**Leadership Opportunity Night: many positions available**

**BY KRISTIN KOOIMA STAFF WRITER**

Monday, January 26 at 7 p.m. marks the annual Leadership Opportunity Night. Held in the theatre building, the Leadership Opportunity Night is a way to find out what leadership opportunities there are on Northwestern’s campus.

Leadership positions include the Yearbook Staff, Student Ambassadors, Admissions Calling Intern, Intercultural Interns, ESL Tutors, I-Club Core Group, Roommates to International Students, Orientation Staff, Portage Leader, Student Government Association, Student Leadership Council, Student Activities Council, Resident Assistants, Discipleship Group Leaders, and Campus Ministry Team.

The night will begin with short presentations from all the different leadership groups. Immediately following, students will have the opportunity to talk to different representatives and students involved in the different groups at tables set up in the theatre lobby.

Students will be able to ask any questions they may have along with picking up any applications they may need, although not all positions require an application. Information will also be available that provides due dates of the application, the interview, and the date for when notifications will be sent out saying whether you received the position or not.

Kim Case, director of Orientation Staff and Yearbook Staff, said that leadership is a huge part of the theatre experience to create a belief that “is the basis for a comprehensive integration of faith, learning and living that prepares students for lives of service to God and others.”

“Leadership should be servant leadership,” Case said.

Many experiences can be learned from being in a leadership position one wouldn’t normally have. “I strongly encourage students to pursue leadership positions. It doesn’t hurt to try. Everybody brings different experiences to create their own type of leadership,” Case said.

Not only does a student get to interact with other students in the leadership positions, but gets a faculty or staff member to act as a sort of mentor.

Leadership Opportunity Night takes place once a year, so if you are not able to make the night, you can contact Jeff Guthmiller at extension 87143 for application forms and information.
President Obama’s America

BY DEREkke CHEVIANNE

On January 20, 2009, Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America. Importantly, Obama became the first African-American president in the nation’s history and is the first black person to lead a white majority country. This momentous occasion came almost 150 years after the emancipation of slaves and 50 years after the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. This is not only a memorable moment for people of color but also for people of the world.

With such a historic inauguration come some hefty expectations. President Obama is expected to cure an ill economy, to wash the feet and face of America and to keep the country safe from all domestic and international terrorism. History shall be the judge of the legacy of former Pres. George W. Bush, but we must all admit (whether fan or critic) that since 9/11 the country has been kept safe from terroristic elements. President Obama is expected to follow suit; any attack on American soil could very well mar his entire presidency.

However, where former Pres. Bush was remiss, Pres. Obama will be proactive, understanding that diplomacy can no longer be brushed to the sidelines but instead must become a crucial part of the White House’s international relations. Arguably, as the most powerful leader of the free world, Pres. Obama’s sight is set no further than the borders of American soil, with the economy being the key issue of the day. Job creation and bailout stimulus packages will be top priorities as a result.

Some other immediate policy changes that Pres. Obama will seek to address include: ending the war in Iraq, closing Guantanamo, creating affordable healthcare, improving the education system and catering to environmental reforms. With a largely Democratic Congress and Senate, Republicans in both Houses become integral in striking a bi-partisan balance. Whatever the president’s solutions, we pray that his answers are the right ones.

Often times I ask the question: how much of American politics will see the “change” that Pres. Obama so eloquently and passionately promises? Let’s forget, Pres. Obama is a politician and with that title we expect “more of the same.” But then, what’s the cost of a little hope? What can we really lose if we completely hinge our support on President Obama, even if he wasn’t the recipient of our vote on election day? In this unstable economic climate, building bridges is far more important than widening divides.

We wait to see what Pres. Obama has up his sleeves. He’s a talented politician, a skilled orator, a shrewd individual and has an inspiring persona. With these impressive attributes, America should be in safe hands. Let us show our support by either posing our disagreements or offering our approvals.

Let time and history be the judge of an Obama presidency; it would be a cardinal sin to cast the final verdict before the trial began.

The Christian responsibility

BY JACKIE KNIBE

In response to the informer post entitled “MLK Jr. Day,” in which the author asks us if we took the time to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I feel that it is fundamentally important to celebrate this day. Seeing the amazing performance “Daughters of Africa” on Tuesday night has not only greatly influenced my appreciation for the impact that King has made, but how African American women shaped what our country is today.

