Students share Phonathon experiences

**PHOTO BY: LAUREN FABER**

Senior Emma Van Drie enjoys the various conversations she has with donors while working for the Phonathon program.

“Part of what makes Phonathon such a fun job is that you get to talk to interesting people every day,” Emma Van Drie said. “You can end up hearing someone’s life story, talk about your favorite Chicago pizza places or call your grandma while she’s trying to watch ‘Dancing with the Stars’...Maggie bakes really good cupcakes to boost morale.”

Perkins Aiyengbeni shared a funny story of a call: “When I first started, I was so ready to go. I was ready to start making calls. I reviewed and thought of many ways people could question me, but the one I didn’t think of was my name. I called and introduced myself and the lady asked me what my first name was. I said Perkins, she was like ‘What?’ Then I told her Perkins like the restaurant and she started laughing.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Florida Georgia Line releases new album

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**FLAT JOKES AND CRINGY MOMENTS**

**LIZZY JOHNSTON**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Imagine waking up to find your entire freezer stocked with Talenti Gelato. In addition to the gelato, your apartment has undergone major remodeling. It looks like a modern palace and your entire wardrobe resembles a boutique (all the shoes are your size). Would you freak out? Natalie (played by Priyanka Chopra) in "Isn't It Romantic" definitely did.

Natalie is a millennial archetyping in a trashy part of New York City. She gets pushed around at work, doesn't see her life amounting to much, and has self-esteem. Her apartment looks like a college dorm, she doesn't have lucky charms, and she has no idea her work buddy—played by Adam Devine—is into her), and she hates romantic comedies. Seriously, just hate them.

Her issue is how cliché, cheesy, predictable and unrealistic they are (more specifically, "lies set to terrible pop songs"). When she is mugged in a subway and smacks her head on a pole, she wakes up in an emergency room described as a "William Sonoma. After the incident, she realizes how lucky she is living in her New York City shelter with bouquets of flowers and cupcake shops everywhere. Her wardrobe and apartment have changed, she has an over Community gay best friend and she is being courted by a hot Australian billionaire (played by Liam Hemsworth—who else could this be but a Hemsworth?). Her life has turned in the very thing she detests—a rom-com.

This movie exists to absolutely blast rom-coms. It calls out classic rom-com tropes: a glamorous and glossy New York City, kissing in the rain, unrealistically attractive love interests, a sidekick obsessed with the male character's life, fashion show montages, voice-overs to explain character's feelings, breaking up a wedding and yes, pop songs set to perfectly choreographed dance numbers. Seriously, how does everyone know the dance? All this is ridiculed in "Isn't It Romantic."

I appreciated the movie calling out rom-coms. But rom-com is not my go-to genre (or something I ever really enjoy). This movie is fun in addressing stupid and unrealistic things most rom-coms do. There are plenty of good one-liners, and the positive message of loving yourself comes through.

However, it comes with flaws. With Wilson as the lead, you would expect to be laughing out loud for most of the movie. Unfortunately, while entertaining and funny, Wilson is not at her best. There are flat jokes and unintentional cringeworthy moments. This could be the writing not being worthy for how comedic and talented Wilson is, but the movie is not as funny as it could have been. It may also shame viewers who enjoy rom-coms and make them feel guilty and ridiculous for liking the genre. Even though the movie is spoofing rom-com troupes, there are a couple that find their way in and turn some parts into a stereotypical rom-com.

This movie is enjoyable but doesn't quite reach the height it could have. Even with that, the performances are entertaining and it's fun to watch a rom-com making fun of the genre. If you're on the fence, Priyanka Chopra has a role, and there's an entire end scene of Hemsworth dancing.

Overall, a good movie to see if you hate rom-coms, and a cute movie to see if you love them.

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**FRESH IN TERMS OF COUNTRY MUSIC**

**VANESSA STOKES**

**WRITING AND RHETORIC**

Florida Georgia Line released their fourth album, "Can't Say I Ain't Country," on Feb. 15. They are dependable in their upbeat country twang sound and an occasional mix of flavors into other genres. But this album breaks even more usual country sound boundaries with unique twists that make "Can't Say I Ain't Country" their best album yet.

