DANCE COMPANY INTEGRATES FAITH

RACHEL KOERTNER
PUBLIC RELATIONS

One Northwestern student is taking the opportunity of a lifetime in just a few short months. Junior Emelie Swonger will be studying with Elevate Dance Company in London for almost a year beginning in the fall semester.

Elevate Dance Company is a 10-month program for dancers who wish to gain teaching and performance experience while exploring the integration of faith and dance. It is the daughter company of Springs Dance, an interdenominational Christian dance company located in the heart of London.

“I thoroughly fell in love with biology—the intricacies of the human body and the way God designed and created us was mind-blowing to me,” VanPeursem said.

Professors only fed my passion for biology and chemistry,” he said. Nervous to break the news to his family, including his dad, who has his masters in math, and his brother, who has a Ph.D. in math, he was relieved when his dad replied, “Do whatever you feel called to do.” That calling became a lot more ambiguous when his health took a turn for the worse.

After graduating from NW in 1992, VanPeursem continued his education at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. At this point, VanPeursem’s mind was set on becoming a doctor. Even though he tutored classmates throughout his schooling, he never considered a career in education. But God had other plans.

NW dancer heads to London

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“I have always found the integration of faith and dance so incredibly beautiful, but not many dance companies choose to explore this integration,” Swonger said. “Elevate places faith at the very heart of their programming.”

Swonger will be moving to London in mid-September and taking classes for three months in ballet, contemporary and street dance techniques, as well as choreography, improvisation, dance pedagogy, dance science and dance theology.

“Over the last five years, God has made it very clear to me that being a dancer is so much more than an extracurricular activity,” Swonger said. “Being an artist of any kind is a profound calling, a vocation you must pursue with unending passion and trust in the Lord.”

After Christmas break, rehearsals will begin for tour, which is set to take place April through July 2020. Tour locations have not been determined yet, but the students will likely be touring churches and schools around the United Kingdom.

“I believe dance is an especially unique art form because it is incredibly visceral,” Swonger said. “It involves every part of the human person — body, mind, heart and soul. To capture its full essence and beauty, you must allow God’s Spirit to dance in and through you.”
Hannah Ross  
WRITING AND RHETORIC  
"Fighting with My Family" is a biographical sports comedy-drama set in the hard world of the world wrestling entertainment (WWE). It's sprinkled with cheap laughs and poorly developed side characters, but if you're looking for a movie to give you anxiety and make you cry, this is the one for you.

Based on a true story, "Fighting with My Family" centers around Saraya Knight (Florence Pugh) and her English family who make a living performing wrestling shows in the small town of Norwich. Her family is ecstatic when she and her brother, Zak (Jack Lowden), get a chance to try out for the WWE, but trouble brews when Saraya makes it and Zak doesn't.

The family splits as Saraya, now going by Paige, flies to Florida to train, and Zak spins out of control back in England. But Paige is thrown into a whirlwind that causes her to question her dreams.

The first 15 minutes were spent on poor humor and a heartwarming scene with a blind kid (but mostly dirty jokes) in an attempt to hammer home how the Knight family interacts with the world, they are rough around the edges, but they truly care for each other and the people around them.

In Florida, Paige is the underdog because she's not tall, blonde or tan, but it's hard to root for her because she assumes she's the only one with real experience. She thinks the older girls are just there to be famous and wear bikinis, but she never bothers to actually get to know them until much later in the movie.

Paige goes back to England after deciding that wrestling wasn't for her; she tells Zak, who doesn't take it well, and goes completely off script during their fight, almost seriously injuring Paige. Zak reminds her that she's doing this for her family, and at one point it was her dream, too. Paige becomes the protector of the outcast and the struggling through the rest of the movie, sticking to her family's values and accepting who she really is.

The movie was heart warming and preached a message of acceptance and determination. Pugh and Lowden did phenomenal jobs with their characters—they were believable.

All the other characters were very one-dimensional, shallow characters that didn't translate on the screen in a relatable way most of the time. There were also several characters whose sole purpose was to make a crude joke in one scene and then never come on screen again.

