

## The Daily Iowan

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Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan Kartik Sivakumar, a University of Iowa senior studying neurobiology, talks with homework group members Laxmi Annapureddy (middle) and Liz Freiburger (right) during a neurobiology discussion in the Lindquist Center on April 12.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Pareen Mhatre, a University of Iowa senior studying biomedical engineering, works on her senior design project in the Seamans Center on April 8. Mhatre's group is designing a laryngeal cleft closing device.

University of Iowa students Kartik Sivakumar and Pareen Mhatre grew up in the U.S., but keeping their legal status has meant continually hoop-jumping, deadline-meeting, and living in uncertainty.

Hannah Pinski **Amplify and Opinions Editor** 

Pareen Mhatre and Kartik Sivakumar have spent the majority of their lives in America. They went to high school in America, applied for college in America — but on those applications, they had to apply as

international students. Mhatre and Sivakumar, both University of Iowa students, are "document-ed Dreamers" — children who have grown up in the U.S. as dependents of their foreign-born parents, who are long-term visa holders in the U.S.

There is no clear path to citizenship for documented Dreamers. At age 21, they are no longer eligible to be dependents on their parents' visa — a grim milestone known to the group as "aging out" of the system, and one that means facing self-deportation to avoid enduring removal proceedings before a court.

Mhatre has lived in the U.S. since she was four months old, and said that the fact she was treated as an international student didn't make sense and

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## INSIDE



**Prof. studies lunar swirls** 

Jasper Halekas, associate professor in the department of physics and astronomy, is investigating lunar swirls, markings on the moon's surface that have yet to be fully explored. Halekas is the principal investigator for a study that will send cameras to capture what happens on the moon's surface up close.

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## Alum strikes \$100k Shark Tank deal

Erica Cole began working with prosthetics when she lost her leg in 2018. Last month, her adaptive clothing brand won her national attention.

Erica Cole went from dabbling with 3D printers to landing a \$100,000 deal on Shark Tank in the span of four years.

The University of Iowa alum, who lost her leg in an accident in 2018, successfully pitched her clothing company that makes accessible clothing for lower-half amputees on ABC's Shark Tank.

'We were just finding that there was just a very basic need that wasn't being met for people with disabilities,"

Cole said. Cole appeared on the

show April 1, promoting her brand, No Limbits. She presented to the investors and was offered a \$100,000 deal from sharks Mark Cuban and

Emma Grede. No Limbits offers many different styles of pants that have zippers on the sides of the leg above and below the knee, providing easier access to a prosthetic.

Cole said she started dabbling in 3D printed prosthesis covers while she was studying at the UI John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

Her interest increased as

time went on, she said. 'There was a pitch competition released by JPEC [John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center] to win a \$500 scholarship for pitching a viable business idea," she said. "I thought, 'Yeah, why not? I could really use a \$500 scholarship."

Cole won the competition and another after that, catapulting her business into action. At this time, she had numerous resources around her idea, she said, and felt she needed to start it up.

She landed her dream job



Contributed photo of Erica Cole

with Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico right around the same time that Target stores became curious about her idea.

"If Target is taking notice, there has to be something here," Cole said.

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## Joel THOMPSON'S **SEVEN LAST WORDS** OF THE UNARMED



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