The Beacon, February 24, 2012

Beacon staff

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Sophomore Laura Ecklund embraces the effects of her disease with optimism and confidence.

Sophomore Laura Ecklund has worked through adversity and come out on top.
While many see her as a cancer patient struggling through brutal chemo treatments, this is not the disease she faces and “struggling” could not be further from the truth.
In 6th grade, Ecklund was diagnosed with Alopecia Universalis, an autoimmune disease that prevents the body from growing hair.
Within two months, she was completely bald and has been since. “There is no cause, no cure. The weird thing is it could grow back at any time,” Ecklund said. “Over the summer my eyebrows grew back, and then fell back out again. It’s super random.”

She describes the disease by saying “It’s like I’m allergic to [my hair].” Her immune system views her hair as “bad for her,” and tries to fight it. “I have the most severe form where you don’t have any body hair anywhere,” Ecklund said.
At first, her disease was incredibly difficult to deal with. “Middle school is obviously when most girls experience their self-esteem phase,” Ecklund said. “I wore wigs for the first several years and tried to hide behind them.”
This could only last so long. In 8th grade, Ecklund joined track. She soon realized running with a wig was uncomfortable. She began running without her wig, then practicing without it.
It was after this point that her confidence began to build. “I realized by telling people, they respected me and wanted to learn more. They cared about me and weren’t making fun of me about it.”
Since then she has forgone makeup and anything else trying to cover up her disease. “It’s a part of who I am, and I absolutely love that.”

Northwestern is preparing for an extreme makeover: Cafe edition.
Sodexo outbid Creative Dining by impressing students and administration with plans to upgrade the Cafe.
“During the bidding process we talked to a lot of students about what they want in the Cafe,” said Chef BJ Whitmore. “The plans are built on student suggestions.”

Changes to the Cafe will be noticeable from the Fern lobby, which will become much smaller due to an expansion of the dining room.
The entry to the Cafe, which will be across from the coat closet, will have two scanning stations, one for the Cafe and the other for meals to-go.
Meals to-go will be located in a separate room where students can choose the regular meal exchange of five items or use flex money to purchase extra items or upgrade to premium salads.
“We’re adding a retail aspect to sack lunches,” Whitmore said.

Cosmetic upgrades inside the Cafe will include hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and decorative stone accents.

The stations within the Cafe will also change. To prevent the backup that is currently caused by the first food line and incoming traffic, a 24 foot-long dessert bar will take the place of the comfort and international lines.

“I don’t think the main entrée should be the first line,” said freshman Franke Eszes. “I would be happier because I wouldn’t have to wait behind people in a line for food I don’t even want. I just want to get around them.”

In addition to its regular menu, the new international station will be able to serve cook-to-order food.
Personal pizzas will also be available, and the new grill will sport a 12-burner stove to allow for more options. There will be an oval island in the middle of the Cafe, which will serve soup, salad and sandwiches. It will include an oven for toastng subs.

An allergen-free station called Simple Servings will be added to the Cafe to accommodate students with gluten and other food allergies.
“I’m excited to see what it has to offer,” said sophomore Abby Hoekstra. “It’s always nice to have more variety.”

The concrete wall that currently separates the kitchen from the Cafe will be knocked down to allow students to see their food being prepared.
“It takes the mystery out of it,” Whitmore said. “No more food coming out of the magical hole in the wall. You get to see your food being made.”

There will be a chef at each station to cater to students individually.

The dining room will also be remodeled with upgrades that include new chairs as well as square and round tables designed to seat different numbers of peoples. There will even be tables-for-two to accommodate Cafe-official couples.

An area with couches and arm chairs will add an element of relaxation, while a computer bar—located where the Heemstra table is currently—will provide a place for students to study as they eat.

Whitmore has enjoyed working on plans for the remodel. “I got to sit down and just dream,” he said. “I really, truly think your guys’ level of happiness should go up. Isn’t that what it’s all about?”

Whitmore is still open to suggestions but urged students make them as soon as possible. The remodel is scheduled to begin immediately after school gets out in order to be finished by fall of 2012.
Sleigh Bells will leave ears ringing

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**BY KATI HENG**

*Sleigh Bells is anything but cute and cheery. They're loud. They push the limits of speakers and headphones, creating that overcharged buzz, no matter what volume they're being played at. They're made of a guy who has mastered both his guitar and the art of music production and a black-haired Cleopatra-esque chick fully clad in leather and tattoos. They're rock and roll, squealing guitars with hip-hop, dance-ready beats and a breathy feminine voice to lighten it all up.*

The rock-duo made up of Alexis Krauss and Derek Miller has been tearing up stages and ears of unsuspecting listeners since their union in 2009. Even before releasing their first album, the band drew attention from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

After the success of their first full-length album, "Treats," a crunk-sounding rock album, the band drew even more attention for good reason. But aside from "True Shred Guitar," which might just be the band’s way of saying that, yeah, they still got it, "Reign Of Terror" is quieter, cleaner, easier on the ears than "Treats," and yet, a more powerful and effective rock album. The static and twisted guitar trills have gained an appreciation for "80s style metal and have been set back, saving their full power for their solos. Krauss’ voice is found on top of the sounds, belting out melodies more often. The hip-hop beats are less prevalent, keeping the party in the background, as the album’s lyrics become more raw, the sound more vulnerable.

