“I stumbled into an audition my freshman year of high school after football practice,” Alex Wendel said.

Eight years later, he’s triumphantly exiting the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) with a major award in hand. When Wendel was nominated to enter the Irene Ryan portion of the KCACTF last year, he immediately approached Gerrit Wilford and chose him as his acting partner.

The Irene Ryan contestants, approximately 310 from the region, present three different acting scenes. For Wendel and Wilford, these three pieces were “Cover” by Jeffrey Sweet, “Two Gentlemen of Verona” by William Shakespeare and a monologue called “Anna Christie” by Eugene O’Neill.

In round one, the main contestant and his or her partner perform a three-minute scene of their choice. If the actors proceed to round two, which also involves a partner, they present their original scene along with an additional two minute piece. In the final round, a solo monologue accompanies the first two performances.

From the 310 contestants in the first round, 64 move on to the semi-finals, and 16 proceed to the final round. Two pairs finally advance to the national festival in Washington, D.C.

Theater festivals and awards tend to be subjective, so theater directors and actors choose their pieces carefully. Often actors choose pieces with a large shock factor — racy, drug-related, controversial, etc. Wendel and Wilford, however, simply chose pieces they liked.

“I knew I could do something with integrity without having to sell out to that ideal [of shock value],” Wendel said. As they rehearsed, he questioned his decision, and wondered if they would even be noticed. But clearly something in his approach clicked with the judges.

Professor Karen Barker, Wendel’s coach, attributes their success not only to their acting abilities and choice of performances but also to their ease on stage together. Wendel and Wilford have a similar acting style and are comfortable in their friendship. They never fear failing around each other.

In theater, performing with another individual requires a huge amount of trust. If one person misses a line, he or she needs to trust the other to pick it up without missing a beat. The pair have developed an ease that comes from being confident in their performance and abilities despite the opinions of others.

“I’m not going to necessarily please everyone,” Wendel said. “I may not be specifically what they’re looking for. Every casting director or judge is looking for something, and if you don’t have that, you won’t get the role.”
Barker breaks into the business

BY EMILY WALLACE

Hannah Barker is one of those lucky few.

“Toward the end of high school is when I discovered spoken word poetry and fell in love with it,” said Barker, who has a degree in Theatre. “I think it was in late elementary school we started to have poetry focused lessons,” said Barker, a Northwestern alum. “I really liked it, and poetry seemed to be a great outlet for me. I have basically just kept writing since then.”

According to Barker, who has a degree in Theatre, she is most passionate about spoken word poetry.

“I love that poetry ends up becoming its own language,” Barker said. “People don’t like poetry because they think it too hard or just about rhyming. Poetry is a lot more accessible than people think. There are tons of contemporary poets that write about stuff that everybody goes through. Poetry somehow allows people to say things they just normally wouldn’t.”

This past semester Barker has been interning for the indie folk band, Bella Ruse. The co-founder of the band, Joseph Barker, is Hannah’s older brother, which played a big role in how she landed the internship.

“I kind of just asked,” Barker said. “I know that my brother and his wife had had interns in the past, and I just wanted a way to hang out with my family since they are so far away. The reason I wanted to intern with them especially is because I focused on sound design at NW, and I knew that Joseph was really good at it.”

After starting her month-long internship with Bella Ruse, the siblings began a completely new project together. Barker has started recording a spoken word poetry album with her brother.

“This project has turned into something that we can create art together in a way neither of us have ever done before. It’s an entirely different creative process,” Barker said. “Joseph suggested that we make this album, I think it’s more of a project with me and my brother which makes it especially meaningful for me.”

“I have been recording all of my poetry and telling him what I imagine for the feeling or sounds. He then goes and writes music for it. This is something we could duplicate live, it’s a very specific recorded project,” Barker explained.

Barker recognizes the large role that the music contribution plays in her album.

“It adds a mood to it,” Barker said. “Emotion is added because of music. It connects people to a certain memory and helps draw out the emotions that are truly already there with the poetry.”

