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OWL
Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Freshman Kenzie Sanders narrates the show, "She Kills Monsters," from a tower overlooking the stage and audience. See below for more.

UNO faces DEI department closure

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

On Feb. 21, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) officially closed its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) department due to indications from the federal government regarding funding cuts for DEI programs.

The U.S. Department of Education issued a statement on Jan. 23: "The U.S. Department of Education has taken action to eliminate harmful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Following President Trump's recent Executive Orders and initial guidance, the Department removed or archived hundreds of guidance documents, reports, and training materials that include mentions

of DEI. These review efforts will continue as the Department works to end discrimination based on race and the use of harmful race stereotypes throughout America's education system."

Yasmine Alhejaj, a sophomore at the University of Nebraska studying gender studies and public health, is involved with the Women and Gender Equity Center (WGEC) on campus and has been directly affected by these cuts.

"UNO's DEI program offered different programs and research centers. Students benefited through legal protection," Alhejaj said. "My initial reaction to the DEI closures was shock and confusion. I still am very confused by the state of this administration. It has been scary, and still is, knowing programs relevant to my livelihood may be shut down by the administration."

Alhejaj also expressed concern about the university's response to the situation.

"Faculty have been very quiet, from my perspective, on this," Alhejaj said. "And students are confused about the next steps. Some are scared and angry, and some people I have talked to were not even aware of the history of DEI defunding at the university. I also feel the university has not offered genuine support, and they are only defending their decisions."

Wendy Huntsmann, a DEI specialist at Doane University, shared a complex reaction to the issue, understanding that UNO has been facing budget cuts recently, making the situation hard on faculty.

A key question among students is whether anything similar could happen to Doane's DEI program.

"Don't fear us closing. We as a division have

been talking about this before all the conversations," Huntsmann reassured.

She emphasized the importance of education in combating systemic inequities.

After looking at the history of slavery, it becomes clear that slavery lasted long because of the lack of education. Education is the key to success, so holding it back against a group will make them less successful.

"When we start looking at how we can take away resources and funding from people who don't look a certain way, then things will start to move backward," Huntsmann said.

Huntsmann stressed that maintaining inclusion and equity remains crucial for students, even amid budget cuts.

"Everyone can contribute by critically thinking, developing relationships with different people, un-

derstanding that people are complex, doing your research on history, and not taking things at face value," she stated. "And share your story."

Huntsmann also shared resources such as Democracy Forward, Democracy 2025, NAACP as sources for students to use.

DEI PROGRAM CLOSURES

A THREAT TO EQUITY AT UNO

On February 21, UNO officially closed its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) department. DEI department offered a variety of programs aimed at promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.

Students are confused about the next steps. Some are scared, and others are unaware of the history of DEI defunding at UNO.

Response from Doane University:
Wendy Huntsmann's Quote "Don't fear us closing. We've been talking about this before all the conversations."

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA

Graphic by Laura Ruiz | The Doane Owl

Doane Theatre presented its first show of the semester, "She Kills Monsters"

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

From the preview on Feb. 26 to the final performance on March 1, "She Kills Monsters" was well-attended, well-performed and well-received by the Doane community.

"Now sit back, relax, put your dice away, and enjoy the show," junior

Ella Zubieni said before taking the stage as the lead actress.

The story follows Agnes, played by Zubieni, who loses her younger sister Tilly, played by freshman Frankie McClaren, and their parents in a car accident. Two years later, she discovers a Dungeons and Dragons campaign designed by Tilly. As freshman Kenzie Sanders explains in her role as the narrator, Tilly was the "rarest nerd of all—a girl nerd." Ag-

nes never understood her sister's interests, but now that she's gone, she is determined to learn about them.

With sarcasm, wit and sheer ridiculousness, the show elicited laughs throughout its run. The audience witnessed TV-obsessed demons, chainsaw-wielding fairies and dance battles with succubi, along with the constant confusion over the meaning of "role-play," especially when involving high school stu-

dents.

Attention to detail was paramount in this production. The set featured a mix of giant and life-sized objects. Chuck, played by sophomore Adam Millikan, commands the game from a giant eraser used as a desk, and oversized dice frame the stage. Costumes change throughout the performance as characters shift between real life and the game's fantasy.

Despite the comedy

and epic battles, the sisterhood between Agnes and Tilly takes center stage. Tilly's identity—more than just a girl nerd—is at the heart of the show. Agnes is shocked to discover that Tilly was gay and begins to question how well she knew her sister. Zubieni and McClaren deliver heartfelt performances as the show explores their sisterly relationship and the things left unsaid.

Following "Between the Lines," this production marks another great

performance by Doane Theatre. Those who unfortunately missed it can see Doane Theatre later this spring in "A Map of Virtue." While it remains to be seen whether this show will similarly blend fantasy and reality, it promises to deliver horror-comedy at the Whitcomb. Audiences can expect stellar performances and heartfelt messages that tug at their heartstrings.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

(Left) From left to right, freshman Frankie McClaren, junior Ella Zubieni and sophomore Adam Millikan can be found on stage together where they all played significant roles in the show. (Right) Majority of the cast members can be found on stage together ending the show with this final scene of them playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Students celebrate National TRIO Day



Courtesy Photo by Beth Jacobsen

Students from all over Nebraska colleges gather at Doane University to celebrate National TRIO Day, many of these students are reliant on TRIO scholarships for college

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

National Trio Day was celebrated on Feb. 22, with Doane TRIO students joining a collaboration of Southeast Community College, Peru State and University of Nebraska-Lincoln students for a day of events.

Beth Jacobsen, executive director of academic support services, was one of the lead planners for this day. Along with her other responsibilities, she also liaised with the offices of Congressman Flood, Congressman Smith, and Senator

Fischer to secure the attendance of Jerad Reimers and Deb Schorr, as well as a video message from Senator Fischer, for the afternoon program."

