

## UI administrators condemn 'sick-out'

The University of Iowa Faculty Council met virtually on Tuesday and discussed the 'sick-out' that many UI students and faculty plan to participate in.

BY SABINE MARTIN  
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As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Iowa, tensions are rising between the University of Iowa administration and faculty members. On Wednesday, Sept. 2, UI faculty and stu-

dents are planning to "call in sick" due to high rates of COVID-19 in Iowa and on campus. The "UIowa Sickout" social media campaign demands for all University of Iowa instruction to be moved online.

For the fall 2020 semester, 76 percent of undergraduate learning is being held online.



Kregel

Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Kregel sent a statement to UI faculty and teaching assistants on Tuesday, encouraging them to continue with their instructional duties instead of participating in the

sick out.

"I respectfully remind you that as role models, you have an obligation to deliver instruction as assigned, and to provide appropriate notice of absences due to illness," Kregel wrote

SEE ADMIN, 2

# COVID-19: a rude awakening



Photo illustration of Julia Eadler by Abigail McDaniel

Asymptomatic or not, testing positive for COVID-19 impacts a person's mental health and perception of the virus that sparked a pandemic. As cases continue to rise across campus, University of Iowa students are sharing their reactions to finding out they tested positive.

BY MARY HARTEL  
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As cases continue to rise at the University of Iowa, students said their perceptions of the virus changed after receiving a positive test result, though this eventual fate seemed inevitable.

The UI reported 326 new self-reported COVID-19 cases among students on Monday, bringing the total number of infected students to 922 for the semester.

UI senior Anthony Molina said before testing positive for COVID-19, he was trying to follow social distancing guidelines and be cautious for the sake of others.

Molina, who was tested following his roommate's confirmed case, said the stress of having to notify everyone he had come into contact with, and worrying he missed someone, was a mental aspect he had not considered.

Managing class while being sick, and wondering about the uncertainties that come with the virus, were added stressors, Molina said.

SEE COVID-19, 2

### INSIDE



**Faculty Council discusses P3 allocations to accommodate for fiscal pressure**  
University of Iowa faculty discussed allowing the public/private partnership grant to open in order to accommodate for fiscal pressure on the institution.



**Men's gymnasts making the most of final season**  
On Aug. 21 the Iowa Men's Gymnastics team learned 2021 would mark its final season together at the NCAA level. But they're trying to make the most of what they have left.

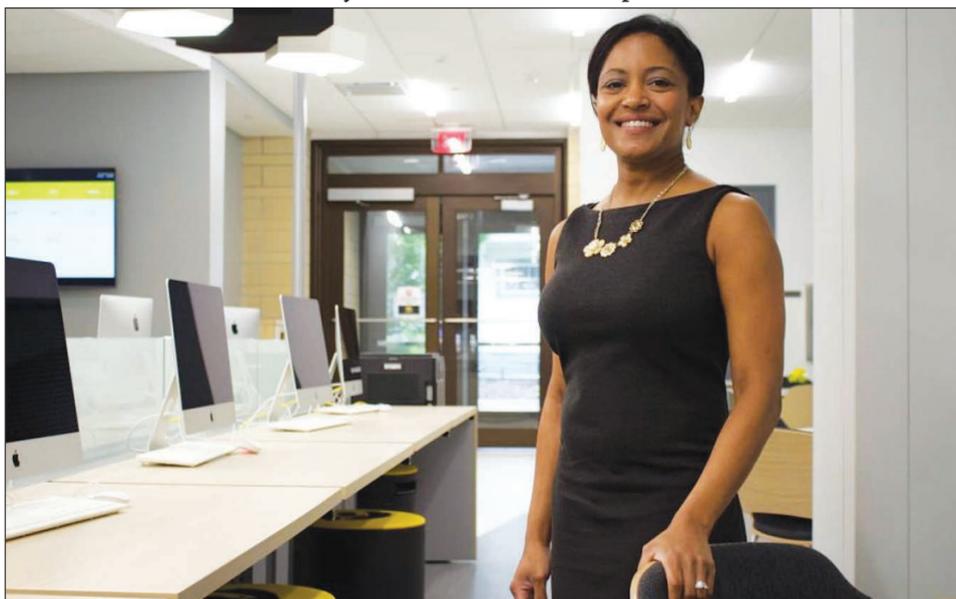


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## Tovar sets sights on retention of underrepresented faculty

At Tuesday's Faculty Council meeting, the group discussed recruitment and retention of faculty and staff of underrepresented communities.



Charles Peckman/The Daily Iowan

Liz Tovar, then-Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services poses for a portrait in the Gerdin Athletic Learning Center on Sep. 7, 2018.

BY ALEXANDRA SKORES  
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The University of Iowa Faculty Council discussed concerns for recruiting and retaining diverse faculty members. The conversation comes after the departure of many Hawkeye leaders over the last year who had led the UI's diversity efforts.

Interim Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liz Tovar said one area she has set her focus on is the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff at the UI.

Tovar assumed her position just this month, after the UI had begun a search following the vacancy of the role from TeJuan Wilson, who resigned from the UI in August 2019. The search for a permanent individual to fill the role will conclude in spring 2021.

"There is no individual who will look at the [Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] position, as an appealing position for them if we don't have some type of stability or model that they can really work with," Tovar said.

Tovar noted the "continuous flux" of leadership within the division for the last five to six years. She said that there is an overall concern from the campus community about

maintaining both faculty and staff of diverse populations.

At the UI's annual diversity update in January, former UI Provost Montserrat Fuentes voiced concerns over a five-year decrease in tenure and tenure-track faculty. Fuentes signed a settlement agreement in July to serve as the special assistant to the president.

As previously reported in the *DI*, regents' documents showed that in fall 2018, 33.1 percent of the UI's full-time tenured and tenure-track employees were female and 20.93 percent were minorities, falling below the peer-group average of 35.48 percent female and 24.3 percent minority.

In order to address these concerns, the Provost's Office developed the Path to Distinction, a program that aims to integrate research-informed practices concerning diversity and equity into recruitment processes in different academic departments. Additionally, the Distinction Through Diversity Fund was created to recruit and retain undergraduate students and tenure-track faculty of color.

Alongside Wilson, former UI Vice President for Student Melissa Shivers departed from the UI in December 2019 for Ohio State University.

"Within higher education, people are able to success-

SEE FACULTY, 2

## Expect absences

Hundreds of UI students and faculty members have pledged to call in sick to their classes today. The sickout was organized by an anonymous coalition of students, faculty and staff at UI who want to see all classes moved online.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP  
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"Call in sick so we don't get sick."

That's what organizers of the Sept. 2 sickout are asking of University of Iowa students and faculty, with the hopes of getting the UI to move all classes online.

An anonymous group of undergraduate students, graduate students, instructors, faculty, and staff launched the social media campaign on Twitter and Instagram on Aug. 23, sharing numbers related to COVID-19 and posts explaining how and why students should demand all classes go virtual.

This comes after the most recent release of self-reported COVID-19 infections at the UI. According to an update on Aug. 31, 922 students and 13 employees have self-reported testing positive.

"That's 922 students who may have permanent lung, heart, or neurological damage, may have to be hospitalized, and may even die," UIowa sickout organizers said in a prepared statement emailed to *The Daily Iowan*. "...who may have already unwittingly spread the virus to their parents and grandparents, to their friends, to their neighbors, to essential workers...so we aren't seeing the true height of the spread at UIowa yet."

The organizers said they had received more than 450 pledges as of Tuesday afternoon and expected that number to reach 500 by the end of the day.

Roughly 75 percent of the pledges come

SEE ABSENCES, 2

THE HAWK'S OUT OF THE BAG



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Pictured on Tuesday, Sept. 1 is one of the many Herky statues on campus. This Herky statue, located in the Lindquist Center, is protected by a large trash bag due to part of the South Wing of the Lindquist Center being under construction.

