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The fifth-year senior has started every game for Iowa soccer since she arrived on campus as a freshman in 2018. **Page 6**

## ONLINE



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After filling the position of Iowa's full-time University Ombudsperson on June 21, Reese is aiming to apply her previous experience to enhance the Office of the Ombudsperson's services.

## ETHICS & POLITICS

### IOWA POLITICS

# Franken denies campaign manager's assault allegations

A former campaign manager accused U.S. Senate candidate Mike Franken of assault in April.

Liam Halawith and Emily Delgado  
Politics Reporters

Mike Franken, Iowa's Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, denied the assault allegation made by his former campaign manager Kimberly Strope-Boggus in a police report in April.

Strope-Boggus filed the report alleging Franken forcibly kissed her in

March. "These allegations are false," Julie Stauch, current campaign manager for the Franken for Iowa campaign, wrote in a statement to *The Daily Iowan*. "This accusation was investigated by the Des Moines Police Department and the Polk County Attorney's Office who found no wrongdoing and closed the case as unfounded."

According to reporting from *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Franken said during a campaign event on Monday that Strope-Boggus had asked to meet him at the bar, and he had a glass of beer. Franken told the *Gazette* the allegations were politically motivated by Republicans.

The impact on the Franken campaign is unclear. According to Iowa Code 43.76, a candidate nom-

inated in a primary election for any office requiring nomination papers be filed with the state commissioner can withdraw up to 81 days before the general election by notifying the state commissioner in writing. As of Wednesday, it is 48 days out from the Nov. 8 midterms, meaning Franken cannot withdraw from the election or be taken off the ballot.

Franken is challenging Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, in the November midterms. He won the Democratic primary in Iowa with 57 percent of the vote in June.

Grassley is projected to win the race in November against Franken, according to a poll commissioned by the Franken campaign. Franken is within four

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# Free Wi-Fi expanded in Iowa City

The city is partnering with ImOn Communications to provide wireless internet to the Northside.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Linn Street is seen in Iowa City on Sept. 19. The northern portion of the street now has free Wi-Fi after the City of Iowa City and ImOn Communications expanded internet access.

Cooper Worth and Sydney Libert

Iowa City residents now have access to free Wi-Fi in most of the city's public areas — including the historic Northside.

City officials announced the internet connection expansion on Sept. 8, which will cover the outdoor eating area in the block between Market Street and the alley north of Market.

ImOn also offers free community Wi-Fi in the Pedestrian Mall, Chauncey Swan Park and its adjacent parking ramp, and Riverfront Crossings Park.

Based out of Cedar Rapids, ImOn Communications offers broadband internet, TV, and phone services to residents and businesses in Eastern Iowa.

ImOn Communications Representative Lisa Rhatigan said offering free Wi-

Fi is one way the company likes to give back to communities where their services are provided.

Rhatigan said expanding to North Linn Street made sense because many restaurants and businesses are in the area.

"We chose North Linn because that's where they block off the street, and people gather at the restaurants and the shops and everything," she said. "It just

seems like a popular area that might benefit from having access to Wi-Fi."

Rhatigan said the process to expand ImOn's connection in the city started this summer.

"What we were doing was looking at where was the best place because to put up a piece of our equipment, that is that network access point which sends out the signal," she said. "And so, we needed to find the best

place and then get agreement from the building owner to put that equipment on their building."

Restaurants such as Goosetown Cafe, Hamburg Inn No. 2, Iowa City Oasis Falafel, and The Webster are all located on North Linn Street and offer outdoor dining to guests.

City of Iowa City Communications Coordinator

WI-FI | Page 2

# UI suicide prevention program updated

Kognito, the UI's suicide prevention training program, revised its training modules after receiving positive feedback from participants.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Director of Higher Education Programming Barry Schreier poses for a portrait on the steps outside of the Lindquist Center on Sept. 19.

Isabelle Foland  
News Reporter

New updates to the University of Iowa's

suicide prevention training program provides different paths for faculty, staff, and students to see realistic

scenarios.

Kognito, a mandatory training program for UI students, received positive feedback from

UI students, faculty, and staff since its campus-wide launch in 2019.

Barry Schreier, a UI director of higher education programming at the Scanlan Center for School Mental Health, said Kognito expanded the faculty and staff modules.

"There used to be a single staff and faculty module," Schreier said. "Now, when you go into it, it says, 'Are you staff, or are you faculty?' and depending on what it is, you then head down different roads."

Schreier added the scenarios in the faculty and staff modules have been updated to be more realistic and inclusive.

"[Kognito has] done a lot of making it even more real-world, much more representation, much more representative of who the students are," Schreier said. "I think their scenarios are just much more complex, and the guidance has gotten

even better."

UI President Barbara Wilson shared a video with UI students and staff on Sept. 8 promoting the UI's partnership with Kognito for National Suicide Prevention month in September.

On Kognito's website, the program defines itself as a "provider of practice-based digital learning experiences which provides strategies to improve mental health and well-being across schools, campuses, and communities."

The website also states the training takes place in different real-world simulations that allow users to have simulated conversations regarding aspects of mental health such as suicide prevention, substance abuse, violence prevention, and more.

Lauren Hall, Kognito Higher Education Client Success Manager, said the UI's first contract with Kognito was in 2016,

KOIGNITO | Page 2

## DITV

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# IC to help potential migrants from Texas

As migrants move to Midwestern sanctuary cities, the Catholic Worker House is preparing resources.

Colin Votzmeyer  
News Reporter

The Iowa City Catholic Worker House is preparing to welcome any migrants bused from the southern border to surrounding sanctuary Midwest cities if necessary.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott continues to send migrants from the Mexico-U.S. border on buses to nationally known "sanctuary cities" including Chicago, Washington D.C., and New York City.

While Gov. Kim Reynolds denied Abbott's request to send migrants to Iowa on Sept. 1, Iowa City leaders are scrambling to accommodate migrants who travel from the drop-off points.

A law signed in 2018 prohibits sanctuary cities in Iowa. Alex Murphy, communications director of the Office of the Governor, wrote in an email statement to *The Daily Iowan* in response to Abbott adding Iowa City as a sanctuary city.

"We have confirmed that no migrants will be bused to Iowa from Texas," she wrote.

As of 2020, 13.7 percent of the Iowa City popula-

tion was comprised of immigrants.

The Catholic Worker House will reportedly continue its work of immigrant and refugee assistance if migrants do come from other sanctuary cities.

David Goodner, a member of the Catholic Worker House, said the organization has two houses of hospitality in Iowa City that currently house roughly two dozen immigrants and refugees.

He said the organization helped over 100 refugee families cross the border in the last year. The Catholic Worker House is prepared to help migrants register their children for school, find legal support if needed, and offer social services should a bus from Texas arrive in town.

"If they have family in Iowa or they don't have any family anywhere and need a place to stay, we help them get connected and get plugged in here locally," Goodner said. "Immigrants are the lifeblood in thriving rural communities across the state, so there's no question at all that it's a plus for us as a state and as a community."

Sophie Banegas, a UI second-year medical student, is a first-generation Honduran American and the leader of Escucha Mi Voz, an organization that grew out of the Catholic Worker House.

She said the shortage of resources does not change how both organizations will respond to migrants traveling to Iowa City.

"That doesn't mean that we are by any means telling them not to come or pulling back from the work that we do," Banegas said. "Despite other people's wishes to move immigrants away from their communities ... the people that I'm working with here are welcoming to them and wanting them to come here if that means that they have a better chance of having a home or having resources."

Johnson County Supervisor Jon Green said Abbott is not coordinating with the city on his plans and may not warn anyone before he sends a bus of migrants to Iowa City.

