Another sexual assault reported

The seventh sexual assault in the 2013-14 academic year has been reported.

By REBECCA MORIN
rmorin@uiowa.edu

The seventh sexual assault for this academic school year was reported this week.

University of Iowa officials received a report Tuesday of a student being sexually assaulted last month near the Art Building.

The student was reportedly walking along the west bank riverfront on Jan. 21 at about 8:30 p.m., near the tunnel by the Art Building. The student was approached by three unknown college-age males and was then sexually assaulted.

This is the sixth sexual assault to be reported on campus. Four sexual assaults were reported last semester, with three on campus, and of those, two occurred in residence halls.

UI President Sally Mason told The Daily Iowan that although she knows sexual assaults happen, she wants students to stay educated to be more proactive during these incidents.

"I'm not pleased that we have sexual assaults, obviously," Mason said. "The goal would be to end that, to never have another sexual assault. That's probably not a realistic goal just given human nature, and that's unfortunate, but the more we understand about it, the better we are at trying to handle it and help people get through these difficult situations... to get away from that kind of mindset and to get a more educational, proactive mindset to help people understand when they might be at risk."

Last academic school year, there were two sexual assaults reported. With that trio of reports Mason and soliciting students on the resources available is important to continue seeing positive results.

"I think that's a key thing and a key point that we need to keep in mind as we move forward and telling us about it now," said UI President Sally Mason. "... You have to know more about it, you have to understand it, and I think what we're seeing now is more people being hit to come forward and tell us when something bad happens."

WISE women

A program designed to encourage women to pursue careers in science and engineering is continuing success through its 20th year.

By LIZ ABROMET
labromet@uiowa.edu

From their first year in school to their freshman year of college, females are exposed to science, math, and technology in the hopes that one day, some of them will pursue a career in the science or engineering field.

In the 20th year at the University of Iowa, the WISE — Women in Science and Engineering — program is noticing improvements in encouraging women to pursue careers in science- and engineering-related fields.

"Universities started paying attention to how many women they were recruiting and bringing into all engineering fields," said Mary Beth Egan, director of the Women in Science and Engineering Office. "Engineering is a very diverse field. It is a great place for women to work and develop leadership skills.

"Women in Science and Engineering is an office of the Provost, and the goal is to increase the number of women in engineering. We want young girls to think about STEM and consider a career in science or engineering. We work with the Be-WISE Living Learning Community and large universities to help women pursue engineering careers. We have several programs for freshmen and sophomores, and we offer scholarships to women in engineering."

Women in Science and Engineering offers a variety of events for women interested in science and engineering. The program is also working with the Be-WISE Living Learning Community to help women pursue careers in engineering.

Women in Science and Engineering also provides mentoring opportunities for women in science and engineering. The program also offers scholarships to women in engineering.

"We are very proud of our program and the work we do to help women pursue careers in science and engineering," said Egan. "We have a strong tradition of supporting women in engineering, and we are committed to continuing that tradition for the next 20 years."

The program also offers workshops and seminars for women interested in science and engineering. The program also offers scholarships to women in engineering.

"We are very proud of our program and the work we do to help women pursue careers in science and engineering," said Egan. "We have a strong tradition of supporting women in engineering, and we are committed to continuing that tradition for the next 20 years."

The Daily Iowan
UI students eye vision problems

Visual dysfunction becomes an area of interest for the University of Iowa College of Education.

By ARTHUR MUELLER

Imagine trying to read a third-grade level book — new attempt to read it with double vision.

On Wednesday evening, students in the University of Iowa College of Education participated in a two-hour panel on "What Does it Mean to Have Vision Problems?" The event was designed to help students learn about the importance of vision and how to learn in a classroom.

"A lot of kids are actually applying for optometry doctor for the University of Iowa College of Optometry," said Dottie Pegrum, director of the Center for Educators in Vision, said that statistic showed that 25 percent of children have a vision problem that affects their performance in school. Of those, 25 percent of children, she said, 15 percent go undiagnosed.