Do I think that observing MLK Jr. Day and reflecting on minority oppression is important? Certainly! Do I think that taking a day off and watching King’s speeches for MLK Jr. Day proves that we are responsible Christians “living by Jesus principles”? Not necessarily. I hope that as Christians we have not fallen into the temptation that works define our relationship with Christ. Throughout Christian history there have been heated discussions about works-based Christianity and faith-based Christianity.

To say that observing MLK Jr. Day is an act that adds definition to our Christian faith makes an unsubstantiated claim in regards to this ongoing discussion. If this were true, every Christian outside of the United States would have questionable principles, considering that no other country officially recognizes this uniquely American celebration.

I understand that the post’s author desired to raise awareness of the great impact King made on our country. We should remember, and meditate on his speeches and ideals.

However, I do not judge those who did not take the time to reflect. “Christians living by Jesus principles” who do not take the time to meditate on MLK Jr. Day are not horrid Christians. To continue to go to class and learn about history, social justice, or even human anatomy on MLK Jr. Day only confirms the impact he has made. I think King would not have dreamed for us to take the day off and sleep in to remember him. He probably would have wanted us to continue to live in community while learning how to improve the future.

Jesus tells us in Luke 10:27 to love God first, and people secondly. If we took more time to reflect on that simple statement, perhaps there wouldn’t be such a structure with race and oppressed persons. So, should we reflect about Martin Luther King, Jr.? Surely! However, Christians would be better off being judged by their strong commitments toward love and community than by their reflections on a nationally semi-observed holiday.

I wish the informer post had been put in a place where there would have been room for comments and possible rebuttals. I think the use of the informal is what should remain a “free form of advertising” and not a place for opinions. While I am a fan of opinions (especially ones I disagree with!), good opinions leave room for disagreement. The Beacon should ask its readers for opinions anyway, so help them out! Start and continue conversations in the Beacon.
Gran Torino poses a lesson in multiculturalism

BY GREG WHITE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Walt Kowalski, an ex-auto worker whose wife has recently died, lives in a rotting neighborhood in Detroit. He is the last white person in a neighborhood now teaming with Hmong people. His sons murmur about moving the old man to a retirement community to keep him out of trouble.

Walt’s neighbors are a Hmong family with an adorable daughter, Su, and a timid son, Tao. Tao’s gangbanger cousins try to get him to join their gang, but when he fails the initiation task of stealing Walt’s Gran Torino, things get ugly. They try to force Tao into the gang, but Walt growls at the neighborhood to “get off his lawn” as they look down the barrel of his Korean War carbine. Walt must allow Tao to culturally make amends, so he takes the old man, Walt has to learn to coexist with his neighbors.

Multiculturalism and community are hallmarks of Northwestern College, also we can draw many lessons from Walt. After the recent elections, the student body was indignantly rebuked in chapel by Kevin McMahon because one of the international students was taunted for the color of their skin. This is no way to live in community.

In Gran Torino, Walt has to learn to accept the fact that his neighbors are different. They come from foreign culture, but they still are able to teach him something about himself. He also has to learn to take initiative to gain understanding. Walt talking with Su and eating platefuls of Hmong food provide some of the more touching moments of reconciliation in the film. Sacrifice is vital to community. Walt’s iconic sacrifice solidifies his friends’ safety and happiness. Acceptance, initiative and sacrifice are fundamentals for community life.

Gran Torino is a story that should keep hopes of reconciliation afloat. Even with all the guns, profanity and racial slurs, it is a film that suggests that violence only escalates, but sacrifice brings true reconciliation.

“Not to be rude, but…”

BY BRETT MEYER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“There are only so many words I can derive out of my vocabulary to say how awful that was.” The contestant leaves the stage, a dejected and emotional mess, while we, the viewers, watch on, laughing. “American Idol” has been a popular television show for the past seven years. The show has brought about the rise of famous singers such as Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood. The hilarious, often abusive comments of Simon Cowell, as well as respect for the color of their skin. This is no way to live in community.

“Who here am I going to marry?” – Senior Jeff Swart asking himself the question that every NW student asks themselves upon arrival.

