

the doane OWL

Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Freshman Brianna Wright poses with the 2025 Senior TRiO Tree at the TRiO End of the Year Celebration. See Page 3.

“What Is Happening In Washington?” discussion focuses on deportation

JOHN DAWES
Editor-In-Chief

A lot is happening in Washington, D.C., right now. Whether it's tariffs being enacted, the arrest of student protestors, the Department of Government Efficacy (DOGE) cutting government agencies or the arrest of judges, a lot of people have questions about what is happening in Washington.

On Tuesday, April 22, a group of students and faculty met in the East/West Dining Room to discuss that very question in the second edition of “What Is Happening in Washington?” aptly titled “What Is (still) Happen-

ing in Washington?”

“Sometime in February, I emailed a couple of people and said there seems to be a lot going on right now, and it seems like it might be useful to open an event up to the community and just say what your questions are and how can we help,” Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of the Policies and Values program Timothy Hill said.

Hill and Assistant Professor of Communication Amanda Irions held an event in March that allowed students and staff the opportunity to voice their opinions, questions and concerns about what is happening in national politics. After its initial success, they hope to continue this event throughout subsequent semesters.

Despite the desserts

and the willingness to learn and be engaged, the event had a somber and quiet tone. Many people in the audience had a sense of anxiety and fear, as they were questioning whether or not they should be in crisis mode. Much of the discourse of this month's panel focused on the Trump administration's executive orders, tariffs, the role the courts have as a check-and-balance system and deportation efforts.

During the event, Director of International Programs Timothy Burge spoke about how abnormal it was that the administration was pulling students' visas, often for political protests against the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Burge spoke about how students often don't know that they had their visas pulled until

U.S. immigration officials confront them and he revealed that some international students at Doane had their visas terminated without warning. In the event they were confronted by U.S. immigration officials, they could be deported without even knowing why their visas were pulled.

“The notion that the administration can deport without due process has implications for all of us,” Hill said. “If we say the administration can simply decide you're not a citizen or that you aren't allowed the same rights as a citizen, then there's no chance for you to contest that. All of this stuff makes a difference in our lives for our students and community.”

Hill said it's in the administration's interest to move extremely fast and

break things, or as the Trump administration has coined it, “Flood the zone.” This has prevented people from being informed politically, as things appear to move at a million miles a minute. This information paralysis prevents people from policing politics and subsequently allows strong-armed governments to get away with policies and actions that are detrimental to everyone.

“Life in authoritarian countries mostly looks like life in democratic ones. People go to work, play league soccer and take their kid to ball practice and do the things that people do most of the time. But there are certain things that you're not allowed to talk about,” Hill said. “And for those who believe us that it matters, it is important to inform

Americans that these things can happen here, too. If we want to care about our democracy, we need to care about what our leaders are doing.”

Hill, Irions and Director of Residential Life and Education Brian Stutz, who helped sponsor the second “What's Happening in Washington?” event, want to continue this event because to them, now more than ever, Doane needs the space for people to question what is happening politically and not avoid politics until it's right in their face. The event will continue next semester, as Hill foresees both students and staff having more questions and needing more answers about Washington and the current administration after summer break.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

(Left) Timothy Burge provides insight on topics brought up during the discussion. (Right) Junior Celeste Galvan takes notes during the discussion.

English declared official language of US

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

On March 1, President Donald Trump signed an executive order formally declaring English as the official language of the United States. “The text of the executive order rescinds a previous Bill Clinton-era executive order signed in 2000,” said Timothy Burge, director of international programs at Doane. That order had been issued to improve the ability and access of non-English

speakers in federal spaces. Despite this, many were surprised to find that English was not the official language of the United States. In fact, in 1780, Congress rejected a proposal to designate it as such, calling it “undemocratic and a threat to individual liberty.”

However, Timothy Burge doesn't see a way for this order to impact students. “For example, [the order] does not require businesses to operate in English, nor does it require schools to instruct students in a particular language,” Burge said. “This also does not impact any laws that indi-

vidual states might have for offering state and local level services in multiple languages.”

Doane has already established a requirement for a certain level of English proficiency among its students. International students are also required “to demonstrate English language proficiency by taking an approved standardized test if they come from a non-English language speaking country,” according to Burge. Those practices remain unchanged by this order.

While Burge believes this will not impact students, Joshua Pope, professor of Spanish

and department chair of Modern Languages, thinks this could devalue languages other than English. “For example, if the U.S. makes English an official language but not Spanish, it is showing more value for English than Spanish,” Pope said. More than 56 million Americans have some proficiency in Spanish, which is more than in any country except Mexico.

“Having English as a national official language may devalue other languages to the point where it could create a barrier to language programs,” Pope said. This was something which Burge

had also theorized about. “The biggest impacts will likely be outside of our nation's university communities, such as with immigrants or refugees who have resettled in the U.S. who need extra language support,” Burge said. “This could impact, for example, Spanish language services.” Burge also pointed out the Afghanistan and Somalia refugee resettlement communities in Lincoln and Omaha, which the order could impact.

Pope, however, sees this as an opportunity to learn new languages. He encourages students to become bilingual or mul-

tilingual, saying it opens many doors. “I'm not just talking about the people I encounter abroad but also people in Crete and members of my extended family,” Pope said.

He acknowledged that learning a new language can come with many challenges, such as anxiety or messing up. As a balm, Pope recommends finding a speaking buddy. “There will be errors in your language, but they're not going to make your conversation buddy think any less of you,” Pope said. “It's commendable because it means you're trying to learn a new language.”

Steps4Them event held to raise awareness for sexual assault

JOHN DAWES
Editor-In-Chief

Sexual assault is often an isolating experience, despite research showing sexual violence is all too common for many. On April 27, on a windy and slightly rainy afternoon, a group of around 75 runners and walkers took to Doane's Cross Country course to raise awareness about sexual assault and to support Hope Crisis Center, Crete's local victim advocacy agency,

through an event called Steps4Them.