Recent administration actions have caused concern over the future of TRIO and the Department of Education as a whole. "The program's foundation rests on fostering strong relationships, celebrating student successes, ensuring equitable access to resources, and providing transformative new experiences," Jacobson said. She went on to highlight the different opportunities

which Doane TRIO SSS offers for its two hundred students. "Without TRIO SSS, Doane University would lack the necessary resources to adequately support these critical opportunities for this group of students and dedicated staff positions. Doane faculty, staff, and students can play a vital role in sustaining this program by actively engaging in advocacy," Jacobson said. During National TRIO Day, students collaborated with other universities to write Congress, share their stories and participate in community

service for local humane societies. Junior Jordan Bocock and senior Tasha Pederson shared their experiences with TRIO and how the program has assisted them. Last year, these same students accompanied Jacobson and Southeast Community College's TRIO SCC director on an advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. Jacobson remembers an encounter with Don Bacon during this trip. "While our initial meeting was with his Chief of Staff, Congressman Bacon himself recognized us in the hallway and warmly greeted us," Jacobson

said. "His genuine enthusiasm and recognition of our group underscored the impact of our visit and the importance of our advocacy efforts."

Throughout international TRIO day, attending students learned about the history of TRIO, such as the fact that Viola Davis, Oprah Winfrey and John Quinones are TRIO alumni. There was even an opportunity for students to test their knowledge and win prizes. Jacobson was thrilled by "the exceptional turnout and level of engagement." She assured that Doane will continue to

celebrate National TRIO Day. "By amplifying our collective voice, we can ensure that TRIO continues to empower students and strengthen our community," Jacobson said. She also encouraged the Doane community to take action by "contact[ing] our five Nebraska representatives in the national delegation via phone or email."

Greek societies bring in new members

JOHN DAWES
Editor-in-Chief

Doane University ushered in a new cohort of Greek fraternity and sorority members in February. While it was initially cold and snowy, many students prevailed through the elements and did their bridge crossings, marches around campus and other Greek initiation rituals, with some of those initiation rituals being a secret to non-Greek life members. "Being in Greek life we can't share much about what we do during the month however I can share some baseline information. Overall the month is created to help educate the new members so they can un-

derstand the values and traditions that our group holds," Junior and social chair for Alpha Omega Fraternity Jacob Eacker said. "A lot of information is transferred so they understand and uphold the legacy that is placed upon them from past generations. Our new members also had the opportunity to meet all four of the sororities and got to understand more about their values. It's a long month for new members but to see their growth is one of the most rewarding moments of Greek month." Greek life at Doane has seen a bit of a resurgence, as many groups brought forth large cohorts of students as opposed to previous years and is a return to a Greek life culture that previously existed at

Doane, however Eacker believes it stems from the fact that students wish for a unique connection with Doane, other students and alumni. "I think each group offers something completely different for people but the main reason is to gain connections and meet new people. From personal experience I can say that I've become friends with so many people in other groups that I would have never thought of if it hadn't been for Greek life," Eacker said. "It's also the Alumni connections that groups hold that I think can be very intriguing. Lastly, the way groups will build you as a person and a leader, the pillars of each group I think hold deep into the mem-

bers in which they try to display." While Greek month may have ended,

many of the groups will be active in the coming months, whether it's with

fundraisers or with formal fundraisers for both fraternities and sororities.



Photo by Liz Calderon | The Doane Owl

Senior Rowan Jolkowski gives a speech to all the new Greek Life members

AI CEO speaks to students about new tech

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

On Feb. 27, students and staff had the opportunity to engage with France Hoang, CEO of Boodlebox, as he discussed the role of AI in education. Hoang's visit focused on how AI can be integrated into the classroom through Boodlebox. Hoang's unique career includes 20 years in national security with service in every branch of the U.S. government. Hoang also worked as a lawyer before becoming an entrepreneur. His presentation addressed three key concerns frequently

asked by educators and students: (1) whether AI is taking jobs, (2) whether AI is making college less important and (3) whether AI is diminishing the role of teachers. According to Hoang, AI is reshaping the workforce, but rather than fearing this change, we should learn to use it. He compared today's AI revolution to the technological advancements of the Gilded Age. However, he emphasized that students must first develop "domain expertise" before using AI. "Be good at what you do, and use AI to be better," Hoang said. Hoang also noted the risks of avoiding AI altogether. He argued that AI is becoming an

essential skill for the modern workforce. Hoang addressed the environmental impact of AI, particularly concerns about water consumption. Some AI models reportedly use between 1 and 12 liters of water per chat. Hoang explained that Boodlebox operates with lower token usage, which reduces computational power and, consequently, energy and water consumption. According to the Technology Policy Institute, "A token is the smallest piece of information an AI model processes...Fewer tokens mean lower resource demands." Following the presentation, attendees moved to the Art and Education Building for

a live demonstration of Boodlebox. The platform offers customizable AI bots that serve different educational purposes. Specifically, its tutor bots

promote active learning by guiding students through problem-solving rather than giving direct answers. Hoang concluded by discussing poten-

tial future developments, including the possibility of integrating Boodlebox with Canvas.

