Sophomore Laura Ecklund embraces the effects of her disease with optimism and confidence.

Since then she has forgone makeup and anything else trying to cover up her disease. “It’s a part of who I am, and I absolutely love that.”

Sophomore Eric Van Der Linden, Junior Brandon Smith, Junior Nicholas Stover, Freshman Samantha Rohda, senior Jared Johnson and Junior Chase Rozeboom crowd around a busy Cafe line.

Sophomore Laura Ecklund embraces the effects of her disease with optimism and confidence.

The stations within the Cafe will also change. To prevent the backup that is currently caused by the first food line and incoming traffic, a 24 foot-long dessert bar will take the place of the comfort and international lines.

“I don’t think the main entrée should be the first line,” said freshman Franke Eszes. “I would be happier because I wouldn’t have to wait behind people in a line for food I don’t even want. I just want to get around them.”

In addition to its regular menu, the new international station will be able to serve cook-to-order food.

Personal pizzas will also be available, and the new grill will sport a 12-burner stove to allow for more options. There will be an oval island in the middle of the Cafe, which will serve soup, salad and sandwiches. It will include an oven for toasting subs.

An allergen-free station called Simple Servings will be added to the Cafe to accommodate students with gluten and other food allergies.

“I’m excited to see what it has to offer,” said sophomore Abby Hoekstra. “It’s always nice to have more variety.”

The concrete wall that currently separates the kitchen from the Cafe will be knocked down to allow students to see their food being prepared.

“It takes the mystery out of it,” Whitmore said. “No more food coming out of the magical hole in the wall. You get to see your food being made.”

There will be a chef at each station to cater to students individually.

The dining room will also be remodeled with upgrades that include new chairs as well as square and round tables designed to seat different numbers of peoples. There will even be tables-for-two to accommodate Cafe-official couples.

An area with couches and arm chairs will add an element of relaxation, while a computer bar—located where the Heemstra table is currently—will provide a place for students to study as they eat.

Whitmore has enjoyed working on plans for the remodel. “I got to sit down and just dream,” he said. “I really, truly think your guys’ level of happiness should go up. Isn’t that what it’s all about?”

Whitmore is still open to suggestions but urged students make them as soon as possible. The remodel is scheduled to begin immediately after school gets out in order to be finished by fall of 2012.

Cafe scheduled for summer makeover

Northwestern is preparing for an extreme makeover: Cafe edition.

Sodexo outbid Creative Dining by impressing students and administration with plans to upgrade the Cafe.

“During the bidding process we talked to a lot of students about what they want in the Cafe,” said Chef BJ Whitmore. “The plans are built on student suggestions.”

Changes to the Cafe will be noticeable from the Fern lobby, which will become much smaller due to an expansion of the dining room.

The entrance to the Cafe, which will be across from the coat closet, will have two scanning stations, one for the Cafe and the other for meals to-go.

Meals to-go will be located in a separate room where students can choose the regular meal exchange of five items or use flex money to purchase extra items or upgrade to premium salads.

“We’re adding a retail aspect to sack lunches,” Whitmore said.

Cosmetic upgrades inside the Cafe will include hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and decorative stone accents.

The dining room will also be remodeled from the Fern lobby, which will become a part of the Cafe-official couples.

Cosmetic upgrades inside the Cafe will include hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and decorative stone accents.
Sleigh Bells will leave ears ringing

**MUSIC REVIEW**

BY KATI HENG

Sleigh Bells is anything but cute and cheery. They're loud. They push the limits of speakers and headphones, creating that overcharged buzz, no matter what volume they're being played at. They're made of a guy who has mastered both his guitar and the art of music production and a black-haired Cleopatra-esque chick fully clad in leather and tattoos. They're rock and roll squealing guitars with hip-hop, dance-ready beats and a breathy feminine voice to lighten it all up.

The rock-duo made of Alexis Krauss and Derek Miller has been tearing up stages and ears of unsuspecting listeners since their union in 2009. Even before releasing their first album, the band drew interest from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

After the success of their first full-length album, “Treats,” a crunk-sounding album filled with songs that pleased critics and fans of “It Gets Better” leaves us with an incredible natural talent. hecho de varios fanáticos a un lado de los demás. Conocen la diferencia en el método de trabajo y la relación con los cámara de publicidad. El orden de la canción es "leader of the Pack," Miller has been tearing up stages and ears of unsuspecting listeners since their union in 2009. Even before releasing their first album, the band drew attention from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

After the success of their first full-length album, the band drew attention from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

The bar was set high for Tuesday's release of fun.'s sophomore album, “Some Nights.”

After releasing the single “We Are Young,” the album’s opener, which brings the sound back to the party after “Treats,” the guy/girl pair is full power for their solos.

Krauss’ voice is found on top of the sounds, belting out melodies more often. The hip-hop beats are less prevalent, keeping the party in the background, as the album’s melodies become more raw, the sound more vulnerable.

Much like The White Stripes, the guy/girl pair works wonders for Sleigh Bells. When the guitar gets too rough, Krauss’ sweet voice brings the sound back to a cool center. And while the lyrics would otherwise be repetitive in songs like “Crush,” Miller’s guitar riffs and distortions bring strength to otherwise pop-like moments of the album.

The greatest evidence in the band’s growth is found in the lyrics. Miller wrote many of the lines after losing his father in a motorcycle accident and learning of his mother’s diagnosis of cancer. Parts of “Reign Of Terror” reflect the darkness Miller must have been facing.

“Leader of the Pack” features lines like “It’s over/ Don’t you know he’s never coming back again?” “Demons,” easily the darkest song the band has ever produced, cheers for the bad guys to win, while “Born To Lose” repeats over and over lyrics telling that “You were born to lose,” providing no other hope.

There are bright spots, though. On “Comeback Kid,” Krauss belts out a supportive, fight-back kind of pep rally, while “Never Say Die” shows a true-blue loyalty. And there are the few girly, lovey-dovey songs on the album.

