



JENOAH MCKIVER CHASES TITLE

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Joel THOMPSON'S
SEVEN LAST WORDS OF THE UNARMED
&
BEETHOVEN'S Symphony No. 9 "Choral"

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DETAILS INSIDE

The Daily Iowan

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An uncertain path



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Kartik Sivakumar, a University of Iowa senior studying neurobiology, talks with homework group members Laxmi Annappureddy (middle) and Liz Freiburger (right) during a neurobiology discussion in the Lindquist Center on April 12.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Paren Mhatre, a University of Iowa senior studying biomedical engineering, works on her senior design project in the Seamans Center on April 8. Mhatre's group is designing a laryngeal cleft closing device.

University of Iowa students Kartik Sivakumar and Paren Mhatre grew up in the U.S., but keeping their legal status has meant continually hoop-jumping, deadline-meeting, and living in uncertainty.

Hannah Pinski
Amplify and Opinions Editor

Paren Mhatre and Kartik Sivakumar have spent the majority of their lives in America. They went to high school in America, applied for college in America — but on those applications, they had to apply as international students.

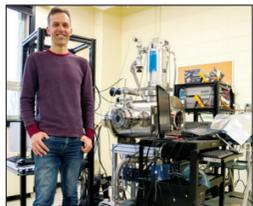
Mhatre and Sivakumar, both University of Iowa students, are “documented Dreamers” — children who have grown up in the U.S. as dependents of their foreign-born parents, who are long-term visa holders in the U.S.

There is no clear path to citizenship for documented Dreamers. At age 21, they are no longer eligible to be dependents on their parents’ visa — a grim milestone known to the group as “aging out” of the system, and one that means facing self-deportation to avoid enduring removal proceedings before a court.

Mhatre has lived in the U.S. since she was four months old, and said that the fact she was treated as an international student didn’t make sense and hurt her.

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INSIDE



Prof. studies lunar swirls

Jasper Halekas, associate professor in the department of physics and astronomy, is investigating lunar swirls, markings on the moon’s surface that have yet to be fully explored. Halekas is the principal investigator for a study that will send cameras to capture what happens on the moon’s surface up close.

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DITV

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Alum strikes \$100k Shark Tank deal

Erica Cole began working with prosthetics when she lost her leg in 2018. Last month, her adaptive clothing brand won her national attention.

Erica Cole went from dabbling with 3D printers to landing a \$100,000 deal on Shark Tank in the span of four years.

The University of Iowa alum, who lost her leg in an accident in 2018, successfully pitched her clothing company that makes accessible clothing for lower-half amputees on ABC’s Shark Tank.

“We were just finding that there was just a very basic need that wasn’t being met for people with disabilities,” Cole said.

Cole appeared on the

show April 1, promoting her brand, No Limbits. She presented to the investors and was offered a \$100,000 deal from sharks Mark Cuban and Emma Grede.

No Limbits offers many different styles of pants that have zippers on the sides of the leg above and below the knee, providing easier access to a prosthetic.

Cole said she started dabbling in 3D printed prosthesis covers while she was studying at the UI John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

Her interest increased as

time went on, she said.

“There was a pitch competition released by JPEC [John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center] to win a \$500 scholarship for pitching a viable business idea,” she said. “I thought, ‘Yeah, why not? I could really use a \$500 scholarship.’”

Cole won the competition and another after that, catapulting her business into action. At this time, she had numerous resources around her idea, she said, and felt she needed to start it up.

She landed her dream job



Contributed photo of Erica Cole

with Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico right around the same time that Target stores became curious about her idea.

“If Target is taking notice, there has to be something here,” Cole said.

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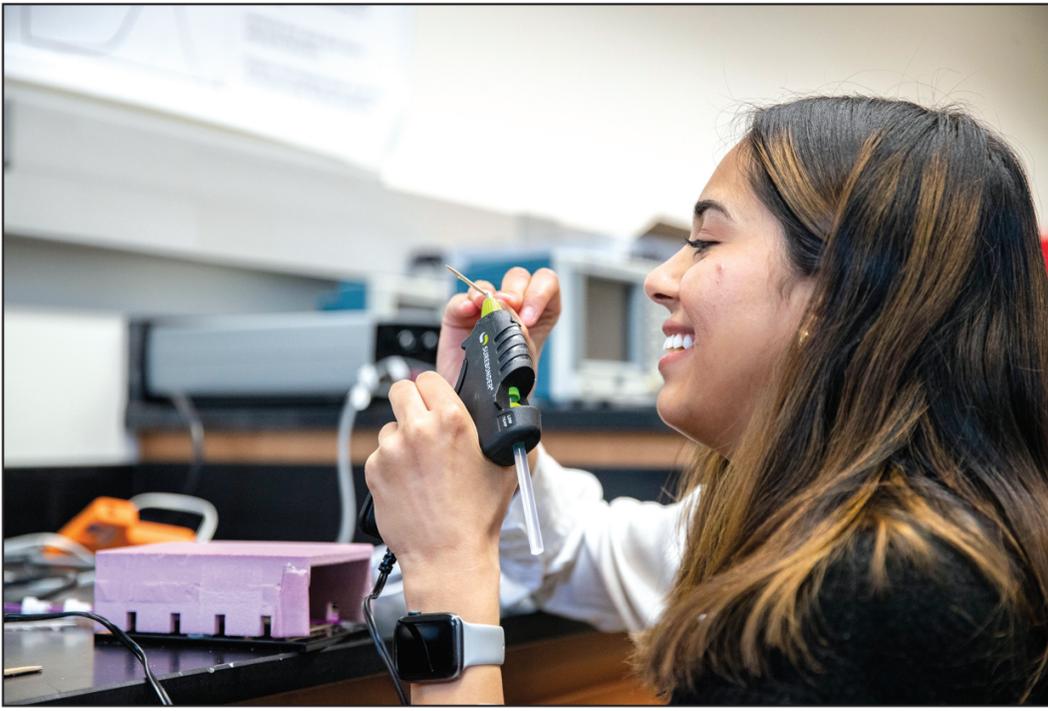
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VOICES OF CHANGE: BEETHOVEN'S 9TH





Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Pareen Mhatre, a University of Iowa senior studying biomedical engineering, works on her senior design project in the Seamans Center on April 8. Mhatre's group is designing a laryngeal cleft closing device.

DREAMERS
Continued from Front

“Our families pay taxes, our families contribute to the economy” Mhatre said. “But, in that moment when I was applying for colleges, I was being treated as a foreigner, which is something that I’m not.”

Barriers to authorization for work and ineligibility for social security are additional obstacles Dreamers face.

Sivakumar didn’t understand the limitations of his status until he was 15 years old. He had moved from India with his family at 11 years old and grew up in Cedar Rapids.

