

The Daily Iowan

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After two years



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Darcy Havel-Sturdevant poses for a portrait on March 23.

COVID-19 patients with chronic symptoms wrestle with short-term memory loss, respiratory issues, and seizures. While some report recovery, many are left without a prognosis.

Anthony Neri
News Reporter

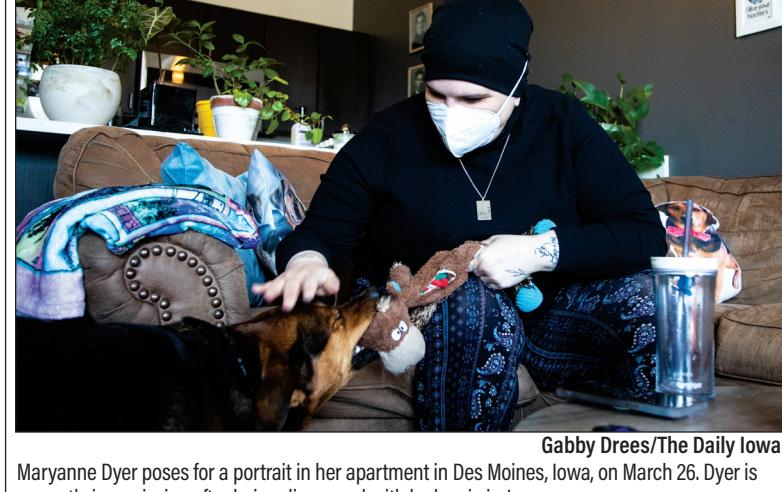
"I don't want to be disabled, but I know I'm disabled," said Darcy Havel-Sturdevant, who contracted COVID-19 in April 2020 and still suffers long-term symptoms.

Havel-Sturdevant, an Iowa City resident and for-

mer clerk at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said she is currently on long-term disability assistance and has been since her first COVID-19 infection in April 2020. Following her diagnosis, she had a fever for about four months.

"By the time the fever came out of it, I was left

LONG COVID | Page 2



Maryanne Dyer poses for a portrait in her apartment in Des Moines, Iowa, on March 26. Dyer is currently in remission after being diagnosed with leukemia in June.

During a dip in COVID-19 cases, people with compromised immune systems remain as wary of the virus as ever.

Sam Knupp
News Reporter

As much of the public returns to crowded restaurants and movie theaters amid lower COVID-19 cases and relaxed guidelines from federal health officials, many immunocompromised people still grapple with high risk.

According to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 5 to 7 million people in the U.S. have compromised immune systems, with

many at a greater risk if they contract the virus.

Marion resident Sandy Anderson, 78, was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in February 2021. She said that, before the pandemic began, she and her husband, who is immunocompromised because of rheumatoid arthritis, were out and about all the time.

Now, Anderson and her husband order all their groceries online, pick

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED | Page 2

INSIDE

Candidates file for Johnson County Supervisors race

Democrats V Fixmer-Oraiz, Mallory Hellman, and Seth Zimmerman and Republicans Phil Hemingway and Jammie Bradshaw have joined incumbent Jon Green in the hunt for two seats on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. The Democratic primary is slated for June 7.

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Patrick Johnson and Vera Barkosky run for USG executive ticket

The University of Iowa's Undergraduate Student Government will host elections for its executive ticket on March 28-30. Patrick Johnson and Vera Barkosky are running unopposed on four pillars they believe will improve the university.

Page 6

Iowa City Neighborhood Services Division grant to bring equity in housing policy

A grant awarded to the Iowa City Neighborhood Services Division by the Reinvestment Fund, an external fund company, aims to bring more equity to the city's housing policy.

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ONLINE



Pride Alliance Center hosts events centered on discovery and expression

Through the Find My Community event, Find My Style event, and Find My Home Away From Home event, the Pride Alliance Center hosted events to celebrate pride in the spring.

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DITV

Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage at [dailiyowan.com](#)



Ayton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics nurses are seeing fewer numbers of COVID-19 patients in the Intensive Care and mother/baby care units.

Sabine Martin
News Editor

Work in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Intensive Care Unit for nurse Madeline Volk has been more than intense over the past year.

On her first shift in July 2021, five patients in the ICU died from COVID-19. Volk said that some days the whole unit, 26 beds, was full of COVID-19 patients.

"It was tough because there was a lot of death hitting and a lot of things were just hitting me early

on in my nursing career," she said. "For right now, it isn't as big as it was in the hospital at least. It is almost like I am transitioning from school to work again."

Lydia Leyden, a UI College

HEALTH CARE | Page 3



Rachel Young, associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, works with a group of students in her class in the Adler Journalism Building on March 24. (Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan).

University of Iowa faculty reflect on the evolution of education since the beginning of COVID-19.

Kate Perez
News Reporter

After two years, the University of Iowa and higher education overall continue to adapt to changes implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The university lost millions of dollars and many professors switched to online schooling for

the very first time when COVID-19 began.

The financial impacts of COVID-19 at the UI

The university took a financial hit after the pandemic began. The UI lost over \$185 million from March 2020 to February 2021 because of tuition revenue losses, refunds to students, COVID-19 response expenses, and state budget cuts.

The net total included federal aid that the university received from various funds, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, or HEERF:

- HEERF I, or the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020 was signed into law on March 27,

EDUCATION | Page 3

IC economy on the road to recovery

For the last two years, Iowa City government and local businesses have contended with the financial impacts of COVID-19.

Ryan Hansen
News Reporter

More than two years after Johnson County identified Iowa's first case of COVID-19, Iowa City officials have worked to reduce the financial impact of the pandemic on the local economy.

Businesses and the local government contended with drastic shifts in operations, costs, revenues, and more, when Iowa City first felt the impact of COVID-19.

Iowa City City Councilor Janice Weiner said there was a broad impact early in the pandemic, with parking services, city transit, and payments into the water fund all experiencing losses.

Some of the impacts to services like Iowa City Transit continue to this day, she said, with the city's transit ridership still around 60 percent of pre-pandemic totals.

"In the middle of a pandemic, the very last thing you want is for anyone to lose access to water when they can't afford it," Weiner said.

Early on, city council officials used funds placed aside to try to revitalize Iowa City businesses. Weiner said bars and restaurants were heavily impacted by shutdowns and restrictions.

As Iowa City residents settled into the pandemic, Weiner said the takeout business increased and consumers were keen to visit restaurants, especially to eat outside, beginning in summer 2020.

"Parks and Rec moved a lot of picnic tables out of parks and into the downtown area, especially for the spring, summer, and fall period, so that more people could eat outside," Weiner said.

The city also helped small businesses by providing grants, Weiner said, especially for businesses run by people of color.

Nancy Bird, executive director of the Iowa City Downtown District, said the pandemic drastically impacted the downtown district in its first few months, with a number of locations going out of business.

She said consumer behavior changed during the pandemic, resulting in a shift to online activity, such as to-go orders.

Businesses in the district had to adapt over the past two years, Bird said, opening up channels for online ordering to keep consumers' business.

Some of the money that was in the district in the past, however, has gone to larger competitors, she added.

ECONOMY | Page 2



Jacob Rohr and Alyssa Wasmund pick out food at Aspen Leaf Frozen Yogurt in Iowa City on March 27. Rohr and Wasmund went out to eat after the University Choir and Special Guest Iowa City High School Concert at the Voxman Music Building.

LONG COVID

Continued from Front

with all these cognitive difficulties that I couldn't even drive myself to work if I wanted to," she said. "I would have fallen asleep at the desk and not been able to drive there. It would've been a nightmare."

The symptoms Havel-Sturdevant described are common among patients with chronic COVID-19, also called "long COVID," when symptoms caused by the virus extend beyond 12 weeks after contracting it.

