



Students perform in the most recent Doane Theatre production, "A Map of Virtue," directed by Blake Tobey.

STUCO recognizes leaders at Doane Student Leadership Awards

LORRAINE CASTANEDA
Life & Culture Editor

On Sunday, May 4, Perry Dining Hall held the 2025 Student Leadership Awards, celebrating the dedication, creativity, and service of Doane's student body. President Roger Hughes opened the evening with a welcome that set the tone for an event "designed to recognize the countless ways

our students lead, serve, and inspire," President Hughes said. After dinner, Academic specialist of the Academic Success Center Rachel Jank took the stage to present a slate of academic and mentorship honors, among them the Tiger Mentorship Endurance and Glenn Mitchell Leadership awards, highlighting students who "demonstrate persistence in the face of adversity and embody our university's highest ideals," as she explained.

Quint Geis, Director of Career, Leadership, and Service, followed with acknowledgments for Emerging Leaders before delivering the Career, Leadership, and Service (CLS) awards with Mandi Laib, Assistant Director of Leadership & Service. "Leadership isn't a title; it's a promise to serve others," Geis said. Brian Stutz, head of Residence Life, then recognized student staff who keep campus residential life running

smoothly, and Vice President for Community & Government Relations, Luis Sotelo along with the Community & Government Relations team also recognized students who had made an impact in the community by giving the Community Excellence award to several students. Spencer Munson, head of the Student Programming Board (SPB), and Eden Diehl Assistant Director of Campus Engagement & Fraternity & Sorority

Life handed out honors for Campus Engagement and Greek Life, celebrating the different events, outstanding GPAs, remarkable students in Greek Life, and awareness campaigns raised by Greek Life. Then, Campus Visits and Operations Manager, Natasha Kusek and her Admissions & Ambassadors team took over, acknowledging student ambassadors who welcome prospective students and give tours, before senior and former STUCO pres-

ident, Blake Skoumal and junior Grace Southern, member of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), closed the awards portion with their selections for leadership and service across the broader student government and honor-society landscape. Finally, Munson concluded the evening returning to the podium for closing remarks, thanking the awards committee, co-chairs, and mentors who's behind-the-scenes efforts make these recognitions possible.



(Left) Quint Geis helps present at the Student Leadership Awards. (Top middle) Gamma Phi Iota sorority reacts to winning Greek Life GPA awards. (Bottom middle) Senior Quincey Johnson poses with one of her awards won at the event. (Right) Nadia Lanik and junior McKenna Rathbun share a hug after Rathbun wins an award.

Doane Health advises healthy studying

JOHN DAWES
Editor-In-Chief

The end of the semester is upon us and with that, students are staying up late, straining their eyes looking at review material and doing everything they can to pass their classes and ace their finals. But staying up late and stressing about school work can have some negative health effects if students push past their limits.

"Aside from the physical impacts, we also see an increase in the number of students reporting illnesses due to poor sleep because of the impact that it has on a person's immunity. Students can also have issues with their focus, concentration and memory when they are not getting their full seven to eight hours of sleep," Health & Wellness Director Andreea Baker said. Baker stressed the importance of sleep for students, as without it, students are doing the finals with a hand behind their back. Studying late

into the night isn't always beneficial for students, as students are often unable to concentrate and retain information even after studying for hours and hours. "Sleep is most important when you are studying for finals because it helps with your long-term memory," Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Jody Yank said. "If you stay up late or pull an all-nighter, you are using your short-term memory more than your long-term memory. Severely impaired sleep leads to memory impair-

ment as well as decreased attention and vigilance. So if you are taking an exam that requires attention to detail, you will be doing yourself more harm than good if you don't get enough sleep the night before the exam." Sleep deprivation, final exams and projects also don't mix well if a student is trying to be level-headed and avoid stress. Students report more signs of headaches, aches and pains, vomiting and throwing up and panic attacks during finals week due to the intensive stress they often put themselves

under. The best thing a student can do is to prevent the problem by being proactive. "Everyone copes with stress differently, so students need to find what works best for them," Baker said. "Things that students report helping them include journaling, yoga/meditation, listening to music, talking with friends or family, and physical activity. Spending time outside and taking breaks while working on homework is also beneficial for students. We want students to reach out to campus re-

sources before their stress becomes more than they can manage." Students are advised to pace themselves, work with peers, make sure that they are getting quality sleep, nutrition and hydration and avoid burning themselves out with long sleepless nights. Students can learn more about how to survive finals week at De-Stress Fest of May 6, from 11-2 in Cassel, where a free BBQ lunch will be provided as well as a host of ways students can relax and recoup before the final week of school.

Rachel Jank announces her new teaching career in Seward

ELIYAH LARA- JOHNSON
Sports Editor

On May 5, Academic Success Specialist and Financial Literacy Workshop Coordinator, Rachel Jank, announced that she will not be returning to Doane, as she took a job at Seward Middle School to be a 6th-8th English teacher.

