

## The legacy of Christine Grant

In the 50th year of Title IX, Hawkeyes remember the former athletic director's impact on women's sports.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Grant Field namesake Christine Grant watches the Iowa field hockey team in action against Indiana on Sept. 16, 2018.

**Chloe Peterson**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Lark Birdsong, the University of Iowa women's basketball program's first head coach, didn't start playing the sport in an organized fashion until she was in college. Birdsong was a four-year letterwinner at the University

of Northern Colorado in tennis, basketball, and volleyball from 1968-72. Although colleges weren't required to provide equitable sporting opportunities at the time, Birdsong said Northern Colorado was ahead of its time.

"I liked [basketball] as an activity when I played with my brothers," Birdsong said. "... It was the only thing in the winter slot, and I knew I enjoyed it."

Former Iowa Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Christine Grant took a chance on Birdsong when she brought her to the UI in 1974. Birdsong had just completed her master's degree in physical education at the University of North Carolina, and

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### INSIDE



#### The Band's Visit comes through Hancher

The *Band's Visit*, a Tony Award-winning musical about an Egyptian police orchestra stranded in a remote desert town in Israel, will be performed at Hancher April 6-7. The performances are part of the Broadway musical's national tour.

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### ONLINE

#### UI requests two new programs

The University of Iowa is requesting approval to establish a Bachelor of Arts in translation and an online Master of Science in business analytics. The state Board of Regents will consider the requests at its upcoming meeting next week.

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#### Nite Ride wait times frustrate students

The service offers students rides home after dark, but some said they've encountered long waits and unreliability.

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## UI fossil expert identifies woolly mammoth tooth

Tiffany Adrain verified a woolly mammoth tooth on a construction site in Sheldon, Iowa, earlier this month.



Braden Ernst/The Daily Iowan

Tiffany Adrain poses in the Paleontology Repository at Trowbridge Hall on Monday with a woolly mammoth's molar tooth, discovered by A.O. Thomas in 1912. Adrain identified a different tooth from the same species in Sheldon, Iowa.

**Samantha Bielema**  
News Reporter

A construction worker in Northwest Iowa discovered something unexpected among the rocks during an excavation earlier this month — a woolly mammoth tooth.

Tiffany Adrain, a University of Iowa fossil expert, confirmed the authenticity of the tooth after its discovery in Sheldon. Adrain, UI department of

earth and environmental sciences special collections manager, was asked by the construction company to verify the rock mass was a woolly mammoth tooth, which dates to the last ice age.

"I just saw photographs, but you could tell right away that it was a mammoth tooth," Adrain said. "They're very easy to identify."

While working on a construction site on property owned by the Northwest Iowa Commu-

nity College in Sheldon, Justin Blauwet noticed an object in the dirt that didn't look like an ordinary chunk of rock. Blauwet realized he had stumbled upon a woolly mammoth tooth.

"It was just laying right there on top, half covered in dirt," Blauwet said. "I started to kind of walk by it, but then I thought I would look again, and I was pretty sure it was a mammoth tooth."

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## Iowa City bars thrive during March Madness

Though the Iowa men's and women's basketball teams were eliminated early, Iowa City bars are still experiencing an increase in customers.

**Sam Knupp**  
News Reporter

Iowa City sports bars are getting increased business as the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments enter the Final Four, despite the Iowa men's and women's teams exiting "The Big Dance" early.

Stacey Gonzalez, manager of downtown Iowa City bar Joe's Place, said customers are coming earlier in the day and in larger numbers than usual.

"Yesterday was super busy," she said on March 26. Iowa State and Miami men's basketball were among the teams playing March 25. "We didn't even have the new side of the bar open, and we needed it to be open, because we were packed all day."

Joe's Place has scheduled more staff during daytime hours as a result of the increased customer volumes, Gonzalez said.

"Usually, we have a bartender and a server [during the day]," she said. "And then, during the games, we try to do a bartender, a barback, a server, and then maybe someone on call."

More people have come to the bar in groups since the start of the tournament, Gonzalez said, and it's clear that they

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## GRANT

Continued from Front

Grant was producing a new varsity women's basketball team to help the UI become compliant with Title IX and picked Birdsong to lead the charge.

The Title IX segment of the Education Amendments of 1972, which states no person will be denied benefits of academic, extracurricular, or occupational training on the basis of sex, had been passed two years prior.

"I was hired because it was part of Iowa's commitment to opportunities for women at the collegiate level," Birdsong said.

Grant advocated for equality between men's and women's collegiate athletics every step of her career. Testifying in front of the U.S. Congress multiple times, Grant was instrumental in making sure federally funded colleges and universities became compliant.

Her trailblazing efforts ensured equal opportunities for women in any collegiate sport at any school in the U.S. Grant died at the age of 85 on Dec. 31, 2021, but in the 50th year of Title IX, her legacy is still felt around the UI community and the nation.

Now, despite a recent Title IX lawsuit, Iowa Deputy

Title IX went into full effect in 1975. All high schools, colleges, and universities were given until July 21, 1978, to become compliant. That date passed with few schools being compliant. To help the progress, Grant was a consultant on the 1978 Civil Rights Title IX Task Force. She also sat on multiple NCAA committees.

"She was committed to equality for girls and women, because of the shortchange that they were receiving when she first came over to this country," Birdsong said.

Grant was Iowa's director of women's intercollegiate athletics from 1973-2000, until the men's and women's athletics departments merged into one. In her 27 years at Iowa, equality in women's sports — both at the university and around the country — was her main focus. But Grant always made time for her student-athletes at Iowa, even when she was stretched across the country with numerous responsibilities.

"She was literally, like, fighting battles in Congress, and on the speaking circuit trying to represent women and women's sports everywhere," Iowa field hockey head coach Lisa Cellucci, a close friend of Grant, said. "And she was at the NCAA. So, she was very involved, and she was at all of the



Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

Christine Grant poses for a portrait in her home on Sept. 14, 2018. Grant was the first woman to be Athletic Director at the University of Iowa and was involved in the formation of the national Title IX policy.

pressed and happy about my experience and the opportunities afforded to me," Cellucci said. "... We were just fortunate to be surrounded by some such wonderful women and coaches and people. Like, there were just role models and everywhere we looked."

Grant retired from her position at Iowa in 2000

"Senior women's administrator, I take that as an individual that is not focusing just on women," Burke said. "Because I'm responsible across the board, men or women. But I can provide leadership to our females."

Burke started HERky's Voice, a podcast hosted by Iowa women's tennis coach Sasha Schmid. The podcast

18 and 20.

Before this season, Iowa women's basketball had not seen a sold-out crowd since Jan. 31, 1988. Grant was behind that sold-out crowd, as she enlisted the help of Hayden Fry, Dan Gable, and Bump Elliot to promote the

53.56 percent of the population, but they only receive 50.77 percent of athletic opportunities dating back to the 2018-19 academic year.

"I've always tried to say we make the best decisions we can make with the best information that we have

“That is the coolest thing. I consider that to be my greatest achievement in my whole life.

—Sage Ohlensehlen on leading the Title IX lawsuit that reinstated women's swimming



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Deputy Director of Athletics, Senior Women's Administrator, and Chief Operating Officer Barbara Burke poses for a portrait in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 18.

Director of Athletics and Senior Women's Administrator Barbara Burke is trying to continue Grant's efforts and support the Hawkeyes' female student-athletes.

## Grant's legacy on Iowa Athletics

Birdsong said she didn't come into her position in 1974 focused on equity between the men's and women's basketball programs. Instead, she put her "heart and soul" into the development of the program.

But she still noticed numerous disparities between

matches that she could be at, all of the big-time events."

Iowa field hockey plays its home games on Grant Field — named after the Title IX pioneer — on the west side of campus.

Grant, who hailed from Scotland, was a field hockey enthusiast. She founded the Iowa field hockey program in 1977. Originally named the Hawkeye Field Hockey Field, Iowa's playing surface was dedicated to Grant on Sept. 22, 1991.