“Refreshing for the mind, body, spirit… possibly not the body if you were up too late refreshing the spirit.” – Professor of Mathematics Kim Jongerius, on Christmas vacation.

“Your mind can only handle what your butt can endure.” – Senior Beth Mouw on sitting through long sermons.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacom@wciowa.edu.
FEATURES

From snowy Iowa roads to sandy Oman dunes
Winter weather delayed study abroad

BY KADY BRAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Somewhere in Oman, amidst swimsuit-friendly temperatures, is a clear and beautiful pool of water. Nestled in a hidden cove along a canyon wall, the pool sparkles under a waterfall that cascades into shimmering blue waves at the bottom. Freeze that image.

Now transport your imaginary self from that paradise into associate professor of sociology Scott Monsma’s living room. Students that participated in the Christmas break study abroad program to Oman experienced both of these settings.

Their departure date was pushed back a few days due to canceled flights, so the 13 Northwestern students who went on the trip spent a little extra time getting to know each other before they left the United States for Oman. They played games and watched movies together, but were still understandably disappointed as freezing temperatures swirled outside the windows during the first few days of their scheduled trip.

“I was quite disappointed that things were cut short,” said Monsma. “But I have to say that everyone was gracious, flexible, and understanding—and we made the best of it.”

In fact, grace, flexibility and understanding would be in high demand as the frustrated, yet hopeful travelers were then forced to spend their last night stateside at the airport in Chicago as they waited for the next available flight to Oman. Despite difficulties experienced in the beginning, everyone agreed that their destination had been worth the wait.

Many students bemoaned the fact that the study abroad program had to be packed into such a short time frame.

“We only scratched the surface in our two weeks there,” senior Amanda Bracklein said. “I really wish I could have waited and gone on the semester study trip.”

Other than swimming in the cavern pool at Wadi Sheb, students also snorkeled in the Indian Ocean, camped in the desert, explored the local marketplace and toured the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque.

Despite being half a world away, they were still able to find some reminders of home.

“We attended a Christian worship service in Arabic that was held in Zwemer Hall,” said Laura Elder. “We went and sat in the company of some Omani women and children.”

“They were sitting on the side of the road by their homes. One woman was stitching some beautiful beadwork. The other was talking with her and looking after the kids,” said Elder. “We went and sat down with them to discover they knew little English. We spent the next hour or two sitting with these women. They were so open and loving and hospitable.”

Given the chance, many of the students that traveled to Oman over break would not hesitate to return someday.

“It was life-changing,” Bracklein said of her short time there. “I see the Middle East in a completely different way. Now the people there are friendly and compassionate—I will never forget them.”

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FEARLESS EDUCATION

GIVING BLOOD: A DONATION TO PATIENTS OR THE BLOOD BANK?

BY KILEY SELIGMAN
FEATURES EDITOR

Giving blood: a donation to patients or the blood bank?

Each year donors give blood to help the more than 4.5 million patients who need blood transfusions. Yet, these goodwill donations are costing the patients and are sometimes making blood banks rich.

According to a ‘Philadelphia Inquirer’ article, “Each year, unknown to the people who give the blood, blood banks buy and sell more than a million pints from one another, shifting blood all over the country and generating an estimated $50 million in revenues.”

The Siouxland Blood Bank has contracts with 37 area hospitals in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.

“After blood is donated, it is brought back to the lab, then sold to hospitals to recoup our costs,” said Siouxland Blood Bank’s recruiting supervisor Cristy Van Beek. “Then hospitals sell to people who need blood.”

The prices hospitals charge varies. “It is based off of demand. Each hospital charges different prices,” Van Beek said.

The Siouxland Blood Bank is a non-profit organization. The money they receive only goes towards their costs. However, Van Beek said, “Some are for profit, it varies based on location.”

In Siouxland, “Hospitals only pay for units that are transfused,” she explained. If all of a hospital’s blood is not used, it is brought back to the blood bank. “Then we give it to a different hospital before it is dated. This keeps it cost efficient for the patient.”

Though some blood banks sell blood for profit, donors can never receive payment for their blood according to FDA regulations. The FDA only allows plasma to be sold in the United States. “We even have to be very careful with FDA regulations if we have contests or giveaways,” Van Beek said.

