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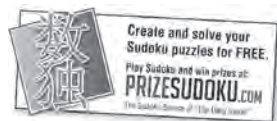
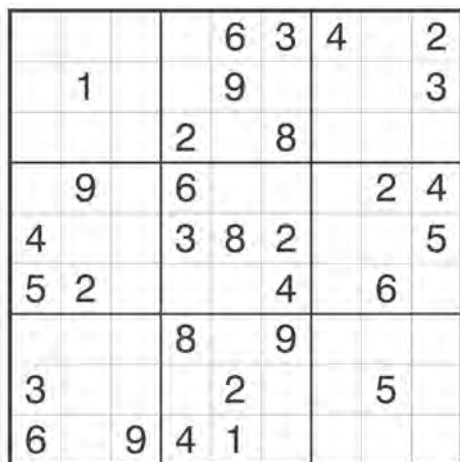
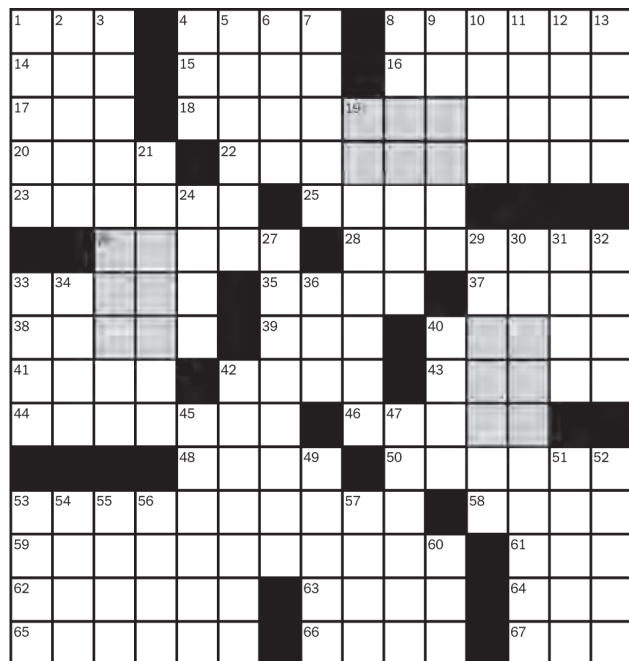
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Across

- 1 Texter's "Hold that thought"
- 4 401(k) alternatives
- 8 Motormouth
- 14 ___ Lingus
- 15 "WTF" podcast host Maron
- 16 Use a joystick and a kneeboard, say
- 17 Astronaut Jemison
- 18 Expensive cut of steak
- 20 Ho-hum
- 22 Remark from someone trying to be inconspicuous
- 23 Post-workout lament
- 25 First name in daredevilry
- 26 Verbal flourish following a feat
- 28 Twitter, for some
- 33 Easy win
- 35 Actress Kathryn of "Glass Onion"
- 37 Place for Christmas lights
- 38 Fail to mention
- 39 Classic muscle car
- 40 Shock or awe
- 41 Diaper bag supply
- 42 Movie theater eponym
- 43 Jane Austen novel that inspired "Clueless"
- 44 What a pocket protector may protect against
- 46 Arias, typically
- 48 Deficiency
- 50 Bygone West Coast conference name
- 53 Was in one's comfort zone
- 58 ___ Koenig, frontman of rock's Vampire Weekend
- 59 Revealing an inappropriate amount of personal detail, as depicted three times in this puzzle
- 61 Red carpet walker, for short
- 62 Authoritarian government
- 63 Against
- 64 Crackerjack
- 65 Whiffs
- 66 Light gas
- 67 Is down with
- 10 Omen
- 11 Cake or Bread
- 12 Subject for Niels Bohr
- 13 Splicing target
- 19 Some fall debuts
- 21 They might pick up embarrassing side remarks
- 24 Mesmerized
- 27 "Hmm, that makes sense"
- 29 They may relax in tiny hammocks
- 30 Certain coming-of-age event
- 31 Tube traveler?
- 32 Lawless role of the 1990s
- 33 Bread served with aloo gobi
- 34 Sultanate near Yemen
- 36 Noshed
- 40 Ward of "The Fugitive"
- 42 Isn't able to stand
- 45 Component of some sci-fi ammunition
- 47 Not totally against
- 49 Text that begins with Al-Fatihah
- 51 Feminist author Jong
- 52 Scruffs
- 53 Debate venues
- 54 At all
- 55 Kind of brick
- 56 Little off the top, say
- 57 Fielder's shout
- 60 One-third of a negroni

Down

- 1 Faline's sweetheart in a Disney classic
- 2 The underworld, to Hades
- 3 It may be bottled for a caretaker
- 4 Economic org. since 1945
- 5 Like fridges, at times
- 6 Good dinosaur in "The Good Dinosaur"
- 7 Final word from a director
- 8 "Challenge accepted!"
- 9 Walled city of Spain

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GRIFOLS

UI 2023 graduates set to go abroad

Two UI seniors will travel abroad for work and school following graduation.

Isabelle Foland
News Reporter

Two soon-to-be 2023 University of Iowa alumni have found unique opportunities to take their talents abroad following graduation.

UI students Kyler Johnson and Raj Aditya will further their education abroad after they graduate.

Johnson will graduate with an English and creative writing bachelor's degree and minors in French, Portuguese, Chinese, and translation for global literacy.

Following high school, Johnson spent a year abroad in Belgium before coming to the UI. Johnson said this trip is what sparked his passion for foreign languages and creative writing.

Johnson said he enjoys relearning how to communicate in other languages and is passionate about using his writing abilities to tell the stories of others.

While at the UI, Johnson has worked at the Writing Center and led the student organization Translate Iowa Project, which produces the magazine *Boundless* and features UI students' works of creative writing translated into different languages.

Out of his accomplishments during his time at the UI, Johnson said his proudest achievement is the community of friends he built here.

"More than any year, I realize just how many connections I've gotten to make over the last four years and



Shuntaro Kawasaki/The Daily Iowan
UI student Kyler Johnson poses for a portrait at the English-Philosophy Building in Iowa City on May 1. Johnson received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award and will teach English at Brazil during 2023-2024

how I've made that community for myself over time, which definitely gives me hope for the future," Johnson said.

Johnson received a Fulbright award that allows him to travel to Brazil next year and teach classes in English at a university for nine months. The university he will work at has yet to be decided, he said.

When he is not teaching, Johnson plans to start at least two community projects with his students in Brazil. He hopes to begin a student publication similar to Translate Iowa Project's *Boundless* and create a writing center for both English and Portuguese.

When his time in Brazil is over, Johnson said he wants to attend graduate school to

pursue further education in nonfiction writing and literary translation. For a career, he would like to work in a publishing organization while maintaining his interest in foreign languages and translation.

"Specifically with the things that I'm interested in, the unfortunate necessity sometimes is having to occupy a lot of talents and positions within the humanities to make it a sustainable effort financially," Johnson said. "My post-grad plan is learning as much as I can to follow my interests, stay afloat, and keep doing what I'm loving while making it sustainable."

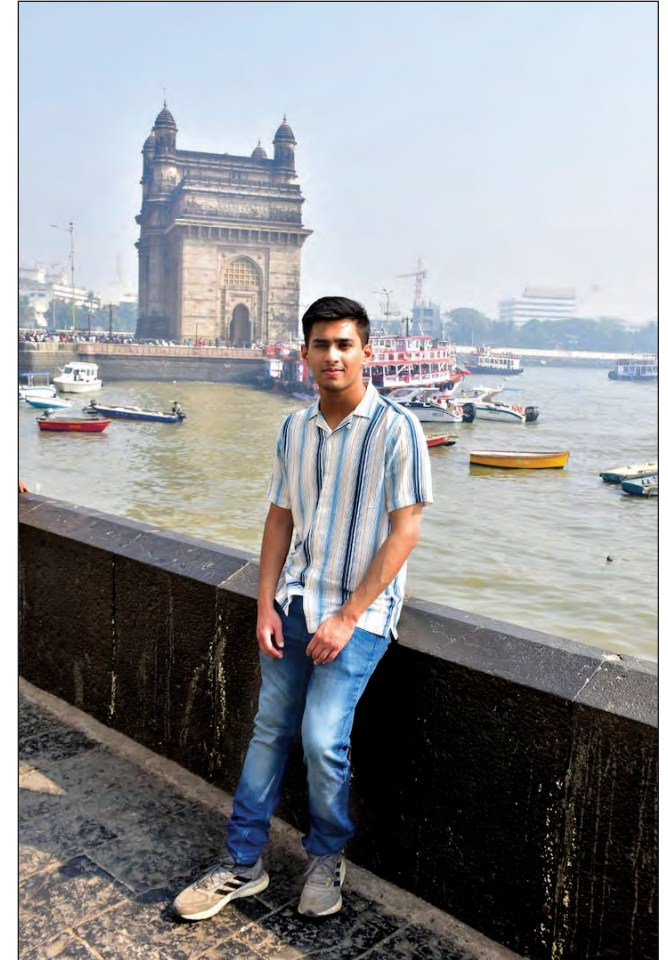
A finance major and international student from India, Raj Aditya will also work abroad after graduation. Like

Johnson, Aditya's interest in furthering his education and finding employment outside the U.S. came from an earlier study abroad opportunity he had during his time at the UI.

In 2021, Aditya started applying to study abroad in Ireland for summer 2022. However, he soon realized he would not be able to go because he would not be able to get an American Visa in time, which was required for him to travel.

Aditya could still apply to a virtual internship in London, where he worked as a prospect researcher for a business from June 2022 to August 2022.

Even though his study abroad experience wasn't traditional, Aditya said it allowed him to get hands-on experience in a friendly,



Contributed photo by Raj Aditya.

low-pressure environment.

"The people I worked with were great," Aditya said. "It's not a big company, so I got to talk with the CEO, I got to talk with ex-Olympic athletes and stuff like that."

During his time at the UI, Aditya worked as a student lead at Catlett Market Place and has been involved in the Global Engagement Student Advisory Board, which helps foster engagement opportunities for international students majoring in business.

After he graduates, Adi-

tya said he will attend Royal Holloway University in London to get his master's degree. After that, he plans to work in England for a few years before moving.

"I'm thinking I'll work in England in a big city like Manchester or London for two years, then I'm going to start applying to Japan because that's where I really want to go," Aditya said. "If I want to settle down, I want to settle down in Japan."

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‘It’s been a long time coming’

I wouldn’t be the person or journalist I am today without *The Daily Iowan*.



Hannah Pinski
Executive Editor

I couldn’t help but choose a Taylor Swift lyric as the headline for my senior column. No, it’s not just because it’s the opener to “The Eras Tour,” which I’m seeing in June.

These past four years felt like they went by in the blink of an eye, yet freshman year feels like it was forever ago. The lyric from the queen

herself perfectly describes that sentiment.

I stumbled into the world of journalism and *The Daily Iowan* by chance. When I started my freshman year of college, I thought I was going to work in public relations. After taking one strategic communication class my first semester, I realized PR wasn’t for me.

I never imagined that I would get to say that I’ve led one of the top student newspapers in the country. From leading coverage for the 2022 Midterm Election to reporting on the Iowa women’s basketball team’s historic run, this year hasn’t been without

excitement, to say the least.

I wouldn’t have been able to do this job without so many people.

First, I need to thank my parents for reading every byline I’ve sent them and for all the support they’ve given me since I stepped on campus.

I’ve also been lucky enough to work closely with *DI* Publisher Jason Brummond and writing coach Jennifer Wagner, who have both guided me through some of the toughest challenges I didn’t know I would have to face this year. I wouldn’t be the journalist or the leader I am today without all the mentorship, support, and criticism that they’ve

given me.

I want to also thank my violin professor, Dr. Scott Conklin, who I’ve had the privilege of working with for all four years of my undergraduate career. Beyond teaching me the violin, he’s also been one of the biggest supporters of my career and gave me the grace when I didn’t come to some lessons as prepared as I should’ve because of breaking news.