"Every time we walked on that field, we knew of course we're playing for all the women that came before us,

ahead of the athletics department merger. But her advocacy for Title IX and equality in women's sports never ceased.

Birdsong said that for over 15 years after Grant retired, people would ask for assistance in Title IX cases. Although they offered payment, Grant would take the funds and donate them back to the school or organization that she helped.

"She never wavered in her commitment to women and girls," Birdsong said.

After she died, Grant left behind a pioneering legacy.

"It's one thing to really believe in something, but it's another thing to ... devote your entire life to championing that cause," Cellucci said. "She truly did that, probably in every conversation in every setting that she was in and up until she died. She was still talking to people about how we could make opportunities better."

"We're indebted to her forever, because I wouldn't be in the position I am, or my student athletes would not have the opportunity to be competing on this stage if it wasn't for someone like Christine Grant."

## Burke fills senior women's administrator role

After the UI men's and women's athletic departments merged into one in 2000, then-Iowa men's athletic director Bob Bowsby oversaw both the men's and women's sports. Now, Gary Barta has been at the helm of Hawkeye Athletics since 2006.

But Iowa Athletics still has a specific person to help and advocate for women's sports. Burke has filled the position of Iowa's Deputy Athletics Director and Senior Women's Administrator since 2017.

Burke came to the UI in 2016, starting as the Senior Associate Athletics Director of Sport Administration and Event Management. She also served as the director of athletics at Eastern Illinois University for six years.

highlights women throughout the Iowa Athletics department.

Three to four times a year, she said, she hosts 'Coffee with Barbara' for all women in the department. Burke brings in women in leadership positions around the country to present.

"I want the staff to see, 'Hey, there's other people here that look like you that are aspiring to what you're doing, or to even higher levels,'" Burke said.

Burke also helps with day-to-day operations of the Iowa women's basketball program. When the Hawkeyes had multiple Big Ten games postponed because of COVID-19 issues, Burke was the one to work with the conference to make sure Iowa completed its 18-game conference season in its entirety.

Burke helped the Iowa women's basketball team sell out Carver-Hawkeye Arena three consecutive times — the final regular season game against the Wolverines on Feb. 27 and the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March

game on TV. Grant packed 22,167 people — 7,000 above Carver's capacity — into the crowd. At the time, it broke the record for NCAA attendance at an intercollegiate women's basketball game.

"Dr. Grant was so special to me, and she was just such a great mentor," Iowa women's basketball head coach Lisa Bluder said. "Every time I step on the floor I'm wearing my tennis shoes in honor of her. She told me I needed to wear sensible shoes. She's just really special. It's just all those little girls getting the opportunity to play sports."

When Burke was growing up, she didn't have an opportunity to play organized sports. Now, Burke hopes her powerful position as deputy athletic director shows her female student-athletes what they're capable of.

"I hope it helps them see that they do have leadership," Burke said. "They do have advocates, and you don't have to be a female to advocate for women's sports, right? And you don't have to be a male to be an advocate for male sport. For me, Title IX is not men versus women. Title IX is creating opportunities."

## Iowa Athletics faces Title IX lawsuit

Iowa settled a Title IX non-compliance lawsuit with four former Hawkeye women's swimmers — Sage Ohlensehlen, Kelsey Drake, Christina Kaufman, and Alexa Puccini — in September 2021.

The four athletes brought the lawsuit against the UI in September 2020 after the athletic department announced that it would cut men's and women's swimming, men's tennis, and men's gymnastics after the 2021-22 academic year.

The former Hawkeye women's swimmers alleged the university did not have equal opportunities for female athletes compared to its student population — a pillar of Title IX. The lawsuit said that women make up

at the time," Burke said. "I'm very confident in what we're doing on behalf of our women's sport programs. I believe that we've been in compliance, it's our intention to be in compliance. And I focus a lot on the opportunities that we provide."

A federal judge temporarily reinstated the women's swimming program on Dec. 22, 2020. The university officially reinstated the women's swimming program in February 2021. The men's swimming, tennis, and gymnastics programs were still discontinued, however.

The settlement mandated the university had to add a new women's sport. Iowa chose to become the first Division I Power Five school to sanction women's wrestling as a varsity sport, announcing the addition on Sept. 23, 2021. The women's wrestling program will start team competition in 2022-23.

"This is a huge victory," Ohlensehlen told *The Daily Iowan* in September 2021. "I think the thing that's very important to remember is that Iowa is adding this wrestling program because of the lawsuit. The lawsuit is the catalyst for this program being added."

Ohlensehlen, a law school student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, led the push for the lawsuit while she was still a student at Iowa. Although she faced criticism from her Hawkeye peers, she said she's proud of the end result.

"The fact that I'm able to close this chapter of my life, knowing that I did something that's going to make a difference in 70 young women's lives a year, that's amazing," Ohlensehlen said. "Because they have 35 wrestlers and 35 swimmers and divers that are going to be able to compete as D1 athletes every single year."

"That is the coolest thing. And I consider that to be my greatest achievement in my whole life."

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“Every time we walked on [Grant] field, we knew of course we're playing for all the women that came before us, and for her.

—Iowa field hockey head coach Lisa Cellucci

the men's and women's programs. Birdsong said there were large funding gaps in uniforms, practice jerseys, equipment, and transportation. Birdsong also couldn't offer scholarships to her women's basketball players. Her biggest frustration, she said, was the women's program's lack of locker room space.

"We did not have a dedicated locker room and I didn't have a place where we could go at halftime," Birdsong said. "We finally got a room in the Field House, and it was not designed for showers, facilities."

Former Hawkeye men's basketball coach Lute Olson, who was with the Hawkeyes from 1974-83, originally allowed the women's team to use the men's locker room. But that agreement had difficulties.

"It became somewhat of an issue because all of the [men's] players' items were just hanging in the particular facility," Birdsong said. "They felt it wasn't appropriate for us to be amongst all of the items that would just be left hanging out. So, we ended up not being able to use that for the long term."

and for her," Cellucci said. "It's just a privilege, the opportunity that you have even just playing a sport."

Cellucci was a goalkeeper for Iowa field hockey from 1994-98, becoming a four-time All-Big Ten selection and three-time All-American. After leaving the university to begin her coaching career at James Madison, she returned to Iowa ahead of the 2000 season as an assistant. In 2014, she became Iowa's head coach.

Cellucci first met Grant when Cellucci was 17 and on an official visit to Iowa. From their first meeting, Cellucci knew Grant's passion for Title IX and equality in women's sports.

"She really made it very clear why Iowa was so different," Cellucci said. "It was so obvious, just the pride, the passion, what they were trying to do for the female student-athletes, and it really set a lot of those Iowa teams apart in the early 90s when they were so successful."

Reflecting on her time as a student-athlete, she now realizes that everything wasn't completely equal. But she still looks back on her college athletics years fondly.

"I was so unbelievably im-



Photo of Christine Grant and Lark Birdsong.

