

the doane OWI

Seeking the Truth Without Favor

lakeside
coffee shop



Members of the Student Programming Board make fun crafts during Coffee Shop Series. Read more on page 4.

MindExpo brings in music scholars

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

Nyrop was buzzing, and so were students' minds at the annual Mind Expo on Thursday, April 23.

Mind Expo, a "university-wide event to celebrate our students' original scholarly works completed in the current academic year," according to its website, had over 100 presentations. These presentations were separated into four categories: poster, oral

presentation, visual art piece and music performance. 2026 was the first year to include music performance at the exhibition, featuring instrumental performances by junior Bryan Alvarado, sophomore Dallas Mueller-Pry, and junior Ashton Barber held in Heckman Auditorium.

The rest of the presentations were held in Perry Campus Center, primarily in Nyrop Hall and its adjacent conference rooms. Among the poster

presentations, senior Rodrigo Prieto Arbos presented Digital Integration Strategy for JJM7 Mensajeros: Eliminating "Silent Financial Leakage"—his first-ever presentation at Mind Expo.

"Through a client survey, for example, I asked if some of the customers were okay with shifting to digitalization, and they all agreed because it will help with their internal audit," Prieto said. "I would feel I could help those owners to under-

stand how AI and new technologies can really help you connect to [businesses] in the US."

Another poster presentation by sophomore Brianna Wright proposed her senior research project about community awareness of neonicotinoids, "a group of insecticides used widely on farms and in urban landscapes" (Xerces Society).

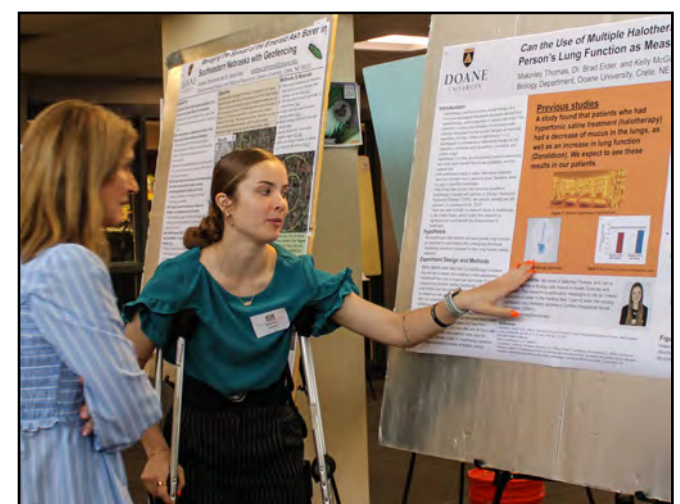
"I wanted to do something more sociology-based and

less hard sciences," Wright said. "I was really interested in the effects, and there's a real lack of knowledge about people's awareness, communication methods and education methods when it comes to pesticides, especially in rural and agricultural areas."

Next to poster presentations in Nyrop, visual art pieces spanned the north wall. Artist sophomore Abbi Arroyo's bug-themed presentation, "The Pollinated

Room," featured several ceramic creations, screen prints, and various other styles of art revolving around her favorite insects.

"I wanted to do something different from what most other artists do. I wanted to do something like more of a boutique rather than just having art displayed," Arroyo said. "I'm glad I'm getting the experience to talk about my art—never really done that before."



Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl

(Top Left) Students engage in conversations concerning their project. (Middle) Student showcases their project and artwork for "Merril Emporium". (Top Right) Sophomore Abbi Arroyo poses with her artwork "The Pollinated Room". (Bottom Right) Junior Makinley Thomas presents her research to a faculty member. (Bottom Left) Seniors Kat Vogt, Ryleigh Green and Megan Chambers shows off their hardwork and dedication towards their engineering project.

StuCo announces 9 new senators but has a three-way tie for the 10th

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

On April 21, Student Congress (StuCo) sent an email to all Doane students regarding the upcoming StuCo senator elections for the following year. Students were asked to pick 10 students out of a variety of other students.

Fast forward to Fri-

day, April 24, when StuCo announced not only the new senators for the year but also that there was a three-way tie between freshmen Bettie Chambers, Naomi Clutter and Frank Thomas. As a result, a whole other election was set from April 28-30 to determine who would be the final senator for the 2026-27 school year.

As of now, the new senators include: juniors Sam Hartman, Shelby Hesman and Eme Starbuck, sophomores Harrison Sjuts, Lauren Maly and Derek Silva and freshmen Saje Phelps and Felicia Deumi-Nappi.

Deumi-Nappi said that her decision to become a StuCo senator was a spontaneous decision, but she knew from the begin-

ning of the semester that she wanted to be more involved around campus.

"I have a leadership position that enables me to grow and develop my character and be a role model for those around me," Deumi-Nappi said. "I love helping people and being the person people can come and talk to when they have any concerns."

Deumi-Nappi also talked about how she wanted to raise her voice to ameliorate the Doane community and how excited she is about being part of StuCo next year.

"I would say the most exciting thing about being a senator is being able to work and communicate with other students," Deumi-Nappi said. "Finding compromis-

es and conclude to thing that we struggle with at Doane is something I want to help with."

While the current senators get ready to hand the torch to the upcoming senators its a good thing to note that many of them focus on improving not just communication, but also improving the Doane community as well.

Political Corner: The race for Nebraska's next Governor

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life and Culture Editor

A record number of seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs during this midterm election year. Currently, the Associated Press reports, 58 House members are not running for reelection, 21 democrats and 37 republicans. Not included in that number are the nine members who resigned or died this term; those seats will also be up for grabs.

Each election year is a flurry of activity; however, with so many seats up for grabs, elections this year could set the stage for control of the House, Senate and even the presidency. Currently, Republicans hold a slim majority control of both the House and Senate. Yet, the New York Times reports that as of April 24, an estimated 58% of Americans disapprove of President Trump. A March Pew Research Poll found that 60% of

Americans disapprove of his handling of Iran, including 30% of Republicans.

Meanwhile, several positions are up for grabs in Nebraska's primary and general elections. Hot topics include the state's property taxes, which have stayed consistently high, a drop in state revenue correlated with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and voter-approved ballot measures.

Nebraska Public Media reports that approved ballot measures concerning paid sick leave and minimum wage increases have been altered by the Legislature. Similarly, the slow rollout of the 2024 voter-approved medical marijuana program has drawn criticism.

Current governor Jim Pillen is running for reelection on a campaign of reducing state spending, including reductions to state agencies' budgets, winner-take-all voting that would remove the split electoral vote and taxpayer-funded

scholarships for private and parochial schools.

Former Nebraska state Senator Democrat Lynne Walz is running for governor as well on a self-described non-partisan unity campaign. As a senator, Walz supported law enforcement, accelerated highway projects and increased rural internet access. Her campaign priorities include lowering taxes and strengthening public schools.

