

# the doane OWL

*Seeking the Truth Without Favor*



Junior Bladen Garcia runs 110m hurdles at home meet over the weekend. Read more on page 8.

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

ELIZABETH STRATTON  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 14, the Campus Advocacy, Prevention, and Education Project (CAPE) collaborated with Phi Sigma Tau sorority to host Survivors Speak. This event was held that evening in Lakeside and featured an opening story from Delaney Ashmore, a survivor and tattoo artist from Lincoln. She shared her story of dealing with sexual assault, how it affected her and her journey of healing. This story dove deep into the topic of not knowing what happened to her was sexual assault until later. This is something

that some survivors at the event related to, as they also didn't know that they experienced a form of sexual assault until after it was already over.

What followed were various stories of known survivors from around the world, and their stories, which were given by CAPE Peer Educators. After this, due to time running low, instead of an open mic for others to share stories, a group-wide discussion about what students had learned from the event occurred. Students shared things that they learned, related to, and many students spoke about Doane's own culture revolving around sexual assault and what they as a community can do better for survivors.

Jaden Hilkemann, Doane's CAPE Project coordinator, was asked about the process behind planning this new event. "What inspired me is to hear somebody from the outside community that Doane folks might not be familiar with and hear what their survival story was like, what they experienced, the hardships, what helped them overcome the challenges and to just bring a different perspective from outside of Doane." Hilkemann also believes that preventing sexual assault and dating violence starts with hearing survivors tell their stories so others can know the warning signs to look out for and better understand what survivors go through.

"A lot goes into it,"

Hilkemann said when asked about what goes into planning events such as these. "We know in April that we've got a lot to work with, specifically because it's sexual assault awareness month. So I work with my peer educators, I work with my lead peer educator, Addison Rosno. We came up with an idea because we were inspired by the Chi Delt's Open Mic Night. There's a lot that goes into it, but we have a lot of hands on deck, so that makes it a lot easier."

When asked what Doane can do better to support survivors, Hilkemann expressed that the way the campus speaks about CAPE is something that can be improved, and even if it's annoy-

ing to get training in, it's an important thing all of campus should know. Embedding it into campus culture is something that could help Doane students better understand and support survivors of sexual assault and dating violence. She also thinks going against the grain of victim blaming, asking important questions and believing survivors right away can also make a huge impact.

Luckily, there are numerous events held on campus where people can show their support for sexual assault awareness, with Survivors Speak being a new one. Some events have been held on campus for years.

A few days ago, on Sunday, Chi Delta sorority collaborated

with the CAPE Project, Hope Crisis Center, and Gamma Phi Iota sorority on the 11th annual Step\$4Them event. This event is held in honor of sexual assault survivors and raises money for Hope Crisis Center. Attendees can choose to run a 5k or to walk a mile to show their support.

This year's event had a record-breaking attendance with over 100 attendees who came out to support the cause, and over \$400 was raised for Hope Crisis Center. These events and so much more are what help Doane and its campus stay aware and supportive during this Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

## Political Corner: Iranian ceasefire set to expire soon

BRIANNA WRIGHT  
Life & Culture Editor

40 days of U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran paused for two weeks beginning on April 8 after a temporary ceasefire was issued. Brokered by Pakistan, the deal also allowed shipping across the Strait of Hormuz to continue. The truce will end on Wednesday, April 22.

President Donald Trump announced this as a truce between Lebanon and Israel; however, Israel has been fighting with Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and not the country itself. Lebanon

has relied on phased arms control and tacit understandings with Hezbollah for its own safety. The New York Times reports that there is no national consensus on how or even if Hezbollah should be disarmed.

On Friday, April 17, Trump announced that the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports will remain and that attacks would resume if no agreement is reached before the end of the ceasefire. The following day, Iran reinstated control of the Strait of Hormuz and stated the strait would be closed until the U.S. lifts its blockade on Iranian ports.

During an inter-

view, Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf said "It is impossible for others to pass through the Strait of Hormuz while we cannot."

After the announcement, two Indian-flagged ships were fired on mid-transit forcing them to turn around on Saturday. Vessels have since paused in the Persian Gulf.

The closure of the Strait, which had been ongoing since Feb. 28 prior to the ceasefire, is Iran's most powerful weapon, one which wielding could cripple the global economy. One-fifth of the world's oil trade passes through it.

"Americans are

risking the international community, risking the global economy through these, I can say, miscalculations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said to AP News. He added that the U.S. is "risking the whole ceasefire package."

Closure of the Strait is also strategic as it blocks supplies to U.S. military bases in the Gulf region.

The U.S. has since begun actively pursuing Iranian-flagged vessels as well as vessels suspected of providing material support to Iran. On Sunday, U.S. forces fired on an Iranian-owned container ship 30 miles off of Iran's coast. The U.S.

Navy destroyer, which fired on the ship's engine room, reported repeatedly warning the ship to stop over a six-hour period. The ship is now in U.S. custody, and it's not been reported whether there were any casualties.

As war looms once more, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright reports gasoline prices have likely peaked in the U.S. but could remain elevated for months. In early March, Wright had reported that average gas prices would fall below \$3 a gallon "within a week" of U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran. Crude Oil prices continue to spike, remaining above \$80 a barrel, with some

jumping to \$96 a barrel. Gas prices typically lag behind crude oil by a few days. The AA motor club reported that the national average price of gas had fallen to \$4.05 on Sunday.

Ahead of peace talks scheduled for this week Ghalibaf accused Trump of trying to force Iran's surrender on X. "We're offering a very fair and reasonable deal," Trump wrote on social media. "I hope they take it because, if they don't, the United States is going to knock out every single Power Plant and every single Bridge in Iran."

# Final decisions regarding the budget swiftly approaching

BRIANNA WRIGHT  
Life and Culture Editor

Declining enrollment is a significant factor in the Doane Forward initiative; however, it is not the only issue. As Dr. Judy Kawamoto, Vice President of Student Affairs, explains, expenses currently exceed revenue. Doane Forward aims to address this imbalance by cutting expenses and expanding investments.

“At Doane University, we’re already offering things that, you know, some of our competitors aren’t, and so we don’t want to lose those things,”

Dr. Kawamoto said. The leadership team has emphasized that the liberal arts foundation will not be compromised as part of these budget adjustments.

Each area of the university varies significantly in terms of expenses due to its different functions. An audit by Baker Tilly revealed that from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the university spent over \$20 million on instruction, \$13 million on student services, \$6 million on academic support, \$8 million on institutional support, and \$5 million on auxiliary enterprises. Meanwhile, the majority of Doane’s revenue is generated from academic programs.

