 Speakers share cross-cultural experiences in Convocation

Eleanor Legault
Staff Writer

On Friday, Jan. 6, Janet Anthony, Professor of Music and George and Marjorie Olsen Professor of Music and Teacher of Cello, presented “Adventures in Music Making: 20 Years of Cross-Cultural Exchange in Haiti,” at 7 p.m. in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel. This convocation featured performances of Haitian music, performed by the Lawrence University Cello Ensemble and the Lawrence Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and composed by students at Lawrence, as well as speakers senior Irene Durbak, alumna Carolyn Desrosiers ’10, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies José Encarnación and journalist Fritz Valescot. The convocation honored both Professor Anthony’s work in Haiti and promoted the nonprofit Building Leaders Using Music Education (BLUME) Haiti.

In describing her experience in working in Haiti, Professor Anthony said that she originally became involved in Haitian music life when reading the ads in Strings Magazine, which asked for a cellist performer in a music tour in Port au Prince, Haiti. Upon her arrival she said that “the wonder of my arrival she said that “the wonder of my arrival”...

Anthony accompanied her talk with photos from her work abroad.

Hannah Birch
Staff Writer

As Lawrentians celebrated the holidays over winter break, President Mark Burstein announced the selection of our future provost and dean of the faculty, Catherine Gunther Kodat. The selection committee was drawn to Kodat’s experience, temperament and love of the liberal arts. They believe these qualities make Kodat a worthy replacement of current Provost and Dean of the Faculty David Burrows, who announced his retirement from the position last spring.

Kodat has enjoyed a long career within the spheres of liberal arts institutions as a professor, program director and administrator.

New provost to start this year

Students?
I have very vivid memories of very real struggles when I was an undergraduate. I actually started out in a conservatory. I was a piano performance major at what was then called the Peabody Conservatory of Music. I was very excited to go, but I was coming from Troy, New York, and I was the only musical person in my family. I was kind of the anomaly. I had no sight-singing training; I had no theory training. I just played piano all those years. So when I got to the conservatory I found that classes with students whose parents were orchestra musicians, who had grown up surrounded by music, who had perfect pitch, who knew already how to sight-read.

I encouraged Kodat, who had grown up in a family where music could convey so much, that the students exhibited and the warm reception musicians received. “Music of one kind immediately got under my skin,” and she was stunned at the “hunger to learn” that the students exhibited.

In concordance with Professor Anthony’s comments, Durbak said that the “passion of students pushed me to do my personal best,” and that she was inspired by the energy her students had for music. Durbak was impressed at the ways in which music could convey so much, despite the communication barriers between Creole and English.

Professor Encarnación echoed Durbak’s remarks, saying “the arts are the universal language, and it is our duty to support that.” A common theme amongst the speakers was the poverty in Haiti. After 2010’s devastat-...
Groups Old and New at Winter Activities Fair

New Hire Spotlight: Kelsey McCormick

Hannah Kinzer
Staff Writer

Last December, Lawrence University hired Kelsey McCormick as the new project specialist in the Office of the President. McCormick grew up in Darboy, a city just outside of Appleton. She received her bachelor’s degree in environmental policy and planning at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 2015. When asked about her interest in the position, McCormick recalled, “[While working] for the university at Green Bay I thought it would be really cool to be able to work for a university in my career!” She is excited to work in the Appleton area near the city where she grew up.

Project specialist in the Office of the President is a new position. It was created to manage, facilitate and track projects. Examples of projects that McCormick may work on include a presentation for Lawrence’s president, Mark Burstein, and Lawrence’s Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report.

McCormick also noted a challenging and exciting part of the position is getting to know key contacts within the university’s different offices. “What I want to see myself do in this role is really that go-to person for not only the president’s office but also the other offices that function in [Sampson House].” She continued, “I also see myself taking on tasks that the university really wants to pursue but prior to me being here just didn’t have the ability to do. With being in a new position I guess the possibilities are kind of endless.”

McCormick is most excited to work on projects in sustainability for the university. With a degree in environmental policy and planning, work on the STARS report and sustainability tracking connects to her profession and personal interests.

McCormick previously worked at UW-Green Bay in the Office of Student Life and as a resident assistant. She said that one big difference between her past experiences and her new position is working more in administration and having less interaction with students. She hopes her background working with students will bring key perspectives into her new position.

While growing up, McCormick was only familiar with Lawrence from what she could see from College Avenue.

Venezuela

President Nicolas Maduro fights the steadily rising levels of inflation by raising the minimum wage for the fifth time this year. However, for many Venezuelans, necessities remain too expensive. Though the country’s banknotes are virtually worthless, Maduro made a decision to begin printing new bills of a much higher denomination. The currency exchange did not go as smoothly as he planned—not only did a huge amount of anonymous people form lines at the banks, but the new banknotes did not arrive according to schedule. Venezuela’s minimum wage is now equivalent to $12.14 in American dollars. For most of the country’s workers, food stamps and worker bonuses are the biggest sources of income. Madonna blames his opponents for the state of Venezuela’s economy.

England

In protest of the trade union’s push for full automation of the London Underground, all “Tube” systems and ticket offices shut down on Monday for the “TubeStrike,” a tagline gracing many of the tweets posted by frustrated Londoners. Along with it came “#Ridiculous,” and a description of Clapham Junction’s incredibly crowded station as a “cattle shed.” Tube employees are concerned about the trade union’s desire for job cuts and the closure of ticket offices. Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, does not appear to share the same amount of concern, calling the strike “unnecessary.”

