Julian Neely and Juan Bibiloni were announced as Student Government’s next president and vice president on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

Julian Neely and Juan Bibiloni have been elected as Student Government’s next president and vice president respectively, according to election results announced Thursday evening.

With 4,091 votes received, Neely and Bibiloni secured 69 percent of the overall vote. Their opponents, Benjamin Whittington and Jocelyn Simms, received 28.5 percent of the overall vote with 1,689 votes received.

“It just showed that students believe in us. Students trust us. They were willing to put their trust in us to make sure that we serve students correctly,” Neely said of the votes. “That means a lot. I’m so grateful to see that many students believe in us.”

In total, voter turnout was at 17.8 percent when considering spring enrollment numbers. This is down 6.2 percent from last year.

Jack Sanor, vice election commissioner, said voter turnout was not quite what the commission had hoped for, however, crediting bad weather and the lack of a referendum as possible explanations.

“We expected it to go down a little bit,” he said. Neely and Bibiloni campaigned on “Moving Forward ISU” with a focus on changing, innovating and empowering students across campus as well as Iowa State’s community.

Major platform points by the candidates include increasing student study and social spaces across campus, increasing Student Government transparency through continuing the monthly town hall program, as well as organizing walks advocating for diversity and inclusion on campus and higher education affordability.

“At the end of the day, it’s not just our platform anymore — it’s the platform the students elected,” Bibiloni said.

Neely, president-elect, is a junior in journalism and mass communication and Bibiloni, vice president-elect, is a sophomore in mechanical engineering.

Both are currently involved in Student Government as Neely serves as the director of diversity and inclusion and Bibiloni represents the Inter-Residence Hall Association as a senator.

“It’s a team effort. We didn’t get to this point without our team,” Neely said. “Our team made a great contribution to this win.”

Neely and Bibiloni are set to be inaugurated April 12, effectively transitioning the administration from current President Cody West and Vice President Cody Smith.

Whittington said that while his team were disappointed they didn’t win, it was a great experience.

“I wish Juan and Julian the best, and I hope they can do great things for ISU,” he said.
The Space Odyssey:

With the recent launch of SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy and the heightened attention private space programs like SpaceX have been receiving, the future of space travel has excited engineers and non-engineering students alike.

“NASA would break the ground for commercial companies to have an easier path getting into space,” said Tomas Gonzalez-Torres, former NASA Flight Director.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA, was established in 1958 with United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower signing the National Aeronautics and Space Act. Since its establishment, NASA has inspired the next generation of innovators paving the way for modern space exploration.

NASA, although an inspiration, has had difficulty focusing on one area of space exploration due to changing White House administrations. This puts a leash on the program’s potential avenues of exploration.

“At this point I don’t know whether NASA or SpaceX would land someone on Mars first,” Gonzalez-Torres said.

With billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk funding the space odyssey to Mars, SpaceX has pushed the frontiers of space travel. Founded in 2002, SpaceX’s primary mission has been to enable people to explore other planets.

SpaceX has been able to accomplish feats that have pushed the envelope of space exploration while simultaneously almost going out of business. With its recent launch of the Falcon Heavy and landing of the Falcon 9’s, SpaceX is set to develop its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR).

“Sometime between the Bush and Obama administration, the White House wanted to off-load some of the work that NASA was doing to private companies in order to make NASA’s priorities clearer,” said Tor Finseth, former White House and SpaceX intern.

Starting in 2008, private companies would bid for Commercial Resupply Services one contracts to send payloads into space. Soon after, contracts for technology integration equipment with NASA’s systems were needed.

SpaceX was awarded the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract, a $2.6 billion contract, set to send astronauts into space starting in 2018.

“You go to SpaceX and people work very long hours, but the advancements in technology are incredible and the people who work there are brilliant; it is the cutting edge industry,” Finseth said.

Although SpaceX is pushing the frontier of innovation, the course has not always had a clear-cut trajectory.

In 1995, Boeing and Lockheed Martin were given the opportunity to compete for government contracts to send satellites into space, which led to their merger in 2006, creating the United Launch Alliance (ULA).

The United States Air Force then contracted with the ULA to guarantee the purchase of 36 rocket cores. The contract set ULA as the sole provider for the rocket cores, eliminating any room for competition.