POSITIVE CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“Before it was more, I almost felt this sense of responsibility for other people. Which is good, like a sense that I was protecting my family and stuff like that,” Molina said. “But now after I tested positive, it never even crossed my mind how much this actually sucks — like for me also.” Molina said he has noticed a mentality among students of thinking contracting the virus is inevitable at this point and wanting to just get it over with. “I think that I’ve heard multiple times people say that they’re glad that they’re getting it over

with now instead of during finals because there’s just so much pessimism about it since it seems that so many people are now getting it.” Molina said. Molina said he, too, felt a little bit of a sense of relief after testing positive, in the sense that he would not have to repeatedly get tested and quarantined as the spread and exposure increases in Iowa City. UI sophomore Maddie Gilbertson said she also felt relieved and was not upset when she found out she tested positive for the coronavirus. “Honestly I was kind of happy that I got it,” Gilbertson said, “... because then I’m like done with it.” Gilbertson said she thinks she contracted the virus from

going to the bars and parties, but her perceptions on the realities of the virus changed after having a more serious experience with the virus than she anticipated. “I thought that it wasn’t as serious for people our age, so I was like, ‘who cares if you get it, because you’re not going to get sick,’” Gilbertson said. “I thought most people just had no symptoms or couldn’t smell or something, but I couldn’t move for like three days — it was [the sickest] I’ve ever been. So I think it’s a lot more serious now than I thought it was [before].” Gilbertson said while everyone who is going out takes the risk of exposure, she also felt feelings of embarrassment, after initially thinking she was

immune to the virus following a negative test result earlier this summer. UI senior Taylor Copp, who tested positive on Monday, said she was concerned about how her professors and peers would perceive her, noting that many have been judgmental and stereotypical of those contracting the virus right now. Copp, who got tested after experiencing several symptoms, said she has been socially distancing and following all guidelines, but thinks she contracted the virus while working at a downtown bar. “I just think it was just kind of scary because no one that I had come in contact that I knew of was positive,” Copp said. “So it’s just like a complete stranger

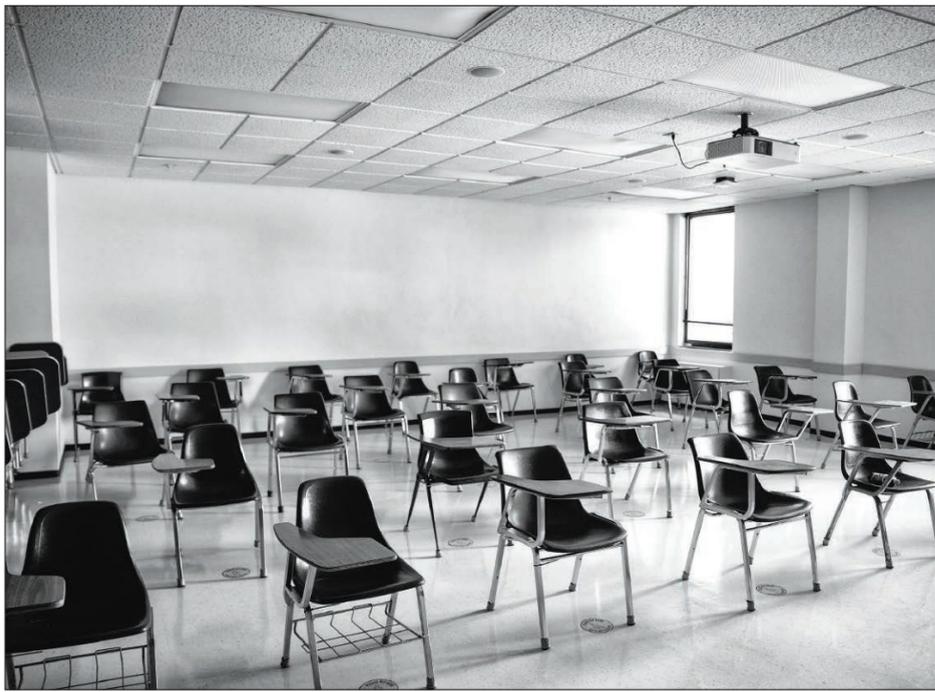
ABSENCES CONTINUED FROM FRONT

from undergraduate students, 15 percent from teaching assistants and adjunct professors, 7 percent from non-teaching assistant graduate students, 2

percent from staff and 1 percent from tenured faculty, the organizers said. On Tuesday afternoon, UI Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate College John Keller and UI Interim Provost Kevin Kregel sent an email to the Campaign to Organize Grad-

uate students and to all UI faculty to express their disagreement with the sickout. “The unplanned and unauthorized absence of graduate-level instructors compromises our students’ ability to maintain the educational progress critical to their future success,” the email read.

“Accordingly, while we acknowledge your concerns about in-person instruction, we strongly disagree with your manner of expressing those concerns. We respectfully remind your members of their obligation to deliver instruction as assigned, and to provide appropriate notice of absences due to illness.”



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Classroom 105 at the EPB- English-Philosophy Building 251 W Iowa Ave. sits empty. As seen on Aug. 28.

The email said the UI administration hopes in the future, members of COGS will employ other means of expression to prevent disruption to the educational progress of students. According to an email from the organizers of the sickout protest, COGS is not affiliated with the UI sickout. Though some staff have pledged to participate, the organizers focused on encouraging students and faculty to call in sick, because they don’t want to deny staff their sick days, the group said.

Organizers said they had been discussing the sickout for a while, but held off, expecting the university to shut down within the first week. “Watching the disaster that was last week’s reopening, and seeing the University of Iowa’s insufficient response, made us realize that it was time to take collective action to protect our teachers and students, our janitors and librarians, and our Iowa City community at large,” UIowa sick out organizers said. Angel Worrell, a pre-med third year student, will be calling in sick to her in-person class on Wednesday. Worrell has a three-month-old baby at home, and when she heard campus was going to be open, she was worried about exposing her boyfriend and child to COVID-19 by attending her two in-person classes. Worrell said she has a friend that works at the university who constantly has to tell students to put their masks on. “That’s really scary that people are still fighting it,” she said. “So, I just wish that the university would enforce these guidelines.” If the university doesn’t move classes online, Worrell said she plans to email her professors and find a way to stay home as much as possible. Second-year UI graduate student Ruben Reyes, also an

instructor of general education literature, is doing most of his teaching online, but teaches a small discussion section once a week. Reyes said he was conflicted about participating in the sickout and didn’t want to create more chaos for his students, but he did support the goals of the movement. He decided to sign the sickout pledge, he said, and will teach a shorter class on Wednesday. “I think the risk has made itself clear in this first week,” he said, “and I think it’s irresponsible for us to continue on this path simply because the administration won’t acknowledge that it may have miscalculated.”

FACULTY CONTINUED FROM FRONT

fully navigate places, and they also are recruited away to other places — it’s very common place,” Shivers told the *DI* in December. “It’s not as if it is

new or different.” Faculty Senate President Joseph Yockey said a priority within the faculty council is the Faculty Advancement Commission, a task force focused on boosting morale and improving faculty recruitment and retention, with respect to faculty who identify as members of minority groups.

Brandi Janssen, clinical associate professor in the college of public health, said the college is currently undergoing an internal search for an associate dean of academic affairs, which would house DEI efforts. Janssen asked Tovar what resources the diversity, equity, and inclusion office could provide for

colleges. “It’s a very big challenge,” Tovar said. “It’s fine to have someone dedicated to DEI work, but one of the issues is that we really put all of the onus on that one person and then take a step back and say, ‘Not my role, not my responsibility.’”