He couldn’t apply for part-time jobs that many of his friends had in high school because he was ineligible as a dependent on his parents’ work visa.

“My friends started doing that, but I couldn’t,” Sivakumar said. “I’m pretty well-versed in American culture, the language — like everything I know is almost here, but I can’t do some of the most basic things that most citizens or permanent residents can do. So, that was kind of hard to digest in the beginning.”

Documented Dreamers were left out of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), policy issued in 2012 by former President Barack Obama as a way to protect individuals who were brought into the country as children when their parents entered unlawfully. Documented Dreamers were left out of the program because they have lawful status until they turn 21.

While DACA didn’t grant citizenship, it al-

lowed Dreamers to apply for a driver’s license, social security number, and work permit, while protecting them from deportation.

Not everyone met the program’s requirements, however, which include being under age 31, having no lawful status, and having a physical presence in the U.S. as of June 15, 2012.

Documented Dreamers don’t qualify for the program because many immigrants come to the U.S. under legal non-immigrant visas such as the H1B or E2.

Mhatre and her family moved to the U.S. from India when she was four months old. Despite living in Iowa City for 20 years as a dependent on her mother’s student visa, Mhatre was legally considered an international student, even when applying to colleges from the place she’d called home all her life.

Applying as an international student meant Mhatre wasn’t allowed to receive federal aid, FAFSA, and most scholarships. She said she’s been lucky enough to pay in-state tuition at the UI by applying for residency at the beginning of each fall semester, but added there are other documented Dreamers who don’t have that luxury.

“They can still go to their state school, but they would be enrolled as an international student, and are forced to pay international tuition and fees,” Mhatre said. “Even if they’ve been living in that state for almost all their lives.”

Ageing out

Sivakumar started his application for his F1 stu-

dent visa at the beginning of his sophomore year of college — approximately one year before he would age out of the system in October 2021.

He didn’t receive an update about his application until a month before his 21st birthday.

Sivakumar was notified that he would receive a date for his Biometrics Appointment, when application identification data such as fingerprints and photos are collected, by Oct. 9.

He was also asked to confirm his mailing address and update it if anything changed in the notice, he said, so he and his family assumed the appointment date would come in the mail.

But as Oct. 9 approached and Sivakumar hadn’t received the date, he decided to call the USCIS services on Oct. 8 to inquire about the appointment.

He was told he missed it. Sivakumar said he and his family were told the appointment had actually been scheduled for Oct. 4 on their online account, rather than in the mail.

After waiting to hear details about rescheduling the appointment, he was notified months later that his application was denied because he missed the appointment.

By that time, Sivakumar had turned 21, aging out of the system and living in the U.S. without any immigration status for about four months. He said at that point he could either appeal to reopen his case or move back to India to reapply.

He chose the latter because the length of the appealing process was very uncertain, Sivakumar said.

Plus, at that point, he was two months away

from possibly being barred from entering the U.S. altogether for three years, according to USCIS admissibility policy.

As the date approached that Sivakumar would depart the U.S., nervousness started to consume his body. On top of the uncertainty of how long he would stay in India, he also had to manage extracurricular responsibilities and make up school work.

“The last couple of weeks before I left were miserable, to be honest,” Sivakumar said. “There

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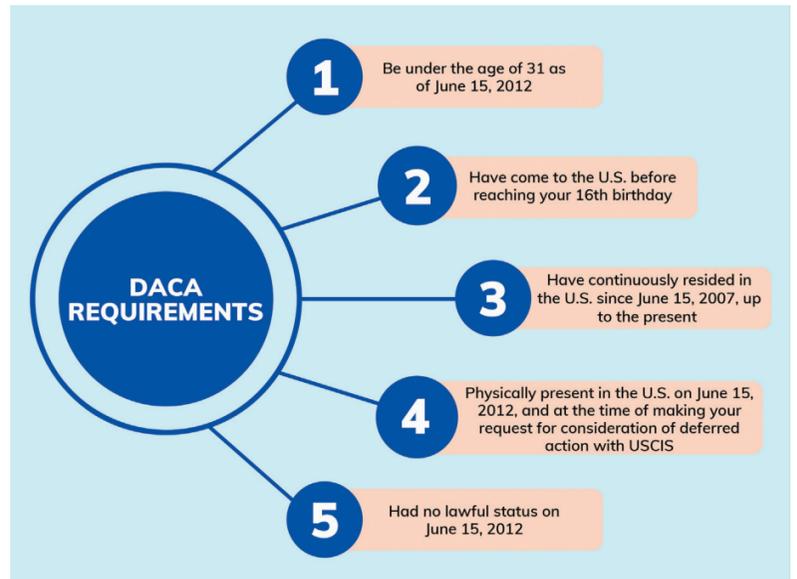
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Infographic by Jami Martin-Trainor

was so much going on, I was still busy with school and extracurricular activities. Unfortunately, none of that disappeared.”

Although he knew he would be traveling without his parents, Sivakumar said he did feel excited to stay with his grandparents, who he had only seen a couple of times after moving to the U.S., during family trips to India.

But the weight of the uncertainty lingered until his plane took off, Sivakumar said.

“As soon as I got on the flight to India, I thought to myself, ‘I don’t know when I’m coming back. It could be months, or, maybe a year, I just don’t know,’” Sivakumar said.

When Sivakumar landed in India, he reapplied for his student visa and

received a Biometrics Appointment and interview for March 11. He flew out March 10, when he would not only have the Biometrics Appointment, but also receive the decision on his application status.

Before the interview, Sivakumar stood in line to enter the U.S. embassy where he said nervousness started to creep into his body, and his mind



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Kartik Sivakumar, a University of Iowa senior studying neurobiology (left) talks with homework group member Liz Freiburger (right) during a neurobiology discussion in the Lindquist Center on April 12.

swarmed with “horror stories” about people getting rejected in 30 seconds.

Sivakumar expected to be asked one of the three potential interview questions: one about school choice, financial support, and nonimmigrant intent — meaning that the applicant doesn’t intend to stay in the U.S. indefinitely. Sivakumar was worried the officer would be skeptical about his nonimmigrant intent because he spent the past 10 years of his life in the U.S., but the question was never asked during the interview.

“Your job in the interview is to prove to the officer that you will be a nonimmigrant,” Sivakumar said. “They will suspect you are trying to immigrate, and you need to prove to them otherwise.”

Acceptable evidence to prove this includes family and other social relationships, offers of future employment, or property ownership, according to USCIS.

Administrative processing is when the consular officer, the person who interviews the applicant, feels they need more information to make a decision on the application. It is more common for academic programs that are sensitive to U.S. security such as engineering.