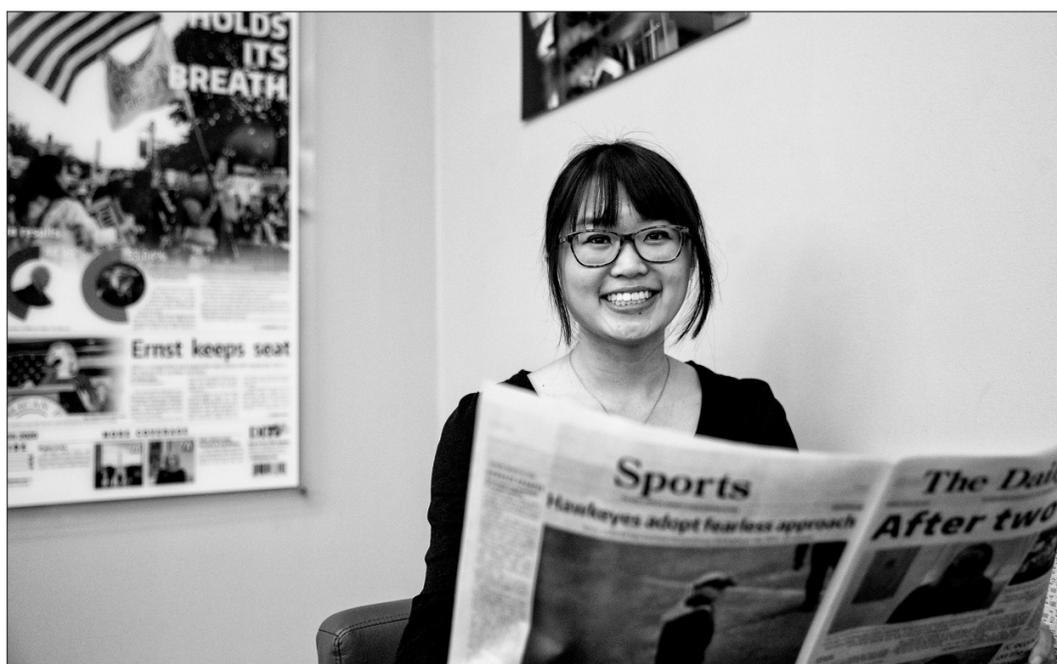
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# Opinions

COLUMN

## Support the DI and its opportunities

On One Day for Iowa, consider donating to keep *The Daily Iowan's* mission alive.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

*Daily Iowan* Opinions and Amplify Editor Hannah Pinski, who will serve as the 2022-23 Executive Editor, poses for a portrait in the *Daily Iowan* newsroom on Monday.

**Hannah Pinski**  
Opinions and Amplify Editor

I first stepped into the *Daily Iowan* newsroom during the second semester of my freshman year. When I started college, I planned to take the strategic-communications route of journalism, eventually working in public relations for a non-profit organization.

I took one introductory public relations class and realized I needed to get myself off that track. After two-and-a-half years of working as a columnist, designer, and in various editor positions, I have the honor of leading the newsroom as the executive editor in the 2022-23 academic year.

I fell in love with jour-

nalism at the *DI*. Entering college, I never thought I would want to work in the media industry. But the opportunities the *DI* has given me — writing a variety of stories, mentoring a team of writers, and leading efforts in creating a more inclusive environment — opened my eyes that this is the career I'm meant to pursue.

And I'm not the only one who's been able to take advantage of these opportunities. Our newsroom offers student journalists experiences that not every college newsroom can offer.

We've sent reporters around the country, from Washington, D.C. covering the 2020 election to New York City to report on

the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Over the years, our sports team and photographers have traveled to Division I sporting events like postseason bowl games and NCAA championships — an opportunity that other college newsrooms dream of doing.

As an independent, student-run newspaper, we take pride in reporting truth and facts to the Iowa City community. Our paper has provided valuable information to the public, whether it's through our interviews of Iowa's politicians and congressional delegation or comprehensive coverage of Hawkeye sports.

Our work has been recognized on a state and national scale. In 2020 and 2021, we swept multiple categories at the Iowa Newspaper Association awards and were named the best newspaper in the state. This year, we were named an online pacemaker winner by the Associated Collegiate Press for 2020-21, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism.

Today is One Day for Iowa, a 24-hour donation drive that asks you to donate to institutions at the UI that matter to you.

The student journalism that the *DI* produces

is worth supporting. Our alumni have ended up at major media outlets such as the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, as well as papers across the state like the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* and *N'West Iowa Review*. We take pride as the eyes and ears of the public to tell stories and keep Iowa City an informed community.

Students who join the *DI* gain the experience that is necessary to enter the journalism workforce — meeting deadlines, pitching stories, and working with our coaches to improve their craft.

Working at the *DI* has been one of the best experiences of my college career. I've not only developed a passion for journalism and the skills required to enter the field, but I have also developed friendships and relationships within the *DI* community.

Your generous donations contribute to providing these opportunities to young journalists. Supporting local journalism will not only help student journalists grow in their career, but also allow us to better serve Iowa with journalism that is necessary to be an informed public and impact the community.

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COLUMN

## We need designated hammocking areas

The University of Iowa needs to build more hammock parks to save the trees.



**Signe Nettum**  
Opinions Contributor

It is that time of year again. Winter has almost lifted its imposing grip on campus, and we can see the warm spring sun in the distance. During the latest false spring day in Iowa City, I saw students enjoying the warmth on the various green spaces on campus, picnicking, studying, and playing spike ball.

One activity that soured my view was the colorful hammocks fastened to various trees, still bare of spring leaves.

I understand the appeal of hammocking in the afternoon sun, but the trees should not suffer for our pleasure. Iowa City should limit hammock use for three primary reasons: tree safety, citizen safety, and placement concerns.

The University of Iowa can address these issues with hammock parks.

The UI campus already struggles with tree care. Many of our trees have disappeared from campus as a result of disease, age, and invasive species. Straps and hooks from hammocks strip the bark from trees, leaving them vulnerable. Even leave-no-trace straps still risk hurting a tree. The best way to keep trees safe is to find a hammock stand.

A second concern is citizen safety. Thankfully, from what I have seen, students on campus keep their hammocks to small pockets of trees that are out of the way of other people on campus. They center on the Pentacrest, near the bridge by Hancher, and a few near the

2-3-1-1 sculpture.

However, this does not mean that students on campus are perfect. Laddering, the process of stacking multiple hammocks on one tree, causes serious health risks to those participating.

Even if a tree is mature enough to withstand the weight of a student, it can deteriorate over the years.

In Iowa, there are rules for hammocks in state parks. Strap only hammocks, no laddering, and hammocks are only allowed in a designated campground. This change reflects the three aspects the UI needs to consider.

A worry branching off laddering, the placement of hammocks also causes some concern. There are only so many hammocking trees on campus, and they receive beatings from hammock straps and hooks. As available trees dwindle, the handful left struggle to bear the weight throughout the warm months of the year.

The solution is simple: hammock parks. One already exists in Hubbard Park, built in 2020. The small area has poles designated for hanging hammocks, avoiding risk to trees.

It can hold both straps and hooks for hammocks. It is off in the corner, but still allows a wonderful view of both the river and the park for those who want to enjoy the sights alongside their hammock. The Iowa Memorial Union also rents hammocks for students who don't have their own.

The hammock park has gone on with little fanfare after it was approved in 2020 by the UI's Undergraduate Student Government. I believe it will be a welcomed addition to campus life. Hammock parks are not a new phenomenon, and the university should implement more in hammock hot spots to both protect trees and appease students on campus.

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COLUMN

## Ramadan is more than fasting

The growing Muslim population in Iowa is preparing to enter the holy month, called Ramadan, to focus on self-sacrifice, fasting, and prayer.



**Yasmina Sahir**  
Opinions Columnist

The land we now call the U.S. has always been home to a diverse range of cultures, religious practices, languages, and more. To support this diversity, recognition and respect for various cultural practices is essential.

Last academic year, the Iowa City Community School District voted to recognize Eid al-Fitr in the 2021-22 school year calendar through a district-wide day off school on May 3. The end of Ramadan, or Eid al-Fitr, signifies when the text of the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammad.

As local school districts begin recognizing holiday exemptions outside of European Christian holidays, a better grasp on the practices of Islam is necessary to ensure cultural understanding of Muslims in Iowa during this time.

According to the MIT Muslim Chaplin Nada El-Alami, Ramadan — the Holy Month for followers of Islam — begins on April 2 this year. Until fast breaks on May 2, Muslims will participate in self-reflection, dawn till dusk daily fasts, reading from the Quran, and prayers both at home and during mosque.

"Once the sun has set, Muslims eat dinner, a meal called 'iftar' in Arabic. Iftar is generally a community-focused meal, where family members and friends come together for the blessed occasion...eating and drinking during the night is allowed until dawn of the next day...[t]hey will often wake up for or stay up until 'suhur,' a pre-dawn meal," El-Alami wrote.

