

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

DAILYIOWAN.COM 50¢

UI FIJI chapter denies wrongdoing in sexual assault lawsuit

The chapter said it wasn't responsible for protecting a woman alleging sexual assault at the fraternity's house.

Caleb McCullough
Executive Editor

The University of Iowa chapter of Phi Gamma Delta rebuffed accusations that it

aided and abetted a sexual assault, as the chapter and two former members face a lawsuit over allegations that the former members sexually assaulted a UI stu-

dent at a party last year. In a court filing on Friday, the Mu Deuteron chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, the formal name for the UI's chapter, denied any injury

was sustained by UI student Makéna Solberg, who filed the lawsuit. In its filing, the fraternity said she was responsible for any damages caused. Her claims for dam-

ages are barred, the chapter said, "by her consent, contributory negligence and/or willful misconduct." "The sole proximate cause of any injury Plain-

tiff may have experienced is due to her own conduct," the chapter said in the document.

FIJI | Page 3A

Legislators eye lower income tax

Iowa Republicans are looking to lower the state income tax in the 2022 session, and many hope to eliminate it entirely.



The Iowa State Capitol Building is seen on Jan. 12 in Des Moines.

Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Lauren White
Politics Reporter

The 2022 legislative session is less than a month away, and a key goal of Iowa Republicans is to reduce state income tax. Democrats in the minority party say their priorities include

improving the state's workforce issues and addressing affordable housing and child care to keep people in the state.

At the Greater Des Moines Partnership State Legislative Leadership Breakfast on Dec. 9, Sen. Brad Zaun, R-Urbandale, said Senate

Republicans' main priority for the 2022 session is to lower the state income tax, with the ultimate goal of eliminating it entirely. He said that would be one of the biggest tools to attract people to Iowa.

"That is not going to happen overnight, I know

that right now we're having conversations...in regards to tax credits," Zaun said. "I think we need to look at all the tax credits that we have in the state of Iowa to see how effective they are."

At the legislative breakfast, Rep. Brent Siegrist, R-Council Bluffs, said cor-

porate tax rates will also be looked at during the session, but the bigger priority is the statewide income tax. He said the state should have over \$9 billion worth of revenue going into the session with which to budget.

"I think more money into our parks and recs and into

our water systems is absolutely the right thing to do. I am not sure how much push that is going to get this year," Siegrist said. "It's an election year, there's sales tax, there's a lot of support for it, but I'm not sure it'll be enough."

In a Monday press release, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said the December Revenue Estimating Conference forecast shows an overcollection of Iowa taxpayer funds and vowed to give that money back in the 2022 session.

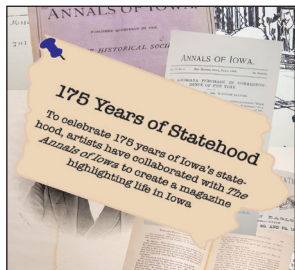
"I will continue to fight to return these funds to the hands of hardworking Iowa taxpayers and explore significant tax cuts this legislative session that will make Iowa one of the most competitive states in the country," Reynolds said. "This overcollection of taxes is unethical and it must end."

Speaker of the Iowa House Rep. Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, echoed Reynolds' statements, saying he wants to return the revenue to Iowans, while he criticized the Biden Administration for rising levels of inflation.

"Iowa House Republicans look forward to addressing this issue and finding the most effective way to lower taxes and return this money to Iowa taxpayers," Grassley said in a prepared statement issued on Monday.

LEGISLATURE | Page 2A

INSIDE



80 HOURS: Commemorating 175 years of statehood

In collaboration with artists, the *Annals of Iowa* is releasing a special anniversary edition to commemorate 175 years of Iowa's statehood. Two UI graduates will have their work featured in the special edition.

Page 4B

National Suicide Hotline to change to three-digits

Iowa City will route calls to the new suicide hotline 9-8-8 number, which will take effect in July 2022, to Community Mobile Crisis Service.

Page 3A

UPCOMING

This is the last print edition of the year for *The Daily Iowan*. The *DI* will not publish in print over winter break but will publish breaking news online. The first print edition of 2022 will be Wednesday, Jan. 19.