"Bringing attention to survivors is critical, as research shows that far too many people experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Believing and supporting survivors is key to their ability to seek help and begin healing," CAPE Project Director Jaden Hilkemann said, "It is equally important to support local victim advocacy organizations, as they are dedicated to serving survivors and often operate as nonprofits, meaning every donation directly helps sustain

their vital mission."

Steps4Them had a four-dollar sign-up and allowed participants to either walk a one-mile loop or run a 5k on the Doane cross country course, a course so notoriously difficult that no collegiate teams even elected to attend Doane's home meet during the 2024 cross country season.

"We are so grateful that the weather held up this year, allowing us to host the event on the cross-country course. While it can be a challenging course, it is very beautiful, and I am glad

more people got to experience it! Although it was a bit windy and misty, we still saw some fantastic performances. It was inspiring to watch participants push themselves and get competitive," Hilkemann said.

The event was founded by Smith CD Alexis Lipson and was co-sponsored by the Chi-Delta sorority. Hilkemann said events like this remind her that Doane is a place of community and that they care about survivors of sexual violence. She hopes that this event will only grow in scope so that it can fur-

ther help give resources to the Hope Crisis Center.

"The best ways people can support CAPE's mission are by believing survivors and living a consent-centered, trauma-informed life. If someone discloses an experience of sexual violence to you, it is important to believe them, listen without judgment, and connect them with resources such as Hope Crisis Center, CAPE, or the Counseling Center," Hilkemann said. "I hope that, in the future, Steps4Them can continue to grow into a well-known

running event for the Doane, Crete, and Lincoln communities!"

CAPE's next event will be on April 30 and is an observance of Demin Day, Denim Day is an international campaign that began after a court ruling where a survivor's report of sexual assault was dismissed because the judge said her jeans were "too tight" and she must have helped remove them, implying consent. Doane members are advised to wear denim in observance of the day.

Doane students present their research at annual MindExpo

LIZ CALDERON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 24th, Doane students gathered together to present their research expositions on MindExpo.

It celebrates our students' creative efforts, featuring artistic, performance, and original scholarly works completed during the current academic year.

This event will provide students with an opportunity to discuss or showcase their work to the entire college community.

Students presented their work in poster sessions in Nyrop Hall on the Perry Campus Center from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

There were around thirty-six presentations, all from the Engineering department, the Exercise Science department, and the Math department.

For example, for Exercise Science students presented their own Wellness Plan made by themselves, including their test subject and their results.

Engineering students focused on automated projects and expansion details of the performing arts center.

For the Mathematics Department, students presented research that has helped them win in competitions and that have lasted summer-long periods of time.

Also, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., there were oral presentations where Senior students stepped in front of staff professors, students, and guests to present their research work.

Panel 1 was focused on Biology in the East/West dining room, both presented by Professor David Clevette and Professor Tessa Durham Brooks.

Panel 2 focused on Computing, Honors, and Interdisciplinary presented by Professor Kari Glentzer at the Trobough salon.

Panel 3 focused on Psychology presented by Professor Jocelyn Shock-King also at the Trobough salon.

Closing the event from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.,

there was another round of poster presentations at Nyrop Hall as well.

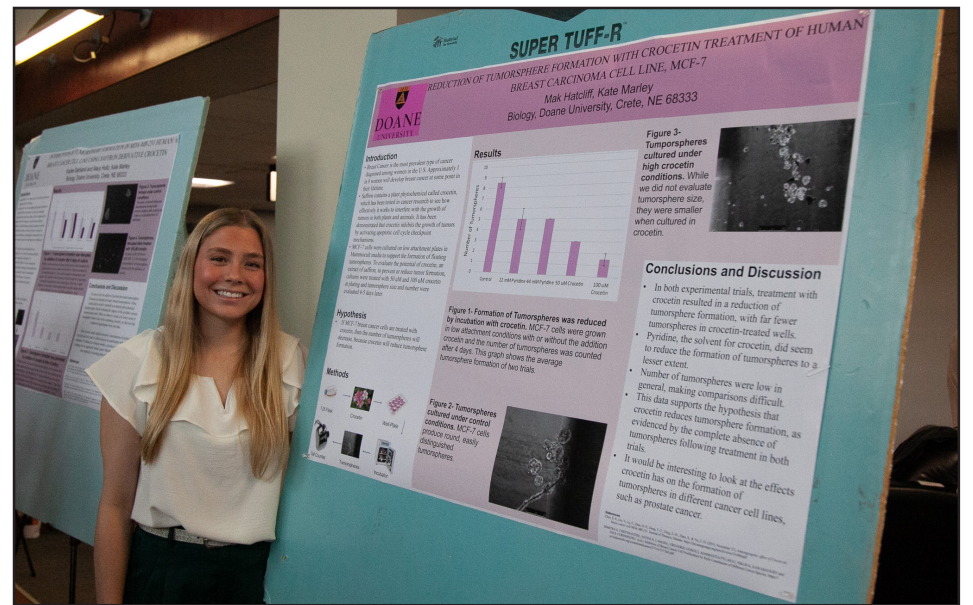
MindExpo offers presentations from all STEM departments here at Doane, including all other Senior students who are willing to participate in research of their own.

For the Chemistry and Biology department, students and staff focused on genes, RNA, and amino acids as the basis for their research to find a solution.

The Environmental Science department would also apply their research to a solemn question that students would ask themselves, and try to find their best conclusion by comparing all the data they've stored.

And the Psychology department students focused on the behavior and mental wellness and how it impacts the social environment surrounding them.

This past event was a success, and we congratulate all our Doane Seniors who have made it this far to continue their journey.



Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl
(Top) Students gather around a presentation to learn more information. (Bottom) Senior Mak Hatcliff gets a picture next to her presentation.

