



# THE LAWRENTIAN

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## LUCC denies club recognition to Students for Free Thought

Reporting contributed by The Lawrentian Editorial Board

On Monday, May 22, many Lawrence students gathered in the Warch Campus Center's Mead-Witter Room for the last LUCC General Council meeting of the term. The unusually large turnout was fueled by the presence of the Students for Free Thought (SFT) group after their controversial film screening last Wednesday. During the General Council meeting, many students voiced concerns regarding the SFT group and last Wednesday's event.

When more than one hundred Lawrentians showed up, a Consent Agenda was voted on and passed as a whole. This was to ensure LUCC devoted more time to listen to students who had come to speak about SFT. The meeting lasted over three hours, much longer than a typical General Council meeting that takes sixty to ninety minutes. Before the floor opened to discussion, LUCC projected the Steering Committee's minutes recommending denial of recognition to SFT. This recommendation was approved by the council immediately after introduction.

SFT had met with Steering Committee prior to Wednesday night's film screening and had been placed on a trial period, with recommendations of actions to take to achieve club recognition. By Monday's General Council meeting, SFT reportedly had not followed through with many of these recommendations, including collaborating with other groups and finding a neutral moderator. In addition, SFT was denied LUCC club recognition for several other

listed reasons. These include the group's decision to keep its members anonymous, which goes against the open and public nature of LUCC student organizations, the similarity of the group to other on-campus organizations, the broad and contradictory mission statement of the group and the broad membership guidelines which could lead to subjectivity regarding who can and cannot participate in the group.

After announcing the decision, LUCC President Lewis Berger opened the floor to discussion. He emphasized a 'one mic' precedent and welcomed productive discussion. As the decision to deny the group recognition had already been made, LUCC members, at multiple points, urged students at the meeting to talk about ways to change legislation and move forward as a community. However, many students felt the need to express their concerns surrounding the decision and the events of the past week.

Freshman and SFT co-founder Chris Eichorn read a letter from a student who identified themselves as part of SFT and as a queer person of color, but preferred to keep their identity anonymous. This member spoke in favor of the club and noted its importance on the Lawrence campus.

In response to this, junior Sabrina Conteh validated the experiences of the anonymous member of SFT and noted that one queer person of color did not speak for all marginalized per-



Students crowded all available space in the Mead Witter Room. Photo by Hikari Mine.

sons. Recounting the events of Wednesday night's film screening, she reported that two members affiliated with the club, freshman Chris Wand and junior Jacob Berman, verbally assaulted her. Conteh reported that Berman was drinking publicly in an academic building while Wand filmed her without her consent. She also expressed disappointment in the staff members present in the screening room for not taking action against a student drinking in an academic building.

Junior Selena de Leon chimed in with her account of the screen-

ing and reported that a leader of SFT grabbed her arm when she attempted to stop him from filming Conteh. De Leon vocalized concern that her report of the unwanted physical contact had not yet been processed, and spoke of her fear to walk around on this campus even after investing so much time and money in her Lawrence education. Following comments by Vice President for Student Affairs Nancy Truesdell, De Leon later expressed feelings of invalidation that the administration was unwilling to accept that a Lawrence student was

involved in assault.

SFT co-founder Chris Wand expressed concern that his group had been denied recognition due to political bias against them. He admitted they could have handled things better, but said he reached out to Vice President for Student Life Nancy Truesdell and had not received a response. Wand claimed, "You [LUCC] are not letting us have our club because you politically disagree with us." Berger, in response, directed Wand back to Steering

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## Convocation honors students and faculty



Professor of History and Patricia Hamar Boldt Professor of Liberal Studies Paul Cohen delivered the lecture. Photo by Luke Payne.



Hannah Kinzer Staff Writer

Lawrence University held its annual Honors Convocation on May 23, 2017 from 11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel. Professor of History and Patricia Hamar Boldt Professor of Liberal Studies Paul Cohen gave the address titled, "Presidential Manhood: Masculinity and American Politics in the age of Mass Media." The event also honored students and faculty who received awards at the annual awards banquet held on Monday, May 3 and recognized students newly elected to honors societies.

The opening music for the event included a Prelude performed by Professor of Trumpet John Daniel and Lecturer of Music and University Organist Kathrine Handford. It was followed by a faculty procession into the Chapel with faculty members dressed in

their academic robes and caps.

The event began with an address by Lawrence University President Mark Burstein honoring Lawrence students and faculty who received awards for musical, athletic, scholarly, teaching and social work for the year. He also recognized newly elected honor society members. The address was followed by a musical performance featuring flutes and piccolos conducted by Visiting Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies and Social Engagement Michael Clayville.

Cohen began teaching history at Lawrence in 1985. He received his B.A. in history from Clark University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. Professor Cohen's address centered on the history of masculinity and image in American politics. He proposed that onscreen masculine performance played a larger role in the

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## Addendum

In the news article “Student Outcry over Free Thought Group” published in the May 19 issue, *The Lawrentian* reported that the screening was disrupted by a heated dispute in the audience, with one student being asked to leave. This addendum is to provide a clearer description and more information about the dispute.

During the screening, junior Sabrina Conteh loudly voiced her concerns over the film’s materials. In response, junior Jacob Berman replied with vulgarities. Freshman Chris Wand reportedly paused the screening, started to take a video of the situation with his phone, told Conteh to “shut up and leave” and threatened to call Campus Safety. Conteh protested Wand’s filming of the situation without her consent, and proceeded to leave the screening. Dr. Kimberly Barrett then stepped in to maintain order for the screening to continue. Multiple bias reports surrounding this incident have been filed, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is in the process of examining these reports.

## ORC hosts “Camping in the Courtyard”



**Ben Hollenstein**  
Staff Writer

The Outdoor Recreation Club (ORC) hosted its first on-campus campout from Friday, May 19, to Saturday, May 20. The outdoors can be daunting for someone just starting out, so ORC planned this campout as a trial activity due to its accessibility to the broader student body on campus.

“We thought a campout on campus would be a great way to get people to know what ORC is all about without having to commit to a weekend away from campus,” said sophomore Elijah Kuhaupt, co-treasurer of ORC and one of the planners of the event.

It appeared to work, with over 30 people RSVP’ing. They enjoyed an evening of fellowship, outdoors and of course, food. This time, participants ate burgers, kebabs and sweet corn, while on other off-campus campouts they would eat peanut butter, noodles, rice and beans. After dinner, they

made s’mores and sat around the grill eating and talking.

The campout took place in the Colman courtyard, with the brightly colored tents a reminder to Colman residents of how close the outdoors really are. “Seeing the tents made me want to go camping,” said freshman Joseph Wetzel, a Colman occupant. ORC offers the opportunity to travel to new places while meeting new people, enjoy the outdoors and food, all while having the costs subsidized by LU.

ORC holds a number of trips throughout the year, “most notably during midterm reading periods and Spring Break,” said Kuhaupt. “Anyone can participate on ORC trips.” If you ever want to step out of the Lawrence bubble into the outdoors and enjoy some non-cafeteria food, check out one of their trips. They meet on the second Sunday of each term in the Cinema to talk about upcoming trips and other ways to get involved.

## Student for Free Thought Denied Recognition

*continued from page 1*

Committee’s notes, which pointed to the club’s failure to meet the committee’s recommendations.

Discussion was then steered towards how LUCC could change the structure of the trial period granted to clubs. One suggestion was that at least one class representative should be required to be present at and authorized to shut down all major events of a club which is on a trial period. This was followed up by a point of mandating class representatives to be bystander intervention trained. Another suggestion was to have a caucus of school officials and students that Steering Committee can refer to be responsible for the moderation of potentially disruptive events.

The discussion got heated as a student from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee started

speaking in favor of SFT. After an opposition to her remarks was raised by a Lawrence student, Berger established that the meeting was first and foremost for the Lawrence community to voice their concerns. The UW-Milwaukee student, as well as members of SFT, left the meeting, seemingly in protest. After this, members of SFT and the UW-Milwaukee student reportedly expressed concerns about possible racial bias against them.

Towards the end, Residence Life Committee Chair and junior Dan Thomas-Commins came up with a recommendation for the council to amend Article One of the Constitution to include a commitment to “work purposefully toward dismantling all structural, institutional, cultural, and internal forms and manifestations of

oppression, colonization, discrimination, bias and bigotry against marginalized groups and individuals on and off campus.” The resolution was discussed and put out until next year to be approved by the council and student body.

As the meeting came to a close, some students continued to voice concerns about the way Lawrence handles problems of diversity and asked for improvement. The meeting concluded with Berger reiterating LUCC’s commitment to students’ feedback and to being a resource for the community.

President Mark Burstein sent out a statement to the Lawrence community before Tuesday’s convocation addressing LUCC’s decisions and the efforts Lawrence hopes to make in improving the ways they handle these situations.

## Honors Convocation

*continued from page 1*

2016 election than has previously been recognized. Working within the framework of Judith Butler’s definition of gender as a cultural and historical construct and Raymond Williams’ observations about totalizing effect of mass media, Cohen characterized perceived rules of masculinity in politics. They included the importance of establishing masculinity through decisive action and willingness to use military force and avoiding an overeducated, indecisive or feminine appearance. They also included projecting the image of a “regular guy” and that an image, rather than feats associ-

ated with the masculine, is most important. Cohen illustrated each point with historical figures and elections such as the 1840 presidential election between William Henry Harrison and Martin Van Buren, the 1988 presidential election of George H. W. Bush versus Michael Dukakis, the presidency of George W. Bush and Barack Obama, and the 2016 presidential election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Cohen also underscored the development of the “Cowboy Myth,” in which empathy and compassion were seen as a shortcoming. Professor Cohen noted

how qualities associated with boyhood, such as impulsiveness and irrationality, that were previously looked down upon became essential in the construction of “passionate manhood.” He illustrated the qualities associated with “passionate manhood”—courage, indomitable will, impatience and combativeness—in reference to Theodore Roosevelt. Cohen finished his address with an analogy to the Allegory of the Cave from Plato’s work, *The Republic*, drawing connections between political images in mass media and images projected onto the walls of a cave.

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## World News



Compiled by Rikke Sponheim

### Venezuela

On Saturday May 20, protests against President Maduro have reached 50 consecutive days and are still continuing. Hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets across the country to demand elections be held, freedom for jailed activists, foreign aid and that the opposition in the legislature have autonomy. Many Venezuelans are angry about the government’s spending on military and attempts to maintain control of the country, rather than spending on food and medicine. More than 2,600 protesters have been arrested, a third of whom remain detained. Also, opposition leader Henrique Capriles was banned from holding public office for 15 years in April 2017 and recently had his passport taken away.

### United Kingdom

In Manchester on Monday, May 22, a bomb exploded at the Manchester Arena after an Ariana Grande concert killing 22 people and hospitalizing 59 more. The attacker, Salman Abedi, died in the explosion. Immediately following the explosion there was chaos as people rushed out of the arena. In response, all parties have suspended campaigning for the election on June 8. Britain’s terrorist threat level was raised to severe after the bombing, indicating that the probability of attacks is high. Sadiq Khan, London’s mayor, said there will now be more police on the streets as a precaution.

### Canada

Canada has passed new legislation hoping to help deal with its opioid crisis, which has claimed thousands of lives in the past few years. This new legislation makes it easier to open supervised drug injection sites. Past research has shown that these drug injection sites help prevent overdoses and also minimize drug related crime. Injection sites have been criticized for not doing enough, but many think that it is a step in the right direction. This program’s success in Canada has caught the interest of American cities that also have problems with opioid overdoses.