The U.S. Muslim population continues to steadily and dramatically increase. By

2040, Islam could be the second largest religion in the U.S.

In her 2015 book, *Muslims in US Prisons: People, Policy, Practice*, Nawal Ammar notes that the exact number of Muslims in the U.S. is unclear. A collection of sources noted by Ammar show the most accurate estimate to fall somewhere between four and seven million.

From 2016 into the middle of the Trump Administration, the U.S. saw a record number of Muslims immigrants. The number of U.S.-based Muslims is projected to double by 2040.

Even so, the number of Muslims in the U.S. will remain 2.1 percent of the population. This will place Islam as the second most popular religion in the U.S. Christianity will remain the No. 1 most followed religion for the foreseeable future, with over 250 million Christians living in the U.S.

The U.S. Census Bureau places the country's population to be around 332 million people following the 2020 census count. With Ammar's 2015 estimates in mind, Muslims account for 1-2 percent of this overall population.

The University of Iowa Muslim Student Association, or @uiowamsa on Instagram, will host four Friday night iftars on campus during Ramadan, and is a source of support for Muslim students on campus all year. The Iowa City Mosque, located on Benton Street, offers prayer times and classes on Arabic, Quranic, and cultural education throughout the year as well.

For those unfamiliar with Islamic traditions such as Ramadan, UI student Shefa'a Tawil — a Palestinian-American student — eloquently compared excitement about Ramadan to Christmas, the Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

"Even people who consider themselves loose followers of Islam are encouraged to participate in Ramadan," Tawil said. "Traditions vary by family and culture, but the idea that family and celebration are two positive values of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr is universal."

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**Football**

Continued from Page 6A

Colby are slated to replace Linderbaum and Schott at center and right guard, respectively.

Sophomore Mason Richman and junior Justin Britt round out Iowa's group of starters on the offensive line. Richman is slated to play left tackle with Britt a spot to his right at left guard.

"I've played right and left [tackle] my whole time here," Plumb said. "So, it's not too bad. Obviously, the first couple plays switching from right side to left side are gonna be a little goofy for me. But after that, you're setting in your

fundamentals. It's not too bad."

Next year will be Plumb's second under offensive line coach George Barnett, who started coaching the Hawkeyes in his current role before the 2021 season began.

"I love it," Plumb said. "I think we have a good relationship. I love him. He's a great coach. He's talking a lot about feel out there. How do you feel when you play? I think that's helping us push along really well. We're making big strides right now."

"He came [last] spring," Plumb added. "He didn't know much. He didn't say much because he didn't want to screw us up. Now that we've gotten used to him, it's nice having

him around."

Even without Linderbaum, Schott, and Ince, Plumb said Iowa's offensive line is already ahead of where it was last year. The Hawkeyes were ranked 13th in the Big Ten Conference in pass protection in 2021, surrendering 32 sacks.

"You can tell, where we're at this spring compared to last spring, we're ahead of where we were [in 2021]," Plumb said. "I think that's just having coach Barnett in the building for a year now ... We're all speaking the same language. It's real clean, crisp communication. We're all getting better."

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. high fives offensive lineman Jack Plumb and defensive lineman Yahya Black before a football game between No. 19 Iowa and Northwestern at Ryan Field in Evanston, Illinois, on Nov. 6, 2021.

**Wrestling**

Continued from Page 6A

his Iowa career a four-time All-American.

Ayala went 16-8 in 2021-22. Brands pulled Ayala's redshirt soon after Lee was injured. Ayala beat foes as notable as Purdue's Devin Schroder, Missouri's Noah Surtin, and Northwestern's Michael DeAugustino.

Ayala struggled near the end of Iowa's 2021-22 campaign. He was eliminated from the NCAA Tournament after just three matches.

Ayala was reportedly slowed down by a torn left shoulder labrum.

**141 POUNDS: Cullan Schriever, So.**

Schriever appeared in two of the Hawkeyes' duals in 2021-22. He went 0-2 in the two matchups.

Schriever participated in two Big Ten duals and five tournaments last year, posting a 15-5 overall record.

Schriever, a 5-foot-6 Mason City Iowan, competed at 133 pounds last season. I think the Hawkeyes will ask him to bump up a weight class in 2022-23 despite his small stature.

Schriever was a three-time state champion in high school. He was also a Fargo Cadet Freestyle Champion in 2016.

**149 POUNDS: Max Murin, RS Jr.**

When the now-graduated Eierman transferred to Iowa from Missouri, Murin was bumped up a weight to accommodate for the now-four-time All-American.

It seems likely that Murin will remain at this weight for the remainder of his Hawkeye career — even if doing so means he'll probably have to face Cornell's three-time national champion Yian-ni Diakomihalis at some point. Diakomihalis is currently riding a 75-match win streak.

Murin is 20-10 as a 149-pound wrestler. He's never wrestled his way to All-American status — though he was named an All-American in 2019-20 after that year's NCAA Tournament was canceled because of COVID-19.

**157 POUNDS: Cobe Siebrecht, Jr.**

Siebrecht cracked Iowa's starting lineup a few times in 2021-22. He went 1-2 in the three duals he competed in. Siebrecht's overall record in 2021-22 was 5-2.

Siebrecht won the 149-pound division at the Luther Open in Decorah, Iowa.

Siebrecht's 5-foot-10 frame seems to make him likely to move up to 157 pounds and replace now-graduated senior Kaleb Young, who earned All-America status three times during his Hawkeye career.

**165 POUNDS: Patrick Kennedy, So.**

At a post-NCAA Tournament meeting with reporters, Marinelli gave Kennedy a shoutout. He said Iowa will be "reloading," not rebuilding in 2022-23 thanks to wrestlers like Kennedy.

Kennedy went 17-3 in 2021-22. He also won the Last Chance Open's 165-pound division.

Kennedy's most impressive feat of last year was his runner-up finish at the Luther Open. Kennedy lost the tournament's first-place match to Marinelli, 3-2. Because he gave Marinelli a run for his money, I'm confident Kennedy can compete with anyone next season.

**174 POUNDS: Nelson Brands, Sr.**

Nelson Brands was part of Iowa's NCAA Tournament lineup in 2020-21. He wrestled that entire season at 184 pounds.

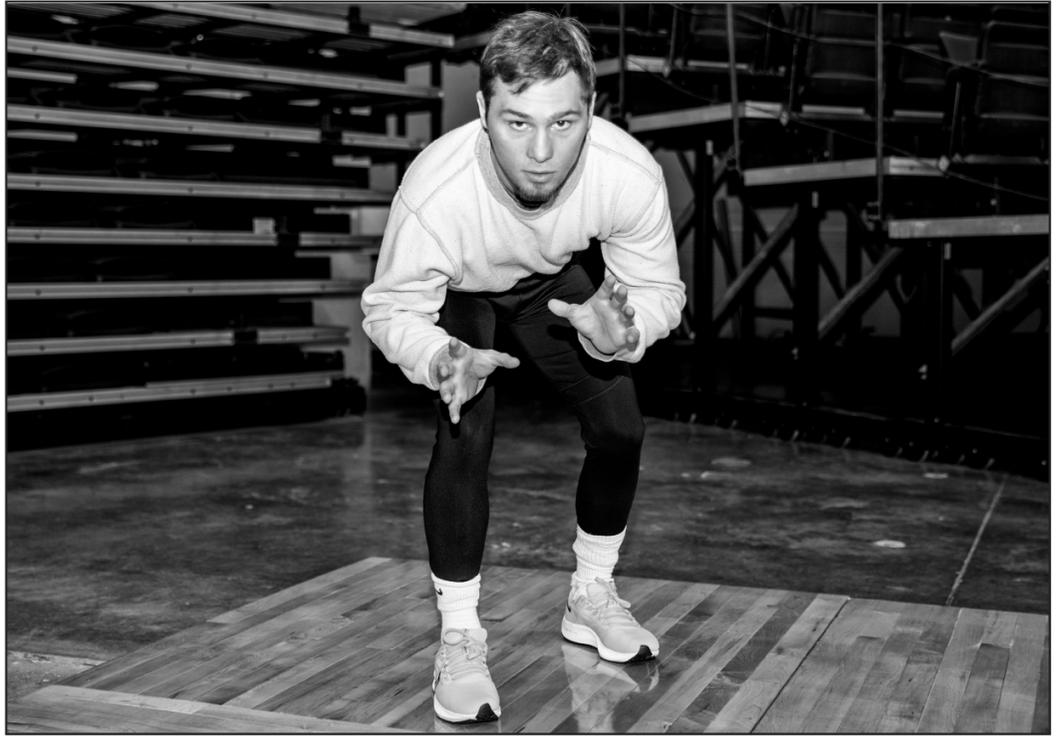
In 2021-22, Nelson Brands wrestled just five matches. He competed in place of the then-injured and now-graduated Kemerer. Nelson Brands went 5-1 in place of Kemerer, who wrestled his first match of the 2021-22 season on Jan. 7.