Fair warning for sensitive ears: Sleigh Bells is rough, dark and scary. But they’re at their best this way. “Reign Of Terror” is fantastic for those who can handle it.

Rating: ★★★★★

Key Tracks: “Born To Lose” “Demons” “Comeback Kid”

Sophomore album isn’t so much fun.

**MUSIC REVIEW**

BY LYRIC MORRIS

The bar was set high for Tuesday's release of fun.'s album, “Some Nights.”

After releasing the single “We Are Young,” the band drew attention from their live shows and received interest from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

After the success of their first full-length album, the band drew attention from their live shows and received interest from big-names like M.I.A. and Beyoncé.

The album’s opener, cleverly named “Some Nights (Intro),” is also a hopeful display of the interesting theatrical layers the group has the potential to produce.

The album takes an obvious downturn after the first few tracks. The monotonous synthesizer chords and frantic drumming of “It Gets Better” leaves listeners pleading that the track’s title is prophetic. A few tracks later, it is obvious that this change is not going to happen.

Many fun. fans were confused, and quite frankly disappointed by the copious amounts of auto-tune used in production. Ruess’ distinguishable vocals initially attracted many of fun.’s devoted supporters. Auto-tune, while a useful tool when used in moderation, is present in large chunks on nearly every track on the album and entirely driven out his incredible natural talent.

Fans expecting nothing other than a whimsical production have been punished to encounter an overproduced mess that would be best appreciated by a group of angsty teenyboppers. One can only hope that fun. will learn from their mistakes and find a way to grow from this of sophomore slump, and that future albums will be more of their old style.

Rating: ★★★

Key Track: “We Are Young”
Arts & Culture

Portraits by a Northwestern artist

BY JEFFREY HUBERS

How can I explain that look on a canvas? It’s one question that has driven and inspired Northwestern student Lisa Thvedt to do her Senior Art Show on portraits.

Thvedt’s show focuses almost solely on the human face. As she said in her artist statement, “the human face has a compelling, timeless attraction.” It is this attraction that Thvedt has worked to bring out in art.

“When I look at this face, I think of the expressions that we see in everyday objects, in the clouds or on the moon,” Thvedt said.

Thvedt’s show will be a gallery full of faces, both beautiful and unique. Thvedt’s effort in capturing the expressions and facial diversity of those she has portrayed can be clearly seen.

“From the time we are young, we are always looking for faces, whether it be in the grain of wood, in everyday objects, in the clouds or on the moon,” Thvedt said.

The portraits were done using a variety of mediums—acrylic, pencil, watercolor, India ink, metal, burlap print and sumi paper.

Thvedt hopes that viewers will see more than “likeness” in the portraits—perhaps a certain familiarity.

“Maybe it’s in an expression, the way an eyebrow is raised; or the tension in the crease of an eyelid or the crinkle of a nose,” Thvedt said. “Maybe it’s just in the fact that it’s a face, a thing of matchless beauty.

Maybe you see that. Maybe you see yourself.”

Thvedt should have been an art major, but since she was already into her junior year of school, she gave the idea little thought.

Another art class during her junior year, painting with Vanderhill, began the inspiration for her future show, as well as the inspiration to further explore the possibility of adding art to her education major. A self-portrait assignment in painting presented Thvedt with the challenge and intrigue that would prompt her to continue taking art classes and add on the major her senior year.

“The face was always new and challenging,” Thvedt said. “The mystery of another individual’s expression intrigues me, and, as an artist, I try to capture that on paper. How could I capture the distress on his face or the empathy in her eyes?”

Thvedt’s show will take place on Friday, Feb. 24, with a reception the same night at 7 p.m. The show will run until Wednesday, Feb. 29.

Be prepared to look beyond the expressions and find the timeless attraction that Thvedt promotes in her portrait work.

Orange City heats up for the second annual Winter Rap Fest

BY MATT LATCHAW

One year ago, the second floor of The Old Factory Coffee Shop was filled with people not drinking coffee or tea or eating baked goods with a quiet conversation.

The people were instead at a rap concert.

It was the first Winter Rap Fest, a rap music festival in Orange City.

“There were about 100 or more people there, but only 60 could be upstairs,” said sophomore Demargo Friedl, a member of the group Unique, who performed at last year’s first festival.

“The ceiling was seriously breaking on the first floor, there were so many people up there,” said sophomore Aaron Nash, another member of the group.

Unique, which, at the time of the festival last year, consisted of Dunk, Nash and Demargo Friedl, performed as well as former student Lee “Stovetop” Stover and Sophomore Jose Guadarrama—known as DJ Kid Cali.

The festival is returning for a second year with some big and exciting additions and improvements in terms of both sound and venue.

“The Sowienskis were great and loved having us at The Old Factory, but we had to find a different place to perform,” Nash said.

The show will take place at Living Water Community Church in Orange City this year to allow for more people to attend.

All the performers are returning with new songs, shows and new members in some groups, like Unique.

There will also be a few special guest performers this time around.

“We’ll have more equipment and better equipment,” Friedl said.

The group has lots of excitement and enthusiasm about this year’s Rap Fest.

“We want to show people that our music and message are legitimate, and we’re really serious about them,” Nash said.

The second annual Winter Rap Fest will take place at 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24th at Living Water Community Church. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

“It’s a Friday night in Orange City,” Dunk said. “What else are you going to do?”
NW students pick Oscar favorites

BY KAMERON TOEWS & KATI HENG

Oscar.go.com provides a full online ballot for the couch-lounging movie critic to guess this year’s winners in categories celebrating screenplays, sound mixing, documentaries, animation, makeup, editing and costumes, just to name a few.

Films topping this year’s ballot with the highest amount of nominations include “The Artist” and “Hugo” with ten, and “Moneyball” and “War Horse” with six.