### Iran

Hassan Rouhani won the Iranian presidential election with 23.5 million votes for a second term on Friday, May 19. Women played a significant part in Rouhani’s re election, as they believed that the conservative candidate would take away many of the freedoms they had gained during Rouhani’s last term. Rouhani was up against opponent Ebrahim Raisi, who received 15.8 million votes. Many think that Raisi was favored to become the next supreme leader by Ayatollah Khamenei after receiving a significant portion of the vote. So while this was a victory for reformists in the short term, the long term appears to be different.

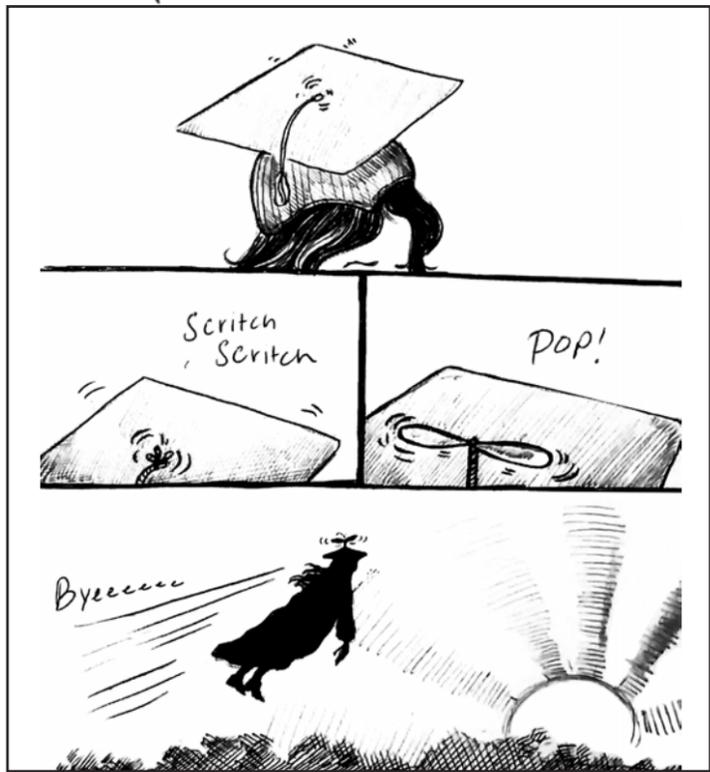
### Africa

A recent report by a coalition between the UK and African development and equality campaigners states that African countries lose about \$40 billion each year. It was reported that although the African countries have received about \$162 billion in loans, \$203 billion was taken from the continent by either multinationals illegally using tax havens and repatriating profits, or by costs set by countries outside Africa for things such as requirements set to prevent climate change. According to one of the economists who worked on this coalition from The Jubilee Debt campaign, Tim Jones, the key point of this research is to show that in order to help countries in Africa, the amount of money that is being taken from Africa needs to be addressed first. The report suggests that the current system of voluntary aid needs to be changed to a system where outside countries and companies pay for the damage that they have caused to African countries.

Source: *The Guardian*

# MEATSALAD

L. Armas



## The Hat Trick

a serial story written by the Creative Writing Club.

### "The Last Trick"

Lia yanked at her handcuffs again. She was ending up handcuffed quite frequently, and it wasn't even her thing. Next to her, Blemy lay limp in his bonds. Tel had been released after an intimidating talk with security. But at least it was over. They had destroyed the hat.

With the sharp snap, the door unlocked, and a figure entered the room, closing the door. "Well now. You've caused quite a commotion. Oh, and you killed your best friend. Terrible." The deep voice was barely recognizable, thrumming with a deep, resonating hum that persisted even after words ended. The Captain stood before them, wearing an engineer's hat. Lia and Blemy stared in shock. The goggles flashed with pure malice as his jaw opened mechanically and the voice resumed.

"Yes, switching the hats worked perfectly. You were all too scared of me to test it." The Captain laughed and drew a knife from his belt. "And now—"

The door swung open and a chatty voice suddenly entered the room, closely followed by its owner. "—asked for me personally, you know. Oh, Captain! Good to see you!" Tel said, and swung his heavy coal shovel into the Captain's head with all his might.

The Captain staggered back, but the hat seemed to absorb most of the hit. Tel brought the shovel down on Lia's and Blemy's handcuffs, smashing them apart. Lia and the guards stared at him, stunned. She snapped out of her shock just before the guards and did the first thing that came to her.

Lia screamed, and the ground gave out beneath them, the air lowering them to the ground far below. They took off running as the Captain yelled to follow them. Bursting onto the deck, their vision was filled with a massive iceberg looming directly ahead of the ship. Their normal course would have taken them close enough to take in the beautiful sight, but now they were heading directly at it. "The hat must have made the Captain change course, and he has the master key," said Blemy.

Blemy pointed at the row of

lifeboats shining brilliantly in the sun. Shouts rose from many decks below them as the Captain and security climbed up.

"You two get in. I'll slow him down." Blemy ran down the stairs. "Let's go!" Tel yelled. Lia looked away. "I started this, and my father is trapped with that thing. I need to end it." Lia ran after Blemy. Tel stood in the bright sunlight, people streaming towards the lifeboats. He looked longingly at them, then turned and ran down into the gloom of the stairway.

Lia found Blemy rushing two guards. He hammered one down. The second hit him square in the jaw. Blemy blinked and hit him back, knocking him to the ground.

The Captain screamed, and several more drew guns. Lia screamed back, and a wave of fire washed over them. They scrambled back in terror, dropping the guns. The Captain was far away enough to avoid the fire, but he still stumbled further away. "We need to burn the hat!" she yelled.

"Kill the witch and the traitor!" the Captain commanded. The guards raised weapons. He stood far behind them, watching gleefully. "On my command!" he said.

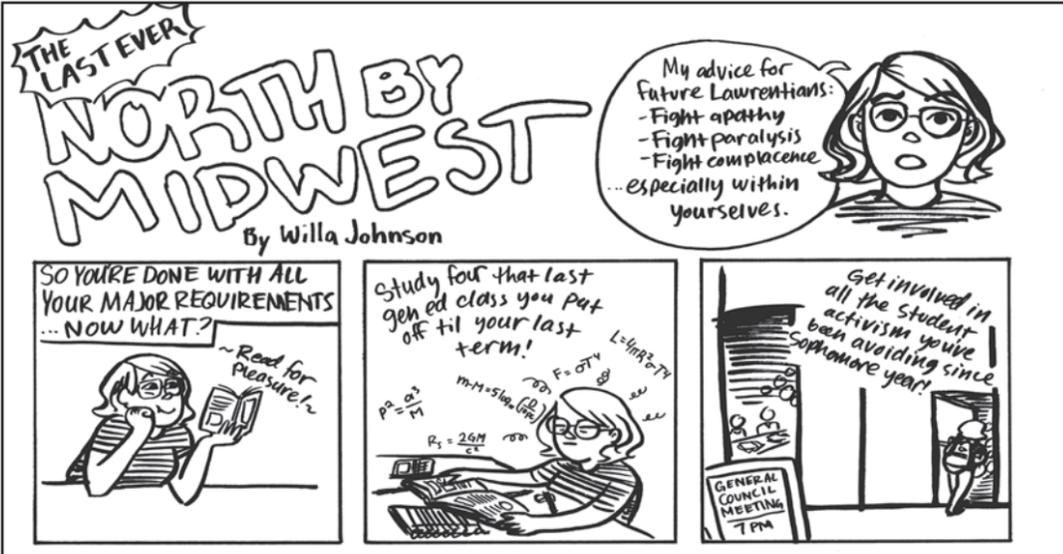
Tel leapt out of a side passage behind him, a can of hairspray in one hand and a lighter in another. He ran right behind the Captain, who turned to receive a face full of fire. He screamed, a terrible resonant scream. Then the hat burst into flame, and he collapsed like a puppet with its strings cut. The guards turned to shoot Tel, but Lia and Blemy tackled them as pieces of fabric and glass fell.

*At least you come with me, Captain.*

The three of them clung to a piece of ship, staring up at the iceberg. The lifeboats had all gone. Lia turned to Tel. "You didn't have to come back," she said. Tel smiled at her. "Of course I came back. For you." He stared into her eyes and leaned towards her.

She leaned back with a smile. "Thanks, but I'm not interested. Let's be friends, shall we?"

Blemy laughed.



## WINDOW SCENE

Excerpts from an overactive imagination.



**SCENE:** Street corner. There is a block party going on; LORRAINE and ETTA are behind a booth. The sun is setting and other booths are closing.

LORRAINE: Who will be the last Julius Street Genius?

ETTA: Come and test your knowledge of these facts!

LORRAINE: Step right up and prove that you know best!

HAROLD: Laughing Alright, alright, I'll do it, sheesh.

CHERYL: Who! Go Dad!

LORRAINE: Hello, sir, are you ready to put yourself to the test?

HAROLD: My daughter seems to think I am.

LORRAINE: You are our lucky, final contestant! Follow me to meet your competition.

LORRAINE leads HAROLD to a bright, freshly painted building behind the booth. It is well lit inside and ten other adults are sitting in foldout chairs facing a giant clock. MATT is at a podium in front of the group.

LORRAINE: Alright, Harold, Matt will take the lead now. Good luck! She winks and leaves. HAROLD sits.

MATT: Okay everyone, this survey has seven high level questions with six answers to choose from, including a fill-in-your-own option. You will have seven min-

utes to complete it. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card of their choosing—that is, the last of the five we have. Harold, you can find supplies underneath your chair—yep, you got it. He presses a button and the giant clock starts ticking down.

MATT: Smiling Begin. The time passes and a buzzer goes off.

MATT: Drop those pens! Please stand by as I collect your papers. MATT collects the papers and takes a seat behind the podium. After a few moments he gets up.

MATT: And the winner is... Jean! Come on up here and grab your \$100 Target gift card. A woman gets up excitedly and grabs the card from MATT. LORRAINE enters.

LORRAINE: Thank you everyone for playing, I hope you had as much fun as we did. The block party is ending soon, but there's plenty of food trucks still out. Enjoy the rest of your evening. The other adults filter out, but HAROLD lags behind, walking to LORRAINE.

HAROLD: Those were some interesting questions on that quiz.

LORRAINE: Smiling Well, we tried to be unique.

HAROLD: Well, I sure was bamboozled! You kids have a good

night.

LORRAINE: Thank you, Harold. Goodbye.

The block party dies out, and eventually only ETTA, MATT, AND LORRAINE are still in the area. They are inside of the warehouse.

ETTA: Oh my, God! I can't believe this worked!

LORRAINE: Squeals I knew it would.

MATT: Shaking his head in disbelief All 50 of them! They just filled the questions in, with no thought.

LORRAINE: It was the time crunch, makes you forget to think. Speaking of...

MATT: Yeah, I'm working it. He pulls a laptop from under the podium.

MATT: I was working during intermissions. Less than 10 minutes until completion.

ETTA: This is surreal. Financial stability. For a little while, anyway.

MATT: For quite a while, you two picked good. Even after we pay those who helped us, we'll be pretty set.

LORRAINE: Smiles We did it guys, we really did it. Robbed a bank without stepping a foot into it.

