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The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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Iowa coaching staff for women's sports make a fraction of their peers' salaries. *The Daily Iowan* investigated what factors play into that dramatic gap.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Managing Digital Editor
jami-martin-trainor@uiowa.edu

Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor
colin-votzmeyer@uiowa.edu

When Caitlin Clark stepped onto the court against Michigan a month ago, her fans, her coaches, and her fellow players all knew she was there to make history. It took her just over two minutes.



Clark

Her eyes focused up and ahead, the defender too far away to stop her. Just minutes into Iowa's contest against Michigan on Feb. 15, Clark had a clear shot at a very deep three. With those points, Clark passed Kelsey Plum — former University of Washington star guard who now plays for the

Las Vegas Aces — to become the NCAA Division I women's basketball all-time leading scorer.

That singular accomplishment has become more than just a number in a record book. The basketball phenom that is Clark — not single-handedly, she'd be sure to tell you — triggered a tsunami of fandom that stretches beyond the confines of Carver-Hawkeye Arena and into the world at large.

As her story progressed over the last four years, and as she ticked off one record after the next, the fandom expanded in both size and shape: Girls of all ages stare wide-eyed when she walks past them into the tunnel after the game. Boys wear the number 22 emblazoned on their t-shirts. Fans of all ages at visiting arenas push and shove to get a closer look at her when she enters the court to practice sinking 3-pointers.

Yet the big looming question that many are asking but can't quite determine: Will support for women's basketball continue once Clark departs?

Clark declared for the 2024 WNBA Draft in February before senior night, making this season her last with the Hawkeyes. Are we witness to a temporary Caitlin Clark era in the universe? Will future generations of women hoopers sustain these kinds of crowds?

And if they will, how will the money flow? As a result of the last two years with Clark at the helm of the Iowa women's basketball program, Hawkeye games have increasingly sold out arenas across the country, and ticket prices can reach into the thousands of dollars.

Lisa Bluder, who has been coaching at Iowa since 2000, receives an annual base pay of \$1 million. That includes a \$200,000 raise she earned within the past year after the team's historic run to the NCAA championship game — the first time in history the Hawkeyes had made it to the final game of the tournament.

INVESTING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

Her male counterpart fares much better. Fran McCaffery, the Iowa men's basketball coach since 2010, receives a base pay nearly double that what Bluder makes.

The history of the game being played on

TV contracts to ticket sales, there's no single equation that can compute the perfect salary for a coach.

In following the money and cultural shift that sports have seen over the past several

than originally anticipated. The sport was anticipated to generate \$350,000. It grossed \$1.2 million.

Still, the Iowa men's basketball team, estimating \$3.2 million in revenue, raked in \$3.5 million during the same time frame — nearly three times that of the women's program despite the men's team losing in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Two words: media contracts.

During Bluder's tenure, she has coached the team to 17 NCAA tournament runs, four Sweet 16 games, two Elite Eights, and one Final Four. Women's basketball games at Carver-Hawkeye Arena were sold out all season this year, which is a first for the program.

McCaffery has coached for 13 years and succeeded in seven NCAA tournament bids — but has only taken his team to round two before elimination. This year the team didn't qualify for the NCAA tournament, ending its season with a loss in the second round of the NIT — a smaller postseason tournament hosting teams that did not win enough quality games during the season to receive a berth in the NCAA tournament.

This season, as of February, the men's team is averaging just 9,712 people in attendance at home games and has struggled all year to get students into seats. Even in the middle of an Iowa blizzard, over 13,000 people showed up to watch the women's team in January.

While this is the first season the women's basketball team has averaged more in attendance than the men's, the numbers indicate a trend toward greater support for and success of the sport in Iowa.

Scott Dochterman has been covering Iowa basketball for years with *The Athletic*, and has seen these changes firsthand.

"It's surging in a way that's unrecognizable, I would say, just from covering this industry since the later part of the last decade," Dochterman said. "I would have never guessed this."

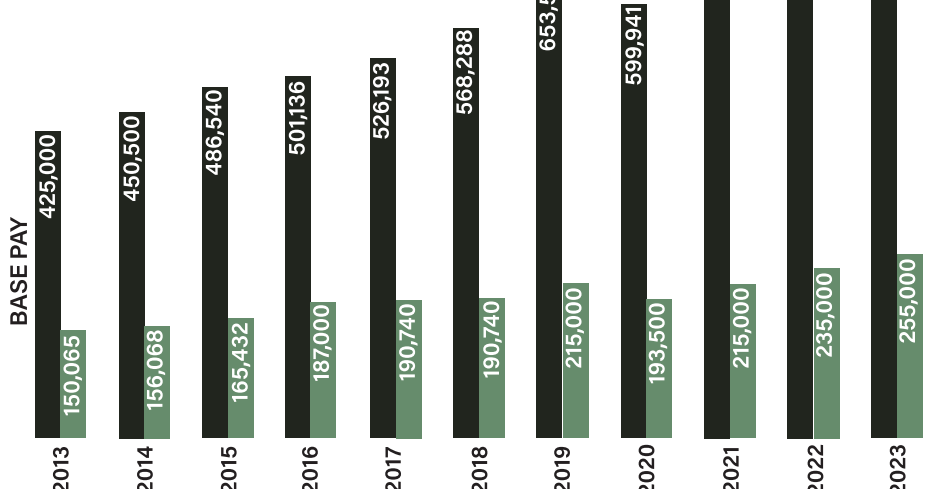
TV contracts and lucrative deals

Bluder's salary doesn't keep pace with the successes of the program she leads, and that's attributable — in part — to differing program revenue fueled by national broadcast deals that still under-recognize women's basketball.

Brandee Britt, the social media coordi-

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BASE PAY SINCE 2013

Women's basketball head coach Lisa Bluder and associate head coach Jan Jensen's base pay steadily increased since 2013. However, an outlier within the data was the 2019-20 season where they, along with other coaching staff, saw a decrease in base pay because of COVID-19.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

campuses across the nation has dictated not only the comparative popularity between men's and women's basketball, but also the money flow into the various teams.

An abundance of factors goes into the process of deciding a coach's paycheck. From

years, *The Daily Iowan* began an investigation to reveal why this wage difference exists — and why it might not be right.

Pay for Iowa's coaching staff

The audience for all women's sports at Iowa has been climbing over the past few years. Fans are showing up in greater numbers, media outlets are investing more by sending reporters to cover sports in Iowa City, and these teams are winning.

However, coaches at Iowa for women's sports make considerably less than their counterparts in every respective sport.

Bluder's current contract, for example, sets her guaranteed pay at \$1.4 million, while McCaffery's guaranteed pay is \$3.3 million, according to contracts obtained by the *DI*. Before Iowa's NCAA tournament success last year, Bluder's base salary was \$838,000. The Iowa coach broke \$500,000 for base pay 15 years into her tenure at Iowa.

Following the money trail is hardly an easy process given the history of limited funds and attention women's basketball — and women's sports in general — have attracted. In short, data follows popularity, and women's athletics didn't have that.

The *DI* editorial team recognizes women's sports have historically brought in only a fraction of the total dollar amount brought in by the men's teams. Fans were not lining up to watch women's basketball hours before tipoff until Clark came to town.

And indeed, the young athlete catapulted the program into an entirely new paradigm. According to *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Iowa Athletics captured more revenue from women's basketball in the 2023 fiscal year

INSIDE

IOWA CITY MOURNS MUSIC PROGRAMMER

By many accounts, Chris Wiersema, a prolific supporter and promoter of all things avant-garde, was responsible for the acclaimed live music hub that is Iowa City.

PAGE 1C

FAMILIAR FOE: SWEET 16-BOUND

The Iowa women's basketball team keeps on dancing, advancing to the Sweet 16 of the 2024 NCAA Tournament to face Colorado.

PAGE 1B

ABOVE THE FOLD & PRESS BOX BANTER

Listen to the latest episodes of *The Daily Iowan's* two podcasts where reporters cover the latest news and talk sports at dailyiowan.com.

DAILYIOWAN.COM

INVESTING from IA

nator for the Iowa women's basketball team, says the bulk of revenue in collegiate athletics is generated from the TV contracts held with broadcast networks. Records requested from the Iowa Office of Transparency from fiscal 2023 show that nearly \$50 million in revenue comes from media deals, making up a good portion of the total operating revenue.

According to ESPN, a 2021 report found that women's basketball in total could be worth around \$100 million, but previous TV contracts valued women's basketball rights at a fraction of that amount. This report was published before the explosive growth seen in 2022 TV viewership rates.

In the Big Ten, men's basketball and football each have their own respective TV contracts, while women's basketball is lumped in with the rest of the collegiate sports. Britt said over the past several years, athletic leaders across the Big Ten have been advocating for the separation of women's basketball into its own contract, to no avail.

Even if Bluder and her team sparked a national wave of attention for the sport, women's basketball is only allotted an amount of money outlined by the TV deal, which is then further divided into the different schools included in the contract. In fiscal 2024, the Iowa women's basketball revenue from media rights hovered around \$100,000, compared to the \$5 million from the men's basketball media contracts.

If the women's basketball media contract was structured like the men's basketball media contract, the end number would be far higher.

"If you take women's basketball out of there and sell it for what it should be — because 9.3 million people, or a peak of 12 million people, watch the national championship game — that would be significantly more money," Britt said.

At the beginning of this year, The Athletic reported the NCAA inked a "lucrative" eight-year deal with ESPN worth \$115 million per year for 40 annual college sports championships, including the NCAA women's basketball tournament.

While the exact details of the contract are not public information, the new contract values collegiate national women's basketball at about \$65 million per year. This is much closer to the estimated, actual value of women's basketball.

Anne Costabile, the Chicago Sky beat reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, said there is an enormous difference in treatment between men's and women's athletics, explaining the stark pay gap seen in these TV contracts.

"Women have had to build toward relevancy, and men just get an opportunity to prove that they're relevant," Costabile said. "Men have been allowed to try and fail, and women have only been given opportunities when there's a proven success rate ... and this TV deal is an example of that."

Although the NCAA women's basketball deal can be seen as progress toward equity, the Associated Press found that the women's basketball community wants the sport to have its own deal, like the men's side does, rather than being lumped with several other sports.

Despite the 10 million people who tuned into last year's women's championship game between Iowa and LSU, this wave of popularity and money that follows is new.

Historically, the NCAA has lost money by putting on the women's basketball tournament. According to the Associated Press, the deal will allow the NCAA to cover its deficit from the women's basketball tournament, which totals \$2.8 million as of 2019.

The new contract makes it easier for university athletic directors to put money into women's sports simply because it's generating more money, according to the Associated Press.

There are, however, programs that were making that investment before this updated TV contract.

LSU women's basketball head coach Kim Mulkey currently receives a base salary of over \$3 million, making her the highest-paid collegiate women's basketball coach in the nation. According to reporting from *USA Today*, the LSU women's basketball department is operating with a significant deficit. However, the LSU Athletic Director Scott Woodward said this money being poured into the program is an investment for the future.

"I'm looking at it for the greater good — not just for women's sports but for young girls in this community and people who aspire to come to this university and for making people feel great in this state," the LSU athletic director said in the *USA Today* article.

Revenue and popularity

For years, the public didn't question lower pay for women's sports. In years past, only a small percentage of seats were filled at Carver, and giant black curtains were used to block off sections and create the illusion of a packed crowd.

Until recently, attendance for any other women's sport was marginal.

Costabile attributed the discrepancy in fan attention to a lack of promotion and subsequent



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark signs autographs after an NCAA Tournament Second Round game between No. 1 Iowa and No. 8 West Virginia at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on March 25. The Hawkeyes defeated the Mountaineers, 64-54.

public visibility. She believes that's changed because of the attention this Iowa women's basketball team has brought upon itself in recent years.

"Now the change that's going on with Iowa women's basketball is a credit to the visibility that Caitlin's bringing about," Costabile said. "But to go even farther back, it's a credit to the decades of work that Lisa Bluder has done building that program — players that have come through her program have made it relevant."

While women's sports are undoubtedly reaching a larger audience in Iowa today, the revenue discrepancy is still present. As it stands, women's sports at Iowa have lower operating revenues than men's teams, according to the fiscal 2023 financing report for Iowa.

The Iowa Office of Transparency confirmed women's basketball generates less money than its counterpart, drawing in around \$4 million compared to the men's approximate \$15 million in fiscal 2023.

The reasoning for this, however, could point to more systemic inequalities within athletics as a whole.

Costabile believes it starts with the functioning of American society, in which sexism and misogyny are "ingrained -isms."

"Women have to make up such a gap [of] the distance between being on an equal playing field, but while they're trying to make that up, they're also combating these conditionings that the average American has," she said. "In my opinion, it's a

"Men have been allowed to try and fail, and women have only been given opportunities when there's a proven success rate."

Anne Costabile

Chicago Sky beat reporter, *Chicago Sun-Times*

lot of conditioning that has to be broken. And the only way that that happens is honestly through discussion. I don't know that we all are having those discussions enough."

Part of the issue, Costabile argues, goes beyond the head start men's sports got because women weren't allowed to play college sports until much later. Iowa's women's basketball program started in 1974, while the men's team was solidified as a varsity sport in 1901.

She notes that women's sports operated in comparison to men's, and initially attempted to replicate men's style of basketball to bring those fans over to women's basketball.

"Women's sports were predicated on the fact that their success was going to be found in mirroring men and reaching the heights that men reached," Costabile said. "You can't try to make women's athletes male athletes."

If women's sports are compared to men's — two different styles of sports — some audiences can find them to be less entertaining, thus turning those viewers away. Costabile argues the women's game needs to be marketed as a different brand of basketball, and Clark, she says, is a perfect example.