Much like The White Stripes, the guy/girl pair works wonders for Sleigh Bells. When the guitar gets too rough, Krauss’ sweet voice brings the sound back to a cool center. And while the lyrics would otherwise be repetitive in songs like "Crush," Miller’s guitar riffs and distortions bring strength to otherwise pop-like moments of the album. The greatest evidence in the band’s growth is found in the lyrics. Miller wrote many of the lines after losing his father in a motorcycle accident and learning of his mother’s diagnosis of cancer. Parts of "Reign Of Terror" reflect the darkness Miller must have been facing.

"Leader of the Pack" features lines like “It’s over/ Don't you know he’s never coming back again?” “Demons,” easily the darkest song the band has ever produced, cheers for the bad guys to win, while "Born To Lose" repeats over and over lyrics telling that “You were born to lose,” providing no other hope.

There are bright spots, though. On "Comeback Kid," Krauss belts out a supportive, fight-back kind of pep rally, while "Never Say Die" shows a true-blue loyalty. And then there are the few girly, lovey-dovey songs on the album.

Rating: ★★★★★

**Key Tracks:** "Born To Lose" "Demons" "Comeback Kid"

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Sophomore album isn’t so much fun.

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**BY LYRIC MORRIS**

The bar was set high for Tuesday’s release of fun.’s album, “Some Nights.”

After releasing the single “We Are Young” this September, the band found themselves in a whirlwind of media hype. The song was featured on an episode of Glee and a recent Chevy Super Bowl commercial. Despite the buildup and the many fans who were desperately hoping for another gem to add to fun.’s repertoire, "Some Nights" missed the mark.

Fun., known for their layered Queen-like vocals, unique instrumentation, and thought-provoking lyrics, made a sudden shift toward a monotonous, auto-tuned group desperately vying for a spot on either MTV or in the heart of a 16-year-old girl.

Admittedly, the album does contain a few reflections of fun.’s promising past. The famed “We Are Young” is a true display of lead singer Nate Ruess’ unique soaring voice, which won the hearts of fans years ago after the band’s first release. This track gained so much public attention for good reason.

The album’s opener, cleverly named “Some Nights (Intro),” is also a hopeful display of the interesting theatrical layers the group has the potential to produce.

The album takes an obvious downturn after the first few tracks. The monotonous synthesizer chords and frantic drumming of “It Gets Better” leaves listeners pleading that the track’s title is prophetic. A few tracks later, it is obvious that this change is not going to happen.

Many fun. fans were confused, and quite frankly disappointed by the copious amounts of auto-tune used in production. Ruess’ distinguishable vocals initially attracted many of fun.’s devoted supporters. Auto-tune, while a useful tool when used in moderation, is present in large chunks on nearly every track on the album and entirely drown out his incredible natural talent.

Fans expecting nothing other than a whimsical production have been pained to encounter an overproduced mess that would be best appreciated by a group of angsty teenyboppers. One can only hope that fun. will learn from their mistakes and find a way to grow from this of sophomore slump, and that future albums will be more of their old style.

Rating: ★★★

**Key Track:** “We Are Young”
Arts & Culture

Portraits by a Northwestern artist

BY JEFFREY HUBERS

How can I explain that look on a canvas? It’s one question that has driven and inspired Northwestern student Lisa Thvedt to do her Senior Art Show on portraits.

Thvedt’s show focuses almost solely on the human face. As she said in her artist statement, “the human face has a compelling, timeless attraction.” It is this attraction that Thvedt has worked to bring out in art. “For me, people are the most exciting subject to draw,” she said.

Thvedt had no idea she even liked creating art until she took Intro to Studio with Scorza the fall of her junior year. Scorza insisted that Thvedt should have been an art major, but since she was already into her junior year of school, she gave the idea little thought.

Another art class during her junior year, painting with Vanderhill, began the inspiration for her future show, as well as the inspiration to further explore the possibility of adding art to her education major. A self-portrait assignment in painting presented Thvedt with the challenge and intrigue that would prompt her to continue taking art classes and add on the major her senior year.

“The face was always new and challenging,” Thvedt said. “The mystery of another individual’s expression intrigues me, and, as an artist, I try to capture that on paper. How could I capture the distress on his face or the empathy in her eyes?”

Thvedt hopes that viewers will see more than “likeness” in the portraits—perhaps a certain familiarity. “Maybe it’s in an expression, the way an eyebrow is raised; or the tension in the crease of an eyelid or the crinkle of a nose,” Thvedt said. “Maybe it’s just in the fact that it’s a face, a thing of matchless beauty.

Maybe you see that. Maybe you see yourself.”

Thvedt’s show will feature a gallery full of faces, both beautiful and unique. Thvedt’s effort in capturing the expressions and facial diversity of those she has portrayed can be clearly seen.

“From the time we are young, we are always looking for faces, whether it be in the grain of wood, in everyday objects, in the clouds or on the moon,” Thvedt said.

The portraits were done using a variety of mediums—acrylic, pencil, watercolor, India ink, metal, burlap print and sumi paper.

Though she did not begin as an art major, Thvedt is wrapping up her career at NW as a testimony to the creativity and skill that can still be channeled to mirror and represent the unique world around us.