Cuts will be tailored to each area, potentially involving reductions in travel and events. However, when considering total expenses, grants/assistance and salaries account for most costs, totaling over \$20 million. Notably, only 15 individuals at Doane have reportable incomes exceeding \$100,000.

Retirement isn’t necessarily connected with Doane Forward, but it does help us with the planning purposes of what the landscape is going to look like next year,” Director of Human Resources Anne Ziola said.

The faculty handbook outlines several retirement options, and the university occasional-

ly offers a voluntary separation incentive program (VSIP) with specific qualifications. Retiring faculty may receive a certain amount of money towards their retiree account. Ziola clarified that VSIPs are not offered every year, but they are available this year. “We’ve extended this opportunity to several faculty members, and a few have taken advantage of it. It’s up to those individuals to announce their retirement plans,” Ziola said.

As some faculty leave or retire, we will reassess job descriptions and responsibilities. Ziola assured that HR will work to match positions to individuals’ skills to

prevent any overload. During the Faculty Assembly meeting on April 15, attended by President Roger Hughes, CFO Linda Scholting and VP of Enrollment John Frost, divisions were asked to draft plans for cutting 13% to 20% of their budgets. How each area implements these cuts is at their discretion, with certain areas having limited options for reducing costs. For example, academic affairs expenses primarily stem from faculty salaries; thus, potential cuts would likely involve personnel reductions.

The final proposal will not be shared with students, staff or faculty before the board of trustees meeting

on May 7 and 8. Student input could potentially influence the outcome. “It helps in terms of forming the development of the plan,” Dr. Kawamoto said. “We really need to preserve the student experience.”

Questions and concerns can be directed to doaneforward@doane.edu. Students are also encouraged to bring their inquiries to the leadership team, who will be at the beige desk outside the cafeteria once a week. Additionally, any student is welcome to attend the Student Congress meetings held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Perry Boardroom.

# Doane hosts second annual high school eSports tournaments

ELIZABETH STRATTON  
Staff Writer

This past Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, Doane hosted the Nebraska Schools eSports Association (NS-ESA) in their annual spring tournament. This is a two-day event held in the Haddix Ath-

letics Building, which brought in around 235 students from 43 different high schools. The students competing for this tournament qualified after playing their regular seasons over the past few months at their individual schools. The tournament was broken into four divisions, which were generally

separated by the size of the school and its programs. This weekend, the games played consisted of “Hearthstone”, “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” and “Valorant”. These games were played across 20 PCs. The teams also competed in “Fortnite” the week before online.

This is the second time Doane has host-

ed this event out of the three years the Doane eSports program has been active. Members of Doane’s eSports team assisted in running this tournament by providing technical support, broadcasting matches, working concession stands and running a recruitment table. Aaron Blackman, Doane’s eSports coach, stated

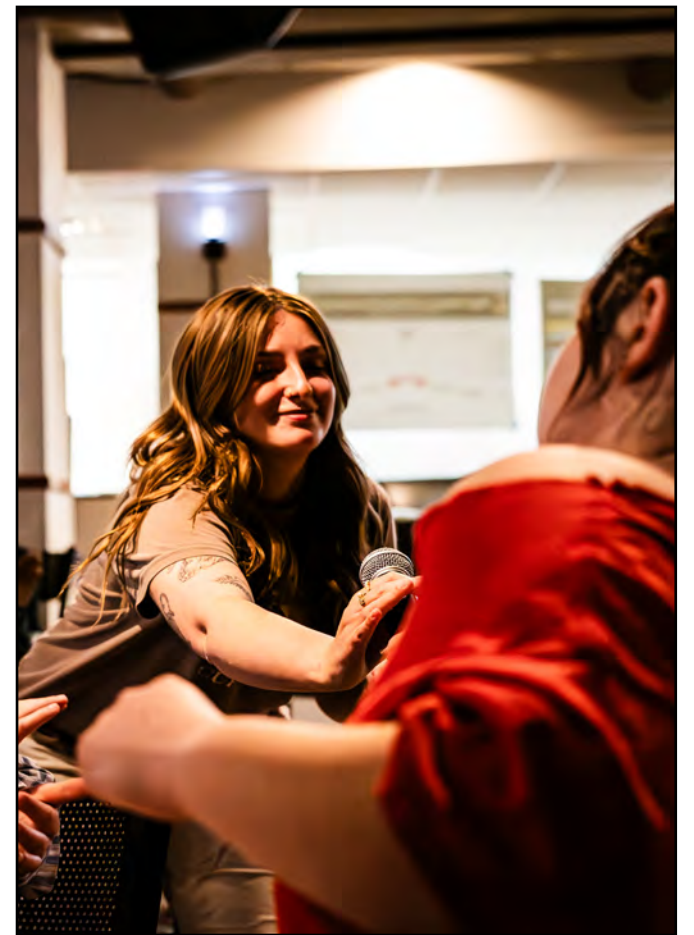
that he hopes that students walk away with a great experience and consider coming to Doane for eSports once they graduate.

Blackman is also appreciative of the collaboration between the Athletic department for providing space and resources to help hold the event, technology services for

technical help, event services for coordination, marketing for creating merch to give out at the recruitment table and facilities for assisting with moving equipment throughout the weekend. Doane eSports is also proud to know that they have been asked to hold the tournament again next year.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl



Junior Eli Marez, senior Addi Rosno, junior Lauren Qualseth-Murphy, and guest speaker Delaney Ashmore all participate in Survivors Speak event.

Photos by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

# Assistant Professors show off their artwork in Rall Gallery

ELLA KRANZ  
Staff Writer

In the Rall Gallery, there are pieces by visiting artists who are connected to Doane. But the latest exhibit displays the work of our very own assistant professors of Art, Chelsey Augustine, Kailin Nielsen, and Eric Stearns. Each with a very distinct style and

idea in mind.

First, Professor Eric Stearns, who teaches ceramics, had a theme revolved around decorative ceramic bowls with beautiful colors that make them look like flowers. Stearns explained that every hole was cut out individually, which sounds like a tedious task, but like all things, it gets easier the more you do it, making them fit the pattern that he assigned to the

piece. For the glaze, his inspiration was nature, putting together samples to get the colors he wanted in the way he wanted and painting in patterns that look like flowers. One that really stood out was the piece called “Sunwoven,” which looks like a sunflower and is woven like a basket with beautiful earth colors.