"It is a fairly common, and it is more common than you would think." Pegrum said "A normal eye exam that last for 20-20 vision does not detect this. This is what is needed is a comprehensive eye exam."

Some major vision problems, she said, are far from the average, and near sightedness, as well as trouble reading left from right, are common.

The eye clinic in Iowa City will begin seeing patients on Wednesday, and will continue for at least a year, according to Pegrum.

BLOOMFIELD

Donald Peterson, 50, Cedar Rapids, was charged Feb. 14 with third-degree domestic assault and battery.

Daily Gazette, 35, North Liberty was charged Feb. 15 with crinminal mischief.

William McWhirter, 30, Coralville, was charged Tuesday with theft.

Mohamed Mustafa, 30, Coralville, was charged Feb. 14 with larceny of $1,000 or less.

Doctor Mudge, 25, West Des Moines, was charged Feb. 11 with driving while intoxicated with a suspended or revoked license.

Dante Paltier, 34, address unknown, was charged Tuesday with public intoxication.

Kenneth Ring, 53, address unknown, was charged Wednesday with possession of an open container of alcohol in public and criminal trespass.

Vincent Vojtalaog, 31, address unknown, was charged Wednesday with stealing property.

Share Wallace, 25, Cedar Rapids, was charged Wednesday with driving while intoxicated.

Michael White, 42, 101 E College St, was charged Thursday with criminal trespass.
City officials move forward with department merger to make operations more efficient.

By DANIEL SEID, DAILY IOWAN

As Iowa City aims to become more efficient, two city departments with similar functions will probably merge.

The Iowa City City Council voted Tuesday to approve the first consideration of a resolution that would combine the Housing and Inspections Department with the Planning and Community Development Department. The newly formed department would be named the Neighborhood Development Services Department.

The aim of this merger, which was requested for approval by City Manager Tom Markas, is to streamline the functions of those departments by facilitating communication, he said.

"It takes some of the sequential kind of approach that we have now and consolidates those issues," Markas said. "I think it [would] smooth out the process."

The two departments handle different parts of planning, and being under one roof would make any decision much more prompt.

"Sometimes, if the developer or builder, or resident comes in, they don’t necessarily get a coordinated response," he said. "The departments will begin to understand each other’s rules better, being under one department.""Duty Burleigh, the director of Housing and Inspections, agreed the merger would be beneficial, and said he did the two departments overlap in many ways.

"We work in a lot of the same areas," she said. "Where I see the changes in terms of improved communications, will be some of those areas that overlap in terms of plans approvals and enforcement of rules on plans.""

This is just one step in his plan to make the operations of the city much more streamlined overall, Markas said.

"It’s part of the overall organization (in the three years) that I’ve been here," she said. "I started to formulate ideas about where we could make the situation much more efficient and streamlined."

Councilman Jim Throgmartin said he trusts Markas to make decisions that are beneficial to the city, and this is no exception.

"I trust our city manager is very skilled at what he’s doing," he said. "I doubt that he’ll have dramatic effects, but the city manager believes it will result in more efficient operations." Though the merger may not have a dramatic effect on the operations of the departments, one area where it would be sure to have an effect would be staffing, Markas said.

"There’s actually going to be one director where there currently is two," he said. "One of the two directors will be named the director of the new department, the other will be put in charge of economic development." The merger, Markas said, would cause no lay-offs, and any cost incurred would be within the current city budget.

Though nothing is concrete, and the merger still has to get the go by from City Council, it could be expected to be effective by July 1, the start of the fiscal year.
Fighting against Islamophobia

College athletes must always deal with the demands of their sport. Making sure their performance doesn’t suffer and continuing to train, they must also maintain a healthy lifestyle. Like professional sports, they can shape-shift. Sixteen-year-old Kamala Khate, a Hindu-American teen from India, Pakistan’s only Muslim female student athlete, was denied the title of Ms. Marvel, because she is polymorphism — she can move up, own, and of the favorite American super- heroes, debuted a new superhero named Ms. Marvel that I hope we’ll all come to love as well as her own, and of course, the title of Ms. Marvel. This sexual terrorism needs to end. This sexual terrorism needs to end.