"That's the thing that pisses me off so much about this," Green said. "It's political point-scoring. This isn't about solving problems. This isn't



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

Tom Novak comforts Patricia S. Fortin, who is from Guatemala, as she remembers her husband in the Iowa City Catholic Worker on Sept. 8. After his passing, she was unable to afford their apartment.

about treating people humanely. This is just a stunt."

Green said Iowa City is already in a tough spot creating resources for un-housed migrants, so an additional 50 or 60 migrants would require a massive mobilization.

"I want migrants to get a fair shake, and right now the system that we have is

far from adequate," Green said. "We have a need for those resources right now, and for Gov. Abbott to even put Iowa City's name on a list is forcing us to utilize [those] resources ... instead of focusing on stuff that is important and needful in our community right now."

Green said the community will still welcome mi-

grants if they do arrive in Iowa City.

"I'm also confident that folks in Johnson County are going to do everything we can to help folks out," Green said. "We have demonstrated that we look out for one another here, and we're going to continue to do that."

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# JoCo parents struggle to find child care

Two years after the pandemic began, accessibility to child care is decreasing for families in Johnson County.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Municipal Airport is seen on Sept. 18.

Grace Katzer  
News Reporter

Tia Kohrt, a nurse and mother of three from Tiffin, Iowa, encounters barriers when searching for child care for her nine-week-old.

"The biggest challenge I have faced is all the licensed centers around Johnson County have close to a year-long waiting list," she said. "As a nurse, I can't call off work that easily if I don't have someone to take care of my kids."

Iowa lost 33 percent of its child care businesses over the last five years with a shortfall of over 350,000 child care slots across the state, according to the Iowa Women's Foundation.

Kohrt said the search for a licensed daycare center is

difficult.

"[Child care] is definitely not more accessible or affordable. If anything, the price has gone up, and there are even more kids in the area," she said. "Back when I was in college, I remember having two small kids in daycare. Working and affording daycare was more feasible for a two parents' income or just having one of the parents stay home."

Dawn Oliver Wiand, chief executive officer and president of the Iowa Women's Foundation, said child care is a broken system with underpaid employees.

"Child care workers are the third-lowest paid profession in our state, only ahead of locker room attendants and lifeguards," Oliver Wiand said.

The Iowa Women's Foundation reported in September the total number of programs accepting child care assistance dropped 34 percent in the past five years.

Oliver Wiand said the foundation is making progress with child care in Iowa. "We are seeing more private-public partnerships formed with businesses, the county, and nonprofits," she said. "There are increasing funds that will help subsidize the wages of child care providers around the area."

The state added more incentivization programs for child care workers this year:

- Allocating \$30 million for a recruitment and retention program for care workers.

- Establishing the Best Places for Working Parents designation program, including paid health care, paid time off, paid parental leave, and more.

- Launching the Child Care Business Incentive Grant, which gives \$25 million in funds to businesses expanding employees' child care.

The Iowa City City Council and the Iowa Women's Foundation are working to provide relief for local mothers impacted by the child care shortage by partnering with nonprofit organizations and increasing funds statewide.

Iowa City Mayor Pro Tem Megan Alter said she campaigned on fixing issues with the child care system.

"There has been a round of funding requests, many through ARPA funding, targeting child care," she said. "There have also been agencies that have put in money towards doing more community outreach, especially in marginalized communities."

Although Alter said she was fortunate with her three children, the issue of child care hits home.

"My husband and I were always looking at affordability. We both kicked into our paychecks, and child care became a big part of our budget," she said. "It was expensive ten years ago, and it has only gone up since then."

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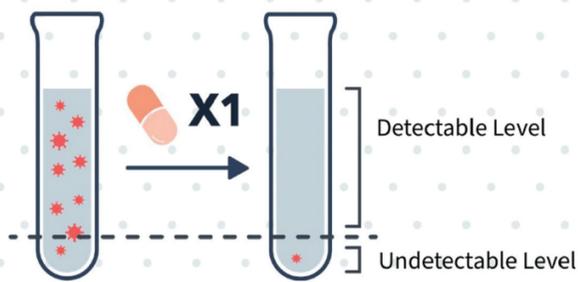
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# Opinions

## UI response to Muriello allegations was too late

The University should have put Muriello on administrative leave earlier than it did.

### DI Editorial Board

The University of Iowa failed in its responsibility to create and maintain a safe environment for students in the case of former UI School of Music professor John Muriello.

The former professor worked at the university until he was put on leave in May 2021 — more than a year after the UI received notice of alleged illegal behavior.

The *Daily Iowan* Editorial Board fully believes in due process, and we recognize Muriello is innocent until proven guilty. However, the board believes that the accusations against Muriello were significant and required a stronger response than simply doing nothing.

According to UI class enrollment records on MyUI, Muriello taught in-person and online vocal performance and opera courses from the fall 2018 semester until the spring 2021 semester at the UI School of Music.

While Muriello was teaching, the UI received an anonymous email on April 10, 2020, according to an Aug. 24 statement from the UI Office

of Strategic Communication.

According to the search warrant filed in Johnson County District Court, an anonymous email claimed to be written by the parent of a UI student alleged that Muriello recorded sex acts with the student, provided the student with methamphetamine, and possessed child pornography.

The UI shared the email with the Iowa City Police Department.

Several months later, on Nov. 20, 2020, the Iowa City police conducted a trash rip at Muriello's residence. According to the warrant application, police found syringes, needles, cannabis, and baggies.

More than six months after the trash rip, the UI finally placed Muriello on administrative leave on May 28, 2021. On July 1, 2022, the UI accepted Muriello's resignation.

On Aug. 23, 2022, Muriello was arrested on charges of possessing child pornography and distributing methamphetamine. He is currently in the Muscatine County jail.

Following Muriello's

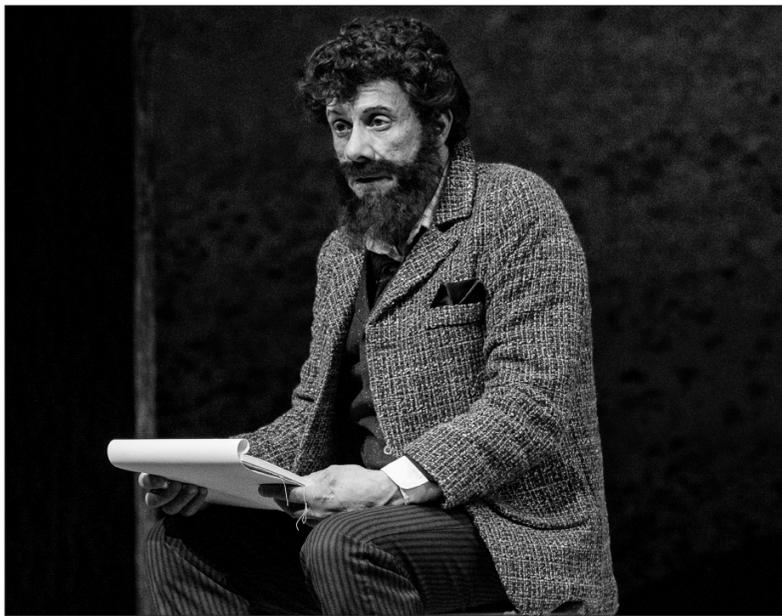
arrest, the UI released a statement noting that the UI "can and does take interim steps to ensure the safety of our campus community."

Yet Muriello currently sits in the Muscatine County jail for offenses he allegedly made while teaching students.

The "interim steps" the UI made include allowing someone alleged of an arrestable offense to stay on staff. Clearly, this response was insufficient.

The UI should have taken swifter action to maintain a safe campus environment by placing Muriello on administrative leave when it received the anonymous email in April 2020 instead of allowing him to remain on campus for another year after the email was received.