Republican Sheila Korth-Focken told Nebraska Public Media that Nebraska "isn't headed in the right direction." Her campaign for governor focuses on reducing state spending, supporting farmers and prioritizing child safety. Notably, she has chosen not to raise money for her campaign, writing in a blog that she "would rather work for Nebraskans than large donors."

Republican Gary Rogge has publicly criticized trump, especially his use of Immigration and Customs and

Enforcement (ICE). His campaign focuses on environmental policy and aiding displaced Lexington workers. Rogge has called Pillen a "lap dog" for Trump and accused him of initiating political indoctrination in schools via "Club America" chapters.

Republican Jacy Todd is campaigning on ending high taxes, government transparency, supporting law enforcement and gun rights. Todd was found guilty of 23 counts of official misconduct and one count of making a false statement under oath due to his work as a notary. In the 2024 petitions that approved a statewide medical cannabis program, officials noted errors with names, dates and signatures.

Democrat Larry Marvin has prioritized affordable insurance, faith and transparency in government. He worked as a volunteer firefighter for years before running for the Lincoln City Council. Despite not getting the vote, he has put his

name down for every Nebraska U.S. Senate primary since 2008.

Rick Beard is running as part of the Legal Marijuana NOW campaign. Along with improving the statewide medical marijuana rollout, Beard has promised to lower property taxes, fix roads and fund schools and recovery programs.

Another Legal Marijuana NOW candidate, James Charvat, who supports the decriminalization and legalization of cannabis. His other campaign promises are to simplify pension plans, support cattle ranchers and provide more transparency regarding state debt.

Republican Sam Holguin is a veteran of the Air Force who's campaigning on supporting small businesses, creating economic opportunities, and providing more resources for communities. As a small business owner, Holguin is prioritizing Nebraska's financial well-being.

Lastly, Republican John Walz doesn't have much in terms of campaigning; in fact, he filed as a candidate days before the deadline. Instead, Walz has entered the running in support of Pillen and as a self-described backup should anything happen to take Pillen out of the running. "If Governor Pillen were forced to withdraw from the race after the filing deadline, and no other viable Republican candidate had filed, Nebraska could find itself in a situation where the governor's office might effectively be handed to the Democrats by default," Walz wrote in an email to Nebraska Public Media.

April 27 was the last day for online and mail-in registrations. However, voters can still register in person until May 1. Primary election polls will open on May 12, determining which candidates will represent each party in the general election in November.

Show appreciation for our nurses during National Nurses Week

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

4.7 million people make up the U.S. nurse population, making it the largest group of health care professionals in the nation. Every year from May 6-12, we celebrate these people during National Nurses Week.

Andrea Baker, Angela Brase and Jody Yank make up our health & wellness team on Doane's Crete campus. Each one of these people is here to ensure that the students' well-being is the top priority.

Andrea Baker, director of Health & Wellness, originally pursued a degree in journalism before realizing that she really wanted to help people—specifically kids.

"When I had my son in college, I had a nursing student with me," Baker said. "It just really reaffirmed why I wanted to go into nursing. She really solidified my choice to go to school."

Her first job was in

the medical unit at Bryan East Hospital, which allowed her to take care of people of all ages.

"I was a nursing tech during school on that same floor," Baker said. "It was a great learning experience."

Now Baker is involved in both the clinical and administrative sides of healthcare.

"[Working at Doane] presented a great blend of what I wanted to do," Baker said. "I loved just how much innovation Doane has, and how they did not shy away from trying something different. It's been a wonderful mix of everything and I've loved being here."

Angela Brase, Registered Nurse (RN), also went into a journalism-related career in advertising before pursuing nursing. Life happened, and she moved to rural Nebraska after working in Minneapolis as a media buyer.

"My grandmother had recently died from cancer, and I wanted to get into a meaningful field, one where I could help others, as well as

have a career in a rural area. So, I decided to go to Nursing School," Brase said. "I have been a nurse for 20 years now."

She eventually started working at her daughters' school district, allowing her to share weekends/holidays with her girls. She started subbing for Nurse Kelly Jirovec here at Doane before eventually taking on a permanent role as a nurse practitioner for Doane students.

"My favorite aspect of being a nurse at Doane is meeting so many students with different backgrounds," Brase said. "Every day is different, but I feel like I can help guide people on their journey through life. Collegiate health is great because we are helping prepare students for their adult life and hopefully giving them the skills to self-manage their health and healthcare choices."

Jody Yank, Nurse Practitioner (NP), initially was drawn to pharmaceutical work before ultimately pursuing a career that had more direct

interactions with patients.

"I've always been drawn to both science and helping others," Yank said. "From an early age, I was fascinated by how the human body works, but it was my personal experiences that truly shaped my path. Experiencing illness and loss at such a young age had a profound impact on me and sparked my desire to be part of a field where I could make a difference during some of life's most difficult moments."

Being able to teach her patients about their bodies and why they're feeling the way it does is one of the most fulfilling parts of the job for Yank.

"Seeing patients gain confidence and improve because of that understanding is incredibly rewarding and one of the most fulfilling parts of my role," Yank said. "That level of personal interaction is something I value deeply, and it ultimately led me to choose nursing as my career path."

The American

Nurses Enterprise announced that the 2026 National Nurses Week theme is The Power of Nurses™. This special week is held specifically during May, National Nurses Month. This association celebrates these individuals to recognize "the invaluable contributions nurses make in healthcare and our lives while addressing the real-life challenges they face every day."

Thank our nurses next time you see them!

Happy National Nurses Week!

Thank you to our incredible Doane nurses!



JODY YANK
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
Nurse Yank has been at Doane for 3 years, recently became a grandma, and enjoys traveling and golfing.



ANDREA BAKER
Director of Health and Wellness
Andrea Baker has been at Doane since May of 2023. An interesting fact about her is that she donated a kidney to a family friend.



ANGELA BRASE
Registered Nurse/Clinical Case Manager
Nurse Brase has been at Doane for 5 years, but has been in nursing for 20. She enjoys concerts and time spent at the lake or with her family.

Theatre Department prepares for their final show of the year

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

The Doane Theatre Department is almost ready to put on its final show of the year. “Scarlet” is this year’s musical, and there are many things about it that make it different from other shows Doane has put on before. For one, “Scarlet” started as a concept album on Spotify but has then evolved into a real staged musical.

Doane is the first institution to put on this specific show in history. Meaning all costumes, set pieces, props and acting choices are special to Doane’s personal vision of this show, given that they don’t have any previous productions to get inspiration from.

It has been a bumpy ride for this show in particular. It was originally supposed to be performed at the end of the first semester, right after “Welcome.” but due to the show being musically challenging for the majority of the actors involved, the theatre department decided to switch “Scarlet” with “I’m Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire” (the original end-of-the-year show). This did cause a few issues within the theater as it was a large and last-minute change, and auditions for second-semester shows were then placed the day after “Welcome.” closed. Ultimately, it was the best decision for the sake of “Scarlet,” as many of the actors are now confident in the music and staging for the show.