She will be recording with her brother for about a month and plans on being back in Orange City by Valentine’s Day.

As for the length of the album or when it will be complete, “We aren’t entirely sure,” said Barker. “I made a list of the poems of mine that I would want recorded. What he wants to do is record me preforming these poems. He would be able to continue the project whether I’m here or not because then all my recordings would be complete and he can just continue creating music for the background.”

The duo are planning on putting no more than 15 poems on the album.

Barker’s album will be available online when it’s finished and she is taking requests for CD copies.
Heart Murmurs is a satirical success

By Will Norris

With his newest release, Heart Murmurs, Minneapolis native Jeremy Messersmith makes a bold statement, as he becomes known for doing in his incredibly witty concept albums. The Reluctant Graveyard (2010) tells a story of 11 dead characters, and his 2008 release, The Silver City, pokes fun at the unappealingly terminal nature of modern suburbia. Chalk full of satire, Messersmith’s newest album takes a clever jab at the modern love song.

At first listen, Heart Murmurs is merely a well-constructed collaboration of enchanting indie-pop songs. However, if listeners actively invest in the lyrical content, the eerily sarcastic conceptual undertones will make their mark.

The album begins with an endearingly melodic track, “It’s Only Dancing,” which is reminiscent of an upbeat version of Death Cab for Cutie. Amid the mosaic of syncopated beats, entrancing strings and guitars that bring strength and girth absent from typical Messersmith records, the lyrical message bites.

In the album’s swinging single, “Tourniquet,” Messersmith describes love toward a significant other as smothering and constricting, like the very tool designed to discontinue blood flow in a human appendage, a tourniquet. He continues to use analogies in his writing to paint a convincing picture. In the second-to-last track, Messersmith says, “I need a hitman for my heart, someone to throw it off a balcony.”

Along with his vivid imagery, Messersmith is an expert storyteller. With musical attributes reminiscent of The Beatles, he utilizes his support of heavily distorted bass, fluttery guitar patterns and various shakers to tell the story of an all-too-illuminant relationship failure.

“I’m gonna hurt you, bleed you dry, all I need is time,” he sings in the track “Bridges.” He also talks of his friend feeling the pain of a breakup and just needing a kiss under the moonlight in the song “Steve.”

The satirical nature of Messersmith’s writing brings such a distinct element to his music. However, it is not exclusively his lyrical brilliance that makes this album such a gem. The diverse spectrum of musicality that Messersmith explores is something to be admired. His sweetly melodic vocals soar over a blend of colorful sounds.

Messersmith has used a full sweep of musical styles and moves flawlessly from the energized folk rock track “Ghost” to the bitterly facetious acoustic “Someday” (which happens to be fully equipped with baroque-style strings), from the delicately soulful “Bubblin” with a full brass section to the ambient swells of the cello-infused “You’ll Only Break His Heart.”

In his latest record, Messersmith points his fingers straight at the ideal mainstream love song. By exploring all the ways a heart murmurs, he has created an authentic, conceptual masterpiece. Messersmith lives for exploiting kitsch and presenting reality; in the case of Heart Murmurs, he has pulled this off in a fashion that is both beautiful and brash.

Rating:

Key Tracks: “Tourniquet,” “Bridges,” “Hitman”
Students thrive in the Windy City

BY ASHLEY VAN WYHE

Would you enjoy a semester with fewer cornfields and more skyscrapers, the fast pace of city life and a couple more things to do on the weekends? Ten Northwestern students are experiencing just that and more in the beautiful city of Chicago.

Each spring, Northwestern students are given the opportunity to intern, take classes and experience life in the "Windy City." This spring our very own can be found interning with organizations such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lincoln Park Zoo, Today's Chicago Woman magazine, the Field Museum and the Catholic Charities of Chicago. Their internships provide them with real-life work experience, networking tools and helpful advice for future jobs.