In 2014, SpaceX filed a law suit against the contract seeking the right to compete for bids on projects. On March 5, SpaceX launched the Falcon 9 reusable rocket for the 50th time, however this time carrying the Hispasat 30W-6 satellite into space.

Hispasat is a Spanish communications satellite that weighs in at six metric tons. The launch of Hispasat marks SpaceX’s heaviest geostationary satellite sent to space.

Unlike NASA, private space companies have a lower burden of transparency to the public, allowing companies like SpaceX to pursue their own missions.

However, NASA has more funding and has paved the way for the

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**SpaceX Falcon 9 FT:**

- **Size:** 229.6 ft tall
- **Loaded weight:** 1,210,457 pounds
- **Thrust:** 1st stage: 1,710,000 lbs of force
  2nd stage: 210,000 lbf
- **First launch:** 12/22/2015
- **Price of launch:** $62 million

**NASA Saturn V**

- **Size:** 363 ft tall
- **Loaded weight:** 6.2 million pounds
- **Thrust:** 7.6 million lbs of force (lbf)
- **First launch:** 11/9/1967
- **Price of launch:** $185 million in 1969, $1.284 billion now

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*InfoGRAPHIC BY JON HESSE/IOWA STATE DAILY*
SpaceX vs. NASA

way for private companies to pursue these missions, by con-
tracting work out to these private entities.

Although there is some overlap, the objectives of NASA
and SpaceX are different. With NASA's objective to benefit
the world of science and SpaceX's objective to push the human
frontier, both have garnered the attention of students here at
Iowa State.

"The Iowa State Space Society is a club geared

Launched weight: 21,428 lbs
Thrust: 60,000 lbf
First launch: 4/29/2013

Blue Origin New Shepard:
Thrust: 110,000 lbf
First launch: 4/29/2015

Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo:
Size: length: 60 ft, wingspan: 27 ft
Launched weight: 21,428 lbs
Thrust: 60,000 lbf
First launch: 4/29/2013

toward educating, involve and excite as many people as possible
about space flight," said Alek Erickson, senior in aerospace
engineering.

As the president of the Iowa State Space Society, Erickson
heavily involves himself in outreach and educational work to
inform and inspire students to look beyond the blue sky and
engage with modern scientific advancements.

"The coolest thing I would like to see, which is also the reason
I became an aerospace engineer, is to see people living off the
planet," Erickson said.
The Bad Jesus


Policing Blotter

3.7.18

An individual reported the theft of a Macbook Pro at Pearson Hall (reported at 2:35 p.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at State Gymnasium (reported at 12:44 p.m.).

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CORRECTIONS

Yesterday’s article titled “Lambda Theta Alpha advocates for DACA” ran in the news section. It should have run as an opinion piece. Additionally, Brian Walsh was not present during the meeting, it was in fact Thomas Boody. Parts of the article have been removed online because they were part of an off-the-record conversation. The Daily regrets the errors. The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about errors that warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-294-5688 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.
The NRA creates fear and paranoia

BY SANDEEP STANLEY
sstanley@iowastatedaily.com

In the wake of the Parkland school shooting in Florida, major retailers Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods announced that they would no longer be selling assault-style rifles, and that the minimum age to purchase a gun at their stores would be raised from 18 to 21. Walmart referenced the shooting in a statement posted on their website, stating that "our heritage as a company has always been in serving sportsmen and hunters, and we will continue to do so in a responsible way.” Dick’s utilized their Twitter account to release their own communication, in which they asserted that “even as strong supporters of the Second Amendment, we feel now is the time to have a meaningful discussion about common-sense reform with the intent of finding a solution.”

First, it’s important to realize that Walmart and Dick’s are acting in their own interests by taking this step. With 66 percent of American voters currently in favor of stricter gun laws, it is not unreasonable to think that the PR bonus incurred from their active stance would offset the minority of customers who boycott their stores.

That being said, the two retailers are nevertheless making an important statement: a show of good faith to the majority of Americans who want a more active gun control system without threatening anyone’s constitutional rights.

Second, President Trump’s comments on proposed gun control legislation last Wednesday must be lauded. While the future of gun control remains unclear - President Trump has a history of taking erratic positions on long-polarizing issues - if he follows through on just half of his suggestions, it would be more than Democrats could have ever hoped for.