Other countries, such as China, pay donors for their blood.

January is Blood Donor Month and Siouxland Blood Bank will be on campus January 28 and 29 from 10a.m.-4p.m.

According to Van Beek, “Most blood banks in this area are non-profit.” However, next time you give blood, check to see if you are donating to keep costs efficient for a patient or if you’re making a blood bank rich.
Warm up this winter with one of Orange City’s coffee offerings

BY LEE STOVER
STAFF WRITER

The nearest Starbucks may be in Sioux City. America may run on Dunkin’ Donuts. Yet that doesn’t mean quality coffee and relaxing atmospheres can’t be found right here in Orange City. De Koffiehoek & Bistro and The Coffee Mill are coffee shops in Orange City that offer drinks, snacks and a place to get away.

De Koffiehoek & Bistro is located next to Quiznos on Highway 10. The quiet atmosphere and soft radio music make it an ideal place to do homework, have meetings or just escape from campus for a while.

The Koffiehoek’s most popular drink is a tie between the white mint mocha and caramel apple cider.

For non-coffee drinkers, the ‘Hoek, as people around town call it, has a variety of steamers, hot chocolate, ciders, smoothies and Italian sodas. If something from the menu doesn’t strike a chord, there are many flavors of syrups from which to create personalized drinks. The ‘Hoek offers a food menu for breakfast and lunch that includes soups, snacks, cheesecakes, cookies and more.

De Koffiehoek & Bistro is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays.

Monday nights run a special of 75-cent bottomless coffee. Other specials include French Toast Monday, daily drink specials and Friday night college nights with drinks 30 cents off. A frequent buyer card is available for repeat customers.

The ‘Hoek also sells tea and ground coffee and has free wireless Internet with plenty of outlets for laptops throughout the shop.

Another Orange City coffee hotspot is The Coffee Mill, found in the downtown pharmacy. It is smaller than De Koffiehoek & Bistro but maintains a similar atmosphere.

It has been in business for four years but is still not well known.

Their most popular drink is the turtle latte or house blended coffee.

For non-coffee drinkers, The Mill has name-brand soda pop, hot and cold teas, Italian sodas, smoothies and ices. Customers can also make their own creations with The Mill’s large selection of flavors, some of which are sugar free.

The Coffee Mill also offers a lunch menu that changes every so often, still keeping old favorites, and an assortment of desserts.

The Coffee Mill is open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday but is open until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday nights. Saturday hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Specials include a soup of the day.

The Coffee Mill blends their own coffee and has recently installed free wireless Internet.

The Koffie Boon, located downtown, should also be mentioned. However, it appears that it has not been open for business all year.

PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

The Koffie Boon appears to be closed for business.

PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

The Coffee Mill offers tables large enough to chat with friends while enjoying a drink and snack.

PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

Another Orange City coffee hotspot is The Coffee Mill, found in the downtown pharmacy.
Volleyball advances to NAIA national quarterfinals for second straight year

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

Northwestern advanced to the quarterfinal round of the NAIA national volleyball tournament for the second year in a row, finishing the season with a 30-9 record. Reflecting on the season, junior Randa Hulstein said, “We had really good team chemistry. It was nice coming to practice every day knowing that everyone was working hard toward the same goals.” Her sister freshman Ryelle Hulstein added, “I think that our biggest strength was that we all got along and enjoyed our time on and off the court together. I really enjoyed my first season with all the people I got to play with.”

NW 3, Walsh 2
The Tigers grabbed an early lead over the Raiders in the first three sets of the opening round of the national tournament, but NW battled back to win all three, with scores of 25-17, 25-23 and 26-24.

The Raiders outhit the Tigers .279 to .269 in the match. Sophomore Hillary Hann had 17 kills and hit .275 to lead NW. Randa Hulstein added ten kills, five blocks and 12 digs, while Ryelle Hulstein added six kills. Sophomore Kaitylin Beaver lofted up 40 assists and had one ace serve; junior Kristin Kooima added three ace serves and junior Janna Bloemendaal added 11 digs.

NW 3, Walsh 2
The Raiders won in a nail-biting five-game match over Walsh after coming back from a 0-2 deficit, securing their place in the top 12 single elimination tournament.