Reflecting on the Pope's legacy, and what happens next

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

On April 21, Pope Francis died at the age of 88 in his residence at Casa Santa Marta. The first Latin American pope was known for his humble life and accepting heart, which made people around him cherish him. Respectfully known as "the people's pope," over 250,000 people went to the Vatican to pay their last respects at his public viewing.

Professor Dan Clanton, from the Philosophy and Religious Studies

department, sat down to reflect on the Pope's significance and discuss the papal conclave. When reflecting on the Pope's legacy, Clanton referred to the Pope's character, recognizing that he was "concerned about the poor, marginalized, and oppressed; he made that a focus of his papacy," Clanton said.

This raises the question of whether the next pope will continue the emphasis on the poor and marginalized. It sparks curiosity about what the next pope will be like and what challenges they will face. The pope has a unique ability to bring some clarity and peace.

However, they can't fix everything; they can be a voice in a climate of war, political divisiveness and economic downturns.

It is a unique time for the College of Cardinals, as it represents 90 countries, making it the most diverse college in its history. "The next pope, granted all the diversity, faces some unusual challenges, but has resources in diversity... The next pope can address those issues of political divisions and polarization by having different perspectives," Clanton said.

Before voting begins, there are General Congregations, essentially meet-and-greet sessions

for the cardinals since they don't know each other. "People start to feel each other out," Clanton said. They ask specific questions on certain issues, such as political beliefs and doctrine.

"A conclave is a very ritualized process," Clanton added. From Latin meaning "a closed room," it dates back to the 13th century. To avoid external pressure, this process is kept secret. Today, cardinals are checked to ensure they have no recording devices to maintain the secrecy of the process.

Only 135 cardinals are eligible to vote, and they are not permitted to

vote for themselves. To be elected, a candidate must receive a two-thirds majority, which means the conclave can sometimes take two to three days to choose a new pope. Even after the election, the selected candidate has the right to refuse. Each day, there are two rounds of voting, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Between voting sessions, the cardinals practice prayerful discernment—a process designed to guide them in choosing the pope the Church needs, rather than simply following their values. During these intervals, they also discuss potential candidates.

It's impossible to know who the next pope will be, but there are many ideas about who might be chosen. Luis Antonio Tagle from the Philippines would be able to continue the progressive views Pope Francis had. Peter Turkson, from Ghana, is known for his work in social justice. "Imagine having an African Pope," Clanton said. "It would be an incredible validation of the success of the Church in Africa."

New challenges will be faced. They will also be a part of the long, rich legacy that has shaped the Catholic Church.

Students attend leadership summit

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
News Editor

On April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., students gathered at Heckman Auditorium for a dynamic leadership event designed to build skills, share resources and encourage collaboration among the Doane community.

The day began with everyone divided into teams, each assigned a specific color and given a notebook to take notes

and complete activities throughout the event. From the outset, the energy was high, with students eager to connect, participate and learn from one another.

A guest speaker set the tone for the morning with an inspiring talk about leadership, emphasizing the importance of communication, decision-making, adaptability and resilience in personal and professional life. Following the keynote, representatives from Doane

University introduced students to valuable resources available on the university's campus, including the Academic Success Center, the CGR (Community & Government Relations) Division, the Writing Center and Health and Wellness services. This ensured that students were aware of the support systems designed to help them thrive.

Luis Sotelo, Vice President for Community and Government Relations at

Doane University, delivered an important presentation about the CGR (Community & Government Relations) Division and Title IX. He emphasized students' rights and responsibilities, as well as the university's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everyone.

Around midday, students enjoyed a well-deserved lunch break at the cafeteria. This time allowed participants to

relax, meet new people, share ideas and build stronger connections in a more casual setting, strengthening the sense of community that the event fostered.

After lunch, the afternoon was filled with interactive, hands-on group activities centered around leadership development and decision-making. These activities challenged students to think critically, collaborate effectively and put their leadership and prob-

lem-solving skills into action.

Overall, the event offered a perfect mix of learning, engagement and community building. It provided students with meaningful tools to succeed both inside and outside the classroom, while reinforcing the powerful message that leadership is about stepping up, supporting others and making thoughtful, impactful decisions.

Trio program hosts end-of-the-year banquet for celebrated students

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
News Editor

On April 27, students, staff and alumni gathered at the Art & Education building to celebrate the TRIO End of the Year Celebration 2025, an event specially honoring seniors who will graduate this semester. The evening highlighted the achievements of Doane students. It was supported by the TRIO

Program, which empowers first-generation students, those with limited financial resources, and students with disabilities by providing academic resources, transformative experiences and skill development.

The event began with a tree-planting ceremony, in which students were the main protagonists, helping to contribute to this beautiful tradition. Jeremy Caldwell, Writing Center director, shared a brief speech and a poem

titled "You as White Pine." In his remarks, Caldwell highlighted the significance of the ceremony.

"Our TRIO tree, representing the accomplishments of the 25 senior class, will be planted in this grove, among other trees of its kind, to grow strong roots and fully establish its place at Doane," Caldwell said. He introduced his poem by saying, "We would like to celebrate and recognize you. So I crafted a poem

for this occasion, an ode that celebrates past, present and future TRIO graduates."

Afterward, everyone returned to the main hall, where Beth Jacobson, executive director of Academic Support Services, warmly welcomed and congratulated the seniors for their accomplishments. A key moment of the evening was an interview between Blake Tobey, assistant director of the Academic Success Center, and a Doane alum

who graduated in May 2023 with a degree in Biology and now works in Lincoln. She shared how the personal connections she built at Doane played a significant role in her career and spoke about the value of attending a smaller campus, where every student is seen and supported.

The celebration continued with a delicious dinner, with the cookies being a clear crowd favorite. The night concluded with an awards ceremo-

ny honoring some of the students' academic achievements. The event concluded with a "photo to time," during which attendees captured joyful memories of the evening.

The TRIO End of the Year Celebration 2025 was a meaningful way to recognize the growth, community and success of TRIO Doane's students, empowering them to embark on the next chapter of their lives after graduation.



Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Say what's on your mind, even if it's rude!

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): You have an original point of view. Share it!

Aries (March 21 - April 20): Trust someone new...

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): Be kind to yourself <3

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): You can't erase past wrongs.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): Light a candle and say a prayer...

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Your insight is your guiding light!

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Friends aren't always safe havens

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Go on an exciting adventure. Go see a zebra you libra!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Leave some room for awkward silences.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Pull up your pants!!!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20): You can take a bubble bath and relax this week.



Photo by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl



Forensics fun this past weekend

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

"It takes a certain kind of courage to stand in front of an audience and speak, week after week," said Nathaniel Wilson, communication professor and director of forensics. Speech has been a staple of Doane University since its founding, but the forensics team was established in 2000. Despite the name, the team members do not dissect crime scenes; instead, they analyze various topics and passages of text while standing before an audience. Topics from the 2024-2025 speech season included the recontextualization of the myth of Icarus, the unique challenges faced by modern K-12 educators, and the importance of embracing our shared humanity.

Doane's forensics team is exceptionally skilled, advancing to over 30 final rounds this season and earning 58 first- and second-place rankings. They were also crowned Nebraska state tournament champions in Division Three. It's safe to say that this four-person team is

small but mighty, and the 2025 Forensics Showcase, held on April 25, allowed them to share some of their winning performances. Wilson and Jennifer Torres, Assistant Director of Forensics, organized the showcase and the 25-year forensics reunion that took place the following day.

Sophomore Jackson Finner, who competes in persuasion and poetry events, began his presentation with a powerful statement: "Alexandria is burning once again, but this time we can choose to put the fire out." Finner spoke about the importance of preserving endangered video games, describing them as cultural, technological, and historical landmarks. He explained that maintaining video games often requires also preserving the consoles and systems they run on, which can be challenging. In 2024, the U.S. Copyright Office denied libraries, archives and museums the opportunity to lend out video games. To illustrate his points, Jackson provided handouts that resembled cartridges for the Ninten-

do Entertainment System.

In his first year in forensics, sophomore Theo Jones showcased his skills with an impromptu speech event. Wilson highlighted that Jones is a frequent commentator for Doane's eSports team, a talent that served him well for this occasion. On stage, Jones discovered his prompt by flipping over a card and then had seven minutes to prepare and deliver his speech. He was given the Anela L. Wozniak quote, "I have come to realize my trouble with living has come from fear and smallness within me." With this inspiration, Jones connected themes from the Incredible Hulk, Lord of the Rings, Norse mythology and the Fantastic Four in a humorous reflection on strength, keeping the audience entertained throughout.

Freshman Lillian Korbel joined Doane for band and choir but was drawn to the forensics team due to her passion for speech. Competing in prose and poetry, she utilized skills gained from her theater experience.

Korbel qualified for two events at the national level, and her performance at the showcase demonstrated why. Her delivery of a prose piece captivated the audience, conveying a story that left many in tears, despite their lack of context.

Sophomore Jordynn Jerby followed Korbel's performance with her after-dinner speaking piece, a blend of serious and humorous elements. She addressed the topic of reduction mammaplasty, commonly known as breast reduction surgery. Jerby quipped, "I, too, deserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happy tits." Her performance included physical gags and tackled an important issue, emphasizing that "spoiler alert: it all comes back to sexism." Jerby presented statistics, instances of malpractice, and even the formula for the supposedly perfect breasts, demonstrating both the gravity and humor of the subject matter.

All performers received plenty of applause and were later joined by the audience for refreshments. However, the next

day, more forensics enthusiasts came together for the Doane Forensics 25-Year Reunion Dinner. Alumni, current team members, friends, and family were welcomed with scrapbooks, photos and trophies. The dinner also featured several activity tables, including a mentor tree, a space to record video messages for incoming members, and a selection of board games.

Forensics has been a part of campus life since 2000, but speech activities have also been present. President Hughes and alumni from previous speech teams, such as the Tiger Talkers, Mock Trial, Doane Speakers, Pi Kappa Delta and the Independent Debate Team, were in attendance. The evening celebrated the successes of the 2024-2025 team, past teams, victories, and the history of speech at Doane.

As the night went on, riveting stories from alumni filled the room. "You all aren't getting asbestos exposure anymore, that's the true Doane experience," quipped one alumnus. Another shared

their memories of living in Cassel House with 11 other people. Alumni Allison Jasso and Walker Stuhr recounted a humorous moment when Walker tricked Allison into thinking that safety instructions on airplanes were call-and-response during her very first flight.

Afterward, past and present speech members gathered in a circle for warm-ups. These included activities like "Mother Pheasant," "St. Bernard," and "Romeover in the Clover." Alumni not only remembered these warm-ups but also shared stories about how some of them started. One notable moment involved a parody of "Gangsta's Paradise," which the group enthusiastically performed in the early 2000s.

The current forensics team distributed goodie bags, and the group continued to mingle and reminisce until the event ended.



Pictures by Brianna Wright & Mackenzie Pike | Doane Owl

Coffee Shop Series Goes International

LORRAINE CASTANEDA
Life and Culture

On Tuesday, April 22, the Student Programming Board (SPB) hosted a Coffee Shop Series event featuring a beaded

bracelet-making night and a performance by flamenco guitar stylist, composer and teacher Daniel Martinez.

Martinez, originally from Iquitos, Peru, is a renowned musician and instructor at Union Col-

lege in Lincoln, Nebraska. He came to the United States at the age of 23, having already graduated from college in Peru with a degree in accounting.

"I never majored in music. I came here to study English, and as I

learned, I started giving music my all," Martinez said. "I am self-taught, and I now live off of music 100 percent, thanks to the people. There's a lot of support here, which I'm really grateful for."

During the event,

Martinez played several musical styles, ranging from salsa and Peruvian national music to "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns N' Roses. "I am a man that plays for everyone. I don't have a flag painted in me," Martinez said.

