Extreme makeover:
Hub edition

BY EMILY WALLACE

Recent changes in the Hub have many students asking the question, “Why?” The answer is simple: money.

“It was a number game,” head Sodexo manager Ned Price said. “(Common Grounds) was selling less than 50 drinks a day. It made sense to combine the two shops for the business. Those numbers have tripled since the changes, and the Hub didn’t lose any business when it comes to the drink station.”

The Hub drink station now only serves specialty ice cream treats such as swirlies and ants-in-a-snow-storm.

The Hub has rearranged space to add a larger burrito bar.

“We wanted to expand the burrito section because the Chipotle and Qdoba concept is very popular right now,” Hub manager Katie Schuller said. “We wanted to give the students more of a variety. We were very basic before, and now we have a Mexican-style grill.”

Another change made to the Hub was the separation of the sections.

Now the Hub is designed with a food court concept: specific registers for each style of food.

“Just to get the students in and out faster, we added an extra line,” Schuller said.

This is a common theme throughout all the changes to the two eateries.

“We wanted to solve the congestion (problem),” Price said. “We didn’t like having students walk in and see the line and then leave without eating.”

Now with the three separate lines for the deli, burrito and grill, people are more spread out.

“The changes have made working more efficient,” said Hub employee Brittany Elms. “We are just able to serve people faster now.”

Julia VanDyk, also a Hub employee, said: “I think it is easier to make the food and give it to the customers with less confusion now because of the way we have reorganized the system. We are more contained into specific areas.”

The changes have also lead to the temporary loss of the pizza and pasta options.

“Just for the first two weeks, we wanted our staff to be able to adjust to the changes,” Price said.

According to both managers, these options will be back in the near future.

See “Hub” on Page 4

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January 24, 2014
Young the Giant’s sophomore album receives mixed reviews

BY WILL NORRIS

ALBUM REVIEW

Youthful and energetic, “Paralysis” blends a youthful church of the strongest songs on the record, “Eros,” reminiscent of a group of friends many tracks suggest a throwback to bands such as Electric Light Orchestra. The heavy use of 1970s-style synthesizer in “Firelight” — to an alluring acoustic ballad, Gadhia shows the band’s darker, spiritual side.

That being said, this album is definitely not a sophomore slump. It has a number of wonderful moments reminding listeners that this talented young band deserves the status they have received. Vocalist Sameer Gadhia, whose old-timey-crooner voice of wonderful moments reminding listeners that this talented young band deserves the status they have received. Vocalist Sameer Gadhia, whose old-timey-crooner voice

in its organic roots in Southern California beach rock. The band’s single “It’s About Time” fits the Fueled by Ramen mold well. The rock and roll sounds transforms into a sultry pre-chorus and dance rock bridge that sounds like any number of Fall Out Boy creations. An equivalently captivating image is painted with “Mind over Matter,” which begins with a kitschy organ glissando reminiscent of Super Mario Brothers. Layers of synthetic strings overshadow all guitar riffs. The track is partially redeemed, however, by tasteful, distinguished bass line by Payam Doostzadeh and an inspirationally guttural vocal performance.

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of the sky by a missile. To end the story there would be a bit of a downer, so of course, he survives the crash and miraculously saves two others from his unit. Now we’re five minutes into the movie, and Jack is already in physical therapy.

In the latter half of the record, the band dabbles in many genres, leaving some Cali-rock fans shaking in their sandals. The heavy use of 1970s-style synthesizer in many tracks suggests a throwback to bands such as Electric Light Orchestra. One of the strongest songs on the record, “Eros,” is reminiscent of a group of friends playing various synth and percussion instruments in middle school jazz band. The tremendously energized, vibrant and uplifting “Crystallized” blends a jovial church organ sound and an unexpected hip-hop beat bridge. The album wraps up in a delightfully luscious modulated synth-driven clincher “Paralysis.”