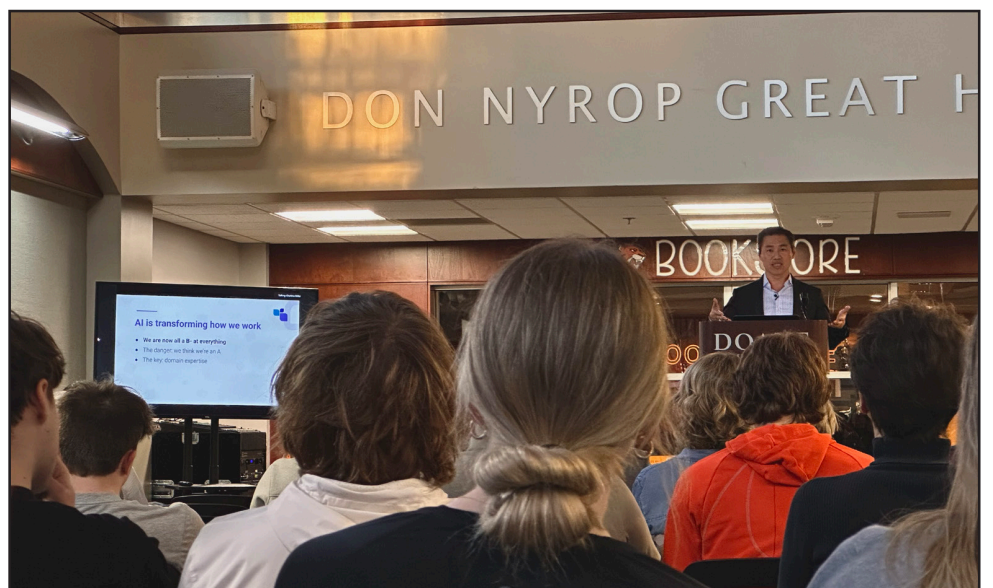


Photo by Brianna Wright | The Doane Owl

Famous author helps students market

JOHN DAWES
Editor-In-Chief

Marketing for a business is easier said than done. You need to conduct market research, construct a product that fits the needs of the buyer and finally put the word out that you're selling something worth buying. Marketing becomes even harder when you're marketing to the wrong crowd.

CEO and founder of Female Factor, Bridget Brennan spoke to Doane students on Feb. 25 in Gaylord 500 for the Contemporary Issues in Marketing class and gave them key insights into the demographic that any good business will market to: women.

"It turns out, when you meet women's needs, it meets everyone's needs. If only our clients could see through the eyes of women," Brennan said. "Women are the primary buyers of goods, so why aren't

we marketing to them?"

In both her books, "Why She Buys: The New Strategy for Reaching the World's Most Powerful Consumers" and "Winning Her Business: How to Transform the Customer Experience for the World's Most Powerful Consumers," Brennan discusses how women have largely been neglected by businesses when marketing their products, despite the fact they are responsible for the purchase of 80% of all consumer goods. Brennan noticed this disparity and wondered why no one was jumping at the opportunity to market towards women.

"I didn't start my book or business for a long time because I thought if this was such a good idea someone smart would've done it," Brennan said. "Don't let that stop you from doing what you want to. What's interesting about the market is that we need to see the macro changes

in the culture and I was fortunate to see them."

Brennan's books look at the intersection of psychology, gender and business and how women's increased buying power as well as emotional and at-home labor have made women the primary buyers of products, particularly for families. As such, it makes sense to market to women as they bring their products into the household for both women and men to enjoy. Brennan's job as a consultant gives her the opportunity to work with companies and help them tap into women's buying power.

Brennan's mix of psychology, sociology and marketing has allowed her to garner international recognition as one of the best consultants in the world and she mentioned how Doane's unique liberal arts structure can help students rise to meet the demands of the market that asks for a diverse

array of knowledge.

"You're probably more prepared than most other students," Brennan said. "A liberal arts institution allows students to be creative in how they analyze the market. The market is changing from people who can crunch numbers towards people who are creative and able to meet people in that intersection of disciplines."

You can gain more insight into Brennan's gendered analysis of the market by reading her book. Why She Buys: The New Strategy for Reaching the World's Most Powerful Consumers and Winning Her Business: How to Transform the Customer Experience for the World's Most Powerful Consumers.



Courtesy by Valerie Wissenburg
Students observing presentation by Bridget Brennan

Students battle in pickleball

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
News Editor

On March 3 at the Fieldhouse, the SPB (Student Programming Board) organized a pickleball tournament for every Doane student. For those who don't know, pickleball is a sport that was invented in 1965 by three friends on Bain-

bridge Island (Washington) and has recently become a very popular sport around the world. It has had the greatest growth in the United States, but this sport has reached many countries and is gradually gaining more and more popularity.

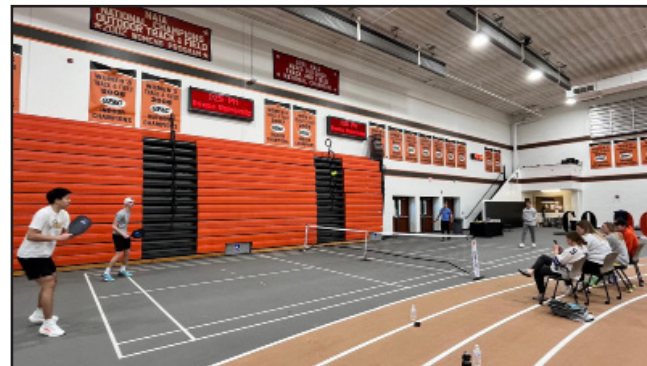
So, the department had a great idea and created a doubles pickleball tour-

ournament. The tournament had different brackets and elimination games. The winning team was the first to achieve 11 points, and considering the real pickleball rules, you can only win a point if you are the team serving.

Overall, the tournament went really well and the environment was amazing. A lot of stu-

dents had a good time playing the sport, a sport that for many was something new and that they were trying for the first time in their lives.

Sophomore Maria Purizaca and junior Jose Purizaca were the winners of the tournament with an 11-7 victory in the final and got a gift card to Casey's as the prize.



Choir hosts Vocal Festival

LIZ CALDERON
Staff Writer

On Feb. 25, the StudeLast Tuesday, Feb. 25, the Doane Vocal Festival (DVF) took place at Doane University during the evening. This event is a concert that brings together high school students and college singers from Nebraska, featuring performances by the Doane Choir soloists, and choir students. It lasts the whole day, where high school students rehearse and later on perform with

the Doane choir during the evening concert, while working alongside Dr. Kurt Runestad, the director of the Choir. Some goals for DVF to achieve are to feature the state's top vocalists in Nebraska, and this year 160 vocalists from the premier honor choir festival attended DVF.