Junior Olivia Jones plays the titular

Scarlet and was asked about her experience working on a brand new musical. “It’s a little scary, I just have nothing to reference, so we’re inventing the entire show as we’re going,” Jones said. This perspective would be understandable, especially when Jones is the first person to perform this lead character, and is truly creating the standard for this role at this moment. Jones says being “the Scarlet” is a lot of fun and has been a lot of singing. She also shared that this role is vocally challenging for her. Jones believes that people should see this show for a multitude of reasons.

“The first and most obvious thing is that it’s new, like it’s never been performed before,” Jones said, adding that it’s very different from anything she has ever performed at Doane and even in high school before, as the set on which this show will take place is a new thing for her too. Senior Katie Craig plays Mesh, Scarlet’s older sister. Craig was asked about her experience, as this will be her final show at Doane.

“It’s definitely interesting, I think that a normal musical goes through a workshop process where all of the kinks get refined and all of this other stuff, and we didn’t have that process, so it’s definitely been slightly different than your average musical,” Craig said “I’m really enjoying it, and there is something really special about knowing that I’m the first to sing these songs.” Craig gets the opportunity to play a leading role in this show as her final theatre performance at

Doane. “It feels weird. This is the only show I’ve been rehearsing all year, we’ve been rehearsing since August, and so it feels like I’ve been doing this for a long time, and it feels really surreal to think that it’s almost over, and that my time at Doane is almost over as well,” Craig said. Craig stated that there were themes in this show that made her glad it’s her last. The relationship between Craig’s character and Jones’s character is like that of two sisters who love each other but are forced to say goodbye, and it’s reminiscent of the feeling Craig has when saying goodbye to the people she has connected with at Doane.

“This is definitely the most vocally challenging role I’ve had here. I feel very glad that I have the ability to sing the songs that I do,” Craig said, “and I’ve not really struggled with the vocals a whole lot, but I definitely am getting to showcase more of my vocal ability than I ever have.” She believes everybody should come see “Scarlet” not just because it’s a world premiere, but it also has real-world applications regarding global warming, which Craig believes is a very pertinent thing to the world right now.

Senior Cody Lee Crist, actor of Sammy, Scarlet’s love interest, will also be performing “Scarlet” as his final show at Doane.

“It sounds cool, and don’t get me wrong, it is like the coolest thing ever. It really is. That being said, especially with the musical of this challenging music being able to rise to it has been an immense

pressure,” Crist said. He is excited about what the cast has created of the show, considering it was just words and music on a page at first. The cast did not have tracks to listen to, so they learned the music by plucking notes on the piano and figuring it out that way. Crist says it’s been a long but fun process.

“It’s bittersweet. I actually discovered this show when I was in high school, when the concept recording was released,” Crist said. He then brought it to the faculty and, after a few attempts, got them to put the show on. “So I’ve been with this show for a lot longer than people might know.” He was also drawn to how unique the music sounded to him, and now that it’s put together, he is very excited for the show. When asked why people should see “Scarlet” and what makes it special, Crist said,

“It’s a Doane show, and Doane shows are unique

in general, but for “Scarlet” specifically, this show is in a workshop period, yes, we’re doing the world premiere production of it, but this is the only chance people are gonna be able to see the show in this format. Say the show’s next steps eventually lead it to Broadway, it could be a completely different show by then because the creators will rewrite stuff and maybe change major story lines and things. Also isn’t it really cool to say you’ve seen a world premiere musical? I think that’s a pretty cool thing too.”

When actors were asked about their favorite song as of now, this is what they had to say.

“I really like “The Beach”, that one just has a very emotional moment, but I also like “Father Sun.” I don’t sing in that one, but I love to listen to it,” Jones said.

“My favorite song is called “The Beach”, it is the moment in the show where the two sisters are finally

confronting each other. It’s one of the more heartbreaking parts of the show, but I really, really love the song, and I love getting to sing with Olivia,” Craig said.

“If Katie Craig sings it, she has such earworms in the show that I just cannot get out of my head. That being said, if I’m looking at a song in its entirety, it would probably be “Rout” or “I Have to Tell You”,” Crist said.

“Scarlet” has been a work in progress since August and will finally be performed later this week, April 30 through May 2. The majority of the cast is excited to show off their work to the rest of the campus and other audience members. Tickets are free for students, and the show will run for around two hours with an intermission. Seeing this show means you get to be a part of theatre history, and a lot of the theatre department is buzzing with excitement over this show’s opening.

DOANE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

SCARLET

Shows:
April 30th & May 1st
at 7:30 PM
May 2nd at 2:00 and
7:30 PM

Reserve tickets online at doane.edu/theatre-tickets

Graphic by Evelyn Vanek | The Doane Owl

END OF THE YEAR Reminders 2026

Finish out the semester strong. Doane can help you with support, tutoring, accommodations, and more.

- PEER TUTORING** Schedule an appointment through the writing center online now!
- DISABILITY SERVICES** Reasonable accommodations are available for qualified students.
- TIGER MENTORSHIP** Study desk open Wed-Sun from 5-10 pm in the room CM 186
- WRITING CENTER** Get help at any stage in the writing process by scheduling an appointment now!

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Banquet celebrates TRiO students

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

On April 26, the TRiO program held its end-of-year banquet.

The event started with a speech by Jeremy Cadwell, director of the writing center, which included his original poem "You as the White Pine." This was the precursor to an event where graduating seniors will help plant a tree. This tradition began four years ago in the white pine grove on campus, where some of the oldest trees on campus are located.

After the tree-plant-

ing ceremony, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sue Larkin, addressed the students present, delivering a speech centered on celebrating yourself. "I'm so proud of the things you've accomplished, and Doane is so proud of the things you've accomplished," Larkin said.

Following this, Doane Alumnus Jaelynn Scott shared her experiences at Doane and as a TRiO student. She shouted out several staff members, including director of career, leadership and service Quint Geis, who she explained played a big part in her college journey and who she still

receives help from as an alumnus.

Dinner was followed by a few more speeches by some of the Academic Success Center (ASC) staff. "It's not just our office here to help you; there are so many people across campus who want to see you succeed," assistant director of the ASC, Blake Tobey, said.

Senior Caden Campbell was announced tutor of the year. Several students were awarded writing consultants of distinction. Cadwell gave figurative keys to the writing center to staff who served two years or more, or who are graduating. Five

students received the financial empowerment award for attending financial literacy workshops and working with staff on managing their finances.

The mentee of distinction and Tiger Success Endurance award was given to freshman Avani Zephier-Wilkie. Her tiger peer mentor, sophomore Kayla Meyer, explained that Zephier-Wilkie had demonstrated incredible persistence in the face of adversity, making the dean's list, competing in wrestling and joining the Chi Delta sorority despite losing a family member. Title IX equity compliance officer, Suzanne Meal-

er, also spoke about Zephier-Wilkie's character as the two had connected over their shared native American heritage.

