Eyes on the economy:
Will failing banks affect student loan opportunities?

BY TYLER GRANGER

The volatile U.S. economy has become a topic of conversation for the financially-inclined. But what happens on Wall Street affects the student pursing an art degree as much as it does the business major. The federal student loan program is one of the most successful public-to-private partnerships ever created and is the reason for why a majority of students are able to afford college. In 2007, over 68,500 students used the Iowa student loan for tuition, equaling out to roughly 250 million dollars.

However, the IndyMac Bank, or Independent National Mortgage Corporation, failure has raised doubts about the availability for student loans.

IndyMac was one of the nation’s largest savings and loan banks. IndyMac's failure on July 13 was caused by months of investment decline, non-performing loans, failure to raise capital, and high interest rates.

Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York announced on June 26 a possible total financial collapse for the west coast bank. This caused widespread panic as people withdrew their money. When a bank loses the public's confidence, the game is over. The collapse resulted in a loss of 32 billion dollars in assets, as well as incredible frustration for businesses, lenders, investors and students across America.

IndyMac is not the only bank to dry up, as 11 other banks have failed this year. How are students at NW affected? Banks and private lenders just do not have the capital to fund all the student loans that are needed. The mortgage crisis in America has caused lenders to back away from investing in asset-backed securities such as student loans. Students are finding it harder to access private student loans and are receiving them with high interest rates.

Various colleges are pulling away from private loans because many private companies are experiencing pressure to pass as many student loans as possible. High interest rates, the mortgage crises and a decline in the amount of investing are all reasons why lenders have had to raise the cost of college loans.

Several of these private loan companies lack the capital needed to back all these student loans. A few of the key loan providers for students here at Northwestern are starting to tighten their criteria for credit.

Fewer students this year: Lower numbers have limited impact

BY LEANN JOHNSON

The number of students enrolled at Northwestern this year is lower than it has been in eight years. The exact number of students enrolled this semester is 1,225, which is almost a seven percent decrease from the 1,315 students enrolled during last year’s fall semester.

Although it is impossible to pin down an exact reason for this decrease, Mark Bloemendaal, director of admissions, proposed several explanations for the lower enrollment. Bloemendaal pointed out that NW had a large graduating class this spring and a slightly lower retention rate from last year.

In addition, many private colleges in Iowa saw lower enrollments this fall, while community colleges experienced an increase in admissions.

Bloemendaal surmised that this might be due to the struggling economy and people’s desire to save money. He also stated that, although prospective students like NW’s Tuition Guarantee, they are sometimes unwilling to commit to four years and do not realize the benefits of planning for more than a year at a time.

Fewer students across America may have a significant impact on the admission process at Northwestern. The number of scholarship recipients is likely to decrease, potentially affecting the amount of scholarship money awarded.

According to Jaime Woudstra, a financial services counselor, fewer than 20 students did not qualify for private student loans this fall. The FDIC plan is to raise premiums and merge banks so lenders will have the capital to back student loans. Fortunately, the opportunity to borrow money to pursue higher education is still available; student loans are still accessible.

World-class musicians perform at NW

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA

Violinist Wolfgang David and pianist David Gompper will present a duo-recital on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in Christ Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public.

David has a wide assortment of places where audiences have heard his remarkable talent. He has played at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Berner Symphony Orchestra and New York Virtuosi.

His impressive history started at age eight when he attended the University for Music. Following this endeavor, he perfected his skills at the Musikhochschule in Cologne and the Guildhall School of Music in London.

David, a winner of many competitions, has traveled around the globe to over 30 countries. His regular tours take him all over the United States, Europe, South Korea and South Africa. His violin is on special loan from Austrian National Bank. It acquires even more rarity as it was constructed in 1715 by Carlo Bergonzi Cremona.

Gompper has devoted 17 years as a professor of composition and director of the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa. As a man of many talents, he is a conductor, composer and pianist.

