Black flag artist returns to campus

BY LIZ LAWRENSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Greg Schoon is most commonly known around campus for his art display that included the controversial “Black Flag” piece. Now, two years after his last exhibit here, Schoon is back with an entirely different repertoire to present.

Schoon’s work will be displayed in the Te Paske Gallery Sept. 13 through Oct. 9. A public reception is set for Friday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m.

Schoon’s exhibit is a tribute to a friend, Poot Christiano, who died this past May of ovarian cancer. From tragedy, art often follows, and such is true with this display. The collection consists of expressive, abstract drawings with use of mixed media, all of which Schoon created as he moved through his grieving process for his dead friend.

Art professor Rein Vanderhill said, “This exhibit is about something very different from the two pieces of art that were exhibited by this artist two years ago.”

Vanderhill invites the Northwestern community to give Schoon’s work a second look, as it is entirely different from what it looked like during his previous appearance at NW.

“Each drawing in the show has a title that comes from verses in a song from ‘Cats,’” Vanderhill said. If the titles of each piece of the sequence are read consecutively, they will complete the lyrics of the song.

Schoon wants the art in this exhibit to speak for itself and said that he can speak of the technical aspects, but the art is its own language, just as music is.

Schoon recalled finding a poster in the men’s restroom once. On it was a crayon drawing of a tree and a dog with a supposed quote by Picasso under it, “Those who want to know what a painting is about are barking up the wrong tree.” Schoon’s art should be viewed with this quote in mind.

“Hearing a Beethoven symphony is utterly different than reading about it,” Schoon said. “Art doesn’t have much to do with words. The eye sees, the mind feels, the emotions, memories, a whole range of sensations are silently evoked—words are bypassed. Unnecessary.”

Schoon wants a sensual response to his art, rather than an immediate, analytical approach. He realizes that each person that views his art will experience it differently.

“You don’t need to know anything ‘about’ art to experience it, if you open yourself to it,” Schoon said. “Children have no problem with it. It is important just to look at art and listen to your mind and body.”

Although the imagery used in this specific exhibit is from imagery such as this is common to the human race.

NW renews covenant with Japanese sister college

BY EMILY BREWER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A new “Covenant of Cooperation” was signed Sept. 4 by officials from Northwestern and Baiko Gakuin University in Shimonoseki, Japan. The covenant renews a partnership between the two colleges that Baiko Gakuin established in 1979 under the leadership of the late Lyle VanderWerff, former director of international student programs.

The partnership was originally created to attract Baiko Gakuin students to NW. Students would come to the Summer Institute for International Students and stay for three to four weeks for an English immersion experience in rural U.S., and other students would come for a junior year program.

This partnership benefited NW by providing students the opportunity to go to Japan and study at Baiko Gakuin University through a summer study abroad program. More recently, Baiko has been employing NW graduates as English as a Second Language teachers. Both schools hope the renewed covenant will retain all of the programs named in the initial agreement.

Kevin McMahan, director of International and Intercultural Affairs at NW, said the leaders at Baiko Gakuin “saw the value of being partners with a small, Christian, Dutch Reformed college. We are happy to host and reaffirm this relationship with Baiko.”

Baiko Gakuin and NW are both Christian colleges that share a Reformed heritage. Baiko was established nearly 140 years ago with roots in the Reformed Church in America and the Presbyterian church.

Baiko Gakuin is a co-ed college with about 1,000 students. It offers degrees in Japanese literature, English literature, foreign languages and elementary education.

Representatives from Baiko Gakuin arrived on campus on Sept. 2 and left on Sept. 7. During their stay, they took in a football game with president Christy, toured industries in Orange City and Sioux Center and sat in on classes.

“It was a very fun visit,” said McMahan, who will be traveling to Japan in November to visit some other sister schools.

Free ice cream and conversation at I-Club ice cream social

BY SARAH LUPKES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students will find free ice cream and an evening of conversation in the theatre lobby on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 9 p.m. The I-Club will host its annual ice cream social in hopes that students and faculty will learn more about the I-Club.

