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Dance Marathon reaches $1 million milestone

With over 650 participants from nearly 30 organizations represented in this year’s Dance Marathon, the air was buzzing with aspiration.

But the results of the 24-hour event were even more legendary than expected: the total raised was $92,444.32, bringing the 13-year cumulative total to $1,003,599.60.

The “million-dollar-milestone” reached on Saturday represents 13 years of organizing, fundraising and dancing through the night to raise awareness of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in downtown Grand Rapids. The organizers of the philanthropy effort start planning in the fall. “Dream Team begins planning and preparation in the fall semester with some minor fundraising, team bonding and theme brainstorming,” said Katherine Voorhorst (’12), co-director of the marathon. “We plan fundraisers for groups to do and essentially try to get the Dance Marathon name out there as early as possible.”

Dance Marathon participants consist of dancers, who remain in the Dow Center for the full 24 hours, and morale shift workers, who take eight-hour shifts to maintain the optimistic spirit of the dancers. The event began at 7 p.m. in the Dow Center on Friday, coming to a close when the fundraising totals came in at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Throughout the evening, a line dance was taught to morale shift workers and dancers – both to serve the purpose of a dance event and keep tired minds alert.

Coordinating with the hospital all year, each student organization is paired with a family to connect before the event. The trademark phrase “it’s for the kids” is used as motivation in fundraising efforts, reminding participants and sponsors of the real help the marathon provides.

Local businesses also join forces with Hope student organizations to contribute to the marathon, which is affiliated with the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, the largest of those in the network, recently relocated to a 440,000-square-foot facility which cares for more than 7,600 inpatients and 190,000 outpatients annually.

The proceeds from the marathon go straight toward the programs that help the Dance Marathon kids deal with their illnesses more comfortably.

“The millionth dollar became important to me because the goal was challenging but attainable with hard work and dedication,” Voorhorst said.

“The marathon drew more participants, visitors and attention than years previous, and I feel so blessed that I was able to be a central part of it,” she said. “I think we all understood that it was all for the kids. It was brilliant.”

Hope’s spring break immersion trips: Where are you going?

Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

Members of this immersion trip will help out on the Pine Ridge reservation, providing manual labor while also learning about the culture of its residents.

Detroit, Michigan

“We will be traveling to different urban farms throughout the city of Detroit while learning and working with the citizens that run these farms.”

-Michael Atwell (’14), group leader

Washington, D.C.

Members of this immersion trip will focus on urban ministry and partner with church-organized soup kitchens.

“Hopefully, we can have a true spiritual awakening and grow in our faith.”

-Amy Gagliardi (’13), group leader

Jackson, Mississippi

Members of this immersion trip will be spending a week at the John and Vera Mae Perkins Center for Reconciliation and Development, learning issues of race and social injustice in America.

“One of the main things we’ll do is working with migrant farm workers, but we also could do things like going to a food distribution center or go on a scavenger hunt to learn about the city.”

-Richele Ehardt (’13), group leader

Miami, Florida

“The purpose of the trip is less about the things that we will be doing in Miami and more about immersing ourselves in the Haitian culture while also learning and serving.”

-Mike Koenig (’13), group leader

East Palo Alto, California

“This trip is all about being immersed in another culture, understanding more about injustice, and growing in our faith.”

-Amy Gagliardi (’13), group leader

U.S.-Mexico Border

“We will be learning about the issues surrounding immigration, hoping to bring back knowledge we learn and be able to apply it to our daily lives.”

-Luke Dishnow (’13), group leader

Blue Fields, Nicaragua

Members of this immersion trip will be administering lice treatments and parasite medication to Nicaraguan schoolchildren.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Members of this immersion trip will be working with an organization called the Association for a More Just Society.

Newark, New Jersey

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Celebrating female empowerment at Hope

Lindsey Wolf
Arts Co-Editor
March 6 to commemorate Women’s Studies at Hope

Dr. Jane Dickie, former director of the women’s studies program and professor of psychology, presented her lecture “Love and Everyday Rebellions: 20+ Years of Women’s Studies at Hope.” Dickie began her presentation with a quote from one of her heroes, bell hooks: “Love only exists when everyone has rights.”

Dickie explained the purpose of the program, which encompasses complexity, relationship with the world we live in, the important work of caring for others, and embracing differences. At the end of the presentation, a handful of women’s studies majors shared how the program has helped shape their lives.