The evening offered students a different experience and hands-on activities, the perfect break before finals season starts. Stay tuned for more SPB activities in the upcoming weeks.

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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

Stand With Women, just not all women

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

LB89, known as the Stand With Women Act, has advanced within the unicameral. Now, the bill just needs to advance through two more rounds of debate. On the surface, standing with women seems like a straightforward concept, but this bill is really an outright attack on transgender youth.

"Since 2016, you would be surprised to know that eight students, eight students in nine years, have applied to be considered to participate in transgender sports," Senator Roybould said. Nebraska has had more school shootings than transgender athletes.

This bill aims to define

"male" and "female" and would restrict access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports teams. For example, it would prevent those assigned male at birth from joining female sports teams and vice versa. Senator Kauth referred to this as "common sense."

Here's a riddle: Who is more likely to be assaulted behind closed doors—the large-bodied majority or the minority being stripped of their rights? I don't need a master's in public policy to answer that question, but apparently, our elected officials do. Spoiler alert: they still got it wrong.

This may be a controversial statement, but I have no interest in the genitalia of minors—something our state senate seems obsessed

with in recent years. I also fail to see how this bill protects women from the issues they face most. The restroom choices of eight kids do nothing to prevent sexual assault, intimate partner violence, online harassment, inadequate maternal health-care, human trafficking, the lack of women in leadership, or gender bias in education.

If women want to gain more rights and better protections, it doesn't start with this bill. Attacking each other only distracts from more pressing issues. I don't know how to explain that we should care about other people and protect and uphold everyone's rights.

"There are those so-

cial expectations that fall in line with gender norms that are couched in patriarchy about how women should present themselves. ... From hair to makeup to clothing, to how tight [or loose] the clothing is, to the colors," Carter-Francique, executive director for the Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change at San José State University said. "[All] so that they can be more in line with this notion of girlhood, of womanhood, of what is deemed femininity."

If our government truly wants to "stand with women," it should start by aiding women rather than attacking them.

- Editorial -

Recapping our awards seasons

Being a college newspaper is hard. There are funding concerns seemingly every year, current attacks from government officials trying to limit student journalism and the fact that we live in a changing digital world of ten kills student journalism. However, despite that, the Doane Owl and numerous other college newspapers in the Midwest continued the storied tradition of writing and documenting life at their universities.

This year, the Owl submit-

ted multiple articles, pictures, graphics and issues to the Northern Plains Collegiate Media Association's Golden Leaf awards and walked away with numerous third and second place finishes, including a second place finish for best overall newspaper and a first place in best column (which we label as opinion)

The Northern Plains Collegiate Media Association includes Bethel College, Chadron State College, Concordia University, Doane University, Peru State College, Black

Hills State University and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The fact that amongst all these colleges, we managed multiple top-three finishes speaks to our strengths as a staff, a staff that is made up largely of students who are young and new to student journalism.

We don't make stories for the awards, but what they do is remind us that the work we are doing matters and is important. It's not often that you are able to be rewarded for your work in student jour-

nalism; sometimes it can feel like you're screaming into the void without recognition. But these awards and, more importantly, the kind words we get from all of you readers keep us motivated to the task at hand.

While we only have one more issue left after this one, this is a reminder that we will continue to serve Doane and its community. Thank you for continuing to support the Owl!

Allow yourself to learn after college

JOHN DAWES
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, I was over at a friend's place in Lincoln, and the two of us were talking about how our lives are going to be after graduation. Just a mere two days after graduating, she starts her job with a prominent bank chain in Nebraska. We talked about our mutual best friend who is going to law school and how, when she's a lawyer, she can hopefully cover for us if we somehow end up in a jam.

Of course, when I was asked the question of what's next, I sheepishly said I didn't really know what was next. As of right now, I am essentially waiting for one offer to be an English teaching assistant in Japan to materialize this summer, and I am sending my resume out to everyone and everything with a pulse, trying to kick-start my career as a journalist. She understood what I was going through. She only just got her post-graduation job a week ago; there's a shared experience of floundering around, hoping something, hell, anything sticks. I think that I'll have my ducks lined up sooner rather than later. I have a way of making

things work.

What stuck with me the most about our conversation wasn't the anxiety and dread of finally being forced to "grow up" out of college and contribute to a larger society. We spoke candidly about how we're going to miss proximity to other people and how we need to learn in silence.

College as a community offers young adults the opportunity to "F around and find out." We build new relationships and habits, pick a direction for our lives and cross our fingers hoping we don't die. There's a roughness to college. Despite people's best efforts to be adults, we are very much still dumb kids. But there's a shared community in that struggle; our teachers encourage us to try out new courses and take risks, your friends will bully you into trying to flirt with people way above your pay grade and you'll find yourself pulling your hair out at least once a week asking the question "what am I doing here?". It's messy, it's supposed to be. It's what makes the moments of clarity so clear when you can finally see the bigger picture.

But after college, everyone you know will start faking it, that their vision is clear,

their path is set and that the only thing they can learn is how to walk that line straighter. Of course, we all know that this isn't true; behind every clean office setup at some venture capitalist firm is a 20 to 30-something living in a bachelor pad, pulling out their hair, ruining their already poor hairline, wondering when they are ever going to get it figured out.

I think part of that adult anxiety comes from the fact that most people have two moods, the clocked-in and clocked-out mode. When you're clocked in, you've drank the Kool-Aid, you believe that you're "Mr. Adult and you work at the business factory, making business for Mr. Boss." You have to think you're competent, that whatever you're doing has a real meaning to it and every single one of your peers must see you present your best face forward.

But when you clock out, most of us are choosing to isolate ourselves. We've created bubbles of anxiety at home, we don't give ourselves the grace and leeway to admit, I am hopelessly confused,

I am doing the fakest job of all time that somehow pays the bills and I am just praying no one can see through me and notice the fact I can't do anything of value.