“This is a great opportunity to get introduced to International Club,” said sophomore Wincy Ho, I-Club president. “I encourage everyone to come talk with us at the event and get more information about International Club.”

“We represent the NW student body as a whole, not just the international students.” – Wincy Ho

For those who have questions about I-Club, want to participate or simply want to learn more about the home cultures of the international students, Ho said, “This is the time and place to learn more.”

“We represent the NW student body as a whole, not just the international students,” Ho said, which is why this event, as well as I-Club in general, is not just for international students.

The I-Club will serve “normal” Blue Bunny flavors of ice cream like chocolate, strawberry and vanilla.

“Some foreign flavors would be good for this ice cream social, but Blue Bunny is always good,” Ho said. “We would love to see you all come to this event and chat with us. No matter where you are from, ice cream is good in every culture!”

NW's sister school in Japan interned in the International and Intercultural office for the first month of school.

Two representatives from NW's sister school in Japan interned in the International and Intercultural office for the first month of school.
Paying $29,246... for traylessness?

BY GUAMO VALENCIA

About once a week, a group of intellectual students get together and meet in the RSC. They are elected officials who are supposed to have the students’ interest at heart; this group of students is commonly referred to as SGA (Student Government Association).

Decisions that affect the student body occur during this time, and one decision that I am not particularly fond of is going trayless.

Whether you like it or not, we are not going to have any food trays for the entire 2009-2010 academic school year. I believe this was a rather harsh decision that seemed to come out of left field and, at the least, this decision has made my cafeteria experience more of an inconvenience.

Never did I have to worry about making numerous trips back and forth just to make sure I had my proper eating utensils. Recently, I spilled water and dropped a rather succulent plumb on the cafeteria floor. I felt slightly humiliated as everyone was watching with judging eyes as I walked away as if nothing happened. This incident never would have happened if I had had a tray to hold all my food and beverages. It seems as though one must become very clever with arranging food and beverages on one’s own plate—like a mini game of Tetris, if you will.

Granted, the SGA did warm us up to the idea by doing their “scientific studies” last spring. These “scientific studies” entailed their findings of wasting less food. It seems common sense that one would waste less food without a tray. And, not that I have anything against going green, but I think there could have been a better route to approach this issue.

Because we pay $29,246 for “a whole education for your whole life,” it would seem that the least we could do is make our own decision as to whether or not we would like to use trays. Isn’t the SGA supposed to represent the student body? Why not make going trayless a choice for us big kids to make on our own? SGA’s motives for doing anything now seem, at the very least, rather suspicious to me. But who am I to judge?

In the meantime, you are not going to see me standing outside SGA meetings protesting. On the contrary, I will do nothing about this except write to you (because I tend to be more of the sheepish type). However, if you really feel compelled to stick it to SGA, one could always bring one’s own cookie sheet.

Seeing beyond the stereotypical surface

BY STEPHANIE LANTZ

My first two years of college were spent in Fern. This schoolyear, however, I’ve changed things up. I am now an RA...in Steggy. I feel like there should be the proverbial “dun dun dun” right now. Because whenever I tell people I moved to Steggy, they either (a) put on a fake smile and say, “Wow, that’s great,” (b) appear at a loss for word, or (c) say, “Ugh... Steggy? Steph, you’re not really the type.”

Let me guess, right now you’re probably shaking your head and thinking, “Ok, Steph, you can stop exaggerating now. People don’t really respond that way.” But I’m here to tell you that they do. And, you know what else? It’s ok...there’s a reason behind it.

We have this thing called stereotypes. Perhaps you’ve heard about them. Now, I’m not going to dive into detail about each dorm, but we all know that we’ve seen those boldly stereotypical people parade around campus and thought to ourselves, “That guy must be from Heemstra,” or, “Only a Hospers girl would dress like that.” As offensive as it sounds, we cannot deny that these stereotypes exist at Northwestern. Also, it’s a fact that stereotypes exist because someone made them come true. But here’s the catch: we don’t have to get hung up on them.

I think it’s time that students at N-Dub start facing the facts: there are going to be people who fit the stereotypes of a dorm. Don’t people usually choose a dorm that feels like home? And if a dorm feels like home, isn’t it because there are people there who have similar interests? So, do the math; it adds up. A dorm has a general “type” of people that live in it.

