Followings Bridget

How phenom freshman Ashley Joens aims to emulate Bridget Carleton

By Jack Shover
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This season, senior Bridget Carleton will have a shadow that stands one inch shorter than her 6-foot-1 frame.

Her shadow, true freshman Ashley Joens, was told by coach Bill Fennelly to do so.

“I told Ashley to basically follow Bridget around,” Fennelly said. “Do what Bridget does, act like Bridget acts, do those kinds of things and Ashley wants to be that type of player.”

Carleton was an Honorable Mention All-American last year and led Iowa State in points, rebounds, steals, blocks and 3-pointers made. In high school, Joens was named Iowa’s Gatorade Player of the Year and averaged 30.7 points and 11.4 rebounds playing for Canada, Carleton averaged 28.4 points and 11.1 rebounds.

Despite living in the home of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Joens said she chose Iowa State because it felt like home due to the team feeling like a family.

“I just to play in front of ten thousand fans is amazing,” Joens said, complimenting the atmosphere after going to Hilton Madness last year.

When looking at the similarities between herself and Joens, Carleton said they are both tall power forwards.

Fennelly said Joens will spend the majority of her time on the court as a wing, but said the team experimented with playing her as a backup center.

“Bridget, like most freshmen, couldn’t spell defense when she got here and now she’s probably, arguably our best defender,” Fennelly said.

“Joens’ kind of struggling with [defense],” Carleton said. “I think that’s what will make her so special during the Big 12 season.”

During the spring, Joens said when her sister was in college, Bridget Carleton had the same struggles.

“Bridget, like most freshmen, couldn’t spell defense when she got here and now she’s probably, arguably our best defender,” Fennelly said.

“She wants to be an impactful defender,” Carleton said. “She wants to be an impactful defender.”

With the starting lineup in mind, Fennelly expects Joens to be up to speed by the team’s first game.

During the Big 12 season, Carleton said the games take another step up and she expects Joens to go through ups and downs like she did, but will be ready to help her through those struggles.

With that being said, Carleton said she expects Joens’ time with the USA U-18 team will help with her adjustment to the college level.

On the team, Joens was a captain and averaged 10.7 points, 4.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.3 steals on a team which captured a gold medal at the FIBA Americas Women’s Championship.

Fennelly said the coaches of the team “couldn’t have been more complementary on the way she played and what she did.”

Carleton is no stranger to playing for national teams, having played for the Canadian team since being part of its U-16 team.

Because of the experience, Carleton said she expects Joens to be up to speed by the team’s first game and was not afraid to mention how far along Joens is in her progression.

“Man, I think she is steps ahead of me when I was a freshman,” Carleton said. “You know she’s confident, she knows how to score in a variety of ways, so I’m really excited to see how she does this season.”

Despite Joens being a strong scorer, Fennelly said she has struggled in one area of the college game – defense. Fennelly said Carleton had the same struggles.

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**Crossword**

**Across**
1. Pr. squared, for a circle
2. Encyclopedia tidbit
10. Cozy corner
11. Try to punch
12. Layer with "holes" in it
14. Speeds (up)
17. Penniless
20. Powerful person
22. Stipulations
24. Crone
26. Like champion sprinters
27. WWII torpedo craft
28. One-up
29. Little lie
30. Little lie
31. Church-founded Dallas sch.
32. FDR's dog
34. Confused mental states
36. Gemstone
37. Mythological sky holder
39. Fed the kitty
40. Filch
42. Hurried
44. Place near a train yard
46. Bone Pref
47. Queue after
49. 20s dispenser, for short
50. Riot control weapon
52. Like lies
53. Alpaca kin
55. "_...win situation"
56. Bride's new relative
57. "Hallur...ch letters"
58. Key next to the space bar
59. 7. Newswoman Roberts
60. March Madness org.
61. Hullabaloos
62. Pig __
63. Eisenhower nickname
64. Pillar from a fire
65. Guitar cousin
66. Brother of Peyton
68. Pillar from a fire
69. Penniless
70. Look at quickly
71. Slipped gently (into)
72. Renders speechless
73. Wobbly table stabilizer