Through community and candidness, we can begin to be honest with each other. No matter how old you get, or how many times we say we "have it figured out," we want to be given the grace and space to be an idiot, to clumsily learn how to navigate everything. We can continue to be lifelong learners, but it requires admitting to others that we want to learn and we might look hopelessly incompetent as we try to figure it out. I don't know where exactly I am going. I'd like to know, but I don't. But what I will say is this: I am going to be the first to admit I am doing this life stuff for the first time, just like everyone else and I want to surround myself with people who feel comfortable admitting that with me, that even 60 years down the line we still are going to be piecing it all together.

- 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

Learning how to optimize yourself

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
News Editor

Yes, that little package had traveled almost 5,000 miles from my hometown in southern Spain to Nebraska. Sincerely, it filled me with a sense of illusion and gratitude. The author is Dr. Aldo, a renowned figure in the world of high-performance sports and physical activity throughout Spain. Most recently, he has been the physical trainer of Ilia Topuria, UFC world champion. His experience and philosophy are reflected

throughout the book, making it both inspiring and practical for anyone who wants to push their limits. One of the quotes that stuck with me the most was when Dr. Aldo emphasized the importance of "being an example through your principles and way of life." This reminded me that personal success is not only about achieving individual goals but also about living and inspiring others. Every chapter is full of re-

fections like this, encouraging readers to adopt not just good habits but a strong, coherent lifestyle. Another key takeaway from the book is the simple but powerful formula he shares: "motivation plus preparation equals success." Throughout his writing, he demonstrates that motivation alone is insufficient; preparation and consistent effort are essential components for achieving significant changes and realizing dreams. This idea reso-

lated deeply with me, especially as a student-athlete striving to balance academics, an on-campus job, and soccer simultaneously. Lastly, Dr. Aldo reminds readers that "it is important to celebrate the goals you accomplish." Too often, people achieve something significant and immediately move on to the next challenge without pausing to appreciate how far they have come. His advice encouraged me to recognize and cel-

ebate the small victories that are part of my journey, not just the major milestones. Overall, *Optimize Yourself* is more than just a motivational book; it is a manual for living with purpose, discipline, and joy. It came at a perfect time in my life, and I know its lessons will stay with me for years to come.

Optimize yourself: the only impossible thing is what you don't try. That is the title of the last book I have just read, and it was an awe-inspiring experience. Last April 7 was my 21st birthday, and my parents surprised me with a small package that arrived at the door of my apartment in Crete.

Ryan Coogler's "Sinners" is a must-see movie masterpiece

"Sinners" can be seen in almost all major theatres, including in IMAX at Omaha's AMC Classic Westroads

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

not because I did not like the movie, but because I needed to watch it again. It was an overwhelming masterpiece. "Sinners," directed by Ryan Coogler, took many risks and covered a variety of topics, including race, death, religion and folklore, tying it all together in a beautifully wrapped gift. The story stars Michael B. Jordan as twin brothers Stack and Smoke. It follows their return to their hometown in Mississippi. The brothers have high hopes of running a successful juke joint, complete with blues music and Irish beer to keep night-goers coming. However, one night of partying turns into a con-

frontation with a much greater evil. Michael B. Jordan delivers an incredible performance, portraying both brothers with distinct personalities. Red and blue hats and suits helped audiences identify which brother was on screen, but even without the color cues, their differences were clearly conveyed. Miles Caton stars as Sammie, also known as "Preacher Boy," who possesses the remarkable gift of playing the guitar and singing. Sammie possesses a supernatural ability to cross from different cultures, merging the past, present and future. In other words, music transcends time and

cultures. I truly believe in this lore. One scene that captivated me showed Sammie singing while different cultures and periods appeared together in the same room, dancing around him like spiritual ghosts. I have felt that connection to music before, where your body feels connected to the cultures influencing the music. It takes you somewhere else, and this movie captured that feeling well. Speaking of the music, Ludwig Göransson, one of my all-time favorite score writers (who also scored "Oppenheimer" and "Black Panther 2"), did a fantastic job capturing the period. He used a

1932 Dobro Resonator, the same type of guitar Caton plays in the movie. In an interview, Göransson stated that he bought three of these guitars and used them primarily to write the score, relying less on computer-generated sounds. While "Sinners" is a vampire movie, it doesn't feel like a typical vampire story, like "Twilight" or "Morbis." The film incorporates so many elements that, at first, it doesn't even seem like a vampire movie. However, it delivers excellent moments of jump scares and gore. The main villain, played by Jack O'Connell, is charming in a terrifying way. There is a sig-

nificant amount of Irish history tied to his character, and his songs and dancing have become a popular part of the film's appeal. I wish I had seen more of his back story, but I still understood his motives. I wish I could dive more deeply into the symbolism and production of this movie because it is fascinating. However, I will simply say: watch it. "Sinners" has everything you could want in a great film: action, comedy, romance and grief. I hope it wins Oscars and awards for its creativity and originality.

An Easter Break reflection on rowing

LIZ CALDERON CHEN
Staff Writer

First, we started rowing on a rowing machine, also called an erg, on land. This machine simulates the actual rowing movement without the use of oars. Understanding the pattern your body had to follow was essential for making your rowing movement as effective as possible. Rowing is a major Olympic sport with races ranging from 500-meter sprints to 2,000-meter Olympic distances. It's known for its intense physical demands and synchronized teamwork. Their events are categorized by boat type, the number of rowers, and whether a coxswain (the person who steers and directs) is present. Imagine a boat with eight people rowing on one side, and the same number of people rowing on the other side. We had to make the movement as efficient as possible to ensure the boat moved smoothly and quickly. Some key skills that were reflected in us were endurance, technique, power, rhythm, and men-

tal toughness. Rowing is a full-body workout. It engages the legs, back, arms, and core and offers cardiovascular and strength training benefits. Indoor rowing machines (ergs) mimic water rowing and are popular in gyms, where we first learned how to row properly. After all our lessons and expertise on land, they transferred us to a large boat and rowed us into the water. It was my first hands-on experience with rowing in my life, and it was a lot of fun. I've seen these competitions before, since in Panama, rowers practice with a unique set of boats that differ from the Olympic-style boats. They're called dragon boats, consisting of a long, narrow canoe-like boat traditionally decorated with a dragon's head and tail. Dragon boat racing dates back more than 2,000 years in southern China, but it is now a major public holiday in China and other East Asian countries. The Dragon Boat Fes-

tival symbolizes teamwork, bravery, and community strength. It is also a way to ward off disease and evil spirits. A dragon boat race involves a drummer who

beats a rhythmical drumbeat to synchronize the paddlers' strokes. Since timing is more important than brute strength, the paddlers must work in perfect harmony. The

steerer, or sweep, stands at the back and uses a long oar to steer the boat. Most races are 200 meters to 500 meters sprints, but some festivals feature longer distances.