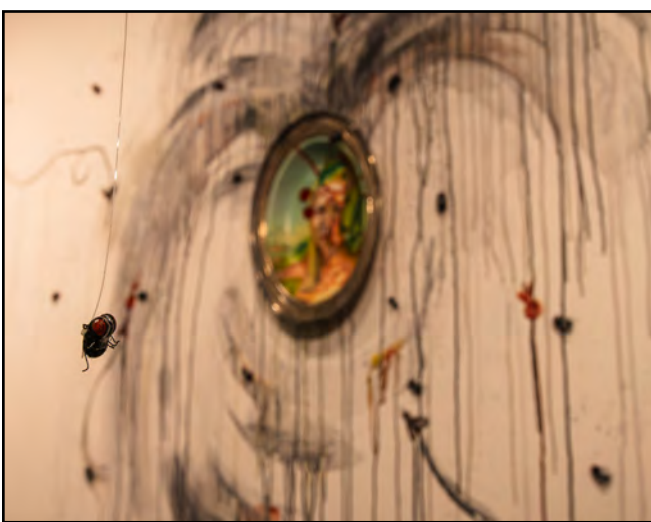
Second would be assistant professor Chelsey Augustine,

who mostly teaches graphic design. Though there is no overall theme in her pieces, one theme was clowns, and the other was mythology. What is common is her use of color and texture, and there is no theme, just drawing, just being creative. One that stood out was the print called “Ascension,” which depicts a red angel statue that tells us that those who are

blessed are the broken ones who see the light. Last but most definitely not least is assistant professor Kailin Nielsen, who teaches most of the fine arts. Nielsen said that her paintings were all centered around rot and imperfection, and how people usually want something new and something fresh, and often forget about something after it withers away. One

piece that really stood out was “martyrdom without an audience,” which is partially painted on the wall. Since it’s her gallery, she is just going to wash it off and put some fresh paint on it.

It is encouraged that you come see these beautiful pieces for yourself and see the talent our Doane teachers have to offer.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

Chelsey Augustine, Kailin Nielsen, Eric Stearns and Krew Tran all display their artwork for the whole Doane Community to look at in the Rall Gallery.

# Eleventh Annual Polk Lecture speaks on stepping out of your comfort zone

ELIYAH LARA  
Managing Editor

Members of the Doane community gathered in Heckman Auditorium on April 13th to attend the 11th Annual Polk Lecture. This lecture is not just where a bunch of students and faculty come and lis-

ten to someone for an hour; instead, it honors the Rev. Dr. Robert Polk '52, while also focusing on topics pertaining to leadership, service and justice. Rev. Polk joined this year's lecture via Zoom.

Juniors Kya Caddy and Myridean Lehman introduced this year's speakers. This year's lecture featured

Myeisha Essex, a Chief Operating Officer of Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), and Jacob A. Mason, a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow and Master of Divinity student at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Also in attendance were several visitors from Nebraska Wesleyan University,

of which Mason is a graduate.

Throughout the event, Essex and Mason shared their personal experiences along with their insights on the importance of advocacy and accountability.

“We understand that effective communication and intentional conversation issues that affect our quali-

ty of life,” Essex said. “They are essential to solving problems, collaborating, understanding, and validating ultimate feelings.” Essex provided the audience with five tips for approaching challenging conversations.

After this lecture, many faculty and students discussed their own thoughts about

how individuals can contribute to positive social change on both campus and in their normal everyday lives.

The Polk Lecture is more than just a lecture, but it creates a space for reflection and connection, all within the community.

# RHA spreads pixie dust around campus

ELLA KRANZ  
Staff Writer

Last Friday, April 17, was a night where you walked into the magical world of Pixie Hollow full of magic, light, and most importantly, movies, arts and crafts. This was the event set up by the Residential Hall Association (RHA). When you

first walked into Lakeside, the sound of the Tinkerbell movies was playing on the TV and the overhead speakers. Then there was the bright red popcorn machine and the bags of popcorn, which were free. Once you signed in, students moved on to the arts and crafts table, where there are many options, but each craft was associated with one of the six fair-

ies from “Tinkerbell”, her main friend group.

For Vidia, there was a Tinkerbell coloring book pages, the RHA member running the tables said, “You’re coloring in a lot of wings and Vidia is a fast-flying fairy.” Still fun nonetheless.

Next was painting sun catchers to represent Iridessa, the sun fairy. Or making your own garden and your

own headbands using fake flowers and plants, which represents Rossetta, the garden fairy, for obvious reasons.

Another craft was making little animal friends using pine cones, cotton balls, felt and googly eyes, representing the animal fairy Fawn.

For Tinkerbell, students made keychains that were woven by hand, reminiscent of

the tinkers weaving the baskets in “Tinkerbell Secret of the Wings” that played.

Lastly, students made what RHA describes as “a glitter lava lamp fidget toy,” representing Silvermist, the water fairy, which is perfect, since her character is the soft, calm sort of person. The craft was basically glitter and oil in a bottle, but it was very satisfy-

ing to watch the glitter sink.

The movie part of the night was mostly background noise, but still loud enough that people would watch it in between working on their crafts. Overall, it was a fun hangout for students to do with friends or just wanting to make some fun crafts.

# Alpha Psi Omega's Short Night of Theatre takes the stage

ELIZABETH STRATTON  
Staff Writer

On April 15 2026, Doane's Theatre Honor Fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega (APO), hosted their annual Short Night of Theatre, which they refer to as SNOT. This event is a long-standing tradition of APO, as they put this together as their last event in the academic school year. It features campus theatre-lovers showcasing scenes, monologues, tech and musical performances. Senior Ella Zubieni, now the former president of APO, was asked about putting this event together.

"It's a very collaborative moment. We all have different things we can bring to the table," Zubieni said "I don't know anything about sound, connecting, anything like that, so I have Adam [Millikan] on my team. Sam [Feng] is helping with

things like mics and stuff like that. But this time Tori [Brelsford] wrote the script, and I kind of helped set it up and put it together." So SNOT is always this collaborative process where a lot of APO exec members can help contribute in their own ways, and this year was no different. SNOT is also a special event as it focuses on all aspects of theatre.

"So we do Cabaret first semester, and Cabaret is usually strictly musical theatre," Zubieni said. With Cabaret being the attention-grabbing theatre showcase always before the first show opens, it gets the campus interested in what the department and APO have to offer.