“This is not something I sought out, but was approached to apply, and when I went through the interview process, it just clicked,” Jank said.

Although Jank is set to start her new job in

August, Jank will be finishing off her duties by helping out with Enrollment Days for the incoming Freshman, wrapping up things that Executive Director of Academic Support Services Beth Jacobson would like her support on and a variety of other things as well.

“There is so many things that I’ve appreciated at Doane, a great example of this was I went to the Student Award Ceremony and I got there a bit late, but as a presenter, I was supposed to sit up in the front and when I got to the table the wasn’t any room,” Jank said. “So instead of making me sit at a random table, they made room for

me, which shows what the Doane community is about.”

Along with this, Jank explains how she is going to not only attend the planning sessions she has with her colleagues, but also the students she got to interact with while she was here.

“I love working with people,” Jank said. “People have really funny jokes and weird ideas that they propose, and like the work that I could do with students, like the conversations that I get to have at the table in the office, they’re super weird, but I love them.”

Although Jank is sad to leave, she feels like this opportunity will be

not only just the next step in her life but a challenge as well.

“Because of my time at Doane, I am better prepared for the challenge ahead of me and influencing that school and those kids in a way that I would not have been able to do before I came to Doane,” Jank said. “I think that could be said about everyone, regardless of the position they get, they can still say that I’m still becoming the person that I want to be, even if it’s not falling into place for me right now, how I respond to things is in alignment to the person I want to be in the future.



Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl

The hazy future of medical marijuana in Nebraska

AMANI MUISYO
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 oppor-

tunity 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 re-

search 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.

Stuco selects ten new student senators for next year

JOHN DAWES
Editor-In-Chief

When we talk about the end of the semester, most people immediately think about summer break and graduation. For 10 Doane students, the end of the semester means preparing to serve Doane through leadership and campus involvement.

On April 25, the Student Congress elected 10 students to serve as STUCO senators for the 2025-26 school year. These students are junior Will Dawes, freshman Derek Silva, sophomore Carly Rains, freshman Harrison Sjuts, junior Devin Avedissian, freshman DaMarcus Cannon, junior Brayden Boehle, freshman Lauren Maly, freshman Mariah Tesson and freshman Rylee DeVaughn. With over

300 votes and razor-thin margins, according to STUCO, this one was one of the tightest races for STUCO senate.

For some of these students, this is an opportunity for them to impact Doane and propose changes that they feel are necessary for the campus. For others, they were seeking reelection in hopes of contributing more to Doane and their legacy of leadership.

“I hope to continue building on all of the hard work that we put into Student Congress this year,” junior Brayden Boehle said. “I believe we are coming off of one of our most successful years to date in terms of event attendance, participation, and overall excitement, and hope to keep that going. I feel as though some of the entry-level leadership positions I have held have established a framework of my leadership and allowed me to lead

others positively and efficiently. I hope to create a space where all students feel the desire to be involved in a club or organization on campus that truly interests them.”

For Boehle, getting reelected allowed him to continue the work he is doing in STUCO, as he formerly worked as STUCO treasurer and is expected to take on even more responsibility both within STUCO and on campus. For others, it’s also about serving the student body and helping guide the university to a place that’s best for students.

“We as a cohort will focus on issues within our grasp that we can handle as effectively and efficiently as possible,” junior Devin Avedissian said. “As long as we keep addressing problems and concerns we hear from students and make a proactive effort to fix these, Doane will keep becoming a better place.”

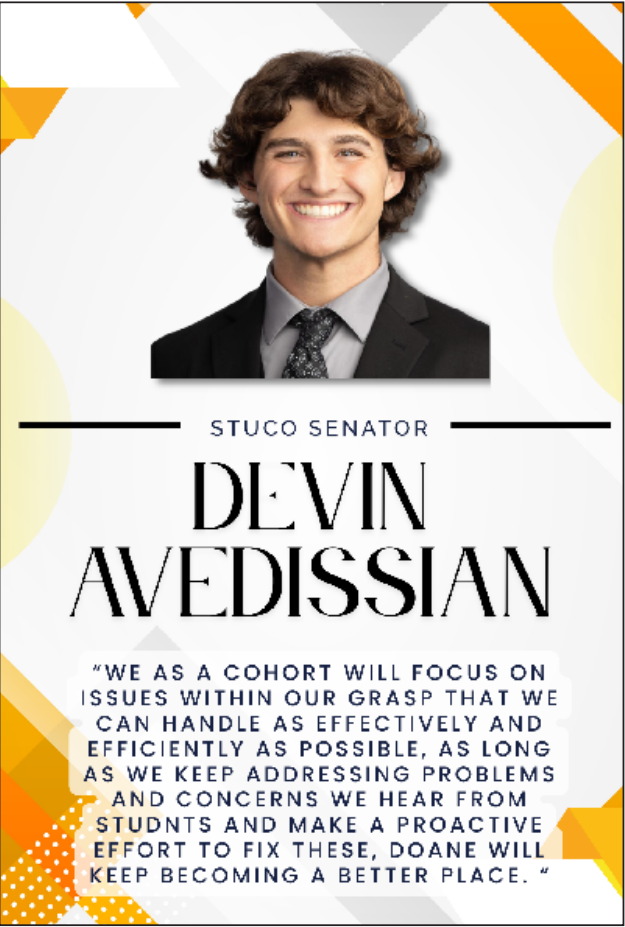
Both Boehle and Avedissian are long-standing members of STUCO, both serving on STUCO for multiple years, and are finishing their time at Doane, continuing the work they started. Both senators hope to provide the leadership experiences they’ve acquired with a new batch of students and be that guiding force for the university, in hopes that it will inspire a new batch of student leaders.