Dickie began her presentation in 1991. Fourteen years later, the women’s studies minor was launched at Hope. In addition to building housing and the establishment of more female faculty, changes in terms of the curriculum, Hope offered zero courses focusing on women. Dickie, a few faculty members and two students were determined to make Hope aware of its sexual biases. After collecting research, they constructed a report about the status of women at Hope. Dickie and her fellow researchers found that only 15% of faculty were women, no minority women worked in administration, no minority women faculty were hired on campus and only two full-time women worked in the entire science center.

The report also pointed out inequities for female students. While fraternities had houses, sororities had to meet in dorm basements. Male athletes were able to dine at nice restaurants after their games while female athletes ate at McDonald’s. In terms of the curriculum, Hope offered zero courses focusing on women.

Current director of women’s studies, Dr. Jeanne Petit, commented on the inequities female students faced at the time.

“Some of the activism of faculty, staff, and students to point out the inequities of these situations and to fight for them to change,” Petit said. “We wanted to show current students that fighting for social change is difficult but ultimately rewarding. In the moment, those who struggle to change hearts and minds, to make our community a more equitable, accepting and loving place, can get frustrated by the slow pace of change. But it is worthwhile to look back and see that positive changes have happened.”

As a result of Dickie and her colleagues’ work, Hope College experienced significant changes over the next couple of years including the hiring of more female faculty, changes in housing and the establishment of the women’s studies minor in 1993. Fourteen years later, the women’s studies major was launched at Hope.

During her presentation, Dickie explained the purpose of women’s studies.

“The purpose of the program is to transform the sense of self by identifying multiple structures that define us and to transform our sense of relationship with the world which encompasses complexity, diversity and difference,” Dickie said.

Women’s studies explores sexism, racism, classism and cultural issues. The program encourages caring for others and embracing differences. At the end of the presentation, a handful of women’s studies majors shared how the program has helped shape their lives.

Petit is thrilled about the women’s studies program.

“Women’s studies is empowering your peers and other people to feel and know you have the power to change the world,” Lauren Bull (12) said.

“It opens your mind to different viewpoints from all over the world, which directly engages you towards Hope’s mission statement to become global citizens. Women’s studies is made up of global citizens who are ready to listen and ready to learn and ready to promote change. And best of all, women’s studies loves you through this process.”

Currently, there are 20 majors and minors in the women’s studies program.

“Since the study of women and gender enhances any major, we have double majors from all divisions and departments of the college, especially the departments of psychology, social work, English, religion and political science,” Petit said.

The women’s studies program has had students from pretty much any major you can think of.

“I would love to see more double majors and minors in the profession programs, such as business and accounting, education and pre-med,” Petit said. “Those programs are very intense and it is hard to fit in other classes, but we are willing to work with those students to find a way to include women’s studies in their education.”

Petit is thrilled about the direction the women’s studies program is headed.

“Like the previous directors, I want to keep educating our majors how the study of women and gender is an essential part of a dynamic Christian education. I also want to build more of a sense of community among our majors and minors outside of the classroom through intellectual and social activities,” Petit said. “I love hearing suggestions from students about how to do this!”

In addition to building community, women’s studies attributes to an academic, social and spiritual well-being.

“Without Jane Dickie, there would be no women’s studies department, and without that, I don’t think I would have stayed here at Hope for all four years,” Bull said. “She’s helped create this safe place for us to listen, grow and challenge each other. Women’s studies has helped me become a more whole human being.”
Hundreds die in explosion in Congo

Michael Kroneman  Guest Writer

Terror struck Brazzaville, the capital city of the Republic of the Congo, in the morning hours of March 4 when a series of large explosions tore through the city after a fire erupted in an arms depot.

As buildings and homes fell to the ground and burning debris fell from the sky, many residents of the city immediately feared that the destruction was the result of a new military conflict. It has only been seven years since the country’s devastating 1997 civil war, and the horror is still fresh in their minds.

While Defense Minister Charles Zachariellouwana quickly put these fears to rest and explained the true cause of the destruction, his words did not bring much comfort to the frenzied city, as early reports suggested that around 200 people were killed in the explosions, and even more were injured.