Alpana Garg, a clinical as-

long-haulers do. She cautioned, though, that survey studies cannot be taken as absolutes.

When Havel-Sturdevant was first infected with the virus, vaccines were not available.

In April 2020, Havel-Sturdevant received a dual diagnosis of mycoplasma pneumoniae, a type of bacterial pneumonia, and COVID-19. She said she suffered a sore throat, coughs, headaches, shortness of breath, and gastrointestinal issues.

Havel-Sturdevant said she could not drive or function normally in general and was upset that she could not

she said.

"You can't focus; you can't function," she said. "You can barely get yourself off the couch."

Havel-Sturdevant was re-infected with COVID-19 in December 2021.

"The second infection was really weird because it started off like a really bad flu — like a flu on steroids," she said. "It was the worst headache. I had to get injections monthly because of my post-COVID problems."

About a week-and-a-half into her second infection, Havel-Sturdevant said her symptoms became exclusively respiratory.

"It all went into my lungs," she said.

She said her shortness of breath has slowly gotten better since her second infection, though the same is not true of her neurological issues.

Garg said the memory issues that long-haulers experience are subtle. COVID-19 patients have trouble multitasking and often forget words, but receive average scores on cognitive tests, she said.

"Never in my life had I ever gotten a migraine,"

Havel-Sturdevant said. "It's just not me. And then I get COVID, and a month-and-a-half later after my first infection, [I get] daily debilitating migraines. Then, the memory and processing issues."

She said the second infection caused seizures as well.

"I had an EEG done that showed seizure activity, so I just recently started medication for that," she said.

Havel-Sturdevant began taking Alzheimer's disease medication after completing a neuro-psych evaluation.

Although Havel-Sturdevant is not working, she said she has started driving again, though her mother needs to accompany and supervise her, as her symptoms still have sway.

While some with long COVID-19 report recovery, Garg explained that no single treatment is yet known for the condition.

"They are symptomatic treatments, I would say," Garg said. "What are the problems, and which are bothering them the most? I would say there is no magic pill for them that makes everything go away."

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IMMUNITY

Continued from Front

up orders from restaurants, and order all other essential items on Amazon, she said.

"It bothers me to go out when I see people without masks, because I guess I wonder, Is this person that's next to me vaccinated? Are they not?" she said. "... But I don't think that we can keep on living in a bubble either. People have to try and get back to some sort of normalcy."

Anderson said that, despite their conditions, she and her husband have gone out in public on a few occasions since the beginning of the pandemic, including a meeting of the Eastern Star group, a Masonic organization, and their son's initiation into the organization.

Despite going out in public more often than she did early in the pandemic, Anderson said she doesn't necessarily feel safer.

Maryanne Dyer, a Des Moines resident who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in June 2021, said because of her diagnosis, she had to receive stem

cell treatments, which have helped her overall wellbeing but further compromised her immune system.

When a patient receives a stem cell transplant, it "basically wipes everything out," Dyer said. Because of this,

with compromised immune systems.

Dyer said she feels more could be done by those in positions of power to prevent the spread of COVID-19, adding that she doesn't appreciate that people have

I don't get that choice. You made that choice for me — that I have to stay in longer, that I have to double mask.

— Maryanne Dyer

she must get all the vaccines she received as a child, like chickenpox and MMR, a second time.

Dyer also has to restart her COVID-19 vaccination cycle, though she was vaccinated in early 2021.

"My stem cell transplant was in October, so that means my immune system is more or less six months old," she said.

Dyer was cleared to start receiving vaccines less than a month ago. In that time, she has received the flu vaccine, one dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and Evusheld, a COVID-19 prevention therapy for people

turned it into a talking point regarding freedom.

"I don't get that freedom," she said. "I don't get that choice. You made that choice for me — that I have to stay in longer, that I have to double mask. I can't go into a grocery store to get my medication for my leukemia, because you made it about freedom."

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds ended pandemic disaster proclamations on Feb. 3, also ending state-run COVID-19 reporting and vaccine information websites.

As cases and hospitalizations continue falling, other states are paring back their

pandemic measures, with Hawaii becoming the last state to end its mask mandate on March 25. Sam Hutchinson, a Portland, Oregon, resident who is in a Facebook group for immunocompromised people with Dyer, has dealt with kidney failure and takes immunosuppressants to combat it, he said.

He said he feels like immunocompromised people haven't been fully considered as the public returns to normal.

"I just want to be acknowledged for the struggles we're having and for somebody to take a serious thought of what can be done to help us," he said. "I'm not a fan of the dismissive, 'We care about you, but just wear masks, you'll be okay.' Again, that's not reassuring."

Hutchinson lives with his wife and their two kids, who are 7 and 12 years old. Oregon kept K-12 classes online until March 2021.

With this, Hutchinson and his wife had to make a decision about letting their kids go to in-person classes. They ultimately decided to let their kids go back to school in person, he said, because

of the difficulties they faced with online classes.

"

"After the first three weeks of them being in school, it felt like they'd learned more than they had the entire year of remote learning," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson

said

COVID-19 has kept him

from pastimes like traveling

around Oregon and going to places with his family.

Despite his condition, he said he's started going to watch Portland's hockey team again.

"I double mask, which is super uncomfortable, but I deal with it," he said.

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Maryanne Dyer poses for a portrait in her apartment in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday, March 26. Dyer is currently in remission after being diagnosed with leukemia June 2021.

The Daily Iowan

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Long COVID symptoms

- fatigue
- difficulty breathing
- cough
- joint pain
- memory loss
- increased heart rate
- fever
- depression or anxiety
- dizziness
- chest pain
- loss of taste or smell
- muscle pain
- headache

Source: Mayo Clinic

of the difficulties they faced with online classes.