Walsh took the first two sets with a score of 25-19 in both. NW fought back and took the third set, 25-12. The fourth set was closer, as the Raiders won 25-20 before taking the fifth set 15-11. Randa Hulstein led NW with 22 kills and six blocks. Hanno had 15 kills, while Buyert added 11 kills and four blocks.

NW 0, Concordia 3
Third-ranked Concordia (CA) defeated NW in three games in the final round of pool play with game scores of 25-22, 25-11 and 25-17. Concordia hit .262 for the match while the Raiders hit .084. Ryelle Hulstein had eight kills and ten digs, while Hanno added seven kills. Randa Hulstein had five kills, five blocks and six digs while Beaver lofted up 21 assists and had three digs.

NW 3, Bellevue 1
NW advanced to the quarterfinal round of the national tournament for the second straight year with a 3-1 close win over fourth-seeded Bellevue.

The teams battled back and forth in the first set, which featured five lead changes and 13 ties, including a tie at 23 before the Raiders scored two to take the set 25-23.

NW took an 18-10 lead in the second set until Bellevue battled back and closed the gap to 20-17. The Raiders recovered to finish with another win, 25-20.

The third set was also very close, with ten ties, but the Bruins pulled away and then held off a potential NW comeback to take the third set 25-23. The Raiders took control right away in the fourth set, taking a 7-2 lead and rolling to a 25-13 victory to win the match.

Hanno excelled with 28 kills, hitting .433 and adding one block and one ace serve. Randa Hulstein contributed 17 kills, seven blocks and 16 digs, hitting .366. Ryelle Hulstein added 11 kills, 19 digs and four blocks, while Buyert had eight kills and four blocks. Beaver also had an impressive game, lofting up 61 assists and adding three kills, two blocks and 13 digs. Bloemendaal chipped in with 11 digs.

NW 0, Biola 3
The tenth-ranked Raiders lost to second-ranked Biola, Calif. in the quarterfinals of the national tournament to end their run. Game scores were 25-18, 25-14 and 25-17.

NW was tied with Biola at ten in the first set and grabbed a 13-11 lead before the Eagles went on a 5-0 run to take the lead and kept it for the rest of the set.

The Raiders had an early lead in the set second until Biola went on an 11-5 run to pull ahead and take another set.

NW jumped to an early lead in the third set but Biola rallied and stole the lead. The Raiders were within two, 16-18, before Biola scored seven of the next eight points to win the match.

The Eagles held NW to .093 while hitting .354 in the match. Hanno had nine kills and Ryelle Hulstein added eight to lead the Raider attack. Randa Hulstein added four kills and Buyert had four blocks. Bloemendaal had 13 digs and Beaver lofted up 26 assists.

Beaver is grateful for the opportunities that volleyball has given the team to show their faith with others. “Our passion for the game and glorifying God with the talents that he has given us have been some of our biggest strengths this season. Even at the national tournament people came up to us and said there was something different and special about the way we played.

“We play to glorify God with our gifts and truly enjoy each other and what we are doing. In that way it is a great way to minister to the fans even if we do not actually talk to them.”

The Raiders, who return 20 of 22 players next year “are going to work on getting stronger and overall just to continuing to improve,” said Hanno. “I can’t wait for next year!”

Postseason Honors
Three Red Raiders were named All-Americans for the 2008 volleyball season.

Middle hitter Randa Hulstein, who earned first-team honors, averaged 3.45 kills per set and hit .311 to lead NW. Hulstein, the GPAC player-of-the-year, averaged 1.3 blocks and 3.1 digs per set, along with hitting .31 ace serves. She was also named the player-of-the-year for the West Central region by the AVCA.

Beaver earned third-team honors, averaging 8.3 assists, 1.1 kills and 2.1 digs per set. She also tallied 79 blocks and 53 ace serves for the season.

Beaver was named to the first team all-GPAC for the second year and was picked for the all-region team by the AVCA.

Hanno was named honorable mention All-American after having 3.7 kills per set and hitting .266 in the 2008 season. She served 90 percent and had 30 aces, along with 58 blocks and an average of 2.3 digs per set. Hanno stepped it up at the national tournament to hit 4.9 kills per set, the second highest in the tournament, to earn a spot on the national all-tournament team.

She was also named to the all-region team by the AVCA.