Here are some of Northwestern’s own guesses and hopes for who will be taking home the trophies on Sunday:

BEST PICTURE

“I hope ‘The Help’ will win. It was set in the ’60s, and they pulled it off really well. And I thought ‘Hugo’ would be better than it was.” — Junior Connor Baton

“I think either ‘Hugo’ or ‘Moneyball’ will get Best Picture.” — Junior Taylor Biggs

“I’m rooting for ‘The Descendants’ as Best Picture. ‘Hugo’ is not the type of film that usually wins.” — Junior Lexi Wiersma

“I want ‘The Help’ to win. It was really heart-warming.” — Freshman Allison Klubo

“I’m rooting for ‘Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close’ because I’m from New York.” — Junior Tiemen Godwaldt

“I think ‘The Help’ has a great message and it resonated with things in my life, so I’m hoping it wins.” — Junior Stacey Duensing

BEST ACTOR

“I think Brad Pitt should win for ‘Moneyball.’ He’s a babe. He can play serious and humorous roles and pulls them both off.” — Sophomore Dan Dugger

“I think ‘Tree Of Life’ should get the award. Few people know how to communicate through images like director Terrance Malick does.” — Mark Alsum

BEST ACTRESS

“Meryl Streep should win best actress. She’s the only one nominated I know.” — Freshman Jordan Stanin

“Brad Pitt should win for ‘Moneyball.’” — Freshman Matt Westra

“Man or Muppet’ is a fantastic song, I want it to win.” — Sophomore Mackenzie Larkin

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

“Rise of the Planet of the Apes’ will win Best Visual Effects. The film is just not normal.” — Sophomore Stefany Silva

“Rise of the Planet of the Apes.’ The apes look so real with their human characteristics. It was almost creepy.” — Junior Eduardo Sanchez

VISUAL EFFECTS

“‘Rise of the Planet of the Apes’ will win Best Visual Effects. The film is just not normal.” — Sophomore Stefany Silva

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“Rise of the Planet of the Apes.’ The apes look so real with their human characteristics. It was almost creepy.” — Junior Eduardo Sanchez

“Think ‘The Help’ has a great message and it resonated with things in my life, so I’m hoping it wins.” — Junior Stacey Duensing

“‘Rise of the Planet of the Apes’ will win Best Visual Effects. The film is just not normal.” — Sophomore Stefany Silva
Speed dating brings together new friends

Sophomore Tyler Gleason sings a song of his own creation.

Concert at the Hub raises money for SSP

PHOTOS BY BOB LATCHAW

Senior Devon Cadwell, alumnus Blake Norris, junior Jeff Hubers, sophomore Jordan Starkenburg and sophomore Alex Wendel play in the Hub to support the Amsterdam Spring Service Project on Feb. 17. Their band is called Go Blue Team. “It was great, and we loved performing,” Hubers said. “We love playing together and making music, and it was even better because we could raise money for a good cause. Friday night was just a bunch of guys playing together and having fun. We were just jamming and supporting a good cause. We would do it a thousand times again if we could.”
Professor of History teaches students based on his own experiences

By Josh Klope

History professor Michael Kugler has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, won Northwestern’s 2006 Teaching Excellence Award, and is chair of the History department. But anyone who met him in high school might not have imagined he would be so successful.

"Nobody in my family that I was aware of went to college," Kugler said. "I was raised in a kind of setting where you go to high school, get a basic education and get a job. I never really had any role models for going to college." To make things more difficult, his family had little money to finance a college education for Kugler, even if he had an ambition to pursue it. But in spite of this, he was still motivated by a desire to read.

"My father and mother read a lot," Kugler said. "I just thought that’s one of the ways you spend your free time. And the prospect of moving away from home and reading books sounded pretty cool."

Luckily, he found a small Baptist college that was "desperate" for new students, and he was admitted despite his family’s finances. Over time, he discovered an interest in history and philosophy. Then, when his professors encouraged him to move on to graduate school, he began to imagine how he might use his interests.

"In some vague, obscure way, I imagined myself teaching someday," Kugler said. "I had no idea what that meant, just this vague sense."

But as time went on, that sense became much clearer. His interest in reading and history combined with a love for the academic discussion he had found in college, and he was further encouraged to pursue teaching. "I wanted to recreate what I liked about the classroom in college, and I wanted to fulfill. And I got to."

Now that Kugler has found a job as professor at NW, he’s discovered that his faith has a considerable influence on his philosophy of teaching.

"The Incarnation means to me that everything humans have done should be worthy of our study. We can’t study it all, but there’s nothing out of bounds, nothing improper."

Even after teaching history for nearly twenty years, Kugler’s past stays with him.

"When it comes down to it, I’m still this kid from North Portland who doesn’t know the right things and didn’t go to the right school. But a lot of my students are the first people in their family to come to college, and I sympathize."

For all students at NW, Kugler has one piece of advice. "Students should find a way to take risks with their education," he said. "To be curious about the world outside of what they imagine their job will be. To think, ‘Here’s the person I’ve been, this is the kind of thing I’ve done. What are three things that I could do that would be really different?’ And if you take a risk, you’re probably going to fail. But you learn a lot from screwing up."

Scooby and the gang: Students reminisce about old obsessions

By Tyler Lehmann

For anyone who’s ever been told to act their age, here’s some evidence for rebuttal. Northwestern students are proving you’re never too old to be a kid.

Take, for example, senior TJ Noble, whose apartment is home to over a hundred miniature Pokémon figurines, a binder brimming with Pokémon trading cards, Pokémon paintings he created and even a homemade Pikachu trash bin.

Noble got hooked on Pokémon as a child when his grandparents bought him one of the videogames. Though he no longer has time to play the game, he still enjoys collecting the trading cards and figurines it inspired.

Disheartened by newer additions to the Pokémon roster, Noble prefers the original 151, but is still able to occasionally make time for the gang.

"I love how all the different personalities work together," Eades said. "You’ve got the jock, the ditzy popular girl, the nerd, the stoner kid and the dog. It’s like every high school clique working together."

Though Eades doesn’t set aside time for watching the cartoon, she likes playing Scooby-Doo DVDs in the background while doing her homework. Eades owns all the episodes from the original 1969-1970 series.