Christine Williams, a literature major, said she has been enjoying her internship with Today's Chicago Woman magazine. "I had the opportunity to interview four women for the magazine and write an article about them," Williams said. "To do some writing that will be published is definitely a highlight," Williams said.

It's not all work and no play. When the students are done working and taking classes for the day, they get to explore the city. "I love exploring Chicago," Williams said. "Whenever there is free time, I like to use it to get to know the city better," Williams said. "I've been to the Garfield Conservatory and the Shedd Aquarium. I also went swing dancing and up to the 96th floor of the Hancock Tower to eat dessert while looking over the city."

Other students have even created a bucket list they hope to conquer. Sara VanGorp, a public relations major, said: "My roommates and I made a bucket list of all the things we have to do in Chicago. Things like going to the Second City comedy club, dining at the Signature Lounge in the John Hancock Building, attending a Blue Man group show, Chinatown, museums, the list goes on and on. We want to make sure that we utilize our time in Chicago and see all the sights but also become like native Chicagoans."

The city offers fun, but it also requires some acclimation. Katie Krebs, a public relations major said: "Public transportation has taken some getting used to. The first couple days we were here, we had no idea what we were doing but now we're able to just hop on a train or bus and go where we need to go."

Gillian Anderson, a public relations major said: "I would highly recommend Chicago Semester to anyone who is thinking of doing it. I have had a blast so far, and the Chicago Semester staff is very helpful when it comes to securing an internship."

Courtney Kroese, a business administration major, agreed with Anderson. "I would definitely recommend this program to all students, no matter what you're studying. When else would you have the opportunity to live and work in America's third largest city?" Kroese said.

If you are looking for something new and exciting to try be sure to check out the Chicago Semester.

Chicago Applications are due in the Career Development Center on Monday, Feb. 10 by 5 p.m.

Hugh Halter on NW Campus

BY KARA NONNEMACHER

Eighty years ago, 80 percent of Americans attended church. Today that number has dropped to 20 percent, and in 10 more years, it is expected that America will be asunchurched as Europe with an attendance rate below 10 percent.

Hugh Halter, pastor, author and speaker (and father of Northwestern students Alli and McKenna Halter), has a heart for answering the "why" of that statistic. Halter visited Northwestern’s campus last Thursday and Friday and challenged students in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting on Thursday and a full chapel on Friday.

"The Church is in massive decline," Halter said. "There are no denominations that are growing... Christians won't know how to relate to the world."

Halter said he sees the solution to this struggle in a renovation of the church, and the way to do this is through missional communities. During his chapel message, Halter outlined the ways that a Church can become a missional community rather than an uninspiring body of hearers. His answer seems simple: "You must walk as Jesus walked."

Northwestern student Kelly Thurman said she appreciated the approach Halter took. She liked "his humor and how he took something serious and made it easier to understand." This is a serious topic, indeed, and the challenge Halter laid out is not a matter that is tackled easily.

Halter challenged NW students to leave their comfort zones and seek out the people that Jesus would seek out if He were here today. Halter said it is a misstep to surround yourself only with people who are like you — people who hold the same religious and political views or ethnicity as you. This creates a type of Christianity that fosters harsh judgment.

Instead, Halter called for Christians to go find those who are different, even while in college.

"Don't join a church league softball team; go play in the community league," he said. If Christians "drop in" with other people as Jesus commands, doors will open, conversations will start and relationships will be formed.

Freshman Samantha Wielenga said she appreciated Halter’s message.

"I feel like what Hugh talked about is directly related to NW as a school because we tend to stick with our own and just judge everyone else instead of interacting with each other and jumping in," Wielenga said.

Halter serves as the lead pastor at Adullam, a church located in Denver, Colo. Adullam is a nontraditional church that rarely meets on Sunday mornings. Rather, they are typically out participating in “kingdom work." Halter described it as a "network of missional communities around Denver."