Freshman Nicole Kenney, a member of the Doane Choir, expressed her thoughts and experience during this day.

"Doane Vocal Festival was a great success this year," Kenney said.

"The high school students worked very hard during the day to put on a wonderful concert last night. They were respectful throughout the day, engaged in the activities that we did with them and of course produced great music! I'm very pleased that DVF went smoothly and that all of the students that attended told me that they had learned something new and had a great experience with the Doane Music Department."

Freshman Ashton Thoms, a member of the

Doane Choir, also shared her thoughts, noting her previous experiences in DVF throughout her high school career.

"My experience with DVF started even before college," Thoms said. "During both my junior and senior years of high school, I had the opportunity to participate in DVF and it was truly an unforgettable experience."

Thoms was appreciative of the point of view she got to experience for DVF, for her seeing the highschool students per-

form was a full circle moment.

"Seeing DVF from this perspective was amazing—I was part of the hype squad for the morning events, helping to wake up the high schoolers and bring some energy to those early hours. The concert itself was absolutely breath-

taking. Hearing the four high school soloists, performing three of our own songs (plus an additional piece from Jazz Unlimited and Doublewide), and listening to the festival choir was such a rewarding and inspiring experience. I loved every moment of being part of it." Thomas said.



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the Doane Owl

Doane University
1014 Boswell Ave.
Crete, Neb. 68333

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

John Dawes
john.dawes@doane.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Elenna Koenig
elenna.koenig@doane.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Laura Ruiz
laura.ruiz@doane.edu

LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Lorraine Castañada
lorraine.miranda@doane.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Luis Rejano Candau
luis.rejanocandau@doane.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Elijah Lara-Johnson
elijah.larajohnson@doane.edu

AD MANAGER

John Dawes
john.dawes@doane.edu

FACULTY ADVISER

Eric Tucker
eric.tucker@doane.edu

The Doane Owl strives to inform, enlighten and entertain students, staff and faculty while maintaining high journalistic standards of accuracy and truthfulness.

Owl is a weekly publication and is available every Tuesday of the academic year on www.doaneline.com or by email from owl@doane.edu and studentaffairs@doane.edu.

The Doane Owl Editorial board consists of: John Dawes, Elenna Koenig, Luis Rejano Candau, Lorraine Castañada and Elijah Lara-Johnson

The Doane Owl welcomes signed Letters to the Editor of 400 words or fewer. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. on the Sunday prior to publication. Submissions should be addressed to the editor and sent to the Doane Owl through campus mail, placed in the box outside of Gaylord 130 or emailed to owl@doane.edu. A hard copy of the letter must be signed in the presence of the Editor-in-Chief by 7 p.m. the Monday before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

Flag courtesy of Elenna Koenig

Don't let inaction decide your direction

JOHN DAWES
Editor-in-Chief

This weekend I started watching “Normal People”, which is based on the 2018 book by Sally Rooney of the same name and it follows two characters, Marianne Sheridan played by Daisy Edgar-Jones and Connell Waldron played by Paul Mescal, as they fall in and out of each other's lives.

I'll be upfront in that I haven't finished the show yet; I have three episodes remaining. But throughout the show, I continue to question how much of this could be squared with one simple conversation, mostly from Waldron. Waldron insists on being distant and pulling back from Sheridan whenever the two become close and yet he always lingers on the edges of her life, always happily rejoining her life when the space is given.

As I've watched “Normal People”, I've begun to reflect on my own actions and feelings. My takeaway is that the worst direction you can take, especially when it involves other people, is no direction at all.

Whether it's in platonic, romantic or personal relationships, clearly defining the norms and expected behavior for your relationships – a direction, so to speak – is critical. Throughout the show we see Waldron and Sheridan dance around each other because despite their strong feelings and attraction to each other, Waldron's insistence on pulling away eventually makes Sheridan do exactly the same thing. In choosing no direction, they both mutually choose the same direction of self-sabotage.

Not every relationship needs a clear itinerary or course of action, but I think so many people are dancing

around people they either desperately want to get close to, or desperately want to leave and rather than being upfront, we let our emotions run amuck as tensions build.

I think many of us, myself included, are terrified of hard conversations. If anything, many of us find safety in those foggy relationships that have no clear structure. It's more comforting to have no direction and have your fingers crossed than take agency into your own hands. And yet, we continue to put ourselves in situations where those hard conversations need to happen because of our insistence on going somewhere and nowhere simultaneously.

I think the greatest disservice you can do to yourself, to those you care about and to relationships on the whole is

to suffer in that silence of no clear direction. I say that because ultimately it's a refusal to be honest about yourself and how you feel, yet you live as if everything is alright and you like the way things are headed. It's why whether in real life, or in “Normal People” the solution most people choose is to walk away without a word and let someone else pick up the pieces.

You have to be honest with yourself about how you feel, and you need to be honest to others about how you feel. If you never pick a direction, then you'll ultimately end up in a place that you never wished to be in. The truth hurts us, it hurts our relationships, but it also heals both of them as well. Be upfront about how you feel and what you want to do with said feelings, otherwise you'll only end up isolated from your own wants and desires.

A new understanding of Christ

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

This past week, I challenged myself to read the Bible more and follow a devotional plan. My faith has always been somewhat chaotic and inconsistent. I grew up Christian, but as I learned and heard different perspectives, I had doubts in my faith.

After talking to people and when looking at social media, the news, or even other Christians. I saw them on a high horse. It felt like they were looking down and judging others. And doing things to put them down.

It hurts when I hear close friends say that Christians act and think a certain way, making them feel unwelcome, whether it's because they believe in a different

God or in no God at all, because of where they're from, or because of who they love or what they look like.

As I worked through my Bible study, which focused on seeking the Kingdom of God first, I felt a strong connection to the topic from day four: What is justice? Justice was defined as the belief that all humans are equal before God and deserve to be treated with dignity and fairness.