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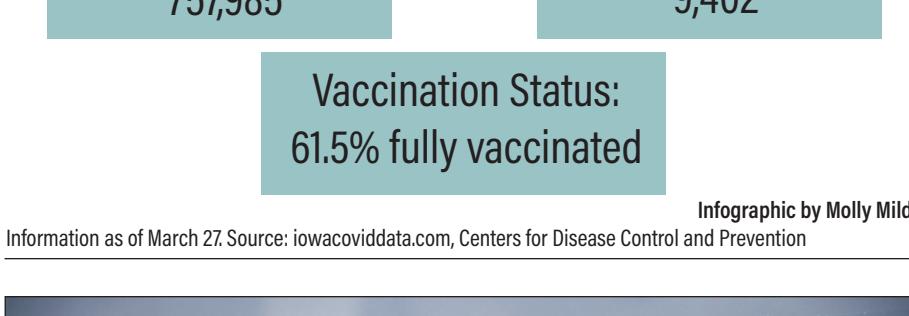
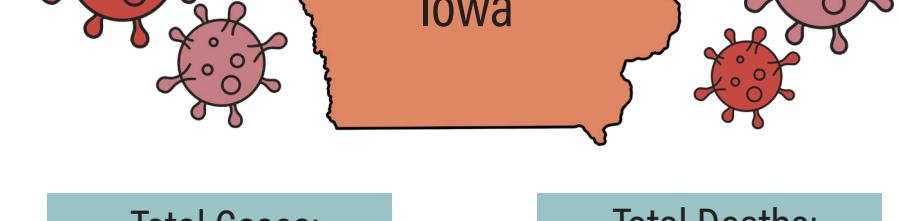
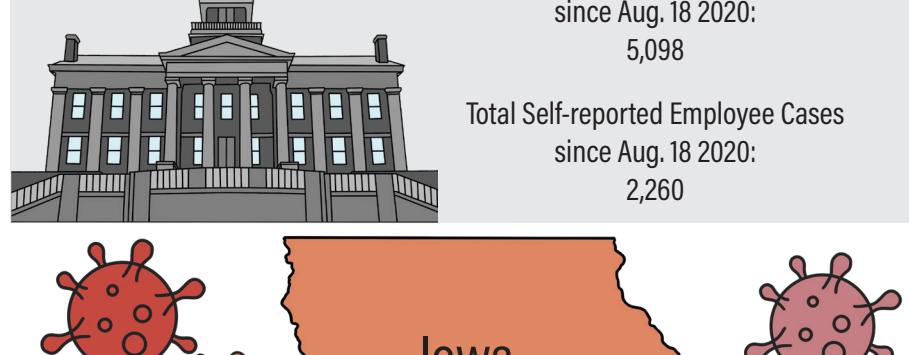
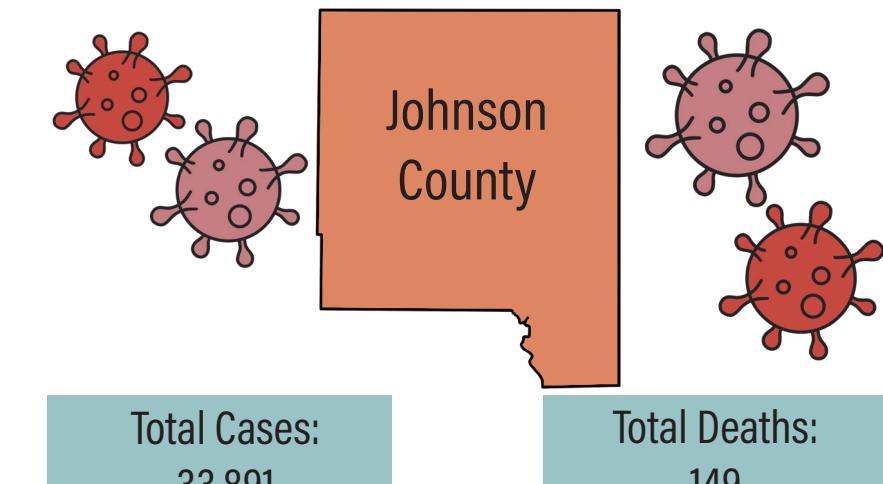
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Information as of March 27. Source: iowacoviddata.com, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



A "Now hiring" sign is displayed at the future location of The Stuffed Olive and Tap Tap on the Ped Mall on March 24.

ECONOMY

Continued from Front

"A lot of the money that may have once been in the local market has departed through Amazon," Bird said. "Behavior change, re-inviting people downtown — which I think is happening — are things that we're going to be working on."

Downtown businesses were given funding through multiple channels between the local, state, and federal levels, Bird said, including loans provided by the Paycheck Protection Program, which allowed businesses to apply for federal money to sustain and help move their business forward.

"There were PPP loans, there were a number of grants that were offered locally to support these businesses and venues during the height of the pandemic," Bird said.

"That funding was used to help support keeping employees and investments back into the business."

Bird said the pandemic provided businesses, and

the district as a whole, with the opportunity to evolve by accelerating processes like the shift to online ordering and more widely available patio seating.

"We're evolving out of this and learning from it and coming out on top, better than we were before," Bird said.

Iowa City Finance Director Nicole Davies said a broad range of city departments dealt with revenue reduction, but the impact to the city as a whole was not massive.

The city incurred unexpected costs through the purchase of personal protective equipment, such as masks, Davies said.

Cleaning costs increased in some areas, she said, but was offset by less frequent cleaning in the closed city buildings.

"Our parking ramps are cleaned, but then there would have been cost-saving in some other areas," Davies said.

"There's cleaning done at our rec centers, but they were closed for a good portion [early in the pandemic]."

Weiner said the city council is providing these organizations with additional funding to aid those unable to pay rent or utilities.

"The focus has been, to the extent we can, to help keep people whole, [and] make sure that they don't lose their water, to make sure that they keep going," Weiner said. "I hope that we will reap some of the benefits of that as a community of people who care for each other."

provided with the opportunity for loans out of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Additional funding for the city came from the American Rescue Plan Act, though Davies said the Iowa City City Council has only spent a small portion of the money as of March 2022.

In addition to a federal moratorium on evictions, Weiner and the City Council channeled funds through local resources such as the Shelter House and the Center for Worker Justice.

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Most UI classes took place in person before the pandemic, with less than 20 percent held online. As COVID-19 cases began to rise in the U.S. and Iowa, the university shifted fully online, ushering professors and students into new territory.

Rachel Young, a UI associate professor and director of the undergraduate journalism and mass communication program, said her students have enjoyed her online courses and the ability to work on the courses when they see fit.

"My lectures have been asynchronous, which means I record them," she said. "I actually put them on YouTube so that way it's

Sandy Daack-Hirsch, UI professor and executive associate dean of the College of Nursing, said trying to have all students complete their clinicals while being safe proved to be one of the most diffi-

cult aspects of the nursing program during the early months of the pandemic.

The program contains 80 students per cohort and had to rotate students through clinical sessions so they could get their hours and graduate on time.

"We all went online as much as possible, but in the College of Nursing, students still have to have clinical practicum hours," Daack-Hirsch said. "You still have to have contact with your patients, and you still have to be able to perform certain skills in real time."

She said that, in the last two years, students and faculty took extra precaution by wearing PPE to protect against contracting the virus. Nursing program classes were in person during the fall 2020 semester, despite the university being otherwise online.

Daack-Hirsch said it was difficult for students to ensure that they kept others in their cohort and the nursing program safe.

At one point, the program had "mini contact tracing" in place to ensure the college could monitor who was sick and how to help them stay on track to graduate.

To be in person, students had to have masks and face shields and so did the faculty, and then pretty much had to treat all of our education environment as if we were caring for patients in that environment so that we could minimize transmission of COVID," she said.

While navigating COVID-19 as an educator, Young said she tries to be aware of the transitions that continually happen and to use those times as an opportunity to reflect.

"There's no way to go back to the world the way it was, even if we wanted to," she said. "If anything, it has been positive...It was really challenging, but we've had to think about why we do things the way we do, and that can be a positive because it causes you to be a lot more intentional about something."

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Source: federalpay.com

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Opinions

COLUMN

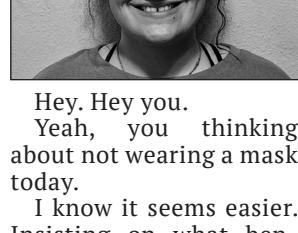
Dear self: A two-year retrospective

The Daily Iowan's Opinions section reflects on the challenges faced and lessons learned two years into the pandemic.

No one knew when COVID-19 swept across the world life would never be the same. We thought there would be an "end." We thought life would go back to "normal." We never expected to still be living in a pandemic two years later.

For University of Iowa students, our experiences have been unique. Some of us are seniors who only got to have a full year of the "normal" college experience. Others of us are underclassmen, and have yet to live that experience.

As we hit the 2-year mark of COVID-19, *The Daily Iowan's* Opinions section reflects on the lessons, experiences, and hardships we have faced through the pandemic.



Hey. Hey you.

Yeah, you thinking about not wearing a mask today.

I know it seems easier. Insisting on what benefits your health puts another target on your back with a nonremovable "other" label on this campus. People can roll their eyes or complain at your requests. Keep advocating for your safety on campus.

You aren't a burden. Your conditions aren't your fault. You have a right to safe learning environments, too.

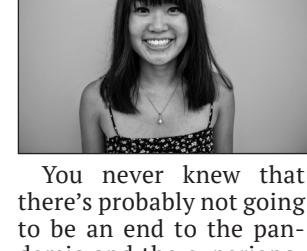
While everyone else goes back to their version of normal, don't allow yourself to fall into wishful thinking and copy their actions. COVID-19 is still dangerous to you.