"When you really think about it, it’s actually a really lame cartoon, but it’s still just so awesome," she said. Comic books are a hit with sophomore Isaiah Custer. He’s been reading comic books since he was little, and he’s accumulated more than 50 in the last five years. Custer’s favorite retailer to purchase comic books from is a used bookstore in Maine that sells its products online.

Though Custer has spent less time reading comic books since coming to college because of required reading for class, he still enjoys getting them out occasionally when he needs some downtime by himself.

When sophomore Katie Shepard was little, she was known as the monkey of the family, and she still has a love for sock monkeys.

Shepard received her first sock monkey, named Monte, from her cousin when she was in elementary school. Tragically, Shepard eventually lost Monte on a family vacation.

Sock monkeys will never be endangered as long as Shepard’s around, though. She keeps three in her room as well as a pair of sock monkey slippers.

It just goes to show that growing up is overrated.
Black V takes show on the road

Nic Leither and Black V will take their show on the road over break.

Dispute leads to standing tradition in Fern Hall

BY HEIDI GRITTERS

What started out as discipline between feuding girls in Fern Smith Hall has turned into a tradition practiced by many.

“Secret Encouragement Sisters” has been a tradition for four years. The idea was sparked in a meeting between former Resident Director Lisa Barber and a student for disciplinary measures.

“Everyone thought it would die off after she graduated,” said current Resident Director Alyssum Roe, “but it didn’t and has continued on.”

The girls are randomly assigned a “sister” to give an encouraging reminder to every other week. This tradition is embraced by many, as this semester almost 60 girls are participating. Their motivations for doing so are equally widespread.

“I like making people feel uplifted during hard times, so for me it was a way to reach someone if they were struggling or had a hard week,” said sophomore Taylor Studer.

“Really like giving people things, so I think it’s fun to brighten their day,” said freshman Kelsey Doornenbal.

Freshman Lyric Morris commented, “It was fun to get to know someone, and it builds community in Fern.”

“By having a girl who wasn’t on your wing be an SES, the dorm would be connected as a whole,” Roe said. “I think something that is cool about it is how many girls do participate and do love it; and I think some girls who didn’t necessarily participate in any other activity will participate in this.”

Creativity abounds with the gifts given. One impeccably-timed gift was given to Studer during midterm week.

“I was in the worst mood ever. Someone knocked on the door and I threw it open, and there was a girl holding roses from my SES with a really nice note,” Studer said.

“Another time she gave me a cup of Bible verses and sayings. It was cool because it was an ongoing present that I could look at every day and be lifted up.”

Other common gifts included picture frames, plaques, candy and other types of food, handmade art and even a mini mailbox. Sometimes, the gifts were able to be extra-personalized.

“My SES wrote me notes about my mom and gave me extra support,” Morris said, referring to the recent death of her mother.

Freshman Erin Holle also found how encouragement can be taken a step deeper.

“It’s cool how it’s meaningful to what’s going on in my life right now,” Holle said.

“I’d write down a verse and be like, ‘Whoa, this applies to my life too,’ even though I didn’t know what was going on in [the life of my SES].”

Part of the fun was in not knowing when the gifts were coming. However, this also added occasional difficulty.

“One time I had just walked away from my SES’s door and dropped something off and she came back,” Morris said.

“It also sucks for the roommate if you got something regularly and she only got it once a month,” Holle said.

At the end of the semester all of the participants crowd in to the Fern lounge with one final present for a revealing party.

In some cases, the relationship continued even after the semester and the assignments ended.

“I went out for lunch with the girl who I got gifts from, and that began a friendship,” Studer said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY JOSELYN VAN DYKE

Student encourages despite disease

FROM PAGE 1

She didn’t gain this confidence on her own. “I have a spiritual mentor and older mom-type figure in my life who has been so supportive of me and everything. In this and all realms of life, she’s really taught me what natural beauty is and embraces who I am in the eyes of the Lord and not worldly features.”

Her boyfriend, sophomore Jacob Gilletland, has also played a key part in affirming her inner beauty. They grew up together as best friends, with him witnessing every step of Ecklund’s journey with the disease.

“I am so grateful that he has been a part of that. It comes so naturally for us because of it,” Ecklund said.

“He affirms me that inwards and outwards I am beautiful and joyful and radiant in God’s eyes and his.”

Ecklund wants to reassure everyone that it is important to pray for healing for cancer. “I have half the campus thinking they need to be in deep prayer to heal any ailment I might have. I thank them for their prayers, but I don’t really need them for that. I’m totally healthy.”

Despite Ecklund’s full health, people still mistake her for a cancer patient.

“Once I was at the Mall of America eating lunch,” Ecklund said. “And a guy can run up behind me and started telling me about his wife’s struggle with cancer for 10 minutes straight, then before I knew it, he ran away. He came back, slapped 20 dollars on my table for lunch, and ran away again.”

“Get to know a person before assuming,” Ecklund said. “Really get to know person before making judgments. It’s difficult to ask those hard questions, but when we do, we get past superficial prejudices that people have initially.”

Ecklund strives to offer hope to those who struggle with low self-esteem.

“View yourself as in Christ, who is perfection,” she said. “We can’t judge or compare ourselves to others because in the end that will always leave us with no value or no return.”

PHOTO BY JOSELYN VAN DYKE

Freshmen Mica Graves and Haley Ginger have both been recipients of gifts from their secret encouragement sisters. Exchanging notes of encouragement has been a tradition in Fern for four years.
Sports | 8

Raiders cruise in GPAC opener

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern women's basketball team rolled through its first matchup of the GPAC tournament on Wednesday, defeating Doane 78-44. The Raiders dominated Doane defensively, allowing just 31.7 percent shooting for the game, including 27.3 percent in the second half. Aside from Doane's leading scorer, who had 17 points, no Doane player put more than seven points on the board.

Junior forward Kendra De Jong scored 18 for the Raiders on 6-10 shooting from the field. She also led NW with seven rebounds. Senior guard Kami Kuhlmann chipped in 12 points and four steals.