It had been reported that Brazzaville was not the only city to fall into a chaotic state after the initial explosions. Across the Congo River in Kinshasa – the capital city of the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo – many residents felt the impact after several buildings were damaged due to the force exerted from the blasts. As in Brazzaville, many civilians feared that a war was breaking out and panicked. Although none were as severe as the initial blasts that took place Sunday morning, the explosions continued for two days. During this time period, Brazzaville ran into numerous obstacles as it tried to provide help to the city’s residents.

For example, continuous explosions thwarted several attempts to rescue those people who were buried by debris. Hospitals ran low on many supplies and were unable to assist the injured. In addition, many individuals feared that the fires might spread to other arms depots and cause further destruction.

Once the blasts stopped, Brazzaville faced a horrible truth – 246 were dead, over a thousand people were injured, and thousands were left homeless. The government also informed the citizens of Brazzaville that explosives may still be laying around the city that have not been detonated.

Now, with the city in the process of planning a mass funeral for those lost in the accident, which has been attributed to a circuit fire within the depot, many people are planning with the government for placing an arms depot so close to residential areas.

In 2009, the Republic of Congo experienced a similar incident, when an arms depot exploded within Brazzaville. Although no one was killed in this occurrence, in the aftermath of that event the government promised to move all arms depots out of the city to prevent tragedy. After the March 4 explosion, many are wondering why the government never lived up to its word.

However, the government may have learned its lesson; it has once again stated that it does not intend to place arms depots within the city would be removed.

Brazzaville now faces an uphill battle toward reconstruction. Only time will tell whether the city can rebuild and ensure that an event like this never occurs again.

Bin Laden’s wives charged with illegal entry into Pakistan

Shubham Sapkota  WND Co-Editor

It has nearly been one year since the U.S. got rid of the infamous mastermind behind 9/11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden. The terrorist leader was caught and killed by U.S. soldiers in Pakistan last May. U.S. troops entering Pakistan without permission from the Pakistani government has caused a tension between the two nations. In another incident that similarly involves someone crossing an international border without permission, Bin Laden’s three widows have been charged by the Pakistani government with illegally entering the country.

The widowed wives, along with about 10 children, have been in custody since the raid on their house last May. At the time, they were living in the safe house in Abbottabad where Bin Laden was living.

Mohammad Malik, the interior minister of Pakistan, has said that the women, two of them Saudis and one of them Yemeni, have been charged but have not disclosed any further information regarding the issue.

The government also informed the parliament this week. The parliament has not been detonated.

Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

PROTEST MARCH – A Tibetan monk in exile participates in a march commemorating the unsuccessful revolt against China in 1959. It took place on March 10 in New Delhi, India.

Tibetans protest through self-immolation

Michael Kroneman  Guest Writer

Radio Free Asia reported last week that Western China had seen two separate suicides by self-immolation. Both victims were Tibetan women. One, a student from the Maqu county of the Ganu province, died Monday, while a mother of four died over the weekend in Aha, in the Sichuan province. Over the past year there have been about 25 self-immolations in the Tibetan portion of China. These numbers cannot be verified, RFA activists say, because security is tight for the anniversaries of the deaths, and foreign journalists are either being sent away or detained.

March, according to activists, is a month that is associated with more than the usual number of immolations. The month marks the anniversary of Dalai Lama’s exile in 1959.

There were two immolations in February, a 19-year-old monk and a currently unidentified nun. Four immolations occurred Monday took place in January, the Tibet Sun says, and of the four, three called before their deaths for the return of the Dalai Lama and spoke against the Chinese rule of Tibet.

Following the death of one monk, the Guardian says that hundreds of Tibetans swarmed the local police station, smashing windows and doors. The body of the monk was released to them, and they paraded through streets. Radio Free Asia quotes a source as saying that the man who committed suicide was working “not for his personal glory but for Tibet and the happiness of Tibetans.”

Chinese officials, according to the Guardian, released a statement alleging that all of the suicides were “outcasts, criminals, and mentally ill.” The top administrator of Aha, an ethnic Tibetan named Wu Zegang, says, “They all have criminal records of suspicious activities. They have a very bad reputation in society.”

The Chinese paper Xinhua claims that some officials say this is the work of Dalai Lama. The officials are claiming that he used his influence to manipulate his followers, and that the suicides are not due to any inside unrest. The Dalai Lama denied such claims, and one of his possible successors called for the suicides to stop.

