

NEW STANLEY MUSEUM PUSHES FOR MORE DIVERSE ART, LARGER STAFF OVER NEXT DECADE

Three months after its opening, the Stanley Museum plans for its future, including increasing representation, connecting with students, and creating a distinct collection plan.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Director of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art Lauren Lessing speaks with reporters during a media availability at the Stanley Museum of Art on Aug. 23. The museum opened to the public on Aug. 26.

Rin Swann
Projects Reporter

An old man sits on a bench in front of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art's African art collection, sketching in a notebook perched on his lap. Inside, two teenagers with Iowa pins on their bags giggle as they dart through the exhibits before they stare at a sculpture by Elizabeth Catlett. Hushed whispers emanate from a crowd of people as they stare up at Jackson Pollock's "Mural."

Three months after patrons filled the new Stanley Museum for its grand opening, Director Lauren Lessing and her team are pushing for larger endowments and hope to foster closer relationships with the student body while promoting art and culture in the community.

Following the 2008 flood, the original Stanley Museum was rendered uninsurable. In the first month following the return of a physical building, the new Stanley Museum received a donation total of \$18,457. This total is not reflective of the future gift commitments pledged by patrons after they were inspired by the museum's opening.

Stanley Museum supporters donated over \$25 million to contribute to the building costs. The museum also received a 300 percent increase in pledged donations in the first month of the building's opening when compared to the same period last year.

"This is fertile ground," Lessing said. "I have never lived in a place where there has been such strong and passionate support for the arts. And that is at every level, from the administration of the university, to the student body, to the people who live in the community."

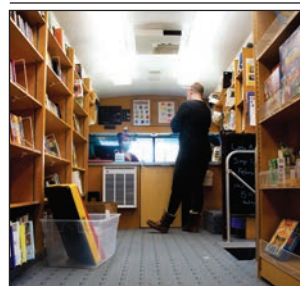
Three months after its opening, the Stanley Museum and its 13 full-time employees are shifting their focus toward the future.

Leadership

The ninth director of the Stanley Museum grew up surrounded by art. Lessing was raised in southern Indiana, just across the river from Louisville, Kentucky. Her mother was a painter and a high school art teacher. Her father was a sculptor and the art di-

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INSIDE



80 HOURS: Antelope Lending Library continues to provide education

The fee-free bookmobile has met people where they are for 10 years and counting in Iowa City. **Page 1B**



A lifelong Hawkeye

Hannah Stuelke has been committed to Iowa women's basketball since she was a freshman in high school. **Page 8A**

ONLINE

Former UI professor's trial postponed

John Muriello's trial, including multiple federal charges, was postponed to February 2023.

DITV

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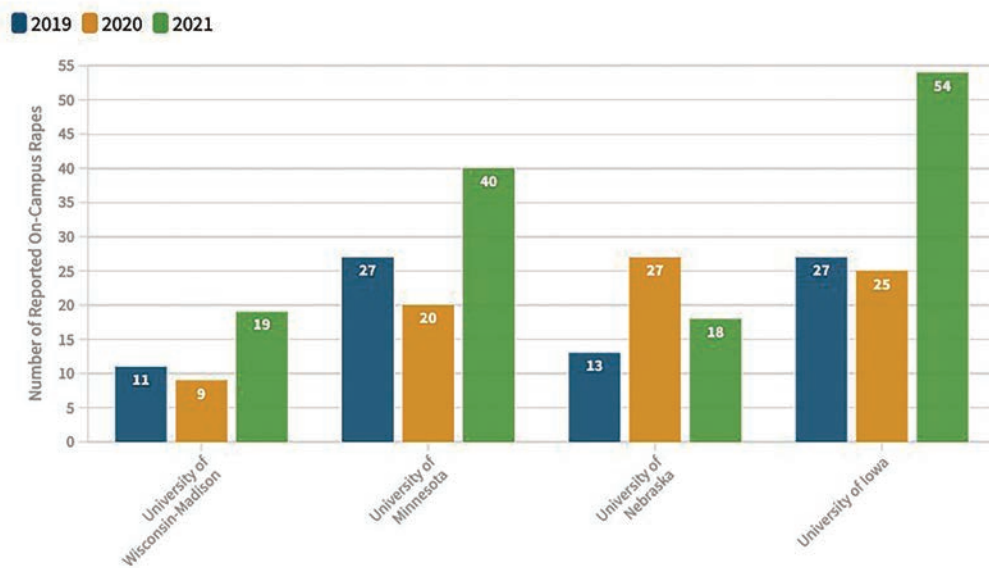


UI law enforcement reports increase in sexual offenses

Campus officials attribute the rise to post-pandemic reopenings.

Reported On-Campus Rapes, 2019 to 2021

Nearby Big Ten Universities



Infographic by Ryan Hansen

Source: University of Iowa Safety and Security Report, UW-Madison 2022 Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Web Database, University of Minnesota Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.

Colin Votzmeyer
News Reporter

Editor's note: This article contains mentions of sexual violence.

The University of Iowa Department of Public Safety reported an increase in sexual offense reports from 2020 to 2021 following the height of

the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the UI's 2022 Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy, Crime Statistics, and Fire Safety Annual Report, on-campus sex offenses increased from 46 in 2020 to 81 in 2021. Reports of on-campus rape increased from 25 to 54, and on-campus fondling increased from 21 to 27 re-

ports.

Campus officials attribute the rise of incident reports to the Iowa City community's reopening after the first three years of COVID-19.

Hayley Bruce, UI Department of Public Safety assistant director for communication and external relations,

CRIMES | Page 2A

IC schools provide courses for arts academy

ICON Arts Academy partnered with the school district to offer online classes for academy students.

Virginia Russell
News Reporter

Iowa City Community School District will provide online schooling for students enrolled in the new downtown Iowa City ICON Arts Academy.

ICON Arts Academy is a performing arts school designed to help students further their artistic pursuits. It is the first of its kind in the state, and students will take online English, math, science, and social studies classes through the Iowa City school district starting in the 2023-24 school year.

The partnership started two years ago when the district launched its online learning curriculum in the wake of COVID-19. Seeing that an online option was available, Beth Brown and Leslie Nolte, the ICON Academy's founders, started when the district began designing a program.

"We're looking down the road, we are excited about the online program in the public school because we think it's going to be a great fit for some of our arts, our very serious art students," Brown, ICON's curriculum and instruction director, said. "We've been interacting with the admin from ICCSD for two years on this topic."

Iowa City schools Superintendent Matt Degner said the online model works for ICON's students who need a lighter course load with the same education requirements.

"We're looking to do that through our online programming because that fits into the

ICCS | Page 2A

Featured Photo | Working with Wreaths



Vincenzo Mazza/The Daily Iowan

Benito Ocampo shows off a Christmas wreath at a workshop at the Pedestrian Mall on Nov. 30. The Pedestrian Mall offers a "Build Your Own Christmas Wreath" workshop.

CRIMES

Continued from Front

wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that numbers do not mean the UI campus is less safe.

"Sexual assault is a very under-reported crime," Bruce wrote. "We have worked hard to lower the barriers to reporting on campus, and we are committed to reducing this type of crime and creating a safe environment where victims feel comfortable coming forward to report these crimes to police."

She added the UI can't speculate on one specific factor behind the increase. "However, as people returned to campus after the COVID-19 pandemic and had access to resources, reports may have increased related to harm experienced earlier," she said.

According to Statista, the number of reported forcible rape cases in the U.S. fell from 143,224 in 2019 to 139,500 in 2020 and rose to 144,300 by 2021.

She wrote that COVID-19 lockdowns probably worsened these factors. Discussions between the UI and Johnson County law enforcement revealed that interpersonal behavior was strained during the height of the pandemic, she added.

UI Rape Victim Advocacy Program Executive Director Adam Robinson said sexual violence typically rises in the fall semester because of students' lack of familiarity with their surroundings, but the reopening after the pandemic is the big-

gest factor in the recent increase.

"We have seen disclosures, both with regards to those socially interactive events being more frequent again and also with folks who maybe couldn't have asked for help or disclosed the violence they were surviving while in lockdown," Robinson said.

He said an increase in reports does not mean there are more or fewer sexual assaults, but that the Rape Victim Advocacy Program is receiving vulnerability from the campus community.

RVAP provides free and confidential resources for people who are affected by sexual violence as well as prevention education.

"Our primary goal is to prevent these types of crimes from happening in

populations.

The UI had a total enrollment of 31,206 in the fall 2021 semester, according to a university report, compared to 35,474 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 36,209 at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and 19,552 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

- University of Wisconsin-Madison police reported 19 rapes and three fondlings on campus in 2021.
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities police reported 40 rapes and 10 fondlings on campus in 2021.
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln police reported 44 rapes and one fondling on campus in 2021.

Robinson said the university has started vari-

prevent the occurrences of sexual violence," Robinson said. "We don't want to prevent the disclosures. If someone's experienced violence, we want them to feel free to disclose."