Under the UI's human resources policy, "In some circumstances, it may be necessary to remove an employee from the workplace ... A temporary reassignment or administrative leave/investigatory suspension may be appropriate ... for at least two reasons: 1) to allow the investigation to proceed without disruption of evidence,



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

John Muriello performs in The University of Iowa Theater Department's production of "Sunday in the Park With George" on March 4.

or (2) to preserve a safe, orderly, and professional work environment."

The UI should afford Muriello due process, recognizing he is innocent until proven guilty. To place a faculty member on leave or investigate allegations is not the same as saying the accused is guilty.

The UI allowed someone accused of serious misconduct to continue teaching. This is a moral failing that squarely falls on UI administrators paid to maintain a safe learning environment. Muriello should have been put on administrative leave, as in accordance with the UI's human resources

policy, in April 2020.

Muriello should not have been allowed to continue working in his capacity at the UI when these allegations first surfaced. The lack of swift action on this issue is a massive neglect on the part of the university.

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### COLUMN

## Farmers markets keep produce green

The farmers market provides an eco-friendly option for the community with fresh local produce options.



Dell Harbaugh  
Opinions Columnist

The Iowa City Farmers Market is a sight to behold, even in a downpour.

Vendors selling fresh produce, flowers, coffee, and baked goods bring flocks of people to East Washington Street and the Chauncey Swan Parking Ramp, come rain or shine. Customers come to hear live music, meet up with friends, and most importantly, support local businesses.

Purchasing food from the market contributes

to the local economy, supports sustainable farming practices, ensures freshness, and leaves smaller environmental footprint than commercial options.

This past August was the 50th anniversary of the Iowa City Farmers Market. August marked half a century of valued involvement by local business for the Iowa City community.

The accessibility of out-of-season or non-native produce in grocery stores is often taken for granted. When buying from grocery stores, consumers tend to pay little attention to where food is grown or produced. Most brands don't have their sources or farming practices outlined on the label.

Chain grocery stores

often have produce shipped from across the country (or across multiple countries) to be made available to the public. The price of non-native produce is more cost-

“We come to the farmers market because we want to share our food with the local community and contribute to the local foodshed in Johnson County.”

— Corbin Scholz, owner and manager of Rainbow Roots

ly, and quality is often lesser than local grown produce due to transportation.

Vendors at the Iowa City Farmers Market, being largely local, have a shorter distance to travel in more fuel-efficient modes of transportation than the commercial

planes or trucks that transport grocery store produce.

Local vendors also tend to utilize more sustainable or reusable packaging and provide

are a few reasons the farm's crew brings their fresh vegetables to the market.

“We come to the farmers market because we want to share our food with the local community and contribute to the local foodshed in Johnson County,” Scholz said.

Rainbow Roots Farm places a special emphasis on teaching the community about the value of organic produce, sustainable farming practices, and nutrient-rich foods. Scholz said Rainbow Roots' farming practices also reduce erosion, improve air quality, and benefit the health of the community.

“We are practicing sustainability by taking care of the soil, and feeding the soil puts a lot of good nutrients into the

vegetables,” said Scholz. “We look at our farm as a way of [implementing] preventative medicine. I know it's just a drop in the bucket, but anything we can get is good.”

Rainbow Roots Farm is not the only vendor who cares about the health of the Iowa City community; in fact, most stands at the farmers market advertise organic or sustainably-produced wares.

With fall fast approaching, there are only a few Saturdays left for customers to visit the market before it closes at the end of October. For those who want the freshest fruits and vegetables Iowa City has to offer or who simply want to reduce their carbon footprint, there's no better place.

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### POINT/COUNTERPOINT

## Do friends make good roommates?

### Yes

Kyle Tristan Ortega  
Opinions Columnist

When choosing your living situation for next year, your closest friends should be on top of the list.

There are many benefits to having a roommate. For instance, it keeps living expenses lower and can make your living arrangement less lonely. But you must carefully consider who you choose to live with because this choice could make or break your living arrangement for the foreseeable future.

If you room with a friend, you can anticipate their living patterns as opposed to living with a complete stranger. There is a sense of security and familiarity. The same cannot be said if you room with someone you barely know or don't know at all.

Moreover, rooming with a friend would allow for a more intimate household environment, which research from George Mason University in 2014 suggests is im-

portant for one's personal well-being.

Positive roommate relationships are direct protections from psychological distress, so live with someone you know you get along with, like a friend. Though the same results can be achieved with acquaintances or strangers, it is much less guaranteed.

Studies imply that friends are a vital factor to an individual's support system. This is important because even just the perception of having a readily available support system has been associated with improved stress resistance and well-being.

Hence, by living with a friend, you would essentially have a “buffer” against the stresses of life.

But above all else, living with friends will make you happy. What is better than staying up all night talking to someone you trust and like spending time with? Not much.

By living with a friend, you get to come home to a safer and more intimate household with all the benefits that come along with it.

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### No

Sophia Meador  
Opinions Editor

Don't live with your friends if you want to keep them.

At the University of Iowa, finding a living arrangement is stressful. Most student housing options start leasing in October and November — almost a year before summer move-in.

Living with a friend seems like a convenient option. But it often adds tension and stress on friendships, making a 12-month lease feel like a lifetime.

The thought of living with a stranger or acquaintance is scary. However, living with someone you don't have a close relationship with can be a practical option.

In friendships, it can be difficult to address problems when they arise. You may want to avoid conflict or awkward conversations, which only exacerbates the problem. But when living with someone you don't hold a strong relationship

to, there is more ease in addressing problems because you have less to lose.

Getting along with someone is easy, but living with someone is hard. That's why it's just as important to assess your living standards as it is your personal relationship. When looking for a roommate, you can cater your search to someone who has the same living patterns as you.

A messy roommate does not mesh well with a clean roommate. A loud roommate will not match with a quiet roommate. In friendships, you may not know how your friend's living patterns. If your habits do not correspond well, your friendship is likely doomed.

If you're fortunate, your random roommate may become your friend. But it is also OK if they are merely an individual you share a roof with.

Many people will meet their closest friends in college. It's important to cherish the friends you have and not risk losing those friendships. Live with an acquaintance, not a friend.

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Ryan Hasen

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# Heartlanders finalizing roster

The second-year hockey club is looking to add more size in 2022-23.

Isaac Goffin  
Sports Reporter

As the Iowa Heartlanders approach the first game of the 2022-23 campaign against the Idaho Steelheads on Oct. 21, the team is working toward finalizing their 2022-23 season-opening roster.

The second-year ECHL franchise has added 11 forwards, seven defensemen, and one goaltender to its 2022-23 roster as of Tuesday. The Heartlanders must submit their season-opening roster to the league office — which can include up to 21 players — by 2 p.m. on Oct. 19.

Head coach Derek Damon said the Heartlanders are always trying to become better at every position. The 2021-22 Heartlanders finished last place in the ECHL Central Division at 29-33-9-1.

After taking a near-month break from transaction updates, the Heartlanders announced they

signed forward Guus van Nes from Quinnipiac University and defenseman Skylar Pacheco out of Ligue Magnus — the top French league — on Sept. 13. The Heartlanders also traded for forward Josh Koepf and a future considerations to the Maine Mariners for forward Brendan Robbins.

“What we wanted to improve on is just getting the right guys that want to be here in the Coralville area that want to be a Heartlander, and I can honestly say that all of our guys are dialed in,” Damon said. “They’re excited and ready to go for training camp on Oct. 8.”

The Heartlanders will have their first training camp skate on Oct. 9 after players complete physicals. Unlike last season, they won’t play a preseason game, but they will have an intersquad scrimmage at Xtream Arena on Oct. 12 that fans can attend.