**Down**
1. "Bowwow!"
2. Belief sys.
3. Pertaining to the gospel
4. "_...win situation"
5. Warehouse vehicle
6. "...ing family"
7. Stipulations
8. Try to punch
9. Direct, as a father-son con-
10. Doctor's org.
11. Try to punch
12. Layer with "holes" in it
13. Opener's second call
14. Get ready for a short race
15. __...roughly
16. Render speechless
18. Big Broadway hit, slangily
20. Powerful person
22. Stipulations
23. Singer Diff'rent
24. Crane
25. For any reason
26. Like champion sprinters
27. WWII torpedo craft
28. One-up
29. Little lie
30. Little lie
31. Church-founded Dallas sch.
32. FDR's dog
33. Greek marketplace
34. Confused mental states
35. Pontiac muscle car
36. Gemstone
37. Mythological sky holder
39. Fed the kitty
40. Filch
42. Hurried
44. Place near a train yard
46. Bone Pref
47. Queue after
49. 20s dispenser, for short
50. Riot control weapon
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57. "Hallur...ch letters"
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59. 7. Newswoman Roberts
60. March Madness org.
61. Hullabaloos
63. Eisenhower nickname
65. Guitar cousin
66. Brother of Peyton
67. President pro __

**Sudoku by the Mepham Group**

**LEVEL:**

**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk**

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8 6 9 7 3 2 1 4 5
9 7 4 3 1 2 5 6 8
3 2 4 1 9 5 7 8 6
5 8 1 6 7 4 9 2 3
4 3 9 8 6 2 1 7 5
2 1 3 5 4 7 8 9 6
7 9 8 4 3 6 2 5 1
6 5 7 2 1 8 3 4 9
1 8 2 7 5 9 4 3 6
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**CALCULATOR**

**Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.**
**Screening of “Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria” at 101 Carver Hall**

**POLICE BLOTTER**

**10.06.18**
**Donovan Ray Benson, age 23, of 4730 Mortensen Road Unit 205, Ames, Iowa, was arrested and charged with public intoxication at Sheldon Avenue and Knapp Street (reported at 7:41 a.m.).**

**An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at Geoffroy Hall (reported at 2:22 a.m.).**

**10.07.18**
**Caitlin Jo Murphy, age 23, of 5322 Woodland St, Ames, Iowa, was arrested and charged with public intoxication at Lincoln Way and Sheldon Avenue (reported at 7:56 a.m.).**

**An officer investigated a property damage collision at Lot 2020 (reported at 3:18 a.m.).**

**An individual reported the theft of a bicycle at Larch Hall (reported at 9:21 a.m.).**

**An officer investigated a property damage collision at East Campus Parking Deck (reported at 4:48 p.m.).**

**FEATURE PHOTO**

**Trick or treat**

"Last night I received an anonymous email telling me to make open mic night extra spooky and that all the performers would be wearing costumes," Poet Shawn Robinson, said at the M-Shop’s Open Mic Night on Oct. 9, 2018. "I arrived today and found that no one else was wearing any costume and that this has been a big prank at my expense."

"On the front page of the October 9, 2018 edition of the Iowa State Daily, a sidebar (in bold borders) contains a misleading title, "Request for Pedestrian Mall Area. This was supposed to be another bullet point as priority for on-street parking and more parking options would not be included in the pedestrian mall plan. The Daily regrets this error."
Faculty Senate approves name change to biochem

BY KAITLYN HOOD
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The Faculty Senate approved a name change to a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences major as well as discussed initiatives to improve campus climate at their meeting Monday night.

With a majority vote by the Senate, the agricultural biochemistry major will change its name to biochemistry.