DITV

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



Cadet bound for Arizona

Grace Palmatier, will graduate from the UI nursing and ROTC programs at the end of the semester, and join air force as nurse.



Jake Wicks/The Daily Iowan

ROTC Cadet and University of Iowa undergraduate nursing student Grace Palmatier is pictured here in front of the University of Iowa College of Nursing on Dec. 9.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
News Reporter

As Grace Palmatier graduates from the University of Iowa's nursing program and the UI ROTC this winter, she looks to Arizona, where she will take the next steps in her career as a nurse for the U.S. Air Force.

After graduating at the end of this semester, Palmatier said she intends to take a break to recharge and spend time with friends and family. In March of next year, she will begin her final training to be a nurse in the Air Force with the nurse transition program.

"It's kind of like a nurse internship, like they have here with

the university," Palmatier said. Palmatier will also be conferred the honor of Distinguished Graduate, awarded to only the highest achieving cadets.

"The distinguished graduate honor is something that candidates compete for on a national level," Capt. Amanda Anderson-Gonzalez said. "And essentially, what's required is we will submit a package and really that's like, a really robust resume."

Leadership positions, performance as undergrads and upperclassmen, and individual profile are among the considerations for the Distinguished Graduate award, Anderson-Gonzalez said. Palmatier spent her final se-

mester at the UI interning at the UI Hospitals and Clinics, she said. At the hospital, she worked in the surgical and neurological intensive care unit, which receives a wide variety of patients.

"Depends on the operation, of course, but surgical patients, neurological aspects like stroke seizures," she said. "We had a lot of trauma patients from the emergency department. Once they were stable enough, they would come up to the surgical ICU."

Palmatier did not graduate on time with the rest of her class in spring of 2021. Instead, she stayed to fulfill a semester in-

PALMATIER | Page 2A

Healing the divide

The Ad Hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commission says it is working to heal the Black community.

Arabia Parkey
News Reporter

In the past year, the Iowa City Ad Hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commission has faced a series of commissioner resignations, a lack of funding from the Iowa City Council, and pressure from some community members, as well as Mayor Bruce Teague, to disband and restart.

Still, the city's newest commission is working to find ways to further its mission. To progress toward healing, the commission plans to participate in restorative justice practices such as Circles, led by community facilitators.

Restorative circles are a practice that brings together different parties in a conflict — those who have acted, those impacted by those actions, and the broader community — to an open discussion.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and nationwide protests across the nation, including in Iowa City, the city established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in September 2020, one of 17 points agreed upon by the city and the Iowa Freedom Riders, the group leading the protest movement in Iowa City.

The council charged the commission with fact-finding, truth-telling, and reconciliation of injustices within Iowa City and making policy recommendations to the Iowa City Council by May 1, 2022.

With pushback from some community organizations like the Black Voices Project

TRC | Page 2A

Holiday Open House

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Annals of Iowa

80 Hours THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THE ANNALS OF IOWA,

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNALS OF IOWA.

Vol. VI, No. 6. DES MOINES, IOWA, JULY, 1904. 3D SERIES.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE IN CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TIME.

BY DR. WILLIAM SALTER.

175 Years of Statehood
To celebrate 175 years of Iowa's statehood, artists have collaborated with *The Annals of Iowa* to create a magazine highlighting life in Iowa.

*Truly Yours
W.E.*

Wednesday Evening, August
INDIAN LIFE SCHOOL
(Talk between Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore and E. R. Young, part and Young Bear and Jim Poveshnik on the other, Bear, interpreter.)
Mr. Harlan: There are two or three new matters that we heard of after we were through work last night. One of them and that is, How was the flute made that Jim played last night, and what is it made of? A lady asked Dr. Gilmore last night, after we separated, what the flute is made of, who made it, and where.
Jim Poveshnik and Young Bear confer. Jim speaks:
We do not know who first made the flute. They have been played for generations. Our people love these flutes, and cherish them. In making these flutes we must first find the finest red cedar. It must not have too many knots. It must be straight and true. Cut it to a certain length, then leave it for a while to dry, to be sure that it does not twist. The end of the piece is split through the center. They then mark out the hollow—they scrape out the hollow, and after that they cut out a few knots (places) for the sound (control) and after that they have a wax from the honey, and put it along the edge, then they put these together. They take a piece of iron or some other hard instrument, and put this plate in between. They try it in a fixed tune, for each time they have to cut some more if it does not sound right. When it sounds right they cut out the key hole. For the key hole they burn the hole through. There are six holes. And again they try for