At the Nov. 9 state Board of Regents meeting, Iowa State University Chief of Police Michael Newton said reports of sexual assault, rape, and fondling increased at ISU because more people felt comfortable reporting these incidents, but he knows some go unreported.

"[It's] still a very under-reported crime," Newton said. "We know there's more sexual assaults there happening than are reported on our campuses, and that's nationally that we see that."

Mark Bullock, UI Department of Public Safety assistant vice president and director, said at the meeting that the num-

“[We’re] just trying to do different things to respond to and also try to prevent the occurrences of sexual violence.

— UI Rape Victim Advocacy Program Executive Director Adam Robinson

the first place. Until we meet that goal, we also want to make sure that anytime it's experienced, anytime anyone is sexually assaulted, they are as free as possible to come forward and disclose and seek support," Robinson said.

Robinson said the 54 rape disclosures in 2021 were still low for how big the UI's campus community is.

The number of reported rapes and fondlings at the UI is higher than other state schools in the midwest with larger student

ous initiatives to combat the prevalence of offenses and increase the number of disclosures.

The initiatives include informing the community on how to prevent sexual offenses, communicating with other departments across campus, reducing barriers to reporting incidents, and creating identity-aligned workshops, an artistic expression support group, and medical accompaniment services.

"[We're] just trying to do different things to respond to and also try to

said through the district, students from the academy will take four core classes per trimester. There will also be a wide variety of classes for students to choose from.

"The kids will be able to be a part of the classes, like the registration process, the way in which they would if they were going into the school traditionally," Nolte said.

Students will have 10 hours a week set aside for the online courses, which is roughly two hours a day of work. Learning coaches will also provide them with additional support, Brown said.

From the core classes, students will earn their high school diploma as well as an art certification from the academy when they graduate.

Guidance counselors will also help students determine what requirements they need to pursue their post graduation plans, depending on what their goals are.

For students who plan to attend college, they may need to look into receiving additional requirements, Brown said. For those who are looking to receive the basic requirements, it may be different.

"Maybe they just want to get their basics. They want to go to Broadway after they get done with ICON," Brown said. "They're not going to be looking to take four years of science. It's just going to depend on each student."

Ultimately, the partnership allows students who desire a different educational path to pursue their

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bers as of Nov. 7 are down to 10 reported rapes on campus in contrast to 47 in 2021.

"The good thing is when we look at our numbers now, our numbers now are remarkably different than what they

were in 2021," Bullock said. "There's obviously time for more reporting to occur, and we collect the reports for quite some time, but it's certainly trending in a good direction.

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Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

The outside of the University of Iowa Police Department station is seen in Iowa City on April 11.

ICCSA

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training schedule easier for students," Degner said.

The district's piece of the partnership is funded through revenue generated by students from out of state who enroll in the academy. Degner said out-of-state tuition will match the supplemental state aid that resident students receive.

"That creates a budget for us to be able to work on to be able to provide this educational experience," Degner said.

From a funding perspective, having more incoming students will benefit the district as well, he said.

Nolte, executive and artistic director of ICON,

said through the district, students from the academy will take four core classes per trimester. There will also be a wide variety of classes for students to choose from.

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"Maybe they just want to get their basics. They want to go to Broadway after they get done with ICON," Brown said. "They're not going to be looking to take four years of science. It's just going to depend on each student."

Ultimately, the partnership allows students who desire a different educational path to pursue their

interests in a way that best suits them.

"It is delicate, but that's not something we can plan ahead of time, which I think we're pretty proud of, because it's not a scripted education," Brown said. "It's an education that works for each student."

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Using alcohol to get sex is sexual assault

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Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Community School District sign in Iowa City taken on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

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STANLEY

Continued from Front

rector for Bruce Fox, a small company that created decorative cast-metal artworks for Wilton and other brands.

"I grew up watching my parents make things," Lessing said. "They had studied at the University of Louisville right after the Second World War."

It was there that her parents studied painting from an internationally recognized artist, Ulfert Wilke.

Wilke later left the University of Louisville and came to the UI. With Wilke, the university opened the UI Museum of Art, now known as the Stanley Museum of Art. He was the first director of the museum — the position Lessing now holds.

Lessing was present for the museum's opening as a baby, further connecting her to its history. Her parents kept in touch with Wilke through letters during his lifetime, and she remembers him as a family friend.

Lessing's childhood experiences helped her transition to an over 25-year-long career in art history and education. Her credentials include working for museums such as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri.

Before her arrival at the UI, Lessing worked at the Colby College Museum of Art as the Mirken director of academic and public programs in Waterville, Maine. While there, she learned of the flood that swept through Iowa City in 2008.

The waters damaged the original Stanley Museum, though the artwork was salvaged because of the efforts of employees and over 200 volunteers. Thousands of pieces of art were

evacuated before they were dispersed to the IMU, the Figge Museum in Davenport, and other collections around the country.

Through her family connections, Lessing already established a love for the UI.

"That was what made the flood so devastating for me when I saw everything happening from Maine," Lessing said.

Lessing became the ninth director of the Stanley Museum of Art ten years later. Under her guidance, she doubled her staff and oversaw the opening of the new \$50 million dollar facility on Burlington Street.

"We had reconfigured ourselves to be a museum without walls," Lessing said. "We were not used to thinking about the mission of the museum and the way we would need to pivot and think about it once we were in a building."

Two months after the museum's opening, Lessing has shifted her focus toward securing permanent lines of funding for three of her staff members. Currently, those positions are supported with funds raised for the museum by the UI Center for Advancement.

"I didn't even take a breath," Lessing said. "I pivoted right from the building campaign to raising money for operations."

Lessing said, while the museum's 17,000 item collection is extensive, the staff is the smallest of any Big Ten university. Additionally, while other Big Ten museums, like Northwestern's Block Art Museum, have an endowment of nearly \$18 million, Stanley Art Museum has an endowment of around \$5 million.

Lessing's biggest goal over the next 10 years is to triple the size of that endowment and double her staff to support the Stanley's sizable collection. With that increase, staff

funding will expand, as will support for teaching, learning, and research.

"We're a young art museum," Lessing said. "We've only been around since 1969, and it takes time to build up endowment funds so we can begin to build our capacity to do some of the things that we know we want to do."

Engagement

From the museum's new location between the Main Library and the campus recreation center, the building is a newly minted staple for Iowa City architecture.

"It's not quiet," assistant curator of student engagement Allie Tokarski said. "The visibility is really cool of this building, and I think it does more of a service to the collection than the old space did."

From her position on the third floor of the Stanley Museum, Tokarski's window overlooks the riverbanks and the water treatment plant that divides the campus in half. Her office is overflowing with stacks of books, papers, and boxes, but the brightly-colored posters that show various works of art offered visitors a homey feeling.

Tokarski's position was created to be a resource for students on campus to connect with the new Stanley. With the return of the building to a prominent place on campus and a growing staff, Tokarski's role was made in April to enhance student engagement.

"It is a new job developed with the opening of the museum in mind," Tokarski said. "So a lot of the work I do is creating experiences for University of Iowa students at the Stanley ... I focus more on getting them involved in different ways."

Increasing student engagement on campus, Lessing said, is another one of



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

People take photos of exhibits in the Stanley Museum of Art at its opening celebration at the University of Iowa on Aug. 26.

the major goals for the museum as it moves forward during the next 10 years. Tokarski's role helps foster those connections within the student body.

Her role includes assisting with a student advisory group, monthly events, and weekly mindfulness activities in the museum. Tokarski also plans to begin a student docent program next fall, which will allow more students within different disciplines to be more involved with teaching and learning from the collection.

It is an experience Tokarski had when she was a student. In 2016, Tokarski worked as a gallery host for the Stanley Museum located in the Iowa Memorial Union. This location offered small sections of the collection to tour, though the space was limited.

Tokarski graduated with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting in 2019 and continued to work at the museum until the pandemic shut Stanley's doors in 2020. When she was offered the role to assist with student

engagement in 2022, she seized the opportunity to give back.

"I feel like it's sort of my duty," Tokarski said. "The Stanley did so much for me as a student. I was able and lucky to have and seek out those opportunities ... Giving as many students as possible the same opportunity is the ultimate goal moving forward."

Tokarski is not the only member of staff focused on engagement. In another new position, learning and engagement team academic outreach coordinator Kathryn Reuter leads class and faculty tours around the museum every week.

"It's kind of like, wow, let's talk about the past," Reuter said. "And maybe not all the students are jazzed to talk about history. It's not everyone's favorite subject. So I try to make it relevant and engaging to the content they are learning in class."

Reuter splits her hours between the museum, where she spends 40 percent of her time, and UI Special Collections. This integration offers an overlap between the collections, especially when both have work by the same artist.

Access to these collections is something Reuter highly values. The museum does not ask for an entrance fee when visitors arrive and instead relies on donations and grants. This is an aspect that allows the museum to be receptive to incoming audiences from different backgrounds.