The Senate also introduced the idea of a feed technology minor.

At their next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, the Senate will debate renaming both the major and minor of industrial technology to applied engineering and technology management, which was met by hesitance by some senators.

The Senate also discussed the continuation of both the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey and the campus climate surveys.

COACHE is a faculty satisfaction survey about their experiences at work and academic issues.

In an effort to improve the work climate for Iowa State faculty and staff, the Faculty Senate is looking to improve service delivery at Iowa State.

One way is through the WorkCyte program to enhance and modernize faculty resources.

WorkCyte is a cloud-based solution within Workday, which is planned to replace AccessPlus within the coming years.

Yet even with the Faculty Senate looking forward, Peter Martin, Faculty Senate president, reflected on the past month, saying it was the “best of times and the worst of times.”

Martin talked about how the Faculty Senate and Iowa State community at-large continues to remember the death of Celia Barquin Arozamena.

“We hope for a better world and hope for a better community,” Martin said.

Another topic of discussion was the installation of President Wendy Wintersteen.

Martin said there was a lot of student involvement regarding the installation, and he has high hopes for what is to come.

“We while we experience sad and elate events all at the same time, the Faculty Senate also continues to work on important initiatives,” Martin said.

Faculty senate will meet again 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 13 in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union.

Faculty Senate represents the general faculty of Iowa State and is made up of 82 representatives.

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Iowa Latino Hall of Fame
Iowa State student to be honored for her work in the Latinx community

BY MIKE BROWN
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An Iowa State graduate student is being recognized at the state level for her work in the Latinx community.

Vanessa Espinoza, graduate student in the school of education, will be later to receive the Latino Youth Leadership Award and inducted into the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

Established in 2017, the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame was made by the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs to honor and celebrate Latino leaders in Iowa, according to the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

Espinoza is being recognized for her community work throughout her life, but in the small Iowa town her family moved to when she was a toddler, the University of Northern Iowa, where she received her undergraduate degree or her time as a graduate student at Iowa State.

Espinoza was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, but moved to the United States when she was a toddler. From a young age, Espinoza said she was always taught to be action oriented.

“One of the messages I got growing up was, if you see a problem, and it bothers you, don’t complain,” Espinoza said. “Do something about it.”

With this message, and the mentorship of family, community members and her high school counselors, Espinoza said she was inspired and empowered to take leadership roles in helping her community.

One of the first times Espinoza was driven to lead was when she taught Sunday school in high school. Espinoza said she remembered one student she had who could not read but was trying to make his confirmation. She also noticed that many individuals in her community struggled with literacy, including her mother.

Espinoza applied for and received the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award, using it to start a class and create a space where she could teach Latinx people in her community to read and write in both English and Spanish.

Espinoza said empowering and meeting the needs of the people she taught was always the most important thing. She said she never approached helping these individuals as a savior but wanted to empower them by being inclusive and helping them reach whatever goal they set for themselves.

“It was very important to empower the families that were there. For example, in my classes I made sure to allow kids to come,” Espinoza said. “I made sure to allow partners to come, and encourage a collaborative learning environment, rather than me lecturing to them because [lecturing] puts the attention to me rather than the student.”

Espinoza said while she may not have had an overwhelming amount of students at any one time, being able to empower those who did attend was what was most important, saying the experience was unforgettable.

Vanessa Espinoza, a graduate student in the school of education, is being recognized at the state level for her work in the Latinx community and will be inducted into the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

One individual Espinoza remembered helping was a woman who could not read or write. Through the program, this woman was able to start signing her own name on her daughter’s school forms.

“She eventually learned how to write her name, and she was able to sign her [daughter’s] planner,” Espinoza said. “That was empowering in itself, being able to be involved more in the life of your child.”

Since 2011, a select group of students have received a scholarship from Espinoza called the Vanessa Espinoza Scholarship.

Espinoza said she chooses the recipients based on their determination and ability to overcome adversity.