The scenes of Zak doing crazy stunts after he was rejected from the WWE made me physically curl in my seat and cover my eyes.

However, it has a 92 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and seems to have been received well by critics, reaching just over 21 million in domestic box office sales as of March 18.

The movie did provide spots for the real Knight family to come in, which was cool to see. Home videos played during the end credits revealed not only that casting was fairly accurate, but it appears that director Stephen Merchant stuck close to the source material.

Overall, the latter half was mostly enjoyable and had an inspiring ending.

Based on a true story, the opening song, "Nina Cried Power, " features Mavis Staples, is a powerful song. The album falls flat. It's not that the songs aren't good; it's just that they feel too similar and repetitive.

That being said, some of the tracks still caught my attention. "Shrike" took me back to the simplicity of his first album. The song almost mirrors "Cherry Wine," one of my all-time favorites. To me, the similarities could not have been unintentional. After some digging, I learned that a shrike is a carnivorous bird, which now brings light to his lyrics, "I couldn't utter my love when it counted! But I'm singing like a bird about it now! And I couldn't whisper when you needed it shouted! But I'm singing like a bird about it now!"

"Cherry Wine" was a song about an abusive relationship, and "Shrike" seems to be its sequel. The abused (Hozier) in the relationship has now returned transformed but not for the better. His abusive partner transformed him into someone he is not proud of, and it is all her doing ("All of my goodness is gone with you now"). The song is deceivably beautiful—hiding the sinister message I believe it carries.

I couldn't write a review without addressing the song about which the album is named. "Wasteland, Baby!" is more of a love letter than anything else. According to the song, the apocalypse is near, but his love for a girl gives him hope. Only Hozier could make doomsday seem romantic.

In my eyes, Hozier can do no wrong. However, this album was not what I hoped it would be. I wanted so badly to give this album a raving five-star review, but it would be generous to give it four. His pessimistic view of life's purpose brings a takedown sound. Hozier is incredibly gifted, and the album is good—but not great.

Additionally, Hozier will be at the Hinterland Music Festival in Saint Charles, Iowa this summer.
On Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29, senior art and graphic design major Lauren Weber, will be displaying her art exhibit in Northwestern’s Te Paske Gallery. A public reception will be held Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

Weber’s show is titled “Year of Pie.” It is derived from her childhood nickname, along with a few significant events that took place in her life this past year, including her grandfather’s death, her engagement, a 40-day fast and an unexpected pregnancy in her family. There are a number of pieces for each topic.

“These pieces follow the story of how I have been changed while also highlighting a few special people who were a part of my year,” Weber says. “Last year was one that really shaped me into the person I am now, leaving me with different views and perspectives.”

Weber started working on her show during Christmastime. Many hours were put into completing and finalizing her pieces. She spent 12 hours just on one painting. Weber has been wrapping up and adding the final touches after four months of hard work and dedication.

Weber’s show with be features acrylic paintings and graphic designs done in a pop-art style.

“My inspirations for this show were Keith Haring and Roy Lichtenstein,” she says. “One of Weber’s favorite pieces was a screen print she made special for her cousins. The screen print is of a bear overlapping three times including the colors yellow, red and blue. Another favorite is Weber’s painting titled June. ‘June’ is a Roy Lichtenstein inspired piece that features a crying girl against a pink background,” she says.

Lauren Weber showing art exhibit

“My inspirations for this show were Keith Haring and Roy Lichtenstein, " she says. "One of Weber’s favorite pieces was a screen print she made special for her cousins. The screen print is of a bear overlapping three times including the colors yellow, red and blue. Another favorite is Weber’s painting titled June. ‘June’ is a Roy Lichtenstein inspired piece that features a crying girl against a pink background,” she says.

This piece is just one of the many Weber has dedicated to her grandfather. “The piece is a good representation of the feelings surrounding the weekend of my grandfather’s death.”

