Spring weather welcomes new wardrobes
Professors comment on clothing changes and offer fashion advice

BY EMILY WALLACE

Fashion has come out of hibernation. Personal style statements are so much easier to see campuswide without the dozens of layers needed for survival during this arctic winter. That's not always a good thing.

FASHION WOES

English professor Ann Lundberg has seen it all, but to top off the list of most ridiculous clothing items, she said one student stands out in her mind.

“I once had a student who would wear SpongeBob SquarePants pajama shorts to class,” Lundberg said. “He loved those shorts.”

Spanish professor Diana Gonzalez agreed that wearing pajamas was the most absurd clothing choice of her past students. Footwear is equally puzzling on occasion.

“I once saw a student wear slippers with five inches of snow outside,” said history professor Mike Kugler. “No idea what they were thinking.”

Not dressing for the cold weather is a common theme in fashion catastrophe tales.

“I always think of one student four or five years ago,” said art professor Phil Scorza. “It was 20 below, and this kid came to class with his cargo shorts and a pair of sneakers. Every piece of clothing he had was dirty, so he just wore what he had.”

PROFESSOR MISSTEPS

These professors learned from their college fashion faux pas.

“Bellbottoms: freakin' hideous,” Kugler said. “Why would somebody 5’9’ wear bellbottoms? I must have been brain washed.”

Lundberg found herself in a similar fashion contradiction.

“I used to wear very feminine, bright pink rabbit earmuffs,” Lundberg said. “And I’d wear them with my very masculine letterman jacket.”

Nothing says masculinity more than a man riding off on his motorcycle. Scorza used to ride a motorcycle in college, but never before putting his hair into a ponytail.

“I used to have really, really long hair, and I always wore it in a ponytail in the middle,” Scorza said. “I had it braided once. I was going to hop on a motorcycle, and I wanted to keep the bugs out of it.”

Just because professors have more years of fashion experience than the student body, doesn’t mean they use this knowledge wisely. When asked what the most ridiculous outfit they have seen a fellow professor wearing on campus the answers were wide in variety.

“A suit,” Kugler said. “I just don’t understand why you would wear a suit to teach; it’s not a funeral. You aren’t answering questions about the president. You can wear whatever you want, but honestly I don’t care what people wear.”

Others are more out there.

“I once saw a reformation preacher outfit worn by a professor on campus,” Lundberg said.

CLOTHING COMRADEY

No matter what their colleagues are wearing, there is a sense of comradery amongst the staff when it comes to predicting what other staff members will wear.

“Everybody has their own signature look,” Scorza said. “I can rattle off professor’s names and tell you what the majority of professors have on right now.”

Most individuals have staple fashion pieces, and these pieces make their clothing choices predictable.

“My staple is probably my t-shirts and crocks or my chuck boots,” Scorza said.

Gonzalez has her own favorite go-to.

“I’d say my staple is scarfs,” Gonzalez said. “I love scarfs. I get them from everywhere I go, and I love the different variety of colors they come in.”

Some professors fashion staples stand out more than others. Kugler, for example, is known for his samba flats and flannel shirts.

INSPIRATION BEHIND THE WARDROBE

These professors can’t take all the credit for their signature looks, however.

Both Gonzalez and Lundberg’s styles were influenced by their mothers.

“My mother was always very conscious of what she wore,” Lundberg said. “I like to try and dress like her, but I also read books on fashion, and I love watching ‘What not to Wear.’”

Kugler also finds fashion inspiration from media outlets.

“The backs of cereal boxes, discarded newspapers and wanted photographs in the post office is where I look,” Kugler said.

See “Season” on Page 4
Music ensembles take tunes on the road

BY ALEXIS GRAVES

As the snow begins to melt and temperatures begin to rise, many Northwestern students can be seen on the green each afternoon studying, playing a round of Gennis or chatting with friends. A number of NW students, however, spend their afternoons gathering in a different location: the music building.