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StuGov to tackle issues with trademark policy

BY MADELYN OSTENDORF
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Student Government will be discussing and voting on their resolution addressing the university’s trademark policy which, if passed, would request for the university to halt the implementation of the current policy.

The new resolution also asks for the documents and communications surrounding the policy’s change as well as an apology issued from the administration in regards to any problems that the sudden change may have caused student organizations.

A recent amendment to the resolution states, “We highly encourage students on campus to play an active role in these conversations and on all issues and relevant discussions that impact the people we have been elected to represent.”

According to Sen. Sandeep Stanley, several members of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) will be in attendance at the meeting on Wednesday.

The Senate will also be searing Chase Krug as a new member to the election commission and voting to approve funding requests from Cardinal Eats and the Freshman Council.

Cardinal Eats is requesting funding of $5,000 to assist in the printing and publication costs of their free magazine. Cardinal Eats prints two issues per year with the intent of building a community of the food lovers within Ames.

The Freshman Council is requesting $1,119 in funds to assist in putting on their 12th annual Jingle Jog, a 5K run around campus for students and residents of Ames. The funding assist in the purchase of lights, food, hot chocolate, t-shirts and rental tables.

For more information or to contact your senator, visit stugov.iastate.edu. The senate meetings are open to the public on Wednesday’s at 7 p.m. in the Campanile Room of the Memorial Union.

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Goodreads ranks 2018 most popular books

BY MELANIE DE ANDA
@iwastatedaily.com

I’ve lost count of how many books I’ve had to keep up with throughout 2018, and it’s not over yet. Already more than 200 books have been voted “Most Popular Published Books in 2018” according to Goodreads.

One of them has been one of my personal anticipated reads for almost two years: “Queen of Air and Darkness” by Cassandra Clare.

The book isn’t set to be published until Dec. 4, 2018, and it already has taken 26th place out of the 200 Best Published.

Keep in mind these statistics come from users who use Goodreads. Even so, the 25 million reported users who use Goodreads. Even so, the 25 million reported users who use Goodreads as a form of bookish social media, it’s still surprising unpublished books would make the list before even being released. Then again, Cassandra Clare is a bestselling author, so it makes sense for fans of hers to assume ahead of time the book will be great.

A total of five other books follow the same example as Clare’s unreleased book. Five books which have yet to be published in these last months of 2018 are being voted as some of the most popular, or in this case, unpublished books of 2018.

Some of these titles come from a variety of different genres.

From the young adult and contemporary genre comes “What If It’s Us” by Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera along with “Bridge of Clay” by Markus Zusak. From the mystery and thriller genre: “The Witch Elm” by Tana French. These books weren’t expected to be released until Oct. 9, yet they’re considered one of the most popular published months before their release date.

Then, we have “Every Breath” by Nicholas Sparks from the romance genre, expected to be coming out Oct. 16, following “Kingdom of Ash” by Sarah J Maas for the fantasy genre, with a planned release date of Oct. 23. It’s obvious these statistics may be a bit biased due to the fact unpublished books made the list, but the people have spoken and have set their hearts on these books as some of the best in 2018.

When it comes to getting the best ratings on the list, “Magic Triumphs” by Ilona Andrews takes the lead with a 4.63 average rating, followed by “Obsidio” by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff at a 4.59 average rating.

Keep in mind these statistics come from an association. Goodreads ranks 2018 most popular books

Candidate morals no longer matter

Looking back years from now, the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court may mark a critical point in American politics.

Not only will his presence on the court usher in a conservative era of decisions, but it will solidify the effect President Trump has had on politics. That effect is a shift in voter values.

People care less about who politicians are as people and more about what platform or party they run under.

In recent campaigns, candidates for public office have come under increasing amounts of scrutiny with their opponents looking for anything from their past that may disqualify them from the position they are seeking. Unfortunately, it no longer matters what a candidate may have done in the past so long as they can help to further an agenda.