"People have to feed themselves," Halter said. "They don't need a pastor to teach them everything. Instead, we work with the poor, and when we do gather, it's like a big family reunion."
Northwestern’s recent addition, the DeWitt Learning Commons, provides multi-dimensional learning opportunities for students. Not only does it house the library and other traditional learning resources, but there are hidden advantages to explore in the Learning Commons such as the Media Production Lab.

The Media Production Lab is located on the far south side of the Learning Commons basement. It’s also right next to the Audiovisual Department’s office.

“We’ve got this large space that’s been furnished with business-line computers, work stations really, that consumers can’t even get their hands on,” said Mike Stokes, AV director. “What we want to do is let people know what this space is for and that all students can use it.”

When designing this space, Stokes envisioned the area supporting collaborative group work for student projects that need to be done by students.

There are four large round tables with an abundance of chairs, large white boards great for storyboards or note-pinning, two PC’s and two Macs loaded with the latest programs in the Adobe Premium Creative Suite.

“For a suggestion and request we received, we have added Adobe InDesign to accommodate the recent demand that’s come up for students,” AV Technician Lem Maurer said.

Currently, few students use the computers for what they can do, but many use the room as a quiet space to do homework.

In an effort to educate and draw attention to this facility, Stokes and Maurer have offered free video-editing classes in the MPL starting out with the program Premiere Pro.

According to Stokes and Maurer, the classes will be fairly basic at the beginning with the possibility of offering more advanced classes in the future.

The first two sessions were this past week. Resident Director of Hospers Brittnay Caffey attended the first session as a beginner to video editing. “I do not pride myself in my knowledge of technological things, and they explained the basics of the program in a way that even I could understand,” Caffey said. “I look forward to attending the next session.”

Mike Stokes works on a project using the video editing software Premiere Pro.

“The first session went really well and we had a good response from the participants,” Maurer said. “The Media Production Lab really lends itself to collaborative training and usage.”

“I’m not sure when more training will be offered,” Maurer said. “Keep in mind that Mike and I have offices adjacent to the Media Production Lab, and when we’re available, we’ll gladly help with your media-related questions and projects,” Maurer said.

In addition to the Media Production Lab, there is also a recording studio. Students are free to use it as long as they have permission from Stokes or Maurer and provided the office is open. The Lab itself is open for use whenever the Learning Commons is open.

Resident director to plant new roots across campus

BY STEPHEN DYKSTRA

With Hospers Hall set to become a men’s dorm next fall, long-time resident director Brittany Caffey will find herself in a different yet oddly familiar role. Caffey will the resident director of Bolks Apartments and Courtyard Village, the first position of its kind in recent years.

“The position is still being developed, but it will include typical RD responsibilities — resident assistant staff development, discipline, providing resources for students, being available, etc. — and will include a focused response to upperclassmen issues for all upperclassmen on campus,” Caffey said.

Age disparities and a spread-out student population will require a new approach to resident life. However, she said she remains determined to keep the students her main focus.

“There is one major way we approach residence life that will not change: I will still take a lot of student input and try to walk alongside students without a specific agenda, especially at first,” Caffey said.

“I could go into the position with a list of things I would like to see change in the apartments, but I think this will be ineffective and exhausting. Instead, I’d like to let the residents themselves help me decide what needs to change and go from there.”

The Hospers switch wasn’t the only factor that influenced the decision to create a full-time resident life staff for the apartments.

Marlon Haverdink, the director of resident life at Northwestern, cited the 2012 National Survey of Student Engagement that gave the college feedback on campus life. Despite positive reports from upperclassmen, one area for improvement stood out.

“Unfortunately, there was one key benchmark where our upperclassmen reported a decrease: Supportive Campus Environment,” Haverdink said.

“That surprised us, and through follow-up conversations with multiple upperclassmen living in the apartments, we learned that while they appreciated the various freedoms and independence that apartment living offered, many students used words like ‘dropped,’ ‘on their own’ and ‘disconnected’ to describe their experience in the apartments.”