Sivakumar’s application was approved during the interview, and he returned to the U.S. three weeks later, a relief after he expected having to stay in India for several months.

Although Sivakumar didn’t plan to return to India during the spring semester, he said he was grateful to spend time with and grow closer to his relatives.

“I ate some delicious homemade meals,

watched movies with my cousins, helped my grandpa with some errands, sat with my grandma and talked to her about the neighborhood or family gossip or, you know, look at old pictures together of our families, of my other grandpa who recently passed away,” Sivakumar said. “The trip was stressful, but I was grateful for the time with my family.”

Sivakumar described his departure from India as bittersweet. Although he was excited to return to the U.S., he said leaving his family — particularly his grandparents — was difficult.

However, the trip encouraged him to stay in contact more with his family across the ocean.

“Once I went there, I realized how nice it was to have them in my life and I appreciated everything they did for me,” Sivakumar said. “And it’s motivated me to stay in touch with them a lot more. I try to call my grandparents back in India at least once a week now.”

Sivakumar said he felt “pure relief” when he stepped out of the airport back into the U.S.

He decided to surprise his friends with his return by showing up at one of his extracurricular meetings.

“I walked into the meeting, and I waved, ‘Hey, sorry, I’m late.’” Sivakumar said. “They were very surprised, and my close friends got up and ran over to give me a tight hug. It was a nice reunion.”

Advocating for documented Dreamers

Mhatre aged out of the system in April 2021.

Although she had applied for a student visa 10 months prior in July

2020, Mhatre still had not received a visa by April. While she was no longer eligible to be dependent on her parents’ visa, she had applied for a tourist visa to bridge the gap between the time she aged out and when she received her student visa.

That month, however, she had the opportunity to testify in front of the U.S. Congress as a member of Improve the Dream, a youth-led organization that supports and advocates for young immigrants who have grown up in the U.S. as child dependents of visa holders.

The group’s proposed solution is to “permanently end aging-out and ensure all future action addressing Dreamers al-

Types of Visa



H1B Visa

Nonimmigrant classification for people who wish to perform in a specialty occupation or services relating to Department of Defense or cooperative research and development project.

F-1 Student Visa

Visa that allows people to stay in the U.S. as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, elementary school, or other academic institution or in a language training program.

E2 Visa

Available to citizens or nationals of 30+ countries that have treaties with the U.S. to set up a business, practice, or office.

Infographic by Jami Martin-Trainor

STEPS FOR A F1 STUDENT VISA



Step 2

Pay the SEVIS fee to get enrolled into the SEVIS program and receive an I-20 form. An I-20 proves a person is legally enrolled in a program of study in the U.S.

Step 4

Schedule and prepare for the interview with the U.S. embassy or consulate. Wait times vary by location, season, and visa category.

Step 1

Get accepted into a Student and Exchange Visitor Program School

Step 3

Complete the visa application. This requires a non-refundable visa application fee.

Step 5

Attend the interview. The interview is where it will be determined whether a person qualifies to receive an F1 Student Visa.

Infographic by Jami Martin-Trainor

lows children who maintained status to qualify if they meet all eligibility criteria, except the requirement to be undocumented,” the group’s website says.

Mhatre joined Improve the Dream in March 2021 after her mom and cousin found the link to join the organization’s slack channel. Mhatre didn’t think Improve the Dream was going to be as big a part of her life, she said, but at the time, she also didn’t realize that there were so many children like her.

“I filled out this form and the founder contacted me, and he said, ‘Let’s connect, I want to hear your story,’” Mhatre said. “I didn’t realize that there were so many children in this situation. And so that kind of pushed me to help fight for them more.”

Mhatre recalls testifying before Congress as simultaneously “surreal, terrifying, and comforting.” She said she had a large support system from her family, friends, and immigrant community.

“Never did I think our lawmakers would be open to hearing about our issue, or my story,” she said.

After testifying, Mhatre said her email inbox and social media was flooded with messages from people in her exact situation.

Mhatre received her student visa about two months later, and she attributes her testimony, saying she’s a “lucky case.”

Her fortune inspired her to fight for other documented Dreamers and to have more involvement with Improve the Dream. Currently, she serves as the organization’s communications manager.

“There are more than 250,000 of us across this country, and it shouldn’t be that way. It was definitely a learning experience,” Mhatre said. “But also seeing that there were so many people who couldn’t get citizenship drove me to fight harder for them.”

What happens next?

A student visa doesn’t solve all the problems of documented Dreamers, Mhatre said, who are already behind their peers before they turn 21.

Documented Dreamers aren’t legally allowed to work or even obtain internships that many college students apply for.

Documented Dreamers cannot take advantage of internships like other students, including international students.

“It was hard because I would see all my peers getting to take advantage of these amazing opportunities offered by the industry and medical devices, and they would get to get paid, they would essentially be able to be independent,” Mhatre said “that’s what college is about.”

A student visa is only valid until the individual finishes their degree. On an F1 visa, people are only allowed to stay in the U.S. for up to 60 days after their graduation. Once Mhatre graduates, she will have to apply for a work visa to legally stay in the U.S.

Work visa sponsorship is an expensive process, for which the employer pays. An international employee costs more than a local employee, but because of an enormous number of positions going unfilled, employers still go through with the process.

“When you need sponsorship, the company, in a way, loses money,” Mhatre said. “They have to pay for that process.”

Sivakumar plans to apply for medical school after he graduates. He wants to take a gap year, however, which means he needs to apply for Optional Practical Training for F1 students.

The Optional Practical Training authorization is temporary employment that directly relates to an F1’s major area of study without needing to enroll in classes.

“If I get accepted into med school, I’ll get a new I-20 from them [USCIS Services]” Sivakumar said. “And based on that, I just need that in my visa to be up to date in order to continue my education.”

Jessica Malott, owner and managing partner of Malott Law PLC in Iowa City, which practices primarily in immigration, said she believes that overall immigration policy needs to be improved to make it faster for immigrants, especially families.

One change Malott believes might make a difference is an independent immigration court. Currently, it is operated under the Department of Justice’s Executive Office

for Immigration Review, under the power of the U.S. attorney general.

Immigration courts are civil courts, and the EOIR comprises 58 courts across the country and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Malott said the current immigration system harms families with problems like visa backlogs and substantial expenses.

“It’s just a lot of time and money, and some families have to be separated through this whole process,” Malott said.

While Mhatre believes that the immigration system needs to change in an ideal world, she said the best strategy right now is to compromise.

“It is tough to have anything passed in the Senate with 60 votes,” Mhatre said. “Which is why, I think, instead of playing with politics—because that affects people’s lives—see what can happen if we try to compromise and pass something that will even help, you know, a smaller portion of people.”

