

Jami E. Martin-Trainor

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Work and Leadership Experience

Audience Strategy Intern, *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C. June 2025 - August 2025

- Supports the development and execution of audience engagement strategies across platforms by analyzing performance metrics, identifying growth opportunities, and collaborating with editorial and product teams to optimize content reach and impact

Audience Intern; *The Wall Street Journal*, New York, NY June 2024 - August 2024

- Analyzed story performance to guide future coverage for various sections across the newsroom
- Worked with related teams including SEO, social media and public outreach to garner a comprehensive understanding of audience strategies at a major national publication
- Aided in a tagging strategy using artificial intelligence to be implemented by newsroom bureaus to better assess story performance from a thematic perspective

Managing Digital and Executive Editor; *The Daily Iowan*, Iowa City, IA May 2022 - May 2025

- Guided a newsroom of over 100 staff members producing daily content and weekly print editions
- Led the digital presence of *The Daily Iowan* by training producers, curating multimedia elements, and optimizing the newsroom's digital platforms
- Increased the publication's social media presence by over 2,000% on Facebook when comparing analytics from 2022 and 2023, averaging 750,000 weekly impressions in part by setting coverage plans surrounding former Iowa women's basketball player Caitlin Clark

Resident Assistant, *University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA June 2022 - May 2024

- Responsible for ensuring an equitable and safe living space for a community of 60 students in the residence halls at the University of Iowa
- Regularly complete rounds of the building to note any abnormalities, file incident reports of prohibited behavior and note maintenance issues

Education

The University of Iowa

May 2025

B.A. in Journalism and Political Science; 4.09/4.00 GPA

Honors and Awards

- Winner of the University of Iowa's Outstanding Achievement in Writing Award: 2024
- Associated Collegiate Press Online Pacemaker: Recognized in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Skills

- Website and newsletter design: Wordpress, HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Constant Contact
- Graphic production and data analysis: R, Flourish, DataWrapper, Knight Lab, Stata and Tableau
- Adobe Suite proficiency, including Audition, Premiere Pro, InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop

Iowa Supreme Court hears oral arguments for alleged UIHC illicit insemination case

The decision will determine if a case alleging a former University of Iowa OB-GYN chair who non-consensually inseminated patients with his own sperm goes to trial.

Jami Martin-Trainor, Executive Editor

DES MOINES — Seven sets of eyes peer down from elevated chairs as legal professionals, years into their craft, flip through dense legal documents and meticulously researched arguments, all to answer one question: Can a law be applied in retrospect?

One thing is clear: Once the Iowa Supreme Court provides a decision, it will have a tremendous impact regardless of the verdict.

Despite the frigid temperatures and impending blizzard in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday night, the Iowa Supreme Court courtroom was packed with Iowa's legislators and legal experts. Prior to the proceedings, attendees were murmuring about the unusual details of the case in question.



Cody Blissett

The Iowa Judicial Branch courthouse is seen before a session in Des Moines on Feb. 11. The oral arguments for Bert Miller and Nancy Duffner vs. State of Iowa were held later Tuesday evening.

In 2024, Bert Jay Miller and Nancy Duffner filed suit against the state of Iowa after allegedly discovering their biological father was Dr. John H. Randall — the University of Iowa's former Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology chair who provided fertility treatment for Miller and Duffner's parents in the 1950s.

Dr. John H. Randall headed the UI OB-GYN department from April 1952 until he died in April 1959. Over that seven-year period, court documents state Randall provided Donna and Bert Junior Miller fertility treatment, resulting in the birth of three children in 1954, 1956, and 1958.

Decades later, what was thought to be seemingly standard fertility treatment from Randall appears to have been anything but. Thanks to the emergence of publicly available DNA testing introduced by Ancestry.com in 2012, members of the Miller family discovered an anomaly while searching their records on the popular genealogical website that can assist families with tracing their individual family trees.

Randall, it appeared, may have been much more than their mother's fertility doctor.

RELATED: UIHC OB-GYN chair from 1950s allegedly inseminated patients with own sperm

Ancestry.com uses DNA testing and historical records to provide a myriad of family tracing services for users, ranging from geographic origins to familial lineage.

By just spitting in a tube and paying a \$99 fee, individuals are able to test their DNA against millions of collected samples.

"At no time during Donna Miller's life did she indicate to her three children their biological father was anyone other than her husband, Bert Junior Miller," documents read.

Both Bert Jay Miller and Duffner are suing the state for compensatory damages, statutory damages amounting to \$200,000, court costs, and attorney fees.

Bert Jay Miller and Duffner are not the only parties filing charges against the state of Iowa regarding the alleged non-consensual insemination of patients by Randall.