His résumé includes the following: studying at the Royal College of Music in London, teaching in Nigeria and earning a doctorate at the University of Michigan. Prior to arriving at Iowa, he spent some time at the University of Texas. In addition, he spent a year in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching, performing and conducting at the Moscow Conservatory.

The recital will consist of five duets. David and Gompper will begin playing Johannes Brahms’ “Violin Sonata Opus 78,” which is also known as “Rain Sonata” from Opus 78. Next will be “Ikön,” composed by Gompper this year. The second half of the program will include Arvo Pärt’s “Fratres,” followed by “Cradle of Orthodoxy” by Joseph Dangierfield and Claude Debussy’s “Sonate pour violin et piano.”
OPINION

Overwhelmingly bad news

By SARA JANZEN

In the words of John Lennon, “I read the news today... oh boy.” Newpapers seem to be filled with one story of deprived and deprived humans after another. Corrupt governments slaughtering their citizens, children in far-away countries dying from lack of proper food and water, people’s homes being destroyed by hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

For only being 24 hours long, it’s surprising how much bad stuff happens in a day, and thanks to the information age we hear about most of it.

I think Mr. Incredible had it right about: “I feel like the maid; I just cleaned up this mess! Can we keep it clean for 10 minutes?”

Every morning we’re greeted with a new wave of bad news. We’re expected to care, but the more we’re informed the easier it becomes to dismiss tragedy as “the way things are.”

So we start ad hoc groups and committees to cope with the world in which we live.

There are people committed to ending world hunger, abolishing modern slavery, collecting shoes for orphans, saving the planet, and they’re all vying for your attention.

It can be hard on a Christian campus when handfuls of campus groups urge you to join their group and crusade for their cause because, well, you love Jesus, don’t you? I think it gets easier to stop caring the more we know because we start seeing a pattern of severity and corruption emerging.

It’s like when you have an unthinkable pile of homework. You don’t feel like starting because you know you won’t finish in time.

Sometimes I think we feel downright daunted by the world’s problems and don’t feel like starting because it looks insurmountable.

But maybe it’s an issue of perspective.

A few weeks back I was reading the magazine “Religious,” and found an article written by Stephen Christian, the lead singer of one of my favorite bands, Anberlin. Christian wrote about a trip he took to India, into some of the darkest corners of Calcutta.

For only being 24 hours long, it’s surprising how much bad stuff happens in a day, and thanks to the information age we hear about most of it.

The things he saw there moved him to question what he could accomplish against such established depravity, where immorality and injustice have become the norm. He was answered by a humanitarian worker: “There is nothing I can do about what is happening tonight. My eyes are simply focused on what and whom I can change in the future.”

Talk about perspective.

Yes, some days it looks like we’re losing to the other side of famines, bombs, corrupt men in power, and torrential rain and wind but we can’t let that get us down. We have to look ahead to a world that, if we work now, will be better.

Waste not your time: fitting four years into four

By KIMBERLY VAN WINKLE

For many college students, it has become the ‘norm’ to fit four years of college into five or more.

While certain programs demand additional education, those seeking a B.A. (and minimal debt) should take their education into their own hands from the start of their freshman year.

As someone who has transferred to three different colleges, I know a little bit about needing to keep on top of my education. After taking two classes I didn’t need freshman year, I knew it was time to make sure I was only taking classes I needed and not spending the money I didn’t have on classes that wouldn’t count.

As difficult as it may be at times to want to do homework, it is your benefit to perform the best you can in each class.

Maintaining your schedule and double checking it with your advisor is a good way to ensure you’ll complete your education in four years.

This can be tricky if you’re undecided in your major, but it is still important. You can figure out which general education classes need to be completed before taking specialty courses.

Also, it usually proves useful to take a variety of classes to see where your strengths and weaknesses are.

As difficult as it sometimes may be to want to do homework, it is to your benefit to perform the best you can in each class even to go above and beyond the assignments to apply it to your personal life and the workplace.

After all, you paid a lot of money to use those textbooks sit around idly, and professors only have so much class time to teach. This is part of why they assign the text, so you can continue learning outside of the classroom.