This spring, both the A cappella Choir and Symphonic band have been busily preparing music to share on their spring tours.

2014 A CAPPELLA CHOIR TOUR

While many students were preparing to embark on a Spring Service Project or to head home for spring break, members of the Northwestern A cappella Choir were getting ready for a tour that would bring them westward.

The A cappella Choir has been preparing all year for this tour.

“My goal for this trip was for the students to have everything memorized, and we made that goal,” said Thomas Holm, music professor. “We had to push hard at the end, but we accomplished it.”

The choir sang songs in a wide variety of styles such as barbershop, jazz and 19th-century German. It also performed a song called “Auction Cries,” which is based off of a poster for an auction bill of sale.

Over the course of 10 days, the choir had 14 performances in four different states, Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. Many of the venues the choir performed in were dictated by proximity to friends, family and NW alumni.

Because the tour was spread out, the 45-member choir spent a great amount of time on a charter bus. Members got to know one another better by doing devotionals, watching movies, playing games and having “interviews” in front of the whole bus. The interviews were a way for the students to learn more about one another with some funny questions.

Most nights, the choir members were taken in by host families in the cities where they performed.

“Spending time with the host families was a great experience,” said Laura Jonker, a member of the A cappella choir. “We were at a different home every night, so we got to hear so many interesting stories from our host families.”

The A cappella Choir will give its capstone concert of this tour at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Christ Chapel. Those in attendance will hear all of the pieces the choir performed while on tour.

2014 SYMPHONIC BAND TOUR

In just a few weeks, the Symphonic Band will be heading out on its Midwest mini-tour. The band will be traveling to different cities in Minnesota and South Dakota.

The 50-member Symphonic Band will be playing a variety of music while on tour. Because many of the performance venues are churches, some of the music is spiritual.

A highlight will be a piece called “The Glass Bead Game,” which will feature French horn soloist Aaron Sundet.

Additionally, Matthew Honken, a music major, will be conducting a piece called “Melita” by Thomas Knox.

“I’m very ready for this,” Honken said. “It is a piece that I have had time rehearsing with the band throughout this semester, and it is actually a piece that the band performed at the winter concert in early February.”

“My favorite part about going on the band tours is being on the road and getting to know others and deepening the friendships I already have,” said oboist Meghan Thomson, who will be participating in her fourth band tour for Northwestern.

Tim McGarvey, director of the ensemble, likes the tour because it’s a way for the band to minister to different communities.

“This is an opportunity for us as an ensemble to have an impact on other people’s lives,” he said. “The ministry often comes in the personal contact when the students are staying with the host families while on tour. There is also the ministry of the music and how it touches people’s lives.”

The Symphonic Band will be on tour March 27 through 30. It will perform its capstone concert of this tour at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11, in Christ Chapel. Those in attendance will hear a combination of pieces performed on tour, as well as new music.

Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
A cappella Choir Home Concert

Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
Symphonic Band Home Concert

The long bus rides took A cappella choir members through a variety of landscapes, including the Rocky Mountains and the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico.
‘Lego Movie’ surprises with wit and design

MOVIE REVIEW
BY JACOB CHRISTIANSEN

For children (especially children with an affinity for interlocking plastic bricks), “The Lego Movie” was a sure slam-dunk. Puns, action, Legos and Morgan Freeman? That’s a blueprint for how to write a successful children’s movie. What surprised audiences, however, was how good the movie is despite its clear target audience. “The Lego Movie” is hilarious and manages to tug at the heartstrings in surprising ways.

The movie’s plot is a cleverly delightful metaphor. In a world (made of Legos) where everyone has “something that makes (them) something,” Emmett (Chris Pratt) is just an ordinary construction worker with nothing distinct about him. He’s perfectly happy with his generic existence regimented by the instructions that come from the evil dictator, Lord Business (Will Ferrell).

But when Lord Business steals the deadly super-weapon, the “Kragle,” Emmett is called upon to save the world.