So that’s it then? We just accept it and keep to our own group of people? No way. Speaking as one who moved from Fern to Steggy, take it from me—you can have friends in every and any dorm. Think about this: have you ever met someone who did not meet your expectations of the stereotype? I know I’ve made predictions that proved to be wrong, like trying to guess which dorm each classmate was in on the last day of classes. I’ve had class with people and when asking if I could meet them in their dorm room, was shocked to find out that they lived somewhere else. “Really? I could’ve sworn you were from Fern...just like me.”

Interesting, isn’t it? We always see ourselves as normal and others as...well, you know, different. I guess it’s fair. We are all different, but that’s not a good reason to give up on a dorm. Coly guys can play sports with the gentlemen of Heemstra and West. Steggcan share some air conditioning with the ladies of Hospers and Fern. It’s just a matter of seeing beyond the surface and stop looking at who we are, rather than focusing on what we look like. So Northwestern, can we do it?
Don’t get too crazy

BY KEVIN "FREEBIRD" WALLACE

Francis Chan wrote an awesome book titled “Crazy Love.” “Crazy Love” is powerful, compelling and intriguing. Chan’s focus is God’s crazy love for each and every one of us and what our response should be to His love. You won’t want to put this book down.

Chan says, “In this book I am going to ask some hard questions. They will resonate with a lot of us feel, but are generally afraid to articulate and explore” (Chan, 19). He assures the reader that “Crazy Love” isn’t another book to bash the church. Chan asks questions that are reminiscent of Brian McLaren’s “A New Kind of Christian,” which might scare off a few conservative readers.

There is an interview with Chan at the end of the book. He is asked how his message and approach are different from those of the emergent/emerging church. He says, “I’m not coming up with anything new. I’m calling people back to the way it was” (Chan, 180). Chan’s message is simply—perhaps overly—expressing Christ’s message with a modern vocabulary. Chan is incredibly engaging by using straightforward language and doesn’t leave any questions as to how he really feels. This book is definitely a worthwhile read. Find a copy, read it. Go crazy.

Heemstra Hecklemeter

Wow...they’re really getting into it this time. I’m not even mad.

For Soccer Games from September 12 and September 16, Hecklers scored a 8,14159 out of 10.

It’s hard to top Saturday’s beautiful Heckler Hymn. But on Wednesday night they outdid that feat with some superb rabbling. They picked on Quinn, an opposing player with pink shoes, so much that he smiled, so they him heckled incessantly. Northwestern got tooled over by the referee, who heard it from our hecklers. The hecklers were researched, ornery, malicious, but as always...they were respectful (almost always).

Here is the hecklemeter:

I..........................3 n................HALF........6 1 8....7................9.34....10

[SILENT] [FREAK OUT] [EAR-SPLITTING]

campus QUOTES

“Green Day + Backstreet Boys + drugs = Good.”
- Professor of English Weston Cutter, breaking down the conclusion of an article about Radio Disney

“This flu shouldn’t be as bad as academics...epidemics.”
- Resident Director of Fern Lisa Barber on H1N1

“My mountaintops are felted.”
- Wes Garcia, student body president, in reference to his soft North Face shirt that people were touching

“These questions are so easy. You just have to think without a heart.”
- Junior Will Symonds, on evolutionary psychology

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.
New face brings a familiar feeling of home

BY ANNE EBERLINE  
FEATURES EDITOR

Rebecca Alsum, a 2008 Northwestern graduate, has moved back into her former college residence. As the new resident director of Stegenga Hall, Alsum is looking forward to fostering community. “I want the dorm to have a spirit of hospitality,” said Alsum, “a spirit of love and grace and safety.”

After graduating from NW with a degree in sociology, Alsum worked for six months as the AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer Coordinator on campus. From that point until her new employment at the college, she was employed as a social worker working with homeless families, first in Rapid City, South Dakota, and most recently in Orange City.