What good is an education if it isn’t applied?

As a senior at Northwestern, I have found several sources of aid in helping me figure out how to use my education to establish a career. I’m part of a small group of fellow seniors who meet to discuss concerns we may have after graduation.

This is also where advisors come in. They can offer you guidance concerning where to look for jobs and what steps to take to freshen up of college.

It is a lot of work and takes patience, but taking charge of your education will benefit you greatly; it has benefitted me and saved me almost an entire year of additional classes.
Jared White singing/screaming Ben “Rafiki” Rasefske on drums, also call them, is made up of juniors Cadence, or “C2A” as their fans to play music and entertain.” “We are just five guys who like things” said vocalist Jared White. “We had fun together, so the next fall we came back to school and started writing our own stuff,” White recounts. After a member of the band left Northwestern, a new guitarist was needed so Tim was asked to join.

Cadence to Arms covers some popular, fun songs such as “Party Like A Rockstar” from the Shop Boyz, Kelly Clarkson’s “Since You’ve Been Gone,” and New Found Glory’s “My Friend’s Over You.” But they also write their own music and even have a single, “Save the Ship,” available on their MySpace page. “We write about life, relationships, and goals. We just want to love people as Christ loved us. We want to be real,” said White.

Cadence to Arms has a performance coming up in Orange City during Oct. 5 and 12. Cadence can be found online at myspace.com/cadencetoarmsnwc. The group also has a fan page on Facebook.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

**Campus Quotes**

“So if you say ‘Hi, How ya doing?’ what you really mean is ‘Hey, let’s get it on!'”
- Professor Andreas in Intro to Theology, about Freud.

“I don’t want my professors to hear me use the bathroom!”
- Hannah Cornthewait in reference to having to use the restroom during her HIS435 class.

“He must have been thinking, ‘He’s more attractive than Professor Durham!”
- Professor Mead referring to himself as he explained the thoughts of the confused student who realized he was in the wrong classroom.

“Oh my gosh! Ontology! Metaphysics! I’m mude!”
- Professor Kagler on Aristotle running over the Athenian hills in the honors course on Evil.

Another day at “The Office”

**By Amanda Wright**

STAFF WRITER

NBC’s “The Office” has become the favorite since its debut in 2005. Sadly, the fourth season was cut short because of the writer’s strike, but much is in store for the upcoming fifth season. With the Sept. 25 premiere fast approaching I’m sure many of you are anticipating many more laugh filled chapters in the lives of the workers at Dunder Mifflin Paper Co. The hour long premier will be a little different from the previous. This season it will recap what the Dunder Mifflin employees did over the summer. The group will also be participating in a weight loss competition and Michael Scott will throw a baby shower for his ex-girlfriend, Jan’s, artificially inseminated baby.

With the new baby, Michael wants to be involved as much as possible and becomes somewhat of a surrogate father. Jan allows him to do this and we get to see her as a mother as well as Michael’s attempts to be a dad.

A few new faces will show up this season. Amy Ryan will play the new Human Resources representative Holly Flax. This character was introduced at the end of the fourth season and will be showing up at least five episodes. A guest appearance will be made by Rich Sommer, who is known for his role as an advertising executive on AMC’s “Mad Men.” He will be in one of Pam’s classes in New York as a flirty art student. No worries though, he won’t pose a threat to Pam and Jim’s relationship... well, only for the first episode.

Speaking of Jim and Pam, their ongoing love story will finally be resolved this season. It has not been said which way it will go, but I’ve heard there may be tears. Who knows if they will be tears of happiness or tears of sorrow. While Pam is away at school in New York she really enjoys the change of scenery. With the distance between her and Jim, they get plenty of phone time and are still very much connected. This is going to be a big season for Pam, you’ll have to watch and see what is in store for her.