Two separate lawsuits — *Stoughton vs. the State of Iowa* and *Bright vs. the State of Iowa* — have also been filed.

The facts of the Stoughton case are eerily similar to that of Bert Jay Miller and Duffner. According to court documents, Ronald Stoughton, born in 1943, and Rebecca Myers, born in 1948, were children of Marlys Stoughton. Documents state Randall assisted the family with fertility treatment, and the two children later learned via Ancestry.com that Randall was allegedly their biological father.

Randall also delivered Myers and signed her birth certificate as the attending physician, court documents show.

Elizabeth Bright, born in 1958, also filed a case against the state after discovering through Ancestry.com that her parents' artificial insemination procedure allegedly used Randall's sperm, making Bright his biological daughter.

In 2022, before these cases came to light, the Iowa legislature passed Iowa Code Section 714I, dubbed the Fraud in Assisted Reproduction Act, or FARA. Among other regulations, the act states medical practitioners or facilities cannot use human reproductive material "other than that to which the patient expressly consented in writing."

The question posed to Iowa's Supreme Court inquires if the violation of this law can be charged *ex post facto*, or in retrospect.

Bright vs. the State of Iowa and *Stoughton vs. the State of Iowa* were also brought to the Iowa Supreme Court, but the cases were not argued orally.

The legislation introducing Iowa Code Section 714I was led by Sen. Annette Sweeney, R-Buckeye, and Rep. Megan Jones, R-Sioux Rapids, who acted as floor managers for the bill. Sweeney was not immediately available for comment.

Jones provided a comment via email to *The Daily Iowan*, outlining her involvement with the passage of FARA.

"I was assigned to floor manage this bill, so this wasn't a passion of mine heading into session. However, I was happy to help and learn more about the complicated issues these families are facing," the email read. "Women and families deserve to know who they are making a baby with — it is as simple as that: consent."

Karen Lorenzen, a lawyer with the firm Hayes Lorenzen Biderman Lawyers PLC, who argued on behalf of the Millers, began by outlining the series of events leading up to the Iowa legislature's decision to pass FARA.

Lorenzen stated that increased direct-to-consumer DNA testing opportunities in the 2010s led to several prolific cases of illicit insemination rising to national attention.

"What came from that was a legal movement of sorts," Lorenzen said.

Lorenzen argued that considering the context in which FARA was passed, the legislative intent — or reasoning behind why Iowa's legislators wrote and passed a bill — would imply retroactivity.

She also pointed to three specific clauses in FARA that she argued suggested implicit retroactivity: no statutes of limitations, a clause in the law saying the action "may be commenced at any time," and the allowance for victims and their children to pursue legal action.

In turn, Iowa's Solicitor General Eric Wessan argued on behalf of the State of Iowa that past precedent outlined by the Iowa Supreme Court states that a specific reference to retroactivity in some way, shape, or form is necessary. Wessan cited *Hedlund vs. the State of Iowa*, which states Iowa courts must "presume that statutes operate only prospectively."

In addressing Lorenzen's statement that the Iowa legislature's intention in enacting FARA was, in fact, to prosecute past victims of illicit insemination akin to other national and international cases, Wessan pointed to patient care norms during the time in which Randall was practicing.

Wessan stated laws regarding written consent and medical malpractice were put into place well after Randall had died in 1959. He argued requiring written consent for previous cases — regardless of Randall's true intention in the Millers' specific case — would not be just, considering professional norms and the somewhat recent implementation of medical regulations.

Both the appellant's and appellee's representation in *Miller and Duffner vs. the State of Iowa* were in agreement that the retroactive clause could not apply to the criminal portions of FARA, as that would violate parameters set by the U.S. Constitution.

After oral arguments, Lorenzen said in an interview with the *DI* that considering this case was raised to the Iowa Supreme Court after previous litigation, it is clear there is nuance regarding the idea of retrospect or retroactivity in civil law. Despite the fact that FARA does not explicitly use the word "retroactive" or "retrospective" in the copy, Lorenzen said there is room for interpretation and extrapolation.

"Not saying the magic word isn't a walk-off home run," Lorenzen said.

While her co-counsel Jim Hayes and Michael Biderman were unable to be present for the oral arguments, Lorenzen said the collaborative process following the case to Iowa's highest court has been rewarding.

"We feel really privileged to bring this to the attention of the public and to the court," she said.

Lorenzen said considering the scope of the case, she would anticipate the Iowa Supreme Court's decision to be released in six to nine months.

UIHC public relations manager Laura Shoemaker provided a statement via email to *The Daily Iowan* Tuesday morning, prior to oral arguments.

"UI Health Care does not comment on pending litigation," the statement reads. "We appreciate the district court's dismissal of these cases, and we will urge the Iowa Supreme Court to uphold its ruling."