But the world doesn't reflect that. Some Christians don't show that at all.

Throughout history, both in biblical times and today, societies have brought others down to lift themselves up. We see this in many ways through war, in politics and in our personal lives.

Some people intentionally oppress others, while others benefit from unjust social

structures without realizing it. The truth is, we all participate in injustice in some way, and most of us have felt the weight of unfairness and selfishness placed upon us by others.

The way we restore what's broken is by pursuing righteousness. So, what does it mean to do righteousness?

It means being in the right relationship with God, with others, and with all creation. It means seeking out the vulnerable, helping them, and advocating for those who have no voice.

That's why I want my faith to be truly centered around Christ, a man who embodied justice and righteousness perfectly. He was the ultimate advocate for all

people. I wish more Christians would focus their faith on justice, righteousness and seeking God's kingdom first.

Here is a verse that really stood out to me:

“This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor, the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

Jeremiah 22:3

Corruption and greed will always exist. We can't control everything, but justice starts with the choices we make every day, how we treat those around us. With genuine kindness and acceptance.

Make the most of a study abroad

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
News Editor

It is a reality and everyone knows that there are a huge number of international students who come to the United States to do their university studies because it is a great opportunity and this idea has become very popular and attractive. The percentage of international students in this country increases with each passing academic year. However, it does not have the same repercussions and importance as the number of U.S. students who decide to study abroad and pick a dif-

ferent option to realize their university studies.

Some interesting facts were published in the annual Open Doors report by the State Department and the Institute for International Education. In this report, we can see that during the academic year 2023-2024, the U.S. was the country that received the most foreign university students in the world, reaching a total of 1,127,000 of the almost 19,000,000 students enrolled in U.S. universities. This would mean that 6% of the university students were international. At the same time, this record increased by 7% compared to the pre-

vious academic year.

On the other hand, a total of 280,716 Americans studied abroad during the 2022-23 academic year, an increase of 48.7% over the previous year. It can be seen that the percentage of Americans going abroad has increased incredibly. Another interesting fact is the top three countries that Americans choose to pursue their studies: the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain.

With all this information, I want to conclude that there is a huge opportunity for American

students to study abroad all over the world. Maybe a good option would be to try only a semester or a year abroad and discover a new experience. Not only internationals have the great opportunity to come to this country. Also, I highly recommend giving a chance to this huge opportunity, leaving the comfort zone aside and daring to discover new things. Doane University has some different options about this and would be an awesome idea to try to discover more.

- Corrections -

We at the Doane Owl work tirelessly to share high quality stories that is accurate, well-informed and truthful. We do however, understand that mistakes can happen. As journalists, we work to correct those mistakes. In the event that they happen please reach out to the Owl so the mistake can be addressed and corrected

If we make a mistake that needs to be corrected please email either John Dawes, the editor-in-chief at john.dawes@doane.edu or the Doane Owl at owl@doane.edu

A call to action for the climate



Graphic by Laura Ruiz | The Doane Owl

Panama knows how to party

LIZ CALDERON CHEN
Staff Writer

By the end of last week, carnivals all around the world began officially on Thursday, Feb. 27. Carnivals are noted to be vibrant and festive events celebrated along many cultures worldwide, often featuring parades with floats, dancers, and musicians moving through the streets, creating a spectacle of color and sound.

Music and dance share different genres such as samba from Brazil, calypso from Trinidad & Tobago, and soca which all play a huge role in carnival celebrations.

Elaborate costumes, consist of participants wearing extravagant, feathered, or beaded costumes, often designed to reflect cultural or historical themes. Many carnivals feature masks to symbolize freedom, anonymity, or even satire, and traditional foods include local delicacies, street food and special carnival treats that are widely enjoyed.

Over time, these festivities spread to the Americas, the Caribbean, and

other parts of the world, taking on unique cultural influences. For example, Rio de Janeiro Carnival, is the world's largest and most famous carnival, taking place in Brazil featuring samba parades and elaborate costumes. The Trinidad & Tobago Carnival is known for its soca music, steelpan bands, and the iconic "J'ouvert" celebration, where revelers cover themselves in paint and mud. Not forgetting about Mardi Gras, it took place in New Orleans, USA, a mix of French, Spanish, and African influences, with bead-throwing traditions and jazz music.

Back home, in Panama, we also celebrate carnivals, which is one of the most vibrant and anticipated celebrations in the country, combining Spanish, African, and indigenous influences into a massive nationwide party. We celebrate for four days, in different locations, such as Panama City, the capital, with larger-scale events like concerts, parades, and fireworks. In Las Tablas and the Azuero Peninsula is where the most famous

and traditional Panamanian carnival takes place, they are known for its intense rivalry between two carnival groups (Calle Arriba and Calle Abajo). Chitré, Penonomé, and Santiago are also other popular towns with lively carnival celebrations. Lastly, there's Bocas del Toro, where there is a more relaxed, beach-style carnival with more Caribbean influences.

Panamanian Carnival possesses a unique tradition where large water trucks spray crowds with water during the hot daytime festivities, that helps keep revelers cool while dancing to lively music. Each town has extravagant parades featuring floats carrying beautifully dressed queens (Reinas del Carnaval) from each town. The most popular ones are La Tablas' queens who are known for the rivalry between Calle Arriba and Calle Abajo. They compete each year with extravagant floats, costumes, and fireworks.

Considering music and dance, carnival music is dominated by salsa, reggaeton, cumbia, and

tamborito (a traditional Panamanian dance and drum rhythm), and popular artists perform live, drawing massive crowds. Every night of Carnival features elaborate firework displays, where streets are filled with food vendors, live entertainment, and non-stop partying lasting four whole days. Focusing on traditional costumes and masks, some carnival participants wear polleras (Panama's national dress) or Diablicos sucios who are masked performers who represent old folklore and mischievous spirits, among other colorful costumes inspired by Spanish and indigenous heritage.