Beyond mentors, Shahab, who’s my best friend and my rock, kept me grounded when I needed to be. He was the one who listened to every rant, saw many tears shed, and always believed

that I could do this job, even when I didn’t believe in myself (and who is also brave enough to accompany me to “The Eras Tour”).

There’s been a lot of memories made in this newsroom, and that’s because of the people who work here. Despite late nights and emergency meetings with Managing Editors Ryan Hansen and Sabine Martin, we have had our fair share of laughs and banter, and I wouldn’t have been able to do this job without them.

My collegiate journalism era may be coming to an end, and while I’m excited for what’s in store, a part of

me will miss this newsroom and community.

Beyond the awards I’ve earned, bylines I’ve published, and mistakes I’ve made, the thing I’m most proud of is my growth as a journalist and a person.

And I’ll make sure to use everything I learn as a metro reporter this summer for the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune’s* internship program.

So, to the Iowa City and UI communities, and to everyone who’s been a part of this journey: Thank you. Every experience in this newsroom was worth it.

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The *DI* was my happy place

I am incredibly grateful for the experiences and friends this place has given me.



Ryan Hansen
Managing Digital Editor

My time at *The Daily Iowan* has been far too brief, filled with countless memories, plenty of new friends, and a whole lot of learning.

When I first joined the *DI* as a junior, I truly felt I had become a part of a community. This has been a place where I have made countless friends, including my

then-peers Kate Perez and Marandah Mangra-Dutcher and my current peers in leadership roles, like Sabine Martin, Hannah Pinski, and Jami Martin-Trainor — just to name a few.

They have taught me so much about journalism through their passion for important, impactful news and strong storytelling. Through their kindness and sweet nature, they have also taught me about what friends are. To me, the people of the *DI* are what makes it so special.

Their unmatched work ethic, strong journalis-

tic skills, and incredible personalities make me so proud to call them my friends, and I can’t wait to see where they go in their professional lives. They are the most important reason why I will always look back on my time as a student journalist fondly.

The *DI* also offers young journalists so many opportunities not only to learn, but also to explore. Our coaches have taught me so much about leadership and writing in my time as a student journalist, and as I leave them, I feel incredibly prepared to take on any sto-

ry and any challenge that comes my way in the professional world.

The opportunities extend beyond learning, too. I was also incredibly fortunate to travel to our nation’s capital this year and attend the American Collegiate Press awards, where the *DI* received more than a dozen awards across news, sports, and design, among others.

It was an incredible couple of days that also allowed me and Sabine to explore D.C. It was my first time flying and my first time truly traveling, and it provided me with five days of experiences I will

never forget, from our dinners together to the scooter rides around town to stuffing awards show hardware into our bags.

The *DI* also allowed me the flexibility to take on any project I wanted. When I wanted to dip my toes in the water and explore Iowa City’s local government as a news reporter, my editors didn’t bat an eye. Instead, they helped me figure out whether I enjoyed doing it or not — and I did.

I’m fortunate that during my time, we were also able to cover important moments that will go down

forever in the University of Iowa’s history. While the women’s basketball team’s incredible run and all the hard work that went into that coverage obviously tops the list, I will also continue to look back on coverage like Cooper Worth’s timely piece that highlighted the emergence of artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT.

The *DI* is a one-of-a-kind place for young journalists to learn, and while I am incredibly sad to leave it behind, I know it’s in great hands.

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Ulowa Meme Page creators graduate

The UIowa Meme Page will undergo several changes after its original creators move on.

Cara Dulin
DITV Reporter

No respectable university is complete without a meme page where students find humor in fumbled footballs, dreary weather, and university policies.

The UIowa Meme Page's Instagram account has gained almost 15,000 followers over five years, but now it's time for its creators to graduate.

Only current fifth-year students will remember the UIowa Meme Page's humble beginnings; however, it didn't start as a page at all. Instead, it was a message chain between two friends.

Seniors Teagan Roeder and Liam Curoe met their freshman year through a class group chat.

Pretty soon, the chat petered out, but Roeder and Curoe kept sending each other memes.

Roeder, along with a few other students, decided to turn their inside joke into a page on Facebook for more people to enjoy. It wasn't until later that the account became the Instagram sensation that UI students know and love.

The page's popularity on Instagram is largely due to the page's third admin, senior Freya Buhr. Buhr met Curoe at the first-year orientation event, On Iowa! There, Curoe stood out to her in typical meme page creator fashion: by making a joke.

Buhr and Curoe quickly became friends, and by the spring semester of 2019,

Buhr was a creator of the page. She had the idea to make the transition to Instagram — a much better platform for reaching the student demographic.

"Why'd we start on the boomer app?" Buhr asked, laughing.

Once the account moved to Instagram, it saw more engagement. Students even sent in their own memes. One such student was Talia Hill, the self-described baby of the group.

"You know, I'm a meme connoisseur," Hill said. "I would make memes and send them in all the time — not even for credit or anything. I just liked the page."

Hill's work was consistent and good enough that it earned her an invite to be one of the account's admins. Together, the four students formed an eclectic group somewhat reminiscent of the Breakfast Club. They have different majors, contrasting personalities, and diverse meme styles — something they say works to the page's advantage.

Each of them brings their specific type of humor to the account, which helps them appeal to the broad audience they've gained.

The meme page capitalized on the UI students' move in chaos when they returned to campus in fall 2020 after courses went online because of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, Roeder said.

From there, the page's following only grew.

"I think the first time that I realized that we as a meme page were getting traction was when we started getting numbers," Buhr said. "Like, I was seeing commas in our accounts, [and] I remember we were excited over 5k, and then it was 10k."

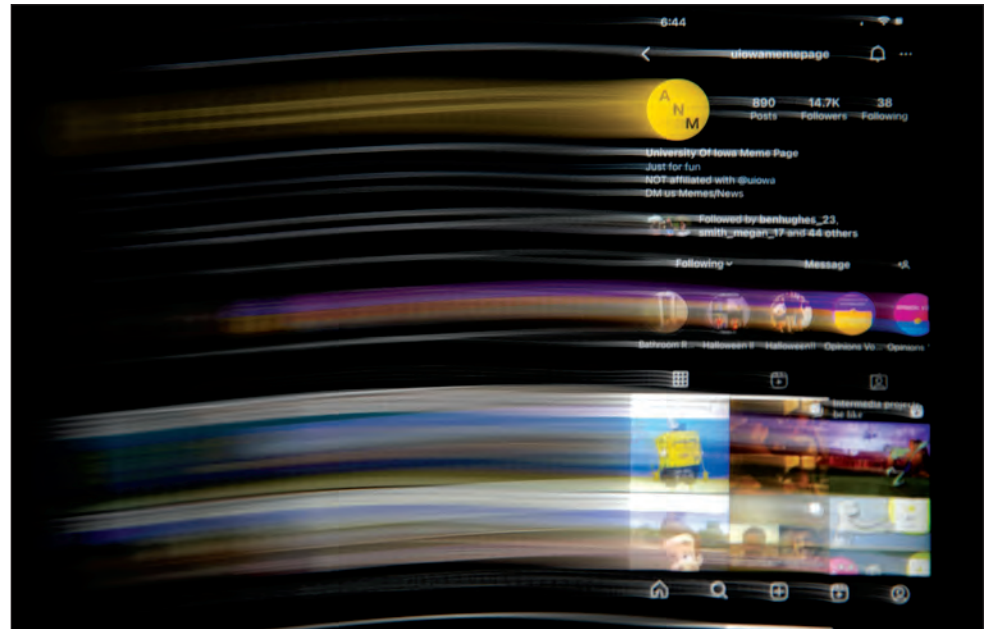
Now, the account's follower count equals nearly half of the UI's student population.

Even with the account's massive following and support, the group members said they still didn't feel any incentive to reveal who they were.

Their reasons vary: They weren't looking for clout or they didn't want to be asked to promote things, but more than anything, they wanted to retain their anonymity so they could stick up for the students by picking on faculty and administration without getting in trouble.

The group acknowledges that not all of its followers will share the same political views, and they want to appeal to the largest audience they can. They also try to be sensitive about what on-campus stories they post about, Roeder said.

A student approached the team about a reported sexual assault at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, known as FIJI, in 2020 before the story officially broke. The page declined to cover it out of fear that if the student body found out about the allegations from a meme page, they wouldn't take the case seriously.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration.

"A meme page is not the place for that story to break. If you want to lend credibility to an actual important thing like that, we can pick it up afterward," Curoe said. "The UIowa Meme Page is not the place to hear about that for the first time."

Even though the page is selective about what and when they post, they still value community feedback. They get most of their information about what's happening around town and campus from their direct messages.

All four members of the group will graduate this spring or in the fall, so some of them are transitioning away from posting frequently. Although a few of them plan to keep making content for big news events and Hawkeye sports, Curoe plans

to move on completely.

"I'm turning off the lights and leaving and locking the door behind me," he said.

The meme page will be a closed chapter in his life. This is in large part to his tendency to post memes on bar life or roasting the majors, something that will be hard to do if he's no longer living in Iowa City.

Hill, who is graduating this spring, lives to post football memes, which she still plans to do from a non-student perspective.

The page's gradual retirement will come as a bummer to many students, but the creators stand by their decision. They would rather phase the page out than watch its content decline in quality or sell it to someone else.

They have tried to pass it

on, but with no luck.

"We've come to the conclusion that we very well may be the only funny people on campus," Curoe joked. "Or the only ones with a Photoshop subscription or something."

The group prefers to keep their meme style around the late-2010s era, a time more reminiscent of the original connotation of the word "meme."

Even as it all comes to a bittersweet end, the creators have no regrets.

"If I were to do this again, I'd do it all over," Roeder said. "The UIowa Meme Page became a big part of my time here on campus, and I like to think that we've helped people get through college in a way."

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Madison, an artist through trial-and-error

Bachelor of Fine Arts graphic design student Madison Bartlett will continue creating after graduating from the UI.



Rohan Abernathy-Wee/The Daily Iowan

Madison Bartlett poses for a portrait outside Art Building West on April 30.

Zhenya Loughney
Arts Reporter

Cedar Rapids native Madison Bartlett can't remember a time when she wasn't surrounded by art. Bartlett said it has always been her outlet for self-expression.

Bartlett's identical twin is pursuing a degree at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and her uncle is a tattoo artist. In the past, her grandmother taught ceramics at a local community center. Starting out as a self-taught art-

ist in a family full of artists, Bartlett has never felt discouraged in her craft.

"My family really made me believe it was something I could do," Bartlett said. "It was never like that conversation I think a lot of people have with their parents where they have to sort of persuade them that art is a legitimate option."

Bartlett initially didn't know which art form she wanted to pursue. After graduating from Washington High School, Bartlett applied to Grinnell College, the Kansas City Art

Institute, and the University of Iowa. Ultimately, she chose the UI. Bartlett said the university gave her the opportunity to explore and find her main craft while taking courses to learn new skills.

"While I knew I wanted to do art, I wanted to explore other things. I am putting myself through college, so cost is a huge thing for me," Bartlett said. "After touring colleges and seeing Iowa's program, I went to one of their interest days for 3D design. After seeing that, I felt like

Iowa was a good fit for me."

Making art alongside her twin sibling, Hunter Bartlett, has been Madison Bartlett's life-long passion. They both learned how to draw together by watching animated classics like "Sailor Moon" and "Arthur," which strengthened their passion for creating art.

Bartlett started out as a double major in English and art education. However, she fell in love with the social work major after realizing education may not be for her. After taking

more art classes, Bartlett officially decided to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts for graphic design and she stuck to it.

The faculty in the art department never inhibited her creative endeavors and offered support whenever it was needed, Bartlett said.

"There's so many great classes," Bartlett said. "Every member of the graphic design faculty is amazing, talented, and wants nothing but the best for everyone involved in the program."

Bartlett's Bachelor of Fine Arts exhibition, "Scraps," took place in the Art Building West's third-floor atrium from April 17-21. "Scraps" displayed Bartlett's scattered childhood living in near poverty. The exhibit hosted a 30-foot banner taped to the ceiling depicting drawings of the objects most important to her childhood.

