what to do.

While I have come to accept and embrace the way I talk as I've grown up, there has always been one last shred of fear in my mind. I just wanted to know I could get a job. I wanted to know I could live on my own and support myself. I wanted to know I'd be OK.

I've learned a lot of things throughout these last four years working at *The Daily Iowan*, but there's one that's more important than any of them: I can.

I proved to myself that I can do any job I want. Even the one I want the most.

My college career has been a dream come true for me. When I was in high school, I pictured being in the press box of Kinnick Stadium and being on press row in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

It's wild to look back and think that I lived that life every week for the majority of my college career.

From a bowl game in San Diego to March Madness in Columbus and everything in between, I can say I've lived a dream.

To make it even better, I did it with some of my favorite people at my side.

That includes Adam Hensley. When I first met Adam, I knew we would become friends because of our shared love of Drake and basketball. I just never knew how good of friends we would become, nor

did I know our trip to cover the Big Ten Baseball Tournament in Bloomington, Indiana, my freshman year would change our friendship.

Now, we're two-time *DI* Best Bromance winners, and I have a best friend for life.

Anna Kayser is pretty important, too.

When we took over the Pre-game section this past football season, she was there for me whenever I needed her. Whether I needed to rant about something dumb or stay focused, she kept me in check. I can only hope I did the same for her.

The rest of the Force, Robert Read and Pete Mills, also provided some of the best coverage in my time at the *DI*. I never knew my decision to hire them when I was sports editor would turn out like it did, but I appreciate them for making me look smart.

I'll miss messing around

with Shivansh Ahuja in the photo corner and knowing we are losing brain cells with every SpongeBob reference we make.

I'll miss explaining sports to Kayli Reese and making the dumbest jokes to Brooklyn Draisey for no reason (and reminding them that they are zero-time Best Bromance winners).

And I'll miss working for my editors-in-chief, who have allowed the sports section to do its thing year in and year out.

It's everyone. The *DI* wouldn't be what it is without the people. I'll miss covering games and interviewing players and coaches every week, but I'll miss the people who have become some of my best friends just as much.

In short, I don't know where I would be without *The Daily Iowan*.

If Bill Casey hadn't taken a chance on me and Jason Brum-



Contributed

mond didn't keep the faith, my life would be completely different.

Even when I didn't really know what I was doing as a young freshman, these people stuck by my side. They allowed me to grow.

While I'll always wish I had another bowl game to cover or another March Madness to travel to, I couldn't imagine things happening in any other way.

The ending wasn't what I expected. It wasn't what I wanted. But it put into perspective how incredible the rest of the last 3.75 years have been.

From covering men's tennis and wrestling to working on the football, men's basketball, and baseball beats, I couldn't have asked for anything else.

This is all I ever wanted in a job. And because of it, I know I will be OK.

SENIOR COLUMN

It's true: I survived college without becoming a liberal

The UI offered a robust political environment as I began and ended college in tandem with a Trump presidency.

BY MARINA JAIMES

marina-jaimes@uiowa.edu

Reflecting on my last piece for *The Daily Iowan*, one thing in particular comes to mind about the graduating class of 2020: our college years were domi-

nated by national politics.

From the moment we walked onto campus as freshmen, we were asked if we were registered to vote and for whom we planned to cast our ballots. We fell into groups where we quietly shared our

opinions and feared being ostracized for deviating from the norm. Only a few months into the fall 2016 semester, Donald Trump's successful presidential bid bred extremely politically engaged students — on all ends of the political spectrum.

Although tensions were at an all-time high following the election, students of all affiliations have since worked to promote their party's platform without being stifled by university administrators. In particular, Republican students at

the University of Iowa counter a narrative that has been painted about campuses across the nation — they are not silenced nor threatened, but given equal tools to succeed as their liberal counterparts.

Four years here have given

me the opportunity to lead a conservative student organization, bring speakers to campus, advocate for campus free-speech bills, appear on *Fox and Friends*, and write, lead, and copy edit as a columnist here at the *DI*, where my right-of-

center opinions have been published weekly for nearly three years.

This isn't to say that conservative students and their ideas are welcomed with open arms — I don't think that's the case on any campus. But students in search of a university that accepts intellectual diversity and encourages political engagement, with groups such as non-partisan Hawk the Vote and Hawkeye Caucus, have found such in the UI.

