Veteran loses friends, gains faith
AFTER SERVING IN MIDDLE EAST, RAYMOND FRYE PURSUES A RENEWED LIFE AT NORTHWESTERN

BY MEGAN CURRENT

Veteran Raymond Frye joined the military as a teenager. He served for eight years as an infantry soldier, and he has been enrolled at Northwestern since January.

Frye started attending a community college right after high school, but he later made the decision to join the military at the age of 19. His family was supportive of his decision.

“I have a dad and uncle in the infantry, a brother in the Air Force and a cousin in the Marines,” Frye said. “I joined because of my sense of adventure.”

Frye served as an infantry soldier in the Army and Air Force. He started his basic training at Fort Benning in Georgia. Frye trained for two months at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California before being deployed to Iraq.

While deployed in Iraq, Frye was a combat soldier. Frye said he had several duties, which included apprehending high-value targets (looking for terrorists), providing security for convoys and helping eliminate villagers’ threats (terrorists).

While Frye was in Iraq, he worked on two campaigns. The first mission, Operation Iraqi Freedom, was designed for combat operations, which included finding and killing terrorists. This mission is an ongoing battle that is still in effect today.

The second mission, Operation New Dawn, didn’t work the way it was planned.

“New Dawn was meant for hearts and minds. We trained the Iraqis for the military transition to allow their military to regain power,” Frye said. “This never happened, and we ended up still fighting bad guys.”

Frye said his experience in the Middle East was an eyeopener. There is a large gap between the rich and the poor. He said the rich were “Westernized” and went to universities and drove nice cars. The poor resided in ghettos and villages.

“I couldn’t believe how ignorant the people were,” Frye said. “Their literacy rates were really low. The women would sleep outside, and the men would get to sleep inside. The children would be literally sitting in trash. Everything was completely trashed and dirty.”

Many American soldiers did not agree with the religious practices of the Iraqis or how they treated the women of their country.

“Religion controlled them,” Frye said. “It made me question my own faith. I couldn’t believe how religion can affect a person and make them ignorant. Living conditions of Iraqi children were terrible. War is never good, but it got to the point where we were helping people that didn’t want to help themselves.”

The first time Frye was ever scared was when rounds were going off near his head. Most soldiers would either do their duty or freeze up.

“You would get a sense of a high or rush,” Frye said. “The reason why (soldiers) like combat is because of the high you get. The only time you realize you don’t like it is when people start dying. I was always thinking I would die.”

The experience that affected Frye the most was when his best friend died. Frye’s unit was stationed at an Iraqi compound, and the soldiers were enjoying down time. The unit was to meet up with the Iraqi security forces, who were supposed to be allies to the unit.

“One guy came in and started shooting people,” Frye said. “My best friend died in my arms. I lost two of my best friends overseas. I was a mess.”

It was challenging for Frye to regain his faith after leaving Iraq. Before being sent home, he was stationed at a fort in Hawaii to recuperate.

“It took me two years to get my faith back. It definitely left when my friend died,” Frye said.
“Every why hath a wherefore.”

So said Shakespeare in his “Comedy of Errors.” In modern terms, this means “there is a reason for everything.” And that reason might be comical and a bit strange.

The Orange City Arts Council’s upcoming regional art exhibition, which will be open Feb. 15-23 at the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, is an occasion to find humor in the peculiar. The exhibition will display artwork that reflects the different, the paradoxical and the unique throughout the arts center in conjunction with the theater department’s production of “Comedy of Errors.”

Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors” spins a tale of confusion and hilarity. The play, which will be performed at the Allen Black Box Theatre starting Feb. 15, brings to life the comedic struggles of two sets of identical twins. When these sibling look-alikes reunite after 25 years of separation, they cause more than a few problems for each other.

With that in mind, all artists within a 300-mile radius of Orange City were encouraged to submit artwork that reflected this theme of comedic miscalculations.

Northwestern art professors Phil Scorza, Yun Shin and Emily Stokes juried the entries.