Tibetan activists attribute the suicides to the suppression of Tibetan religion and culture. According to the Guardian, the Chinese government wants to instigate “patriotic and legal education among monks and nuns,” a proposal not well received by the Buddhist Tibetan population.

China previously experienced unrest during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and at that time the government called on nationalist sympathies to override the protests. Now, the government is taking a two-part course of action. When self-immolation occurs, the Public Security Bureau and People’s Armed Police are sent to handle the situation, while the government itself issues statements saying that self-immolation is against Buddhist tenets.

An analyst for the BBC reports that Chinese authorities have taken a special interest in arresting Tibetans and protesters this week. The parliament will be meeting in Beijing in anticipation of a major leadership transition scheduled to occur later in the year.
**Euripides, Galileo works part of rare book collection**

Lindsey Wolf  
Arts Editor

De Pree Art Center has been home to a variety of artistic mediums: oil paintings, wood and iron sculptures and digital prints, to name a few. But the current exhibit is unique. “Reading Between the Lines: The History and Production of Books Highlighted by the Hope College Rare Book Collection” provides a historical context in addition to the art and technique of printing books.

The exhibit was curated by nine Hope students who took an advanced art history seminar last fall. Dr. Anne Heath-Wiersma, assistant professor of art history and De Pree gallery director, explained how hard her students worked.

“In only 14 weeks, these students accomplished the difficult task of learning a complex and interdisciplinary scholarly area that is book studies: conducting primary research grounded in unpublished primary sources, conceptualizing a cohesive exhibition from a wide variety of examples and writing a catalog,” Heath-Wiersma said.

The exhibit explores the stories behind the rare books including the production, the selling and the printing. The books in De Pree have been borrowed from Hope’s Rare Book Collection, located in Van Wylen, which contains over 1,000 rare volumes dating back to the 15th century. Works penned by Euripides, the Catholic Church, Galileo Galilei and Ralph Waldo Emerson are on display.

“A rare book is any book with relatively few copies and that is of interest to scholars, readers and book collectors,” Katherine Kirby (‘12) said.

The exhibit runs through Friday March 23. Admission is free.

**National exhibit highlights King James Bible**

Can you imagine not being able to read the Bible on your own? In the 16th century, scripture was translated by the clergy who communicated passages to the people. Before 1539, translating the Bible into English was considered heresy in England. The Van Wylen Library is currently hosting “Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible,” a traveling exhibition for libraries around the country. The exhibition marks the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Bible.

Visitors can read about the lengthy creation of the Bible, which took more than four dozen translators over six years to complete. The Bible is named after King James I because he was its royal sponsor, not because he assisted in its translation. The exhibit includes a section on misprints such as the “Wicked Bible” of 1631 which contains a crucial mistake in Exodus. The seventh commandment reads “Thou shalt commit adultery.”

The church could not have been happy about that typo. The last part highlights the literary influences of the King James Bible. John Milton, Herman Melville, Allen Ginsberg and Toni Morrison have all been inspired by the holy book.

In addition, the Bible has contributed to music and TV shows. Handel’s “Messiah,” first performed in Ireland in 1742, contains a scriptural text compiled from the King James Bible. Linus reads from Luke 2:9-14 in “A Charlie Brown Christmas” to explain what Christmas is all about.

Come celebrate the worldwide impact of the King James Bible in Van Wylen. “Manifold Greatness” is here until Friday March 30.

**WTHS Album Reviews**

‘La Grande’ – Laura Gibson
Reviewed by Sara Sanchez

In 2010 I was exposed to both of Laura Gibson’s full-length albums: “Beasts of Seasons” (2009) and “If You Come to Greet Me” (2006). In those two albums, her fragile voice complemented the gentle folkly melodies. Her new album doesn’t differ significantly from her previous works, but her increasing talent is evident. In “La Grande,” Gibson experiments much more with an array of instruments. Her songs are layered with percussion, viola, French horn and clarinet (among other instruments). Her heavy folk and blues sound is still very much present but with added complexities that have totaled to a richer sound. Finally her distinct and unique vocals deliver messages of living and loving uninhibited through her well-crafted lyrics. This will be a great addition to your collection of albums for the serene winter evenings upon us. Highly recommend: “La Grande,” “Skin, Warming Skin,” and “The Fire.”