Thvedt’s show, which opens on Friday, Feb. 24, with a reception the same night at 7 p.m. The show will run until Wednesday, Feb. 29.

Be prepared to look beyond the expressions and find the timeless attraction that Thvedt promotes in her portrait work.

Orange City heats up for the second annual Winter Rap Fest

BY MATT LATCHAW

One year ago, the second floor of The Old Factory Coffee Shop was filled with people not drinking coffee or tea or eating baked goods with a quiet conversation. The people were instead at a rap concert.

It was the first Winter Rap Fest, a rap music festival in Orange City. “There were about 100 or more people there, but only 60 could be upstairs,” said sophomore Jeriah Dunk, a member of the group Unique, who performed at last year’s first festival.

“The ceiling was seriously breaking on the first floor, there were so many people up there,” said sophomore Aaron Nash, another member of the group.

Unique, which, at the time of the festival last year, consisted of Dunk, Nash and sophomore Demargo Friedl, performed as well as former student Lee “Stovetop” Stover and Sophomore Jose Guadarrama—known as DJ Kid Cali.

The festival is returning for a second year with some big and exciting additions and improvements in terms of both sound and venue. “The Sowienskis were great and loved having us at The Old Factory, but we had to find a different place to perform,” Nash said.

The show will take place at Living Water Community Church in Orange City this year to allow for more people to attend. All the performers are returning with new songs, shows and new members in some groups, like Unique.

There will also be a few special guest performers this time around. “We’ll have more equipment and better equipment,” Friedl said.

The group has lots of excitement and enthusiasm about this year’s Rap Fest. “We want to show people that our music and message are legitimate, and we’re really serious about them,” Nash said.

The second annual Winter Rap Fest will take place at 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24th at Living Water Community Church. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

“It’s a Friday night in Orange City,” Dunk said. “What else are you going to do?”
Oscar night arrives

BY KAMERON TOEWS

The month of Sunday celebrations continues this weekend as movie fans plan to gather to watch the 84th Academy Awards.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will present over 20 Oscars, the nickname for the award officially named the Academy Award of Merit, in what has become the one of the foremost of prestigious honors in filmmaking.

The ceremony was first televised in 1953 and is now available to watch in many other countries.

Over 2,000 Oscars have been given out since the prestigious awards began in 1929, when only eight categories existed.

Standing over a foot tall, weighing 8.5 pounds and depicting a knight holding a sword atop a film reel, the Academy Award of Merit, in what has become the one of the foremost of prestigious honors in filmmaking.

Some film-lovers use the Academy Awards as a new list of must-see films or topics of cinematic debate, while others give the awards little thought.

Many Northwestern students believe that “The Help” stands out as among the other films in the running.

While college students profess to love movies in general, few Northwestern students even watch the Oscars while others do not care who wins. Few students have seen more than two or three films in the running for Best Picture, which could contribute to the lack of attention given to Oscar Sunday around campus.

“I usually don’t watch the Academy Awards,” said sophomore Christine Williams, “but I like to know the results, so other people usually tell me.”

Freshman Mark Peterson admitted that he gives little mind to the winners.

“It doesn’t make a difference who wins. I’ll go see something whether or not it’s won awards,” Peterson said.

Freshman Erin Mulder agreed that an Oscar alone would do little to change her opinion of a film.

“I’m going to watch the same movies that I watched before,” Mulder said. “I wouldn’t watch it solely because it won an award.”

For others, like faithful moviegoer Lexi Wiersma, the award ceremony’s performances, fashions and movie recommendations are something to look forward to each year.

“I like award shows. It’s bonding time with my friends,” Wiersma said.

This year’s Academy Awards will air at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, on ABC. Tune in to see the winners.

NW students pick Oscar favorites

BY KAMERON TOEWS & KATI HENG

Oscar.go.com provides a full online ballot for the couch-lounging movie critic to guess this year’s winners in categories celebrating screenplays, sound mixing, documentaries, animation, makeup, editing and costumes, just to name a few.

Films topping this year’s ballot with the highest amount of nominations include “The Artist” and “Hugo” with ten, and “Moneyball” and “War Horse” with six.

Here are some of Northwestern’s own guesses and hopes for who will be taking home the trophies on Sunday:

BEST PICTURE

“I hope ‘The Help’ will win. It was set in the ‘60s, and they pulled it off really well. And I thought ‘Hugo’ would be better than it was.” Junior Connor Batson

“I think either ‘Hugo’ or ‘Moneyball’ will get Best Picture.” Junior Taylor Biggs

“I’m rooting for ‘The Descendants’ as Best Picture. ‘Hugo’ is not the type of film that usually wins.” Junior Lexi Wiersma

“I want ‘The Help’ to win. It was really heart-warming.” Freshman Allison Kubo

“I’m rooting for ‘Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close’ because I’m from New York.” Junior Tiemen Godsault

“I think ‘The Help’ has a great message and it resonated with things in my life, so I’m hoping it wins.” Junior Stacey Duensing

“Brad Pitt should win for ‘Moneyball.’ He’s a babe. He can play serious and humorous roles and pull them both off.” Sophomore Dan Dugger

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

“Meryl Streep should win best actress. She’s the only one nominated I know.” Freshman Jordan Swan

