

UI COVID-19 NUMBERS
Number of self-reported cases for COVID-19

Students: **10** within the past week,
2,976 semester-to-date
Employees: **1** within the past week,
435 semester-to-date

New cases as of Feb. 12, 2021.
Source: UI COVID-19 campus update

INSIDE



Public universities lose \$185 million in pandemic
The three public universities collectively lost an estimated net \$185.63 million since March 2020 as a result of COVID-19 responses and revenue losses. Josh Lehman, the regents' senior communications director, told *The Daily Iowan* that going forward, the regents institutions must be flexible and adapt to current campus conditions.

Amplify
Elizabeth Catlett
A legacy of Black excellence

Amplify: Elizabeth Catlett: A legacy of Black excellence
The namesake of University of Iowa's newest dorm – Catlett Hall – spent decades creating art that showed her experience as a Black woman despite facing injustice. Artists who were inspired by her and university officials who sought to commemorate her reflect on her life and legacy as a trailblazer. She was the first African American and woman to earn an MFA, graduating from the UI's inaugural class.



Double masking can prevent COVID-19 spread
In accordance with new Centers for Disease Control guidelines, the University of Iowa is recommending students and staff wear a surgical mask along with a cloth mask to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 strain.

6 -Restaurant workers not in early vaccine phases
Although deemed essential workers, employees working in the restaurant and foodservice industry are not among the priority groups eligible to receive the early phases of the COVID-19 vaccination in Iowa. This exclusion has left these employees feeling frustrated and anxious about continuing their work while COVID-19 spread remains high.

DITV
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Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage every day at dailyiowan.com.



Iowa keeps women's swim

After a months-long legal battle, Iowa women's swim and dive is officially here to stay.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Hawkeyes compete in the 400 yard freestyle during the last session of the 2020 Women's Big Ten Swim and Dive Championship on Feb. 22, 2020 at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center.

BY AUSTIN HANSON
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Seven months ago, on Aug. 21, the lives of about 100 student-athletes and staff members across four University of Iowa Athletics programs were upended, as UI leadership announced its men's and women's swimming and diving, men's gymnastics, and men's tennis teams would be cut at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

At the time, the move appeared to be permanent. Now, one of the four discontinued sports is making a return.

"I received the news the same time that the world did," Iowa women's swimmer Sage Ohlensehln said. "We were at practice and we were told we had an urgent meeting, and that Athletic Director Gary Barta was going to come to the pool and talk to us. So, we were all very excited. We met in the team

room and waited for about 15 minutes. I think Gary came in at about 2:15 [Monday] and told us that we were reinstated."

The UI's decision to voluntarily reinstate its women's swimming and diving program comes after a months-long legal battle with Ohlensehln and her teammates — senior Kelsey Drake, sophomore Christina Kaufman, and freshman Alexa Puccini.

The four swimmers alleged that the UI's decision to cut women's swimming and diving made it non-compliant with Title IX of the education amendments of 1972.

Since the Title IX complaint was filed Sept. 25, a federal judge granted the plaintiffs a preliminary injunction Dec. 24, blocking the UI from cutting its NCAA Division I women's swimming and diving team.

"We are fully reinstating [the women's swimming program]," Barta said at a teleconference

with reporters Tuesday. "... It's permanent like every other Olympic sport we have or any sport we have. It's a permanent decision. They are fully reinstated and full members of the athletic department, and I have zero plans to cut any sports, including women's swimming, beyond this point."

The Title IX suit is currently ongoing, as the plaintiffs still believe UI Athletics is Title IX non-compliant, despite the return of women's swimming.

"We work right off the Office of Civil Rights' methodology of counting," Barta said. "We've been committed to being Title IX compliant. We'll remain committed to being in Title IX compliance."

But the other three programs the UI plans to discontinue won't meet the same fate, UI officials stressed.

"[The deficit is] still a huge number," Barta said.

SEE ATHLETICS, 2

Union: de-crowd buses

Gov. Kim Reynolds' on-site instruction requirement has turned the tide for school buildings and school buses alike.



Sid Peterson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City Community school buses are seen outside of Liberty High School on Sunday.

BY GRACE HAMILTON
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Teamsters 238, a union representing bus drivers in the Iowa City Community School District, is asking parents with the option to drive their children to school to help eliminate bus crowding.

The announcement followed the state's requirement for schools to offer a 100 percent on-site learning option.

Teamsters 238's Chief Union Steward and Iowa City School Bus Driver Dan Ramsey said he worries the state's new requirement will cause buses to fill past COVID-19 capacity, making social distancing space even more limited than before.

"The district has laid out a recommendation for a 41-person maximum on a bus," Ramsey said. "If I were to put 41 kids in the size of an average conference room, that'd be way too many kids to have in there. Well, buses are about half the size of a conference room."

Ramsey added that school buses are currently holding 30 to 40 percent of the students that would typically be allowed on a bus, but that number will likely increase with the introduction to 100 percent in-person schooling on Monday.

"There are parents who require school buses to take their kids to school. I get that, and that's what we're here for. We won't turn anyone away," he said. "But as a bus driver, we are primarily concerned with safety. Right now, the safest thing we can do for the kids is recommend they don't get on the bus if their parents have another way to get them to school."

Teamster 238 Member and Iowa City School Bus Driver Kasey Jurgensen said she doubles up on face masks and sanitizes the entire bus by herself after completing a route.

"I'm on my own little island compared to most, but I worry about my co-workers, the mothers

SEE BUS, 2

UI considers three campus safety models

Changes span from increased training for officers to minimizing police presence on campus.

CALEB MCCULLOUGH AND RACHEL SCHILKE
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Born of a summer of racial-justice protests calling for systemic change at the University of Iowa, the university's Reimagining Campus Safety Action Committee is moving forward on its goal to rework the UI's approach to campus safety.

The committee held two town hall meetings in February to gather feedback on three potential plans depicting how campus safety could be tweaked or overhauled. The plans were designed with specific attention to how safety affects people of color and other communities that have been historically harmed by police.

UI Vice President for Student Life Sarah Hansen, who chairs the committee, said the group will compile input from the town halls and other avenues, and she hopes to present a recommendation to UI President Bruce Harrel by mid-March.

The first model is focused on recruiting a diverse campus police force and heightening anti-racism and implicit bias training for campus officers.

UI Interim Co-Director of Public Safety Mark Bullock, who sits on the committee, said these forums have given the UI Police Department a chance to highlight steps that he believes many community members don't know the university has taken.

The committee suggested the creation of a "campus wellness division" as part of the first model that would respond to less imminent safety threats, such as mental health crises and substance abuse. Emergency dispatchers would decide who should handle calls for service.

The second model, the "holistic approach," suggests a more dramatic overhaul of the university's approach to campus safety. It would minimize UIPD presence on campus and divert service calls to other professionals, such as crisis and health care

SEE SAFETY, 2

ICE ICE BABY



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

A tower of ice stands in an alley behind Elray's Live and Dive on Tas temperatures drop below zero and aren't expected to rise above freezing until next week.

ATHLETICS CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Thankfully, it's less than \$75 million, but it's still between \$50 and 60 million. The uncertainty that I talked about earlier is still in front of us. So, I don't know exactly how big the deficit is going to be, but it's going to be large. As a result of that, we are not able to reinstate the other three programs that are being discontinued."

Iowa athletics isn't the only area of the UI budget that's taken a beating — UI President Bruce Harrelld told lawmakers earlier this month the UI lost \$13.7 million from refunds and lost revenue, reductions of \$14.8 million from less tuition revenue, and \$3.1 million less from state appropriations. In total with UI athletics estimated \$50 million, Harrelld reported the pandemic lost the university \$83.4 million.

Barta also noted that playing a partial football schedule in the fall and rolling out furloughs, layoffs, budget cuts, and salary reductions have helped Iowa chip the deficit down to the \$50-60 million range.

Uncertainty surrounding the 2021 NCAA men's basketball tournament, and the attendance and scheduling measures implemented for the 2021 NCAA football sea-

son are factors Barta said signal that current cost-cutting efforts must be upkept.

The Save Iowa Sports group — a coalition of Iowa swim and dive alumni and friends — have proposed alternatives to save the other three sports, including removing Olympic sports from Iowa Athletics' supervision. The group also kickstarted fundraising efforts to help men's tennis, men's swim and dive, and men's gymnastics earn reinstatement.

The UI has rejected the alternative plan and hasn't accepted Save Iowa Sports' dollars.

Barta said the UI has explored options to revive the three sports set to be eliminated, and that the money raised to save the programs was only enough to cover the operating costs of men's and women's swimming for a year.

Iowa is not alone in overturning recent sports cuts.

In January, Dartmouth reinstated five varsity sports programs it cut in January after the threat of a Title IX complaint. William & Mary also reversed course in November, reversing an earlier decision to cut three men's sports. The school said it will support the programs through at least the 2021-22 academic year while developing a financial plan to keep them sustainable.

Barta reiterated that UI

Athletics is looking for long-term solutions, rather than short-term answers.

"I wish Iowa would've engaged with the Save Hawkeye Sports group," group member and UI alum Mark Kaufman said. "...We've never received a true indication or process that you'd think an athletic department with a huge deficit would be chasing down every potential rabbit hole for an opportunity to help balance the books, create revenue, and support all the athletes."

Budget and program cuts aside, the challenges associated with reinstating women's swim and dive still loom.

This season, the Hawkeyes have competed with about 10 fewer athletes than they did in 2019-20. Iowa's coaching staff also shrunk from seven to four people prior to the 2020-21 campaign.