Wear your mask, keep your distance, and graduate. Find a college that does better to protect students like you. Find a university community who cares.

On June 8, you'll have hit four years of remission. Then, one year until tumor free. Inshallah. Stay healthy for this celebration. You've almost made it.

That's why you wear your mask. It's okay to feel alienated, disgruntled, or even scared. Don't let those feelings encourage harmful decisions.

You matter.
Sincerely,
Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist



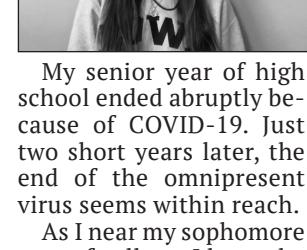
You never knew that there's probably not going to be an end to the pandemic and the experiences that are to come during your college career.

You thought 2020 was going to be the hardest, but you didn't know 2021 was going to put you through some of your toughest challenges. The pandemic isn't over, but we've made progress. Yes, there have been tears. But there are vaccines. There are booster shots. There's hope.

But you ended up in a better place, one you had no idea you needed to be in. You've gotten amazing opportunities, found new connections with friends, and rediscovered yourself.

Keep looking ahead, you've got this.

Sincerely,
Hannah Pinski
Opinions and Amplify Editor



My senior year of high school ended abruptly because of COVID-19. Just two short years later, the end of the omnipresent virus seems within reach.

As I near my sophomore year of college, I hope the second half of my higher-education journey is different.

I want to see my classmates' faces. I don't want to get a COVID-19 test every time I have a sore throat. I want to sit in a lecture and not worry about getting sick. I want to see my parents on the weekends without the fear of possibly infecting them.

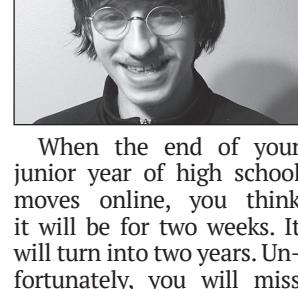
My desires are not unique, and I imagine every other student wants this experience.

But in Iowa, the end of COVID-19 seems impossible. If our leaders choose to follow their

own agenda and not allow for the guidance of scientists, it's hard to imagine the virus ever passing. As much as I want to move beyond COVID-19, we all need to be smart about the actions and decisions we make now, because they will affect our future.

I want my college experience to end differently than how it began. But that's only possible if everyone does their part.

Sincerely,
Sophia Meador
Opinions Columnist



When the end of your junior year of high school moves online, you think it will be for two weeks. It will turn into two years. Unfortunately, you will miss out on traditional, exciting moments of your life, like high school graduation, and taking your first steps on campus as a freshman at the university you have always wanted to go to as a kid growing up in Iowa City.

The pandemic will make you realize that you don't need life to be a certain way to enjoy it. You'll still get to enjoy things like having your first story published and working as a columnist for *The Daily Iowan*. No matter how bad

life or the world gets, there will always be good, you just have to find it.

Cordially,
Luke Krchak
Opinions Columnist

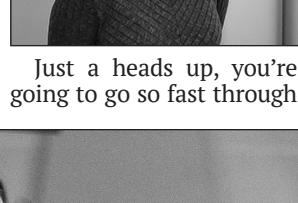


Two years ago, you couldn't have imagined coming home from studying abroad because of a pandemic.

A year later, you wouldn't have imagined people would refuse, not only to wear masks, but the very thing we begged for to return back to "normal": vaccines.

You could not have imagined how the pandemic would continue even after vaccines became available. Clearly, the past two years have taught us there are a lot of things in the world we cannot control, but you and the world will find a way to grow through it.

Sincerely,
Yassie Buchanan
Opinions Columnist



Just a heads up, you're going to go so fast through

life. You're going to forget most of this upcoming year. The summer will be a blur, and then suddenly, you'll be back on campus.

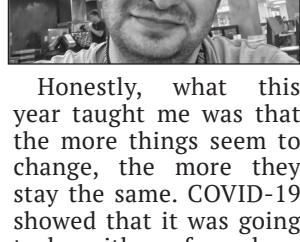
Your apartment is going to be your safe haven, but you're going to spend most of your time in classes. You heard me

— in-person classes. Despite the masks, it'll be fun. Instead of seeing everyone's smiling faces, you'll compliment their masks, which is just as good.

This will be your new "normal" and, not going to lie, it's okay. You find your way at some point after stumbling. Sadly, I cannot give you the time and effort you deserve, busy with graduating. But I believe in you. You're a survivor.

Soon, instead of surviving, you'll be living.

Sincerely,
Signe Nettum
Opinions Contributor

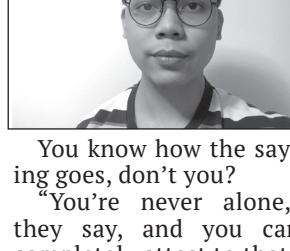


Honestly, what this year taught me was that the more things seem to change, the more they stay the same. COVID-19 showed that it was going to be with us for a long time, if not indefinitely.

Political tensions got worse than they were be-

fore, and overall, it was an insanely stressful year. It feels like both went by too quickly, yet were seemingly never ending. But keep hanging on, you've got this.

Sincerely,
Peter Anders
Opinions Contributor



You know how the saying goes, don't you?

"You're never alone," they say, and you can completely attest to that.

After all, if that were not the case, you know you wouldn't be where you are today.

You wouldn't be in your two-bedroom apartment, waking up every day with excitement for what adventures may come. You wouldn't have the burning resolve to succeed that you have right now. You wouldn't be in the best state you've ever been in since COVID-19 began.

You know some battles are just better fought together, so you've been fighting by everyone's this whole time.

Thank goodness we're never alone, right?

Sincerely,
Kyle Tristan Ortega
Opinions Columnist

daily-iowan@uiowa.edu



University of Iowa student Kyleigh Harm receives the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in the Iowa Memorial Union on April 21, 2021.

Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

DOCTOR IS IN

Why woodpeckers don't need helmets

A woodpecker's ability to avoid traumatic brain injury might just provide us with strategies in which we could also limit traumatic brain injuries in sports.

On a walk through City Park, or perhaps even in your own backyard, you may have heard the percussive pitch of a woodpecker's beak — a wondrous jackhammer that can peck up to 20 times per second.

Equally impressive is how, despite pecking at high velocity and for prolonged periods, the woodpecker exhibits no signs of disorientation or distress. This extraordinary ability has led scientists to think of an unexpected application: American football.

Recently there has been increased concern over brain damage that may arise from repetitive head injuries, such as concussions or the more insidious and deadly chronic traumatic encephalopathy that stalks retired players. Across all levels of play, organizers and players of contact sports are eager to better understand how brain damage arises and how to reduce injuries due to impact.

Since woodpeckers

depend on the grubs in living and dead wood as their primary source of food, being sidelined for even a brief period of injury would be fatal. It is estimated that woodpecker's accumulate up to 50 million head impacts over their career.

For comparison, a collegiate American footballer would have to play over 30,000 seasons of football to match the woodpecker. This begs the question: how do woodpeckers protect their

brain from damage?

Some scientists point to the woodpecker's brain size as a reason for resiliency; the bird's smaller brain is less vulnerable to injuries from forceful impacts. Others theorize that the shape and composition of their skull helps distribute the force more evenly so less is directed to the soft brain tissue.

The woodpecker skull is made of a spongy type of bone that acts as a shock absorber and is surrounded by the bird's

extraordinarily long tongue. Other structures dampen the impact as well, including a uniquely designed hyoid bone and strong neck musculature.

This triad of anatomic adaptations have inspired helmet manufacturers to try recreating the spongy bone protection and neck support to better protect our athletes.