“Whenever I think of Shakespeare, I think of drama,” Vetter said. “I originally wanted to enter a painting, but I didn’t have time to work on one before the due date, so I entered my plates instead.

“I titled them ‘Falling’ because of the dripped glaze I thought it made my plates fit the Shakespearean theme even though it was a last-minute decision,” Vetter said.

Professor Emily Stokes, one of the judges for the exhibit, agreed with Vetter’s interpretation and added her own artistic analysis of the presentation.

“I liked the way she photographed her ceramics,” Stokes said. “I thought it was a nice but subtle approach to something comedic.”

Weeky different pieces by 20 different artists were selected for the exhibit. Two works were done by NW art students.

Junior Kayla Vetter submitted a trifecta of ceramic plates she made for her ceramics course last semester. Vetter used a slab roller technique and a dripped glaze effect to produce a cohesive yet unusual look.

When Vetter created these plates last semester, they were not remotely related to “Comedy of Errors.” However, when the call came for artwork, Vetter’s ideas took on a more Shakespearean appreciation.

“When I think of Shakespeare, I think of drama,” Vetter said. “I was to form an interior space collage of their choice and then duplicate it in an oil painting.”

“We were supposed to capture the texture and patterns to make it look like the original collage,” Loeschen said. “It was a really difficult project for me and I complained a lot. I didn’t want to paint a picture of something I had already done.”

It was a weird concept but a perfect fit for this Arts Council exhibition.

“In some cases, the selection process was based on process,” Stokes said. “Katlyn’s piece was a painting from a collage the very nature of doing that is funny.”

“The ‘Falling’ plates and painted collage, along with 18 other works of various artists, will be available for viewing in the DeWitt Theatre lobby Friday, Feb. 15.

“There will be a rock-star sculpture work, which is just funny,” Stokes said.

What else? Stop by and find out.

`Mama’ mostly lives up to expectations

MOVIE REVIEW

BY MERIDEL WEITZ

“Mama” is the newest psychological horror movie to hit theaters, and for the most part, it lives up to the expectations the public has for the genre.

The story revolves around the changing lives of two girls, Victoria and Lilly. Their father goes insane and kills some of his coworkers and his wife, then takes his two girls and makes a run for it. The group of runaways discovers an abandoned cabin in the middle of the woods, but the father doesn’t make it through the night, and the two girls are left alone. Five years later, they are discovered living on cherries, scurrying around like animals and barely able to speak. Victoria and Lilly are given to their uncle Lucas and his girlfriend, Annabel, who searched for them for years. They move into a new house so the girls can be studied and helped by a child psychologist.

It is soon discovered that the girls are not the only ones to come home with Lucas and Annabel. A ghostly woman who the girls call “Mama” has kept her protective interest in the girls and is jealous of any competition in the girls’ lives. Lucas is soon injured and taken to the hospital, and it is up to Annabel to protect herself and learn how to connect with these sinister siblings. While Mama fights with Lucas and Annabel for the girls’ affections, the girls must choose between them.

“Mama” does not have any music and contains very little dialogue, so there is a lot of room for the creepy, silent horror.

Producer Guillermo del Toro and director Andres Muschietti work hard to incorporate the fear into the story through the distorted figure of Mama. It does not always work, and at times the ghost of Mama seems to dominate the screen instead of suddenly appearing to give the jolt of horror needed. By the end of the film, the vision of Mama is so natural that the horror is no longer there. As the girls make final decisions about family and the power of love, the terror has gone out of the film, and it becomes more of a drama than a psychological thriller.

Yet despite all this, “Mama” could be one of the best horror movies of this year. The creepy cherry-and-moth-eating sisters are enough to lay a solid foundation of horror, and “Mama” carries that drama until the end.

Rating: ★★★
McGraw’s ‘Two Lanes of Freedom’ is enjoyable but not adventurous

ALBUM REVIEW
BY KARA NONNEMACHER

In the past 20 years, Tim McGraw has produced albums such as “A Place in the Sun,” “Live Like You Were Dying” and “Southern Voice” for Curb Records. Because of a lawsuit in November 2011, McGraw left Curb Records and began working on a new album entitled “Two Lanes of Freedom.”