THE END

## MADITUDE ADJUSTMENT



Madeira Seaman . 17.

# Athletes rewarded for their hard work at Blu Crew Awards

**Molly Doruska**  
Staff Writer

On Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m., the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted the second annual BLU Crew awards. The awards banquet is a gathering of all the student athletes on campus to celebrate their accomplishments throughout the year. Athletes nominate their peers for 13 awards and the winners are announced live.

"BLU Crew awards is about recognizing the achievements of all Lawrence athletes throughout the year and it is a time for everyone to come together and celebrate each other. The athletic department does a good job of recognizing success all across the board" said junior Anna Vogel, one of the hosts for the event. "I'm super excited for the event and SAAC has been working really hard to make sure that it runs smoothly and is fun for everyone. [Junior] Mikkel [Joehnk] and I have been having a lot of fun preparing," added Vogel. Joehnk was Vogel's co-host for the event.

In the category Breakthrough Athlete of the Year, sophomore Taylor Reifert of the men's soccer team, junior Ben Peterson of

the men's basketball team, junior Kori Looker of the softball team and junior Hannah Kinzer of the women's cross country and track and field teams were nominated. This award honors an athlete who made strong improvements from the year before and became an important contributor for their team. Nominated for Best Lawrence Win were the women's basketball team for their win against Marian, the hockey team for their win over Augsburg, sophomore cross country and track and field athlete Josh Janusiak for his win at the Midwest Conference Championships, softball for their win against Benedictine (Ill.) and senior tennis player Alicia Lex for her win against Monmouth.

In the category of Most Outstanding Play, junior Lauren Deveikis' game-winning three-pointer against Marian, women's swimming 200-yard freestyle relay team at the Midwest Conference Championships made up of senior Paige Witter, senior Danielle Milan, junior Eryn Blagg and freshman Bridget Duero, senior hockey player Brad Muller's game-winning goal in overtime versus Northland, freshman football player Terrell

Myers's 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Illinois College, sophomore baseball player Nolan Spencer's steal of home versus Clarkson and Janusiak's record-setting 10,000-meter run at the Hillsdale Gina Relays were nominated. Nominated for Biggest Upset were the men's hockey team for their win over No. 6 Augsburg, the women's swim team for placing second at the Midwest Conference Championships, the men's swim team for placing fourth at the Midwest Conference Championships, freshman cross country runner Joe Kortenhof for placing fifth among all freshman at the NCAA Midwest Cross Country Regional, softball for their win over Benedictine (Ill.) and freshman track and field athlete Mikaela Hintz for her fifth place finish in the 400-meter dash at the Midwest Conference Outdoor Championships.

For Best Individual Performance, the women's swimming record-setting 200-yard freestyle relay, Reifert for his performance in the game against Edgewood, senior basketball player Peter Winslow for his games versus Illinois College and Cornell College, Peterson for his game

against Knox College, Janusiak for his win at the Midwest Conference Cross Country Championships, Janusiak for his record-setting 10,000-meter run at the Hillsdale Gina Relays and freshman track and field athlete Noah Shea for his triple jump and Newcomer of the Year wins at the Midwest Conference Indoor Championships were nominated. Nominated for Rookies of the Year, both men and women, were Shea, Myers, freshman hockey player Evan Cline, Hintz, freshman softball player Amanda Karnatz and freshman swimmer Elsie Riggle.

In the category of Coach of the Year, tennis coach Steve Francour, swim coach Drew Fleek and men's soccer coach Will Greer were nominated. For Male Athlete of the Year, Reifert, junior football player Jake Gostisha, junior baseball player Matthew Holiday, senior tennis player David Jumes and Janusiak were nominated. On the women's side Kinzer, sophomore volleyball player Arianna Neumeyer, Karnatz and junior soccer player Ryan Berkley were nominated for Female Athlete of the Year.

For the Defensive Award, Gostisha, junior volleyball player

Cyra Bammer, Spencer, senior women's soccer player Casey Merkle and Cline were nominated. Nominated for the Viking Award were Blagg, junior women's basketball player Natalie Kramer, senior football player and track and field athlete Jackson Straughan and junior volleyball player Colleen Nowlan. This award honors some who truly embody what it means to be a Viking. Finally, for the Iorn Vike award, Neumeyer, sophomore softball player Maddie MacLean, junior men's soccer player Lewis Berger and junior hockey player Jake Roper were nominated. The Iorn Vike award honors those who put in extra effort in the weight room and is chosen by athletic performance coach Tyler Ayers.

The Lawrence student athletes do not often have the opportunity to come together because of their busy schedules of class, homework and practice. The BLU Crew awards is a fun event where they come together to celebrate everything that was accomplished in the last year.

## Farewell to Coach Ayers

**Michele Haeblerlin**  
Staff Writer

The Lawrence University athletic department is losing their athletic performance coach at the end of this school year. Tyler Ayers, known more commonly as Coach Ayers, has decided to move back to his hometown in sunny Florida—can't blame him, beaches beat cold winters here any day. Looking back on his time here, Coach Ayers stated, "My time here at Lawrence has been one I'll carry with me for the rest of my life. The

athletes, coaches and administration have had a lasting impact on me during my short stint here as the Athletic Performance Coach. I stepped into a newly created role here, being the first full-time Athletic Performance (Strength and Conditioning) Coach here at LU. Most of everything that I did was new to the athletes and the sport coaches, going away from open-all athlete sessions to "team oriented" workouts, where players would train with their teammates and be pushed to work through things as a group. This

was in an effort to build team chemistry, trust and camaraderie amongst the team. I believe my time here at LU was successful. Did I accomplish everything I wanted to? No, but I'm confident that the next person hired will take the solid foundation that's been laid & will be able to take it to the next level. I told athletes and coaches when I first arrived, if I could impact some of the student athletes' lives in a positive manner and reduce some of the major athletic injuries, that my time here would be considered a success

and I think we've done that."

Coach Ayers wished to finish his interview with one final statement to the Lawrence University staff and students involved in the athletic program, saying, "I want to wish the best to all Viking student athletes in the upcoming 2017-18 year. Continue to build on what's been laid and never settle for anything less than greatness. I'm looking forward to following Viking Athletic successes from afar next year and the years to come. Go Vikes!"

## Correction

In the May 19 issue on page 5, the photo of *Viking of the Week: Wes Hetcher* was mistakenly credited to Sarah Grubbe. The photo was taken by Victor Nguyen.



Last weekend saw the close of Lawrence's sports activities for the year 1956-1957. Some of the accomplishments were worthy of a Viking Saga. Others did not appear to be.

### Track

To get the unfortunate out of the way first, we will begin with track. Our seventh place in the conference can only be called disappointing. We had hoped for a lot from this squad and they had done a fine job throughout the season, competition just got awfully rough when it came down to the conference meet.

Winsor's first in the discus and second in the shot put are certainly worthy of a large amount of praise. Similarly, Sutherland's fourth place in the mile, Schwendler's fourth in the javelin, Mulford's fourth in the half-mile and Klingbeil's fifth in the 220 were all important contributions.

We can only hope that next year, with a promising freshman

class coming up and improvement from those who will still be here, that Lawrence will do better.

### Golf

Golf, in which the Vikes took fifth in conference, is a little more encouraging. True, a fifth place does not seem like anything to get excited about, but when the accomplishments of last year are considered, a great deal of progress can be seen. Also, with most of the men scheduled to return, we can look for a brighter future in golf.

### Tennis

Now for the gem of our spring sports squads—our net men really did a great job. In a shortened version of the conference meet, The Vikes took three of four first places—all in the singles. Doubles competition was canceled on account of the inclement weather; that is to say, it rained.

Dick Rine came through with his second non-consecutive conference win. In his final effort as a Viking, Dick was really in cham-

pionship form. His teammates Dick Weber and Bob Van Dale also showed themselves to be competitors of the first rank as they brought championships home to Lawrence. Weber won the number two singles and Van Dale the number four.

The whole tennis team is deserving of a lot of praise as the men have had an outstanding record this year.

### Today's Take

In some ways, Lawrence athletics has changed a lot over the last 60 years, but in others, things have remained constant. This article is a testament to both these similarities and differences.

The most striking difference is the absence of women's sports. Today, Lawrence fields both men's and women's teams in most sports, with hockey, volleyball and football being notable exceptions. Back in 1957, this was not the case. The implementation of Title IX ensures that today, both men and women can participate in ath-

letics. While we can sometimes take this for granted nowadays, it is important to recognize that this was not always the case.

The presence of golf is another notable difference. Today, Lawrence no longer fields a golf team. In 1957, the golf team was thought to have a bright future—and it surely did. The team had many successes over the past six decades. However, this brightness was extinguished and marked the end of a legacy at Lawrence. It is a shame and serves as a reminder that nothing is permanent. While some things seem fixed and immobile, all are vulnerable to change. If the 1957 golf team had been polled, I doubt they would foresee the demise of their team.

Accepting these differences, athletics at Lawrence have remained relatively consistent since 1957. Lawrence has remained in the same conference, the same sports (except golf) still exist today and athletics continues.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

AUTHOR:  
UNKNOWN

ATHLETES HONORED  
BY TEDDY KORTENHOF

PUBLISHED:  
MAY 22, 1986



The most important takeaway is that change is inevitable but not unilaterally good. Some changes, like the addition of women's sports, are a benefit to all. However, changes like the removal of the golf team hurt the tradition and legacy of Lawrence athletics. Looking forward, change is exhilarating and exciting, but not without costs. These costs and benefits should be recognized.

CASSIE'S SPORTS ADVICE  
OF THE WEEK

"Remember to stretch your elbows!"  
-Cassie Gitkin  
Op-Ed Editor

# LET'S GO, LAWRENCE!

# VIKINGS OF THE TERM

## Amanda Karnatz Softball

**Sarah Grubbe**  
Staff Writer

*This week, I had the pleasure of speaking with Amanda Karnatz, a freshman softball player. Karnatz recently won the Blu Crew award for Rookie of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year.*

**Sarah Grubbe:** Congratulations on being named both the Rookie and the Female Athlete of the year! What are you thinking about all of the recent recognition?



Photo by Victor Nguyen.

**Amanda Karnatz:** It's very gratifying to be recognized for the hard work that I put in on the field. Our team has a great dynamic and we get out what we put in. Being so committed can become stressful at times, but I am reminded by this [recognition], my coach, my team and my family that putting my all into everything I do is well worth it.

**SG:** You're a dual degree student with a BA in Math, a BM in Vocal Performance, involvement in Delta Gamma and you're an integral part of the softball team. How are you managing all of the commitments?

**AK:** I have a great support system. I have an awesome relationship with my coach who provides me with leadership and also a personal investment. My mom is always on the other end of the phone when I'm stressed out and I have a great team. I really look up to the seniors too who are supportive and helpful, but really everyone on the team is someone I can look up to. They model great work ethics and remind me to keep going.

**SG:** The softball team was recently recognized for its staggering amount of community service hours. What does the service mean to your team?

**AK:** Our team is focused on direct impact service and it really shapes the nature of our team and is what I think makes our team special. Our coach places a heavy emphasis on service and giving back to our community. We enjoyed participating in the Polar Plunge and we have, as a team, made really strong and unique connections with people through the Friends of Jaclyn program.

**SG:** Throughout recruitment you kept the LU name in mind. Is there anything in particular that drew you to Lawrence?

**AK:** My coach is a huge part of the reason that I came to Lawrence. I knew that if I were to come here I would be able to do what I wanted to do—I'm able to sing and pursue a dual degree in mathematics and be a part of Greek life and play softball. In the end, it came down to where I felt the best about going.