Senior Kayla DeGeest and junior Delainey Hardenson were named NAIA Scholar athletes. Scholar athletes, who are nominated by each college’s head coach, must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA and achieve junior status to be eligible for the award. Both students are elementary education majors.

Head Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch also received postseason honors and he was named the West-Central Region Coach-of-the-Year by the AVCA.

Five game winning-streak for men's basketball

BY CAMERON CARLOW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“You can get beat every night,” said men’s basketball head coach Kris Korver going into the game against Mount Marty. Northwestern, however, managed to put up a 79-57 victory to win their fifth straight game on Wednesday night.

NW 79, Briar Cliff 62
Briar Cliff, who was looking to continue on its nine game win streak, jumped out to an early 7-0 start last Wednesday, but the Raiders battled back to have a 39-29 lead at halftime.

Senior Kale Wiertzema put up 22 points for NW, along with 10 points each from junior Michael Jiskoot, freshman Alex Huiskens and junior Brent Dunkelberger.

“We had great team play and close to 20 points off our bench,” Korver said.

The team also had great post play and won the free throw and rebounding battle.

The team shot 52 percent from the field while handing Briar Cliff the fourth loss of the year and second in the GPAC.

NW 79, Mount Marty 57
The Raiders performed that follows through shooting 49 percent against Mount Marty.

“You can’t always control how you will shoot and how well you control the ball,” Korver said. “We just have to trust each other.”

The Raiders extended their record to 12-7 overall and 7-2 in the GPAC with the victory over Mount Marty. Dunkelberger scored 25 points and pulled in six rebounds while Wiertzema put up 10 points. In just 15 minutes of playing time, Jiskoot was able to put up some impressive numbers with eight points, five rebounds, adding a career-high five assists. Every NW player saw the court in the second half and 11 scored points.

The Raiders are looking to continue the rest of the season and make their 11th straight National Tournament.

“Nothing is going to be given to us or easy,” Korver said. “We just need to take care of our own business.”

The Raiders will continue basketball action next week with a game at 4 p.m. at Nebraska Wesleyan on Jan. 24 and at Dordt on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m.

PHOTO BY JENN SYBESMA

Senior Andrew Stimson puts up a shot in the game against Briar Cliff. The Raiders ended the Chargers’ nine-game winning streak.
Wrestlers improve at National Duels

BY CAMERON CARLOW

The Northwestern wrestling team competed in the National Duels on Jan. 10 and in a dual at Briar Cliff on Jan. 20. After losing their first two matches in the National Duels, the Raiders had a revelation.

“It was a turning point for our season,” said head coach Rik Dahl. “We started off 0-2 and it was frustrating but I was pleased with how we wrestled in the end.”

After falling 3-40 to Great Falls, NW matched up with Morningside and lost 9-34.

“The first two losses made us determine who we were and who we would be for the rest of the season,” said Dahl.

The Raiders answered back from their first two duals to lose a close match against Montana State University 22-24. Even though the Raiders lost the third and final dual, they “wrestled much better in the end,” said Dahl.

Raiders take victory over Mt. Marty

BY RENEE NYHOF

Northwestern recorded a 69-60 win over Mt. Marty in the GPAC women’s basketball played in Yankton, S.D. this past Wednesday evening. The fifth-ranked Raiders improved to 8-1 in the GPAC, 14-5 overall.

NW 69, Mt. Marty 60

During the first game of the Raider three-game road trip, the Raiders struggled for control, which included seven ties and four lead changes. The Raiders quickly trailed behind the Lancers in the second half. Sophomore Becca Hurley, junior Anna Anderson and freshman Kami Kuhlmann each scored five points to regain a Raider lead, helping to seal the final win.

“This team has really developed a great team dynamic,” said Head Coach Earl Woudstra.

“This is one of the most uns selfish teams I have ever had the opportunity to coach. Road games make you a little bit tougher, without a lot of fan support you really need to learn to depend on each other. For a really young team, I am impressed with the way we have played on the road so far this season,” said Woudstra. “We had a variety of people really step up and make some good plays when we needed them.”

NW 78, Briar Cliff 71

At last week’s win over Briar Cliff, the Raiders began strong, never having won the four matches that we lost.”