Every year, I would go out with my family to celebrate together relaxing on the beach, or some other times partying together including friends as well. Nationwide, we long for these events because it helps bring out our culture with pride and enjoy the company between our loved ones, and sometimes get a little crazy during the festivities.



Photo by Liz Calderon | The Doane Owl

Liz shows a picture of one of the many water trucks that spray festival goers at the famous Panama Carnivals

A reflection on Lent and Ash Wednesday

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Before I get started with this opinion I just wanted to know that this isn't me saying that you should believe in my religion or anything like that, this opinion is to inform you on what some students here on campus or people around the Crete community will be doing on March 5.

For many of us, March 5 will be a normal day, however for Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and possibly other religions it will be the start of the Lent season, also known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a 40-day pe-

riod of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, and the reason it is 40 days long is because it mirrors the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert before he was crucified. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which is also the day that many participants get ashes on their foreheads in the shape of the Cross along with not eating meat.

For me, Lent is very important because it makes me get out of my comfort zone when it comes to my everyday life. An example of this is like not being able to have meat on Fridays, or avoiding conversation and music and focusing on worship and scripture.

Now when it comes to the Lent season you are encouraged to give something up to do something that brings you closer to God essentially, however some people don't do that. Then there are some, like me, that are giving something up along with doing something to strengthen their relationship with God as well.

So if you are walking around campus or out in the community and you see people with what looks like black dirt in the shape of a cross, that is because those people are entering the Lent season.

...Thumbs UP

Sticks



Neighbors

Frogs



Sunglasses

Face tats



The Doane Owl editorial staff cast their opinions on different current topics and their responses are represented in 'Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down' every week.

Thumbs DOWN...

Sports Brief's

Baseball

On March 1-2, the Baseball team took on Clarke University for their first home game of the season.

Starting with their first game in the second inning, junior Johnny Vulcano scored the first run of the game, starting the score of 1-0. In the bottom of the third inning, sophomore Carson Baker scored, bringing the score to 2-0.

However, in the top of the fifth inning the Crusaders scored their first run of the game, which made the score 2-1. Fast forward to the top of the seventh inning, the Crusaders earned two more runs, bringing the final score to 2-3.

Going into the second game, in the top of the first the Crusaders scored their first run bringing the score to 0-1. However, in the second inning senior Justin Nevells and junior Max Harris earned two runs, bringing the score to 2-1. Finishing up their second game in the bottom of the sixth inning was Vulcano who scored, which brought the final score to 3-1.

In their third game, both teams had a scoreless first and second inning, however, in the top of the third, the Crusaders scored their first run of the game, making the score 0-1. In the bottom of the fourth, junior Carter Roth scored, tying the score 1-1.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Crusaders added four more runs to their score, which resulted in senior Logan Amick, Baker, Nevells, Harris, and sophomore Taiyo Takahashi adding one run each to the score, bringing it to 7-4. In the top of the sixth, the Crusaders gained one run, which brought the final score to 7-5.

Walking into their last game against the Crusaders, Amick scored the first run with Nevells scoring after, starting the score of 2-0 at the bottom of the first. Going into the bottom of the second inning, junior Dane Kelsey scored, bringing the score up 3-0.

After a scoreless third, fourth, and fifth inning, the Crusaders earned their first run of the game in the top of the sixth, which brought the final score to 3-1.

Next up, the Tigers will be traveling to Joliet, Illinois, to take on the University of Saint Francis on March 8-9.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

eSports

With their season halfway over, the eSports teams just finished their week four schedule and are onto their week five competitions.

Starting on Feb. 25 was the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team taking on Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Blue team where they walked away with a loss of 0-2. On the same day, the Rocket League Orange team took on Missouri State University's White team where they also walked away with a loss with a score of 0-3.

On Feb. 27, the Rocket League Orange took on the Arkansas State Black team, the Rocket League Black team took on the Pennsylvania Western Fighting Scots, along with the Overwatch Northwestern College JV, all competed on the same day.

Competing first was the Overwatch team, who walked away with a loss with a score of 0-3, with Rocket League Black to follow, where they also lost with a score of 2-3. Finishing up was the Rocket League Orange team, where they also lost with a score of 1-3.

On March 2, the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team took on Hastings College where they walked away with a win 2-0.

On March 4, the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team is set to take on the University of Health Science & Pharmacy Eutectics team. On March 6, the Rocket League Orange team is set to take on the University of North Alabama and the Rocket League Black will take on the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University. Finishing up their week five is the Overwatch team on March 7 to take on Saginaw Valley State University's Red team, if you or someone you know would like to support the eSports team, you can watch their streams on the Doane eSports YouTube.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

Women's Basketball

On Feb. 26, the Women's Basketball team played the quarterfinal game of the GPAC tournament against Dakota Wesleyan University. The Tigers couldn't achieve a victory and lost 71-79. The team's overall record for this 24-25 season is 15-14, and its overall record for the conference is 10-12. It was a tough game in which the team faced off against the No.13 team in the country and put on a great performance that ended unsuccessfully.

Despite the defeat, two players stood out with impressive performances. The leading scorer, senior Macy Holtz, had 20 points in the game. At the same time, senior Mak Hatcliff got six rebounds and five assists, filling up the stat sheet.

Though their season ended with a tough loss, the team finished with an overall record above .500. From now on, both the team and the coach will start thinking about and preparing for the next season.

--Luis Rejano Candau

Women's Wrestling are GPAC Champs

ELIJAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

On March 1, the Women's wrestling team hosted the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championship where they walked away as GPAC Champions with a score of 187.5 points.

Starting off in the 103 was junior Karina Vang, who had a score of 14-3, which placed her first. In the 110 was freshman Jaden Breeden, who

had a score of 18-8, which placed her first as well. Placing third in the 117 was freshman Julia Breeden, who had a score of 16-7.