**SG:** What are you looking forward to for the next season in terms of growth?

**AK:** I was two bases away from breaking the conference record of stolen bases, so I'd like to become faster and more agile. I know that our whole team is looking forward to trying to make it to conference. I've fallen in love with the game, which trumps fatigue and stress. At the end of the day, I enjoy what I do. It's a great physical outlet and I have fun when I'm on the field. I'm ready to keep working hard and giving my best efforts to something I love to do.

## David Jumes Men's Tennis

**Shane Farrell**  
Co-Sports Editor

*This week I had the pleasure of talking with David Jumes, a senior and number one player on the men's tennis team who recently set a school record for singles wins. He also led his team for a second straight year to a conference birth. Jumes was nominated for the Blu Crew award Male Athlete of the year for his hard work and dedication.*

**Shane Farrell:** How do you feel you ended your season in singles, doubles and as a team?



Photo by Victor Nguyen.

**David Jumes:** I felt like it was a solid season overall in singles and doubles, but I didn't have as strong of finishes as I was hoping to at conference. As a team, I was extremely proud of us making it back to the conference tournament and having some strong singles wins there as well, with David Brooker taking second at the six singles flight.

**SF:** You set a record single wins in your career—what does that mean to you?

**DJ:** I didn't think they counted wins at conference, so towards the end of this season, I thought I was competing for the second most wins. It was quite a shock when my coach told me that I was then tied for the most wins and it's quite the honor to have my name up there next to Jason and Ryan Dunn, who are great tennis players.

**SF:** Will you still play tennis after Lawrence?

**DJ:** I think I'll hang up the tennis rackets for the summer and pick up a surfboard instead, but I have no doubt I'll start playing again in the fall.

**SF:** What is your favorite tennis memory?

**DJ:** On the court, I really enjoyed saving seven match points and eventually beating Lake Forest in doubles last year, combined with beating them at conference later and taking second in the one doubles flight. Off the court, I remember my first interaction with Adam Busch and Brian DeCorte like it was yesterday. We hit a few volleys, ate some tacos and got conned into helping Ali Heiring move her futon to the fourth floor of Brokaw when I was a prospective student.

**SF:** What do you plan on doing after Lawrence?

**DJ:** I'm going to be taking my finals early and moving out to California for the summer while interning at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI). I'm pretty stoked, but then I'm going to try and find a job in the Fox Cities area as a chemist and apply for grad school.

**SF:** Is there anyone you'd like to thank?

**DJ:** I'd like to give a big shout out to my parents for making it to almost every match, the guys on the team (this year and previous years) for all their hard work and Kei Nishikori's videos for teaching me how to hit winners from the baseline.

# BLU CREW AWARD WINNERS

## AWARD

- BREAKTHROUGH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
- MALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
- FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
- BIGGEST UPSET OF THE YEAR
- BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE
- GIVE BACK AWARD
- TEAM GPA AWARD
- MOST OUTSTANDING PLAY
- DEFENSIVE AWARD
- BEST DRESSED
- COACH OF THE YEAR
- VIKING AWARD
- FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
- MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

## WINNER

- TAYLOR REIFERT
- NOAH SHEA
- AMANDA KARNATZ
- HOCKEY VS. AUGSBURG
- WOMEN'S SWIMMING
- SOFTBALL
- MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (3.64)
- WBB GAME WINNER VS. MARIAN
- JAKE GOSTISHA
- ZACH RABIDEAU & SAM BELLENTINI
- ANDREW FLEEK
- JACKSON STRAUGHAN
- AMANDA KARNATZ
- JOSHUA JANUSIAK



# Sell Us Your Major: Multi-Interested



**Katie Mueller**  
Staff Writer

*This column is devoted to sharing student and faculty input on the various majors offered at Lawrence. The goal is to highlight areas of study that are not well known and to provide undecided students an inside look at things they may want to study.*

While Lawrence University offers many different majors and areas of study that provides students with unique opportunities to engage, to develop new ways of thinking and to connect with one another, students who have not yet found the area of study on which they want to focus most of their time can still have these same opportunities. It is fairly common to find freshmen and sophomores at Lawrence who are undecided, or 'multi-interested,' as Lawrence students and faculty like to say. With so many different areas of study to choose from—ranging from musical to scientific; art history to linguistics—there is no need to choose one right away. Students can take their time finding what they are most passionate about by experimenting with the wide range of available courses.

Going into college with an undecided major can actually be a great opportunity for students to experience many different areas of study. Freshman Tashi Haig commented, "Coming to school without a set

major allowed me to not be defined by my major and to take a variety of classes which interested me rather than having to immediately start following a class sequence."

Freshman Max Craig shared his perspective as well, commenting, "I always found picking a major before you test it out to be a weird decision. Maybe this is because I'm indecisive, but I feel like pre-determining your major could pigeonhole you into taking specific types of classes, without a lot of room to feel out other possibilities. If you're coming to college with a lot of confidence in one major, declare it. But if you're not so sure, being undecided gives you a lot more wiggle room."

Haig also spoke to this idea as she stated, "I feel that coming to your first year of college without a set major allows you the space to grow and change. Once you start college, a lot can change about yourself, so it's good to not be too fixated on a certain path in case you find a new passion while learning new things in college."

Craig spoke to the benefits of going into college with an undecided major, commenting, "I've broadened my horizons by taking a wide array of classes. I've taken classes in biology, anthropology and philosophy, to name a few. All of them have been super interesting, and I don't think I would've taken them otherwise. I've also been able to find which classes interest me the most, which has brought me closer to determining a major. I don't think I'd be as secure in a choice of major if I chose it before I tested other subjects out."

Over the course of this year as a stu-

dent with an undecided major, Craig has come to feel more confident about which area of study he wants to focus on. He stated, "Overall, I'm fairly confident that English will end up being my major. Every book I've read at Lawrence, I've loved. I even liked Freshman Studies, and I like the feeling of having written something good. When I first came to Lawrence, I was leaning toward Environmental Studies (ENST). Upon testing out an ENST course, however, I figured out that the subject wasn't for me. I probably wouldn't be as content about eliminating it as a potential path had I come to Lawrence already having declared ENST as my major, which is why I'm glad I remained undecided."

Haig had a similar experience in navigating through possible majors as she has so many different interests. She stated, "I came to school with several humanities, arts and English classes lined up. I enjoy humanities classes as they broaden my perspective and understanding of different people and cultures around the world, while English has always been a favorite subject of mine, since I love writing. Art is something which I have always found therapeutic and rewarding since I love the opportunity to think creatively and represent these ideas physically."

The benefits of going into college with an undecided major are in-tune with the benefits of a liberal arts model for learning. Haig spoke to this, stating, "Liberal arts education emphasizes learning many kinds of subjects to have a well-rounded education, and I feel that being undecided allows

you to take a wide range of courses which can fulfill these requirements and make you branch out of your comfort zone to realize where your interests truly lie."

Here at Lawrence, there is great academic value in remaining open to new ways of thinking no matter what major you declare, and to be excited about studying different areas and finding how they connect to one another. "A liberal arts education is supposed to broaden your horizons and to feed your curiosities, and being undecided has done just that for me," commented Craig.

Coming to Lawrence with an undecided major is welcomed as a great opportunity for students. Undecided students can be content with not knowing exactly which courses lie ahead of them in their studies, giving them a lot of room to be curious, thoughtful and passionate. Here at Lawrence, students are encouraged to draw inspiration from the spirit of being undecided, or "multi-interested."

As I wrote this column, I personally felt the spirit of being multi-interested. Despite the vast array of areas of study from which we can choose, I have witnessed the same gleam in the eyes of professors and students alike whenever they talk about their true passions. While writing this column, I began to see how all of our passions are connected and how they drive us to pursue an understanding of the world around us—an understanding that could bring us together instead of creating division. This is a goal for which we all can strive.

## An Open Letter to the Class of 2017



**Karina Barajas**  
Staff Writer

Dear Class of 2017,

Thank you for making "The Lawrence Difference" the Lawrence Difference. You survived challenging classes, all-nighters and plagues of river bugs. You made the campus a better place with your intellectual curiosity and passion to volunteer and engage with the campus community. You will truly be missed...until you decide to come back for alumni weekend! The seniors who shared their memories of Lawrence with *The Lawrentian* agree that they would pick this school all over again, and thank their professors, peers and friends for all of their support.

Senior Torrey Smith is a French and Francophone Studies Major. Smith has been at Lawrence since freshman year and attributes her success to her 24/7 friendships and support from her professors. Her best memories are when she studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal in West Africa. The experience opened her eyes to a whole different culture.

Although Smith knew what she wanted to major in at the beginning of her freshman year, her advice to herself as a freshman is, "Don't worry about not knowing what to do because you'll figure it out." After graduation, Torrey plans to return to Indianapolis, Indiana to work at home, then to travel to Jersey City to work for non-profits or cultural centers, particularly in arts and music. She wants to be remembered as the person who listened to and supported her fellow classmates.

Senior Suzanne Hones is a Linguistics and French and Francophone Studies major. When asked what she will miss the most, Hones replied, "Easy: TriVR (among other things). I committed myself to TriVR more than any other extracurricular, which I am okay with." When asked about her post-

graduation plans, Hones responded, "I am still looking for a summer job, but I'll be moving to France in October to work as an English teaching assistant for about 7 months. I'm very excited!"

Hones has had many memorable moments, but playing the Great Midwest Trivia Contest since her freshman year was the most fun in her opinion. "Also, I loved when they played The Room for April Fool's Day last year," added Hones. "If I could give my freshman self advice, it would be, 'Don't take computer science! Biggest hit to my GPA I've taken,'" said Hones.

Tammy Li is a Piano Performance major with a minor in German Studies. She attended Lawrence for four years as an international student from China. Li was an exchange student in high school, then decided to apply for college in the United States. Her favorite memory was her senior recital. Li went to Berlin, Germany in December term. She wants to be remembered as a musician and dancer. She was involved in the Lawrence International Cabaret for all four years of her college career and enjoyed performing in the show because it allowed her to explore her culture in a new way.

"I care about it in how people would perceive us not knowing our culture," Li commented. "I think I would have a hard time imagining what it would be like being an international student at another school." Her advice to herself as a freshman is, "Learn to say no and evaluate what you have on your plate."

Jessica Hoyer is a Linguistics major. She came to Lawrence as a junior transfer student, and has been excited to be part of the Lawrence community as it was her first-choice school. "The most difficult part of being a transfer student is that they constantly mistake my year, but the support of other transfer students and The Lawrence Connection (TLC) helps," said Hoyer. She enjoyed the President's Ball and performing in Rocky Horror her junior year. She wants to be remembered as a kind, helpful person.

"I don't have any regrets being a fresh-



man, but I wish I came to Lawrence sooner," commented Hoyer. After graduation, she is thinking of finding a job or internship in publishing. According to Hoyer, "The Lawrence Difference" is calling campus security whenever there is a swarm of bugs.

*The Lawrentian* would like to congratulate all of the graduating seniors on completing their journey at Lawrence. From the stressful, to the embarrassing, to the very silly, we hope all of the memories you made at Lawrence University stay with you as you begin the next chapter of your life.

Wherever you go, and whatever you do, always remember that you are, and always will be, a Lawrentian.