Though most people that suffer concussions recover fully, the effects on the brain can last days, weeks, or longer. These effects include difficulty thinking, headaches, dizziness, and memory problems. Recovery takes much longer, even leading to devastating outcomes such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

The Daily Iowan

END sexual terrorism

The danger of concussions

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The Daily Iowan
Early birds not getting the worms just yet

By MEGAN DEPPE
megdep@iowapublicmedia.org

Residents of Iowa City have been treating some visitors earlier than usual this year—robins have come flocking to town to check out their normal migration time.

Diane Porter, an owner of Birdwatching Dot Com and a writer for Bird Watchers Digest, said that robins go south for the winter but many do stay here in for- ests. Most people associate robins with the start of spring, but Porter said her earliest arrival could indicate something else. “People in the cities don’t usually see robins in the winter,” Porter said. “They also burrow into ev- erything and need somewhere to hide. It’s been unusual to see such large flocks show up at the begin- ning of spring,” she added.

The robins’ appearance was probably relat- ed to food, she said, and that Iowa must have “very abundant crop.” While Porter said that robins might have been attracted by the food for a birds’ survival, there were other factors to consider as well, which could explain why they are here.

“The time of year that robins are for- est’s burden of cost some- thing else. In a bipartisan compro- mise on Medicaid, Tim Moors said.

The UI Hospitals and Clinics are not requesting for reimbursement from the hospital’s work-around the governor’s actions but said he did not want to comment directly on the governor’s actions but said Branstad is interested in hav- ing an opposition to abortion because of his conservative political ideology. He said the governor, who speaks in political language, has political benefits for many politi- cal parties.

“The idea is that [politici- cians] don’t get in trouble with constituents for provid- ing public funding for abor- tions,” Hagle said. At least

Robins flock to Iowa City early in the year.

UIHC: No state money for Medicare abortions

Public funds are not being used for University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics abortions, officials say.

by CHRIS HIGGINS
chris@dailyiowan.com

University of Iowa of- ficials have emphasized tax- payer money is not used to perform abortions at the UI Hospitals and Clinics. In a bipartis- an compromise, the Iowa legislature last year gave Gov. Terry Branstad the power to appro- ve reimbursements to clinics providing abortion throug- h Medicaid. However, the governor has yet to make any requests on his desk, Dr. Branstad spokesman Jimmy Centers said.

The hospital is paying for abortions qualifying for Medicaid, which has been over bud- get rather than asking the governor for payment “to avoid being involved in the politics of the matter,” UI Hospitals and Clinics spokesman Tom Moors said.

Iowa’s Medicaid program allows reimbursement for abortions performed in the case of incest, rape, and serious fetal health prob- lems, and also to prevent the mother’s death. A small number of the procedures are eligible yearly.

“The hospital is absorbing the costs from its own reser- voir which are not covered from state funds,” Moors said.

Jim, a UI political science professor, said he did not want to speculate directly on the governor’s actions but said Branstad is interested in hav- ing an opposition to abortion because of his conservative political ideology. He said the governor, who speaks in political language, has political benefits for many politi- cal parties.

“The idea is that [politici- cians] don’t get in trouble with constituents for provid- ing public funding for abor- tions,” Hagle said. At least

Abortion

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NATION

Obama defends process on Keystone XL

The White House on Wednesday defended its role in approving a Canadian proposal to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada’s prairies to the U.S. Gulf Coast. Environmental groups oppose, and oil companies want to build it as a means to increase domestic energy supplies.