In the latest Jack Ryan film, “Shadow Recruit,” producers shot for heavy realism but came up short because of their inconsistent portrayal of main character Jack Ryan. Jack (Chris Pine) starts out as a Ph.D. student that drops out of an unnamed university in London after seeing the 9/11 attack on TV. This important scene is portrayed in less than two minutes. Two years later, he is a marine on his way to Afghanistan when his helicopter is shot out of the sky by a missile. To end the story there would be a bit of a downer, so of course, he survives the crash and miraculously saves two others from his unit. Now we’re five minutes into the movie, and Jack is already in physical therapy.

After meeting the lovely med student Catherine Muller (Keira Knightley) at his rehabilitation center, Jack is soon recruited into the CIA by his soon-to-be mentor and handler Thomas Harper (Kevin Costner). The three actors’ chemistry is great, especially with Harper there to provide some comedic relief whenever there’s an opportunity to poke fun at Jack.

Though the movie isn’t flawless, it can definitely be appreciated by loyal fans of the Tom Clancy series. There are many details that came to life in the movie that were only small backstories in the books. Perhaps that was the point: to pave the way for a series of productions to come out in the future.
Editor’s Picks: Best of 2013

By Lyric Morris

As a new year begins, our Arts & Culture editor gives her opinions on the best music and movies of 2013.

Movies:
4) Frozen
A Disney movie that promotes discovery of personal identity, sexual equality, strong independent women and men who are willing to stand boldly alongside those women and has a killer soundtrack? Count me in.

3) Gravity
Although the movie basically contains only two characters and one setting, the cinematography, special effects and deeply layered storyline are enough to keep viewers enthralled by the tale of two astronauts stranded in space.

2) Her
I'm usually not the type to swoon over romantic movies, but "Her" is so much more than your typical predictable romcom. When a lonely writer falls in love with his computer operating system, a beautifully crafted story about our human desire to be known and loved unfolds.

1) The Place Beyond the Pines
Can I just take a second to mourn the fact that this movie wasn't nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars? When a motorcycle stunt driver named Luke decides to start robbing banks as a way to support the child he never knew he had, the course is set for a drama that covers the next 15 years.

Albums:
4) Beyonce: The Visual Album
You guys. Nobody even knew this album was coming. Beyonce just woke up one day, released an album (complete with an elaborate, full-length video to accompany each track), soared to No. 1 on iTunes, kissed Blue Ivy and Jay-Z goodnight and tucked herself in like nothing happened. There's a reason this woman is known as the Queen Bee.

2) Son Lux: Lanterns
Post-rock/alternative hip-hop artist Son Lux released an unforgettable intricately piece of musical genius this year. When listening to this album, you feel like you're both floating in space and sitting in a cozy, little coffee shop simultaneously.

1) Lorde: Pure Heroine
Lorde, 17, has taken both the pop and alternative music scenes by storm. Her music offers a refreshing authenticity; her lyrics are critical of the fame and luxury our world tells artists to strive for. She's like a best friend from the house next door and a fabulous, Grammy-attending pop star all wrapped up in one.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PASTEMAGAZINE.COM
Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes star in "The Place Beyond the Pines," which was released at festivals in 2012 and in theaters in 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METROLYRICS.COM
2013 saw Lorde rise from an unknown artist to a chart-topping superstar.

"Just get a cab, and change it to George Christy." -Aaron Nash during Career Boot Camp.
Submitted via Twitter by @meganagold

"I wonder if you hit that big orange sky thing, if it would fall on the cat and smash it?"
-Aaron Van Ee on the Orange City water tower.

"You can’t hide your thoughts from Charles Dickens. He is kinda like Santa."
-English professor Joel Westerholm on literary narration.
Submitted via Twitter by @AbecyMcCubbin.

Tweet quotes @NWC_Beacon

Congratulations to Sarah Pemberton on being selected as this past semester's "Photo of the Semester" winner for this shot of Zwemer on a foggy day. For your chance to win $25, submit your photos weekly to emilee.berry@nwciowa.edu.