Despite their impromptu forest concerts and daily physics-defying feats, woodpeckers

have somehow avoided the widespread fame and glory of our favorite sports heroes. Thankfully, they make frequent public appearances and often leave their circular autographs for their loyal fans.

While it may take time for scientists to completely publish the woodpecker playbook, you can be assured that they are my unofficial sports mascot.

-Brittany Todd, third-year Medical Scientist Training Program student

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be submitted via email to daily-iowan@uiowa.edu (as text, not attachments). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for clarity, length, and style.

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Meet the county supervisors candidates

Four Democrats and two Republicans are in the race for two open seats on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

Cooper Worth News Reporter

Four Democrats and two Republicans are running for two open seats on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

V Fixmer-Oraiz, Mallory Hellman, and Seth Zimmerman announced their candidacies this month for a position on the board in the Democratic Primary on June 7.

Phil Hemingway and Jammie Bradshaw announced their candidacies at the Johnson County Republican Convention on March 12.

They join Democratic incumbent Supervisor Jon Green, who also announced he would seek reelection.

The second open position on the board became available when Supervisor Pat Heiden announced last November that she would not run for reelection. The period for candidates to file for county office positions in Johnson County started March 7 and ended March 25.

Jon Green

Green, 39, was first elected to the board June 2021 in a special election to fill the position of Janelle Retting, who resigned after a decade on the board.

Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Green has lived most of his life in Johnson County and currently resides in Lone Tree.

 After graduating from Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa, in 2001, he was a journalist for several years, before working as Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal's press secretary from 2009-10.

Green later served one term as mayor of Lone Tree from 2018-19. He was also a delegate for independent Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 campaign for president and sat on the Iowa Democratic Party State Central Committee from 2016-18.

Green said his experience covering local government as a journalist and serving as mayor prepared him for his past year as a supervisor. His time as a board member has been an informative experience, he said.

"There's a lot of important stuff that the county is responsible for, and it's really been a wonderful opportunity to get to look into all the nooks and crannies of Johnson County," he said. "Getting to see a three-dimensional view of what the county is responsible for has been a valuable education."

Green said he doesn't mind that the dispersal of the American Rescue Plan Act funds has been a long process, because it shows citizens are invested in their local government.

"I'm happy that it has been a tumultuous process, because that means that people are involved," he said. "There are things that I wished had turned

out differently, but I'm very happy that the community and the other staff have been so involved in this because it's really a historic opportunity."

Green said he has fought for progressive causes for many years, and even if conservative residents don't agree with him politically, he is still willing to work with them.

"If you go back to last year's special election, I did not do the best in rural parts [of the county]," Green said. "But, at the same time, even if folks there don't necessarily appreciate my politics, I hope that they understand that I appreciate what's going on there, in a way that the other supervisors do not."

V Fixmer-Oraiz

Fixmer-Oraiz, 43, graduated from the University of Iowa in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning and has worked in planning in Johnson County for the past seven years, at an engineering firm in the private sector and then for nonprofit dealing in watershed planning and community development.

They founded Astig Planning, a firm dedicated to environmental and community planning with a focus on climate change and social justice, in 2019.

Fixmer-Oraiz lives in Iowa City with their partner, Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz, a professor at the University of Iowa. The couple has two children, ages 3 and 6.

 Fixmer-Oraiz said Johnson County is at a critical moment in regard to how to address residents' concerns as the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic has momentarily subsided.

"We need to be thinking about, how are we going to be healing from [the pandemic]? How are we going to be planning for a resilient future?" they said. "I think that we have an opportunity to embrace the future that we want to be a part of, instead of just business as usual."

Fixmer-Oraiz said their work running a business can translate nicely to a position as a supervisor due to their experience of managing budgets. Both jobs connect people to opportunities, they said.

"In the work I do, I'm about connecting people and building bridges, so as a supervisor, building those bridges and looking at plans long term is where a lot of the work gets done when looking at fringe area agreements and local food policy," they said. "Those are the things that I'm doing now, and I would like to continue doing it at a much higher level."

Fixmer-Oraiz said creating a more inclusive economic development to Johnson County is not only beneficial economically, but also helps serve unrep-

resented members of the community.

"I think anybody that has felt left out [are] the people that we need to make sure are being heard, and that we're creating plans and policies that uplift their voices, because they have that knowledge," they said. "It's not just the policy experts — it's the people that are being impacted on the ground."

Fixmer-Oraiz said an inclusive economic development culture that values the experiences of everyone will help the county and the state thrive.

"We understand that, in Iowa, people are leaving. If we can have a more diverse and inclusive economic area, then people are going to want to move here," they said. "Let's diversify and get people out [in the community] that really can make a difference."

Mallory Hellman

Hellman, 36, came to Johnson County in 2010 to attend the Iowa Writers' Workshop after graduating from Harvard University with a degree in English and American literature in 2008.

Hellman started volunteering at organizations around Iowa City, including at the Iowa Juvenile Home and the Iowa Youth Writing Project.

 Hellman has been the director of the Iowa Youth Writing Project since 2015, and said working with kids both in and out of the juvenile system opened her eyes to disparities in child-care.

"It was in noticing these disparities and realizing that they were a microcosm of the disparities in the county at large that I started thinking, What can we do about this? How can we go about closing these gaps?" Hellman said.

Hellman said she started paying close attention to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors in summer 2020, during the Black Lives Matter protests.

"I saw there was unrest in the City Council, there was unrest at the county level, and I realized that I didn't have a clear idea of where those differentiations were in terms of which group was in charge of what," she said. "I quickly realized that the county is about so much more than land allotment [and] bidding for construction projects."

Hellman said that, while attending several City Council and supervisors' meetings for the last year-and-a-half, she found herself questioning the decisions of the supervisors.

She said she would approach projects differently.

"I found myself kind of backseat driving in these debates that were happening at the Board of Supervisor meetings and saying, 'Well, I would have answered that different-

ly,' and, 'Hasn't this person looked at this thing?'" Hellman said.

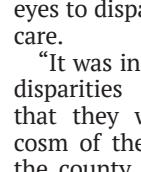
Hellman said she was strongly against the county's proposed purchase of a Lenco BearCat G2 armored vehicle earlier this year. If elected, she said she would revisit the conversation of the need for military vehicles in Johnson County.

"I think that we need to get rid of the MRAP that we do have," Hellman said. "I think we have absolutely no business with a militarized vehicle here in the county, and I'd like to see motion to get rid of it."

Hellman said she supports Supervisors Green and Rod Sullivan in voting against the lottery system in disrupting funds for the Direct Assistance Program, and wished the funding was going directly to excluded workers.

"I really think we could have, in a more concerted way, put these funds toward excluded workers and that the current eligibility requirements for the lottery system still leave a lot of excluded people unserved and untouched by this aid that was ostensibly meant for them," Hellman said.

Hellman said she has been involved in agriculture since graduating high school.

 Hellman

Hell

Johnson, Barkosky, make unopposed run for top USG spots

The two UI students, both current student-government executives, are running for the executive ticket on four pillars for the 2022 Undergraduate Student Government election.

Alliyah Lipsit
News Reporter

Patrick Johnson and Vera Barkosky are running unopposed for the 2022 Undergraduate Student Government executive ticket on four pillars: belonging, empowerment, service, and transparency.

Johnson, a third-year who is currently the USG director of finance, said the pair are focusing on the four pillars because they believe them to be important traits that need to be

- Encouraging more campus involvement among students

Johnson added that transparency is important for empowerment and belonging among students on campus, and has been a point of criticism toward USG from students in the past.

"One of the biggest complaints I've heard from outside of student government is that it's just not that accessible, a lot of people don't know what

body as a whole, and working with people that we already have established relationships with."

Smock said the next president and vice president should be able to work as a team and see the positions as equal, which she said is often lacking in student-government leadership.