On Wednesday, Obama said the pipeline review was “an open process” that included public comment. Meanwhile, the president, who had long been opposed to the plan, says he is now open to approving it.

Robins flock to Iowa City early in the year.

Obama spoke at a joint news con- ference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. The three leaders met on climate change and energy-related issues.

Canada has been pushing the U.S. to approve the pipeline, saying it would help secure energy supplies for U.S. consumers. Mexico has been pushing the U.S. to build a pipeline to its southern border.

The president said he is open to approving the pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada’s prairies to the U.S. Gulf Coast. Environmental groups oppose, and oil companies want to build it as a means to increase domestic energy supplies.

The pipeline’s approval power took effect last summer under legislation sponsored by Sens. James Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, and Mark Udall, D-Colo.

Both Jacoby and Rozenboom said the governors are not using public funds to fund a practice that they find immoral and inappropriate.

“I think this was a compromise that the legislature was able to make that Branstad does not agree with,” Hagle said. “But there are other factors to consider as well, which could explain why they are here.”

The time of year that robins are

Robins can be seen miles away

The robins’ appearance was probably relat- ed to food, she said, and that Iowa must have “very abundant crop.” While Porter said that robins might have been attracted by the food for a birds’ survival, there were other factors to consider as well, which could explain why they are here.

“The time of year that robins are

Robins have been starting to come back to the city earlier than usual. They have been seen miles away from Iowa City in Toluca, Mexico, on Wednesday. Obama is in Toluca for a one-day summit with Mexican and Canadian leaders, meeting on issues ranging from energy and trade to climate change.

Bar Crawl & House Crawls

It’s time for Kindergarten Round-Up

Regina Elementary

Thursday, February 20, 2014 • 6-7:30pm

To register, please call:
(319) 337-5797

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Schools

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Most insurance plans — Iowa Health and Wellness Medicaid — Medicare — Need-based sliding fees

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As the Iowa swimmers and divers began competition today in the Big Ten championships, the Hawkeyes have a solid team that could compete in a national meet.

**COMBINE brand with draft expert Rob Rang said the day in-bronze diving is a sentiment among those who don't have to look far to see the depth Iowa has added this season:**

**WOMEN CONTINUED FROM TOP**

very offensively exciting

Teams across the nation have set records per game, which was a record low and nearly 10 points fewer than the average winning margin in the NCAA's start in 1979.

Scoring around the Big Ten and across the nation, teams averaged 67.1 points per game. Of the Big Ten's 12 teams in the Big Ten, only one averaged more than 50 points per game — Penn State at 73.8. With the new rule emphasis in place, scoring has skyrocketed.

The Big Ten teams are averaging 71.5 points per game.

And whereas the winning margin of 12.1 points per game stood alone in scoring over the entire conference's history, teams have surpassed that mark this season.

More factors go into this scoring increase other than the rule emphasis — especially with the roster changes occurring.

The combination could help his case to be drafted if he performs well and improves his numbers — teams may be more willing to invest in a guy that's going to take some time to develop if he looks better on paper. Even with that development, it's unclear as to how good a player Hitchens can be. He's shown he can make plays, like the one against Michigan, but his size and football knowledge aren't on everyone's radar. That says a lot about the character of a team.
SOCCER

Baylor 89, Iowa State 51

NCAAW

United States 5, Czech Republic 2

Finland 3, Russia 1

Sweden 5, Slovakia 0

UCLA 86, California 66

Wichita State 88, Loyola (Il) 74

Ohio State 76, Northwestern 60

MAILBAG

We're encouraging readers to send questions pertaining to the men's basketball team. Tweet questions to @ben, @DI_Sports_Desk, @ProbascoRyan, or basketball@dailyiowan.com each week.

Anthony Hitchens' final play inside Kinnick Stadium as an Iowa lineback- er was one that defined his style of play. HawkEye fans remember that freezing late November day, when Hitchens shut a block, chased down Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson near the Wolverine sideline, forced and recovered a fumble before running around 50 and a half yards across the field with the football raised in his left hand.