When listening straight through the 19 songs, the listener is interrupted by Brother Jervel's voicemails four times. These are snippets of fake voicemails that set up the next song as a comedic hurdle. Brian Kelly and Tyler Hubbard, the main singers, have a friend named Chris, also known as Nugget, who will randomly call them with fake voicemails. Brother Jervel is their favorite of these alter egos and they decided to use him in this album through mini skits. The effect creates a unique sound that makes the audience laugh at the absurdity of the character, but it also relates back to the title song of the album. Brother Jervel has an extremely risky combinations that keep non-country fans can appreciate, please new audiences with risky combinations that keep getting better.
Vander Berg showing art exhibit

FOCUS ON CHARCOL PIECES

KAITLYN ASMUS
WRITING AND RHETORIC

Every senior art major at Northwestern is tasked with creating an exhibit that expresses something they're passionate about and displaying it for the community to enjoy. Their goal is to show something dear to their hearts through things they've produced with their own hands in their favorite way.

Recently, Jaycee Vander Berg finished her senior art exhibit. Her show, titled “End of Watch,” displays many charcoal headshots of police officers who have fallen during duty in the past year. The concept connects both her majors, criminal justice and art, and is something close to her heart as she is going into law enforcement after graduation.

“Every single one of the officers I drew was shot serving in their roles, sometimes serving during something as simple and unexpected as a traffic stop,” Vander Berg said. “It was a small way for me to honor the people who put their lives on the line every time they have a shift.”

Particularly for this show, Vander Berg used charcoal because the black and white combination brings a new meaning to the portraits. The choice specifically allowed her the ability to pull out certain aspects of the headshots. She says it’s almost haunting as “you look into their eyes and see a face of a person that’s no longer here.”

Charcoal is also one of her favorite mediums to work with as it allows her to judge whether she’s been improving as she continues to work on the pieces.

“If I keep working on the same sort of stuff, trying to make each piece more and more realistic, I can really judge if I’m improving or not,” Vander Berg said. “Vander Berg has put a lot of time and effort into the exhibit so she’s spent an average of about six hours on each piece she created. Some of the pieces in the exhibit are more colorful and unrelated to the original theme, but they are still pieces she’s proud of as she’s worked on them over the years.

While she is unable to pick a favorite, she does admit they’ve moved her in many ways. There was a moment when she had laid out the almost finished pieces in a row, and the depth of the headshots and the lost lives they portrayed seemed to hit her.

“All these people were just frozen in their headshots,” Vander Berg said. “And there was a whole line of them – that’s what got me.”

Vander Berg hopes people can experience the true depth and heartache that comes with her exhibit at her reception on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Te Paske Gallery.

The show will be open the whole week to give people the chance to see her hard work and dedication as she honored those fallen officers.

Brandon Leake to speak in chapel

POWERFUL POETRY COMING TO NW

KITRICK FYNAARDT
MATHEMATICS

What do you think of when you hear the word “poetry”? What might one not imagine is a black man from the ghetto of Stockton, California, pouring his soul and the story of Christ out to a crowd who is moved to tears by his message. That is the kind of poetry Brandon Leake brings with him wherever he goes.

Leake will be coming to Northwestern this month as a part of the series for Black History Month. On Feb. 26, Leake will be taking the hour-long Tuesday chapel slot, as well as the 10 a.m. Ned Talk the following day. Campus Dean of Christian Formation, Mark DeYounge, had much to say about how excited they were to have Brandon speaking here.

“I’m hopeful that Brandon’s witness, his gifts as a spoken word artist, his life experience and his passion will all translate a message for our students that will encourage us to more faithfully follow Christ,” DeYounge said.

According to his official website, Brandon Leake is a poet and artistic visionary, who through “a strong home life and some divine intervention,” found himself at Simpson University where he felt a powerful call to start something on campus for people who couldn’t speak their hearts through only conversation. Leake began a small poetry group known as Called to Move (CTM). It began with a few artists just trying their best while supporting each other and since then has blossomed into an enormous journey of inspiring people all across the nation.