... until it can be used to sing the songs. So that is how they make the flute.
Mr. Harlan: Now let us ask if Jim made this flute that he plays.
Jim: Yes, I made the flute.
Mr. Harlan: How long ago did you make it? How old were you when you made your first flute?
Jim: When I was about fifteen years old I began to hear for one, and they made me one. Of course the first flute I made for me was a small flute. When I got this flute I tried to learn to play, but found out it took a long time to learn to play the different songs, and many of these songs that I learned are the very songs that I still play. There are hundreds of these songs and in those days every one played all of the young men had flutes, and so I had the first of these flutes because there were some of the old men who could make flutes, and started to learn how to make one. The first one I made was a small flute, and so after I learned how to make flutes, and from time to time I give them away, or trade them, so I never have the same flute for long.
Dr. Gilmore: . . . In the first place, he said the two pieces which the bees used to gum up the opening in the hives, the bees get from various sources. It is a resinous substance gotten from buds of trees—cottonwood buds and other buds. That is the kind of sticking material used. So here comes the first question, What was used before the white men came for the bees were not here? What was used before honeybees were here? I suppose glue was used, and here I will pause to ask our friends what was used before bees came to America?
Jim: In making these flutes there were different ways of using—I understand, for instance, there were the horns they take from a deer and other animals that have horns, and they shape these out for whatever they want to make. If they

Governor's MESSAGE.



... of the Senator of that State, has to pass with a lady Companion in line of the White States forces, a Sennepe and wheresoever such a dem of the United States may be, in care and attendance. All be furnished with transportation the proper officers of the Service seem, and persons in the Service States, will afford them Courtesy of assistance.
Edwin M. Stanton
Secretary of War

Weekend Events

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THURSDAY

ART
• ART TO EAT BY: COOKBOOKS AS RECORDS AND EXPRESSION

ALL DAY, MAIN LIBRARY, 125 W WASHINGTON ST.

MISC.
• HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET
ALL DAY, IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICTMUSIC
• GARRETT SPEER
10 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE.

17

FRIDAY

DANCE
• WINTER LUST: BURLESQUE & DRAG SHOW
9 P.M., WILDWOOD SMOKEHOUSE & SALOON, 4919 WALLEYE DR. SEMUSIC
• PAULA POUNDSTONE
8 P.M., ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 E WASHINGTON ST.• ANTHONY WORDEN AND THE IL-LITERATI, SPECTER POETICS, WAVE CAGE
9 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E WASHINGTON ST.

18

SATURDAY

FILM
• THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER
7 P.M., FILMSCENE—CHAUNCEY, 404 E COLLEGE ST.• DIE HARD
9:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—CHAUNCEYMISC.
• IOWA CITY HOLIDAY MARKET
ALL DAY, ROBERT A. LEE REC CENTER, 220 S GILBERT ST.THEATRE
• MATILDA THE MUSICAL
7:30 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1301 5TH ST.

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SUNDAY

ART
• ART TO EAT BY: COOKBOOKS AS RECORD AND EXPRESSIONS
9 A.M., Main LibraryTHEATRE
• MATILDA THE MUSICAL
2 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

ASK THE AUTHOR:

NICKOLAS BUTLER

Ariana Lessard
Arts Reporter

Nickolas Butler attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an undergraduate student and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop as a graduate student. Butler is the author of international bestseller *Shotgun Lovesongs* and his acclaimed collection of short stories entitled *Beneath the Bonfire*. He has also won France's prestigious *PAGE Prix America*, the 2014 *Great Lakes Great Reads Award*, the 2014 *Midwest Independent Booksellers Award*, the 2015 *Wisconsin Library Association Literary Award*, the 2015 *UW-Whitewater Chancellor's Regional Literary Award*, and many other honors.

DI: So my first question is where did the inspiration for the book *Godspeed* come from?