Despite that, head coach Marc Long said he and his staff are still trying to prepare their student-athletes to compete as best they can, specifically for upcoming Big Ten and NCAA Championship meets.

Trust issues, according to both Ohlensehln and Barta, will likely continue to persist as well. Both, however, believe time can mend the fences that have divided Iowa Athletics and its women's swimming and diving program.

"Emotionally, it's difficult

to put on a cap with a Hawkeye on it knowing that your school doesn't support you," Ohlensehln said. "That is something that I've been wrestling with emotionally. Today, I'm wearing Iowa stuff, but yesterday, I was not. It's very hard to put on the Tigerhawk, but now I'm going to wear it so proudly. I think the university made the right decision. Obviously, it took them a long time to get to this decision, but nonetheless, they made it. It's been such a hard past seven months, but there's a light at the end of the tunnel."



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Christina Crane, Zoe Mekus, and Lexi Horner hug after competing in the 100 yard breaststroke time trial during the sixth session of the 2020 Big Ten Women's Swimming and Diving Championships at the HTRC on Feb. 22, 2020.

BUS CONTINUED FROM FRONT

with children, and the old drivers with all these kids on the bus," she said.

Jurgensen and her husband both fall into an especially vulnerable age group for developing severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 238 Jesse Case said the safety of both the passengers and drivers

on school busses motivated the union's recommendation.

"There's a considerable amount of retirees and people who are in their 60s who are driving school busses," Case said. "That's one reason we're trying to encourage parents who have access to alternative modes of transportation to use them."

Ramsey said at least a

third of school-bus drivers in the district are 65 years or older.



There are kids that live in Iowa City that don't really have a consistent adult in their life, and we get to be one of the few consistent adults they get to see day in and day out.

it's the one kid that doesn't wear their mask, the one parent that sends their kid

—Iowa City school bus driver, Dan Ramsey

"The buses are going to be packed full of kids, and we are at the vulnerability of the least prepared kid or parent;

to school sick," Ramsey said. Although Jurgensen thinks COVID-19 has changed the passenger ex-

perience, she said bus drivers still play an important role in helping students start their days off on a good note.

"I've driven a school bus for a very long time," she said. "I have taken whole families to school. Every person I've ever driven knows me and remembers me, and I don't think that will change." Ramsey said that a bus

driver can set a precedent for every passenger's school day, even during the pandemic.

"Bus drivers are the first people that kids see in the morning, and they're the last person from the school district that they see in the afternoon," he said. "There are kids that live in Iowa City that don't really have a consistent adult in their life, and we get to be one of the few consistent adults they get to see day in and day out."

SAFETY CONTINUED FROM 2

workers. Under this model, the UIPD would only respond to more serious crimes and wouldn't be on campus unless requested.

The third approach suggests the creation of an oversight committee focused on police accountability and considers past actions from the campus police department and makes recommendations. It would be overseen by a president's cabinet member.

Hansen said the three models are tentative, and the committee could combine any number of approaches in its final recommendation to Harrelld.

"One of the most important things is that even though they're presented as unique, discrete models, there are elements of the potential models that could be broken down and reconstituted in different iterations," she said. Hansen said Harrelld will

most likely share feedback and discuss the effectiveness of each model with the cabinet, which includes the university's vice presidents. She said the university could begin acting on those changes by this summer. A new university president is expected to be selected by the end of April if the search committee follows its current tentative schedule.

The committee developed the three prototypes in response to initial feedback from the university's cultural centers and diversity councils, Hansen said. It's also seeking campus feedback through a survey on the Division of Student Life website, she said, and it plans to give presentations to the president's cabinet, staff council, and faculty senate in the near future.

The majority of students who attended the two town halls showed favor for the holistic model, which suggests drastically reducing police presence on campus.

Felicia Pieper, a graduate research assistant in the UI

College of Public Health, said she favors the holistic model that is "close to where we need to be going."

"The thing about policing is it's a structural problem, and so I don't think these reformist or add-on policies are going to do anything to actually get at the root causes of the problem that we're facing," Pieper said. "And so, the holistic approach gets to that by completely restructuring what safety looks like."

Pieper said the holistic approach could provide more opportunities for crime prevention by funneling funding into improving health and well-being on campus.

"We know the police don't prevent crime. Police come after crime has happened — that's the nature of policing," Pieper said. "Social determinants of health, like good housing, fair working conditions, safe neighborhoods, along with strong communities, actually are what prevents crime, and that's what we see in this model."

While Bullock UIPD supports what the university

decides, he said he prefers a plan that keeps the campus police department involved in campus safety without cutting funding or staff.

"When we talk about cutting staff, especially internally here, at the university Department of Public Safety, there's faces behind these numbers," he said. "There's families behind these numbers and the people that would be impacted."

He added that, first and foremost, the UIPD wants to serve the community and it would be disheartening to not have officers and public safety employees included in the process to make change and get on "the right side of history."

Pieper said it was frustrating that UIPD did not mention its involvement in Iowa City protests that occurred June 3, after the OIR Group, a California-based firm specializing in police oversight, released a report about that detailed their involvement in late January. The report said university officials afterward removed UIPD from

the special response team that responded to the protest on June 3. The lack of transparency within the committee is concerning to those who are wanting to see real change, Pieper added.

"It's really frustrating that this is now the only point where the university is reaching out to the university community for input at the very end of the process," she said.

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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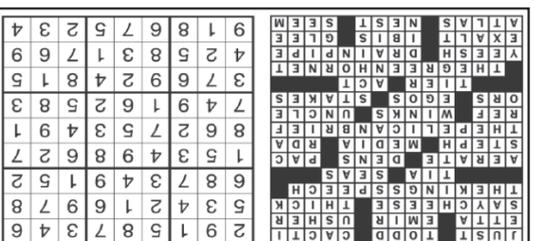
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Public universities lose \$185 million in pandemic

After federal funding, the University of Iowa lost millions while providing campus safety, health precautions, building improvements, and refunds for students and faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY SABINE MARTIN
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The three state Board of Regents-governed universities collectively lost an estimated net \$185.63 million since March 2020 as a result of tuition revenue loss, refunds to students, COVID-19 response expenses, and state budget cuts.

The net total included federal funding aid like the CARES Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Universities

spite challenges, must continue to deliver the first-class education that our students deserve.”

After rounds of federal stimulus funding, the UI’s estimated \$83.4 million revenue loss during the COVID-19 pandemic so far is because of a \$50 million loss in UI athletics, \$13.7 million in refunds and lost revenue, reductions of \$14.8 million in the General Education Fund for tuition revenue compared to fiscal 2020, and a reduction of

“ Campus policies and procedures have been implemented so the universities can continue delivering on their institutional missions, even if in a different way.

— Regents’ Senior Communications Director Josh Lehman

are still left with millions in unfunded losses from the financial hardships of COVID-19, however.

Regents’ Senior Communications Director Josh Lehman wrote in an email to *“The Daily Iowan”* that, like many sectors of the economy, Iowa’s regent universities have undergone massive disruptions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the universities have been forced to adapt their educational environments based on current conditions.

“The presence [of] COVID-19 has had a great impact on the institutions financially, with significantly lower revenues and increased expenses,” Lehman wrote. “Iowa’s Regent Universities are among the best in the nation, and de-

\$3.1 million in state general fund allocations. These numbers do not include data for UI Hospitals and Clinics.

UI President Bruce Harreld said at a regents’ meeting in April that, without predictable financial commitment from the state, it is difficult for the UI to maintain the excellence Iowans expect from it.

Since March, the UI — with UIHC — has spent an estimated \$32.7 million on COVID-19-related expenses, but have asked for reimbursements through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to documents provided by the university.

The UI received \$5,919,836 in the spring of 2020 and \$6,021,684 from the State of Iowa CARES Act, 25 percent of which was not covered by



The Old Capitol building is seen from the T. Anne Cleary on Feb. 10.

Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

FEMA.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds recommended a \$15 million boost for the regents’ state fiscal 2022 budget, which underfunds the \$26 million request from the regents to assist Iowa’s three public universities.

As previously reported by the *DI*, the Iowa Legislature cut the regents’ state appropriations by \$8 million

dollars in June. The regents asked lawmakers to restore the cut and add another \$18 million to their budgets.

Iowa State University lost an estimated \$90.2 million to the general COVID-19 impact and state reductions, according to documents provided to the *DI*.

Iowa State University President Wendy Wintersteen said the lost revenue

from the beginning of the pandemic in March to present will “likely grow this spring,” at an Iowa lawmakers meeting on Feb. 3.

The University of Northern Iowa lost an estimated net of \$12.03 million due to COVID-19 and state reductions since last year.

Going forward, the regent institutions will continue to need to be flexible

and adapt to current conditions on their campuses, Lehman wrote.

“As the health and safety of our university communities is the top priority, many campus policies and procedures have been implemented so the universities can continue delivering on their institutional missions, even if in a different way,” Lehman wrote.

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

The Hawkeye State is a COVID-19 embarrassment

Gov. Kim Reynolds undermined school reopenings by lifting COVID-19 restrictions.

BY DI EDITORIAL BOARD
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As students taking several classes online this semester, we know the constraints of out-of-classroom learning. But the very precautions that would allow students and teachers to safely return — public mask requirements and limited gathering sizes outside of schools — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds tossed out the window.

It's a pattern of Reynolds' handling of COVID-19 in the Hawkeye State.