Damon said the Heart-

landers improved their physical size from the 2021-22 roster by signing forwards Alec Broetzman, C.J. Yakimowicz, van Nes, and defenseman Justin Wells — all of whom are 6 foot 1 or taller.

“I feel like, with our size, we’re not going to be pushed around as much,” Damon said. “Also, it allows us to lean on players to wear off our opponents at different times of the game.”

The Heartlanders could also receive players from their AHL affiliate, the Iowa Wild, at any point during the season. The Wild signed forwards Mitchell Balmes, Kevin Conley, and Patrick Curry to one-year, two-way AHL contracts over the summer, meaning those players could potentially suit up for the Wild and Heartlanders over the course of the upcoming season.

The Heartlanders acquired defenseman Matt Murphy’s ECHL rights

from the Fort Wayne Komets in exchange for forward Kaid Oliver in July. Murphy then agreed to terms with the Wild under a one-year, two-way AHL contract.

“We feel that if we do get a chance to have those guys down from Iowa, they’re going to help us be better,” Damon said. “But our goal this year as a staff is that we wanted to make sure that we had good, solid, ECHL players so that our depth and our core is solid all-around.”

Last season, the Heartlanders received forwards Kris Bennett and Ryan Kuffner Kuffner, among other talented skaters, from the Wild.

Bennett led the club with 35 goals and 73 points and was named the ECHL Rookie of the Year. But he missed 22 Heartlanders contests because he was recalled to the Wild multiple times.

Kuffner topped the franchise with 46 assists



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan  
Derek Damon speaks to the media during a press conference for the Iowa Heartlanders at Xtream Arena in Coralville on July 5.

and was February’s ECHL Player of the Month, yet he played in 41 of the Heartlanders’ 72 games because of recalls and injury.

For comparison, forward Zach White led the Heartlanders on ECHL contracts with 51 points. He re-signed with the franchise for the 2022-23 campaign.

The Heartlanders will hold a free agent camp on Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the rink in the Coral Ridge Mall. Iowa’s hockey operations staff will evaluate up to 40 participants through team drills, individual skill work, and scrimmages.

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## WASHINGTON

Continued from 6A

“She’s one of the hardest workers I’ve ever met in my life,” Onabanjo said. “She’s always pushing herself ... I’m so excited to see what she can do.”

Barnes also knows what Washington is capable of doing on the court, as he saw her potential back when he recruited her to Tulane. Barnes said she’ll need to learn quickly, as the Hawkeyes will depend on her to be a six-rotation left side hitter — but she has the work ethic to handle it, he said.

Washington has appeared in six matches this season, recording an average of 1.11 kills per set. While Washington said her goals are getting on the court more and racking up records in the stat-books, she wants to be an inspiration off the court as well.

“I want to leave my mark here,” Washington said. “I want to be the player that not only my teammates look up to, but many other young girls look up to and want to be like.”

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Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa outside hitter Nia Washington jumps up to spike the ball during a volleyball game between Iowa and North Florida at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Sept. 16. Washington had one kill. The Hawkeyes defeated the Ospreys, 3-0.

## SCHMID

Continued from 6A

“You can’t leave any stones unturned,” Leitner said. “He was always the first guy there, the last one to leave. Any possible lead was chased down, called Person X whether they knew the next person, for the next person just to get in contact with a kid.”

Chasing leads can also include some trips overseas. Leitner described how he once went to seven European countries over a six-day recruiting trip. When recruiting

internationally, Leitner said there are more layers involved.

These layers include explaining the difference between a Power Five and lower-level Division I school, the definition of a conference, the details of amateurism, and obtaining a visa. To find these players, Leitner said he will go through the international tennis rankings and reach out via social media. Before visiting freshmen Daianne Hayashida and Pia Kranholdt, who are from Peru and Germany, respectively, Leitner communicat-

ed with the two through FaceTime.

In a worldwide search, Schmid said the recruiting process never really ends. A perfect recruit can spring out of thin air but can also commit to another school just as fast.

“Sometimes you have really tough stretches where you either aren’t finding the right fit or you find the right fit and they choose a different school,” Schmid said. “For me, it’s an emotional roller coaster. So you just have to cast a really broad net and look at all

options.”

For Schmid, this emotional turbulence is created through the intimate nature of recruiting. Over a process that can take up to two years, recruiting keeps coaches and players in constant contact. When the time comes for a player to commit to a school, the emotions emerge from both sides.

“You really do get close. You do a home visit, you get to know their family,”

Schmid said. “It’s heartbreaking, and I think it’s heartbreaking for them to call. Many players will say that the hardest thing they have to do is call the coaches and tell them they chose another school.”

Both coaches said such close connections require honesty and transparency. Leitner detailed how it is ineffective to just be a “salesman” and not tell the truth to recruits. After five years of coaching to-

gether, the two know how they want to build their program moving forward.

“I’m not going to change my wording or promise things we can’t offer,” Leitner said. “At the end of the day it’s just, ‘This is what it is.’ If you want to nitpick you always can, but I think with kids we have on the team now ... none of them we had to convince.”

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## WHEATON

Continued from 6A

Wheaton went on to start every game of her freshman season, playing nearly the full 90 minutes every contest.

When a player starts getting playing time, Wheaton said, it’s easy to get complacent. But she was not going to let that happen.

The center back said her drive to keep improving stems from her childhood, as she grew up the middle child between two brothers.

“My older brother and I were pretty close in age,” Wheaton said. “And so, there was always competition whenever we were playing — whether it be kickball with the kids in our cul-de-sac, or T-ball, or Wii Sports — literally whatever it is, we are so competitive and we always have been that way, and so I think that really helps kind of build that growth mindset.”

Wheaton said it took time for her to realize she was good enough to start

as a freshman, but once she built her confidence up, she began to play at a level worthy of recognition by the team and the Big Ten.

During her first four years at Iowa, Wheaton racked up a variety of accolades, both academically and athletically. Wheaton, however, said her proudest accomplishment is the team as a whole.

“At the end of the day, we do play a team sport, and I feel that my work is only worth it if I can help the team in some ways,” Wheaton said. “So winning the Big Ten was definitely the highlight of my career thus far, and I think about it every single day.”

This year, despite being a reliable center back for the Hawkeyes and notching two assists, Wheaton said she hasn’t had the start she’s wanted.

“I definitely think that I haven’t been playing bad, but I do just want to get a little bit more out of myself, which hopefully will come through,”

Wheaton said.

Wheaton, a psychology major, said she plans to find a job back home in Arizona after college. While she hasn’t ruled out graduate school, she said she’ll take a year or two before deciding.

The fifth year said she considered pursuing a professional soccer career but ultimately decided against it.

“I think I’m going to hang up the cleats after this season. I had a good run, a good career, and I’m really happy with it.”

Wheaton said if there’s one last thing she could accomplish before she graduates, it would be making it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

“I think we can definitely do it, and I think we have enough talent,” Wheaton said. “Struggling with injuries and stuff like that definitely could be a little hiccup in the road ... but I definitely think that we’re good enough to do so.”

samuel-knupp@uiowa.edu

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES

### Wide receiver room gets boost from Ragaini's return

Fifth-year senior Nico Ragaini returned to Iowa football's depth chart ahead of the Hawkeyes' Week 4 matchup with the Rutgers Scarlet Knights at SHI Stadium in Piscataway, New Jersey.

Ragaini sustained a fractured right foot during fall camp and missed Iowa's first two games of the season against South Dakota State and Iowa State.

"I was really lucky to be able to come back so soon because sometimes it takes up to eight weeks for the comeback," Ragaini said Saturday. "But I got lucky with just four, so I was able to play today, which I'm super grateful for."