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SONG)

“‘Man or Muppet’ is a fantastic song. I want it to win.” Sophomore Mackenzie Larin

VISUAL EFFECTS

“‘Rise of the Planet of the Apes’ will win Best Visual Effects. The film is just not normal.” Sophomore Stefany Silva

“I think ‘Tree Of Life’ should get the award. Few people know how to communicate through images like director Terrance Malick does.” Mark Alsum

“Brad Pitt. I love Brad Pitt.” Freshman Matt Wexin

“Meryl Streep is the only one nominated. I love Meryl Streep.” Sophomore Dan Dugger

“I think ‘Tree Of Life’ should get the award.” Sophomore Stefany Silva

“Meryl Streep should win best actress. She’s the only one nominated I know.” Freshman Jordan Swan

“Rise of the Planet of the Apes. The apes look so real with their human characteristics. It was almost creepy.” Junior Eduardo Sanchez

“I think ‘The Help’ has a great message and it resonated with things in my life, so I’m hoping it wins.” Junior Stacey Duensing

“Brad Pitt should win for ‘Moneyball.’” Freshman Jordan Swan

“Meryl Streep should win best actress. She’s the only one nominated I know.” Freshman Jordan Swan

“Rise of the Planet of the Apes. The apes look so real with their human characteristics. It was almost creepy.” Junior Eduardo Sanchez

“I think ‘The Help’ has a great message and it resonated with things in my life, so I’m hoping it wins.” Junior Stacey Duensing

Many NW students are cheering for Brad Pitt to win the title of Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Campus Quotes

“There is no pressure...we’re just perfect so far.”  
- Professor Dahn to a student next in line to answer a question.

“Okay, guys, let’s move around. It’s getting constipated, I mean, congested back there.”  
- Professor Elizabeth Truesdell to students in the back rows.

“I used to play sports. Then I realized you can buy trophies. Now I’m good at everything.”  
- Sophomore Mackenzie Larin on honesty.

Submit your own campus quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu
Speed dating brings together new friends

Sophomore Tyler Gleason sings a song of his own creation.

Concert at the Hub raises money for SSP

PHOTOS BY BOB LATCHAW

Senior Devon Cadwell, alumnus Blake Norris, junior Jeff Hubers, sophomore Jordan Starkenburg and sophomore Alex Wendel play in the Hub to support the Amsterdam Spring Service Project on Feb. 17. Their band is called Go Blue Team. “It was great, and we loved performing,” Hubers said. “We love playing together and making music, and it was even better because we could raise money for a good cause. Friday night was just a bunch of guys playing together and having fun. We were just jamming and supporting a good cause. We would do it a thousand times again if we could.”

Senior Shannon Gier and freshman Kaela Prachar share a laugh with their date.

Sophomore Shannon Gier and freshman Kaela Prachar share a laugh with their date.

PHOTOS BY BOB LATCHAW

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Professor of History teaches students based on his own experiences

BY JOSH KLOPE

History professor Michael Kugler has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, won Northwestern’s 2006 Teaching Excellence Award and is chair of the History department. But anyone who met him in high school might not have imagined he would be so successful.

“Nobody in my family that I was aware of went to college,” Kugler said. “I was raised in a kind of setting where you go to high school, get a basic education and get a job. I never really had any role models for going to college.”

Kugler knew he wanted to do something different. His family had little money to finance a college education for Kugler, even if he had an ambition to pursue it. But in spite of this, he was still motivated by a desire to read.

“My father and mother read a lot,” Kugler said. “I just thought that’s one of the ways you spend your free time. And the prospect of moving away from home and reading books sounded pretty cool.”

Luckily, he found a small Baptist college that was “desperate” for new students, and he was admitted despite his family’s finances. Over time, he discovered an interest in history and philosophy.

Then, when his professors encouraged him to move on to graduate school, he began to imagine how he might use his interests.

“In some vague, obscure way, I imagined myself teaching someday,” Kugler said. “I had no idea what that meant, just this vague sense.”

But as time went on, that sense became much clearer. His interest in reading and history combined with a love for the academic discussion he had found in college, and he was further encouraged to pursue teaching. “I wanted to recreate what I liked about my interests,” he said. “To be curious about the world outside of what they imagine their job will be. To think, ‘Here’s the person I’ve been, this is the kind of thing I’ve done. What are three things that I could do that would be really different?’ And if you take a risk, you’re probably going to fail. But you learn a lot from screwing up.”

NORTHWEST KICKBALL

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

SCOOPY AND THE GANG

BY TYLER LEHMANN

For anyone who’s ever been told to act their age, there’s some evidence for rebuttal. Northwestern students are proving you’re never too old to be a kid.

Take, for example, senior TJ Noble, whose apartment is home to over a hundred miniature Pokémon figurines, a binder brimming with Pokémon trading cards, Pokémon paintings he created and even a homemade Pikachu trash bin.

Noble got hooked on Pokémon as a child when his grandparents bought him one of the videogames. Though he no longer has time to play the game, he still enjoys collecting the trading cards and figurines it inspired.

Disheartened by newer additions to the Pokémon roster, Noble prefers the initial generation of the creatures. He claims he can identify all 151 original Pokémon by name.