"The way that people show up to see Caitlin is breaking those things down," Costabile said. "People are showing up to see her because she's entertaining, and she's a thrilling athlete to watch."

Costabile said the only comparisons that should occur are investment and pay discrepancies. "We should compare the things that contribute to this continued inequality between men and women," she said. "Comparing a game is not the same as comparing ingrained sexism."

The media plays an enormous role in the money trail within women's sports, especially since the dawn of NIL deals in college athletics.

An ESPN investigation in February 2023 into inequity in college sports posts on X, formerly known as Twitter, showed 84 percent of Power

5 programs referenced men's sports more than women's.

ESPN noted this differing representation could lead to Title IX violations and lawsuits in addition to potential economic ramifications such as less money for sponsorships and endorsements due to the reduced attention.

In a review of 3,200 posts per athletic department account over the span of five years until February of 2023, ESPN found that "@TheIowaHawkeyes" mentioned men in 54.5 percent of the posts.

Women's teams were mentioned 45.5 percent of the time, but the women's basketball team was mentioned slightly more than 50 percent of the time over the men's team in the regular season.

Clark is an outlier in this data set, making her way to the bottom of the 20 most frequently mentioned athletes in all Power 5 schools. She is one of seven women on this list, skewing Iowa's data closer to equitable with a single player.

As Clark's name continued to become more recognizable during her junior year last season, the Iowa athletics account continued to post about her and her many accomplishments. This social media promotion from an account with almost 300,000 followers didn't exclusively lead to Clark's national recognition, but it certainly helped in establishing a household name.

Britt, Iowa women's basketball social media coordinator, said since Clark and the team's successful run in the 2023 NCAA tournament, the university's social media team posts Clark more frequently, and she's appearing in far more promotional content for the university.

Britt, who has been with the team since 2016, said Hawkeye Sports Properties — an outside Learfield marketing agency that manages the Hawkeye brand — told her it was hard to sell women's sports.

Learfield directly contributes to certain coaches' guaranteed compensation, including an additional \$150,000 to McCaffery, according to his most recent contract. Learfield is not referenced in Bluder's contract pertaining to guaranteed compensation.

"A few years ago, they told me they had trouble selling women's basketball," Britt said. "I kept challenging them. There's an audience for this. There's an audience for this because I kept seeing the growth in our accounts."

Britt was right, and the Hawkeyes found that audience during last season's Final Four run.

While the Iowa women's basketball team has had other stars perform well during their tenure and garner national attention — such as center Megan Gustafson, who was the National Player of the Year in 2019 — Clark has taken Iowa to the next level.

"I think what made a difference with Caitlin is her swagger," Britt said, drawing parallels between Clark and NBA great Stephen Curry. "She's like, 'I'm competitive. I'm going to be competitive. I'm not going to hold myself back.' And I think people really hadn't seen that in the women's game."

The idea of "trash talk" and the competitive nature of sports also reared its head during the championship game.

LSU's Angel Reese received both praise and controversy on social media for taunting Clark during the game by waving her hand in front of her face in the "You can't see me" taunt popularized by WWE wrestler John Cena — a gesture Clark had also used to celebrate during the championship run.

In response, Clark had this to say on ESPN: "I think men have always had trash talk ... and I think more and more people, as they turn on the game, they're appreciating it for what it is."

The excitement surrounding women's basketball has exploded this season beyond these individual players.

Ticket prices have followed the rising interest wherever Clark and the Hawkeyes go. FOX College Hoops found the Iowa road game ticket prices going as high as \$1,750 at Ohio State on Jan. 21, \$2,761 at Northwestern on Jan. 31, and \$1,544 at Maryland on Feb. 3.

Courtside tickets on SeatGeek for Iowa's game against Michigan on Feb. 15 — in which Clark made history, passing Plum for the NCAA Division I women's scoring record — were listed at \$4,624.

For the countless fans who don't have the luxury to see the Hawkeyes in person, though, they opt for a TV broadcast, where inequities between men's and women's sports persist with differing TV contracts.

Dochterman, the journalist who has spent years covering the Iowa women's basketball team, said the program-fan relationship is built on perceived personal connections with the entire team.

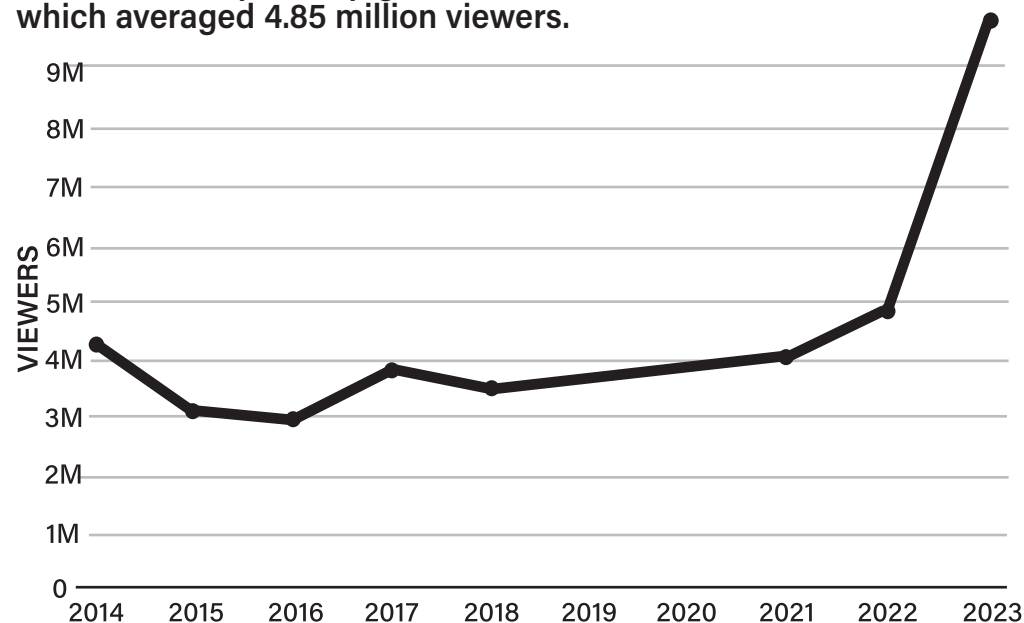
"It's almost like small-town high school basketball at a macro level. It's unusual, but it's organic, and I think that's something. That is why Iowa women's basketball, right now, is personal to people," Dochterman said.

Dochterman said he doesn't think the attention on the women's basketball program will vanish with Clark's move to the WNBA.

"I do think, generally speaking, that the interest is so high and the fan base is so committed to women's basketball, so I do not see a significant drop in ticket sales or interest going into the future," Dochterman said. "There's a brand awareness there from the people who have engaged with them and then also attended those games that they want to continue to support it."



Mulkey



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

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Newsroom

319-335-6030

daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in reporting news. If we've made an error or a report is misleading, let us know about it: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu.

STAFF

Publisher

Jason Brummond
jason-brummond@uiowa.edu
319-335-5788

Executive Editor

Sabine Martin
sabine-martin@uiowa.edu
319-335-6030

Managing Editor

Parker Jones
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, Digital

Jami Martin-Trainor
jami-martin-trainor@uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, Enterprise and Design

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
marandah-mangra-dutcher@uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, Visuals

Ayrton Breckenridge
ayrton-breckenridge@uiowa.edu

Politics Editor

Liam Halawith
liam-halawith@uiowa.edu

News Editors

Isabelle Foland
isabelle-foland@uiowa.edu

Sports Editor

Kenna Roering
mckenna-roering@uiowa.edu

Asst. Sports Editor

Colin Votzmeyer
colin-votzmeyer@uiowa.edu

Arts Editor

Avi Lapchick
olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu

Asst. Arts Editor

Charlie Hickman
charlie-hickman@uiowa.edu

Opinions Editor

Evan Weidl
evan-weidl@uiowa.edu

Visuals Editors

Emily Nyberg
emily-e-nyberg@uiowa.edu

Asst. Digital Editor

Natalie Dunlap
natalie-dunlap@uiowa.edu

DEI Director

Christie Cellman
christie-cellman@uiowa.edu

DITV News Director

Ashley Weil
ashley-weil@uiowa.edu

DITV Asst. News Director

Johnny Valtman
johnny-valtman@uiowa.edu

DITV Sports Director

Michael Merrick
michael-j-merrick@uiowa.edu

DITV Tech Director

Carson Ramirez
carson-ramirez@uiowa.edu

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager

Debra Plath
debra-plath@uiowa.edu
319-335-5786

Advertising Director/Circulation Manager

Julie Krause
julie-krause@uiowa.edu
319-335-5784

Production Manager

Heidi Owen
heidi-owen@uiowa.edu

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Dusty roads take them home

County officials approved funds for dust control programs after citizen concerns about road safety.

Theron Luett
News Reporter
theron-luett@uiowa.edu

Johnson County resident James Shymansky spends hundreds of dollars each year on something that many Iowans living in rural areas face: Dusty roads.

Shymansky said he and his 13 neighbors spent over \$7,000 to put dust control treatments on their shared road. After multiple Johnson County citizens expressed safety concerns about the dust from untreated dirt and gravel roads, the Board of Supervisors approved nearly \$1 million toward dusty road treatments.

The supervisors approved a \$727,670 contract on March 21 to L.L. Pelling Company, Inc. to be used for the 2024 Bituminous Resurfacing Program. The board also awarded a \$333,047 contract to Binns & Stevens for the 2024 Dust Control Safety Program at the same meeting. Linn County's government next door also provides residents with dust control services, including seal coat.

The county secondary roads department requests yearly dust control alleviation on heavily trafficked roads to help control dust. The 2024 Bituminous Resurfacing Program performs maintenance on the county's network of chip seal roads.

Ed Bartels, an assistant county engineer, said Johnson County oversees the maintenance of over 700 roads, all a mixture of gravel, dirt, and pavement.

This maintenance can be time-consuming and expensive but is needed to provide treatment on dangerously dusty roads, Bartels said. Without dust treatment, it can become dangerous for cars due to lack of visibility and bothersome to people living on said roads.

The county has tested several dust treatments but currently utilizes a calcium chloride solution that covers



Ethan McLaughlin | The Daily Iowan

Dust is seen being kicked up from a car driving down a gravel road outside of Solon, Iowa, on March 21.

dirt and gravel roads with chemicals to lessen dust buildup and debris. The county's most successful dirt treatment option has been a chip-seal solution, which is a layer of asphalt that covers the road, Bartels said.

Although these treatments help reduce dust problems, they are expensive. Bartels said the treatments are funded by taxpayers and county-funded sources that largely derive from the sales tax on cars and gas.

Bartels said Johnson County also invests in putting down new rocks on different roads across the county, spending millions each year.

Through public comment at a supervisors meeting, citizens said these dusty roads have become hazardous for young children and bikers who cannot see through the large dust clouds.

Brent Schneider, a new resident of Johnson County, said he invested in chipseal on his property to prevent dust from flying around while his children play outside.

"All I can think of is the land that the kids can run around, enjoying the county life," he said. "That's why it was an easy investment

for us to do the chipseal so that they can run outside and someone can drive by without covering them in dust."

Despite these concerns, Schneider did not want to keep up with the costly maintenance of covering his road each year and asked to partner with the board to provide more dust maintenance.

Eric Postman, another Johnson County resident, said he works for a contracting company and dust problems have prevented them from finding work because people find the dust is inconvenient.

At the board meeting, Postman advised at the board meeting that the county offer more paved roads to give people more options to live in rural areas without dust.

"I've watched just amazing people come into this community and maybe get lucky and find a nice rural spot on hard surface roads that they could build on," Postman said. "There are really few and far between now even when people are still trying to develop land in this area."

Bartels said maintaining over 900 miles of roads can be expensive and difficult to take care of, which is why the

county is not able to provide dust treatment on all roads.

"If we were to try to chipseal all of them, we'd break the bank here," Bartels said. "They have a lot of other priorities they need to take care of, so that's the primary reason a lot of our rock roads are untreated."