My college experience is proof that being a first-genera-

tion American, first-generation college student, and outspoken Republican did not hinder my success at the UI — contrary to what I believed before attending. The UI has several departments, administrators, and programs dedicated to ensuring that students like me succeed, but the resource I valued most was a campus where I could express my views freely without influence or intervention.

Through being so vocal and willing to engage in civil discussion, I learned that my love for politics was not tribal — it was

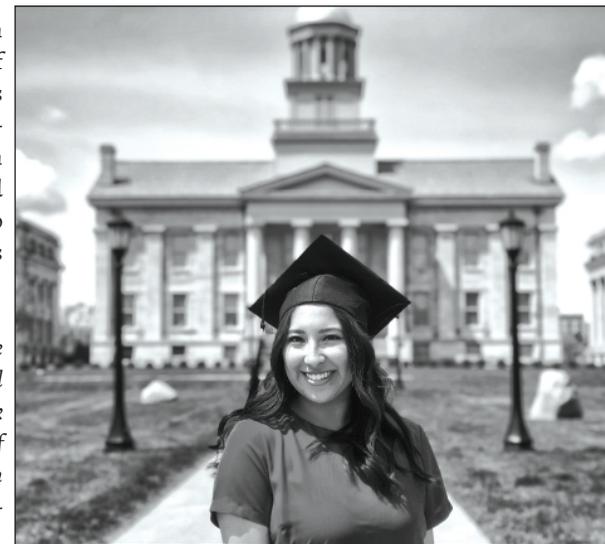
merely expressing the ideals in which my family sought in their move to America. I discovered that much of my political identity consists of those ideals — life, liberty, and property — and hope to spend my career defending them.

In a few days, I will graduate and embark in a journey of service in which the UI has properly prepared me for. I'll leave knowing I am more open-minded than when I arrived in fall 2016, had professors who challenged my perspective yet allowed me to stand firm in

my beliefs, and helped foster an environment where students of all backgrounds and viewpoints can thrive. It's completely possible to leave higher education without being indoctrinated and, instead, empowered to speak of your political beliefs and opinions.

Thanks for everything, UI.

"And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" — President John F. Kennedy



Contributed

SENIOR COLUMN

Being uprooted leads to new beginnings

Leaving home can be a sea of unknowns, but there's always the opportunity to make the best of a new environment.

BY ANDY MITCHELL

andrew-mitchell@uiowa.edu

Four years ago, I spent my last days in a dying high school with a constant dull pang in my stomach, constantly overwhelmed with the elation that comes with graduation. My class had less than 100 students and my whole school had around 300.

For a lot of K-12 Catholic schools, a low triple-digit student body is par for the course. When you're raised Catholic

with parents heavily involved in the local parish and connections through the entire diocese and metropolitan region where you've spent your entire life, you feel like everyone knows your name.

That was my life for 18 years, and things were about to change — not by the cold hand of tragedy, thankfully, but by the circumstances of life, where one chooses to leave their nest and their entire habitat.

I could have picked a number of schools in my home state

of Missouri to stay anchored to warm, familiar faces. My brother, from whom I'd been apart for more than a day less than a handful of times, picked Miz-zou, located a two-hour drive away from our homestead. Most of my friends picked Truman State, a smaller school in the small town of Kirksville, Missouri, an afternoon's trek away.

I picked the University of Iowa, six hours away from the place I called home. I traded the boot hills for the corn fields in the interest of getting a writer's education.

I skittishly stepped into Iowa City with no friends, no family, no familiar faces. No one here knew my parents or grandparents and could tell me what I was like when I was knee-height. After one last dinner with my mom and dad, probably at a Culver's, I watched them drive away and I knew I had to plant my flag and dig it in deep, or else I would go crazy from home sickness.

Life can be like a gardener — it can pluck you from the safe,

familiar soils, and place you where you need to be, no matter how strange and alien that place may be. Your roots can take hold, or you can be swept away to the next patch of earth until you find your home.

It took a lot of trial and error over the course of a year until I found a spot where my roots could dig in deep. One August day after my freshman year, I applied to *The Daily Iowan*. I had no prior experience in journalistic writing, so I was surprised when I was invited to orientation. When my sophomore year began, I was a news reporter for the best paper in the state.

Although Iowa City and Johnson County don't hold a candle to metropolitan areas such as Chicago or even my home of Kansas City, Missouri, in terms of size, to a mere traveler and untrained eye it can be just as daunting.