Improve the Dream advocates for the Biden administration to take such action as including documented Dreamers in future administrative and legislative efforts to protect Dreamers. In the past, legislation was introduced in Congress to protect documented Dreamers.

In 2021, Rep. Deborah Ross, D-North Carolina, and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, introduced the America’s CHILDREN Act that would permanently end “aging out” for children of long-time visa holders. A companion bill was also introduced in the senate by Sens. Alex Padilla, D-California and Rand Paul, R-Kentucky.

Mhatre said she hopes future bipartisan legislation will fix a part of the immigration system “that’s been forgotten about for so long.”

“I think the past year itself has given our community a lot of hope. Even the smaller things like getting articles written about our issue, or having the community talk about it,” Mhatre said. “We’ve had a bill introduced in both the House and the Senate with bipartisan support — But I think it’s given me personally a lot of hope, just all these factors.”

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Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan
Kartik Sivakumar, a University of Iowa senior studying Neurobiology, completes homework during a neurobiology discussion in the Lindquist Center on April 12.

Opinions

COLUMN

Period products are essential goods

The Iowa House and Gov. Kim Reynolds should vote to approve a bill alleviating the tax on essential health care products for menstruating people.



Yasmine Buchanan
Opinions Columnist

The Iowa Senate voted to approve a bill that lifts the tax on period and diaper products, leaving it up to the House and Gov. Kim Reynolds to approve this legislation. Across the country, people have protested the tax placed on period products, and organizations like the Pad Project and Power Pump Girls work to address period poverty in the U.S.

It's time this bill is passed, moving us toward more accessible menstrual care.

Period products are a basic necessity for people who menstruate, but they still come with the normal Iowa sales tax of 6 percent, or 7 percent in some cities. Things like toilet paper and over-the-

counter drugs are treated as essential and thus have no additional sales tax placed on them, and period products should be treated the same way.

Restricted access to period products leads to period poverty.

According to the Iowa Youth Congress, two-thirds of low-income women are unable to afford menstrual products at least once a year. With half of the population menstruating, more needs to be done to ensure there is access to period products.

The pandemic has exacerbated period poverty, making passing legislation that alleviates the tax on period products even more necessary.

A national survey of 1,000 menstruating teens showed four out of five have either missed class or know of someone who has because they couldn't access period products. Furthermore, one in five menstruating teens reported struggling to afford period products in general.



Many people, such as those who experience homelessness, rely on public restrooms for period products, which have often been unavailable during the pandemic. The combination of lack of access and financial struggle has worsened people's ability to care for themselves during

their period.

A study done at the beginning of the pandemic showed income loss during this time contributed to increases in barriers to menstrual care. People who experienced income loss were 3.64 times more likely to not be able to afford period products than people who

did not.

It's time Iowa takes the necessary steps to alleviate at least some of the financial stress of buying period products. On average, people who menstruate have 450 periods in their life. The Iowa Youth Congress found, with this in mind, the tax on period products could amount

to \$220 in a lifetime. The National Organization for Women found the average menstruating woman spends around \$20 per cycle and \$18,000 on period products over the course of their lifetime.

People do not make the choice to have a period and should therefore not have to pay the cost equivalent to college tuition in their lifetime to take care of themselves through this natural process. The \$220 may seem insignificant in comparison to how much people who menstruate could spend on health care items, but there is no reason to tax period products as non-essential items because it makes them even more inaccessible.

No one should have to choose between food and buying pads or tampons to take care of their period. Reynolds and the Iowa House should do the right thing for menstruating Iowans and alleviate the tax on period products.

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COLUMN

Maintain support for students with child dependents

With declining rates of child care availability around the country, non-traditional students — including those with child dependents — may have extra needs on campus.



Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist

In fall 2021, 500,000 students were a part of the nationwide enrollment drop in undergraduate programs. With this number in mind, the University of Iowa must prioritize ensuring the success of students who are able to stay enrolled.

One group especially vulnerable to not completing college degrees is non-traditional students. This group maintained a two-thirds dropout rate 11 years ago.

Statuses and identities that an academic institution may use to label a student as non-traditional can include their age if they are 24 or older, tax filing status if they have child dependents, employment status as a full-time employee, and even life choice factors like choosing to delay enrollment, veteran status or active duty service while in school, and more.

In 2013, 25 percent of all college students, around 4.8 million undergraduates, were raising children. The average cost per child in a middle-class family was \$12,980. This number falls only a few thousand higher than the cost of tuition to attend UI in the 2022-23 academic year.

Tuition for all UI resident undergraduate students this upcoming fall semester will be \$9,942.

The UI Office of Student Care and Assistance does

provide links to resources for those needing child care on campus. There is a range of child care facilities around the UI campus and a subsidy program for those in need of child care funding. However, funding is not guaranteed for all student parents and is provided after child care charges are already accrued.

Outside of the nearly \$13,000 annual cost per child needed to provide basic necessities, child care in Iowa comes with a steep annual cost of \$10,379.

High costs of tuition — child care, and living expenses all while the state minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour — makes it unsurprising that 70 percent of students with children live in or near to poverty conditions.

With "primarily in-person instruction" listed as a campus life goal for the UI in the 2021-22 academic year, focus on removing Zoom and other distance options causes complications for students with non-traditional lifestyles.

It's important to recognize that, while Zoom options may help accessibility for some, it is not a perfect solution. In 2021, 52 percent of parents stated that having low access to child care during the pandemic and having children at home created higher levels of professional and personal stress.

To combat barriers to attending degree-seeking programs, many universities have offered on campus child care centers or grants to help pay for the extra costs that children present to students who are also parents.

In 2003, 55 percent of four-year public institutions offered child care programs to students. In 2015, that statis-

tic had dropped to 49 percent.

Data from 2015 did not specify whether students at these universities had to pay for child care out of pocket or if it was provided for free.

Accessibility to care providers is as much of a barrier to professional obligations (such as employment and academics) for parents as the financial burden of current child care.

Federal funds are available to create child care centers on campuses for student needs and to alleviate costs for students with dependents. Schools in the U.S. with federally funded child care centers include the University of New Mexico, St. Cloud State University, and University of California, Berkeley.

While students with child dependents have familial needs that could be better supported through reliable, accessible financial help from the UI, this is not to say that individual professors aren't doing what they can to make students' lives easier.

"I always encourage my students to bring their children to lecture if lack of child care or other extenuating circumstances are preventing them from attending," Michaela Rupert, associate professor of criminology at the UI, stated on the first day of class this spring semester.

This is an offer she extends in all her courses.

While the UI and its staff continue to work hard to maintain community support and positive conditions for students with dependents, ensuring equity in the form of financial support for all student parents to those who may be of extra need would be a good next step.