Butler: Back in 2014, we built a house — well, the house where I'm talking to you from in South Voeckler, Wisconsin — and after the house was done, a family friend of mine came over to kind of look the house over, and he started talking about this project that he

was working on. Not so far away from where I live, he was working on a multi-million-dollar house, and he and the other guys sort of slipped behind on whatever perceived deadline there was. And the homeowner got everybody together and offered each guy on the crew a \$15,000 bonus if they get the house finished in the next three weeks. And he said to me, my friend said, "Nick, if we had all the meth in the world, we couldn't finish the house in three weeks." And I thought, that sounds like a really good idea for a book, but for some reason I couldn't figure out how to place it, how to set it in Wisconsin. And it wasn't until years later when my family and I took a trip out to Yellowstone and then came through Jackson that the setting sort of crystallized for me.

I was pretty naive about Jackson, and I read about it and I thought to myself like, "You know? I didn't want to live in Eau Claire." This seems like kind of a quaint ski village to be in and then I looked at the real estate values and they're astronomical. You can't be like a normal person and live in Jackson very easily. So that was influential too. And then we actually spent three, four days camping in the Bridger Teton National Forest, so we could be close to natural springs and natural hot springs, and so then I was actually sitting in the springs everyday looking out over the landscape thinking this, this is where the story's set.

So I started asking myself like, what if it's not a \$2 million house? What if it's a \$20 million house outside of Jackson? What if instead of \$15,000 it's a quarter-million dollar bonus and what if instead of saying no to that crazy scheme, what if the guys were like "Yeah, let's do it." And then what if they slip behind and have to start using meth to stay up all night long?

DI: What message does your story convey?

Butler: I don't worry a whole lot about the messages. I mean, I think I'm a little bit worried about the fact that in a lot of communities around the country, it's becoming increasingly hard for middle class people to live where they are accustomed to living. They're being priced out by super wealthy folks. I guess I'm concerned about what I see in the world of Instagram or social media where people think that material goods are going to make them happy, and then it's not. I guess I worry about losing the natural world — if we can all just build a house in beautiful places, otherwise, there will be no

beautiful places left. Yeah, I've never wanted to repeat myself with doing the same project every time. There's a lot of writers that kind of seem to have a formula and follow it and I've been fortunate to not do that. So yeah, there were a number of challenges.

DI: Was it the story your friend told you that inspired you, or was there a different reason you decided you wanted to go in the direction of a thriller?

Butler: Well, I love reading thrillers, so it's a genre that I love and I would never disparage. I really love a good literary thriller, where you know, a book like *Deliverance* or *A Simple Plan* or I'm trying to think of some other titles, but I like a literary thriller because I don't think they necessarily try to tie everything up super neatly at the end.

DI: What would you say are some strengths of the thriller genre?

Butler: Well, I mean, I think a lot of thriller writers sort of still have a contract with their reader. You know, they care about the reader turning pages. They don't want to read a boring book. What would be worse than reading a boring thriller, you know, and that's something that I respect. I mean, I mostly write literary fiction, but I do think it's important to not have to write for a reader or care about what your readers think, but to not be like, so selfish that you're reading a boring book.

DI: So to end off, final question. It's kind of a fun one. Are there any characters that you see yourself in?

Butler: Well, I mean, I think there's a little bit of Gretchen in me. When we built our house here in Wisconsin, I sort of naively thought that the next day after I moved into the house and after it was finished, I was somehow going to be a happier, more complete human being, and surprise, you know, you're the same person. You've just spent a lot of money building a house. And I think Gretchen is trying to find a way to get back to her childhood and get back to the memories that she values the most. But she's ultimately not super successful with that.

ariana-lessard@uiowa.edu

▶ STREAMING HIGHLIGHT: THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT



Photo via Disney+

Parker Jones
Arts Reporter

Next up in Disney+'s lineup of original content is a much-awaited spin-off of one of the streaming service's biggest series, *The Mandalorian*, following another mysterious helmeted protagonist.

The Book of Boba Fett premieres on Dec. 29 and will run for seven episodes until Feb. 9. The character of Boba Fett first appeared in the 1978 *Star Wars Holiday Special*, and later in main franchise films like *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Return of the Jedi*, and *Attack of the Clones*.

The new series will also follow the fan-favorite bounty hunter and mercenary Fennec Shand, who first appeared in *The Mandalorian*. The two work together in an attempt to make a name for themselves in the galaxy's underworld by taking over the territory once controlled by Jabba the Hutt.