Her fellow running mate, senior Val Kleinjan, came out hot to start the game and added 11 points, including 3-6 shooting from behind the arc.

"Getting the third seed is really good for us," Kleinjan said. "It's a huge advantage to host a tournament game in our conference because going on the road can be tough. We have the best fans in the nation and it's great to have that support this time of the year."

Doane was never within 10 after being down 24-14 in the first half. NW forced Doane to be extremely sloppy with the ball, and the visitors turned it over 31 times.

On Saturday, the Raiders defeated Midland in the final game of the regular season 90-70.

"We went into the game with the goal of getting better," Kleinjan said. "No matter who the opponent is, we try to focus on ourselves and trying to control the game. I would say we did a pretty good job of this on Saturday."

De Jong dominated Midland, scoring 29 points on 13-19 shooting and pulling down 10 rebounds. Kleinjan scored 15 points on 5-7 shooting from long range.

"I think we definitely had an advantage as a three-point shooting team and they didn't pressure us on the arc too much, which helped us pull away," Kleinjan said. "We are also a pretty deep team which can wear other teams out."

The Raiders were pleased with their effort defensively.

"We didn't allow many second chance points for them, and rebounding helps us push the ball offensively," Kleinjan said. "Our pressure defense also forces teams to play faster than they want and make mistakes."

NW's next game will be in Sioux City to take on second-seeded Morningside on Saturday at 3 p.m.

The Raiders have lost to Morningside twice this year. The first match-up by 14 in Sioux City in November and then by just two after Kleinjan's last-second three didn't fall in the Ballman Center in January.

Individuals, squad shine at indoor meet

BY DALTON KELLEY

The Red Raider track and field team had an impressive showing at the GPAC indoor conference meet last Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

With 18 athletes scoring and four relays, the NW men and women both walked away with sixth-place finishes.

For the men it's the best placing at the conference meet since 2006, scoring 46 points while the women scored 57.

Top finishers for the Raider men include sophomore Matt Huseman, the high jump champion.

He jumped 6 feet, 6.5 inches and is seeded fourth going into the national meet. Senior Mark Mineart also left with all-conference honors placing seventh and jumping 6-2.75.

On the track, the men were led by sophomore Jeriah Dunk, who scored 13 points. He had two fourth-place finishes in both the 60m (6.86 seconds), and the 200m (22.3 seconds.)

Sophomore Scott Strand and junior Brandon Schuler both finished in the top eight in the 600m. Sophomore Kyle Heidelbrink came away with a fourth-place finish in the 600 hurdles, crossing the line in 8.54.

The distance crew was a big part in the team's success. Freshman Logan Hovland and sophomore Zach Wittenberg finished sixth and eighth in the 1000m run. The relay teams also saw success on the indoor oval. The 4x400 finished in the sixth. The 4x800 came in fourth place.

The Raider women were led by junior Brianna Hobbs who scored a total of 13 points. Hobbs finished fourth in the 800m in 2 minutes, 20 second, and second in the 600m with a time of 1:37, meeting the automatic mark for the national meet.

Senior Krystina Bouchard finished third in the 600 in 1:38, while freshman Sara Edwardsen sixth with a time of 1:39

The Red Raiders' 4x400m relay finished sixth in 4:07, and the 4x800m relay team placed fourth while hitting the automatic mark for the national meet.

Other top performers for the women include sophomores Dawn Gildensleeve placing second in the 1000m, running the race in 2:59, meeting the automatic mark for nationals as well.

Also grabbing all-conference honors were junior Leslie Stover in the 1000m. She placed eighth with a time of 3:10.

Megan Walhof finished seventh in the 400m with a time of 1:00, and junior Amy Van Sickle finished eighth in the 3000m in 10:54.

The Lady Raiders' 4x400m relay finished sixth in 4:07, and the 4x800m relay team placed fourth while hitting the automatic mark for the national meet.

Senior pentathlete Elizabeth Stevens scored a total 11 points for the team, and finishing second overall with 2,990 points in the five-event competition.

The NAIA National Indoor Meet is March 1-3, in Geneva, Ohio.

The outdoor season begins on March 31.

Individuals, squad shine at indoor meet

BY DALTON KELLEY

Last Saturday, the Northwestern wrestling team traveled to Sioux City to compete in the North Central Qualifier. The event was hosted by Morningside College with 11 teams competing for spots at nationals.

The Raiders finished sixth overall. As a team they scored 64 points with four wrestlers finishing in the top five. Midland won the title with a score of 156.5 points.

Top wrestlers include senior Josiah Simburger finishing third in the 151-pound class with an overall record of 3-1. Simburger lost his first match and ended the day with three straight wins.

Freshman Zach Fishman placed second at 149-pounds after losing in the final 6-0. Fishman went 2-1 on the day, but is looking forward to moving on from the loss.

"I felt I could have won," Fishman said, "but that match is over and I need to look forward."

Another top wrestler for the Raiders was senior David Carter, wrestling at 174 pounds. Carter finished fifth with a record of 3-2. Senior Nic Leither ended the tournament with a 3-1 record at 197 pounds and placed third overall.

The Raiders are not resting on their accomplishments.

"We qualified 10 guys for nationals so that was a positive," Fishman said, "but overall as a team we could have done better."

On Tuesday, two NW wrestlers were awarded with All-GPAC honors after a successful season. Simburger and Fishman were named first-team all-GPAC with Leither and senior Matt Dowell earning second-team honors. Dowell joins Simburger at 141 pounds.

For Leither, this is his third time being honored with an all-conference award. Dowell has also grabbed two consecutive titles after the most recent award.

Simburger ended the regular season with a record of 27-9. Fishman finished at 24-11. Leither is 19-7 while Dowell is 19-5 on the year.

Nationals begin March 1 in Des Moines.
Northwestern blows out Mount Marty

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

On Wednesday night, the Northwestern men’s basketball team cruised to an easy home victory, defeating Mount Marty 85-56 in the first game of GPAC tournament play.