While a few of Weber’s favorite products come from the section focused on her grandfather’s death, this event was also one of the hardest to work on.

“I made a point to really think about this event and pray as I went,” Weber says. “His death was unexpected, so processing everything is still hard. It was weird to make these pieces with the fact of him being gone in real life but still here in my mind.”

Weber’s proudest moment focuses around the idea of closure.

“While my exhibit is based around events that took place in my 2018, my purpose behind my exhibit was to pay tribute to my grandfather,” Weber says. “I know he would have loved to be here, so by creating this exhibit, I’m able to use my talents to remember him.”

Weber’s grandfather’s event has the most pieces in her show.

“This is my thank you to my grandpa and I am very proud of how things turned out,” she says. Weber would love to see as many students, community members, alumni and family come out to support her during her reception at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. "Along with looking forward to the support, there will also be scences by Joshua Dahl," Weber says. So, come out and grab a specially made snack while also supporting Weber as she speaks about her exhibit and the value behind a few of her pieces.

Public gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PHOTO BY LAUREN WEBER
“Year of Pie” will be on display in Northwestern’s Te Paske Gallery from Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29.

PHOTO BY NWC MARCOMM

PHOTO BY NWC MARCOMM
over spring break to perform “Sioux Center Sudan.”
Two resident directors say goodbye

Sydney Rodman
Public Relations

Two of Northwestern’s resident directors will be moving onto new roles next year.

Celeste Ryan, who has been living in Stegenga Hall for three years and has loved being immersed in the community of the dorm and the entire campus, will be leaving to when a senior is nearing graduation.

“Ryan felt that the most rewarding part of her job was building relationships with students and seeing them grow. She found joy in helping students, especially her RAs, learn about themselves.”

Tyler Zeutenhorst, resident director of North Suites, said having both fun and meaningful conversations with his residents was a highlight of his four years.

“Tyler Zeutenhorst, whose name has been lovingly shortened to ‘Zeute’ by his residents, is finishing up his fourth year as resident director of North Suites. They are both hoping to be intentional with the time they have left and to hold on to the memories they have from NW. Zeutenhorst compared the feeling of leaving to when a senior is nearing graduation. "I want to treat the next few months as normal, love where I’m at and take it all in," he said.

Students across campus are blessed by time spent with and learning from their RDs. Sam Callahan, a senior in North Suites, has learned to be ‘outsourcing and well-coming to students.’ RDs often serve as mentors for students, but both Ryan and Zeutenhorst expressed that they have actually learned from the students.

Ryan was able to learn the value of hospitality and missional living from her students. "I’ve been blessed to see so many students who live their lives intentionally to be an outpouring of Christ’s love," she said.

While interacting with his students, Zeutenhorst identified a special kind of selflessness and was able to gather what it truly looks like to put God first.

Both RDs had a tough time narrowing down countless memories to pick a favorite, but Ryan identified the Nything Goes panel as a pivotal part of her time at NW. "It was the start of his four years and an exciting time," he said. 

"It was funny to see guys cheer for a team they know nothing about. All of a sudden, everyone is going nuts for the [Source City] Muskeeters," he said.

Ryan felt that the most rewarding part of her job was building relationships with students and seeing them grow. She found joy in helping students, especially her RAs, learn about themselves.

While interacting with and advising students, Zeutenhorst will always remember Monday night doughnut runs with the men of North Suites as well as group sporting events.

"I am usually the one who calls. After 20-plus visits to hospitals all over the Midwest, his fear became a reality. He withdrew from medical school and was confined to his home for the next two years. Luckily, VanPeursem’s POTS was secondary to severe allergies. Through changes in diet and environment, he was finally ready to get out of the house."

Looking to get out of the house for a few hours a week, VanPeursem asked Prof. Peter Hansen, his old advisor, if any students needed tutoring in chemistry, biology, and general chemistry as well as physics.

"I was absolutely amazed by and admired my past professors who had the wisdom to help students like me navigate college and career choices. When I was a student, I never imagined I would be doing the same thing," VanPeursem said.

