

# The Daily Iowan

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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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## 15 years of recovery

The impact of the 2008 Iowa floods continues.







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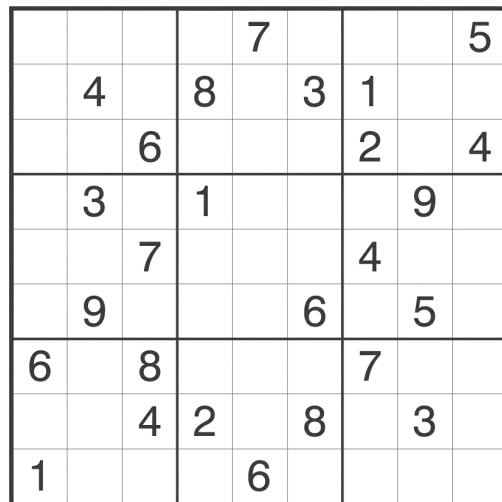
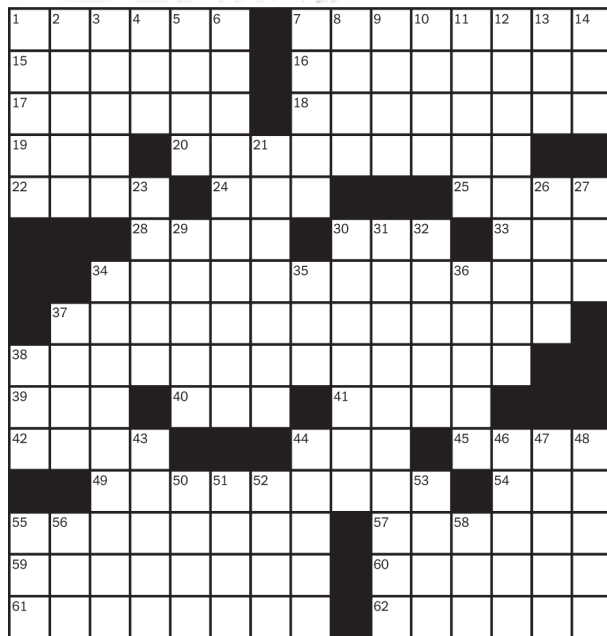
Front photo:

Floodwaters engulf Lower City Park on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0512



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**GRIFOLS**

# 15 years since devastation – recovery, reconstruction, and advancements

Since the Iowa floods of 2008, reconstruction and recovery efforts continue despite this year marking its 15 anniversary.



Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan

Floodwaters run over the spillway and through the Devonian Fossil Gorge, unveiled by the flood of 1993, on June 11, 2008.

**Parker Jones**  
**Alejandro Rojas**  
Summer Editors

The 2008 flood was a devastating event to Iowa City and the University of Iowa campus. Over 20 campus buildings were damaged, with several needing complete demolition, and others needing millions of dollars worth of repairs.

In the years since the destruction, the city, the UI, and the state as a whole have made vast discoveries and advancements toward flood mitigation.

Larry Weber, director of the Hydroscience and Engineering program at the Iowa Institute of Hydroscience and Engineering, witnessed both the Iowa floods of 2008, and those in 1993. He highlighted

the disbelief felt by locals when faced with another major flood just 15 years later.

“In ‘93, folks felt like it was a flood of a lifetime. Nobody thought they would see anything like it again,” Weber said.

Just prior to the 2008 flood, Weber said, a series of intense rainfall events in northern Iowa triggered a chain reaction that resulted in unprecedented floods downstream. As narrow bands of rainfall moved toward Iowa City, flood waves grew in intensity, leading to large-scale impacts on Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, and other communities in eastern Iowa.

Weber also recalled the peculiar weather conditions during the flood itself.

“What was a little odd is that in Iowa City, you know, the weather was pretty nice,” Weber said. “It was mostly blue



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

The spillway at the Devonian Fossil Gorge is seen on June 19.

skies and very little rain.”

When asked about the immediate impacts on Iowa City, Weber highlighted the enforced curfew along the Iowa River, which stated that no one was allowed or expected to be along the Iowa River except for emergency services and other professionals. The curfew was in conjunction with the evacuation of numerous academic buildings, including the laboratory building, the main library, the theater arts building, and the old art museum building.

The aftermath of the floods brought about a sense of desolation and darkness to the campus, Weber said, noting the resulting power outage and city-wide silence.