“It feels really good to have that first win under the belt,” said sophomore Zack Leeper.

Northwestern’s defense was stifling. Mount Marty was held to just 32.8 percent from the field for the game, 31.3 percent in the second half. The Raiders also forced Mount Marty into 21 turnovers, though the Raiders matched that number themselves.

“We’re playing really hard-nosed defense right now,” Leeper said. “We really wanted to stop [Mount Marty’s] penetration.”

NW dished out 21 dimes as a team compared to Mount Marty’s 10. Many of the assists were in transition breakaways for easy points. The game got chippy, especially in the second half. A combined 36 personal fouls were called, and Mount Marty picked up a technical foul midway through the second half for throwing a ball off the wall after a foul call.

NW was also more aggressive around the basket, getting to the free throw line 25 times. Mount Marty made it to the charity stripe just 16 times. The Raiders held them to just four free throws in the first half.

Last Saturday, NW ended its regular season by defeating Midland on the road 91-77. The Raiders poured in 66 percent of their shots from the field, 72 percent in the first half. Meanwhile, the Raider defense held Midland to 38 percent from the field for the game, and NW never trailed after the opening minutes.

“It all starts on the defensive end,” Leeper said. “We get easy looks on the offensive end because we can run before teams can get back on defense. It feels like everyone is getting good touches. When [perimeter players] have the ball, we’re looking to feed it inside, and they’re looking to kick it out.”

Leeper scored 18 points, shooting 7-11 from the field. Miller led the Raiders in rebounds, pulling down 10. Junior post Stu Goslinga hit 5-6 shots close to the basket, putting up 14 points.

Senior guard Ryan Stock contributed nine points off the bench as he hit 3-4 attempts from beyond the three-point line.

The Raiders will host Briar Cliff on Saturday at 3 p.m. in the semifinals of the GPAC tournament. NW crushed Briar Cliff 99-69 in November at home and lost badly to Briar Cliff 82-60 in Sioux City in January. The Raiders are not expecting this trip to be any different.

“We’re expecting their best,” Leeper said. “Everyone is always looking to come after us, so anything less than their best is less than unacceptable.”

Raider baseball will rely on experience in 2012

BY MICHAEL SIMMERLINK

SPORTS EDITOR

After earning a share of the GPAC regular season title last spring, the Northwestern baseball team is looking to solely grab a hold of the title and a national tournament berth this time around. The squad was picked to finish second in the conference by the coaches.

Last year’s squad finished the season 26-19 but did well in the conference, and its 16-6 record earned it a three-game sweep of Midland to 38 percent from the field for the game, 72 percent in the first half. Meanwhile, the Raider defense held Midland to 38 percent from the field for the game, and NW never trailed after the opening minutes.

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Senior Walker Seim drives to the basket against Mount Marty on Wednesday night. Seim’s 17 points helped the Raiders by the Lancers 85-56. NW will now host Briar Cliff on Saturday at 3 p.m.

“I think our versatility is a big advantage,” Brasser said. “Obviously last season didn’t end like we wanted it to, but it hasn’t been brought up in any meetings or anything like that. We’ve got a lot of dedicated guys out, and we’re just looking forward to getting out and playing again.”

Leading the Raiders up the center will be senior second baseman Matt Nagua. Nagua was an honorable-mention All-American and GPAC Gold Glove winner. He anchored the lineup by hitting .367 and driving in 22 runs.

Nagua’s leadership is a huge strength for our team,” Brasser said. “Being a senior, he has gone through a full season three times now, and he’ll be the one to keep us focused.”

Sophomore Cody Groskreutz and junior Corey Van Gorp will be partnering up with Nagua at shortstop. Van Gorp made 25 starts last season and had .985 fielding percentage at the position. Groskreutz hit .330 in 106 at bats, most of which came towards the end of the season. Groskreutz also drew the most walks on the team with 25.

At the hot corner, junior Noah Bohlmann, senior Levi Miller and freshman Mitch Peschon will all get looks. Bohlmann, who also contributes as an arm on the mound, finished second on the team with 10 doubles. Miller got many of his at-bats as the designated hitter last season.

“I think our versatility is a big advantage,” Brasser said. “If we have a bunch of guys swinging the bat well, we can switch them around to keep our hottest hitters in the lineup. A lot of the teams in our conference won’t be able to do that.”

Junior Ty Bourchard will return to backstop duties after Morris is not on the hill, he will take first base duties.

Bohlmann, who also contributes as an arm on the mound, finished second on the team with 10 doubles. Miller got many of his at-bats as the designated hitter last season.

“Morris was placed on second team all-conference, and Taylor Morris, sophomore Tyler Stuerman and Brasser. Morris earned honorable mention as a freshman.

“Our biggest strength is our pitching staff,” Brasser said. “We only lost a couple of wins from last season, and a lot of our staff are returners.”

Zoeller started 11 games, and had three complete games in his 7-2 season. Morris missed the most bats on the team, as the fireballer struck out 65 batters in 58 innings. Also, when Morris is not on the hill, he will take first base duties.

Brasser contributed nine points off the bench as he hit 3-4 attempts from beyond the three-point line.

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Brasser has the second-best returning ERA after throwing innings as both a starter and out of the bullpen.

Senior southpaw Jared Kirkeby, junior Chase Rozeboom, freshman Chas Biery and Bohlmann bring a good mixture of arms to the bullpen. They will be setting up the sidearm throwing senior Eddie Pantzlaff. Pantzlaff set the school record for saves in a season, closing out 11 games for the Raiders.

NW officially opened its season last weekend with four games at the Metrodome in Minneapolis against William Penn. The Raiders won all four of the contests, and will have their next action next weekend in Kansas. They’ll travel to Phoenix for games March 5-10.

“Overall, I would hope that what stands out is our mental toughness,” Brasser said. “I want that to be an advantage for us, that we can stay focused for the whole season.”
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Keep your spring break friendships alive

BY NATHAN MASTBERGEN

It’s SSP time – the time of year when groups of ten or twenty students unite for a common goal. Each year, these groups overcome their differences, form friendships and come back to campus making cheesy claims like, “We’re like a big family.”