Initially Alsum was attracted to NW because of its music program and friendly environment. As a new Christian, she was excited about the opportunity to attend a Christian liberal arts college. “But what kept me here was the community,” said Alsum, the same tradition of community she hopes to continue.

In whatever free time she may find in her schedule, she enjoys activities such as playing the cello, reading, being outdoors and cooking with her husband, Mark Alsum, a 2009 NW graduate. She also enjoys sewing, which is evident by the presence of a loom in her apartment. “I can make scarves and table runners!” said Alsum. Her favorite item she was able to move into the dorm, besides her husband, of course, was a piano. It was an unexpected addition to their living space, and it offers another opportunity for women in the dorm to visit her apartment.

“Initially I didn’t want to move here,” Alsum said, “but I found that I really enjoy the place.”

Students, start saving your pennies

BY SARA JANZEN  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Everyone seems to be worried about money these days, especially college students. Sometimes the best ways to save money are through small things. Start making those small savings by picking up an Orange City Chamber of Commerce Card at the chamber offices located east of the football stadium in the large windmill.

Office manager Karen Richter said normally the card is only given to chamber members and their employees but it is offered to NW students and faculty free of charge. The card will give students discounts on purchases at most Orange City businesses. The new cards are now available but will not be valid until October 1. The card is good until September 30 of next year. To get a card, students simply need to visit the chamber office and show their student ID. Richter said the popularity of the chamber card grows a little each year and they notice more people coming in later in the year once “the word has gotten out.” She added that most people coming in learned of the card through word of mouth.

Richter sees this service by the Orange City Chamber as an attempt to “make students aware of what Orange City has to offer” and encourages students to take advantage of the savings. The Chamber office is open weekdays from 8–5 p.m.

Besides this offer, Richter has some additional advice for students looking to save money. Richter said many businesses have in-house discounts and it never hurts to ask if there is a student discount. Don’t want to make the trek? There are some discounts available through the Student Development office in the RSC.

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Fresh fall season brings fresh faces to coaching staff

BY JENNIFER NILSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern is excited to welcome new members to the coaching staff this year. Kyle Achterhoff, Stephanie Kuhl and Blake Wieking are enthused about their new roles in the NW athletic department.

Head football Coach Kyle Achterhoff, originally from Edgerton, Minnesta, is a 1990 graduate of NW. He played football and ran track, as a student. After graduating, Achterhoff taught and coached at the high school level for Ida Grove and Galva-Holstein Schools. He was a graduate assistant at Northwest Missouri State, where he received his Master of Arts degree, and from there coached at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. For the past 11 years, Achterhoff has been an assistant football coach at NW.

The small town feel of Orange City has really appealed to Achterhoff and his family.

“The people here and the students are great people.”

The football season is off to a great start this year, and Achterhoff has a very positive attitude for what is to come.

“I am excited to work with this great group of guys. I have seen a lot of growth in them already, and it will be fun to watch them all mature. This is a very talented group athletically, and I think we will see a lot of improvement on the field during the season.”

Achterhoff’s coaching staff includes a new, yet familiar name: Perry Krosschell. Krosschell has, and will continue to act as the Director of Campus Security.

Joel Penner, a graduate of Trinity International University, also joins the football coaching staff as the offensive coordinator.

The new NW softball, Stephanie Kuhl, and Iowa native, is a 2007 graduate of South Dakota State University with a degree in health, physical education and recreation. After SDSU, Kuhl went on to pursue her Master of Arts degree at Wayne State where she also was the graduate assistant coach for their softball team.

Kuhl has enjoyed NW and really appreciates the family atmosphere it has to offer.

“Everywhere you go someone has a smile and says hi. Everyone is very welcoming and genuinely happy to be here.”

Kuhl is determined to have a great year. “All the girls have a great work ethic and give 100 percent,” she said. “We have only worked a couple weeks together, but the improvements are outstanding.”

She will be assisted by Barry Brandt, Dave Hulsart and Elijah Vander Weerd.

The women’s soccer team is now led by Blake Wieking, a 2008 NW graduate who resides in Sioux Center with his wife Kari. Before returning to NW, Wieking substitute taught and coached track for the Sioux Center Community School District.