“It was a very eerie feeling ... a vibrant campus community suddenly became an

area that was very quiet, and it was eerily quiet,” Weber said.

Recovery efforts commenced as the waters receded, but the journey to restore Iowa City was arduous, Weber said. He noted that although the original timespan given was around 10 years, recovery has taken even longer as the opening of the Stanley Museum of Art only occurred in August 2022.

“It seemed impossible that it could take 10 years. And yet, you know, the reality of the full recovery of the university campus was, in fact, 10 years, and even longer,” he revealed.

The floods of 2008 not only left a lasting physical impact but also transformed the





Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan

Floodwater pours out from the outflow of the Coralville dam, and lurks inches away from the spillway on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

## FLOOD

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mindset of the community, Weber said. He emphasized the shift in perspective regarding floods, noting that Iowa City has since adopted a different approach to engaging with the river, recognizing it as a key asset that runs through the campus.

“The floods need to be part of our campus community planning and our inner-city community planning,” he said.

One such planning element born after the flood was the creation of the Iowa Flood Center in 2009. The center has played a crucial role in raising water-related literacy in Iowa for civilians, Weber said.

“We’ve really helped to raise the water literacy of the state, understanding things like the ‘hundred-year flood’ and why it happens more than every hundred years,”

he said.

The Iowa Flood Center’s accomplishments are numerous, from deploying sensors across the state to monitor rivers and streams, providing valuable information to communities, to creating the free, web-based Iowa River Flood Information System. This system offers easy access to flood-related data, aiding individuals, homeowners, businesses, emergency services, and city administrators in their flood preparedness efforts.

In addition to the Iowa Flood Center itself, the City of Iowa City has made its own flood mitigation efforts, including property buyouts, city code updates, and infrastructure improvements. One notable improvement was the \$40 million project to raise Dubuque Street, completed in 2018, which Weber said was critical to future flood management. Most recently, the city put nearly \$300,000 toward a

floodplain property buyout in April.

Witold Krajewski is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the UI, and the director of the Iowa Flood Center. Like Weber, Krajewski saw the 2008 floods firsthand and said he still has vivid memories of the event.

“I remember I was at Princeton University attending some Ph.D. defense there, and I came back home and walked into the [Iowa Institute of Hydroscience and Engineering] and I saw our secretary carrying sandbags, and that was a bit of a shock,” he said. “It was a scramble, and a couple of days later, we had to evacuate our building.”

A few weeks after the flooding occurred, Krajewski said he and Weber were directed by then UI President Sally Mason to contact the director of the National Science Foundation, Arden L. Bement, Jr. Krajewski and Weber gave Bement a tour of the

area, and even took him to a levee in Cedar Rapids.

“We were standing on the levee, and the guy was like six feet tall, and he asked ‘So how high was the water?’ and [our guide] asked him how tall he was and said, ‘Okay, six feet over your head,’” Krajewski said. “He was a former general who worked during the Katrina disaster in New Orleans, and he worked at that time for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and when he looked around, he said this is at the same level as Katrina back in 2006.”

Around the same time, a group of scientists from the National Science Foundation also visited, bringing with them equipment to begin measuring the flood. After working with the team, Krajewski said he and Weber were approached by some leaders of the state that asked the pair to create a proposal for the upcoming legislative session.

It was during this time that the Iowa Flood Center was established, which Krajewski was appointed to lead. In the 15 years since, the center has been at work on flood research not only in the state of Iowa, but across the U.S.

This includes the new Center for Hydrological Development which the UI announced in February. The center is the result of a partnership between the UI and the University of Alabama, with the center to be housed at the Alabama Water Institute.

Outside of the UI, the flood’s effects could be felt by the rest of the Iowa City community. One man familiar with this is Troy Kelsay, University Heights’ chief of police.

In 2008, Kelsay was a police officer in the Iowa City Police Department, and was involved in the efforts to fight the flood and help civilians with the rest of department. He said the floods were surreal due to the fact that it wasn’t the direct result of heavy rain, but instead from water coming from upstream.