The windows held translucent childhood photos of Bartlett and her twin that she edited over. On the

depicting Bartlett picking up the childhood version of herself.

"Scraps" was a therapeutic project for Bartlett. She said she was able to better understand her past and come to terms with who she is as an artist and person.

"I feel compelled to create. It's a natural part of who I am," Bartlett said. "It's my number one outlet. In the same way some people feel compelled to write or journal, drawing is very therapeutic for me and a necessary part of my thoughts and emotional regulation."

She originally planned on heading right to graduate school, but now Bartlett is choosing to take a gap year to regroup and reset and hopes to be back at the UI in fall 2024.

"If you start something creative, it's important to start with a general idea of the end goal in mind," Bartlett said. "Refusing to be flexible and refusing

“ I feel compelled to create. It's a natural part of who I am. It's my number one outlet.

— Graphic design student Madison Bartlett

wall was a paper cutout that cast a shadow of the words "I can only remember bits and pieces. How about you?"

On both sides of the paper cutouts were drawings of animated frames de-

to collaborate and listen to those around you is really negative. Refusing to change and refusing to re-examine your own work is robbery."

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Learning how to take chances

I got a start at the *DI* because someone took a chance on a clueless freshman. Now, I'm learning to take chances myself.



Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

Funny enough, I didn't even think about journalism as a career until I stepped on the University of Iowa's campus.

I didn't write a legitimate print sports story until the summer before my sophomore year of college — I think it was something about volleyball, but I'm not entirely sure.

I started my career at *The Daily Iowan* on a whim. The *DI* had a booth at a welcome week event ahead of my freshman year of college, and I ended up talking to Lucy Rohden, the *DI*'s TV Director at the time. As soon as I told her I was interested in being a TV sports producer, she said, "You're hired."

By all accounts, that was a big risk for her to take. For all she knew, I could've been someone who quit within the first two weeks and left her right where she started. But it worked out, right?

Four years later, I've been a TV sports produc-

er, a print sports reporter, assistant sports editor, and sports editor for the *DI*. I've covered football, women's basketball, field hockey, volleyball, softball, baseball, and written a story on just about every sport the Hawkeyes have to offer.

For a while, I've been grappling with the mortality of my *DI* career. This year has been full of opportunities, but I was also very aware of it being a year of lasts. The Music City Bowl in Nashville in December 2022 was likely the last time I covered a Hawkeye football game as an Iowa beat reporter. I traveled to

Minneapolis, Seattle, and Dallas in my last season as an Iowa women's basketball reporter. In the process, I became one of two *DI* sports reporters to ever cover a Final Four team and the only one to cover a national championship game.

Those are the experiences I would never have gotten without the *DI*, and I'm eternally grateful that this student-run newspaper puts so much emphasis on professional experience.

But now, change is hard. As an incoming trending sports reporter for *IndyStar*, I'm going to a new market by myself. There

will be a new city to absorb, new teams to cover, and new protocols to learn.

But I know some things will stay the same: I'll still be covering women's basketball, I'll still look up synonyms for common words (like encouragement and motivation two grafs down), and I'll still write random ledes, phrasing ideas, and stats in my notes app.

As always, a senior column wouldn't be complete without acknowledgments.

To Lucy, for giving a clueless freshman a chance; Robert Read, for being my first print editor and deal-

ing with the worst of my writing; Austin Hanson and Chris Werner, for being fantastic co-editors and friends; John Bohnenkamp, who was always there for motivation; Jeff Linder, for years of friendship and advice on the women's basketball beat; and everyone in the Iowa media for encouraging me and all other *DI* staffers.

My college career — and my life for the past four years — have basically been defined by the *DI*. But I wouldn't have it any other way.

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How I'll remember my time at the *DI*

Covering the Hawkeyes and forming long-lasting friendships made the *DI* one of the best parts of college.



Chris Werner
Assistant Sports Editor

When I read the senior columns in *The Daily Iowan* as a freshman, sophomore, and junior, I always thought it was a little cheesy when I would see something like, "When I sat down to write this, I didn't know where to start" at the top of the page. And yet, here I am.

Last summer, at an Iowa football media availability,

tight end Sam LaPorta was preparing for what would end up being his final year as a Hawkeye, and he said something that describes my feelings when I reflect on my time at the *DI*: "days go slow, years go fast."

And some of the days working for this organization — I'm thinking about the 2022 NCAA Men's Wrestling Championships sitting at eye level with Ben Wallace's number in the rafters of Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit — were very slow and long.

But the years went by in a flash. It seems like yesterday that Anna Kayser — my fresh-

man year sports editor — was telling me I use too many em dashes. That still may be true.

And now, over 500 articles later and with a stack of press passes into places like the United Center, Target Center, and Lucas Oil Stadium, my run is over. As my dear friend and boss Chloe Peterson said, "I've been grappling with the mortality of my *DI* career."

I'll remember some of the amazing moments I got to witness from press row, like the Iowa men's tennis team's victory over No. 16 Cornell on March 8, 2020, which ended up being the program's last competition before it learned

it was cut following the 2020-21 school year.

Or the men's basketball team's miraculous 13-point comeback in the final 90 seconds of regulation against Michigan State that led to an overtime win at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 25. But it's the people I'll remember the most.

Austin Hanson, who had to introduce himself to me either two or three times depending on who you ask, quickly became my favorite person in the state of Iowa, and depending on where he's working at the time this article is published, he may still hold that title.

If he is working in another state, my favorite person in the state becomes Chloe. Chloe used to see me in the dining hall and not say anything, and I'm almost ready to forgive her for that. But in all seriousness, we bonded through the *DI* "Scoreboard" podcast. Now she says hi to me almost every time she sees me!

I have to thank Robert Read, Kelsey Harrell, and Shivansh Ahuja, too. Robert was always someone I looked up to. His work ethic and writing talent are still things I'm aspiring to. Kelsey was my favorite managing digital editor ever and made the long

nights in the newsroom much more fun than they probably should have been. Shivansh was nice, and he laughed at my jokes.

To this year's sports reporters, thanks for smiling and nodding at a guy who is proficient in bad puns.

While I'll think fondly of the experiences and free press box food I had thanks to the *DI*, the things that I'll remember most are the laughs and stories.

To quote *DI* sports coach, wise owl, and train expert John Bohnenkamp: "We're done here."

christopher-werner@uiowa.edu

My utmost thanks

Sending all the thanks and love to the best team I know.



Abigail Kurten
DITV Reporter and Digital Liaison

I never intended to be a journalist. When I stepped into my dorm freshman year, I was eager to start my journey as an English and creative writing major and to write as much poetry and fiction I could over the next four years. After my first two years end-

ed, I found myself stuck. I didn't have the motivation to write novels or perform poetry. I just knew I wanted to make something.

Then, by pure luck, I got into the fabulous Tim Looney's Intro to Media Production class second semester of my sophomore year. It was incredibly daunting to be surrounded by expensive cameras, tech boards, microphones, and prompters – especially as someone who struggles to use their own phone daily.

Over the course of that semester, I began to fall

in love with the world of broadcast media. I wanted to do it all – tech direct, anchor, shoot footage – and it all seemed so new and exciting. But I knew that this class wouldn't last forever. Yet somehow, once again by pure luck, I met the right people and found out about *The Daily Iowan's* hidden gem: DITV.

Upon entering the studio for the first time, I felt all kinds of emotions: excitement, nervousness, and confusion, to name a few. I didn't know what a VOSOT, PKG, or IFB was.

I barely knew how to use Adobe Premiere. I was terrified to be in front of the camera.

But, after slowly introducing myself to the team, I began to fall in love with creating something all over again.

DITV has given me more opportunities for growth and success than I can count. From helping me break out of my shell to preparing me for my first “big girl job,” I truly can't express just how much I've learned over the past three years. It's been a roll-

ercoaster, but I wouldn't trade all the late nights and early mornings for anything.

To my fellow staffers: Thank you. Thank you for always making me laugh. Thank you for always teaching me new tricks. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for being your hilarious, kind, intelligent selves. You are the reason why I fell in love with journalism, and I'm so sad to leave you all. Rest assured, I'll definitely be back to visit! You can't get rid of me that easily.

As excited as I am to start my professional journalism career, I know none of this would be possible without the entire DITV team. You are a huge part of why I'm at where I am today.

You are all incredible, resourceful, intelligent journalists who will make massive waves in the world. It's been an honor to know you and work beside you all.

P.S. – I'll be manifesting production finishing before 11 p.m. for the rest of your college careers.

abigail-kurten@uiowa.edu

DITV taught me what I don't want to do

As I go into law school, DITV was an opportunity I will always be thankful for.



Julia Richards
DITV Assistant News Director

At 16 years old, I was convinced I knew exactly what I wanted to do; I wanted to be a sideline reporter or a sports broadcaster of some sort and show the world that women belong in the sports industry. I couldn't have been more wrong about my career choice.

I joined DITV during the second semester of my

sophomore year, which also happened to be during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite DITV not operating as traditional studio, I was determined to squeeze every ounce I could get out of an abnormal situation. I started covering the women's basketball team in a very silent and empty Carver-Hawkeye Arena. I traveled to Indianapolis to cover the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament. I was thrust into exactly what I thought I wanted to do. Why didn't I feel fulfilled?

I thought maybe it might be the pandemic – that I wasn't getting the full ex-

perience. That fall, when the world was shifting to a new normalcy, I covered a few football games. Down on the field, immersed in the action – this is what I had always dreamed of. Why wasn't I satisfied?

I struggled for a long time trying to understand how I was feeling. It was hard to admit that sports broadcasting and broadcast journalism wasn't what I wanted to do with my life anymore. I felt guilty for committing myself to an organization and group of people who felt so strongly about journalism when I just didn't. I felt like a failure.

But then I realized this is the underlying purpose of DITV and *The Daily Iowan*. To give students unique opportunities in a space that allows them to learn, fail, and try again and again. To show students what they do and what they do not want to do in the future. Even though I came to that realization that I no longer desired a career in the journalism field any longer, I knew the skills I was learning and developing at DITV were incredibly beneficial no matter what industry I would find myself in, so I stayed.

I am so happy I did be-

cause I wouldn't have learned who I am and what I envision my life to look like beyond higher education if I hadn't joined DITV. I want to thank Jason Brummond, Charles Munro, and Angie Looney for giving me and other students experiences of a lifetime that shape us into the seniors we are when we leave the studio. I also want to thank my staff for allowing me to stick around and learn what it means to manage a great group of ambitious and driven people. I truly owe so much to you all.

I may be entering a com-

pletely different profession and leaving the broadcast journalism world behind, but I will certainly be taking with me invaluable skills that will benefit me in my new career ventures. I've learned how important it is to communicate with others, to share stories, and most of all, to put myself out there and try new things, even if it means in the end I won't stick with it.

DITV taught me what I don't want to do. I will forever be thankful such a place allowed me to learn such a valuable life lesson.

julia-richards@uiowa.edu

COREY ANDERSON JR.



Can't wait to see the arguments and cases you'll take.
Love Mom and Dad

We are so proud of how far you've come.

CONGRATULATIONS!



CONGRATULATIONS ADDISON CORAM

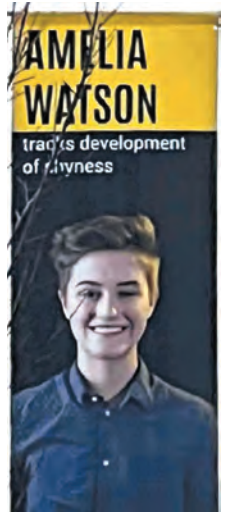
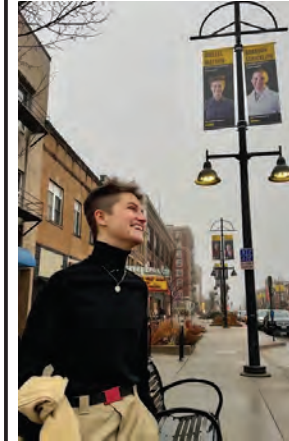


"Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential."

We are so proud of you!
Love, DAD and Keila

AMELIA WATSON

We're not shy about our PRIDE in your hard work and dedication!