As a child, Reuter grew up in Orange County, California, and was low-income. Her past experiences influenced her appreciation for the free access to the collection.

"[As a child] even when I entered a lot of museums, I had that feeling of, 'this space is not for me,'" Reuter said. "It is a space for people who are fancier than I am and come from a different home than the one I came from."

Reuter said that museum fees can be an especially strong barrier for those

who hope to visit, so she was excited to hear that the Stanley offered free admission.

In her role, Reuter said she hopes to continue fostering relationships with the community even beyond the UI.

"You should feel welcome at the Stanley Museum," Reuter said. "It really is for everybody."

Moving forward

Within the mix of the museum's collection are paintings, photographs, sculptures, and more. But there are other, stranger pieces that have not seen daylight for years. Novelty liquor bottles, Zippo lighters, and cuckoo clocks are just a few of the wide array of items that have made their way into the collection.

"These are some amazing things, but they don't necessarily belong in an art museum collection," Lessing said.

Until 2020, the museum did not have a collection plan — a type of detailed outline that highlights what the museum does and does not collect. As a result, the items became more eclectic.

Over the next 10 years, the Stanley Museum plans to assess the items in its collections and sell the non-art items that do not belong in the new museum. Additionally, Lessing pointed out gaps in the collection that the museum intends to fill.

The inaugural Homecoming exhibition increased representation by showcasing more diverse work through loans and strategic acquisitions, but Lessing said she hopes to build an even more diverse permanent collection over the next decade.

This will include more works by women, contemporary Indigenous artists, Black photographers, and alumni.

"It's a thrill to be a part of this," Lessing said. "It's a very, very deep honor."

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Stanley Museum of Art Director Lauren Lessing speaks at the opening celebration for the Stanley Museum of Art at the University of Iowa on Aug. 26.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Sherry Bates, president pro tem of the state Board of Regents; University of Iowa president Barbara Wilson; Stanley Museum of Art Director Lauren Lessing; and others cut a ribbon at the opening celebration for the Stanley Museum of Art at the University of Iowa on Aug. 26.



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Opinions

Why Democrats can't compete in Iowa

Political realignment has doomed the fortunes of Iowa Democrats.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

The 2022 Midterms confirmed one thing about Iowa — it is not a swing state anymore.

Republicans ran the table, as they retained all their statewide offices by comfortable margins. In addition, the GOP man-

aged to flip Iowa's fourth house seat in the 3rd Congressional District and the office of the state attorney general. This almost gave them a clean sweep, but Democrats held onto the office of state auditor.

The Republican domination of Iowa is a microcosm of the political realignment occurring in the U.S. along lines of education polarization, and if Iowa Democrats do not begin to take this trend seriously, it will become even more difficult for them to win in Iowa.

In the previous era of

American politics, it was considered conventional wisdom that the Democratic party's coalition of young cosmopolitan liberals living in coastal cities and in manufacturing hubs where most people were working class and had little to no college education.

On the other hand, Republicans had strong support among white, college educated voters that lived in the suburbs. This was in nexus with their support from rural, more religious voters who also did not have college educa-

tions.

In other words, the two parties had support across the socio-economic spectrum.

This was seen in Iowa, as Democrats generally had strong support in factory towns, such as Dubuque, Burlington, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Iowa City, which continues to have a high concentration of college graduates compared to the rest of the state, also heavily supported Democrats.

Meanwhile, Republicans did well in suburban towns surrounding Iowa's major cities and in the rest of the state, which is rural and religious. Therefore, elections in Iowa were competitive, as Democrats and Republicans as their political coalitions, were roughly equal in size.

But as the 2000s and 2010s wore on, support for Democrats in Iowa's industrial towns began to collapse as manufacturing jobs began to leave the state. As a result, the manufacturing towns began hemorrhaging people who moved out of the state in search for new opportunities.

Those that remained in these towns became enamored with former President Donald Trump's candidacy in 2016, his nativist message, and his



Cecilia Shearon/The Daily Iowan
Former President Donald Trump addresses the thousands of attendees that showed up for his "Save America" rally in Des Moines, Iowa on Oct. 9, 2021.

promise to bring manufacturing jobs back to Iowa.

Nationally, Trump and his bombastic, autocratic style appalled most college educated suburban voters and drove them into the welcoming hands of Democrats. However, in Iowa, Democrats were not able to capitalize on the realignment largely because Republicans have begun to run up the score in rural counties, and there were not enough suburban voters to win over, thus giving Republicans a clear advantage when it comes to the state's political geography.

Because Democrats lost most of their support among non-college educated voters and were

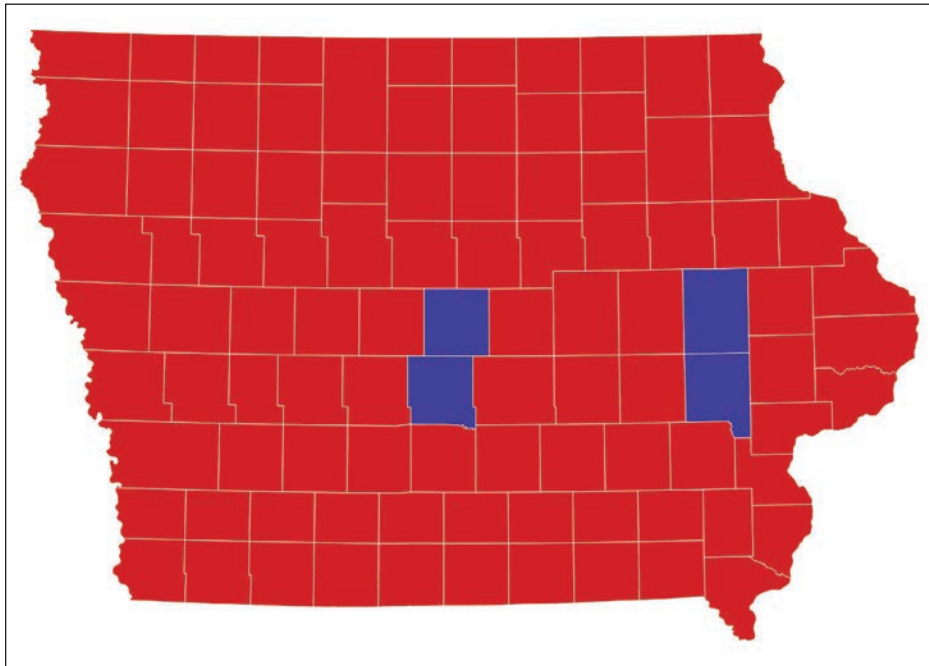
not able to make up the difference with those living in suburban districts, Iowa is now a safe Republican state.

In simple terms, any generic Iowa Democrat running for state office should adopt a platform similar to Bernie Sanders' 2016 political platform, which advocated for the expansion of the welfare state while also insulating the manufacturing industry from foreign competition.

Only by becoming more protectionist in attitude can Iowa Democrats capture the working-class voters they need to be competitive in Iowa again.

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2022 Iowa gubernatorial winner by county



Graphic by Jami Martin-Trainor

Final projects are better for students

The end of the semester can be hard. Students learn more efficiently with final projects.



Stella Logsdon
Opinions Contributor

Now that Thanksgiving break is over, finals are just around the corner, and University of Iowa students are racing to this semester's finish line.

The period between the end of midterm exams and finals week is one of great stress for all students, regardless of what they study or year of school they're in.

Though final coursework for UI students may vary based on their area of

study, the most common format for finals comes either through a final exam or a final project.

Whether a final exam or final project is presented at the end of the semester is subject to many factors such as course content or class size. However, there are a few reasons as to why final projects are more beneficial for student learning and student performance.

Naomi Gresyer, UI associate professor of American studies; English; and gender, women's, and sexuality studies explains her decision-making for implementing final projects in her classes as opposed to final exams.

"I do think that breaking [the final project] into

chunks and letting students apply learning in a context that matters to them does lead to their taking more away from class, and, usually — having more fun in it," Gresyer said. "It's also more fun for me."

Final projects better demonstrate student learning, and allow for greater levels of creativity and individuality. They also provide opportunities for real-world application of course content. As Gresyer also said, these projects can make work more enjoyable for the professors or teaching assistants that grade student work.

"A lot of my research on creativity and inquiry at the university shows that

when we combine skills-based learning — where students get to do things — with text-based learning, where students read and write things, they enhance each other," Gresyer said.

Final projects definitely allow for this said level of learning enhancement more so than a traditional exam might be able to. Additionally, diversifying the learning experience makes students more immersed in their course curriculum. Rather than overloading students with the end-all be-all of an exam, final projects have a larger time-frame and typically more opportunity for points to be earned.

As a student, I relate to the challenges and stresses that come along with

final exams. Final exams create a lot of pressure, especially when the academic stakes are much higher. According to research.com, 45 percent of American college students claim to experience "more than average stress," a number that heightens during finals week.