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Wetherby Park | 2400 Taylor Drive
Saturday, March 30th, 10:30am

Easter Sunday Worship:
March 31st, 10:45am

845 Pepperwood Lane | Iowa City (Next to IC Post Office)
319.354.3331 | goodnewsiowacity.com

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BIG BUCKS FOR IO

Coaches at Iowa are guaranteed a certain level of compensation, but their total salaries

\$ **LISA BLUDER**

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$1,400,000

Career wins at Iowa:
494 - 249 (.664)

Tenure at Iowa:
— 24 YEARS —

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• All-time winningest coach in program history




\$



\$ **FRAN MCCAFFERY**

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$3,300,000

Career wins at Iowa:
261 - 176 (.597)


Tenure at Iowa:
— 14 YEARS —

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Program's second all-time winningest coach





\$

LARISSA LIBBY



GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$165,000



TYLER STITH



GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$115,000



JEFFREY GARBUTT



GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$120,000



\$ **KIRK FERENTZ**

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$7,000,000

Career wins at Iowa:
208 - 140 (.598)

Tenure at Iowa:
— 26 YEARS —

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• In 2023, Ferentz sat at third place in Big Ten victories




\$

\$ **DAVE DILLARD**

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$165,000

Career wins at Iowa:
98 - 74 - 22 (.505)

Tenure at Iowa:
— 11 YEARS —

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Led team to two Big Ten Tournament Championships




\$

RENEE GILLISPIE



GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$153,000



NATHAN MUNDT

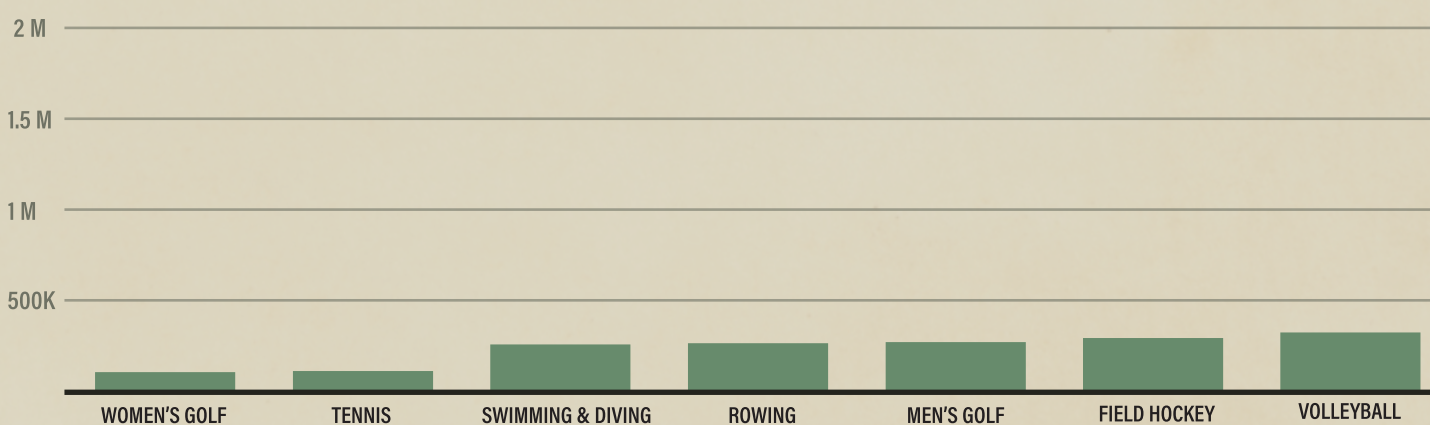


GUARANTEED COMPENSATION:
\$107,500



IOWA ATHLETICS REVENUE FOR FISCAL 2023

When ranking the pay for coaching staff based on total operating revenue, there are a few outliers. Volleyball head coach Jim Barnes is one example; he is the fourth-highest paid coach despite being eighth for revenue. This dataset excludes football, men's basketball, and women's basketball in both coaching pay and revenue.



BIG BUCKS FOR IOWA COACHES

PAGE DESIGN | Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
Managing Editor of Enterprise and Design

DATA COLLECTION | Jami Martin-Trainor
Managing Digital Editor

Coaches at Iowa are guaranteed a certain level of compensation, but their total salaries are determined by a number of factors.



LISA BLUDER

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$1,400,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **494 - 249 (.664)**

Tenure at Iowa: **24 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• All-time winningest coach in program history

FRAN MCCAFFERY

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$3,300,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **261 - 176 (.597)**

Tenure at Iowa: **14 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Program's second all-time winningest coach






RICK HELLER

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$383,000**

Career Wins at Iowa: **320 - 202 (.606)**

Tenure at Iowa: **11 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• 1 of 2 program coaches to take team to NCAA tournament

LISA CELLUCCI

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$172,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **280 - 175 (.615)**

Tenure at Iowa: **26 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Earned back-to-back-to-back Big Ten Coach of the Year honors




LARISSA LIBBY

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$165,000**





KIRK FERENTZ

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$7,000,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **208 - 140 (.598)**

Tenure at Iowa: **26 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• In 2023, Ferentz sat at third place in Big Ten victories




DAVE DILANNI

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$165,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **98 - 74 - 22 (.505)**

Tenure at Iowa: **11 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Led team to two Big Ten Tournament Championships






TOM BRANDS

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$625,000**

Career wins at Iowa: **265 - 25 - 1 (.912)**



Tenure at Iowa: **18 YEARS**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Led team to 4 NCAA and 6 Big Ten team titles

JOEY WOODY

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$250,000**

TYLER STITH

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$115,000**




JIM BARNES

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$225,000**




JEFFREY GARBUTT

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$120,000**




MEGAN MENZEL

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$89,864**




RENEE GILLISPIE

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$153,000**




CLARISSA CHUN

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$135,000**




NATHAN MUNDT

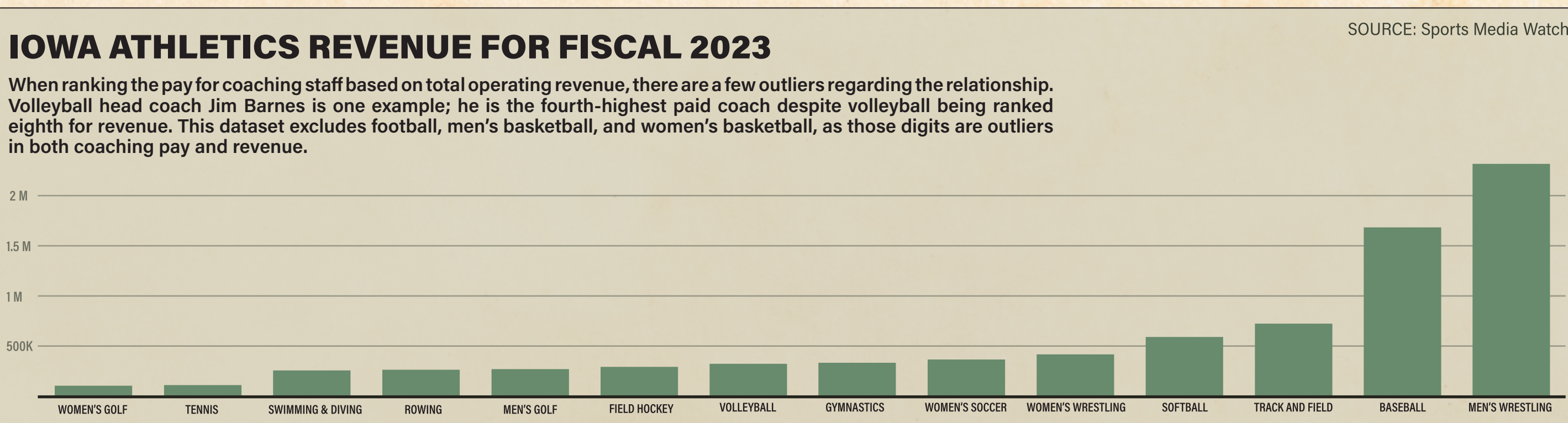
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SASHA SCHMID

GUARANTEED COMPENSATION: **\$135,000**





IOWA COACHES

PAGE DESIGN |
Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
Managing Editor of Enterprise and Design

DATA COLLECTION |
Jami Martin-Trainor
Managing Digital Editor

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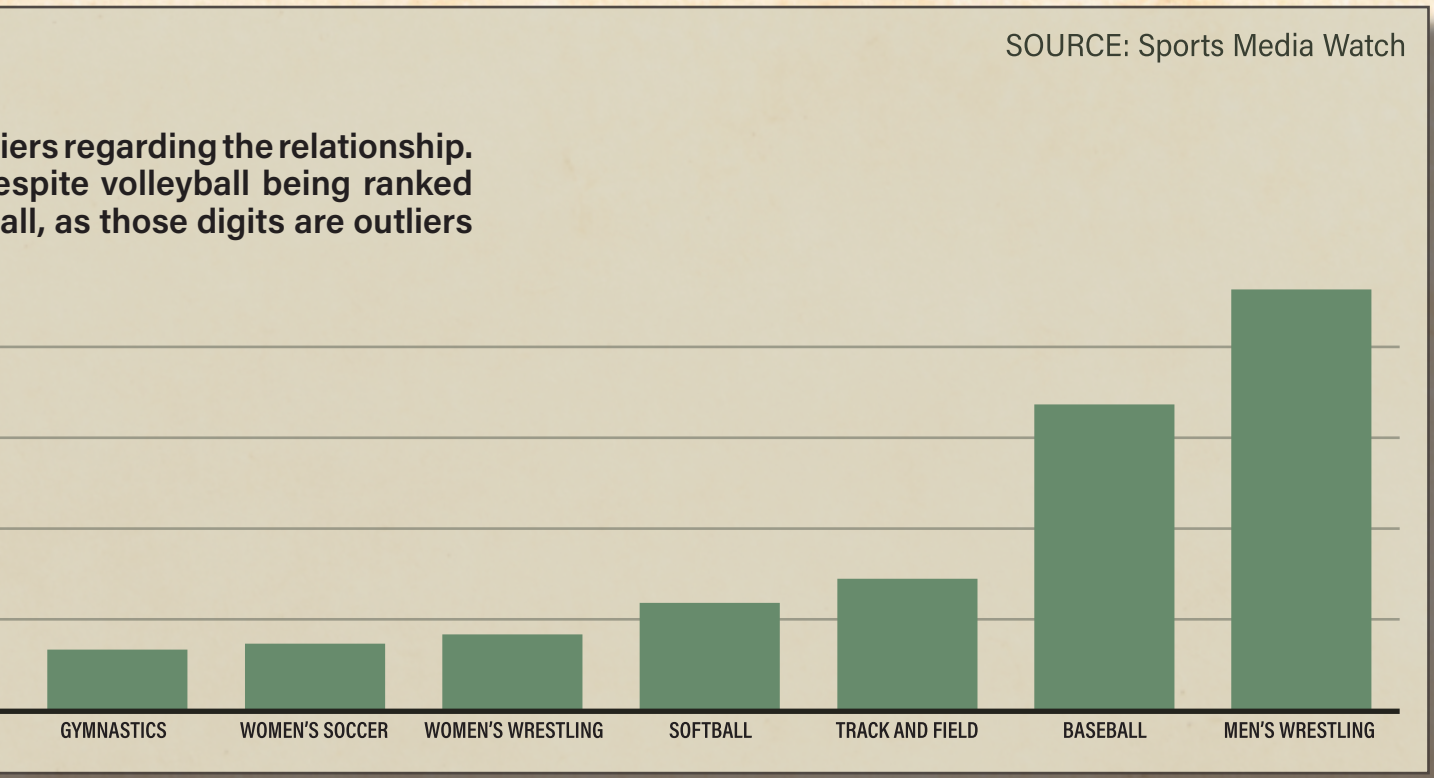
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iers regarding the relationship. Despite volleyball being ranked all, as those digits are outliers

The Daily Iowan

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

DAILYIOWAN.COM

MARCHING FORWARD

IOWA ADVANCES TO
SWEET 16



OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

Iowa rapid weather changes are a dire sign

Early spring may sound like a good thing but proves that we are amid an urgent climate crisis.



Kennedy Lein
Opinions Contributor

Although early signs of spring bring joy to many, they might now be the Earth's urgent cry for help. If these inconsistent and quickly changing temperatures continue, it means extreme weather conditions and events will only become more prevalent.

Seasons are supposed to have a distinct range of temperatures. We Iowans must no longer settle for saying — “Welcome to the Midwest” — when temperatures suddenly go from 73 degrees Fahrenheit and sunny to 30 degrees Fahrenheit and windy, because it isn't just the Midwest anymore — it is everywhere. The record-setting warmth of February is just more proof that we are amid a climate crisis. According to Smithsonian Magazine, each month of 2023 from June to December showed temperatures that were the hottest on record.

The next time you're outside enjoying abnormally nice weather, maybe sitting on your patio indulging in a good book or taking an evening stroll around town, think about how in 2023, the U.S. faced 28 weather and climate disasters that each surpassed \$1 billion in damages, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. The total costs of disasters in the U.S. that year amounted to \$92.9 billion.

This crisis is not only costing us money but lives. Climate change can directly lead

to casualties due to extreme weather conditions like heat waves, storms, and floods. Climate change can also lead to the spread of disease through the disruption of food and water supplies.

If the world continues to heat up, countless people will face consequences. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, or WWF, by 2050, rising sea levels could impact 1 billion people. By 2100, coral reefs will have experienced extreme bleaching and degradation due to rising water temperatures. Ice-free Arctic summers will threaten the lives of millions of animals. We will experience heat waves of extreme temperatures every five years. More than half of existing plant and animal habitats will be lost.

I will admit that I, too, was excited to see the temperatures in the 60s at the end of February, but then reality hit. This isn't normal, and it shouldn't be the “new” normal. We humans are the sole culprit of Earth's destruction. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, human actions, specifically the releasing of greenhouse gases, have undeniably caused global warming and abnormal weather conditions.

A single U.S. citizen releases an average of 20 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, according to the WWF. This is 10 times the amount for an average person in India. Most of the emissions come from transportation, electricity, and the food system.

In the last 100,000 years, 2023 has been among the hottest years on record. As reported in *The New York Times*, Carlo



Madison Frette | The Daily Iowan

Students walk toward Hubbard Park on the first day of 2023 fall classes in Iowa City on Aug. 21, 2023.

Buontempo, the director of the European Union climate monitor, said “there were simply no cities, no books, agriculture or domesticated animals on this planet the last time the temperature was so high.”

So, are we doomed from the effects of climate change? Not yet, but if nothing changes soon, we will be. Every degree the Earth's temperature raises poses more dan-

ger to humanity as we know it. However, these increasingly high global temperatures would start to level off if we were to stop releasing greenhouse gases today, according to NASA.

Nice temperatures come and go, but we only have one Earth. Reducing your carbon footprint is the only way to be a part of climate solutions. It is time to act now.

COLUMN

Reynolds' interest in border fuels culture war

The southwest border has turned into a humanitarian crisis that needs fixing, but lawmakers aren't helping.



Caden Bell
Opinions Columnist

Recently, Gov. Kim Reynolds sent the Iowa National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the national media attention the border has received.