To the experienced reporter or activist or even a half-awake resident, it's just as dynamic and intricate as a megalopolis. As a reporter, I was able to

immerse myself in this world of college students, farmers, workers, scientists, and a number of colorful characters who call this place their home.

Being knee-deep in the rich ecosystem of a college town was my antidote to the sickness of being so far from everyone I ever knew. I gave my time and energy to work alongside, collaborate with, and build relationships with extraordinary young journalists and writers who I'm proud to call my friends. I'm not ready to miss them and have my heart ache to see them again.

A student newspaper is just one way to dig into a new community, or even a community you've been raised in. In a college town, there are plenty of ways to skin the cat of loneliness.

As the days get warmer, I've been visiting the parks and lakes of Johnson County that I've neglected for most of my time here. I can see the water of the lakes and river flow freely and the once barren, dormant trees are sprouting

leaves of yellow and green. Although the coming of spring is a wonderful occasion, allergies and the pandemic aside, I can't help but feel the same discomfort in my stomach as I felt four years ago.

I spent all this time making Iowa City my home, and when graduation looms, I see that my days here are numbered. Just as soon as I finished saying hello, the hand of life is close to plucking me from the dirt once more, and this time my ultimate destination is more of a mystery than ever. It's a tale as old as time that has been told countless times before and will continue to be told countless times more.

Amid all the good memories, I'll hold close the lessons of phantom pains of stress and the wealth of new experiences. These lessons are ones that I hope all people can learn, whether they've moved far from home in the company of friends, or by themselves, or if they've moved from one side of the world to the other. Being uprooted is not the end.



Contributed

For the love of the written word

Like so many incoming freshmen, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. Four years — and scores of articles later — I have fallen deeply in love with the written word.

BY CHARLES PECKMAN
charles-peckman@uiowa.edu

When I graduated from high school in 2016, I bore a striking resemblance to Bill Hader's character, Fear, from the animated movie *Inside Out*. The similarity was physical — I am 6-feet tall and weighed a mean 110 pounds at the time — but I embodied the character's internal struggles as well. I was petrified of the question that I had been asked for years: "What do you want to do with your life?"

It was at the urging of my dad that I first applied to *The Daily Iowan*. With no journalistic experience under my belt (apart from an article about worms I penned in sixth grade), I arrived at my first pitch meeting armed with a laptop and a deep sense of trepidation.

My first task as a newly minted news staffer? Report on the University of Iowa marching band's

2016-17 season. I had 72 hours to learn the basics of interviewing, inverted pyramid-style writing, and AP Style. Needless to say, I did not simply dip my feet into the pool of journalistic craft, I dove in head-first.

In the weeks and months that followed, I traveled around Iowa City with a reporter's notebook and ever-present sense of curiosity. I sat down with public figures such as former NASA Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan and "Black Klansman" Ron Stallworth. I felt the jubilation of Chicago Cubs fans when their team won the World Series for the first time in over 100 years (go Cubbies). I felt the despair of a community when two UI students died within weeks of each other in 2017.

Of the hundreds of stories I composed during my four years at the Writing University, the most enjoyable pieces to write were in-depth profiles of locally

owned businesses. I could spend hours speaking with Willa Dickens, whose witty (and often crass) stories leave a cartoonish smile on my face. I have spent countless afternoons perusing the ever-changing isles of Artifacts, interviewing its proprietor, Todd

“Even though it is bitter-sweet (to say the least) to bid adieu to the warm embrace of the UI's black and gold, I will perpetually view my time in Iowa City as nothing short of remarkable.”

Thelen, and amassing a collection of vintage wristwatches.

As I watched the seasons change — and my job at the *DI* shift from writing to editing a new crop of writers' stories — I navigated the often difficult waters of management thanks to invaluable guidance from writing coach Jenn Wagner and my former news editor, Katelyn Weisbrod.

During this time, I began flirting with the idea of beginning a career in strategic communications. This led to a litany of freelance writing contracts with pharmaceutical companies, marketing firms, and even a staff writing position at *Originate Report*, a magazine geared towards professionals in the pri-

vate-lending sphere.

I was also able to put my skills to the test with an internship at Purpose Brand, a Chicago-based communications firm housed in the Hancock Building. In addition to compiling a 50-page social media guide for luxury real estate

agents, I had the opportunity to work with a host of clients, all while navigating the Windy City in the heat of a torrid summer.