...Thumbs UP

Hawks 

  Second

Pausing  

 Traveling

Spice  

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 Briefs

Women's Golf

Last week, the Women's Golf team traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, to compete in the two-day Bent Tree Intercollegiate Tournament, where they placed second with a total score of 639.

Tied for third was freshman Connie Jarm, who finished with a score of 154. Junior Kaitlyn Dumler and freshman Tia Phaisan tied for 10th with a score of 161. Placing 12th with a score of 163 was freshman Laila Saunders.

Next, the Women's Golf team will travel to Cairo, Nebraska, on April 28-29 to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championships.

-- Elijah Lara-Johnson

Men's Golf

Last week, the Men's Golf team traveled to Beatrice, Nebraska, to compete in the two-day Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championship. They finished in sixth place with a score of 905.

Leading the way was sophomore Joshua Wassmer, who tied for ninth with a score of 220. Finishing in 17th was junior Cam Binder, who scored a 225. Tied for 27th with a score of 232 was freshman Toby Knevet.

Next, the Men's Golf Team will travel to Silvis, Illinois, from May 20 to 23 to compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championship.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

Softball

On April 23, the Softball team traveled to Yankton, South Dakota, to take on Mount Marty University in a double-header, where they walked away with a double win 7-2 and 7-1.

In game one, senior Grace Dowding had two runs, two hits and two RBIs alongside sophomore Jeryn Allen, who was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. Junior Faith Molina (1-0) pitched five innings and struck out four in the win.

In game two, Dowding was 2-for-3 with two runs scored, with Molina and freshman Addison Parson each getting two hits. Freshman Bri True (1-0) picked up the win.

Over the weekend, the team traveled to Hastings, Nebraska, to take on Hastings College in another double-header, where they lost both games 1-3 and 5-8.

In game one, the only run and hit was by freshman Milannie Gonzalez. In their second game and their final game of the season, Dowding, senior Anna Prauner and True all got a hit and scored a run.

The Softball team ended its season with an overall record of 18-24 and a conference record of 10-12.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

Men's Tennis

On April 24, the Men's Tennis team lost its last game of the season against Concordia University in the first round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) tournament by a score of 4-0. The Tigers ended the season with an overall record of 6-14 (5-6 at home and 1-7 away) and 1-5 in the regular conference. When one team secures the four points needed to win, the match is over, the remaining players stop and the game is concluded.

In doubles play, at No. 1, senior Jose Purizaca and junior Diego Infante lost 4-6. In the No. 2 match, sophomore Elliot Dassel and senior Andre Hartman lost 4-5. Finally, in the No. 3 match, sophomore Julio Avila and freshman Christian Jensen lost 3-6.

In singles No. 1, Purizaca ended 3-4, and at No. 2, Infante lost 0-6, 1-6. No. 3 singles, Hartman ended 4-6. At No. 4, Dassel ended 0-6, 0-1. In singles No. 5, Avila lost 0-6, 0-6. Finally, in singles No. 6, freshman Tanner Adams lost 1-6, 0-6.

While the men's tennis Tigers may not have had the season they hoped for, finishing with a 6-14 record and an early exit from the GPAC tournament, the team showed moments of fight and determination. This year's challenges will only fuel their growth as they work to come back stronger and more prepared next season. With continued effort and experience, the Tigers are set to build a brighter future.

--Luis Rejano Caudau

Baseball goes 3-1 during senior weekend

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the Baseball team played its last home games of the season against Hastings College, walking away with three wins and a loss, with scores of 1-3, 4-0, 10-0, and 7-6.

In game one, Doane's only run came from a home run by returning senior Justin Nevells. In game two, senior Johnny Vulcano went 2-for-4, Aaron Vulcano went 2-for-3 and junior Sam Kwapnioski, Jordan Bond and sophomore Taiyo

Takahashi each got one hit. Sophomore Riley Plummer (8-0) pitched all nine innings and struck out four.

In game three, Kwapnioski was 3-for-3 with two runs scored, J. Vulcano went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and Logan Amick went 2-for-5 with an RBI. Picking up the win was junior Nicolas Yard, who is now 4-2.

Going into their final game of the season, Nevells went 3-for-5, Max Harris went 3-for-5 and Amick was 3-for-4. Sophomore Ethan Merk (3-1) picked up the win.

The Baseball team ended its season with an overall record of 31-13 and in the Conference went 18-10,

finishing in third in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) standings.



Graphics made by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl

Track competes across Iowa and Nebraska

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, both Men's and Women's Track and Field teams divided into two, taking some to Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in the Drake Relays, with the other half traveling to Lincoln, Nebraska, to compete in the Prairie Wolf Invitational.

Sophomore Rae-Ann Thompson started the Drake Relays in the 100m, where she placed 22nd with a time of 12.14. In the 400m, junior Joaquin Gutierrez had a time of 48.05, which put him 13th.

Thompson, juniors Morgan Mahoney and Kat Vogt and sophomore Neryah Hekl competed in the 4x100, where they placed fourth with a time of 46.56. In the 4x400 were Vogt, sophomores Chaney Nelson and Kiley Hejtmanek and junior Danie Parriott, where they had a time of 3:47.84, which put them in fourth.