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COLUMN

The business of news media

It is imperative that people diversify their news consumption as more news sources fall into the hands of large corporations.



Sophia Meador
Opinions Columnist

Free press is essential to democracy. The U.S. has a large news industry, unlike many other countries where the government has a strong grip on news production. However, many news organizations are now in the hands of just a few individuals.

Business has always been a part of the news industry, but now, many news organizations function much more like a business than a newsroom. As a result, stories are published for profit, rather than public interest. Consumers should be aware of the business practices of the news industry and consume news from a diverse range of platforms.

The newspaper industry has suffered in the 21st century. Since 2004, more than one in five local newspapers in the U.S. have closed.

But this is not due to decline in public interest. Because more people turn to the internet for news, fewer people seek newspapers. As a result, advertising sales, the main source of funding for most newspapers, declined.

In the U.S., 86 percent of adults report getting news from their smartphone, computer, or tablet. Only 32 percent report getting news from newspapers, compared to 68 percent receiving news from television.

It can be debated whether the print industry is doomed, but that should not be the primary concern. After all, the news industry has simply changed with the times.

What we should be concerned about now is who operates the news industry. In the U.S., eight media giants control 818 broadcast stations and their digital counterparts.

This trend has been especially prevalent throughout the pandemic, as hedge funds and financial groups have bought out struggling newspapers. In fact, it is estimated that half of all daily newspapers in the U.S. are now owned by hedge funds and other

financial firms.

In May 2021, the *Chicago Tribune* was purchased by the New York-based hedge fund, Alden Capital Global, for \$63,000.

Other large digital and print publications like the *New York Post*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report* are owned by large corporations and billionaires, including Jeff Bezos and Rupert Murdoch.

As more news stations and newspapers fall into the hands of corporations, their priorities are shifting. Rather than covering unglamorous issues like local stories, public affairs and international issues, these new stations will cover issues that attract consumer attention and interest.

As a result, news typically looks and sounds the same. It is not the fault of journalists, as published content is typically beyond their control. Rather, this is a result of the digital age, and consumers need to be aware of issues.

It seems near impossible to turn back the clock and reopen closed newspapers. However, there are solutions to better promote public interest in the news industry.

Diversity in media consumption is one solution. As large corporations own most of the news industry, turning to smaller news outlets for information promotes their mission and values.

Independent operations do not fall under a corporation. In eastern Iowa, we are fortunate to have independent newspapers like *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* and the *Daily Iowan*.

A second solution is to support non-profit and public news outlets like *NPR*, *PBS*, and *AP*. Nonprofit and public news do not fall under any corporation, and present unbiased reporting and news.

Navigating the changing news industry is hard, and it is still OK to fall back on larger news outlets. Personally, I have no intentions of canceling my *New York Times* subscription anytime soon.

But as the news industry changes, everyone must make an effort to strategically consume news content. That includes reading stories that are unglamorous and serious, seeking stories that large news industries are not covering, and supporting local journalism and independent media.

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UI professor to study lunar swirls

Associate Professor Jasper Halekas received an award from NASA and Johns Hopkins University.

Simone Garza
News Reporter

A University of Iowa professor will soon explore the swirls on the surface of the moon.

Jasper Halekas, associate professor in the UI department of physics and astronomy, is the deputy principal investigator for "Lunar Vertex: Exploring the geoscience and space plasma physics." He was awarded over \$160,000 by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and NASA, which will pay for the research team's time working on the Lunar Vertex mission.

The mission launch is set for 2024, with a commercial lander to the moon that will examine the Reiner Gamma, one of the most visible markings on the moon's surface from Earth. The Reiner Gamma has a unique pattern of light and dark soils.

David Blewett, planetary geologist at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory and principal investigator for the Lunar Vertex mission, said solar wind and micrometeorites may have caused the soil to darken over time.

"As the solar wind and micrometeoroids — tiny little dust and side-sized grains — zap the surface, there's no atmosphere to block them out, like on the Earth," Blewett said.

Data collection from the 2024 launch will take 13 Earth days, which are equivalent to about one day on the moon's surface.

Redwire Space, a space commercialization company, is providing a camera, Halekas said. The cameras will capture what is happening on the surface of the moon to cause swirl markings. The swirl features are similar to pouring creamer in a cup of coffee, he said. Halekas said there are

many theories about the swirl regions, but they have not been landed on before for proper measurements.

"We're going to go there and make measurements right on this region and try and untangle these mysteries," he said.

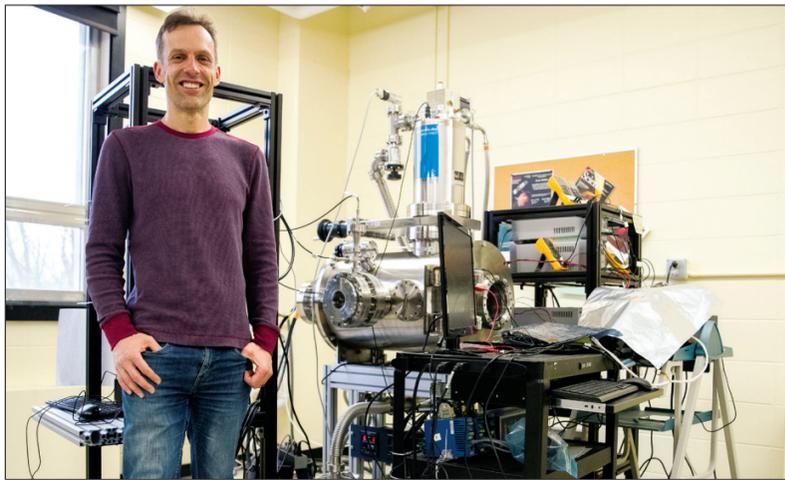
Blewett said the mission is relying solely on solar power.

"We're going to have a little rover that is going to carry a magnetometer and sort of a microscope to look down out of the belly of the rover at the soil," he said.

Blewett said the rovers are about the size of a shoebox, which don't have much power and space.

A preliminary design review will be presented at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in May. Halekas, Blewett, and their team will describe all aspects of their mission during the review.

If the review succeeds, they will have the green light



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan
University of Iowa Associate Professor Jasper Halekas poses for a portrait in his laboratory at Van Allen Hall in Iowa City on March 30. Halekas researches the magnetic field on the moon's surface.

to continue, Blewett said. "There's so much we can learn about the moon, about the formation of the earth and the moon as a system, and about our solar system as a whole," Blewett said.

Halekas said future projects may revolve more around the lunar swirl. "I hope that future physics and astronomy students will actually be able to go to an archive and take the

data that we collect on this mission and use it to answer scientific questions that we haven't even thought of asking yet," Halekas said.