“I chose to run for STUCO again because the group feels like a family of leaders always helping you become a better person while making a difference around campus,” Avedissian said. “Doane has offered me plenty of leadership opportunities to keep me prepared and to strive in this position.”

All of the senators, both returning and new, are being refreshed or

instructed on what their campus responsibilities will be and what the fu-

ture of STUCO will look like in the next school year.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl

Hauntingly beautiful Theatre production

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Spotlights give way to shadowy figures as a bird statue takes center stage in “A Map of Virtue,” Doane Theatre’s final performance this season. Director Blake Tobey aimed to explore the impact of theatre on mental health through this unsettling production. Primarily, he wished to create an intense and thrilling show without sacrificing the mental or physical health of the actors. This show addressed

chilling stories and dark themes, showcasing powerful performances from both experienced actors and newcomers to the theatre. After the story concluded, the cast and crew often held dance parties following rehearsals to unwind and distance themselves from the heavy material. The wooden and platformed stage welcomed the audience, accompanied by the sound of birds before the play began. The story unfolds in a disconnected and disconcerting manner, following Sarah and Mark

as they encounter each other at various points in their lives. The narrative quickly becomes more troubling, culminating in a harrowing multi-day kidnapping. Performances by senior Alexis McDaniel-Gates and junior Matthieu Helaine were outstanding, along with the rest of the cast and crew. Sophomore Hannah Schmitz and freshman Ash Abercrombie delivered chilling portrayals of evil with unwavering intensity. In summary, the show delves into themes of trauma, coping and suf-

fering. An air of discomfort permeated the audience as the story progressed, offering no reprieve and instead compelling the audience to confront the characters’ struggles. Explorations of trauma seem to be an overarching theme from this theatre season. “A Map of Virtue” caps an excellent season from Doane Theatre, which also featured “She Kills Monsters,” “Between the Lines,” and “Town Hall.” Tobey explained that his choice for this play stemmed from his love of

horror and gothic tales. “That’s why we have approached this show with a heavy focus on how trauma, shame, and survival all shape the ways we navigate the world,” Tobey wrote in his director’s notes. After the performance, Darcy Dawson, director of counseling services, and CAPE peer educator and Stage Manager Ella Zubieni joined the cast and crew on stage to discuss the themes. “It is a weird show. I’ve seen it probably 67 times now, and I still wonder what is happening,” remarked

Tobey, encouraging the audience to form their interpretations. The cast shared their interpretations and how these influenced their performances. The dedication and depth of exploration demonstrated in this production were evident in its execution. The play was a fitting send-off for this season of Doane Theatre and the talented seniors who will leave the stage in good hands for next year’s performances.



Cast performing “A Map of Virtue” directed by Blake Tobey.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | Doane Owl

Forensics season in retrospective

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Along with a successful season and a 25-year reunion, the Doane forensics team got another win recently. An endowed fund was created for the team by alum Dr. Caitie Leibman and raised \$107,855 with 68 donors. “It’s invested and every year spits out an annual spend of money that will support the team into the future,” assistant director of forensics Jennifer Torres said. “Which, for any program, to have any support, any sort of endowment, it helps kind of cement the program’s future.” The future for this team looks bright despite some of the hurdles they’ve overcome. Composed entirely of first- and second-year forensic mem-

bers, the team had eight to ten students throughout the year, along with the four who presented at the April 25 Forensics Showcase. These four refer to themselves as the “core four” and consist of sophomores Jackson Finner, Theo Jones and Jordynn Jerby and freshman Lillian Korbel. “It was a great season competitively,” communication professor and director of forensics Nathaniel Wilson said. “I think even more exciting was how much of a learning experience it was.” Jerby and Finner took on leadership roles and mentor duties since they have seniority on the team. “Because they started to grow into that role so well, we found ourselves forgetting that they are only in their second year in the program,” Wilson said. Forensics consists of 11

different events, although students can compete in up to six. Torres and Wilson start by talking with students about their passions and topics they find interesting, then finding what events they could fit with them. Wilson said many people misinterpret forensics when it’s really about “nerding out on topics, doing a bunch of research, and getting to talk through really cool ideas.” The directors also encourage students to explore different events, like Jerby, who tried After-Dinner Speaking this year. “At our state tournament in February, at war-mups, we had one of our alumni there with us, and it was the first time that all of a sudden it felt like we became a team,” Wilson said. “Like they’ve worked together and been around each other, but something that weekend