ADMIN CONTINUED FROM FRONT

in his email. During a virtual UI Faculty Council meeting on Tuesday night, Professor of Marketing Gary Russell said that he feels a lack of transparency from the UI administration. “Things seem to be falling apart,” Russell said. Russell says that considering the expectations given to UI faculty to be able to teach online and in-person at the same time, UI President Bruce Harrel has not listened to UI faculty’s concerns

of the virus. “The president has been saying that we need to give the students a choice, but by doing that, he’s not giving the faculty and the TA and Ph.D. students a choice. In some cases, whether or not to show up,” he said. Faculty Senate President, Joseph Yockey said he hopes that the faculty and administration can find a way that does not disadvantage his colleagues or UI students. “I think that it needs to be approached with great caution. I think it could have adverse employment consequences,” he said. During UI’s planning to

reopen this fall, the Critical Incident Management Team developed processes to reduce the risk of COVID-19. UI Professor of English Loren Glass said that the university’s efforts were ill-prepared to reopen campus. “The upper administration is losing credibility on this issue by the events that are happening,” he said. “I think there’s been a total lack of transparency here recently. I think this sick-out is a symptom of a larger problem.” Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery Lillian Erdahl said that she thinks the UI needs more contact with Harrel in order for things to be trans-

parent during a pandemic. “I think that we need communication with the president to say people are frustrated. We need more listening sessions, we need more communication, and we need more support,” she said. “All of the universities reopening are going to have these issues because they have students moving on and off campus and around each other.” Glass said he wouldn’t advocate for a sick out, but understood the reasoning behind it. “I don’t advocate a sick out, but I understand why people would want to do it,” Glass said.

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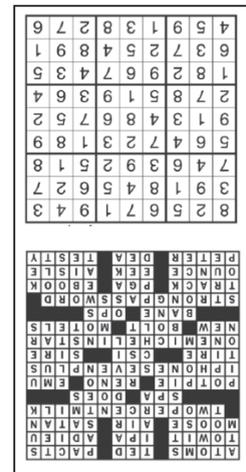
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that I was in contact with or just a random surface I touched that had it.” Now that she knows she has a confirmed case of COVID-19, Copp said she will continue to self-isolate. Noting the positive

test result did provide a sense of ‘peace of mind’, in knowing one thing for certain, and no longer having to speculate. “I wasn’t happy, but I wasn’t sad,” Copp said. “I kind of just wanted it to get it over with...”



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# Zoom experiments: labs adapt to COVID-19

Over the summer, biology department faculty members gathered to design and implement safety and health protocols for the department's classes with labs to keep coursework as close to normal as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY JOHN REASONER  
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Despite classes at the University of Iowa looking different than in past years, the UI Department of Biology has modified laboratory work to allow for proper social distancing and sanitation, while

still allowing students to perform hands-on activities and gain experience in their coursework.

UI Director of Biology Undergraduate Studies Erin Irish, who is also an associate professor, said that in normal conditions, labs can accommodate a large number of

students at once, but this was not possible because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To accommodate for health guidelines, Departmental Executive Officer Diane Slusarski said in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that biology labs have been reduced to 50-percent capacity and have taken

multiple measures to allow for the safety of students and instructors.

"Our instructors and lab coordinators worked tirelessly over the summer to adapt our labs to meet safety recommendations while maintaining learning outcomes," Slusarski said in her email.

On top of the campus-wide requirement to wear face coverings, students are expected to socially distance in lab classrooms while performing their experiments behind plexiglass barriers, she said.

Irish said to further decrease potential viral transmission between students, some labs have divided class rosters into A and B teams that alternate between performing exercises in the lab and observing these experiments over Zoom each week.

During its planning sessions this summer, she said the biology department sought input from professors, lab coordinators, and teaching assistants on how to best prepare for the return of students this fall.

Krista Osadchuk, a graduate student working as a teaching assistant, said the

department encouraged input and open communication from all instructors on how comfortable they felt with potential health protocols in their labs.

Osadchuk added she appreciated the flexibility shown by both the biology department and university administration. The university allowed the biology department freedom to craft its own procedures for how to safely conduct in-person experiments, she said.

Osadchuk said course instructors feel everything has been going as planned so far and that students have been compliant with the rules. Students in her lab have adapted with ease to the new safety protocols and naturally spaced themselves without prompting, she said.

"I think that is giving [biology students] a better experience than they would have had if there were just blanket rules that we had to follow," she said.

Professors and course instructors have plans to quickly transition to total online learning if needed. Irish said that there would likely be an

increased reliance on virtual simulations and observation of experiments conducted and filmed by course instructors.

"They are serious students," Irish said. "They are being super careful so that they can maximize the learning that they are paying good money to do that and that they will need for their future careers."

Osadchuk said that while her courses would likely rely on students to observe simulations and write lab reports on what they see, this type of situation would not be ideal.

"For lack of a better word, it would suck for them if because of those decisions, their education gets put on the back burner when they are following the rules, and, you know, trying as hard as they can to make this work because we all want it to," she said.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Van Allen Hall is seen on Monday, Nov. 18, 2019. Van Allen is the home of the physics and astronomy department.

# USG reassesses Student Activity Fee

As student organizations look toward the fall semester with anxiety and little direction, the Undergraduate Student Government is looking to rearrange the Student Activity Fee's funds to assist students and organizations.

BY ELEANOR HILDEBRANDT  
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All undergraduate and graduate students are required to pay a \$72 Student Activity Fee once a semester, which funds several different aspects of student life at the university. But with the coronavirus pandemic upending the operations of so many organizations, the funding will be used differently during the 2020-2021 school year.

While this fee funds several student-oriented agencies at the university, it also assists registered student organizations, said UI Undergraduate Student Government President Connor Wooff, even if those organizations are having to restructure events this fall to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

"In the past couple of weeks, [the Student Activity Fee Committee] has met with some of our off the top organizations to understand how they will be programming this year," he said. "A lot of them will need to change dramatically by the nature of size of events and social distancing... We're looking at what organizations need from [USG] and how we can best allocate funds."

In response to COVID-19, USG is ensuring students will be taken care of in cases of emergency by using some funds for an emergency fund similar to the one used to support students when they were sent home in March, said USG Financial Director Emily Hagedorn. She said USG is working with less funding due to summer fees not being assessed and lower student

enrollment.

She said student organizations were fully funded by USG for the amount they requested for the 2020-21 academic year. USG is looking to help organizations embrace this year's activities while staying safe, said Hagedorn.

"We're prepared to help emergency services on campus if they need extra assistance, like the food pantry or the crisis center," she said. "[USG] just wants to make sure that students' needs are taken care of and no one feels like they have nowhere to turn if they need any kind of resources."

One of these organizations is the UI's Student Commission on Programming Entertainment [SCOPE] Productions. Assistant General Manager of SCOPE, Kristina Bozza said while student organizations look different this year, the funding they receive from USG is integral to keeping some normalcy for students this year.

"We've had to brainstorm a lot because [SCOPE] is an organization that has always done in-person programming," she said. "We can no longer safely do that. We're keeping things open and we are adapting our annual, free Homecoming concert into a live stream format. Student government and the homecoming committee and everyone are all aware that a lot has been taken away from the students this year...we wanted to make sure we still have some things that are still accessible."

The Student Activity Fee was set to increase this academic year from \$72 to \$74 at the suggestion



Nichole Maryse Harris/The Daily Iowan

Members of USG meet virtually at the first University of Iowa Student Government Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

of USG and the Student Activity Fee Committee, Associate Dean of Students Bill Nelson said. The increase will eventually happen, said Nelson, and it will go to Bijou/FilmScene for the first year before moving into deferred maintenance for other uses.

However, due to the tuition freeze approved by the state Board of Regents for the fall semester in June, this increase did not take place. Nelson said while the fee will be reassessed via a Zoom meeting with the Student Activity Fee Committee, it is currently funding a plethora of central ser-

vices for UI students.