Barkosky said she and Johnson share a similar belief when it comes to an ability to work together.

"We always want to weigh all of our options, but we also have different opinions when it comes to certain things," Barkosky said. "I think that's why we work well together, as well. We can come to a consensus in a nice, respectful way, and it always ends up making our work more impactful."

Johnson met Barkosky in 2020 during his first full year in USG. He said he interviewed her for her position on USG.

Johnson said that, over the last year, he's been able to see firsthand how Barkosky works and connects with people inside and outside of USG, and that he and Barkosky click.

He attributes his and Barkosky's teamwork to an alignment of priorities and values.

"She's an extremely hard worker, and she's accountable," Johnson said. "That's everything I could want in someone to run with me," Johnson said.

alliyah-lipsit@uiowa.edu

- With these pillars, we aim to make sure that, when students come to the University of Iowa, every single one of them feels like they have a place and are welcome in the community in one way or another."**
- Patrick Johnson, USG presidential candidate

incorporated into student government.

"With these pillars, we aim to make sure that, when students come to the University of Iowa, every single one of them feels like they have a place and are welcome in the community in one way or another," Johnson said.

Voting for the USG president, vice president, and senators will take place March 28-30. If elected, Johnson and Barkosky will replace outgoing USG President Regan Smock and Vice President Jack Lauer.

Students can vote through the MyUI student information page or on campus, where various voting tables will be set up.

Johnson and Barkosky said they hope to provide a sense of belonging and empowerment to UI students by emphasizing student needs and services like:

- Hosting more events in collaboration with other student organizations

We always want to weigh all of our options, but we also have different opinions when it comes to certain things. I think that's why we work well together, as well. We can come to a consensus in a nice, respectful way, and it always ends up making our work more impactful!"

— Vera Barkosky, USG Vice Presidential Candidate



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

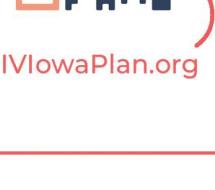
University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Patrick Johnson and Vera Barkosky, respectively, pose for a portrait at the Voxman Building in Iowa City on March 26.

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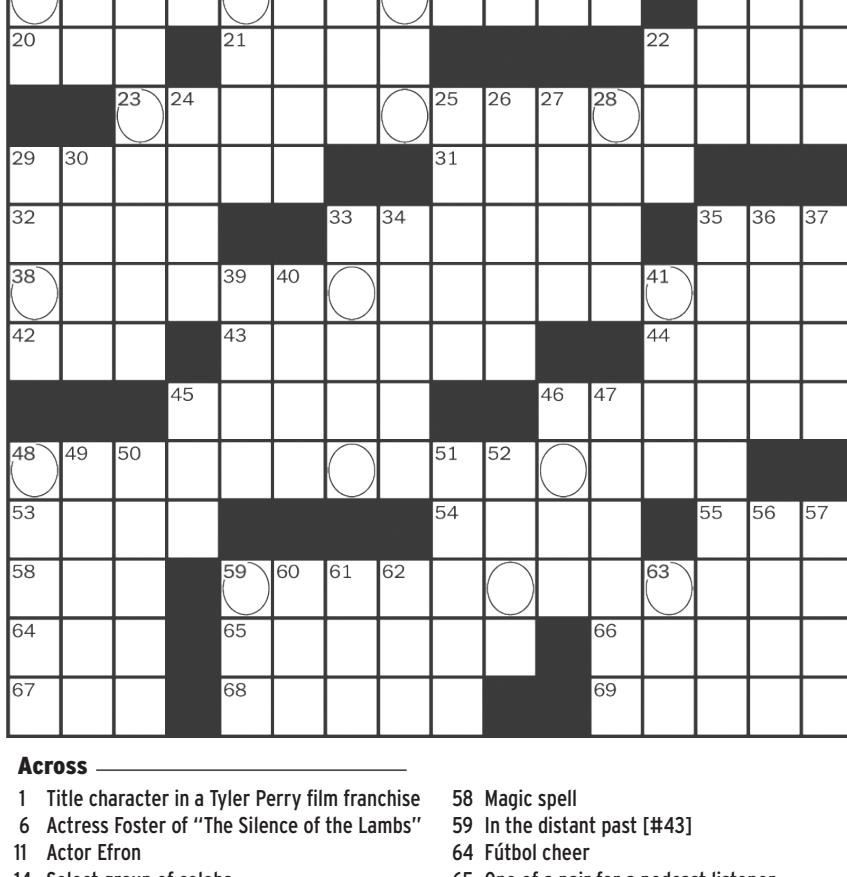


To learn more & get involved, visit StopHIVIowaPlan.org

The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0221



Across

- Title character in a Tyler Perry film franchise
- Actress Foster of "The Silence of the Lambs"
- Actor Efron
- Select group of celebs
- Relatively safe investment security
- "That tastes terrible!"
- On a whim [#35]
- West with the classic movie line "I'm no 45-Across ..."
- Largest movie theater chain in the U.S.
- Facts and figures, in brief
- Baseball slugger's stat
- Denim pants with a red tab label [#36]
- Complete one round of reps
- It may fill up during a vacation
- Inter ___ (among others)
- "Love your work!"
- Longtime electronics company
- Where domestic meals are enjoyed [#32]
- Den fixtures
- Give an earful
- Padlock fastener
- Heavenly sort
- Nuclear experiments, for short
- "On the other hand ..." [#33]
- That's a joke"
- Schlep
- Chart-topper

Down

- "The Naked ___" (Goya painting)
- School reunion attendee, informally
- Denies any association with
- "To the max" suffix
- When happy hour often begins
- Dylan, lead singer of the Wallflowers
- Kimono sash
- Only dwarf with a three-letter name
- Pen fluid
- Mag. staffers
- Dance-based fitness program
- Once more
- "The Queen's Gambit" game
- Pound sounds
- "Don't bet ___"
- Tyrannosaurus ___
- Actor Morales
- Jungle vine

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GRIFOLS

26 Not suitable, as for a job

27 Israeli statesman Abba

28 "Fear of Flying" author Erica

29 Absurd or foolish

30 Patron saint of Norway

33 Keeps the engine running, without moving

34 Actress Jovovich of "The Fifth Element"

35 Christmas entrees

36 Tag line?

37 Electrical units

39 Country singer Loretta

40 Safecracker

41 Relative of an ostrich or emu

45 Assistance

46 Lead-in to girl

47 "And ___ off!" (start of a race)

48 Spousal greeting

49 "The Jungle Book" wolf

50 One of Santa's reindeer

51 He troubleshoots Macs and PCs

52 Pulitzer-winning columnist Maureen

56 Frozen drink brand

57 Some boxing decisions, in brief

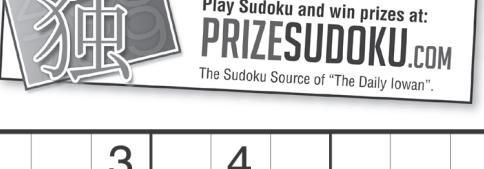
59 Understand

60 Rowboat propeller

61 Savings for old age, for short

62 "S.N.L." network

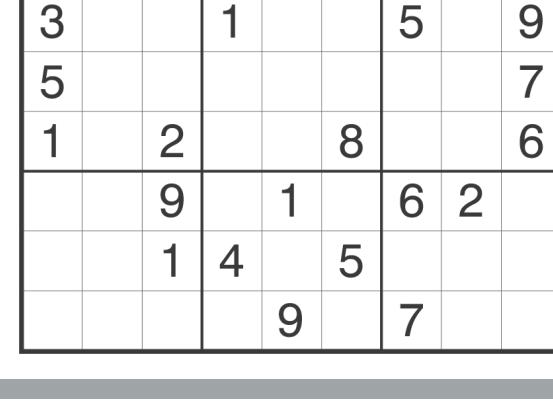
63 ___ constrictor



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MBB

Continued from Page 8

G – Tony Perkins... top scoring option?