As citizens, it’s impossible for us to personally know political candidates.

Very few people can speak to their true character and integrity, and that makes it really hard to discern fact from fiction when trying to assess a candidate. However, we must not let that hinder our decision-making skills.

The truth is objective, whether you believe it or not is irrelevant. It exists and has been so long as they are a member of our political party. It will be the death of American civility.

One book I read a couple months back which also happened to make the list was “To Kill a Kingdom” by Alexandra Christo, which I absolutely loved. All I have to say about that book is if you want a dark, less accurate version of Disney’s “The Little Mermaid,” this is it.

I’m sure some of you readers out there could name plenty of other books which deserved to be on this list if they’re not on there already, just remember this list is based off votes from Goodreads users, not about how many copies sold.

With a little over two and a half months left of the year, there is still a possibility the list might shift according to votes. So, if you have a favorite book from this year which you believe belongs on this list, make sure to throw in your vote on Goodreads.

Opinions expressed in columns and letters are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Daily or organizations with which the author(s) are associated.

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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@iwastatedaily.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. Online feedback may be used if 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.
**Cyclones optimistic heading into season**

**BY SPENCER SUCKOW**
@iowastatedaily.com

Coach Bill Fennelly spoke to reporters at women’s basketball media day on Monday. Here are a few highlights from the press conference.

Alexa Middleton will start at point guard

Following her transfer from the University of Tennessee in 2017, and subsequently sitting out all of last season due to NCAA transfer rules, redshirt senior — and former McDonald’s All-American — Alexa Middleton will be the Cyclones’ starting point guard going into the 2018-19 season.

Fennelly made the announcement during his press conference Monday and said that despite not playing a minute for Iowa State, Middleton has made a noticeable impact on the team.

“She’s a point guard of what we like,” Fennelly said. “Tough-minded, high basketball IQ, can score, and I think in a short amount of time she’s gained the trust of her teammates.”

Fennelly did acknowledge concerns regarding the fact that Middleton hasn’t played a competitive basketball game since March of 2017.

“She’s done a great job up to this point,” Fennelly said. “I think she’s been a great fit that impacts out team dramatically, and a player that our fans will enjoy watching.”

After that, there’s plenty to decide

Along with Middleton, Fennelly said sophomore forward Madison Wise and senior guard Bridget Carleton would be starters if the season started today.

After that? It gets a little murky.

Fennelly did provide a few hints, specifically pointing out players like freshman guard Ashley Joens, junior forward Adriana Cumber, senior graduate transfer forward Ines Nez中心城市 and senior forward Meredith Burkhall, as players who will have an track to earn those final two starting spots.

However, Fennelly also pointed out that who comes off the bench may be more critical to the team’s success than who starts the game.

Fennelly mentioned that in recent practices, 12 players on the team have seen a significant amount of reps due to the quality of the team’s depth. This means that finding the right lineup combination might be the head coach’s biggest challenge to begin the year.

“It’ll be one of those teams that I don’t know that the starting lineup will be as big a deal as how we manage,” Fennelly said.

“Learning what that next group is and who comes off the bench, when they come off the bench and who they come off the bench with, might be more important for us this year than it’s ever been.”

Team bonding

No matter who off the bench for the Cyclones and when, chemistry certainly shouldn’t be an issue for any of the players.

Players describe the team as a very “close-knit” group, and all of them got the chance to get even closer to each other during a trip to Costa Rica in August.

It was only the third time the women’s team had done a tour of a foreign country, with the last trip being to Italy in 2014.

The Cyclones played three exhibition games during their weeklong trip of the country, and the team also got the chance to do some volunteering mixed in with vacation-type activities.

“Obviously we’re very lucky that at Iowa State, we’ve always been allowed to do the things beyond the court,” Fennelly said. “I think when you take a team on the road and it’s the first time they spend time together away from their comfort zone, it’s a good thing.