Released on Feb. 5, 2013, it is the first album produced by McGraw for Big Machine Records, which works with artists such as Taylor Swift, Rascal Flatts, Edens Edge and Eli Young Band. McGraw’s album, “Two Lanes of Freedom,” is said to be symbolic of the musical freedom he received in leaving Curb Records.

McGraw’s album is a pleasant mix of hip-hop, bluegrass and contemporary country that remains consistent with albums he has produced in the past. A popular single, “Truck Yeah,” is an example of contemporary country with the typical country twang that remains consistent with albums he has produced in the past. A popular single, “Truck Yeah,” is an example of contemporary country with the typical country twang that remains consistent with albums he has produced in the past.

R and Julie form an unlikely but enjoyable romantic relationship in “Warm Bodies.”

“Bodies” is, of course, by no means a perfect movie. There are plot holes, and moments of contrived emotion. Julie adjusts to the death of her boyfriend a little too fast to be truly natural. The zombies themselves are confusingly dexterous: R manages to repeatedly get a record going so that he can listen to music. At times, R’s in-his-own-head eloquence seems at odds with his outer inability to communicate. One almost forgets he is supposed to be a creature who feeds only on human flesh. Which brings us to the most glaring problem: As much as we cheer for R and Julie as a couple, it will always be creepy to see a pretty girl kissing a corpse.

But logic isn’t really what “Warm Bodies” is about, as one might expect from a zombie romance. It isn’t about how the zombies move or where the plague came from or how R is able to think so much. Rather, “Bodies” is about love, friendship, the potential for change, the beating heart, the emotions, the feelings. It’s clever, it’s touching, and it’s fun.

Any viewer with a working heart will walk away feeling warm.

RATING: ★★★★

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Students step up to Raider Cup

BY ERIN VAN HORN

The Student Government Association (SGA) has been hard at work improving student life this year. They organized the free Raider Rally towels and pushed to have coat hooks put up in the cafeteria lobby. Currently they are in the process of launching the Raider Cup.

“The Raider Cup is going to be an ongoing process to get more students involved through monitoring student attendance and awarding students via sweet prizes for how many events they attend on campus,” said Student Body President Taylor Hoekstra.

The Raider Cup is an incentive designed to encourage students to become more involved in Northwestern campus events.

“The purpose of the Raider Cup is to get students excited about athletic events and theatrical productions and to attend more campus events,” said SGA Secretary junior Megan Hutson.

SGA has been in the process of refining the Raider Cup since the end of last semester and anticipates it beginning sometime this week. There will be an SGA member at events who will be giving out tickets to attending students.

According to sophomore SGA treasurer Logan Gooch, who initiated the idea of the Raider Cup, those tickets will then be added up on each wing or floor, and through those point values prizes will be given to students who are on those residence life wings or floors.

Through the implementation of the Raider Cup, SGA hopes to increase the level of student engagement in all areas on campus.

“I feel like student involvement in events is pretty shallow all across the board,” Hoekstra said. “This is something we can do to get students involved and to see how fun it is to be more involved in sports, theatre, art or whatever it is.”

Building camaraderie on campus is one of SGA’s main goals.

“It (the Raider Cup) brings everybody together and creates the community that NW talks about,” said freshman representative Brody Van Roekel. “When you get everyone together it’s just a lot of fun. Go crazy and cheer on classmates.”

“Wednesday at the Dordt game tons of people came out, and I think similar crowds can be built because of this,” Gooch said.

SGA’s hope is that the Raider Cup will build excitement for each event and cause students to become more enthusiastic overall about supporting fellow students.

“It’s just another way to get students involved and help them see how important it is to support each other in all areas,” Hutson said.

So if you are wondering about whether or not to attend the next campus event, don’t debate, just go. You may end up with awesome prizes for simply attending.

“I’d like to see students get involved in events on campus and support everyone we can,” Gooch said. “We have really good teams on campus that we’re really lucky to have. We need to support the things we have. So get out there.”