"I think most of our department is so much more than just musical theatre. We don't even have a musical theatre focus at Doane. So that's why we kind of try to open it up," Zubieni said.

"We also do this now that inductions are in the fall to have exposure for freshmen who might want to join APO," said Zubieni. She would describe APO as a theatre honors group where they focus on getting students to be more tight-knit, as theatre students may not always get to hang out and have fun together all the time.

This year's SNOT showcase featured 11 total performances, with six being musical pieces and five being either a scene or a monologue. The two scenes performed were written by the playwriting class and were performed as a staged reading by individuals currently taking that course. According to Zubieni, this year's SNOT showcase was the best one yet.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

Junior Tori Brelsford, senior Ella Zubieni, sophomore Ivy Shove, and freshmen Jozi Heermans and Andrew Jones, performs monologues during SNOT.

## DCB welcomes a guest conductor

ANDREA PAVLISH  
Staff Writer

Roughly 140 high school musicians made their way to campus last Saturday, April 18, for Doane's Third Annual Katheryn Buell Band Invitational with guest conductor Dr. Frank Tracz.

Dr. Tracz (pronounced trace) is finishing up his 33rd and final year at Kansas State University as a professor of music and director of bands. There, he directs the wind ensemble and the marching band, teaches graduate conducting, acts as an advisor to the Band Ambassadors and administers and guides all aspects of a large BIG XII comprehensive band program. Earning an honorary doctorate from Doane in 2021, Tracz has been a long-time friend of Doane.

"[He is] without a doubt my greatest mentor in our profession," Director of Instrumental Music Dr. Andy Feyes said.

High schoolers and Doane students alike both found a great connection in the music thanks to the direction of Dr. Tracz.

"I am very grateful that I was able to spend time with [Dr. Tracz], as he assisted the Doane Concert Band to become even better," freshman euphonium player Bella Martin said. "I think that he has impacted the lives of many, and I am beyond grateful to be one of the many musicians that he has had an impact on."

During his time here, Tracz held a presentation open to the Doane community titled "What is... and What Could Be!" on the Friday before the concert.

Here, he talked about leadership within music.

"My big takeaway was that at all times we are teaching people about ourselves," freshman Adeline Woods said. "It's easy to blame others or the circumstances, but it really comes down to us and how we push ourselves and how we react to the things that happen."

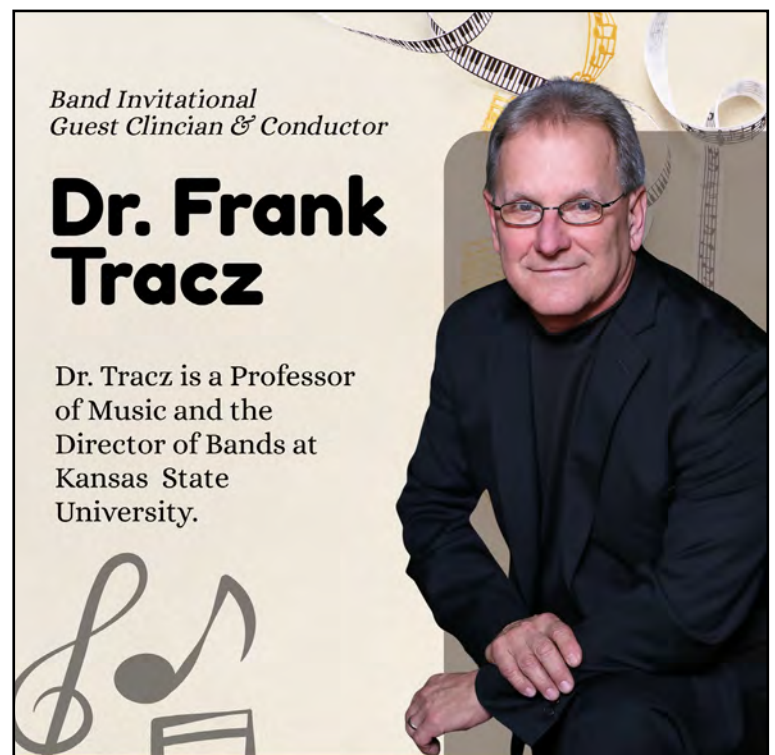
The Aurora High School Concert Band and Lincoln East Symphonic Band played their arrangements with their respective conductors, Dr. Tracz conducted one piece from each. Aurora opened the concert with "Tuscola Mountain Celebration," a joyful tune by Paul Murtha. After their two songs, they transitioned to Lincoln East's elemental list of music, starting with "American Riversongs," which contained mo-

tifs of songs like "Oh, Shenandoah."

Doane University Concert Band ended the concert with three songs—the last being a tradition in this concert: "God of Our Fathers"

arranged by Claude T. Smith. This beautiful piece brought back the brass high school musicians to the side of the auditorium to surround the audience with the music.

Before taking off for France on their first international tour, Doane University Concert Band will perform next at the President's Concert on Friday, May 15th at 8 p.m.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl

## Weekly Horoscope

**Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): If you're questioning whether you should do something or not then you probably shouldn't.**

**Pisces (February 20 - March 20): You should do something for yourself, you deserve it.**

**Aries (March 21 - April 20): Three weeks until the semester is over, get your homework done.**

**Taurus (April 21 - May 21): It's officially your season, Happy Birthday!**

**Gemini (May 22 - June 21): Acting like you're a know it all sometimes doesn't get you further in life.**

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22): Stop holding everything back and let it all out.**

**Leo (July 23 - August 22): You don't have to be in control all the time.**

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Stop stalking your ex on instagram, it won't heal you.**

**Libra (September 23 - October 22): You're going to have a very productive week.**

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Your inflated ego blinds you from the truth.**

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): To save your sanity a little bit, maybe go out for a walk.**

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Go hang out with your friends and stop bed-rotting.**

# The Doane Owl

Doane University  
1014 Boswell Ave.  
Crete, Neb. 68333

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Elenna Koenig  
elenna.koenig@doane.edu

## MANAGING EDITOR

Elijah Lara  
elijah.larajohnson@doane.edu

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Hailey Schweitzer  
hailey.schweitzer@doane.edu

## LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Brianna Wright  
brianna.wright8355@doane.edu

## SPORTS EDITOR

Mackenzie Pike  
mackenzie.pike@doane.edu

## FACULTY ADVISER

Eric Tucker  
eric.tucker@doane.edu

**The Doane Owl strives to inform, enlighten and entertain students, staff and faculty while maintaining high**

**journalistic standards of accuracy and truthfulness. Owl is a weekly publication and is available every Tuesday of the academic year on**

**www.doaneline.com or by email from owl@doane.edu and studentaffairs@doane.edu.**

## The Doane Owl Editorial board consists of:

**Elenna Koenig, Elijah Lara, Brianna Wright, and Mackenzie Pike.**

**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

# You're probably too busy to read this.

ANDREA PAVLISH  
Staff Writer

I mean, finals are only a little over three weeks away. No biggie, it's just probably close to one of the most stressful weeks of your life, next to dead week. Shouldn't you be studying instead of procrastinating with this article? Trust me, this article is not going to help you with your bio class.