That doesn’t mean that the trip came without its hazards, however. Fennelly said that some team members suffered minor injuries during the trip. Maybe not in the way one would expect, though.

“The weird part is, we had six stitches in a thumb, we lost a tooth surfing and Madison Wise was on a railing and cut her hand open and got six stitches. They’ll have a lot of stories.”

Luckily for the Cyclones, all affected players have made full recoveries from their ailments.

**Cyclones readying for key stretch before Big 12 Tournament**

**BY SAM STUVE**
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There are three weeks left before the beginning of the Big 12 tournament. It’s crunch time for every team in the Big 12, including Iowa State.

Only the top eight teams make it to the Big 12 tournament, and Iowa State currently stands at ninth place in the Big 12 ahead of Kansas State. The Cyclones are two games behind Texas, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Texas Christian and Oklahoma.

Cyclones moving on from close losses

At certain points in both games against the Texas Longhorns and the Baylor Bears, the Cyclones played to their level. However, the Cyclones came up short and lost both games late. Texas scored a goal in 87th minute to win, and Baylor scored a goal in the second overtime to come out on top.

“It comes down to little things, and they know that,” said coach Tony Minatta.

The Cyclones have been very close to winning some of their recent games but have lost four of their last six games by one goal.

“They’re disappointed because they’ve let a couple of games slip away,” Minatta said. “It’s frustrating, but their motivated heading into the West Virginia game.”

Cyclones are healthy

Throughout the entire season, the Cyclones have not been 100 percent healthy as players such as senior co-captain Riley Rehman and junior Hannah Cade and Kasey Opfer are either still injured or have missed significant time due to injury.

Opfer has returned from her injury, but Behan and Cade are still out. The Cyclones are hopeful that Behan and Cade can return to the field this season.

It’s awesome to know that some players are coming back and that we have them,” said senior co-captain Emily Steil.

Final four games are make or break

The Cyclones are two games out of Big 12 tournament contention and must go at least 2-2 in those games in order to qualify for the Big 12 tournament, which is something the Cyclones came just short of doing last season.

Iowa State has two home games and two road games left this season, with the West Virginia Mountaineers and the Kansas State Wildcats coming to Ames, and the Cyclones traveling to face the Oklahoma Sooners and the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

This slate of crucial games for the Cyclones begins with West Virginia coming to Ames on Friday night.

The Mountaineers were picked to win the Big 12 and are currently tied with Baylor for first place. The Cyclones were outmatched in last year’s game, as the Mountaineers came out victorious 4-0 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

“They are an outstanding team, they have a lot of special players,” Opfer said.

The Sooners and Cowboys are 2-2-1 in Big 12 play, while the Cyclones are 0-4-1. The Cyclones will face Oklahoma on October 19 and Oklahoma State on October 21.

On October 25, Iowa State hosts Kansas State, who is currently in last place in the Big 12 with a 0-4 record in Big 12 play. That game could be a “win and you’re in” game, as both teams are currently vying for a spot in the Big 12 tournament. As both teams are currently vying for a spot in the Big 12 tournament.
Indian Students’ Association raises $2,700 for flood relief

A devastating flood in the South Indian state of Kerala killed 483 people and caused an estimated $3 billion damage.

In response to the devastation, the Indian Students’ Association decided to assist in help for the flood relief.

On Sept. 16, the association hosted Sanskriti, their annual charity concert.

The organization’s charity concert managed to raise $2,728 in aid for Kerala.

According to the Indian Students’ Association, there is no Indian student at Iowa State who has been damaged by the flood in Kerala or has a family in there.

The Indian Students’ Association holds the charity event every year according to Yash Sulanki, senior in biology and president of the Indian Students’ Association.

“We discuss where to donate every year,” Sulanki said. “Last year, we donated for victims of Hurricane Maria. This year, we heard there were hundreds reported dead in the aftermath of the Kerala flood.”