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Show & Times Jan 24-Jan 30

Jack Ryan
Shadow Recruiter
Fri 7:05, Sat 8:15, Sun 2:30, Mon-Thurs 7:00

Devil's Due
Fri 7:00, Sat 8:00, Sun 2:00, Mon-Thurs 7:00

Nut Job
Fri 5:00, Sat 7:00, Sun 9:00

Lone Survivor
Fri 7:00, Sat 9:00, Sun 1:00

August Osage County
Fri 7:00, Sat 10:00, Sun 1:00

$2 Tuesday! $2 Soft Drinks & $2 Popcorn

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Students thrive in winter English camp

BY CALLIE NORDAHL

Northwestern students are used to seeing new faces, especially right after the beginning of another semester. However, there are approximately a dozen faces that are new not only to campus but also to the United States. NW is in its third year of a growing friendship with Meiji Gakuin Higashimurayama High School. This year, 12 students, accompanied by their teacher Akio Takahashi, are here for three weeks.

This friendship started when NW representatives, Kevin McMahan among them, went to visit alumnus Norimichi “Nori” Odate. Odate moved to Tokyo after graduating from NW, and when MGH opened its doors 15 years ago, he was there to greet the first students. Because of his passion for culture and sharing experiences, Odate started bringing students back to the Midwest during the summer. Some came to improve their English; others came to travel around the country as part of a bell choir.

After a few summers, Nori got in touch with McMahan and discussed the possibilities of bringing students to the U.S. during the school year. Four years later, we are seeing the friendships and opportunities that have resulted from acting on these possibilities. Takahashi, the MGH English teacher, said he has a strong passion for this program to be successful. He added that he wants this experience to help these students become prosperous and well-rounded adults.

Takahashi said he is surprised by the large sense of safety in not only Orange City but also in the U.S. Although the Midwest is extremely different from Tokyo, its safer atmosphere helps keep the program going and reassures parents.

One of the students, Yusuke Sonoda, is currently enjoying his first trip to America. Although the weather is very cold and windy for him, he said he is enjoying the friendly people he is getting to meet. He is also pleased to see how much his English is improving.

“Just to do some of the changes we wanted to do, we had to look at other ways to save money. We went from 30-cent cups to 12-cent cups so we wouldn’t have the loss of egg rolls and boneless wings as appetizer options, the change to a new brand of cups and altered grill hours.

“The Pepsi cups were very expensive; they were 30 cents a cup, “ Price said. “We listened to your comments, and we understand that you want the grill open again from 9:30-11:30,” Price said. “So you got your wish.”

However, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the grill will remain closed for financial reasons.

“Change is sometimes not fun, but in this business, if you don’t change then you fall behind,” Price said. “We will work out all the kinks.”

Students are encouraged to leave comments about their Hub experience; their suggestions will be read and possibly used to implement further changes.

Hub set to change

FROM PAGE 1

“Change is sometimes not fun, but in this business, if you don’t change then you fall behind,” Price said. “We will work out all the kinks.”

As far as the beloved Pepsi cups go, the answer is, once again, money.

“The Pepsi cups were very expensive; they were 30 cents a cup,” Price said. “Just to do some of the changes we wanted to do, we had to look at other ways to save money. We went from 30-cent cups to 12-cent cups so we wouldn’t have the loss of egg rolls and boneless wings as appetizer options, the change to a new brand of cups and altered grill hours.

“We just were not selling enough a week to keep them on the menu,” Schuller said. “We sold an average of two a week last semester, so it just made sense to cut them from the menu.”

Also, new grill hours are also coming to the Hub.

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Students capitalize on career camp

BY ASHLEY VAN WYHE

On Jan. 4, 2014, several students returned early to campus for Northwestern's first Career Boot Camp. Throughout the course of three days, students perfected their résumés and cover letters; were given interview techniques, job searching skills, financial advice; and attended seminars on proper professional dress and dining etiquette all in an attempt to improve their chances of landing a job.

Bill Minnick, Director of Career Development, felt that the camp was a positive experience. Minnick said, “I was pleased, and the students who participated were benefited.”

One of the students who benefited from the boot camp was junior José Martinez.

“I learned so much in the three short days of career boot camp, and a lot of things I usually hear or read about on the Internet related to finding a job were more precisely defined,” Martinez said.