In the process, he meets a girl named Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) and a ridiculous wizard Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman) who is a cross between a classic comedic relief character and Gandalf. Their journey takes them through a variety of Lego worlds (The Wild West, Knights and Castles, etc.) in a humorous and exciting adventure to stop Lord Business’s evil plan.

There are so many things to celebrate about this movie. First, the animation is detailed and precise. “The Lego Movie” is shot with stop-motion animation, and the artists behind it certainly deserve applause. The characters move fluidly and, often, hilariously. The animators understand that they aren’t working with human bodies, and they take advantage of that by having Lego-people leap incredibly high into the air or swing their arms in unrealistic ways.

The opening music sequence to the movie, “Everything is Awesome,” is an intricate spectacle that reveals all that Lego stop-animation can deliver. It’s worth watching the movie just for that few minutes.

Phil Lord and Christopher Miller did a fabulous job with the script. It charms its audience with relatable characters that clash in comical ways. One of the major characters of the movie is Lego Batman (Will Arnett) who, instead of being the hero we all know, is instead Wyldstyle’s jerk of a boyfriend.

Inversions such as this run rampant through the movie. From wizards who aren’t wise to kittens with a dark side, these twists-of-the-norm are unexpected and act as little moments during which viewers can almost hear the screenwriters saying, “We understand how silly the genre of children’s movies can be, so we’re changing it up a little.”

In saying all of this, if puns and deadpan humor are not your cup of tea, you will not like this movie. The script and directing style maintain a childlike spirit that simply can’t be appreciated by everyone.

“The Lego Movie” delivers intense wit and innovative design and is worth seeing, even if only for nostalgia’s sake.

Rating: ★★★★★
LifeLight to bring large talent to NW

BY ASHLEY VAN WYHE

LifeLight is most recognized for its free Christian music festivals, and this March LifeLight will be bringing a tour to Northwestern’s campus on Saturday, March 20. The tour will feature popular bands Remedy Drive, VOTA, Manic Drive, Jeremy Vanderloop and speaker Josh Brewer.

“This year’s tour is titled RESET, and it is the first official re-launch of the LifeLight Tours,” said Aaron Beadner, director of student activities.

The purpose of the concert is beyond just entertainment.

“We realize that there are many people who still need to know the hope found only in Jesus Christ ... We are asking God for a supernatural reset, and we are believing that God is going to use this tour to reach into hearts and hit a reset button — bringing people back to the Father to find true love and hope,” Beadner said.

Both LifeLight and the bands see this concert as a ministry to share the hope of Christ to others,” said Aaron Beadner, director of student activities.

The night will also include a message from Brewer. Brewer will be sharing his personal story of growing up in a broken home and how the redemptive power and love of Jesus Christ worked in his life.

“Our concert will be one full of hope and encouragement that people will leave the concert feeling a sense of joy and renewed hope,” Brewer said. In addition to the hope and encouragement offered, bands will wow the crowd with their music and their message.”

Many are looking forward to the tour, including Megan Rustad, NW education major.

“I have always enjoyed my time at the festival so I am looking forward to them coming to us,” Rustad said.

Season shift brings change of apparel

Gonzalez’s top stores are Macy’s and online Argentinian stores. Lundberg’s favorites are thrift shops in Sioux Falls and the online CR trading post because she enjoys the limited choices. Scorza top picks are Nancy’s — a thrift shop near Spirit Lake — and the GAP. Kugler’s one-stop-shops are Goodwill for clothing and Eastbay for shoes.

However, these professors haven’t always sported fashions identical to what they wear today.

“I emptied my closet and donated all of my khakis and polos and disgusting shoes from my previous job in the business world,” Scorza said. “But I specifically bought a Bob Ross shirt: he’s a guy from Iowa public television, and he paints happy trees. You should look him up.”

Even though each professor has their own unique fashion, they all shared their opinions on what they believed each professor should own.

“A cap and gown,” Lundberg said. “We have to wear them twice a year, and each professor needs a cap and gown.”