“There wasn’t thunder and lightning, there wasn’t a lot of noise, there wasn’t something ominous like that happening. It was just this slow and steady rise of water, and it kept getting higher



# Celebrating Juneteenth in downtown IC

The celebration included a Johnson County resource fair, free food, and fashion show. The event closed with live music from Black queer singer and dancer Isaac Jordan, and Chicago Funk-Rock band Aniba & the Sol Starz.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Two models pose during a fashion show at the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in downtown Iowa City on June 16.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Jennifer and her child Kaya interact with a Johnson County resource stand at the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in downtown Iowa City on June 16.



Bradley Kiara's child dances during the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in downtown Iowa City on June 16.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Local hip-hop artist TheZeffster performs during a fashion show at the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in downtown Iowa City on June 16.



**FLOOD**  
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and higher,” Kelsay said. “You’ve got water that is rising and rising and rising and never stopping and it’s overtaking homes, it’s overtaking businesses, it’s overtaking roads.”

Kelsay, just like Weber, also witnessed the 1993 floods in Iowa City. Comparing the two, Kelsay said the biggest difference was that much more information was available in 2008 which allowed for a better response.

Kelsay explained that several meetings involving communities in Johnson County were held to plan the response. They needed to address how to best alert the public

to the severity of the floods, including the dispersal of information about the how high the water was and where it would be flowing, as well as the safest routes in and out of town.

In his role as a police officer, his work revolved around keeping neighborhoods secure and people safe. This included manning boats that would go out to assist people who had attempted to return to their homes to retrieve belongings or return home permanently.

“When the water started to recede and people could then get to their businesses or their their homes, it almost became more of an issue for us,” Kelsay said. “Because now you no longer have the water as a barrier, people can access or think they

can hop in a canoe or wade through the muck to get to their structures, but their structures aren’t safe.”

It wasn’t until inspections were done that confirmed that houses were safe that people could return home, although Kelsay said some areas had been affected enough that buildings would instead be torn down and turned into green areas.

As for the how the flood informed him and the police moving forward, Kelsay said there were lessons learned from the flood that affected the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the data-driven aspect of the flood response was a major part of the pandemic response a decade later.

Aspects like calculating and forecasting water levels turned into calculating in-

fection rates by looking at the number of COVID-positive people ending up in hospitals.

“We were able to apply basically the same incident management system that we used for the floods to what we did for COVID, just the threat was the virus instead of rising water, and the resources we needed were masks, technology that we [could use] to get out messages to coordinate people, sanitizing equipment, respirators, hotel rooms, hospital rooms” he said. “Our resources and our needs were different, but the system was exactly the same.”

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## Corporations don't value pride

There is a sense of pride missing this month. Here's why that's alarming.



Sophia Meador  
Opinions Columnist

I have been a barista at Starbucks since May 2020. In years prior, stores have shown support for the LGBTQ+ community during pride month with flags, encouraging messages, media campaigns and themed decor.

This year, the only sign of pride at my store is a small shelf of colorful Tim Singleton tumblers.

Starbucks locations across the country have been called out for removing pride decorations amidst a wave of anti-pride and anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment in the U.S. For years, corporations like Starbucks have benefited from celebrating pride month. Choosing to turn a cold shoulder to pride month amid growing anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric is a painful reminder that corporations don't value morality as much as their profits.

This community has recently been the central target of right-wing commentators and politi-

cians. In 2023, more than 520 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced in state legislatures, according to the Human Rights campaign. Across the country, trans youth are being barred from gender affirming care and drag shows are banned for being "harmful to minors."

In Iowa, public schools can no longer offer education on gender and sexual identity until seventh grade. This bill, SF 496, also requires school districts to out transgender students to their parents and removes HIV and HPV curricula.

This community is un-

der attack, and corporations have taken notice.

During pride month, many companies will display pride themed merchandise filled with queer lingo and messages. Corporations have benefited from pride financially, but supporting pride has also improved their reputation in the public eye.

Now, these companies have scaled back. Target, a retailer notoriously known for their interesting pride collection, moved displays from the front to the back of stores, and removed some of its merchandise. This trend alarms me, and it should

alarm you too.

The LGBTQ+ community has made great strides in social acceptance over the last century. Some of this acceptance can be attributed to representation in media, like promotional ads and merchandise. These companies are now going backwards in fear of losing profit. If this trend continues, I fear this representation will fade.

It's hypocritical to only support pride when it's convenient. As these corporations move backwards, so could we.