just gelled and from that point onward, there’s a really clear team’s identity, and it was awesome to watch.” Torres also reflected on her favorite memories from this season and explained “one good thing,” a kind of game played at the end of every tournament where each team member picks one good thing that stood out to them. It usually only lasts for 15-20 minutes, but this one went on for over an hour after nationals. “Everyone started to chime in on all the good things they had held back because they didn’t want to take too long during their one good thing,” Torres said. “I was suddenly awake and alive and super excited to hear all these things the students were excited about.” The team requires no

prior experience with speech. Those interested in joining should contact Nathaniel Wilson, nathaniel.wilson@doane.edu, or Jennifer Torres, jennifer.torres@doane.edu. Additionally, the directors encourage students to reach out to current team members to learn more.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Have fun without overthinking it. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): Reach out to that person you've been ignoring.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): Check three things off your to-do list!

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): The problem you're looking for... is you.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): Honesty is the best policy.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): Let your inner child run free!

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Put on a one-person show and invite all your friends.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): If an opportunity presents itself, take it without hesitation.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Consider taking steps to invest in your future.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Get hyped for the weeknd. The party starts with you.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Reflect on how far you've come. You're almost at the finish line!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20): The “get-out-of-jail free” card only works in Monopoly.





Profesor Brad Johnson and Nathaniel Wilson congratulaing high school students who published stories for The New Xanadu



Pictures by Elenna Koenig | Doane Owl

The New Xanadu is finally unveiled

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

The 2025 edition of The New Xanadu was unveiled on Thursday, May 1, accompanied by a celebration in the East/West Dining Hall. Although the space was simply set up, it was transformed into a welcoming environment where people could share their works and thoughts among friends. Both faculty and students had the opportu-

nity to submit their pieces to the literary magazine, with two writers being new to both Xanadu and Doane. Aidan Elwood and Embrie Bednar are current seniors at Norris High School who are taking Doane English classes for college credit. Phil Weitzl, a professor of English, guest lectured a creative writing class at Norris last fall. "Since they are Doane students as well, I invited them to submit," Weitzl said. "I'm so glad they did."

This year's edition of The New Xanadu is filled with submissions in writing, mixed media, art, and photography. Freshman Mia Eshleman's piece titled "Motel, Medium: Acrylic" was selected for the cover of this edition. Senior editors Jess Himmelberg and Morgan Craig expressed their gratitude to all who submitted work in their letters from the edi-

tors. After sharing a few words, they opened the floor for others to read excerpts or discuss their creative processes.

Joshua Johnson, executive financial assistant, read parts of his five poems dedicated to his father, who recently passed away from cancer. Senior Rowan Jolkowski shared an unsubmitted piece that served as a eulogy for a friend who had also passed away. Many who spoke shared

how The New Xanadu or the English department had become safe spaces for them to express their emotions and struggles through words. Freshman Thure Johnson, also known as T.J., spoke about his experience in Weitzl's creative writing class and how it provided him the opportunity to write about his mental health and emotions.

"There are various seniors in the room who are in different stages of exis-

tential crisis," Weitzl said after the sharing session. He then invited the seniors and other audience members to give advice to those still on their college journey. President Hughes, business professor Charlena Miller and several seniors contributed their thoughts.

The 2025 edition of The New Xanadu can be found at mytnx.com. Submissions for the next issue will open in Spring 2026.

ODK recognizes mentors who left an impact

LORRAINE CASTANEDA
Life and Culture

On April 29, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the national leadership honor society on campus, hosted its annual Mentor Celebration, an event designed to highlight the importance of mentorship in the academic and personal journeys of student leaders at the university.

Each spring, ODK

members are invited to select one or two mentors who have played a significant role in their growth and development. Students then deliver brief, heartfelt speeches in front of an audience celebrating the impact these mentors have had.

While most honorees are faculty or staff, students may also recognize community members or anyone who has supported them through their college experience. The

Mentor Celebration is one of several key programs ODK hosts annually, alongside member initiations and participation in major campus events like commencement and award ceremonies.

With around 35 active members on campus, this year's event featured an emotional evening full of speeches and recognitions, ranging from funny stories to deeply emotional reflections.

"It's one of those rare moments during a busy semester where everyone gets to slow down and just express gratitude," Quinten Geis, ODK advisor, said. "It's always a favorite for both students and mentors."

Abby Willett, a longtime member of ODK, gave a particularly memorable tribute to her mentor, Rebecca Sprouse. According to Geis and compared to her speech last year, Willett appeared

more confident and composed this time around. She spoke about how Sprouse had helped her navigate tough decisions and reflect on her future with clarity.

Sprouse, who was also named Advisor of the Year this semester, was visibly moved by the tribute. Her recognition reflected both her dedication to students like Willett and her broader contributions across campus.