This choice follows in the wake of other governors sending the National Guard to put up barbed wire fences that were ordered to be taken down by the Supreme Court.

This move is only to serve media spectacle and fuel the culture war that is continuing to brew in our country.

Reynolds is wasting Iowa resources and costing taxpayers money so she can look good in the media, especially conservative media like Fox News, and to conservative voters.

Reynolds has sent Iowans 1,200 miles from Iowa to help put up razor wire. The National Guard is a state agency that is meant to serve the needs of Iowa but is instead being sent three states away.

Reynolds, like other governors, wants to prove that she is against the Biden administration's handling of the border. This is only meant to help her image and standing in the media so she can earn brownie points with Fox News.

Former President Donald Trump and many Republicans wish for the struggle at the border to continue so they can continue this culture war and find ways to complain about the Democrats when they

talk to the media. This comes after Republicans in Congress voted against a bill that was crafted in their favor, while Trump called for Republican Senate members to vote against any border bill.

Many of our government officials and a former President are using people like pawns for their own political gain. While Trump can only sit back and post on TruthSocial, our governor is directly responsible for going against the federal government.

Our border crisis is one that needs to be handled as our current system is dangerous and deadly to those coming to our country. Many come from hundreds to thousands of miles away and face major dangers, including drowning in the Rio Grande River. After they cross many are sent to cities such as Chicago and New York on buses paid for by the government of Texas.

The border is a complex situation that needs drastic reforms to protect both American citizens and the immigrants coming in, but many of our politicians, such as Iowa's Reynolds, waste resources making half-hearted attempts to gain political media clout for their faction. What Reynolds is doing is not different or more helpful than the Democrats she blames.

It is unfortunately the case that most likely nothing will be done to fix it. One side will keep sabotaging any real attempt at reform until they regain power either in Congress or the presidency. What will most likely happen is that Republicans will try to make us a nation that is closed off, spitting on the history of the millions of immigrants that have helped to build us into the powerful nation we are today.

COLUMN

UI crisis line helps destigmatize faculty mental health

This resource is a groundbreaking move because it considers the mental health challenges of faculty and staff.



Shelley Mishra
Opinions Columnist

When students think of university faculty or staff responsibilities, they probably think of lectures, office hours, and conferences. Similarly, the life of many academics is often thought to consist simply of regular attendance, reasonable work hours, and some administrative tasks.

However, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The schedule of a faculty member also includes research time, grading assignments, meeting deadlines, and tiresome administrative work.

Likewise, a staff member may also have to make up for others' absences, handle events, attend meetings, and work on holiday schedules.

The stresses of all these regular activities from a job can lead to burnout. While faculty members, and staff work hard to care for the mental health of students, who would they approach in case of a mental health issue?

The University of Iowa recently expanded its 24/7 support and crisis line to faculty, staff and postdoctoral

students. The system will operate in collaboration with the CommUnity Crisis Services of Iowa city.

Considering the growing concern for the mental health of faculty and staff, this move can further help destigmatize mental health issues and improve their experiences at their workplaces.

Joni Troester, the UI's senior assistant vice president and deputy chief human resources officer, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that mental health is a critical component for success and holistic wellbeing, therefore, as part of its “commitment to mental health support” the crisis line has become available to everyone.

Troester also wrote that the 24/7 crisis line makes mental health accessible without having to wait for office appointments or waiting for offices to open.

“The normalization of seeking help reduces stigma, empowering individuals to address challenges early,” Troester wrote. “Accessible resources foster a healthier campus community, prioritizing well-being for all.”

A study in the *Journal of American College Health* identifies that one-third of the members of a campus community — including faculty, staff, and students — face symptoms of severe depression, anxiety, and stress. Additionally, the research also highlights unhealthy coping mechanisms such as reliance on alcohol or drugs due to the lack of access to psychological help.

A narrative review in the *National Library of Medicine* attributes these symptoms to stressors like multitasking

both teaching and administering, high demands in a tenure track position, and the lack of acknowledgment and recognition of one's work.

According to research from the National Library of Medicine, mental health issues faced by technical and administrative staff are because of the complexities of their contracts and associated legalities, work overload, shortage of staff, and the unstable nature of employment.

The symptoms of these stressors can manifest as irregular sleep patterns, lack of proper nutrition, and poor physical health.

A 2023 study published in the *Journal of American College Health* also highlights the personal biases of faculty and staff toward mental health, which include the fears of isolation from their community or that they would be perceived as less capable. Therefore, the university crisis line, which provides confidential support, will make psychological help more accessible.

A vibrant student community on campus is made possible by the efforts of faculty and staff. Even though the crisis line has now been made available to faculty and staff, we need to consider that their mental health issues are still less talked about in social and educational settings. Therefore, we need to ensure that their mental health challenges are consistently addressed, because their wellbeing further supports student wellbeing and success.

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Sabine Martin | Executive Editor

Evan Weidl | Opinions Editor

Columnists: **Aaron El-Kerdani, Jordan Coates, Shelley Mishra, Natalie Nye, Caden Bell, Alex Belzer**

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- Hawkeye Updates
- Quote of the Week
- Stat of the Week
- Point/Counterpoint

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FACING A FAMILIAR FOE

The Iowa women's basketball team will rematch Colorado in the Sweet 16.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Sydney Affolter and Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall celebrate during an NCAA Tournament Second Round game between No. 1 Iowa and No. 8 West Virginia at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on March 24. The Hawkeyes defeated the Mountaineers, 64-54.

Cooper Worth
Sports Reporter
cooper-worth@uiowa.edu

Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor
colin-votzmeyer@uiowa.edu

En route to Iowa women's basketball's first-ever appearance in the national title game in 2023, the Colorado Buffaloes gave the Hawkeyes their toughest test yet. A back-and-forth battle threatened



Bluder

a season of championship potential. One year later, the Buffaloes are seeking revenge.

After taking down 16th- and eighth-seeded Holy Cross and West Virginia, respectively, at Carver-Hawkeye Arena during the first two rounds of the 2024 NCAA Tournament, head coach Lisa Bluder and the Hawkeyes are advancing to the Sweet 16 of the postseason tournament for the



Martin

third time in the past four seasons.

"If you're one of 16 teams at this point, you're a phenomenal team," Iowa guard Kate Martin said following Iowa's 64-54 win against West Virginia. "We're extremely grateful that we've gotten to this point, but obviously we're not done yet."

Iowa women's basketball found out what would be its Sweet 16 opponent on

March 24 when No. 5 Colorado upset No. 4 Kansas State, 63-50, at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kansas.

The Hawkeyes will play the Buffaloes at the MVP Arena in Albany, New York — the host site of two of this year's tournament's regions — on March 30 at 2:30 p.m.

"I'm so excited, and we're ready to go and take the Hawks to Albany for sure," Iowa guard Sydney Affolter said. "We are

SWEET | 3B

MEN'S WRESTLING

Leaving empty-handed

Iowa wrestling left nationals without an individual champion or team trophy.

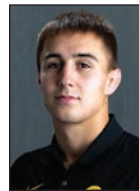


Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

An official holds up Iowa's 125-pound Drake Ayala's arm during the fourth session of the NCAA men's wrestling championships at T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, Mo., on March 22. Ayala defeated Wisconsin's Eric Barnett by decision, 3-2.

Kenna Roering
Sports Editor
mckenna-roering@uiowa.edu

Isaac Elzinga
Sports Reporter
isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu



Ayala

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Iowa men's wrestler Drake Ayala kept the Hawkeyes' national finalist streak intact, but a few other streaks were broken at the NCAA Championships.

Ayala lost to Arizona State's Richard Figueroa 7-2 during the 125-pound finals match. Iowa finished in fifth with 67 points, marking the first time the Hawkeyes have finished without a team trophy and an NCAA champion since 2016, per *The Des Moines Register*. Only the top three squads earned spots on the podium this year. Iowa was projected to finish ninth based on seeding.

Rival Iowa State finished in fourth with 68.5 points. This is the first time the Cyclones have finished above the Hawkeyes in the team race since 2007, which was Iowa head coach Tom Brands' first season at the helm. The Hawkeyes entered the finals in fourth. An Ayala win would've given Iowa 71 points and tied Michigan for third place.

Ayala was one of four Hawkeyes to claim All-American status, joining Real Woods, Jared Franek, and Michael Caliendo. While four All-Americans is a notable feat — and the 53rd straight tournament Iowa has had at least one wrestler earn the honor — it broke the Hawkeyes' 10-year streak of having at least five All-Americans.

Ayala's loss in the final typifies the chaotic nature of this year's 125-pound weight class. It is also a fitting end to an underwhelming 2023-24 Iowa men's wrestling season.



Woods

AYALA | 3B

TRACK AND FIELD

For the sake of the sport

Athletes reflect on the time, relationships, and experiences sacrificed.

Mia Boulton
Sports Reporter
mia-m-boulton@uiowa.edu

Iowa track and field athletes make the conscious decision to sacrifice personal relationships, time with family, and educational experiences every day.

And it's all for the sake of the sport. The Hawkeye Indoor Track and Field Facility, located northwest of Kinnick Stadium, is a second home for many athletes.

"I'll get to the facility at 10:30 a.m. to see the trainers, then a three-hour practice, a lift following, and then treatment or a massage after," fourth-year hurdler Mariel Bruxvoort said. "On those big days, I am at the facility for four to six hours."

On heavy training days, time spent at the track can be equivalent to working a part-time job.

After leaving the facility, many student-athletes go directly to class and then straight home for the night.

"I pretty much go to practice, come home, eat, and go to bed," fourth-year sprinter Kalen Walker said.

Walker is a three-time All-American and holds three school records at the University of Iowa.

Behind the medals, Walker revealed the sacrifices he makes to perform his best.

"The relationships," Walker reflected, "they definitely suffer."

Between the time commitment and lifestyle choices, Walker believes it can be difficult for athletes to balance social life and a collegiate sport.

"For me, I prioritize javelin throwing," second-year javelin thrower Mike Stein said. "It means so much to me."

During the season, the Hawkeyes will leave for an away track and field meet on March 27 and get back on March 31. This schedule repeats for eight consecutive weeks.

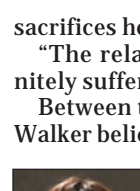
The constant travel makes it difficult for friends and families to attend track and field meets.



Bruxvoort



Walker



Stein

SUCCESS | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Baseball

March 29-31
Three-game series vs. Minnesota
Duane Banks Field
Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

Tuesday, April 2
At Bradley
6 p.m.
Hawkeye Radio Network

Softball

March 29-31
Three-game series vs. Michigan State
Bob Pearl Field
Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network

Tuesday, April 2
vs. Drake
5 p.m., Hawkeye Radio Network

Rowing

March 29-30
At Sunshine State Invite
Sarasota, Florida

Tennis

Friday, March 29
At Wisconsin
4 p.m.

Sunday, March 31
At Minnesota
Noon

Men's and women's track and field

March 29-30
At Stanford Invite
At Mike Fanelli Track Classic
At Florida Relays

SPRING INTO THE SEASON

Iowa volleyball traveled to Des Moines for a two-game slate against Drake and Wayne State on March 23, notching spring exhibition wins against both opponents. Transfer Claire Ammeral led the Hawkeyes with 84 assists and 11 kills over the two matches. Outside hitter Alyssa Worden logged



17 kills followed by outside hitters Gabby Deery and Nataly Moravec notching 13 and 12 kills, respectively. Last season, Drake went 24-11, and Wayne State finished 31-3 with an Elite Eight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, which was encouraging for an Iowa team that ended their 2023 campaign on a 20-game losing streak and lost eight key players, including veterans Bailey Ortega, Delaney McSweeney, and Caitlan Buettner. Iowa will head to Hilton Coliseum on March 30 to take on the Cyclones. Iowa State went 20-10 last season and lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to Hawaii. The last time Iowa and Iowa State matched up was for the Iowa Corn Cy-Hawk Series in Iowa City on Sept. 6, 2023. In that meeting, Buettner logged a team-high 23 kills, McSweeney followed up with 14 kills and seven blocks, and setters Ortega and Kaia Mateo finished with 51 total assists. Mateo transferred to Rice in the off-season. Meanwhile, the Cyclones are returning 10 of 15 players from the fall season, including setter Morgan Brandt, libero Brooke Stonestreet, and outside hitters Nayeli Gonzalez and Maya Duckworth, who all played over 100 sets in 2023.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We are pleased to have Ben DeTaeye back in the mix. He's feeling confident and beginning to throw like we all knew he could."

Rick Heller
Iowa head baseball coach

STAT OF THE WEEK

16

The number of consecutive years Iowa men's wrestling has crowned at least four All-Americans

Different hype, same attitude

While Taylor could potentially be a mid-round draft pick as a punter, Evans never received an invite to the NFL Combine.

Matt McGowan
Sports Reporter
matthew-r-mcgowan@uiowa.edu



On perhaps one of the most important days in his football career, Iowa's Joe Evans would rather be playing for his team. Sitting in the cold tub with teammate Rusty Feth the morning of Iowa's Pro Day, Evans said he'd rather be back at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, battling in the trenches against Michigan in the 2023 Big Ten title game.

"To be honest, it's really hard for me because I'm such a team-first guy," Evans said following his Pro Day on March 18. "Everything is about the team, and it's always been that way for me. I let my agent do that part of putting myself out there."



Evans, alongside teammate Tory Taylor, are two of several Hawkeyes looking to continue their playing careers from Saturdays to Sundays by taking their talents to the NFL. Whether it involves working out with former pros in California or staying home to brave the Iowa cold, the duo embarked on different pre-draft processes.