My coworkers and friends are upset by the

lack of pride shown in our store this year. While at work this weekend, I served several people who were going to and coming back from the pride parade downtown. During this shift, I couldn't help but feel disappointed that the corporation I work for is not showing up for its customers or employees.

No matter how many rainbow cups these retailers have sold, their actions speak louder than their merchandise. Pride should not be a financial endeavor.

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## The Student First Act has good intentions, but bad results

The SFA has its pros for private schools and cons for public schools.



Aaron El-Kerdani  
Opinions Columnist

Good ideas hinge on execution, not concept.

On January 24, 2023, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed House File 68 into law. HF 68 is also known as the Student First Act (SFA), the purpose of this bill is to allow Iowa residents from any zip-

code and income to be able to send their children to attend private schools over public schools. However, this new initiative will end up taking potentially millions of dollars from public schools over time.

The bill works as follows: If an Iowan parent from any zip-code or location decides to send their child to private school, the state will now assist them with tuition dollars that would have normally gone into the public school system. The bill now allots about \$7,598 of tuition per

student to attending private school.

The main detriment of this bill is that instead of using money slotted for public school funding, it goes toward private school funding. This means that as more students switch to private schools, it will create more losses in revenue for public schools. This gutting of funds, in turn, can leave irreparable consequences for public education.

Public feedback on this bill has revealed that it is massively unpopular to

most of the state. Iowa's News Now reported that a week before Reynolds signed the bill into law, 73 percent of Iowans were opposed to the bill.

The negative effects of this bill are being felt by public school teachers and students alike, such as Principal Kristin Cannon, the head of Ernest Horn Elementary School. She said she has felt and seen the negative impacts of the bill in her school.

"It has a big impact, because it can end up affecting the amount of money

that our district receives, and that impacts students and what resources we can provide for students," Cannon said. "That is a loss of revenue, which means there would be a loss of resources that includes staffing, that includes programs, that includes technology, bus-sing, safety; there's a lot of things that will be impacted from that."

Insufficient public school funding often results in faculty and teachers being laid off. Members from the Iowa City Com-

munity School District have expressed concern over the SFA, as without those additional funds, rural and urban schools may have to face closure or elimination.

While the bill gives parents a chance to send their children to their choice of school, it will ultimately place financial hardships on the public schools of the state.

This bill was a good idea, but let's keep a close eye on the consequences.

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# Vendors share what pride means to them

Vendors advocated for suicide prevention, transgender rights, and more during Iowa City Pride 2023.

Zhenya Loughney  
Arts Reporter

Celebrating pride is an important way many LGBTQ+ individuals and allies display their identities in support of one another in their shared communities. Pride is a safe space for all types of individuals to freely express themselves. This year's Iowa City Pride Festival was exactly that and more.

Iowa City Pride was held in downtown Iowa City on June 17, stretching from Johnson to Clinton Street.

Vendors, performances, information centers, and activities lined the streets for attendees to enjoy.

"Pride started out as a riot and a march against oppression," said Jaye Wilson, an Iowa City Pride attendee. "I saw a lot of that spirit today in the parade and in the community. That is inspiring to me, because it's important, especially with the political climate these days, as our rights are being taken away, that we harness that energy and it's amazing to see such a turnout."

The Iowa City Pride parade began at 12 p.m. Notable parade participants included the Capitol City Roller Derby skating down the street; members from the Iowa City Public Library chanting "Censorship has got to go"; members of Vegans for Life with signs reading "Nothing humane happens in the slaughterhouse"; as well as Mr. and Mrs. Iowa City waving from a sports car. There were 55 additional organizations marching.

The performances at the pride festival showcased

and represented many types of genres and genders. Local singer-songwriter Mars Hojilla opened after the parade ended with two songs surrounding his trans identity.

Emily Silliman, an Iowa Democrats volunteer urging attendees to register to vote, spoke about why pride is a special place for her and her family.

"I'm a lifelong Democrat. People should be who they want to be. My daughter identifies as queer, and it wouldn't matter either way. We [Iowa Democrats]

just want to show our support and cry and celebrate everybody and be part of the fun," Silliman said.

The focus for several vendors this year was on mental health, suicide prevention, and providing services for transgender youth.

"We want everybody to feel welcome," said Abbey Ferenzi, executive director of GuideLink Center in Iowa City. "We also know that individuals who are struggling with a crisis or stress or anything, they want to know that somebody's going to help them that is willing to be supportive and to listen to them, passing [no] judgement, and to just be there for them."