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Pentacrest Museums to begin Tree Tours

The guided tours around the Pentacrest will highlight the history and symbolism behind several trees on campus.

Olivia Augustine
Arts Reporter

The University of Iowa has an abundance of rare tree species across its campus. The University of Iowa's Pentacrest Museums have decided to celebrate the history and symbolism of the campus' abundance of rare tree species by debuting their new educational program series, Tree Tours, on Earth Day, April 22.

This spring, the UI campus became one of only 145 institutions recognized with this title, by an organization called Arbnet. Arbnet focuses on expanding, recognizing, and establishing arboretums, which are places for plants and trees to grow for educational purposes.

Since 2009, the UI campus has also been a designated Tree Campus Higher

Education location, which is the Arbor Day Foundation's national program aiming to acknowledge universities with flourishing, healthy tree and plant life.

The tour begins at the main entrance the UI Museum of Natural History and will stick to the paved areas around the Old Capitol.

Carolina Kaufman, UI Pentacrest Museums director of education & engagement, created and developed the Tree Tours program.

In an email to *The Daily Iowan*, Kaufman wrote that she and her volunteer researcher, Trevor Viohl, spent over six months researching campus trees, with special help from UI Arborist Andrew Dahl. She noted across its 1900 acres, the UI is home to 8,000 trees of over 500 species.

With resilience on her

mind after the last two years, Kaufman wrote that she was in part inspired to create the tour by the instability and adjustments brought on by the pandemic and other socioeconomic issues. Trees are the "lungs of our planet," she wrote.

"This made me realize that it was an opportunity to connect the resilience of trees to that of our own," she wrote. "Trees that have survived hardship and disruptions like war and storms help exemplify to us the kind of resilience and growth mindset we need in our busy working lives."

Kaufman wrote that she looks forward to telling the stories of two of the oldest trees on campus, the Black Walnut and American Elm, which have both been alive for over 130 years. She also

looks forward to exploring the UI's newest botanical addition, the Anne Frank Sapling, she wrote.

The Anne Frank Sapling will be planted on campus on April 29, Arbor Day, and is the 13th Anne Frank Sapling in the world. Kaufman noted that it will be planted with the intention of encouraging communities to honor Frank's life and legacy.

Pentacrest Museums volunteer Trevor Viohl helped research the trees across campus. He wrote in an email to the *DI* that, after completing the tour, he hopes people will not only have a deeper appreciation for the trees that populate the UI's campus, but also a renewed relationship with the natural world.

Viohl noted that trees are

quickly vanishing from their standing spots in many locations, and that the UI's campus should encourage other areas of the world to rebuild their relationship with nature.

"My hope is that audiences will see the importance of trees for people throughout history and use it as inspiration to foster their own relationship with our natural world," Viohl wrote.

Another UI well-being program for students and staff, liveWELL, is collaborating with Tree Tours for the summer. LiveWell is offering a "2022 Campus Wellness Scavenger Hunt," in which three steps overlap with those on Tree Tours.

Megan Hammes, the senior director of UI Wellness, said she is excited for this

collaboration, and that there is value in highlighting the green spaces on campus.

In trying to reclaim activities that provide joy and energy after two lonely years, Hammes said that liveWELL aims to prioritize wellness, and Tree Tours is a healthy way to do that, emphasizing that mindfulness includes paying attention, which can help people's brains recover from being tired and weary.

"Being mindful is extremely beneficial for resilience," Hammes said. "There are also mental health and well-being benefits of being in nature and connecting with others, and the Tree Tours are a perfect way to get all of these benefits at once."

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The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0314

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- Across**
- 1 Little hopper
 - 5 Tied, as sneakers
 - 10 It springs eternal
 - 14 Replacement for the franc and lira
 - 15 Remains
 - 16 Narrow
 - 17 Neighbor on "Family Matters"
 - 19 Brain
 - 20 Summer suit material
 - 21 Plural suffix with good, hood and food
 - 22 Online personal journals
 - 23 Santa __ winds
 - 24 Letter after sigma
 - 26 Wedding vow
 - 28 Neighbor on "Full House"
 - 34 Ones with negative views on humanity
 - 37 Unit of resistance
 - 38 Four-star review
 - 39 __ 66 (classic highway)
 - 40 Winter hrs. in St. Louis
 - 41 Strongly disliked
 - 42 Gawky at
 - 43 Exclamation from Homer Simpson
 - 44 Lets down
 - 45 Neighbor on "Home Improvement"
 - 48 Old cloth
 - 49 Peculiar
 - 50 Olympic women's gymnastics powerhouse

- 53 What a tree provides on a hot, sunny day
 - 57 Boise's home: Abbr.
 - 59 Writer Joyce Carol __
 - 61 Secret recording device
 - 62 Bygone TV host with a famous "neighborhood"
 - 64 Notion
 - 65 Narrow street
 - 66 Shallowest of the Great Lakes
 - 67 A good one is square
 - 68 Lesser-played half of a 45
 - 69 Sort (through)
- Down**
- 1 Car company with a "T" logo
 - 2 __ the cold (left stranded)
 - 3 Big sports venue
 - 4 Hawk's opposite
 - 5 Baton Rouge sch.
 - 6 Central room of a Roman house
 - 7 "Well, that takes the __!"
 - 8 20/20, for example
 - 9 Aging broadband inits.
 - 10 Web designer's code
 - 11 Youngstown's home
 - 12 __-Pong
 - 13 Concludes
 - 18 Lure

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© Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

MCKIVER

Continued from Page 8

to keep my body healthy this year.”

Although a significant portion of McKiver’s improvement has been self-created, he recognizes the importance of his support system. He cited teammates and coaches as two of the biggest contributors to his confidence.

“There’s great energy and great vibes throughout the whole team,” McKiver said. “[Coach Woody] builds everybody up, and seeing the way he treats everyone makes this team feel like a family.”

The sophomore out of High Point, North Carolina, also won a 2022 Big Ten indoor title in the 600-meter with a time of 1 minute and 15.67 seconds. He was a runner-up at the 2022 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships

in the 400-meter with a 45.65-second time.

Woody said McKiver’s overall season success, as well as his recently acquired school record, has boosted his confidence and set him up for a big outdoor postseason.

“I think it just proves to him what type of 400 athlete he is,” Woody said. “He can be a 44-low guy by the end of the outdoor season, and who knows, maybe he’ll be even faster.”

As the Hawkeyes’ outdoor season continues, McKiver said he has a shortlist of goals to accomplish in his sophomore year.

“My goal this outdoor season is for our team to win the Big Ten title again,” he said. “Individually, I want to win nationals and go sub-44 in the 400.”