“Most of them were professors and their families,” Sulanki said. “A lot of students got their parents here nearby. They donated to help out the community and to help people who suffered from the floods.”

During the concert, 16 Indian students and two professional traditional Indian dancers in Iowa, Anju K Chandran and Salini S Leela performed with the hopes of taking part in providing relief.

The region had the tropical wet climate affected by the monsoon in August. Unusual heavy rainfall caused the flood in Kerala.

According to the BBC, this active monsoon brought 256 percent more rain than the regular monsoon.

The deluge was the worst in 94 years in Kerala. A drought immediately followed the monsoon creating the element for the flooding. While engulfed in disaster, the Indian government clarified they are not receiving aid from other foreign countries.

Chief minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan created “Stand With Kerala,” an electronic platform for flood relief donation. Rahul Namboori, junior in management information systems and public relations officer for the Indian Students’ Association, said the government of Kerala opened the transparency of expenditure to the public through the donation website and also said there is a risk of damage to ready-to-use clothing and food sent to Kerala because of the distance between Iowa and Kerala.

“I am on the opposite side of the world,” Namboori said. “The best way to help is transfer the money. That’s why we chose this website.”

The Indian Students’ Association said the organization will donate the fund through the website after they get the last donation.
"I thought it was important to recognize individuals who may not always have the highest grades, but they demonstrate a spirit of overcoming adversity," Espinoza said.

The scholarship is always given in cash, which allows the recipients to immediately put the money to use, Espinoza said.

While Espinoza said she cannot give large sums of money at the moment, it has not stopped her desire to assist these individuals who show this ability to overcome adversity, even if they may not have the highest grades.

"Some people wait until they're old to have a scholarship," Espinoza said. "Why do we have to wait? Why can't we do it now?"

As an undergrad at the University of Northern Iowa, Espinoza established "I too am UNI" as well as campus conversations shedding light on the experience of students of marginalized identities at the university.

After graduating, Espinoza spent time as an English as a second language (ESL) and Spanish teacher, and co-founded a nonprofit called Latinos for Washington. Espinoza said Latinos for Washington was originally founded due to a lack of Latinx representation in a local Latinx festival.

Latinos for Washington also brought in many outside services to meet the needs of local Latinx populations, as well as providing scholarships. As Espinoza continued to teach, she realized some of her students had needs outside of the classroom that she was not able to meet.

"I was a teacher, but I felt like I wasn't doing enough for my students," Espinoza said. "I was mostly teaching a subject, and I couldn't ignore all the other things I was seeing or hearing."

This inspired Espinoza to pursue graduate studies at Iowa State. She was placed in TRiO, and now also works with Liz Mendez-Shannon, diversity and inclusion project director in Hispanic/Latinx affairs.

TRiO is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a student outreach and service program made to assist low-income students, first-generation students, disabled students and any other students who may have backgrounds which present challenges when pursuing higher education.

Espinoza worked with Mendez-Shannon to organize a scholarship which did not require students to be a United States citizen, and to raise money for the scholarship they helped organize the DACA 5k in early 2018.

Espinoza also participated in the organization of the "Know Your Rights" campus conversations for people who may be undocumented, recipients of temporary protected status or recipients of DACA.

Mendez-Shannon said she admired Espinoza's leadership and her ability to persevere.

"What I love about Vanessa is her constant positive energy and her will to succeed," Mendez-Shannon said.

Mendez-Shannon said Espinoza is always able to see a need and find a solution. The "Know Your Rights" campus conversations in the spring of 2018, which included an intimate discussion for people affected by the discontinuation of temporary protective status, was originally voiced by Espinoza, according to Mendez-Shannon.

"She finds a path when we think there isn't any," Mendez-Shannon said.

"One of the messages I get growing up was, if you see a problem and it bothers you, don't complain," Espinoza said. "Do something about it."

VANESSA

Courtesy of Christopher Gannon