Martinez particularly enjoyed the mock interviews with the human resource professionals. “It really helped me feel more confident. It gives me a general idea of what to expect when someone gives me an interview in the future,” Martinez said.

The boot camp not only grabbed the attention of its attendees but also reached the ears of students who did not have the chance to attend. Senior Megan Rustad heard of the boot camp’s success.

“I heard that it was informative and that they got to practice interviewing and get help on their résumés,” Rustad said.

She said she would have found it helpful to practice her interviewing, and added that she is happy to know that the Career Development Center offers mock interviewing throughout the year.

Because of the boot camp's success, the CDC is planning on offering the boot camp more often.

“(It will happen) definitely annually, so when you are a senior and you didn’t go as a junior you will have an opportunity to go; we might even do one in the spring and one in the fall.”

The next boot camp will undergo some changes, but much of the material will remain the same. Minnick said he plans to rearrange the schedule by placing the employer panel earlier in the boot camp, rather than towards the end. Minnick said he would also like to bring in other professionals to present at the workshops. He said he thinks it is important to have different perspectives to add greater value to the skills students will learn.

NWC track welcomes new coach

BY BRANDON ZIMMERMAN

The Northwestern track and field team welcomed a new coach to their squad this season. Tim Vander Ploeg, a 2003 graduate of NW, will replace Kyle Blankers as the new full-time assistant coach.

While attending NW, Vander Ploeg ran in the 110-meter high hurdles, the 400-meter hurdles, the four-by-400-meter relay and also competed in the long jump. He qualified and participated in the national meet three out of his four years of his track and field career.

Upon graduation, Vander Ploeg and his wife, Kelli, decided to pack up their belongings and move southward to Omaha, Neb., where they started a family together. Vander Ploeg began making his living working in sales for ten years and was also a counselor at the Teen Reach Adventure Camp (T.R.A.C.). In addition, he led a high school track and field athletes before deciding to coach at NW.

“It was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up,” Vander Ploeg said.

The Vander Ploeg’s said they felt that God was calling them back to NW.

“If this is where God is leading us, and it's a door that He's opened up quite big right now, you can't not listen to Him, but rather you've got to go forward with it.”
New Hub Happiness

BY KYLE STANEK

Before I start talking about why I think that the new setup for the Hub is an improvement from the old setup, it would make sense to point out that I worked at the Hub for an entire semester last year. So you could say that I know the general processes that the Hub goes through and how some things have changed at the Hub for this semester.

One of the changes that I think is way better than last semester is the new setup for the different food items, which is separated into three lines: deli, burrito and fried foods. In my opinion it is way more efficient for them to make our food this way. You could see long lines at the Hub last semester, and it would take forever just for you to get your food.

Another thing that is really cool is when you get a burrito at the Hub. Now I actually feel like I get a decent amount of food. Before, if I was really hungry, I would leave the Hub with an empty stomach. Also, in a way, you could say that the burritos are similar to the experience when you go to Chipotle or Qdoba. The portions are pretty similar, and the burritos are made in the same ways that they make them there.

One thing that is kind of disappointing is that they temporarily stopped making pasta, pizza and bread bowls at the Hub. This is kind of disappointing for me because on days where it is really cold, which tends to happen this time of year, it would be nice to have a warm bowl of soup to warm me up.

Overall, I think it is important for us to realize and appreciate the service that the Hub does for us even if we do not like the changes they have made. If we did not have the Hub, then we would have to eat at the caf all the time. This really makes my caf experience better because when we have options to go eat at the different places, then it gives me a good variety of choices as to what I want to eat on that given day. That way I do not get completely sick of eating there all the time.

All of these changes sound very beneficial in theory and, I will admit, probably looked good on paper. Specializing the lines and moving all the coffee to one location sound like really great ideas. In reality, however, the execution of said changes alters more than wait times and overhead cost of operations. Let's begin with separating the food lines. The Hub now employs the same number of workers over meal times, yet all three of the lines have remained lengthy. Instead of allowing employees to help out where most needed, they divided and didn't conquer.