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“IT took me two years to get my faith back,” Frye said. “It definitely left when my friend died.”

While in Hawaii, Frye said he had a hard time dealing with the trauma he experienced overseas. He was angry at the way the Iraqis had taken religion and somehow twisted it into something evil. Frye even tried to end his life.

“I ran from God,” Frye said. “I saw what religion does and I was pissed. I was drinking and sleeping around. One night I was by myself on the beach and I started yelling at God, and I tried to kill myself.”

Frye said he felt God’s presence, but could not explain the feeling that came over him.

“I got this realization, and God told me that people have hijacked what he meant to say,” Frye said. “I realized the importance of not taking for granted what God said to do and not do.”

Frye went to therapy to deal with his pain. He said it took him two years to regain his faith.

“I wouldn’t change anything,” Frye said. “If I would change something it would be my friend’s death, but 15 people wouldn’t have become Christians if it weren’t for him. Veterans want peace the most. We don’t want our friends and brothers to give up on dreams and have the regrets that we have.”

Frye plans to be a history major and earn a teaching degree here at NW. He said he wants to move his life in a positive direction.

“I like growing closer to God and the like-minded individuals at Northwestern,” Frye said.
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The Vine grows on campus, encourages prayer

BY ERIN VAN HORN

Many campus activities at Northwestern provide opportunities for advancing a relationship with Christ. Although there are numerous groups for this purpose, few focus on a time of quiet reflection.

A new prayer group, The Vine, focuses wholly on an intimate and thoughtfullime of worship.

“The goal of The Vine is to promote spiritual growth by providing an environment where people can stay connected to Jesus,” said senior Jeremy Bork.

The Vine is a prayer group that meets Wednesday nights from 9-10 in the North Suites basement. It originated when Bork began thinking about the campus ministries and what they had to offer.

“Last summer, I did a lot of reflection,” Bork said. “I recognized that there are a ton of opportunities to gather as a community, but I hadn’t noticed a lot of promotion for a one-on-one connection with the Lord.”

Acting on his reflections, Bork started The Vine. Initially it was a men’s prayer group, but it has grown into a campus wide organization.

“People will come and go pretty much the whole time,” Bork said. “It’s more of a gathering of people worshipping and connecting with God in their own way.”

“I found myself really connecting to God and that’s the closest I’ve felt to Him in a long time,” said sophomore attendee Malea Hill.

The Vine creates a place where students can slow down and focus on a more intimate relationship with Christ.

“I think communication with God is huge,” Bork said. “Prayer isn’t limited to talking to God or speaking to God. Prayer is both speaking and listening. Sometimes prayer means just existing in the presence of the Lord.”

Students have different reasons for going to The Vine each week.

“It’s a time for me to stop, and that’s hard for me to do,” said sophomore, Brett Gudeman. “It’s a time of reflection that I haven’t experienced in any other way since I’ve been here.”

Although some students enjoy a time of reflection, others prefer to focus on solitude and the refreshing aspect of this meeting.

“I just really like it because it is a place to go to have a one-on-one time with God,” said freshman Taylor Bork.

“For me it is a nice day in the middle of the week that’s relaxing. I can go for just 20 minutes and get refreshed,” said sophomore Hillary Haden.

Bork’s ultimate goal is for The Vine to go beyond NW’s campus.

“I hope that it will have a long-term effect with students at college and maybe, more importantly, when they leave college, they will learn the importance of solitude,” Bork said.

If interested in more information, visit The Vine’s Facebook page, theVINE, or email Jeremy Bork.

Bracelets provide hope for sex-trafficking victims

BY KAITLIN FLOERCHINGER

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, but senior Amie Davis is doing her part to combat this growth.

Working with the Red Thread Movement, Davis sells Red Thread bracelets in an attempt to raise money for sex trafficking victims in Nepal and India. The program assists women of their feet after the terror that is the sex-traffic life.

With girls as young as four or five being taken for the sex-trafficking industry, it can be difficult to restart life after leaving the trade. Families often turn them away, and marriage can be difficult after what they’ve experienced.