Gresyer strives to achieve learning diversification in her classroom and provides her students with different opportunities to obtain the grades they desire.

"I use an exam midway through the semester as a way to ground people's knowledge base. I have come to realize that I can use both exams and final projects in my class and let people apply the knowl-

edge they've learned in the final project," Gresyer said.

Though final projects may be challenging to assign for classes of larger sizes — such as a gen-ed course — it would do no harm for a greater number of UI professors and administrators to explore the ways in which they can introduce some alternatives for students, rather than just exams, similar to the strategy Gresyer uses.

Considering the pressure that college students face at the end of each semester, final projects may be one way to remove some of the stress while also better supporting student learning.

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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Is Christmas an inclusive holiday?

Opinions contributor Naomi Rivera Morales and Opinions columnist Yasmina Sahir debate on whether Christmas is inclusive to people of all beliefs.



Naomi Rivera-Morales
Opinions Contributor

Jesus Christ. His date of birth was labelled Dec. 25 in 221 A.D., later becoming universally accepted and celebrated in numerous homes throughout the world.

To commemorate this date, Christians take part in the anniversary of this birth by gift-giving, spending time with family, decorating homes and trees, singing Christmas songs, and attending Christmas mass — to name a few.

However, Christmas does not need to be celebrated solely for its religious origins. There are many families and individuals

Yes

Christmas is inclusive.

The origin of Christmas comes from the birth of

that lean toward similar or the same methods of celebration but do not devote such doings to Christianity or any religion.

According to the Pew Research Center, 90 percent of Americans take part in Christmas celebrations. Though this number has held up steadily for years, it has been found that the role of religion has been declining throughout the years. Only 46 percent of Americans have stated that religious roles are much less emphasized throughout society today.

No matter your religion, there is room for some form of celebration. Although you do not need to be a part of this holiday season if you choose not to be, it has become generally more inclusive than before. How you choose to spend this time of the year is up to you and your family, and you should celebrate however you feel best fits the spirit. You are free to choose how to involve yourself this holiday season.

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Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist

ness as someone living on the outskirts of Christianity.

Instead, the focus on Christmas over other holidays celebrated during the winter months in the U.S. shows a clear sign of exclusivity in the form of social alienation and cultural domination.

As a young child, I grew up in a culturally mixed household. In my own time, I felt compelled to explore the faith of my paternal lineage, read the Quran, and fasted for Ramadan in my teenage years. Every year, I felt awkward and out of place as "Christmas

No

Christmas, commercialized or religious, has never been a sign of peace and happiness.

break" approached and the school's halls were filled with decorated trees, tinsel, and stars.

Each year around Christmas, I got to stay home and used the day for extra homework. My family often chose to gather on this day for a non-religious feast because we all were home anyway. On Eid Al-Fitr, the celebration recognizing the end of Ramadan, school was in session like any other day.

This does not stem from a resentment against European Christian culture, but from questions about the world around me. I wondered if I could wear an Islamic star without teachers saying it was inappropriate. When would my Jewish peers see dreidels and menorahs lining the hallways of our schools next to the trees and angels?

I don't see how Christmas will ever be truly inclusive until all other holidays are recognized and cherished equally in the eyes of the state and publicly funded schools.

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McKernan's veteran presence

With over 200 ECHL games under his belt, the Heartlanders' defenseman stepped into an important role on a young Heartlanders roster.

Isaac Goffin
Sports Reporter

Iowa Heartlanders defenseman Kevin McKernan said he doesn't know if it's a good or bad thing he's played all his professional games in the ECHL.

But Iowa head coach Derek Damon said McKernan provides the Heartlanders with stability. With 231 ECHL contests under his belt, McKernan is a veteran among one of the most professionally inexperienced rosters in the league.

"He's seen a lot," Damon said. "He's had a calming presence. He plays the game with a calming demeanor. He's a smart hockey player, and I think we're fortunate to have a player of his caliber with us right now."

When McKernan is on the ice, he skates side to side throughout the defensive zone as he attempts to block passes and shots off his stick or body. He did that exceptionally well versus the Cincinnati Cyclones on Saturday.

"Just got to do what you got to do out there," McKernan said. "Doesn't feel great, but [it's] part of my game, so I had to do it."

The right-handed shooter spent his youth training with the Boston Junior Bruins in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and developed through their program, competing in various leaguers. In 2013-14, McKernan competed for the Junior Bruins in the U.S. Premier Hockey League Premier Division, notching six goals and 19 assists over 26 games.

Then, the blueliner pro-



Iowa defenseman Kevin McKernan and Cincinnati forward Lee Lapid battle for a puck during a hockey game between the Iowa Heartlanders and the Cincinnati Cyclones at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Nov. 26. The Heartlanders defeated the Cyclones, 4-3. Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

gressed to Connecticut's Quinnipiac University. He spent four seasons there and was an alternate captain his senior year.

At the end of the 2017-18 campaign, McKernan began his professional career with the Fort Wayne Komets. McKernan transferred to the South Carolina Stingrays the following year, where he recorded his best ECHL season with six goals, 22 assists, and a plus-nine rating.

He was on the move again in 2019-20 when he joined the Kansas City Mavericks. The 5-foot-11 skater split 2020-21 between the Jacksonville Icemen and the Greenville Swamp Rabbits. He spent the rest of his career with the Swamp Rabbits before he was traded to the Heartlanders on Nov. 4 for future considerations.

McKernan has totaled 14 goals — including two with the Heartlanders —

and 58 assists while donning an ECHL sweater. He noted his time in the league has been a grind.

"It's nice to see new people, new places, and new cultures," McKernan said.

Since he's been with the Heartlanders, the 28-year-old said he's helped the young roster by sharing with them the knowledge he's accumulated. So far in McKernan's time with Iowa, he's been paired

with rookie Ryan Wheeler, captain Riese Zmolek, and AHL-contracted blueliner Matt Murphy.

"He brings that extra leadership in the locker room, right the ship that we're going on right now, so he's been a really good addition," Zmolek said.

The Heartlanders are 3-8-2-1 and sit at the bottom of the ECHL Central Division, but McKernan has experienced rough stretches before. While he

was with the Swamp Rabbits in 2021-22, the franchise dropped 10 straight games — with four in overtime or a shootout — but still qualified for the Kelly Cup Playoffs.

"There's a lot of roller coaster to the season," Damon said. "It's managing the ups and managing the downs. Having a guy like Kevin helps push our message."

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BASKETBALL

Continued from Page 8A

throughout her four years of high school.

"I'm thrilled with Hannah," Bluder said following Iowa's game against Evansville on Nov. 10. "I'm so excited. She committed to us when she was a ninth grader, and we were thrilled then. We've built a relationship because she did commit so early that we've been able to. She's been in this arena so many times. She's no stranger to this place, and I think that has helped her adjustment."

Stuelke's versatility also helps the Hawkeyes. As a positionless player, Stuelke can effectively play the 3, 4, and 5. She played point guard and off-ball positions for her high school basketball team, but Bluder said she's going to keep Hannah at power forward or center.

"That's what we kind of look for when we're recruiting, is those players that can play a multitude of positions," Bluder said at Iowa Women's Basketball Media Day on Oct. 20. "Hannah can certainly do that. She could play really for us the 3, 4, or 5. We're going to kind of keep her at the 4 and 5 this year as

a freshman because our transition offense is quite different between our 1, 2, 3s and our 4/5s."

Ahead of the season, Stuelke was in a three-way competition against sophomores Addison O'Grady and Sharon Goodman to be named starting center Monika Czinano's backup.

While O'Grady earned the No. 2 center spot, Stuelke still makes her presence felt on the floor.

"She will definitely add to our rebounding, which we needed, and her ability to attack off the dribble is really good," Bluder said. "Her ability to post-up is good, and her 3-point shot

far this season. She averages 11 minutes per contest, recording 6.3 points and 4.3 rebounds.

"She doesn't know how good she can be," junior guard Caitlin Clark said. "Her potential is through the roof, and I think everybody on our team sees that — it's just getting her to see it. And I think she's starting to. I think she's starting to realize how good she can be and how good she will be."

Stuelke's athleticism can't be understated — her teammates say they've been waiting for her to dunk in practice since she arrived at Carver-Hawkeye

“She doesn't know how good she can be. Her potential is through the roof, and I think everybody on our team sees that — it's just getting her to see it.

— Junior guard Caitlin Clark

is looking a lot better, as well."

Stuelke, a proficient 3-point shooter, has served as both a backup power forward and third-string center for Iowa this season.

Stuelke is one of eight players — and the only freshman — to appear in all seven of Iowa's games so

Arena. "I don't think we've had a more athletic player on our team as long as I've been here," Clark said. "She gives us something that we haven't had, and we need to use it to the best of our ability."