Focus on your academics, they said, but make sure you are prioritizing those lifelong friends you made. Greek formals take up every weekend, but dude, your paper is due Monday morning, and you haven't even started. But also, the end of the year is near, and you're thousands of dollars in debt EXCEPT for all of those damn Doane Dollars. So... figure that out. Summer job perhaps? It

might make you more grateful to come back in the fall. But... maybe you're graduating and that "summer job" is the only job. The forever job. Yikes. Sorry seniors. You can stop reading now and go back to working on your Capstone projects.

Either way, those finals determine if you wasted your semester (and your money) going to that one, dreadful 8 a.m.8am to get those three credits for a class not even required for your major. Don't they say every credit hour is 2-3 hours outside of the classroom per week? Let's do some math here. Eighteen hours in class plus 45 hours doing work (2.5/credit hour) = 63 hours. But wait, add a couple more for voice lessons I need to practice for, ten more for sports practices/gym time, 14 more just to eat, seven more for show-

ing and other personal hygiene, 10 hours more for that part-time job or Greek life, .5 for reading the Owl. Let's not forget the recommended 56 hours of sleep time. And with finals nearing, let's add a couple more for those group projects that you usually get stuck with. 164.5 out of the 168 hours of a week. Congratulations! You probably feel extreme anxiety right now!

Anyways, make sure those 3.5 hours remaining are reserved for packing up your ENTIRE LIFE into a few IKEA bags into your trunk from your rinky dink dorm room down the rinky dink stairs (I don't want to hear it Brodie/Hansen) because you're probably going back to someplace only half as interesting as this campus. Take that as you will.

I'm surprised you are still reading this. Your

email inbox needs to be checked, and your room is so disturbingly disgusting that it actually repels insects. My patience is running thin, and so is the remaining motivation to do anything remotely academic. If you are getting *deja vu* reading this, congrats once again! You are officially my fan because you must have read my first op/ed. What a journey we've been through. I did end up sleeping through an 8 a.m.8am, though (super sorry, Dr. DeBoer). Before I leave you, I want you to ask yourself a few questions. Did you say no to things that didn't ultimately benefit you? Did you say yes to things that may have scared you? Have you told people how grateful you are for them? Was your year full of growth? It's okay if it wasn't.

No one is perfect, so don't expect yourself to be.

## - STAFF EDITORIAL -

The semester is winding down, projects are piling up and deadlines are fast approaching. In a few short weeks, students will walk across Cassel to receive their diplomas. As for those left behind, things might look a little different.

Not that long ago, the Owl ran into funding issues that prevented us from publishing at all. This year, as our readers may have noticed, issues were no longer weekly. Publishing every Tuesday was no longer possible.

Despite these challenges, we continued to grow and to learn. Student journalism can be a daunting task at times. As such, we are always grateful for the people who show up every day and put in the work. Thank you to our staff. It's literally not possible without you.

As for the rest of campus, if you're coming back next semester, consider a job with the Owl.

# Do you really need it?

BRIANNA WRIGHT  
Life & Culture Editor

Many of my peers, and even I, will likely joke about how they're a "broke college student." Which, I mean, have you seen the tuition for this place? Of course, we're all broke. Yet, I consistently see my fellow students spending money on the most asinine, pointless, worthless pieces of crap that they just "have to have." Or better yet, they need it.

Now, this isn't entirely the consumer's fault. In fact, if you are aware of the capitalist society we live in, this isn't a surprise. Companies need money. They need your money, and you, the consumer, will give it to them. Because you saw it on several people's TikToks. Or the news convinced you that every home just has to have one.

And you never have to think about the people being affected. You purchase your item on a Wednesday for an event this Saturday. It will be packaged, shipped and delivered on time. Don't question

the manual labor. In fact, it was delayed a day. You'd better complain. How dare countless hours of labor be inefficient? Don't they know they have to perfect?

Otherwise, maybe you'll realize this isn't normal. That transactions shouldn't be these faceless exchanges. That two-day delivery is jarringly quick. Yes, I'm talking about Amazon specifically.

The crazy thing is that many consumers know how unethical Amazon is, and yet you simply don't care. So, let's crack open the book of Amazon's crimes against humanity and see what we can find. A memorable one for me is when Amazon in 2021 forced workers to continue working despite an imminent tornado, and the company's cellphone ban prevented access to emergency alerts. The tornado struck an Amazon warehouse, killing six people when the building collapsed. Or the next year, when a worker in a New Jersey warehouse died from heat stress after years upon years of workers complaining about the lack of AC in these facilities. The Intercept in 2022 launched an investigation that found Amazon's planned internal messaging

app was set to ban words like union, living wage, freedom, pay raise and restrooms. In 2024, the California Labor Commissioner's Office revealed 59,017 violations of California's Warehouse Quotas law.

So, yeah, go ahead and order those 200 plastic ducks. They're definitely worth it. So cute and funny! Might as well just throw them and your money into the landfill while you're at it. I mean, that's where they'll end up anyway, right?

Some of you, dear readers, may be feeling a little attacked by this piece. I'm not claiming to be better than anyone. What's the saying, no consumption is ethical under capitalism? Am I a human being living in the United States? Of course, I'm a consumer.

It's just that I've boycotted Amazon for several years now and a bunch of other corporations. Not to mention all those shops I wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pole- I'm side-eyeing Temu, Zara and SHEIN right now. It's always because of some combination of unethical business practices, damage to the environment, human rights vio-

lations, political stances, etc.

Besides, it's just more fun shopping small. I get limited edition books from an independent bookstore in Colorado, I order my favorite albums on CD from a small store in Toronto and I always look forward to a trip to my favorite candy store in Omaha. These aren't the closest stores to me, but they're the ones I've built connections with. I mean genuine human connections, not just a rewards program. You can buy most things second-hand, too. Plus, if you frequent estate sales, you not only get a shopping experience but a look into another person's life.