Congratulations, Outstanding Senior in Criminology and Sociology! We LOVE you and can't wait to see what your future holds!!!

Mom, Gwen, Gramma, Grampa Clark, and Momo



MEAGHAN CRUISE

Congratulations!

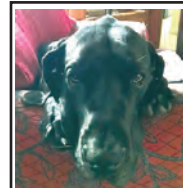
We are very proud of the accomplishments you have reached and the person you have become.

Love, Mom & Dad

KYLE WATKINS

Congratulations on your graduation from Iowa. We are very proud of you and excited about your future.

Love, The Watkins Family



WILL SLAWSON

Congratulations!

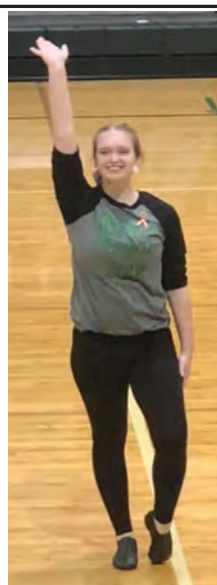
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom~ Dad~ Gus

KAYLA MILLER

Congratulations

KAYLA!

We are proud of you!



MIA ECKHOFF

Congratulations!

We are very proud of you and all of your accomplishments.

Your future is bright.

We love you, Mom, Dad, Neal, Rachel and Roan

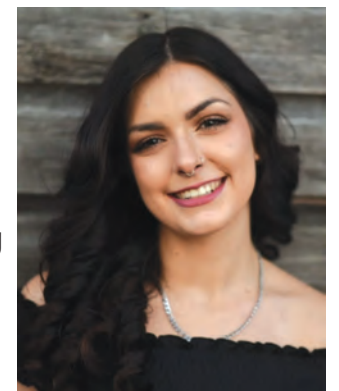
DAKOTA ROBERTS

You did it! You climbed the mountain and hit the clouds!



You always strive for the very top! We couldn't be more proud of everything you are and can't wait to see all that your future holds for you!

Love, Dad and Mom

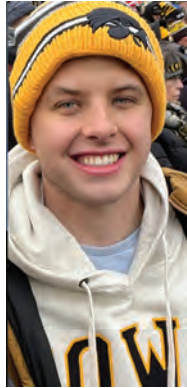


KEVIN CUNNIFF!



You did it! This is an amazing accomplishment!

Your achievements are incredible and all your semesters on the Dean's List have us all bursting with pride! You were born to be a Hawkeye!



We love you tons!
The entire Cuniff clan!

AVA HUTCHINSON

You beautiful, amazing, talented girl. It has been so fun to watch you become the young woman you are. CONGRATULATIONS on your Bachelors of Science in Psychology.

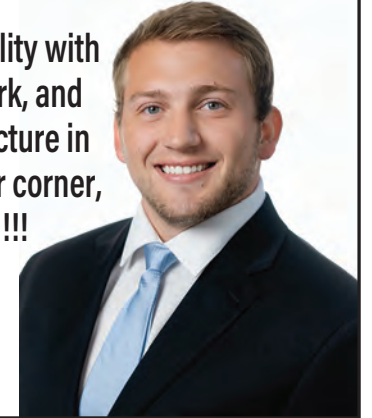
- We love you
Mom, Carl, Camille, and Isaiah



MATTHEW BEHRENS

Dreams become reality with dedication, hard work, and keeping the "big" picture in view! Always in your corner, so very proud of you!!!

Love,
Mom and Dad



CAMERON BOTTUM

Congratulations! We know you'll be just as successful as you start your career as you were in Iowa.

Love, Mom and Dad.



LILY CROKE CONGRATULATIONS!

We are so proud of all the hard work you have done, graduating with honors, and taking the next step as you continue towards your Doctorate in Audiology here at UI. You are our amazing daughter.

Love, Mom & Dad



COURTNEY KELLY

We are so proud of you Courtney!
Love, The Fam Bam



TESS PAXSON



Congratulations! We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished these past 4 years--UI Mock Trial President, Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society. Now, on to law school!

We love you! Dad, Mama, and Ellie

TIMOTHY SUSTERSIC

Congratulations on all of your achievements!

We are so proud of you!

Love- Dad, Mom & Dan



CONGRATULATIONS NOAH PEIRSON

So Proud of Your Accomplishment Graduating from the Tippie College of Business!



Almost Done -- Now, your Master's!
Love, Your Family



CONGRATULATIONS MARK VOLLMER



We are so proud of you!
Love, Your Family

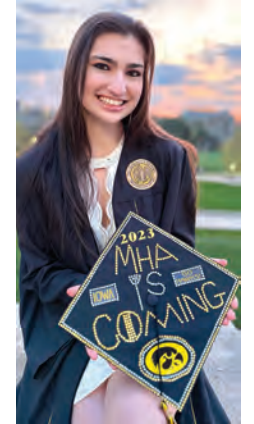
MICHELLE MATEJKA

We are so proud of you and
your accomplishments.
Good luck with your Masters
Degree at Northwestern.
Love Dad, Mom and Pip

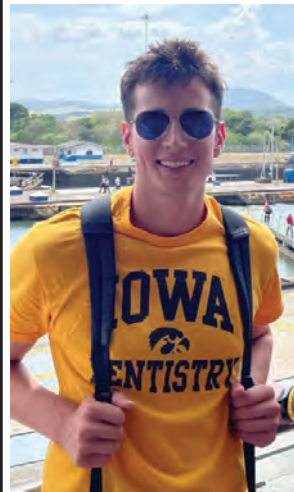


TIFFANY LYNN WUNDERLICH

Congratulations!
You soared to great heights
as a Hawkeye!
Next stop, to achieve your
Master's in Health
Administration at Iowa.
We are so unbelievably
proud of you!
Love Always,
Us



CONGRATULATIONS NICK WILLIAMS

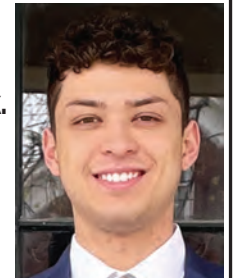


on your graduation
and being accepted
into the
University of Iowa's
Dental College!
We are very proud of
you and all of your
accomplishments!
Love, Mom and Dad

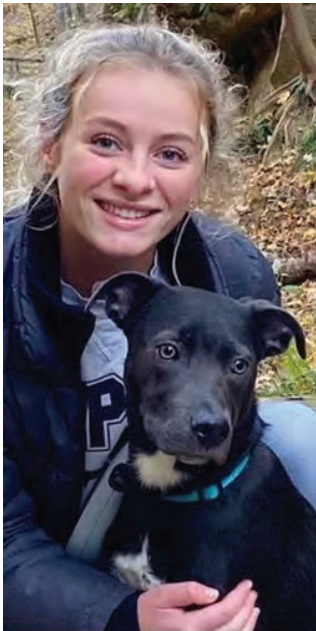


CONGRATULATIONS TOMMY TATE!

We are so proud of your
accomplishments and hard work.
Enjoy your next journey and
chapter in life!
Love you so much,
Mom, Dad and Taryn



CONGRATULATIONS SYDNEY GRACE COX!



Your parents and your
entire family and friend
group are so very happy
and proud of your
accomplishments!
We are so excited and
happy for your next
chapter!
Love Mom and Dad, sister
Lindsey and your pup Blue
and family!

ACACIA LOPEZ

Congratulations!

We are so proud of you and
your accomplishments.
Love, Your Family



MAURA O'KEEFE

**Way to go, Mo !
And ON IOWA !**

Love, Mom & Dad
Meg, Danny, Kevin



KATELYN MALIKOWSKI

Congratulations - we're SO proud of you! Continue to develop your talents, believe in yourself, and follow your heart. Teach, love and inspire!

We love you, Mom, Dad & Family



HANNAH PINSKI



Congratulations!
You are ready for your next chapter in life.
Dream big!
Love, Mom, Dad & Josh

ASHLEY M STEPIEN

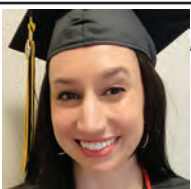


Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.
On to step 2.
Congratulations, we couldn't be more proud!
Love, Mom and Dad

ISOBEL BOYD



Congratulations, faccia bella!
Here's to fulfilling your dreams. We are so proud of you!
Love, mom, dad, and your family



ANTONIA HELEAN OLSON

Congratulations Honey!
I'm so proud of you and I love you very much!
Love, Taylor

JIDE BABAWALE CONGRATULATIONS!



Cheers on your new job and graduation Jide—engineering awaits your insightful contributions. You worked so hard to achieve this accomplishment; we can't think of anyone who deserves it more. This marks one of many successful moments, and we thank God. Well done!
Love, Mom, Dad, Mariam & Tolani

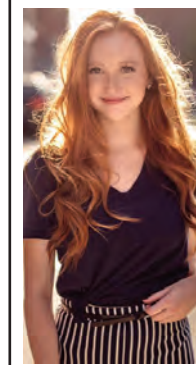
CHANCE BABUREK

CONGRATULATIONS
On your graduation from the U of I Carver College of Medicine M.S.A.T. Program.
Your Family is so proud of you!
Love, Dad & Mom



DULCE MARIA LARA

Congratulations Dulce!
We are so proud of everything you've accomplished.
Can't wait to see what comes next for you!
Love,
Your family

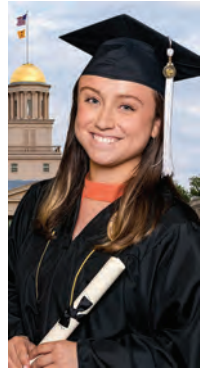


GABRIELLE RICKLEFS

Congratulations Gabi!
So VERY proud of you!
Love you very much!
Uncle B, Grams V and Rod

**Congratulations!
MADISON
PFAFFE**

Masters of Arts in School Counseling
University of Iowa
May 12, 2023
We Are So Proud of You,
Love, Your Family



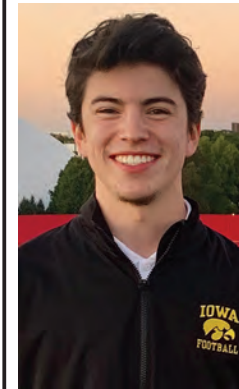
**LYDIA ELAINE
ESBAUM**

Graduation and
a new job!
We are very proud of you
and your
accomplishments!
Congratulations!

Dad, Mom, Sarah,
and Libby



JESSE A. C. VEGA

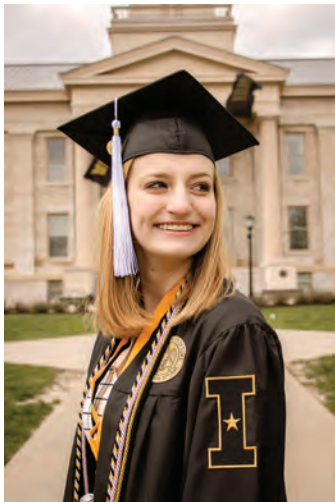


Congratulations!
It's kick off time to a
bright and
successful future!
We are so proud of
all your
accomplishments!



All our love,
Mom, Dad,
Grampa,
Gramma, Opa,
and Nana

**CONGRATULATIONS -
ELEANOR
HILDEBRANDT**



You have really
made the most of
your college
experience and we
could not be more
proud.

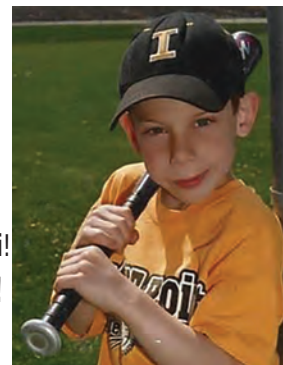
*On Iowa!
Go Hawks!*

Mom, Dad, Elena
and Emma

**AARON
WENDEL**

So proud of you!

Hawkeye fan = Hawkeye Alumni!
CONGRATULATIONS!!
Love, Your Family



**JACINTA MARY
HAMILTON**
Congratulations!



You are now an
official Hawkeye
Teacher!
We love you and
are so proud
of you!