"The Student Activity Fee supports several critical functions beyond registered student organizations," he said. "People wonder about how the Student Activity Fee is distributed. The fee is broad based. It supports Student Legal Services and the Student Organization Business Office in totality. It provides partial funding for the UI cultural centers, our food pantry and clothing closet, and RVAP, as examples. Several essential services are funded by the fee and they are still being provided [regardless of COVID-19]."

Nelson said he has been impressed by USG this fall for staying committed to students and using the Student Activity Fee ethically and effectively.

"I'm extremely pleased with the commitment from our student government leaders and the Student Activity Fee Committee members to be very thoughtful about which essential programs, services, and activities need additional support at this time," he said. "And their commitment to redeploying resources to support those critical and basic services to help students."

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# Opinions

## COLUMN

### Freedom (from COVID-19) isn't free

While protesting against wearing masks, people fail to assess the seriousness of the pandemic and their behavior implicitly endangers others' freedom to live peacefully.

BY YUJUN CAI  
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As we reach the end of August, a surge of people will be moving across America. To best protect ourselves from the ongoing pandemic, enforcing people to wear masks in public is necessary. However, some people believe the policy of wearing a mask is another way of restraining their "freedom of will." They insist that nothing should constrain them from doing anything, because that's their freedom. What they do not understand is how that freedom inhibits the freedoms of others.

Living in downtown Iowa City I still can discover people who won't wear a mask or frequently take off their mask haphazardly. Many "anti-maskers" state that one's careless choice is an expression of their freedoms and something to not be infringed upon.

Therefore, the definition of "freedom," which has been the foundation of America since this nation has been established, is necessary.

While looking through the statements of people refusing wearing masks, we can discover a fixed pattern of syllogism.

People refusing to wear masks believe that they possess freedom of will which is defined as "they can do whatever they want, so long as it does infringe upon the law." The government requests them to wear masks, but they themselves do not have to acquiesce.

Since these new requests are mandatory, it produces an

illusion that they lose control of their body. Which in other words, that request takes away their freedom.

Their reluctance and resistance to wearing masks is understandable. People want to protect their own freedoms — they have never been asked to wear masks — so when the government gives a mandatory request to wear masks, people will react resistantly toward it.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 period, official authorities declared that the danger of the virus is not severe, and even the president announced that protection should be unnecessary.

Gradually, while official authorities insisted on an original stand, professionals in the medical field started to warn about the severity of it. The inconsistency between au-

thorities puzzled the public, which led the current unbalanced attitudes toward wearing masks or not.

Currently, the number of people getting infected have reached 6,000,000 and is still exponentially increasing. With the failure of realizing the danger of the virus in the beginning and the sudden attitude shift from authorities, people need time to get used to that.

Therefore, with respect toward personal freedom, I encourage everyone to wear masks. Yes, obviously no one wants to wear a mask, and you have the freedom to get infected if you really want to by having close contact with others or refusing wearing masks.

However, as a member of a community, everyone's life is intertwined with yours.

By being infected and acting recklessly, anti-maskers prolong the pandemic. An exercise of freedom on their part restricts the freedoms of others — and we already have laws that restrict the freedom to do that.

We are unable to relieve ourselves in public, despite the fact there may be no nearby restrooms to go to. We are forced to wear clothes in public, despite the fact that it can be incredibly hot. We have speeding laws, despite the fact that some of us are late to work.

These are necessary restrictions to maintain the health and safety of others. A mask mandate isn't the government taking away your freedom — it's protecting the freedom of others to live safely without worry of a life-threatening virus.



Photo illustration by Jenna Galligan

## COLUMN

### Biden offers plans, Trump spews division

What the candidates say on policy reveals a lot about their governing philosophies.

BY HANNAH PINSKI  
hannah-pinski@uiowa.edu

In about three months, America will decide whether President Trump deserves another term or if Joe Biden will take his place in office. While both the Democratic and Republican parties have hosted their conventions and launched their campaigns, there is a clear difference in the strategy each side is playing.

Biden's campaign of pushing policies forward is how he is going to win this election against Trump's campaign of policy pushback.

On Biden's campaign website, he has dedicated a section labeled "Joe's Vision," that lists his statements, history, and policies he plans to enact in areas such as Racial Equity Across the American Economy, Joe's Leadership in Times of Crisis: COVID-19, and The Biden Plan for Immigration. Some of his well-detailed plans include making COVID-19 testing more avail-

able and affordable, reinstating the DACA program, and increasing funding for the Minority Business Development Agency.

Biden's clear ambitions and goals initiate a feeling of hope for the American people. With the unrest of racial inequality, uncertainty and fear surrounding COVID-19, and frustration over unemployment and evictions, America is looking for a leader to tackle these issues and restore stability and pride for the country. Through his strategic campaigning, Biden inserts himself perfectly in that role.

In the Republican Party, Trump takes a contrasting tactic against his opponent. In comparison to Biden's website, Trump doesn't even feature his ambitions or actions he plans to achieve his next term. Instead, he has a section labeled as "Promises Kept" which lists his achievements in topics like immigration, law and justice, foreign

“ America is looking for a leader to tackle these issues and restore stability and pride for the country. Through his strategic campaigning, Biden inserts himself perfectly in that role.

policy. In addition, he has also attacked Biden's policies accusing them of being socialistic and will cause chaos and disruption in America.

However, the real truth about Trump's campaign is that he is attempting to cover his failures in social justice and response to COVID-19 by highlighting his few achievements and focusing attention on the "radical left."

America is looking for a leader to defeat COVID-19, ensure equality, and restore justice in society. The frustration and heartache from the loss of lives, jobs, and housing that people have felt since March is too much to handle anymore. The pain and fear that Black Americans face from social injustice has consumed their lives for too long.

So, when a candidate steps up and initiates that he is going to create change and tackle these issues, he wins over the hearts of the people and secures their vote. When

all the candidate does is highlight his achievements and disregards what the American people need, I suspect that many are not going to see him fit for the next term.

Trump argues that he has prospered the American economy and created law and order across the country. He thinks he has advocated for American values throughout his term. But how can someone who has failed to take control of COVID-19, has ignored the roots of systemic racism, and built a wall display equality, opportunity, and justice?

Biden is successfully strategizing by forming policies where Trump has failed, and at the end of the day, it's what's going to win the vote. The more Trump attacks Biden's policies which illustrate hope in America instead of acknowledging the problems the country is facing, the deeper he is digging his campaign into the ground.

## GUEST OPINION

### Vandalism won't fix police issues

A city councilor blames spray paint and profanity for worsening police conduct.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Graffiti is seen on the outside of the MidwestOne Bank during a Black Lives Matter protest organized by the Iowa Freedom Riders on Aug. 30.

Let me start with some context: We are amid one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the state, this country and the world. To bring our infection rate down, we must rally all levels of government, all segments of our community, to work together. We need to have our infectious disease medical experts and public health speaking.

And because of the pandemic, we have businesses hanging on by a thread.

And we have thousands of families trying to figure out how they are going to get their kids educated this year.

And we have so many people hurting because they have lost

Every time you tag property and people express their opposition to it, or their unhappiness, the question is posed: Is property more important than lives? Let's be honest: the tagging is being done purposefully. It's not spontaneous. So, to me, that's not the right question. The question now is: How is this sucking away resources and goodwill and creating wedges in the community helpful? How will this potentially risk conflict that is counter to our goals? And how, without businesses that pay more in property taxes than homeowners, will we find the money to do any of these things to which we collectively aspire?

“ I don't believe it helps our mutual goals to suck up resources and time when we all have so much on our plate.

jobs because of COVID-19 and we are working hard to help them.

And we have the BIPOC community at greater risk than others of getting and suffering from COVID-19.

And we have expressed our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and made it clear through our June 16 resolution and our work since then that we take the challenge of addressing systemic racism very seriously. We mean it. We work on this every single week — most of us, every single day.