For senior Ashley Eades, there’s nothing like solving a mystery with Scooby-Doo and the gang.

Eades grew up watching the crime-busting canine on TV with her sister after school, and her love for the cartoon has stuck with her to this day.

“I love how all the different personalities work together,” Eades said. “You’ve got the jock, the ditzypopular girl, the nerd, the stoner kid and the dog. It’s like every high school clique working together.”

Though Eades doesn’t set aside time for watching the cartoon, she likes playing Scooby-Doo DVDs in the background while doing her homework. Eades owns all the episodes from the original 1969-1970 series.

“When you really think about it, it’s actually a really lame cartoon, but it’s still just so awesome,” she said.

Comic books are a hit with sophomore Isaiah Custer. He’s been reading them since he was little, and he’s accumulated more than 50 within the last five years. Custer’s favorite retailer to purchase comic books from is a used bookstore in Maine that sells its products online.

Though Custer has spent less time reading comic books since coming to college because of required reading for class, he still enjoys getting them out occasionally when he needs some downtime by himself.

When sophomore Katie Shepard was little, she was known as “the monkey of the family,” and she still has a love for sock monkeys.

Shepard received her first sock monkey, named Monte, from her cousin when she was in elementary school. Tragically, Shepard eventually lost Monte on a family vacation.

Sock monkeys will never be endangered as long as Shepard’s around, though. She keeps three in her room as well as a pair of sock monkey slippers.

It just goes to show that growing up is overrated.
Nic Leither and Black V will take their show on the road over break.

By Kate Wallin

The Black V improv team is going on tour. That’s right, Tour.

“The closest thing we’ve done is going to Des Moines over Christmas break to do improv at a youth gathering called Impact,” said junior Abe Klafter.

But this year the team is going on a real road trip. “It’s mostly a joke because we’re just a bunch of college kids doing improv for the joy of it and I feel like ‘tour’ is a really serious thing. But we’re taking it on the road,” said sophomore Honna Brown.

Klafter agrees, “Tour is a really top shelf word. It’s taken on that name because it’s over spring break, right at the start. The show opportunity just came up, and we’re taking it.”

This isn’t the first show off-campus for the team of nine NW students.

“While on campus, we have shows once a month in various venues: the choir room, the theatre, Hospers stage, Windmill Park,” Klafter said. “Off-campus shows mainly occur in the spring, anywhere from three to six shows.”

“We do Boy Scout banquets, bar mitzvahs, youth groups, firefighter award banquets, hunters’ gatherings, dorm events...” Brown said.

They’re also starting a few new side projects. Most recently, members of the team have been preparing to teach improv to kids in the local area.

“There’s a certain teachability and lack of opportunities at that age,” Klafter said. “There’s certain gumption to do it on their own. High school students have theatre or speech; we want to provide something where the younger kids can get involved.”

Klafter and Brown see reaching out to the larger community as vital to the mission of the Black V team.

What’s the mission of the V?

“To praise God through the art of play,” Brown said. “And to give people the opportunity to learn how to do this and play with us. Play is taking a risk by putting an idea out on the stage and letting others take it and grapple with it and put themselves into it.”

The art of improv requires playing with a lot of different elements: team dynamics, characters, and audience interactions.

“If you put all sorts of different ingredients into it,” Brown said. “You end up with a complete thing at the end that everyone loves.”

By Heidi Gritters

What started out as discipline between feuding girls in Fern Smith Hall has turned into a tradition practiced by many.

“Secret Encouragement Sisters” has been a tradition for four years. The idea was sparked in a meeting between former Resident Director Lisa Barber and a student for disciplinary measures.

“Everyone thought it would die off after she graduated,” said current Resident Director Alyssum Roe, “but it didn’t and has continued on.”

The girls are randomly assigned a “sister” to give an encouraging reminder to every other week. This tradition is embraced by many, as this semester almost 60 girls are participating. Their motivations for doing so are equally widespread.

“I like making people feel uplifted during hard times, so for me it was a way to reach someone if they were struggling or had a hard week,” said sophomore Taylor Studer.

“I really like giving people things, so think it’s fun to brighten their day,” said freshman Kelsey Doornenbal.

“Having a girl who wasn’t on your wing be an SES, the dorm would be connected as a whole,” Roe said. “I think something that is cool about it is how many girls do participate and do love it; and I think some girls who didn’t necessarily participate in any other activity will participate in this.”

Creativity abounds with the gifts given. One impeccably timed gift was given to Studer during midterm week.

“I was in the worst mood ever. Someone knocked on the door and I threw it open, and there was a girl holding roses from my SES with a really nice note,” Studer said.

“Another time she gave me a cup of 100 Bible verses and sayings. It was cool because it was an ongoing present that I could look at every day and be lifted up.”

Other common gifts included picture frames, plaques, candy and other types of food, handmade art and even a mini mailbox. Sometimes, the gifts were able to be extra-personalized.

“My SES wrote me notes about my mom and gave me extra support,” Morris said, referring to the recent death of her mother.

Freshman Erin Holle also found how encouragement can be taken a step deeper.

“It’s cool how it’s meaningful to what’s going on in my life right now,” Holle said.

“I’d write down a verse and be like, ‘Whoa, this applies to my life too,’ even though I didn’t know what was going on in [the life of my SES].”