The international mentee of distinction went to freshman Felicia Deumi-Nappi, who came to Doane from Germany. Tobey spoke about how she had adapted and blossomed to life in Nebraska. Five mentors were given the award of mentor of distinction. The Glenn Mitchell Leadership Award went to senior Amy Parra. The international student mentor award went to senior Fernando Moreno.

The last awards rep-

resented the four pillars of TRiO. Persistence was presented to senior Elenna Koenig, growth to senior Jenny Cardoso Franco, advocacy to sophomore Izzy Uecker and leadership to senior Jerzie Maher.

The night wrapped up with graduating seniors being given their cords and a plant, which was individually propagated by the TRiO staff and friends of the ASC. Additionally, the executive director of academic support, Beth Jacobson, celebrated her birthday with Parra, sharing some thoughtful words about Jacobson's impact and gifted her with a plant.

Lincoln improv group at Dine 09

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

"Alright, fellas, you ready to be emotionally vulnerable at the battling cages?" was only one of many comedic lines at one of the last Dine 09's of the year. Students were given a showcase of impro-

visational theatre, or improv, by the Lincoln Improv Collective.

The specific group that graced the campus with their presence this past Saturday, April 25, was The Disassociates. Their show consisted of both short- and long-term improv.

Sophomore Amani Muisyo remarked that she appreciated the en-

ergy they brought to the event and that they were able to keep it up as the night went on.

The short-term set lasted about 20 minutes, featuring a variety of games. In one such game, the "host" was hosting a party and the crowd got to decide what the three guests would represent as a celebrity, an object and

an occupation. "Baby baby baby, I came all the way from Canada," said the faux Justin Bieber when entering the party, followed by a megaphone and a three-foot-tall plumber. The party host had to guess each partygoer's identity with the help of audience reactions.

The long-form set lasted for a little under

30 minutes. It consisted of several intertwining characters and plot points, including a man finding a stray cat, two friends leaving for college, and a pickup artist and their struggling student. The entire play was inspired by two words suggested by the audience, "cat" and "nice."

The Lincoln Improv

Collective has free sessions on the second Sunday of every month at the F Street Community Center in Lincoln. The sessions are open to everyone regardless of experience and consist of improvisational games and exercises, including many of the ones featured at Dine:09.

Crafts, vibes and R&B in Lakeside

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

A week ago, on Tuesday, April 21, Doane's Student Programming Board (SPB) hosted another one of their Coffee Shop Series Events. This event in particular featured clay crafts, mini canvas painting, bracelet making and a small bedazzling station. This craft experience was paired with a live performance from Das Dat, a R&B/Funk band from Lincoln, NE.

SPB President Celeste Galvan went into more detail about the Coffee Shop Series

events, "So we actually do our Coffee Shop Series monthly and the big reason that we do Coffee Shop is so students have something to do, a cool craft, something that they might not get to do in their dorm room and then we also like to support local Nebraska small bands that are trying to get more exposure," Galvan said.

These artists/bands are picked from a list of those who may have performed in the past, or a lot of people in SPB know small artists in Nebraska, so they listen to a few songs from various bands in meetings to help decide who they'll bring in and who fits the theme for the craft they're do-

ing that night.

The Coffee Shop Series has been happening for a couple of years now and is always a popular event for students to participate in. SPB enjoys suggestions from the student body and really likes collaborating with them to help create more enjoyable events. The turnout for this Coffee Shop Series wasn't a big one, as only a small group of students participated in the crafts and enjoyed the live music. The common consensus from attendees was that they really enjoyed the craft options available and enjoyed singing with the band.



Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl
Students participate in crafts while Das Dat performs in Lakeside.

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Your time has value. Invest it accordingly.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): The praise you seek isn't found in public acclaim but in the quiet respect of colleagues.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): The mirror you bought to make your room look bigger just reflects uncertainty.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): Your habit of second-guessing clashes with your need for clarity.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): Don't be afraid to laugh at yourself, and each other.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): You act like a toddler who just discovered the word 'no'.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Living in survival mode ends when you want it to.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Spend more time with people who bring out the best in you.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): You've been someone's solution for too long.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): There are people who appreciate your strength rather than fear it.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): A missed opportunity has no immediate impact but sets a chain of events in motion.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Your strangest ideas have the most value.

Gamma Phi Iota raises money in first ever “Gammalympics”

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, April 23, Gamma Phi Iota sorority hosted its first “Gammalympics” event in Fuhrer Field House to raise money for the Special Olympics. This event consisted of seven events that the six teams present were able to participate in.

First was cup stacking. This was done in a relay style where two members from each team would stack the cups, then take them down, then repeat for person two. This game

was quick and ended with the team of Chi Delta sorority winning that round.

Next up was horse racing, which was a short sprint with short hurdles where one member from each team had to hobby-horse their way to the end. Competitors found this event in particular very humorous, as each race was full of cheering and laughter. The team of Alpha Omega fraternity took first place this round.

After that was a balloon toss, where two representatives from each team would stand facing each other from a distance and toss a water bal-

loon back and forth, stepping back further with each successful throw and catch. The distance between the last three teams standing was quite large as one by one they took turns throwing again. All but one team had their pop, and the team of Delta Kappa Pi fraternity took the victory.

It was about time for the dance-off, where each team had a representative line up, and they all danced to songs together. After each song segment, the panel of senior Gamma judges eliminated one dancer per round. This came down to an attention-grabbing showdown be-

tween the final two. All competitors were gathered around as representatives from Alpha Omega and Alpha Pi Epsilon fraternities showed off their moves to please the judges. Tyler Greenwood of Alpha Pi Epsilon, who was representing “Banana Bros” (one of the two APE teams), won the dance-off.

The teams then played dodgeball. This consisted of two teams starting up against each other, which eventually progressed to a loser bracket and a winner bracket, with two games being played at once. This game took the longest, and