The quiet collapse of sex, romance, and connection among Gen Z

Data shows Gen Z is having less sex compared to previous generations.

Jami Martin-Trainor, Executive Editor

The glance from across the room. The spark. The chase. The messy thrill.

Generation Z isn't having as many of those moments.

According to data published in the sociology journal *Socius*, Gen Z is having less sex compared to previous generations in the U.S.



Cody Blissett

Photo illustration of a doll walking past other dolls.

Between 2007 and 2017, the percentage of young women aged 18 to 23 years old who had casual sex within the past month dropped from 31 to 22 percent. For young men, that value dropped from 38 to 24.

More recent data from 2021 collected by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey shows similar trends with 38 percent of young adults polled reporting they have not had sex in the past 12 months.

Lina-Maria Murillo, a professor at the University of Iowa who teaches in the gender, women's, and sexuality department, said some of this decline in sexual behavior can be attributed to a lack of education.

During the height of the AIDS epidemic, Murillo said public programming and mass media was focused on promoting safe sex, destigmatizing the act in and of itself.

Now, during what Murillo described as a "conservative push" in terms of sexual education, she said abstinence-only programming is causing people to talk about sex much less.

Over the past few years, the Iowa legislature, in particular, has implemented sweeping reform to Iowa's K-12 education system. One such change, Senate File 496, prohibits teaching gender identity and sexual orientation before seventh grade and would require schools to alert parents if their child requests to use new pronouns.

The bill also bans books describing or depicting sex acts from school libraries.

"The people I teach in my classes have often never come into contact with somebody who's openly and honestly engaging in conversations about their body and their sexuality," Murillo said.

Politics and sex, Murillo said, are undeniably connected.

She said the loss of women's bodily autonomy in recent years, with the overturning of "*Roe v. Wade*", among other legislative decisions, has made women more hesitant to engage in sex.

"The loss of access to abortion, the loss of access to contraception, the need for consent from parents if you are underage, that kind of level of surveillance — all of those things, in my view, have warped what it means to be sexual people," Murillo said.

And the connection between politics and masculinity, she said, also plays a role in the declining number of young adults having sex.

She said shifting views of masculinity guided by political leaders and commentators have come about quickly and brought about a great deal of fear among women.

"In the last five to eight years, we've seen a radicalization of young men in this country who are listening to and watching content that is all that is premised on the subjugation of women," Murillo said. "Not only in the workplace, but as partners, as mothers, as everything."

Murillo also pointed to the emergence of digital spheres, causing young adults to have less sex. With the whirlwind of change associated with social media and online communication that has sprung up over the past few years, something akin to a new language has emerged.

A flirtatious glance is now a like on Instagram. The brushing of hands under the table is now a swipe on Tinder.

"It's consuming our attention in a way that is absolutely not healthy," Murillo said. "It's causing this epidemic of loneliness — lack of human-to-human touch."

Greeshma Joseph, a second-year student at the UI, said digitization of social interaction was especially exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Social cues — the non-verbal side of things — people didn't get to practice or develop or use," Joseph said. "It's a skill that you need to use, or else it won't be retained."

Joseph said since the pandemic, social interactions more broadly have been more difficult to pursue. She said the sweeping scope of the pandemic made this a collective issue, as people, regardless of geographic location in the U.S., were isolated.

Digitization has also specifically impacted the dating scene. Joseph said with the presence of dating apps, people are less likely to go out and meet people through organic interactions.

She said this shift has caused people to develop their online social skills, putting the development of in-person communication tactics on the backburner as a consequence.

Naomi Greyser, an associate professor at the UI, said digitization impacts dating and sex from a scientific perspective, too.

"The role of pheromones and glances and flirtation that can happen when you have sustained time in a group just don't happen in the same way in group chats," Greyser said.

Along with a sexual recession, Greyser explained young adults are also grappling with a romance recession, too. She said with online flirting and romantic interaction happening via digital spaces, the "warm stage" of romance is missing.

She said the "cool stage" of a relationship would be friendships and platonic connections, while the "hot stage" includes sex and sexual relations, but the internet makes that middle ground with genuine and deeper emotional connection is harder to find.

Murillo said the amalgamation of factors influencing sex and romance in the U.S. is evolving at a rapid pace, and the mass amount of information available at all times due to the access of the internet just adds another layer to the puzzle.

"That giant ball of cultural and social chaos, in some ways, has sent mixed messages to young people about pleasure and about joy and sexual exploration and in touch," Murillo said.

Hardwood meets the heartland in Iowa women's basketball coach Jan Jensen

Jensen brings small-town roots to the Iowa women's basketball head coaching position.