In terms of the rest of the season coach Dahl hopes to qualify six more for the national tournament.

“Overall I’m pleased with how we are coming along,” said Dahl.

The Raiders will duel against Hastings on Friday, Jan. 23 at home, then face Buena Vista and Morningside on Tuesday, Jan. 27.
Spidahl without pretense: senior art show on display

BY TEDI SWANSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Following the exhibition of senior Jason Sittighedeth, senior Kristin Spidahl will have her artwork displayed for her senior art show in the Te Paske Gallery, located in the Korver Visual Arts Center, from Jan. 24 through Jan. 30.

Senior art shows are part of the requirements for the completion of a B.A. in Art at Northwestern. Each student prepares art for a week-long exhibition in the Te Paske Gallery.

Spidahl's theme, Without Pretense, is a "statement about the complexity of individuals," said Spidahl, "there is so much we miss if we quickly make assumptions." According to Spidahl, part of her art is to encourage people to see beyond the surface level of a person. People are one the major inspirations for her work.

"I find it very engaging to experiment with new materials and find creative ways to express ideas, feelings or evoke an emotion through a visual source," said Spidahl. She says that with experience comes appreciation and the realization of the time and difficulties that go hand in hand with a finished project.

Spidahl's exhibition consists of functional ceramics, portraits done as prints, oil and acrylic paintings and charcoal and oil pastel drawings. Spidahl has been preparing for her show her entire college career, as some of the pieces displayed were created in various NW classes.

NW staff explains declining enrollment

BY LEANN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The halls and dormitories of Northwestern may seem a little emptier this semester due to the number of students who left NW for Christmas break and did not return for the second semester.

Currently, NW has 1,132 students, which is a 7.6 percent loss from the 1,225 students who attended NW last semester. This percentage translates into 93 fewer students on campus.

Although that number may seem quite high, Tom Truesdell, director of academic support, maintains that NW's retention rate is still above average compared to previous years. The 7.6 percent loss is only an increase of one percent from last year and a 0.8 percent increase from the 2006-2007 school year.

Pinpointing the exact reasons why students leave is difficult to do, but Charlie Couch, director of institutional research, said, "The primary reason campus feels smaller is because of the two smaller freshmen classes the last two years."

Couch also pointed out that NW had 48 students graduate at semester, which is about ten more than average. As the number of freshmen who come in to NW with college credit continues to grow, Couch believes this will have a "profound effect" on the number of students who will be able to graduate early, which in turn affects the retention rate from the fall to spring semester.

As for the effect that the lower number of students has on NW, Truesdell said the college is making sure tuition does not rise. Instead, NW is making budget cuts and increasing its fundraising.

Due to the struggling economy and NW's desire to help students with financial aid, Financial Services is also making changes to the way merit-based scholarships are given out so that students have the opportunity to receive more money than the normal amount allotted to certain scholarship earners.

On the positive side, Truesdell is confident that students are not leaving NW due to a lack of academic support. In fact, despite the lower number of students on campus, Tutoring Services is just as busy as ever.

"There's always been a strong tradition of tutoring at NW," said Truesdell. "We're not a remedial center, and our center is successful because we help students at all levels."

In response to the lower number of students on campus, Truesdell said NW's Enrollment Management Team is concentrating on "being efficient and effective in admissions" to help prospective students see if NW is the fit for them. They are also looking for ways to improve the retention rate.

Currently they are "in the process of coming up with a more effective system that can track why students leave NW early. We want to retain students for their benefit and from an institutional standpoint."

Ice skating into a New Year

International students on campus, and the opposite as well," said Ho.

By hosting this event, Ho hopes to show that International students are interested in including rather than excluding themselves from the rest of the student body.

"We don't want to be seen as just close-minded International students," said Ho.

Christine Ann Roy, a freshman I-club member from Bahrain, is also very excited for this event and its benefits for campus.

"With the help of these events," said Roy, “even we as the minority feel more comfortable and welcomed if everyone comes.”

Due to scheduling conflicts, the ice skating party has been moved and is now planned to the IBP Ice Center next Friday. Costs include $5 dollars for admission and 2 dollars for skate rentals. Rides to Sioux City will be available and will be leaving from the RSC at 6:30 p.m. Any students interested in attending please RSVP with Jason Ho.