Beyond the traditional graduation garb, Scorza had another suggestion for a need-to-own clothing item.

“We should all be required to have an iPad holster, so that in class we can just swing it out,” Scorza said.

But finally, according to Kugler, the staple all professors should own is “a power animal hat, that like covers your ears — the college should buy them for us,” said Kugler.

Art instructor Phil Scorza is pictured on the left sporting a trendy looking headband and long locks of hair. Scorza, pictured again on the right, said he tends to wear t-shirts and Crocs nowadays.
**Spring Service Project show and tell**

SSP teams share their experiences around the world

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Evan Stoesz and Jon Eveland were part of the SSP team that traveled to Amsterdam.

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**PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

The Denver SSP team with their host (from left to right): Megan Cole, Elle Helmkamp, Karisa Fuemiss, host Greg Fuchs, Malinda Holstad, Aaron Haack, Madison Raska, Andy Powell and Dakotah Jordan.

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The Denver SSP team with their host (from left to right): Megan Cole, Elle Helmkamp, Karisa Fuemiss, host Greg Fuchs, Malinda Holstad, Aaron Haack, Madison Raska, Andy Powell and Dakotah Jordan.

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**PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

Natasha Slater, Haley Ginger and Olivia Holt organize 130 pairs of shoes brought by the Nicaragua team to be handed out at the Comedor in Bluefields, Nicaragua.

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Russell Kleinheldt and Mark Aldeman work on a house in New Orleans.

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Members of the NW football team traveled to Compton, Calif. for their Spring Service Project.

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

In Cary, MS, Joel Vree, Cody Hughes and Kristin Schmidt put a fresh coat of paint on a house of an elderly woman. Carly Rozeboom with the youth group leader at the Cary Christian Center.

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In Cary, MS, Joel Vree, Cody Hughes and Kristin Schmidt put a fresh coat of paint on a house of an elderly woman. Carly Rozeboom with the youth group leader at the Cary Christian Center.

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**PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

After putting on a vacation bible school in Haiti, Taylor Studer plays with some children at a nutrition center.

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Rachel Nysetvold, Shuen En Ho, Jenna Bueson and Christa Curl visit a mosque on their SSP to Minneapolis, Minn.

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**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Russell Kleinheldt and Mark Aldeman work on a house in New Orleans.

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Breaking away from spring break

BY JACOB CHRISTIANSEN

The phrase “spring break” turns up images of hot beaches and lying in the sun — unless of course you happen to live in the Midwest. For Northwestern students, ‘spring break’ often means getting trapped indoors for a week a half by the ferocious cold. In all practicality, we should stop calling that break we get at midterm a week and a half by the ferocious ‘spring break’ often means a vacation to the beach with our friends, but for Northwestern students, it’s unlikely that NW will shift its break dates any time soon. Next year those weeks in March will probably be equally cold and snowy. And while I will always wish our break was warmer, it’s important to remember the incredible opportunities NW does offer over break — Spring Service Projects at the forefront. SSP’s, athletic competitions, fine arts tours; the list goes on and on.

Our spring breaks have the potential to be more than just a time for Netflix and Funyuns. We do have the opportunity to do something meaningful and important with our breaks — but that won’t just happen by chance. We have to be intentional about avoiding the couch potato break.

Many of us find time to play at school, between classes, in the evening, etc. When it’s warm, the green is riddled with Frisbees, tennis balls and, later, lots of men with cardboard swords (incredibly detailed and beautiful swords, I might add). But these are all rooted in and surrounded by school. The ability to play without the need to manage your schedule or be thinking ahead to your homework that night is important. It’s the reason why breaks exist. But with our spring break where it is, we don’t get that. Instead of a time of play, the chill drives us indoors — right into the arms of Netflix and Funyuns.

This might be acceptable if one of the other main functions of a break were met: seeing old friends. However, NW’s spring break always seems to happen a week earlier than those of other universities. Over our days off, the twittersphere seems swamped with students saying things like, “All of my friends are still in school. #bored.” Setting our break ahead of the average means that NW students find themselves unable to connect with friends who aren’t yet on their breaks.