Through their respective journeys, Taylor received attention for possibly being one of the highest-drafted punters in recent memory, while Evans wasn't even invited to the NFL Combine and experimented with a new position. Yet regardless of the difference in hype, each embrace only what they can control and lets the pieces fall where they may.

Taylor is older at 26 years old, but also has less total of football experience, having picked up the game playing Australian football rules through high school. His first punt attempt in an American foot-

ball game was in front of an empty Ross-Ade Stadium back in September 2020. That boot, delivered at the Hawkeyes' 12-yard-line, soared for 50 yards, and flipped the field for Iowa.

Four years, 294 punts, and one consensus All-American nod later, Taylor found himself in Indianapolis at the NFL combine, where he practiced punts but didn't partake in other workouts. Looking back on his path, Taylor noted that hard work only gets so far when striving to get to the next level.

"It's just really important to take calculated risks," he said. "I'm really a big believer in that you have to push yourself and get yourself out of your comfort zone ... People always talk about, 'As young as you work hard and blah, blah, blah,' but everyone's working hard."

Over the offseason, Taylor put himself in an unfamiliar situation weather-wise, abandoning the frigid Iowa winters for the warm California sunshine. Out west, Taylor reunited with his coach from Australia, Nathan Chapman, as well as NFL punters such as A.J. Cole of the Las Vegas Raiders, Jack Fox of the Detroit Lions, and Bryce Baringer of the New England Patriots.

Taylor said he valued his time among the pros, as he got to gauge their demeanor during all parts of their routine, from workouts in the gym to warming up on the field.

In the leadup to the Hawkeyes' title championship matchup against the Wolverines, Taylor earned the Ray Guy Award as the nation's top punter, becoming the first in the program's history to do so. Iowa has had its share of pro punters, such as the late Reggie Roby as a sixth-round selection by the Miami Dolphins in 1986, but Taylor has the chance to climb up draft boards.

According to the NFL Mock Draft Database, some see the 6-foot-4 punter as a fifth-round grab by the Denver Broncos. Since 2010, only 12 punters have been taken within the first five rounds, but making history as a high draft pick or slot-



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Iowa punter Tory Taylor acknowledges fans after a football game between Iowa and Illinois at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Nov. 18, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Fighting Illini, 15-13.

ting in as a typical late-round punter isn't at the top of Taylor's mind.

"These last few months have been some of the most fun months of my life, I've absolutely loved it," he said. "Yeah, it's a little bit stressful, but at the end of the day, it is what it is. I'm not worried about the stuff I can't control, the external stuff, it's a waste of time."

The night before his Pro Day, Evans was back home in Ames, Iowa, having dinner with his parents. Before he left for Iowa City, his father gave him one final piece of advice.

"Just remember who you are and always have that chip on your shoulder," Evans said. "That's the player I've always been."

Back when he was a high school quarterback, Evans didn't attract much hype, missing out on the all-state team his senior year before joining Iowa as a walk-on at linebacker. Evans redshirted his first season and said he struggled to find much of a friend group during his first couple months on campus, stuck in the cycle of school and

practice. He said if he didn't get an invitation to start practicing with the team in the summer of 2019, then he most likely would've transferred to Ohio Western. After making the move to defensive end in the spring of that year, Evans' play time steadily improved over the next five seasons as he finished his Iowa career ranked fourth in sacks with 28, more than half of which came in his final two campaigns.

Even though the 6-foot-2, 251 pounder is a bit undersized for an NFL defensive line, Evans said he's received some interest from teams about playing edge rusher.

"I'm just hoping I get an opportunity," Evans said.

More online

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Q&A | MIKE STEIN

Second-year athlete shares journey to becoming a school record holder



Mike Stein
Javelin
Second-year
Milford, Iowa
Spirit Lake High School

Mia Boulton
Sports Reporter
mia-m-boulton@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan: How did you learn to throw the javelin?

Mike Stein: I was a baseball pitcher and saw how javelin throwers would train and just thought that sport would fit me better. I thought I would rather not worry about throwing accurately and just throw the furthest I possibly can.

Who taught you how to throw?

I reached out to an Iowa State javelin thrower, and we just sent messages back and forth. I bought a javelin on Amazon. Everyone thought I was crazy. I just became my own coach since it wasn't a high school sport.

When did you start this process?

I was a sophomore in high school. I was doing a whole bunch of throwing programs for baseball and stuff, but the javelin looked cooler. Plus, it was more fun.

What drew you to Iowa?

I really liked the coaches here. Coach Ray Robinson is the throws coach, and my visit with him went super well. I also liked the strength coach Cody Roberts. I was thinking that there was no way that I [could] go to Iowa and [not] make the Olympics. I didn't get that feeling anywhere else.

What did people in your hometown think?

People didn't really know what I was doing.

I was throwing in a random field in town where people would drive by. It was pretty unheard of in Okoboji, but people were supportive.

What do you miss about back home?

Okoboji is really the best in the summer. When I go home, I am a boat driver for hire, so that's my job. I like going home to boat, see my family, and be on the lake. That's what I miss.

What are your goals for the future?

I really want to see how far I can take it. I set my goals super, super high. I'm not afraid to say I want to set the world record or win Olympic gold. I know you have to shoot well beyond what you want to be in the question for it.

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Should Fran McCaffery be fired?



Brad Schultz
Sports Reporter

No

While Fran McCaffery hasn't accomplished everything fans have hoped he would in his career at Iowa, by no means should he be fired.

I think it's wrong to simply fire a coach who has won the most games in program history while posting the fourth-best record in the Big Ten over the last five seasons. Sure, the 25-season Sweet 16 drought has long been an Achilles heel, but that drought was already 11 seasons old when Fran arrived in Iowa City in 2010.

McCaffery revived an Iowa program that was at rock bottom following the disastrous tenures of prior head coaches Steve Alford and Todd Lickliter. In only his second season, McCaffery took Iowa to the NIT and rejuvenated the disgruntled fan base.

Since then, McCaffery has led the Hawks to the NCAA Tournament seven times, including a Big Ten Tournament title in 2022. Keegan Murray, Kris Murray, Luka Garza,

and Jarrod Utoff have earned consensus All-American honors under his leadership and three of them have landed on NBA rosters.

It's one thing to hamper a coach's reputation if there's a lack of overall success, but McCaffery deserves a ton of credit for restoring sustained credibility to the Iowa program. Yes, average home attendance declined to under 10,000 per game this year, but the team ranked 24th in the nation in terms of home attendance last season. Only three times during McCaffery's tenure has the average home attendance dipped below 12,000.

While McCaffery's teams have regressed slightly over the past two seasons, both of those years resulted in winning records and postseason appearances, including a trip to the Big Dance last year. Even still, fans have called for McCaffery's termination. Can Iowa get a better coach to replace McCaffery? Sure, there are great coaches at the mid-major level, but there's no guarantee they will succeed at Iowa.

The Hawkeyes have a promising young duo in Brock Harding and Big Ten Freshman of the Year Owen Freeman, as well as a major scoring threat in Payton Sandfort. With the trio presumably returning next year, I think Iowa should keep McCaffery and see if he can finally end his postseason troubles once and for all.



Matt McGowan
Sports Reporter

Yes

Chicago sports talk radio doesn't provide genuine wisdom that often, but between the endless squabble of the Justin Fields and Caleb Williams debate, I overheard a motto that hasn't left my head since: "Strive for greatness. Don't settle for mediocrity."

New Iowa athletic director Beth Goetz has lived by this mantra during her young tenure, most notably by finally ridding Iowa football of offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz. Now, she should direct her attention to the men's basketball team and move on from Fran McCaffery.

Yes, when McCaffery inherited the program back in 2010, the team wasn't even mediocre, but just flat-out stunk. In the eleven-year span between McCaffery and former head coach Tom Davis, the program had four seasons of at least 19 wins. In McCaffery's 14 years at the helm, there's only been three seasons where the coach hasn't amassed

at least 19 victories.

McCaffery's first eleven years in Iowa City were splendid, complete with five NCAA Tournament appearances — four of which advanced to the second round — and an NIT championship appearance in 2013. He set a new standard for the program, but as of late that standard hasn't been met — having not made the second round since 2021. Does that sound impatient? Yes, absolutely, but the program has gone stale.

Look across town at Iowa State. Former head coach Steve Prohm had three 20-win campaigns in his first four seasons but didn't get past the first round of the Big Dance in the second half of his tenure until being fired in 2021. His replacement, T.J. Otzelberger, has made the Sweet 16 twice in his three seasons at Ames as the Cyclones have become a top-tier team in the Big 12.

Now that's the difference between mediocrity and greatness. Yes, Prohm posted a two-win season in his final year, but does Iowa really want to wait for the program to bottom out before it makes a change? McCaffery elevated the status of the program, so it won't be too difficult to find a suitable successor, but the athletic administration can't be afraid of change.

MEN'S WRESTLING

Penn State breaks Iowa's point record

The Nittany Lions scored 172.5 points at the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

Isaac Elzinga
Sports Reporter
isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Penn State head coach Cael Sanderson approaches wrestling with the mindset that "it's just a game."

That mindset helped his squad make history during the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

"It doesn't matter. I mean, life moves forward," Sanderson said. "This is just all about preparation and getting ready for the next stage in life, and with that perspective, you can compete a little bit more freely."

At 197 pounds, Penn State's Aaron Brooks embodied that approach as he capped off an undefeated season by becoming the seventh four-time national champion in NCAA wrestling history.

Two matches earlier, his teammate and 174-pounder Carter Starocci had become the sixth-ever four-time national champion. Starocci said the fact that he can be this dominant in the sport and run through opponents is what "scratches his ego."

"It's pretty cool," Brooks said of being a four-time champion with his teammate.



Brooks



Starocci

"Having someone else to be a part of that journey and do it with is a lot of fun. We're blessed."

Starocci and Brooks said they enjoyed being the "target" in the field this year and getting wrestlers' best shot each time on the mat.

"It's nothing different when you've had a target on your back your whole life," Brooks said.

Brooks recalled his dad showing him the "greatest wrestler ever" when he brought back a disc of Sanderson wrestling for NCAA titles when he was in college. Sanderson went 159-0 and won four national championships during his collegiate career at Iowa State.

Brooks said those tapes are where he learned the basics of wrestling, like an ankle pick and the cradle, and where his wrestling journey really started.

"Being six years old in the back of the car watching those things," Brooks said, "I didn't think I'd be here."

Starocci has one more year of eligibility due to COVID-19, but he said he hasn't even considered that yet. For now, Starocci is focused on qualifying for the Olympics at 74 kilograms, or 163 pounds, and getting healthy after a knee injury that forced him to injury default during the Big Ten Tournament.

"I'm moving forward, I'm moving forward," Starocci said. "We've made a lot of progress ... like 12 days ago, I wasn't even walking."

In addition to the two four-time champs, the Nittany

Lions crowned two other national champions — Levi Haines at 157 and Greg Kerkvliet at heavyweight. Two more wrestlers, Beau Bartlett and Mitchell Mesenbrink, reached the finals but lost.

With the dominating tournament performance, Penn State broke Iowa's team points record of 170, which the Hawkeyes set in 1997, with 172.5 points. The Nittany Lions also became the first team to win with a triple-digit margin of victory, with second-place Cornell scoring 72.5 points.

As Penn State continues to sit atop the college wrestling world, the program and head coach are drawing comparisons to Iowa's dominance under legendary head coach Dan Gable. From 1976 to 1997, Gable coached Iowa to 15 national titles and 45 individual champions.

"I'm not worried about that stuff," Sanderson said of the comparisons. "We're doing our thing, you know — we don't worry about and try to compare ourselves to others. We're just going to be the best we can be. As a staff, we're here trying to figure out what we can do better and how we can have our guys better prepared because things continue to change."

Starocci doesn't see the Penn State tradition stopping anytime soon. The 174-pounder said the coaching staff's commitment, love, and dedication to the program make them second to none.

"I'm just another guy crossing through and following their patterns," Starocci said.

SWEET
from 1B

definitely taking it one game at a time, and we're just super excited to be one of the 16 teams left. We're ready to play."

Colorado, a member of the Pac-12 conference, is 24-9 on the season. The team had a regular season that exceeded expectations, finishing it ranked 17th in the AP Poll — but jumping to as high as No. 3 in week three with a 4-0 start.

The Buffaloes lost to No. 3 seed Oregon State, 85-79, in the quarterfinals of the Pac-12 tournament on March 7. But they blew past the 12th-seeded Drake Bulldogs, 86-72, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before their upset win over Kansas State to return to the Sweet 16 themselves.

Iowa won its first two games of the 2024 NCAA tournament by an average of 18 points but faced adversity in the second-round matchup against West Virginia especially. The Mountaineers' smothering full-court press created problems for the Hawkeyes, as the team committed nine turnovers in the first half and was held to just 26 points, its lowest first-half total of the season.

"I really do think [West Virginia] was one of the better defensive teams we've seen all year," Bluder said. "We found a way to win in a different way, and we won



Clark

with our defense tonight."

Despite shooting an abysmal 22.7 percent from the field, Iowa turned it around in the second half. Several of West Virginia's starters fell into foul trouble, and the Hawkeyes relied on their defense and the late-game heroics of Caitlin Clark, who recorded 21 points in the second half while going 11-of-12 from the free throw line.

But Clark, Martin, Affolter, and forward Hannah Stuelke were the only Hawkeyes to score. Iowa won, 64-54, despite averaging over 90 points per game going.

Still, by any means necessary, the Hawkeyes found a different way to win — and to punch their ticket to the Sweet 16 once more — to meet the Colorado Buffaloes.