“This program helps them since they don’t have a trade or anything,” Davis said. “Because they’ve been in the sex trafficking industry for so long, all they know is the industry. The program teaches them different trades so they can make a living.”

The Red Thread bracelets are hand-woven by the women within the program as a way of preparing them for a trade. The bracelets are sold for $3. The sale of one bracelet aids three women in Nepal or India.

The bracelets make a difference in three very important ways, according to the Red Thread Movement website. One way is by providing a fair-trade income for the rescued girls that weave the bracelets. The second way is by allowing additional funds to be used for anti-trafficking border units and Safe Houses. Thirdly, it generates awareness of the sex trafficking industry and its violation of human rights.

Davis became more involved with the organization this past year after purchasing a bracelet at Lifelight two years ago. Wearing it daily served as a reminder, but it came up again when she took a class on campus called Violence Against Women.

“We were talking about different organizations, and I was thinking, ‘I should really get involved with that organization again,’” Davis said. “I looked online and found their Red Thread Movement information. They sent me the bracelets, and I’m starting to get them sold.”

The site, redthreadmovement.org, offers three quantities of bracelets to sell: 50, 100 or 200. Davis has currently sold 15 of her 50 bracelets, thanks to marketing in Ferm Smith Hall, classroom presentations and Facebook.

With the Fields of Mud an film that was shown on campus, Davis hopes more people become aware.

“I hope more people get involved, especially after the movie,” Davis said. “There’s so much more that needs to be done. It’s ridiculous.”

Freshman Leah Rekow saw the film and said that even small things can make a difference.

“We may not be able to do anything big to combat sex-trafficking,” Rekow said. “But like Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes for the 5,000, we can trust God to multiply our actions and make a change in this situation.”

Some students might feel that $3 cannot change anything, but Rekow disagrees.

She believes even buying something as small as a bracelet can make a difference.

If you’re interested in purchasing a bracelet, contact Amie Davis at amie.davis@nwciowa.edu.
NWC students, staff avoid clichés this Valentine’s Day

“Valentine’s Day is also my girlfriend’s birthday, so we decided to go dancing. In our hunt for a location, we kept coming across a gay bar in Sioux City, and it’s definitely still a possibility.” – Junior Ryan O’Kane

“My boyfriend is in Oman this semester. Since we won’t be together, I sent him a care package with a Valentine I made for him with a bunch of candy and ground coffee.” – Junior Kendra Kleinwolterink

“I love my boyfriend, and I want to do something special for him this Valentine’s Day. I came up with the idea of going snowboarding together.” – Junior Kendra Kleinwolterink

“I think it would be incredible to celebrate them by doing some festive activities. The holiday is just a good excuse to foster those relationships and have some fun.” – Senior Katherine Wallin

“Isaac works in the evenings with disabled adults who don’t often have the chance to celebrate many holidays, so I thought it would be incredible to celebrate them by doing some festive activities. The holiday is just a good excuse to foster those relationships and have some fun.” – Senior Katherine Wallin

“Jeff is the ultimate attentive husband, so we don’t really need a holiday for him to treat me like a queen. The real celebration is the next day, Susan B. Anthony Day.” – Theater professor Jeff Barker

“And I always ask her in writing to be my Valentine on that day. And if there is snow or a steamed-up mirror, it will often soon contain a heart shape with “J + K” because I’m as proud as I can be that I’m the privileged guy spending his life with this amazing woman. But she’s right about the real holiday. We push back on the cliché by embracing Susan B. Anthony at this time of year.” – Theater professor Jeff Barker

New landscapes bring new insights

BY MATT LATCHAW
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Stepping off the plane onto a sunny tarmac and 60 degree January air was the first of many surprising new things experienced at the beginning of the Oman Semester.

Rock dominates the landscape. Whether it’s scattered across the dusty ground or jaggedly pushing out of the earth toward the cloudless blue sky, rock peppers the horizon. Visits to some of the country’s most beautiful and awe-inspiring locations point to the significant and striking attributes of this unique new place.