Like clockwork, a few weeks later these same groups will find that without the trip bringing them together, their busy and conflicting schedules weed out their once blossoming new relationships. It is a good time for a semester and these relationships are reduced to nothing more than a half-hearted greeting as their paths cross between the Cafe and VPH. It’s sad, but it makes sense.

On SSPs, students share a high-powered emotional and spiritual experience that serves as a potent stimulus for new relationships. However, a relationship built solely on a shared experience will fade away when that experience ends. I’ve been on SSPs, said cheesy lines and, sadly, have had relationships reduced to a lifeless “Hey” in passing.

Thankfully, I also have some relationships formed on SSPs that have lasted, and these successes bring me back for more. In my experience, forming lasting relationships on SSPs is difficult but not impossible.

Vulnerability is one ingredient essential to meaningful SSP relationships. Spending the trip’s late night free time talking about your favorite movies, food and YouTube videos can be enjoyable and these types of conversations do have a place in forming relationships, but in order to have a relationship that has substance, conversation topics must penetrate this surface.

When we reveal our struggles, fears and stories, we are able to connect with people in a powerful way. And as vulnerability spurts vulnerability, the conversations that ensue will allow you to share more than an experience with your teammates.

Another important aspect of relationship is intentionality. Be purposeful about connecting with teammates on your trip, but be even more intentional on your return. The beauty of SSPs is that they put people together whose paths don’t normally cross. Once back on campus, don’t fall into complacency’s trap instead, be intentional about creating opportunities to meet with teammates, in turn, creating space for the relationship’s continual growth.

Though it can be difficult, selectivity must take place in order to keep meaningful relationships. With a team of 20 people, you will not be able to keep deep, meaningful relationships with everyone. Trying to do so will lead to multiple shallow relationships rather than a handful of deep ones.

I’m leading this year’s team to Jackson and plan on forming some sweet relationships. It is my hope that, fueled by vulnerability, intentionality and selectivity, these new relationships can be carried past the post-SSP doldrums.

Imagine new exercise facilities

BY NATE JOHNSTON

Northwestern’s stellar facilities were not a major selling point when I made my college decision. I knew from the beginning I would find better facilities at a state school. I assumed that NW’s current facilities, though lacking in some areas, would suffice for a student body of approximately 1200.

This assumption was disproved when I made the mistake of trying to use the weight room at 4:30 one Monday afternoon this winter. The weight room was packed tightly with football players, wrestlers and a few brave non-athletes. I decided to hit the brand-new indoor track instead, only to find the track team practicing. In the end I elected to put on several layers and run outside.

Anyone who has tried to use NW’s exercise facilities at the wrong time would wholeheartedly agree that we need more space. Personally, I frequently experience these facilities at two extremes. It is either sparsely occupied with a few students who have lucky schedules or it is bursting at the seams with students, athletes or intramurals participants.

This semester I have decided that the only way that I will be able to stay physically active is if I choose to exercise at the right times. These are the times when no one else exercises. There is a reason that the facilities are dead at these times. It is because these are horrible times to exercise; during the middle of the day when everyone is at class, doing homework or eating lunch.

As a non-athlete student, I realize that I am part of a tiny subgroup of students who use our exercise facilities. In the whole scheme of things, I am just a number. If Nate Johnston is not content with his workout, the school will not lose any championships or potential revenue. I am not on scholarship to workout. But I do pay tuition.

NW’s Imagine campaign offers some measure of hope however. Its $55 million dollar fundraising goal promises a new Learning Commons, funding for academic programs, more scholarship money and facilities improvements.

I must admit that I was caught off guard when I first heard about the Imagine campaign. After all of the hype about building a new dorm, I was surprised to hear that NW had started fundraising for a new $55 million dollar campaign. We didn’t have enough money to build a new dorm but we were going to come up with 15 million dollar for a new Learning Commons.

I wholeheartedly agree with NW’s decision to fund the Learning Commons. I think that is a step in the right direction. If we want to stay competitive and have a credible place of higher education, we must keep up with the needs of 21st century learners. NW is an academic institution; therefore, it makes sense that it would put an academic project at the heart of its new campaign.

The part of the Imagine campaign that I would address is the $5 million dollar designated for facilities improvements. NW’s website offers a description of the Imagine campaign’s facilities improvement goals. “A portion of the Imagine campaign is designated for improvements such as these — an important and vital need as Northwestern continues to grow.”

Improvements such as these is referring to the RSC gym makeover and the lovely airport layout of our student center. The gym makeover was another step in the right direction. NW has spent some money on a facility much in need of improvement that students frequently use.

Managing a college’s budget is no easy task. The administration must take into account several different factors. One of those factors should be the wants and needs of the students. Personally, I consider fitness an important need. I need to exercise to relieve stress and have a happy and fulfilling college experience.

I hope that the new Imagine campaign takes into account students like me when it divvies up its 5 million dollars for facilities improvements.

Hard road to forgiveness

BY KATHRYN PLUCKER

Last week, I had the pleasure of listening to Dr. Everett Worthington talk about forgiveness. Dr. Worthington has devoted his life to “promoting forgiveness in every willing heart, home and homeland.” Through extensive research, Dr. Worthington has come to the conclusion that there are two distinct types of forgiveness: decisional forgiveness and emotional forgiveness. Decisional forgiveness is just that: a decision to forgive. After making such a decision, the victim may still feel anger, resentment or hurt while still committing to treat the person who hurt them as valuable. Emotional forgiveness, on the other hand, involves a transformation of those negative feelings into positive feelings.

At his Thursday night conversation titled “How to Forgive Yourself and Others,” Dr. Worthington made the claim that Jesus calls us to decisionally forgive, but merely desires us to emotionally forgive.