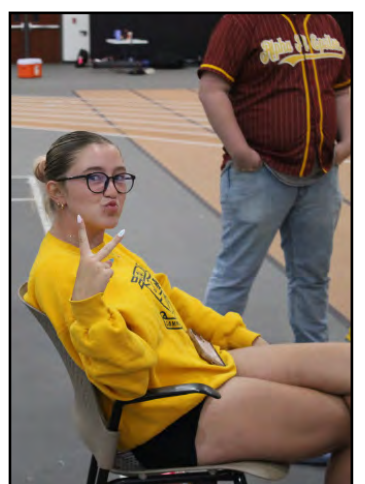
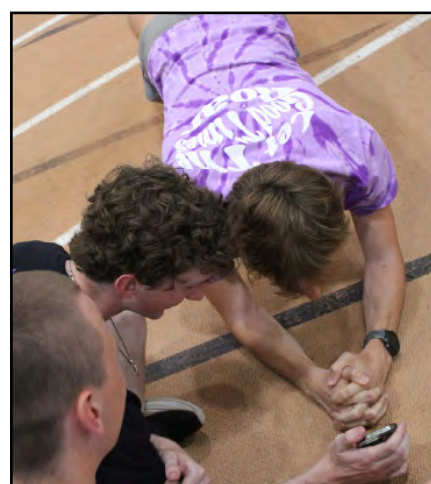
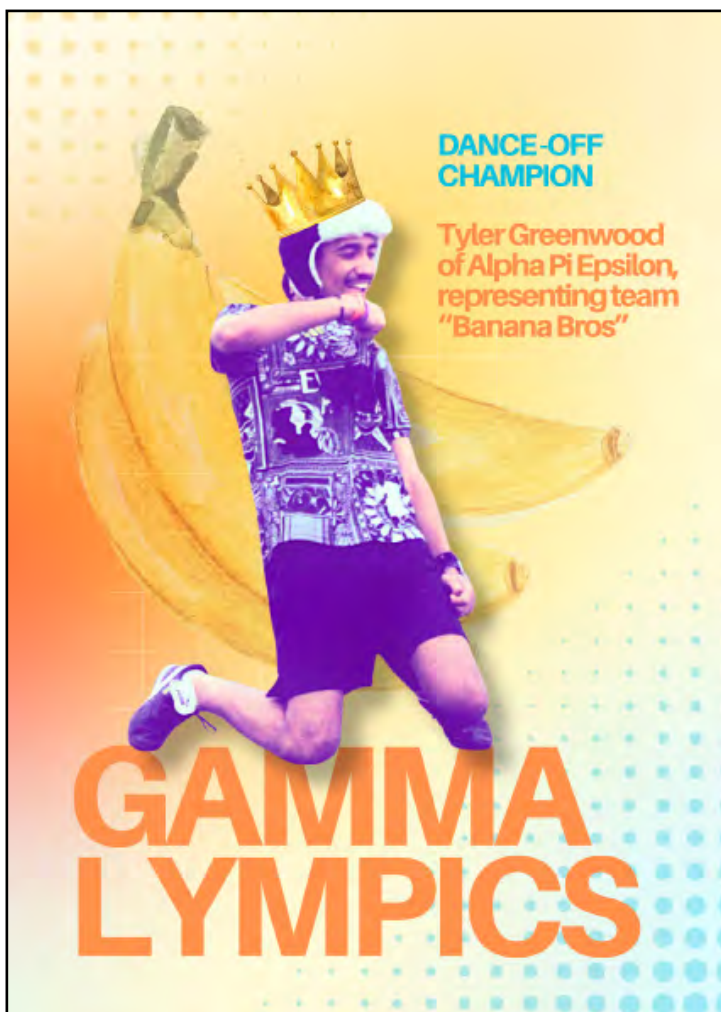
the competition was fierce, but it ended with Delta Kappa Pi winning.

Teams split off and sat in circles as trivia started. Questions ranged from info about the Gammas to random fun facts and general knowledge. Teams wrote their answers on a sheet of paper, then turned them in to be scored. The team of Gamma Phi Iota totaled the most points.

The last game of the Gammalympics was a planking contest or “plank until failure.” Each team sent in one representative, and they all got into position. Much encouragement from

teammates was given to the plankers while the timer kept going up on time. The longest plank ended up being eight minutes and 15 seconds, and the victory for this round went to Alpha Omega.

The Gammalympics then came to an end as the winners were announced. In third place was Chi Delta with 24 points. In second place, Delta Kappa Pi with 29 points. The winners of the first-ever Gammalympics were the team of Alpha Omega with 30 points. These winners received Dairy Queen gift cards courtesy of the Gammas.



Top left: Freshman Elizabeth Stratton hobby-horsing, Bottom Left: freshman Saije Phelps in dodgeball, Top Left: Alpha Pi Epsilon sent senior Tyler Wickham and junior Theodore Jones in for the water balloon toss, Middle Left: Delta Kappa Pi watches TikToks during plank contest, Bottom left: Freshman Caitlyn Adams-Baum represents Gamm Phi Iota in yellow.

Photos by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl
Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl

Forensics showcase wraps up and recaps successful season

MACKENZIE PIKE
Sports Editor

Doane Forensics hosted a showcase last Tuesday, April 21, showcasing their five performers. The event started with Nathaniel Wilson, a communication professor and director of forensics, giving a rundown of the forensics team’s achievements during their season.

The team competed in 16 tournaments and advanced to over 35 final rounds. “As a team that prides itself on service, it’s really important that we

point out that we have hosted seven tournaments,” said Wilson.

The first performer was junior Jordynn Jerby, who won the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) in Prose Interpretation (DI). During the showcase, she performed a Dramatic Interpretation of “Weather Girl” by Brian Watkins. DI takes a piece of literature that is read or heard and cuts it down to ten minutes. The performance followed the story of a reporter covering a wildfire, grappling with her personal life and being picture-perfect.

The second performer was sophomore Brianna Wright, who is in her first year on Forensics, and Wilson discussed how she got interested in the team while writing an Owl article about the forensic reunion banquet. In her first two tournaments, she qualified for Nationals, the fastest way to qualify. During the showcase, she gave an Informative Presentation on malware targeting Artificial Intelligence and its impacts in the real world.

The third performer was freshman Channer Koeppe, who performed a Communi-

cation Analysis (CA). Assistant director of Forensics Jennier Torres explains CA works by “taking something, really anything, that communicates, doing a lot of research to find applicable communication research and using it as a lens to analyze the artifact.” Torres jokes that this is essentially like a grad-level research project. Their performance took fourth in GPAC. During the showcase, Koeppe discusses the history of gender-nonconforming Roman emperor Elagabalus and asks if we can “pull history out of the closet.”

The fourth performer was freshman Gunner Lippold. Torres talked about how they met him as a senior in high school and that he already had ideas about what kind of literature he might want to use and piece together into his events. During his first season, he was the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and GPAC champion in Poetry Interpretation. At the showcase, he performed a Poetry Interpretation about the intersection and, oftentimes, animosity between queer and religious spaces. During his performance, he

discusses how queer people are told they can’t be themselves and cites statistics from queer nonprofits. The last performer was sophomore Lilian Korbel, who performed a dramatic interpretation. Her performance was drawn from the true story of Kimberly Shappeley, a Texas mother discovering and accepting her transgender daughter and becoming a trans ally. The showcase marked the end of the Forensics season, and they will celebrate at their end-of-year banquet in May.

The Doane Owl

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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 Mackenzie Pike

Mourning the loss of our (very alive) editor-in-chief

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor
&
MACKENZIE PIKE
Sports Editor

Welcome to the Kenzie and Bri show. This week, we have to share heartbreaking news. After this semester, we will be losing someone very dear to our hearts, Elenna Koenig. She's not dying, but worse, she's graduating... dum dum dum.

Seniors leave every year, but it can be especially hard to let go of ones who have had a big impact on you, your organization or your sport.

As a freshman, you come to college thinking that four years will be so slow and drag on forever. Let's be honest, four years go by really fast with all the memories, the friendships you make and the degree you get in the end. You feel like you have to soak in every moment before you graduate.