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PADILLA

Continued from Page 8A

sophomore J.J. McCarthy in 2022. McNamara entered the transfer portal on Monday and had season-ending knee surgery in early November. He is recovering in Los Angeles, and his return-to-play timeline is unclear.

Iowa's director of recruiting, Tyler Barnes, currently follows both McNamara and his father, Gary McNamara, on Twitter.

Cade McNamara and

Padilla have yet to release lists of schools they're considering. Under current rules, players that enter the transfer portal are allowed to return to their first school.

It is unclear if Padilla will be allowed to play in the Hawkeyes' 2022 bowl game. Petras' status for the Hawkeyes' postseason game is also uncertain, as Ferentz has yet to disclose the nature of his starting QB's injury.

If Petras and Padilla both can't participate in

Iowa's bowl game, red-shirt freshman Joe Labas or true freshman Carson May would likely be named starting quarterback. Labas and May are both three-star recruits from Ohio and Oklahoma, respectively.

Padilla has been Petras' backup for the last three years. Petras can choose to return to Iowa or transfer to another institution in 2023, as he has another year of eligibility because of COVID-19.

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GROTEGUTH

Continued from Page 8A

letes in the Iowa program, and she gives them advice on the ups and downs of being a collegiate athlete.

From 2021-22 to 2022-23, the Hawkeyes have increased their roster to 21 athletes. With 11 new freshmen and three transfers coming into the 2022-

23 squad, Groteguth has given Iowa a strong base in her first year as the recruiting coordinator, and she's planning to keep improving the program.

Groteguth's recruiting efforts helped the Hawkeyes win their first swim meet since the 2020-21 season on Oct. 7. With just 13 athletes in 2021-22, the Hawkeyes went 0-7 in dual meets. With 21

athletes, Iowa took down UNI, 197-102, in its first meet of the 2022-23 season.

"Mona is highly motivated, organized, relates to everyone on the team, and is very personable as well," Mundt said. "She has really been motivated to continue to push our program to the next level."

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Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke goes in for a layup during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Southern University at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Nov. 7. Stuelke scored 10 points and played for 14 minutes and 27 seconds. The Hawkeyes defeated the Jaguars, 87-34. Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

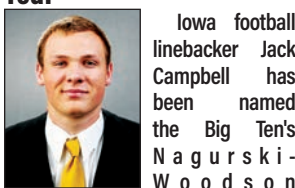
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Jack Campbell named Big Ten Linebacker, Defensive Player of the Year



Jack Campbell
Iowa football linebacker Jack Campbell has been named the Big Ten's Nagurski-Woodson Defensive Player of the Year and Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker of the Year, the conference announced Tuesday.

Campbell led the Hawkeyes with 118 tackles in 12 regular season games. He also recorded two interceptions.

Campbell is also a finalist for the Dick Butkus Award and the William V. Campbell Trophy. The Butkus Award annually honors the nation's top linebacker, while the Campbell Trophy — nicknamed the "Academic Heisman" — takes academics, community service, and on-field performance into account when naming the nation's best player.

Campbell is the third Hawkeye in six seasons to be named conference defensive player of the year. Former Iowa linebacker Josey Jewell took home the honor in 2017, while defensive lineman Daviyon Nixon won in 2020. Campbell is also the second linebacker in the Kirk Ferentz era to receive the Butkus-Fitzgerald award — Jewell won it in 2017.

Along with his conference awards, Campbell was named first-team All-Big Ten by coaches and media. Senior cornerback Riley Moss, who was the Big Ten Defensive Back of the Year in 2021, received 2022 first-team All-Big Ten honors by coaches and second-team by media.

Cornerback Cooper DeJean led the Hawkeyes with four interceptions, including two pick sixes, this season and was honored as a first-team All-Big Ten selection by media and second-team by coaches. He also recorded 68 tackles. DeJean was injured in the first quarter of Iowa's game against Nebraska on Nov. 25 and sat out the remainder of the contest.

Linebacker Seth Benson, who was second on the Hawkeye roster with 88 tackles, and Lukas Van Ness, who tied for the team lead with six sacks, both earned second-team all-conference honors by coaches and media.

Joe Evans also recorded six sacks on the season and garnered second-team all-conference honors by media and an honorable mention from coaches. Senior safety Kaevon Merriweather and defensive tackles Logan Lee and Noah Shannon all earned honorable mention spots from coaches and media.

The conference also released special teams honors on Tuesday. Kicker Drew Stevens earned second-team All-Big Ten honors by media and third-team by coaches, while punter Tory Taylor was on the media first-team and coaches third-team.

Stevens, a true freshman walk-on, went 16-of-18 on field goal attempts and did not miss an extra point through the course of the season. He also converted a career-long 54-yard field goal, which ranks seventh in Iowa program history. Taylor averaged 45.1 yards on 75 punts this season. His opponents averaged 3.7 yards on only 18 returns. He downed 32 punts inside the 20-yard line.

The Big Ten plans to announce offensive awards on Wednesday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were staring at the ball."

— Iowa men's basketball coach Fran McCaffery on his team's struggles against TCU.

STAT OF THE DAY

0
— Combined points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks for Iowa men's basketball forward Patrick McCaffery in 37 minutes against TCU.

A lifelong Hawkeye

After committing to Iowa women's basketball as a freshman in high school, Hannah Stuelke is flourishing in her first season as a Hawkeye.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke poses for a portrait during Iowa Women's Basketball Media Day at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Oct. 20.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

Iowa women's basketball freshman Hannah Stuelke always knew she wanted to be a Hawkeye. She committed to Iowa during her freshman year at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. In her four years as an

Iowa women's basketball commit, she earned first-team all-conference and all-district honors four times. The 6-foot-2 forward was the Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year and Miss Iowa Basketball during her senior season in 2021-22 and the 45th-ranked national recruit in the 2022 class.

Following a storied high school career, Stuelke finally made the short trip to Iowa City to start her journey as a Hawkeye women's basketball player, and her teammates made sure she felt comfortable right away. "I think they made it really easy just to come in here," Stuelke said of her

teammates helping her acclimate to Iowa City. "It's just like another game. Just play hard, and you know what to do." Stuelke knew what university she was going to play at earlier than most recruits. Many student-athletes commit to a college during their sophomore or junior years of

high school. But her early decision and eventual familiarity with the program aided her transition from high school to college, head coach Lisa Bluder said. Stuelke frequented women's basketball games at Carver-Hawkeye Arena

BASKETBALL | Page 7A

Padilla enters transfer portal

The backup QB will have two seasons of eligibility remaining with another program.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Alex Padilla throws the ball during a football game between Iowa and Nebraska at Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 25. The Huskers defeated the Hawkeyes, 24-17.

Austin Hanson
Pregame Editor

Iowa backup quarterback Alex Padilla has entered the transfer portal. The 6-foot-1 200-pounder is in the portal as a graduate transfer. He plans to graduate from the University of Iowa in December.

"It's been an honor to represent the Black and Gold for these past four years," Padilla wrote in a statement posted to Twitter. "I will cherish every moment and lesson I've learned along the way. I would like to thank the University of Iowa and my coaches, athletics staff, and Hawkeye fans for the incredible journey. Thank you to my teammates, our bonds will last a lifetime. After much thought, I have decided to enter the transfer portal as a graduate transfer with two years of eligibility remaining."

Padilla started in three of the 11 games he played as a Hawkeye, throwing for 821 total yards and three touchdowns. Padilla, who joined the

Hawkeye football program in 2019 as a true freshman from Greenwood Village, Colorado, was 3-0 as a starter at Iowa. All of his starts came while senior Spencer Petras was injured in 2021.

Padilla played in two games in 2022. He entered Iowa's 54-10 loss to Ohio State at halftime on Oct. 22 and finished the game 5-of-10 for 32 yards. He also committed two turnovers — one via interception and another on a botched snap exchange with center Logan Jones. Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz benched Petras at halftime in Columbus because he committed three turnovers in two quarters. Petras went 6-of-14 for 42 yards against the Buckeyes.

Padilla also took over for Petras in the first quarter of Iowa's 24-17 loss to Nebraska on Nov. 25. Petras went down with an injury to his throwing arm and was later spotted on the sideline in a sling. Padilla went 16-of-33 for 141 yards, a touchdown, and an in-

terception against Nebraska. All 17 of Iowa's points came with Padilla under center.

After the Hawkeyes lost to the Cornhuskers, Padilla said he was still evaluating what his future might look like.

"You know, I haven't really had the chance to think about any of that," Padilla said on Nov. 25. "Right now, I'm just reflecting on this loss. I'll continue to try to progress as a player and myself, look towards the next couple weeks as kind of a building or stepping stone for myself. I'll have time to reflect the next couple weeks. But we'll see what happens."

Padilla's decision to enter the transfer portal comes a day after rumors about Iowa's interest in former Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara began to swirl on Twitter. McNamara started all 14 games for the Wolverines and led them to a College Football Playoff appearance in 2021.