‘undun’ – The Roots
Reviewed by Matt Costello

Though most know The Roots for being the house band on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” the group actually has had a long, successful career as one of the most talented bands in hip-hop. In a genre based using samples, The Roots are unusual; they use live instrumentation. The result is just as much about the music as the raps, and “undun” is no exception. A concept album about the death of a man told in reverse, the lyrics are cryptic, politically charged and emotional. The group’s MC Black Thought has a flow that’s smooth and rhythmic, and guests including Big K.R.I.T. and Dice Raw help tell the story. Drummer Questlove leads the groove-based band, and the result is sometimes beautiful, sometimes raw and funky. The album shows that the band is as creative as ever.
DANCE MARATHON

Photos courtesy of Hope PR, Alii Sprungewitz & Monica Dwyer
Spring break is upon us. Florida will be bloated with tourists. Tropical islands will aloha new faces. Great uncles will greet relatives and their many suitcases. And peace will fall upon Hope. I have traveled a lot in the past year and a half. Studying abroad in Argentina for two semesters gave me the opportunity to go to amazing places, both in the country and out. This spring break, I will be going to Florida with the track team, and forgive me if I thought to myself, "so what?"

One thing about traveling to far off places is that you perceived as being boring and slow-moving. I find myself pretty regularly defending the sport to NBA and NFL fans who crave touchdowns, three-pointers and alley-oops over sac-flies, double plays and pick-off moves. I'm suspecting that this might be the result of a generation accustomed to "Transformers" movies and clicking through YouTube. The thrill of baseball doesn't come through constant numbing stimulation. Instead, baseball sets you up to be amaze.

I sat in Comerica last month as Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the ninth. Fans roared with increasing volume each time Verlander escaped unscathed and no one dared mention the words "no-hitter" lest they anger the baseball gods. The no-hitter eventually fell apart but that was not the exciting part of the game. The opposing pitcher Jared Weaver, was ejected and dragged off the field after he tried to crack a Tiger helmet open with one of his fastballs in the seventh. As I've been thinking about the upcoming season almost obsessively, and in reflecting on my dedication to a pastime that I wish more people understood, I was almost obsessively, and in reflecting on my dedication to a pastime that I wish more people understood, I was

Reaching the news will change your life

Melody Hughes
Columunist

You are reading a newspaper right now, and I’d like to personally thank you for doing that. I have a confession. For a long while I did not read the morning news. I avoided it. There were two main reasons for my avoidance. First, I was unwilling to make time in my morning schedule to even do a quick check online. This laziness was easily justified because I could collect secondhand news by word of mouth or from Facebook. If something really big happened, I’d find out before the day ended. The second reason was what really stopped me though: I found the news to be terrifyingly depressing. I face each day with my own set of problems and challenges, and adding an extra dimension of emotional baggage is just too much to bear.

In more recent months, I had to put the kibosh on this habit. My avoidance of the news not only caused self-induced ignorance, but it revealed a deep level of selfishness. I wanted to preserve my own emotional security—living within the safety of a fence that blocked the world’s onslaught of nightmarish tragedies. And in a world that is and will always be broken, I need to know what’s happening out there, and feel the weight of others’ sadness. There is no other way to be human. I’ve adopted the habit of taking 10-15 minutes in the morning to read news stories and skim stories. Here’s why I read the news, why I hope you continue to read the news, and why I hope you encourage your friends to read the news:

Read to be broken. Over half of the headlines could set off the waterworks in a more tearfully inclined individual. There are two main categories of tragedy: people hurting people (where it be physical, emotional, or otherwise), and accidents/disasters hurting people. The former inflicts the hurt-could-someone-else-do-that-to-someone sort of heartache; the latter inflicts the why-did-that-even-have-to-happen sort. Children are abducted while earthquakes destroy cities while students shoot other students while governments commit genocide. On the surface, it seems I am powerless to do a thing about it. I am one little person without the money or influence or strength to stop these things. The world is full of darkness.

Read to mend. Most of us are not murderers or kidnappers or slime-ball politicians. And this is fantastic, but the act of not being something is a passive act. Instead of not contributing to evil, I must consciously contribute to the goodness. I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Wherever we go this March, be it north, south, or to the quickness of our own homes, let us not forget the people that we will be among. These are the people made by God, made in His very own image. Let us glorify that, and let us glorify Him by glorifying each other.