God bless you each day,
Mom, Dad, and your
brothers and sisters

AVA HUTCHINSON

Congrats!

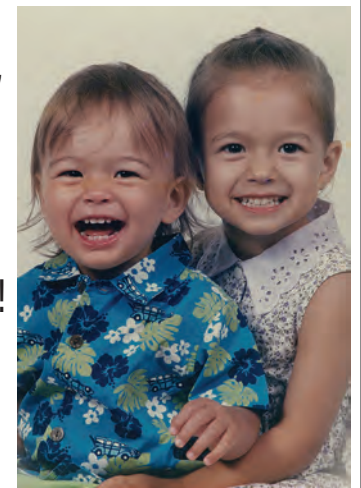
Way to fly high, Pretty Bird!
We're proud of you!!
Cannot wait to see what the
future holds!

XOXO
Uncles David and Jake



**WREN & GUY
RENQUIST**

Congratulations,
Wren & Guy!
You both did
your best and it
turned out great!
Love,
Mom and Dad





PHOEBE MARIA COOPER
Congratulations!

What an outstanding accomplishment, excelling in Law School! We are proud of you, and are so very blessed to be your parents!
We love you, Fleebies!
Mom and Dad



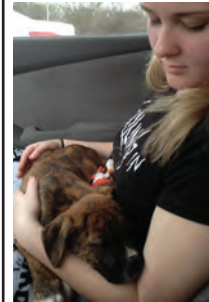
SARAH

Congratulations on your graduation! All the hard work and dedication has finally paid off.
We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Matthew & Jonathan



EMILY KAY BENAMATI



Congratulations, we are so very proud of you.
All of our love, Riot, Dad, Momma, Christie, Dakotah, Josh & family, MamMoo, William and Nikki

NATE OLSON



Congratulations!!
So proud of you and excited for your future!
(Also....Off Payroll Soon) LOL!!
Love, Your Family



CONGRATULATIONS COLE HOFMANN

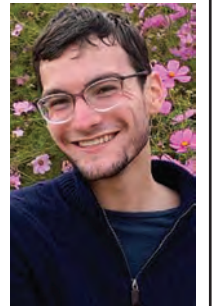
on your graduation from The Tippie College of Business.
We are all so proud of your incredible achievements as a Hawkeye!
This is only the beginning of your bright future ahead!

Love, Mom and Dad, Luke and Corrie and all of your friends and family!!



ALEC GLISSON

Congratulations on your graduation Alec! We are very proud of you and your accomplishments!
Love, Dad, Mom, Melanie and Blake



CONGRATULATIONS JENNA!!

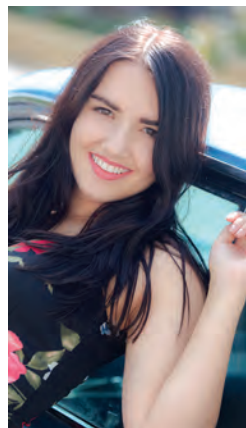


We couldn't be more proud of you!
Looking forward to the next chapter!
Love you, Dad, Mom, Carly and Nicole



Congratulations to *The Daily Iowan's* own
MEG DOSTER!

Born in the Mitten State. Educated in the Hawkeye State. Master Navigator of the interstates connecting them. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments!
Love, Your Family



MADISON FLINN

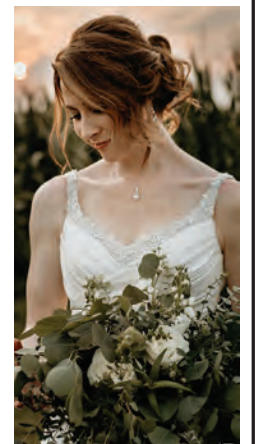


Congratulations!
We are so proud of you - can't wait to see what the future brings!
Love, Mom, Dad & Connor



JILLIAN BELIEU VORRIE

Congratulations on your graduation from the College of Dentistry!
We recognize your amazing accomplishment!
Your entire family is here to say "We love you so very much!"
Faith, AND Fortitude have brought you through. Congrats on your new job and next steps.
Love, Mom, Dad, Meag, Tyler and Brynlee





EVAN POGGE

Congratulations!

We are very proud of you and your accomplishments! You have a bright future ahead of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Ethan & Owen

JARON JONES



Congratulations on your graduation from the College of Public Health!!

We are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments!!

You're going to rock grad school!!

We love you so much!!
Love, Mom and Dad

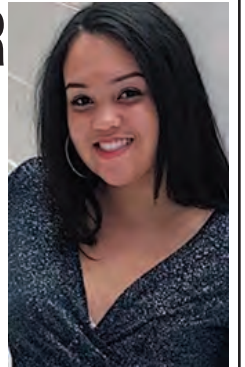
AIYANA BOLAR

Congratulations!

We are so proud of you and all you've accomplished.

SHINE BRIGHT. You're destined for GREATNESS!

Love always, Dad & Mom



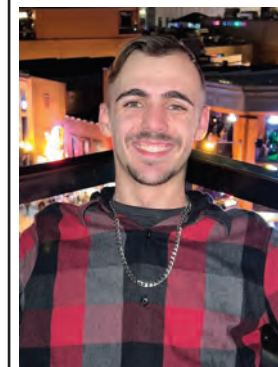
MICHAEL TURONE



Congratulations!

We could not be any prouder of you! You've done so much in such a short time but the best is yet to come! We can't wait to see what the future brings!

Love, Mom and Dad



MICHAEL TURONE

Congratulations on your Graduation!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Grandma and Grandpa



MACKENZIE HASKINS

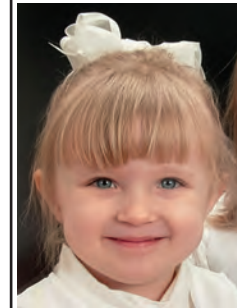
You did it!! All our love and support today and always. Here's to your next adventure!



GABRIELLE RICKLEFS

To my little Angel, congratulations! So proud of you!
Love, Papa Mike

CLARA STUEDEMANN



Congratulations!
We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad,
Morgan & Leo

BENJAMIN BLIVEN

Congratulations Benjamin on your graduation from the Tippie College of Business. We are so proud of your achievement!

Love, Mom and Dad



GABRIELLE RICKLEFS

Congratulations Gabrielle on your graduation! I am so very proud of you!
Love you! Mom



SAMANTHA

Congratulations!!

I am so proud of you.
Love, Dad



Congratulations Odin McDonald

Your hard work and determination has paid off and we could not be more proud of you and all your accomplishments!

Love, Dad, Mom & Hannah



PAYTON (ZENTZ) RILEY

Graduation from Iowa in three years! Wow! Best of luck at University of Chicago grad school! Congratulations!
Love, your family

ANDREW RONZA

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments!
Congratulations!!
Love, Mom, Dad, Nick & Will



Congratulations JULIA EADLER!

We are so proud of you.
Love you whole bunches,
Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS BEN SWITZER

On your graduation from the Tippie College of Business @ University of Iowa. You were destined to be a Hawkeye!



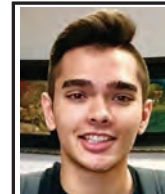
Looking forward to your next adventure.
Love, Mom, Dad & Daniel

The Daily Iowan

*would like to congratulate
our graduating staff*

Darren Ziyang Chen	Gretchen Lenth
Averi Coffee	Chloe Peterson
Meg Doster	Hannah Pinski
Mady Gomez	Julia Richards
Ryan Hansen	Matt Sindt
Daniel McGregor Huyer	Alex Snyder
Wyatt Johnson	Chris Werner
Shahab Khan	Lauren White
Chris Klepach	Aly Yokoshyn
Abigail Kurten	

Best wishes to you all!



ELLIOTT MARTIN

Congratulations on your graduation, Elliott!
We're so incredibly proud of you.
Good luck with your new career adventures on the west coast!

Love,
Your family in California,
Michigan & Texas



IOWA

ALUMNI



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Welcome

to the

HAWKEYE ALUMNI FAMILY!

→ Check out events and resources available to recent Iowa graduates at foriowa.org.

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS


Congratulations!

CLASS OF

2023

Vincent Abruzzo	Kahleb Fallon	Zoe Lagessie	Daniel Rhomberg
Hannah Akey	Molly Fischer	Caleb Lahr	Samuel Rich
Sarah Al Munajed	Jack Flesner	Dylan Lane	Laura Richards
Muhammad Ali	Ellie Flynn	Caroline Lilly	Payton Riley
Javier Amoloja	Marisa Francis	Ryan Longenecker	Ianna Roach
Sam Avery	Abigale Freiburger	Ge Luo	Cinnamon Roe
Gabe Baccile	Selveyah Gamblin	Mario Manzella	Alivia Rosendahl
Jack Bacon	Nathaniel Garcia	Ailis McCardle	Kathryn Shumaker
Grace Beaty	Marissa Good	Michaela McNeece	Kaylynn Sieverding
Allison Beckner	Stephanie Gutierrez	AJ Meeks	Mallika Singh
Molly Belvo	Ryan Hansen	Ryon Meinders	Caleb Slater
Dylan Benton	Alex Hefel	Collin Merschman	Emma Soltis
Reece Boardman	Daniel Hilyer	Alester Metcalfe	Sierra Soto
Reese Bobitt	Bailey Hochstein	Jon Molidor	Zach Springer
James Breitbart	Jane Holish	Kathelina Moody	Hope St. Pierre
Alyssa Brown	Hiatt Holman	Dylan Morgan	Kyle Stall
Stuart Brown	Maggie House	Anthony Mundt	Sam Stucky
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UI graduate to teach at Iowa Writers' Workshop

The former Division I football player is excited to educate future poets.



Contributed by Glen Waters II

Virginia Russell
News Reporter

Glen Waters II has always found the path through academia exciting. From playing Division I football to pursuing poetry at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, Waters has honed a diversity of crafts.

Now, as he prepares to graduate and receive his master's in poetry from the workshop, Waters reflects on his previous endeavors and plans for the future.

Growing up in Cedar Hill, Texas, Waters excelled in football, which he credits as the catalyst for his academic career. A scholarship sent

him to Washington, D.C., where he played for Georgetown University and studied biology for his undergraduate degree.

However, Waters found he did not enjoy biology because his real passion is writing.

"Poetry was always something I had in my back pocket," Waters said. "I just never knew that it was going to come into my front pocket."

Waters switched to writing after a year and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in English and African American studies. Then the pandemic hit.

He knew he wanted to continue his education, so he began looking into doc-

torate programs and Master of Fine Arts creative writing programs.

After applying to multiple Masters of Fine Arts programs, the UI accepted his application.

Waters said the decision to accept the offer was a no-brainer.

"It was kind of all planned out for me, and I was able to just take advantage of it," Waters said. "I got to Iowa in August of 2021, and I honestly never looked back."

As a member of the poetry program in the Writers' Workshop, Waters participated in writing sessions, took classes, taught others, and honed his craft.

He said enjoyed being in a space where he could focus on his writing.

"Writing is at the forefront of it all, and you're never distracted by all the other things that typically could go on in a program," Waters said.

Waters also found ways to implement his passion for poetry in other fields, like music.

As a lover of both mediums, he wanted to form a stronger relationship between the two. William Minefield, UI jazz studies assistant professor, helped Waters do that. He reached out to Menefield looking for students to participate in the project, which was an explo-

ration of hip-hop and poetry.

"It was a smaller scale than what I desired, but we were still able to do the project for the semester, so that was kind of cool," Waters said.

In April 2022, he got an email from Damani Phillips, UI associate professor of jazz studies, about a new group called the Black Pop Music Ensemble. The group, directed by Menefield, is an ensemble of singers and musicians who meet for practice twice a week.

Waters saw the opportunity to expand on his earlier collaborative efforts, this time in a more effective way. He auditioned in fall 2022 and was accepted as the emcee.

In the fall 2022 academic year, the group planned a concert for the end of the semester. As the emcee, Waters created the setlist. He said his poetry background helped him create a smoother connection between each song.

"I'm on my computer looking at the lyrics and trying to make those connections to see how the show can flow in the way we want it to. What poetic introductions or endings can I add to make the show flow?" Waters said.