The Mandalorian shares much of its cast and crew with *The Book of Boba Fett*. The new series will be produced by Jon Favreau, Dave Filoni, Robert Rodriguez, and Kathleen Kennedy. Favreau, Filoni, and Rodriguez directed several episodes as well, like they did for *The Mandalorian*.

Cast members of the new series include Temuera Morrison as Boba Fett, who he also played in *The Mandalorian*, and the return of Ming-Na Wen as Fennec Shand, an elite mercenary and assassin in Fett's service after events in *The Mandalorian*. Additionally, actress Jennifer Beals portrays a Twi'lek character who has yet to be revealed.

The Book of Boba Fett will be sure to bring the fan-favorite character to a new generation of Star Wars fans.

parker-jones@uiowa.edu

◀ Playlist

Contemporary Christmas

▶

Fairytale of New York Vance Joy	Santa Tell Me + Ariana Grande
Drummer Boy Justin Bieber	Merry Christmas + Ed Sheera, Elton John
Underneath the Tree Kelly Clarkson	Christmas Caller + Beach Bunny
Last Christmas WHAM	Last Christmas + She & Him
Mistletoe Justin Bieber	The Holiday + Bryce Vine
Christmas Tree Farm Taylor Swift	Carol of the Bells + Ashnikko
Last Christmas WHAM	Favorite Tings Masego

▶ ▶ ▶

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Iowa City DJ collective aims to empower

FemmeDecks, an Iowa City DJ collective, seeks to empower women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Olivia Augustine
Arts Reporter



Jake Wicks/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City resident Angelia Mahaney demonstrates how to use a sound board at a DJ open house in Iowa City on Dec. 11. The event was hosted by FemmeDecks to inspire women and minority groups to become active in the DJ community.

In the world of electronic music making, an industry dominated by straight white men, FemmeDecks is an Iowa City-based collective that aims to empower women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community.

FemmeDecks was founded at Gabe's by University of Iowa alumni Angelia Mahaney and Nina Kint-surashvili in 2019. The two had DJ'd together at the bar on Washington Street and bonded during a conversation about the lack of female DJs in Iowa City.

After graduating, Kint-surashvili moved back home to Tbilisi, Georgia, but starting a music collective alone didn't slow Mahaney. FemmeDecks was still relatively new when Kint-surashvili moved, and the group has grown exponentially since then.

"We were still trying to get connected and find other people that were interested in doing this too," Mahaney said. "A lot of what I've done with connecting with new people and booking new DJs that are not just [white, cisgender, heterosexual] men has been after [Kint-surashvili] left, and also during the pandemic."

FemmeDecks is dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive environment for marginalized artists to engage with each other, said Liara Kaylee Tsai, who joined the collective in May of this year. She said one of her biggest goals with the group is to emphasize that FemmeDecks is a safe place for members of underrepresented communities in electronic music.

Tsai had a following in Madison, Wisconsin, before moving to New York City. After moving back to the

Midwest in April, she heard about FemmeDecks and its mission.

Tsai said she had never heard of a group that performs live with FemmeDecks' goals in mind.

"It felt really good to have that kind of acceptance and representation," Tsai said. "I just really appreciate what the organization is trying to do."

Andrés Mora Mata, originally from Caracas, Venezuela, is another member of the collective who helps organize and DJ at events.

Mora Mata said he's seen similar groups in places like Berlin and Spain, but it's special to have a group in Iowa City that pushes local diversity.

"Having that change of status quo really means that people are being provided with both the spacing which they can be free and just enjoying dancing — when that's what we're trying to provide — and also a change of what is usually just cis white men doing their thing, and, you know, running the show," he said.

Mora Mata said he sees Saturday's DJ workshop at Public Space One's Close

House Space as one of FemmeDecks' biggest successes. The workshop was open to people from all levels of expertise in DJing.

The space allowed people who are new to DJing, or interested in getting into the field, with the opportunity to work equipment they wouldn't have access to otherwise. They were also taught fundamental lessons like how to organize a track list and what software to download.

Mahaney said she was held back from DJing for a long time because she subconsciously believed it was only for men to do. She said she hopes the workshop will alleviate some of that thinking by providing a safe space to explore and try something new.