Russia

Selling cigarettes to people born in 2014 or later may soon be banned in Russia. The ban would continue even after they reach adulthood, meaning that at some point, smoking might be illegal for all Russians. The country has one of the highest smoking rates in the world, so it is no surprise that President Vladimir Putin, known as an avid lover of fitness and health, would like to see that rate decrease.

Iran

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died of a heart attack at age 82 on Sunday, Jan. 8. Rafsanjani served two terms as Iran’s president and was a very influential figure in Iranian politics. After his death, current President Hassan Rouhani tweeting, “The spirit of the giant of the revolution and politics, the symbol of patience and resilience that soared to the skies.” Rafsanjani still had critics, however. They claimed that his liberal economic policies “widened the gap between the rich and the poor.” No matter his legacy, Rafsanjani’s death was mourned by Iranian citizens across the country.

Germany

The country recently chose its “ugliest word of the year”: “volkoverräter,” meaning “traitor of the people.” The word is widely thought to carry Nazi undertones and is often flung at political figures, usually by right-wing demonstrators. It is described as the ultimate put-down because it is meant to discredit someone’s opinions. The word has a historical context… “Volkverräter” was used by the Nazis to set Germans apart from Jews and other “undesirables.” When visiting a refugee center in August 2015, Chancellor Angela Merkel had the term shouted at her._referring to Gabriel’s middle finger after being heckled by demonstrators, calling them “young, aggressive, swearing and ready-for-violence Nazis.”

The 2016 “ugliest word of the year” was “postfak-tisch,” meaning “post-factual.”

The Winter Activities Fair took place on Friday, Jan. 6, marking the end of the first week of winter term. Along with many of the regular clubs and societies that were present at the Fall Term Activities Fair, like the Greek societies, Sustainable Lawrence University Garden (SLUG), Lawrence University Native Americans (LUNA), Tropos, Bowling Club and Rowing Club, there were new ones as well.

Present this term was the Band Booking Committee (BBC), which books bands to play at Lawrence. “These aren’t student bands,” BBC President Brittany Beermann clarified. “They’re from outside sources.” BBC is an organization, according to Taskersley, that has been around for a long time, but they recently started reworking how they are run and it also wanted a fresh start.

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At a certain point, you begin to believe in some sort of divine meddling force, interrupting your every good thing, prolonging the estimation of beginnings. How it can feel like the end of everything that begins. How it's predictable, how it's comprehensible. Like, how you can have everything you think you want—only for it to be swept out from under your feet by the small things and some of the big things life throws at me worth big stuff. No—those concepts are man-made. Life has no obligations to adhere to things that are comprehensible. Life is scary. Of course, I mean, I was me, and I was a little grey on the inside, cold as ice. I still had my bad days, I was going to throw the towel in. I knew I could live and keep going. Even as my heart disintegrated, I forgave life, because I knew I could live and keep going. Even as my heart disintegrated, I forgave life, because I could have ended up without ever experiencing heart-wrenching love like I did, and I think everyone deserves a little bit of that. So, I forgive you, life. And I thank you. "Goodbye to sleep. Goodbye to love."

The World Music Created "Degausser"

A series of short fiction pieces continuing the stories told in concept albums. This week’s article is inspired by Brand New’s “Degausser.”

Staff Writer
Tia Colbert

New Year, Same You

Leigh Kronsnoble  Staff Writer

With the start of both a new calendar year and a new academic term, resolutions to make this year better than the last rampanently abound, web pages and Facebook friends offering the best practices for a new year, new you. While always well-intentioned, an opportunity to utilize the symbolism of beginnings for renewal and improvement, these resolutions can be resoundingly vague in their conviction to "let it go" or in their generic determination to "be more present." Certainly, these types of resolutions work for some folks but often fall short without a more tangible place to start. It's Winter Term at Lawrence, where beyond everyone’s favorite pastime of commenting on the cold, it’s also an easy time to get consumed by work or isolated indoors. We may bring with us a laundry list of to-dos for improvement that begin with dutifully dragging ourselves to the gym the first week of class in the shape of promises ourselves that this is the year we will finally visit a given city, yet these intentions can quickly become cluttered by consistent conflicts of obligation and duty (real or imagined) that emerge daily. Rather than making a pact with the new year to "do more" and to "be better" in abstract terms, it may be more helpful to start small and to use the time and space we already have to do something that is attainable like reading a novel, watching a show or visiting a friend at another school—activities and goals for yourself that are achieved in the everyday. It's not likely that taking small steps will always bring you the success and inspiration to accomplish whatever you set your mind to—who does that happen to—but adding meaning to the day-to-day in small ways that are about you, regardless of what new ground it is breaking—or not—can be just as important as the big stuff.
Hockey falls to Concordia University

Tina Schrage

The Lawrentian University’s Hockey Team fell short Saturday as they entered in two competitive games against Concordia University Wisconsin. Concordia 9-4 overall and 6-3-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA), hosted the first on Jan. 6. The Viking’s 4-8-1 overall and 3-3-1 in the NCHA, hosted the other on Jan. 7.

The Vikings started off strong in the first period, scoring on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 12:14 mark. Jim Peterson tied the game at 1-1, assisted by Tanner Bull and Dante Gauld. With the 12:14 mark in the first period, the Vikings tied the game with Knop’s first collegiate goal, assisted by Blake Roubos, junior and Jake Drisko, freshman. With twenty seconds left, Concordia’s Switzer scored the game winning goal, assisted by pull and Pearson. The Vikings’ fresh- man Ryan Cline killed 37 shots and Concordia’s Jack Romanuski scored 28 shots.