After their first performance in December 2022, the ensemble performed twice in the 2023 spring semester at the Wieting Theater in Toledo, Iowa, and most recently at the UI Voxman Music Building.

Many of the members, like Waters, will graduate

this year. However, he is grateful for the relationships he has made and the group's growing success.

"It's a little sad, but it's not like we can't say we didn't put together a great show," Waters said. "There's something new that the university hasn't done before."

Waters will get another opportunity to combine music and poetry, but this time he will be the one teaching. He will join the Writers' Workshop as an adjunct professor in the fall and lead a creative writing for the musician course.

He looks forward to providing his knowledge and experience to students with similar passions, and he sees teaching at the university as a way to give back.

"If I can help any poets that are coming into the Writers' Workshop ... if I can mentor some students in the university, not even affiliated with creative writing, I would love to do that before I head out," Waters said.

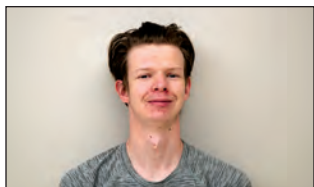
Though his educational journey is not over, Waters said he hopes he will have some time to relax and shift his focus. He also credited his mentors, teachers, and the opportunities that allowed him to thrive over the years and contributed to his accomplishments.

"Community here can be hard sometimes, but once you find it, it's beautiful," Waters said. "You can find it in so many different ways."

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The DI gave me the experience of a lifetime

Working as a photojournalist and filmmaker at *The Daily Iowan* has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer
Photojournalist

I've been around Iowa City for a long time. I came here in 2017 through the University of Iowa's REACH Program, which specializes in helping students with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

Through my first three years at the university, I worked in videography for

local TV stations like City Channel 4 and PATV. After PATV went out of business and the COVID-19 pandemic ended my time at Iowa early, I was stuck in a void, not knowing what would come next. Was I going to come back to Iowa?

That was when I applied to *The Daily Iowan* in summer 2020 and decided to return to Iowa to pursue a degree in cinematic arts. I didn't think about journalism much before the *DI*, but my experience for the last three years showed me there's a lot to appreciate, and it can give you once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

For starters, it's hard to believe that I've spent the past year photographing two of the greatest Hawkeye student athletes: wrestler Spencer Lee and basketball player Caitlin Clark. It's one thing to say you've been in a room with professional athletes, but it's another thing to say you've been in a room with athletes that are the defining image of their respective sports. Although neither achieved the goal of winning a national championship at the season's end, they both still had a phenomenal year that I won't

forget.

While photography has been at the forefront of my senior year, documentary filmmaking has also been a big highlight for me. Being a part of not one but two documentaries in the same year is amazing to me. My experiences editing "Chasing Greatness: Wrestling Life" and "Lost in the In-Between: Graduating into 2020" in *The Daily Iowan* Documentary Workshop were a blast.

Not only did I work with the best collaborators in the world, but I got the hands-on experience that I desired as

an aspiring filmmaker. Going through over 500 hours of footage between both films — with a heavy emphasis on caffeine and affirmations from Iowa wrestling coaches Tom Brands and Terry Brands — felt worthwhile. This also wouldn't be possible without my colleagues Ryan Adams, Ayrton Breckenridge, Jenna Galligan, *DI* Documentary Workshop films coach John Richard, and director and *DI* photo coach Danny Wilcox Frazier.

It's hard to believe that after six years in Iowa City, I've accomplished a lot in my time here. This

wouldn't have been possible without the people that have been behind me and pushing me to be the best that I can be.

A big shoutout goes to Grace Smith and Jerod Ringwald: the best two-punch combo for sports photography. I also want to thank my family and my colleagues at the UI's Student Video Productions for supporting me every step of the way. My time at the *DI* showed me that journalism can be a gateway for once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

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Old Cap

I spent a lot of time photographing interesting things and people. The Old Capitol was not one of those things.



Matt Sindt
Photo Editor

“ I went here, and it was okay.

— Matt Sindt, photo editor



Matt Sindt/*The Daily Iowan*

The Old Capitol Building is seen on March 26.

UI students to continue research after graduation

The researchers were recently awarded Graduate Research Excellence Awards in their fields.

Natalie Miller
News Reporter

University of Iowa graduate students Kara Carter and Kimberly Fiock are reaching the end of their educational journeys on a high note: as Graduate Research Excellence Award winners.

Carter and Fiock won the award for their research and work in their respective fields.

According to the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Graduate Research Excellence Awards is awarded to students who conduct research that is unique and original while contributing to their field

ter switched to working in end-of-life care, which she said is her real passion.

Carter worked in hospice care for a few years before deciding to return to school. This month, Carter will graduate with her doctorate in social work.

Most recently, Carter finished her dissertation study, which focused on the experiences of older adults who survived a COVID-19 hospitalization.

Carter said she wanted to understand the experience of the people who survived a COVID-19 hospitalization and show how important mental health services are

periences, and cross-analyzed them to reveal her main findings. She found through her interviews how seriously older adults took their COVID-19 diagnoses and how great their health care was.

“... The participants all talked about their health care providers being exceptionally attentive, that they didn’t feel isolated, they didn’t feel like a leper, they didn’t feel like someone that folks were avoiding,” Carter said. “So, really went on and on about the quality of care and the attentiveness of the health-care staff that walked the journey with them.”

Carter said she also found that many of the people she interviewed still experienced long COVID 19 symptoms.

“At the time that I had interviewed them, it was like a year and a half — almost two years out — from the hospitalization, still having to use home oxygen with activity, still having shortness of breath, still having a lot of cognitive brain fog, still feeling that incredible fatigue. And then new problems, or new or worsening problems,” she said.

Post-graduation, Carter will pursue writing and will work to publish more of her dissertation findings and look for funding to continue her research on post-ICU syndrome and long COVID-19. Carter will also teach at the UI.

Fiock, the second recipient



Shuntaro Kawasaki/The Daily Iowan

Kimberly Fiock holds a human brain at UI Medical Laboratories in Iowa City on May 3.

“What was happening in their life when they found out they had COVID? How did it escalate to hospitalization? What happened while they were in the hospital? And then, what was that transition at discharge?

— UI graduate student Kara Carter

of work.

Carter’s education experience has been untraditional. She is a 2002 UI alum and graduated with a degree in social work. She then went straight into practicing social work for a nonprofit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Carter decided and move back to Iowa City to work as a medical social worker in the Iowa City Veteran Affairs Hospital for several years. A couple of years before beginning her doctorate program, Car-

ter switched to working in post-hospital stay.

Carter said she was interested in knowing individuals’ experiences and conducted interviews with them to learn.

“What was happening in their life when they found out they had COVID? How did it escalate to hospitalization? What happened while they were in the hospital? And then, what was that transition at discharge?” she said.

Carter took the information she got from individual cases, looked for recurring themes and ex-

periences, and cross-analyzed them to reveal her main findings. She found through her interviews how seriously older adults took their COVID-19 diagnoses and how great their health care was.

Fiock graduated with her bachelor’s degrees from the University of Texas at Dallas with a double major in neuroscience and psychology. She said she was drawn more to the disease side of neuroscience, and she came to the UI in 2018 to start her master’s degree.

When it came to her research, Fiock focused on a microtubule-stabilizing protein called tau. Tau is a protein that is important throughout people’s lifespans and is found in neurons in the central nervous system.

“Tau can attach or detach from the microtubules,

and that changes the cell’s ability to change shape and move ... so this is a normal process that happens in all of us, and it happens starting in development all the way until we’re adults,” Fiock said. “But somewhere along the line, when we’re adults, something about this process goes wrong, so tau can be modified.”

People can develop neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimers due to too many additions to the tau. When there are too many additions, problems can arise.

“The cell can add stuff to tau, which changes its function ... The more additions to tau, the more changes. And so, if you have too many additions of something, tau can’t bind or does not bind anymore to the microtu-

bules, it pops off and makes things less stable,” Fiock said.

During her research, Fiock said she wanted to explore why the same protein causes different diseases and how the same protein causes different symptoms.

Fiock said tau is the protein associated with Alzheimer’s disease, which only affects one cell type and has one set of symptoms, while frontotemporal lobar degeneration-tau is a group of diseases, like dementia, that affect different regions of the brain and affect different cell types.

After graduation, Fiock plans to work as a staff scientist in her lab to continue her research.

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Student reflects on time with UI College Republicans

Mary Weston has been able to have a dialogue with people of all political affiliations at the UI.

Emily Delgado
Politics Reporter

Mary Weston learned confidence and the importance of conservative leadership during her four years at the

beliefs. Growing up in a politically diverse household – her parents conservative, her sister a Democrat, and her brother a libertarian – made Weston aware of the need for conversations between all

and Sen. Joni Ernst came to visit, and I started to realize, ‘Oh my gosh, we get to actually talk to politicians and get involved in politics and talk to legislators about what our thoughts are as young people,’” Weston said. “So, that was kind of the first stepping stone.”

Weston tells the story of meeting Ernst to any young conservatives she meets, hoping it inspires them to be more vocal in politics. Over the years, UI College Republicans have gathered attention from various media outlets like “The Ben Shapiro Show.”

Having a national conservative voice like Shapiro meant a lot to the organization and to Weston.

“I realized that people are going to try to knock you down whether you’re conservative or liberal, and you need to keep up the good fight and fight for your opinions, fight to have a voice,” Weston said, “And I don’t know – that solidified that I wanted to keep being conservative and keep fighting for conservative students on this campus.”

As she prepares to graduate and move on to the next chapter of her life, Weston said she is thankful for the organization and the lessons she has learned through her time a leadership position.

“This group had helped me feel comfortable in my own skin,” Weston said. “We’ve made each other speak up when we don’t really feel like we should be speaking up.”

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“I hope to take that with me into the future, whether it’s in the workforce or just conversations with the public, but I hope to not let that go and be reminded that everyone’s opinion does matter.

– UI College Republicans chairman of communications and outreach Mary Weston

University of Iowa.

Weston has served as the UI College of Republicans chairman of communications and outreach since spring 2021. Weston also served as the state chair of the Iowa Federation of College Republicans since fall 2021. Weston will graduate with a bachelor’s in exercise science and a certificate in entrepreneurial management.

When Weston first arrived at the UI, she said she was determined to hide her political affiliation until 2020 when she found out through a friend that College Republicans were holding meetings via Zoom.

“Fall semester – the first meeting – we sat on my dorm bed and joined the very first Zoom call of our college career, and just chatted with other Republicans,” Weston said. “And it was just nice finding a community of like-minded people.”

Weston grew up in a Christian household and said her background impacted her

political affiliations.

“I hope to take that with me into the future, whether it’s in the workforce or just conversations with the public, but I hope to not let that go and be reminded that everyone’s opinion does matter, and there are ways to politely discuss politics,” Weston said.

Through her position of power, Weston has seen a steady influx of young conservative women joining her organization and being vocal about their ideas.

During a discussion surrounding the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and surrounding reproductive rights, Weston said her organization benefited from having women members on the front line leading conversation surrounding the topic instead of the men.

Weston, who grew up in Iowa, was able to meet longtime role models Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, through her participation in College Republicans.

“It was sophomore year,



Madysen Gomez/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa senior Mary Weston poses for a portrait at the Pentacrest in Iowa City. Weston is an exercise science major and will be working as a caregiver to an individual with Parkinson’s disease her first year out of college.

Lessons on life and AP style

Turns out it's never too late to try again.



Gretchen Lenth
Copy Editor

I didn't want to write this column at first. Not because I have nothing to say, but because I didn't feel qualified. After all, I come from an awkward position where I quit working for *The Daily Iowan* freshman year, only to crawl back three years later.

So, let's talk about that.

Balancing academics, a job, and a social life is tricky

in college. My freshman year, I struggled to succeed at any of the three. As a small-town girl with negligible social skills, Iowa City and the University of Iowa swallowed me up. I quit working as a news reporter for the sake of my mental health, which was at the same time a wise decision and one I came to regret.