Leake’s debut album is titled “In My Thoughts.” He has spent the better part of two years traveling, performing and speaking into the hearts of those whose voices often feel ignored. He has spoken at many Christian Youth events, high schools and poetry conferences. Leake has brought many people to Christ, and his website proudly displays quotes from those who saw the love of Jesus through Leake’s poetry.

When asked what theme Leake would speak on, DeYounge replied, “Brandon will be calling us to consider more fully our identity in Christ and what this calls us to as we engage in culture.”

Brandon will be calling us to consider more fully our identity in Christ and what this calls us to as we engage in culture.

- Mark DeYounge

There’s incredible power in poetry when a person can give up their conversational cadence and speak what their heart is truly feeling. People can be moved to tears, love and sacrifice through the words that the heart makes. Leake is a poet for Christ and his message is sure to be powerful. Additionally, stay tuned to the student activities council for information regarding the poetry slam. It is not something you’ll want to miss.
NW senior’s soccer business thrives

CONNER TUPPER
EXERCISE SCIENCE

Four years ago, Northwestern senior Alex Medeiros left his sunny home in Natal, Brazil to follow his dream of playing soccer and studying in the United States. Working with a recruiting agency in Brazil, he was able to find his way to the Midwest where he attended Missouri Valley College for a season and then spent his next three years at NW as a part of the men’s soccer team.

Throughout his time in the United States, he has developed quite the reputation back in Brazil by simply using his GoPro to film his life as a student-athlete in the United States. Now, Medeiros is a significant social media influencer in Brazil with over 15,000 Instagram followers and 16,000 YouTube subscribers, a following made up of young Brazilian footballers looking to continue their careers by coming to study and play soccer in the United States.

Better known by his page name @PerdidoNoSEUA, or “Lost in the USA,” Medeiros has morphed his hobby of making videos of his daily life and travels throughout the country into a full-fledged business that helps Brazilian young soccer players see the United States—and now Canada, after he spent a successful summer playing semi-pro soccer in Toronto—to follow dreams similar to his own.

Brazilian recruiting agencies will charge their clients thousands of dollars for their services, something that many players are hardly able to afford but will do so to get to the United States. After going through this process himself and seeing an opportunity to help players who are unable to pay the hefty price for help by an agency, Medeiros took it upon himself to develop a triad of methods to open his own pipeline to bring Brazilian footballers to the United States.

First, Medeiros acts as an agent that directly communicates with coaches across the country regarding his clients and their interest in the coach’s program. This is a two-way road with the coaches, who also tell Medeiros what kind of players they need from him in terms of position, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score and maximum price willing to pay.

Key to Medeiros’ success in sending players to coaches is his ability to communicate with the coaches face-to-face. He has done this by attending various coaching events, including the 2019 United Soccer Coaches Convention in Chicago. This event brought in over 3,000 college coaches from across the country. Medeiros talked with many of them to build his network through which he can send players.

After realizing he can only help so many players at a time, Medeiros developed the second part of his triad to reach out to as many players as possible. To do this, he developed a series of online courses that cover various topics, like TOEFL scores, filling out applications, communicating with coaches and negotiating scholarships. These videos are available for purchase by any player and will walk them through the entire recruiting process from the first search of schools to the first step on campus before preseason training begins.

The most recent and final part of his recruiting triad is his work to help improve the mindset of his clients and followers by acting as a role model for his followers through live video streams on Instagram and YouTube. Working with the help of Brazilian entrepreneur and Harvard researcher Matheus Tomoto, Medeiros is developing his own skillset by learning from other successful Brazilians so he can better use his influence to enlighten his followers on how to be successful in their endeavors.

As impressive as his current accomplishments already are, Medeiros is far from content. He has his sights set on expanding his business so that any and every Brazilian soccer player is able to come to the United States or Canada to further their education while playing the world’s game.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Alex Medeiros is using the power of social media to reach Brazilians who want to play collegiate soccer in the United States.

FROM PAGE 1

As a ’95 graduate of NW, Van Ommeren knows exactly how fostering the community can be. He and his wife, Deb, have two children together, eldest daughter Halley, who is married with a daughter, Ariana and his youngest, who is currently serving one year as short-term staff for a mission organization in Mexico and plans to attend NW this fall. During his free time, he enjoys bike riding, basketball, reading and the Minnesota Vikings.