Also competing in the 117 was freshman Mora Peterson, who had a final score of 9-4, which placed her first. Also walking away with first was senior Cristelle Rodriguez, who was undefeated 9-0 in the 124.

Placing second in the 131 with a score of 19-10 was senior Ashlee Palimo'o.

Competing in the 145 were junior Aevri Ciha and sophomore Bridgette Sotomayor. Ciha walked away with first with a score of 13-2, while Sotomayor placed fourth with a score of 17-13.

Competing in the 160 were sophomore Aspen Barber and junior Lamia Benn. Barber walked away with first with a score of 19-4, and Benn placed third with a score of 7-9. In the 180 was freshman Yazmin Belk, who had a score of 10-11, placing her

second. Finishing up in the 207 was sophomore Hailey Romero, who placed first with a score of 21-9.

Next up, Vang, Breeden, Peterson, Rodriguez, Palimo'o, Ciha, Sotomayor, Barber, Benn, Belk and Romero will be traveling to Wichita, Kansas, to compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championships on March 14-15

Men's and Women's Track place top three

ELIJAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

The Men's and Women's Track teams found success at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) Nationals from Feb. 27 to March 1 in Gainesville, Florida, with the Women's team finishing second and the Men's team finishing third. Three Doane students were also recognized as national champions in their events.

Starting with the Men's 600m was junior Joaquin Gutierrez, who finished ninth with a time of 1:19.99. Running in the mile was junior Michael Grigsby, who had a time of 4:11.08, which placed him sixth.

Running over the hurdles was senior Zach Turner, who walked away as a National Champion in the 60m Hurdles. Competing in the 4x400 were Gutierrez, junior Caleb Mulder, freshman Andrew Brown and Turner, who finished with a time of 3:10.44, placing them second.

Placing 11th in the distance medley were freshman Porter Bickley, senior Jadae Moore, junior Emmanuel Yego and Grigsby,

who finished with a time of 10:05.93.

Jumping in the high jump was senior Carter Reckling, who had a mark of 2.06m, which placed him sixth. Senior Dylan Starr placed seventh with the same mark. Placing 19th in the long jump was sophomore Brian Cech, who had a mark of 6.53m. Cech also jumped in the triple, where he had a mark of 14.34m, which placed him 14th. Also jumping in the triple was freshman Kyler Nichols, who had a mark of 14.25m, which placed him 15th.

Throwing in the shot put was junior Cale Bessler, who had a mark of 15.64m, which placed him 17th. Also throwing in the shot put was junior Andrew Schmitz, who had a mark of 15.22m, which placed him 24th.

Placing second in the weight throw was senior Trey Dickey, who had a mark of 20.08m. Schmitz, who had a mark of 18.82m, placed fourth. In the same event, placing 14th was sophomore Jaden Vollenweider, who had a mark of 17.43m.

Finishing up for the Men's side were

sophomores Addison Croghan and Andrew Harms. Croghan placed 13th with 4,776 and Harms placed 14th with 4,700.

Switching over to the women's side, starting off in the 60m was sophomore Neryah Hekl, who walked away with fourth with a time of 7.48m. Running in the 400m was junior Kat Vogt, who had a time of 55.73, which placed her fourth as well.

Placing second in the 600m was junior Danie Parriott, who had a time of 1:32.28. Running over the hurdles was junior Josie Garrett, who had a time of 8.89, which placed her 19th.

Competing in the 4x400 were Vogt, sophomores Chaney Nelson and Kiley Hejzmanek, and Parriott, who had a time of 3:50.49, which placed them sixth.

Jumping in the high jump was freshman Katelynn Kratz, who had a mark of 1.60m, which placed her 13th. Walking away as a national champion in the pole vault was sophomore Kaylee Pribyl, who had a mark of 4.05m. Also competing in the pole vault was junior Kennedy Stanley, who had a

mark of 3.75m, placing her seventh.

Placing 11th in the triple jump was junior Rosalyn Roggasch, who had a mark of 11.68m. Garrett, who had a mark of 11.64m, placed 13th. Also competing in the triple was junior Kyla Davis, who had a mark of 11.21m, which placed her 19th.

Throwing the shot put was senior Alivia Baucom, who had a mark of 14.06m, which placed her fifth. Senior Madison Sutton, who had a mark of 13.47m, placed 12th. And finishing up in the shot put was freshman Madison Heusinkvelt, who had a mark of 12.48m, which placed her 15th.

Becoming a national champion in the weight throw was Sutton, who had a mark of 19.40m. Also in the weight throw were junior Mia Knigge and sophomore Kaylie Lotspeich. Knigge had a mark of 17.44m, which placed her eighth, and Lotspeich had a mark of 16.26m, which placed her 11th.

This concludes the Indoor Track and Field season with the Outdoor Track and Field season to begin on March 29 in Kearney, Nebraska.

Women's Tennis competes at home

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
Staff Writer

On March 1 and March 3, the Tigers Women's Tennis team had their first home games of the spring season against Avila University and Tabor University. The Tigers won both games 7-0 and are off to a good start of the season, with a perfect record.

For the first game, in doubles No. 1 senior Mariana Espinosa and sophomore Maria Purizaca pre-

vailed 6-2. At No. 2 doubles, freshman Liz Calderon and junior Grace Schroller won 6-0. At No. 3 doubles, sophomore Isabella Castellero and sophomore Kat Johnson prevailed by forfeit.

For the second game, in doubles No. 1 senior Mariana Espinosa and sophomore Maria Purizaca prevailed 6-0. At No. 2 doubles, freshman Liz Calderon and junior Grace Schroller won 6-0. At No. 3 doubles, sophomore Isabella Castellero

and junior Alejandra Prat won 6-0.

Against Avila University, at No. 1 singles, Purizaca prevailed 6-0, 6-0, while at No. 2 singles, Espinosa prevailed 6-1, 6-2. In singles No. 3, Calderon recorded 6-0, 6-1. At No. 4, Castellero won 6-2, 6-2. In single No. 5, Schroller won 6-1, 6-1. Finally, in singles No. 6 Johnson won by a forfeit.