Last year, we stood out globally as a COVID-19 hot-spot. At one point, we ranked 22nd in COVID-19 nationwide deaths, 4th in the nation for daily reported cases, and three of our cities made the top 20 hotspot list in the country.

Now, Iowa ranks as one of the slowest for vaccine distribution.

But rather than focusing on creating a well-developed vaccine distribution plan or passing legislation to keep Iowa safe, Reynolds' main concern is controlling schools instead of COVID-19.

Her hypocritical behavior is unacceptable when she continues to push for in-person learning, but refuses to pass legislation to make it safe for this to happen.

Her negligence and hypocrisy has cost over 5,000 lives in Iowa, and more people are going to pay the price if it continues.

In summer 2020, Reynolds required that Iowa schools needed to have at least 50 percent of classes in-person during the fall semester. She claimed at the time we owed better education to the students of Iowa.

But high-quality education can not be delivered when the people of Iowa do not feel safe.

The Iowa City Community School District and Iowa State Education Association filed a lawsuit requesting for control of local school openings, but were denied the request. When COVID-19 was at its worst last fall, communities should not have been forced to be in the classroom when it was not safe.

The decision made was based on protecting the mental health of students. But how could Reynolds expect Iowa families to send their children to school knowing their physical health was at risk?

They ended up needing to start a plan from scratch since their model was based on online-only instruction until Oct. 1.

How could she throw a curveball at local schools when they came up with a

solid plan? She needed to leave it up to the local districts — who know the community the best — to take charge in providing a substantial and safe education.

Even when she issued a partial mask mandate in November, it did not apply to schools. A mask mandate that required masks to be worn at gatherings with more than 25 people somehow did not apply to classrooms that could have more than 25 students.

At the end of January, she signed a bill that requires Iowa schools to offer a 100 percent in-person learning option.

Many school districts — including Iowa City's — scrapped the hybrid learning model because they could not keep up with three models of learning. Many parents are disappointed with her decision and are calling it “forced segregation between the healthy and immunocompromised.”

Now, she's lifted the state's partial mask mandate and allowed restaurants and bars to operate at normal capacity. To say the least, this is problematic.

The UK COVID-19 variant — which proves to be more transmissible — is already in Johnson County. Iowa City consists of college students who spend their weekends packed shoulder



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Gov. Kim Reynolds gives the State of the State address in the house chamber of the Iowa State Capitol on Jan. 12, 2021 in Des Moines. Gov. Reynolds highlighted in the address expansion of broadband internet, a push for in-person learning, and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

to shoulder in crowded bars where this has the potential to be spread.

And she expects the Iowa City community to feel safe in the classroom — in K-12 or the university-level — when her decisions are allowing behavior that put people at risk?

Stephen R. Covey once said “be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

For the past year, Iowa's leader acted in a way that

is the complete opposite. Reynolds enacted legislation and made decisions that directly contributed to the COVID-19 problems Iowa is facing.

She put her focus on appeasing political ideologues in the state instead of putting in place policies that would actually allow students to more safely return to in-person instruction. She decided to be a part of the problem by putting her own agenda above the safe-

ty of the state.

Educating Iowans cannot occur unless we do it in a safe way. And Reynolds is passing the buck to underfunded schools whose educators do not all yet have the vaccine. We cannot be forcing all of Iowa back into schools when there isn't a state plan to do it safely.

The hypocrisy needs to end, and Reynolds needs to focus on controlling COVID-19 instead of Iowa schools.

COLUMN

CommUnity relationship improves policing

The hiring of a police-liaison by CommUnity Crisis is a promising step toward mental-health focused policing.



Alyson Kuennen/The Daily Iowan

The CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank is seen on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Formerly known as the Crisis Center of Johnson County, the food bank rebranded in order to emphasize the importance of community.

JACOB WENDELL

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After a summer of protesting police violence, it is gratifying that concrete changes are being made in our community — even if those changes are not as far reaching as they

should be.

Recently, *The Daily Iowan* reported that CommUnity Crisis Services will hire a law enforcement liaison to ensure the safety of mental health professionals during calls. This newly created position develops an essential relationship

between Iowa City Police and mental health resources.

Police brutality is rampant in America. Statistics compiled by The Prison Policy Initiative shows that 33.5 people were killed by American law enforcement per every 10 million people. Comparing this to

Canada (9.8), Germany (1.3), and Japan (0.2), it is clear that American cops are exceedingly more likely to utilize deadly force.

An often overlooked component of these statistics is law enforcement's abysmal handling of mental health cases.

Since 2015, 1,397 Americans with a mental illness have been fatally shot by police officers; that amounts to 23% of all fatal shootings by law enforcement.

Last September, a 13-year-old boy with autism was shot by police in Salt Lake City, Utah. His mother had called hoping to arrange medical treatment for what she described as a mental breakdown. Despite being unarmed while running away, the teenager ended up with a gunshot wound.

The data proves both quantitatively and qualitatively police officers are ill-equipped to deal with mental health issues. This is unacceptable given the frequency with which their jobs place them in mental crisis situations. A police force that cannot effectively manage mental health situations is comparable to a fire station that can't put out grease fires.

For these reasons, I am excited to see a cooperative effort between Iowa City Police and CommUnity that will address these disparities.

Imagine if that 13-year-old was met with a mental health professional instead of just a police officer. Or, at the very least, if the responding officer had accompanied mental health professionals in similar past situations. Nothing is certain, but it seems likely that the outcome would have been drastically different.

A police liaison position benefits both officers and mental health professionals. Officers will learn new skills for aiding mental health crises, and counselors will feel more secure while doing their work.

People in crisis may react violently to responders, and in these scenarios the presence of an officer can provide a sense of security that is currently lacking. However, it is important to maintain the counselor as the primary respondent. The accompanying officer should only intervene if a situation becomes dangerous.

Cedar Rapids recently began a similar partnership that has already yielded improvement. Foundation 2 Crisis Services C.O.O Sarah Nelson calls it a great success because having a team member with mental health expertise allows law enforcement to effectively deal with a broader range of scenarios.

This plan does not go far enough in addressing the need for mental health focused policing in our community, and it certainly will not solve overnight the racially biased policing that plagues the country. But when positive change occurs, it must be celebrated because more change is encouraged.

This plan should be praised as a stepping stone toward a more just method of policing, not as a final destination.

STAFF

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Amplify

Elizabeth Catlett

Artists and university staff reflect on the legacy of Elizabeth Catlett. The artist spent decades creating art that showed her experience as a Black woman.

BY JENNA POST
jenna-post@uiowa.edu

For many, the thought of meeting Elizabeth Catlett during her lifetime was akin to meeting a Hollywood A-lister. This was certainly the case for jazz composer Rufus Reid, who never thought he'd have the chance to meet Catlett, let alone be welcomed into her family.

In 2006, Reid composed a concert about Catlett and her work. The University of Con-

necticut was looking for submissions for an original jazz concert, so Reid applied by pitching Catlett's art as his subject.

"I had a book about her and her art, and I looked at several paintings and sculptures of hers," Reid said. "There were four sculptures that the photography was so good that they just popped off the page, and I said, 'That's it. That's what I'm going to do.' So, I proposed that I write music inspired by her, and I got selected."

At the time, Reid didn't know Catlett personally.

"I didn't think I could just find

her number in the telephone book, it was like trying to find the number of a movie star, so I didn't even try," Reid said. "Later I found out she has a son who lives here and that she had a place in lower Manhattan, listed right in the telephone book."

The next time Catlett came to visit her son, Reid decided to reach out to him.

"The week she came to visit her son, I happened to be playing at a nightclub, and I asked her son if he thought she could stop by, and he said 'Well, I don't know, I'll ask her,'" Reid said. "And she did, and that was the beginning."

Catlett and Reid struck up a friendship shortly after. He said she was very down to earth and reminded him of his grandmother.

"I got welcomed into the family," Reid said. "She invited me and my wife to spend a week with her in Cuernavaca. I didn't respond right away, and she called and said, 'Well aren't you coming?' So, we went, and it was fantastic."

Catlett never ended up seeing Reid's concert live, but they spent a holiday together. At the time, she was 92.

"To me, she was a national treasure," Reid said. "Certainly not when she began her work at Iowa, but they saw talent, and she got better and better, and now she's a world-class name."

During her time at Iowa, Catlett studied with Grant Wood, a landscape artist most famous for American Gothic. Her roommate was poet Margaret Walker, who was involved in the Chicago Black Renaissance.

Before Catlett's rise to fame alongside other notable Iowa alumni, she experienced what many other Black children of her time did — hearing stories of slavery directly from her grandmother.

Catlett was born in Washington, D.C. in 1915, 50 years after the end of the Civil War, to the children of freed slaves. She and her two older siblings spent much of their childhoods with their grandmother while their mother worked as a truant officer. From a very young age, Catlett was made painfully aware of the horrors Black people in the U.S. faced just half a century before her birth.

It was also during her childhood when Catlett became interested in art, with a particular interest in sculpture making.

Chief Curator of Stanley Museum of Art Joyce Tsai said Catlett's work spoke volumes.

"Elizabeth Catlett was an artist who held onto the human figure throughout her entire career," Tsai said. "She was someone who was really committed to creating art that speaks to her own experience, but also provides artwork that her own community can draw strength from."

Catlett's works upset the status quo. After moving to Mexico in 1946, Catlett became involved with Taller de Gráfica Popular, an art collective that used its artistry to advance revolutionary social causes, including the Mexican Revolution.