Wieking loves the community on campus and the positive atmosphere that the students provide. Aside from the general student atmosphere, Wieking is very impressed by the relationships that teammates form, and how they make them last “well after their playing days have ended.”

The positive attitude that Wieking brings is a sure sign of his dedication to the team.

“I am excited to begin my coaching career at Northwestern and in a sport that I love to play and teach. I am ready to begin to rebuild and continue to build a quality soccer program and work with the players who want to excel.”

Wieking is assisted by Sara Nessa and Morgan Swier.
Football falls to Morningside

BY ANDREW LOVGREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Red Raiders dropped their first game of the season Saturday as they fell to fifth-ranked Morningside by a score of 20-7.

“The game against Morningside was a big game, and they made more big plays than we did Saturday night,” said Achterhoff.

Leading the Raiders, junior Quarterback Ryan Morgan accumulated 274 yards of offense, going 17 of 33 for 194 yards and a touchdown, along with rushing the ball 14 times for 80 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, Grant Hegstad led the way with 5.5 tackles, while Paul Lundgren followed close behind with five. Also with a noteworthy game, Caleb Van Otterloo had 2.5 tackles, one forced fumble and Northwestern’s lone interception.

“This week’s ball game against Nebraska Wesleyan will be a real challenge for us,” says Achterhoff. “They are a very good defensive team, so our offense will be tested, and they broke out offensively last weekend, so our defense will also have a tough test ahead of them.”

After the first loss of the year, the Raiders have an opportunity to learn from the game and improve early in the season.

“A need to do a better job of not hurting ourselves with penalties,” said Achterhoff. “Defensively we need to do a better job of tackling. We’re looking forward to playing Nebraska Wesleyan and improving as a team.”

The Red Raiders host Nebraska Wesleyan Saturday at 1 p.m.

Volleyball defeats Dordt Defenders

BY CAMERON CARLOW
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Randa Holstein set a school record in career blocks this week at Mount Marty, but there was nothing blocking the Raiders from picking up two more conference wins.

The first win came at home against the rival Dordt College. The Raiders managed to win the match 3-0 by the scores of 25-21, 25-20 and 25-21.

“I was very pleased with how we played,” said Head Coach Kyle Achterhoff. “There are a lot of positives that we are going to be able to build on throughout the rest of the season.”

The Raiders were able to move the ball well, totaling 327 total yards on offense, but were unable to match the big play ability of the Mustangs.

“This game against Morningside was a big one for us in the GPAC, and we made a big game out of it,” said Achterhoff.

The Raiders followed up that win with a 10-1 record, along with the Mustangs 0-0. Photo by Emily Gowing.

FOOTBALL

Morningside .................................. 0
NWC .............................................. 7


Volleyball

Women

Concordia (29), Northern State (92), Doane (97), Dordt (105), NWC (107), Sioux Falls (133), Briar Cliff (187), Mount Marty (197).

Men

Concordia (18), Doane (52), Northern State (88), Dordt (106), NWC (137), Mount Marty (158), Sioux Falls (178), Briar Cliff (216).

FOOTBALL

Morningside .................................. 0
NWC .............................................. 7


Above: Freshmen Nathan Mastbergen searches for a teammate to take the throw-in. Photo by Katie Bunstra

Above Right: Becca Bruns moves the ball downfield in Wednesday’s matchup against Morningside. Northwestern ended up tying with the Mustangs 0-0. Photo by Emily Gowing.

Below right: Senior Randa Holstein spikes the ball against Dordt. Northwestern went on to win the game 3-0. Holstein finished the week setting the all-time block record, setting it at 618. Photo by Emily Gowing.

Left: Freshman Bobbie Jean Rich jumps to throw down a spike against Dordt. Rich ended the game with four kills and a block for the Raiders. Photo by Emily Gowing.


Scoreboard

CROSS COUNTRY

Sioux Falls Invite

Women

Concordia (29), Northern State (92), Doane (97), Dordt (105), NWC (107), Sioux Falls (133), Briar Cliff (187), Mount Marty (197).

Men

Concordia (18), Doane (52), Northern State (88), Dordt (106), NWC (137), Mount Marty (158), Sioux Falls (178), Briar Cliff (216).