Having grown up in a largely Christian, Midwestern culture, my view of the forces working in the world became complacent and shortsighted. In this new environment, the influence of these forces has become clear.

In Oman, it’s easy to see economic, cultural, historical, political, religious and even geological forces shaping every landscape, both metaphorically and literally.

The experiences here are also providing insights into my own native culture.

Iowans are known for being hard-working, hospitable and generally good people. I still think this is true, but another feature of this friendly way of life has come into view. Typically, the coasts of the States are viewed as worrisome, frantic and production-minded. We Midwesterners tend to be more laid back, but Omani mindset takes this to yet another level. Omanis are by and large the most welcoming and easy going group of people I’ve ever encountered.

What seems unplanned in Oman comes from an almost total lack of worry about the future. What seems to be a poor work ethic is a graceful presence in the moment. Rather than being ruled by a schedule, Omanis realize that they are not in control of their environments, so they don’t try to be. Instead of being perpetually concerned with the next step and fearing the future, Omanis take life slowly and spend their time in the here and now.

This attitude runs so deeply in the culture that an Omani rarely makes a claim about the future without affixing the phrase “in sha’ Allah” to the end. This basically means, “If God is willing.” “I’ll see you later, in sha’ Allah.” “By the end of the term, you will be speaking Arabic, in sha’ Allah.”

The connection between this phrase and the helpful nature of the people of Oman is undeniable. They firmly believe that whatever happens will happen, and they don’t deny that the efforts of humans are small in the grand scheme of things; their culture accepts the humble position of people in the universe.

Sometimes our planning gets in the way of working, loving and serving the way we should. Maybe it’s time to seek some inspiration from our Omani friends.
**Marx, Mayo place at Briar Cliff meet**

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

The Red Raider wrestling team traveled south on Highway 60 last Saturday to take part in the Briar Cliff Open at the Long Lines Events Center in Sioux City.

Both sophomore J. Mayo and sophomore Forrest Marx placed fifth in their weight classes.

In the 141-pound weight class, Mayo finished with a 3-2 record, and Marx went 2-2 overall in the 197-pound weight class. The Raiders had at least one participant in every weight class.

"I moved up from the 133-pound class to the 141, so I was really hoping that it would work out," Mayo said. "I was worried that I would get fatigued during the match with the added weight, but fortunately that did not happen."

As with many of the tournaments the team has participated in this season, the competition was steep.

Of the 16 teams that participated in the tournament, many are respected wrestling programs from the GPAC, but also NCAA D-I and NCAA D-II.

South Dakota State, Augustana College, Wichita State and Missouri Baptist University were among some of the more stiff and unfamiliar competition.

Opponents such as No. 1 Grand View College, No. 7 Morningside, No. 17 Dakota Wesleyan and No. 13 Midland provided NW with recognizable and formidable adversaries.

"The competition was really tough, like a lot of our meets, but I was really pleased with how we performed as a team," Mayo said. "Mostly everyone picked up at least one win, and they only placed the top five instead of eight, so I thought we did well."

With the NAIA qualifier meet less than two weeks away and only one more regular season dual on the schedule, now is the time of the season when a team should be peaking and reaching its full potential.

"We are looking to end the season on a good note," Mayo said. "Winning some matches against Midland would change up the seedings. I am confident we can get quite a few guys to qualify at Nationals."

The Raiders will close their regular season out with a trip to battle Midland.

The meet was originally scheduled for Thursday night but has been postponed to a day that is yet to be determined.

**Dunk, women's 4x800 auto-qualify**

BY ISAIAH TAYLOR

Last weekend the Northwestern track and field team competed in the Dennis Young Invitational against 13 other universities.

NW athletes shone as four Red Raiders finished first, there were nine personal bests and 28 season bests recorded.

Along with the strong finishes, more NW athletes qualified for the national meet. Among them was the women's 4x800-meter relay and junior Jeriah Dunk in the 55-meter.

Dunk finished first in the 55-meter against 51 other contestants with a time of 6.46 seconds. He followed that race up with a time of 22.97 in the 200-meter, in which he placed fourth.