Her prints also spoke to the Black Power movement, a movement in the '60s and '70s that advocated for Black pride and economic empowerment. It resulted in Catlett's visa to return to the U.S. being revoked. She was unable to return while her mother was dying, and her citizenship

wasn't reinstated until 2002.

"These buildings anchor us to history," Tsai said. "I think it's quite significant that her name is on a dorm that provides housing for students. African Americans weren't allowed to live on campus while she went here."

Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Senior Director of University Housing and Dining Von Stange said this was part of the reason a residence hall was named after her.

"In a sense, it kind of righted a wrong that the university had made 80 years ago," Stange said.

Stange said Catlett's name was the only one taken into serious consideration for the hall. Everyone involved in the decision unanimously agreed that Catlett deserved the honor.

"We wanted to recognize someone who represented Iowa and Iowan values," he said. "She wasn't a native Iowan, but she represents the diversity that the university wants to continue to develop."



Contributed by the Iowa Women's Archive

Elizabeth Catlett.

In high school, she studied art with a descendent of abolitionist Frederick Douglas.

After completing her undergraduate degree at Howard University, a historically Black university in D.C., Catlett struggled to find a post-graduate arts program that would admit her because of her skin color.

Although the University of Iowa wasn't her first choice, it was the first university in the world to offer a Master of Fine Arts program, which Catlett was accepted into in 1940. She was in the first graduating class, making her the first African American and woman in the world to earn an MFA.

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Artwork of Elizabeth Catlett, University of Iowa alumna and artist, is seen in Catlett Residence Hall on Monday.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Artwork of Elizabeth Catlett, University of Iowa alumna and artist, is seen in Catlett Residence Hall on Monday.

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What is Amplify?

Amplify is the Daily Iowan's community section, focusing on topics and features surrounding culture within the Iowa City community. It looks to

heighten voices within our audience, and provide an opportunity for our readers to engage with the DI.

Double masking can prevent COVID spread

University of Iowa experts recommend wearing two masks to prevent the spread of the U.K. COVID-19 strain.

BY BRADY OSBORNE
brady-osborne@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa experts say wearing two masks could be more effective in slowing the spread of the new COVID-19 variants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing two masks, either a disposable mask under a cloth mask, or a cloth mask with multiple layers.

Three new variants — from the U.K., South Africa, and Brazil — are believed to be more transmissible, which is why the CDC is pushing for more safety precautions. As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, three cases of the recent COVID-19 variant, which comes from the United Kingdom, have been recorded in Iowa, with two of the cases com-

ing from Johnson County.

The university released a question and answer article on Feb. 8 about wearing two masks, and it's effectiveness in mitigating the spread of the new COVID-19 variant.

The author of the article, UI Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health T. Renee Anthony, said she believes that the main problem with wearing one mask is that it usually doesn't create an effective enough seal around the face, which is what prevents all of the potentially infected droplets from getting in or out.

"The problem is, any time there's a gap in the mask, what air is filtered as you breathe in as well as what you breathe out, doesn't necessarily go through that filter," Anthony said. "Putting another layer on top of that helps

seal that surgical mask to your face tighter. That is really one of the benefits of wearing a double mask."

Anthony said there are some concerns over the ability to breathe with two masks on, which is why it is recommended to wear a surgical mask with a cloth mask over it in order to be able to breathe properly.

UI Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health Patrick O'Shaughnessy said while it's beneficial to wear two masks, it's not as black and white as it seems.

"Unfortunately, we have to play this competing interest between protecting ourselves and being able to breathe comfortably," O'Shaughnessy said. "I'm all for double masking, with the caveat that there are folks out there that are asthmatic or that have lung conditions that need



Photo Illustration by Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

to be considerate of the amount of effort it takes to breathe".

This new CDC recom-

mendation to double mask comes at the same time as Gov. Kim Reynolds relaxing statewide restrictions,

including requiring masks and limiting gatherings. Iowa City is still enforcing its mask mandate until May 31.

Restaurant workers not in early vaccine phases

Although deemed essential workers, frontline employees working in the restaurant and foodservice industry are not among the priority groups eligible for the early phases of the COVID-19 vaccination in Iowa.

BY CLAIRE BENSON
claire-benson@uiowa.edu

As COVID-19 vaccinations are being distributed to eligible parties throughout Iowa in Phase 1B, many workers that were deemed essential at the beginning of the pandemic are questioning when it will be their turn to be vaccinated.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, phase 1B includes all persons 65 years or older, as well as specific populations that are at high risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

One tier of the special populations eligible to be vaccinated are frontline es-

sential workers in food, agriculture, distribution, and manufacturing sectors who live or work in non-social distanced settings.

However, this excludes those working in the restaurant and food service industry.

Following Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' decision to lift certain restrictions for bars and restaurants and discontinue the state wide mask mandate, restaurant workers say they feel less protected and are facing risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

"As a nation, we kind of message out to these people that they're essential, but some of them aren't in-

cluded in the early parts of vaccine distribution," Iowa City Nighttime Mayor Joe Reilly said. "I just wish there would be some clarification as to why they're not on there, when you know anecdotally, we can just observe they're at greater risk... based on just the nature of their work."

Johnson County Public Health Community Manager Sam Jarvis said he is unsure why restaurant and foodservice industry workers were not included in the early phases of the COVID-19 vaccination, as no explanations were given from state officials.

"We do not know why cer-

tain occupations were not prioritized in phase 1B, as opposed to what we've seen in other states who have included those occupations deemed essential," Jarvis said. "The state Disease Advisory Committee met several times, and from what we were told, had fairly lengthy conversations about prioritization."

University of Iowa first-year student Abinadi Rivera-Aguirre said she works at Sakari Sushi Lounge in Des Moines while she's home from school. At the UI, she said she works at Hillcrest Dining Hall.

Rivera-Aguirre said she is supposed to receive the

vaccine as a UI Housing and Dining employee, but she has not received an official confirmation alerting her as to when she will receive it. According to a previous UI campus update, most UI employees will receive the vaccine through their primary care provider or pharmacy.

Rivera-Aguirre said she finds it ironic that restaurant workers have been deemed essential and their services are in high demand, yet they are not paid a living wage, have health benefits, or are prioritized to receive the vaccine.

Jarvis said one primary difficulty facing Johnson County right now is the large

demand for COVID-19 vaccinations, but there is currently a limited supply of vaccines that can be distributed to eligible populations.

He said as of now, public health officials don't know how the vaccine will affect transmission rates. He said it will help reduce the severity of the illness and the symptoms associated with it, but he encourages all workers to continue following mitigation measures.

"Ensuring that when you're around others inside enclosed areas, it's so very important to continue to wear masks to remain physically distant when possible," Jarvis said.

2020

THE YEAR DOCUMENTED

Photo book from *The Daily Iowan* chronicling the historic year

Foreword by Willard "Sandy" Boyd

President Emeritus, University of Iowa

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BRITT
CONTINUED FROM 8A

with, everything just set up perfectly.”

One of Britt's main focuses in the hurdle sprint is getting off the starting line with a burst of speed by snapping his trail leg down quickly from the start, something he and Iowa Director of Track and Field Joey Woody have worked on in practice.

At Friday's starting line, Britt was lined up next to Jaylan McConico, who was competing unattached from his Hawkeye teammates because his indoor track and field eligibility ran out.

Britt's 7.60 time tied the program record that McConico set, and Woody expects Britt to be motivated because he gets to run alongside McConico.

“It helps to have another guy like Jaylan McConico

right next to you,” Woody said. “A guy that you train with every day and is the school-record holder as well. When you have the school-record holder next to you and you beat him, that's a pretty good sign of you're doing some pretty good things.”

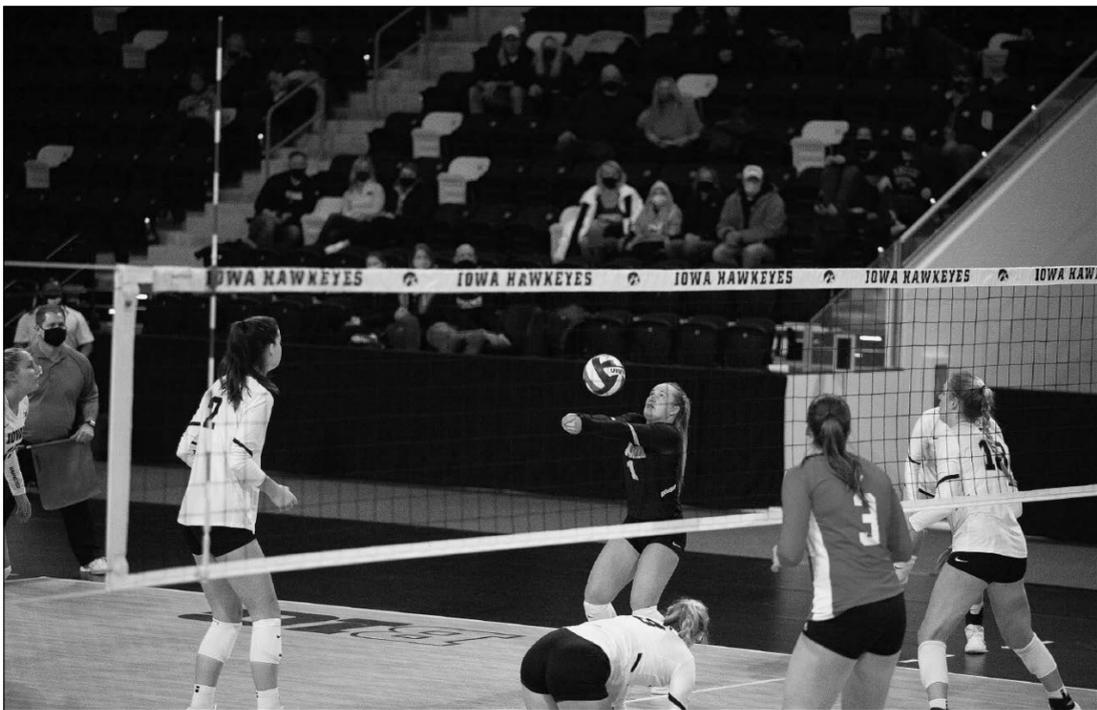
According to Britt, tying McConico's record during a race that saw him compete against McConico was “special.” Britt also believes competing against McConico helped him start fast to keep pace with “a pretty fast guy.”