I soon found other activities to fill the void, but I couldn't shake away thoughts of what I could have accomplished had I persevered. After all, the *DI* is what drew me to the UI's campus. A copy editor position that opened my

senior year provided an opportunity to try again.

Copy editing isn't something I plan to make a career out of — I'm a data journalist by trade. But I like to see the two as skills that flex the same muscles in my brain. It can sometimes feel like a math equation, reworking a clunky sentence by fixing AP style mistakes and strengthening word choice to help a reporter's story come through. It's been a privilege to play this role in making news happen.

I've learned more about grammar over the last year than I may ever need to

know. But I've also learned a valuable lesson on how to chase the things that are important to me. Both skills helped me immensely.

In a few weeks, I'll be packing my bags for an internship with *The Wall Street Journal's* data team in New York. Reflecting on my time at the university, I can't say I regret too many of the decisions that led me here, but I may have been left with one regret if I didn't give the *DI* another chance.

Before I'm gone for good, I have a few acknowledgments I want to make.

First, thank you to Sabine Martin for dragging

me back to the *DI* because she thought I had a good eye for detail. I've always taken that to mean I'm fussy and nit-picky, but that's also true. I also want to thank her for letting me borrow her blue light glasses on print nights. My eyeballs wouldn't have survived the academic year without them.

I want to shout out our design editor, Marandah Mangra-Dutcher, for being someone I can geek out with about numbers and data visualizations. My secret Santa, Jerod Ringwald, also deserves a special mention for consistently

"forgetting" my gift before buying me subpar Chipotle three weeks later. I wanted this in writing so he can never live it down.

Finally, I want to thank everyone on staff for welcoming me back. I'll admit I was hesitant to re-enter the newsroom, but I quickly learned I had nothing to worry about. Except everyone's misuse of commas, of course.

To all the underclassmen returning to the newsroom next year: Keep going, and don't forget to keep the AP Stylebook webpage pinned to your web browser.

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Nothing will go as planned, and that's alright

Plans are just guidelines for life.



Meg Doster
Amplify Editor

Life will never go as planned. My first plan was to become a computer scientist, then it was to graduate in four years. After that, it was to go to law school. None of those things happened. I changed my major, took an extra year, and my LSAC account is only gath-

ering dust. Planning life out is more of a guideline than anything else.

Two years ago, I applied to *The Daily Iowan* on a whim, not thinking they'd ever see my application, let alone hire me. I was called for an interview, and then next thing I knew, I was covering school board meetings in Iowa from my bedroom in Michigan. Life is a little funny that way. I didn't plan to become a reporter. I just became one.

If it weren't for the editors that hired me — Sabine Martin and Natalie Dunlap

— taking the time to train me, I never would've ended up where I am. If it weren't for my coaches Jennifer Wagner and Lyle Muller and their feedback and critique, I would never have made it with the *DI* as long as I have. There are many other people I can thank for offering me experiences and life lessons that will stick with me long after I leave Iowa City. That first whim brought me to the newspaper, but it was the people I met that kept me there.

Before the *DI*, I didn't know anything about what

it was like to be a journalist or what it takes to be one. Even though I am not pursuing a career as a reporter, the skills I learned and the experiences I've had were more than worth it. I think back to May 2021, and I am so glad that I sent in my application — even when I had to give up my Sundays to go to work for the past two years.

I have written in every section that the *DI* has, with the exception of DITV. I worked in news as a crime reporter, I worked in politics and collaborated with

PolitiFact, I did an arts piece and an opinions article. I used to work on the paper's podcast, and I even wrote a student reaction to a March Madness game. I've been around, and I've seen a lot.

Each section has their own way of doing things and are as different from each other as the people are, but it's all still the *DI*. I never planned to do any of that until moments after the opportunities appeared before me.

I don't say go with the flow as some throwaway blanket advice. I mean it. Having plans is good — re-

sponsible, even. But it's better to understand plans fall apart all the time, and it's inevitable that you're going to find yourself surrounded by the pieces. No one can know when it will happen, just that it will, and it's better to be prepared.

Whatever your plans are, plan to become adaptable to what life will throw at you, and don't forget to enjoy the journey while you're still on it. Because the best decisions are often the impulsive ones.

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Student leaves mark on UI political groups

Caleb Slater learned the importance of community by leading the University Democrats at Iowa and other campus organizations.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

Graduating senior Caleb Slater poses for a photo outside of the Adler Journalism Building on May 4.

Liam Halawith
Politics Editor

Caleb Slater, a Des Moines native, has been politically involved since his high school years and got his start in the 2018 campaign season. He volunteered for Cathy Glesson, a nurse and president of the Service Workers International Union chapter 199.

After getting a taste of political organizing, Slater's sense of justice and activism drove him to pursue his goal — becoming a lawyer.

Slater will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in political science and will attend the University of Iowa law school this fall.

Slater led University Democrats at Iowa during the 2021-22 school year. During his tenure as president, he helped organize forums, campaigns, and debates during the primary season ahead of the 2022 midterm election.

"So, all of these candidates could get a feel for what students' priorities were," Slater said. "But the students could also get a feel for what these candidates' priorities were."

Slater solidified his love for Democratic politics during his freshman and sophomore years when he participated in the 2020 caucuses and was able to meet candidates and hear their platforms.

"Iowa is a really great place to be for people who wanted to sort of get involved in democratic politics," Slater said. "I would show up to meetings and get to meet these

really cool candidates who came from Florida to come talk to college students. And I thought that was the coolest thing ever."

During election season in 2020, Slater stepped up as treasurer of the University Democrats at Iowa. He helped plan events to engage voters on campus — despite a pandemic — including having

“Iowa is a really great place to be for people who wanted to sort of get involved in democratic politics.

— Former president of University Democrats at Iowa Caleb Slater

President Joe Biden's campaign bus visit campus in the Hancher Auditorium parking lot.

"It was difficult to navigate as an exec board — holding events and having people be involved without being in person," Slater said. "It's really difficult to get people engaged over Zoom."

Slater is thankful for the opportunities offered through the UI during his four years. With Johnson County being a stronghold for progressive politics in the state, he got lots of experience working with progressive activists.

"Being a student at the University of Iowa has presented me with a lot of opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise, and I am really grateful for that," Slater said. "Being able to get involved in the 2020 election, and then the 2022 election with Iowa,

and Johnson County's sort of unique political situation."

After he was elected president of the University Democrats at Iowa, Slater said the chair of the Johnson County Democrats, Ed Cranston, reached out to him and offered to work together on organizing the county.

"The Iowa City community is really welcoming," Slater

said. "And that's one thing that I liked. As soon as I got elected president of U Dems, the Johnson County Democrats chair reached out, and we'd chat often about the community."

Slater said his activism during his time at the UI has helped him hone his values and instilled a sense of justice in him. He is looking to use this sense of justice — with a law degree in hand — to help those around him.

"Being politically involved has allowed me to sort of like hone what values I want to work to progress in my communities — wherever I end up — and in whatever field of law that I end up in," Slater said. "I think I'm sort of like driven by wanting to use whatever abilities I have to pursue justice and whatever community that I'm in."

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The civic duty of research

In my experiences writing as a columnist for the *DI*, I learned how important it is to be informed on public matters.



Chris Klepach
Opinions Columnist

Before my time began at *The Daily Iowan*, I was rarely in tune with the local news cycle. With this came regret for not knowing what my government was up to. In my time spent at the *DI*, I truly began to understand the civic duty of researching our legislature.

I joined the *DI* in the middle of my first year at the Uni-

versity of Iowa. I was a junior transfer from Kirkwood Community College. When I saw an available position at the *DI*, I took it as an opportunity to expand my writing skills. I admittedly had a rough start getting used to the weekly deadlines and pitching ideas.

In my experience at the *DI*, I began to pursue topics that resonated with me, not for the sake of writing about them, but to fulfill ideas that may not have been covered prior to my entry. I wanted to share a perspective that was rarely appreciated: religious, grounded, and appreciative of overlooked aspects of our community.

A particular article I had the pleasure of writing focused on the example set by the Prairie Hill cohousing community. No one around me at Hillcrest Residence Hall had even heard about it despite the housing existing within walking distance. Shining light on these parts of the community that others may not have heard of was a privilege.

Through my writing efforts, I went down multiple rabbit holes of national and Iowa law. This ranged from learning about the complicated relationship between the state and federal governments on various laws to

the broad semantics written down into different legislations proposed. The research I have done on different legislative documents shouldn't be taken solely for the research itself, though.

If we are to continue as a country, everyone who can vote should be given access to information about not only our politicians and their motives, but also laws they propose, what the laws actually say, and the people who are involved in the creation or lobbying process of these laws.

You would be surprised at how many instances a bill is signed that doesn't tackle the core issue that caused

it to gain traction in the first place. This can be seen through simply reading over laws on official legislature websites and pouring over articles that view issues in their own lights.

The time spent is worth it to know what we as a people will see enacted in our government.

Learning how the flow of a bill works from a reporting perspective — even if it wasn't as live as the news section — was a challenge that I got better at surmounting over my year-and-a-half long tenure at the *DI*. There is a feeling of interconnectedness there when you can

track down the progress of a bill and consider how fellow Iowans feel alongside you.

With the busyness of life, it can be easy to let these opportunities of connectivity slide by. But when you stop and take an hour or two every week to let the facts flow, let the laws lead, and let people propose with the untapped potential of the screens and keyboards in front of us everyday, you can experience and participate as an active member of society rather than as a passive one.

Thank you, *DI*, for teaching me this subliminally.

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This is the end, beautiful friend

Reflecting on the ideas that didn't make it to press.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

As the wise kung fu Master Oogway once said, "My time has come."

This line from the cinematic masterpiece "Kung Fu Panda" communicates the idea of letting go. Today, I am letting go of column writing, something that I have held near and dear to my heart for the past two and a half years.

Column writing is an essential part of any newspaper because columnists are not reporters. They can jump headfirst into local, state, and national debates without having the burden of objectivity — whatever that means — thrust upon them.

In other words, the essential service that columnists provide to the [redacted] who actually read this newspaper is perspective and depth.

This maxim has guided my approach to column writing from day one when I wrote my first story on charter schools in March 2021.

I hope that I have improved since then. However, I personally believe that the first column was my peak, as I wrote several pieces on "SpongeBob SquarePants's" existentialism and smoking hookah with Jordanians in the succeeding years.

In fact, I think this is the appropriate time to give a shoutout to my former opinions editor and the Squidward to my SpongeBob, Hannah Pinski. Hannah has stopped me from writing several columns that in hindsight would have looked terrible on my resume.

Some of these include "Scooby-Doo" as an allegory for libertarian socialism, "Money: the Column," and a critique of Slavoj Žižek's dialectic analysis of "Kung Fu Panda" (real ones have seen that video).

In all seriousness, I am incredibly grateful for Hannah and the time we spent together working on Ops Blogs with Sophie Stover and Yassie Buchanan in fall 2021. Writing those blogs was something that I personally looked forward to every single week as I got the chance to work with three talented writers and learn from each of them.

I also would like to extend my gratitude toward the *DI* in general, because it gave me a sense of purpose and a place where I could express my creativity. Through my time at the *DI*, I feel that I have developed my voice, and more importantly, my style as a writer. This has also allowed me to become a more confident person outside of the opinions section.

Finally, the *DI* has allowed me to experiment and explore unique topics — something I will be forever grateful for.

Also, a quick shout out to Christina Applegate

and Ramadan Steve for no apparent reason other than they both seem like well-adjusted and properly socialized people.

Finally, I also think that Jean Luc-Goddard's French New Wave classic "Masculin Féminin" deserves a shoutout because of its exploration of sexuality and teenage angst. We all are really the children of Marx and Coca-Cola. I might as well also give a shoutout to all the taxi drivers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for all the hilarious interactions I have had with them.

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Sophie Hass Schenkel finds passion in art

Bachelor of Fine Arts student Sophie Hass Schenkel shares how the University of Iowa inspired her craft.

Zhenya Loughney
Arts Reporter

Sophie Hass Schenkel has always liked working with her hands. Even when there wasn't a physical product, she was always making something. Gardening, woodworking, and crocheting were instrumental parts of her childhood.