The Bible is clear about how we should forgive. In Colossians 3:13 it says, “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” In Matthew 18:35 it also says, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

If we are called to “forgive as the Lord forgave,” how did the Lord forgive us? Did God merely make a decision to forgive us and hold on to His anger and wrath even after we repent? The Bible describes God’s perfect forgiveness for us. In Isaiah 1:18 it says, “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

I believe these verses suggest that Jesus not only made a decision to forgive us but also to forgive us emotionally. Our sin has offended God more than anyone could ever offend one of us, yet God loves us and continues to call us to himself. Ultimately, I agree with Dr. Worthington that Jesus’ desire is for us to emotionally forgive, harboring no negative feelings toward the person who has hurt us. However, I think emotional forgiveness is not just a desire of Jesus’, but His call to us.

This type of forgiveness, however, is a tough process. While I think that forgiveness has to start with a decision, the process of transforming negative feelings into positive feelings can be very difficult, especially if someone has repeatedly hurt us. If someone is not showing regard for our feelings, why should we feel positively toward that person? The answer is simple: Because Jesus feels positively toward us. He loves us though we repeatedly fail Him. He gave His life for us knowing full well that we cannot stop sinning. Using this example of Christ’s love and forgiveness for us, we have a strong foundation for the hard road to emotional forgiveness.
Art Exhibit
Senior Lisa Thvedt will display her work Feb. 24-29 in the college’s Te Paske Gallery. A public reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

Piano Recital
Dr. Young-Hyun Cho, a professor at the University of Texas—Arlington will give a piano recital at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24 in Christ Chapel.

Poetry
The Deep Song Reading Series will feature poet Katherine Manning at 8 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27 and poet Samuel Martin at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 29 in the Krover Visual Arts Centre TePaske gallery.

Submit Events
Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in this column. Submissions should be roughly 50 words or less and be e-mailed to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

Chapel
Monday  •  President Greg Christy
Tuesday  •  Senior Chris Butler, I Have a Dream
Wednesday  •  Dr. Michael Kensak, English professor
Friday  •  Prayers of Blessing

Proposal to reduce language requirement
BY JEB RACH
A lot has changed since 1985. One thing that hasn’t changed much is Northwestern’s general education curriculum.

Faculty members have been in discussion about how best to revamp NW’s general education program. Numerous changes have been proposed throughout this process. Some have been defeated and others have been accepted. One of the defeated proposals was to reduce the modern foreign language requirement from nine to eight credits.

According to Professor Mitch Kinsinger, chair of the general education task force, this proposal was supported by a majority of the faculty and would have created continuity between ancient foreign languages and modern foreign languages, along with lessening the footprint of the general education curriculum.

“The largest single component of our general education curriculum is our foreign language requirement,” Kinsinger said.

Rick Clark, chair of the modern foreign language department, disagrees that the footprint of the foreign language requirement should be reduced.

“We require a 201-level proficiency for the modern foreign language requirement, which is not necessarily a 3-semester requirement,” Clark said.

Many students do not need to take the full nine credits required. The average noninternational student takes 6.4 credits of a foreign language by graduation, as many students test out of the lower-level courses.

According to Clark, modern foreign languages are different from ancient languages in that modern foreign languages have a conversational element to them.

“The third semester of modern foreign language courses focus on conversation in that language,” Clark said.

Though there will be no change to the language requirement, other changes have been tentatively accepted and approved for incoming students starting in the fall of 2013.

The first change is the restructuring of the general education package. Instead of focusing on specific courses to fulfill requirements, there will be 10 general education categories. These courses focus on gaining certain knowledge and achieving educational goals, instead of focusing on specific classes to meet a specific general education requirement.

“Students must test out of the general education program, and a writing-specific course will be eliminated. The first year seminar is needed, according to Kinsinger, because the current general education program “does not orient students to the academic life at NW.” This course will focus on writing and public speaking skills and will be required of all incoming freshmen.

Other changes revolve around the core general education courses. Both a first year seminar and a senior seminar will be integrated into the new general education curriculum.

“Some courses within the general education curriculum will be writing intensive, including one in a student’s major, instead of requiring a specific writing course,” Kinsinger said.

The final major change will be a senior seminar. This course will be inside a student’s major, but will have a broad focus.

“The focus of the senior seminar is integration of everything students have learned over their college experience,” Kinsinger said.

The new general education requirements will be implemented in the fall of 2013 and will only apply to incoming students.

Award-winning pianist to give recital
BY GILLIAN ANDERSON
Dr. Young-Hyun Cho, assistant professor of piano at the University of Texas—Arlington, will give a piano recital at Northwestern.

At age 5, Cho began taking piano lessons. She recalled playing the piano as if it were another one of her toys.

“My parents found that I had a talent for piano after watching me play songs by ear,” Cho said.

Cho now has a Doctorate of Musical Arts, as well as a Master’s degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody Conservatory of John Hopkins University.

Cho has won many competitions including the Eastman Concerto Competition and the Music Association of Korea Competition. She was a prizewinner in the 2005 Louisiana International Piano Competition, where she was invited to return as a featured performer and speaker for the opening ceremonies in 2009.

Students across campus are looking forward to the recital.

“I like to watch professionals who know what they are doing,” said junior Jennifer Ratzlaff.

Junior Meghan Schuster enjoys listening to and watching piano music be performed.

“I love sitting where I can see their hands on the piano,” Schuster said.

Cho has held many teaching positions over the years at places such as Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., and Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. She has also given master classes and recitals at major universities across the nation.

“I believe that an important aspect of life is sharing your gift, whatever that may be, with others,” Cho said. “I want to share what I have learned with students who are eager to learn and improve themselves. I want to help those who are striving to become serious musicians by passing down my knowledge and passion of music.”

The recital will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24 in Christ Chapel.

Junior Nato Johnston gives a presentation about literature from Spain in an upper-level Spanish course. The modern foreign language requirement has been subject to much debate in the process of revising the general education package.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
Award-winning pianist Dr. Young-Hyun Cho from the University of Texas—Arlington, will give a piano recital in Christ Chapel.