Ferenzi spoke about the importance of organizations like their own at events like Iowa City Pride.

"We're here today, not only representing how important mental health and substance use services are, but also wanting to make sure that everyone is part of the Pride festival and part of the community that we share," Ferenzi said.

Ryan Dickson, director of the crisis helpline at Community Crisis Services (CCS) said that on Monday, June 19, CCS implemented a brand new LGBTQ+ youth-specific hotline in collaboration with 988 for queer kids in Iowa City to feel better supported.

"Everyone is deserving of respect and love, no matter their background

or their walk of life. And that's what we represent. We recognize that things are especially difficult for members of the LGBTQ+ population," Dixon said. "We want to come out and show people that they are deserving of love and respect and we're here to help do whatever they need."

United Action for Youth, a Johnson County non-profit providing programming for LGBTQ+ youth was represented by Tim Grady, a mental health counselor, who spoke on why their organization is instrumental for Johnson County youth.

"Young people here are feeling the pain from state-level laws involving health care for trans people and resources at school and everything else," Grady said. "We need young people to know that not every adult is letting them down and that some of us have their back and then we will always be there to support them. And what better way to do a thing to enjoy ourselves together over the weekend."

Iowa City Pride 2023 was a place where any individual could freely and safely strut as who they are. The community displayed a warm sense of togetherness that will continue to thrive throughout pride month and the rest of the year.

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Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City residents gather during the 2023 Pride Parade & Festival in downtown Iowa City on June 17.



# Behind the Scenes of Iowa City Pride 2023

As pride month continues across the nation, organizations in Iowa City create their own joy in the community.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Butterfly kites are seen during the 2023 Pride Parade & Festival in downtown Iowa City on June 17.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City residents walk the parade route during the 2023 Pride Parade & Festival in downtown Iowa City on June 17.

## Emma Gaughan Arts Reporter

Full of joy and rainbow flags, celebrations of queer pride have long been celebrated through the month of June; even if it was only nationally designated as “LGBTQ+ Pride” in 2021. There are numerous ways that one can celebrate pride month: going to a parade, watching a drag show, or any of the many other events that occur throughout the month. Many of these events are large-scale and require work and organization to be successful.

Iowa City Pride is the organization that puts on the Iowa City pride festival every year, but they are responsible for more than just the festival. Iowa City Pride was formally founded

in 1970 by a group of students as a reaction to what they saw happening across the country. Now, Iowa City Pride allows the community to come together for many events throughout the year, not just during pride month.

Nighttime Mayor for the Iowa City Downtown District and Iowa City Pride Board President Joe Reilly shared that, especially regarding the festival, making sure there is enough space is incredibly important. There needs to be enough space for vendors, performers, and attendees, as well as keeping the fire lanes open. Reilly also added that the organization also did not want to have too much space, and block off city streets that they will not end up needing.

“Sometimes you really

need to check yourself as an event producer because you’re impacting other people’s business and how people can access downtown,” Reilly said. “So really ask yourself, ‘Is this street closure necessary? Do I need this block?’”

Iowa City Pride partners with multiple organizations including FilmScene and the Englert Theater to hold events throughout the month. There are many ways for the community to get involved, and Iowa City Pride is always looking for volunteers to help set up events.

This year’s theme for the pride festival was “Stronger Together,” a message that speaks to the love and power of community. In light of recent legislation and attacks

on the LGBTQ+ community, especially the transgender community, Iowa City Pride wanted to spread a message that each member of the community is valued and important.

“What we realized over this last year is I think we kind of fell asleep at the wheel and thought we had everything figured out and nothing could go wrong,” Reilly said. “And then, all of a sudden, it kind of swings back the other way and you realize you need all these people in our community.”

Reilly shared that protesters are common at the pride festival and other events, but that it is best to ignore them to avoid escalating the situation. Other pride events also experience protesters, including “drag sto-

rytime” hosted by the Iowa City Public Library.

“We were really surprised that we had maybe about 20 adults there without children who were there in protestation of their protesting the event, and we really hadn’t planned for anything like that to happen,” said Mari Redington, the children’s services assistant at Iowa City Public Library, about a drag story time they hosted last year. This year, they made sure to plan for it.