He lost the starting job to

PADILLA | Page 7A

Continuing the rebuild

Mona Groteguth bolstered Iowa's swim roster from 13 to 21 in one offseason.

Jake Olson
Sports Reporter

Iowa swim and dive was in unfamiliar territory entering the 2021-22 season.

In August 2020, the Iowa athletic department announced it would cut the men's and women's swim and dive, men's gymnastics, and men's tennis teams following the 2020-21 academic year.

The decision to cut both swim and dive programs would have ended 103 years of the sport at the University of Iowa — the place that invented the butterfly stroke.

But four women's swimmers — Sage Ohlensehlen, Kelsey Drake, Christina Kaufman, and Alexa Puccini — brought a Title IX lawsuit against the UI, alleging that the university did not follow the athletic requirements.

Because of the lawsuit, the UI reinstated women's swimming and diving permanently in February 2021. But by that time, multiple athletes planned to leave the program or transfer following the 2020-21 season. Additionally, longtime head coach Marc Long, who coached both the men's and women's swim and dive programs, stepped down from his position.

Coming into the 2021-22 season, Iowa Athletics put newly hired head coach Nathan Mundt and recruiting coordinator and assistant coach Mona Groteguth in charge of turning around the program.

While Mundt focused on performance in the water, Groteguth took on rebuilding the Iowa women's swim and dive team with incoming recruits and transfers.

"We are in a very unique position of rebuilding a program, and that was very attractive for me coming here," Groteguth said.

Groteguth had coaching experience at the collegiate level ahead of her appointment to Iowa. She was an assistant coach at TCU, helping the men's and women's teams to back-to-back third-place Big 12 Conference finishes in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Groteguth was also a former athlete herself, as she attended the University of North Texas from 2011-15. While on the Mean Green, Groteguth was a team captain her senior year. She was also an Olympic Trials qualifier in 2008 and 2012.

Groteguth said having a student-athlete experience helps her connect with the ath-

GROTEGUTH | Page 7A

80 HOURS

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 30, 2022

THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT

*Antelope Lending Library
drives a decade of
readership*



The Antelope Lending Library, a fees-free bookmobile serving Iowa City, addresses inequity by meeting people where they're at. The nonprofit organization also provides home delivery services and educational activities.

Weekend Events

1 THURSDAY

ART

• PRESCHOOL ART
10:30 A.M., ROBERT A. LEE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER, 220 S. GILBERT ST.

LITERATURE

• PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
10 A.M., ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1595 DOWS ST.

MISC.

• FESTIVAL OF TREES VIP EXHIBIT PREVIEW RECEPTION
4 P.M., RUMMELLS CENTER, 127 W. MAIN ST.

• RED WATCH BAND TRAINING
4 P.M., CAMPUS RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER, 309 S. MADISON ST.

2 FRIDAY

ART

• PRESCHOOL ART
10:30 A.M., ROBERT A. LEE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

MISC.

• PLAYFUL PARENTING GROUP
10 A.M., NORTH LIBERTY COMMUNITY CENTER, 520 W. CHERRY ST.

• FESTIVAL OF TREES VIP EXHIBIT PREVIEW RECEPTION
4 P.M., RUMMELLS CENTER, 127 W. MAIN ST.

MUSIC

• LISSIE
7 P.M., WILDWOOD SMOKEHOUSE & SALOON, 4919 WALLEYE DRIVE

THEATER

• THE FLICK
2 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE, 119 E. COLLEGE ST.

3 SATURDAY

ART

• K-3 ART SPECTACULAR
12:30 P.M., 220 S. GILBERT ST.

• FOILING STUDIO GROUP
1 P.M., ARTS IOWA CITY, 120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

MISC.

• RICHARD THE WHALE RELEASE PARTY
7 P.M., BIG GROVE BREWERY & TAPROOM, 1225 S. GILBERT ST.

THEATER

• THE NUTCRACKER
1 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

4 SUNDAY

ART

• LONG POSE STUDIO GROUP
9 A.M., 120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

MUSIC

• THE TELEMANN FANTASIES
11 A.M., BIG GROVE BREWERY & TAPROOM

• HAWKAPELLAS HOLIDAY CONCERT
2 P.M., UNIMPAIRED DRY BAR, 125 E. BURLINGTON ST.

• CAMPUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
3 P.M., VOXMAN BUILDING, 93 E. BURLINGTON ST.

MISC.

• SANTA CARES DAY
9 A.M., CORAL RIDGE MALL, 1451 CORAL RIDGE AVE.

THEATER

• THE NUTCRACKER
1 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

• THE FLICK
2 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

ASK THE AUTHOR

Jeff Deutsch

Director of the Seminary Co-op Bookstores in Chicago, author Jeff Deutsch discusses his new book “In Praise of Good Bookstores.”

Anaka Sanders
Arts Reporter

Author and bookseller Jeff Deutsch is the director of the Seminary Co-op Bookstores in Chicago, Illinois. The Seminary Co-op Bookstores are comprised of two independent bookstores: the Seminary Co-op, which is known for its academic book collections, and 57th St. Books, which houses a world-class children’s department. Deutsch helped incorporate the two in 2019 as the first not-for-profit bookstore whose mission is book-selling. His new book “In Praise of Good Bookstores” was released April 5 and is a reflection on the importance of bookstores. Deutsch gave a reading and discussed the book at Prairie Lights on Nov. 16 in conversation with co-owner Jan Weissmiller.

The Daily Iowan: What is your new book “In the Praise of Good Bookstores” about?

Jeff Deutsch: It’s a celebration of bookstores, and it ultimately attempts to answer the question of, “Do we even need bookstores in the 21st century?” In the 20th century and prior, bookstores were meant to sell books, and most readers needed a bookstore to buy books.

But most readers don’t need a bookstore to buy books anymore. What do they then need a bookstore for? Looking at bookstores through the lens of space, abundance, value, community, and time in the five chapters, I’m trying to gesture at some of the pleasures and uses of bookstores

that might not be readily apparent to someone who doesn’t spend their days thinking about this in a bookshop for 30 years now.

DI: Why do you think bookstores are important?

Deutsch: I think there are a number of primary functions of a good bookstore. I think the product is less about the books than the browsing experience. The experience that the reader has when they enter the confines of the bookstore — wandering the stacks, engaging with different books, having a tactile relationship to the books, but also the peripheral vision, becoming important — that experience and what happens when a reader communes with a collection is something of tremendous value.

There’s also a value in the community that physical space creates. There are things like author events and other intentional community-building endeavors, but even just the existence of the collection itself and the space where people come to think about literature and books is its own community-building endeavor.

DI: You spoke at Prairie Lights on Nov. 16 with co-owner Jan Weissmiller. What was one important topic that you took out of the conversation?

Deutsch: First of all, Prairie Lights is an absolute gem of an institution, and Iowa City is so lucky to have Prairie Lights. In



fact, there was a gentleman there whose name is David Hamilton, who was the editor of the *Iowa Review* for 30-plus years, who told me that Prairie Lights is the summit of Iowa City. I liked that idea because if it’s a summit then it’s something that everybody in the town can see for miles. That was really beautiful. I was moved by the crowd and how many people came to share their enthusiasm for Prairie Lights and the Seminary Co-Op, which is a store that I operate, and other bookstores and to share their experiences of what happens to them as they browse the stacks of good bookstores.

DI: What’s the most valuable piece of advice that you’ve ever been given about writing?

Deutsch: I think the most valuable advice I’ve received is that great readers become great writers, and all of us do our best to digest what we take in. With any nourishment, taking in the finest ingredients

that you can find and really trusting your sensibility to lead you to the finest ingredients is critical for health. Similarly, when I am in a rut writing, I know that I can call on some of my favorite writers to at least inspire me to see my way through a project.

DI: What’s next for you?

Deutsch: I’m definitely continuing to tour and support this book. In the new year, I’m going to go to India to continue the global part of the tour. I was in Europe last month and really spread this message as widely as possible. I’m deeply committed to the advocacy work around bookstores. So, the book is really one element for me of trying to change the conversation about what bookstores are capable of and how we might be able to finance them in the 21st century, which might be different from the 20th century.

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UI MFA graduate Spencer Wilkins hosts ‘adaptations’ art gallery

Spencer Wilkins is a second-year Master of Fine Arts student in the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

Vaishnavi Kolluru
Arts Reporter

Spencer Wilkins’ unconventional path to writing is what inspired him to create a multi-disciplinary art gallery titled “adaptations,” which will be featured from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 in the Levitt Gallery of Art Building West.

Wilkins is a second-year Master of Fine Arts student in the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. He graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Massachusetts, with an English major and a concentration in creative writing before enrolling in the program.

“This is a gallery where artists across a diverse smattering of mediums respond to the same one-word prompt,” Wilkins said.