I’m sure the new season of “The Office” will be as hilarious and entertaining as the last four. It will continue to be an exceptionally funny show about life in an office. Anyone who has ever worked in that setting knows that there is some truth to the crazy and dramatic things that happen between cubicle walls. In a time of reality TV, “The Office” is refreshing; it offers much more than bug eating and rock climbing competitions. It’s a fun and quirky show that has developed well and left America wanting more. Remember to tune in to NBC on Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. and get up to speed with America’s favorite office.
Van Gelder: small workspace, big heart

BY LEANN JOHNSON

Several things can be noted about Natalie Van Gelder immediately after stepping into her new office in Northwestern’s Academic Support Center. Her various photos hanging on the wall show the things she loves in life, and she maintains a tidy, organized desk. The office may seem a bit small and tucked away, but Van Gelder is thankful that it gives her the confidentiality she needs when working with students.

Van Gelder recently began her position as NW’s Learning Disabilities Service Provider. She advocates for students with disabilities and helps supply accommodations such as arranging tutorials, reading tests and helping students with note-taking. Her desire is to help high school students with disabilities transition into college and life after college.

Van Gelder’s desire for this type of work sprang from work experience she had with disabled students in college. Van Gelder discovered that she just “seemed to click” with the students.

Van Gelder obtained a bachelor’s degree in education and special education from the University of Northern Iowa after graduating from MOC-Floyd Valley High School. Next, she received her master’s degree in education, specializing in career and vocational programming and transition/behavioral disorders.

Then she and her husband Bryan, who works in Ramaker Library, moved to Tucson, Ariz.

Orange City native continues to offer his computing services

BY KRISTEN KOOMA

Currently, things are not extremely busy in the computing department, but just a few weeks ago it was a different story. Dykstra and the rest of the computing staff kept busy with the constant flow of computers as students came back to school. There were also many kinks in the system as the new academic year began.

Although he is new and his office is kind of sparse, Dykstra has one drawer that he is particularly fond of. This drawer is his food drawer. Whenever he needs a little pick-me-up during the day, he just opens his drawer and grabs a quick snack.

Computers are not Dykstra’s whole life. When he is not working on computers he enjoys camping and biking. He is also a proud member of the Orange City Fire Department.

Dykstra offers some advice to students—“Use the tutorials provided.” According to him, it would save Computing Services a lot of time and make their job a lot easier.
NW alum continues the enduring legacy of academic support

BY SARA CURRY

STAFF WRITER

While the Writing Center at Northwestern serves as a place of academic learning and communication between tutors and students, it also embodies the lifelong passion of the new director of academic support, Tom Truesdell.

An Iowa boy from birth, Truesdell grew up in Hospers and now calls Orange City home. After serving as the Writing Center coordinator last year, this year Truesdell replaced Patti Thayer after nearly 30 years as the coordinator last year, this year Truesdell

As director, Truesdell aims to continue to support students with his experience and expertise in writing, while also helping students in all areas of academics to better realize their potential. Truesdell's primary goal for the academic support program is to serve as a resource to promote independent learning on campus.

“We want students to succeed and do well in their courses, but what we’re most concerned about is improving their learning skills.”

- Tom Truesdell

Truesdell takes hold of this position with an extensive background in writing and academic support.

Mathew: a resident director called to love

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Mathew needed to get special permission to work in the U.S. As a Canadian citizen, the odds were not in her favor. The U.S. only grants access for certain professionals, which usually don’t include resident directors. Fortunately, an exception was made.

“I applied and it was like bam, bam, bam. I had the job. They could have found someone in the States, but God must have really wanted me here.”

- Sunita Mathew

Before getting too excited, Mathew needed to get special permission to work in the U.S. As a Canadian citizen, the odds were not in her favor. The U.S. only grants access for certain professionals, which usually don’t include resident directors. Fortunately, an exception was made.

“I applied and it was like bam, bam, bam. I had the job.” she said. “They could have found someone in the States, but God must have really wanted me here.”

Mathew’s master’s degree from Providence Theological Seminary has a long title. She earned her Master of Arts in educational ministries majoring in student development, which includes a counseling track. The long job description is accompanied by a simple premise—getting the most contact with students possible.