Kemerer was the Hawkeyes' first five-time All-American. "KemDawg" was also a Big Ten Champion in 2021.

**184 POUNDS: Abe Assad, Jr.**

For two of the last three seasons, Assad has been Iowa's 184-pound starter. He missed the 2020-21 season with an injury. Nelson Brands filled in for Assad while he was hurt.

Assad is 36-17 as Iowa's 184-pound starter.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 125-pound Spencer Lee poses for a portrait during Iowa wrestling media day in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Oct. 27, 2021.

Like Murin, he's never wrestled his way to All-American status — though he was named an All-American after the 2019-20 NCAA Tournament was canceled.

**197 POUNDS: Jacob Warner, RS Sr.**

Warner was Iowa's lone national finalist in 2021-22. He lost to Penn State's Max Dean via 3-2 decision in the NCAA Finals.

Warner was named Mike Howard Most Valuable Wrestler at the Hawkeyes' postseason banquet.

Before he even wrestled Dean in the national finals, Warner told reporters that he will be returning to the University of Iowa for the 2022-23 season.

**Heavyweight: Tony Cassioppi, Sr.**

Since the 2019-20 season, Cassioppi has been Iowa's 285-pound starter. He has amassed a 72-12 record as a college wrestler and earned three All-America honors.

With Minnesota's Gable Steveson now retired from collegiate wrestling, perhaps 2022-23 could give Cassioppi a legitimate chance to win a national championship.

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for better performances at the plate.

"It was good," Petersen said of his weekend play. "I felt I was kind of due to start playing well, I hadn't been playing the way I wanted to early on this season. And obviously, it's baseball so I gotta keep working and continue to get better. But this

weekend really felt good, I feel like I can build on that moving forward."

Petersen will get his first crack at Big Ten play when Iowa travels to Ann Arbor, Michigan, this weekend to take on Michigan in a three-game series.

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**Baseball**

Continued from Page 6A

pretty special."

Petersen had just six hits in 28 plate appearances before the series against the Chippewas. But the two-time high school All-State selection, who batted .471 as a senior, said he was due



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa left fielder Sam Petersen celebrates a home run during a baseball game between Iowa and Central Michigan at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on March 25. Petersen drove in three runs. The Hawkeyes defeated the Chippewas, 7-4.

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES

### Keegan Murray to declare for NBA Draft

Iowa men's basketball sophomore Keegan Murray is declaring for the 2022 NBA Draft, he announced Monday on Twitter.

Murray, the men's basketball program's fourth first-team consensus All-American, had a breakout season in 2021-22, averaging 23.5 points per game — fourth in the nation. He leads Division I men's basketball with a 37.8 player efficiency rating.

The 6-foot-5 sophomore is currently on a bevy of postseason award lists. He is one of four finalists for the Naismith Player of the Year Award. He is also on the Wooden Award national ballot and a finalist for Karl Malone Power Forward of the Year, Lefty Driesell Defensive Player of the Year, Lute Olson Player of the Year.

Murray averaged 72 points per game his freshman season in 2020-21. His 16.3-point per game difference between his freshman and sophomore seasons is the largest from a Big Ten player since 1974, when Illinois' Rick Schimidt achieved the feat.

"I feel it's just credit to hard work," Murray said on a Zoom call with reporters Wednesday. "I feel like hard work can really take you wherever you imagine yourself being. This was my dream growing up as a kid, and I just credit that to my parents putting me in the best position possible to succeed. Obviously, my brother pushing me, our battles one-on-one."

In ESPN's latest mock NBA Draft, analyst Johnathan Givony's projected Murray to be picked fifth overall by the Oklahoma City Thunder. Bleacher Report also has Murray going fifth in the draft. The NBA Draft is scheduled for June 23. Draft lottery positioning will be determined on May 17.

Murray is now eligible to participate in the 2022 NBA Draft Combine, which will be held in Chicago May 16-22. Murray said he has not yet signed with an agent or decided where he will train for the combine.

"We are excited for Keegan as he begins his professional journey," head coach Fran McCaffery said via release. "He has earned the right to be a lottery pick. Keegan is incredibly professional and even keeled with everything he does. Not only did Keegan accomplish things no other Hawkeye underclassman has ever done, but he also represented our program at the highest-level. We fully support Keegan and will assist him every way we can throughout the draft process."

### Joe Toussaint leaving Iowa men's basketball program

Iowa men's basketball guard Joe Toussaint has entered the NCAA Transfer Portal, he announced on Twitter on Tuesday afternoon.

"After much consideration and thought, I have decided to pursue an expanded role at another institution," Toussaint said in a statement. "I am thankful to my teammates, coaches, and fans for a memorable three years. Winning a Big Ten Championship and building lifelong relationships during my time in Iowa City is something I will always cherish."

Toussaint appeared in 98 games, starting 41 of them, in the backcourt for the Hawkeyes over the last three seasons.

The 6-foot guard from the Bronx started at point guard for the first 21 games of Iowa's 2021-22 season before being moved to a bench role. Jordan Bohannon was moved back to the "one" and sophomore Tony Perkins was inserted into the starting lineup at shooting guard over the final stretch of the regular season and the entirety of the postseason.

Toussaint led Iowa in assists (3.2) and steals (1.4) per game as a junior, while also contributing 4.3 points in 17 minutes of play per game. Iowa went 26-10 last season and won the program's first Big Ten Tournament title since 2006. In the Big Ten Tournament Championship Game, Toussaint recorded four steals.

"We want to thank Joe Toussaint for being an integral part of multiple NCAA Tournament teams and a Big Ten Championship team," Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said in a release. "He brought great effort and character to our program. He will be great wherever he goes, and we wish him the very best moving forward."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"I did other sports, you know, karate and things like that."**

— Former Hawkeye football player Dane Belton on how he got his start in sports

## STAT OF THE DAY

# 5

Number of starters Iowa wrestling will need to replace in 2022-23

# Plumb, Iowa patching holes in O-Line

Senior Jack Plumb has played both left and right tackle during his time as a Hawkeye. He's currently listed as Iowa's starting right tackle.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa offensive lineman Jack Plumb blocks during a football game between No. 16 Iowa and Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Nov. 26, 2021. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers 28-21.

Austin Hanson  
Sports Editor

Jack Plumb started in half of Iowa's 14 games last season. The senior-to-be was the Hawkeyes' starting right tackle for five games. He was Iowa's primary option at left tackle in two contests.

As the Hawkeyes begin spring practice and their preparation for the 2022

season, Plumb and his offensive line teammates are trying to be as flexible as they can be.

"We're all pretty versatile," Plumb said at a Tuesday availability session. "Pretty much everybody can play all five positions. Right side, left side, it doesn't matter. Obviously, center is a little tough to get everybody reps at. But between guards and

tackles, we're all pretty versatile — right or left, inside or outside."

Plumb is part of a unit that's trying to plug holes left by offensive linemen Tyler Linderbaum, Cody Ince, and Kyler Schott. Linderbaum and Schott declared for the 2022 NFL Draft during the off-season. Ince decided to forego his final year of eligibility at Iowa. He'll graduate from the Uni-

versity of Iowa College of Engineering in May.