McConico finished second behind Britt on Friday, crossing the finish line in 7.74.

Britt and the Hawkeyes will compete again from Feb. 25-27 at the Big Ten Championships in Geneva, Ohio, before heading to the NCAA Championships to finish the indoor season in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in mid-March.



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan
Jamal Britt finishes his leg of the 4x400m relay premier during the second day of the Larry Wiecek Invitational on Jan. 23 at the University of Iowa Recreation Building. Britt ran a split of 48.375, contributing to the Iowa 'A' team victory with a total time of 3:09.58.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan
Iowa's Joslyn Boyer sets up a spike during a women's volleyball match between Iowa and Indiana at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 5.

BOYER
CONTINUED FROM 8A

starting libero before the 2020-21 season began, as now-senior Halle Johnston occupied that role last year. Johnston has since opted to sit out this season because of COVID-19, vaulting Boyer into her new role.

Johnston left Boyer with big shoes to fill. Last year, Johnston led the Hawkeyes in digs and averaged the second-most digs per set in the Big Ten with 4.58.

“It's always a competition, it's a Big Ten, Division I school,” Boyer said. “That's what I thrive on. I love competing and even all of last year it was always in practice you walk in and it's a competition, so I have been ready to step into this role.”

Coming into the season, Boyer's career-high in digs was 14 — set against Indiana in October 2019.

Boyer surpassed that number in the first match of the 2020-21 season against Illinois

with 15 digs. The next day, she usurped that total, amassing 17 digs.

Boyer hit her current career-high, 21-dig mark in the Hawkeyes' sixth game of the year, once again having a record day against the Hoosiers.

“It is just kind of focusing on what you are doing in that moment,” Boyer said. “That is one thing Vicki talks about is stay in the moment and focus on what you are doing then and there.”

With the 5-foot-6 sophomore locking down the backcourt on defense, Brown said she would now like to expand Boyer's role, and use her more in the passing game on offense.

In 104 sets played in 2019-20, Boyer only had 23 assists. She set a new career-high in assists in her first matchup against Indiana in 2020-21 with six. Boyer has already accumulated 17 assists on the year.

“I think the biggest contributor for her is more our passing,” Brown said. “She is just taking so many more balls, and that is what we communicated with her.”

SWIMMING
CONTINUED FROM 8A

completed in 14 meets, excluding the postseason.

“The training process for Big Tens is actually very different compared to the rest of the season,” junior Aleksey Tarasenko said. “We are now lifting less and swimming less. We are preparing physically and mentally for the end of this season.”

The 2020-21 Big Ten Championships will likely

mark the final conference meet for the Hawkeye men's swimming and diving team, as Iowa will discontinue its men's swim and dive program at the end of this academic year.

Despite the program's impending discontinuation, Tarasenko and the Hawkeyes have still strung some solid times together this season. Tarasenko is one of the several swimmers on the men's team who has recorded an NCAA “B-cut” time this season.

“We knew this season was going to be different,

and we've just adapted to the situation,” Tarasenko said. “Unfortunately, we only competed in two meets, but I think that was enough for us.”

The women's team is also changing up its routine of the Big Ten Championships, according to sophomore Aleksandra Olesiak.

“Our training has definitely become more specific,” Olesiak said. “I'm really now just trying to fine-tune my stroke and technique. I'm trying to perfect all of the details before going into the cham-

ampionship season.”

Last year, Olesiak recorded a personal-best time of 2:12.92 in the 200 breast at the Big Ten Championships. Although she is competing in many of the same events this year, she expects a completely different atmosphere at this year's conference meet.

“I wouldn't say anything is more difficult,” Olesiak said. “There are just a lot of differences in how the competition is set up, how seating arrangements are, how people warm up and cool down. They restrict

the number of people who can warm up per lane. But other than that, the actual competing part of it is really the same.”

Up until Feb. 15, the women's swim and dive program was also facing extinction at Iowa. The University of Iowa Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletics Director Gary Barta announced Monday, however, that women's swimming and diving will not be discontinued at the end of the 2020-21 academic year. So, this season's iter-

ation of the Big Ten Championships will not be the Hawkeye women's last.

UI Athletics' decision to maintain its women's swim and dive program comes after a months-long Title IX battle in court with four Iowa women's swimmers.

The Big Ten Women's Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Feb. 23-27. The men's conference diving championships are scheduled for Feb. 25-27, with the swimming championships to follow March 3-6.

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Sports

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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HAWKEYE UPDATES Iowa Athletics updates COVID-19 testing data

The University of Iowa athletics department conducted 546 COVID-19 PCR tests for the week of Feb. 8-14 and received 10 positive tests and 536 negative tests.

As part of Iowa's return to campus protocol, testing began on May 29 and includes athletes, coaches, and other staff members. A total of 402 positive tests, 15,225 negative tests, and one inconclusive test have been received.

According to a release, following a positive test result, protocol established by UI Athletics and medical staff, including contact-tracing procedures, is being followed to ensure the safety of all UI Athletics student-athletes and staff. This mandatory protocol also includes isolation for the individuals who test positive, and quarantine for those individuals who might have been exposed to someone with the virus.

The Big Ten Conference began daily rapid antigen surveillance testing on Sept. 30. Any positive tests identified through the surveillance testing process would be confirmed through a PCR test and reflected in the numbers listed above.



Iowa wrestling ends pause on in-person activities

The Iowa wrestling team has returned to limited in-person activities, per a Monday release. The Hawkeyes return to the mat following a seven-day stoppage of in-person activities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Iowa wrestling room.

Out of an abundance of caution, Iowa's dual against Northwestern that was scheduled for Friday has been postponed. A decision will be made regarding Iowa's scheduled Sunday dual at Wisconsin later in the week.

Wieskamp named Big Ten Player of the Week

University of Iowa men's basketball's Joe Wieskamp has been named Big Ten Player of the Week, per the conference office.



The 6-foot-6, 212-pound guard averaged 23.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, two assists, and one steal per game in Iowa's last two contests – a 79-66 win over then-No. 25 Rutgers and an 88-58 pummeling of Michigan State.

During that two-game stretch, Wieskamp shot 59 percent from the floor and 71 percent from downtown.

In the Hawkeyes' Feb. 10 game against Rutgers, the Muscatine, Iowa, native posted his third double-double of the season, bringing his career total up to seven. Wieskamp dropped a season-high 26 points and corralled 10 rebounds that night.

The junior also netted 21 points and seven rebounds against Michigan State Saturday.

Wieskamp's last two performances have made him the first junior in University of Iowa men's basketball history to amass more than 1,100 points, 500 rebounds, 150 3-pointers, 100 assists, and 75 steals.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I drink a lot of coffee. Yes, I'm very tired."



– Senior swimmer Sage Ohlensehler on how taxing it was to bring back Iowa's women's swim and dive program.