And this won't be the first time these two teams have faced off in postseason play, as Iowa and Colorado faced off in Seattle, Washington, during the Sweet 16 of the 2023 NCAA Tournament.

The Hawkeyes bested the Buffs, 87-77, on their way — with defeats over top teams such as Louisville in the Elite Eight and South Carolina in the Final Four — to the program's first national championship appearance, which they

lost, 102-85, to LSU.

Last year's matchup was closely contested in the first half, with Iowa trailing by one point going into halftime. In the third quarter, though, Iowa dominated, embarking on a 13-0 run and out-scoring Colorado, 25-13, in the period and taking a 64-53 lead into the final 10 minutes of game clock that ultimately brought the win.

Clark was Iowa's top scorer during the game with 31 points as Czinano and Martin finished with 15 and 16 points, respectively. This time around, the Hawkeyes will need more than just a few players to tap into the scoring effort to win.

"When you have a player like Caitlin Clark, there's not really one necessary thing you can do to stop her," Colorado guard Jaylyn Sherrod said last season. "She's experienced. She's a vet, so she's probably seen so many defenses thrown at her."

Colorado returns all but one starter — guard Tayanna Jones — from last year's matchup against Iowa, while the Hawkeyes head into this matchup with a bit of different starting lineup look from last season.

Second-year forward Hannah Stuelke and junior guard Sydney Affolter, the latter in place of the still-injured guard Molly Davis, now suit up for the Black

and Gold in place of efficient forwards Monika Czinano and McKenna Warnock.

The Buffaloes are led by third-year Aaronette Vonleh, who averages 14.0 points per game and 5.2 rebounds per game. Colorado also has two other players in Sherrod and guard Frida Formann who average more than 12 points per game and four players who average more than five points per game.

Head coach JR Payne's squad started the season off with a bang, beating reigning national champions — and then No. 1 — LSU, 92-78, in the season opener. They followed that up by winning 14 of their next 15 games.

However, Colorado slowed down toward the end of the regular season, losing six of its last eight games heading into the NCAA tournament, but has seemingly turned it around so far in March.

The Buffaloes won both of their first two games by an average of 13.5 points and, in the second round, held No. 4 seed Kansas State to just 15 points during the game's final two quarters.

Altogether, this Colorado team has proven it can compete with the best of the best when everything clicks — a tough opponent with upset potential in Iowa's quest for a return to the Elite Eight.

"We're not done yet," Martin said. "We want to win the rest of them."

AYALA
from 1B

Lee

Still, Ayala has been a bright spot for Iowa. The red-shirt second-year improved as the season went on, growing closer and learning from Iowa's three-time national champion Spencer Lee.

"It's too early to talk about next year," Brands said.

"Drake Ayala's got two years of eligibility left. He's in the national finals. We want to find a way to win that match. He wants to find a way to win that match. It didn't happen, got to go forward."

Iowa's three graduating fourth-years who competed at nationals — Brody Teske, Woods, and Franek — also ended their seasons with losses.

Franek placed eighth nationally at 157 pounds, and Woods finished fourth at 141, both securing All-American status for the second and fourth time, respectively.

Franek started his Iowa campaign 15-0 with seven bonus point victories. He finished the regular season 20-3 and ended up placing fourth at the Big Ten Tournament after medically forfeiting from the third-place bout.

"What I ultimately came here for is what I got out of it, so I'm super happy," Franek said after placing seventh. "It's a few losses that were tough in the middle of the year, and, you know, we wrestled eight weeks in a row of super tough competition, and you saw anything can happen here. So, I'm proud of how I handled the season and was able to bounce back."

The 157-pounder said it's been "super cool" to "pick the brains" of those in the Hawkeye Wrestling Club, including Lee and four-time Big Ten champion Alex Marinelli.

He transferred to Iowa with 165-pounder Caliendo, who placed fourth at the national tournament. They both said having each other made the transition to Iowa City easier. Caliendo added that his and Franek's parents hang out a lot.

"He's a brother for life, and I'm excited to watch him the next few years here," Franek said of Caliendo.

As for Franek's future, he is going to take

some time before making a decision.

"There's a lot of different paths I can go, but I don't know if it'll be competing anymore," Franek said.

Woods, who fell to Nebraska's Brock Hardy in Saturday's third-place match, will remember all the life lessons he's learned throughout his collegiate career and is thankful for the ups and downs that have "helped [him] develop as a man." Woods started his career at Stanford and transferred to Iowa last season where he finished as the NCAA runner-up.

Woods said he loves performing on the mat and plans to compete "for a lot longer" but also thinks he would be a good coach one day.

"Throughout my journey, I've been exposed to so many different diverse people and places," Woods said. "It's taught me a lot about people, and it's taught me and helped me connect with people from all walks of life. And I think that that's one of the main keys in coaching young men because you have to be personable and be able to know a young athlete well enough to help them develop in their own way."

Teske and Zach Glazier's seasons came to an end on Friday. Teske fell to No. 4 Rutgers' Dylan Shawver in the consolation bracket to end his collegiate career. Teske, a four-time NCAA qualifier, transferred to Iowa from Northern Iowa ahead of the 2022-23 season.

"I mean, that definitely hurts. There's not anything you can say in those situations," Brands said of Teske. "Tell him you love him and support him. This won't define him. The biggest thing is at the end of the road, he will be a better man. Doesn't seem like it right now, but at the end of the road, he is going to be a good man for the rest of his life. So it won't define him, it can't define him. Got to move on."

Glazier told FloWrestling's Andy Hamilton on March 20 he will return to the Hawkeyes for a fifth season. The 197-pounder placed second in the Big Ten Tournament in his postseason debut but had a rough stretch at nationals. He lost in the first round and again in the consolation. Brands said after Glazier's season ended, he was at the T-Mobile Center supporting his teammates and even warmed up 174-pounder Patrick Kennedy before one of his consolation bouts.

Bruxvoort said.

Her passion for track and field has made the struggles seem smaller, carrying the All-American through her last season as a Hawkeye.

As for Walker, he finds his motivation by making history and hearing from old friends.

"When my friends from high school text me and say 'Hey, good job' or 'I'm keeping up with you,' that means a lot," Walker said.

Stein loves competing and sees every step as one that brings him closer to his mission of being the best javelin thrower in the world.

"Our performance is pretty much the entire sport and us putting our best out there means everything to us," Walker said. "Those sacrifices are critical, even if they hurt a little bit. It kind of gives you an appreciation for what we do."



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SUCCESS
from 1B

"They can't really drive five or six hours just to see you run," Walker said. "It's tough."

The time spent on the road only brings the team closer.

In their free time at away meets, Bruxvoort said the women's team will spend hours simply talking in each other's hotel rooms. Walker recalls memories of exploring the different cities by walking around other college campuses or taking an Uber to restaurants.

But when meet day rolls around, the Hawkeyes are ready to race — and they have fun doing it.

The Hawkeyes agree that experiences like these outweigh the sacrifices.

"I think the pursuit of faster times and perfecting your craft is so addicting,"

Call us for information on spring sublets

PACKING FOR THE SWEET 16

No. 1 Iowa defeated No. 8 West Virginia, 64-54, during the Second Round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament on April 1. The Hawkeyes will play March 20.



Grace Smith and Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

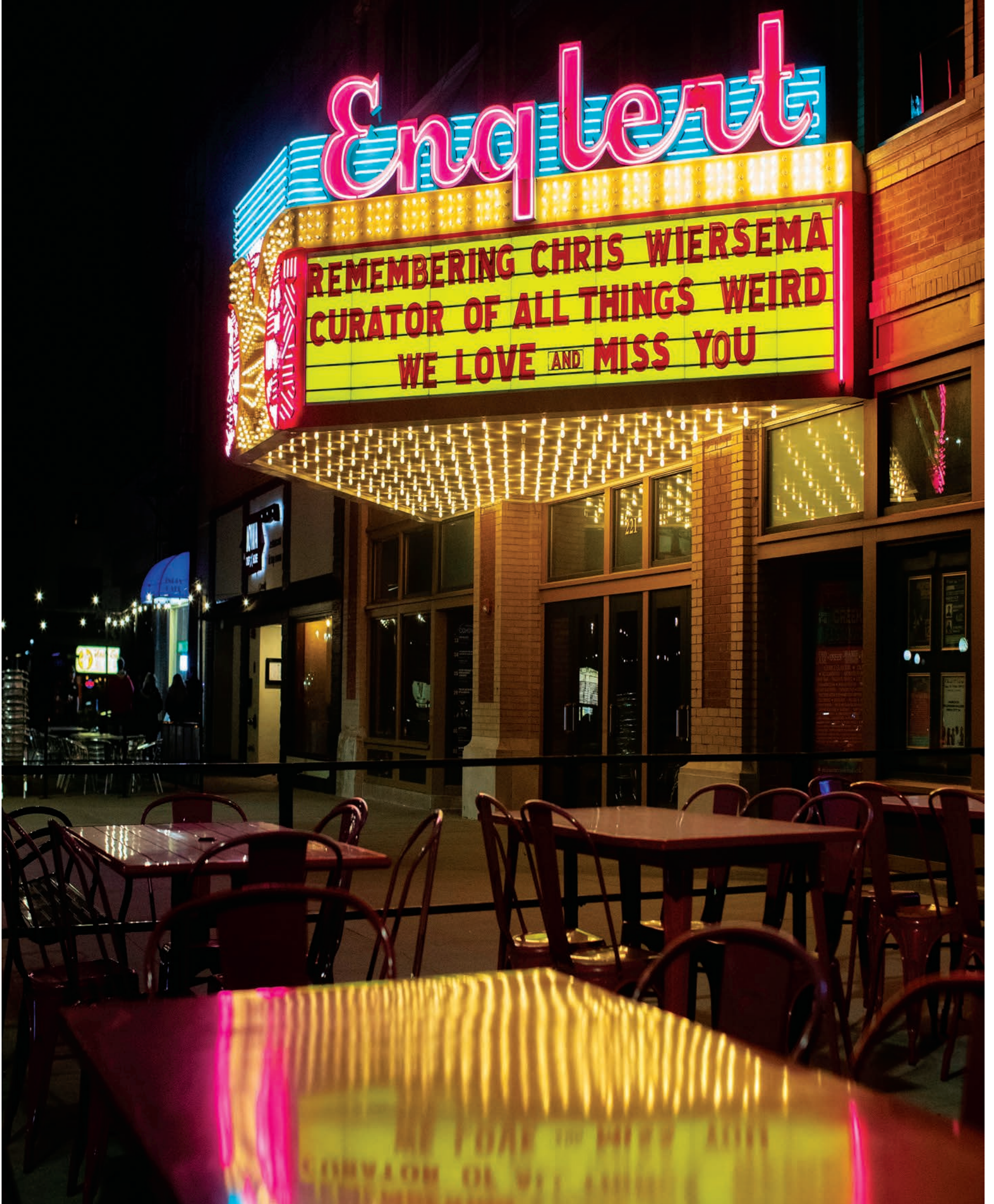
(Top) Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke goes up for a shot during an NCAA Tournament Second Round game between No. 1 Iowa and No. 8 West Virginia at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on March 24. The Hawkeyes defeated the Mountaineers, 64-54 in a crowd of 14,324. The game marked the Iowa seniors' final game in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Iowa's second round win propels them into the Sweet 16 where they will face No. 5 Colorado on March 30 at MVP Arena. (Middle left) Iowa guard Kate Martin and West Virginia guard Kyah Watson fight for a rebound during the NCAA Tournament Second Round game. Martin scored seven points, with 10 rebounds, and two assists. (Middle right) Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder talks with an official during the NCAA Tournament Second Round game. (Above) Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates during the NCAA Tournament Second Round game. Clark led the team in points with 32. In the game, she broke the NCAA Division I women's record for the most points scored in a single season, which was previously held by Washington's Kelsey Plum for the 2016-17 season. (Beside) Iowa center Sharon Goodman and Iowa forward AJ Ediger pose holding a *Daily Iowan* poster for a camera after the NCAA Tournament Second Round game.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the Iowa women's basketball team, visit dailyiowan.com.



80 Hours



Iowa City mourns music programmer

In the nearly 24 years he spent in Iowa City, Chris Wiersema worked behind the scenes to bring artists of all genres to venues of all sizes.

Avi Lapchick
Arts Editor
olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu

If you've ever attended a show at the Engler Theatre, Gabe's, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, or the James Theatre, you have likely met Chris Wiersema.

You wouldn't spot him on the stage or even in the program credits. Instead, he was the kind, sharp-witted, and unconditionally welcoming usher who was

the first to greet you at the door.

Wiersema never sought credit for his work, despite planning, funding, and sourcing talent for countless performances. Instead, he preferred the spotlight be on the artists, from small and local to globally acclaimed, whom he brought to venues of all sizes in Iowa City.

Illuminated with bold colors in the daytime and bright lights at night, the words on the Engler's marquee currently read: "Remembering Chris Wiersema,

curator of all things weird. We love and miss you."

Wiersema died unexpectedly on March 13, rattling community members in Iowa City and beyond.

He is survived by his wife Anne Marsh, his father and brother Douglas Wiersema and Kevin Wiersema, respectively, in-laws Dawn Elizabeth Marsh and Timothy Weston Marsh, sister-in-law Danielle Wiersema, and nephews Trey and Dylan Wiersema, according to his obituary.

A public memorial service will be held on April 7 at the Engler to honor Wiersema's life. Even with its 725-seat theater, Brian Johannesen, the current programming director of the Engler, said the venue not only anticipates reaching capacity but could be too small of a space to hold the number of people Wiersema impacted.