"I think that a lot of women have this thought in their heads all the time," Mahaney said. "I think that just getting it out there that, yeah, women can DJ — like women do have the taste in music and technical skills and knowledge — will hopefully encourage more people, more women, to start DJing."

olivia-augustine@uiowa.edu

The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1110

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 - 5 It often surrounds high-maintenance people
 - 10 Eponym of a famed N.Y.C. deli
 - 14 One who's got the goods
 - 16 Contents of Lago Titicaca
 - 17 56-Across, to a dairy farmer
 - 18 South African currency
 - 19 Singer Rita
 - 20 Side with tandoori chicken
 - 21 Backed up, say
 - 22 56-Across, to a smartphone user
 - 25 On and on and on
 - 28 x or y, in math class
 - 29 ___ hand
 - 30 State bird of Arizona or South Carolina
 - 31 Debtor's note
 - 34 56-Across, to a gambler
 - 39 Battle of Britain grp.
 - 40 Reddit Q&As
 - 41 Plant used by ancient Greeks and Romans to treat wounds
 - 42 BuzzFeed offering
 - 43 Becomes more and more irksome
 - 46 56-Across, to Occupy protesters
 - 50 Succeeded in
 - 51 Bad, in Bolivia
 - 52 "Wanna ___?"

- 55 Apple variety
 - 56 Small amount
 - 59 Mishap during a shave
 - 60 Pharmacist's workplace in a hospital
 - 61 They consist of reps
 - 62 Actor Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
 - 63 Rustic verse
- Down**
- 1 Nordic capital
 - 2 Marvel movie directed by Kenneth Branagh
 - 3 Johnny Carson's home state
 - 4 Lotion letters
 - 5 Hold up
 - 6 Order back
 - 7 Mockery, of a sort
 - 8 Motivational speaker Robbins
 - 9 Genesis craft
 - 10 Gold standards
 - 11 Its dried stalks can be used to make didgeridoos
 - 12 The "dial" in "Don't touch that dial"
 - 13 Attractive, fashionable man, in modern parlance
 - 15 "Yeezus" rapper
 - 21 Author of the "Fear Street" series
 - 22 Cartoon character who says "Swipe, no swiping!"
 - 23 Stinger

Medium

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Puzzle solutions on page 2A

Celebrating 175 years of Iowa

Artists collaborated with the *Annals of Iowa* to create a magazine full of works highlighting aspects of life in Iowa.

Jenna Post
Arts Editor

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of Iowa's statehood, the *Annals of Iowa* — a quarterly published history magazine — will unveil a special edition in collaboration with the Iowa Arts Council for the first time in the publication's history.

Typically, the *Annals of Iowa* features written work about the state. For this edition, essays and visual art inserts will be united under 11 categories, including religion, politics, and agriculture.

Annals of Iowa editor Andrew Klumpp said the selection process involved three key criteria: how well the work fit with the selected topic, how well the work would fit in a magazine format, and if the work's art style would add variety to the magazine.

He said, of the many submissions the publication received, 16 artists were selected for inserts and one was selected for the cover.

"This was the first time that we've ever done a collaboration like this between the Iowa Arts Council and the *Annals of Iowa*, so we weren't quite sure what to expect for a response, but we were just delighted by the response we received from Iowa artists," Klumpp said.

Two former University of Iowa graduates will see their work published in the *Annals of Iowa* special edition.

When Nancy Purington, UI graduate and visiting professor for textile arts, heard that the publication was seeking submissions, the agriculture category resonated

with her.

"I grew up in Iowa, in the country, and I was always a visual learner," Purington said. "I intensely observed the world around me as a child."

Purington said she had a period of painting botanical subjects for a few years. During that time, she published the original version of the piece she submitted to the *Annals of Iowa*. The current version was digitally reworked in Photoshop and will be featured in the special edition, entitled "Cross Pollination #104."

The work features a geometric pattern with yellow corn kernels, a blue background representing ancient indigo dyeing practices, and a diagonal pattern connecting those elements.

"Variations in botany is a language, and a way of life in Iowa," Purington wrote in her artist statement for the special edition.