VanPeursem continues to bless students with passions, gifts and talents—however unexpected they might have been.
Two NW students enjoy Spain life

FEATURES

STUDENTS ENJOY CULTURAL IMMERSION

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Northwestern College prides itself on many programs that allow its students to broaden their perspectives on the world around them. This foundation is built in First Year Seminar, continued throughout the general education program and caps off every student's experience in each seminar. Some students take an extra step toward engaging cultures through study abroad experiences.

NW students Kelsey Epp and Shelby Varilek are halfway through a semester in Seville, Spain. Their journey abroad took over 24 hours, and when they arrived, it was a Spanish morning. After a long first day, they began to settle into daily life in Seville.

Students studying in Spain live with a host mother. These are typically older women who either never had children or have children who are done with primary schooling. These host mothers are called señoras, and they care for students by cooking, doing laundry and even packing lunches when students travel for the weekend.

The relationship between a student and their señora can be a highlight of a study abroad experience. Epp and Varilek live together in a home with the same señora.

"Our señora is so sweet, she's like our grandma," Epp said.

Students are completely immersed in Spanish culture from the moment they land in Spain. This includes speaking almost exclusively in Spanish at home, in public and at school. This can be a shocking transition, even for thoroughly practiced Spanish speakers.

"When we showed up to our señora's house, she gave us a house tour, but she spoke so fast that we could only understand about 30 percent of what she was saying," Epp said.

Students in the program come from varying levels of Spanish experience, with some being Spanish majors and others having no prior Spanish knowledge.

In Seville, most people travel by public transportation or just by walking. Epp and Varilek's home is about a 45-minute walk from school, but Seville has a bike rental program which helps to cut down on commute time.

Study abroad programs aim to help students engage in another culture through immersive experiences and classes. Classes in Seville cover a wide range of topics including advanced Spanish grammar, art history, service classes and a class about the three cultures that have dominated Spain throughout history. Service classes give students the opportunity to volunteer at schools, nursing homes and a variety of places in the city. The class of three cultures describes the Jewish, Christian and Muslim influences on Spanish culture throughout history.

The classmates of this program come from Christian colleges all across the country including Taylor, Westmont and many others.

In addition to attending classes together, these students take the opportunity to explore Europe when they aren't in class. Students have gone on trips through school across Spain to Toledo, Cádiz, Ronda and Cordoba with more trips planned before the semester is over.

Students also have the opportunity to plan their own trips during breaks. These trips have taken students from NW to Paris and Malta thus far, while other classes have gone as far as the Netherlands or Germany.

The NW symphonic band recently completed a tour in Spain where it had the opportunity to perform at the school. NW's study abroad students are attending. The band met up with Epp and Varilek and even delivered a few things sent to the students from the states, including peanut butter and M&Ms.

A semester abroad gives students the ability to be immersed in another culture, and NW students around the world are taking advantage of that opportunity, including our two students in Seville.

FROM PAGE 1

In order to pursue this profound calling, Swonger had to adjust her schedule to make sure she could graduate on time. She came to college with some credits, did an internship for credit over the past summer and will be taking classes this upcoming summer.

"The greatest challenge of this process has been adjusting to the reality of an early graduation and saying goodbye to my NW family," Swonger said. "I have been focusing more and more on the limited time I have left in this current stage of life, and that has been a tough pill to swallow. But God has been so good to me throughout this process, and I have no doubt that He will be just as present in my grieving as He has been in my rejoicing."

Swonger has only been out of the country once before, so she does have some fears about being abroad, especially since she will be gone for so long. However, she is glad she is taking advantage of this opportunity.

"I am eager to learn from other professionals in this field, and it is my hope that I will return to the States with countless lessons that I can then share with others," Swonger said. "I have always dreamed of visiting London, so the fact that I get to live there for a year is pretty spectacular. I still wake up some mornings and wonder if I'm dreaming."