Concordia was off to a quick start late in the first period with an early goal against Monmouth, making the game 4-2. The Vikings’ lead moved to 2-0, 2:56 mark in the second period, making it 4-3, with assists credited to Brinkard and Knop, but the Vikings were unable to score a fourth time to tie the game up. The Vikings try to win the battle that which at the winning first goal is, to be more appropriating on a 500-meter loop around the field. This is to help prevent serious injuries to you as well as the student-athletes we coach. Have you considered if you need to be walking along this loop any time between 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. please be alert. If you hear some- one yelling at you please stand not are they not at it, you are not safe. You need take or short- en any amount of time you are standing the other end of the field, the Viking’s will not return home until Jan., 27 but they have a set of away games to the University on Jan. 13 and 14.

The very next day saw Alabama square off with Washington as Clemson took on Ohio State University in the play- off games. Alabama’s top-ranked defense was up against a one first-quarter touchdown, and a one touchdown down game, against the Hawkeyes. The game. One final thing to note is that Alabama’s defense had won them 26 quarters in a row, and never allow a touchdown in this time. Alabama's top-ranked defense had won them 26 quarters in a row, and never allow a touchdown in any of the last five games. Alabama's defense was not giving up.

One year ago, you decide to go visit some friends. You head out of your dorm like you have done hundreds of times before. This time tundaynd up head to toe like you are headed on an Arctic expedition, while thinking “I wonder if secu- rity would believe I was scared of that?” Suddenly out of nowhere there is a large group of people run- ning up to you and yelling “move,” or “look out!” You wonder who are these people? “Do they have some type of running gang mak- ing its way through Appleton?”

Jason Fast

Staff Writer

Hockey Team falls to Concordia University

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Staff Writer

Basketball faces Monmouth

Molly Doruska

It is a busy time to be a Lawrence basketball player. In the thick of their conference season, the men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams are both beginning to roll down to Monmouth College for a double header against the Fighting Scots on Saturday, Jan. 7.

The Lawrence University Lady Vikings have a priority in basketball at 1 p.m. Monmouth (0-2, 0-0 Midwest Conference) visited Lawrence and fast start in the first quarter lead- ing by a margin as wide as six points. However, the Lady Vikings fell to 2-9 on the season and 0-2 conference. The Vikings' largest lead of the game was 14 points in the second half.

The men followed the women’s game, also taking on a priority. With Lawrence lead by a margin of 8 points, the Lady Vikings got off to a good start and scoring the first four points of the game. The first half of the game featured seven ties and one lead change. The Vikings’ largest lead of the game was 14 points. Lawrence did not lead until did not lead until there was less than a minute in the half; how- ever, the Vikings were able to tie the game up with a goal from Roubos assisted by Knop.

With more than 40 bowl games played in the last month, and the NFl entering the playoffs, there has been plenty of football to watch on television. In particular, in one of the more prominent bowl games. I will start by responding to my earlier critics. I had said on Saturday, Jan. 6, that the game was the best conference college football game.

At the time, four teams were in the mix for a spot in the top ten, and six fairly prominent bowl positions. However, they collectively went 3-1-1 against a ridiculously talented football team. The very next day saw Alabama square off with Washington as Clemson took on Ohio State University in the play-off games. Alabama’s top-ranked defense was up against a one first-quarter touchdown, and a one touchdown down game, against the Hawkeyes. The game. One final thing to note is that Alabama’s defense had won them 26 quarters in a row, and never allow a touchdown in this time. Alabama's top-ranked defense had won them 26 quarters in a row, and never allow a touchdown in any of the last five games. Alabama's defense was not giving up.

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Mattias Soederqvist

Hockey
by Shane Farrell

Today I got to talk to senior Mattias Soederqvist. Over break Soederqvist, goalie for the Men’s Hockey Team, was Defensive Player of the Week for the sixth time in his career. Soederqvist stopped a season-high 42 shots to help the Viking beat the sixth-ranked Auggies. This was Lawrence Hockey’s first win over a ranked team since defeating St. Scholastica in 2014.

Shane Farrell: How is the enthusiasm for hockey here in the Midwest compared with back home in Sweden?

Mattias Soederqvist: I’d say it’s bigger here and in the U.S. over-Midwest compared with back home in Sweden. However, we usually do pretty well in international tournaments!

SF: You played for the Indiana Ice before coming to Lawrence, what was that experience like?

MS: It was a great learning experience for me. I was there for six months and learned a lot about myself. I moved straight from high school over to the U.S., and it definitely was a little bit of an adjustment period. Looking back it’s one of the better things that happened to me, even though it was tough at times back then.

SF: You are almost half way through the season, how do you feel the team is performing?

MS: We have a great team this season. We have all the components we need to be really successful, and I am excited for the second half!

SF: Do you have plans to play hockey after college?

MS: I am going to give it all I have here for now. I have three months left of my college hockey career and I don’t want to focus on what is coming after. I have a couple of different job offers, and have also applied to grad school so we will see.

SF: During the game against Augsburg you stopped 42 shots, a season high, were you happy with your performance?

MS: It was a big win for all of us. I was happy with my performance, but as always in ice hockey, it was a team effort. We were persistent and kept to our game plan all night which paid off in the third period.