Haverdink said he is optimistic that Caffey will improve the living experience for upperclassmen.

“Our hope is that Brittany will again be able to provide that same dedicated support for our students living in the apartments,” Haverdink said.

Caffey said she welcomes the opportunity to focus on upperclassmen.

“I am currently a co-RD of the apartments with Corey Kundert, and our attention between the dorm RA staff and the apartment RA staff can be difficult to juggle,” Caffey said.

“I am excited to be able to focus on a single RA staff and to be able to be more present in the apartments,” Caffey said.

“I’m also excited to focus on some issues unique to upperclassmen here at Northwestern as they consider transitioning from college into the next stage of their lives,” Caffey said.

There are, however, certain things about Hospers Hall that Caffey finds difficult to leave behind.

“Although I am excited and very grateful for the opportunity to be a resident director in the apartments, it does come with an element of grief,” Caffey said.

“There is a lot I will miss about Hospers, but perhaps I will most miss the unstructured, spontaneous interactions I have with the women of Hospers now,” Caffey said.

“These organically occur because of our shared living space, and although I will see them around campus, it will most likely happen in more planned and orchestrated ways.”
Less money or more memories

BY JESSIE SCHULDIT
FEATURES EDITOR

When I was a kid, I looked at college students and thought about how that time in my life was so far away. Even in high school it felt like I would be a teenager forever. Fastforward a few years, and I’m only eight months away from graduating college a semester early. I am beyond excited to graduate, get a job and succeed.

But what happens when you graduate and have to start paying loans? Buying groceries? Living 100 percent on your own? Even as a fairly independent person, I am hesitant to finally let go of my childhood and move forward in reality. Sure, I’ll miss Northwestern, but what lies ahead is new and different.

Editor’s Note
The opinions published both in print and online are the opinions of the authors only. Beacon staff members do not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this section. Research and editing (other than formatting) of articles is the responsibility of the authors rather than the editors.

Respectfully,
the Beacon staff

After switching my major three times and dropping two minors, I thought that I wouldn’t even be able to graduate in the typical four years. I did some planning and research and soon found out that I could save some money by consolidating my schedule.

Making the final decision to graduate a semester early involved sacrificing time with my friends and missing out on other social aspects of college. My semesters have been packed with 18-credit course loads, 30-hour work weeks and the occasional six hour increments of sleep.

It can take time to find the balance between work and play in college. Sometimes you have to make sacrifices to get what you want. If you’re thinking about graduating early, do some research, talk with your advisor, and take your time in making a decision.

I’ll be honest, the main appeal of graduating early is saving money. I’ll also get a jumpstart on the job market, start hammering away at the debt I’ve avoided for three years and get acclimated to this “real world” that everyone talks about.

What’s waiting for me out there? Doubt, fear, uncertainty. But also excitement, opportunity and experience. I want to learn and experience all that I can as soon as I can. For me, the pros outweigh the cons a million times. For someone else, college may be the best years of their life. I have high hopes that everything that lies ahead of me will keep getting bigger and better.

Here’s something I have realized: You don’t have to have everything figured out when you’re 20 years-old. Shocked, right? I know. So Graduate early, or don’t graduate early. Enjoy the time you have at Northwestern, and do what is best for you for the path you want to take. Get excited to graduate. Whether it’s four years from now or four months from now, be excited for the opportunities ahead of you because we can’t all be college kids forever.

Medal-winning wardrobe

The 2014 Winter Games have begun. Even if you are like me and not really a huge fan of sports, you get excited about the competitors and cheering for their country to do well. Another thing that always intrigues me is the outfits that are worn at the Olympics.

Yes, you heard me: the outfits. At the opening and closing ceremonies, athletes from each country are dressed in outfits that show that they are a team for their country. Sometimes they are tasteful outfits, and sometimes they are just plain wrong.