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Iowa’s Jenoah McKiver celebrates after placing first in the men’s 600-meter premiere run with a time of 1:16.08 at the 2022 Larry Wiecezorek Invitational track and field meet at the University of Iowa Recreation Building on Jan. 21. McKiver’s time set a meet, facility, and school record.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Continued from Page 8

tion likely will continue into fall camp, Woods said, as will the battle for the new holding spot. Once starters at both spots are named, the top tandem can work on their chemistry and perfect their routine.

Redshirt sophomore Aaron Blom was the starting kicker on the depth chart released at the start of spring practices. Freshman Drew Stevens, the No. 10 kicker in the 2022 Kohl’s Kicking Camps’ rankings, and junior Lucas Amaya will also be in contention for the job. None of them have any college kicking experience.

“I don’t see anyone leading or trailing right now,” Woods said.

Taylor strives for consistency

Elsewhere on special teams, Taylor returns for his third season as a starter after breaking the program record with

3,688 punting yards (46.1 yards per punt) last season.

The 24-year-old Australian joked that he might be the oldest student-athlete on campus. Despite having the age advantage over his teammates, however, Taylor is only entering his third year of playing organized American football. Still, Taylor is a veteran voice in the Iowa football building, a fact of which his coaches need to remind him.

“Coaches will be like, ‘I know you don’t want to, but sometimes you don’t have a choice,’” Taylor said. “Which I kind of take as a compliment because it means guys look up to me. It makes me feel good about myself.”

Taylor likes to let his play on the field do most of the talking.

Thirty-nine of Taylor’s 80 punts as a sophomore landed inside the opponent 20-yard line, though that’s a number the honorable mention All-Big Ten selection would like to see go up.

“Just trying to mini-

mize the gap between the good and the bad,” Taylor said. “From a punting point of view, just trying to be more consistent.”

DeJean a versatile piece for the Hawkeyes

DeJean’s first season in Iowa City was a busy one.

The former high school quarterback who scored 132 career touchdowns entered the 2021 season at safety before moving to cornerback. Eventually, DeJean saw time on special teams and added a role as a scout team wide receiver to his versatile list of responsibilities. Heading into his sophomore season, DeJean’s role seems to be expanding.

At the start of the spring, DeJean was listed as a No. 2 cornerback, though most of his time in practice has come at safety and “Cash,” a hybrid linebacker/safety position.

“It’s been a learning process,” DeJean said. “I’m still trying to get it all down. [Cash] is a lot different. I haven’t played



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa special teams coach Levor Woods hugs defensive back Henry Marchese after Marchese blocked a punt during a football game between No. 16 Iowa and Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Nov. 26, 2021. Iowa punter Tory Taylor and long snapper Austin Spiewak joined in the celebration. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers, 28-21.

linebacker in a long time and that’s kind of where that position’s at, so it’s definitely a change, but I’ve learned a lot.”

On special teams, DeJean continues to practice

as a gunner and a returner, spots he saw playing time at last season, while also competing for the starting holder spot.

“That’s really what I came in here with, just

trying to find a way to help the team and be part of helping us have success,” DeJean said. “I just want to win games.”

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PCP

Continued from Page 8



Austin Hanson
Sports Editor

Cooper DeJean

Robert stole my pick for this one, so to a certain extent, I’ll be playing devil’s advocate here. However, we’re still choosing between dynamite athletes.

Xavier Nwankpa is a five-star recruit. He left Southeast Polk High School in Altoona a semester early to participate in Iowa football’s spring practices. He joined the program at 6-foot-2, 195 pounds. Nwankpa is now 211 pounds.

Because of his physical stature and seeming-

ly accelerated growth, Nwankpa appears to be the favorite to play cash over the likes of 5-foot-11, 204-pound junior Sebastian Castro.

While Nwankpa is a great choice to play cash, I have my eye on sophomore Cooper DeJean.

Like Nwankpa, DeJean is a superb athlete, and he possesses the frame needed to play cash at 6-foot-1, 203 pounds.

Yes, he’s not quite as big as Nwankpa. But he has a lot more experience than “X.”

DeJean has been on the Hawkeyes’ roster since 2021, practicing and learning defensive coordinator Phil Parker’s scheme. During that time, DeJean has gotten a lot of reps in the defensive backfield. DeJean even started at strong safety in Iowa’s 28-21 win over Nebraska in Lincoln.

DeJean checks all three boxes Iowa has for its cash. He’s big enough to drop down and function as a pseudo-linebacker in run situations. He is quick enough to serve as a de-



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa first-year and 5-star recruit Xavier Nwankpa participates in a drill during an Iowa football open practice at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 29.

fensive back on pass plays. DeJean is also smart and experienced enough to know where he’s supposed

to be on the field based on what opposing offenses are doing.

I hear the “X” crowd

loud and clear. They’ve made points I can’t dispute.

Still, I think Hawkeye

fans should watch for DeJean at cash this fall.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

MBB sophomore Kris Murray declares for NBA Draft, retains eligibility

Iowa men's basketball forward Kris Murray has declared for the 2022 NBA Draft but has not hired an agent, maintaining his college eligibility, he announced via Twitter on Thursday.

Murray, who just finished his sophomore season with the Hawkeyes, said he entered the draft as an early entry with the intention of receiving feedback from NBA teams that will help him become "the best player [he] can possibly be." The 6-foot-8, 211-pound forward has until June 1 to remove his name from the draft.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to play the game I love every day and to wear the Black and Gold," Murray said in a release. "My focus is being able to grow as a player in every way possible. The opportunity to get feedback and experience working out for NBA teams will help me become the best player I can possibly be and take my game to the next level. I have big plans for next year and this experience will help me do that. I appreciate everyone's support."

Murray declared for the draft two weeks after his identical twin, Keegan Murray, declared. Keegan is a projected lottery pick, while Kris would likely be in contention to be selected in the second round of the two-round draft.

Both Murrys will have the chance to compete in front of scouts and executives at the NBA Combine, which starts May 16.

"We fully support Kris using this opportunity to receive the feedback from NBA personnel through workouts and interviews," Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said in a release. "Kris took great strides and really came into his own last season. He is going through this process with a professional approach, and we are excited to see his game grow to another level."

As a sophomore, Kris Murray averaged 9.7 points and 4.3 rebounds per game off the bench while shooting 38.7 percent from 3-point range. If he returns for his junior season, Murray will likely be in line for a starting role.

Keegan Murray (NBA Draft), Jordan Bohannon (out of eligibility) and Joe Toussaint, Josh Ogundele, and Austin Ash (transfer portal) have moved on from last year's Big Ten Tournament Championship team.

Men's basketball assistant Billy Taylor accepts head coaching position at Elon

Billy Taylor, an assistant coach on the Iowa men's basketball team, is leaving Iowa City to accept the head coaching job at Elon, a North Carolina Division I school, it was announced on Friday.