Along with his part-time role as director of campus safety and security, he works as a substance abuse disorder counselor for an agency called Compass Pointe in Spencer, Iowa. Van Ommeren has been learning in both positions “how easy it can be to go through the motions in life, and in doing so, it becomes easier and easier to listen to the messages of this world and miss where God may be leading.”

He wants to encourage every student on campus to be grounded in God, His word, His direction and His commands.

Remember to thank Andrew Van Ommeren and the countless people on snow crew this week for the open pathways that are truly a blessing.

PHOTO BY: LAUREN FABER

Andrew Van Ommeren also serves as a substance abuse disorder counselor for Compass Pointe.
Hannah Wamhoff
Theatre

Many students accustomed to sustainable energy, composting, reusing and reducing waste at home find it difficult to continue a sustainable lifestyle at college where convenience is key and living spaces are miniscule.

The zero waste movement is on the rise in the United States and many colleges across the country and abroad are taking sustainability more seriously. For example, the University of Northern British Columbia has estimated that the campus could cut down their solid waste output by 70 percent through reducing, reusing and composting. Their Prince George campus has particularly focused on paper and plastic products, disposable drink containers and compostable material in order to cut back on waste. John Brown University in Arkansas is another example of a campus pioneering efforts to go zero waste.

According to their website, since July 2012, John Brown University’s main campus has been a zero landfill institution, a transition that is part of an overall sustainability strategy. John Brown University is believed to be the first university in Arkansas and Oklahoma to have a zero landfill campus. In addition to becoming a zero landfill campus, the university has implemented programs around campus to reduce the volume of usable energy and used material. JBU has focused on decreasing energy usage, reusing materials and compacting cafeteria and non-disposable waste. Although becoming a zero landfill institution takes time and campus-wide effort, there are steps Northwestern students can individually take to lessen their environmental impact and spearhead sustainability.

First, students can intentionally recycle more often. There are recycling receptacles in every building across campus for paper, plastic and cardboard waste. There are also convenient receptacles right by the mail room for packaging waste. Also nearby the mailroom is a receptacle for electronics to dispose of electronics as they can be responsibly discarded. Keeping a recycling bin in dorm rooms and apartments is also a great way to recycle on a daily basis. Textbooks that can’t be bought back at the end of the semester can go into the large cardboard containers around campus so they can also be responsibly disposed of or donated.

Second, students should aim to reduce the amount of single-use items they consume. Many students already avoid using the plastic lids and straws at the Hub, and several academic departments encourage students to use their own mugs for coffee and tea. Bringing a to-go mug to Common Grounds for coffee is another way to reduce single-use cups. While grocery shopping, students can bring reusable bags or opt for paper bags instead. If they must use plastic bags, reusing those bags as many times as possible is a great way to reduce waste.

Opting for reusable materials over disposable ones is another way to reduce waste and the impact the campus has on landfills. For example, students can swap disposable plates and silverware for reusable plates and silverware without spending a lot of money. Many students have also swapped plastic toothbrushes for biodegradable bamboo-handled toothbrushes, which is another thrifty and sustainable swap for a greener future.

Third, students can consciously conserve energy in many ways. Turning lights off when leaving a room, keeping thermostats low and unplugging small appliances when not in use are small steps to wards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Building a sustainable campus requires everyone taking small steps to cleaner energy and waste reduction. It doesn’t take a lot of money to make small changes in conservation and protect the earth.

**Students call for more than donations**

*FROM PAGE 1*

While calling is a big part of what students do, they also send pledge cards in the mail and write thank-you notes to donors. During the calls, they do more than ask for donations. They ask how the other person is doing and talk about how things have changed at the college. They even ask for prayer requests, which is a huge blessing for some people.

A major success they had was last year on All N Day; they made $136,000 in one day. “Phonathon callers were a big part of this, as many of us made calls most of the day to inform people about this event and record donations,” Van Drie said.