SF: How big of a win was it beating a ranked Augsburg team?

See page 10

Daniella Millin

Swimming
by Arianna Cohen

This week, I chatted with senior swimming standout Danielle Millin. Danielle has made great strides since her freshman year, including breaking a record in her sophomore season. Danielle is looking forward to the Bittersweet end of a wonderful swimming career.

Danielle Millin: It’s definitely bittersweet. I think I am more motivated than ever to achieve my goals before it comes to an end, but I am also trying to enjoy myself and make as many memories as possible.

AC: Congratulations on being awarded a Midwest Conference honor this past December. What are some things that you believe contribute to your success?

DM: The support of my teammates has always been a big factor. I’ve always been surrounded by really great role models who have pushed and inspired me to achieve my very best. I’ve also always had a passion for the sport that has only gotten stronger throughout my college career:

AC: Are there some personal as well as team goals you have for the rest of the season?

DM: Personally, I would like to finish this season with personal best times. As a team, I would like to see our record board get a few updates, particularly our 200-yard Freestyle Relay. It would also be great if we could earn conference runner-up at championships this year.

AC: Looking back on your four years, could you name one moment that really stood out to you on the swim team?

DM: The highlight of my career so far would be breaking the 400-Yard Individual Medley record my sophomore year. I remember the whole team yelling at the end of my lane and cheering for me at the finish. The whole meet was really exciting with so many incredible swims by the whole team.

AC: If there is one thing you could say to any incoming freshman looking forward to swimming in college, what would it be?

DM: I would let them know that you get out what you put in. The support you show to your teammates will always be reciprocated, and all the hard work in the water during the year will pay off in the end.

[Image of Mattias Soederqvist and Daniella Millin]
**Expanding horizons with Study Abroad**

This Winter Term, many study abroad returns are coming back to this term, with fresh global perspectives and expanded horizons. Lawrence has offered study abroad programs since the 1960s; one notable program is our own London Centre. The London Centre program first opened in the fall of 1970, and has been running ever since. Today, Lawrence offers approximately 55 off-campus study programs in 28 countries. Out of 140 applications, there will be approximately 125 students studying abroad this academic year. Typically about 38 percent of each graduating class at Lawrence has studied abroad. Nationally, this number is about 9 percent for all undergraduate students.

“Overall, I hope that students gain academic and intellectual benefits, greater understanding of other perspectives, and develop their independence and open-mindedness,” Director of Off-Campus Programs Laura Zuege commented. Zuege studied abroad when she was a student at Lawrence. “I participated in Lawrence’s London Centre program when I was a junior and it changed everything about my understanding of education, myself and what the world might hold for me,” said Zuege. “Studying abroad exposed me to things that I felt like I needed to experience firsthand and find a true love for learning. I learned a lot about the world from my experiences traveling and living in a major world city. Mostly, though, I gained untold amounts of confidence and direction from facing the challenge of exploring and learning in this environment.”

Senior Rebecca Schachtman, an Off-Campus Programs Returnee Experience Specialist, studied in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Schachtman’s job is to reach out to students who have just returned from studying abroad and create a network for them to share their experiences. Schachtman coordinates different events and manages the portion of the off-campus program website with quotes of those who have returned from abroad.

“Studying abroad gave me a much more global perspective,” said Schachtman. “I participated more in class and was comfortable being independent and traveling by myself. Lawrence will be a much more globally-aware and active campus community if more students had the opportunity to study abroad.”

Senior Olivia Gregorich returned from The Gaiety School of Acting (GSA) in Dublin, Ireland this winter. Gregorich wanted to study abroad in Ireland because of her connection to Celtic music, myth cycles and culture. “I didn’t know anything about contemporary Irish culture, and I got to learn in the best possible way,” said Gregorich. “I was also fortunate to be there during the centennial of the Easter Rising in the Irish Rebellion against the British, and the entire year was filled with artists and theatre and museum galleries devoted to the historical.”

Besides attending classes, Gregorich had the opportunity to explore festivals and museums. “It was fascinating to me how apparent the oral storytelling inheritance is in the theatrical writing and performance styles, and I have gained an even greater respect for this culture’s unique relationship with language. My own growth in autonomy and self-confidence is marked as well, and my time there has pushed back my horizons of what I considered possible future homes.”

Gregorich described studying abroad as an invaluable experience in broadening one’s awareness of the world. “As much as I loved Ireland, part of me wished I had challenged myself to get even further out of my comfort zone and away from the culture and lifestyle to which I am accustomed. As well as helping to reorient yourself in relation to the world, study abroad is an opportunity to re-evaluate one’s self in a fresh light. The world is so much bigger and more full of fascination than we like to allow ourselves to know sometimes, and I think an essential part of being alive is a healthy, open curiosity to encounter the unknown. I cannot imagine a better chance to practice being braver.”

Studying abroad gives students the opportunity for personal and academic growth while expanding their world view. In various countries, students will increase their knowledge or skills in another language or research environment. Students return with valuable characteristics that are important when entering the workforce, such as being able to adapt to a new environment, navigate independently through a situation and be open to new ideas. Overall, studying abroad helps undergraduates prepare for life after Lawrence.

**On-Campus Living with the RLAs**

The high rate of students who live on campus sets Lawrence definitely apart from your average college. With more than 90 percent of students living somewhere on campus, the Lawrence experience depends heavily on community living. However, after even just a term on campus, anyone could tell you that there is no on-campus life, there are bound to be complications such as broken heaters, overworked smoke detectors and, of course, roommate issues.