Taylor interviewed for the position earlier this week.

"I am humbled and honored to accept the head coaching position at Elon University," Taylor said in a release. "I want to thank President Connie Ledoux Book and Director of Athletics Dave Blank for offering me the opportunity to serve the student-athletes in our basketball program. As a program, we will pursue excellence on the basketball court, in the classroom and in the community. Our family is excited to begin this new journey, and we look forward to joining the Elon community."

This will be Taylor's fourth head coaching job. He has previously served as head coach at Lehigh, Ball State, and Belmont Abbey (Division II) and holds a career record of 214-210. While at Lehigh, Taylor was named Patriot League Coach of the Year twice and made one trip to the NCAA Tournament. Elon, a school in the Colonial Athletic Association, has never reached the NCAA Tournament.

Taylor's departure leaves an open position on head coach Fran McCaffery's staff. Taylor had two stints in Iowa City, first as director of operations for McCaffery's program from 2013-16. Taylor replaced Andrew Francis as an assistant coach for the Hawkeyes in 2019. During one of Iowa's 26 wins during the 2021-22 season, Taylor was the acting head coach when McCaffery was in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you're playing golf, usually bad things go through your head."

- Iowa football special teams coordinator LeVar Woods on Iowa's kicking derby

STAT OF THE DAY

10

- Wrestlers in Iowa women's wrestling's recruiting class of 2022

McKiver on a mission

Record-breaking sophomore Jenoa McKiver is in pursuit of a national title in the 400-meter.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Jenoah McKiver leads the pack during the men's 600-meter premiere run at the 2022 Larry Wiecezorek Invitational track and field meet at the University of Iowa Recreation Building on Jan. 21. McKiver placed first with a time of 1:16.08, setting a school record, a meet record, and a facility record.

Grant Hall Sports Reporter

Iowa track and field sophomore Jenoa McKiver has earned many accolades throughout the 2021-22 season.

During the indoor slate, McKiver earned two All-American honors, several Big Ten Athlete of the Week distinctions, the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Midwest Region Men's Track Athlete of the Year award, and the Big Ten Men's Indoor

Track Athlete of the Year award.

McKiver added another decoration to his collection on April 12, when he was named the USTFCCA National Track Athlete of the Week. McKiver earned the honor, or after shattering Iowa's 400-meter outdoor record and recording the second-fastest time in the world this year, 44.74 seconds, at the Jim Click Shootout in Tucson, Arizona, on April 9.

McKiver's ascension to stardom was never a giv-

en. Iowa Director of Track and Field Joey Woody, however, said he saw flashes of future success during McKiver's freshman year in Iowa City in 2020-21.

"We saw some [promising] things last year," Woody said. "We saw some glimpses of what type of talent he was last year... We saw some really good things in practice last season, but this fall was our biggest indicator. He had a spectacular fall, when he really impressed us in a 300-me-

ter time trial and ran a world-class time."

Woody added that McKiver's diligence in taking care of his body helped his talent shine.

McKiver missed significant time last season as he nursed injuries, but he has been much more present in the 2021-22 indoor and outdoor slate.

"He just struggled a little bit with staying healthy [last year], and I think he owned it," Woody said. "This year, he's been more serious about training and com-

ing in more recovered between practices, taking care of his body more. He's really stepped it up with what he is doing to stay healthy."

McKiver credits his recent success to an improved mindset and better training habits.

"This year, my confidence has taken me a long way," McKiver said. "I've been lifting more, because staying healthy is the most important part. I made it a priority

MCKIVER | Page 7

Holding on

The departures of Caleb Shudak and Ryan Gersonde leave Iowa with a competition for both kicker and holder.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa special teams coordinator LeVar Woods observes a drill during an Iowa football open practice at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 29.

Robert Read Pregame Editor

From a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Big Ten Return Specialist of the Year Charlie Jones to a game-changing blocked punt return for a touchdown a week later, Iowa's special teams units provided plenty of highlights during the 2021 season.

However, a chunk of LeVar Woods' press conference last week was devoted to the Iowa special teams coordinator discussing a position that often goes unnoticed: the holder. The Hawkeyes are in the middle of a kicking com-

petition, after the departure of third-team All-American Caleb Shudak. After the graduation of "unheralded" holder Ryan Gersonde, Woods is also seeking a replacement for another aspect of Iowa's field goal unit.

"It's a position most people don't think about," Woods said. "Everyone blames the kicker for a missed kick. Well, if you go and you watch, and you really look closely, a lot of times he's either off the spot, the tilt is not what the kicker wants or what he expected when he's striking the ball."

Junior punter Tory Taylor is "trying to be" the new starting holder, despite hav-

ing little experience doing so, Woods said, as is backup punter Nick Phelps. Defensive back Cooper DeJean, a former high school quarterback who also held, was another name Woods mentioned for the job.

Woods said Iowa's ideal holder would have good hands and a sense of the "little fine art" of the position — the spot, tilt, and strings — that impact the kicker's success.

"Each kicker is different," Woods said. "They all prefer a different type of tilt. Do they want forward or to the side?"

Iowa's kicking competi-

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Who's your money on to start at Cash?

DI Pregame Editor Robert Read and Sports Editor Austin Hanson debate whether Xavier Nwankpa or Cooper DeJean will earn a starting role.



Robert Read Pregame Editor

Xavier Nwankpa

Earning the starting spot at "Cash" (a hybrid linebacker/safety role in Iowa's 4-2-5 base defense) is a pretty telling accomplishment.

Consider how the last three starters at the position — Amani Hooker, Geno Stone, and Dane Belton — are either in the NFL or, in Belton's case, about to be drafted. Who better to carry on the Cash legacy than one of the highest-rated recruits in program history?

Xavier Nwankpa will roam the field at Cash for the Hawkeyes this fall.

At 6-foot-2 and a bulked-up 211 pounds, Nwankpa is the ideal size for the position — quick enough to fly through the secondary, and strong enough to be an imposing figure in the box.

Nwankpa has had individual film sessions with Iowa defensive coordinator and DBs coach Phil Parker since the freshman enrolled in January. So far, the five-star recruit has lived up to the hype, both on the field in practice and in the way he studies the game, Parker said.

Asking a freshman to play a rather complex and crucial role on Iowa's defense is tough. There's a lot to learn in not much time before the opening game. Enrolling early should help "X" some in that regard, though. Similar to how Keagan Johnson and Arland Bruce IV broke out on offense during the 2021 season, I think Nwankpa will instantly become a key component on the back end for the Hawkeyes in 2022.

Oh, and just between us, Austin thinks Nwankpa will start at Cash, too, but he's being forced to argue for someone else. So, we're all in agreement here.

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