She believes her purpose at NW is to make sure the students feel loved.

“During my own college experience, it was like a family because I felt so safe.” she said. “I want very badly to give that to the students in this dorm.”

With all these recent changes, one thing has remained constant—her relationship with God. Trusting in God has become an even bigger part of Mathew’s life. She tells God quite simply, “You put me in a place where I can love a lot of people,” she said. “You can grow anywhere, but I just see that being here, God can definitely use me and help me grow as a person myself, which is really exciting.”

PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

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BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Raiders’ football team was defeated by Morningside on Saturday, 26-21, in a battle of nationally-ranked teams. Seventh-ranked Morningside improves to 2-0, while Northwestern, ranked 13th, drops to 1-1.

Both teams remained scoreless after the first quarter of play. In the second quarter, the Mustangs made field goals on three of their first four offensive possessions, giving them a 9-0 lead. Late in the second quarter, senior Nate Jansen forced a Mustang fumble that was recovered by sophomore Jordan Te Grootenhuis on the visitor’s two-yard line. With just under a minute left in the half, sophomore Taylor Malm scored and freshman Mike O’Brien made the extra point to put the Raiders down 9-7 at halftime.

NW came ready to play in the second half and scored on their first drive with a two-yard pass by junior Cary Overholt to senior Seth Moen. O’Brien again scored the extra point to put the Raiders up 14-9. However, the Mustangs came back on their next possession with a four-play drive to score and take the lead again, 16-14.

NW was then forced to punt, which was blocked by Morningside and recovered at the 13-yard line. The Mustangs kicked a 25-yard field goal three plays later to extend their lead to 19-14.

Halfway through the fourth quarter, Morningside scored again, giving them a 26-14 lead. The Raiders responded quickly by scoring on a touchdown of their own on their next possession. Overholt threw a 10-yard touchdown pass caught by junior Reed Van Hulzen with just over five minutes left of play, and O’Brien kicked the extra point to narrow the Mustangs lead to 26-21. Morningside was then able to get two first downs and ran the clock out to hold on for the win.

The Raiders had 193 offensive yards in the loss, 81 passing and 112 on the ground. Malm had nine carries for 55 yards and one touchdown. Overholt completed seven of 18 pass attempts, two for touchdowns. Van Hulzen had five catches and a touchdown and senior Tyler Meekma had three catches.

Jansen and junior Grant Hegstad each had 10 total tackles to lead the NW defense. Jansen had five solo and 10 assisted tackles along with forcing a fumble. Hegstad had four solo and 12 assisted tackles. Sophomores Austin Rozeboom and Caleb Blauwat recorded nine and 7.5 tackles, respectively. Sophomores Caleb Van Otterloo and Jon Gerber each added six tackles.

Next week, the Raiders will travel to Lincoln, Neb., to take on Nebraska Wesleyan at 6 pm.
Women's soccer shines against tough competition

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Raider women's soccer team claimed two victories this week against NCAA Division II Upper Iowa and defending GPAC champion Morningside. The Raiders improved to 3-2 overall, 1-0 in GPAC conference play.

NW 2, Morningside 1

Northwestern handed Morningside their first loss since 2006, winning 2-1 on Wednesday afternoon. “We were the definite underdog,” said junior forward Becca Bruns, “but that proved to be in our favor, as Morningside came out flat and not ready for the intensity we brought.”

The Mustangs scored the first goal in the 18th minute of play. Neither team scored again until the 40th minute when sophomore Becca Hurley scored an unassisted goal. Hurley again found the net with 12 minutes remaining to bring the final score to 2-1.

“Your team hasn’t won against Morningside in the four years I have been playing here at NW,” commented senior Sarah Bugler. “It feels amazing to finally come away with a win.”

The Raiders had six shots, three by Hurley. Sophomore goalkeeper Wendy Hofmeyer, who subbed in for injured junior Kelley Salem, had three saves. Bugler and sophomore Amanda Mihaly and Katy Phillips each had one shot for NW.