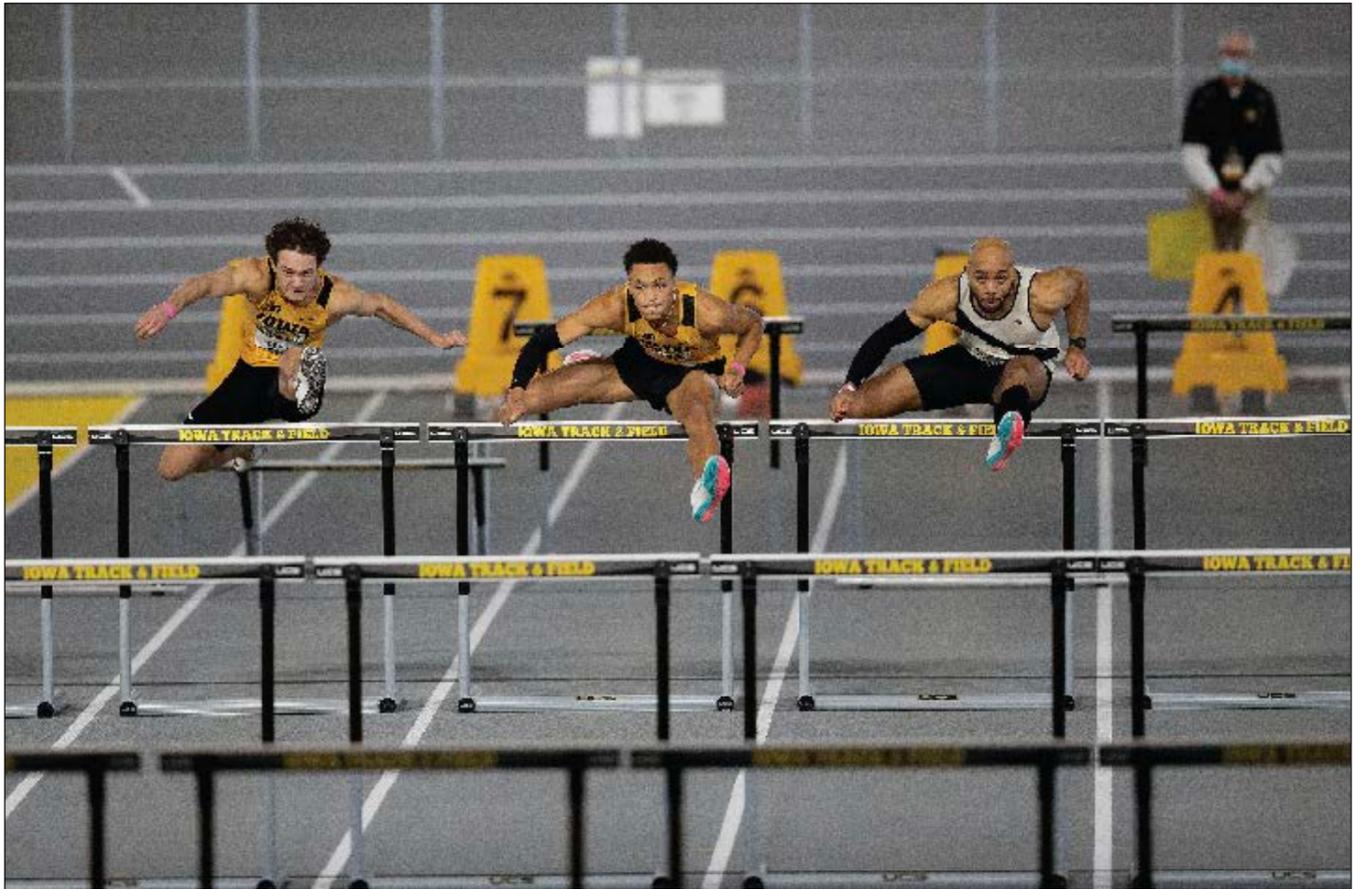
STAT OF THE DAY

10

Times Iowa women's basketball's freshman point guard Caitlin Clark has been named Big Ten Freshman of the Week this season

Britt ties school record

Jamal Britt's 7.60 time in the 60-meter hurdles tied the program record set by Jaylan McConico.



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Iowa hurdlers Gratt Reed, Jamal Britt, Iowa alum Aaron Mallett—who ran unattached—compete in the 60m hurdle premier final during the second day of the Larry Wiecek Invitational on Jan. 23 at the University of Iowa Recreation Building. Reed, Britt, and Mallett finished fifth, second, and first, respectively. Due to coronavirus restrictions, the Hawkeyes could only host Big Ten teams. Iowa men took first, scoring 189, and women finished third with 104 among Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Illinois.

BY CHRIS WERNER

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Iowa senior Jamal Britt had never posted a 60-meter hurdles time below 7.70, that's why his school-record-tying mark of 7.60 came as such a shock to the Las Vegas, Nevada, native Friday night at the Hawkeye Big

Ten Invitational at the University of Iowa Recreation Building.

"I thought [my time] was around a 7.69 or 7.68," Britt said. "Then, 7.60 popped up and I was like 'Oh, OK man.' After the race, I took in the moment I was like 'OK, I could actually see myself running a 7.50 this year.'" The 7.60 finish puts

Britt atop the Big Ten Conference and second nationally this season in that race. He leads the Big Ten by nearly .30 seconds and is just .05 behind Florida State's Trey Cunningham for the No. 1 spot in the country.

Britt is always striving to improve and the 7.60 time was a result of a race where Britt said every-

thing came together, as his previous career-best was a tenth-of-a-second slower.

After he ran a 7.70 at the Larry Wiecek Invitational in Iowa City Jan. 23, Britt knew he had could post faster times like the one he put up at the Hawkeye Big Ten Invitational.

"With the 7.70, the

start as well was perfect, but I had some little minor mess-ups in there," Britt said. "I was breaking down form in the last two hurdles. But when I ran the 7.60, it was all set in place, not a single form was broken down, I was attacking the hurdles and bringing the same speed I started off

SEE BRITT, 7

Boyer booms in second season

Joslyn Boyer has emerged as one of the lone bright spots on a Hawkeye team struggling in a bevy of defensive categories.



Casey Stone/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Defensive Specialist Joslyn Boyer bumps the ball during the Iowa Volleyball game against Indiana on Feb. 6 at Xtream Arena. Indiana defeated Iowa 3-2.

BY AUSTIN HANSON

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In 2019, defensive specialist Joslyn Boyer led all Hawkeye freshmen in playing time, making three starts.

Eight games into her sophomore season, Boyer has started every match for Iowa, set a career-high in digs on three separate occasions, and averaged 3.83 digs per set.

"Joslyn has done outstanding, I mean, if you look at her numbers the past few matches, she has been all over the place," junior middle blocker Hannah Clayton said. "She is super scrappy and has filled in that place well. I know Halle Johnston was a really good contributor last year, but I think Joslyn has really stepped up."

Boyer has averaged 5.45 digs per set in her last three games.

The Downers Grove, Illinois, native has been one of the lone bright spots on a Hawkeye team that is struggling defensively. Iowa is 12th in the Big Ten in opponent hitting percentage, 11th in blocks, and 12th in digs.

Boyer has almost exclusively carried the digs load for Iowa as outside hitter Courtney Buzzorio has the second-most digs per set behind Boyer at 1.9.

No other backcourt Hawkeye is averaging more than 1.6 digs per set.

"Obviously the first couple of matches it's just like getting comfortable and being more confident," Boyer said. "As the season has gone on, I have felt very comfortable and am really just growing into that role and making it mine."

Boyer probably wasn't going to be Iowa's

SEE BOYER, 7A

Hawks prep for Big Tens



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa's Aleksey Tarasenko leaps into the start of the 400meter free relay during finals of the Big 10 Swimming Championships on March 2, 2019.

After wrapping up their regular seasons Feb. 6, the Hawkeyes are focusing on the Big Ten Championship meets.

BY EVAN BRUNER

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After wrapping up their regular seasons in Minnesota Feb. 6, Iowa's men's and women's swim and dive teams are both preparing for the upcoming Big Ten Championships.

This season, the Hawkeyes will have less-than-normal amounts experience under their belts as the postseason approaches.

Iowa was forced to compete with a reduced schedule because of COVID-19 in 2020-21. The Hawkeye men faced just three opposing teams in two meets, while the Iowa women competed against four different teams across three meets of action.

In 2019-20, the men's team participated in nine regular season meets, and the women's

SEE SWIMMING, 7A

80 HOURS

THE WEEKEND IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021



not your average scoop

page 3b

Two UI alumni and one current student have come together in their podcast, The Flavorcast, to discuss two names many people are familiar with: Ben and Jerry. The trio reviews Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream flavors and will begin their second season on March 5.

DESIGN BY KATE DOOLITTLE

WEEKEND EVENTS

THURSDAY 02.18

FILM

• **BLACK ATHLETES THEN AND NOW: JACKIE ROBINSON MOVIE DISCUSSION AND UI ATHLETIC SPORTS PANEL**, 6 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

LITERATURE

• **BLACK HISTORY MONTH MINI-STORYTIME**, 10:30 A.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIDAY 02.19

MISC

• **CREATIVE MATTERS EVENT WITH MICHAEL DINWIDDIE: ART AND THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**, 5:30 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

SATURDAY 02.20

THEATER

• **PUT YOUR FUNNY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!**, 7:30 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE IOWA CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

LITERATURE

• **IC SPEAKS POETRY SLAM**, 2 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY IC SPEAKS

SUNDAY 02.21

THEATER

• **PUT YOUR FUNNY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!**, 2 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE IOWA CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

ART

• **ART IN THE AFTERNOON : AMY DOBRIAN**, 1 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY ARTIFACTORY

YOUR WEEKEND PLAYLIST



February Faves

Start your weekend with a fresh playlist with some of our favorite new songs of the year! The *DI Arts* staff has you covered with some fresh February jams.



SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
u suck	Emily Bear, Ariza	Single
renaissance girl	Alybob	Single
Best Friend (feat. Doja Cat)	Saweetie, Doja Cat	Single
Anyone	Justin Bieber	Single
drivers license	Olivia Rodrigo	Single
Future Nostalgia	Dua Lipa	Future Nostalgia (The Moonlight Edition)
Love Story (Taylor's Version)	Taylor Swift	Love Story (Taylor's Version)
Cover Me In Sunshine	P!nk, Willow Sage Hart	Single
Big (feat. Gunna)	Rita Ora, David Guetta, Imanbek, Gunna	Single
stfu (i got u)	Alaina Castillo	Single
Betterman	MOD SUN	Internet Killed The Rockstar
Retail Therapy	ROSIE	Single
We're Good	Dua Lipa	Future Nostalgia (The Moonlight Edition)
Like 1999	Valley	Single
Coffee In Bed	Pentatonix	The Lucky Ones
Sagittarius Superstar (feat. Faye Webster)	COIN, Faye Webster	Single
Up	Cardi B	Single

THIS WEEK IN STREAMING



Ginny and Georgia

BY PARKER JONES
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After a February this cold, leave it to *Ginny and Georgia* to lift spirits and warm the hearts of viewers.

The first season of the touching drama series is slated for a Netflix debut on Feb. 24.