**Congratulations  
Class of 2017!**

# Hidden Figures of Lawrence: Antonio Rockett



**Juliana Olsen-Valdez**  
Staff Writer

*This column is devoted to highlighting staff members that play a huge role in the everyday experiences of the Lawrence community. The goal is to focus on the "Hidden Figures" of Lawrence University and their interests both within, and outside of Lawrence.*

At the Warch Campus Center, Antonio Rockett sees it all. Rockett is an administrative assistant, most recognized by students as the face behind the information desk during the third shift from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Rockett's main role is to oversee information desk duties, which include making sure tech crew completes room set-ups, preparing room signs and completing other tasks to ensure that Warch will be ready for the following day.

This coming September will mark four years since Rockett began his position at Lawrence. Rockett has seen the transformation of the Senior class from brand new freshmen to college graduates. Rockett reflected, "This year's senior class, I started with them. I have seen people make a progression in the people they are and it is nice to see."

Rockett has been working third shift jobs for a total of twenty years and he says he doesn't mind the long nights, remarking, "I like [the third shift]; it's peaceful for the most part." Rockett says the most important part of staying awake through the night is to get ample sleep during the day. "Usually I sleep for a few hours in the morning after I get done with work. And then I will try

to get a few more hours before I get here. I'm so used to it now; it's not a big deal," he commented.

Rockett has worked the third shift in paper mills and was also a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for six years in nursing homes. Rockett said he really enjoyed his CNA work, adding, "I never thought I could really do it until I had kids. Once I had kids, [you realize] there are a lot of similarities; [the] people are just older."

Rockett loves his job at Lawrence, and he said the time he has during the third shift, along with the tranquility and the view are the highlights of his position. Although Rockett misses out on the sun rise (the Warch information desk faces the West), he enjoys watching the sun set quite a bit, which he thinks is just as nice!

Furthermore, Rockett said that his favorite aspect of the job is that he has plenty of time to study for his classes. Rockett is a full-time online student at the University of Phoenix, currently working towards a Bachelor's degree in Business. Therefore, the third shift allows for plenty of time to complete his work and study for classes. "It doesn't really take me long to do what I need to do. I can usually get it done within the first couple of hours," Rockett commented.

Although Rockett does not have much free time outside of his job, he has started working out again, and also studies if he has time during the day. "I like to catch up on sleep if I can," Rockett added. Rockett is also a big fan of basketball, and likes to follow LeBron James. Additionally, Rockett is always up for listening to 90s R&B and hip-hop music.

During the day, Rockett also appreciates the few hours of time he gets with his



Administrative Assistant Antonio Rockett sits at the Information Desk during the night shift.  
Photo by Larissa Davis.

identical twin daughters. His daughters go to Appleton West High School and they are looking into future college plans after high school.

Naturally, Rockett said that the most important thing to him outside of his job are his children. He commented, "[I am] just trying to get [my daughters] through college. They are a big reason that I am still in the area, and so I will be dedicating the next five years of my life working here until they graduate." Even with a different career path in mind, Rockett is focusing on his current position in order to provide for his kids.

When asked about the "Lawrence Difference," Rockett explained: "College life is kind of a lot [about] people doing new things, trying new things and meeting a lot of new people." Rockett believes

that maybe more than any unique 'difference' in Lawrence students, he notices the student interactions, changes and overall excitement that are a part of the Lawrence University experience.

The excitement on campus only seems to be increasing as the year draws to a close. With LUaroo this weekend and less than two weeks until finals, it seems that so much is happening in this short amount of time. The graduating seniors are reflecting on their four years of life at Lawrence, and Antonio Rockett has had a front row seat to the everyday life of those students as well! So, before heading out for the year, remember to thank the staff that we see every day. These are the people that may know us well, even though we may not know them.

## Radio for Rwanda a Big Success

**Grace Reif**  
Staff Writer

The fifth-annual Radio for Rwanda event was a hit this past weekend, bringing in guests from all walks of life at Lawrence to sing, perform instruments, recite poetry, improvise comedy and much more. This event was a collaboration between WLFM, the campus radio station and GlobeMed, a social justice organization dedicated to working for health as a human right. The 12-hour giving program was broadcasted on WLFM and co-hosted by seniors Margaret Koss, who handled the WLFM side; and Clarissa Frayn, who was in charge of the GlobeMed side. The event served to fundraise for "nutrition improvement and economic independence for a community of potters in Masoro, Rwanda," according to Frayn.

"The community of potters is historically marginalized by the Rwandan government and face disproportional poverty," Frayn continued. "In Radio for Rwanda, we're able to raise money for our partner organization, Health Development Initiative (HDI) in Kigali, Rwanda, to serve that community."

According to the HDI website, the organization is a "non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Kigali and registered under Rwandan law" that seeks to "have a society in which everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the highest standard of health and well-being, regardless of social, cultural or economic status."

Although final calculations of the donations are still being made, it is estimated that this year's fundraiser brought in around \$2,000 for the community of potters, which is comparable to the amount of funds raised last year. "It was really a grassroots effort. A lot of small donations, which was cool. A lot of people were engaged," said Koss. "This was also the first year that GlobeMed

members who were not involved in the first year of Radio for Rwanda weren't there," Frayn added.

Koss stated, "I think it's cool that we don't really have any other radio fundraisers [at Lawrence]. This is our fifth year, and it's an event that was started by students. So it's been entirely student innovated and run, and that's really cool because it takes a lot of work to organize it on both sides, for WLFM and GlobeMed, and to get people to come on-air. It's incredible that each year we get people to fill the time slots. I think people should look forward to it every year, because we don't really get to hear all these voices from Lawrence all at once, in one concentrated place for one cause."

The community-centered event was played in the café throughout most of the 12-hour run time. To motivate listeners to donate, Koss and Frayn brought in professors, administrators and students from different clubs around campus. Frayn explained that "Professor Range donated a book for people to call in, other people read graduation speeches until people called in to donate." Koss added, "The Appletones came on and sang 'Jolene' but changed the lyrics to fit the event. It was great."

"I think every time someone different came on it created a different vibe," continued Koss. "It was great to see everybody coming together to engage in global social justice. I think the way that GlobeMed chooses to engage with the global community is ethical, we try to not be as paternalistic as the typical Western cause. We try and create conscious student leaders."

If students want to get involved with Radio for Rwanda next year, they should reach out to Ellie Van Why and Augie Groeschel-Johnson, the new leadership of GlobeMed, and if they would like to be featured on-air next year, they should contact junior Leif Olsen, next year's host.

## Rundown of Reunion Weekend

**Sarah Wells**  
Staff Writer

"Don't just reminisce. Renew." As current students leave campus for the summer, alumni fill in their places for one weekend when they come together for class reunions. Approximately 1,000 people come back each summer to celebrate their Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer experiences. Reunions were originally held during commencement week, but there have been various forms of reunions occurring annually since 1876.

This year, class reunion is happening from June 15 to June 18. The classes of 2011, 2012 and 2013 will be celebrating their fifth cluster reunion while the classes of 1986, 1987 and 1988 will be celebrating their thirtieth cluster reunion. Other reunions that will be celebrated include the tenth reunion for the class of 2007, twenty-fifth for the class of 1992, 40th for the class of 1977, fiftieth for the class of 1967, fifty-fifth for the class of 1962 and the Golden Reunion for Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer alumni from classes of 1966 and earlier.

A wide variety of events held all weekend will keep the alumni busy. On June 15, there will be a 50-Year Connection. This event started in 2012 to give alumni an opportunity to experience social and intellectual stimulation based on the common ground of a Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer education. June 16 provides the clusters and classes a chance to meet with one another within their various gatherings. A dinner will be held on the Main Hall Green and after, an alumni recital will be held featuring an array of talented alumni musicians. The alumni will also be given the chance to attend school again by participating in multiple sessions and learn to about a variety of topics, from Lawrence's history to The Beatles.

June 17 will start off with the Gene Davis Memorial 5K run/walk in memory of Coach Davis. There will also be an opportunity to meet with Lawrence's president at the Breakfast with Burstein. Next, each of the classes will join in the traditional march to Memorial Chapel for the Reunion Convocation. This convocation recognizes the special contributions made by Lawrentians and Downerites, music by the Alumni Choir, President Burstein's Convocation address and reunion class gifts and alumni awards. The clusters and classes will take reunion photos and enjoy receptions, dinners and an all-reunion picnic.

The last day of the Reunion weekend, June 18, includes a day trip to Bjorklunden where alumni can revisit or discover the beautiful retreat. There will also be a Multifield Alumni Prayer Service held that will be filled with prayers, wisdom and music. Alumni can both participate, help shape and lead the service.

Alumni can relive their college years a little bit more by choosing to stay with each other in the dorms on campus. This year, the fifth cluster and tenth reunions can stay in Plantz Hall. The twenty-fifth and thirtieth cluster can stay in Sage. The fortieth, fiftieth, fifty-fifth and Golden Reunions would stay in Hiatt. All alumni are welcome to bring family members as well.

The registration deadline for attending the Reunion weekend is June 8. To know the dates of any future reunion, Lawrence's website has a class reunion calculator that provides the information. Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence have not only provided opportunities to students current and past, but keep giving each student a place to create memories to remember for the rest of their lives. The Reunion weekend is a chance to relive those memories and to see how both the campus and the lives of former classmates have changed.

## Meditations on Music

Sam Genualdi



**Izzy Yellen**  
Columnist

On Friday, May 19, senior Sam Genualdi released his debut album, "Looking Through the Glass," a journey through his musical passions and identity as a songwriter. The release was accompanied by his senior recital in which he and many of his collaborators played nearly the whole album. Listening to it for the first time and witnessing it live were two entirely different experiences, tied together mainly by the shared music. Experiencing the album in both of these ways reminded me how much more there is to music other than purely sound—it was also about who I saw on stage, how the music was brought to the corporeal world and beyond and a whole slew of other aspects.

I first listened to the album on Wednesday, May 17, when I finally had the time and mindset to devote myself to the experience. Sitting on a couch in WLFM, something drew me to turn off all the lights until I was engulfed in a pitch black that produced a certain warmth in the context of the album, rather than the cold, unknowing quality that darkness tends to have. As soon as I was comfortable, I hit play and was immediately drawn into the delicate, quiet chaos of guitar, violin, drums and electronic effects swirling around me. In the dark with headphones on, the source of sound was quickly lost and I was washed with it, surrounded by the monolith of darkness and music that entered through my ears but felt like it spread to the rest of my body.

This was all just in the first few seconds.

As I continued listening, my sense of being on a couch in WLFM dissolved and I found myself to be nowhere except in between the notes, feeling each and every one, reaching out into a nothingness that felt like everything. It was a bath of emotions, indiscernible from one to the next, but I was floating in it, intricately content and in a dream. Playful and meticulous use of electronics gave the music an otherworldly, futuristic quality to it, while the acoustic sounds sent me to the outdoors, molding together all my time in nature. I felt equal parts on an adventure, comfortable at home and separated from the physical world entirely.

Its 38 minutes were over before I could comprehend it all and I was left in an energized silence for about twenty seconds,

wondering if there was more. As I turned on the lights and packed up my backpack, the daze did not wear off. Most of my being was still tied to the music, in another dimension, and would not return for some time.