And people have the right to exercise their First Amendment rights. Absolutely. We saw the pain and anger and anguish that erupted in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. We wanted to provide space for people to express that during the summer protests.

The goals of our Black Lives Matter movement focus on improving this community and moving it forward — improving policing, shifting funds to our nonprofit community, expanding affordable housing. They also want the community at large to become educated on systemic racism and what needs to change. These are all goals to which we on Council are fully committed. No matter what happens, we will continue to pursue the goals that we articulated in our June 16 resolution. These are incredibly important for our city and our society — for our collective future.

Here's the deal for me: When you spray paint, you damage small business owners who are already struggling to survive.

Education is key: And yet I can't help but think that the message we should be sending to children and young people is not spray-painting graffiti with crude language. You want to improve this community — let's work on that together. I don't believe it helps our mutual goals to suck up resources and time when we all have so much on our plate; when the money that goes into spray paint and the resulting clean-up could be going to healthcare or food for people who are hurting.

The final report on the 21st century policing put out by the task force under the Obama administration focuses, among a number of goals, on the need to build trust. My background in diplomacy tells me that the way forward is to build trust — create incremental, step by step confidence building measures. What the report says it that, in our context, that confidence building takes the form of procedurally just behavior, which is based on four central principles:

1. Treating people with dignity and respect;
2. Giving individuals "voice" during encounters;
3. Being neutral and transparent in decision making;
4. Conveying trustworthy motives.

This is for everyone. We all make mistakes, none of us are perfect. We need to be able to move forward, build trust and get things done at the same time as we deal with all the rest of the major issues that are facing our city.

— Janice Weiner  
Iowa City City Councilor

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**THE DAILY IOWAN** which has been serving the University of Iowa, Johnson County, and state of Iowa communities for over 150 years, is committed to fair and accurate coverage of events and issues concerning these areas. In an ever-changing media landscape, the *DI* realizes that an often contentious political climate — paired with the widespread dissemination of news — can cause contentious discussions over some stories. Although these discussions are essential to democracy — and reiterate the importance of the freedom of expression — the *DI* takes great lengths to ensure that our social-media presence is free of discriminatory remarks, and inaccurate representations of the communities we ardently serve.

**GUEST OPINIONS** must be arranged with the Opinions Editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected and edited in accordance with length, subject relevance, and space considerations. The *DI* will only publish one letter per author per month. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

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# State and counties ramp up poll worker recruitment ahead of general election

With the added complication of running an election during a pandemic, election officials are losing some of the people they rely on to staff polling locations and turning to social media and other outreach efforts to staff the polls.

BY CALEB MCCULLOUGH  
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Iowa election officials are recruiting poll workers ahead of the Nov. 3 general election to prevent a possible shortage, as many usual workers are sitting out because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In Linn County, which has been recruiting poll workers since January, there are around 400 people confirmed to work out of the 500 needed, county Auditor Joel Miller

said.

Black Hawk County is expected to need 250 to 270 poll workers, elections manager Karen Showalter said, and Johnson County Auditor Travis Weipert said he is hoping to have at least 200 workers at the Johnson County polls. Both counties have recently started the recruiting process, however, and don't have numbers of confirmed workers.

Showalter said the average age of a poll worker in Black Hawk County is 70. For

the general election, around 40 percent of the usual poll workers have decided not to work, with 98 percent citing COVID-19 concerns.

According to a Pew Research study, 58 percent of poll workers in the 2018 general election were older than 61, a population more susceptible to severe symptoms and death from COVID-19.

On the national stage, this trend already led to a shortage of poll workers during primary elections in several states that

led to long voting lines in places like Wisconsin and Georgia. While Iowa election officials said they had enough workers to staff the polls during the primary election, they are still doing outreach on the state and county levels to fill gaps in current staffing.

The Iowa Secretary of State's office has an online form where people can sign up to be poll workers. Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said through a spokesperson in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that the recruitment effort worked well in the primary, with more than 1,000 people signing up through the office's website.

Although many counties cut down on polling places for the June primary, Pate said 80 percent of votes were cast absentee, which prevented long wait times. Linn County combined 78 locations down to 19 in the primary, and Black Hawk County went from 58 to seven.

The Secretary of State's office is again mailing absentee ballot request forms to every registered voter, and Pate said he hopes that combined with recruitment efforts will prevent long lines at polling locations in November.

"We're reaching out to stakeholder groups, conducting a public awareness effort, targeting potential poll workers on social media in the

counties that need the most help, and doing everything we can to inform the public of the need for healthy Iowans to step up," he said.

County election officials are recruiting poll workers using social media, word of mouth, and local organizations.

Linn County has hired a full-time recruiter, Miller said, and he said he's confident it will have enough workers for the election by Nov. 3.

"We're just going to keep at it and try to fill the gap that we have left, but we've got 60 days," he said. "...We have more people than ever in our upcoming introduction class, so I think we're going to be in good shape."

Weipert said the county is working with local organizations, such as the League of Women Voters and University of Iowa Campus Democrats and Republicans, to recruit poll workers.

"Everybody wants to make sure we're all fully staffed," he said. "I've had Republican friends here in Johnson County, they're almost emailing me reaching out to me once or twice a week saying, 'how are we doing with poll workers,' which is great."

Some counties are planning on consolidating polling places, though not on the same scale as in the primary

election. Linn County generally has 78 locations open, and Miller said there will be 51 locations open in November. Black Hawk County will be going down from 58 to 43 locations.

However, officials don't think this will lead to longer wait times at the polls because they expect an increase in absentee voting.

Showalter said 25 percent of Black Hawk County voters have requested an absentee ballot, which is more than voted absentee in 2016, and she's expecting about 60 percent of voters in the general election to vote absentee.

"I feel that 43 will be adequate, and I'm not anticipating long lines," she said.

Weipert said Johnson County hasn't decided yet if it will need to consolidate some locations, but he said if they do have to consolidate, the office has strategies to make sure the waiting times aren't too long.

"The math that we do in the office seeing who has and hasn't voted at what precincts really allows us, if we do combine precincts, to make sure that we're still at a staffing level that's not going to make somebody wait more than probably 10 to 15 minutes," he said. "And even in my mind as auditor, 10 to 15 minutes is too long."



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Johnson County volunteers collect information at a primary precinct located in The University of Iowa Visual Arts building on June 2. Counties all across Iowa along with eight other states are participating in the 2020 primary elections.

# Student-led initiative promoting health

Student leaders on campus are creating strategies to encourage healthy habits, including wearing face coverings and social distancing. The group hopes to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 900 cases reported on campus as of Monday.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN  
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A group of students on campus are spearheading a Peer Leader Initiative to encourage students to practice healthy habits to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

Senior Behavioral Health Consultant for Student Wellness Steph Beecher and Director for Student Wellbeing and Harm Reduction Initiatives in the Division of Student Life Tanya Villhauer started the group in July under the direction of Dean of Students Angie Reams.

The Peer Leader Initiative will advise student leaders on how best to encourage their peers to follow safe practices, they said.

Villhauer said they reached out to different student organizations on campus, including Undergraduate Student Government and Women's Resource and Action Center, to find student leaders who would be interested in creating initiatives to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

The group is composed of

about 40 student leaders from across campus, Villhauer said.

As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, 922 students have tested positive with the coronavirus since the start of the semester. The Peer Leader Initiative hopes to prevent this continued spread by rewarding students who wear their face coverings and encouraging students who do not, Villhauer said.

UI senior Savannah DeGroot, who is a member of the Peer Leader Initiative, said the first initiative the group worked on is the Healthy Habit Wagons, where starting Monday, students are driving golf carts around campus to give prizes to people who wear face coverings.

She added they will hand out protective equipment to those who aren't wearing any, as well.

