Sankofa-CODA conversation focuses on respectability politics

Tina Czapliniska
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, Sankofa House held an open conversation that revolved around respectability politics. A PowerPoint slide neatly summarized the gist of the topic: do not be angry, do not show emotions, get a degree and look put together. The hosts, sophomore Sabrina Conteh and junior Guilberry Louissaint, aimed to highlight the problems with this kind of uniformity and subtle racism.

"Sankofa conversations discuss a variety of issues that are relevant to the world, especially since social justice is a hot topic these days," began Conteh. "Make sure you put in there that I rolled my eyes," she added.

Conteh continued to describe the relevance of respectability politics on campus, using protesting as an example.

"Silencing is very popular in a world where people can't be outwardly racist so they express their racism in subtle ways and basically, that's what respectability politics is," continued Conteh.

During the talk, Conteh and Louissaint played Jidenna Mobisson's "Classic Man" music video, which ignited a variety of responses among participants.

"[The video] shows that black men have no chance to be seen as innocent," said freshman Morgan Shapiro.

The event itself had a large turnout, which did not surprise either Conteh or Louissaint.

"A lot of people come to Sankofa conversations because [that] is where you go to find the language. Now [that students] have the language to articulate what they mean, they are able to be very conscious of how they come across when it comes to responses of resistance and challenge," added Conteh.

Early evening on Monday, Feb. 1, junior Ridley Tankersley was crowned grand master for next year's Great Midwest Trivia Contest. See page 2

Over the weekend of Jan. 29-31, Lawrence University's 51st Great Midwest Trivia Contest celebrated the inane and brought 18 on-campus and 86 off-campus teams together in competition.

"We ask over 400 questions, challenge 80-some teams to action questions, spend a lot of time on-air playing insane music and don't sleep nearly as much as we really ought to," said senior and Grand Master Jonathan Hanrahan.

Questions are organized into separate hours, such as "fandom hour" or "math hour." Participants are allowed to use any resource available to them—computers, smartphones, etc.—and so, the challenge for the trivia masters is to write questions that cannot be answered off the top of anyone's head or through a simple search.

Super senior Hallie Hillerman, who played on the Kohler Hall team, described one of the most challenging questions she encountered: "In 1964, a band pretended to play Beatles' songs at a battle of the bands contest called The Letterman Show. What is written in the top right corner of a page that features the band in a KWSS DJ's copy of the lead singer's 1965 yearbook?"

Known as a "Super Garruda," a question of this sort is typically the most difficult to answer but also worth the most points. Hillerman expressed shock that a team got the correct answer. One member of her team even tweeted at the disc jockey to see if he would respond.

"The trivia masters ourselves..."
Trivia returns
continued from page 1

are not that good at playing trivia,” joked Hanrahan. “Whenever someone gets points for a question that we thought would be impossible, we shake our heads in awe—and then move on to the next question because we literally have hundreds to get through,” he said.

The team with the most points after the 50-hour period is declared the winner. This year’s winning team, David and the Bucky’s, formed when several current students merged with a group of alumni who previously participated under the team name David and the Bells. Senior Kyle Stalsberg, one of the leaders of the winning team, credits his team’s success to the number of people working as a collective group.

This year, a rare cheating incident occurred: a single alumnus from off-campus team 157 was in the same room as David and the Bucky’s, which was leading its division for nearly the entire contest. Team 157 was ostensibly a one-person team, but was also one of the top scorers in the off-campus division.

Upon visiting David and the Bucky’s, senior and trivia master Alex Damisch found that the rumors were true. Due to the deception of claiming to be a separate off-campus team, and for leeching answers off of an enormous and successful team that had legitimately worked to get their points, team 157’s scores were zeroed. “It is an unfortunate incident, but luckily, it is rare. Trivia may be just for fun, but it should be fair,” said Damisch.

Stalsberg expressed frustration with the incident that put his team’s success in jeopardy, but was proud of how his team handled the difficult situation. He echoed Damisch’s statement, saying that, “While trivia is fun, people have to abide by the rules.”

“This year, the events surrounding trivia were almost as unusual as the questions themselves,” added Damisch. “We came up with some innovative action questions, we had some fun theme hours and most importantly, all trivia masters lived to tell the tale. The tradition lives on, and it’s in good hands.”

Sankofa conversation
continued from page 1

ling oppressive ideologies,” said Louissant.