SOCcer

Men

NWC .............................................. 4
York (Neb.) .................................... 2
NWC .............................................. 0
Morningside .................................. 3

Women

NWC .............................................. 0
Simpson ....................................... 2
NWC .............................................. 0
Morningside .................................. 0

FOOTBALL

NWC .............................................. 3
Dordt ........................................... 0


Nebraska Wesleyan and improving

We’re looking forward to playing Nebraska Wesleyan and improving as a team.”

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Volleyball

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NWC .............................................. 7


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Simpson ....................................... 2
NWC .............................................. 0
Morningside .................................. 0

FOOTBALL

NWC .............................................. 3
Dordt ........................................... 0


Cross country running strong

The men and women’s cross country teams ran this week at the Sioux Falls Invite.

The men finished fifth out of eight teams with 137 points. Junior Lee Stover led the Raider men with a time of 27:48 and a 25th place finish.

The women also finished in fifth with a total of 107 points. Senior Ingrid Carlson finished in 14th overall with her time of 19:49.

This week the men and women will continue their season at the Buena Vista invite in Storm Lake. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m.

Soccer picks up first victory

BY CAMERON CARLOW

The Raider men’s soccer team picked up its first win of the season this week with a 4-2 victory on the road against York. Northwestern then traveled back home where it fell to Morningside in the first conference game of the season 0-3.

The women’s team fell to 0-4-1 with a loss to Simpson College and a tie with Morningside this week.

Against York, the men’s team was lead by freshman Jonathan Taves, who produced two goals off four shots. Senior Jordan Born also had a goal along with senior Aaron O’Brien’s one goal. Goalkeeper Jeff Lanser gave up two goals but had three saves in the 90 minutes at goal.

The Raiders produced 25 shots this game, 18 more than their opponents. Aron Pall led NW with five shots, alongside Taves, O’Brien and freshmen Taylor Bigg with four. Biggs was the only Raider to pick up an assist on the night with his pass to Born in the 31st minute.

After the first victory of the year the men played Morningside to start GPAC play.

Despite getting off 13 shots compared to Morningside’s nine, the Raiders could not get a goal. Morningside made one goal off a penalty kick to go into halftime with the 1-0 lead. Then, early in the second half, Morningside picked up another goal, extending its lead to 2-0. The Raiders could not rally back and lost 3-0 when the buzzer rang.

O’Brien put up five shots along with Pall’s three, but nothing went in for the Raiders as Morningside’s goalkeeper pulled in six saves on the night.

The men are now 1-4-1 with a 0-1 conference record. This week the Raiders will travel to Hastings to continue the GPAC play, before returning to Orange City to take on Briar Cliff.

The women dropped their fourth game of the year this week at Simpson College. The Raiders managed to only give up two goals, but could not produce a score to answer.

Next the women took on Morningside at home. The continuation of strong defense showed for the Raiders but the team found no offense to help out, ending in a 0-0 tie.

This week the women will take on Hastings and Briar Cliff to continue its play in the GPAC.

Golf tees off on competition

BY ANDREW LOVGREN

The men’s and women’s golf teams continue their season with excellent team and individual scores.

The men’s team traveled to Sioux Center to participate in the Dordt Invitational, placing ninth out of 16 teams with a team score of 320.

“We definitely could have played better,” says Head Coach Mark Bloomendaal. “Each of our players had times during the round where they struggled for consistency. Luke Vermeer really battled back after a tough start, and Michael Clark played really well on the front nine.”

Senior Luke Vermeer and freshman Michael Clark both shot a five-over 76 to tie for 15th overall. Vermeer had a good back nine shooting 35, while Clark had a good front nine, shooting 34.

The Lady Raiders visited Sioux Falls to take place in the first GPAC Championship meet at the Elmwood Golf Club, shooting a 344, putting them in a tie for fourth with Briar Cliff out of 11 teams.

“We’re missing a senior to the Chicago semester,” said Head Coach Harold Hoftyzer, “but new players are getting up to speed and making the shots.”