Swonger is finishing up her last semester at NW before beginning a faith-integrated dance program in London for ten months.
**Anti-vaxers are threatening global health security**

Vaccinations work by creating herd immunity, which is a critical reason why all children should be vaccinated.

- Kendra McGinnis

**Vaccinations work by creating herd immunity, which is a critical reason why all children should be vaccinated.**

Kendra McGinnis
Sports Editor

Magicians and entertainment duo Penn and Teller released a video where they had two sets of bowling pins representing children. In front of one group of pins, they pulled out a screen to represent vaccines. The other group was left with no protection. Penn and Teller proceed to throw dodgeballs representing different diseases, such as polio, measles and mumps at both groups of pins.

Pins in the non-vaccination group fall one after another while the vaccinated group is left standing. The video demonstrates how vaccines save the lives of the most helpless in our society—children. Over the last decade, vaccines have somehow become a controversial issue, not only in the United States but also worldwide.

The science behind vaccines has been proven over and over again. I never experienced the measles, chicken pox or mumps, but my mother, who was born in 1958, survived all three before she was 12.

People push back against vaccinations because they believe they have harmful side effects: the most worrisome being an inconclusive link to causing autism. This false claim was pushed by discredited scientist Dr. Andrew Wakefield and celebrities like actress Jenny McCarthy. Since the rise of anti-vaxers, several studies, including a recent Danish study of 650,000 babies born in Denmark over 11 years, found there is absolutely no correlation between vaccines and autism.

Parents in some states such as Washington, Oregon and Arizona choose not to vaccinate their kids based on medical, personal, philosophical or religious convictions. These parents are not only missing a choice that is putting their own kid in danger, but also the children around them.

Washington State has issued a state of emergency after over 50 cases of measles have been reported in two neighboring counties. Reported cases of measles are expected to grow as the measles virus spreads through the air. The measles virus can live in the air for up to two hours. People are contagious with the measles four days before a rash appears and four days after the rash fully disappears.

This virus is so contagious that nine out of 10 people will catch the illness if they are in the same room as an infected individual. Before the measles vaccine was introduced in 1963, measles was the single largest killer of children in the world. Vaccinations work by creating herd immunity, which is a critical reason why all children should be vaccinated. When a child is unable to be vaccinated due to other health issues, the rest of the group can prevent the disease from entering the community.

Herd immunity breaks the chain of disease transmission. The disease cannot spread because there are not enough people susceptible to catching the virus. Parents who claim vaccinations cause harmful side effects for their children should stop denouncing vaccinations. Instead, they should encourage other parents to vaccinate their children to protect their own child who cannot get vaccinated.

Herd immunity works most effectively when 95 percent of the population is vaccinated. In 2000, measles was declared eradicated in the United States. Since then, vaccination rates have slowly dropped, ruining the herd protection for the most vulnerable individuals.

According to the World Health Organization, vaccine hesitancy has been listed as one of the top ten global threats of 2019. Diseases which were once eliminated are returning as vaccination rates continue to drop. Vaccines have proved to save lives. Without them, we would return to a time of higher childhood mortality rates. Vaccinate your children, because refusing to do so does more than just put one’s own child at risk, but also every child they come in contact with.

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Respectfully,
the Beacon staff
Women's Basketball wins in spectacular fashion

The Raider golf team won the Eagle Spring Classic over spring break.

4x800 EARNED HONORS

JAYCEE VANDER BERG CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Before spring break, five Northwesterners competed at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships on Feb. 28 and March 1 in Brookings, South Dakota.

After Friday's 60 meter hurdle preliminaries, junior Kenzie Keune finished with the 26th fastest time clocking, in a 9:30-80 win. After trailing 13:5, senior Darbi Gustafson sparked a 13:2 run to earn a five-point lead after the first quarter. The Raiders held the lead for most of the game, having an advantage of 16 on multiple occasions late in the fourth quarter. In addition to shooting 55 percent from the field, NW forced the Tigers to a 39 percent mark.