Luckily, in these situations there is a team of people that are always ready to take charge and remedy any problems that may happen in our living spaces. Residence Life Advisors (RLAs) are the keys to allow communities on campus to not only survive, but thrive. At least one RLA is located on every floor in every residence hall, and each are full of advice on managing less-than-ideal roommate situations and how to make the most of residential living at Lawrence.

Senior Brett Barnard has been an RLA for three years and is currently working in the North Wing of Colman Hall. He has worked in Linham and Plants Hall the general school year and has also dedicated his time to being a summer RLA in Trever and Hiett Halls. With Barnard’s vast amount of experience in this field, it is easy to imagine that he has seen most of what comes out of residence life first-hand.

“No matter what happens,” Barnard said, “remember that you can always come to the RLAs for advice or assistance.”

Barnard also emphasized that an important aspect of his job is to remain neutral when

**KOALA TEA ADVICE**

by Claire Zimmerman

*Photo by Larissa Davis*
Japanese students celebrate the age of adulthood

Kate Morton
For The Lawrentian

There is no better way to start off the new term than in the company of close friends. Attendees of Waseda’s Japanese Coming of Age ceremony took this sentiment to heart on Jan. 6. The ceremony honored Japanese students transitioning into adulthood this year by presenting them with gifts and words of wisdom from friends in front of a small audience. This ceremony dates back from over one thousand years, and continues as a time to celebrate the new responsibilities and lifestyles that come with adulthood, even here at Lawrence University.

Both four-year full-time students and exchange students from Waseda University participated in the event, which was held in International House and sponsored by the Waseda program. Amongst those honored in the ceremony were sophomores Yuta Hayashi and Kazuma Noguchi, Waseda University seniors Tatsuya Yarita and Miju Ozono, and junior Ashley Dary.

The ceremony is part of an annual Japanese tradition, which takes place on the second Monday in January. The celebration honors the Japanese youth who will be turning twenty over the course of the year. While Coming of Age Day has only been a recognized holiday for the last 70 years, traditions in its ceremonial practice have been found written as early as the late Asuka Period, supposedly in 714 A.D. Records of this ceremony suggest it originally took place on Jan. 15, which was usually the same day as the first full moon of the year.

Originally, there was no fixed age for this ceremony for four-year-adults, which was based on height. If a boy had grown to be 136 centimeters tall, they were then considered an adult, usually making them between 10 and 16 years old. Similarly, girls were considered adults anywhere between the ages of 12 and 16. Nowadays, it is widely accepted in Japan that twenty is the age of entrance into adulthood.

In Japan, the ceremony is an important age. At twenty years old, one is considered an adult, usually making them between the ages of 12 and 16. Nowadays, it is widely accepted in Japan that twenty is the age of entrance into adulthood.

Besides the added perks, 20, in Japanese culture, is also an age with many more recognized responsibilities, which have been shifted and redefined many times throughout history. It was not until 1876 that the Meiji Government defined the age of 20 to be the legal age of adulthood for both men and women. Furthermore, it was not until 1948 that the Japanese government chose to recognize the ceremony as an official holiday.

The choice to define Coming-of-Age Day as a holiday came about in response to life after WWII, where much of Japan’s rebuilding was dependent on the young people of the nation. So in the hopes of inspiring confidence and spirit in the lives of the youth, the very first official festival for all of those who had turned 20 in the previous year was held at the Warabi’s Youth Association in 1946. Since then it has spread to communities all over Japan.

In Japan, the ceremony is an important and more formal public event attended by many people. Participants even wear a special kind of kimono. "It’s a very big ceremony," said sophomore Vicky Liang, who came to the ceremony in support of a friend. "They have their family and their friends come."

The International House’s Coming of Age Celebration started off with a formal speech recognizing the life of those Lawrentians who, now at the age of 20, are considered to have entered adulthood. Afterwards, the atmosphere of the event shifted and the room was full of food, music and community. The experience, however, was slightly bittersweet for some because they could not spend the special day at home with their friends and family in Japan, as is the custom.

Ozono received a short video from her family during the ceremony as a special surprise. Typically, the ceremony would involve spending time with her loved ones back in Japan, and participating in the ceremony alongside others her age. "I can’t go because I’m here," she said. "I’m a little sad for that."

In spite of being so far from home, the ceremony still held great value to those involved, who were not able to attend the traditional ceremony at home. "It’s really nice to have the ceremony here at Lawrence because it’s definitely something that your parents want to see," said Dary. "Being over here, away from my family, it’s sad that my parents can’t see me like this, but it’s nice to have it celebrated by close friends."

The event may not have been exactly like the ceremony as it is celebrated back in Japan, but spending time among close friends was definitely appreciated by all. "It is very, very fun," Ozono said of the whole event.

After the ceremony, attendees spent the rest of the time enjoying the company of good friends, listening to music, and enjoying snacks, including mochi and tea.

Even though the customs and criteria of Coming-of-Age Day have changed and time again, it continues to be celebrated not only in the communities within Japan, but all over the world. International House at Lawrence is always hosting events that stem from traditions found all over the world, so take advantage of this opportunity to learn and to experience new traditions different from your own.
After several events in Appleton, at Lawrence and Björklunden, non-profit chamber collective Decoda played a diverse program this past Sunday, Jan. 8. The New York-based collective has 30 members performing in different instrumentation around the world, providing interactive and informative performances, often customized for their audiences. Sunday’s concert featured Decoda members James Austin Smith on oboe; Carol McGonnell on clarinet and Sámiir Thorsteindóttir on cello, as well as three Lawrence faculty who are members: Assistant Professor of Music Erin Lesser on flute, Associate Professor of Music Michael Marullo on piano, and Instructor of Music Sumner Truax on saxophone.