It was with great anguish that I began writing this senior column — how can a person successfully condense four years into a few hundred words? My own *Beklommenheit* (trepidation) aside, I often think back on the night of the 2016 U.S. presidential election as a perfect encapsulation of the time in which I worked at the *DI*.

That night felt like a year in and of itself. The entire staff worked diligently on their contributions to the election paper, and the newsroom echoed with hushed conversations and a symphony of ringing phones. As the minutes passed by, it became abundantly clear that we would not know the Election Day results until after the print deadline. In a matter of hours, the *DI* staff re-worked the entire paper.

Why, you may ask, does this perfectly encapsulate today's journalistic climate? In short, I started my UI career in the midst of a tumultuous election and am finishing in the midst of a pandemic. Now, more than ever, it is of the

utmost importance that journalists not only learn the basics of reporting — source aggregation, objectivity, and the like — but the ability to react and adapt at a moment's notice.

The press, or the Fourth Estate, is not perfect — I will be the first to admit that. The stories we produce on a daily basis, after all, are crafted by human beings — human beings who sometimes make mistakes. If you were to ask former *DI* staffers who lived and breathed the news during the introduction of online publication, I would venture to guess that those feelings of unknowing would bear a resemblance to the current media landscape. As consumers begin to adapt to journalism through a worldwide lens, it is my hope that respect for the press increases.

Even though it is bitter-sweet (to say the least) to bid adieu to the warm embrace of the UI's black and gold, I will perpetually view my time in Iowa City as nothing short of remarkable. Although trite, the friendships I have garnered in and out of the newsroom will last a lifetime. Long after I walk across the graduation stage, I will be visiting with Aadit, Maddie, and Marissa on the Gabe's patio.

I could not have accomplished *any* of this without the love and support of my parents, family, and friends. Your long, often poignant conversations, encouragement, and hugs mean more to me than you will ever know. The novel coronavirus pandemic may have put a hold on our graduation celebrations, but I look forward to the day we can all be together again.

For now, in the words of Porky Pig, "that's all, folks!"



Contributed

Question marks surround baseball's seniors

Sports

Iowa catcher Austin Martin watches the pitch during a baseball game between Iowa and Grand View at Duane Banks Field on March 3.

Nichole Harris/The Daily Iowan

With questions surrounding this year's seniors, Iowa baseball is looking to next season with a bit of uncertainty.

BY PETE RUDEN
peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

There are a lot of unknowns in the Iowa baseball program's future.

When the NCAA canceled the rest of the college baseball season and later voted to give spring-sport seniors an extra year of eligibility, it sent baseball seniors on a roller coaster of emotions.

While the extra year is widely regarded as a positive development, it throws a wrinkle into the future of baseball programs across the country. That includes Iowa.

Hawkeye head coach Rick Heller and his staff now need to balance a re-

turning senior class with an incoming freshman class.

"It's definitely a super positive thing for those guys," Heller said. "The challenging part for our coaching staff is really not having the ability to plan."

Part of that is due to the questions surrounding this year's MLB Draft.

ESPN baseball insider Jeff Passan announced May 8 that due to the pandemic, the 2020 MLB Draft will only be five rounds. The draft is usually 40 rounds long.

While the Hawkeyes were expected to have four seniors who likely would have been drafted, the shortened event could prevent them

from being picked.

Heller said all but two players have said they will come back to Iowa if they don't sign pro contracts. But with undrafted free agent contracts being offered, that throws coaches and players for another loop.

"We may not know who's coming back until late July or possibly even into August the way things are going," Heller said. "That just makes it very difficult, as you can imagine, from my standpoint."

Heller further illustrated his point with an example that highlights the unknowns of next season, as well as recruiting this sum-

mer.

"Let's just say that [senior catcher] Austin Martin and [senior outfielder] Ben Norman don't come back, but they say they're coming back, and we plan on them coming back," he said. "Then, all of a sudden, we don't have an outfielder and a catcher that we may be would have went out and recruited in the summer. It's been a very challenging speculation party. I wish we had a crystal ball because we don't know."

With a shortened draft, there's also a chance that Iowa will have its entire roster returning.

While that's not a bad thing for the team, it can

make it difficult for programs focused on building a culture and a process, like Iowa has done throughout Heller's tenure.

It would expand the locker room. Add in the uncertainty of returners, and that makes things even more challenging.

"We may end up with a lot of seniors back and a lot of juniors back that we thought might be gone, plus the incoming freshman class," Heller said. "I mean, that's exciting because I think this team has a lot of potential to be really competitive next year, especially if we get some of these guys back. But the lack of being able to plan is

the frustrating thing."