With this, an obvious burden falls on Sankofa House as well as Lawrence University Community Council’s Committee on Diversity Affairs (CODA), the two sponsors of the conversations.

“Providing spaces for discussions is part of CODA’s goal. So Sankofa conversations are a lot about education,” concluded Conteh.

“I mean someone has to do it. I think a lot of this campus has some f---d up ideologies,” said Louisaint. “I think that yes, it is a tasing job, but someone has to do it. Otherwise, people won’t feel safe on campus since language can also make people feel unsafe. So it is important to give [students] the words to actually speak back to their oppressors,” Louisaint said.

Both hosts agree that a common way respectability politics is manifested on campus is through tone policing.

“Tone policing is just another way of recreating oppression and we don’t have time for that,” concluded Louisaint.

Generally, the goal of Sankofa conversations is to keep people thinking.

“Often, people leave with a lot of questions. And hopefully, they find answers, but the fact that they are asking those questions means that we have made some progress,” concluded Conteh.

CORRECTION TO LAST WEEK’S WORLD NEWS:
The virus causing birth defects in Brazil is the Zika virus. The previous spelling was an error.
Dismantling Failure

Fiona Masterton

Columnist

Dear Fiona,

I am constantly afraid of failing in school. I have worked so hard to get where I am now academically, and sometimes I feel like I don’t do well on a piece of homework because I actually know I can completely messed-up everything, and I will not be able to fix it. I got a C on a paper and cried. Is this still a passing grade, so why did it make me feel so worthless, so like a failure? If it is, I will even call it a C, how am I going to handle an actual failing grade?

-Afraid to Fail

Dear Afraid to Fail,

I know how that feels. I set very high standards for myself as well, and when I don’t achieve them, I feel like a failure. There’s something to be said for being slightly perfectionistic and having high academic standards for yourself, but there has to be a limit. Sometimes these impulses to shame ourselves for less than perfect work or grades come from our own personality, and sometimes they come from the way we were taught as children, but more often than not, I think, it is a combination of the two.

The realization that we must continue to do that same thing does not make us failures. A C on a paper made you feel awful because in your mind that is a failing grade. If you expect it of yourself, to get As and Bs, then it’s a C, of course, feels like failing, and that’s OK.

I don’t think you need to try to convince yourself that you shouldn’t feel bad about that grade. If it’s not up to your personal standards, it’s going to hurt. What you can do is to try to understand that this one paper or assignment does not make or break either you or your college career.

Once that’s understood, we need to address why this happened in the first place. Either you didn’t try hard enough, you didn’t study hard enough, you started off on the paper or assignment too late or you tried your best and still didn’t get a good grade. To me, the last one is more upsetting than all the former. If you didn’t work hard enough on something and you got a not-so-good grade on it, then what you learn from the situation is simple. Next time you need to put more thought, effort, time or a combination of those in order to do better.

If you tried your darndest, and for some reason that was still not good enough, it’s hard to know how to proceed. You’re not really at fault anywhere, so how do you make it right? If it’s an assignment, test or paper with a professor that you will have to work with extensively in the future, it may be worth it to talk to them and outline your concerns.

If you’re not comfortable doing that, or you probably won’t have to interact with this professor and you’re in the future, you have the option to just let it go. That can be hard, but sometimes it’s the best choice.

Good Luck!

-Fiona

Too Much Work And No Play

Savvas Sfairopoulos

Columnist

As a college student, I believe that the difficulty of our job is always in the framework of being rewarded by either an authority figure or a grade. Instead of focusing on the pleasure of working, we focus on the stress and exhausted trying to meet the next deadline. We tend to live in the moment, signing up for a plethora of events and striving to accomplish everything all at the same time. Essentialism, by Greg McKeown, wants to challenge this kind of lifestyle. McKeown defines essentialism as “a disciplined, systematic approach to determine our highest point of contribution, so that executing the important stuff becomes easier — if not effortless.”

Having read McKeown’s book, I find the arguments he makes quite compelling and their implications quite intriguing. What I found particularly fascinating, however, was the fact that throughout his book McKeown encourages people to “play” more often. Anything we do for the simple joy of doing it, rather than as a means to an end, is how the author defines “play.” At first I thought his advice was counter-productive; how can one achieve more by putting oneself more time to play? Yet after I thought about the soulless, static way that social institutions like schools and universities encourage us to do work, I realized that McKeown’s suggestions were right; there really is something wrong with the way we do work.