Linderbaum is projected to be a first-round draft pick. He was a unanimous consensus first-team All-American in 2021.

"All the young guys are working hard," Plumb said. "Obviously, they know they're not going to be Tyler Linderbaum. We're not trying to be the next Tyler Linderbaum."

We're just trying to be the next Iowa great center. So, they're all working very hard. They're getting better, and you can see it."

When Iowa released its spring football depth chart on March 22, Plumb was listed as the Hawkeyes' starting right tackle. Sophomores Tyler Elsbury and Connor

FOOTBALL | Page 5A

## COLUMN

# Hawkeyes lineup will look different in 2022-23

The Iowa men's wrestling team will need to replace five starters in 2022-23.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Spencer Lee wrestles North Carolina State's Jakob Camacho during the red pool championship match-up of the National Collegiate Duals between Iowa and North Carolina State at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville, Florida, on Dec. 21, 2021. Lee defeated Camacho by decision, 6-1. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolfpack, 19-15.

Austin Hanson  
Sports Editor

Throughout my three-year tenure at *The Daily Iowan*, I've examined the Iowa men's wrestling team's lineup more times than I can remember — though it's worth noting that I can't count very high. I've done preseason, in-season, and postseason breakdowns of the Hawkeyes' 10 starters.

I've never struggled to craft hypothetical Iowa men's wrestling lineups. With staples like seniors Austin DeSanto, Jaydin Eierman, Alex Marinelli, and Michael Kemerer on the roster, it was pretty easy to assume which weight class each wrestler would be competing in.

Now, Kemerer, Marinelli, Eierman, and DeSanto are gone, leaving gaping holes in the Hawkeyes' lineup.

I'll try to predict how Iowa head coach Tom Brands will fill those openings. But, as I've been told before, predictions usually only prove how wrong you are.

### 125 POUNDS: Spencer Lee, RS Sr.

This one is a layup. Lee has been Iowa's starting 125-pounder since his true freshman season in 2017-18.

Lee is a three-time national champion, two-time Hodge Trophy winner, and four-time All-American. After wrestling in three matches in 2021-22, Lee missed the rest of the season to surgically repair ACL tears in his left and right knees.

Though Lee and the Iowa men's wrestling program have yet to officially announce that he's received a

medical hardship waiver from the NCAA, it seems like an absolute certainty that he'll be back in the Black and Gold singlet in 2022. In a post-NCAA Tournament meeting with reporters on March 19, Brands said he expects Lee to be back in 2022-23.

### 133 POUNDS: Drake Ayala, So.

I know Ayala was inserted into Iowa's lineup at 125 pounds in place of Lee last year. But I don't think the sophomore-to-be will be forcing Lee to move up a weight in 2022-23.

Ayala is actually three inches taller than Lee, who is 5-foot-3. Because Ayala has a larger frame than Lee, it'd probably be easier for him to bump to 133 pounds and replace DeSanto, who finished

# Petersen heats up

The freshman from Huxley, Iowa, contributed two game-winning hits for Iowa baseball in its series against Central Michigan.

Chris Werner  
Sports Reporter

Iowa freshman Sam Petersen was an infielder for most of his career at Ballard High School in Huxley, Iowa.

But after the No. 4 2021 baseball prospect in the state of Iowa lost the battle for an infield spot during the Hawkeyes' fall season, head coach Rick Heller had another plan for Petersen.

Heller moved the freshman to the outfield to begin his collegiate career. Although Petersen, who played every infield position in high school, wanted to continue playing in the dirt, he had a feeling before the 2022 season that he would be roaming the grassy outfield.

"In high school, I played mostly infield," Petersen said on March 26. "But I was tossed into the outfield on the travel ball weekends because I kind of had a feeling I was going out there when I got here, and they moved me out there quick. So, I've had six months of straight outfield. I'm really starting to feel comfortable out there."

Heller's decision to move Petersen to the outfield has paid off through the beginning of the season. Petersen has started 10 games for the Hawkeyes, including three straight games against Central Michigan last weekend, and has appeared in all 17 of Iowa's games. Throughout his time in the outfield, Petersen hasn't made an error.

In the series against the Chippewas, Petersen went 3-of-9 at the plate with three walks. He drove in six runs — three of which came on a game-winning three-run home run Friday that lifted the Hawkeyes to a 7-4 victory on Friday night.

"He did a really nice job in some tough conditions in left field, which was really good to see," Heller said of Petersen after the series finale Sunday. "He had the big home run on Friday and then big hits [Sunday]. He's a super talented kid, and him playing consistently, hopefully, we see him calm down and kind of get into a comfort zone where he can just go out and play."

Heller also thinks Petersen is overthinking his performance in his first few weeks as a Division I baseball player. But Petersen shouldn't be worried, Heller said.

"When you're not playing a lot, I think it's human nature to think, 'I have to do really good to keep being put out there,'" Heller said. "[We're] trying to get him over the hump with that where he's just going out and playing because his natural ability is

WRESTLING | Page 5A

BASEBALL | Page 5A

# 80 HOURS

*This weekend in Arts and Entertainment*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

## A visit to Hancher

Tony Award-winning musical *The Band's Visit* will be performed at Hancher on April 6-7. The show tells the story of an Egyptian Police Band stranded in a remote desert town and has won 10 Tonys, including Best Musical.



Evan Zimmerman/MurphyMade

Janet Dacal and Sasson Gabay. Courtesy of Hancher Auditorium.

# Weekend Events

31

THURSDAY

DANCE

• **UI DANCE PRESENTS TIMELESS MOTION**

8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER, 20 DAVENPORT ST.

LITERATURE

• **PETRA KUPPERS READING AND BOOK RELEASE PARTY**

6 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY, 404 E COLLEGE ST.

• **READING AND CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT A. GROSS**

7 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS, ONLINE

MUSIC

• **STYLER BOOTH**

9 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE.



1

FRIDAY

FILM

• **LATE SHIFT AT THE GRINDHOUSE: APRIL FOOLS' DAY**

10 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY

LITERATURE

• **INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM (IWP) INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS SPRING PANEL**

12 P.M., IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 123 S LINN ST.

• **MIKE MEGINNIS AND LATANYA MCQUEEN**

7 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS, ONLINE

THEATER

• **FARCE OF NATURE**

7:30 P.M., GIVING TREE THEATER, 752 10TH ST.

• **STUART LITTLE BY YOUNG FOOT-LITERS**

7 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1301 5TH ST.

2

SATURDAY

ART

• **JOY MARCH**

1 P.M., PUBLIC SPACE ONE, 229 N GILBERT ST.

FILM

• **FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT: EAST OF MIDDLE EAST**

10 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY

THEATER

• **FARCE OF NATURE**

7:30 P.M., GIVING TREE THEATER

• **STUART LITTLE BY YOUNG FOOT-LITERS**

2 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



3

SUNDAY

FILM

• **FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT: EAST OF MIDDLE EAST**

6:30 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY

MISC.

• **BUBBLY BLUE DRAG BRUNCH**

12 P.M., TAVERN BLUE, 805 2ND ST.

MUSIC

• **BEN FOLDS**

7:30 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

• **HONORS RECITAL**

10:30 P.M., UI VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING, 93 E BURLINGTON ST.

THEATER

• **FARCE OF NATURE**

2 P.M., GIVING TREE THEATER

ASK THE AUTHOR:

## Renee Branum



Photo contributed by Alyssa Konermann

Ariana Lessard  
Arts Reporter

**The Daily Iowan:** What was your inspiration for *Defenestrate*?

Branum: I think the most important contribution to the book coming to be was the time that I lived in Prague. Like, right after I finished my undergraduate degree, my friend and I moved abroad. We had a mutual friend who had lived in Prague and taught English as a second language, and he talks about it like it was the most magical experience imaginable, and I mean, it was magical for sure, but it was also difficult in all the ways — like, living abroad when you're 21 years old and don't know what you're doing and don't know how to be an adult. I feel like that kind of carries over into the character of Marta. I feel like she's sort of figuring herself out and figuring how she fits in the world, and how she fits within her own family dynamic. So, that was definitely a big inspiration.