Some students find a way around this by driving to meet friends at their schools or trying to hang out on those one or two days the breaks overlap. However, the problem still remains that scheduling NW’s break ahead of many other schools makes it incredibly inconvenient to spend time with old high school buddies.

There are five student teachers and three social workers doing their internships this spring throughout Denver. Each of us is going to work and practicing what we learned in the classroom. In a lot of ways, we are fighting the battle between books and experience. I know for myself, it is fun to go to school because I have no idea what the day will hold. The only for sure thing will be that I am supposed to teach math to 8th graders, but then the fights, name-calling, laughs and life lessons that the students produce will be the only things I really remember from the day.

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Lady Raiders looking for another banner after surviving scare from Tabor

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

The New York Yankees, the Dallas Cowboys, the Chicago Bulls and the Raider women's basketball team. Each of these teams has dominated its particular sport many times in history, and it was apparent that the women's basketball team at NW is no different.

Following Thursday's 63-62 win against Tabor College the Raiders will continue on in the national tournament. For the ninth-straight year and 13th time in the team's history, the women's basketball team is participating. With a 42-7 all-time record, NW boasts the best record in the tournament's history as well as the most national tournament wins with five. The Raiders have also reached the semifinals six years in a row and are on the quest for a fourth national championship in five years.

However, the team's success this season can be traced back much further than just a post-season run. The Raiders opened up the season on an 18-0 tear and put the rest of the GPAC on notice once again. The team finished the regular season with a 23-4 record and won the conference. This gave the team an outright bid to the national tournament. However, the Raiders were not done sending a message and ended up winning the post-season conference tournament as well, which they have done two out of the past four years.

"Even at the biggest stages, it's not about the X's and O's or wins and losses," head coach Chris Nachtigall said. "It's about enjoying the moment, taking things one day at a time and being a blessing to those around us."

Senior guard Alli Engebretson, a first-team all-conference pick as well as a two-time national champion, leads the team with 19.3 points per game and averages 7.3 rebounds. Senior post Samantha Kleinsasser, averages 16.1 points and also grabs 7.3 rebounds per game. Kleinsasser was also a first-team all-conference pick. Junior guard Karen Hutson averages 16.6 points per game and led the GPAC with 55 percent shooting from the field. Hutson earned second-team all-conference honors.

"Having such great leadership on our team has been key — especially in the bigger games," Yaw said. "The seniors have been our ammunition leading us, and it has paid dividends."

Softball squad finding stride under Nachtigall

BY ISAAC TAYLOR

The Northwestern softball team has begun its 2014 season strong and is looking to improve on the progress made last season. The team is returning 11 players, including five seniors, and has high expectations for this year.

Seniors Alex Price, Keesly Bracelin and Lindsey Remien are this year's captains, and along with seniors Katie VanDeVoort and Jordan Biehle, they have taken the job of leading the newcomers and underclassmen.

"I am really proud of our seniors," said head coach Chris Nachtigall, now in his third year at NW. "They do an excellent job of leading by example, displaying consistent intensity and holding the team to a higher standard."

The Raider women have set many goals for their team this year, but the players said their biggest goal is to glorify God in everything that they do. Coach Nachtigall said he believes that through their continued progress over the course of the season and through the way they represent themselves they can glorify God.

"Our motto this year is one for all, all for one," Biehle said. "We want to play for each girl next to us, and in the long run, we want to play for God."

Nachtigall focuses on more than just winning, although he admits it is a goal.

"Winning is the ultimate goal every year, and getting to the national tournament would be a big step for us," Nachtigall said. "The biggest areas for our improvement lie in gaining consistency, intensity and focus. Those things are probably the keys for us as we move forward."

The Raiders were picked fourth in the preseason GPAC poll. They are currently 7-7 after their spring break trip to Tucson, Ariz.