In the second round, NW defeated Indiana Wesleyan 83-70. The Raider women started the game on a 15-5 run and led by as much as 16 before IUW brought the game within three with 41 seconds to go in the first half. Gustafson scored 20 points to go along with 17 from sophomore Sammy Blum. Blum was 5-3 on three-point attempts as the Raiders went 8-10 from beyond the arc.

NW faced College of the Ozarks in the quarterfinals and was one of what was the most exciting events of the National Tournament. After Gustafson received the ball in the lane with less than one second remaining, the senior post nailed the game-winning shot to send the Raiders to the semifinals. However, the excitement did not start at that moment. NW was trailing by 17 with 4:40 in the third quarter and used a series of scoring runs to earn the win. An 11-0 run near the beginning of the fourth quarter brought the Raiders within two points. With 10 seconds remaining, Ozarks took a 78-69 lead, which was quickly lost as the Raiders won in exciting fashion.

"I know everyone is going to think of that last shot, but anyone who knows basketball knows it doesn't just boil down to one play," Gustafson said. "It's a continual grind and effort, and I'm really proud of our team for coming back the way we did." After falling behind by 18, NW fought back against Concordia in the National Semifinals. The Raiders' season came to a close, however, as the Bulldogs were victorious, 82-79. This was the final game for seniors Hady Birks, Gustafson and DeJong.

"My time at NW has been such a blessing. It has been so fun to play with a group of girls who love the game of basketball just as much as I do," Gustafson said. Post season honors include DeJong being named to the NAIA All-American First Team and Gustafson a Third Team All-American. DeJong (First Team) and Gustafson (Second Team) were also named to the NAIA Division II All-Tournament Team.

NW track place competitively at nationals

Men's golf starts season with a win

MEN'S GOLF RANKED 22

ANNA PERRENoud FEATURES EDITOR

The Northwestern men's golf team won their first tournament of the season, the Eagle Spring Classic, by shooting a collective score of 616 in the two-day, 36 hole event at Alviera, Okla.

Senior Austin Reitz took home individual honors that he earned by shooting 76-70 to win by five strokes over the tied second place individualists. This is the third time the senior has gone home as the medalist in his career as a Raider. "During a round of golf, at some point you are going to face a challenge, and the way that we competed and handled these moments of adversity this week was great," Reitz said. "This team is filled with a bunch of hardworking guys who really have a passion for the game. It was nice to see that hard work and dedication pay off with a team win right out of the gate."

Adding to Reitz's thirty-six hole score of 146 to lead the team to victory was freshman Caleb Badura, who tied for 16th with a score of 156. Two Raiders tied for 18th at 157, sophomore Isaac Knock and freshman Tyler Merley. Junior Ryan Vedan and sophomore Jake Olsen rounded out the Raider scores with scores of 160 and 163, respectively.

As of the March 8 NAIA coaches' poll, the team is currently ranked nationally at number 22 with 143 points and is the only GPAC team to be ranked.

The next event for the Red Raider men's team is the Lawrence Tech Invite on April 9 and 10 before the GPAC preview meet on April 15.

The men have their shot to clinch a fifth-consecutive GPAC championship title on April 23 and 24 at Dakota Dunes Country Club in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. The team is currently in first place halfway through the championship, which began this fall, holding a six-stroke lead over Midlands College and a fifteen-stroke lead on Midland University.

Badura is in first place as an individual with a three-stroke lead over a pair of golfers from Morningside and Dakota Wesleyan University. Winning the GPAC Championship automatically sends the first place team to the national championship in Mesa, Ariz.
Iowa and Nebraska experience record-setting floods

FLOOD RECORDS HAVE BEEN EXCEEDED IN 17 PLACES IN NEBRASKA

KELSEY LANG
NEWS EDITOR

Recent local flooding has now killed three people and one person remains missing. This flooding is “the most devastating flooding” in Nebraska’s history, according to Governor Pete Ricketts. CNN meteorologist Dave Hennen reported more than eight million people are under flood warnings in the Midwest and in the Mississippi River Valley. The area that is believed to have been hit the hardest with the flooding is eastern Nebraska. Chris Beutler, Mayor of Lincoln, Neb. requested a disaster declaration from Gov. Ricketts on Monday after the flooding caused 284,000 residents of Lincoln to be placed under restricted water usage. Power outages have occurred in wells along the Platte River, which lead to residents being asked to limit their water needs to drinking and limited health and sanitation purposes. Mayor Beutler mandated that restaurants serve food using disposable place settings and cups. He also shut down car washes and prohibited outdoor water use for the time that the city remains under these restrictions.