In the 110m hurdles, senior Zach Turner placed fourth with a

time of 13.84. Turner also competed in the 400m hurdles, where he walked away in first with a time of 50.81. Placing seventh in the same event was freshman Andrew Brown, who had a time of 53.49.

Turner and Brown also ran in the 110-meter Shuttle Hurdles, along with sophomore Andrew Harms and freshman Zachary Fox. They finished with a time of 58.32, placing them fifth.

Jumping in the high jump was senior Dylan Starr, who placed fifth with a mark of 2.03m. Finishing in ninth in the triple jump was junior Josie Garrett, who had a mark of 11.64m, along with freshman Brian Cech, who placed 13th with a mark of 13.80m. Also walking away in 13th was sophomore Kyla Davis, who had a mark of 11.13m.

Switching over to the Prairie Wolf Invitational, in the 400m was senior JaDae Moore, who placed third with a time of 49.45. In the 800m was junior Maddy Ramey, who placed second with a time of

2:27.85.

Junior Ashlei McDonald, who ran 4:51.32 in the 1500m, placed third, and junior Michael Grigsby, who ran 15:24.01 in the 5000 m. Running in the 10,000m was freshman Aubrie Johnson, who had a time of 46:43.76, where she placed first.

In the 3000-meter Steeplechase, freshman Kenzie Spencer placed first with a time of 13:58.63, and freshman Joseph Seifferlein placed third with a time of 11:12.26. In the 4x100 relay, sophomore Devon Jackson, Moore, freshman Ryland Garretson and senior Dalton Whisenhunt placed second with a time of 41.64.

In the high jump, sophomore Peyton Herrick placed second with a mark of 1.93m. In pole vault was sophomore Kaylee Pridyl, who had a mark of 3.71m, with senior Drew Garrison placing third with a mark of 4.40m. In the long jump was sophomore Michael Willey, who had a mark of 6.64m.

Transitioning to throws, senior Alivia

Baucom, who had a mark of 14.32m, and senior Madison Sutton, who had a mark of 13.49m, placed first in the shot put. In the discus, Sutton took first with a mark of 47.04m, followed by junior Christopher Brown, who had a mark of 48.37m. Baucom placed second with a mark of 46.36m, alongside senior Trey Dickey, who had a mark of 48.37m.

In the hammer throws, it was Sutton who also walked away in first with a mark of 54.12m. Junior Mia Knigge had a mark of 48.98m and Dickey had a mark of 56.28m, which placed them in second. Placing first in the javelin were sophomore Mason Crumbliss, who had a mark of 53.30m, and sophomore Delaney Burge, who had a mark of 39.28m.

Next up, both Men's and Women's Track and Field teams will be traveling to Hastings, Nebraska, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championships on May 2-3.

Women's Tennis ends season in GPAC semis

LUIS REJANO CANDAU
Staff Writer

On April 25, the Women's Tennis team lost its last game of the season against Concordia University in the semis of the GPAC tournament by a score of 4-1. The Tigers concluded the season with an excellent overall record of 13-7 (8-4 at home and 5-3 on the road) and 5-1 in the regular conference. The Ti-

gers lost to the GPAC winner, who recently defeated Morningside University in the final and will advance to Nationals. When one team secures the four points needed to win, the match is over, the remaining players stop and the game is concluded.

In doubles, No. 1 senior Mariana Espinosa and sophomore Maria Purizaca were winning 5-2. However, at No. 2 doubles, freshman Liz

Calderon and junior Grace Schroller lost 2-6. At No. 3 doubles, sophomore Isabella Castellero and sophomore Kat Johnson lost 1-6.

In singles, Purizaca won the No. 1 game 6-1, 6-2, while Espinosa lost the No. 2 singles 3-6, 2-6. In singles No. 3, Calderon ended 6-3, 4-0. At No. 4, Castellero lost 0-6, 0-6. In singles No. 5, Schroller lost 4-6, 1-6. Finally, in singles No. 6, Johnson

ended 6-4, 6-5.

Although it was a tough loss in the semifinals, especially after having defeated Concordia 4-3 during the regular conference season, the Tigers should be proud of the incredible season they put together. Finishing with a strong 13-7 overall record and an impressive 5-1 mark in conference play.

Scoreboard Snapshot

BASEBALL

April 21 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
Versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

[GAME1] [GAME2]
[16-4] [7-3]

April 25-26 @ HOME
Versus HASTINGS COLLEGE

[GAME1] [GAME2] [GAME3] [GAME4]
[3-1] [4-0] [10-0] [7-6]

MEN'S GOLF

April 21-22 @ HOME
@ GPAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

[TIGERS]
[6th]

MEN'S TENNIS

April 24 @ SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
Versus CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

[BULLDOGS]
[0-4]

WOMEN'S GOLF

April 21-22 @ COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA
@ BENT TREE INVITE

[TIGERS]
[2nd]

SOFTBALL

April 23 @ YANKTON, SD
Versus MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

[GAME1] [GAME2]
[7-2] [7-1]

April 26 @ HASTINGS, NE
Versus HASTINGS COLLEGE

[GAME1] [GAME2]
[1-3] [5-8]

WOMEN'S TENNIS

April 24 @ SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
Versus CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

[BULLDOGS]
[1-4]

Next week for Tiger Athletics

WOMEN'S GOLF

April 28-29 @ CAIRO, NE
@ GPAC CHAMPIONSHIP

SOFTBALL

April 30 @ GPAC TOURNAMENT
12:00 versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

BASEBALL

April 30 @ YANKTON, SD
3:00 versus GPAC POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT

TRACK AND FIELD

May 2-3 @ HASTINGS, NE
@ GPAC CHAMPIONSHIPS



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit Doaneathletics.com to view any Doane sports team. There you can find the rosters, game schedules, and stats.

 DOANE UNIVERSITY

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