“I think that some success that has happened in phonation is that we have a very good connection with the people we are calling. They tend to reply and talk to us, with open hearts,” Ayeyengbe said. “Granted, there are times when people don’t want to talk, but when you catch them on a good time, they are always very chatty, meaning that they like what Northwestern stands for.”

If you’re worried about talking on the phone or not being experienced, there’s no need.

“Nearly all of the students who start on the team join with little to no experience in this type of calling and develop their skills from the training provided and from experience calling,” Hulstein said. “In that sense, every student experiences successes in the program. Many enter with trepidation of speaking on the phone and leave with little to no hesitation to have conversations on the phone.”

Emma Van Drie is one of the NW students who call for phonathon to raise money for NW.
Racism in small communities

Prejudice and fear run rampant in small communities and in communities like NW.

- Brant Vermeer

These events have had a deep impact on my brother. They made him question why his classmates would use words like that to talk about him. With a simple word or phrase, they magnified the racial gap between him and everyone else. High school can be a troubling time for all types of these students; it is hard to imagine how difficult it would be when constantly being singled out in this way.

My brother and I were furious after it had happened. Racial insults are some of the most degrading words that can leave any person's mouth. Jack didn't hear these words used against him in public, at AAU basketball practice or when he was with his friends. He heard them during his time at a Christian high school. Kids who claimed to love Jesus had adopted the language of hate to demean one of their own brothers.

Hate speech is one of the more obvious symbols of racism that exist in our country today, but it does not stop there. Some people in Christian town-in-town Iowa still harbor destructive ideas about people of color. In small towns around Iowa, including Orange City, it is clear to see many people get nervous when they are around people of color. I've seen this in my own life when I go out with my brother. Extra attention from store attendees to make sure he isn't stealing, concerned glances and inappropriate comments are something my brother deals with wherever he goes.

Many will argue that racism no longer exists. It is plain to see that this is simply untrue. I've seen in my brother's life, and statistics back up this claim. African Americans still battle higher likelihoods of police stops while driving, higher interest rates and longer prison sentences for identical crimes. It's easy to point out blatant racism such as hate speech or these statistics. However, subtle racism is not as typical in small-town Iowa.

Prejudice and fear run rampant in small communities and in communities like NW. Fear and misunderstanding permeates small-town culture and create barriers that prevent real community from growing. It was a problem at my high school, and I notice it at NW as well. I'd bet that every person reading this has had thoughts warped by preconceived racial stereotypes. It's important to recognize these stereotypes as the destructive barriers they are. This extends beyond NW's campus, but the most practical example is an immediate one. If you catch yourself thinking these types of people are that way, recognize it and do your best to stop them. Dealing with internal prejudices is one of the first steps in our centuries-long battle against racism.

Camera persuades audience

Alex Currier
Sociology

At the beginning of this month, President Trump gave his State of the Union address. It is an evening full of honoring military members, greeting with families who have undergone immense tragedies and recognizing what the Trump administration has accomplished since the last address.

While Trump’s speech resonates with some and strikes a nerve with others, what is debatable is the most entertaining part of the night is watching the members of Congress choose to either stand or sit after the president makes a statement. Standing shows the sign of approval while remaining seated after the president's statement is a sign of disapproval.

Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi sit squarely behind the podium and act as a director would to a play. When Pence stands, it indicates to the Republican half of Congress to erupt in applause. When Pelosi stands, the Democrat half of Congress does likewise. Our nation has never looked more divided than on the night of the State of the Union address—a night when the president is supposed to reassure the country there are solutions to the country's problems.

Congress is divided in the chamber is clearly visible to the viewer at home. As the camera moves away from the president, it pans around the chamber zooming in on important figures in our government, trying to get a sense of their take on the statement. As the camera focuses on the members of Congress, the applause of approval are matched with eyes of disgust peering to the "other side" of the room where a group of people are not standing.

Their body language says it all. It’s almost as if the people of Congress are less interested in what the president is saying and more interested in internally ridiculing the other for not believing the same. Both sides blame the other for the nation’s issues, and both sides believe they are the mature party. It’s a school yard of name calling and bickering, and I feel that our nation is becoming dangerously divided.