The 6-foot 196-pounder was limited in his return to action against Nevada on Saturday. He had two receptions for 56 yards in the lightning-delayed game.

"Probably the biggest gain for us was Nico because he's a veteran," head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "He has a veteran presence in a very young room. He's a good player, he's nifty and he knows how to play — he really does. That was good."

Ragaini is listed as a No. 2 receiver behind sophomore Arland Bruce, who has started all three games for the Hawkeyes so far this season. Bruce has racked up nine receptions for 127 yards and a touchdown in 2022.

The Hawkeyes now have three scholarship wide receivers at their disposal: Ragaini, Bruce, and redshirt freshman Brody Brecht. Brecht, who didn't play in 2021 because of an injury, overtook walk-on Alec Wick for a No. 1 spot in the Week 4 depth chart. Through three games this year, Brecht has recorded one reception for four yards.

While Ragaini made a return to the Hawkeye depth chart, sophomore starter Keagan Johnson remained absent. Johnson missed the first two games with an undisclosed injury and played sparingly in the Hawkeyes' victory over the Wolf Pack.

He appeared in the game and recorded no statistics. Johnson didn't play following the lightning delays in the third quarter.

"He just didn't feel like he could get loose. Such unusual circumstances," Kirk Ferentz said. "... I think just the disruption probably affected him today."

### Stevens named No. 1 kicker

After going 2-for-2 on field goal attempts on Saturday, true freshman Drew Stevens has taken the No. 1 kicking spot from sophomore Aaron Blom.

Stevens also made all three of his extra point attempts on Saturday.

Ferentz held an open kicking competition between Stevens and Blom throughout the offseason, and Blom originally won the spot.

But Blom went 1-of-3 on field goal attempts through the first two games of the season, missing a potential game-tying field goal against Iowa State on Sept. 10.

"The guys have been going back and forth, and I've been saying all along we're probably going to ride the roller coaster a little bit," Ferentz said following Saturday's game. "But pleased with both guys. Aaron, you haven't seen the last of him. He's done a good job. We have two good kickers right now. Hopefully they can get comfortable."

### Kaleb Johnson replaces Moss on special teams

True freshman running back Kaleb Johnson has moved into the top kick returner spot, replacing fifth-year senior cornerback Riley Moss.

Kaleb Johnson had two touchdowns on Saturday against Nevada, recording 40- and 55-yard runs, respectively.

"He has been fun to work with and he has done things," Ferentz said of Kaleb Johnson. "He has been in the other games but hasn't really looked great. It was good to see him run with confidence tonight, and he got a little bit of daylight and knew what to do with that, that's for sure."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"When was the last time I was having breakfast without sleeping?"**

— Kirk Ferentz on staying up late.

## STAT OF THE DAY

# 13

— Points Iowa's defense has allowed in three games.

# Immediate contribution

True freshman Nia Washington prepared in six matches so far this season.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Iowa outside hitter Nia Washington prepares for North Florida's serve during a volleyball game between Iowa and North Florida at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Sept. 16. Washington had one kill. The Hawkeyes defeated the Ospreys, 3-0.

### Kenna Roering Sports Reporter

Iowa volleyball true freshman Nia Washington was originally committed to Tulane. But when first-year Hawkeye head coach Jim Barnes took the job at Iowa in December 2021, Washington switched her commitment.

Now, she's found some playing time early in her collegiate career.

"Nia is an amazing athlete," Barnes said. "She's been lights out in practice ... She has a lot of firepower. She's going to make an impact on this

program the next four years."

The New Orleans, Louisiana, native is a three-time state champion for Metairie Park Country Day High School and was selected as the Division V Player of the Year in 2020 and 2021.

Washington started playing school and club volleyball around 8th grade. She said traveling to different states for tournaments gave her a feel for what higher level volleyball was like. And it gave her a lot of exposure, as schools started to recruit her in her first

season playing club.

The outside hitter originally signed on scholarship to play for Tulane in the 2022-23 season. Her mother, Kim Sentmore Washington, played collegiate volleyball at Tulane from 1997 to 2000. But as Barnes moved on to Iowa, so did Washington.

Washington joined the 2022 Hawkeye squad along with two other Tulane transfers — outside hitter Michelle Urquhart and team captain middle hitter Anna Davis.

"I knew it was going to be different," Washington said. "But it's been a good

different. When I got here it was such a warm welcome. I knew that I would thrive in this environment because everyone was supportive and all in ... Every day in open gym when the [coaches] weren't able to come, [my teammates] were giving me pointers from what they learned in the spring so I'd be ready when the coaches came."

Washington said the change of pace from New Orleans to Iowa City has helped her focus, and her teammates' support has made her feel more comfortable.

Washington has developed close relationships with team captain middle hitter Amiya Jones and sophomore outside hitter Toyosi Onabanjo.

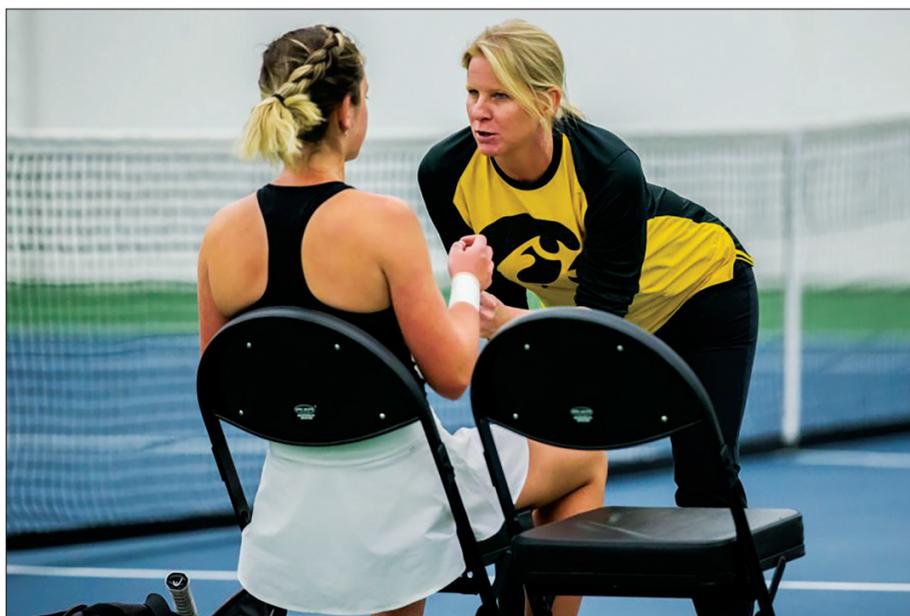
"Amiya and Toy I can relate to a lot more," Washington said. "Not just because of the color of our skin, but we have the same background as far as grinding and having that inner beast inside of [us]."

Onabanjo is confident in Washington's work ethic and believes she can be an asset throughout her career at Iowa.

WASHINGTON | Page 5A

# Going the distance

Iowa women's tennis coaches have recruited worldwide.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Sasha Schmid talks to Sophie Clark during a women's tennis match between Iowa and Indiana at the HTRC on March 31, 2019.

### Matt McGowan Sports Reporter

Every head coach needs an assistant. For Iowa women tennis' Sasha Schmid, her assistant coach provides services not just on the court, but on train station platforms in Germany.

When the pair were in Germany, assistant coach Daniel Lietner — who speaks German — negotiated a carpool with a family after all the trains were canceled one night. His heroics helped get the pair of coaches to their next destination — and more importantly — to their next recruit.

Both Schmid and Lietner have a variety of recruiting experiences, traveling across the world and meeting new families in the process. Their respective journeys highlight recruiting's importance not only in building culture, but also in forging personal connections that last long past commitments.