The celebration has

become a meaningful ODK tradition, especially during the stress of finals season. Faculty and staff attendees commented on how it offered a much-needed moment of reflection and connection. "My colleagues have talked a lot about how it kind of fills their cup as they push towards the end of the semester," Geis said.

Students make pickled vegetables for coffeeshop series

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

On April 29, the SPB Foodie Series hosted its final event of the year. Students gathered at Lakeside to pickle vegetables of their choice, bringing a flavorful end to the popular series.

Pickling, a method of food preservation that dates back to Mesopotamia around 2400 BC, has remained a beloved culinary tradition. It's recent-

ly gained traction on platforms like TikTok, where over 222.9 million posts are tagged with "pickles," making it a trendy and engaging activity, especially among students.

Participants had a variety of vegetables to choose from, including carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, and more. The event coincided with the SPB pool tournament finals, creating a lively atmosphere where students could enjoy the competition after preparing their pickled

creations.

Chef Shack guided attendees through the pickling process. He revealed that his signature brine includes "one part sugar, one part salt," and a mix of spices such as peppercorns, bay leaves, cloves, red pepper flakes, and all-spice.

Chef Shack recommended letting the pickles sit in the brine for at least two hours, though the flavor intensifies the longer they are left, up to two days.



Students pickling vegetables on campus Pictures by Mackenzie Pike | Doane Owl

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Questions? andrea.baker@doane.edu

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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.

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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

My time as editor-in-chief is over

JOHN DAWES
Editor-in-Chief

This feels a little surreal; I'm going to be done with college. I'm going to graduate and all of my time here at Doane as a student will be over. There are a lot of emotions that are swirling around right now; I'm excited for my future, I have an immense amount of dread, I'm going to miss all the people I've met, I'm content with my time here and I'm also upset I didn't do more.

I remember what I was thinking when I graduated high school; really, all I could think about was leaving and starting anew. I felt like, for the first time in my life, I had the option of freedom. Of course, that's the naive 18-year-old mindset, but I felt like I could do anything and everything wherever I wanted. I had big dreams, I wanted to go out west to the University of Oregon, I'd come back to the Midwest as one of those West Coast elites who talk about how much better they have it.

Obviously, that didn't happen. I got cold feet. By the time I applied, I could barely get any scholarships

and I had enrolled at Doane. If we think about college as an investment, coming here was like investing in Apple before the dot.com bubble, but I didn't realize it at the time.

I was shy and coy in my freshman year. I could barely talk to anyone, though; somehow, I had people who wanted to be my friends. I had my teammates from track and my fellow staff here at the Owl, though most of the time they felt more like coworkers than friends. I don't know when, but after a certain point, I realized that I had to make the most of what I had, that I had to try. Try and make new friends, try and do new things, try and make something for myself.

And I have. While I'm writing this, I am surrounded by friends at the library; in a couple of minutes, we're going to all eat lunch together at a table that is too small for the number of people sitting there. I'm going to go back to my dorm with my eight roommates, one of whom is my younger brother, and we'll walk over to the indoor track where I'll cry my eyes out in front of my 200 or something teammates

during our senior speeches.

I'm handing out invites to my graduation party. I'm having teachers reach out to me and try to help guide me towards careers that they think would be worthwhile. I'm the editor-in-chief here at the Owl! I've helped build a staff that is young, motivated and dedicated to working hard and providing all of you with quality stories. The day this is published, I'll be presenting my honors capstone with my honors cohort, a group of students who are ten times smarter than me and I'm just lucky I get to tread water by them.

I thought that everything at Doane was too close to home, but so fundamentally different that I couldn't ever connect with people here. But I can say that I have made those connections. My time here at Doane has taught me that I need to try, I need to be earnest and that people are kind to those who are pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

People are kind; peo-

ple are so kind that it makes me a little weepy when I think about it. I am so grateful for the people who believed in me and saw something in me, even when I could barely see it in myself. Of course, obligatory shout-out to my mom and dad, especially my mom, for pushing me to come here. Thank you to Eric Tucker for helping steer the Doane Owl, thank you to Kylie Hughes, my fellow Omaha North alum who sought me out as the next editor-in-chief, and thank you, Elenna Koenig, for being the steadiest hand I could have. I have full confidence that you will succeed as the next editor-in-chief.

I don't know what happens next. I would really like to know sooner rather than later. But what I know is that I have a whole new network of friends, peers and professors who can help me find out what happens next. Thank you, all of you, for giving me so much these past four years. I am eternally grateful.

- Editorial -

See you next year dear reader!

This is the last issue of the Doane Owl for the 2024-2025 school year. While we are sad we won't be able to report on all the athletes going to NAIA nationals, or the variety of campus events, news, both local and national, as well as graduation we want to thank all of you for your continued support of the Owl and for continuing to read and support us throughout not only this year, but hopefully in our future editions as well.

A couple of years ago, the

Owl had funding issues that prevented us from even creating issues for our readers to read. Now, we have a young, motivated staff, a wave of support from both Doane faculty and alumni and are more committed than ever to delivering high-quality journalism for Doane. None of that could've happened without you, the readers, who supported us through every issue and read our work without fail.