Attending the CD release party was a similar experience, but its differences stood out immensely. In Harper, I was also in the dark but was struck by the subtle reflections of dim light off of saxophones and other instruments, barely dancing to the music that a huge ensemble produced. There were thirteen people on stage, but they breathed in song together, providing different powers that could not be ignored—through moments of blending that left me in the liminality between instruments, through vocals that, together, pushed at all the emotions I was feeling, through free improvisation that worked so well in its singer-songwriter context and through so many other channels.

Several of the musicians were featured on the record, but having the whole thing fully fleshed out live in front of me was a breathtaking experience. I was able to see everything that was happening through shadows and minimal lighting and felt the complex organism of infinite sounds move as one, with Genualdi leading, but leaving a lot of room for the individual components to move naturally and individually at points. "Looking Through the Glass" was a new experience live, one that existed only at that point in space and time. It bore resemblance to the studio recording, but that sense of community all tied to one human's love for exploring his passions was so explicit in Harper on May 19. Genualdi could not have showed his gratitude toward his collaborators and audience more—he was in his element from beginning to end, comfortably expressing himself through all of his mediums and instruments and his love for making music resonated to everyone else there.

If you were not able to be there, know that you very much missed out, but please buy his album at <samgenualdi.bandcamp.com>. If you were able to be there, please buy his album at <samgenualdi.bandcamp.com>. Support this man and his music if you can.

Sam, I am so proud of you. I wish you nothing but the best on your travels and eagerly await seeing you and experiencing the honest art I am sure you will create.

## Women in STEM exhibit opens in Steitz atrium



A student interacts with the artwork of Aedan Gardill.  
Photo by Angelica Hurtado.



**McKenzie Feters**  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, May 18 at 4 p.m., the Steitz Atrium hosted "Women in STEM: An Art Exhibition." Juniors Aedan Gardill and Lizzy Weekes created the exhibit for their Junior Studio Art Practicum and both were present for the exhibition's opening, mingling with the crowd of interested students and answering questions.

Weekes's portion of the exhibition included several clay images of cells and neurons as well as embroidery illustrating the cell. The clay neurons and cells, which were colorfully painted and nicely arranged, were created with plaster mold and then fired and the clay discs displayed intricate carvings outlining the different parts of the cell. As for the embroidery, Weekes let one stand alone as a fabric piece, dipped another in porcelain slip and fired it with the other clay. The latter pieces also included coloristic differentia-

tions between the different parts of the cell. As for the art's relation to the theme of the exhibition, Weekes described how embroidery and ceramics are typically gendered as 'women's work,' so she sought to use those two forms to embody the cells and neurons. It is interesting to note that both embroidery and ceramics and cells and neurons can have immense utility and be beautiful in and of themselves. On a more personal level, Weekes commented that her part in the exhibition serves to display her "personal debate between science and art" as she is a studio art major with biology and psychology minors. Weekes also mentioned that this exhibition was her first art show ever.

Gardill's artwork was displayed on easels arranged in a semicircle around Weekes' artwork. Each easel displayed a picture painted on acetate sheets layered over a canvas. The pictures themselves portrayed different women scientists with various facts and attributes listed

around their faces. In the interactive exhibit, one can flip through each layer of the portrait in order to read different attributes and see different parts of the original picture; as one gets closer to the canvas, the descriptions get less general and more personal. A couple of the women featured were particle physicist Sau Lan Wu and inventor of the Laserphaco Probe Patricia Bath. Gardill noted that his inspiration for the five women scientists he portrayed in his artwork came from the book "Women in Science" by Rachel Ignatofsky. Regarding his creative process, Gardill said that he is always looking for "alternative ways to paint" and has thus experimented with multiple mediums, including painting with condiments. Gardill is pursuing a studio art and physics double-major at Lawrence and commented that the hardest part of working on his portion of the exhibit was waiting for the paint to dry.

"Women in STEM: An Art Exhibition" will remain on display in the Steitz Atrium until June 1.



Students discuss the work of Lizzy Weekes in Steitz Hall.  
Photo by Emily Midyette.



# “Unencumbered” encourages creative expression



**Wendell Leafstedt**  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, May 20, junior Izzy Yellen invited friends from all around to attend his event, titled “Unencumbered,” in room 156 of the Shattuck Hall of Music. The event was all about the light-spirited, unencumbered feelings associated with true creative expression.

Yellen is a junior pursuing a philosophy major and a creative writing minor. He is also a multi-instrumentalist and is interested in deep listening and contemporary improvisation.

“Unencumbered” was comprised of original stories, reflections, compositions and improvisations from Yellen. He began working on the program early this year, collecting his favorite ideas and most meaningful writings. Many of the featured works are only a few months old. He collaborated with many of his closest friends and creative partners to bring each piece to life.

The program began with a reading from Yellen’s “on creativity,” a look back at his earliest experiences writing in elementary school and the powerful act of encouraging a young artist: “I wanted to quit at that point

because I did not understand beauty...years later I thank everyone and everything that pushed me to continue.” Yellen read the entire piece in monotone and without pause. The delivery was calming to the ear but nerve-racking if you really listened; it amplified the themes of tense, frustrated creative energy in the story.

After the reading ended, Yellen joined his group called “about the project.” that included senior Sam Genualdi on lap steel guitar, junior Emmett Jackson on bass and senior Jason Koth on electronics. The four took the essence of the story and used it as a seed for an expansive group improvisation. The instruments’ voices merged to form an ambient soundscape made of reverberating fragments and soft synth pads climbing higher and higher in register.

Then, a group of roommates known as the “The Mazel Quad,” consisting of Yellen with spoken word and seniors Miles Allen, Adam Friedman and Jacob Heinemann on saxophone, percussion and bass, respectively, performed “improvisation in A major based on a dream from 5/5/2017.” As Yellen read his dream story about a boy and girl discovering a crumbling concert hall, the rest reacted to the words

with melodies and sound effects matching in intensity.

Next, Yellen grabbed his banjo and joined the rest of his trio—sophomore Spencer Tweedy on bass guitar and senior Adam Friedman on percussion—to play “Vacation,” a song they wrote together. While they played with so much energy that it was hard to hear the lyrics Yellen sang, this piece served nicely as an interlude between the other heavier works.

For the final spoken word piece on the program, Yellen read from an untitled piece of his while senior Matt Blair created a soundtrack on piano. Elements of Blair’s playing were recognizable from his earlier performances, but most of them were improvised to match the mood of the text. For this deeply personal piece, Yellen articulated some of his feelings about the nature of writing and his artistic inspirations. He mentioned Philip Glass, David Foster Wallace, and Spalding Gray. He called this recital “a culmination of what I listen to and read.”

To close, the audience was invited to stand up and participate in a group sonic meditation led by Yellen and other members of the Deep Listeners of LU board. Together, they read a text score and gently prompted audience members to participate.



Junior Izzy Yellen performs with friends in Shattuck Hall of Music. Photo by Taylor Blackson.

# Gamelan concert creates lively atmosphere



Gamelan performs in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel. Photo by Hikari Mine.



**Bridget Bartal**  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, May 21, the final Balinese Gamelan Concert of the year took place in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel. Two gamelan groups performed that afternoon: the Gamelan Sekar Kemuda group, which is open to members of the Appleton community, and the Gamelan Cahaya Asri group, which is comprised of Lawrence students. Lecturer of Music and Director of the Gamelan Ensemble, I Dewa Ketut Alit Adnyana, performed alongside both groups. The music ranged from traditional ceremonial pieces to modern compositions written by Dewa himself.

As soon as Gamelan Sekar Kemuda entered onto the stage, they bowed to the audience and the concert began. Before and after each song, the performers waved their hands and instruments in a ceremonial manner. The red and gold gamelan set was exquisitely beautiful; each instrument had ornate decoration. The percussive sound of the instruments was often hypnotizing. The audience was told that gamelan music is usually performed outside in a loud, open setting, so the announcer said it was fine to let young kids run around and dance during the performance. Because of this, the atmosphere was very lighthearted and casual—very different from the quiet formality of many Chapel concerts.

The remainder of the concert was performed by the student group, Gamelan Cahaya Asri. Their first few songs were

traditional ceremonial pieces. Many of the pieces started with one instrument playing a simple and unembellished melody; after the melody was repeated once or twice, the remainder of the instruments joined in. The interplay between rhythms of different instruments was fascinating. It is also worth noting that no performer learned using sheet music. Some of the performers seemed to be in a deep state of calm relaxation, while others were livelier and danced as they played.

During the more contemporary songs, different performers were featured. “Hujan Mas,” by I Wayan Gandera featured only three performers instead of the usual 22. Two of the performers played synchronized harmonies while Dewa kept a pulsing rhythm. Another trio piece, “Purwa Pascime,” by I Wayan Beratha, had a beautiful cello melody. The last song was “Kecak dance,” a 20th century performance piece. The entirety of the Gamelan Cahaya Asri group reappeared and they sang and danced around the stage. Dewa would yell out and the rest of the group would chant back to him. The group sat and rose in unison and much energy and passion was exhibited all around.

This last World Music Series concert for the 2016-2017 school year was an extremely enjoyable experience. The audience was repeatedly reminded that they can join one of the two gamelan groups next fall, even if they have only a little musical background. Students were reminded that there is still time to register for the gamelan course on Voyager and all students are encouraged to join.

# Photo Feature: Melee Spring Show



The Melee Dance Troupe performs on May 20 in Stansbury Theatre.

Photos by Hikari Mine.



The Lawrence University Dance Team performs on May 20 in Stansbury Theatre.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Handling Sexual Assault Allegations

As many students have likely heard, PWR BTTM will not be performing as a part of this year's LUaroo. After news circulated that one of the members of the band, Ben Hopkins, was accused of sexual assault in a closed Facebook group, they were removed from LUaroo's lineup. The responses to these allegations in the industry were, surprisingly, just as quick and severe. In the days after the allegation was made, PWR BTTM was dropped by their record label and their management, their tour was cancelled and their music was removed from Apple Music, Spotify and iTunes.

Although the actions that were taken by these organizations is reassuring, however, there are still many—on Facebook and through other platforms—that are questioning not only the harshness of these actions, but the validity of the accusations against Hopkins. This backlash is worrying; why are so many still so unwilling to believe victims of assault? Since the first allegation was made, other victims of Hopkins's predatory nature have come out and told their stories, reassured by the swift punishment the band has faced and feeling outraged by PWR BTTM's professed "unawareness" of any wrongdoings. Still, these victims face the cynicism and distrust that plagues our society when it comes to the issue of sexual assault.

This unwillingness has reached far beyond the current issues that are facing the accusations of Ben Hopkins. In other recent popular culture, record producer and songwriter Dr. Luke was sued by pop star Ke\$ha in 2014 for sexual assault and battery, sexual harassment, gender violence, civil harassment, violation of California's unfair business laws, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress and negligent retention and supervision. These claims were unfortunately dismissed in April of 2016, to the dismay of many fans who were fighting for Ke\$ha's wellbeing.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), an American experiences sexual assault every 98 seconds. As the organization explains on their website, "the number of assaults has fallen by more than half since 1993," and yet, "only 6 out of every 1,000 rapists will end up in prison." Clearly, incidents of sexual assault occur much more often than people realize—or maybe more often than people would like to admit. Plenty of progress on decreasing incidents of sexual assault has been made over the past few decades, but we still have a lot of work to do.

The swift actions taken in the wake of the accusations against PWR BTTM set a new standard for the handling of sexual assault allegations: we must put the survivors and the community before the perpetrators. Hopefully this attitude does not stop here, but continues to be spread and perpetuated, not just through on-campus groups like LUaroo, but throughout the general public.