"There are people all over the world who

WIERSEMA
from 2B

know about Iowa City because of Chris. He put Iowa City on the map and made it a haven for people who felt like they didn't belong anywhere else," Johannesen said. "That is why this room will be filled with 700 of his best friends."

Whether they met him in passing, were an artist he booked, or one of his closest friends, dozens — if not hundreds — of people from around the world have taken to social media to share memories of him.

Wiersema's palpable loss has also led some to fear a loss of progressive music in Iowa City.

"He had a commitment and dedication [to his work] that is so exceedingly rare in this town, in this state, and in this world," Luke Tweedy, a local music producer and a good friend of Wiersema, said. "Chris is irreplaceable."

When Tweedy first met Wiersema in 2001, he worked as the manager of Record Collector, a record store downtown. Wiersema, who had just moved to Iowa City from Naperville, Illinois, to attend the University of Iowa, often wandered in looking for new music.

At first, Tweedy said, dishing out recommendations to him was easy; Wiersema was not only receptive to his music suggestions but had a seemingly unquenchable thirst for more.

At some point, finding new music to recommend to Wiersema became a challenge for both Tweedy and the then-owner Kirk Walther. Wiersema's collection, and subsequently his music knowledge, became so expansive that their roles eventually flipped. Wiersema was dropping names even Tweedy didn't know, despite working at the record store for over a decade from 1998-2013.

"He knew more than I did, more than Kirk did — He ingested music at such a high pace," Tweedy, who worked at the record store from 1998-2013, said.

Wiersema's taste stretched to the far corners of niche, alternative music genres. Over time, he would come in asking for music the store didn't even carry.

"From the store's point of view, it makes a lot more sense to do your homework on stuff you'll sell a lot of copies of," Tweedy said. "Chris' music [taste] — you couldn't sell a lot of copies of."

Though he grew up in a suburb of Chicago and was privy to the city's revolving door of new music, Wiersema's appreciation for sound was instead born out of dire necessity.

During a rough patch in his teenage years, Wiersema was sent to a reform school in the Dominican Republic. There, isolated from contemporary American media, he was deprived of an experience most take for granted: developing his own music taste.

In its place, Wiersema took to appreciating the banal sounds heard in his everyday life. The screech of a car brake outside his window, the metallic scrape of a nearby factory, and the rev of a motorcycle engine became his instruments.

However, this difficult experience was ultimately formative for Wiersema; it shaped his complex taste in music and, upon returning home, he took with him a newfound ability to find art and beauty in the mundane — an ability that would become one of the defining characteristics of his impact on the community.

Shortly after he arrived in Iowa City, Wiersema immersed himself in his college town's small but mighty alternative underground music scene.

In 2006, Wiersema began managing the live music venue formerly known as the Picador, which reopened as Gabe's a month after its closure in 2010.

There, Wiersema made a name for himself as someone who had an ear like a Bloodhound's nose. He was constantly discovering new sounds in places most others wouldn't think to look.

Both through the music he created



A memorial for Chris Wiersema is seen in downtown Iowa City on March 20. Wiersema was known as the heartbeat of Iowa City's music scene by many. **Sahithi Shankaihgari** | The Daily Iowan

in his own bands — Lwa, with his friend Matt Schettler, and Death Bag with his friend Gabi Vanek — as well as the artists he brought to Iowa City, Wiersema toyed with a level of nuance, absurdity, and unconventionality that stuck with his listeners long after a show, sometimes in uncomfortable ways.

"I've spent my whole life with music; I record 60-70 records a year — I'm surrounded by music," Tweedy explained. "The only time I've had a panic attack was at one of Chris' shows because the music was so challenging to me, and it made my skin crawl in such a particular way."

However, Wiersema's events were so revolutionary in their ability to instill unsettling feelings that some audience members had to remove themselves from the performance for their own sanity but would stick around in the lobby after the

"He took risks, and he felt that we all needed to hear this music."

Pete McCarthy
Owner of Gabe's

show to discuss its ingenuity.

Before meeting Wiersema, Kembrew McLeod, the University of Iowa department chair of communication studies and a highly respected music scholar, had written extensively about environmental sound art, or the practice of actively listening to the naturally occurring sounds in one's environment.

McLeod understood it on an academic level, but it wasn't until he experienced the music Wiersema brought to Iowa City that he understood the art form at his core.

"Chris' series of programming, which asked audiences for some of our time and attention to open up our ears to hear our environment, allowed us to hear traditional instruments in completely new ways," McLeod said. "I learned some deep lessons about being present — being human — through sitting through a number of his events."

Often, however, Wiersema wouldn't see a penny from these shows. In fact, he would regularly lose money.

Pete McCarthy, who took ownership of Gabe's in 2012, said it wasn't uncommon for Wiersema to dip into his own savings or allow artists to sleep on his couch to ensure their booking, most of whom typically saw a turnout he could count on one hand.

However, this never deterred Wiersema, who saw a greater wealth in sonic gain rather than monetary.

"He would joke, 'I could either go buy a plane ticket and travel to see one of these bands, or I could lose all that money on a show and get to see them here at Gabe's,'" McCarthy shared. "He took risks, and he felt that we all needed to hear this music."

Over the next three years, Wiersema worked tirelessly to bring his out-there taste to venues across Iowa City, including the former Mill, the Englert, and Yacht Club, as well as to local house shows. Tweedy described this as a "debaucherous time," in which Wiersema worked countless late nights and early mornings.

During this period, however, Wiersema met his wife, Anne Marsh. A revered tattoo artist herself, Marsh is described in his obituary as one of the only people who could outdo both his wit and his charisma. In 2009, Wiersema became the programming director of The Mission Creek Festival, an annual music festival hosted by the Englert in Iowa City.

Johannesen, who joined as a producer a year later, said he was intimidated by Wiersema and his work.

Once the two started collaborating, Johannesen's awe for Wiersema only grew.

"That's when I learned just how smart and gifted he was at analyzing music and articulating why something was or was not important," Johannesen said. "He had this knack for just finding people nobody's ever heard of doing something nobody else was doing."

Johannesen said when booking an artist, Wiersema didn't care if they were popular, he only cared whether they were "good." Because of this, the musicians he found were often so underground — sometimes located halfway around the world — that booking them required more digging than merely emailing an agent.

He said Wiersema would spend hours tracking artists down to gauge their interest in performing in Iowa City. Whether they

gave him a date two months or two years into the future, Wiersema always followed through with a show.

From there, Wiersema championed Iowa City's unconventional and underground music scene through the connections he built with artists he believed in.

"His taste was so eclectic that it made a really unique thing [in Iowa City] — especially when he started Feed Me Weird Things — because he was not tied to a venue, he was tied to the artist," Johannesen said. "His goal was to put that artist in the best place he could find for them to succeed."

Feed Me Weird Things, a concert series Wiersema founded in 2017, was his musical brainchild. It allowed him to become independent in his programming and, thus, bring esoteric music to more local venues — from nationally recognized concert halls to parking lots and churches.

The Trumpet Blossom Cafe was one of these venues and, by many accounts, the concert series' home base. When owner Katy Meyer opened the vegan restaurant in 2012, Tweedy helped build the stage that would eventually host many of Wiersema's shows.

"Every year, it was more and more impressive and unbelievable the people he got to come through town," Meyer said. "In the past year or two, so many of the acts he had here — they'll never play a room this small ever again. There are nationally recognized musicians who know about [Trumpet Blossom] because of what Chris did."

According to Meyer and many others who worked with him, Wiersema prioritized a shift away from what he recognized as an overwhelmingly white, heteronormative scene in most music programming, and sought to showcase a diversity of voices in his own. Andre Perry, the executive director of Hancher and one of Wiersema's closest friends, said Wiersema's capacity for impact in his community was tangible through even short interactions.

"Even if you only talked to him a couple of times, you were like, 'Oh, this dude is part of the fabric of this town and in some way cares about me and my cultural wellbeing,'" Perry said. "That vibe was felt with so many people."

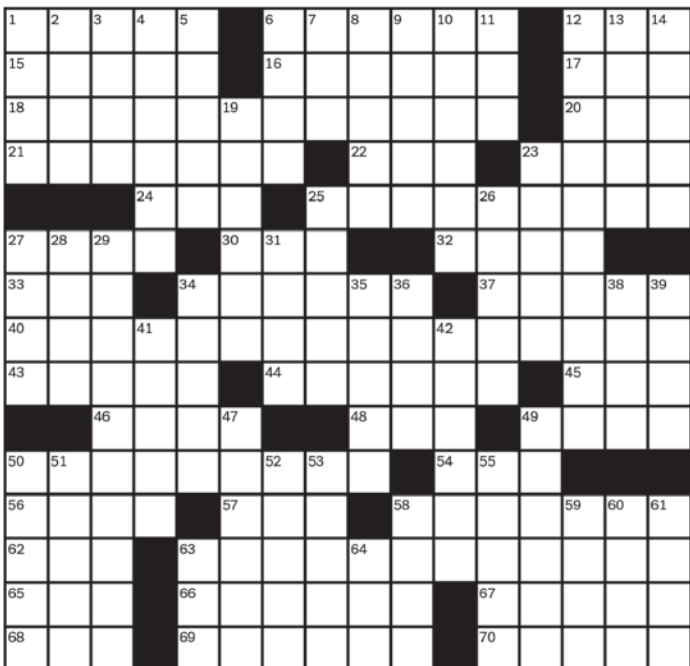
THE BREAK

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

DAILYIOWAN.COM

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0221



- starts of their call signs, with "W" on the east and "K" on the west [Algonquian]
- 43 Together (with)
- 44 Clay targets, informally
- 45 Official language of Ghana: Abbr.
- 46 Certain mattress material
- 48 Commonly torn band, for short
- 49 Excited about
- 50 Nation that shares an island with part of Indonesia [Indonesian]
- 54 Fall behind
- 56 Takes home
- 57 Governor DeSantis
- 58 Commercial spaces in an app
- 62 "Mud"
- 63 Like the names of 18-, 25-, 40- and 50- Across vis-à-vis the bracketed languages
- 65 Undivided
- 66 Look away from
- 67 Wombs
- 68 Big fashion inits.
- 69 Some downtown street liners
- 70 Start over
- 9 Sly sort
- 10 Grain in some hearty soup
- 11 Is French?
- 12 What all good children do, in a nursery rhyme
- 13 Penguins great Lemieux
- 14 Do, as hair
- 19 First M.L.B. team to use artificial turf in its stadium
- 23 Persian language
- 25 Eye-opening experience?
- 26 They might be guided
- 27 ___ Raducanu, 2021 U.S. Open women's tennis champion
- 28 Cry out
- 29 What some workout videos promise
- 31 Loch ___
- 34 Investigate persistently
- 35 Ape's weapon in "Planet of the Apes"
- 36 International oil grp.
- 38 Fellow
- 39 Therefore
- 41 Little brats
- 42 "That's sufficient, I guess"
- 47 It's just an illusion
- 49 Take a lighter to
- 50 "Have fun!"
- 51 Long, long times
- 52 Get on
- 53 How ballerinas often perform
- 55 Fortune tell
- 58 Some pub brews
- 59 Freeze (over)
- 60 Scale button
- 61 Thin cut
- 63 Cook with a long history at Apple
- 64 Bobby of Bruins lore

- Across**
- 1 Something a student may cut
 - 6 Doesn't bother
 - 12 Team V.I.P.s
 - 15 Author of "The Eagle and the Fox" and "The Fox and the Lion"
 - 16 Where to watch the Lightning and Hurricanes
 - 17 Porridge grain
 - 18 Region that spans about 8% of the earth's land area [Arabic]
 - 20 Attempt
 - 21 Rodin sculpture featuring a couple whose lips don't quite touch
 - 22 "My Gal ___"
 - 23 Fencing option
 - 24 Addams family cousin
 - 25 Body of water bordering Nevada and California [Washoe]
 - 27 Actor McGregor
 - 30 Biological molecule
 - 32 Days past
 - 33 Shakespearean fairy queen
 - 34 Playground retort
 - 37 Electricity bill datum
 - 40 Landmark on which most U.S. radio stations base the

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CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 27

- BROADSIDES: CREATIVE AND INDEPENDENT TECHNIQUES

Open to all levels of writers and designers, this class is taught by multi-media artist Dana King and editor Margaret Yapp and aims to give artists the skills they need to advertise their art.

6:30 P.M. | IC PRESS CO-OP AT PUBLIC SPACE ONE, 225 N. GILBERT ST.

THURSDAY

MARCH 28

- FIVE FOR FIGHTING WITH STRING QUARTET

John Ondrasik, singer-songwriter of the Grammy-winning and platinum-selling band Five for Fighting takes the stage at The Englert on March 28 to perform to perform hits alongside a string quartet.

7:30 P.M. | ENGLERT THEATRE 221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

FRIDAY

MARCH 29

- DEBORAH TAFFA IN CONVERSATION WITH MELISSA FEBOS

UI Nonfiction Writing Program alum Deborah Taffa presents her new bold, propulsive nonfiction narrative with award-winning author and UI instructor Melissa Febos.

5:30 P.M. | PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.

SATURDAY

MARCH 30

-TAY TAY DANCE PARTY

DJ Swiftie leads this 2 hour dance party dedicated to the discography of Taylor Swift at Gabe's.

8 P.M. | GABE'S IOWA CITY 330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

SUNDAY

MARCH 31

-SUNDAY FUN DAY: 3D PAPER PEEPS

Join the ICPL for an afternoon of seasonal crafts and make Easter-themed Peeps.

2 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY 123 S. LINN ST.

MONDAY

APRIL 1

-MAKING THE BOOK, PAST, AND PRESENT

The UI main library's free exhibit is a perfect opportunity to explore the historical context of art and literature.