NW 3, Upper Iowa 2

The Raiders took on their third-straight NCAA Division II team last Saturday and came out on top.

Phillips found Bugler in the seventh minute of play, and Bugler netted the first goal of the game. Hurley then stole the ball and made a break away goal to give NW a 2-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Mihaly scored the third goal for the Raiders on an assist by Hurley. Upper Iowa fought back, however, and scored twice within six minutes, but NW held on for a 3-2 victory.

NW 3, William Penn 1

Junior Rachel Gosselink added two goals and had an impressive 12 saves compared to Upper Iowa’s four.

“I am really proud of the way our team has played the last two games,” Bugler reflected. “We have been working together really well and that helped us beat two great teams."

Salem said, “Our excitement and intensity will carry over to Saturday as we take on Hastings.”

NW opens their home season at 5 p.m. on Saturday against the Broncos.

Men’s soccer wins in double overtime

BY CAMERON CARLOW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern men’s soccer team moved to 1-0 in GPAC conference play on Wednesday night with a double overtime victory over Morningside.

The Raiders entered the game coming off of a 0-1 loss at Upper Iowa on Sept. 13. “[Upper Iowa] was a game that we should have won,” said head coach Dan Swier, “but it was a good lesson for us on being mentally prepared to play at our highest level every single game.”

NW rebounded after the loss and overtook Morningside by a score of 3-2. Junior Aaron O’Brien led the team with eight shots, two of them for goals and one being the game winner. Sophomore Mike Cookson also added a goal for the Raiders along with having the game winning assist to O’Brien. Senior Calvin Tesilla also had the assist to O’Brien’s goal early in the second half that put NW ahead 2-1.

The Raiders next big test will come against rival Hastings College in the first home game on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

“We have never started out conference play against two top five GPAC teams like we will this season. It’s my hope that the guys are prepared to do what it takes to win.”

Hastings enters the game ranked number one in the GPAC and number 21 in the NAIA national rankings. Both teams will be looking to improve their 3-3 records to stay above .500 on the season thus far.

“It should be a great atmosphere,” said Swier. “I encourage everyone who is even remotely interested in the game of soccer to come out and watch this game.”

SPORTS

Volleyball defeats St. Mary’s 3-0, goes 2-2 in Graceland Tournament

BY BETH MOWU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After splitting a four-match tournament weekend and grabbing a victory over St. Mary’s on Wednesday, the Northwestern women's volleyball team now stand upon a 10-3 overall record. They remain at 2-0 in the GPAC and dropped to ninth place in the latest NAIA poll.

NW 3, St. Mary’s 0

The Red Raider volleyball team claimed a decisive three-game win over St. Mary’s on Wednesday, with game scores of 25-13, 25-22 and 25-15.

NW tied a season best nine ace serves and hit .230. Junior Randa Hulstein led the Raiders with 10 blocks and two kills. Sophomore Kaitlin Beaver added eight kills, five digs and three ace serves. Freshman Rylee Hulstein and sophomore Hillary Hann recorded seven and six kills, respectively.


Graceland Tournament

The Raiders had a victorious Friday at the Graceland Tournament, which was held in Lamoni, Iowa, snatching 3-1 victories over both William Penn and Missouri Baptist.

Half of the teams present at the tournament were ranked in last week’s NAIA poll. Two Raider women, Randa Hulstein and Hanno, earned all-tournament honors at the 14-team invite for their overall play at the net.

NW 3, William Penn 1

After defeating the William Penn Statersmen 25-21 in the first game of the day, the Raider women dropped the next game 21-25. They rallied back, however, winning game three 25-17, then claimed the final game with a resounding 25-9 victory.

Beaver and freshman Kate Boyett led NW with 12 kills apiece, while Rylee Hulstein added 11. Gosselink lofted out 42 assists while Bloemendaal led the team with 19 digs.

NW 3, Missouri Baptist 1

The second match of the day began roughly for the Raiders, as they held on for a 3-2 victory.