The 4x800-meter relay finished first with a time of 9 minutes and 45 seconds. Junior Dawn Gildersleeve, senior Brianna Hobbs, junior Jackie Niewenhuis and freshman Lauren Spranger became automatic NAIA national meet qualifiers.

Sophomore Skyler Giddings won the mile with a time of 4:28, six seconds faster than the second-place finisher.

Redshirt junior Matt Huseman won the men's high jump, and cleared six feet, seven inches.

Other notable finishes for the day included sophomore Megan Walhof with a third-place finish in the 400-meter. Hobbs had a sixth-place finish in the 600-meter.

In the women's 1,000-meter, Gildersleeve finished first in the 400-meter.

Junior Jesse Selgeby finished ninth in the 200-meter, and junior Adam Poter placed eighth in the 600-meter.

Freshman Elliot Johnson and redshirt sophomore Taylor Bodin placed fifth and sixth respectively in the 800-meter.

Junior Zach Wittenberg, sophomore Logan Hovland, Giddings and freshman Kyle Anderson came in second, third, fourth and fifth place respectively in the 1,000-meter. They finished within a second of one another.

In the one-mile, freshman Elliot Stoltz came in fourth.

In the 55-meter hurdles junior Kyle Heidebrink finished third.

In the men's 4x400-meter, a group of Hammack, Bodin, freshman Kevin Martinson and senior Brandon Schuler placed fifth.

Sophomore Jordan Micalef finished 10th in the long jump, and sophomore Ben Green placed seventh in the triple jump.

NW will compete at 9:45 a.m. Saturday at Dordt.

**De Jong, Raiders scorch opposition**

BY KORAY KARAKAS

The No. 11 Red Raiders women's basketball team put on a dominant display Wednesday night in the Bulman Center as they won 80-54 over the Mount Marty Lancers. Another outstanding performance from senior Kendra De Jong saw her score 24 points and 15 rebounds. This lead the Raiders to their third successive win in what has been a great week for the team.

The Raiders gained a 10-2 advantage early on in the game, and their lead was rarely threatened. The Raiders ended the first half with a 36-28 lead, shot 50 percent and restricted the Lancers to just 24 percent.

Junior Alii Dunkelberger hit three straight baskets to spark an 8-0 streak in the second half, and extend Northwestern's lead to 66-46 and effectively ended the game.

"We came out and started really well," senior guard Mallory Cunard said. "(In the) second half, we came out and finished the game off early on. It was a good win for us."

NW out-rebounded the Lancers 47-33, and Cunard said that had a huge role to play in the win.

"Rebounding is always really big," Cunard said. "We did a good job of getting cuts through the paint, and we all played to our strengths."

The Raiders shot 55 percent, and were led yet again by De Jong, who bagged her seventh double-double of the season. NW's defense also held strong, and forced the Lancers to shoot just 25 percent from the field. The win puts the Raiders at 12-5 in the GPAC and 18-6 overall.

NW upset the No. 3 Concordia Bulldogs 63-51 in the women's basketball game played at the Bulman Center Saturday afternoon. Behind by one, the Red Raiders went on a 9-2 scoring streak to take a 13-7 lead during the early stages. The Raiders extended their lead to 24-15 before the Bulldogs rallied and reduced Northwestern's lead to 30-26 going into the break.

The Bulldogs came out looking much stronger in the second half and tied the game. NW held the Bulldogs to just one field goal over nine minutes to regain the lead 44-37.

Dunkelberger produced a three-pointer to stretch the Raiders' advantage moments later, and they were able to retain their double-digit lead for the remainder of the contest.

Senior Kendra De Jong produced another outstanding performance, and led the Raiders with 15 points and 7 rebounds in the game. NW hit 34 percent of their field goal attempts on the game, led by De Jong who recorded her sixth double-double of the season. Senior Mackenzie Small scored a season-high 14 points, and Dunkelberger was also in double digits points with 11.