With Iowa up 5 points, Hitchens’ memo- rable play stopped a Michigan drive with less than two minutes remaining on Iowa’s Senior Day.

With a solid career at Iowa over, the 6-foot, 235-pound linebacker has turned his efforts to his NFL combine on Feb. 6. For Hitchens, the workout can do some good, not much, but good to help his chances of being called in the NFL draft in April.

There are a few reasons for this — first, it's his position, linebacker’s 40-yard dash times don’t matter too much in this work. He carries as much weight as they would for a corner-back or defensive back. That's not to say quickness isn’t important. Hitchens finished 4.50 on the shuttle, 4.42, which ranks slightly above average compared with either outside linebackers. If Hitchens runs that time, it won’t do a ton to help his chance. But if he does improve, even if it is slightly, it’ll give a big boost to his chances of being called at Radio City Music Hall in a few months — a time in the 4.5s looks a lot better than in the 4.6s. Analytics say his working speed and quickness are some of his biggest strengths, along with the nose for the ball he seemed to develop in his senior campaign.

"For you to be the guy (where he was on the team) and have good playing range to the outside," his NFL.com combine profile reads.

With that being said, his development is widely recognized as a weakness. The Clearview recruit came into Iowa as a fullback, was quickly moved to safety, and started for two seasons as an outside lin- backer, leading the Big Ten in tackles (124, 2012-13), as a senior. But he had 11 tackles for loss in his second full season.

Because he hasn’t played behind the de- fence so long as his fellow lineback- ers — Christian Kirksey and James Morris — he had less time to learn the intricacies of the position (see: pace coverage and awareness). Part of the drop in tackles can be attributed to that. But CBSSports.com

Hoops offense jumps

The new rule emphasis in women’s basketball has increased offensive freedom, which has translated into more offensive firepower.

By JACOB SHENY

Before the women’s basketball season started, coaches and players from each of the Big Ten teams met at the Big Ten media days.

As it always is, the event was, Gilled, and optimistic. Some of it was justified, some was wishful thinking.

But aside from coaches and players talking about their teams’ chances to contend in the Big Ten, another common topic was the NCAA’s officiating push on offensive freedom of movement.

For the 2013-14 season, offici- cials were instructed to crack down on a defender’s use of hands or forearms to impede a player’s movement.

It was implemented to in- crease scoring and provide more entertaining product of collegiate women’s basketball, although numerous coaches worried about whether it would be com- fortable for the refs, or the array of Big Ten officials.

With about two weeks re- maining in the Big Ten regu- lar season, the effects of the rule increment are pretty mixed.

By CODY GOODWIN

city@dailyiowan.com

Road trips aren’t always easy on the Iowa wrestlers. The buses and planes ar- e always comfortable. The hours traveled can add up to a lot sometimes. The sec- ond-rankled Iowa wrestling team has journeyed to places as close as Ames and as far as Ohio State. It’s been said that the wrestlers and coaches play the classic card game during the longer road trips as another, broadly competitive form of entertainment.

As such, boredom often aris- es. But the wrestlers compen- sate, it’s through reading for class, or watching movies, or playing — like the card game Uno. Plenty of the Iowa wrestlers and coaches play the classic card game during the longer road trips as another, broadly competitive form of entertainment.

"It’s a ton of fun right from the start of road trips, I think," senior Tony Ramos said. "It’s a game we like to play. The team’s how to do it. I think that’s the first time I played."

For as much fun as the game has with the wrestlers, the competitors Ramos said are often thrown — “There’s a lot of arguing and screaming Lofthouse said the wrestlers often get just as fired up during their free time to play the game.

In addition to playing with the game’s original set of cards, the wrestlers added a few of their own to make each hand more interesting than normal. For example, if one wrestler finishes with the highest score one round, he isn’t allowed to talk during the next round.