Jami Martin-Trainor, Executive Editor

Jan Jensen stands at the center of Carver-Hawkeye Arena during an early fall practice, her iconic long bangs swept across her forehead. A whistle resting in her mouth and left hand tucked in her pocket, Jensen waits for players to get in position after giving drill instructions. She pauses for a beat.

"Here we go," she says.

The whistle blows.

Not a second later, the high ceilings of Carver-Hawkeye Arena fill with the sound of a nationally ranked women's basketball team at work.

The sharp squeaking of sneakers on shiny hardwood. The thumping of rubber and synthetic leather. Teammates shouting encouragement and reminders.

When Jensen is talking to her team, however, the court is dead silent.

"You win championships when you freaking just play," Jensen says to her players between drills. "You know what to do. Compete."

Jensen is one of the most recognized faces in the state. At the University of Iowa, they've just handed her the keys to one of Iowa's most cherished possessions: its women's basketball team.



Isabella Tisdale

Iowa head coach Jan Jensen listens as Beth Goetz speaks about her during an introductory press conference for Head coach Jan Jensen at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Wednesday May 15, 2024. The conference marks Jensen's first as head coach of the Hawkeyes. Jan Jensen and Beth Goetz answered questions from the media about Jensen's new position as head coach.



Jan Jensen coaches during a women's basketball practice on at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on October 14. The 2024-2025 season is Jensen's inaugural year as head coach for the Hawkeyes after being assistant coach. (Isabella Tisdale)

In the tiny town of Kimballton, around 200 miles from Iowa City, there was no doubt Jensen would succeed. To understand Jensen is to understand where she's from. Those small-town roots have helped shape the person — and coach — she is today.

After repeatedly making history with her players, Lisa Bluder, who had led the Iowa women's basketball team for 24 years with Jensen as her second in command, announced she was retiring.

The news came as a surprise to the Hawkeye community, but considering Bluder was coming off of what could be the most defining year in women's college basketball history, it's hard to go up from there.

Not 20 minutes later, Jensen, 56, was named the next head coach of Iowa's program. Iowa's athletics director Beth Goetz officially welcomed her to the program on May 15, 2024.

JAN JENSEN'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Her roots in Iowa's basketball community can be traced back to her high school career.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher (Marandah Mangra-Dutcher)

"I was never pining for this office," Jensen said, gesturing to the space around her as she sat behind her desk.

When she got the offer for her dream job, however, Jensen said she was ready to take that step.

Jensen comes into this position with Iowa in a state of flux.

Iowa women's basketball has lost two of its most recognizable faces: Bluder, who is Jensen's former coach, mentor, and friend. And Caitlin Clark, the player who catalyzed seismic changes to the world of women's basketball.

But Jensen is ready for that change.

"We're making a new era," she said.

With a population of just 282 as of 2023, Kimballton, Iowa, is a textbook Midwest small town.

Kimballton's most prominent attraction is a series of statues inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales sculpted in 2013 by artist Troy Muller. The Ugly Duckling, The Little Match Girl, and Thumbelina are some of the metallic statues depicting Andersen's stories. The figures are situated in a circle, surrounding a fountain centerpiece depicting The Little Mermaid.

The real selling point, however, sits just across the street.

Lugger's Tavern is the only establishment in Kimballton getting much business during an early winter visit to the town bar, located smack in the middle of Main Street.

The sun has just dipped beneath the horizon, casting the town in hazy blues and oranges. It is right before 6 p.m., and several cars are already parked out along the street.

The front door of Lugger's creaks open, revealing Kimballton's hidden gem.

Raspy, aged voices are heard chatting about sports and politics and everything in between. A "Make America Great Again" sign hangs in the window, weeks after the results of the 2024 election were confirmed. Kimballton, much like most of rural Iowa, is deep red.

This isn't just any small-town bar, however. This is Jan Jensen country.



A wall celebrating the accomplishments of Jan Jensen is seen at Lugger's Tavern in Kimballton, Iowa on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024. (Isabella Tisdale)

An entire wall is dedicated to the hometown celebrity, with newspaper clippings, posters from Iowa's recent historic seasons, and photos of the famous former Kimballton resident framed on the wall. Her jersey from the four years she played at Drake University — from 1987 to 1991 — is at the center, the blue number 13 displayed under a warm, yellow light.

Lugger's Tavern is a derivative of a childhood nickname from the bar's previous owner, Doug Jensen, who is Jan's brother. Jan said Doug earned the nickname "Lugger" because he was "one of those guys that are big, but they're not fat."

It was Doug who introduced Jensen to basketball. She said as a kid, she followed her brother around, playing football and other sports together. Nine years older than Jensen, Doug acted as a coach to his little sister.