Elenna has made a big impact on so many people and definitely on every organization she is in. As an Owl Editor in Chief, she has made an impact on the newspaper and how things are run around here. Even through difficult times, she has helped and supported every staff member to get the Owl done on time and looking good for the next day.

Kenzie here. I think my favorite memories of Elenna are from when we took a field trip to Scooters and Dominos, and she got each of us our favorite snack from Walmart.

Brianna here, going off of what Kenzie said, Elenna always made Owl meetings so much fun. Editing, drafting and publishing a whole newspaper every Monday night can be really draining. But, Elenna always brought such good energy into the room with her sarcastic comments, loud jokes and empa-

thetic understanding.

My favorite memory has to be the Owl field trips. Piling into Elenna's car for the first time for some desperately needed caffeine was a highlight of last semester. Not to mention the inspirational Eminem quote tucked in her sun visor. But truthfully, I'll miss every time she came into the room and heaved a sigh over whatever middle school shenanigans she had to put up with that day, and then immediately, and loudly, told us it was

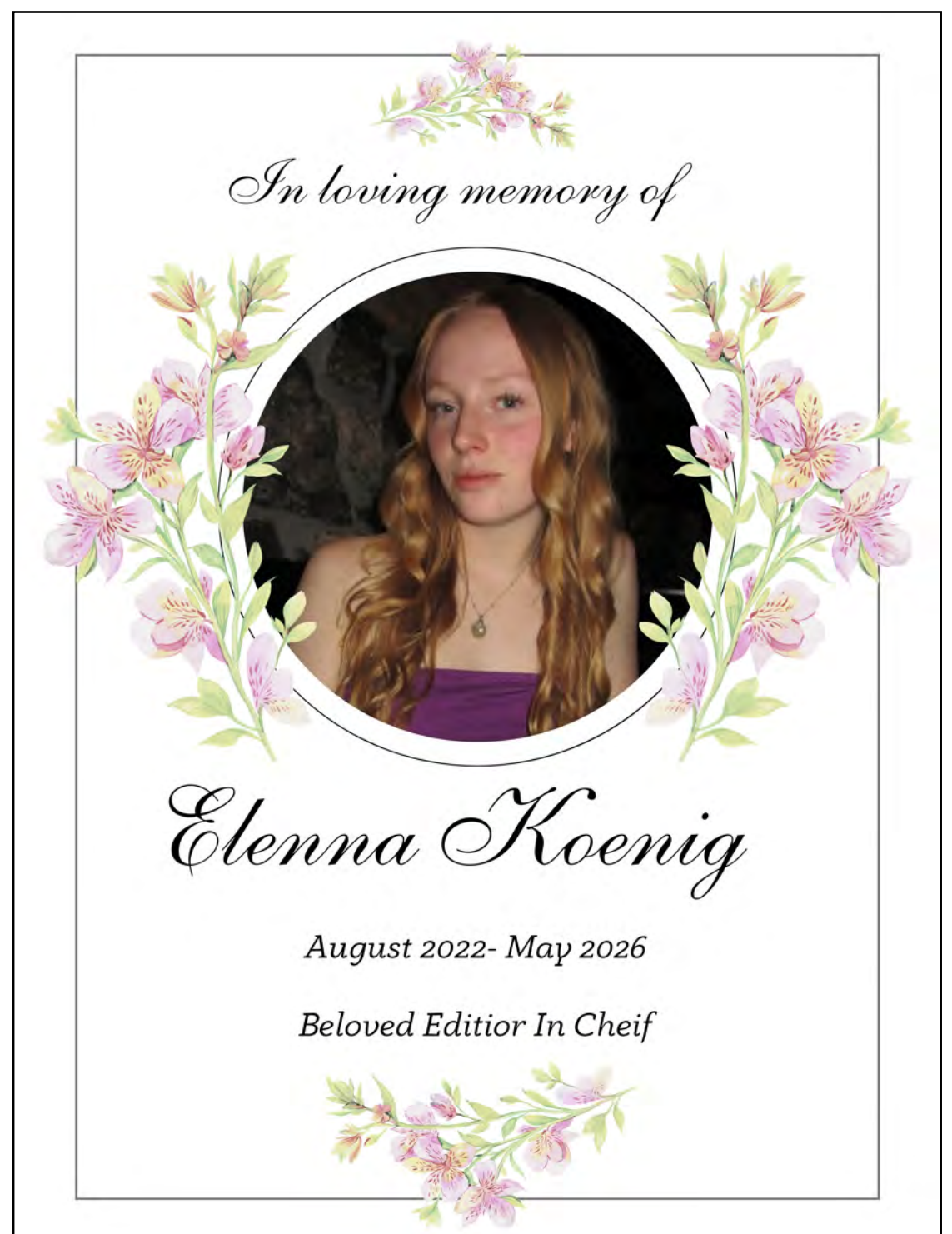
time to get to work. Actually, as I'm reminiscing, how could I forget from the start of this year when she made nicknames for every one of her staff, some of which actually stuck and get put down next to writing or photography assignments.

Elenna made the Owl good in so many ways by communicating clearly with everyone. She made everyone excited to attend budget meetings and take on what they could each week. She made sure no one was tak-

ing on too much work and kept it pretty even for everyone.

We think it's going to be hard to survive without Elenna because she won't be there to talk about the most random things or to be so supportive of everyone. It's going to be hard to find someone who can yap for hours and still keep us on task while getting pages done on time.

We dearly miss Elenna Headass³... Signing out Briansouras and Mackattack.



Graphic by Mackenzie Pike | The Doane Owl

Who even cares about the Earth these days?

me are a rare breed.

I feel like I'm preaching to a choir that won't listen, but it baffles me that people just don't care about the Earth. It is literally the planet we live on, and yet some people condone littering. Maybe not condone, but they still do it, and that's not any better. Personally, I will carry trash with me for way longer than necessary until I find a trash can. I refuse to put anything outside that doesn't belong there. I implore you to carry your trash with you instead of throwing things on the floor like there's not a trash can like 10 feet away, acting like the world is your maid (spoiler alert: it's not, take some accountability). You wanna talk about caring? Put some care into finding a trash can so your garbage doesn't end up in lakes or on

sidewalks. Luckily for you, trash cans are located everywhere on campus, so hop to it.

Speaking of trash, it will always amaze me how people use AI for anything. Instead of using ChatGPT on easy assignments, let's revert back a few years and just Google things. Or ask a friend or your professor. In my firm belief, we've survived this long without artificial intelligence, and especially with the negative environmental impacts that running ChatGPT brings, you're better off just not using it. Running ChatGPT to generate irrelevant images for a presentation is like taking a big straw to Doane Lake and just going buck wild. In the long run, putting in effort will help you develop your critical think-

ing skills and work ethic, which are crucial in the job you are studying to get at this moment.