The Hawkeyes won 12 of their final 15 games after Perkins was inserted into the starting lineup in February. I don't think that's a coincidence.

Perkins averaged 11 points per game and shot 43.8 percent from the field in March, all while playing strong defense on the perimeter. His ability to create his own shot is a reason why he may be Iowa's top scoring option heading into his junior season.

While Perkins continues to start at shooting guard, I'd expect Joe Toussaint to assume the starting point guard position again. Will that last this time around? Toussaint started the first 21 games of his junior season before being moved to the bench. While he still played out of control at moments, Toussaint provided a spark off the bench during the second half of the season. When Iowa needed a steal (or five), someone to dive out of bounds after a ball, or elite quickness in transition or on a drive, Toussaint was the answer. He should get another shot at being Iowa's primary ball-handler.

As for other players in the backcourt, expect Payton Sandfort to be Iowa's top scoring option off the bench, although I think there's a chance he could crack the starting lineup (maybe Perkins starts at

point?). Sandfort shot 36.6 percent from deep as a freshman. He hit huge back-to-back 3s on consecutive possessions in the Big Ten Tournament Championship Game. Expect a big jump for the sophomore next season. I see a Joe Wieskamp-caliber player in the lengthy sharpshooter from Waukee.

Ahron Ulis will be another key bench guard piece, likely as the No. 2 point guard.

F – Kris Murray's turn to break out

There will still be one Murray on the Hawkeyes next season. A good one, too.

Kris Murray was Iowa's leading bench scorer (9.7 points per game) last season and shot 38.7 percent from three. Kris will take Keegan's place in the starting lineup next season. I'm not saying to expect Kris to have the type of season next year that his identical twin just had, but I don't think it's a stretch to say he has All-Big Ten potential. We've seen flashes of Keegan's phenomenal play in Kris.

Enough with the Murrys. Onto the McCafferys.

Patrick McCaffery will be Iowa's leading scorer among returning players. He enters his second year as a starter after posting 10.5 points per game in year one. Connor McCaffery went through Senior Night ceremonies and hasn't committed to coming back for a final season, but I would expect him to.



Iowa forward Patrick McCaffery attempts to get the ball past Richmond forward Matt Grace during the first round of the NCAA Men's Championship between Iowa and Richmond at KeyBank Center in Buffalo, New York, on March 17. McCaffery earned 18 points. The Spiders defeated the Hawkeyes, 67-63.

Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

The elder McCaffery brother would provide Iowa with a versatile defender, reliable ball-handler, and even a capable shooter (how about that?) if he does come back for season No. 6.

C – Hello, transfer portal

Not exactly a "center" as much as a post player, but Filip Rebraca will be

back for his second season as a Hawkeye after posting 5.8 points and 5.6 rebounds per game in his first year after transferring in from North Dakota. Rebraca will likely be back in the starting lineup again. Still, expect Iowa to add another center/frontcourt piece from the transfer portal.

The only other centers on Iowa's roster are Josh

Ogundele and Riley Mulvey.

Ogundele can be a solid rotational piece against big teams like Purdue, as we saw in the Big Ten Tournament Championship Game. But the traditional "big man" doesn't exactly fit with Fran McCaffery's free-flowing offense. As for Mulvey, Fran McCaffery has said repeatedly that he will

be a good player for the Hawkeyes one day. I'm not sure that day is close to being here quite yet. A spot in the rotation isn't out of the question — he also played against Purdue when Iowa needed a big body — but it doesn't seem like he will play much of a role next season.

robert-read@uiowa.edu

WBB

Continued from Page 8

a Hawkeye.

Taiwo and Cook's transfer destinations remain unknown.

Excluding Taiwo and Cook, Iowa will likely re-

turn the entirety of its 2021-22 roster for the 2022-23 season. The Hawkeyes' starters — forward McKenna Warnock, Czinano, and guards Caitlin Clark, Kate Martin, and Gabbie Marshall — are all expected to return and play for the UI in 2022-23.

High school prospects Taylor McCabe, Jada Gyamfi, and Hannah Stuelke are also anticipated to join the fray at Iowa next season.

Gyamfi, McCabe, and Stuelke are all four-star recruits. Gyamfi and Stuelke are both from Iowa,

while McCabe hails from Nebraska.

McCabe and Stuelke are both perimeter players, per ESPN. Gyamfi is la-

beled as a forward in her ESPN recruiting profile.

The Hawkeyes have qualified for the NCAA Tournament in each of

the last five seasons. Iowa hasn't missed "The Big Dance" since 2016-17.

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa seniors Logan Cook and Tomi Taiwo get recognized after a women's basketball game between No. 21 Iowa and No. 6 Michigan at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 27. The Hawkeyes became regular-season Big Ten Champions after defeating the Wolverines, 104-80.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 8

get a smile on my face because I know we have strong leaders."

Iowa will play a three-game series against Maryland in College Park April 1-3. The three contests will be held at Maryland

Softball Stadium.

Next weekend's Iowa-Maryland games will start at 5 p.m., 1 p.m., and 11 a.m., respectively. All three contests will stream live on BTN+.

Just 23 games stand between the Hawkeyes and the 2022 Big Ten Tournament, which will be held at Secchia Stadium on

the Michigan State campus in East Lansing May 12-14.

The 2020 and 2021 Big Ten Tournaments were not played because of COVID-19. Last year's conference champion was determined via regular season standings.

benjamin-palya@uiowa.edu

the Michigan State campus in East Lansing May 12-14.

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Sports

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Bohannon to participate in 3-point contest

Hawkeye guard Jordan Bohannon has accepted an invitation to compete in the 2022 Men's College Basketball 3-point Championships, per a release.

Bohannon has made a Big Ten record 455 3-pointers during his six-year Hawkeye career. Duke's J.J. Reddick is the only men's college hooper to make more 3-pointers than Bohannon. Reddick made 457 shots from beyond the arc during his four-year Blue Devil career.

Bohannon holds four Iowa men's basketball records: assists (704), 3-pointers made (455), games played (179), and free throw percentage (.887).

Bohannon made 10 3-pointers during Iowa's Feb. 10 road game against Maryland. Eleven is the Big Ten's record for 3-pointers made in one game.

Bohannon is the sixth Hawkeye to ever participate in the event. Dean Oliver, Luke Recker, Jeff Horner, Adam Haluska, and Peter Jok all did so in 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2017, respectively. Jok won the event when he competed in it.

Intersport, a 37-year-old sports and lifestyle marketing company, is producing the 2022 men's slam dunk and 3-point contests. The event is sponsored by State Farm and will take place at Xavier University of Louisiana's Convocation Center. ESPN will provide live coverage of the action at 8 p.m. on March 31.

Intersport has yet to release full fields for its men's slam dunk and 3-point contests. A women's 3-point championship will also be held March 31. Winners of the men's and women's competitions will compete head-to-head in Intersport's "Battle of the Champions."

Yelverton, Ince leave Iowa football program

Offensive lineman Cody Ince and tight end Elijah Yelverton are no longer members of the Iowa football program, per a March 22 announcement.

Yelverton, a reserve player, approached Iowa's coaching staff before spring break and said he was going to finish the semester at Iowa and then finish his degree somewhere in his home state of Texas, Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said at a March 22 press conference. Ince, who saw significant playing time at guard over his career, despite battling several injuries, decided to forgo his fifth year at Iowa and will graduate with an engineering degree in May.

"Whether it's these two guys or anybody that leaves our program, we certainly wish them the best moving forward," Ferentz said. "And they're taking advantage of a new start as well. Wish them the best."