Letters to the Editor can be sent in to Opinions & Editorials Editor, Cassie Gitkin at [lawrentian@lawrence.edu](mailto:lawrentian@lawrence.edu). We review all letters and consider them for publication. The Lawrentian staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, decency, style and space. All letters should be submitted on the Monday before publication, and should not be more than 350 words.

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## When Most Things Do Not Matter



Henry Dykstal  
Staff Writer

It was not until very recently I realized that I was, in some important regards, a Buddhist. Now, I am not saying I converted or anything. I am not shaving my head or giving up worldly possessions, but I instead understand something: fundamentally, most things do not matter.

I am not saying that most things are not important. There are things which are important and things that will impact your life tremendously. This is why it is important to get involved in politics in many instances. But that does not mean that there are overarching theories of how the world works (Neoliberalism being responsible for literally everything, the New World Order, lizard people...take your pick). What it means is instead that there are things that affect your

life and things that do not and it is up to you to decide how much they matter to you.

At the risk of sounding a bit glib, I think something like this is how a lot of people came around on gay marriage. Think of being anti-gay marriage, if you can. If you are against gay marriage, then your life must be hell right now because somewhere, right now, *a gay couple is getting married*. If you do not like this, what are you supposed to do? I suppose you could be like the Westboro Baptist Church: spending your life traveling around picketing places like soldiers' funerals and what not, or spending countless dollars and hours in court for various reasons trying to get rid of them. But you will not win and even if you did somehow, what is the point? It is you using your time to do something that people are going to be doing anyway and you yourself have no control over other people's behavior. You need to ask yourself then at this juncture,

"What on earth am I getting out of this that I am going around, trying to make people who I don't know, I don't interact with, and have no intention of spending large amounts of time with miserable?"

The ultimate answer, I think, is because you have invested your moral self-worth, nay, your entire identity itself into this aspect of your person when you could be doing other things with your life. Consider that Nazi who is being going around, Richard Spencer. Now, he is a horrible human being who we should not feel sorry for since he is doing all of what he does without hesitation and he does not seem any sorry about say, calling for a "peaceful ethnic cleansing" or whatever monstrous bile that is coming out of his mouth. But can you imagine for a minute how miserable Richard Spencer must be if he has spent his entire adult life advocating for this sort of thing? I am not saying he has failed because of this: He has done very well for

himself in his way (which again I think says a lot about what kind of people we are talking about here that give Richard Spencer money). But Richard Spencer, Nazi, is also Richard Spencer the father of a small child, Richard Spencer whose marriage fell apart, Richard Spencer who is an expert on Depeche Mode and Richard Spencer who, as strange as this is to imagine, actually has friends. There are infinite aspects of his being that he could be using instead of being a Nazi and he has so little self-esteem that he needs to base his identity around the idea of being White, rather than all of the things I just listed.

Fundamentally, doing Nazi-like stuff (unless we get into a scary situation where they could get power) does not matter and engaging with them does not matter. You are not going to feel better ranting about some White Student Union at a small college in Alabama because you are far away, you do not have to deal with

these people and you know what you are getting with them. What is the point of engaging in the world if you just vent against it? I am not saying to never dissent—dissent is one of the most valuable things a person can do to take a stand against something they consider unjust. But there is a difference between strategic dissent and dissent that is done entirely to make yourself feel better and only you to feel better.

Adulthood is about realizing what is really important, but it is also about realizing what things really mean. Ultimately, the world is not about theories of how it works. The meaning of the world is not in the physical world, but is instead what we choose has meaning, how we choose to live our lives and even if it is in only our current existence providing for others and ourselves in order to live our life to the best.

## Secularism in Academia



Jonathan Rubin  
Columnist

The secularism of American higher education often leads students to New Atheism or a rejection of all religious worldviews. The reality is, every human society ever has had a religious component. Even modern secular societies define their culture in terms of their relationship to religion. In Europe, secular elements might advocate for freedom from religion. In the U.S., we have freedom of religion.

Religion is an inherent part of what it means to be a human being. The best theology addresses supra-individual concerns. No one asked to be alive. No matter how moral or immoral we are, we all die. These existential and cosmological uncertainties haunt all of us commonly. We are incapable of expressing these complicated questions and ideas to each other without the use of cultural metaphor and apocryphal narratives.

Often times, people reject all religion if they have a negative relationship to their own faith. Statistically in America, their own faith is a sect of Christianity. Essentially, the argument I have heard from many former Christians, now Atheists, is that because they cannot believe in the God they were presented at Church, there is no possible way that any other religion or conception of God can be true.

There are pantheistic and monistic faiths with complex conceptions of God rooted in philosophical proofs. Other religions, like Hinduism, are much more cultures revolving around philosophy then they are "religions" in the Protestant Christian sense.

In the United States today, the word "religion" essentially means any system of thought that is either Protestant Christianity or something someone cannot

believe in if they are a Protestant Christian.

Maimonides said to "teach thy tongue to say 'I do not know' and thou shalt progress." If you do not understand the inherent religiosity of human experience, I think that means that you have allowed our social culture to dictate all that is. Our culture of nihilistic consumption and materialism cannot provide a meaningful and worthwhile life without the temperance of careful and earnest questioning. If we never ask ourselves "how do I live a good life?" or "how should I treat other people?", then we will only ever perform the answers of others and can never live our lives on our own terms.

Even the term God is the translation of hundreds of names for deities, energies and our cosmos from around the entire planet. Just because some conceptions of God are absurd does not mean they all are.

In the United States today many have jobs, access to education, healthcare and technology. Yet despite these comforts and abundance, substance abuse, depression and dissatisfaction lead people to violence and suicide. For those without these comforts, these problems are even more difficult.

I am not saying that mental health problems can be cured with religion, but people like to say that there is no place for religion in the modern world. I am pointing out that the cosmic and existential dread does not go away just because we have super-computers.

Religion as we know it is unbelievably broad and inherently Eurocentric. I urge everyone to learn about other cosmologies than your own.

While at one point I considered myself an atheist, since reading the works of Baruch Spinoza and Martin Buber, I have come

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The opinions expressed in *The Lawrentian* are those of the students, faculty and community members who wrote them. All facts are as provided by the authors. *The Lawrentian* does not endorse any opinions piece except for the staff editorial, which represents a majority of the editorial board. *The Lawrentian* welcomes everyone to submit their own opinions using the parameters outlined in the masthead.

# Free Speech 101



**Rrita Osmani**  
Staff Writer

The First Amendment remains close to the hearts of lovers of democracy everywhere. It states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." The First Amendment is a right that we, as Americans, are privileged to have when all over the world, journalists are jailed for criticizing the government and locals cannot speak ill of the regime they live under.

The First Amendment, however, was not created to pardon all kinds of obscene and offensive language. Justice Holmes stated in the *Frohwerk v. United States* case that, "the First Amendment while prohibiting legislation against free speech as such cannot have been and obviously was not, intended to give immunity for every possible use of language." However, people all around the nation abuse the First Amendment and manipulate it to mean that they can say anything, no matter how racist, homophobic, xenophobic, inconsiderate and offensive, with no consequence.

All across the nation, more specifically on college campuses where students have protested visitors that are controversial (the politically correct word for racist or xenophobic) such as Milo Yiannopoulos or Ann Coulter, critics have stated that the younger generation tries to mask itself from language that goes against the acceptable norm.

While college campuses are

supposed to be the safe haven of idea sharing and discourse, most overlook language that question marginalized groups' identities. Ulrich Baer from the *New York Times* makes a good point in explaining that Yale, "...also criticized the 'arrogant insensitivity' of free speech advocates who failed to acknowledge that requiring of someone in public debate to defend their human worth conflicts with the community's obligation to assure all of its members equal access to public speech." The problem with defending jokes that are racist, homophobic or xenophobic for the sake of free speech is that they offer no productive discourse in any way. What can be debated about an entire group's experience? How can you, as an outsider, as someone who has never undergone the experiences of a rape victim, of someone part of a marginalized group trying to survive in a country that thrives on a system that is designed for white, heterosexual males to succeed, question or "debate" their experience?

If you really wanted to understand different viewpoints about a topic, specifically a sensitive one that questions a group's humanity, you have the Internet. There is no reason to trigger, yes trigger, experience of potential rape victims, of members of society that have to fight daily to battle stereotypes to just exist, for you to engage in seemingly productive discourse. By defending jokes or discourse that questions one's very existence, you are refusing to be empathetic in any sort of way to their experience. While you may think you are a defender of constitutional rights nationwide, in reality all you are being is inconsiderate.

**Kiran Mufty**  
Staff Writer

At the recent "Free Thought/Free Speech" event on campus, I had a conversation with a boy who believed that implicit bias was entirely harmless. He did not understand, or even try to understand, the relationship between internalized prejudice and hate crimes. This snowflake then tried to mansplain to me the concept of implicit bias using useless and tokenizing analogies. So to the boy in the American flag t-shirt and Sperrys (the unofficial uniform of the cis-straight-white male), let me break down for you a fraction of the cost of your ignorance.

The increasing consequences of Islamophobia can now be measured in body counts. The rhetoric spread by Donald Trump in his campaign to supposedly "Make America Great Again" has eclipsed television campaigns, Twitter rants and rallies. During his presidential campaign, Trump floated the concept of a special database and identification card system for Muslim Americans. We

# Implicit Bias

have learned that his words are not bouncing off the majority of the American people. For many, these ideas are sticking, and these words are doing more harm than ever imaginable.

One of the most famous examples of this is the case of Khalid Jabara. A 37-year-old Lebanese immigrant, Jabara was gunned down by his neighbor Stanley Majors. The murder was not unexpected or unforeseen. For years, Majors had been verbally attacking the whole Jabara family with racial slurs, calling Jabara a "dirty Arab" on many occasions. He was reported to have had an unusual obsession with the family. Authorities later learned that Jabara was a practicing Christian.

Maulama Akonjee and Thara Uddin, two Bangladeshis, were shot execution style as they left their local mosque. Recently, three more Bangladeshi Muslims in New York were murdered in a string of anti-Muslim crimes. While these details are bloody and horrifying, the situation in which they occurred is potentially the most disconcerting and significant part.

While the details of these killings are horrifying, the atmosphere in which they occurred remains the most disturbing and consequential aspect. Even before these recent attacks, Muslim Americans have lived under a dark cloud of distrust. A 2014 study showed them surpassing atheists as America's least accepted religious group.

About 3.3 million Muslims reside in the United States, and between 2001 and the end of 2016, over 300 have been involved in violent crimes. Violent extremists are only 1 in 10,000 in the United States.

Do not tell me that my struggles are invalid because you live in a fairyland painted white. It is a sweet and romantic view to believe that our thoughts do not affect our actions but it is also dangerous, stupid and privileged. You are entitled to your views, sure, but if you ever find yourself, a blond hair, blue eyed, able bodied white man, engaged with three brown people in a conversation about prejudice: sit down, shut up and listen.

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# Letters to the Editor

Over the past week, individuals have discussed Judicial Board taking action on campus. While we would like to help in whatever way we can, we are not able to act without a complaint being filed. Here is the process to bring a case to the board:

In order to address an issue in a formal hearing setting, an individual from the Lawrence community may file a complaint form with the office of the Dean of Students, located in Raymond house. The filing party (complainant) cites an alleged violation of the social code. After the complaint has been filed, it is processed as described in the Lawrence University student handbook. The process is confidential, but a complaint cannot be filed anonymously.