Obviously, shopping small or local is not always possible. But overconsumption is a real problem. And I think if you're walking around campus bragging about your \$15 SHEIN order, the people around you should be allowed to throw you and your bad morals into the lake. Although I wouldn't want to pollute the lake with that garbage. Maybe you should have to work in a sweatshop until you make \$15 in wages, then see if you want to place another order.

# Long awaited visit home

JERONIMO CORCHO  
Staff Writer

As the semester ends and the campus gets quiet, many of us are thinking about the same thing: going home. For an international student, finishing finals isn't just about

grades. It is the start of a countdown to see our families again.

Living far away is hard. Even though we make friends and get used to life here, some things are impossible to replace. I really miss the simple moments, like having coffee with my mom or just talking with my dad. It is tough being in a place

where you always feel like a guest. Now that there are only a few days left, I am much more excited about packing my bags than I am tired from studying.

This feeling of missing home is something almost every international student goes through. We come here to study and work hard for our future, but we never

stop thinking about where we came from. No matter how much we like it here, nothing beats the feeling of knowing you are about to see your family and be back in your own country. It doesn't matter how far we travel; the best part of the year is always the trip back home.

# Tau Sigma Zeta bids farewell to their refounding class

JOSEPH SCHUT  
Guest Writer

There is a particular ache in leaving something you have played a role in building. It is not the ache of regret, but instead it is the bittersweet feeling of saying goodbye, similar to the feeling of a parent who has done the work, poured in the love, and now must trust that their child will stand on their own two feet. Myself and likely everyone else at Doane University, might know the irony of that comparison. We are barely removed from being the kids ourselves. I still remember my own parents watching me leave for college, that proud and pained smile in the rearview mirror. Now, standing on the other side of it, I can partially understand exactly what they felt.

Tau Sigma Zeta, or simply TEZ for short, was silent on this campus for years before a group of young men decided its story was not finished. Apollo Pledge Class (PC) was the first refounding PC that followed the efforts of our Refounding Fathers:

Landon Stocks, Terungaw Unongo, Arturo Salinas, Chandler Pullen, Gabriel Kieth, Lucas Hilliard and Michael Scarponi. If these men had not taken the initiative to rebuild the group, then we, the graduating seniors, would have missed out on so many memories and so many opportunities.

Below are some words and testaments of brothers from Tau Sigma Zeta:

Senior Benjamin Miller, member of the Apollo PC, came to TEZ looking for something beyond the sport he was already doing, desiring a deeper sense of belonging and purpose on campus. He found it. On what he learned from his time in the fraternity, Ben reflected that "accountability is a big part about being an adult and that it is very important to building a community." It is a lesson that sounds simple until you have actually lived it alongside other people who take it seriously. He also spoke to how his brothers shaped him on a personal level: "The members of Apollo have shown me traits that I need to grow up in, as they have helped me grow to become more of a man to succeed in my

life." His fondest memories center on TEZ Thursdays, the group's recurring tradition that became a rhythm all its own, and the spring break trip the brothers took together to Colorado in the spring of 2026. Looking ahead, Ben's hope for TEZ is clear and ambitious; he wants to see the fraternity "expand to more leadership roles across campus and other orgs," growing its presence and influence well beyond its own membership. To the newly joined brothers who are about to receive this fraternity into their hands, his message is direct and sincere, quoting Shia LaBeouf: "Don't let your dreams be dreams, just do it." A quote that may be perceived as cliché or corny, but holds a deeper meaning than I believe we give it credit for.

Junior Tyler Caldwell joined TEZ for a reason that is as grounded as it is telling: "I chose TEZ for a family away from home and for a group of men to hold me accountable." That sentiment captures something true about what this fraternity has always been at its core. Brotherhood here was never just about having people around;

it was about having the right people around! People who push you to grow, check you when you have done wrong and refuse to let you settle because they believe in your potential.

Through his time in TEZ, Tyler has grown into a leader in his own right. "I've learned how my leadership style affects others and how it can be used for great things," he said, a reflection that speaks to the kind of self-awareness this brotherhood cultivates in its members.

Among his fondest memories were: "The Sam Feng lightsaber battles were always an awesome time," Tyler said. "I loved that during my Greek month."

As the last remaining member of Apollo PC, Tyler will graduate in Spring of 2027, standing as the living bridge between what we built and what TEZ will continue to become. That is not a small thing to carry, but he is more than ready for it. His vision for the fraternity going forward is both ambitious and fitting: "I'd love to see a bigger population and the best student leaders on Doane's campus."

Among TEZ's newest rush class is freshman Hunter Humphrey, an

eager young man who embodies exactly the kind of spirit Apollo hoped would follow in its footsteps.

Hunter's takeaway from his time in TEZ echoes what the men of Apollo have long believed: "You can always achieve what you want to do, and if you put your mind to a task, you can do it." His gratitude toward the founding class is equally genuine and speaks for itself: "Thank you for bringing this group to what it is today so the men of the future can enjoy it." And his hope for where TEZ goes from here mirrors that of his brothers across every pledge class, and that it continues to "grow with like-minded young men that want to better themselves and each other." Hearing that from a freshman who just arrived is perhaps the greatest validation Apollo could ask for.

As for me, what I will miss most is not easily captured in a single sentence. It is the family dinners that got loud and went long. It is the group trips where, somewhere between the miles and the mountains, you stop being acquaintances and start being brothers from other mothers.

It is banter, the kind that only exists between people who genuinely know each other and are genuinely comfortable. Those things do not happen by accident, and they do not happen quickly. They are the reward for showing up, again and again, even when it was inconvenient or uncertain. I hope every brother who comes after us gets to experience that same reward, because it is worth every bit of the work that earns it.

To the new members of TEZ: you are inheriting something that people bled time and energy into, long before you arrived on campus. The Refounding Fathers laid the ground. Apollo built on it. Now you will continue that work. Now the pen is in your hands, write something worthy of the chapters that came before you, and then write something even better. That is all any of us can ask, and based on what I have seen from the young men in this fraternity, I do not doubt that you will deliver.

We are proud of you already.

# Hot takes; it's time to grow up

ELIYAH LARA  
Managing Editor

Hello, devoted readers. Before I begin, I want to assure you that I am not trying to upset anyone with what I am about to say, but it needs to be said. We are a month away from the end of the

school year, so why do some of us still not know basic things?