Part of the fun was in not knowing when the gifts were coming. However, this also added occasional difficulty.

“One time I had just walked away from my SES’s door and dropped something off and she came back,” Morris said.

“It also sucks for the roommate if you got something regularly and she only got it once a month,” Holle said.

At the end of the semester all of the participants crowd in to the Fern lounge with one final present for a revealing party.

In some cases, the relationship continued even after the semester and the assignments ended.

“I went out for lunch with the girl who I got gifts from, and that began a friendship,” Studer said.
The Northwestern women’s basketball team rolled through its first matchup of the GPAC tournament on Wednesday, defeating Doane 78-44. The Raiders dominated Doane defensively, allowing just 31.7 percent shooting for the game, including 27.3 percent in the second half. Aside from Doane’s leading scorer, who had 17 points, no Doane player put more than seven points on the board.

Junior forward Kendra De Jong scored 18 for the Raiders on 6-10 shooting from the field. She also led NW with seven rebounds. Senior guard Kami Kuhlmann chipped in 12 points and four steals.

Her fellow running mate, senior Val Kleinjan, came out hot to start the game and added 11 points, including 3-6 shooting from behind the arc.

“Getting the third seed is really good for us,” Kleinjan said. “It’s a huge advantage to host a tournament game in our conference because going on the road can be tough. We have the best fans in the nation and it’s great to have that support this time of the year.”

Doane was never within 10 after being down 24-14 in the first half. NW forced Doane to be extremely sloppy with the ball, and the visitors turned it over 31 times.

On Saturday, the Raiders defeated Midland in the final conference meet last Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

With 18 athletes scoring and four relays, the NW men and women both walked away with sixth-place finishes.

For the men it’s the best placing at the conference meet since 2006, scoring 46 points while the women scored 57.

Top finishers for the Raider men include sophomore Matt Huseman, the high jump champion. He jumped 6 feet, 6.5 inches and is seeded fourth going into the national meet. Senior Mark Mineart also placed sixth with a time of 3-2-7.5.

The outdoor season begins on March 31.

Other top performers for the women include sophomore Dawn Gildensleeve placing second in the 100m, running the race in 11.90; winning the 100m hurdles, finishing the 4x100 in fourth place.

The Raider women were lead by junior Brianna Hobbs who scored a total of 13 points. Hobbs finished fourth in the 800m in 2 minutes, 20 second, and second in the 600m with a time of 1:37, meeting the automatic mark for the national meet.

Senior Krystyna Bouchard finished third in the 600 in 1:38, while freshman Sara Edwaldson sixth with a time of 1:39.

The Lady Raiders’ 4x400m relay finished sixth in 4:07, and the 4x800m relay team placed fourth while hitting the automatic mark for the national meet.

The Nebraska Central Qualifier. The event was hosted by Morningside College with 11 teams competing for spots at nationals.

The Raiders finished sixth overall. As a team they scored six points with four wrestlers finishing in the top five. Midland won the title with 156.5 points.

Top wrestlers included senior Josiah Simburger finishing third in the 141-pound class with an overall record of 3-1. Simburger lost his first match and ended the day with three straight wins.

Freshman Zach Fishman placed second at 149 pounds after losing in the final 6-0. Fishman went 2-1 on the day, but is looking forward to moving on from the loss.

“I felt I could have won,” Fishman said, “but that match is over and I need to look forward.”

Another top wrestler for the Raiders was senior David Carter, wrestling at 174 pounds. Carter finished fifth with a record of 3-2, earning second team honors. Simburger ended the conference meet last Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

For Kleinjan, this is his third time being honored with an all-conference award. Dowell has also grabbed two consecutive titles after the most recent award.

Simburger ended the regular season with a record of 27-9. Fishman finished at 24-11. Leither is 19-7 while Dowell is 19-5 on the year. Nationals begin March 1 in Des Moines.

The Northwester women’s basketball team rolled through its first matchup of the GPAC tournament on Wednesday, defeating Doane 78-44. The Raiders dominated Doane defensively, allowing just 31.7 percent shooting for the game, including 27.3 percent in the second half. Aside from Doane’s leading scorer, who had 17 points, no Doane player put more than seven points on the board.

Junior forward Kendra De Jong scored 18 for the Raiders on 6-10 shooting from the field. She also led NW with seven rebounds. Senior guard Kami Kuhlmann chipped in 12 points and four steals.

Her fellow running mate, senior Val Kleinjan, came out hot to start the game and added 11 points, including 3-6 shooting from behind the arc.

“Getting the third seed is really good for us,” Kleinjan said. “It’s a huge advantage to host a tournament game in our conference because going on the road can be tough. We have the best fans in the nation and it’s great to have that support this time of the year.”

Doane was never within 10 after being down 24-14 in the first half. NW forced Doane to be extremely sloppy with the ball, and the visitors turned it over 31 times.

On Saturday, the Raiders defeated Midland in the final conference meet last Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

With 18 athletes scoring and four relays, the NW men and women both walked away with sixth-place finishes.

For the men it’s the best placing at the conference meet since 2006, scoring 46 points while the women scored 57.