Upper Iowa outshot the Raiders 28-8, but goalkeeper Hofmeyer “played an awesome game in less than perfect conditions,” said Bruns. Hofmeyer allowed only two goals and had an impressive 12 saves compared to Upper Iowa’s four.

“I am really proud of the way our team has played the last two games,” Bugler reflected. “We have been working together really well and that helped us beat two great teams.”

Salem said, “Our excitement and intensity will carry over to Saturday as we take on Hastings.”

NW opens their home season at 5 p.m. on Saturday against the Broncos.

NW 1, Indiana Wesleyan 3

The final match-up of the tournament was also a disappointment for NW, who lost 1-3 to Indiana Wesleyan. After losing the first two games 20-25 and 22-25, the Raider women managed to take back game three with a 25-20 victory, only to drop the next one 20-25.

Randa Hulstein and Hanno paved the way in the net, leading the Raiders with 16 and 14 kills, respectively. Rylee Hulstein chirped in with 10 kills while Beaver and Gosselink lofted up 29 and 16 assists.

The NW women travel to Vincennes, Ind. Tuesday to take on the University of South Dakota. The game is set to begin at 7 p.m.

Women’s golf begins GPAC qualifier

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The women’s golf team traveled to the Whispering Creek Golf Club in Sioux City, IA, on Monday to compete in the first round of the GPAC Qualifier Tournament. The Red Raiders are currently in fourth place out of the 11 conference teams with a score of 363. Dakota Wesleyan is leading the field with 329 and USF, the defending GPAC champion is in second with 347. Briar Cliff shot a 360 to gain a narrow lead over Northwestern, as they hold second place.

Sophomore Maggie Achterhof is currently tied for ninth place with a score of 87. Senior Kara Ritchie is in 12th place with an 88. Seniors Kelsey Shifflett and Carrie Spree both shot a 94 to hold the 27th spot, and junior Rachelle Pedersen is tied for 40th place with a score of 100.

The Raiders will play in the second round of the GPAC tournament next Thursday in Hastings, Neb.
Hearing Blizzard Voices: Honor students attend oratorio

BY TEDI SWANSON
STAFF WRITER

It was on a warm day in 1888 that the Great Plains Blizzard caught the people of the Midwest unexpectedly. Also known as the Schoolhouse Blizzard, this atrocity has become the study of many individuals, including a group of Northwestern Honors students this semester.

"I was intrigued by this seminar because I thought it would be very insightful to discuss how God works through disasters," said Kayse Thornton, a junior in the seminar.

Not only has the class discussed the ways that God worked through this disaster, they also experienced it through a book of poems entitled "The Blizzard Voices. Written by Pulitzer prize-winner Ted Kooser, the book reflects on memories of those who experienced the Blizzard.

Through this, the class has been able to gain some insight about the blizzard and discuss a disaster that many of them had never heard of before. After reading the poetry, they had the wonderful opportunity to meet with Ted Kooser after experiencing his work on the catastrophe. From this, the class was able to learn about the man behind the work they were reading and gain some insight into Kooser’s creations.

"Beautiful art so often comes out of heartbreak. Not always, but quite often. And Ted seems to be such a case. An example of a long and faithful life of disciplined artistry," said Jeff Barker, a co-leader of the course.

Although the poetry alone was powerful, the honors students were also able to discuss the ways literature and music effect the way we perceive an event. The class was able to attend a poetry reading of winners of a historical poetry-writing contest. At this reading, musicians turned the winning poems into a song of their own creation.

"It thought that was really interesting to see how the musicians took the poem they were given and made it into something new. Being able to hear the poem read, and then the song gave a really interesting dimension to the poem," said senior Brenna Lura.

This combination of poetry and music was not the only one the class has experienced. They were also able to attend a world premiere oratorio of The Blizzard Voices. This piece, put on by Opera Omaha, is a combination of Kooser’s poems and the work of Pulitzer prize-winning composer Paul Moravec.

This combination of art had lead to a compelling representation of the disaster.