“Grown-ups are not good at leaving things to go right out and say it. I find it difficult for me to go to instrumental concerts that lack improvisation or that are not jazz or avant-garde. It revolves around the same reasons that nearly every listener is guilty of—we like the comfort of something a little more familiar, we feel we are too far behind to catch up on a new style, there is a gut feeling that we just do not resonate with it—the list is probably infinite. This issue is something I have been working on mostly through my column, but in other settings as well. Since an epiphany last term due to a choir concert, I feel like I have been on the right path, and I was genuinely excited for the Decoda concert even though I was not familiar with any of the program and had not listened to them before.

The performance began with a flute and clarinet duet, following its introduction with conversation about how perceiver sound. The two raw voices were in and out of each other, a sparkly momentum resting only with slight, occasional hiccups. I engaged with this opener, but still felt a sense of disconnect with it and the following piece, a tranquil yet active flute-oboe-piano trio. In my notes, I wrote "pretty, but lacking context—why don’t you need to hear more of the jazz and the like?" I am still mulling this question over, but what interested me most is that while I was not ultimately moved by it, I found the music to be beautiful, pleasing and engaging while listening deeply and writing down moments that stood out.

The next piece, “Mirrors” by Kaaja Saaribao, a flute and cello duet, was the one that really started pulling me in. Both Lesser and Thorsteindóttir used unconventional sounds and techniques, making for a densely packed journey of timbres. I could feel their chemistry pouring through the cello, across the stage and up into my feet. I was physically resonating with the piece and resonated emotionally soon after too. This felt energy continued to the next piece, the oldest in the program, Robert Schumann’s “Fantasiestücke.” A three-movement duet with piano, the piece is usually played by one instrument and piano, but Decoda decided to dispense the movements so their performance went from oboe d’amore to cello to clarinett. With “Fantasiestücke,” their acute focus on each other was shown, each playing off of the preceding musician with care, while also creating an individual statement.

The concert undoubtedly peaked for me at the first piece back from intermission, Daniel Barter’s “5 Possibilities.” I cannot remember any musical gestures from it, so I left just with how I felt during certain points. Never before had I heard a chamber piece that contained the tenderness and intensity this piece brought forth. I was cleansed and at peace, but not in the same way I usually feel from a meditative piece. It was as if the music, once rattling in me, pushed everything unnecessary out, leaving only a vehement spirit. I have never been so moved by a chamber performance.

What mainly made this performance drastically different for me was the unadulterated passion each musician had for not only making music but also sharing it with an audience. More often than not, I have trouble seeing the performers having a good time on stage during concerts that are outside of my usual taste. This may be because (a) my own preconceived notions affect my observations or (b) the performers are not having an enjoyable experience. I may be biased, but I have determined it is usually the latter. Being outward and honest with how you feel about the art one is creating can go a long way. In Decoda’s case, I had seen an identical program minus that passion, I firmly believe it would not have resonated with me at all.

On Thursday, Jan. 5, the Warch Concert Hall showcased a Decoda performance titled “Composed,” a documentary by John Beder. The film showcased the reality of performance anxiety for classical musicians and was sponsored by visiting chamber collective Decoda, the Athletic and Conservatory Engagement Committee (ACE) and Lawrence’s chapter of the Associated College Artists (SM). The content can easily be applied to any type of performance, and the event was well attended by both athletes and musicians alike. After the film, a Q&A panel was held by Beder.

The documentary presented performance anxiety through the stories of musicians. The film spotlighted 98 percent of performers have had performance anxiety at least once. A theme was that most musicians experience this anxiety, yet it is widely hidden because people feel uncomfortable discussing it.

The first half of the film focused on musicians’ tales of anxiety. Some of these included visible shaking, feeling nauseous and forgetting to play a song right or last. One musician quit playing for nearly a year because his performance anxiety upset him so much. Though it was sometimes morosely relatable, several self-deprecating one-liners by the musicians provided comic relief, and at moments the audience could not help but laugh. The entire documentary was focused on solutions for performance anxiety. The film stressed that one must find the solution that works for them. Some musicians recommended meditation and deep breathing before playing. A suggestion that particularly resonated with me was to imagine one’s favorite memories of playing music as one begins to play. One musician said that every time he picks up his trumpet, he can picture that happy moment because he has conditioned himself to do so.

Another widely used but generally unspecified solution is to take beta blockers. For many musicians, beta blockers can be used to calm themselves down. Though some musicians view this as taboo, it can be an effective way of controlling anxiety. For other musicians, it does not work as well.

Afterwards, during the panel, Beder was intelligent and well spoken. He, along with the three visiting musicians from Decoda and Director of Athletics Christyn Truax, discussed some of the most pressing situations from the audience. This Q&A session helped relate “Composed” to the world of sports while also containing previously insightful stories about a love of playing music. The audience was advised that after one has practiced, one must forget all of it and play with joy.

The entire documentary was highly informative and comforting for anyone who experiences performance anxiety. The film was extremely well made, and it reminded the audience that they are not alone in their struggles.
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: MADDY BROTHERTON

Emma Arnesen  Staff Writer

Taking classes in both the college and conservatory has shaped senior Maddy Brotherton’s musical career at Lawrence University. Coming from a musical background with notable family members musicians and having played violin for over 16 years, Brotherton has seen more intersection and connection between her Violin Performance major and Russian History and Literature minor than most people might initially think.