President Trump’s State of the Union address lasted 82 minutes and hit on a variety of different issues ranging from immigration to health care. I would be lying if I were to say I was completely invested throughout the full speech. There were moments where I would drift away from the address only to be jolted back by the sound of applause. I would then look to see who from Congress or behind the podium was standing and applauding and make up my mind on whether or not I approved of the statement.

Once this happened, it occurred to me how much power was in Congress’ ability to sit or stand. Congress banks on Americans not being completely informed on particular issues so they themselves can sway the viewer solely by their posture. During the time I was dozing off, Trump could have said anything, and I would have easily supported it depending on if my party was in agreement. It’s in my ignorance (with the assumption that I’m not alone) where I believe there needs to be a change.

The change would be simple. Keep the camera on the president. This would keep the address shorter, force the president to speak to the American people rather than to please Congress, and most importantly it would allow for the viewer to choose whether or not they approved of the statement themselves. Not because their party was standing or sitting but because of their own education on the topic.

While I understand this could give more influential power to the president, what I believe would occur is recognition that we the people have a voice and are not as divided as we appear on a screen.
SOFTBALL SEASON BEGINS DOWN SOUTH

The men’s team finished second at the GPAC Indoor Championships in Seward, Nebraska. From the women, Northwestern had eight hits on the day, including a two-run double from junior shortstop Chase Uhrhahn. After the opening run, NW pitcher freshman Brady Roberts set the tone. NW earned their first win of the game in the bottom of the second as a single by sophomore Dylan Hendricks was brought home by freshman right fielder Alex Fuhs gave the Raiders a 2-1 lead. NW extended their lead to four runs in the bottom of the third as junior shortstop Drew Schutt used a two-run shot to complement sophomore Austin Zylstra’s two-run RBI double earlier in the inning. NW had eight hits on the day, including a two-run home run to make it a 6-2 game heading into the fourth inning. Roberts earned the win, allowing three runs and striking out three. He also had a strong performance under pressure, as Columbia left seven runners on base. After six innings, senior pitcher A.J. Nitzschke entered to get his first save of the season. With runners on first and second, Nitzschke struck out Columbia’s Justin Randle. He earned the final out and the save with a flyout to left field.

“We did well. We split with Columbia College, who is a really good team and was receiving votes last year. We are a young team, so as the season goes on, we will only get better,” Junior Zach Rosson said. “Consistency and not beating ourselves will be key to a successful season.”

The next series for NW will be this weekend, Feb. 22 and 23 in Marshall, Missouri as the Raiders face the Missouri Valley Vikings in a four-game series. Missouri Valley has a record of 2-4 this season. The first home series will be on March 2 when the Raiders host the Southwest Minnesota State Mustangs.

Baseball splits four game series in Missouri

Baseball opens up the season 2-2

Although the cold weather in Iowa does not signal baseball season, the bats were warm in the opening series versus Columbia College (Missouri) last week. Northwestern traveled to Topeka, Kansas to open their season with a four-game series against Columbia. The Raiders split the series with the Cougars 2-2.

The first win of the new season came on a 6-4 victory last Wednesday. Columbia opened the game with a home run from Chase Uhrhahn. After the opening run, NW pitcher freshman Brady Roberts set the tone. NW earned their first win of the game in the bottom of the second as a single by sophomore Dylan Hendricks was brought home by freshman right fielder Alex Fuhs gave the Raiders a 2-1 lead. NW extended their lead to four runs in the bottom of the third as junior shortstop Drew Schutt used a two-run shot to complement sophomore Austin Zylstra’s two-run RBI double earlier in the inning. NW had eight hits on the day, including a two-run home run to make it a 6-2 game heading into the fourth inning. Roberts earned the win, allowing three runs and striking out three. He also had a strong performance under pressure, as Columbia left seven runners on base. After six innings, senior pitcher A.J. Nitzschke entered to get his first save of the season. With runners on first and second, Nitzschke struck out Columbia’s Justin Randle. He earned the final out and the save with a flyout to left field.

“We did well. We split with Columbia College, who is a really good team and was receiving votes last year. We are a young team, so as the season goes on, we will only get better,” Junior Zach Rosson said. “Consistency and not beating ourselves will be key to a successful season.”