Happy spring break, Hope College.
The world’s greatest need

Call to Vocation

Kate Schramper
Columnist

My freshman year at Hope, my FYS professor said a little phrase that settled down deep in my head, built a solid little house for itself, and hasn’t left my brain since. She was quoting theologian Frederick Buechner when she told my class, “Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.” I sat there, goggle-eyed, visions of me as the hero of the century flashing before my eyes as I filled in the middle column. I imagined a world where there was no more need; I saw people living out their passions, solving one world problem after another. I was not very excited. I have been brought up in a pretty ‘safe’ environment and being thrust suddenly into the world’s gaping needs with piles of plenty, solving one world problem after another...

Letter to the Editor

A product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on The Anchor are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of The Anchor. One-year subscriptions to The Anchor are available for $40. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

Lindy Melville (12) studying in Chicago

Off-campus study on homelessness

March 14, 2012

I handed her some change and asked if she would be interested in joining us for some breakfast and take them out to breakfast. To be honest it felt somewhat wrong to go scope out someone and then be interested in joining us for some breakfast at the nearby Panera Bread. Her face lit up the instant we asked. She gathered her belongings into a small duffle bag and walked with us to Panera. Her name was Britney. She was in her late 30s/early 40s and had five children all within five years of each other. She said that they all live and go to school in Chicago but she rarely sees them.

Britney loved being in our company. She had so many questions she wanted to ask. One of the first things she wanted to know was if either one of us had any kids. When she found out that we did not, she said that she was great. Losing her children was something that burdened her life and considering that when she was our age she already had at least three, we were doing things better. She then asked us what we were doing in Chicago. We proceeded to tell her that we were taking a class and working in internships. We asked what she liked most about the city and she said that she loved it because there was always something going on. It was just as if she was a normal person like us but we knew when we left her she would go back to sitting on the street with all of her belongings stuffed in a bag.

I think the hardest part for me was deciding what questions to ask. I did not want to get too personal and have her get upset but at the same time I did not want her to think I was treating her differently than I would anyone else. One thing she brought up was how Whitney Houston just died. She said that it was sad but it was her own fault because she got into drugs and alcohol. I found this interesting because when you think of people on the streets sometimes you think of them as druggies and that they spend all of their money on this habit, but Britney was different. She said she could not understand why people did drugs because after their buzz was gone or when they woke up hung over, their problems were still there. She told me that people should look at God for answers instead of things like drugs and alcohol. I was taken aback at that point. I proceeded to ask Britney, where does she stay? She told me that she mainly stays right where I found her on Michigan Avenue and even though she is homeless, God still brings her to the right places every day and she has her trust in Him to lead her way.

This made me realize how small all my problems are in the world. We have to realize that the homeless are real people too. I would really encourage and challenge everyone that the homeless are real people too. I would really encourage and challenge everyone that if someday you encounter someone on the streets, either sit down and have a conversation with them or take them out for a good meal and chat, because you never know how much it could change their week by just caring—and you might never realize how it could change yours even more.

The world’s greatest need

Call to Vocation

Kate Schramper
Columnist

My freshman year at Hope, my FYS professor said a little phrase that settled down deep in my head, built a solid little house for itself, and hasn’t left my brain since. She was quoting theologian Frederick Buechner when she told my class, “Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.” I sat there, goggle-eyed, visions of me as the hero of the century flashing before my eyes as I filled in the middle column. I imagined a world where there was no more need; I saw people living out their passions, solving one world problem after another. I was not very excited. I have been brought up in a pretty ‘safe’ environment and being thrust suddenly into the world’s gaping needs with piles of plenty, solving one world problem after another...
For the past two seasons, the baseball team has finished second in the MIAA, just missing out on an NCAA tournament bid. This year, the team hopes to build on its success from last season and win the conference for the first time since 2007.

“We definitely have the goal of being conference champs, but we want to aim higher than that as well,” co-captain T.J. Klein (’13) said. “We are shooting for a national title and we have the ability to do that. That’s what we’re working on this year. We have a team with the experience, confidence and talent to do that.”

Over half of this year’s roster has at least one year of collegiate varsity experience, and six players on the 2012 team were named to either the first or second All-MIAA team after last season.

“I believe we have a very experienced, talented team this year,” co-captain Danny Dettmar (’12) said. “We are going to put up some of the players’ experience to get us through those tough games.”

The team has won 20 or more games each season since 2008, including a 28-12 season in 2010 and a 26-14 record last year.