"The classical music I tend to like Russian and French music," Brotherton mentions. "I appreciate the kind of textures and the images that [music] puts in my mind." With a background in Russian history and literature, she is able to see connections between what she learns in class and the different kinds of compositions she plays. "I think I've had experiences here [at Lawrence] in orchestra that have made that music more interesting to me, which is great. I'm finding in a value in it that I don't tend to see at first." Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Debussy and Ravel are only some of the renowned com- posers that Brotherton enjoys listen- ing to and playing. "The more perspective I get on the Russian language and Russian literature for Russian music, the more personal context I will be able to apply to Russian composers I learn about."

Brotherton states that she also wants to learn more about contemporary music and find contemporary composers whose styles she likes. "I think [the music] we tend to hear more often can be like most people's first impression of contemporary music. Kind of homogeneous—hear[ing] the same ideas over and over again. Fortunately there are so many students here [at Lawrence], composition students and people that are more in tune with that aesthete so we have some idea of where I could look for [more examples of contem- porary music]."

Being around other student musicians at Lawrence and in orchestra have helped Maddy explore different musical inter- ests as well as find a strong sup- port system. Before coming to college Brotherton dealt with performance anxiety and panic attacks before solo ensembles and competitions. However, classmates and Associate Professor of Music Wen-Lei Gu’s violin studio have been positive resources, especially since she is able to relate to and sympathize with others who might experi- ence some of the same anxious feelings about performing.

In addition, she sees the importance of individuality in music performance. "I am really into getting emotionally invested in what I am playing and, com- municating the emotional invest- ment to whoever is hearing, so I want to find a lot of depth in the things I am playing." This trait is just another impact that Gu has made on Brotherton both within the studio and for per- formance and recitals. "Ms. Gu has been really supportive and just really helpful in letting me know that I do well," Brotherton says, mentioning that she was the most prepared and relaxed she has ever felt before her junior recital last year. "Ms. Gu and I work really well togeth- er because she is kind of about putting [feeling] first." For her senior recital, Brotherton will play the Franck Violin Sonata, Two Pieces for Viola and Piano by Rachmaninoff and Bach’s G Minor Adagio and Fugue on Saturday, May 20 at 5 p.m. in Harper Hall.

Post-Lawrence, Brotherton sees herself spending time back home in Austin, Texas where she has connections through her parents’ musical talent as well as colleagues she has performed with. "I want to be able to be in one place for a while so if some- body comes to me and their band is looking for a violinist, I can say ‘yes!’ I don’t have to say, ‘I have to be back at school in two weeks.’" As for now right, Brotherton is exploring her many interests and hopes to find a place she can take long-term commitments, wheth- er playing in gigs, weddings or different events. Perhaps a grad- uate program will catch her eye, but Brotherton likes to keep an open mind of where her musical talent will take her.

Safari Al visits Lawrence

Elijah Kuhaupt  Staff Writer

On Friday, Jan. 6 at 9 p.m. in WLFM, hip-hop artist, poet and veteran Lawrence band member and senior Ridley Tankersley, formerly of Wild Firth and Sk8 City High School All-Star Jazz Band. In his solo act, Ridley performed a mix of pop- punk inspired vignettes composed throughout his college years.

After Tankersley, Safari Al took the stage for a short half- hour set of his newest work—his Silt Rifle zine. Al performed sev- eral poems from the zine while delivering the lines over the smooth, sample-heavy production from his instrumental tape. Safari Al’s delivery was fantastic—a mix- ture of rapping and talking that played the space incredibly well. Safari Al’s set was soon over, and the small, intimate space filled with applause as he finished his last piece.

Safari Al played a tremend- ous show with lots of help from Cyberspliff and Ridley as his open- ers. Overall, this quiet, intimate WLFM concert was the perfect start to the term on a cold Friday night.

## Article Review

Sk8 City High School All-Star Jazz Band’s “Ranch Generation”

Izzy Yellen  Columnist

There is nothing quite like a Sk8 City show. Their tenacious voracity is omnipresent, rearing its head in dense music and comic moments. If you have seen them, there is no doubt you have had Easy Mac thrown at you, laughed at their goofy quips or stood in awe at a particular otherworldly musical moment, with sound wielding a fiery power unique to this trio sur- rounding you. It is most likely the case you have experienced all three of these. So, when I heard Sk8 City was going to release an album, my first question was, “How are they going to translate that into a studio recording?”

Of course, that is not poss- ible—so much of their music-cal essence is based off building walls of sound together to shelter the audience, and so much of their human nature is interacting with their fans—but they got pretty dang close with their debut. The full-length album boasts all originals with 27 tracks—partly thanks to the 14 improvised interludes, all iden- tically entitled “PLANET SAWX” While the album lacks much of the goofy, dense experience of their concerts, the music is top-notch, possibly even more so on the record. At points their play- ing does not have the urgent and sparcod carefree spirit so present live, but this does not hinder their creativity and their ability to constantly put themselves out there.

A favorite track was the final “,” I washed out, trippy jam that is sure to leave the listener both disoriented and lulled into a calmer state, an interesting end- point was sold exclusively to his fans, a tangible thank you for their support, with an accompanying tape of poetry, art, printmaking and pro- duction knowledge and wrapped it into a physical zine with an accompanying tape of instrumentalosal sold as a set. This set was sold exclusively to his supporters on Patreon, a website where individuals can sup- port their favorite artists with a monthly donation, usually being able to receive something back in appreciation for their monthly gift.