Looking back at my high school experience, it is easy to see why a student could be led to a lifestyle of stress. My teachers would constantly remind me that “hard work pays off.” Be careful, though, it’s not “work pays off,” it’s “hard work pays off”.

Now that is one of many clichéd phrases that are passed down to us from previous generation. Throwing the word “hard” in every work we do to the point that our work is meaningful. It is often found that people think about hard work, we think about our experience of doing work, and specifically about our tolerance for stress. How do we handle this? Even if it’s worse than a C, you will be OK.

Good Luck!

-Fiona
**Hockey remains optimistic despite losses to Adrian**

Clare Bruning  
Staff Writer

Lawrence University (Vikings) Men’s Hockey team (6-12-1, 5-8-1 NCHA) spent last weekend battling the nationally-ranked Adrian College Bulldogs (17-2-1, 13-2-1 NCHA) in Adrian, Mich. Although the Vikings skated with confidence and heart, the No. 1 Bulldogs, who have averaged over 5.5 goals a game this season, dominated the score sheet and swept the series soundly.

On Friday, Jan. 29, the competition commenced at a packed Arrington Arena. The Vikings started strong, holding Adrian’s attacks off for over half of the first period while putting up several good attempts of their own. At 12:57, the Bulldogs started the first goal of the night, then immediately went on with the power play and added a second goal less than 30 seconds later. Vikiings freshman Nick Felan responded with a goal of his own at 13:27, cutting the lead in half off assists from sophomores Brendan Yetter and Lane King. Not to be outdone in their own barn, the Bulldogs fired two more goals before the first intermission bringing the score to 4-1.

The Vikings retaliated in the opening minutes of the second period to trim the Adrian lead even further, as freshman Josh Koepflinger found the back of the net off another set of Yetter and King assists. The Bulldogs powered over the Vikings’ dugout defense to flaunt their goal-scoring expertise twice more before the end of the period and two more times in the third, bringing the final score to 8-2.

Junior goaltnder Mattias Soderstrom started in net for the Vikings and made 16 saves before being relieved of duty mid-second period by freshman Greg Procopio, who recorded 18 saves. Despite the totals on the score-board, the Vikings did fall too far behind in shits, putting up 33 attempts in total. According to Yetter, “We had a lot of positive momentum. Unfortunately for the Vikings, there wasn’t enough time for their reversal of momentum to play out and provide an opportunity to come back. The final score of 5-1 awarded the sweep to Adrian. Procopio guarded the goal again.

Looking forward, the Vikings have their sights set high on a successful end to a long and tiring season. To do this, the team needs to do what they do best: play good basketball. “We just need to take things day-to-day,” said sophomore Ben Peterson. “If we play the way we know we can, I believe we have a good chance to win the rest of our games this season.”

This weekend, Lawrence will continue its conference play with a home-and-home series against the Milwaukee School of Engineering Raiders (12-7-2, 11-4-1 NCHA). The Raiders are coming off a pair of 4-1 losses to Marian University (13-5-3, 11-4-1 NCHA) and are sitting third in the NCHA North Division, a spot that the Vikings hope to take from them in the next few weeks in order to secure a spot in playoffs. The puck drops at 7 p.m. at the Kern Center in Milwaukee on Friday and at Appleton Family Ice Center on Saturday.

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**Emmi Zheng - Swimming**

Emmi Zheng, a freshman for the Lawrence University Swimming team, has been lightening up the scoreboard with her quick times and consistent work in the water. Since the beginning of January, against Knox, the team concentrated on what was ahead, not what was behind. “Our team goals were pretty simple,” said junior Mitch Willer. “Get a win on the road to build our winning streak.”

Knox had other ideas, as the beginning of the game saw the Prairie Fire going on a 10-0 run, effectively stifling the Viking offense. It was not until four minutes were left in the half that Lawrence got on the board with a pair of Nikitas from across. The Vikings then rallied during the rest of the half and cut down the Prairie Fire lead to 30-27 by halftime.

The second half proved to be a much different story than the first. After five minutes into the half, the Vikings took their first lead of the game on a Willer jumper to bring the score to 35-34.

Knox and Lawrence then traded baskets, keeping the game close at 42-40 with the Vikings barely on top with 12 minutes left in the game. Nikitas, after draining a 3-pointer, began the Viking’s victory run. Lawrence went on a 12-0 run bringing the score to 52-40 with 10 minutes left in the game. The Vikings did not look back after that, as Knox came within 5 points of the lead for the rest of the game. Lawrence closed out the game with a final score of 70-57.