Top finishers for the Raider men include sophomore Matt Huseman, the high jump champion. He jumped 6 feet, 6.5 inches and is seeded fourth going into the national meet. Senior Mark Mineart also placed sixth with a time of 3-2-7.5.

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Northwestern blows out Mount Marty

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

On Wednesday night, the Northwestern men’s basketball team cruised to an easy home victory, defeating Mount Marty 85-56 in the first game of GPAC tournament play.

“It feels really good to have that first win under the belt,” said sophomore Zack Leeper. “The team’s playing really well, and we’re all trying to be unselfish teammates.”

Senior guard Walker Seim led the Raiders in scoring with 17 points, including 3-4 from behind the arc. Leeper contributed 15 points, while senior guard Ben Miller, last week’s GPAC player of the week, added 12 points and six rebounds.

“Offensively, we wanted to keep our ball movement high and look inside a lot,” Leeper said.

NW’s defense was stifling. Mount Marty was held to just 32.8 percent from the field for the game, 31.3 percent in the second half. The Raiders also forced Mount Marty into 17 turnovers, including 3-4 from behind the three-point line.

The Raiders poured in 66 percent of their shots from the field, 72 percent in the first half. Meanwhile, the Raider defense held Mount Marty to make it to the charity stripe just 16 times. The Raiders held them to just four free throws in the first half.

Last Saturday, NW ended its regular season by defeating Midland on the road 91-77.

The Raiders poured in 66 percent of their shots from the field, 72 percent in the first half. Meanwhile, the Raider defense held Midland to 36 percent from the field for the game, and NW never trailed after the first half.

NW’s defense was stifling. Mount Marty was held to just 32.8 percent from the field for the game, 31.3 percent in the second half. The Raiders also forced Mount Marty into 17 turnovers, though the Raiders matched that number themselves.

“We’re playing really hard-nosed defense right now,” Leeper said. “We really wanted to stop [Mount Marty’s] penetration.”

NW dished out 21 dimes as a team compared to Mount Marty’s 10. Many of the assists were in transition breakaways for easy points. The game got chippy, especially in the second half. A combined 36 personal fouls were called, and Mount Marty picked up a technical foul midway through the second half for throwing a ball off the wall after a foul call.

NW was also more aggressive around the basket, getting to the free throw line 25 times. Mount Marty made it to the charity stripe just 16 times. The Raiders held them to just four free throws in the first half.

“I think our versatility is a big advantage,” Brasser said. “If we have a bunch of guys swinging the bat well, we can run before teams get back on defense. It feels like everyone is getting good touches. When [perimeter players] have the ball, we’re looking to feed it inside, and they’re looking to kick it out.”

Leeper scored 18 points, shooting 7-11 from the field. Miller led the Raiders in rebounds, pulling down 10. Junior post Stu Goslinga hit 5-6 shots close to the basket, putting up 13 points.

Senior guard Ryan Stock contributed nine points off the bench as he hit 3-4 attempts from behind the three-point line.

The Raiders will host Briar Cliff on Saturday at 3 p.m. in the semifinals of the GPAC tournament. NW crushed Briar Cliff 99-69 in November at home and lost badly to Mount Marty 82-60 in Sioux City in January. The Raiders are not expecting this trip to be any different.

“We’re expecting their best,” Leeper said. “Everyone is always looking to come after us, so anything less than their best is less than unacceptable.”

Raider baseball will rely on experience in 2012

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

SPORTS EDITOR

After earning a share of the GPAC regular season title last spring, the Northwestern baseball team is looking to solely grab a hold of the title and a national tournament berth this spring, the Northwestern baseball team is looking to solely grab a hold of the title and a national tournament berth this spring.

Last year’s squad finished the season 26-19 but did well in the conference, and its 16-6 record earned it a three-time around. The squad was picked to finish second in the conference by the coaches.

The loss has already been forgotten, as the Raiders return with a lot of momentum, the Raiders fell apart in the conference, and its 16-6 record earned it a three-time around. The squad was picked to finish second in the conference by the coaches.

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The outfield will also be a position of strength for NW.

Sophomore Cody Groskreutz and junior Corey Van Gorp both got looks.

At the hot corner, junior Noah Bohlmann, senior Levi Taylor Morris, sophomore Tyler Stuerman and Brasser.

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Seniors Walker Seim drives to the basket against Mount Marty on Wednesday night. Seim’s 17 points helped the Raiders by the Lancers 85-56. NW will now host Briar Cliff on Saturday at 3 p.m.
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Imagine new exercise facilities

BY NATE JOHNSTON
OPINION EDITOR

Northwestern’s stellar facilities were not a major selling point when I made my college decision. I knew from the beginning I would find better facilities at a state school. I assumed that NW’s current facilities, though lacking in some areas, would suffice for a student body of approximately 1200. This assumption was disproved when I made the mistake of trying to use the weight room at 4:30 one Monday afternoon this winter. The weight room was packed tightly with football players, wrestlers and a few brave non-athletes. I decided to hit the brand-new indoor track instead, only to find the track team practicing. In the end I elected to put on several layers and run outside. Anyone who has tried to use NW’s exercise facilities at the wrong time would wholeheartedly agree that we need more space. Personally, I frequently experience these facilities at two extremes. It is either sparsely occupied with a few students who have lucky schedules or it is bursting at the seams with students, athletes or intramurals participants.