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The show began with a per- formance from one of Lawrence’s newest upcoming bands—the duo Cyberspliff—the collaborative partnership between sophomores Annie Connolly and Lilly Donlon. Their act comprises songs—a mix of originals and covers—sang into microphones while run- ning the vocal samples through a series of guitar pedals. This effect on the voice is thoughtful and entertaining. At this show, Cyberspliff performed only one song—their excellent rendition of the ’70s hit Needles & Pins by The Searchers. The next set was a solo acoustic set by veteran Lawrence band member and senior Ridley Tankersley, formerly of Wild Firth and Sk8 City High School All-Star Jazz Band. In his solo act, Ridley performed a mix of pop- punt inspired vignettes composed throughout his college years.

After Tankersley, Safari Al took the stage for a short half- hour set of his newest work—his Silt Rifle zine. Al performed sev- eral poems from the zine while delivering the lines over the smooth, sample-heavy production from his instrumental tape. Safari Al’s delivery was fantastic—a mix- ture of rapping and talking that played the space incredibly well. Safari Al’s set was soon over, and the small, intimate space filled with applause as he finished his last piece.

Safari Al played a tremend- ous show with lots of help from Cyberspliff and Ridley as his open- ers. Overall, this quiet, intimate WLFM concert was the perfect start to the term on a cold Friday night.
As a goalie your job is to give the team a chance to win every time. Do you feel proud of winning NCHA Defensive Player of the Week six times this year? It was definitely great to get a win of that caliber heading into break.

Small houses are not the only campus residences to suffer inadequate maintenance. Many of the dorms also suffer from unresolved maintenance issues. In Colman Hall, the elevator cannot be counted on. The bathroom showers are far better than the bathrooms in Sabin House. However, these token gestures are not sufficient or enough. In Raymond, Sabin and Sampson houses, the exterior walls were repainted and a new sidewalk was poured, connecting the back door of Sabin House to Meade Street and to the sidewalk connecting all of the quad buildings. Seemingly, structural issues with the building were not being addressed until the building was a student residence.

Sabin House is not the only office located in a former small house. Raymond House hosts the Office of the Dean of Students. Sampson House serves as the office of the president. These offices are kept open despite the fact that Raymond and Sampson houses are one of the older buildings on campus. Money is being spent to maintain these offices as student housing slowly decays.

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Two months ago, campus was shell-shocked by the results of the presidential election. Classes were cancelled and discussions were opened in classrooms across every campus building. I myself had just got elected to a position of power and was still trying to figure out how to treat ‘em like shit.” Seriously.

And when questioned about say-ten the disgusting rhetoric and working with students. I’ve been working with students for a while before I came to a solution for a particular problem. I would describe my style as highly collaborative. I love conversations; I love hearing other people’s ideas. Something I learned about myself, actually, was that I was much better as part of an ensemble than as a soloist. I really loved being involved in endeavors that brought a lot of other voices together to create something bigger. As our future chief academ-ic officer, are there changes you would like to see in how we’re currently doing things?

What more could there be to talk about? Trump the Terrifying Four is old news. This fast-paced media has been quick to slip to the next chapter in American political history, Trump the Important Player: However, it is worth remembering that we all elected to our highest position of power. We cannot forget that Trump is a sexist, racist, home-ophbic, xenophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic pile of garbage under a blonde hairpiece. No, he is not just “exaggerating” or “telling it like it is.” His hate-filled words have that many of us have forgotten the issues we had with Trump to begin with.

In case you forgot, Trump called for a ban on Muslims entering the country and pro-posed to track Muslims who are already American citizens. Trump bragged about sexually assaul-ting women. Trump said women should be punished for having abortions. Trump mocked a dis-abled reporter. Trump bullied his way through any debate. Trump called Mexicans rapists. Trump continually objectified and sexu-alized women, even along with his own grown daughter. Trump said, regarding women, “You have to act like a woman because it’s what’s going to get you the most respect.” And when questioned about say- ing that, he denied it, claiming that it’s impossible to be political without lying. “I didn’t say that. The woman’s a liar, extremely unattractive, and she’s taken all the credit for her looks.” Apparently, women who don’t fit Trump’s schema of attractiveness are liars. This is old news. We as a nation have discussed Trump’s disgusting rhetoric too, and analyzed it from every angle.

Everywhere you look, someone is piling on the criticism of Trump. He is a selfish, racist, sexist, xenophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic pile of garbage under a blonde hairpiece. He is not just “exaggerating” or “telling it like it is.” His hate-filled words have that many of us have forgotten the issues we had with Trump to begin with.

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PHOTO POLL

Sadie Tenpas
Photo Editor

Have you slipped on the ice yet?

“No, I’m from Chicago. I’m a professional anti-slip advocate.”
—Naomi Oster

“I fell on my ar’ three times yesterday. I slid down half of the Wriston stairs. It was kind of awesome actually.”
—Sean Gies

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“She [Holly Butterfield] has, but I haven’t.”
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“I haven’t, but I almost did. I feel really stupid walking on the ice because I’m trying not to fall, but I’m lucky that I haven’t.”
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— 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 should not be more than 350 words.

THE LAWRENTIAN

Jan. 13, 2017

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