Not only did the President reject the National Rifle Association’s top legislative priority — concealed-carry reciprocity — he insisted that the minimum age to purchase a gun be raised to 21, and even acknowledged how controversial a bill arming teachers would be.

He sounded reasonable! Rational! He may have gone a little too far in suggesting that law enforcement be allowed to seize guns from the mentally ill and other dangerous people before going to court, but that is to be expected in the wake of such a traumatic event.

If President Trump takes the lead in implementing moderate gun control policies, it might be the catalyst for some real change.

While President Trump is an unlikely hero in the increasingly bitter debate on Capitol Hill, we are faced with an all-too-familiar villain: the NRA.

Their Facebook page boasts over two million followers — almost half of the NRA’s total membership. In lieu of making an official statement offering condolences to the victims of the Parkland tragedy, they instead have opted to post statements such as, “To all American gun owners, this is a wake-up call. They’re coming after us” (February 19, 2018). “To all American gun owners, this is a wake-up call. We need your help to fight back” (March 2, 2018) and most distastefully, “Mass shootings have become the most successful show in the history of the America news media, and the shooters are their stars.” — NRA’s Colion Noir (February 22, 2018).

Even more damning was their accusation in another post from February 22, where they claimed that Dana Loesch, a representative of the organization, faced chants of “Burn her” at a CNN town hall — only for no less than a survivor of the shooting to assert the contrary, supported by video evidence.

Is this right? Is this just? Does the NRA feel threatened?

We are in the wake of one of the deadliest school shootings in history, and their Facebook post history reads like the ramblings of a horrifically paranoid conspiracy theorist who looks over their shoulder so often that they fail to see the cold, unyielding truth in front of them.

Unlike their twisted perception of the general American populace, the majority absolutely do not wish to infringe on anyone’s rights. We have fought so many battles, shed so much blood, for the sake of unalienable rights that we hold dear.

However, the victims of the shooting had unalienable rights as well. They had the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Rights that they were forcibly deprived of.

The Second Amendment grants Americans the right to bear arms for the maintaining of a “well-regulated Militia.” In the words of Diane Wolf Rogers, an AP World History teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who attended the funeral of one of her students - “how is an 18-year old with a military rifle well-regulated?”

These events were not directly the fault of any organization or individual - except for the perpetrator, whose name I refuse to mention.

But, when an organization like the NRA creates this culture of fear, of paranoia, instilling in its members an “us against the world” mentality, they must take a very long, and very hard look at themselves.

Make the most of your spring break

Nine days. No labs, exams or simply walking to class in freezing temperatures for the next nine days. It is fair to say that we are all more than ready for spring break. The Editorial Board would like to offer some advice to students regardless of where they spend their break.

Traveling somewhere warm and with a beach is a college-aged student's dream. Every year pictures circulate of college-aged students from around the nation inundate our southern coast.

Along with the people comes alcohol, partying and crime inducing acts of stupidity.

Interestingly enough, one can party with friends and consume alcohol while still being a good person. All it takes is some common sense and basic decency.

Respect the local communities you visit. Ask the local people for nearby and lesser known attractions and places to eat. Being kind and courteous increases your chances of getting an in-depth recommendation and not just the standard tourist response.

If you are out in nature—whether skiing down a mountain or lounging on a beach—practice Leave No Trace principles. This means packing out all of the trash you brought to the site and not disturbing the native flora and fauna.

For those staying in Ames, remember to take a break from binge watching your favorite shows to explore more of Ames and Des Moines.

Take a chance and go to a restaurant, café, bar or business you wouldn’t usually go to.

Additionally, there are multiple shows, sporting and live music events happening around the area.

Spring break can also be a great time to start or finish personal projects or focus on a hobby that you don’t make time for when classes are in session.

Commit to finishing a book for pleasure, not class or TopHat questions.

Organize and clean your room or apartment.

Simply use this time to relax and prepare for the end of the semester.

Graduating seniors, soak in this spring break. It may be a while before we are given license to check out of our responsibilities for nine whole days.

EDITORIAL

Opinion Policy:
The Daily encourages discussion but does not guarantee its publication. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter or online feedback.

Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), majors and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s).

Phone numbers and addresses will not be published.

The Daily allows the use of first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.

Friday, March 9, 2018
Iowa State Daily
OPINION
05
Seniors change the team culture

BY AUSTIN ANDERSON
iowastatedaily.com

Up the front stairs of Beyer Hall, past the gymnastics offices, and through the red door, two words flash across a TV screen.

The two words make up a statement that has been at the Iowa State gymnastics practice facility since before the 2018 season began, but they carry meaning that began long before.

"Writing history" appears on the screen before the slideshow transitions away. Just like the slide, the people most responsible for carrying out the mission of "writing history" will soon transition away from the sport they have competed in for nearly their entire lives.

In a few days, the regular season will come to an end. In a few weeks everything but the National Championships will have come to an end. In a little over a month, no matter what happens, the five Iowa State seniors will have competed in gymnastics for the final time.

Four years ago, these seniors showed up. Some made the commitments to stay in their home state. Others moved across the country because Iowa State was one of the few places to give them a shot.

All of them were tasked with helping build a program that was far from a contender. The year before these seniors signed their letters of intent, in the biggest meet of the season, the Cyclones scored nearly two full points lower at regionals than they did in their lowest score of this season.

They knew they could be the ones to help bring Iowa State back to the success the program saw in the early and mid-2000s when the Cyclones were contending for National Championships. But they didn't know they would be the ones who would change the culture of the program altogether.

Some didn't even know they were going to be Cyclones at all. When Briana Ledesma was a senior in high school, she was just looking for a school where she could walk on. She decided Iowa State was where she wanted to be.

"It was the first school to make me feel like if I came here, I would be valuable and I would serve a purpose," Ledesma said.

Then a month before her freshman year was scheduled to start, her family found out they weren't going to be able to pay to attend Iowa State. She called Katie Minasola, who was the assistant coach recruiting her at the time, and told her she wanted to be able to go to a Cyclone.

"I was in tears because I wanted to come here so bad," Ledesma said. "I had to tell them that I had to look somewhere else. Somewhere that can give me money or that's close to home because I just couldn't afford it."

Ledesma then went to an exhibition where she could show her skills to potential college coaches. She caught the eye of Nebraska's assistant coach recruiting her at the time, and told her she wasn't just looking for a school where she could walk on. She decided Iowa State was where she wanted to be.

"We're finally there."

That's the difference between the team these seniors came in on and the team they are leaving. Previous teams under Ronayne hoped to win. This team expects to win.

In 2017, there were no seniors on the roster. Making this class the leaders for the last two years.

This year has really been the year they've broken out. The Cyclones have four victories over top-20 teams this season. Their 16-4 record has kept them inside the top 25 all season.

Ledesma realized it after the opening meet of the season in Arizona. The team was preparing for beam, which is an event the Cyclones have struggled with in the past. Ledesma looked around at her teammates.

"Nobody was worried," Ledesma said. "In that moment I was just like 'This is a whole different team.' After we finished that meet we were like 'We're going to do something this year.'"

Ronayne said this team is also different in that they are okay with their teammates being good. Gymnastics is unique in the way it is an individual sport wrapped up in a team sport.

Growing up, gymnasts are a part of club teams but they compete individually. So adjusting to the team dynamic in college is a challenge for many.

"It's really special," Haylee Young said. "We're literally like a family. I know people say that all the time but I've never felt this close with each and every person before."

All of the seniors come from different places and different backgrounds, which makes their dynamic unique.

"I think everything happens for a reason," Hilary Green said. "Each one of the girls in my class were placed there for I don't know what reason."

Ronayne's favorite memories of the seniors

Hilary Green — "Hilary's first ever 9.900 on bars. We worked so hard for it. I kept promising her it was going to happen and when it did, I will never forget that. There were so many flashes of brilliance in the gym. Then something goes wrong in competition."

Haylee Young — "Two years ago against Iowa. We was the last competitor on floor. We need a 9.925 to win, a 9.900 to tie. She does this amazing floor routine and gets a 9.925 and we win. I will never forget that."

Kelsey Paz — "There are so many little things that she does. She's very funny and she's very goofy. She is very emotional. You know exactly where she's at with her emotions, whether she's happy, sad, angry, whatever it is. She can't hide anything. For the most part she's bubbly and happy and just fun to be around."