In other roster news, Logan Jones has moved from defensive line to offensive line (center), and Mike Timm has moved from linebacker to fullback.

Iowa Athletics extends Larissa Libby's contract

Iowa Athletics extended the contract of its head women's gymnastics coach on March 23. Larissa Libby, who has led the GymHawks for the last 18 seasons, will now remain in Iowa City through June 2026, per a release.

"Larissa continues to elevate the Iowa women's gymnastics program, both in the Big Ten and nationally," Hawkeye Athletics Director Gary Barta said via release. "Larissa has dedicated her life to this program, and she embodies the 'Win, Graduate, Do It Right' philosophy. I am excited to see this program continue to grow under Larissa's watch."

Libby has been on Iowa's coaching staff for 22 years. Libby has been named Big Ten Coach of the Year three times and NCAA Regional Coach of the Year twice.

Libby has coached nine Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) All-Americans, including national champion Alexis Maday. She's also directed 14 Big Ten Champions, five NCAA Regional Champions, and 10 NCAA Championship qualifiers.

Libby's 2022 squad will head to Raleigh, North Carolina, on March 31 to compete in the NCAA Regional Championships.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not really a politics guy."

— Former Iowa running back Tyler Goodson on U.S. presidents

STAT OF THE DAY

4.42

- Seconds it took Tyler Goodson to run the 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine.

Hawkeyes adopt fearless approach

Iowa softball has battled inexperience throughout the 2021-22 season.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Renee Gillispie observes action during a softball game between Iowa and Wisconsin at Bob Pearl Field in Iowa City on Friday. The Badgers defeated the Hawkeyes, 10-5.

Ben Palya
Sports Reporter

When Iowa softball dropped three of the four games it played from March 13-15, Renee Gillispie knew she needed to take action. So, the head coach of the Hawkeyes decided each member of her team should have an accountability partner.

Gillispie's accountability partnership program is designed to help the Hawkeyes implement and sustain winning habits both on and off the field.

"Having someone hold you accountable to make sure you are cheering

and staying positive was a key role to the second half of the trip," sophomore Denali Loecker said of a stretch that saw the Hawkeyes play 10 games in seven days. "Knowing that you are playing for something more than yourself is really important."

After Gillispie put her accountability partnership practices in place, the Hawkeyes won four games in a row. Iowa went 5-5 during its 10-game, seven-day run.

The Hawkeyes are now 16-13 overall this season, with a 14-8 record on neutral turf. Iowa has

lost to Wisconsin, then-No. 19 Kentucky, DePaul, Oregon State, Notre Dame, Butler, Southeast Missouri, Wichita State, Missouri State, Indiana, and No. 1 Oklahoma. The Hawkeyes' biggest wins of the year have come against the likes of the then-No. 24 Liberty Flames, the Cornell Big Red, and the San Diego Toreros.

Iowa has yet to pick up a win against a Big Ten Conference opponent. The Hawkeyes played their league-opener at Bob Pearl Field in Iowa City March 25-27. Iowa went 0-3 against Wiscon-

sin.

Lately, Gillispie and her coaching staff have emphasized that the Hawkeyes need to play fearlessly.

Iowa has just six upper-classmen on its 22-athlete roster: pitcher Breanna Vasquez, outfielders Kate Claypool, Riley Sheehy, and Nia Carter, and infielders Kalena Burns and Sophia Maras.

At times, the Hawkeyes' inexperience, and in turn, inaction, have hurt them. Iowa committed 38 errors before its Big Ten slate even began.

"It was huge for us to come together as a team

and realize that we were playing with a lot of question marks and fears," Gillespie told *The Daily Iowan*.

This season, the Hawkeyes have had a few players-only meetings on top of the conversations Gillespie has initiated. Rather than opposing the meetings, Gillispie embraces them.

"It is the key to all successful teams to have leadership and accountability in themselves," Gillispie said. "For them to start having team meetings, as a coach, I

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COLUMN

On to the next one

The DI takes a way-too-early look at what the Iowa men's basketball team's lineup could look like in 2022-23.



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

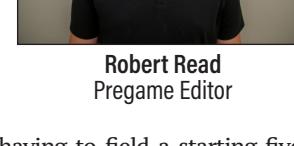
Iowa guard Tony Perkins shoots a layup during a men's basketball game between No. 5 Iowa and No. 12 Northwestern in the Big Ten Basketball Tournament at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on March 10. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 112-76. Perkins scored six points.

Well, time for the Iowa men's basketball team to replace another first-team All-American.

Head coach Fran McCaffery's squad entered the 2021-22 season with the

daunting task of having to field a starting five without Luka Garza, the two-time National Player of the Year who broke the program's all-time scoring record. The result? Well, sophomore Keegan Murray became an All-American himself on his way to breaking Garza's single-season scoring record.

Despite losing Garza and being picked to finish ninth in the Big Ten by ESPN before the season, the Hawkeyes won 26 games and their first Big Ten Tournament title since 2006 (is it still



Robert Read

Pregame Editor

too soon to mention the first-round NCAA Tournament loss?). Not bad. But now, just as it had to prepare for life after Garza, Iowa should start mapping out what life after Keegan Murray is going to look like. The only player in the country to average more than 23 points, eight rebounds, and two blocks per game last season — and he shot 55.4 percent from the floor and 39.8 percent from 3-point range while doing so — hasn't declared for the 2022 NBA Draft, but c'mon.

Keegan Murray is a projected lottery pick. His college career is over.

Beyond losing the sophomore standout, Iowa will also be without Jordan Bohannon, the program's all-time leader in games played, 3-pointers, and assists next season (for real this time). Oh, and fan-favorite sharpshooter Austin Ash is gone, too.

So, what's the 2022-23 lineup going to look like? Below is an early guess.

Taiwo, Cook enter NCAA transfer portal

The pair played for the Iowa women's basketball team from 2018-22.

Austin Hanson
Sports Editor

Two Iowa women's basketball players entered the NCAA transfer portal on March 24. Guard Tomi Taiwo and forward Logan Cook are leaving the team they've played for since 2018-19.

Both players are traditional seniors. Because the NCAA gave all its 2020-21 athletes an additional year of eligibility, however, Cook and Taiwo can still play at least one more season of college basketball.

Neither Cook nor Taiwo redshirted at any point during their Hawkeye careers.

In February, Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder said Cook was going to transfer at the end of the 2021-22 season. At the time, Bluder did not know Taiwo's intentions.

Regardless of what Taiwo and Cook decided to do, Bluder said they weren't going to play for Iowa in 2022-23.

"[Cook and Taiwo's] status is that they are eligible for an additional year due to COVID," Bluder said at a Feb. 23 press conference. "But they aren't going to be using that year here. Logan has expressed an interest in going to grad school somewhere and using her year of eligibility. Tomi has not yet, so we'll see at the end of the year what Tomi's plans are."

Bluder added that she could not offer Taiwo or Cook scholarships in 2022-23. Center Monika Czinano opting to use the extra year of eligibility the NCAA gave her at the University of Iowa made it especially difficult for Bluder to retain Cook and Taiwo.

"It's kind of a weird situation with the COVID [year], and we kind of had to sit down and have those conversations with the players because I couldn't bring them all back," Bluder said. "I don't have enough scholarships with three [freshmen] coming in and whatever is going to happen in the transfer portal."

Next year, Iowa could have as many as 14 scholarship athletes on its roster. Pre-pandemic rules limited NCAA Division I Women's Basketball teams to 15 scholarship athletes.

Taiwo and Cook finish their Hawkeye careers having averaged 3.1 and 1.4 points per game, respectively.

Taiwo played nearly 12 minutes per game in four years in Iowa City. Cook was on the floor for just over six minutes per contest as

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