"That was pretty hard and that was a lot of fun," Ramos said and laughed. "And if you talk, you have to draw two (cards). It gets pretty crazy.

Of course, the game tends to get a bit more competitive. Ramos said cards are often thrown — “There’s a lot of arguing and screaming that has occurred as a result of the rule emphasis. That comes with the offensive pro- motion rule.

But this increase in foul shots isn’t the biggest change that has occurred as a result of the rule emphasis. That comes with the offensive pro- motion rule.

The NCAA as a whole wasn’t woven into the fabric of the game.

The way Ramos remembers it, the wrestlers had to play their own games and win in order to play with the team’s coaches. "It was like they were a step above us, and we had to try to open some eyes

BOOZER SCORES 20, BULLS BEAT RAPTORS

Thaddeus Young scored 20 points, O.J. Mayo had 19 against his former team, and the Chicago Bulls won their fourth- straight game by using their height advantage right off the bat. The Toronto Raptors, 94-92.

DEFENDERS DOMINATE AS ROCKETS EMBRACE NEW OFFENSIVE RULES

The new rule emphasis in women’s basketball has increased offensive freedom, which has translated into more offensive firepower.

By JACOB SHENY

Before the women’s basketball season started, coaches and players from each of the Big Ten teams met at the Big Ten media days.

As it always is, the event was, Gilled, and optimistic. Some of it was justified, some was wishful thinking.

But aside from coaches and players talking about their teams’ chances to contend in the Big Ten, another common topic was the NCAA’s officiating push on offensive freedom of movement.

For the 2013-14 season, offici- cials were instructed to crack down on a defender’s use of hands or forearms to impede a player’s movement.

It was implemented to in- crease scoring and provide more entertaining product of collegiate women’s basketball, although numerous coaches worried about whether it would be com- fortable for the refs, or the array of Big Ten officials.

With about two weeks re- maining in the Big Ten regu- lar season, the effects of the rule increment are pretty mixed.

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Each of us has a story. For all the times we've heard "Oh, something like that happened to me once," we all have at least one that is definitively ours. Table such as these can be heartbreaking, humorous, or quite often both.

Since 1997, "The Moth Radio Hour" has set out to bring people from every shade of existence to the stage so they can offer these pieces of their lives to the ears of the world.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jim Bennett, Junior Josephine Carney, Cole Kostick, Jeremy Arvuk, and Stephanie Stummers will take the spotlight at the Englert Theater, 221 E. Washington St., to tell their stories on Public Radio Exchange's "The Moth," hosted by Liane Hansen.

"The thing about people is that when you sit down and talk to them, there's always something universal, but there's also always something brand-new," said Maggie Cino, the director of the event.

The beautiful thing about "The Moth" is that it has striven to keep people talking continually. It seeks out professionals as well as everyday folk, establishing a theme for each show and giving the performers free rein. For Friday's event, the theme will be "Heart of Darkness."

"Ninety-five percent of the time, people come in with just the idea. We work with the storytellers to make sure their stories have fully developed arches and aren't just unstructured anecdotes. Everyone's talked to that person who tells a story at a party and doesn't know which parts to cut out. We want to avoid that," Cino said.

There is little fear of tedious storytelling from this show with its practiced directors and a queue made up of writers and performers.

"The Moth" is like a catalyst for people to connect; it's unique, and terrific, and beautiful.