The original series follows Ginny Miller, a 15-year-old girl who seems to be more mature than her 30-year-old mother, Georgia. Set in a small Massachusetts town, Georgia decides to finally settle down with her daughter and son to give them a better life — one she herself never had.

Created by Sarah Lampart, the 10-episode season features an abundance of up-and-comers in both the cast and crew. Lampart, who is also writing and producing the show, has only worked on one film before, the 2016 drama *Haze*. The first two episodes will be directed by Anya Adams, who is also producing the show; the direc-

tors of the remaining eight episodes have yet to be confirmed.

Toplining the cast are *Batwoman* actress Brienne Howey as Georgia, and newcomer Antonia Gentry as Ginny. Other notable cast members include Diesel La Torraca as Ginny's younger brother Austin, and *Schitt's Creek* actress Jennifer Robertson as a character named Ellen.

Interestingly, the two main actresses only have a seven year age difference, with Howey being 31 and Gentry being 24, while their characters have a fifteen-year difference. Some speculating audience members suggest this might benefit their performances, while others say it will be a challenge for the actresses to overcome.

Whatever the case, there is no doubt that the story will be an inspiring one, and will hopefully lead to bigger and better en-

REVIEW OF THE WEEK: Music

BY JENNA POST
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Despite my previous article about the ethics of casting a non-austic person to play an autistic role, I tried to keep an open mind while viewing *Music*. However, there wasn't much to open my mind to, because the film is more a series of tropes and music videos strung together than a film with any substance.

The film follows the story of Zu, played by Kate Hudson, and Music, played by Maddie Ziegler. Zu is Music's half-sister who becomes her caretaker after the death of their grandmother. The rest of the film explores their relationship.

From its opening, it's clear that *Music* is a film meant to pat neurotypical people on the back for watching it instead of a film

that gives non-vocal autistic people representation.

Almost immediately, viewers are met with neon colors, strobing lights, loud music, and quick cuts. It's extremely overstimulating, making it impossible for autistic people who are hypersensitive to those stimuli to even watch.

Ziegler's portrayal of the titular character was as stereotypical as could be. Her movements and facial expressions practically make a mockery of autism, with no nuance to be seen.

Seeing as Ziegler was not an adult at the time of filming, this was mostly the fault of the director, but it doesn't lessen the harm done. This is exactly why a non-vocal autistic person should have been cast in the first place: when the role is portrayed by a neurotypical person, their mimicry ap-

pears as mockery.

While the technical elements were bad enough, the story is even worse.

Zu has a classic savior complex, which is ironic considering she mishandles caring for Music in just about every conceivable way.

The most upsetting moment comes when Music is physically restrained during a meltdown, which has caused the deaths of autistic people in real life. It's grossly irresponsible to put this onscreen, regardless of intent. The scene left me feeling sick to my stomach.

Sia claimed on Twitter, before her account was deleted, that these scenes would be removed or at least preceded with a warning, but they weren't.

Most of Zu's interactions with Music can best be described as "inspiration

porn," a term used to refer to the trope of using stories of people with disabilities to make abled people feel good, even when those stories are divorced from the lived reality for the majority of disabled people.

This most egregious example is when Zu states that she's learning how to love because she loves Music. If the message is supposed to be about love, I find it extremely confusing that Music was infantilized and sensationalized to get that message across. It also implies that something about Music makes loving her different, and more difficult, than loving others. I wonder what that something could be?

Zu is clearly meant to be aspirational, but frankly, she's a bad person if she's only a now learning to love by being a caretaker, and a

misguided one at that.

Music is cringeworthy at its best moments and infuriating at its worst. The movie relies on tired tropes and inaccurate portrayals to coddle its audience, and ultimately makes Music feel more like a plot device than a human being.

Despite all this, the film was nominated for two Golden Globes. This isn't necessarily surprising considering Hollywood's attitude toward films with neurotypicals playing autis-

tic characters, but it's infuriating and disappointing nonetheless.



The Flavorcast serves up its second season

On Sept. 4, The Flavorcast debuted. Created by two UI alumni and one UI student, the trio tastes and reviews Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream flavors.

BY MADISON LOTENSCHTEIN
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Elijah Jones and Jacob Ohrt could be described as Ben and Jerry's fanatics. The University of Iowa alumni and best friends grew up discussing the latest flavors of their beloved ice cream brand.

Later, however, the two noticed an informational element missing from their Ben and Jerry's repertoire — nowhere, not even on the Ben and Jerry's website, was every one of the company's ice cream flavors documented.

To remedy this predicament,

son last semester, the trio are preparing for the second season, which will debut on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Overcast, and Spotify on March 5. Viewers can also find links to the podcast on Facebook (The Flavorcast) and Twitter (@TheFlavorcast).

"One day I was just thinking, 'Is there a way that I would like to document this hobby?'" Jones said. "And I thought a podcast would be a great way to do it. All of my favorite podcasts are usually revealing something but then also giving trivia about some-

Jones — lightly plays in the background. They then read the flavor description and calorie intake, take a taste, and rate it through subcategories: flavor, texture, balance, and pint design. The podcasters also throw in some Ben and Jerry's trivia and see if there's cultural relevance to the flavor's release date.

Qi-Bell established the subcategories and said they needed criteria to add validity to their opinions. Texture plays a lead role in the review process because Ben and Jerry's places such an emphasis on it, she said. Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's, has a condition where he has little sense of taste and no sense of smell, according to the company's website.

"He relies mainly on the texture of ice cream to eat it, which is why a lot of Ben and Jerry's ice cream is textured," Qi-Bell said.

She added that there are several wacky flavors, bringing forth the idea of reviewing the flavor balance and texture. For instance, Jones queried, how does the mixture of caramel and vanilla taste with the crunchy part of the ice cream?

And then there's the review of the pint design. With its bright colors and funky designs, Ben and Jerry's ice cream is hard to miss in the frozen food aisle. Ohrt said he remembers the pints' unique designs attracting him to the brand, which was probably Ben and Jerry's intention, he said.

"The way they differentiate their product — I really like their pint designs, kinda like the cartoony design they go for," Ohrt said. "... I just think they do a really good job at marketing their product."

Then, the team gives their overall score, though there isn't a mathematical algorithm to the process.

"It's really just sort of, how did we feel about everything overall?" Jones said. "What's the weight of each thing we like or don't like?"

At the conclusion of each episode, the trio reminisces on what Jones describes as a "fallen flavor," a discontinued flavor no longer among the pints that sit in the frozen food aisle at the local grocery store.

"We either look at it through a lens of whether we've had it before, whether we want it again, or whether we've never had it or whether we'd like to try it," Jones said.

But a fallen flavor comes with a new flavor to try. The Flavorcast is scooping into season two with their review of the Phish Food flavor. Loaded with chocolate ice cream, marshmallow swirls, and chocolate fish-shaped chunks, the flavor is inspired by the band Phish and its efforts to help environmental issues, according to Ben and Jerry's website.

In the next couple of episodes, the podcasters will taste a newly released flavor series called Topped, where the pint is "topped" with ganache. Ben and Jerry's describes the filling as a mixture of soft chocolate that is usually within the depths of fancy treats like truffles. Whisky Biz, a Topped flavor, is likely first on the list for the Ben and Jerry's connoisseurs to try. Taking a route contrary to fancy, The Flavorcast also plans on trying the new Doggie Desserts line. These treats are made for a canine friend, but are also people friendly, Ohrt said.

Jones added that they want to begin incorporating non-dairy and vegan Ben and Jerry's flavors into their reviews, so everyone can be included. The Ben and Jerry's enthusiast would also like to embed guest reviewers to the podcast, though they do not know who will speak quite yet.

Even though the podcast's main theme is ice cream, similar to Ben and Jerry's intertwining of the ice-cold treat with liberal and environmentally progressive political advocacy, that secondary political flavor finds its way into the pint conversation. Among the company's flavors: Justice ReMix'd, a pint of cinnamon and chocolate ice creams with cinnamon bun dough and spicy fudge brownies, a flagship flavor for the company's criminal-justice advocacy, which includes partnerships with social-justice nonprofits; Pecan Resistant, a fudgy pecan flavor symbolizing resisting Trump's immigration and anti-LGBTQ policies; American Pie, an



Contributed

Co-host of The Flavorcast Elijah Jones poses with a pint of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Jones is a University of Iowa graduate.

apple pie flavor packaged in a pint with a pie chart of the federal discretionary budget and pushing for shifting money from nuclear weapons to children's services.

That's one attractive aspect of the ice cream brand, Ohrt said, that it does a great job at being involved in social-justice causes.

"We find that to be a fan of Ben and Jerry's, being involved politically is actually not that far away from each other," Jones said.

Qi-Bell said her podcast experience has been extraordinary, and that it's the perfect medium to tell all the oth-

erwise "useless" knowledge she has on Ben and Jerry's. Connecting with like-minded people on a beloved ice cream brand is also an aspect of the podcast she enjoys.

"It's been so great for me to be able to use those for once because I just know too much about them for no good reason," she said with a laugh.

"And then it's also great to connect with people who also appreciate Ben and Jerry's as much as I do, because there's not that many people — like some people are like, 'Oh, I like them,' but they're not obsessed. So that has been absolutely fantastic."