Against Tabor University, at No. 1 singles, Purizaca prevailed 6-0, 6-0, while at No. 2 singles, Es-

pinosa prevailed 6-0, 6-0. In singles No. 3, Calderon recorded 6-0, 6-0. At No. 4, Castellero won 6-0, 6-0. In single No. 5, Schroller won 6-0, 6-0. Finally, in singles No. 6 Prat won 6-0, 6-0.

Next up for the Women's tennis team will be an away game on March 10, against Coastal Alabama Community College. The team will travel to Alabama during the Spring break week to play some games.

Softball takes a skid in Wichita, KS

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

On March 1-2, the Softball team traveled to Wichita, Kansas to take on four separate teams, including Avila University, Bethany College, York University and Friends University.

Starting with their first game against Avila Eagles, the Eagles scored one run in the

first inning and two in the second, bringing the score to 0-3. However, in the bottom of the third, senior Jaiden Papik scored the Tigers' first run, with senior Grace Dowding scoring in the fourth inning, bringing the score to 2-3.

But in the top of the sixth inning, the Eagles scored four runs, which brought their final score to 2-7.

Going into their sec-

ond game of the day was against the Bethany Swedes, where in the top of the first, senior Anna Prauner scored the first run of the game, with junior Faith Molina and freshman Milanie Gonzalez scoring as well, bringing the score to 3-0.

However, in the third, fourth, and sixth innings the Swedes earned four runs, which brought the final score to 3-4.

Their third game was against the York Panthers, where in the top of the first the Panthers scored three times, bringing the score to 0-3. However, in the third inning, sophomore Jeryn Allen, Gonzalez and Prauner added four more runs to their score, making it 4-3.

But in the top of the seventh the Panthers scored two more runs, which brought the final

score to 4-5.

Going into their last game of the tournament was against the Friends Falcons, where the Falcons scored three runs in the bottom of the first and second inning. However, in the top of the third, fifth, and sixth innings Gonzalez, Molina, sophomore Katelyn Hays, Dowding, and Prauner, added five runs, making the score 5-3. Yet

the Falcons added three more runs to their score, bringing the final score to 5-6.

Next up the Tigers will be traveling to Branson, Missouri to take on the University of Saint Mary, Kansas Wesleyan University, Evangel University, Graceland University, and Our Lady of the Lake University on March 7-8.

Men's Tennis secure a pair of wins

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
Staff Writer

On Mar. 1 and Mar. 3, the Tigers Men's tennis team had their first home games of the Spring season, against Avila University and Tabor University. The team achieved great victories with 7-0 and 5-2 as the final results respectively.

Against Avola, doubles play kicked off with

No. 1, senior Jose Purizaca and sophomore Julio Avila winning 6-0. In doubles No. 2, sophomore Elliot Dasell and junior Diego Infante won 6-0. Finally, in double No. 3, senior Andre Hartman and freshman Christian Jensen also won their doubles match 6-0. In the second game against Tabor University, starting off doubles play with No. 1, senior

Jose Purizaca and sophomore Julio Avila lost 6-7 in the tie-break. In doubles No. 2, sophomore Elliot Dasell and junior Diego Infante won 6-4. Finally, in double No. 3, senior Andre Hartman and freshman Christian Jensen also won their doubles match 6-4.

In the first game of this week, the singles matches were awesome

for the Tigers. In singles against Avola, No. 1, Purizaca won 6-0, 1-6 and finally won the tie-break. At No. 2, Infante achieved a win and the score was 6-0, 6-0. Single No. 3 was played by Dasell, who won 6-0, 6-0. At No. 4, Hartman won 6-0, 6-0. In single No. 5, Avila finished 6-0, 6-, and finally in single No. 6, freshman Tanner Adams won 6-0, 6-0.

Against Tabor University, the singles matches were also a great success for the Tigers. In singles No. 1, Purizaca won 6-0, 6-1 and got the tie-break. At No. 2, Infante achieved a win and the score was 6-1, 6-3. Single No. 3 was played by Dasell, who lost 3-6, 2-6. At No. 4, Hartman won 7-5, 6-1. In single No. 5, Avila could not finish his game due to an ankle in-

jury and finally in single No. 6, freshman Tanner Adams won 6-0, 6-3.

Next up for men's tennis will be on March 9, against Coastal Alabama Community College. The team achieved two really important victories to travel to Alabama for Spring Break with a good streak during this season.

Scoreboard Snapshot

SOFTBALL

February 25 @ STERLING, KS
7:45 versus STERLING COLLEGE

GAME 1 [0-4] GAME 2 [8-6]

March 01-02 @ WICHITA, KS
Versus MULTIPLE SCHOOLS

[EAGLES 2-7] [SWEDES 2-3] [PANTHERS 4-5] [FALON 5-6]

BASEBALL

March 01 @ HOME
Versus CLARKE UNIVERSITY

GAME 1 [2-3] GAME 2 [3-1] GAME 3 [7-5] GAME 4 [3-1]

MEN'S TENNIS

March 1 @ HOME
Versus AVILA UNIVERSITY

[TIGERS 7-0]

March 3 @ HOME
Versus TABOR UNIVERSITY

[TIGERS 5-2]

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

February 26 @ MITCHELL, SD
7:00 versus DAKOTA WESLEYAN

[TIGERS 71-79]

TRACK & FIELD

Feb. 27 - March 1 @ GAINSVILLE, FL
Versus MULTIPLE SCHOOLS

[WOMENS 2nd] [MENS 3rd]

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

March 01 @ HOME
@ GPAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

[TIGERS 1st]

WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 1 @ HOME
Versus AVILA UNIVERSITY

[TIGERS 7-0]

March 3 @ HOME
Versus TABOR UNIVERSITY

[TIGERS 7-0]