"I think we definitely always want to take players and, as coaches, have them improve," Schmid said. "I think that we take a lot of pride in being a developmental program. With that being said, sometimes you can't make up enough ground during a career; you just need to start with more talent."

Schmid said even though part of recruiting is about finding physical skills, mental and social disposition is also emphasized. She said she looks for players who are productive in a group setting, who persevere through adversity, and most of all who are happy and enjoyable to be around.

For Lietner, finding such a player requires vigilance. He learned this approach from his time as an assistant coach for the Middle Tennessee State men's tennis team. Under head coach Jimmy Borendame, the Blue Raiders reached No. 25 in the national recruiting rankings in 2016.

SCHMID | Page 5A

# Finishing strong

Sara Wheaton has started every game for Iowa soccer since she arrived on campus as a freshman in 2018.

### Sam Knupp Sports Reporter

In her fifth year of an accolade-filled Iowa soccer career, Sara Wheaton is looking to finish strong.

Wheaton came to the University of Iowa in 2018 and started every game as a freshman.

Since then, she's earned Academic All-Big Ten honors three times, tabbed as Iowa's 2020-2021 Defensive Player of the Year, and named to the 2021 All-Big Ten Second Team.

Wheaton has not missed a single game since she arrived in Iowa City.

Now, in her fifth and final season in black and gold, Wheaton said she wants to act as a mentor to the younger players on the team in the same way veteran players helped her as a freshman.

Wheaton made the decision to play at Iowa during her senior year at Basha High School in Chandler, Arizona, where she was born and raised. Both of Wheaton's parents are from the Midwest, and she said the family took many trips up from Arizona.

"We would always take vacations out here," Wheaton said. "And I really just loved the feel and the vibe and the people and just the sense of community here in Iowa."

The polar vortex — during which temperatures dropped below negative 25 degrees Fahrenheit — struck Iowa during Wheaton's freshman year in 2018 and 2019.

Coming in as a freshman, Wheaton said, she was unsure what her role would be.

"I remember talking to my parents before the season," Wheaton said. "I was like, 'I just hope I play,' but ... I know one thing is I'm going to go in there and I'm going to work as hard as I can."

WHEATON | Page 5A

# 80 Hours:

*This Weekend in Arts and Entertainment*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022



## Prairie Lights brings together IC Black authors

On Sept. 24, Prairie Lights will offer a panel featuring some of the most accomplished Black Iowa-based writers as part of Iowa City's annual Soul & Blues Festival.



# Weekend Events

22

THURSDAY

MUSIC

• **GRADUATE SESSIONS: BLAKE SHAW QUARTET**  
5 P.M., THE GRADUATE IOWA CITY, 210 DUBUQUE ST.

MISC.

• **ALL MAJORS CAREER FAIR**  
11 A.M., THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF LAW, 130 BYINGTON ROAD

• **WEEKLY OPEN HOURS — WALKER HOMESTEAD**  
5 P.M., WALKER HOMESTEAD, 3867 JAMES AVE. SW.

• **THURSDAY THROWDOWN**  
10 P.M., 1685 U AVE.

THEATER

• **CHIPMUNK'D BY MEGAN GO-GERTY**  
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE, 119 E. COLLEGE ST.

DANCE

• **6 WEEK PILATES WORKSHOP**  
5 P.M., BENDERS STUDIO, 113 IOWA AVE.

LITERATURE

• **IDA CORDELIA BEAM DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR**  
12 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY, 125 W. WASHINGTON ST.

23

FRIDAY

MUSIC

• **THE D.L.**  
5 P.M., LA WINE BAR & RESTAURANT, 180 BURLINGTON ST.

• **FUNKDADDIES**  
6:30 P.M., SUMMER OF THE ARTS, 319 E. 1ST ST.

• **JOE & VICKI PRICE**  
6:30 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE.

• **AMY GRANT**  
8 P.M., RIVERSIDE CASINO & GOLF RESORT, 3184 IA-22

MISC.

• **TREE TOURS: NATURE WALK & TALKS**  
12 P.M., MACBRIDE HALL, 17 N. CLINTON ST.

• **FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS AT WILSON'S ORCHARD & FARM**  
5 P.M., 4823 DINGLEBERRY ROAD NE. #1

THEATER

• **CHIPMUNK'D BY MEGAN GO-GERTY**  
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

FOOD

• **SOUL & BLUES FESTIVAL**  
5 P.M., 103 E. COLLEGE ST.

• **CULINARY DELIGHTS AND BEVERAGE GARDEN**  
5 P.M., IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT, 103 E. COLLEGE ST.

24

SATURDAY

MUSIC

• **THE D. L. PERKINS SINGERS**  
12:30 P.M., SUMMER OF THE ARTS

• **SHIP OF FOOLS**  
2 P.M., SUMMER OF THE ARTS

• **KEVIN BURT**  
12:30 P.M., SUMMER OF THE ARTS

• **DEMETRIA TAYLOR**  
10 P.M., SOUL & BLUES FESTIVAL MAIN STAGE, 16 N. CLINTON ST.

MISC.

• **IOWA CITY FARMERS MARKET**  
7:30 A.M., 405 E. WASHINGTON ST.

• **KIDS MARKET**  
9 A.M., IOWA CITY FARMERS MARKET, 405 E. WASHINGTON ST.

• **FREE: BIG GROVE HAWKEYE GAMEDAY PARTY**  
11 A.M., 1225 S. GILBERT ST.

THEATER

• **CHIPMUNK'D BY MEGAN GO-GERTY**  
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

FOOD

• **SOUL & BLUES FESTIVAL**  
5 P.M., 103 E. COLLEGE ST.

LITERATURE

• **FAMILY STORYTIME**  
10:30 A.M., IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY 123 S. LINN ST.

25

SUNDAY

MUSIC

• **FRONT PORCH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022**  
2 P.M., LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1130 SEYMOUR AVE.

• **KEY CHANGE: PIANO REVOLUTIONARIES SERIES CONCERT #1**  
3 P.M., VOXMAN BUILDING, 83 E. BURLINGTON ST.

MISC.

• **FARM CYCLE 2022**  
8 A.M., IOWA BIKE LIBRARY, 1222 S. GILBERT COURT

• **MOVE IT! DIG IT! DO IT!**  
10 A.M., THE IOWA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 1451 CORAL RIDGE AVE.

• **TRY FISHING**  
1 P.M., PARK ROAD PARKING, 200 E. PARK ROAD

• **SUPERHERO NIGHT**  
6 P.M., THE IOWA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

THEATER

• **CHIPMUNK'D BY MEGAN GO-GERTY**  
2 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

• **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**  
2 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1301 5TH ST.



BLONDE



Illustration by Molly Milder

Parker Jones  
Arts Editor

“The blonde bombshell” will return to the big screen for the first time in decades with Netflix’s new fictionalized biopic on the iconic singer, actress, and model Marilyn Monroe in “Blonde” — streaming Sept. 28.

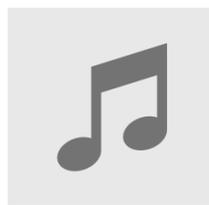
Adapted from the 2000s novel of the same name by Joyce Carol Oates, the historical psychological drama will tell the story of Norma Jeane Mortenson, the woman often known solely as a 1950s sex symbol. It will contrast her on-screen appearances with her darker personal life riddled with addiction, abuse, and exploitation as a world-famous actress in Hollywood.

Directed by New Zealand-born Australian filmmaker Andrew Dominik, large swathes of the film are presented in black-and-white, while other portions are in color. This accompanies aspect ratios shifts to reflect the style of classic Hollywood movies. The film had a rocky development, with plans beginning as early as 2010 before finally settling into definitive production in 2019. The film’s production was delayed once more by COVID-19.