9 P.M. | UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARY MAIN GALLERY, 125 W. WASHINGTON ST.

TUESDAY

APRIL 2

- SENIOR RECITAL: RYAN CARTER BASS TROMBONE

The UI's series of senior music performances continues with Ryan Carter's bass trombone set.

7:30 P.M. | VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING, 93 E. BURLINGTON ST.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Cristina Henríquez

Author and alum Cristina Henríquez visited Prairie Lights Bookstore March 22 to discuss her new book.

Isabelle Lubguban
Arts Reporter
isabelle-lubguban@uiowa.edu

Cristina Henríquez is an Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate who received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. She has published works such as "The World in Half," "Come Together Fall Apart: A Novella and Stories," "The Book of Unknown Americans," and her most recent book, "The Great Divide."

Her nonfiction pieces have been published in The Wall Street Journal, TIME, Real Simple, The New Yorker, The New York Times, and in the anthologies "Hillary: Women Writers Reflect on the Candidate and What her Campaign Meant" and "This Is Not Chick Lit: Original Stories by America's Best Women Writers."

Her novel, "The Book of Unknown Americans," was a New York Times Notable Book of 2014 and one of Amazon's 10 Best Books of the Year.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Daily Iowan: The Panama Canal holds many meanings in your book, "The Great Divide." Why was this important for you to include?

Cristina Henríquez: The creation of the Panama Canal was a monumental moment in the history of the U.S. It was a real turning point; it was about figuring out who was going to control this piece of territory. This was important because it linked the Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean. At the time, the way to power and dominance in the world was through the oceans, through the seas. If people could control the little strip of waterway, that meant that they were going to be the dominant power in the world. The reason it was important to me was

because I grew up going to the Panama Canal, often when I was there visiting my family on summer vacation. It was just one of those things that was so much a part of my childhood, but as I grew older, I started to think, "What is the story of the Panama Canal?"

I had a sense that it was very layered and rich, but I didn't fully know the story. I started to dig into it and research it, getting inside of it in this different kind of way that I hadn't seen in novels or movies. I wanted to get beyond what people heard, maybe in a textbook. What was the human side of that story? How did it affect people who were not only working on it but just living through it? What is it like to live through that when the world and the geography of the earth were being transformed?

Why did you decide to write from four different points of view?

There are probably four main points of view and then there are a lot more points of view after that. I didn't restrain myself from going into a very minor character's point of view, even if for just one paragraph. This is a story that has been traditionally told in a very one-sided, limited way. It is not only a one-sided story; there were so many people involved, working on it, in proximity to it. So many lives were affected during this monumental undertaking. I just felt like, to do that story justice, I had to bring in as many perspectives as possible so that you could see all the multifaceted angles of it in one book.

What character did you resonate with the most: Francisco, Omar, Ada, or John Oswald, and why?

Omar and Ada were the first characters I thought of. They've been with me the longest, so I have a soft spot for them. But



Ava Neumaier |
The Daily Iowan

Francisco grew on me. His resistance to change, how sad that seemed to me. He was stuck and mired in the past in so many ways and for good reasons, which you see unfold throughout the book. I have affection for all of my characters in different ways. Understanding who John Oswald really was and then giving him a chapter where I think readers see a different side of him and understand him differently. That was important to me. But there are lots of minor characters that I love too, and it was a pleasure to get up every day and spend time with these characters, which sounds kind of weird. But that's my job — to spend time with imaginary people — so I loved doing this book.

When writing perspective, which do you prefer: Connecting many characters at once like in "The Great Divide" and "The Book of Unknown Americans," or from one point of view like in "The World in Half"?

I think it depends on the project at hand. You always have to do what serves the book. As I said for "The Great Divide," it made sense to have this multiplicity of perspectives. For "The Book of Unknown Americans," there was a mission behind it that had to do with hearing a multitude of voices. You know, it's equally as pleasurable when I'm just writing a short story and it's only in first person just for the duration, and I'm sucked into the character's consciousness. That could be just as satisfying and is always about what serves the story at the end of the piece that you're trying to write.

REVIEW

'Love Lies Bleeding'

The violent period piece could set a new grimy precedent for sapphic love stories on film.

Parker Jones
Managing Editor
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

Whether it be bodybuilding, fistfights, gunshots, or physical intimacy, Rose Glass' "Love Lies Bleeding" is a queer narrative about visceral physicality.

Released on March 8, the film is set in 1980s New Mexico, established as a place of misogyny, sweat, and crime. The story follows Lou, the daughter of a weapons dealer with a blurry, violent past, as she meets Jackie, a traveling bodybuilder hoping to win big at an upcoming contest. The two have an intense whirlwind romance and get up to a lot more bloody action than anyone expects.

While their backstories are never fully revealed, the characters are likable and relatable in their ways. Lou, played by Kristen Stewart, comes off as awkward but loving and family-oriented, while Jackie, played by Katy O'Brian, is less stable but driven.

The film is not for squeamish viewers. Audience members audibly let out gasps and expletives whenever something particularly gory or visceral occurred, including unwanted male advances.

Comparatively, everyone was dead silent during the sex scenes, which were some of the most realistic I'd ever seen for a sapphic couple. Stewart and O'Brian simply have that much chemistry, which exists offscreen as well.

Their romance and interpersonal conflicts were a little cliché at times, but skirted by with the added narratives of Lou's creepy crimelord father, played by Ed Harris, and a half-baked drug abuse subplot.

When Jackie meets Lou, she begins to use steroids to increase her physical performance as a bodybuilder, which has a confusing pattern of cause and effect throughout the film. The drugs only seem to help her commit acts of violence by artificially increasing her strength, but her mental state also becomes more fractured as she continues to up her dosage, to the point of directly harming Lou.

The ultimate moral of using these steroids is never really clarified as good or bad because they do end up helping Jackie in the final conflict.

The lighting and sound design of the film also stood out to me as remarkably well done. With a neon color palette, intense synth music, and beautiful lighting setups, the '80s vibe is immediately apparent and made me want to explore Glass' other work to see if it is just as atmospheric.

"Love Lies Bleeding" reminded me a lot of other recent films like "Bottoms" and "Bodies Bodies Bodies," which have begun to form this new violent-sapphic-thriller genre I'm all here for. I was ready to place it above these other two as a deeper, more mature contender, right up until the very end of the film.

By the time the credits rolled, I was left wanting more from this universe and Lou and Jackie. I almost wish that this film would be expanded into a series or larger franchise, though that might end up cheapening the plot in the long run.

The defining characteristic of "Love Lies Bleeding" is its physicality, which is conveyed across several different mediums. It's a grimy love story that isn't defined by its queerness but rather expanded by it in realistic, sanguine glory.

CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick for The Daily Iowan

PLAYLIST

ALL THINGS ESOTERIC AND WEIRD

I AM A PART OF THE WONDER | Lonnie Holley, Moor Mother
THE ARRIVAL | WZRD

SPIDER SUITE | Duke of Uke and His Novelty Orchestra

DINNER IS NOT OVER | Jack Stauber's Micropop

FAHRRADSATTEL | Pisse

NEW SEASON

20 years of Grey's

In light of Grey's Anatomy's 20th season, viewers reflect on how it has extended its influence.

Riley Dunn
Arts Reporter
riley-dunn@uiowa.edu

It's March 27, 2005. A fresh, new medical drama has just premiered on ABC capturing the attention of viewers across the country. Suddenly, people find themselves invested in the dark and twisted love lives of Seattle Grace Hospital's finest doctors for weekly installments of "Grey's Anatomy."

The show's allure did not fade. As the years went on, the drama's popularity only grew, until it seemed that everyone had at least heard of some of the show's many memorable one-liners, even if they had never actually watched an episode.

Today, "Grey's Anatomy" is widely known as a cultural phenomenon with an entire generation of fans who grew up watching the show. Its 20th season premiered on March 14.

"The fan base grew quickly at the beginning, and it continues to bring in new generations," University of Iowa first-year student Sammi Lewis said. "Adding the new interns every couple of years is helpful because then you get a new batch of people. And it adds new love interests, which is crucial to the show."

Lewis also said the show tries to keep up with the times as over the years it expanded the cast by adding more diverse characters and storylines.

"Season 20 is very reminiscent of early Grey's in terms of what is going on. That, to me, does make it hold up," UI first-year student Liberty Smith said.

Smith began watching the show alongside her mom at 12 years old. She has seen almost every episode since the show's fifth season, including season 20's first episode.

She cites the show's soap opera qualities as being both entertaining and relatable, remarking that the writers understand how to create compelling relationships and exciting cliffhangers.

Because the show being classified as a medical drama and centering around surgeons, it has given some — extremely dramatized — insight into what being a doctor could be like.

"I think, especially for young adults watching this show, it shows them what it might be like to go into the medical field of study," UI first-year student Emily Broderick said. "My sister is now in nursing school. I don't think she was directly influenced by the show, but she enjoyed watching it."

See more online

Read more about the 20th season of "Grey's Anatomy" and more arts coverage at dailyiowan.com.

THREE ELECTRIC PERFORMANCES

FEATURING UI STUDENTS AND FACULTY. ONE VIBRANT CAMPUS WITH CREATIVITY AT ITS HEART.

This semester, join us for brilliant, diverse, eclectic artistry celebrating students, faculty, and staff across the performing arts.

Dance students, working with Professors Stephanie Miracle and Eloy Barragán—and with MFA student Katelyn Perez—will take to the Hancher stage with the iconic Martha Graham Dance Company. Theatre Arts students will bring a beautiful play to life under the direction of Professor Caroline Clay. And School of Music students will perform a new opera at Hancher with music composed by Professor William Menefield, who will also direct.

Each performance is emblematic of what's possible on a campus committed to collaborative, transformational arts experiences for artists and audiences alike.



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY GRAHAM100

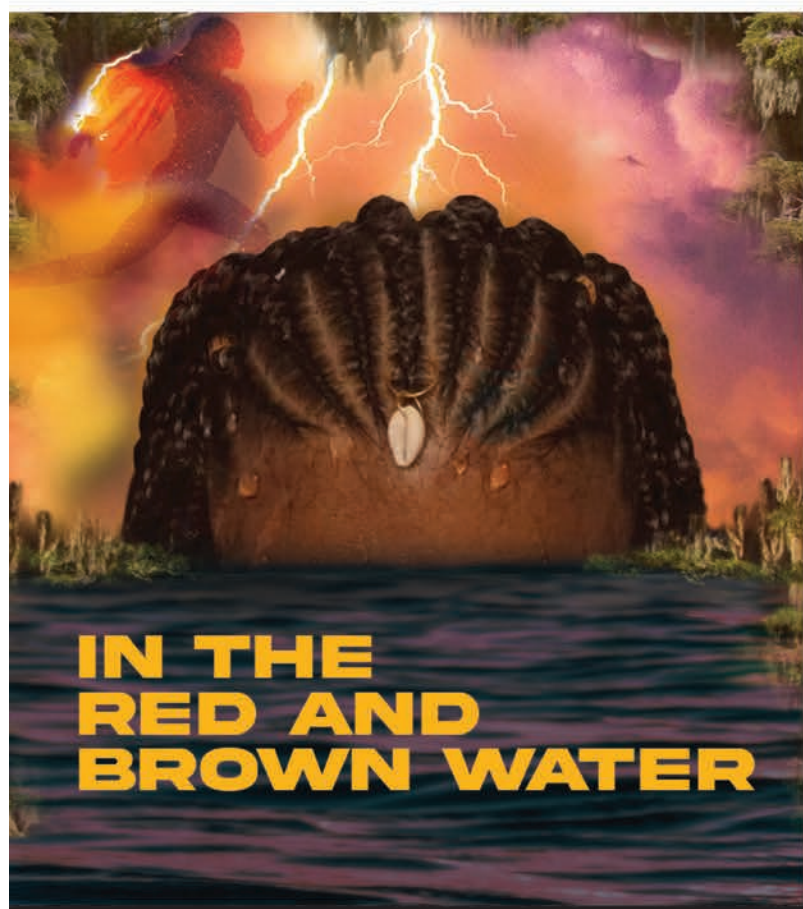
PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM WITH SUPPORT FROM UI DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Friday, March 29 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An indispensable dance company celebrates 100 years, bringing its founder's classic works to the stage alongside new work by contemporary choreographers. Martha Graham—an icon among 20th century artistic icons—radically expanded the dance vocabulary, and her work has captivated audiences worldwide while influencing generations of artists.

TICKETS

Adults \$65 / \$45
Students & Youth \$10



IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Caroline Clay

PRESENTED BY UI DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Friday–Sunday, April 12–14
& Wednesday–Saturday, April 17–20
Theatre Building

San Pere, Louisiana: Oya runs fast, but her collegiate future is placed on hold to care for her mother. Inspired by Federico García Lorca's *Yerma* and Yoruban cosmology, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *In the Red and Brown Water* is a lyrical offering at the intersection of ancestral myth and ritual about a young woman's coming-of-age navigating lovers, community, and her chosen path.

TICKETS

Adults \$20
Senior Citizens \$15
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5



FIERCE

Music by William Menefield
Libretto by Sheila Williams
Directed by William Menefield

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM, PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION UNIT,
AND UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An opera for the 21st Century, *Fierce* follows four teenage girls finding identity and purpose in the world as they write their college essays in a high school writers' workshop. The young women face striking internal challenges—the difficulties of high school popularity and social media, the weight of parental expectations, personal loss, and unstable lives at home—but come together to find community, self-empowerment, and the confidence to embrace new chapters.

TICKETS

Adults \$20
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5

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