Multidisciplinary artist and UI graduate Akwi Nji also uses art to represent language. Her submission, which will be featured in the special edition, was pulled from her 2020 textbook series titled "Textile Narrative." Each piece is sized 5 inches by 7.5 inches, which mirrors the standard size of a memoir to represent that her visual work carries a narrative.

"It's a story of who we are at the time that I was creating the piece — as a community, as a state, as a country," Nji said.

Nji wanted to focus on the two events that affected her and her two teenage daughters most at the time: the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. As a mother, she

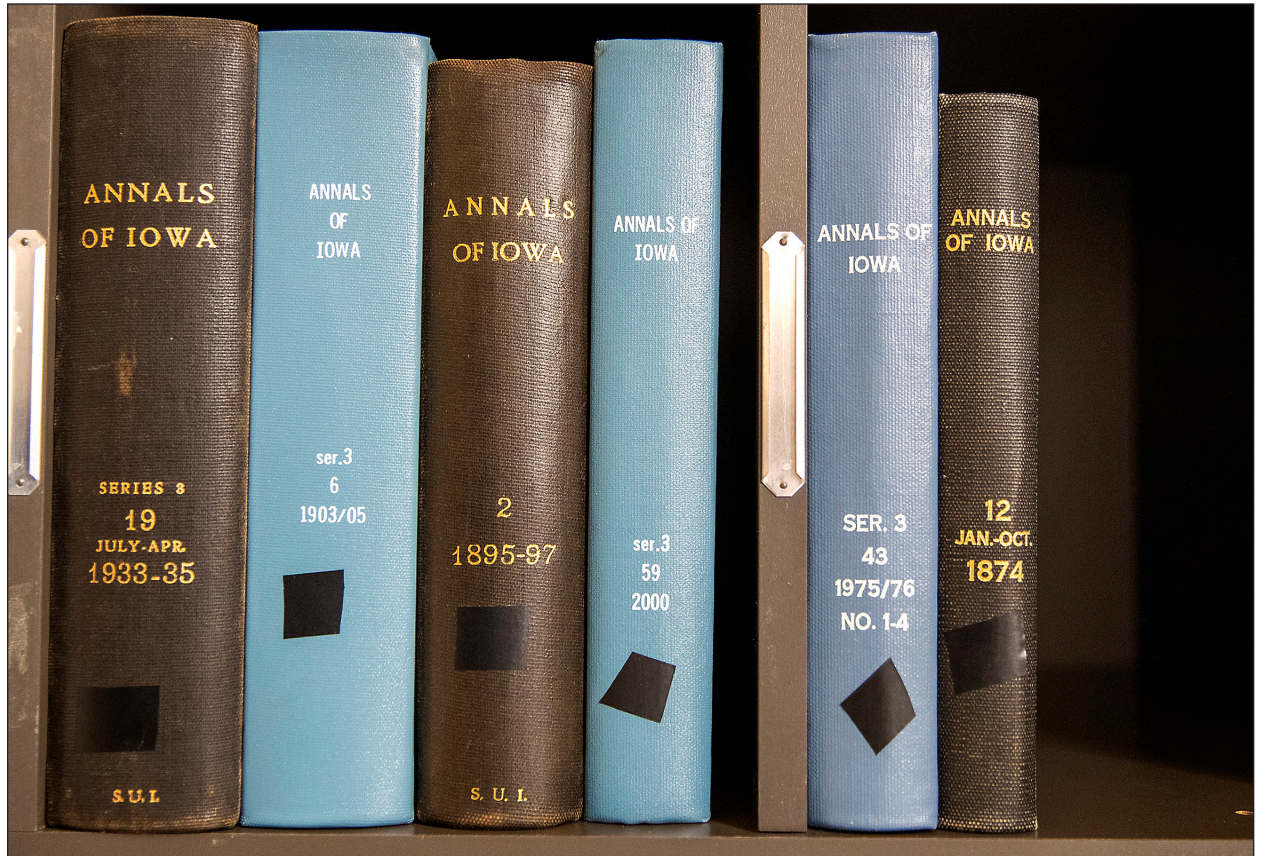


Photo illustration by Jerod Ringwald

"I grew up in Iowa, in the country, and I was always a visual learner. I intensely observed the world around me as a child."