"When he passed away, the town lost a lot," Jensen said.

Doug died unexpectedly of a heart attack in February 2020 at 59 years old. Ashley Jensen, Doug's daughter, has owned the bar since her dad died, keeping the doors open for patrons.

"When my dad passed, it was a very, very troubling time for everybody," Ashley said. "But it didn't matter how busy Jan was. She always made time to talk to me."

For the residents of Kimballton, Iowa, Doug was a centerpiece in the community.

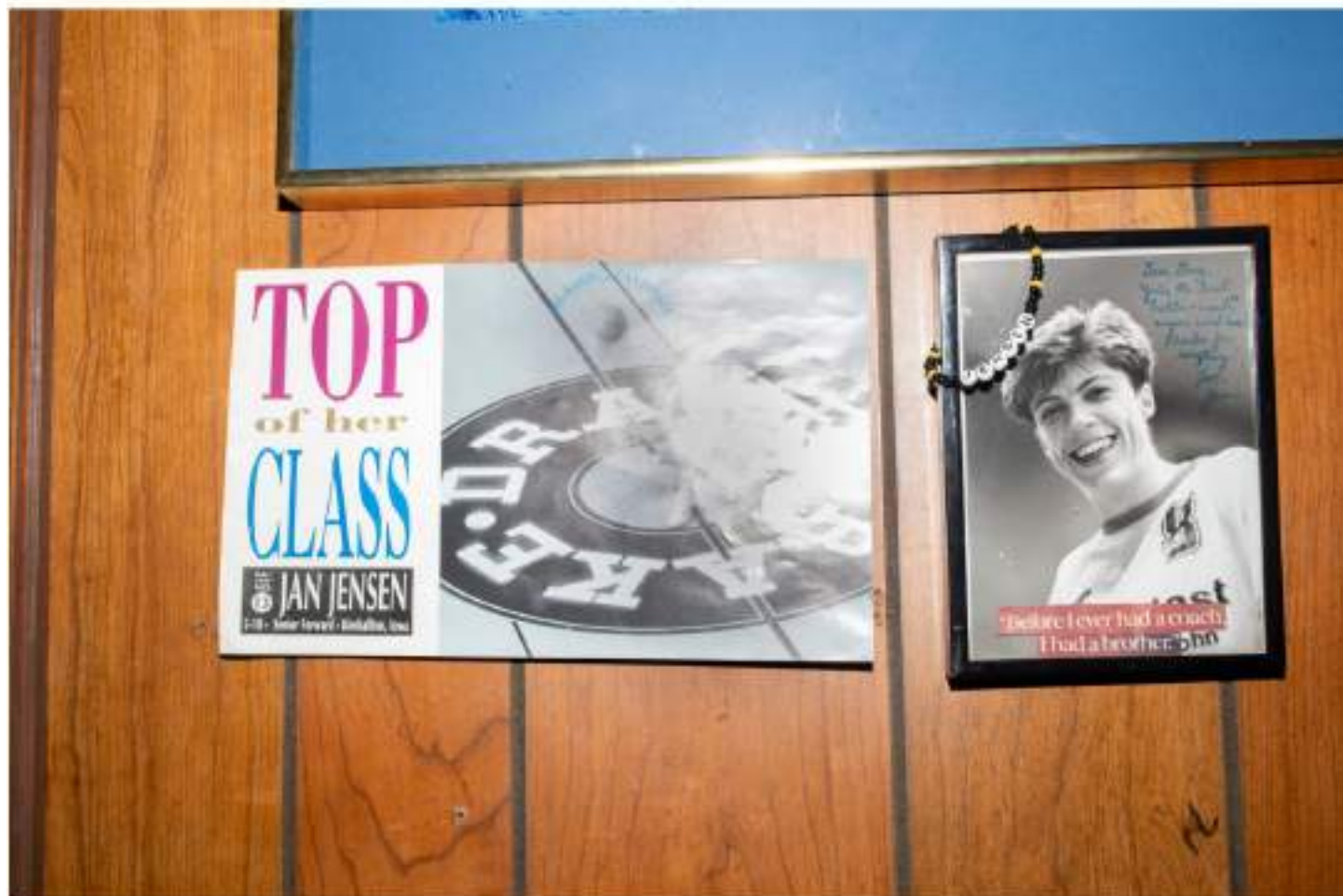
A close family friend of the Jensens would always say Doug could walk into a room of 100 strangers and walk out with 99 friends. According to Ashley, Jan was the exact same way.

To Ashley, Jan is not only family but a mentor, too.

"I've always idolized her because she's as humble as they come," Ashley said. "What you see is what you get."