This pride month, drag storytime took place at an event called “Pride at the Pool” at Upper City Park Pool on June 16, and Redington wanted to make sure that they could safely hold this event while avoiding disruptions from protesters. The main goal was to make sure

that eventgoers felt safe, Redington said.

Aside from planning for protestors, a lot more goes into planning a drag storytime. Redington shared that her main goal when planning any storytime is to spread literacy and diversity, which she feels makes drag story times a great event.

“It’s always a very joyful storytime. We do a lot of dancing and read some really great books,” Redington said. “There are some awesome books out there that show LGBTQ+ families or recognize the huge strides in social justice that the Pride festival is all about promoting. And we have a really fun book about drag queens and what they are all about.”

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## The Annual 4th of July LINCOLN HIGHWAY NITTY GRITTY Antique Show

Surrounded by vintage, antique, specialty shops and cafes, this open-air show is located on the old historic Lincoln Highway in "Uptown" Mount Vernon, IA. Vendors will be open on July 4th from 7 am to 4 pm. All booths are on paved surfaces. Come explore Mount Vernon, IA on the 4th!



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Find us on Facebook at Lincoln Highway Nitty Gritty and at [www.visitmvl.com/nittygritty](http://www.visitmvl.com/nittygritty) for more information.



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1	5	3	4	6	7	9	2	8



# WEEKEND EVENTS

JUNE 23rd



Kid Logic

Ped Mall Stage  
6:30 PM



JUNE 24th



Marc Jansen & the Locals  
@ Northside Market Place

6:30 PM



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# Enduring trust, enduring relationships

New Iowa women's basketball Director of Player Development Tania Davis reflects on her journey from former Hawkeye point guard to administrative position.



David Harmantas/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Tania Davis #11 dribbles into the lane during a women's basketball game against Iowa State University at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 73-70.

**Matt McGowan**  
Sports Reporter

Former Iowa women's basketball player Tania Davis will never forget the words from her then-teammate Makenzie Meyer during the 2017-18 season.

"You definitely need to think about coaching because you're really good at it," Meyer told her.

Such simple advice clearly had an effect on Davis, who graduated from the University of Iowa in 2019 and became a graduate assistant at Clemson University.

After her time with the Clemson Tigers, Davis was

named an assistant coach for the University of Nebraska — Omaha in 2021, which she called home for two years and included a trip to the Summit League Championship this past season.

Last month, Iowa women's basketball announced Davis as its new Director of Player Development.

The former point guard returns to Iowa City, no longer guiding the offense on the court but instead helping players become the best versions of themselves through relationships built on trust.

Coaching and administration weren't initial-

ly expectations for Davis, who arrived at Iowa as a prized recruit out of Flint, Michigan. Davis was the all-time leader in points and assists at Goodrich High School and continued such production with the Hawkeyes, racking up 111 assists in 2015-16 and earning a spot on the Big Ten All-Freshman Team.

"I felt like after coming to college, I always wanted to play, whether that was in the WNBA, whether that was overseas, but I definitely always wanted to play professionally," Davis said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan*. "The injuries were just always a

setback for me."

After her stellar first-year campaign with the Hawkeyes, Davis started 23 games her sophomore season before being sidelined from a right ACL tear. In a game against Northern Iowa her junior season, Davis tore her left ACL, limiting her to just 12 contests.

"After the first ACL, you know, I always kept hope alive," Davis said. "And then the second ACL, it just became like, 'I still want to play, don't get me wrong, you know, but as long as I'm surrounded and in touch with the game of basketball, I'll still be good.'"

During her time away from the court her junior season, Davis was a frequent visitor to the offices of head coach Lisa Bluder and assistant coach Jenni Fitzgerald. There, she learned the intricacies of the Hawkeye offense and Bluder's in-game situation strategies and relayed this information to her teammates in the locker room.

Davis' adjustment from player to coach that season was not lost on Meyer or the Hawkeye staff, who encouraged her to continue down the coaching path.

After making a quick connection with fellow Flint native and then-Clemson assistant coach Shimmy Gray-Miller, Davis wound up donning the Tiger Or-

ange, pursuing a master's degree in athletic leadership while on the women's basketball staff as a graduate assistant.

Even though Davis said she provided some input during staff meetings, her role with Clemson was more confined to background work.

After being hired at Omaha, Davis said she was no longer at "the bottom of the totem pole," but rather had an upfront role in scouting and recruiting, not to mention having to make tough choices regarding playing time.