"I had never heard of the Blizzard of 1888 [before learning of the oratorio]. Now I think we all feel that we lived through it ourselves. That is how powerful the whole experience was for us," said Prof. Linell Moss, a co-leader of the seminar.

Throughout the semester, the students have had the opportunity to learn about and examine the Great Plains Blizzard of 1888. Through the combination of music and literature, they have gotten

Building a better banana

BY JENNA BOOTE
NEWS EDITOR

Good news, Northwestern: bananas are back. But for how long?

Some may recall the crisis this yellow dietary staple found itself in last year, as widespread disease had scientists forecasting its extinction. NW students felt the impact in a tangible way when bananas ceased to appear in the cafeteria.

Eaten more than any other variety of fresh fruit, Americans consume 26.2 pounds of bananas per person, per year. But according to botanists, the banana we know and love have only five to ten years left to live.

According to botanists, the problem facing bananas is their genetic purity. With no resistant varieties, one disease on a solitary plantation could wipe out banana trees across the planet and leave grocery stores (and college cafeterias) void of America’s most popular fruit. Bananas have already skinned by one bout with extinction. Banana growers in the 1920’s failed to react when a fungus called Panama disease swept through plantations. As a result, the Gros Michel banana, the type of fruit most common at the turn of the century, is now obsolete. Environmental disasters and bankruptcy ensued; even popular culture reflects the crisis in the well-known 1923 musical hit, “Yes! We Have No Bananas.”

Today students are peeling Cavendish bananas—chosen by growers for their resistance to Panama disease. And in the past few months, the scenario has repeated itself as new diseases rip through Cavendish plantations across the globe.

The quest to save the fruit raises a variety of ethical and environmental issues. Many scientists believe that the serious problems facing bananas leave global shoppers with only two options: forego their favorite fruit, or accept science’s intervention and spend the rest of their life munching bioengineered bananas.

Says scientist Rony Swennen, “There’s almost no choice,” he says. “We need resistant bananas.”

Swennen also points out the consequences banana extinction might have on many densely-populated African countries, where bananas serve as the primary nutritional source, accounting for near-total carbohydrate consumption in some diets. In fact, in Swahili, the word for food, “matoke,” translates as “banana.” According to Swennen, 20 million people would face “massive destabilization” without bananas.

Scientists are now scrambling to create a disease resistant variety, but the few hybrids they have managed to create either taste much different or ripen too quickly.

Because none of the new bananas taste similar to the Cavendish bananas we snack on today, importers worry that consumers will reject a replacement that isn’t creamy and sweet. New bananas could be equal, but they will not taste the same.

"Beautiful art so often comes out of heartbreak. Not always, but quite often. And Ted seems to be such a case. An example of a long and faithful life of disciplined artistry," said Jeff Barker, a co-leader of the course.

Although the poetry alone was powerful, the honors students were also able to discuss the ways literature and music effect the way we perceive an event. The class was able to attend a poetry reading of winners of a historical poetry-writing contest. At this reading, musicians turned the winning poems into a song of their own creation.

"It thought that was really interesting to see how the musicians took the poem they were given and made it into something new. Being able to hear the poem read, and then the song gave a really interesting dimension to the poem," said senior Brenna Lura.

This combination of poetry and music was not the only one the class has experienced. They were also able to attend a world premiere oratorio of The Blizzard Voices. This piece, put on by Opera Omaha, is a combination of Kooser’s poems and the work of Pulitzer prize-winning composer Paul Moravec.

This combination of art had lead to a compelling representation of the disaster.

"I had never heard of the Blizzard of 1888 [before learning of the oratorio]. Now I think we all feel that we lived through it ourselves. That is how powerful the whole experience was for us," said Prof. Linell Moss, a co-leader of the seminar.

Throughout the semester, the students have had the opportunity to learn about and examine the Great Plains Blizzard of 1888. Through the combination of music and literature, they have gotten

Building a better banana

BY JENNA BOOTE
NEWS EDITOR

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