NW heads to Doane to play at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

**Raider sports coverage @ beacon.nwciowa.edu**

- Men's basketball avenges Nov. loss to Mt. Marty
New Learning Commons details revealed

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

What began as a giant hole in the middle of campus at the beginning of the school year has been transformed into the new Learning Commons and is scheduled to open in the fall semester of 2013.

“It was exciting to watch them working on it since it has been warmer weather,” said junior Ashley Northfield.

The building will have three levels, each of which will include library collections. But the library is one of the many departments that will be moving to the new building.

According to Library Director Tim Schlak, the writing center, Learning Resource Center and Information Technologies help desk will all be relocated to the Learning Commons. There will also be a new computer lab, an express book checkout and more classroom space.

The Peer Learning Center will also be making the big move.

“We will have a larger space to work in than we have now,” said Tom Truesdell, director of academic support.

The new building will include more than a dozen individual and group study areas.

“We will have smaller study rooms and several larger group rooms to have tutoring sessions,” Truesdell said. “We can also have rooms reserved on the lower level so we have a lot of versatility. We will be experimenting a little bit on how tutoring works. We will still have some drop-in tutoring, and we will also keep some tutors on hand for when students come in with questions.”

Many students are looking forward to more space, especially for finals.

“I am excited for more study space and for the Peer Learning Center to be in one area,” said freshman Caitlin Hagerty.

Planning the Learning Commons’ interior has called for as much planning as its exterior.

“For the furniture, we put a lot of thought into it,” Schlak said. “Designers came in and gave us options. Then we had students come in and try out the chairs and vote on what they thought was the best.”

There will also be a coffee shop inside the Learning Commons. It will be run by Sodexo, so it will carry largely the same coffee products as the Hub.

“We are very excited (about the Learning Commons),” Schlak said. “It has been a long time coming.”

Study abroad deadline approaches

BY JULIA LANTZ

Each semester, campus welcomes back and says goodbye to the many Northwestern students who study abroad for a semester.

According to Doug Carlson, the associate dean of global education, interest in studying abroad has grown at many colleges throughout the past decade. Carlson said NW has followed this nationwide trend.

“We have a fixed budget and lately have had more applicants than budget,” Carlson said.

NW provides opportunities in 28 study-abroad locations, including Australia, China, Egypt, Costa Rica, England and Uganda. Further options through different colleges include other locations in Europe and South America.

The Oman, Denver and Romania semesters are NW programs, so tuition and fees are equivalent to a semester on campus.

According to senior Charlotte Richards, it was not difficult to convince her to apply to the Romania semester.

“I always wanted to study abroad, and Northwestern has two study abroad, programs that cover financial aid,” Richards said.

Richards said she chose Romania over Ukraine, which was a more convenient time for her. Richards also took a special interest in the Romania program because students work with a nongovernmental organization called the New Horizons Foundation.

The mission of this organization is to encourage Romanian youth who struggle with civic apathy due to the country’s corruption that stems from its communist history. Richards said she was interested because she had taken an honors class about community development and health.

One year ago, senior Nate Johnston also was applying to studying abroad. For Johnston, studying in a Spanish-speaking country is a requirement for his major. He chose to study in Spain along with six other NW students.

According to Johnston, the most meaningful part of his trip was the home stay, and especially the relationship he formed with his host mom.

“We got to know each other really well,” Johnston said. “We had some really meaningful conversations.”

A challenge during the semester that Johnston came to embrace was living in a city.

“I didn’t drive the whole semester and sometimes walked for miles,” Johnston said.

For those who don’t want to or are unable to spend an entire semester abroad, NW offers three-week Summer Study Abroad trips. This year, students have the option to spend the summer in Turkey or the Czech Republic. Applications for these programs have already closed.

According to Boryana Dobreva, the Summer Study Abroad coordinator, these programs are a great alternative option for first-time travelers.

“(Students) see a little bit of the world that they want to explore more,” Dobreva said.

Applications to study abroad for the coming fall and spring are due Sunday, Feb. 11.

For more information go online to www.nwciowa.edu/study-abroad.