— UI graduate and artist Nancy Purington

said she wanted to work through her thoughts and feelings on these issues so she could have conversations with her daughters about them.

"I had so many intellectual and emotional thoughts that were just getting jumbled up in my head and in my heart," she said. "And the way I visualized it is like just a ball of yarn — the thread becoming more and more tangled the more I thought about everything."

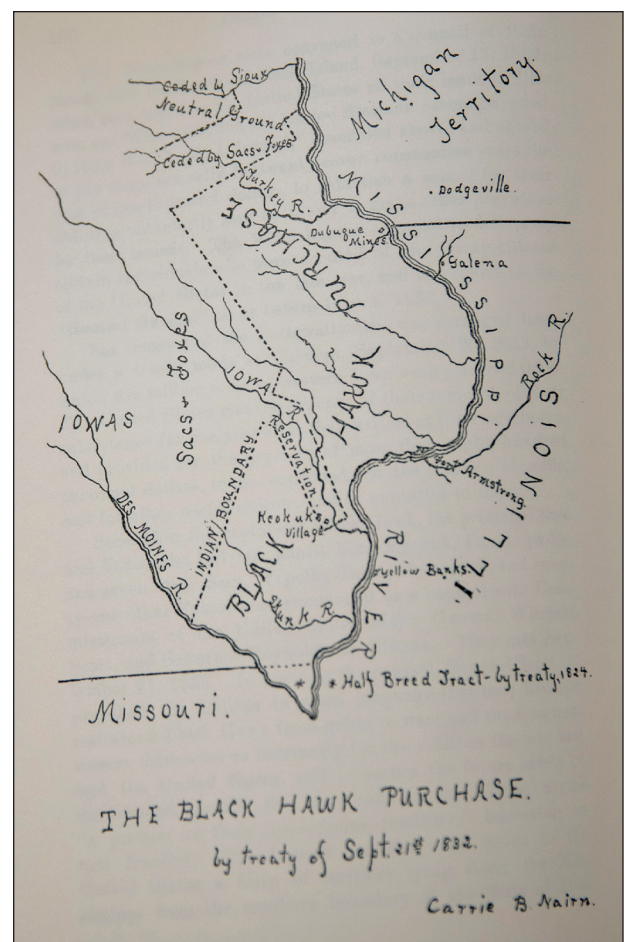
Nji found that her complicated feelings were easier to untangle when she put them into her art, she said.

"Creating the artwork was a way for those ideas and feelings that I was processing to really be sorted out," Nji said.

"Very literally using my hands to make sense of what my head and my heart could not make sense of."

Nji said, while the Black Lives Matter movement is certainly not unique to Iowa, it has roots here. She sees a through-line between Iowa's involvement in the Underground Railroad and Black Iowans' past and present, she said.

"What we are experiencing now is absolutely directly connected to centuries of history," Nji said. "And so, for me, it was a really intentional decision to try to create something that tied a historical context of race relations to contemporary art."



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

A map of the Black Hawk Purchase in the 1903-1905 edition of *Annals of Iowa* is seen.

"It's a story of who we are at the time that I was creating the piece — as a community, as a state, as a country."

— UI graduate and artist Akwi Nji

5 p.m. | A Service for All Ages
7 p.m. | A Service Led by the Choir & Organ
11 p.m. | A Service with Communion

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City
www.saintandrew-ic.org | bit.ly/SAPCYouTube

845 Pepperwood Ln. | Iowa City
(319) 354-3331

Sunday, December 19
10:45 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Service
6:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Program

Friday, December 24
4:00 & 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service
Includes selections from the Messiah

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Congregation of ELCA

All Christmas Eve services include communion and candle lighting.

Visitors, please call the office by 12/23 to sign up so we know which service you'll be attending.

December 24 - Christmas Eve
3pm - The Christmas Story
5pm - Gathered 'round The Manger
7pm - The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25 - Christmas Day
10am - Christmas Worship

123 E Market St | 319.338.2893 | www.gatheredbygrace.org

St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center
404 E. Jefferson St. Iowa City | 319.337.3652

Christmas Eve Service 7-8pm

Website: stpaulic.com - check out our website for a calendar of upcoming events
Facebook: St Pauls Lutheran Chapel and University Center • Twitter: @StPaulsIowaCity