At prime meal times, lines are expected, but waiting with friends made the wait bearable. Now, not only do I have to essentially choose what to eat before getting in line, I also have to wait alone with the added risk of finding my friends have already finished their food. Quite unsettling.

Remember the days when the Hub was the go-to place for coffee dates? Just imagine how many relationships were born in that place. Alas, those days are no more. Why, you ask?

Specially coffee drinks and smoothies have all been consigned to Common Grounds, as did smoothies (side note: smoothies at Common Grounds are not made with real fruit).

With the consignment of these items to Common Grounds, Sodexo has unwittingly implied that all students on campus would rather get coffee and sit down to study than have community-building moments that exist outside of a studying atmosphere in places such as the Hub.

What used to be students’ favorite coffee date location, smoothie pit-stop, and Coffee Toffee dealer has been reduced to a mere food court.

Have your voice heard (and make money doing it)!
Contact Kaitlin Floerchinger, Opinions editor kaitlin.floerchinger@nwcowa.edu

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Sports

Raiders fall for first time this season

BY BRANDON ZIMMERMAN

The Northwestern men’s basketball team traveled to Sioux City on Thursday night to go up against the No. 2 Morningside Mustangs.

NW fell 90-79 despite 23 points from senior Samantha Kleinsasser. The game was the first loss of the season for the No. 2 Raiders, who will surely drop in the national rankings as a result.

With seven minutes left in the first half, NW held its biggest lead of the game with a 15-point advantage, 31-16.

Morningside answered in the next two minutes with a 10-0 scoring run that put it within five. Morningside continued to score and took the lead to end the half 42-38.

The Red Raiders started the second half by scoring five quick points in the first minute of play. The Mustangs, however, went on another scoring run that put them up 56-43 with 14 minutes left.

NW made its way back into the game with help from Kleinsasser’s 12 points in the last 14 minutes of play and evened the score at 79-79 with two minutes left in the game.

A free-throw and two consecutive lay-ups for Morningside in the final two minutes proved to be enough as the Mustangs won on to defeat the Raiders.

Kleinsasser’s 23 points were the game-high for the Mustangs. Junior Karen Hutson poured in 14 points, and senior Mackenzie Small scored 13 and also pulled down 10 rebounds for a double-double.

NW remains at the top of the GPAC standings with an overall record of 18-1 and a GPAC record of 10-1.

On Jan. 15, the women traveled to Sioux Center to take on Dordt. Following a very close first half, after which the Defenders led by just one point, NW picked up the scoring in the second half and finished the game.

NW came out after the break and scored the first four points of the second half. After regaining the lead, the Raiders never gave it back. Dordt pulled within one, but NW answered with a 14-3 run of their own. This scoring push, ignited by Kleinsasser with eight of those 14 points, gave NW its biggest lead of the game at 53-41 with 14 minutes to go.

Dordt made a late run in the second half with five minutes to go and diminished NW’s lead to just seven, 64-57. Senior Alli Engebretson poured in seven straight points to give the visitors a 12-point lead.

Although NW shot just 3 of 17 from beyond the arc during the game, the women shot 50 percent from the field in the second half and a combined 42 percent for the game.

Engebretson scored a game-high 25 points and secured 11 rebounds for her sixth double-double of the season. Hutson also had herself a strong scoring night as she sank 22 points for the Raiders.

NW had 15 steals compared to Dordt’s five. The Red Raiders will play a GPAC game at 2 p.m. this Saturday in the Bultman Center.

All attendees are encouraged to wear pink to the game for breast cancer awareness activities. The most clever costumes will receive prizes from the concession stand.

NW rallies to beat Briar Cliff

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

Last Wednesday, the wrestling team rallied and managed a come-from-behind 23-20 victory in a duel against Briar Cliff.

The Raiders trailed 13-20 with two weight classes remaining, but freshman Jake Clifton won on a major decision in the 133-pound class, and in the 125-pound class, senior Diego Angelo Quintana captured a win by fall. The win puts NW at a 2-2 record in the GPAC.