"I think it's something that campus could really use right now," DeGroot said. "We were looking for ways to spread positivity while also being cognizant of the things that are going on in our world. Sprinkling a bit of joy into someone's day is what we're

trying to do."

The students hope to encourage people to wear their face coverings, rather than shaming them for not, Beecher said.

"We saw two people without masks. One of them forgot their mask, which is totally a legit thing that can happen. We had extra on hand, so we gave him one," Beecher said. "It's a great, positive experience for everybody on campus and I think we need that right now."

Students will drive the Healthy Habit Wagons every day this week during lunch and dinner times, DeGroot said. They hand out prizes including reusable straws, drawstring bags, and protective equipment to students, she said.

Beecher said the Peer Leader Initiative plans to continue to meet to discuss other ways they can promote healthy habits on campus, even after the pandemic.

"It's an ongoing kind of thing we're doing. Things change on a daily basis," Beecher said. "This group is really flexible in



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Director for Student Wellbeing and Harm Reduction Initiatives Tanya Villhauer speaks in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* on Feb. 21, 2019.

thinking how we can change behaviors given the current climate."

Villhauer said with the efforts from the university and other students on campus, the Peer

Leader Initiative hopes students can have a safe and healthy semester.

"This is one small piece of the puzzle that hopefully we all can contribute to making sure that

we can have a successful fall," Villhauer said. "I think there's a lot of things out there that the university and different realms are doing, so this is just one small piece of that."

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- Work with visuals to create a well-designed paper
- Get paid per page design and graphic

## Digital

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- Help run the *DI's* social media accounts
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# Faculty council talks P3 fiscal strategies

The University of Iowa Faculty Council discussed utilizing public/private partnership funding and opening up a grant process.

BY ALEXANDRA SKORES  
alexandra-skores@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa faculty discussed the possibility of allowing the public/private partnership grant to open up in order to accommodate for fiscal pressure on the institution in a virtual Faculty Council meeting on Tuesday.

Upon the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UI suspended the strategic planning process and the public/private partnership proposal process.

"There was a plan for late-spring, early-summer potentially to open up the process by which you could submit a proposal, and request P3 funds," said Faculty Senate President Joseph Yockey. "That was put on hold given the situation we

were all experiencing."

Yockey said UI President Bruce Harreld has voiced that the money from the partnership must go to strategic priority and cannot be used to fund operations. Yockey told Faculty Council on Tuesday that opening up the grant process could utilize the funds in a way that is responsive to concerns amid the pandemic.

Past Faculty Senate President Sandra Daack-Hirsch worked on a plan for how public/private partnership funding can be requested by colleges, departments, and central-administrative units. If a group shows its proposal aligns with the university's strategic plan, Yockey said it would potentially get the funding.

As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, under the proposed process, anyone may submit ideas for a one-to-five-year grant impacting the university's strategic plan. Then, the Path Forward work

“The university has been clear that these resources are to be used to invest in the future success of the university.

— Anne Bassett, UI media-relations director

groups — which help execute certain pillars of the strategic plan — prioritize proposals, the Path Forward Steering Committee determines if proposals are eligible, and the university Budget Review Board makes final decisions

on requests.

One of the problems with the process for the strategic planning, Yockey said, is the lack of funding for the ideas that develop through the strategic planning groups.

the planning process.

The *DI* reported in May that Harreld told the state Board of Regents the UI was facing \$76 million in expenses and lost revenue through August from responding to the coronavirus. UI media-relations Director Anne Bassett told the *DI* that the funds from the public/private partnership will not be used to supplement any lost funding, however.

"The university has been clear that these resources are to be used to invest in the future success of the university," she said. "Utilizing these funds to backfill a budget hole would rob future generations of the benefit of these resources, so the UI must and will practice discipline in allocating these resources."

UI Professor of English Loren Glass asked Yockey if the decision to not allocate the P3 funding toward operational budgets was a policy or legal decision. Yockey said it was a decision based on policy. A 501C-3 board would approve all funding if an allocation was to be made.

"It just seems to me like now is the perfect time, for those who have intended to submit a proposal to reconceive those proposals, if they hadn't already been pitched its way in terms of racial and economic justice," said Associate Professor within the English Department Jennifer Buckley. "I would hope that university administration would consider rethinking proposals that had intended to go in that direction anyway."

# UI researchers study child pedestrians using VR

Psychologists recently teamed up with the computer science department to create a virtual simulation examining parents' influence on children safely crossing streets.

BY MORGAN UNGS  
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Psychology and Computer Science researchers at the University of Iowa are collaborating to use virtual reality to study how children can safely cross the road.

UI postdoctoral scholar Elizabeth O'Neal, who is studying Psychological Research, said the study is what brought her to the UI campus.

"We are interested in how parents and kids cross streets together and more specifically, how they talk to each other about those decisions," O'Neal said.

UI Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences Jodie Plumert said she has been

working with this study and many similar perceptual motor developmental studies.

She said parents might be helping children to develop some basic road crossing skills, including the ability to decide when to cross and how to time their movements.

"We can't study this kind of problem by putting kids and parents out there on the side of the real roadway and asking them to cross the road," Plumert said. "So, we use this highly realistic virtual environment technology where we can actually put a parent and child side-by-side in this immersive virtual environment, and we can present them with traffic that's similar to the real world."

UI Professor of Computer Science Joseph Kearney said he coordinated the virtual environments lab with Plumert and has been working on building virtual environments to study behavior for the past 25 years.

"We primarily focus on problems related to perception and action and virtual environments give us this ability to create worlds where they're quite real in some aspects," he said.

Kearney said a lot of the group's work has been with road crossings and how different factors influence the way people interact with these scenarios.

He said the researchers did an experiment with college-aged individuals in virtual

reality that were prompted to cross the street alongside a simulated avatar.

At times the avatar would make more risky crossings, which allowed the researchers to observe how the partner may influence a person's judgement on crossing the street, Kearney said.

Plumert said the research is a gap between basic and applied research. The applied side of the research involves interventions that could help parents better teach their children how to cross roads, he said.

On the basic research side, Plumert said they are looking at the correlation between how parents are providing support for children when perform-



ing a complicated perception of motor skill tasks, such as crossing a busy road.

Their research found that on the basic research side, indicating which gap to cross ahead of time improve kids' abilities to time their movement through gaps on their own, but parents don't use this verbal queue very often. O'Neal mentioned their data found that verbal queues

were only used 70 percent of the time.

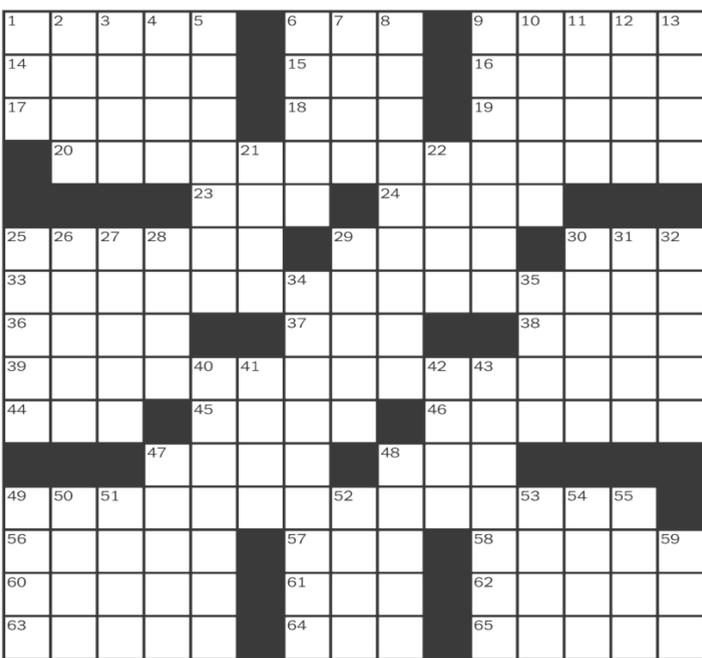
"If we could increase that we think it could help children be better at controlling their movement into traffic, making them safer crossers," O'Neal said. "When parents use this strategy, we saw something really cool happen, which is that even though younger kids, they were better able to time their movement into the gap."