**DI:** What inspired the "falling curse," and does it have any special metaphorical meaning or symbolism that wouldn't be a spoiler?

Branum: Yeah, so it seeds from a very short lyric essay about the idea of defenestration, and it was really just about me walking around Prague, looking up at windows and sort of feeling a little bit displaced and kind of building a map of the city in my head. I was really obsessed with [Bohumil] Hrabal while I was living in Prague, and, famously, his death was a defenestration of sorts. He fell out of his hospital window — the fifth floor of his hospital window — while trying to feed pigeons, allegedly. So, he was sort of my guide while I was in Prague, and I was sort of thinking about all the ways that falling surrounds us and how the idea that falling mirrors the human experience of risk and sort of like the precariousness of just being a person in a body in the world, and so I started growing the essay and found a fictional narrator. I feel like it was a

natural fit for her to have this preoccupation with falling in this family history of her ancestors being impacted by generational falls. So, that's sort of how it came about. In terms of, like, metaphorical usages, there's a passage in the book where I talk about how full of falling our speech is that, you know, there's so many expressions — "falling in love." I have a lengthy list of them in the book, but they're not coming to me right now. So I mean, I think it's already sort of a preoccupation, like, inherent in our language.

**DI:** Can you expand upon the themes of repression and mental illness in more depth?

Branum: I mean, I think that that's sort of the discovery of the book, is that murder Marta's sort of discovering — what she thinks is happening as a twin. She is sort of projecting all of her worries about her own mental state onto her twin brother Nick, and I think that that can happen sometimes when you're in the throes of difficulty. It helps to not feel alone there. Whether it's your siblings or your friends and, you know, she really is in the process of sort of sorting out the threads of her own mental state, and that certainly does manifest in repression. She is in many ways a very repressed narrator both sort of sexually, and sort of like self-monitoring, you know, like she chooses what she wants to look at and think about. She doesn't want to think about her own mental situation and precariousness, but she does want to look at the history of falling in her family. Even though she's using them as a sort of evasive technique, they're all pointing back to the thing that she is avoiding, essentially. That's sort of a lot of times how unreliable narrators work, but I think not all unreliable narrators have the opportunity of ultimate discovery and kind of like redemption, and I feel like that's more the endgame of the book for Marta which is, I hope, the final uplift of the story.

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## Streaming Highlight: *Better Nate Than Ever*



Illustration by Molly Milder

Parker Jones  
Arts Editor

Disney's latest original musical venture, *Better Nate Than Ever*, will debut on Disney+ on April 1.

The family comedy film follows Nate, a 13-year-old from Pittsburgh who dreams of becoming a famous Broadway actor. After getting rejected repeatedly in auditions, he decides to sneak away to New York City with his best friend Libby to achieve his dreams of becoming a star. Along the way, he has a chance encounter with his estranged Aunt Heidi, a former Broadway performer, and learns that making his dreams come true might not be that simple.

Directed and written by author Tim Federle, who also wrote the 2013 novel of the same name, *Better Nate than Ever* had its initial limited premiere at the Disney-owned El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood on March 15. Federle also wrote the screenplay for the 2017 animated film *Ferdinand*, which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. The film is also produced by Marc Platt, who has worked on films like *La La Land* and *The Trial of the Chicago 7*.

The film stars 15-year-old, up-and-coming actor Rueby Wood as the titular Nate Foster, who previously played Charlie in the first national tour of the Broadway musical edition of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Additional cast members include Aria Brooks as Libby, Nate's best friend and fellow theatre kid, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* actor Joshua Basset as Nate's older brother Anthony, and *Friends* star Lisa Kudrow as Nate's Aunt Heidi.

As the author of the source material and the adapted screenplay, as well as the film's director, Federle had much creative liberty with the production of the film. In the original book, Nate auditions for a fictional version of the 1982 classic *E.T. the Extraterrestrial*, but Federle rewrote it to be a fictional musical version of the 2002 Disney film *Lilo & Stitch*.

With its noted multi-faceted cast and crew, *Better Nate than Ever* should prove to be a uniquely theatrical release for Disney+.

parker-jones@uiowa.edu

**Playlist**  
April Showers

Feeling Whitney  
Post Malone

Strange  
Celeste

First Love/Late Spring  
Mitski

Rain  
The Beatles

Have You Ever Seen the Rain  
Creedence Clearwater

Spanish Sahara  
Foals

Vincent  
Don McLean

Mountains  
Message to Bears

the 1  
Taylor Swift

Go Solo  
Tom Rosenthal

A Werewolf  
Attic Abasement

No Rain  
Fatboy Slim

Come in with the Rain  
Taylor Swift

I Lost Something in the Hills  
Sibylle Baier

# Hancher welcomes 'The Band's Visit' to IC

The Broadway musical, *The Band's Visit*, will come to Hancher on April 6-7 as part of its national tour.

Olivia Augustine  
Arts Reporter

In 2016, *The Band's Visit* took the stage for the first time, transporting New Yorkers to Israel with a touching story of what it means to be human. The Broadway show swept the Tony Awards with 10 wins, including Best Musical, in 2018.

Now, the show is coming to Hancher Auditorium with performances on April 6-7 as part of its national tour.

The storyline of *The Band's Visit* is unique, centered around the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra from Egypt, as it travels across Israel on the way to a concert in the city Petah Tikva.

A miscommunication lands the band in the isolated desert town of Bet Havitka, however, with no place to stay and no transportation until morning. Through its debacle, the band befriends the town's locals, ultimately overcoming language barriers through a shared love of music.

The musical implements a blend of traditional Arabic, Middle-Eastern, and American Jazz

tivity, including being able to speak Hebrew onstage, he said.

"I think there's a really amazing cultural exchange that happens when you spend time with people who grew up differently than you or speak different languages than you," he said. "I feel like I'm learning so much from my castmates, and from the band, and the crew, and everyone I travel with, just because we all have such unique experiences."

After previously having roles in *The Book of Mormon* and *Spring Awakening*, which are known for their vibrance and larger-than-life music, Gutzug said *The Band's Visit* is more "quiet and delicate." He said that, while there is always space for vibrancy on Broadway that is beautiful in its own right, *The Band's Visit* can sometimes feel more like a play than a musical with its subdued nature, and it set his experiences apart.

This is Gutzug's third national tour with a Broadway show, which has taken him across the continental U.S., he said. This will be his first time coming to Iowa City.

cluded as a stop for *The Band's Visit*.

"More than anything, I look forward to having this experience — this opportunity — for our audience," Swanson said. "You know, I love bringing the audience together with artists."

On national tours, most Broadway shows commit to eight shows a week in a single location, but Swanson said that because of Iowa City's smaller population, *The Band's Visit* will only have two shows at Hancher before spending the rest of the week at Lied Center for the Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska. He said splitting the week is unusual, and that Hancher is fortunate.

Swanson said the fact that *The Band's Visit* won 10 Tony Awards is another reason Hancher is excited to bring the show to Iowa City, and that winning that many awards is shocking and unusual, but very well-deserved.

Swanson has seen *The Band's Visit* twice in New York City and once in Des Moines, and said it's hard to put into words how much he loves the show, other than how it is able to draw the audience in.

"Right there on the stage, we can see this unfold, where everybody has tried to make everybody else feel welcome," Swanson said. "I guess the human interaction can really be felt through music, it can be felt through food, it can be felt through people just coming together and really trying to understand each other."

One of Swanson's responsibilities is to interact with Broadway casts and other tour groups when they come through Hancher, and he said that he mostly looks forward to introducing them to the backstage staff and audience. "We have one of the most warm, wonderful staffs backstage and, what I al-



Evan Zimmerman/MurphyMade

Sasson Gabay, Joe Joseph, Janet Dacal. Courtesy of Hancher Auditorium.