The next series for NW will be this weekend, Feb. 22 and 23 in Marshall, Missouri as the Raiders face the Missouri Valley Vikings in a four-game series. Missouri Valley has a record of 2-4 this season. The first home series will be on March 2 when the Raiders host the Southwest Minnesota State Mustangs.

NW track strong at conference

Track teams finish in top five

JAYCEE VANDER BERG

The Red Raider track and field team brought home many all-conference honors this past weekend at the GPAC Indoor Championships in Seward, Nebraska. From the women, there were seven individuals and two relays finishing with honors. In total, 12 events left Saturday with all-conference honors. On the men’s side, eight individuals and two relays had all-conference finishes.

The men’s team finished fifth place among 11 teams with 55 points, and the women scored 64 points, placing them fourth out of 12 teams. Of those points, 30 were scored by senior Shelby Muilenburg, who took home first place in the 600m and 800m runs, as well as anchoring the 4x800 relay to first place. Muilenburg edged out first in both her individual events by less than half a second, running 1:38.39 in the 600m and 2:21.7 in the open 800m.

Junior Anna Heusinkveld and Katrina Engberston were also three for all-conference Red Raiders. Heusinkveld took home sixth place in the 600m and 200m and also played a role in the 4x800 team that placed seventh. Engberston ran on the seventh place 4x400 relay and the 4x800 team that took first. She also took home fourth place in the 800m run with a time of 2:24.

Sophomore Hunter Koopke had herself a long yet successful day, running in both the 300m and 5000m run. Koopke claimed all-conference honors in both events, finishing fourth in the 3000m and fifth in the 5000m. Her times were 11:49 and 19:18.

On the men’s side, both senior Peter Hollinger and junior Jackson Johnson were all-conference in their events. Hollinger took home second in the 800m run with a time of 1:57.5. Johnson jumped 6 feet 7.5 inches in the high jump for his second place finish. Hollinger also anchored the 4x800 meter relay which finished in second place.

Senior Caleb Benzing, sophomore Josh Van Duselde and freshman Peyton Brasser also had legs in this event, which finished with a time of 8:00.8.

Sophomore Dylan Hendricks claimed all-conference in two events, running 4:30.1 in the mile for fifth place and 15:46 in the 5000m for fourth. In shorter distance news, freshman Justus Adams took third in the 600m hurdles with a time of 8.46, and senior Perkins Aiyegbeni took fifth in the 400, running 50.84.

The remaining qualifying Raiders will close their indoor season between Feb. 28 and March 2 at the NAIA Indoor Nationals in Brookings, South Dakota.

Softball season begins down south

RAIDERS GO 1-3 IN ARKANSAS TO START THE 2019 SEASON

SAIGE PENNELL

Northwestern College softball traveled down to Batesville, Arkansas, this past weekend. The Raiders went 1-3 to start off preseason play. The weekend started off slow for the Red Raiders, dropping a double-header to the host team of Lyon College. The Scots proved to be great competition for the Raiders, now going 6-0 on the season and receiving votes in the NAIAs rankings.

Unfortunately for the Raiders, two of the scheduled games for Friday were canceled due to rain. However, the team didn’t let the cancellation keep them from getting work in. Thanks to the gracious coaches at Lyon, the women were able to take advantage of an indoor facility and get in some batting and fielding practice despite the rain.

Saturday morning, the Raiders were ready to redeem themselves in the third matchup of the weekend against the Scots. NW fought hard in 30-degree weather, but in the end, the Scots came away with the third straight win against the Raiders.

However, not all was lost for the Raiders. Sophomore pitcher Emma Schnell came out ready to play. In her complete game win, she gave up only seven hits, struck out four and did not walk a single batter. She proved to be a threat on the other side of the game as well by blasting a three-run double to spur the NW offense past Lindenwood-Belleville University of Illinois.

“Though it was a tough first outing for the Red Raiders, there was an upside to the weekend,” Coach Shane Bouman received his first win as head coach of the NW softball program. “Coach Bouman has been preparing us well for this season. We are so excited to see what this season has in store,” senior Amber Schubert said.