If you have any questions, please contact deanofstudents@lawrence.edu or the Chair of the Judicial Board, Amy Hutchings.

—The Lawrence University  
Judicial Board

## On Campus Scandal

Time has a mutating effect, but a few elements of the Lawrence experience remain constant over the decades—room parties, mayflies, midterms, nervous administrators, happy hours at the Viking Room and a juicy campus scandal about once per semester.

The most recent example is the now-notorious screening of "Can We Take a Joke?" in the Wriston Auditorium, which resulted in a rowdy back-and-forth and student Sabrina Conteh being ejected amid flying profanity.

Similar uproars erupted when I was editor of *The Lawrentian* more than a quarter-century ago, and they almost always touched on matters of race, class and sex. I came to understand these kerfuffles—even the silly ones—functioned like collective discharges of pent-up feeling and resentments, such as that described by Rene Girard in his classic text "Violence and the Sacred." They are pressure-valves for anxieties roiling underneath the surface.

I want to argue here that these contretemps ought not to be dreaded, but to be welcomed. Fighting about touchy issues is part of the American collegiate tradition, and I would be far more worried about Lawrence if there were an absence of discontent. The key is how to creatively manage a scandal for useful purposes.

It can be enlightening (and amusing) to watch how certain personalities behave in the midst of the trouble. Do they make their points well? Do they try to sweep everything under the rug and pretend everything is fine? Do they search for common ground in a way that does not surrender their

own integrity? I learned more about moral courage and cowardice through campus blowups than I did in some of my classes.

We learn to listen to the other side, and even when we reject their arguments, we can feel our visions getting sharpened and clarified through life experience that goes beyond academic theory. Even the rhetorical overreach of the other side can be helpful, for it can teach you how not to craft an argument. It can also teach you the invaluable skill of leavening disagreements with a sense of humor. Navigating the field of combat is a part of college you won't find in the admissions brochures, but it is an important one nonetheless.

Free speech was once a hallmark of leftist politics and one of its finest legacies. That heritage has now been hijacked by conservatives because of the heightened paranoia about saying the wrong thing and getting publicly shamed—and because leftists have forgotten the fine art of a good campus scandal. Don't stomp down on what you don't like. Let it breathe and expose it to the light. If it has no merit, it will dehydrate fast.

Though my own politics are markedly different from Students for Free Thought, here is what I would like to say to them on behalf of the extended Lawrence

family: thank you.

—Tom Zoellner '91

## I will not graduate from Lawrence, I will have overcome it

Lawrence University is an institution rooted in white supremacy. The message sent to students of color has repeatedly been an overwhelming "you do not belong here," and while there were strides made to fix the racist orthodoxy of this campus, events this past week reminds us of the historical and structural oppression that is grafted onto students of color.

There is a group of students that honestly believe that the freedom of speech for white people is in jeopardy. Because students pay lip service to ally-ship as if it were a deity that will grant them social empowerment, without any concern for their own implicit bias. This means that 'allies' are insincere in their work and are actually hiding the fact that they do not agree with what they are saying.

But we can't ignore the trauma that people of color face by existing in this school. 'Allies' at Lawrence rarely do anything to combat institutional racism. Instead they uphold it by giving the false impression that this school is liberal. A group of white-supremacist students decided to

use people of color as a scapegoat for an issue that is caused by the structures in place to protect white supremacy. Lying about your racism allows one to maintain their power granted to them by the power structure while being supposedly safe from rebellion due to the inhumane atrocities placed on students of color.

And yes, they are inhumane atrocities. I have been traumatized again and again by the violence members of this institution have placed on me. While I am grateful to the many professors and friends who have supported me and helped me through these past four years, there has been no support for me institutionally. And so in a few weeks, I shall leave Lawrence with a certificate stating that I can write music, but I will not have graduated. Graduation implies Lawrence accepted me and has been my home for four years. Instead, I will live with the trauma I received from a conservatory that has an abysmal retention rate for students of color and am fortunate enough to be one of the lucky few to finish my undergrad here despite all the violence, hatred, complacency and trauma enacted on to me as a student of color.

—Nebal Maysaud

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For more Letters to the Editor, please visit our website [www.lawrentian.com](http://www.lawrentian.com). Opinions expressed in the letters are not representative of The Lawrentian Editorial Board's stance. Due to the high volume of letters sent to us over the past week, we could not publish all letters in our print edition. However, all letters we receive are and will be published online.

## PHOTO POLL

Shane Farrell  
Sports Editor

What are you excited about for LUaroo?



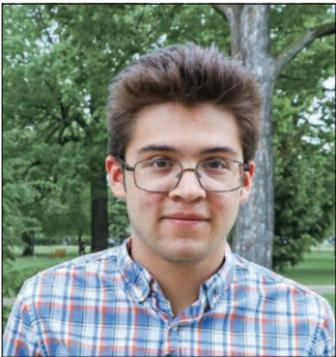
"Dancing and of course, the music!"  
—Tykee Atkins



"Staying hydrated in the good weather."  
—David Jumes



"Seeing Dusk play!"  
—Brian Piasecky



"Outdoors time."  
—Alex Gomez



"I like to hear music."  
—Rosie Bauer



"Riverbugs!"  
—Sarah Perret-Goluboff

## Letters to the Editor

continued from page 11

**Snowflakes and Nazis:  
A Personal Commentary on  
Recent Events**

At this point, I cannot hope to persuade anyone of anything. Views were cemented early on, and have only been further entrenched. Persuasion, however, is not my intention. I aim merely to introduce another perspective. I question the usefulness of this, when the quagmire of opinion is already neck deep. Yet, the community shows no sign of forgetting the past few weeks. And rightly so.

One could try to paint the film screening in a flattering light, but those efforts would be naively directed. It was a disaster, plain and simple; I would submit that all participants are responsible for this outcome. If any one conclusion can be drawn, it is that the community is not ready to discuss certain issues at their full strength, though it seems we are all prepared to insult each other at double strength.

This brings me to my comments on the campus atmosphere. There is no denying the censorship of thought that exists both in and outside the classroom. Trigger warnings are issued prior to potentially 'offensive' material, but the only offensive thing about this situation is the insinuation that emerging adults are incapable of digesting reality. What some perceive as considerate, I see as avoidance of the discomfort that comes with exposing certain ugly truths. I see it as submission to silence. It is so easy to look away, to remain insulated, but we cannot conquer what we allow to remain in the shadows of our thoughts. There is nothing com-

fortable about this process, and nothing useful about this stagnant bickering. All of us snowflakes and Nazis, going back and forth, while the real problems fester.

Upon the inception of Students for Free Thought, I did not imagine such controversy and discord. It was not the intention of anyone in the group to bring about the current environment. Here it is, nonetheless, not quite fully explainable, and far from a complete recovery. After all is said and done, I hope the community obtains a healthy outcome. Perhaps that is overly optimistic, but only time will tell.

—Mimi Padilla

**Recent Free Thought Event**

The mission of Students for Free Thought is to create a place to examine controversial issues rationally, scientifically and objectively. Last Wednesday, May 17, we hosted an event to address the issue of free speech, especially as it relates to comedy. We showed a documentary that presents a perspective on this topic not usually voiced at Lawrence and attempted to have an open discussion about the issues raised in the film. While most of our members do not share the views espoused by this documentary, we believe in having rational discussions about important issues. Unfortunately, some students were determined to not allow this discussion to be had.

It was made clear that the documentary would contain offensive material and that there would be an open discussion afterwards. Sadly, some students

came solely for the purpose of heckling the film and nearly shut the event down.

After one especially egregious heckler was asked to leave, she wrote an editorial containing one version of events. This version of events is mostly false. This student was asked to leave because she was by far the loudest person disrupting the film; nobody was drunk.

Students for Free Thought was formed because we are deeply concerned that there are elements of groupthink and opposition to scientific objectivity in the Lawrence climate. After putting up posters in late March advertising our group as a place for rational and objective inquiry without fear of ostracism, we were immediately accused of being white supremacists. This accusation is so baseless that we're only going to address it once. We do not support white supremacism. No member of Students for Free Thought holds white supremacist views.

We have talked to many students who think that creating a forum for logical thought is unnecessary. They think that everyone already values scientific inquiry and objective truth. We hope this is the case, but our conversations with many students and professors have led us to believe that in some areas, there is work to be done to make rational and evidence based discussion accepted at Lawrence.

—Simon Laird

EDITORIAL  
POLICY:

Editorial policy is determined by the editors. Any opinions that appear unsigned are those of the majority of *The Lawrentian's* Editorial Board.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. The editors reserve the right to edit for style and space. Letters must be emailed to: lawrentian@lawrence.edu. Submissions by email should be text attachments.

—All submissions to editorial pages must be turned in to *The Lawrentian* no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

—All submissions to the editorial pages must be accompanied by a phone number at which the author can be contacted. Articles submitted without a contact number will not be published.

—*The Lawrentian* reserves the right to print any submissions received after the above deadline

—Letters to the editor will be edited for clarity, decency and grammar.

—Letters to the editor should not be more than 350 words.

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## Secularism in Academia

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to believe in a monistic God that endows every person with a perfectly imperfect conscience that is made in the image of the one total God. I don't think my (Pan)theism is uncomplicated or faith based. There is an odd circumstance in our modern academic culture where anyone who believes in any form of a God is treated like they are beginning with false premises. I think that uncertainty in science teaches us a lesson in this.

While my Religious Studies major might impugn my science credentials to some, I do under-

stand that 96% of our universe is unperceivable dark matter. Our understanding of our universe and its inner machinations in a scientific sense are uncertain. In other words, we know how well we do not know them.

As Lawrentians, we are incredibly lucky to have access to nearly the entire wealth of recorded human thought and expression. Once we acknowledge what we do not know, only then can we go to the font of knowledge and ask "why?" and in the Maimonidean sense, progress.

## Letter from the Editor



Anh Ta  
Editor-in-Chief

This May 26 issue will be our last for the 2016-17 school year, and once again, the Lawrence community has started a heated discussion on free speech that we have yet to fully explore.

Freedom of speech is a concept that I hold dear to my heart, because growing up in Vietnam and Singapore, it was a luxury that I could not afford. If you are wondering why, you can Google arrests of Vietnamese bloggers who simply expressed dissenting political opinions. You can also look up the 18-year-old Singaporean Amos Yee, jailed two years ago by the Singaporean government for a controversial YouTube video; he recently received asylum to the U.S. I have always cherished the opportunity on this campus to engage in meaningful discussions, to be critical and most importantly, to speak unafraid.

Therefore, it has been painful for me to watch the very idea of free speech distorted and abused as a thin veil for hurtful words and actions hurled at students of marginalized identities, without consideration for their safety and dignity. It has also been difficult to watch how discussions, in the name of free speech, went out of control without moderation, both online and in real life.

In a divisive campus climate, my only hope is for *The Lawrentian* to become a neutral platform to publish opinions and thoughts from the entire Lawrence community and to allow for meaningful discussions about important issues, just as it should be. While Letters to the Editor and Op-ed articles published here do not represent the Editorial Board's viewpoints, they represent our commitment to providing a moderated discussion space. Although this is the last issue of the year, we are still accepting submissions to publish online, if you would like to join the conversation.