Student journalism is im-

portant and there is a growing optimism in our staff that our future is bright, that we will continue to write stronger articles, take more pictures and hone our graphic design skills. Student journalism is, first and foremost, a student venture.

It's an opportunity for students to go out in the field, interview sources and create stories that have real meaning, each one giving a learning experience. The Doane Owl helps to flesh out Doane, we

exist to tell those stories that are meaningful and important for the campus and we want to assure you that this is the start of a new golden age of student journalism at Doane. That next year we will continue to work even harder, learn even more and tell even more stories that matter.

Again, thank you for following us throughout this school year and we look forward to seeing you again next year. Thank you!

A recap of my freshman year

AMANI MUISYO
Staff Writer

Coming into college, I had this big expectation of who I wanted to be by the end of the year. I even remember writing it down: "I want to be that girl." Put together, lots of friends, perfect grades. I knew nobody was truly perfect, but I felt like I needed to be. I wanted to be the perfect college student.

Now that the end of the year is here, it's funny reflecting on how much my values and goals have changed. My definition of "perfect" has shifted a lot. August 2024 me was filled with uncertainty,

anxiety and overwhelming feelings. Shout out to Doane's counseling services, because they really helped me find more realistic goals that actually lead to happiness.

As a freshman, I expected college classes and professors to be really hard and full of busywork, but I appreciate how kind and genuinely helpful the teachers are here. I wish I had math teachers like the ones I have now back in high school; I probably would've gotten an A so fast. I'm truly grateful for all the teachers, advisors and mentors I've had this year. Without them, I would've been a hot mess.

Another goal I had was to

get involved in different clubs. I wanted to find a place where I could fit in. Being a newspaper writer has been an amazing opportunity and the highlight of my year. It pushed me to attend events I wouldn't have gone to otherwise, and to talk to new people. It gave me a sense of boldness. Honestly, most people enjoy talking; it was intriguing hearing their stories and ideas.

If I could do some things differently, I wish I had talked to more people and built more friendships. I also wish I had lived in the moment a bit

more. Of course, college takes a lot of focus, especially for classes, but I did make big improvements, like working on my procrastination, which was a huge step up from high school. Learning to prioritize myself and advocate for my needs was another big achievement.

I'm excited to be a sophomore. I feel like I'll be starting the year with a strong foundation. I'll learn to enjoy the college experience more, whatever it brings, good or bad. I'm just really grateful for a pretty good year.

- 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

Missing my dog back home

LORRAINE CASTAÑEDA
Life & Culture Editor

I miss my dog. My 16 year old dog, Ginger, is unfortunately back at home. Usually when we're getting close to finals or towards the end of the semester, I start missing home. But my dog? I miss her all the time. Everytime I see a dog walking on campus or even Georgie, cuz he kind of looks like her, I remember Ginger.

Whenever I say I miss her, everyone always says that I should bring her here, but even though I love her, I know she could never be here, she loves all of my family members who are always home, so if she were to be here with me, she would

be sad because she'd miss all of them.

And I know it's weird to say a dog can have such feelings, but she has shown us multiple times how much she loves us and misses us. For example, whenever my dad travels, she sleeps by the door until he comes back, when my sister went to college, she slept by her door for months, when I left, she did the same, eventually she gets used to knowing we come and go and somehow manages to make us happy even from a distance.

She's been my dog/best friend since I was three years old. She was the first puppy of my neighbor's dog. SHE didn't have space for more dogs so she gave her to us. This was the

beginning of my relationship with the best dog in the world.

Ginger has somehow learned how to make every day better. She's always happy and ALWAYS wants to be with us, especially when it rains because she gets scared and feels like she has to protect everyone, even though she's a tiny little dog.

When she was a baby, she could only sleep if she had one of us next to her, it was the cutest thing ever. She eventually grew out of it, but still, she has always had so much love for us.

I really miss her. Thankfully, I'll get to see her for a couple weeks soon so for now, here are some pictures.

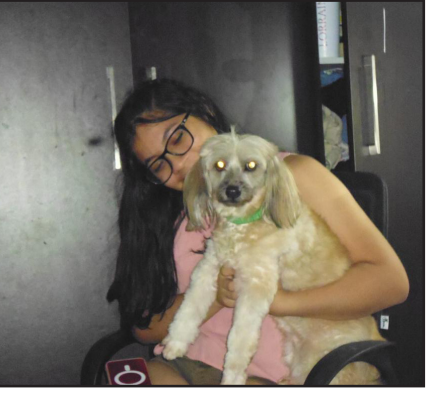


Photo by Lorraine Castaneda | The Doane Owl
Lorraine and her dog Ginnger celebrate her 16th birthday with a cake and party with her dog friends

Trying to rediscover albums

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

In the 2022 film “Vengeance,” one of the eclectic side characters describes our protagonist as a “playlist guy.” When the protagonist expresses confusion about this label, the character explains, “When some computer recommends you a bunch of songs based on your favorites and a bunch more based on your favorites of

those. Right. So you're listening to a bunch of music that you genuinely like, but you have no idea who sings it.”