Courtney Middlekoop — "One memory I will never forget is before she even came to school here. So we were talking and I wanted to know a little more about her. She told me she wanted to be a race car driver. I was driving and I had to do a double take. I didn't know anyone wanted to be a race car driver!"

Briana Ledesma (Dez) — "Dez, she overcame so much just to come to school here. Not many people know this but she was to come to Iowa State as a walk on. We didn't have a scholarship for her. The summer before she was to come here, she found out she couldn't afford it. Her coach from club contacted my then assistant coach, Katie Minasola. Then I got a call from Katie."

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It’s time to (spring) clean

BY LIZ JACAVIND
@iowastatedaily.com

It’s that time again. The weather is getting warmer and students are starting to catch spring fever, and summer is very close behind. Before students can throw up their hands, toss any and all syllabi and write their professor feedback reports, they have to tackle another half of the semester.

With spring break comes spring cleaning. Whether you’re staying in Ames or aiming to finish out the year with a clean mindset and clean living space, here are a few tips to help your spring cleaning.

Clean, clean, clean

Haven’t bought cleaning supplies for the impending cleaning tasks? Baking soda and vinegar will come in handy quickly. Make an all purpose cleaner with 1 cup of white vinegar, 1 tbsp baking soda and 1 cup water. Place ingredients into a spray bottle and use for your bathroom, kitchen or floors. Mix in some citrus essential oils to help create a fresh scent around the apartment. It’s easy, cost efficient and your roommate will thank you for going to town on those grimy countertops and cabinets. (Cleaner recipe courtesy of the seasonedmom.com).

Ditch those clothes that don’t fit or you don’t wear anymore

Decluttering your space is important and easier than most people think. Break away from those clothes that don’t make you happy anymore (and maybe get some money back for those clothes, depending on where you go).

Take stock of your clothes. If you haven’t worn something in a year or more, it’s time to say goodbye. The Loft, Random Goods and Overflow are a few of the consignment/thrift stores around the Ames area that are accepting spring and summer clothing.

Clean out your inbox

A simple, yet neglected task. Going through your emails can be tedious, time consuming and oftentimes falls to the wayside when it comes to cleaning. Have over 100 or even 1,000 emails sitting in your inbox? Go ahead and unsubscribe from online shops, create folders for important emails you need to keep and simply delete all those promotional or spam emails that are only taking up space.

Spruce up your online look

Along with cleaning out your emails go through your Instagram and Facebook posts, clean up your professional presence. We are students soon emerging into the working world, so updating a resume or online portfolio will also freshen up how you look to potential employers or internship recruiters.

Consult your planner to reconnect with your goals for the remainder of the semester.

Reconnect and revise

Think back to the beginning of the semester, when your planner was full of promise, determination and carefully planned out study goals. Take the time this spring to gather your thoughts and reconnect with your goals. There are 38 school days left in the year. Evaluate where you are in the semester, plan out what’s left to do and get it done.
backgrounds, which makes their dynamic unique.

“I think everything happens for a reason,” Hilary Green said.

“Each one of the girls in my class were placed there for I don’t know what reason. We just help each other out in unique ways. We are so different but we mesh so well.”

The history for this team is still being written. Friday will be senior night but it won’t be the last meet of the season or even their last time competing in Hilton. Next week the Cyclones travel to Arkansas. The week after that Iowa State will host the Big 12 Championships.

Regionals will follow and if things break in a certain way, the season will end at the National Championships.

Yet, the impact of this senior class is obvious.

“I think they already have [written history], Ronayne said. “They’ve set a new tone. It’s this senior class that helped established this culture of working hard for something that’s worth working for.”

Hilary Green competes on the uneven bars during the first home meet of the season against Arizona Jan. 12 in Hilton Coliseum.

Senior Haylee Young competes on beam during the first home meet of the season against Arizona Jan. 12 in Hilton Coliseum.

Senior Courtney Middelkoop competes on the floor event during the Cyclones tri-meet against Southeast Missouri and Centenary.

Senior Haylee Young competes on beam during the first home meet of the season against Arizona Jan. 12 in Hilton Coliseum.

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