## The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 3

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0729



- 31 Unframed artwork
- 32 Clientele
- 34 Lugged
- 35 "Hey! Over here!"
- 40 Goldman Sachs or Morgan Stanley employee, informally
- 41 Capitol Hill org.
- 42 Little pranksters
- 43 "Easy peasy!"
- 47 Bowling game
- 48 Tennis pro Naomi
- 49 Subway station
- 50 "I'd have to agree"
- 51 Tweetstorm, e.g.
- 52 Pulitzer-winning James
- 53 Award co-administered by the American Theater Wing since 2014
- 54 One of the friends on "Friends"
- 55 Bonehead
- 59 Aid for a decoder

## SUDOKU

		5						
	9	1	8				2	7
	4		3					8
5			7					9
			4	8	6			
2					9			4
1					7		3	
6	3			4	8	9		
					2			

Across

- 1 Small building blocks
- 6 Wisecracking bear of film
- 9 Things finished with handshakes
- 14 Specifically
- 15 Certain craft beer, for short
- 16 Something that is bid
- 17 Animal known scientifically as Alces alces
- 18 Breathful
- 19 Church Lady's foe
- 20 Reduced-fat option
- 23 Relaxation station
- 24 Imitates
- 25 Entree baked in a tin
- 29 Apt rhyme for "casino"
- 30 Sch. in Ypsilanti
- 33 Mobile device that debuted in 2016
- 36 Poop
- 37 Forensic letters
- 38 Father
- 39 Highly sought-after restaurant rating
- 44 State-of-the-art
- 45 Zeus's weapon
- 46 Things often found near cloverleaves
- 47 Cause of ruin
- 48 Post- (some hosp. patients)
- 49 It may require letters, a number and a special character — as seen in 20-, 33- and 39-Across
- 56 Certain school athletics
- 57 Links org.
- 58 Bit of paperless reading

- 60 Unit in a baby announcement
- 61 "Yikes!"
- 62 Place for a beverage cart
- 63 Dwindle, with "out"
- 64 Part of the D.O.J.
- 65 Quick to snap

Down

- 1 \_\_\_ card
- 2 Friendly honk
- 3 "I'm in pain! I'm in pain!"
- 4 Traditional Japanese seasoning
- 5 Intercedes
- 6 Princess' headwear
- 7 Greater than great
- 8 Adventure seeker
- 9 Affix with adhesive
- 10 Actress Amy with six Oscar nominations
- 11 Commercial lead-in to card
- 12 Blue-green shade
- 13 Like many ships in the Bermuda Triangle
- 21 Something waved in the Olympics
- 22 Option that's almost always listed last
- 25 Mountain climber's aid
- 26 Venture a thought
- 27 Cast
- 28 Many a hymn, essentially
- 29 "Undo" button
- 30 Select few

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**GYMNASTICS**  
CONTINUED FROM 8

what they're going through and we're all going through the same thing," Anderson said. "But ultimately, we

have limited time with each other, and just trying to think about making the most of that time with them and

enjoy whatever time we're given and make memories that will last of complaining or feeling defeated."

The team doesn't have goals yet for the season because they don't know yet if there will be a season.

With COVID-19 making things difficult to plan, the Hawkeyes are practicing, but their last season as a varsity sport may have already happened.

Brown said that once a couple weeks have past, he thinks they'll have discussions on practice structure and goal this season, depending on how the virus spreads. Currently, practices haven't been structured.

On the afternoon of that dreadful day, Brown posted a Twitter thread, which in part said his generation needs to do their part in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and that spring sport seasons are directly tied to that.

"I just want to say that I was surprised I didn't get a lot of negative comments back for it," Brown said. "I think a lot of people understood my tone. But the thing that I want to hammer across is that I said I didn't want to pull the student-athlete card because I made the choice to be a student-athlete and there's going to be

things that you have to sacrifice to be a student-athlete, and I completely understand that.

"And on top of that, I think there's a big common misconception that student-athletes are getting everything and that their school is paid for and that's not the case. A lot of these student-athletes, and me included, are tuition-paying students."

As reported by *The Daily Iowan* last week, there's a possibility the team could compete outside of being a varsity sport in future years, though that's not guaranteed. This will be the final season of the team as people know it because the UI said the discontinuation from the NCAA level is final.

Not all the gymnasts know what they'll do after this season, but the program's history will always be there.

"To put the program itself into a couple sentences over its entirety is definitely tough," Brown said. "But I think in recent years the program has really been on an upswing and it sucks to see it going after this year."



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan  
Stewart Brown accepts his award for during day two of the Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Championships in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on April 6, 2019. Gymnasts competed in individual competitions.

**SWIMMING**  
CONTINUED FROM 8

One of the organizers of the meeting was Iowa swim and dive alumna Emma Sougstad. Sougstad is part of a group of 12 people that has met biweekly for the last two weeks to discuss ways to save Iowa swim and dive.

"We have a council of about 12 alumni that meet biweekly right now," Sougstad said. "[We're deciding] what is our course of action and what are solutions we can come to and how can we get everybody on the same page to move in a forward, positive motion."

According to Sougstad, the council of 12 has already met with the administration at Iowa.

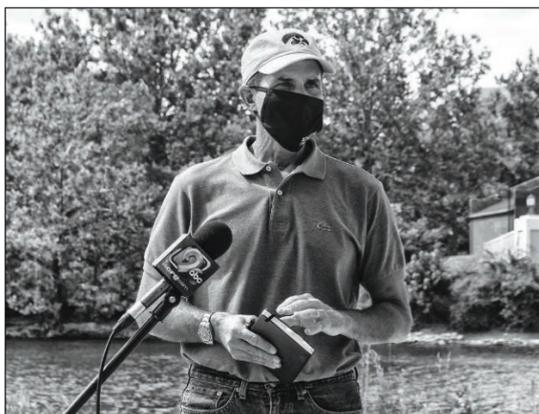
"Mistakes have been made, and we're not pointing any fingers at anybody," Sougstad said. "We just essentially want mistakes to be fixed. We want to find a solution. I think that there is opportunity within these circumstances, and we can improve but it does require communication and collaboration. There are many groups that are committed to this movement. We're committed to challenging these decisions quickly and decisively. We have been talking with administration currently of what this could look like to

pause and reconsider." The council of 12 is also tapping into Iowa swim and dive's extensive alumni database to help push the movement to save the program forward.

"At this moment, all we're asking our total alumni base to do, and also broader community, is share your values," Sougstad said. "So, share what value being a student-athlete brought to your life. Next up is share your information. How can you help us with this movement? Lastly, share your connections. How can we become closer to one another, move together at the same pace and broaden our base as well?"

While meetings with the administration and social media advocacy are both steps that have been deliberately taken by members of the Iowa swim and dive community, student-athletes like Sage Ohlensehlen realize that there is still more work that can be done to save the program.

"I think that's the way that I can help the most," Ohlensehlen said. "Just keep talking about this, don't shut up. I'm going to keep contacting news agencies, keep talking, keep tweeting, keep facebook-ing. That's my goal, and I'm going to encourage my teammates to do the same."



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan  
Mark Kaufman speaks at the save swim meeting outside the IMU on Aug. 29. He is an alumni and was a student athletic trainer at the University of Iowa.

**LEONARD**  
CONTINUED FROM 8



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa pitcher Grant Leonard throws a pitch during the seventh inning of the afternoon Iowa vs Rutgers game at Duane Banks Field on Saturday, April 7, 2019. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights 9-5.

relief pitcher and made the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Midsea-

son Closer of the Year List. Plus, he set the Iowa single-season record for saves

after converting all 14 of his attempts.