Right below the Drake jersey in Lugger's is a black and white photo of Jan Jensen from years ago. Words Jensen wrote to her brother before he died are tucked inside the frame:

"Before I ever had a coach, I had a brother."



A wall celebrating the accomplishments of Jan Jensen is seen at Lugger's Tavern in Kimballton, Iowa on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024. (Isabella Tisdale)

"When I had seen that picture, I instantly broke down in tears," Ashley said. "How she felt about my dad as a brother and coach is exactly how I looked at him as a dad and coach."

Before Jensen's brother died in 2020, her mom Yvonne caught pneumonia and died at 78 during the NCAA tournament in 2015.

Her dad Dale died at age 86 of pancreatic cancer in 2023, the day Iowa was slated to play Louisville in the Elite Eight during the NCAA tournament. Jensen's team would go on to beat Louisville and upset undefeated South Carolina, all while their associate head coach grappled with the death of her father.

"A lot of my instrumental people — they passed away," Jan Jensen said, gazing down at her hands.

Melodi Jenkins, Jensen's older sister, sits by the pool in her younger sister's backyard on a warm, early fall day. She scratches her hands through the Jensen family dog's tightly wound, curly white fur.

Jenkins said between herself, Jensen, and Jensen's partner Julie Fitzpatrick, the three of them make a tight-knit team.

"Julie is so fantastic. She's like my blood sister," Jenkins said. "We've lost the core of our immediate family, but us three together — we're going strong."

Jenkins has seen her younger sister climb to the status of celebrity in the state of Iowa. She said her sister frequently gets stopped when they are going out for meals, people clamoring for a photo or conversation with the leader of the Iowa women's basketball program. She has seen Jensen build a life for herself and her family, branching out from their hometown.

But when Jenkins was recalling her greatest moments of pride for her sister, she didn't think of the basketball court at all.

Rather, she remembered what it was like when Jensen came out to her family.

"Jan was brave, and I'm proud of her for that, too," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said there was some hesitation among family members when Jensen first came out. Growing up in small-town Iowa, Jenkins said the largest concerns from family were about what the community and its residents would think.

When Jensen gave Jenkins the call in which she came out, though, she said there was no hesitation in her support. "Jan, I got your back. No matter what, I got your back," was Jenkin's immediate response.

"It has always been that way between us," Jenkins said.

Despite the worries from her family, Jensen's authenticity reminded the residents of Kimballton that, in Jenkins' words, "It's still Jan."

"The small town area surprised me," Jenkins said. "They became a lot more open-minded than I thought they would, and I think it's because of her charm."



Players prepare for a game in Kimballton, Iowa on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024. (Isabella Tisdale)

The rustic red brick and traditional, glossy wood flooring of Elk Horn-Kimballton High School's "Dane Dome" are rather typical of a high school gym.

In the 1980s, Jensen made headlines in that same gym, averaging a staggering 66 points per game in high school as she scorched back and forth across the gym, leading the nation in scoring during her senior year.

Tom Petersen, the athletic director and girls' basketball head coach at Elk Horn-Kimballton High School, grew up with Jensen and had the opportunity to witness his childhood friend in action countless times. Petersen gestures to a stage with faded orange curtains drawn shut in the Dane Dome, recalling a memory from when Jensen was still a player.

Back when 6-on-6 basketball featuring an extra player on the court reigned supreme in Iowa, Petersen said the school had to set up steel bleachers on the Dane Dome stage — which had no other seating options — because so many people showed up to support Jensen.

"The whole town of Kimballton would be at games," Petersen said.

Jensen moved on from Elk Horn-Kimballton High School to play for Bluder at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She was then hired to work as Bluder's assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Drake. When Bluder got the head coach offer from Iowa, Jensen and former assistant coach Jenni Fitzgerald followed her to Iowa City.

Now, 25 years into coaching at Iowa, Jensen still values her small-town roots, and that love is reciprocated, according to Petersen.

"When she's back, you can just see all of the older ladies just [flock] to Jan," he said.

Whenever she visits town, Jensen makes a point to chat with the people who have supported her since high school. He said when Jensen returns to town every year for Tivoli Fest, a Danish cultural celebration, she will stop and chat with anyone who asks for a second of her time.

"The passion that she still has, not for the game of basketball but for the kids, for her players, is what I see the most," Petersen said. "She just has not changed."

Current players at Elk Horn-Kimballton High School now play in a newer gym in the school, but Petersen said the team still comes to practice in the dome.

One of those players is Petersen's daughter, Taryn. She looks up to Jensen and hopes to play basketball in college herself one day. She stays back after practice to work on her three-point shot, running drills in the darkened gym where Kimballton's finest used to play.