This observation resonates with many people today, especially younger audiences. It's not anyone's fault; the music industry has transformed dramatically over the years. What used to be physical music is now entirely digital, allowing access to thousands of songs without knowing

anything about the artists behind them. However, this shift has led to a growing disconnect between the art and the artist.

A friend recently asked me to share some of my favorite albums, and I found it challenging to identify albums I truly enjoyed and had listened to from start to finish. I realized these were albums from artists I loved but had neglected in favor of their more popular songs

or those recommended to me.

Music apps now tailor recommendations directly to a listener's interests. While this custom approach can enhance the listening experience in the short term, it doesn't foster overall growth. The algorithms that create daily mixes or profile your music tastes become confused when you decide to explore beyond what they've established.

Exploration becomes

difficult when everything you consume is catered to you. Many of my favorite artists or songs I discovered “in the wild”—whether through recommendations from friends, overheard in restaurants, or mentions in movies or shows. Sharing these discoveries with others is enjoyable, especially when you can respond to the question, “How'd you find this?” with something other than “Oh, the app recom-

mended it to me.”

I believe the current digital landscape can significantly benefit small, undiscovered artists, but it means little if people aren't listening to their music. There's an ongoing debate about separating the art from the artist, but how many of your favorite artists can you truly describe? Why do they create the music they make? And why do you choose to listen to it?



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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

Softball

On April 30 and May 1, the Softball team traveled to Orange City, Iowa, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament, where they took two victories from Northwestern College (1-0) and Dakota Wesleyan University (11-3) along with two losses against Northwestern (2-4 & 2-11).

In game one against Northwestern, the only run of the game was driven in by junior Jasmine Villegas (1-for-3) and scored by sophomore Jeryn Allen. Pitching for the game was junior Faith Molina, who struck out three over seven innings in the win.

In game two against Dakota Wesleyan, senior Grace Dowding went 2-for-3 with two runs scored, while freshman Bri True went 2-for-2 with two home runs and four RBIs. Villegas also homered and drove in four. Picking up the win was junior Faith McDonald (6-13), who pitched 2.2 innings.

In game three against Northwestern, True and senior Marisa Marquez each homered, while McDonald (6-14) struck out two over three innings. In the team's final game of the tournament and the season, True and freshman Kayla Meyer each scored a run. Molina (9-10) pitched 1.1 innings in the loss.

The Softball team finished their season with a record of 20-26 overall and 10-12 in conference, which put them in ninth in GPAC standings.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

Baseball

On April 30 and May 1, the Baseball team traveled to Yankton, South Dakota, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament, where they defeated Northwestern College 11-1 and fell to Mount Marty University and Morningside University by scores of 10-4 and 6-5.

In Wednesday's game against Northwestern, junior Johnny Vulcano went 1-for-3 with three runs scored, while sophomore Taiyo Takahashi and freshman Gage Ryba each scored two runs. Earning the win was sophomore Riley Plummer (9-0), who struck out three over eight innings.

In the loss to Mount Marty, Ryba, Takahashi, sophomore Max Harris and senior Logan Amick all scored a run, and pitching for this game was junior Kaden Crawford (0-1), who struck out three over 5.1 innings.

The Tigers' final game of the season was against Morningside, where Vulcano, Harris and Takahashi each scored a run and senior Gerald Nix went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Sophomore Brayden Jones and junior Jordan Bond both hit solo shots, while junior Nicolas Yard (0-1) pitched 5.2 innings and struck out three in the loss.

The Baseball team ended their season with an overall record of 32-15 and in conference went 18-10, which put them in third in the GPAC standings.

--Elijah Lara-Johnson

Women's Golf wins first GPAC Championship

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

On April 28-29, the Women's Golf team traveled to Cairo, Nebraska, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championship, where they walked away as GPAC Champions for the first time in Doane history.

Placing second with an individual score of 233 was freshman Connie

Jarm, freshman Laila Saunders tying for sixth with a score of 238. Tying for eighth was junior Kaitlyn Dumler, who scored 239.

The Women's Golf team had a final score of 955, which also gave them a spot in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championships, set to take place on May 13-16 in Ypsilanti, Michigan.



Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl
Women's Golf Head Coach Jim Danson and junior Kaitlyn Dumler celebrates the big win.

Track become GPAC Outdoor Champions

ELIYAH LARA-JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the Men's and Women's Track and Field teams traveled to Hastings, Nebraska, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championships, where both teams walked away as GPAC Outdoor Champions for the fifth time in program history and first time since 2018.

Starting in the 100m was sophomore Neryah Hekl, who placed first with a time of 11.90, along with senior Jadae Moore, who placed third with a time of 10.87. In the 200m was junior Kat Vogt, who had a time of 24.87, which placed her second.