Furthermore, I know it's easy to turn a blind eye to everything happening around you, but let me be the one to say: 90 degrees in March and April is NOT normal. I attribute this very real example of global warming to the lack of care individuals have. It's cool to care about the Earth, it's our home! It's awesome to take initiative and try on your assignments rather than taking the easy way out. The more we litter, use AI and damage the environment, the more our home on Earth dies. It's never too late to start caring about your actions and the effects it has on others. I'm sick of nonchalance, everyone get chalang now!

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

People don't care about things anymore. Earth Day was last week, and it's really got me thinking about the environment and how many people just don't care about it anymore. I've always been the type of person who cares and feels about literally everything so deeply and truly. I show up for things, I put effort into my work and activities, and I practice my #2 CliftonStrength of empathy by being overly empathetic for people, animals, bugs and even inanimate objects ALL. OF. THE. TIME. Above all else, I am a freak about caring for the environment. It just seems individuals like

Baseball ends regular season with 24-4 record & GPAC title

MACKENZIE PIKE
Sports Editor

Baseball finished up its regular-season games this week against Dordt and Morningside University on April 24 and 25.

Baseball is up for the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) title based on regular-season wins.

In the two-game series, the Tigers won both games. In the first game, the Tigers won 8-5.

The players who made an impact

were senior Johnny Vulcano, with three hits, and junior Tanner Nelson, with two hits. The players who had one hit were senior Carter Roth, senior Sam Kwapnioski, junior Brayden Jones, senior Jordan Bond and junior Max Harris.

On the pitching side, senior Kaden Crawford pitched six innings with five strikeouts. Then, freshman Austin Oelke and junior Ethan Merk came into the pitch for the last inning with a total of two strikeouts.

In the second game against Dordt, the Tigers won 21-5.

Roth had three hits along with Nelson, sophomore Jett Gossart, Vulcano, Jones and Harris with two hits.

The players who had one hit were junior Grant Sommers, Kwapnioski, junior Adam Vulcano and Bond.

Three players hit a home run during this game: J. Vulcano, A. Vulcano and Roth.

On the defensive side, junior Broc Songster pitched four innings, strik-

ing out three. Sophomore Carter Navin pitched three innings with three strikeouts.

The Tigers beat Morningside 7-6. The Tigers had three home runs from Sommers and Jones had two home runs.

On the offensive side, Roth had three hits with Sommers, Jones had two hits, while Kwapnioski, Nelson and Gossart had one hit.

On the defensive side, senior Gabe Rodriguez pitched five innings, striking out two.

In the second

game, the Tigers won 12-9, with Sommers, Gossart, Vulcano and Harris each with two hits.

Roth, Kwapnioski, sophomore Brycen Morrison and sophomore Thaden Wewel with one hit.

Sophomore Riley Plummer pitched two innings with two strikeouts. Sophomore Carter Basete pitched three innings with three strikeouts. Junior Ethan Roberts pitched three innings with three strikeouts.

With the sweep against Morningside to finish the

regular season 24-4 and win the GPAC title.

Baseball is the top seed and the regular-season champion and will host one of the two four-team tournaments. Concordia (22-6) will host as the tournament's second seed. These bracket games will start on April 29.

Baseball will play the first round of GPAC versus Hastings on April 29.

Men's Golf places 5th at GPAC in South Dakota

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture

Men's Golf traveled to the Dakota Dunes Country Club in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, on April 20 and 21 to play in the Great Plains Athletic

Conference (GPAC) Championships, the culmination of their season.

Seven players went to the three-round tournament, with two placing within the top twenty.

Junior Josh Wassmer and sophomore Heidar Bjarnason

started strong in the first round with Wassmer shooting nine pars, two birdies, and one eagle. Bjarnason was only two strokes behind him with seven pars, one birdie, and an eagle.

Freshman Jax Loh led the second round with ten pars and two

birdies. Bjarnason was only one stroke behind him. In the third round, Wassmer and Bjarnason took the lead once more.

The Tigers finished fifth overall, with Wassmer placing seventh and Bjarnason 16th. Overall, the team had two eagles,

25 birdies and 149 pars. They had a total of 926 (312-312-302).

This was the last tournament of the season for men's golf, which had a successful season, reporting several top-five team finishes. This season, three players played 12 rounds in total.

Senior Cauty Walters had the lowest average score among them with a 73.58, followed by Wassmer at 74.33 and Loh with 74.67.

Men's Golf will return for a new season in the fall.

Greco Roman wrestling paves the way for future seasons

JOSEPH SCHUT
Guest Writer

Doane University announced Men's Greco-Roman wrestling in November 2024, but officially started a season in fall of 2025 and is already seeing

strong success. Recent results from the U.S. Open Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, highlight the program's strength and future potential.

Doane is proud of its senior athletes for their performances against top competition.

Junior Isaac Gibbs, Patrick Brackett and graduate assistant Tommy Brackett were all named Senior All-Americans. Gibbs placed sixth at 55 kg, Patrick Brackett placed seventh at 77 kg and Tommy Brackett placed sixth at 82 kg.

The program also saw strong results from its younger athletes and is excited for their continued development and future success. Freshman Hunter Humphrey placed eighth at 87 kg, while sophomore Jayden Taideo-Gossl placed sixth at 97 kg. Both

were named U20 All-Americans.

Doane also delivered strong performances and represented an exciting part of the program's future. Anthony Delgado placed second at 63 kg, and Gavin Weichelt placed fifth at 67 kg. Delgado

and Weichelt were also named U20 All-Americans.

With these successes at this event, Doane's wrestling program continues to build momentum and looks forward to the continued growth of its Greco-Roman wrestling program.

Women's Tennis finishes season placing 3rd at GPAC

JERONIMO CORCHO
Staff Writer

The Doane women's tennis team traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament at the Hanscomb Indoor Tennis Center on Thursday, April 23.

In their opening match of the day, the Tigers delivered a commanding 4-0 sweep over Hastings. Doane set the tone early in doubles play, with the number one duo of junior Maria Purizaca and sophomore Liz Calderon securing a 6-2 victory. Senior Grace Schroller and junior Kat Johnson

also won convincingly at the number two doubles spot with a 6-1 finish. The momentum carried over into singles play, where Purizaca won her number one matchup 6-1, 6-0. Calderon earned a 6-2, 6-2 victory at number two singles. Additionally, Johnson won 6-0, 6-2 at number three, and

senior Alejandra Prat cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 win at the number six singles position.

Later in the tournament, the Tigers faced off against Concordia, NE and ultimately fell by a score of 4-0. Purizaca and Calderon remained a bright spot in doubles, capturing another 6-2

win at the number one position. However, Concordia secured the overall doubles point after winning 6-3 at number two and edging out a close 7-6 (7-5) tiebreaker victory at number three. In singles action, the Bulldogs secured the team victory with straight-set wins at the number four (6-

2, 6-4), number five (6-1, 6-1), and number six (6-2, 6-3) spots.

With the conclusion of the GPAC Tournament, the Tigers have officially wrapped up their tennis season.