“When you look at the last two years we’ve been pretty solid,” head coach Stu Fritz said. “Both of the last two years we’ve had one week where we haven’t played well. We’re looking at consistency. We want to make sure we stay away from the one week where we don’t get it done.”

This year, MIAA baseball, along with several other sports, switched to a four-team conference tournament to determine the MIAA’s automatic qualifier for the NCAA tournament. This new format has an effect on the team’s approach to the season.

“This being the first year of the MIAA tournament I think we’ll have a different focus because the tournament champion gets the NCAA bid.” Fritz said. “While every game is important our goal is to make it into the tournament at the end of the season and then go from there.”

The baseball team opens its home season on March 24 with a game against Adrian, who has claimed the conference title for the past three years. Last year, the Dutchmen went 2-2 against the Bulldogs, gaining both wins in the last game of the season.

Before the home opener, however, the team will travel to Florida for their annual spring break trip, where they will face teams from Iowa, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin.

“We are definitely excited for spring break,” co-captain Jon Ponte (’12) said. “We play nine games in seven days. It is for sure the most fun we have bonding as a team.”

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—STU FRTZ
BASEBALL HEAD COACH

The softball team will also split its weekend matches over April 4 against Alma.

The second All-MIAA team after 2008, including a third in 2010 and second in 2011, the softball team has earned 20 or more wins three times since 2006, finishing two games behind Alma for second place overall in the MIAA. The team returns eight letter-winners, including two all-MIAA honorees in Stephanie Faber (’12) and Emma Page (’14).

“We think all the returners for the coming year are bringing a sense of leadership to the team, since we have a lot of freshman this year,” Faber said. “We are all working extremely hard to step up in certain aspects of the game to give our team the advantages we need to win games.”

The team opens its home season on March 27 against Wheaton and will begin MIAA play on April 4 against Alma.

The Panthers had the edge over the Dutchmen in singles, taking four out of the six matches.

Cawood cruised to victory over Davenport’s Shumilov 6-2, 6-1. Hope’s other singles winner was kreps, who edged Davenport’s Carvalho 7-6 (5), 6-4 in a close battle. kreps tallied the 15th win of his singles career.

Bussies was the only other Dutchmen to force a third set against a Panther, defeating Roland handily 6-1 in the second set but dropping the first and third sets 6-2.

Hope grabbed the 5-4 morning triumph over Davenport.

“The intensity level was high throughout the day,” VanderVeen said. “The team was feeding off the energy generated by each other and by the great showing of fans we had.”

After concluding play against Davenport, Hope’s focus turned to Elmhurst.

In doubles play, Hope’s tandem of Kreps and VanderVeen defeated Elmhurst’s Vince McPherson and Luke Tanaka 8-6. The two doubles wins on the day for VanderVeen gave him 20 total for his career.

Dutchmen duo Bussies and Culver had another good showing in doubles, cruising to an 8-3 victory over the Bluejays’ Kevin Noble and Jim White.

In singles, Cawood took care of Elmhurst’s Alex Harbert 6-3, 6-3. Another victory to his credit, Cawood now boasts a career singles record of 23-2.

John Panzer (’15) joined Cawood as the other Dutchman to wrap up a singles win. Panzer was in command against Justin Goerek, cruising in straight sets 6-1, 6-2.

The Bluejays eventually slipped past the Dutchmen in the afternoon contest, 5-4.

With the indoor season arriving and leaving quickly, the focus needs to remain going outdoors and the weather that it brings.

“We can always improve,” VanderVeen said. “We need to work on developing our overall games as we prepare for the conditions that outdoor tennis presents. With the sun and wind acting up, we really need to be fundamentally sound.”

SPORTS

Baseball and softball prepare for season
Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

FOCUS— Bobby Cawood (’13) earned his 23rd career singles victory on Saturday.

James Rogers
Assistant Sports Editor

WOMEN’S TENNIS

“IT’s a good chance to finally get outside and practice dealing with the sun and wind. We usually face some great competition down there which is fun.”

MEN’S TENNIS

“We have played some of the teams in past years that we will see when we’re there. Each of those matches was highly competitive and we expect no less this year. We’re hoping to get a few victories while we’re there.”

TRACK

“We treat spring break like a business trip; with two meets and five days of practice, we make a lot of improvements in 10 days. That being said, we still have plenty of fun.”

SPORTS editor Bethany Stripp

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BASEBALL HEAD COACH

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