“It was really a good feeling getting this win because we have not won two in a row in a while,” Fishman said. “Going in, we knew it was going to be a pretty equal matchup, so we needed to get pins and win the close matches.”

Fishman was also a winner by fall in the 157-pound class. In the 165-pound class, freshman Andras Lukacs-Farkas captured a 13-5 victory. Junior Forrest Marx, in the 197-pound class, earned a 5-2 victory.

“We’ve just got to keep pushing it in practice,” Fishman said. “It’s too early to be peaking, but we’ve got to start finding that right mental state and start meeting that potential that we have.”

The Raiders will return to action on this Wednesday with a trip to Storm Lake. The duel will begin at 5 p.m.

Mustangs pour points on struggling Raiders

BY ISAIAH TAYLOR

The Northwestern men’s basketball team lost its second game in a row after Morningside College whipped the Raiders 97-65. NW is now 11-10 on the season (4-7 in the GPAC).

On Wednesday, the men traveled to Sioux City to avenge a home loss to Morningside, but their efforts were not enough. Morningside jumped out to an early 8-0 lead, then extended the spread to 18-2 after the first five minutes of play. The Raiders made a short-lived run, but the Mustangs continued to dominate rebounding and hit shot-after-shot. The first half ended with a 23-point lead for Morningside. In the second half, Morningside extended its lead to 40 twice.

Although NW shot the ball better than 40 percent for the first time in the past six games, missed free-throws, rebounds and second-chance points were the difference in the game.

Senior Zack Leeper led NW with 19 points and four rebounds. Sophomore Isaiah Taylor was the only other Raider in double figures with a career-high 11 points.

“We just didn’t get it done defensively,” head coach Kris Korver said after the tough loss. “We did not get it done.”

Last Wednesday the Raiders went to Sioux Center to play against rival Dordt, which was ranked fifth in the country and sat atop the GPAC. The Defenders continued their run against NW and won 78-64.

The teams traded baskets early on, but Dordt went on a quick 11-2 run to take the lead for good with 12 minutes left in the first half. Dordt’s largest lead was 26 points. NW went on a late run to bring the game within 14, but that was as close as it would get.

Sophomore Joey Habtemariam led NW with 13 points, followed by Leeper with 12 and Taylor with nine off the bench. Senior Rob Gill and junior Levi Ettleman each had six rebounds.

Free-throws again seemed to be the Achilles heel for the Raiders, who went only 16 of 25 from the line.

“We have some good things going for us; we just have to focus on not getting discouraged at this point in the season,” Habtemariam said. “We still have a lot more games left to play and a lot more improving to do as the conference tournament gets closer.”

NW will play again at 4 p.m this Saturday against Nebraska Wesleyan in the Bultman Center.

Notable top finishers from track meet at Dordt Indoor

Men’s High Jump:
Senior Matt Huseman - First place
Women’s 1,000-meter:
Senior Dawn Gildersleeve - First place
Senior Jackie Nielenhuis - Third place
Men’s 1,000-meter:
Junior Logan Howland - First place
Women’s 400-meter:
Sophomore Lauren Spranger - Second place
Junior Megan Walhof - Third place
Men’s mile:
Sophomore Kyle Anderson - Third Place
Men’s long jump:
Senior Jordan Strofaci - Fifth Place

PHOTOS BY MINDY FIELDS

PHOTOS BY EMILIE BERRY

PHOTOS BY MINDY FIELDS

Junior Danny Arceo looks to control his opponent’s feet in Wednesday night’s duel against Briar Cliff.

Junior Megan Walhof competes at the Dordt Indoor track meet on Saturday. It was the first meet of the season for the track squad.
**Formal Fridays form connections**

**By Caitlyn Van Es**

Food, fun, and fellowship. It’s not all business at Formal Friday. Last spring, professors in the business department decided they wanted to build community in the department. Professor Eric Elder said he read a Wall Street Journal article on counteracting casual Fridays. He thought this was a great idea, and thus began Formal Friday.