Wilkins will present with eight other artists at the gallery. These artists are Robyn Abrams, Elio Baseman, Marko Capoferri, Chase Croft, Amanda Hadlock, Julia Haney, K Irving, and Yuchen Liu. The artistic pieces in the gallery range among diverse and niche artistic modes such as rapping, illustration, and claymation.

Wilkins explored many forms of art before

focusing on writing. He began with color grading film as a child, and he tried his hand at composing tunes and music composition before he discovered writing.

“So, I think, artistically, I always enjoyed variants,” Wilkins said.

This unconventional path to writing has equipped Wilkins with the inclination to organize the gallery.

The original source of inspiration for this gallery was Wilkins’ experiment with his writing in spring 2022. He created an animated version of one of his essays to challenge himself to do something outside his area of specialization.

“The draft that I turned in, it was called ‘adaptations,’” Wilkins said. “And it was about how people were able to compartmentalize grief and terror and joy in one moment.”

However, Wilkins wasn’t done with the piece. He felt the idea had the potential to be turned into something even more multi-faceted and stunning.

“The idea of adaptation is general enough that I think I can pitch it out to a lot of different people,” Wilkins said. “Just with the same very loose, general prompt, I wanted to see

what people would come back to me with.”

The artists dedicated several arduous months to recruiting, creating, compiling, and organizing the gallery. One of Wilkins’ chief motivations to organize this gallery was to provide much-needed feedback to fellow artists.

“Art is this weird, very nebulous world where you don’t know if you’re doing well or poorly a lot of the time,” Wilkins said. “So, if I can give a little bit of recognition to the people that I love, that’s a no-brainer.”

Wilkins also highlights the importance of participating in experimental events like these — be it as a contributor or spectator — for cultivating ease with different forms of expression.

“I really love the idea of letting people’s creativity just funnel into different mediums and reestablishing how important it is to gain inspiration from different sources,” Wilkins said. “I find it really fulfilling to be able to go out there and just try a bunch of new things, experience life, and all kinds of different joys of different modes of creation.”

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Firefly Lane Season 2

Parker Jones
Arts Editor

Despite its first season getting a lackluster response from viewers, the second season of “Firefly Lane” will debut on Netflix on Dec. 2.

“Firefly Lane” was created by screenwriter Maggie Friedman and based on Kristin Hannah’s 2008 novel of the same name. The show is a blend of drama and coming-of-age genres. The first season, which premiered on Net-

flix in February 2021, followed main characters Kate and Tully from their teen years to adulthood and chronicled their various romances and family struggles along the way. The first season left off on a dramatic cliffhanger that will no doubt be addressed in the second season.

The show’s second and final season was announced in October and will consist of 16 episodes split into two parts. While the first part of the second season is scheduled to release on Dec. 2, the second part will release in 2023. Returning cast members include directors and producers Peter O’Fallon and Lee Rose, and cinematographer Vincent De Paula. Additionally, filmmakers Michael Spiller, Winnifred Jon, Shannon Kohli, and Katina Medina Mora will direct various episodes in season two.

Main cast members will include the returning lineup of Katherine Heigl as Tully Hart, a famous host of a daytime talk show, and Sarah Chalke as Kate Mularkey, Tully’s best friend and a housewife who is trying to get back in the workforce. Additional cast members include Ben Lawson as Johnny Ryan, Kate’s soon-to-be ex-husband, and Beau Garrett as Cloud, Tully’s free-spirited but drug-addicted single mother.

With such a representative cast from the first season, it can be assumed the second season of “Firefly Lane” will garner similar reactions from fans.

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⋮

The Home Stretch

Post-Thanksgiving Break Tunes

Boogie Wonderland +

Earth, Wind, & Fire

Love Story +

Taylor Swift

Clay Pigeons +

Michael Cera

Grand & Stately +

Chloe Frances

Close To You +

Dayglow

Antelope Lending Library drives readership

The fee-free bookmobile has met people where they are by providing home delivery services for a decade.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

The inside of the Antelope Lending Library's bookmobile is seen in Iowa City on Nov. 20.

Charlotte McManus
Arts Reporter

Cassandra Elton first noticed the need for a bookmobile in Johnson County as a graduate student at the University of Iowa. While working toward her master's in library and information science, she got a part-time job at an after-school program at Grant Wood Elementary School.

When she asked her students if they planned to participate in the Iowa City Public Library's summer reading program, she was surprised to learn that many of them didn't go downtown.

"It was such a shock to me because these are the exact kids and families that we want accessing these library services," Elton said. "So, I talked to some of the parents, and they were all very excited about the idea of better connecting these kids with library services, especially during the summer."

Elton created the Antelope Lending Library in 2012 and has been the founder and director ever since. She hoped to create a stationary library on a bus route in the east and south sides of Iowa City, but she ran into logistical issues.

Her vision morphed into a bookmobile, which she believes is far more successful at achieving accessibility than a conventional library could ever be.

She opened it to

increase access to library materials by bringing them directly to people's front doors. The bookmobile — a spacious white van lined with bookshelves — travels all over Iowa City, but mostly focuses on lower-income areas farther from downtown.

The library uses a fee-free approach because many low-income families don't want to take the risk of checking out a library book and damaging it, she said. Elton added that a child once told her his family couldn't buy groceries after paying library fees.

Community members do not need a government ID or proof of residence to check out items from the library, which increases access to those without secure housing.

The bookmobile is busiest in the summer because the break is a critical time for young students, Elton said.

The average student will lose 17-34 percent of the prior year's learning gains while out of school, according to the Northwest Evaluation Association. Lower-income students are especially vulnerable to summer learning loss, according to the Brookings Institute.

Besides books, the Antelope Lending Library also has board games available for checkout and hosts activities for children.

In August, the bookmobile partnered

with The LENA Project, a local sustainability nonprofit, to teach a craft workshop to turn plastic water bottles into art. The bookmobile partners with the Iowa City Community School District's free summer lunch program and Costco to provide snacks along their route.

Another partner is Open Heartland, a local nonprofit serving Latinx families. The bookmobile visits the nonprofit's center so that parents can focus on English language classes while their children do activities.

When the pandemic hit, the Antelope Lending Library crafted programming to fit social distancing. It distributed creative engagement kits for families and offered a new delivery service called "Antelope ROAMS" in which librarians hand-select books based on the age-specific needs of a family. In response to continued demand, the bookmobile still offers the service through its website.

Donations and grants of all kinds fund the library, but the most notable is the

James Gang fund, an Iowa City-based "nonprofit incubator" that funds organizations looking to encourage creativity in the community.

Linden Daniel Galloway, a volunteer at the Antelope Lending Library, said he appreciates the bookmobile's malleability in meeting needs in the community.

"I'll continue volunteering with Antelope in the future because the connections they make with people have a really positive impact, and I like being

part of that," Galloway said.

Sam Helmick, community and access services coordinator at the Iowa City Public Library, said the public library is not affiliated with Antelope Lending Library, but they both share the work of spreading literacy and information out to the community.

"The work of public libraries is to put info in the hands of folks, and that means taking it to where they organically exist in their communities," Helmick said.

Besides, Elton said, late fees are ultimately ineffective.

"Studies have shown that late fees don't actually encourage people to bring items back on time," Elton said. "All they do is punish people who cannot afford to return them on time and enable people who can afford to pay late fees to just pay for more access."

Lastly, Elton said the Antelope Lending Library's mission goes beyond education and enrichment; it's also about making sure adults and children alike connect to the Iowa City community.

"We want every person in the community to have additional positive interactions with people outside of their families," Elton said. "Especially kids having positive adult role models. The more of those kind of positive relationships that you can build, the better it is for everyone in the community."

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Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

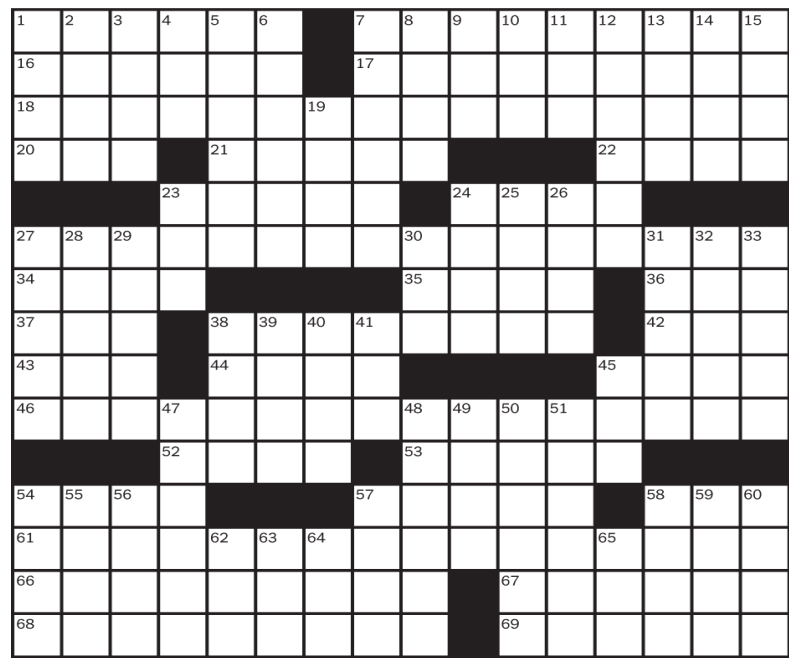
The Antelope Learning Library is seen in Iowa City on Nov. 20.