Evan Zimmerman/MurphyMade

The company of *The Band's Visit* North American Tour. Courtesy of Hancher Auditorium.

"You know, I love bringing the audience together with artists."

— Chuck Swanson, Hancher's executive director

music, with lyrics sung both in English and Hebrew, which helps the characters bond across their cultures.

Actor Coby Getzug plays the supporting character Papi, a local café worker who struggles to speak to girls, but who eventually overcomes this fear with the help of an Egyptian band member.

Gutzug said that his mother's family is from Israel, and he grew up attending a Jewish school and learning Hebrew. Having a role in *The Band's Visit* has allowed him to professionally explore aspects of his iden-

"Traveling to different states, you get to meet all different kinds of people, do all different kinds of things, and go places that you wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to go to," Gutzug said. "I like being in a new city and finding the local coffee shop that people hang out at and, like, going to a cool museum and feeling like you're living this mini life."

Hancher Executive Director Chuck Swanson joined Gutzug in expressing excitement for the national tour. He said he feels Hancher is very lucky to have been in-

ways say, in the world," he said. "And then, that Hancher audience, I love to speak to the Broadway crews, the touring cast whenever they come and I always tell them that they'll experience one of the warmest audiences on their tour."

Rob Cline, Hancher's director of marketing and communications, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that he also looks forward to interacting with the performers that come through Hancher, and that the work they

do makes the auditorium "come alive."

Cline noted that, while he was excited to promote the show, there were challenges involved when it came to navigating COVID-19.

"With the ups and downs of the virus, we've had some cancellations and postponements throughout the season, and so we have been hesitant to start campaigns for shows as early as we might otherwise," Cline wrote.

Now that the show's

campaign with Hancher is finally in motion, Cline wrote he looks forward to getting ready for the musical and seeing the exceptional work that the Hancher Auditorium staff and the cast members will do.

"*The Band's Visit*, which has won many, many awards, tells a moving story beautifully," Cline wrote. "I think audiences will connect with the characters, love the music, and have a great time at the performance."

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## The Daily Break

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0223

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- Across**
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  - 6 Judi Dench, since 1988
  - 10 Bruins' sch.
  - 14 Pinhead
  - 15 Puff piece?
  - 16 Letters after pis
  - 17 Sneaking suspicion
  - 19 "Get \_\_\_!"
  - 20 Purl counterpart
  - 21 Pirate whose hidden treasure inspired "The Gold-Bug"
  - 22 Largest city in North Dakota
  - 23 Cozy lodging
  - 24 Farm female
  - 25 Turn down a request
  - 27 Doctrine
  - 29 An ironic punch line
  - 33 100%
  - 35 Word in favor
  - 36 Dynamic start?
  - 37 Accept a package formally ... or a hint to 17-, 29-, 45- and 62-Across?
  - 42 Burden
  - 43 Reine's husband
  - 44 Parrot
  - 45 Rough flight
  - 48 Get on a soapbox
  - 52 Architect Frank \_\_\_ Wright

- 53 1960s fashion style
  - 55 Dallas player, informally
  - 56 Like almost two-thirds of the earth's population
  - 58 Costa \_\_\_
  - 60 Social media-induced anxiety, for short
  - 61 Pint-size
  - 62 Reason to pause a workout
  - 64 First world?
  - 65 Shrek, e.g.
  - 66 Buffalo hockey player
  - 67 Noted enforcer of Prohibition
  - 68 Solutions
  - 69 Strait-laced
- Down**
- 1 One no longer using a sippy cup, say
  - 2 "Beats the heck out of me"
  - 3 Acerbic
  - 4 Certain overhead apartment
  - 5 When to take a cruise on la Seine
  - 6 Get fuzz out of
  - 7 "Salt Fat \_\_\_ Heat" (popular cookbook)
  - 8 Imagination
  - 9 To use this you'll need to get cracking
  - 10 One who recreationally explores sewers and underground tunnels
  - 11 Like Sequoyah, for whom the tree is named

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Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Gabriel Bautista, anime TikTok

With nearly a million followers on TikTok, Gabriel Bautista creates humorous content about anime while balancing his work as a University of Iowa student.

Jami Martin-Trainor  
Arts Reporter

The pandemic has led many people to adopt new hobbies. Some have taken up painting, others baking, and plenty of others picked up relaxing pastimes like reading, puzzles, or yoga.

Several people, including University of Iowa senior Gabriel Bautista, took to creating content on TikTok.

Under the online name "senpapi.gabe," Bautista began making TikTok videos about anime in the garage of his home.

About two years later, Bautista has just under one million followers and has racked up over 42 million likes on his account.

At the beginning, Bautista said he exclusively posted content about anime. His work wasn't scripted or planned out beforehand — he just hit "record" on his device and started talking.

Now, he's expanded his videos to include some of his other interests, like video games and Marvel content. His simple process has evolved to include fully scripted skits, ring lights, and extensive video editing to create more humorous and enjoyable content. On his account, he can be found performing his popular "Aniway" Subway spoofs and commenting on anime and manga, like *Attack on Titan*, *Jojo's Bizarre Adventure*, and *One Piece*.

"I realized I actually really enjoy sitting down on my laptop or PC and writing out a skit and trying to find the best way to slide a joke every other line or trying to incorporate some kind of fun wordplay into it," Bautista said. "I can really only do [that] if I try to plan out the entire script beforehand."

Bautista said he has strategies to ensure that he remains humble in light

of his growing success. Comparing it to a term he heard used when he played football, Bautista said that observing other successful content creators has kept him "hungry."

"I cannot let my ego get inflated or else I will just be an absolute monster," Bautista said. "I compare myself to other content creators that are huge on the platform, like, I'm talking tens of millions of followers."

Bautista said that he has not experienced too much negativity online. Although he gets the occasional rude comment on his account, he said he largely ignores those responses and instead focuses on his welcoming community.

Bautista said he's expanded his skills as a writer and social media creator because of his dedication to content creation. His growth on TikTok has also led him to make new friends.

Bautista also attended Anime NYC in November 2021, a convention that brought together many anime fans. There, he met and collaborated with other large creators, which he said was one of his favorite parts of his platform.

"Seeing my accounts grow and seeing more and more people following me, it's been really eye-opening — just the amount of opportunities that I have with it," Bautista said. "I always thought I was funny, but now, apparently so do other people. It's reassuring to know that other people think that as well."

Despite his success, Bautista said that he does struggle with imposter syndrome — a phenomenon in which successful people feel as if it is undeserved, or that they only achieved their goals out of luck. It's the nature of social media that some

weeks his videos are successful, Bautista said, and others they are not. While the fluctuation is normal, Bautista said it can be hard on weeks when views are low.

"TikTok success comes in waves," Bautista said. "There are those low points where in a week you might not really have anything do all that well. Those weeks, it sucks — there's no other better way to say it."

Additionally, Bautista has to balance managing his large online presence with being a college student. It's difficult to do that, he said, and sometimes, and sometimes one area of his life has to suffer in order for the other to do well.

"There have been times where my grades have slipped, or I took like a week off where I just didn't post content that I really liked — it was more just to post something because I had to catch up on school or in that area," Bautista said.

Bautista said he always has people supporting and encouraging him



University of Iowa senior Gabriel Bautista poses for a portrait in front of his computer monitors in Iowa City.

to keep creating content through his struggles. His passion for his work keeps him going and inspires him to pursue a job that aligns with his online interest.

As a senior, Bautista is currently looking for jobs in media production, such as a social media manager or profession-

al content creator. While he searches for a job that aligns with the skills he's learned through TikTok, Bautista hopes to become financially independent through his online persona so he can combine his passion and career into one.

"I plan to continue making content on Tik-

Tok — I like it too much to quit," Bautista said. "End goal would be to have that or just content creation not on TikTok, but on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Twitch, be like a full-time gig where I can be financially dependent on it."

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