Monroe will be played by Cuban and Spanish actress Ana de Armas, replacing both Naomi Watts and Jessica Chastain who were separately cast earlier in development. Additional cast members include Julianne Nicholson as Gladys Pearl Baker, Monroe’s emotionally unstable mother; Bobby Cannavale as ex-athlete Joe DiMaggio, Monroe’s second husband; Adrien Brody as playwright Arthur Miller, Monroe’s third husband; and Caspar Phillipson as President John F. Kennedy.

During its decade-long development, “Blonde” also gained notoriety for being the first NC-17 rated film to premiere on a streaming service. It had its premiere at the Venice International Film Festival on Sept. 8 and also began a limited theatrical run on Sept. 16, after which critics published mixed reviews. However, it can be assumed that most of the film’s audience will stem from its streaming debut, and feedback will be more divisive as a result.

parker-jones@uiowa.edu



## Playlist

Thunderstorms in Fall



**Homecoming**

Ye

**Midnight City**

M83



**Live and Let Die**

Wings

**Mr. Blue Sky**

Electric Light Orchestra



**White Room**

Cream

**Electric Love**

BØRNS



**White Rabbit**

Jefferson Airplane

**Rock the Casbah**

The Clash



**Pool House**

The Backseat Lovers

**Eleanor Rigby**

The Beatles



**World’s Smallest Violin**

AJR

**Killer Queen**

Queen

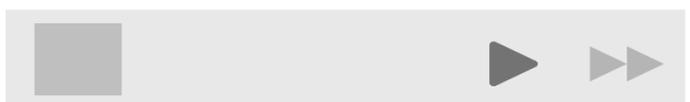


**She’s A Rainbow**

The Rolling Stones

**Thunderstruck**

AC/DC



# Prairie Lights to hold 'Black Authors' Panel'

Prairie Lights will offer a panel for Black Iowa-based writers as part of Iowa City's Soul & Blues Festival on Sept. 24.

Vaishnavi Kolluru  
Arts Reporter

Eliza David struggled to find Black female protagonists in the stories she read. So she started writing them herself.

As a self-publishing novelist and blogger, librarian, and current University of Iowa graduate student, David is one of four Black authors featured in the "Black Authors' Panel" through Prairie Lights' involvement in this year's Iowa City Soul & Blues Festival.

"I think what motivated me to start writing romance was not really seeing a lot of Black women in contemporary romance novels — at least contemporary romance novels that were on the shelf," David said.

Some of Iowa City's accomplished Black authors will meet virtually on Sept. 24 to discuss their work and the significance of Black art to Iowa City and UI communities. The Soul & Blues Festival is held every year as part of Iowa City's "Summer of the Arts" program. This is the second year the festival will be in person since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

David noted the lack of representation of Black artists in Iowa City and of Black people among writers leads to a lack of diversity in terms of ethnicity among characters in books.

After becoming a writer, David realized there are multiple Black female romance writers, but their work has been largely inaccessible to her because it was not promoted adequately.

"I was introduced to so many Black women who were writing about Black women in romance that it just made my head spin," she said. "There is this misconception that there are no Black people in romance, but if you



A poster advertising the Iowa City Soul & Blues Festival is seen in downtown Iowa City on Sept. 20. The festival will host Iowa-based Black writers on Sept. 24.

Gabby Drees/ The Daily Iowan

get to know a lot of independently published authors, you will find a lot of Black women who are writing those stories."

The crux of the problem of representation is a lack of support of writers rather than a lack of writers, David said. She highlighted the importance of events like the "Black Authors' Panel" that aim to empower Black artists.

David noted how crucial it is to bring artists and the public back together through events like the "Black Authors' Panel" — especially after a long period of social distancing — even if the panel is virtual.

"What I've really loved about the 'Summer of the Arts' is this gradual re-joining of everyone; com-

ing back together to talk about books is always a great reason," she said. "I say that as a writer, as a reader, as a librarian, as a human. Books bring people together."

The panelists recognize another significance of the festival aside from uniting readers and writers: honoring and promoting the work of Black artists. David highlighted how important it is to work toward making art more inclusive, particularly in a hub of literature like Iowa City.

"As a Black resident of Johnson County for over 20 years, it is so important that we create platforms for other African Americans," David said. "Iowa City is literally a City of Literature. It is so

important that we amplify the voices of Black authors in literature. And where else is that better shown than here in Iowa City, where people can be together and talk about Black stories and Black authors and what their processes are?"

For most of the four panelists at the literature event, the greatest excitement is connecting with fellow artists. Donika Kelly, one of the panelists, is a UI English professor as well as an award-winning poet.

"This is a great opportunity to participate in a literary event outside of the university," Kelly said. "I'm just looking forward to the exciting community and that kind of thing."

While she was unacquainted with the other panelists, Kelly said she is grateful for the event because it makes it possible for their paths to cross.

"This is only my third year in Iowa City, and I am still trying to figure out what [the city] is. I am excited to see what the festival brings out," she said.

Aside from Kelly and David, the panel will feature Gabrielle Williams, an author primarily of cookbooks, and Steven Willis, a UI graduate and poet, storyteller, actor, and dancer. Arnold Daniels Jr., whose career spans across the fields of politics, education, social service, business, and research, will moderate the event.

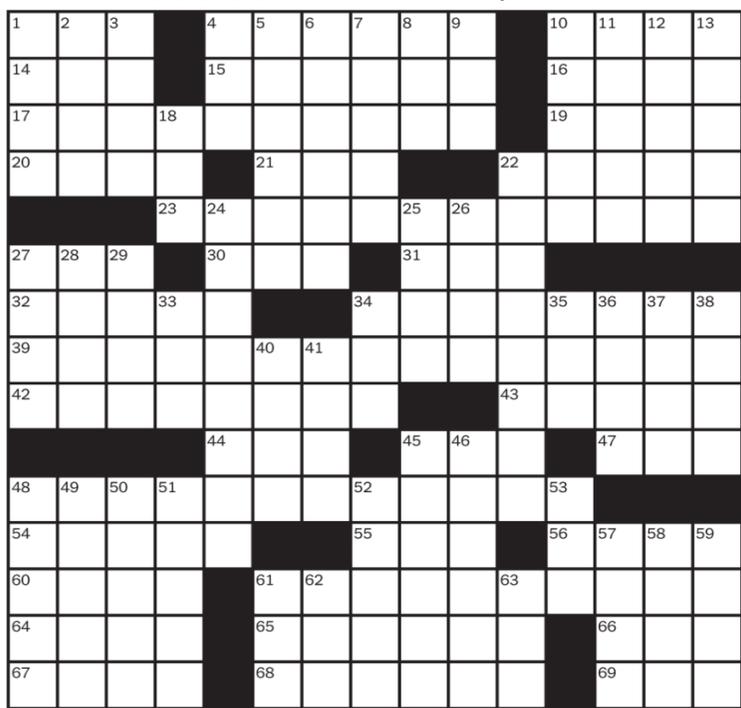
David commended the festival for making it possible for such a diverse group of people to connect with one another. She spoke particularly of her friendship with Williams and how the panel will strengthen their bond. "When two people writing about two completely different things can find a common thread together and both create their own separate projects and then come together on the same panel, that is the universe working in both our favors," David said. "I am absolutely thrilled to share the stage with Gabrielle Williams. I am thrilled to get to know the other two authors as well."