"There have been a lot of girls that have gone places here," Taryn Petersen said. "So, I'm coming in here and trying to keep the tradition going."



The Elk Horn-Kimballton high school girls basketball team huddles ahead of a game on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024. Jan Jensen averaged 66 points per game while on the team. (Isabella Tisdale)

Back in 2017, Jensen covered her office with memories and pictures of the people and moments that had led her to this point. According to a report from *The Des Moines Register*, a smattering of her children's drawings, family photos, and newspaper clippings decorated her space.

Over seven years, two national championship runs, and a head coaching designation later, Jan Jensen's values are still present in her office space in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Family photos still decorate the walls. A quote from entrepreneur Amy Rees Anderson hangs on her wall as well, reading, "Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them."

Of course, there are some differences seen in the now-head coach's office.

An Indiana Fever jersey featuring the number 22 and former Iowa basketball player Caitlin Clark's signature hangs in the corner, suspended by a white hanger on a door handle. A basketball and remains of a net cut after one of Iowa's victorious matches sit behind her desk. Jensen has already established a deep legacy that will be left in Iowa's history books.

Before she was officially recognized as head coach, before Iowa's second run to the NCAA championship game, Jan Jensen was already grappling with what it means to live in the moment while making history.

"I have a lot more yesterdays than I do tomorrows," Jan Jensen said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* in 2023. "You get to the point where you get a little better about trying to sort through the minutiae. You get a little better about trying to really stop and smell the roses. You start to realize time goes fast. There's no guarantees, so let's just focus on what's really important."

A year later, that's exactly what she's doing. The title and expectations may have changed, but the energy she brings to the court — and the people she cares about — hasn't.

"I try not to look too far out or too far forward. I just try to enjoy where we are ... It's just being authentic and being in the moment," Jensen said. "You make mistakes. You learn. You grow."



Jan Jensen celebrates a victory against Iowa State after the Iowa Corn Cy-Hawk Series at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 87-75.

Young voters are divided. Gender is driving the split.

Young women rally for the left as more men embrace conservative ideals.

Jami Martin-Trainor, Executive Editor

Rita McCarthy is voting for Vice President Kamala Harris because she is worried about losing individual rights and freedom in America.

"There's a lot at stake for women," she said.

Caleb Killing-Matthews plans to vote for former President Donald Trump, partially because he disagrees with the social stances of more progressive candidates.



Isabella Cervantes

Voters cast ballots at the Robert A. Lee Recreational Center on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. According to data from The Wall Street Journal, there is a stark divide in many topics among voters under 30.

"They're forgetting the rest of the population," he said.

Both McCarthy and Killing-Matthews are current students at the University of Iowa, learning to navigate an increasingly polarized political climate that has pitted young men against women. As a hotbed for political activity, college campuses across the U.S. showcase this gender divide in political ideology.

Historically, voters under 30 have been a solid voting block for the Democratic Party. In 2020, almost 60 percent of voters aged 18 to 29 cast ballots for President Joe Biden, according to Pew Research Center.

Recent data, however, suggests the tides have shifted. Polls from *The Wall Street Journal* show a majority of men under 30 prefer Trump to Harris in office. Women under 30 have only shifted farther to the left, with data from the Harvard Youth Poll showing 50 percent of white women and 70 percent of non-white women preferring Harris as the next president.

YOUNG VOTERS DIVIDED

IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION, THE GENDER GAP AMONG VOTERS UNDER 30 HAS WIDENED.

GENDER GAP SHOWN THROUGH CANDIDATES

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS UNDER 30, THE DIVIDE IS PREVALENT.

NON-WHITE MEN

54%

HARRIS

31%

TRUMP

WHITE MEN

43%

HARRIS

44%

TRUMP

NON-WHITE WOMEN

70%

HARRIS

15%

TRUMP

WHITE WOMEN

50%

HARRIS

37%

TRUMP

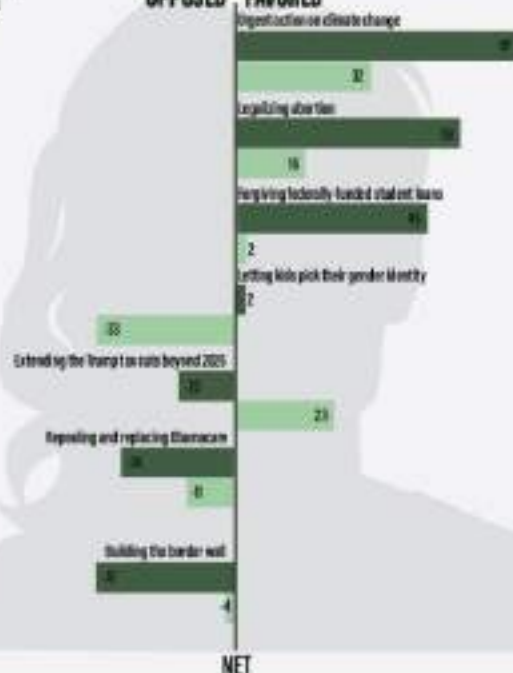
Source: Pew Research Center

DIFFERENCES IN SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION FOR VOTERS UNDER 30

ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, A STARK DIVIDE IS PREVALENT IN A MULTITUDE OF TOPICS.