"The Moth"

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Englert, 221 E. Washington
Admission: Only VIP tickets still available for $50

Contributed
In theaters

**Friday, February 21**

**Music**
- **Patron-a-Tini**
- **Cornmeal**
- **The Broken Circle Breakdown**
- **LaCoursiere**

Full listings available online at<br>www.daily-iowan.com/events/cinema

**Saturday, February 22**

**Music**
- **Patron-a-Tini**, **Cornmeal**

Full listings available online at<br>www.daily-iowan.com/events/cinema

**Sunday, February 23**

**Music**
- **Patron-a-Tini**

Full listings available online at<br>www.daily-iowan.com/events/cinema

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**Reading**

**Patron-a-Tini**

Primary Alcoholic Patrons, with Discounted and Generous Serving Sizes. Shot glass sizes: $5, $10, $20, $30. Make a great gift for that guy or gal that loves to drink. Bartender is present when it comes in a bottle. Bring someone special for a night out. Normal price: $40. I would think of Patron as a perfect gift, not only for the present but also for the future. The beauty of Patron is that any barman would be happy to have this shots on his bar. The price of Patron is a bit high, but the taste and the quality are worth it.

**Cornmeal**

Cornmeal, a three-piece bluegrass jam band, is a mainstay of the Iowa City music scene. The band, which formed in 2006, is known for its innovative and energetic live shows. The group's most recent release, "One Step Away," was released in 2019. The band's music is a blend of traditional bluegrass and contemporary Americana. Cornmeal is known for their tight vocal harmonies and intricate instrumental arrangements.

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Siqi Wang

I remember the first time I needed to pay an additional fee for a checked bag on the airplane. I was on a return flight to Iowa City when I was asked to pay $25 for my checked baggage. This had never happened to me before, and the experience reminded me of the many differences between Chinese and American transportation.

In China, the airplane companies allow passengers to take a personal item, carry-on bag, and checked bag without additional charges. After going through security, I needed to wait at the gate before boarding my flight. In the United States, each passenger is called to board according to her or his group number. But in China, we sit in a long line and board depending on our position in the line. During the flight, passengers have to buy food from a fixed menu if they want to eat. But in China, airplane companies provide free food for most flights.

In addition, being a stewardess is a decent job for women in China. They are paid a relatively high salary, have a large amount of free time, and many opportunities to meet new people. Most women want this job because of these reasons.

Aside from flying, I think the most common form of transportation in the United States is the car. Before coming here, I never imagined students would drive their cars to go to class because it is almost impossible for Chinese students in college. The most enjoyable transportation for me is the train; I have a couple of experiences in taking Amtrak trains around the United States. I like how I can do many things on the train in a comfortable environment such as reading a book, sitting, and surfing the Internet through the free Wi-Fi. I have friends who have told me that there are many trains with an observation car in which you can observe the beautiful views during the journey. There is also a dining car to provide hot meals from a fixed menu. In China, the car attendants will push the carts with food throughout the train. There are hard seats, hard sleepers, soft seats and soft sleepers in China, but I only ride in the soft seats and soft sleepers when I am in China.

I enjoy riding on public transportation in the United States because it is comfortable, but I will get a car when I find a job because I feel as if the car is a form of legs for people in the United States.
“I purposely don’t prepare anything most of the time,” he said. “I always feel I work better when I don’t know what’s going to happen so that I can be surprised with the audience and experience it alongside them. For me, it’s my job to verbalize the feeling in the room.”

Given the variety in the five storytellers, the potential for passion and pungency is limitless. While none of the performers appearing in the now call Iowa home, location was still considered by the performers and those working with them.

“I was part of the team that helped bring marriage equality to Iowa,” said Bennett, a winner of Moth GrandSLAM. “My story takes place on RAGBRAI where civil rights, the church, and fine Io-owan cuisine intersect. I think it was a logical fit to bring it to the state where the story took place. Iowans are smart and funny, a perfect place for ‘The Moth.’”

Kazdin, another “Moth” veteran, is also an Emmy-winning producer, a three time Moth GrandSLAM champion, and a survivor of amnesia. She was asked by “The Moth” to tell her specific story at Friday’s show.

“I was so thrilled to be invited,” Kazdin said. “Anytime my friends at ‘The Moth’ call, I’m there, it’s a special group of people. Even when a group of storytellers who have never met before come together, there’s somehow this common thread and a real community.”