This year the USA Olympic team is dressed by Ralph Lauren. If you didn’t know, Ralph Lauren also designed the 2012 Summer Olympics, this year’s have more of a ski lodge feel to them. The outfit consists of a cream turtleneck, embroidered fleece pants, knit socks, thick ski-like boots and a reindeer hat.

First let’s look at the ultimate patriotic cardigan sweater. It is the epitome of the ultimate American-themed ugly sweater. It is a patchwork of various American flags, stars and stripes and the Olympic logo. But the thing is it is kind of an oxymoron sweater, a sweater that is so ugly that is actually kind of cute. I am not going to lie; I would actually wear that sweater.

Pretty much the only other thing I like about the outfit is the reindeer hat. It is also in the colors of American red, navy blue and white. The knit reindeer and the USA letters knitted prominently fit perfectly with the oxymoron sweater and add to the whole ski lodge feel.

As for the rest of the outfit, not a huge fan. The pants are basically white skinny sweatpants with writing down the leg. Also not a huge fan of turtlenecks; I feel like they are claustrophobic and that only people with long necks can pull them off successfully. The boots feel clunky, heavy and make the bottom half of the outfit look heavy.

The closing ceremony outfit is basically the same thing, but the plain turtleneck was replaced with a knit reindeer sweater and switch out the cardigan with a navy blue peacoat with a horizontal American red stripe. The peacoat is probably the one item most people would wear out of this whole collection. It is a classic item that will not go out of style for years to come.

But if you are looking for a truly great outfit at the Olympics, look no further than the Norwegian curling team. What makes their outfits so incredible are the pants. Yep, their pants are not the boring old black or even a solid color; this year they are a red, white and blue chevron.

The Norwegian curling team has had outrageous patterned pants for a number of years now. Their pants even have their own Facebook page with over half a million likes. The pants bring attention to the sport, and quite honestly, you have to admire the men who have confidence to wear those outrageous patterned pants.
Lady Raiders charge past Briar Cliff

By Jordan Dykstra

On Wednesday, the women’s basketball team routed the visiting Briar Cliff Chargers 101-75. With the victory, the third-ranked Raiders now stand at a 21-2 record and in sole possession of first place in the GPAC.

Northwestern stormed out of the gates on a 13-0 run and never looked back. At one point, the Raiders had a 23-5 lead over Briar Cliff. The Chargers cut the margin to just 35-30, but NW finished the half with a 48-36 lead. Senior guard Mackenzie Small and sophomore guard Morgan VanDerSloot both knocked down threes to push the NW lead.

In the second half, NW controlled both ends of the floor and held a 20-point lead for the majority of the final five minutes. On the defensive end, the Raiders managed to blanket Briar Cliff and held the Chargers to only 35 percent shooting from the floor and only 17 percent from three-point.

“As a team, we did a pretty good job of putting pressure on the basketball and forcing them to shoot tough shots,” senior forward Samantha Kleinensasser said.

In contrast, NW was red hot and hit a stellar 51 percent from the floor and nearly 53 percent from three-point.

“NW held an advantage in rebounds with a 49-35 edge. The Raiders also capitalized on the Charger's mistakes with 38 points off of turnovers.

Guard Alli Engebretson led the charge with 25 points. The versatile senior also contributed with seven rebounds and nine assists. Kleinensasser added 21 points and seven rebounds. Junior guard Karen Hutson scored 16 points. Small rounded out the double-figure scoring with 15 and also added seven rebounds and five assists.

“Our goal is to just keep improving every day, whether that’s in practice or in the games,” Kleinensasser said. “We have to worry about the next game that is in front of us instead of what the end of the season will bring, but we are excited to see what God has planned for the rest of it.”

The Raiders return to action Saturday with a conference match against Doane. The game will tip-off at 2 p.m.

Tennis team prepped for season

By Kyle Stanek

Today the women’s tennis team kicks off its 2014 season and travels to Des Moines, IA to face off against the Vikings of Grand View.