Flood records have been shattered in 17 places according to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. More rivers are likely to break cresting records this week (a crest is the highest point of a flood wave). The Washington Post calls these floods both historic and horrific because of the widespread damage they’ve caused and are still causing.

Though Nebraska got hit the hardest, Iowa has also suffered from the flooding. Iowa postal services at various locations are now under emergency suspension due to the floods, according to KCCI News in Des Moines. A levee broke in Hamburg, Iowa, which sent river water into the business district of Hamburg. Nearly half of the town’s population of 500 residents had to evacuate.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds toured much of the flooding. After visiting Hamburg, she went to Council Bluffs and reported that 41 counties have requested and been approved for help through the governor’s disaster proclamation issued Thursday. President Donald Trump tweeted his support for Gov. Reynolds and the local officials managing the flooding. Press Secretary Sarah Sanders reported that, per request of President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence will visit the Midwest on Tuesday, March 19, to survey the flood damage.

Both governors, Ricketts and Reynolds, will accompany the vice president to see the impact on Nebraska and Iowa. The cause of the flooding is partially due to a “bomb cycle,” which includes hurricane-like winds and blizzard conditions. Major rain showers melted the ice and snow, and it ended up in rivers and streams which caused flooding and damage for days after the initial precipitation ended.

Senior music majors and minors perform recitals

SENIOR RECITALS TO TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT SEMESTER

WESLEY MILLIGAN
SOCIAL WORK

Spring semester is the time of year for senior music recitals. Senior music majors and minors are required to give a recital demonstrating all they have learned and rehearsed throughout their college careers. Some students, such as Ellen Podhajsky, are not music majors but choose to give a recital in the spring semester.

3 p.m. on Sunday, March 31 Podhajsky will perform on the flute in Christ Chapel. Podhajsky has played the flute for the past 12 years and has been preparing for this recital over the past year. She will showcase a mix of contemporary and classical pieces as well as a Latin piece and will demonstrate extended techniques on the flute which are unlike what many have heard before. Podhajsky will be performing some solo pieces and be accompanied by a pianist and an ensemble for a portion of her recital.

When asked her favorite part of being involved in music throughout college, Podhajsky shared that she “enjoys the new music I have been exposed to. There are so many new types of music and styles.”

While Podhajsky does not have plans to continue with a professional career in music, she hopes to continue to be involved in music through community work. She would love the opportunity to be in a community-based orchestra after graduation.

3 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, Matthew Shuka and Ben Grev will perform a joint vocal recital. Shuka and Grev will perform solo pieces in addition to singing three duets.

Shuka will perform 11 solos in a vast array of languages, including English, Russian, German, French and Italian. These pieces will be a mix of classical art songs and compositions. Shuka shared that he has put in a lot of work for his senior recital.

“It’s been a challenge learning and memorizing music and learning how to pronounce a new language,” he said.

As a vocal music education major, Shuka has plans to continue utilizing his talents in his future career. He hopes to have a job as a vocal director in a school following graduation.

Grev will be performing nine solo pieces for his senior recital. He has a variety of classical pieces he will be performing in several languages.

“I love singing and playing instruments with other people and enjoy working toward an end goal that is meaningful, beautiful and impactful,” Grev said. His passion for the beauty of music will be on display through his solo pieces and duets with Shuka.

As a music educator, Grev will be able to continue to create and be around music. He also hopes to be involved in community musicals, a church worship team and other outlets of performing after graduation.