I am talking about literally all the basic things like setting a timer for your laundry, taking your garbage out to the dumpsters instead of putting it in the stairwells of the residence halls, not speeding through the

parking lot acting like you own the place, leaving your garbage in someone's car and a variety of other things.

We are all around the ages of 18-23, so why do you think it is okay to act like you're still in high school and your mother is here doing everything for you?

Now I get it, you might not think you have time because you're busy with practice, work, school, or something else that is more important, but notice how you can still do all of that even when you're busy.

Here are some examples of how to multitask effectively, because I

guess people don't know about these: checking your laundry when you go to the restroom if the laundry room is on the same floor, taking out your trash when you are on your way to class, or just slowing down in the parking lot because you can literally cause an accident.

And with that being said, now that it is getting hotter, showering and applying deodorant are necessary, and I don't care what you have to say about it. If you don't want people to be giving you the dirtiest looks, just start doing the basic things, please.

THE DOANE OWL  
*Publish Dates*

<del>24</del>	<del>FEBRUARY</del>
<del>3</del>	<del>MARCH</del>
<del>24</del>	<del>MARCH</del>
<del>14</del>	<del>APRIL</del>
<del>21</del>	<del>APRIL</del>
28	APRIL

Graphic by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

...Thumbs UP

- Summer
- Tickets
- Final
- Off-Campus
- Tattoo

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...

# Baseball wins four game series against the Broncos

MACKENZIE PIKE  
Sports Editor

Baseball continues to battle through the season with a four-game Hastings College series on April 18 and April 19 in Hastings, Nebraska.

On April 18, Baseball won both games against the Broncos. In the first game, the Tigers won 13-9. Junior-

Bradyen Jones and junior Max Harris had three hits, with senior Carter Roth and junior Grant Sommers with two hits.

Junior Tanner Nelson, senior Sam Kwapnioski and sophomore Jett Grossart helped out the team with one hit.

On the pitching side, senior Kaden Crawford pitched three innings with four strikeouts. To finish out the game,

sophomore Cade Bridges pitched four innings with five innings.

In the Tigers' second game against the Broncos, we won 10-6. Roth and Sommers made an impact on the game with three hits.

Senior Jordan Bond, junior Johnny Vulcano and Grossart continued with two hits.

With one hit, Nelson and Kwapnioski helped out the game.

On the defensive side, sophomore Riley Plummer pitched six innings, striking out four. To close out the game, junior Ethan Merk pitched nine innings with three strikeouts.

On April 19, the Tigers continued the series against Hastings.

The Tigers were able to pull out another win, 10-2, with Roth having three hits. Harris had two hits in this

game. Sommers, Nelson, Bond and Vulcano had one hit.

On the pitching side, senior Gabe Rodriguez pitched seven innings and had six strikeouts.

Freshman Josh Kearney closed out the game with one inning and no strikeouts.

In the second game of the day, the Tigers pulled out a 4-3 win over the Broncos.

On the hitting side, Nelson, Sommers and Jones had two hits. The players who had one hit were Roth, Kwapnioski, Vulcano, Grossart and Harris.

Their next games are in Sioux Center, Iowa, against Dordt University on April 24 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

# Men's Tennis continues to fight through the season

JERONIMO CORCHO  
Staff Writer

The Doane men's tennis team faced a busy mid-week schedule, securing a hard-fought road win against Midland University before returning home for a tough matchup against Concordia University.

The week's highlight came on Tuesday, April 14, in Fremont, as the Ti-

gers edged out Midland with a 4-3 victory. Doane started strong by earning the doubles point with victories at the top of the lineup. Freshman Mats Vervloet and junior Elliot Dassel secured a 7-5 win at number one doubles, while junior Andre Hartman and freshman Jaime Asiain Banzo followed with a 6-3 win at the number two spot. In singles play, Vervloet remained

unbeaten on the day with a 6-4, 6-4 win at the number one position. Hartman added a crucial three-set victory at number four singles (6-2, 2-6, 6-4), and sophomore Tanner Adams clinched the team wins with a dominant 6-4, 6-1 performance at number six singles.

On Thursday, April 16, the Tigers returned to the Newburg Held Tennis Complex to host Concordia. While

the team competed hard in several close matches, the Bulldogs took the victory with a 7-0 sweep. The most competitive battle of the day occurred at number one singles, where Vervloet took the opening set in a tiebreaker before ultimately falling in a tight third-set tiebreaker (7-6, 3-6, 9-11). Asiain Banzo also pushed his opponent to a tiebreaker in the third singles spot, but the

Bulldogs managed to sweep the day's results.

After the matches, Vervloet shared his thoughts on the team's performance. "Beating Midland on the road was a big moment for us, especially with how well we played together in doubles to get that first point," Vervloet said. "The match against Concordia was tough, but I think the energy was there. Even in the matches that

went to tiebreakers, we showed that we can compete with the best teams in the conference. We're going to use these next few days to get our bodies right and be ready for Omaha."

The Tigers now look ahead to the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament, which is set to begin on Thursday, April 23, in Omaha, Nebraska.

# Women's Golf dominates Kaitlyn Erickson Doane Invite

BRIANNA WRIGHT  
Life & Culture Editor

Doane took a strong lead in their home invite in Lincoln, NE, playing Wilderness Ridge and Pinoneers Golf Course. All of the women's golf team competed, spread across three teams,

with two individual players.

Doane A finished in first place with a two-round total of 638. Sophomore Connie Jarm led Doane A, finishing in first place with a score of 154 (80-74). Jarm was also named the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC)

golfer of the week. In total, she had two birdies and 22 pars.

Second place was claimed by Team Captain senior Kaitlyn Dumler, who recorded 19 pars and a total score of 159 (84-75).

Junior Avery Van Horn, representing Doane B, took third place with a 160

(82-78). Freshman Isabelle Johnson, tied for fifth place alongside Sophomore Jamisyn Kirkpatrick, scored a 164 (83-81). Meanwhile, sophomore Mackenzie Pike led Doane C and had three pars.

"I'm happy, I played to my full potential, and exceeded expectations

for myself," said Johnson, whose performance in this tournament means she will be going to GPAC as a substitute player. "I think it will be a great experience to prepare for next year," said Johnson. Next year, she hopes to play with the team in GPAC.

In total, the Tigers placed several players within the top twenty, closing out a strong home tournament. Women's Golf will next play at the Bent Tree Intercollegiate invite in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on April 20 and 21, the last tournament before GPAC.

# Softball goes two for four games this week

MACKENZIE PIKE  
Sports Editor

Softball continued its season this week by playing two doubleheaders against Mount Marty University and Briar Cliff University.