"[My time at Omaha] taught me a lot — how to manage a team, different emotions, you know, making the right decisions for the team," Davis said. "You know, the decision may not be the most popular decision or anything like that. But if it helps the benefit of the team, then that's what you have to do."

Aside from imparting her own knowledge of the game to her players, Davis learned to also take input from athletes. One of the Hawkeye athletes Davis will direct will be graduate student and guard Kate Martin, who was teammates with Davis during the 2018-19 season. The pair stayed in contact after Davis graduated.

Another familiar face for Davis at Iowa will be

Bluder, whom Davis still calls "Coach Bluder" out of habit, but also whom Davis labels as more of a listener than a talker.

"Making the transition is not as hard as I figured it would have been just because, as I said, that trust factor is there," Davis said. "And so, if I open my mouth and I speak, whether it's during a practice, during a meeting, or anything, she's going to listen, trust, and hear me out just because she knows that I understand the game of basketball."

Whether it's with people such as Bluder or Martin, Davis wants to continue building relationships with her players that extend beyond the court and graduation.

"Just a relationship that's just based off of, first and foremost, trust," Davis said. "For me, the relationship that I want to build is that lifelong relationship that any of my players can call me any time of the day, now or later on in life. We just talk just because they know that I genuinely care about them off the court way more than I care about them as a player on the court ... Seeing them walk across the stage, get degrees, start new businesses, and start families, that's something I genuinely care about."

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# Offseason inquiries

The Hawkeyes are only losing two players because of eligibility, but there are other key players that could test their luck in the MLB Draft.

**Jake Olson**

Sports Reporter

While the College World Series is starting to heat up in Omaha, it is officially the off season for Iowa baseball.

After one of the best years in program history, tying the 1981 squad for most single-season wins with 44, the Hawkeyes have the potential to have a similar season in 2024.

In order for head coach Rick Heller's squad to have similar success, there are some questions that need to be answered this offseason.

## Who will Iowa lose?

The Hawkeyes are only losing two players because of eligibility: relief pitcher Jared Simpson and first baseman Brennan Dorighi.

While that may not seem like a lot, Iowa has a handful of key players that could leave the program and test their luck in the MLB Draft.

The obvious player that comes to mind is designated hitter Keaton Anthony. Because of the gambling investigation going on at both the University of Iowa and Iowa State, Anthony didn't play the final 17 games of the season for the Hawkeyes.

Nonetheless, the redshirt sophomore led the team in batting average, doubles, slugging, and on-base percentage. His decision will

drastically impact the teams' success in the future.

Right-handed pitcher Ty Langenberg also has a big decision to make. The junior from Urbandale, Iowa, is eligible for the draft and has shown that he has what it takes to be picked up by an MLB organization.

After a slow start to the season, Langenberg moved to the back of the rotation behind Marcus Morgan and Brody Brecht and thrived in the Sunday role.