Taking first place in the 400m was Vogt, who had a time of 55.23, and junior Joaquin Gutierrez, who had a time of 47.51. In the 800m was junior Danie Parriott, who placed first with a time of 2:13.80, along with junior Emmanuel Yego, who had a time of 1:54.51 and placed third.

In the 1500m was junior Ashlei McDonald, who placed third with a time of 4:49.07, junior Michael Grigs-

by was third as well with a time of 3:56.06. Running in the 5000m was junior Nelson Ruto, who had a time of 15:17.42, which placed him third. Taking second in the 10,000m was Ruto as well, who had a time of 31:33.88.

In the 110 hurdles were senior Zach Turner, who placed first with a time of 13.77, and freshman Andrew Brown, who had a time of 14.30, which placed him second. Turner and Brown also took those same places in the 400m hurdles; Turner had a time of 49.99 and Brown had a time of 53.37. Turner broke the GPAC record in both the 110 hurdles and the 400 hurdles.

In the 4x100, the women's team, which consisted of sophomore RaeAnn Thompson, junior Morgan Mahoney, Vogt and Hekl, had a time of 46.25, which placed them first. Also in the 4x100 was the men's team, which consisted of sophomore Devon Jackson, Moore, freshman Ryland Garretson and Dalton Whisenhunt, who had a time of 41.29, which placed them third.

In the 4x400 relay, Gutierrez, sophomore Jonathan Zoubek, ju-

nior Caleb Mulder and Yego had a time of 3:16.40, which placed them third. Finishing up the relays was the 4x800, which consisted of Yego and juniors Will Dawes, Luke Bonifas and Grigsby, who had a time of 7:41.83, placing them second and securing an NAIA provisional mark.

In the high jump was sophomore Peyton Herrick, who had a mark of 2.01m, which placed him second, and freshman Katelynn Kratz, who had a mark of 1.61m, which placed her third. In the pole vault was sophomore Kaylee Pribyl, who placed first with a mark of 3.85m, along with senior Drew Garrison, who placed third and had a mark of 4.50m.

In the long jump was freshman Brian Cech, who had a mark of 7.10m, which placed him third. Taking first in the triple jump was junior Josie Garrett, who had a mark of 11.99m. Placing second was Cech, who had a mark of 14.50m. Finishing up the triple jump was junior Rosalyn Roggasch, who had a mark of 11.52m, and freshman Kyler Nichols, who had a mark of 14.48m, which placed them both in third.

Taking first in the

shot put was senior Madison Sutton, who had a mark of 14.04m. Taking third was senior Alivia Baucom, who had a mark of 13.73m, and junior Andrew Schmitz, who had a mark of 16.15m.

Sutton also took first in the discus with a mark of 48.86, with junior Christopher Brown placing second with a mark of 49.96m. Placing third in the discus was junior Cale Bessler, who had a mark of 48.10m, along with Baucom, who had a mark of 43.52m.

Walking away first in the hammer was Schmitz, who had a mark of 58.94m, alongside senior Trey Dickey, who had a mark of 57.68m, and Sutton, who had a mark of 54.51m. In third was junior Mia Knigge, who had a mark of 50.40m. Finishing up the meet was sophomore Chaney Nelson, who placed second in the heptathlon with a total of 4,306 points and senior Devin Jepson secured fifth in the decathlon with 4,883 points.

Next up, the Men's and Women's Track teams will be traveling to Seward, Nebraska, to compete in the Concordia Twilight.



Scoreboard Snapshot

BASEBALL

April 30 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
Versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

RED-RAIDER
[11-1]

May 1 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
versus MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

LANCER
[4-10]

May 1 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
versus MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY

MUSTANGS
[5-6]

TRACK AND FIELD

May 2-3 @ HASTINGS, NE
GPAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

TIGERS
[1st]

WOMEN'S GOLF

April 28-29 @ CAIRO, NE
@ GPAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

TIGERS
[1st]

SOFTBALL

April 30 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
Versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

TIGERS
[1-0]

April 30 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
Versus DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

TIGERS
[11-3]

May 1 @ ORANGE CITY, IA
Versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

GAME 1 [2-4] GAME 2 [2-11]



Photos by Mackenzie Pike and Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

(Left) Juniors Kaitlyn Dumler, Avery Van Horn and freshman Connie Jarm get surprised with confetti cannons. (Middle Top) Freshman Laila Saunders, Jarm and Sydney Streeter receive gift baskets from their teammates. (Middle Bottom) Katelynn Kratz jumps in the finals where she placed third. (Right) Junior Joaquin Gutierrez passes opponent in the 4x400m.

ZACH TURNER

GPAC RECORD HOLDER

MEET HIGHLIGHTS

110 m Hurdles - Time of 13.77 - GPAC Record

400 m Hurdles - Time of 49.99 - GPAC Record, Doane Record, and NAIA Record

NERYAH HEKL

RECORD HOLDER

MEET HIGHLIGHT

100 m Dash - Time of 11.90 - Fastest Woman in the GPAC for 2025

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