On April 14, the Tigers hosted Mount Marty and won 3-2.

On the offensive side, junior Jeryn Allen had two hits with sophomore Milannie Gonzalez, sophomore Kayla Meyer, Sophomore Ciara Hudson, junior Jacqueline Ordonez and senior Hannah Pack with one hit.

On the pitching side, junior Trinity Robinson pitched seven innings with two strikeouts.

During the second game, the Tigers won 4-0. The players who had the most impact on the hitting side were junior Evelyn Iniguez with two hits against the Lancers. The players with one hit were Allen, Gonzalez, Meyer, Ordonez and sophomore Addison Parsons.

On the defense side, Robinson

pitched seven innings with no strikeouts.

Continuing the week, the Tigers traveled to Sioux City, Iowa, to play Briar Cliff on April 17. In the first game, the Tigers lost 8-9. The players who had the most impact were Allen, Iniguez, Parsons and Ordonez with 2 hits. Pack was able to make contact

with one hit.

Robinson continued pitching for the Tigers with six innings and two strikeouts.

In the last game, the Tigers lost 7-11. Senior Faith McDonald had two hits with Hudson, Allen, Gonzalez, Iniguez, Meyer, Parson and junior Katelyn Hays with one hit.

On the pitch-

ing side, Robinson pitched one inning with zero strikeouts, and McDonald finished the game with pitching five innings pitched, three strikeouts.

Softball's next game is against Northwestern University in Orange City, Iowa, on April 21.

# Women's tennis prepares for Great Plains Athletic Conference Tourney

Jeronimo Corcho  
Staff Writer

The Doane women's tennis team continued its rigorous conference schedule this week with back-to-back matchups against Midland University and Concordia University.

The action began

on Tuesday, April 14, as the Tigers traveled to Fremont to take on Midland. In doubles play, the duo of junior Maria Purizaca and sophomore Liz Calderon earned a 6-4 victory at the number one spot, though the Warriors managed to claim the overall doubles point. Moving into singles,

Purizaca delivered a strong performance at the number one position with a 7-5, 6-1 win, and Calderon followed with a dominant 6-0, 6-1 victory in the second slot. Senior Alejandra Prat also secured a point for the Tigers at number six singles (7-5, 6-0). Despite these hard-fought individ-

ual wins, Midland ultimately edged out a 4-3 team victory.

The following day, Wednesday, April 15, the Tigers returned home to the Newburg Held Tennis Complex to host a strong Concordia squad. Purizaca and Calderon once again showcased their chemistry in doubles, winning a

tight 7-6 match at the number one position. Purizaca carried that momentum into her singles match, earning a commanding 6-0, 6-1 victory at the top of the lineup. While the rest of the roster competed fiercely, including Prat taking her match to a third set, the Bulldogs proved to be

a difficult opponent, coming away with a 6-1 win.

The Tigers will now prepare for the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, April 23, in Omaha, Nebraska.

University on April 23.

# Men's Golf places third at the Howl at the Hill Tournament

BRIANNA WRIGHT  
Life & Culture Editor

Men's Golf competed in the Howl at the Hill tournament hosted by Nebraska Wesleyan University at Hillcrest Coun-

try Club in Lincoln, NE.

The Tigers took one team of five players and three individual players, placing third overall with a total of 614 (315-299) in the two-day tournament.

Sophomore Heidar Bjarnason led the Tigers both days, with a total of 146 (70-76), shooting under par on the first day and with seven birdies and 19 pars. Bjarnason placed third individually

and was also named the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) golfer of the week.

Senior Cauy Walters tied for 18th with 155 (79-76) and junior Josh Wassmer tied for 21st with a

156 (82-74) total.

Sophomore Jax Loh played as an individual and placed seventh. He scored a 149 (72-77) with nine birdies and 13 pars.

Men's golf's next tournament will be

the two-day GPAC championships at Dakota Dunes Country Club in South Dakota, where they will be playing 54 holes total.

# Track and Field has successful last home meet of the outdoor season

ELIYAH LARA  
Managing Editor

On April 15, 16 & 19, the Men's and Women's Track and Field Teams competed at home in the John Green Combined Event/James Dutcher Memorial meet, where a bunch of athletes walked away in first.

Starting in the Men's events was the 100m, where senior Connor Bradley placed first with a time of 10.86. He was also in the

200m, where his time was 22.14. In the 400m was senior Joaquin Gutierrez, who had a time of 49.37. Going into the longer distances was sophomore Jayden Wall, who had a time of 4:00.35 in the 1500m, where he also ran in the 5000m, where he had a time of 15:00.28. Finishing up the distance events was junior Kale Maguire, in the 10,000m, where he had a time of 34:46.69.

Jumping over the hurdles in the 400m was senior Caleb

Mulder, who had a time of 55.24. Mulder was also in the 4x400m, along with sophomore Orion Ulmer, freshman Lincoln Konrad and sophomore Lucas Gautier, where they finished with a time of 3:19.67.

Going into the field events for the Men's team was junior Jackson Kessler, in the high jump, where he had a mark of 2.03m. In the pole vault was freshman Roe Patton, with a mark of 4.55m. Jumping in the long jump was junior Mi-

chael Willey, who had a mark of 6.87m, and in the triple jump was sophomore Callan McKinney, who finished with a mark of 13.89m.

Ending the Men's portion was throws, where junior Andrew Schmitz threw 16.19m in shot put and 58.21m in the Hammer throw, and senior Christopher Brown threw a 51.51m in Discus.

Transitioning into the Women's side of things, in the 100m was senior Tania Gleason, who had a time of 11.80. Hav-

ing a time of 24.00 in the 200m was senior Kat Vogt, who also ran in the 4x400 along with freshman Jayden Meyer, junior Kiley Hejmanek, and freshman Zaili Banish, who had a time of 3:56.06. Finishing up the running events in the 800m was senior Danie Parriott, who had a time of 2:16.07.

In jumps was senior Josie Garrett in the Triple, where she had a time of 11.43m. And finishing up the Women's po-

sition is the throwing events, where sophomore Madison Heusinkvelt had a mark of 13.45m in shot put. In the discus was freshman Paige Bull, who had a mark of 46.98m and in the hammer was junior Kaylie Lotspeich, who had a mark of 53.07m.

Next up, the Men's and Women's Track and Field teams will be traveling up to Lincoln, Nebraska, to compete in the Prairie Wolf Invitational at Nebraska Wesleyan