This season the Raiders have added three new players to the team from last year. The new additions include McKayla Johnson, a freshman from Sioux Falls; Valerie Robinson, a transfer sophomore who previously played at Northern State; and senior Alex Bower from Sioux Falls.

“The new players are a good addition to the team, and I am excited to see how they help us out,” sophomore Amanda Bueltel said. She said she is excited to see the team get better every day and to see the improvements from where they were last season.

“We have a couple new girls, and since we are a small team, that makes a big difference,” junior Hannah Stark said.

Stark said she likes the relationships she gets to build with her teammates and is looking forward seeing how they grow as a team.

The team is looking forward to traveling to Hilton Head, SC, during spring break, and it is expected to be a good test for the squad.

“Our expectations this season is that we want to compete at the top of the conference,” coach Jeff Guthmiller said. Guthmiller said that the last two weeks of practice have been good and that he is excited to see where the team stands after all the hard work they have put in. He said he loves the camaraderie that the team has and thinks that his team is ready for the meet.

Last year, the team ended the season with a 7-11 overall record and made it to the semi-finals in the conference tournament but fell to top-seeded Nebraska Wesleyan 5-0.
Art exhibit inspired by son

BY DAVID LI

In the Te Paske Gallery this week, there are oil paintings of different caricatures. The paintings are the work of Rachel Mindrup, an artist from Omaha. The collection is called “Many Faces of Neurofibromatosis” and was inspired by Mindrup’s son who suffers from this disease.

“My son Henry has been the motivation behind my series of portraits,” Mindrup said, according to a press release by NW’s Public Relations department. “Through these paintings, I am the conduit, transforming genetic complications into something secondary and portraying the individual personalities first.”

According to Medline Plus, Neurofibromatosis, or NF, is a genetic disorder of the nervous system that mainly affects how nerve cells form and grow. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, there are three different types of NF.

Type 1 (NF1) causes skin changes and deformed bones, and it usually starts in childhood. Although symptoms can develop over time, sometimes they are present at birth. Type 2 (NF2) causes hearing loss, ringing in the ears and poor balance. These symptoms often start in the teen years. The third and rarest type of NF is called Schwannomatosis, which causes intense pain due to the tumors growing on the body’s nerves. Some people live almost unaffected by the symptoms of NF; however, in some cases people can be severely disabled because of it.

Each painting represents someone who suffers from NF or a different aspect of the culture associated with the disease. The artist provides descriptions of what each piece is about and the life struggles of those depicted in the portraits.

Mindrup boasts an impressive resume. Her career as an artist, which started back in 2003, includes several awards, honors and grants. According to NW’s public relations department, Mindrup graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, studied figure drawing and painting at the Art Academy of Los Angeles and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Art Institute of Boston.

A public reception will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, Friday, February 7, at 7 p.m. in the gallery to meet the artist. The exhibit has been on display since Monday of this week and will continue to be on display until Feb. 21.


PHOTO BY EMILEE BERRY

Kali Walkow and Caitlyn Van Es viewed the exhibit that will be on campus until February 21. The portraits in Rachel Mindrup’s “Many Faces of Neurofibromatosis” were inspired by her son’s condition.

Students storm stage at KCACTF

FROM PAGE 1

However, the opinions of others can be very useful when looking at graduate schools. Both actors were approached by various graduate-school recruiters and said they are open to the idea of attending. Wendel said he hopes to continue his theater involvement, whether that is through professional acting, teaching at a collegiate level or directing at high schools. For Wendel, “working with other people and giving them ideas” makes theater enjoyable. He would like others to have the same positive acting experience he has found here at NW.

The duo returned from the week at KCACTF with three of the four top acting awards in hand. Wendel won both the overall Irene Ryan and the Classical Acting Award, and Wilford received Best Partner. Both said they felt the awards they received were affirmations of their abilities, but throughout the week, they chose to remember that this festival wouldn’t make or break their careers. In the end, they followed the wise words of Karen Barker: “Love each other, love the script, and have fun.”