This semester I have decided that the only way that I will be able to stay physically active is if I choose to exercise at the right times. These are the times when no one else exercises, there is a reason that the facilities are dead at these times. It is because these are horrible times to exercise; during the middle of the day when everyone is at class, doing homework or eating lunch. As a non-athlete student, I realize that I am part of a tiny subgroup of students who use our exercise facilities. In the whole scheme of things, I am just a number. If Nate Johnston is not content with his workout, the school will not lose any championships or potential revenue. I am not on scholarship to workout. But I do pay tuition.

NW’s Imagine campaign offers some measure of hope, however. Its $55 million dollar fundraising goal promises a new Learning Commons, funding for academic programs, more scholarship money and facilities improvements. I must admit that I was caught off guard when I first heard about the Imagine campaign. After all of the hype about building a new dorm, I was surprised to hear that NW had started fundraising for a new 55 million dollar campaign. We didn’t have enough money to build a new dorm but we were going to come up with 15 million dollar for a new Learning Commons.

I wholeheartedly agree with NW’s decision to fund the Learning Commons. I think that is a step in the right direction. If we want to stay competitive and have a credible place of higher education, we must keep up with the needs of 21st century learners. NW is an academic institution; therefore, it makes sense that it would put an academic project at the head of its new campaign.

The part of the Imagine campaign that I would address is the 5 million dollar designated for facilities improvements. NW’s website offers a description of the Imagine campaign’s facilities improvement goals. “A portion of the Imagine campaign is designated for improvements such as these—an important and vital need as Northwestern continues to grow.” These improvements such as “this” is referring to the RSC gym makeover and the lovely airport layout of our student center. The gym makeover was another step in the right direction. NW has spent some money on a facility much in need of improvement that students frequently use.

Managing a college’s budget is no easy task. The administration must take into account several different factors. One of those factors should be the wants and needs of the students. Psychological research is an important need. I need to exercise to relieve stress and have a happy and fulfilling college experience. I hope that the new Imagine campaign takes into account student likes when it divvies up its 5 million dollars for facilities improvements.
Art Exhibit
Senior Lisa Thvedt will display her work Feb. 24–29 in the college’s Te Paske Gallery. A public reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

Piano Recital
Dr. Young-Hyun Cho, a professor at the University of Texas—Arlington, will give a piano recital at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24 in Christ Chapel.

Submit Events
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Poetry
The Deep Song Reading Series will feature poet Katherine Manning at 8 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27 and poet Samuel Martin at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 29 in the Krover Visual Arts Centre TePaske gallery.

Proposal to reduce language requirement

A lot has changed since 1985. One thing that hasn’t changed much is Northwestern’s general education curriculum.

Faculty members have been in discussion about how best to revamp NW’s general education program. Numerous changes have been proposed throughout this process. Some have been defeated and others have been accepted. One of the defeated proposals was to reduce the modern foreign language requirement from nine to eight credits.

According to Professor Mitch Kinsinger, chair of the general education task force, this proposal was supported by a majority of the faculty and would have created continuity between ancient foreign languages and modern foreign languages, along with lessening the footprint of the general education curriculum.

“The largest single component of our general education curriculum is our foreign language requirement,” Kinsinger said.

Rick Clark, chair of the modern foreign language department, disagrees that the footprint of the foreign language requirement should be reduced.

“We require a 201-level proficiency for the modern foreign language requirement, which is not necessarily a 3-semester requirement,” Clark said.

Many students do not need to take the full nine credits required. The average noninternational student takes 6.4 credits of a foreign language by graduation, as many students test out of the lower-level courses.

According to Clark, modern foreign languages are different from ancient languages in that modern foreign languages have a conversational element to them.

“The third semester of modern foreign language courses focus on conversation in that language,” Clark said.

Though there will be no change to the language requirement, other changes have been tentatively accepted and approved for incoming students starting in the fall of 2013.

The first change is the restructuring of the general education package. Instead of focusing on specific courses to fulfill requirements, there will be 10 general education categories. These courses focus on gaining certain knowledge and achieving educational goals, instead of focusing on specific classes to meet a specific general education requirement.

For example, a course under the Self and Society requirement must fulfill learning objectives such as considering the intellectual, emotional, behavioral and spiritual aspects of personhood, reflecting on what it means to be made in the image of God and exploring perspectives on the relationships between faith and life in community.

Other changes revolve around the core general education courses. Both a first year seminar and a senior seminar will be integrated into the new general education program, and a writing-specific course will be eliminated. The first year seminar is needed, according to Kinsinger, because the current general education program “does not orient students to the academic life at NW.” This course will focus on writing and public speaking skills and will be required of all incoming freshmen. Also instituted in the new curriculum is the idea of writing across the curriculum.

Some courses within the general education curriculum will be writing intensive, including one in a student’s major, instead of requiring a specific writing course,” Kinsinger said.

The final major change will be a senior seminar. This course will be inside a student’s major, instead of requiring a specific writing course,” Kinsinger said.

“Junior Nate Johnston gives a presentation about literature from Spain in an upper-level Spanish course. The modern foreign language requirement has been subject to much debate in the process of revising the general education package.”

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The final major change will be a senior seminar. This course will be inside a student’s major, but will have a broad focus.

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