Men's tennis makes it to the semifinal in GPAC Tournament

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

The Doane Men's Tennis team traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday, April 24, to compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament.

In their opening

matchup, the Tigers delivered a commanding 7-0 sweep over Mount Marty University. Doane set the tone early in doubles play, with the number two duo of junior Elliot Dassel and freshman Jaime Asiain Banzo securing a perfect 6-0 victory. Fresh-

men Mats Vervloet and Miles Mollring matched that performance with another 6-0 shutout at the number three doubles spot. Senior Diego Infante and Dassel also earned a win at number one doubles with a score of 5-2.

The momentum continued into sin-

gles action, where Doane won across the board. Vervloet led the way at number one singles with a 6-1, 6-2 win. Asiain Banzo earned a 6-0, 6-1 victory at the number three spot, while Dassel secured a flawless 6-0, 6-0 win at number four. Mollring also domi-

nated his number six matchup, winning 6-1, 6-0. Infante and junior Andre Hartman rounded out the sweep with victories at the number two and five spots, respectively.

Later in the day, the Tigers faced off against Concordia University in the

GPAC Semifinal. Doane ultimately fell to the Bulldogs by a score of 4-0.

With the conclusion of the GPAC Tournament, the Tigers have officially wrapped up their tennis season.

Softball celebrates Senior Day

MACKENZIE PIKE
Sports Editor

Softball ended its regular season this week with six games against Northwestern University, Concordia University and Midland University.

The first games were against Northwestern on April 21. In the two-game series, the Tigers went one for one.

In the first game, the Tigers lost 4-7 to the Wildcats. On the hitting side, junior Katelyn Hays had

two hits with sophomore Milannie Gonzalez, junior Evelyn Iniguez, sophomore Addison Parsons and sophomore Ciara Hudson.

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

The Tigers were about to pull out a win against the Wildcats in the second with the score of 5-1.

Gonzalez and Iniguez were able to get two hits with junior Jeryn Allen, senior Faith McDonald,

Parsons and junior Jacqueline Ordonez getting one hit.

McDonald pitched for seven innings with three strikeouts against the Wildcats.

On April 22, the Tigers played Concordia and lost both games.

In the first game against the Bulldogs, the Tigers lost 0-9. The players who made an impact were Gonzalez and Parsons, with one hit each.

On the pitching side, Robinson and sophomore Bri True together were able

to pitch four innings with only one strikeout.

In the second game, the Tigers lost 4-12 to the Bulldogs. The players who made an impact were Allen, sophomore Kayla Meyer, Hudson and Ordonez, with two hits. The players had one hit: Parsons and Hays.

The pitchers were McDonald, Robinson, True and freshman Lauren Dick. McDonald pitched two innings with zero strikeouts.

Then Robinson

came in and pitched one inning, striking out zero. Lastly, Dick came in and pitched 1 inning, striking out 0.

On April 25, the Tigers celebrated Senior Day against Midland University. In the first game, the Tigers lost 2-5.

The players who made an impact were Gonzalez with two hits, Allen, Hays, and senior Jaidan Papik with one hit each.

On the pitching side, Robinson pitched four innings with two strikeouts.

True pitched three innings with zero strikeouts.

In the second game against Midland, the Tigers lost 2-6. The players who helped out the team were Gonzalez, Iniguez, Hays, and Pack, with one hit.

On the pitching side, McDonald pitched five innings with two strikeouts. To conclude the game, True pitched one inning with one strikeout.

This wrapped up the 2026 Softball season.

Women's golf places 2nd in Iowa

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

On April 20 and 21, Women's Golf traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, to compete in the Bent Tree Intercollegiate tournament, their

last tournament of the season before the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championships.

Ultimately, the Tigers came in second place with five players finishing in the top twenty. Sophomore Connie Jarm placed third with 18

pars and two birdies. Only a few strokes behind was sophomore Jamisyn Kirkpatrick, who placed sixth with fourteen pars and one birdie.

In total, the team had six birdies and 74 pars across six players. The team had a total of 667

(338-329).

While the team performed well, players had thoughts on the Bent Tree Golf Club, where the tournament was hosted.

"Worst hills of my life, my calves were burning. Very beautiful course," sophomore Laila Saunders

said. "The greens were like concrete," Jarm said. "It was a beautiful course, but a bit of a hike. We made it through."

Jarm was named GPAC Golfer of the Week for the second consecutive week. She shared that she was excited to play

a course she's never been on before for GPAC.

Next, the team will travel to Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, for the GPAC Championships at Dakota Dunes Country Club on April 27 and 28.

Track & Field competes at Drake and NWU leading up to GPAC

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

On April 22-25, both Men's and Women's Track and Field teams traveled to compete in two different meets, the first one was at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, Iowa, and the other was at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Starting in the Drake Relays for the Women's side was senior Kat Vogt, placing second in the 400m, with a time of

53.92. In the 4x100 was junior RaeAnn Thompson, senior Tania Gleason, freshman Elizabeth Wemhoff and junior Neryah Hekl, where they placed first with a time of 45.82.

Switching over to the Prairie Wolf Invite, in the 800m was senior Maddy Ramey, who placed third with a time of 2:23.52. Taking home third in the 400m hurdles was freshman Zaili Benish, who had a time of 1:05.00. In the pole vault was senior Kennedy Stanley, who placed second with a mark of 3.56m.

Placing first in the shot put was sophomore Madison Heusinkvelt, who had a mark of 13.67m, and also taking home first in the javelin was junior Carly Rains, with a mark of 39.88m. Finishing in third in the discus was junior Kallie Sutton, with a mark of 44.56m, and sophomore Trinity Becher placed third in the hammer with a mark of 52.63m.

Transitioning back to the Drake Relays for the Men's side was sophomore Callan McKinney in the Triple Jump, where he had a mark of

14.09m, which placed him eighth. Placing ninth in the 4x1600 were senior Michael Grigsby, sophomore Jayden Wall, senior Luke Bonifas, and sophomore Porter Bickley, who had a time of 17:11.52.

Going back to the Prairie Wolf Invite, in the 110m hurdles was freshman Tommy Smith, who placed third with a time of 14.60. Also in third was the 4x400, which consisted of freshman Lincoln Konrad, junior Eli Marez, sophomore Lucas Gautier, and senior Dakota Miser.

Finishing in sec-

ond in the high jump was junior Jackson Kessler, with a mark of 2.04 m. Freshman Roe Patton placed second in the pole vault with a mark of 4.58m, also finishing in second was junior Michael Willey in the long jump, where he had a mark of 6.83m.

In the triple jump was freshman Ridge Bredthauer, who placed third with a mark of 12.89m. Taking home third in the throws was junior Andrew Schmitz, who had a mark of 15.92m. Placing first in discus was sophomore An-

drew England, with a mark of 49.34m, and finishing up with the javelin was sophomore Ryland Garretson, who had a mark of 50.95m, which placed him first.

Next up, the Men's and Women's track and field teams will be traveling to Fremont, Nebraska, to take part in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Championships.