Junior Maggie Achterhof shot a five-over 77, tying her with two other golfers for fourth place overall. Senior Anne Eberline, junior Sara Horn and junior Andria Hinz, each shot an 89 to make it into the top 25 at a tie for 21st place.

The men’s team visits Sioux City for the Briar Cliff Invitational on Wednesday, Sept. 23, while the women travel to Mitchell, SD for the Dakota Wesleyan.
NW students help youth dream big

BY EMILY BREWER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In 2007, over 500 young people “aged out” of Foster Care in Iowa. What happens to them afterwards? National studies show that four years after leaving Foster Care, 25 percent of youth have become homeless, 46 percent have graduated high school, 42 percent have become parents and fewer than 20 percent are self-supporting.

Iowa Youth Dream Team wants to change statistics, and some Northwestern students have decided to help them meet this goal.

The Iowa Youth Dream Team is a “youth-centered practice model that empowers youth to take control of their lives and dreams,” according to its brochure.

“We don’t focus on the negative. We focus on the youth,” said Julie Powell, coordinator of Iowa Youth Dream Team for Northwest Iowa.

Powell said that it is best for youth to start this process when they are about 16 years old. The process starts with an interview where the “dreamers,” or youth, tell about themselves and their goals in life. A “dream team” made up of adults and peers, chosen by the youth, is established.

The team then comes up with an action plan to make the youth’s dream a reality. “There are no silly dreams,” said Powell. “If the youth wants to be a rock star, we don’t tell him no. We look at his strengths and weaknesses. If he can’t sing, we find another way for him to still work with a rock band.”

“Youth in the foster system often do not have the social network that real life situations that often go unnoticed and need support,” said Chelsea Stromley, another senior Social Work major who participated in mentor training. “If we are able to contribute to someone’s life, even in the smallest way, why wouldn’t we? It’s time for us to start demonstrating opportunity for anyone.”

NW mission statement redefines key learning components

BY LEANN JOHNSON
NEWS EDITOR

Northwestern is being redefined. Well, its mission statement is, anyway.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) recently revised NW’s mission statement and divided it into two parts: a shorter mission statement and an identity statement.

“The mission statement is what we want to happen when a student is at NW,” said provost Jasper Lesage, “and the identity statement is how we’re going to do that.”

The revised yet unapproved mission statement says, “Northwestern College is an intentional Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world.”

The new, unapproved identity statement says, “Northwestern College is a Christian college in the Reformed tradition, founded in 1882 by the Reformed Church in America. We are committed to providing a Christian liberal arts education in an undergraduate, intercultural and residential environment. We offer bachelor’s degrees in a variety of traditional and professional programs.”

Student center adds to exercise equipment

BY LIZ LAWRENSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking for a place to exercise, or simply get rid of stress? With the new school year, the RSC has a new fenced-off exercise area in the mini-gym.

Along with the different look and atmosphere this designated area creates, a few new pieces of equipment have been added to the facility. New equipment includes: an elliptical, two new exercise bikes, personal fitness mats, medicine balls, and two fitness stations for pull-ups, dips and leg raises. These stations are used to target various muscle groups of the body for a total body workout. A treadmill was also added in the weight room.

Although the changes to the RSC are not drastic, Dale Thompson, RSC director, said, “There is always a process of tweaking facilities— it is an ongoing thing.” The biggest change, Thompson believes, is that the new sectioned-off area of the mini-gym is different to the eyes. Thompson also mentioned that from the perspective of students, it sometimes seems as if things never change in our facilities.

Dale remembered that Paul Blaziene once said, “Most people see things as a snapshot, but if you stay here long enough you get a flipbook. Then you see that things really do change.”

In addition to the new equipment, the possibility for the addition of one more piece of equipment remains. Thompson says the bills from the summer purchases still need to be reviewed before further additions.

The equipment recently purchased was a result of a request from the SGA that then went through the NW Capital Request Process. Any further purchases would be subject to the same request process.

“There is no formal plan or budget that has dollars set aside to add equipment each year,” Thompson explained. “The Capital Request is more of a ‘one-time’ funding idea as opposed to an ongoing budget idea.”