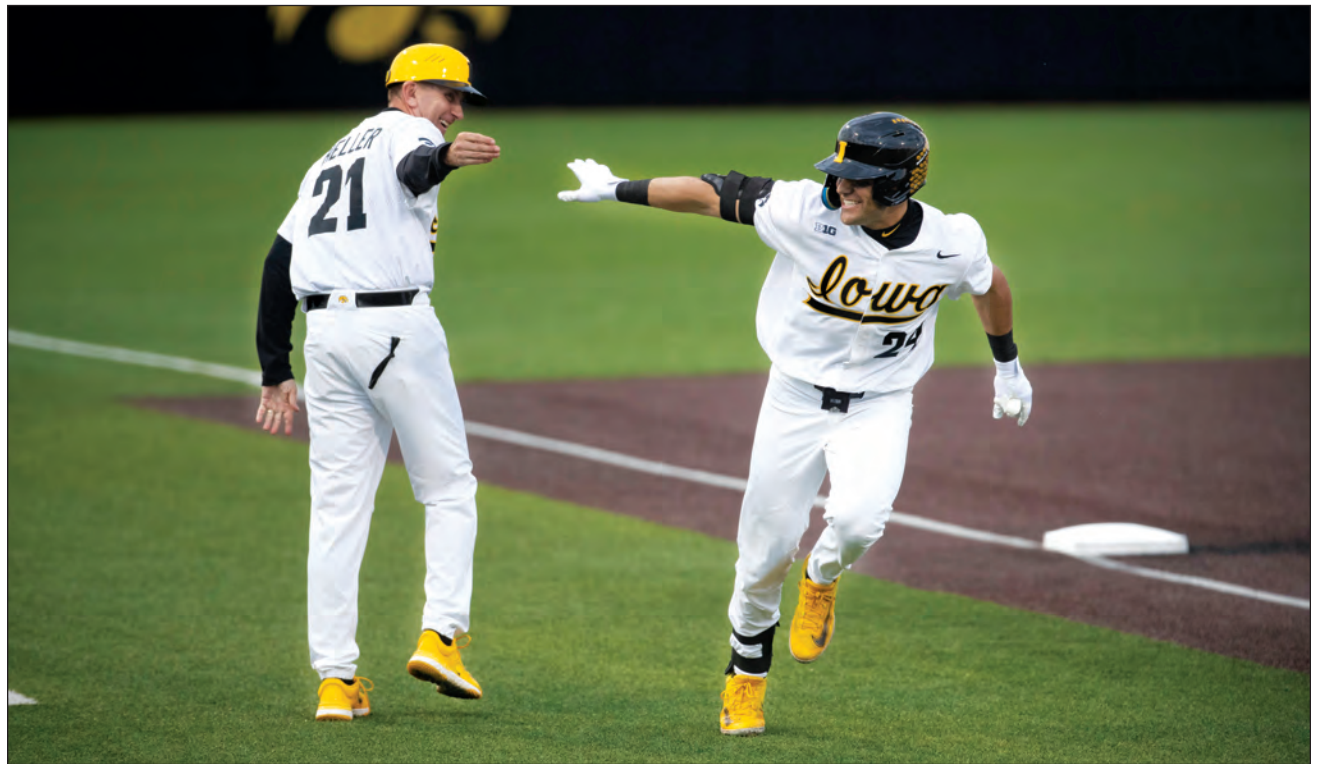
In his last nine starts, Langenberg had an earned run average of just over four while striking out 45 batters in 47 innings.

## What transfers will impact the Hawkeyes in 2024?

Iowa baseball has had a knack for utilizing the transfer portal in recent seasons.

Last year, the Hawkeyes picked up Dorighi from Wofford College, along with sophomores Jack Whitlock and Raider Tello from Hutchinson Community College and Pasadena City College, respectively. All three players were consistently in the starting lineup and were key pieces to this year's success.

For the UI to see similar success in 2024, the Hawkeyes will have to continue their search in the



Darren Chen/The Daily Iowan

Iowa first basemen Brennan Dorighi high-fives head coach Rick Heller after hitting a home run during a baseball game between Iowa and Bradley at Duane Banks Field on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The Iowa Hawkeyes defeated the Bradley Braves, 6-1. Dorighi recorded two hits in five at-bats.

transfer portal.

The Hawkeyes have already landed two transfers this offseason — left-handed pitcher Brent Hogue from Oklahoma State University and right-handed pitcher Reece Beuter from Dallas Baptist University.

Both pitchers have ties to Iowa. Hogue is a Sioux City native and graduated from Bishop Heelan Catholic High School. Beuter, on the other hand, is from Cedar Falls and attended Dike-New Hartford High School.

While the Hawkeyes expect to bolster their lineup even further through transfers, adding two pitchers to the staff is a great start.

## How good can the starting rotation be?

A big reason for the Hawkeye's success last season was the depth of the starting rotation.

Iowa had three solid arms in Morgan, Brecht, and Langenberg that filled the weekend rotation. The three com-

bined for a 3.87 ERA while eating up over 220 innings.

While Morgan and Brecht are returning to Iowa next season, the potential leave of Langenberg leaves an opening for a third arm to step in.

Potential candidates for the final spot are freshman Cade Obermueller and redshirt sophomore Zach Voelker.

Obermueller finished the season with a 4.91 ERA in 22 innings pitched but showed flashes of potential, including four scoreless innings

against Maryland on April 2.

Voelker ended his 2023 campaign with a 6.18 ERA with 43 and two-thirds innings pitched — but those numbers don't tell the whole story.

Voelker had three consecutive appearances, allowing only one run in four-plus innings of work.

Both Obermueller and Voelker have the potential to go five-plus innings for the Hawkeyes.

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