On the last Friday of each month, business students are invited to dress in their best business attire and attend. The company of fellow classmates after their Friday classes. The Korver Visual Arts Center Gallery, the Vogel Community Room, and the De Witt Theater Arts Center Lobby, are a few of the places this event has been held.

“We try to be creative and useful with our space,” Elder said. Each professor provides appetizers for each Formal Friday meeting. For many, the food is their favorite part. “My wife always makes something new and special,” Elder said. “I always enjoy the new recipes she tries.” Professor Vonda Post said she enjoys being able to converse with students over delicious food. Barbecue smokies, jalapeño poppers and a chocolate fountain are some of the appetizers students have enjoyed when attending.

Although food is important, the fellowship between the students and professors is perhaps more beneficial. “One of our goals is to just have personal interactions in a less formal setting than a classroom,” Post said. “We enjoy getting to know the students better and maybe meet a student we have not had in class yet.” Formal Fridays are a chance for students to have real conversation with a professor and also chat with fellow classmates.

Formal Friday also gives students a variety of business opportunities. At a spring event held last year, a photographer was present to take an individual picture for each student attendant. This picture was meant to be used as a profile picture for a LinkedIn account. This past fall, a NW business grad came to dress in her best business attire, “It is a great experience to be used as a profile picture,” Post said. Although guest speakers will not always be present at a Formal Friday event, each event will benefit students in a different way, even if it is simply socializing with others.

“It is a great experience for the students as these types of social events are quite common in business,” Professor Brandon Woudstra said. “Networking is a key business skill, and these events provide a little practice in a typical business environment.”

Overall, Formal Friday events have been a hit in the business department, yet the professors are trying to come up with more ways to draw in a larger student crowd. “The department really enjoys planning and hosting each event, we enjoy being able to find a way to get to know our students even better.” Post said. This month’s Formal Friday will take place at 3:30 p.m. today in the Vogel Community Room.

**NW offering summer study abroad**

**By Kara Nonnemacher**

As February quickly approaches, students may be starting to develop a plan for the summer. However, if they are clueless or desiring an experience that will expand their world view, but don’t know how to go about it, the Global Education Office may be able to point them in the right direction.

Northwestern is offering summer study abroad programs in seven locations around the globe. Students have the opportunity to study in Greece, Great Britain, Palestine/Israel, Ecuador, China, Australia and Tanzania. Applications are due on February 1 and are available on the Global Education page on MyNorthwestern.

Programs range from three to four weeks in length and focus on a variety of subjects. For example, if a person is interested in faith and justice, Palestine/Israel is the trip to go on, but if someone prefers arts and theater, Great Britain will better suit his or her interests. Justine Jakovich, the coordinator of Global Education programs, knows that any student on campus can find a program that fits. “Because there are seven program locations and each program has its own unique focus, Summer Study Abroad 2014, as a whole, highlights many academic interests,” Jakovich said.

Students may be wondering if these programs are missionial or touristic in nature, and the answer to that is no. SSA programs are educational and for-credit; however, participants will learn in a much less conventional manner than they do at NW. The classroom will expand and become ancient ruins, renowned landmarks, museums and rural villages.

Perhaps the most valuable lessons that can be learned on a study abroad are cultural. “Being able to travel while earning college credit and seeing the world around you through new eyes — that’s a valuable experience,” Jakovich said. “You may also come back to your home culture and see new things about it.”

Meeting people who come from different backgrounds, trying new foods, seeing alternate styles of living or participating in cultural traditions are all ways that one’s worldview can be expanded through any one of these study abroad programs. “One will be able to learn about a different culture by being immersed in it rather than reading about it in a book,” Jakovich said.

These experiences are valuable as they allow one to be more understanding of differences as well as many other real life applications. NW offered one SSA last summer to the Czech Republic. Lindsey Remein, a senior athletic training major, was one of seven students who went. “Even though our trip was mainly about physical culture, the best part was definitely being out of your element and in a new place experiencing a new culture and not knowing the language so you have to rely on your people skills,” Remein said.

If interested in a SSA or in more information about the programs, contact Justine Jakovich in the Global Education office or email her at justine.jakovich@nwciowa.edu.