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## The Daily Break

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0817



- Across**
- 1 Repo job
  - 4 \_\_\_ gel (drying agent that comes in small packets)
  - 10 Upscale hotel amenities
  - 14 "Nasty!"
  - 15 Sneaker brand in a Run-D.M.C. hit
  - 16 Gather
  - 17 Breakfast cereal with a toucan mascot [69-Across!]
  - 19 Mediterranean erupter
  - 20 Cause of a mascara streak
  - 21 "Star Wars" cantina patrons, for short
  - 22 Hold sway
  - 23 Team that broke the "Curse of the Bambino" in 2004 [69-Across!]
  - 27 Reef dweller
  - 30 Group that often elects officers in Sept.
  - 31 Aurora's Greek counterpart
  - 32 Reward for giving a paw
  - 34 Didn't move
  - 39 Triple Crown winner of 2015 [69-Across!]
  - 42 Time for parting shots?
  - 43 "Buffalo soldier, dreadlock \_\_\_": Bob Marley
  - 44 Fury
  - 45 "Clear now?"
  - 47 Ax
  - 48 Video game franchise featuring Sub-Zero and Sonya Blade [69-Across!]
  - 54 Word with green or pearl

- 55 "Traffic was terrible," maybe
  - 56 Designer Gucci
  - 60 One-term president
  - 61 "Pour Some Sugar on Me" rockers [69-Across!]
  - 64 Mahjong piece
  - 65 Largish jazz combos
  - 66 National Gallery architect
  - 67 A lot of these tend to go to waste
  - 68 Like the smell of fresh pine
  - 69 [not my typo]
- Down**
- 1 Clump of grass
  - 2 Dungeons & Dragons monster
  - 3 "Easy there!"
  - 4 H.S. hurdle
  - 5 Least active
  - 6 Ray of "GoodFellas"
  - 7 "Not true what you say about me!"
  - 8 Gown go-with
  - 9 Buffoon
  - 10 King Midas's vice
  - 11 Hairy cryptids
  - 12 Tropical flavor
  - 13 Big name in shapewear
  - 18 Planet, to a poet
  - 22 Place for a pit stop
  - 24 A sight for sore eyes?
  - 25 Like a half-moon tide

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ASK THE AUTHOR

# David DeGusta

Author and second-year MFA student in the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop David DeGusta discusses his career and upcoming Prairie Lights talk.

Parker Jones  
Arts Editor

David DeGusta is a second-year Master of Fine Arts student in fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. On Sept. 24 he will take part in a conversation at Prairie Lights bookstore as part of the International Writing Program at Prairie Lights Sunday Reading Series. His writing has been featured in "Boulevard" and "Catapult," among other publications, and will be included in the upcoming "Best New Writers 2022" anthology from the Masters Review. The short story writer also translates works written in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. Before switching

to fiction, he worked as a paleoanthropologist in Ethiopia and Djibouti.

**The Daily Iowan: What inspired you to become an author or get involved in writing?**

DeGusta: I think it's a natural extension of being very into reading books — like "Hey, could I maybe make one of my own?" And then when I tried writing in a serious way, it felt like I was really using all the parts of me. You have to be creative and rigorous and empathetic and practical and philosophical and deeply engaged with language, and a bunch of other stuff, all at once.

**DI: Do you have a favorite piece you've ever worked on or published?**

DeGusta: My favorite is a short story that will be published early next year, "The Tree That Stood Alone in the Desert." That story will always be special to me because I used it to apply to two summer writing programs, the Sewanee Writers' Conference and a summer session workshop here at Iowa. Those experiences were incredibly formative for me. I got to know some really amazing cool people, and I'm so grateful for that, even beyond the writing. It's a good example of how writing can connect you with people in a very real way, not just in the abstract.

**DI: What initially made you interested in the Iowa Writers' Workshop?**

DeGusta: When I decided to switch careers to writing, I wanted to get the best training I could. Many of my favorite writers had some connection to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and it attracts such a wonderful group of people. Between students, faculty, and visitors, it was my dream choice. Just in general, I think if you want to get better at something, try to hang out around the very best people doing that thing. For writing and translation, Iowa is the place.

**DI: What are you most excited about for the upcoming IWP Prairie Lights reading?**

DeGusta: Make art, share art. That's what it's all about, to me. And so, I'm excited for the chance to share some of my writing in the company of two other wonderful writers, Pavla Horáková and

Carey Baraka, at such a distinguished venue as Prairie Lights. It's like the literary equivalent of playing Madison Square Garden with all the great writers that have come through there. I just hope some of that magic rubs off. Plus, Iowa City audiences know literature the way people in New Orleans know jazz.

**DI: Have you ever worked with the International Writing Program before?**

DeGusta: The International Writing Program spoils us here in Iowa City. Every fall, they bring the world of literature to us and create so many opportunities for Iowa students. I took a translation workshop

through them and also did a session with their visiting writer Luíza Fazio on television writing. Luíza wrote for the most popular Netflix show in her native Brazil and was working on a new show here that she shared with us. That's someone whose words reach literally millions of people, so to sit in a room and have a conversation with her about her writing process was really incredible.

**DI: You were a paleoanthropologist before switching to writing. What led you to change paths?**

DeGusta: I worked for a while in publishing as an undergraduate and afterwards

and was really torn between continuing with writing and editing or going into science. I decided to pursue human origins as a career and am so glad I did. I got to do cool stuff like finding fossils in Ethiopia, excavating Neanderthals in France, and working on the Human Genome Project. I wouldn't trade any of that for the world. But then it came to a point where I needed to switch universities, and that caused me to stop and think about what I really wanted to do next. I realized I had done most of what I wanted to do in the field of human evolution. Writing, while an old love, was a new frontier, so that's where I headed.

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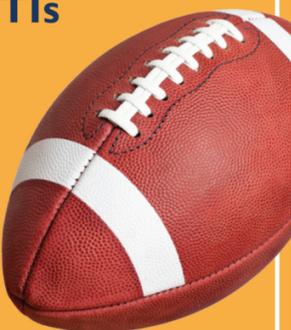
Contributed photo from David DeGusta

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# Chlamydia

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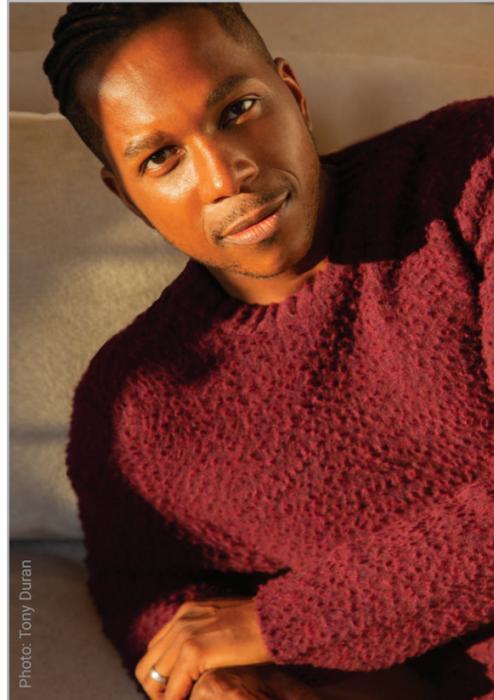
Chlamydia is a common & curable sexually transmitted infection (STI). Many people experience no symptoms. If you are sexually active, make STI testing part of your regular health routine.





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## LESLIE ODOM, JR.

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 pm

Leslie Odom, Jr.—as Hancher audiences know from experience—is a multifaceted, award-winning vocalist, songwriter, author, and actor. With a career that spans all performance genres, he has garnered Tony and Grammy Awards as well as Emmy and Academy Award nominations for his excellence and achievements in Broadway, television, film, and music. Odom most recently starred in the critically acclaimed Amazon film adaptation of *One Night in Miami...* in which he performed the songs of legendary singer Sam Cooke. You won't want to miss his return to Hancher.

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