The team faces another difficult situation without looking toward next year.

The Hawkeyes owned a 10-5 record with three wins over top-20 teams before its season was canceled.

Now, that same team won't take the field again. After building chemistry throughout the offseason, it will have to wait until next season with a new roster.

"I think the group of guys we had this year, there was something different about it compared to every other team I've played for," Martin said. "We were clicking on all cylinders from day one pretty much. Everyone was on the same page."

Tausaga returning for final stellar season

After the COVID-19 pandemic cut her senior season short, the reigning NCAA discus champion is set to return for a final outdoor season next year.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

Between breaking records and winning events, Iowa thrower Laulauga Tausaga has developed a ritual.

Ahead of every meet, Tausaga and Iowa throws coach Eric Werskey find a local sandwich shop to eat at. March 12 — the day before the 2020 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, in Albuquerque, New Mexico — Tausaga had just finished a pre-meet lifting session, and she and Werskey were in their latest sandwich shop.

Then, they both got a message.

“While we were sitting down at this sandwich shop, he told me to look down at my phone,” Tausaga said. “And I was wondering why he was being so vague. I see [Director of Track and Field Joey Woody] was like, ‘Everybody please report back to the hotel. We will not be participating in the NCAA Indoor National Championships.’”

To curtail the spread of COVID-19, the Big Ten Conference announced that its teams would not participate in NCAA events and canceled spring sports.

“I kind of fell apart in public — which is something very rare for me to do,” Tausaga said. “The drive back to the hotel for that team meeting was heartbreaking.”

The rest of the outdoor season was set up to be a big one for Tausaga. The Spring Valley, California, native was

going for her fourth Big Ten title in the discus and was defending her NCAA title in the same event.

Tausaga already owns the Iowa records for the indoor

get notifications or someone would bring up to me that it’s a weekend we’re supposed to be somewhere, and it hits you.

“When you’re in season,

‘Wow, Drake Relays were that week.’”

After the initial shock of the unprecedented set of cancellations, Tausaga and her teammates’ thoughts

bility, although that was not the end of the discussion. Wisconsin announced that it would not be bringing its spring-sport seniors back despite the NCAA’s ruling.

It’s terrifying, because that just puts more strain on me. Am I going to have to get a job, how am I going to balance all of these things with track and field? For them to find a way to make the budget work is amazing.”

Tausaga is currently going to different tracks around Iowa City in an effort to work out now that the Hawkeye facilities are closed. She said finding good discus and shot put rings is tough under the circumstances, but she is focusing on cardio and some other workouts that her coaches are providing.

Unlike some other senior athletes that were impacted by cancellations, Tausaga was not originally planning to graduate at the end of this spring semester, anticipating a busy season in the spring. She is set to graduate in the fall of 2020 and suit up in the Black and Gold for a final outdoor season next year.

After that, her eyes will be on the now-2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

“You don’t look at the World Championships. You look at the small things first,” Tausaga said. “You look at the things that are most important, and that’s that I am a college athlete. We have to focus on getting a mark so I can get to regionals, try to do great at Big Tens, get into NCAAs.”

“As soon as NCAAs come to an end...I now have to carry myself more than just a college student, but as someone who is good enough to hang out with the big girls.”



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan
Iowa's Laulauga Tausaga winds up to throw during the women's shot put at the 2019 Drake Relays in Des Moines on April 26, 2019.

shot put and weight throw and the outdoor shot put, discus, and hammer throw. This outdoor season was an opportunity to make even more additions into the Hawkeye record book.

That’s not something that is easily forgotten.

“I have dates in my phone when we would leave here or when we would leave,” Tausaga said. “So I would

everything moves so fast. And now these are like the longest months I’ve ever

“When you’re in season, everything moves so fast. And now these are like the longest months I’ve ever had in my life.”

— Laulauga Tausaga, Iowa track and field thrower

had in my life. It’s like every constant minute of thinking,

shifted to eligibility.

The NCAA announced March 30 that it would be

granting spring-sport athletes another year of eligi-

However, Iowa will welcome senior spring-sport athletes back next season. Tausaga said that track and field seniors will receive the same amount of scholarship compensation next season as they did this season.

“That came as a shock,” Tausaga said. “You’re sitting there and you may have to pay more out of pocket than you were already going to.

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