Having performed at “Moth” events in the past, Kazdin describes the setting as an “intimate rock concert.”

“It sounds like an oxymoron, but that’s really what ‘The Moth’ feels like,” she said. “A group of people sharing very personal stories, with hundreds or thousands of people all at once. It attracts a unique audience — it feels like we’re all in it together.”

Given the stories being told, the audience members will hardly be able to say emotions will be lacking.

“Initially, I sort of thought it was a whim,” Orvik said. “I called and left a blurb and didn’t hear back until eight months later, by which point my story had grown deeper and more significant.”

Orvik had called the show in hopes of telling the story of coping with his mother’s deteriorating condition. By the time the people at “The Moth” expressed interest in his story, his mother had passed away.

“At some level (in wanting to perform), there’s a degree of ego. You want to tell a story and hope it resonates,” he said. “The experience had deep meaning to me, and hopefully, will extend to others.”

Of all those appearing on stage, Orvik has perhaps the least experience speaking in front of an audience, having come from a medical background.

“I’m a doctor, I’m not a performer,” he said. “I’m not naturally inclined to be emotionally open. Getting through this is an emotionally challenging experience, and I hope I can get my story the response I deserve.”

Regardless of occupation or experiences, all the stories and their tellers have the key trait needed in crafting a resonate story: They are humans sharing human experiences.

“We have this idea that we’re connected with Facebook and Twitter and cell phones, but we’re not as connected as we think we are,” Aguero said. “This is one night for everyone to sit down, and turn off their phones, and listen through the experience, it’s an active experience and I’m not sure about one person’s experience, it might be about 500 people in the audience. It’s like a catalyst for people to connect, it’s unique, and terrific, and beautiful.”

Continued from 1B
An ardent lover of paper, UI alumna Jocelyn Châteauvert has crafted 900 sheets in a Mount Vernon art exhibit, Paper in Bloom.

By Emma McClatchey

Emma-mcclatchey@uiowa.edu

“I love the physicality of paper,” said Châteauvert, Iowa-raised Châteauvert’s favorite art form: paper art. “I’m a huge advocate for paper.”

Châteauvert decided to open up all the paper sculptures she has spent the last 20 years cultivating her paper repertoire (and has earned numerous awards in the process). She said she waits for the paper to give her inspiration.

“It’s very much like a cotton tree. It’s very hushed sound, almost like a cotton tree. It’s very kinetic; it responds to the movement of the air, so you can hear a little hushed sound, almost like a cotton tree. It’s very palpable.”

“Ultimately, the paper tells me what to do. It’s about being involved in the moment of what you’re trying to do.”

One particularly inspirational moment for Châteauvert occurred one year into the project, when Châteauvert decided to open up all the flattened pieces she had created — filling her studio with dozens of 12 to 16 inch paper blooms.

“It was like, ‘Oh, my God! They threw me,’ she said. “It’s most beautiful than I had in my own mind. Paper has this amazing capacity to give.”

Châteauvert said she starts “from the ground up” with her projects — especially when crafting nature-inspired sculptures.

“It’s very much like a garden,” she said. “You make the paper, and that’s like planting the seed. But you can’t just plant the seed and walk away — you have to tend it.”

Châteauvert said “tending” requires work ethic and patience — qualities she adopted growing up in Iowa. “They’ll have a lot of work, but it’s good work, and it’s happy work,” she said. “People ask how long it takes to make something, and I think the best answer is, ‘It’s taken my whole life.’ I pursued being a creative person for a very long time.”

As for Paper in Bloom, Châteauvert said she encourages people to touch the pieces to see just how strong paper can be. And when the exhibit wraps up on March 2, her blooms will, like all paper should, be recycled. “They’ll have a long life, but when they come back as an exhibit,” she said. “Now that they’re made, I look forward to reconfiguring and reinterpreting them. They took as much of me, I’m kind of bereft. I have a very intimate relationship with paper.”

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