Juniors Jill Kleinhesselsink and Kara Nonnemacher and sophomores Clare Ippers and Laura Hurley will contribute as returners to the squad.

The Raiders will travel to Missouri this weekend for a tournament.

Pitching staff, seniors lead the way with high expectations

BY KYLE STANEK

During spring break, the Red Raider baseball team traveled to Arizona, where they played nine games in Tucson and one in Phoenix.

The Raiders played doubleheaders against Indiana Wesleyan, Kansas Wesleyan and Missouri Valley. They also played Malone in a three-game series.

Northwestern caught fire and won all 10 of the games it played in the sunshine state.

"We did better than I expected," said head coach Brian Wede. "It was a lot of fun to watch, and whenever we were challenged we responded well."

Throughout spring break, the Raiders batted .360 while their opponents batted .291. Northwestern also posted a 4.81 ERA and their opponents ERA was a skycrapping 8.57.

"Spring break brought us closer together and gave us the team chemistry we need to take on the rest of the season," senior Micah Linn said.

Last year, the Raiders finished the season with a 31-19 overall record. They won the GPAC regular season and the GPAC Tournament. They also qualified for the NAIA national championship.

"Expectations are really high for our team this year," Wede said.

The baseball team was picked the favorite to win the GPAC again this year in the preseason poll.

The team is returning 16 players, 11 of which have earned GPAC honors during their baseball careers at NW.

"We have nine seniors this year, and I am excited to watch them lead and play this year," Wede said.

The Raiders were led last year by the pitching of now-senior Tyler Stueerman, who was the GPAC Pitcher of the Year after going 7-3 with a 1.46 ERA in 74 innings.

Senior Ryan Brassar has been a three-time All-GPAC honoree and was second-team All-GPAC pitcher last year after going 6-2 in 59 innings.

Seniors Cody Groskreutz and Davis Bloemendaal have been two-time All-GPAC players. Groskreutz has a career batting average of .323 and was the GPAC Gold Glove first baseman last year. Bloemendaal led the team last year with a .382 average and had 46 RBI.

"Our team is doing well going into the season, and we are working well together," senior Skylar Wheeler said.

Northwestern will head to Joliet, Ill. to play against Saint Francis this weekend in a three-game series.

National meet recap

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

Six wrestlers from Northwestern competed at the NAIA national meet on March 7 in Topeka, Kan.

Senior Diego Quintana went 1-2 and finished his final collegiate season with a 21-17 record.

Junior JL Mayo overcame a lack of matches to qualify for the meet. He went 2-2 in his four matches at nationals and finished the season 7-3.

Senior John Lynch went 1-2 to close out his second trip to the national meet. He compiled a 24-13 season record.

Junior Zach Fishman, who was named first-team All-GPAC, went 0-2. He boasted a 27-8 record.

Sophomore Luis Rivera-Santiago went 1-2. He closed the books with a 14-16 season record.

Sophomore Randy Null went 0-2. He finished his season at 19-10.

The track and field squad featured two All-American performances in Geneva, Ohio, on March 7 and 8.

Senior Matt Huseman finished fourth in the high jump, and the men's 4-by-800-meter team of senior Taylor Bodin, juniors Skyler Giddings and Logan Howland, and sophomore Kyle Anderson placed fifth. Top-five finishers receive All-American accolades.

Senior Jeriah Dunk finished 12th in the 60-meter dash.

Sophomore Abby Stevens placed 25th in the 60-meter hurdles and 12th in the pentathlon.

Sophomore Lauren Spranger placed 13th in the 400-meter dash and junior Megan Walloh finished 25th.

Senior Dawn Gildersleeve earned 11th in the 1,000-meter race.
NCDC competition coming

BY DAVID LI

Today is the last day to sign up for what has become one of Northwestern and Dordt’s most-anticipated traditions: NCDC. Tryouts for the singing competition are this Monday and Tuesday from 8 to 11 p.m. If students would like to sign up for a tryout and haven't yet, they can sign up online. The link to the sign up was sent out in an email from Aaron Beadner, the director of student programs, before spring break. However, the Student Activities Council is accepting walk-ins at the tryouts to encourage last-minute participants.