The Red Raiders are back in action Friday, Feb. 22 at Presentation College in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The softball team is also gearing up for 11 games on their spring break to Tucson, Arizona, where they will finally be seeing some warmer weather. Their first home double-header is scheduled for March 16 against Dakota Wesleyan University.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations because of rain limited games for softball down in Arkansas.
Haiti SSP trip relocated to join Mexico team

HAITI IN POLITICAL CRISIS AND NOT SAFE FOR TRAVELERS

KELSEY LANG NEWS EDITOR

Every spring, Northwestern College sends out more than 200 students, faculty and staff on Spring Service Partnerships (SSPs). The trips can be either domestic or international, with teams going to places like California, New York, Florida or the Netherlands.

This year, a team of 12 students and two adult leaders were preparing to go to Haiti until they received some troubling news. The U.S. Department of State, through the Bureau of Consular Affairs, provides a travel advisory scale with rankings one through four. The fourth level — Haiti currently sits at — is, “Do Not Travel.”

The travel advisory shifted from a level three to a level four on Feb. 14. Because of this, Patrick Hummel, director of missions at NW, along with the risk assessment team, decided to relocate the team with just less than three weeks to go before spring break.

There is no doubt this was the right decision, as reports that come out of the country of Haiti only continue to intensify. There was an emergency notification that went out from the Bureau of Consular Affairs on Feb. 17, titled “Haiti Unrest,” it notes that “the U.S. government ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members.”

The reason for the unrest in Haiti started as a political crisis, taking the lives of at least three people in demonstrations. As protests and riots only increased in impact from there. NPR host Ari Shapiro said, “over the weekend, people took to the streets protesting a spike in gas prices. The prime minister and members of his cabinet stepped down.”

The protests and riots are unpredictable, so it’s hard to say just how safe traveling there would be. Because the Haiti SSP team is still eager to serve, they are able to join another international SSP team. The team going to Croc, Mexico works with an organization called YouthFront, and they have agreed to take the two combined teams over spring break. The new Mexico SSP team is now made up of 28 members.

This program is led by locals and provides kids in Croc with fun activities, classroom time and games. The team will be doing manual labor through Youthfront. They will also be doing many home visits and getting to know members of the community.

Northwestern Band tour headed to Spain

SCHOOL YEAR SPENT FUNDRAISING FOR SPAIN

WESLEY MILLIGAN SOCIAL WORK

Over spring break, Northwestern’s band will be going on tour to Spain. They leave Saturday, Mar. 2 and will return on Tuesday, March 12.

Every six years, the NW band takes an international tour with tours at the local level or national level in the intermissions years. This year, the band tour will begin in Madrid, Spain and will take a northern route from there. They plan to visit five major cities in Spain and will play 10 concerts throughout the country.

The band will also be hosting workshops for high school students while in Spain. In addition to the concerts and workshops, the band will participate in mission work throughout the week, and individuals will be sharing their testimonies.

Spain is a largely secular country. The NW band hopes to be a light and share the gospel while they are there.

Sophomore Joel Van Perseum shared that “actions are a good way to spread the good news and the gospel, too.”

People may be resistant to hearing the gospel directly, but Van Perseum believes that “band can still minister through their actions and the way they conduct themselves. Preparations for this trip have been in motion since the beginning of the year. When classes began in August, the band started rehearsing music for this trip. The band learned about half of their music prior to Christmas break. Music for this trip has been a big focus of rehearsals in the spring semester.

Throughout the year, they have prepared 10 pieces. The entire band will play together, and some smaller groups will play like the brass quintet. The band will also highlight some solo pieces in their concerts.

“A lot of people are super excited for this trip, many people have never been out of the country and some have never flown before,” Van Perseum said.

The band has fundraised together in various ways for this trip. In the fall semester, they hosted a tip night at Pizza Ranch. The brass quintet also played at this event. Each member of the band sent out 80 support letters and some members went door to door for support. The Raider Soiree Jazz Dance this past weekend also helped to raise money for the band trip. Because they played for the event, the band received a portion of the money raised.

Accompanying the band to Spain is band director Prof. Holt and her mother as well as Prof. Moeller, and her family.