Women
Men

OPPOSED FAVORED



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Divisive political topics

The existence of a gender divide in American politics is not necessarily new, Karen Kedrowski, the director of the Iowa State University Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics said. Kedrowski said women have historically voted for Democratic candidates.

"What's different about this year is the size of the gender gap, especially among young voters," she said.

Kedrowski said the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is one of the main drivers in this fractured political climate.

She said while men might feel empathetic regarding the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, they are not as directly impacted by abortion bans and restrictions cropping up across the country.

"It might be an issue that interests men, but it's more abstract," Kedrowski said.

McCarthy said while she was less politically active in 2016, she remembers being "upset and scared" by how former President Trump's choices would impact marginalized people in the U.S.

"Going through it all over again and having your rights at stake again," McCarthy said. "It kind of feels more extreme this time."

For Killing-Matthews, however, that emphasis on women's rights is what is turning off some young voters.

He said rather than observing more social issues like abortion and LGBTQ+ freedoms, he wants candidates to have tangible plans for the economy and immigration.

"I think that they're starting to lose us because they're no longer concerned with our concerns," Killing-Matthews said.

Kedrowski also pointed to the different versions of masculinity presented by the respective presidential tickets as a manifestation of this divide.

"For voters for whom a particular type of masculinity is important — you know, the sort of 'Hulk Hogan rip your shirt off' kind of masculinity — they are going to be really attracted by the more aggressive displays," she said, referencing wrestler Hogan's 2024 Republican National Convention speech which Hogan ripped off his shirt with his bare hands partway through.

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Kedrowski said while these displays may be empowering and motivating to men, there are generally turn-offs for women.

In turn, Kedrowski said Minnesota Gov. and vice presidential candidate Tim Walz presents an alternative to the hypermasculinity seen in former President Trump's campaign strategy.

Walz has embraced the masculine elements of his Midwestern roots — being a hunter, a member of the National Guard, and a former high school football coach — while also stressing the importance of joy and care for people. Kedrowski said, for women, this manifestation of masculinity is more persuasive.

"The masculinity demonstrated by Governor Walz, I think, would be more attractive simply because it's just not as aggressive and is not rooted in violence," Kedrowski said.

Voter turnout and civic participation

With a tight race between Harris and Trump — who are neck and neck in essential swing states when looking at aggregated data from *The New York Times* — young voters could tip the scales of the electoral college.

According to Politico, young people are a large reason why Georgia, traditionally a deep red state, flipped blue in 2020. Biden's win in Georgia was due to a group of activists in the state mobilizing first-time voters who were predominantly young people of color to vote for Biden. Eeking out a razor-thin majority with just 49.5 percent of the vote for Biden, these efforts in Georgia were years in the making.

While the gendered gap in voting preferences has skyrocketed, the actual voting results may not be as stark come November. While more young men prefer Trump to Harris in the upcoming election, these supporters are less likely to visit the polls and vote, according to the Harvard Youth Poll.

Hawk the Vote, a nonpartisan organization at Iowa focused on driving student civic engagement, has held several events engaging with potential student voters across Iowa City. Through these efforts, students involved with Hawk the Vote have been allocated a firsthand look at the current political climate at the University of Iowa.

"The university very much feels like a microcosm of greater society," Jaden Bartlett, the executive director of Hawk the Vote, said. "Every aspect of the larger world is represented here on a smaller level."

Christine Valora, the communications director for Hawk the Vote, said around two-thirds of students registered in a course collaborating with the organization to bolster political engagement on campus are women.

"That might not necessarily be who's voting, but it's who's politically attuned," Valora said.

While Valora and Bartlett have observed topics that both conservative and progressive students have some unity on — including a need for third spaces that exist outside of work and home — social topics such as abortion have fragmented young voters.

"It's fear, and on both ends," Valora said.

This fear could manifest in more people showing up to the polls, Valora and Bartlett said.

"It's a double-edged sword," Bartlett said. "We don't love polarization, but at the same time, the more that you see another group as a sort of enemy, the more charged you're going to be to take action."

Editor's note: Christine Valora is a former staff member at The Daily Iowan.