This year NW is looking to end Dordt’s winning streak.

“For the past two years Dordt has won NCDC and this needs to be the year that that changes,” Beadner said. “We’re really hoping our best and most talented singers decide to be a part of NCDC.”

Northwestern has already won one aspect of NCDC. The 2014 NCDC logo was designed by Megan Timmer, whose logo design was selected out of 11 submissions from students at both NW and Dordt.

Every year, NW and Dordt alternate the responsibility of planning NCDC. This year, Dordt is in charge. Dordt has said there will not be any celebrity special guest this year. Another difference in the competition from last year to this year is that contestants don’t have to select their songs based on a theme, so students can look forward to hearing a variety of genres at each competition.

Northwestern will be hosting the preliminary round of only NW singers and the semifinal round of both NW and Dordt singers in Christ Chapel. Finals will be held at Dordt.

Elle Helmkamp, the student activities coordinator, said she looks forward to the event in hopes of ending NW’s losing streak.

“It’s always a fun event can be a surprise for people. Many see their friends on stage with talents they might not have known about, but we need some serious acts to outperform Dordt this time,” Helmkamp said.

The cash prize for the winning group or individual is $500. Preliminaries will take place on Friday, March 21, semifinals will happen on Saturday, April 5, and finals are Saturday, April 12. Doors open at 8:45 p.m. Friday. Students will be voting with either tokens at the event or online.

NW men retreat to Lake Okoboji

BY CALLIE NORDAHL

For three years now, walls have been broken and relationships have been built at the annual Men’s Retreat. The Men’s Retreat will take place this weekend from Friday through Sunday at Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp.

In past years, a few faculty and staff members have organized the retreat. However, this year they were not able to do so, so a group of students who are passionate about the retreat and want to see it continue, took on the responsibility of planning the event.

Michael Simmelink is a heading up the planning group. He is in charge of all the behind-the-scenes action and is trying to help everything fall into the correct place. While planning the event as been a lot of work, Simmelink and the rest of the planning group have enjoyed the challenge.

“It gives a sense of empowerment to unofficial leaders and something to invest their time in for the betterment of the Northwestern community,” Simmelink said.

The weekend is “a weekend of dudes getting to be dudes,” Simmelink said. The invitation is extended to those living in the men’s dorms, as well as to a few faculty and staff members who want to invest in relationships.

Last year, late-night activities included hard conversations, worship, eating and games such as broomball and Settlers of Catan.

“The late nights hanging out with the guys and getting to know other people I wouldn’t normally cross paths with is a great part of the weekend,” Tyson Wiggers, a last year attendee and student planner for the upcoming event, said.

Along with Simmelink and Wiggers, Micah Czirr, Caleb Hawks, Ben Guhl, Ben Boice, Josh Kester and Tim Henriksen all helped plan and organize the various activities for the weekend.

The retreat will also feature a special guest speaker, Johnny Craig. Craig is the associate pastor at Dover Church.

“Johnny is a chance for underclassmen from different dorms to connect and interact with each other and with upperclassmen. They can connect and support each other to make conversations deeper, build a stronger support system and make long-lasting friendships. The environment will be one of fellowship, worship, challenge and growth,” Simmelink said.

Faculty and staff members who will be in attendance include Ray Gibler, Jay Wielenga and Tyler Zeutenhorst.

“If costs $20 to register, but it is definitely worth the money,” Wiggers said.

Simmelink said everyone involved in planning hopes that this retreat can be a highlight of the semester for the men attending and something they can take a lot away from.

The group will meet in the parking lot across from VPH at 4:45 p.m. today.

“We will eat together at 5 and leave for Okoboji at 6,” Simmelink said. Last minute participation is welcomed.