In March 2020, Leonard was met with an overwhelming feeling of disappointment and shock as he heard the news that the rest of the season would be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He made the decision to hope for the best in the shortened MLB draft and take a finance job in Chicago if pro aspirations didn't work out. But while getting ready for the draft, Leonard was met with a dilemma.

"The more I was training, the more I was around the guys, and the more I was like I completely made the wrong decision," Leonard said. "I absolutely did a 180 and flipped

my mindset from 'I don't know if going for a sixth year would be the best option' to 'that is absolutely my best option and I cannot leave my teammates hanging like that.'"

Now that he's returning, he will have the chance to set a program record. Leonard currently has two fewer saves than Kurt Belger, Iowa's all-time leader with 22 career saves.

"Our number one priority is to win baseball games," Iowa baseball pitching coach Robin Lund said. "But you know he could hit a number that nobody has ever done in the history of the program, so obviously we get excited about that."

Since Leonard isn't taking classes at the university this fall, he can't attend fall practices or use team facilities. Lund said that he and the coaching staff have laid out a program for Leonard to increase his velocity.

While Leonard has the opportunity to achieve what no Iowa pitcher has done before, he said he's only thinking about what the team could accomplish in the spring.

"Our goal is a Big Ten championship, both regular season and tournament," Leonard said. "Our team is very capable of making a push towards Omaha this year because we have a lot of talented guys and a lot of experienced guys."

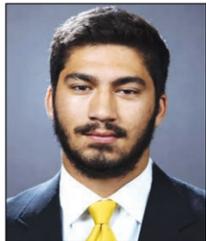
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## HAWKEYE UPDATES

**Epenesa reportedly struggling with Buffalo**



Epenesa

On Sunday, the Buffalo Bills held their last day of training camp, and one reporter there observed that former Hawkeye defensive end A.J. Epenesa was struggling.

According to Matt Parino of NYup.com, Epenesa has had good work throughout camp. Yet, after he took a closer look Sunday, he noticed an issue with him.

Parino said that Epenesa is having a tough time generating consistent pressure on his rushes, which Parino speculates is occurring for two reasons. One was that his power hasn't translated yet at the next level and the other is the difference in speed between the college and NFL game.

With that, Parino concluded that without any preseason games to measure Epenesa by, Trent Murphy's spot in the starting lineup might be safe out of necessity. But if they do move on from Murphy, Parino said that Epenesa will provide a baseline level of snaps to start off the season.

In his three seasons at Iowa, Epenesa had 26.5 sacks and nine forced fumbles. He was drafted with the 54th overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft in April. The Bills will start their season on Sept. 13 against the New York Jets.

**Kittle No. 9 on ESPN Top 100**



Kittle

ESPN announced yesterday that former Hawkeye tight end and current San Francisco 49er George Kittle was the ninth-best player in the NFL. Last year, the sports media organization ranked Kittle as the No. 42 best player in the league.

Having more receiving yards than any tight end in their first three seasons in the NFL is the first accomplishment that ESPN noted of him. The outlet also mentioned that having fresh legs and a deeper connection with quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo will help Kittle in his fourth season.

ESPN also speculated that Kittle will be assisted this season by the organization's addition of tight end Jordan Reed to the roster, which will put two competitive tight ends on the field at the same time, allowing Kittle to have easier matchups.

ESPN projects Kittle will have 998 receiving yards and six TDs in the 2020 season. The 49ers start their season against the Arizona Cardinals on Sept. 13.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"It's so hard to put it in a few sentences because it does so much for so many."**



-Iowa men's gymnast Stewart Brown on what the men's gymnastics program means.

## STAT OF THE DAY

The Iowa men's gymnastics team has qualified for the NCAA Championships for

**20**

years in a row.

# Men's gymnasts making the most of final season

With this academic year being the final season of NCAA men's gymnastics at Iowa, the gymnasts are looking up instead of feeling defeated.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Stewart Brown performs his floor routine during a Men's gymnastics meet against The University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois at Chicago Feb. 1. The Hawkeyes won with a final team score of 400.00.

BY ISAAC GOFFIN

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The Iowa men's gymnastics program was the only program that kept talking to redshirt sophomore Stewart Brown after he had surgery during his junior year of high school.

Brown said that the program checked in to see how he was recovering. He showed he was coming back, and they offered him a spot on the

team.

Though he had a shaky freshman season because of an injury, he ended up earning All-American honors when he placed seventh at the 2019 NCAA Championships on the parallel bars.

Unfortunately for Brown, the school that gave him the opportunity to compete on a national stage is now discontinuing the sport after this academic year, it announced on Aug. 21. Brown said there was a lot of negative energy when the

team heard the news.

His teammate, redshirt freshman Reuven Anderson, was devastated and didn't expect to hear that news with school starting so soon. Anderson had to emotionally calm down and look at things from the athletics department's perspective. It has gotten better for him and the team.

"I just try thinking about my teammates and

SEE GYMNASTICS, 7

# Council of aims to save Iowa swim and dive

A council of 12 – composed of 10 alumni and two non-alumni – has been created to help revive Iowa swim and dive.



Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan

Swimmers compete during the second session of the the 2020 Big Ten Women's Swimming and Diving Championship at the the HTRC on Friday, Feb.21.

BY AUSTIN HANSON

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On Aug. 21, University of Iowa Director of Athletics Gary Barta and President Bruce Harreld announced that four Iowa sports programs would be discontinued after the 2020-21 academic year– men's and women's swimming and diving and men's tennis and gymnastics. Barta and Harreld cited financial shortcomings produced by the COVID-19 pandemic as the reasoning for the cuts.

What followed the announcement was a storm of outpouring and support for the discontinued programs. For men's and women's swimming and diving, the succor was particularly impactful.

"We've just gotten an overwhelming amount of support," senior swimmer Sage Ohlensehlen said. "I never in my wildest dream would've thought that 20,000 people would be this concerned about our program. That means so much to me and so much to our entire team, just to see the overwhelming support. It seems like the whole thing is really snowballing. A bunch of people had interviews last week and news media reaching out. It's amazing to see how many people care. . . It's making us all want to continue fighting."

Now, the movement to save Iowa swim and dive has the backing of parents and alumni. A meeting of about 80 people took place Aug. 29. Participants joined the meeting both in-person and via Zoom.

# Leonard set to return for sixth year

The Hawkeye closer is second in career saves in program history and set the single-season save record back in 2019.

BY WILL FINEMAN

william-fineman@uiowa.edu



Leonard

In the spring of 2016, freshman Grant Leonard walked the University of Iowa campus as a new transfer from North Central College whose days on the pitcher's mound were likely behind him.

But Leonard got a tryout with the Hawkeyes in the fall of 2016.

"I basically had to take each day as it was and do what I could to stick out," Leonard said. "I guess I did enough for them to keep me around because that spring of 2017 was my first full time being on the team."

Leonard made two appearances for the Hawkeyes in the spring of 2017, but 2018 was a different story. He made 21 appearances, amounting to a 2-1 record, 4.64 ERA, two saves, and 23 strikeouts in 21.1 innings.

Besides the statistics and appearances, something else changed for Leonard from 2017, which was developing a wipeout slider.

"I stayed around Iowa City to train to get stronger and use our abundance of technology that is available to pitchers," Leonard said. "That is when I actually developed my slider and developing that kind of helped solidify my role in high leverage situations."

The 2019 season was the year of Leonard. With a low-90s fastball, a hard slider, and a progressing changeup, the stage was set for Leonard to succeed in the bullpen.

Leonard finished his 2019 campaign with a 2-3 record, 3.37 ERA, and 37 strikeouts in 34.2 innings. He was named second-team All-Big Ten

SEE SWIMMING, 7

SEE LEONARD, 7