The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 2A

The New York Times
Crossword

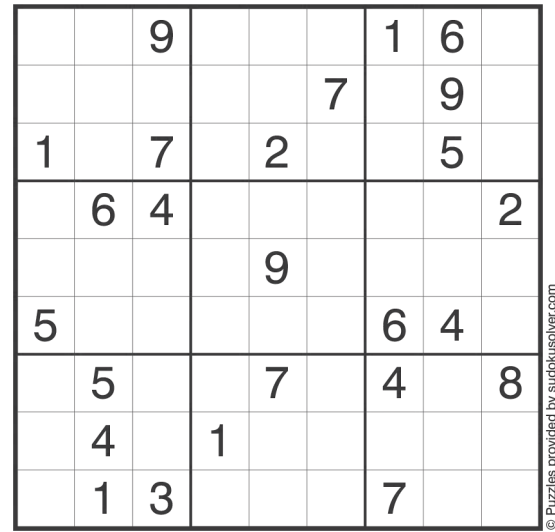
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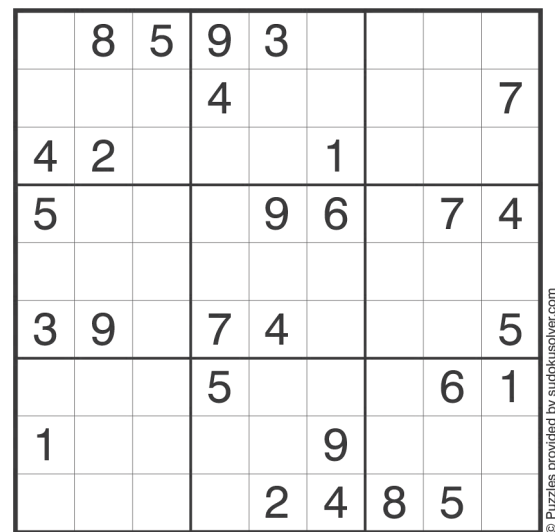
- Across**
- 1 Autonomous household helper since 2002
 - 7 "I feel your pain!"
 - 16 More bountiful
 - 17 Inspiration for an often-repeated golf story
 - 18 Patsy + French "to be" + Singe + Pop queen = Sales work
 - 20 Be nosy
 - 21 River at Arles
 - 22 Leopold's partner in 1920s crime
 - 23 Give a few laughs
 - 24 1952 Winter Olympics host
 - 27 Boat pole + Old "once" + Pace + Essence = Chief planner
 - 34 Study at the eleventh hour, say
 - 35 River past Cincinnati
 - 36 Sound emitted by methane emitters
 - 37 Cryer in movies
 - 38 What you're on when you're crawling ... or a hint to parsing 18-, 27-, 46- and 61-Across
 - 42 Flat ... or inflate?
 - 43 Part of a stable diet?
 - 44 Like some practice courts
 - 45 Sticky note, maybe
 - 46 Fiber source + Auto make + Red planet + Boxing family = Noted jazz saxophonist
 - 52 All: Prefix
 - 53 Cloudless
 - 54 Early foe for 007
 - 57 With 58-Across, SEAL missions
 - 58 See 57-Across
 - 61 Interpret + Hockey's Kovalchuk + Colorado ski town + Fit = On hand
 - 66 Regards
 - 67 Arrived on horseback
 - 68 "Wretched hive of scum and villainy," per Obi-Wan Kenobi
 - 69 Gently rocked

Down

- 1 Incline
- 2 Somali-born congresswoman from Minnesota
- 3 Grand Ole ___
- 4 ___ Day (Jan. observance)
- 5 Slangy request at a kegger
- 6 Playwright Miller
- 7 "Interwebs"
- 8 Gas pump attachment
- 9 Quaff of gruit and wort, in days of yore
- 10 Drink "for two" in song
- 11 Entitled Brit?
- 12 Open, in a way
- 13 Silver salmon
- 14 Bend it, like Beckham?
- 15 Nikola Tesla, ethnically
- 19 "Friends" friend
- 23 Bank drive-thru convenience
- 24 Pearl Harbor National Memorial locale
- 25 Begin to wake
- 26 Presidents Harrison, Hoover, Clinton and Obama, by birth
- 27 Uninspiring or low-paying work
- 28 Erupting with noise
- 29 One getting credit for seasonal gifts
- 30 Young inhabitant of the Hundred Acre Wood
- 31 Push on
- 32 "Ditto"
- 33 Fussess
- 38 Radio toggle
- 39 Lake bird
- 40 ___ Greiner, the so-called "Queen of QVC"
- 41 Co. making arrangements
- 45 Tag, key or chip, say
- 47 "Gourd"
- 48 James who plays Professor X in film
- 49 Thomas ___ Edison
- 50 Shows for a later audience
- 51 Unhealthy-looking
- 54 1/8 fluid ounce
- 55 Certain tow job
- 56 Takes some down time
- 57 ___ the Great (sleuth of kid-lit)
- 58 Comply
- 59 It may mean squat to a dancer
- 60 Thrill
- 62 Right on the dial of a grandfather clock?
- 63 "Au Revoir ___ Enfants"
- 64 Big fashion inits.
- 65 ___-compliant (what public facilities must be, in



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'The Flick' brings human connection, expression to Riverside Theatre

The theater will present Annie Baker's Pulitzer Prize-winning play from Nov. 25 to Dec. 11



Contributed photo from Rob Merritt

Stella Shipman
Arts Reporter

In an age of digitization and inability to connect, an emotional tale about communication — and lack thereof — between people led to the creation of "The Flick." Riverside Theatre will present the Pulitzer Prize-winning play from Nov. 25 to Dec. 11.

Riverside has hosted another Annie Baker production in the past called "Circle Mirror Transformation," which was directed by Cedar Rapids Artistic Director Angie Toomsen. She was also asked by Riverside Producing Artistic Director Adam Knight to direct "The Flick." Having directed roughly eight shows for Riverside — and as an admirer of the play — Toomsen happily accepted.

The play is set in 2013, which is the year it was written. It focuses on three characters who work at a movie theater in a small Massachusetts town. It explores each of their personal stories and life struggles, bringing together strangers who have difficulty connecting.

At the same time, they're each in their respective ways experiencing really large, almost operatic, desires and fears and hopes, but they each in their own way lack the capacity to articulate or express what it is they need and want," Toomsen said.

Actor Elijah J. Jones plays Sam, a character who has worked at the movie theater most of

his life. As someone in his 30s working with high schoolers, Jones explains that Sam finds his job "embarrassing," but he cannot seem to move on.

"As the character Sam, I think the play's so much about how we don't take chances, and we are very stuck in what we know and what is safe, even if it's bad for us," Jones said.

This same idea can be applied to the show's theme of growing digitization. The movie theater the characters work in has one of the last standard 35mm projectors in the country. Today, digital video projection has largely replaced 35mm projectors.

The show will be followed by two talkbacks. The first session will be led by Miriam Gilbert, a University of Iowa English professor of performance criticism, and the second will feature a panel of film experts.

This panel will explain the effect of digital projectors on cinema. Audiences will have a chance to further engage with the production through these talkbacks.

Along with Jones, the play will feature Ren Price as Avery, Claire Boston as Rose, and Kyle Schmidt as Skyler or "The Dreaming Man."

Jones is an Iowa City native and a UI alum, while his castmate Price is from Louisiana. Riverside discovered Price after it conducted a nationwide search that accrued over 70 applicants for the part of Avery. This is Price's first professional role.

Price describes Avery as

a character who keeps to himself most of the time. Yet throughout the play, he reveals "glimmers" of his personality and true self that help his coworkers and the audience better understand him.

Price said the show is about how people cope with change — an especially salient idea in a world where change occurs every day.

"Stuff is always changing around us, and we don't really know how to accept it, or we don't know how to move with it," Price said. "But this show, to me, it makes me feel like I'm not alone."

Jones said the actors and the characters they play sometimes seem like inseparable identities.

"It's something that everybody in the cast actually kind of discovered with each other — that there were weird, literal parallels with our characters each of us have, and so we kind of feel like we're all destined to like, come together and be in this place," Jones said.

Jones said these parallels will add to the authenticity and intimacy of the emotional — and at times heartbreaking — performances. He said he hopes audiences will feel represented by the struggles these people go through and that they will be inspired to express their emotions.

"And so, I think the best thing we can do is if an audience comes to see this and walks away going, 'I just feel like I want to tell someone I love them,'" Jones said.

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