Contributed

Co-host of The Flavorcast Brilliant Qi-Bell poses with a pint of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Qi-Bell is a theater major at the University of Iowa.

ment, Jones began collecting pint tops in 2017 to keep track.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the U.S. in full force in mid-March, Jones reached out to fellow UI theater student and Ben and Jerry's pint collector Brilliant Qi-Bell, semi-joking about creating a podcast on Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. He began to love the new idea and decided to see it come to fruition, thus creating The Flavorcast, a podcast dedicated to reviewing Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream flavors.

Jones, Ohrt, and Qi-Bell serve as co-hosts. Having completed their first sea-

son last semester, the trio are preparing for the second season, which will debut on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Overcast, and Spotify on March 5. Viewers can also find links to the podcast on Facebook (The Flavorcast) and Twitter (@TheFlavorcast).

thing, I really like the mixture of opinion and then learning something that I never knew before."

During the 30-minute dialogue, the trio munches on a pint of the flavor they are reviewing, a gimmick that Jones felt necessary for The Flavorcast.

"It makes me feel like there's a little bit more credibility to what we're saying, and a little bit more of like an accomplishment," he said. "Because in order to review the flavor, we have to actually have it with us in hand."

The co-hosts introduce the flavor while the theme song, "Wishing Well" — created by

Englert reflects on 2020 with short film

This week, the Englert Theatre is premiering a short film reflecting on COVID-19's impact on area art.

BY PARKER JONES
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

It's March of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has just begun, and the future looks uncertain across all walks of life. The Englert Theatre must make the difficult decision to postpone — and later, to cancel — the Mission Creek Festival for 2020. It would have been the music festival's 15th year.

Eleven months later, on Tuesday, the experiences and losses the arts felt in 2020 premiered in the form of a short film.

The Englert Theatre's debut short film *Ghost Creek* will premiere digitally, and will be viewable from the Englert's website. A trailer for the film can also be viewed on YouTube.

The film was initially planned to be a mix of documentary-style videography with a loose narrative focusing on the cancellation of the Mission Creek Festival, but ended up becoming an entirely fictional story. *Ghost Creek* is intended to reflect on the losses the artistic community has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also serve as an anthem to the communal value of art and the mutual perseverance that artists share.

The plot itself focuses on a single protagonist and her journey through existing in the seemingly endless and dreary world of 2020, but also what she dreams her life could be like in the future. The film will also incorporate a supernatural element, hence the "Ghost" portion of the title.

To local filmmaker and "Ghost Creek" director Benjamin Handler, the film is especially unique in that it heavily incorporates music from local Iowa artists, and features multiple scenes that were filmed like a music video. He also touched on the benefits of working with a smaller production team, as it allowed for more freedom both in filming and with the creative direction of the film.

"Just having that roster of Iowa musicians that we incorporate into the film was really exciting for me because I love music videos," Handler said. "And getting to work together with local musicians for a whole film — I think it's something special."

The 18-minute short film is Englert's first venture into the world of cinema. As such, when the concept for the film came together in the summer of 2020, there was a learning curve for production, said Jessica Egli, the film's execu-



Contributed by Benjamin Handler

utive producer and Englert events director.

Egli described the end result as a gift to Englert's patrons, and ultimately an example of how thinking outside the box has helped Englert uphold their mission during uncertain times.

"Even though it's a short film, it's an incredible amount of work," Egli said. "It'll be really awesome to

see the months and months of work that our team has put in, and to see all of it just come to life in the premiere."

Although the Englert usually specializes in music and theater arts, it is part of their mission as a leading member of the Iowa City artistic community to continuously expand their artistic endeavors, Egli said. *Ghost Creek* has definitely opened some doors for

the Englert to produce more cinematic content in the future, Egli said.

Englert Marketing Director John Schickedanz said that the project was one to help replace some of the energy of the Mission Creek festival that was lost in the event's cancellation. He described the film as an investigation of the difficulties of living through a pandemic,

through the lens of artistic expression.

"We knew that we needed to do something to keep the spirit of Mission Creek alive," Schickedanz wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. "The production team has planned out the details to ensure that we created the best representation of art that embodies the collective feeling of that time in history."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Custom campus kicks

University of Iowa freshmen Stanley Liu and Johnny Diaz created Catlett Customs, a personalized shoe company.



Photo of shoes designed by Stanley Liu and Johnny Diaz

Contributed

BY TATIANA PLOWMAN
tatiana-plowman@uiowa.edu

As a first-year student on the pre-pharmacy track, Stanley Liu searched for a way to enable his creative side at the University of Iowa. Since high school, he'd had an interest in shoes and graphic design, partially due to a high school friend who showed him pictures of

designed shoes. He said he loved the idea of personalized sneakers and decided to bring that idea to life through a student-owned business, Catlett Customs.

Liu met his partner Johnny Diaz, a fellow first-year student also on the pre-pharmacy track, during his first few weeks on campus in the fall. The pair quickly realized that, with their aligned inter-

ests, a shoe design company could be possible.

The name Catlett Customs derived from two varying sources of inspiration. Liu lives in Catlett Residence Hall, the newest housing addition to the UI campus. He also found inspiration from UI alum Elizabeth Catlett, world-renowned sculptor and printmaker, for whom the residence hall was named.

"The name came naturally. Catlett's contributions to the art world are remarkable and living in the building surrounded by her art serves as a huge inspiration for us," Liu said. "Plus, the sound of the name just sounded right."

The duo initially struggled with the logistics of operating a business. Neither had previous experience with anything business-related.

They hired other team members to assist with shoe painting, communications, and photography.

"There were so many little components that we didn't initially prepare for," Diaz said. "As business beginners, we did a lot of guessing and hoping that we would get the right outcome."

Catlett Customs aims to "revolutionize the sneaker industry through artistic expression," as stated on the business' website. People interested in custom shoes can either select a pre-set design or work with an artist on developing a design that fits their interests best.

Some of the pre-set designs that students can order for their shoes include blue butterflies, a Chicago Cubs-themed shoe, and — to show school spirit — a Hawkeye-themed shoe. While the designs are shown on a Nike Air Force One sneaker, the team can also paint the designs on other types of shoes, like Vans.

Liu said collaboration is one of the team's most prominent goals, and because the painters have such a diverse array of artistic strengths, he said they are able to make each customer's idea fully come to life.

The six artists on the Catlett Customs team are all UI students. Their roles in the business are to help draft designs graphically on the computer and help translate them

to the physical medium. Liu and Diaz oversee this process and help the artists come up with new designs. Diaz said he has seen his ideas come to life in a way he never thought was possible.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Liu and his team have made adaptations to safely deliver their products. The business currently does not sell the shoes directly, only the customizations. Customers drop off their shoes to the Catlett Residence Hall front desk to deliver to Liu's room. From there, the team properly cleans the shoes and paints them. The customer and Liu then discuss how to safely deliver the shoes back to the customer. Initially, each customization cost \$100, but has since been lowered to \$50, because college students were struggling to pay that amount.

"Receiving our first sale was a huge accomplishment," Liu said. "We have had a lot of other people interested as well, and in order to best serve them we changed our prices."

The duo take orders both through their website and Instagram, and voiced their hope that, when the pandemic clears, they will be able to do public demonstrations of their projects in the Iowa City downtown area.

"We are just getting started," Liu said. "And we hope to continue years down the road."

"The name came naturally. Catlett's contributions to the art world are remarkable and living in the building surrounded by her art serves as a huge inspiration for us.

— First year student Stanley Liu

The Daily Break



The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0113

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- A** 1 Fair
5 Mary Lincoln's maiden name
9 Some drought-resistant plants
14 James of jazz
15 Leader in a kaffiyeh
16 Two- or four-seater, maybe?
17 "Smile!"
19 Like tomes, typically
20 Address by a Sacramento N.B.A. player?
22 Padre's hermana
23 Expansive septet
24 Make bubbly
28 Hibernation stations
29 Concern of the Citizens United decision, for short
32 Sharp-shooting Curry
33 Mass ____
34 Around 16 mg of niacin, e.g.
35 Game notes for a New Orleans N.B.A. player?
38 Officiate, informally
39 ;) ;)
40 "I give!"
41 Surgery sites, for short
42 Things that sometimes clash in orchestras?
43 Amounts at risk
44 Top ____
45 Variety show segment
46 Charlotte N.B.A. player in charge of recycling?
53 "Oof, that was bad"
54 Gutter attachment
55 Write an ode about, perhaps
56 Wetlands denizen
57 TV show that launched more than 200 songs onto the Billboard Hot 100
58 Work of cartography
59 Tree house?
60 Appear

- D** 1 Not be serious
2 Home of the Anasazi State Park Museum
3 Ocular woe
4 Add (on)
5 ____weenie
6 Rolex rival
7 Put-down
8 Impersonating, in a way
9 Totally adorable
10 Grateful?
11 Trendy
12 Silicon Valley specialty, familiarly
13 Get to
18 Make an effort to get swole
21 Corral
24 ____Blaster (classic arcade game)
25 Thin air
26 Some barriers to entry in the shipping business?
27 Candy Crush or Angry Birds
28 Places for aces
29 Pierce slightly
30 Best-selling musical artist whose album titles represent ages
31 Sights along Paris's Champs-Élysées
33 Studied secondarily
36 Hybrid feline
37 Messenger molecule
43 Coarse-grained rock that splits easily
44 Car company founded in 2003
45 Writer Nin
46 Bit of typing by someone who's all thumbs?
47 Recover
48 Flavorers in Italian cookery
49 Dungeons & Dragons and others, for short
50 4,100+ mile river that drains 11 countries
51 One-on-one Olympic event
52 Overflow (with)
53 "Up" vote

SUDOKU

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2A

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