Schenkel, an Iowa City native, graduated from West High School at 16 years old. She originally didn't plan on going to college and took a gap year, but her mother helped her enroll at the University of Iowa at 17 years old.

Schenkel started on the pre-business track then moved to environmental science. She finally settled on sculpture and is the first artist in her family.

"As soon as I took my first

sculpture class, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I love doing this. I wish I could do this all day every day,'" Schenkel said. "I've just never felt that way about something before, and

“As soon as I took my first sculpture class, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I love doing this. I wish I could do this every day.'”

— Sophie Hass Schenkel, a Bachelor of Fine Arts student

that was really exciting. I just, I can't stop doing it.”

Schenkel said that finding her love for sculpting at the university gave her creativity a purpose. The UI allowed her to learn material skills like welding, woodworking, and metalworking. She said the sculpture department has pushed her to think outside of the box, and her professors never gave the impression

that there is an objectively right way to do something.

Being around other talented artists taught Schenkel to move her work in a more authentic direction. She said

she has felt tremendous support for her craft.

"I didn't know why I was here. Finding sculpture kind of gave it all a purpose, and then I was glad I was here. I have something to work on," Schenkel said. "I can learn all these materials skills like welding, woodworking, metalworking, that sort of thing. I have found a lot of value



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa senior Sophie Hass Schenkel poses for a photo outside the Visual Arts Building in Iowa City on May 5. Schenkel is an interdisciplinary artist who specializes in many art forms like sculpting.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa senior Sophie Hass Schenkel works on her art in the Visual Arts Building in Iowa City on May 5. Schenkel is an interdisciplinary artist who specializes in many art forms like sculpting.

in that, and there's a lot of different skills I can carry out of it.”

Schenkel said her professors have always supported her.

"My professors have all been really supportive of whatever I want to try, even if they know it won't fully work. I'll figure it out if it doesn't work," Schenkel said.

Schenkel's Bachelor of Fine Arts exhibit "Purity & Plastic" took place in a Visual Arts Building gallery from April 24-29. The exhibit itself was in development for a year and a half, but the techniques Schenkel used for the exhibit were in practice for years before.

"Purity & Plastic" consisted of person-height wireframes with crocheted overhangs made from found plastic materials and VHS film.

"I started by breaking

down T-shirts into T-shirt yarn by cutting it down into strips, kind of like how I do it with the plastic in my exhibit," Schenkel said.

The first sculpture Schenkel said she made was a figure of a woman made from wire that she wove yarn around, suspending it in the air. The sculpture was the spark that made her continue pursuing different materials to impose shapes into wires.

Schenkel said the biggest challenge in making the sculptures was creating her own patterns and working architecturally to create defined shapes.

"The first one was very shapeless," Schenkel said. "As they progressed, they got more and more defined and sharp and chiseled, and it's changed my perspective a lot."

Schenkel's favorite piece she made during her time at

the UI was from last year. The piece allowed her to be creative in ways she had never explored before.

"I carved a head out of clay. And then I made my own mold out of it, which I was already pretty proud of," Schenkel said. "Then I poured Jell-O into it and I made a Jell-O head. I was just so proud of myself for making something."

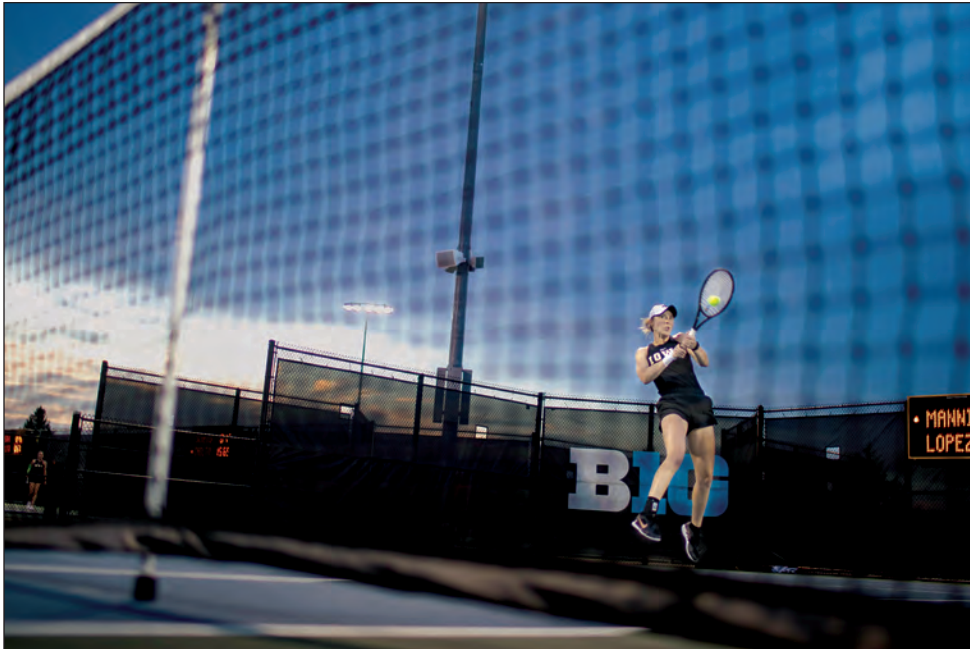
Schenkel said that her parents are very supportive of her and her craft. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year as a time to reset and consider graduate programs. Her dream, however, is to live an 1800s lifestyle on a fishing boat on the coast of Alaska while making art.

"Make as much as you can," Schenkel said. "And eventually something will resonate with you."

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Championing competitiveness

Iowa women's tennis player Samantha Mannix will leave an indelible mark on the Hawkeyes' mindset.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Samantha Mannix hits the ball during a tennis meet at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreational Complex in Iowa City on April 14. Mannix lost her singles match.

Matt McGowan
Sports Reporter

Iowa women's tennis player Samantha Mannix hates to lose. Growing up in Elkhorn, Nebraska, Mannix has been on the court since she was 8 years old, honing her skills at Woods Tennis Center.

Throughout her career, which spanned from the Cornhusker State to the Hawkeye State, the fifth-year senior has defined herself by her competitiveness.

"I tried to bring [competitiveness] into practice, into matches, every single day," Mannix said. "That's the one thing I always hope that my teammates can do. To me, winning and losing is somewhat out of your

control, but being competitive is always something that you are capable of."

For 12 of the first 15 matches of the 2023 season, Mannix played in the No. 2 singles spot, going 7-2 with three unfinished matches. Then, after vanquishing Indiana's Saby Nihalani in three sets on April 2 for her third consecutive win, Mannix was promoted to the top spot and stayed there for the rest of the season.

But Mannix struggled in the No. 1 position at first, dropping her first two matches in straight sets against Penn State and Ohio State then falling to her Rutgers counterpart in a three-set heartbreaker.

In the final home match

of her career, she got her first win of the season at the No. 1 spot, putting away Maryland's Marta Perez Mur in a three-set triumph.

Mannix's childhood coach at Woods Tennis Center, Talor Wain, was in attendance up on the balcony at Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center. Mannix said Wain taught her to be an analytical player.

"Growing up, I always focused on technique. And, I think, coming into college I had to strike the balance between technique and strategy," Mannix said.

Mannix usually spoke with Iowa assistant coach Elise van Heuvelen Treadwell about how she could adjust based on her previous



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Samantha Mannix celebrates during a tennis meet at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreational Complex in Iowa City on April 14. Mannix won her doubles match with Vipasha Mehra.

match during her weekly individual practices.

During an April 18 practice, Mannix rehashed from memory the film of her match against the Scarlet Knights' Jackeline Lopez four days earlier, describing aloud how her own backhand wasn't flat enough and was "too spinny."

When she's on the court during a match, Mannix said the technique she emphasizes during the week is pushed to the back of her mind. Instead, she focuses on playing her own game and being a good teammate, saying that if her fellow Hawkeyes can hear her on the other side of the court, then she's doing a good job.

Arriving in Iowa City for

her freshman season in 2018, Mannix said the individual nature of tennis made adjusting to a team environment difficult. Over time, she became someone who prioritized the team's success over her own.

"I think she set the standard with how to compete and how to fight even when you don't feel great about your game or things aren't going well," Iowa head coach Sasha Schmid said.

Hawkeye freshman Daianne Hayashida said Mannix is a big sister of sorts. Mannix helped the Lima, Peru, native adjust to the collegiate tennis scene and was there for her when she struggled in practice.

Mannix tied a team high

with 10 singles victories this season and earned All-Big Ten honors for the first time in her career. She also picked up two wins against nationally ranked opponents as the Hawkeyes finished fifth in its conference and advanced to the second round of the Big Ten Championships.

"I think she's been instrumental in us creating a culture of competitiveness, high expectations, and just really hard-working," Schmid said. "So, you know, when you've got somebody who lives that every day, that is really important for all the other team members to see."

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Prowess at the plate

Iowa softball's Nia Carter will be remembered as one of the best offensive players in Hawkeye history.

Kenna Roering
Sports Reporter

Whenever Iowa softball head coach Renee Gillispie called upon Nia Carter, she had an answer.

In her first collegiate at-bat as a freshman, Carter lifted the Hawkeyes over the East Carolina Pirates, 6-5, with a pinch-hit walk-off single at the 2020 Kickin' Chicken Classic.

Since then, Carter proved herself as more than just a one-hit wonder throughout her four years in Iowa City. The senior right fielder will go down as one of the most threatening players at the plate in Iowa history.

"There's not enough time in the day to talk about how much Nia means to this program," Gillispie said. "She's become a great leader."

Carter missed just one game throughout her time as a Hawkeye.

She was hitting .412 over her career, as of April 30, and is looking to break Iowa's individual career batting record. It is held by four-time first-team All-Big Ten selection and shortstop Morgan Blank, who hit .410 in her Hawk-

“There's not enough time in the day to talk about how much Nia means to this program. She's become a great leader.

— Iowa softball head coach Renee Gillispie

eye campaign from 2012-15. Carter's 227 career hits also put her eighth all-time at Iowa.

But as natural as softball comes to Carter, the sport wasn't her first love. The Rancho Cucamonga, California, product showcased her talents on stage before trading in her tap shoes for cleats.

She started playing travel ball at 12 years old, but it wasn't until she joined the Corona Angels under head coach Marty Tyson at 14 that she discovered her dreams of playing at the collegiate and professional levels.

Carter said she was inspired by outfielder Aaliyah Jordan and shortstop Sami Williams, who were on an older team when she joined the Angels. Jordan and Williams went on to become first-team All-Americans for UCLA, and Iowa State, respectively.

"Ever since playing with the Corona Angels, that kind of catapulted my whole career," Carter said. "Marty Tyson is very knowledgeable about the game of softball, and I think he was what brought me to this next level of play. He definitely gets his



Iowa's Nia Carter runs to second base during a softball game between Rutgers and Iowa at the Bob Pearl Softball Field in Iowa City on April 28. The Scarlet Knights defeated the Hawkeyes, 5-3.

Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

girls ready for college."

Carter originally committed to Louisville under head coach Michael Lotief, but she decommitted after he was fired.

Gillispie found Carter through Tyson and set up a visit. Carter said she knew from the first time she went to Iowa City that it was the right place for her. Carter added the people in Iowa and their passion for Hawkeye athletics drew her in.

"I've made some of the

bestest friends and met some of the greatest people here," Carter said. "I'm so thankful that I ended up here. Iowa really is a place like no other. It really is a home away from home for me. I'm so thankful that coach Renee brought me here my freshman year. It's just been a blessing, honestly."

Carter has an extra year of eligibility left because of COVID-19. She said she is in the transfer portal and isn't sure where she will

“I'm so thankful that I ended up here. Iowa really is a place like no other.

— Iowa softball senior Nia Carter

spend her final collegiate season.

She said she is not opposed to coming back to Iowa City, and being closer to home is not a priority for her. Carter said her parents visit frequently, and she knows they will come and watch her play wherever she lands.

"It was due to money reasons," Carter said about entering the transfer portal. "I'm going to have a meeting with the coaches at the end of the year just to see where that still stands, but nothing is final yet."

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