Willer credited the late Viking surge to greatly-improved overall team performances. “We started extremely slow, and earlier in the year, that could have doomed us from the start,” he said. “But we stayed calm and focused, cut the lead down, and then built on that lead in the second half to put it away.”

Looking forward, the Vikings have their sights set high on a successful end to a long and tiring season. To do this, the team needs to do what they do best: play good basketball. “We just need to take things day-to-day,” said sophomore Ben Peterson. “If we play the way we know we can, I believe we have a good chance to win the rest of our games this season.”

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**Matt Geleske  
Staff Writer**

The Lawrence University (Vikings) Men’s Basketball team competed last weekend at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. The visiting Vikings (8-10) proved that their early-season losing streak was truly a thing of the past with a decisive 71-57 win against Knox’s struggling Prairie Fire (1-16). Lawrence was led by the red hot senior Jamie Nikitas with 22 points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals. Senior Troy Miller also had a strong showing with five 3-pointers and 17 total points, and sophomore Jeremy Stephani added 15 points of his own to help seal the victory.

After their third win in a row, the Vikings seem to have effective-
Jordan Atkins  
Staff Writer

The Lawrence University Men’s and Women’s Fencing teams competed at the Northwestern Duals over the weekend on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The men’s team went 2-6 overall, recording victories over Caltech and Northwestern University. The women posted a record of 1-9 over the course of the two-day tournament. Their lone victory came from Caltech. The meet was highly competitive with some top ranked teams competing. “It was a very hard tournament,” said Viking senior epee fighter Moses Zarkin-Scott. “It was really insane. I wouldn’t say it’s probably the most challenging tournament I’ll probably ever go to at Lawrence. We get to compete against these crazy good people, and that’s kind of a blessing. Some of the best men’s and women’s teams in the nation competed and some athletes are expected to compete in this summer’s upcoming Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While the teams struggled against stiff competition, they are hoping to learn from and be motivated by the challenges they have faced.

The team has tried to stay strong through the adversity it has faced this year. Some athletes have quit and Lawrence has a smaller coaching staff than most of the teams they face. Additionally, the Vikings’ men’s epee squad has no alternates, so Zarkin-Scott, along with his teammates, senior Phillip Ziller and junior Connor Schurr must fight every bout. “We’ve persevered,” said Zarkin-Scott. “We’re getting through the year. ‘My approach is to maintain a positive attitude toward whatever comes up.’

While the team is committed to doing its best for the remainder of the season, they also hope to have a good time while doing so. “If we weren’t having fun, we wouldn’t go to practice,” said Zarkin-Scott. “The chances of us having fun is pretty high if you have the right mentality, and of course, with that, you’re going to get better, and maybe eventually have great success.”

The Vikings do not compete again until The Midwest Fencing Conference Championships at the end of February. The athletes will continue to practice and fine tune their skills and techniques in the final month of the season. The team hopes to take what it has learned in both practice and tournament and put together a successful finish to the season.

**Fencing stays competitive at Northwestern Duals**

Athlete of the Week  
by Gabriel Armistead Chapman

Kali Thibault  
Fencing

Photo by Emali Thompson

This week, I sat down with senior and Lawrence University Fencing Team Captain Kali Thibault to discuss the upcoming season, her role as captain and her love of fencing.

Gabe Chapman: What are you looking forward to this season?

Kali Thibault: I guess seeing the accumulation of all of my hard work and the time that I’ve put in the past four years to see the growth that I’ve made from freshman year to this time. A lot of the people I fence are the same, so it’s a clear indicator of my progress.

GC: How did you become captain of the team?

KT: I was voted in last year because there were no senior women, and then I just continued into this year.

GC: Do you like being a captain and having an added sense of responsibility?

KT: There are definitely burdens about it—I really enjoy helping people and making sure that they feel happy about being on the team and that they are growing in the ways they should. The team has started calling me the fearless leader this year, so that’s kind of nice. But it is a lot of added responsibility and sometimes it can be a lot, but I don’t know if I would change it for anything else.

GC: How do you think the team did at the Northwestern University Duals this past weekend?

KT: We did very well giving the circumstances. We fenced against the best of the best in the country - - teams that have Olympians and world class fencers. We’re just a small liberal arts college in Wisconsin, but we still won a lot of bouts and even the hardest schools worked for each touch, so I’m really everybody of my performance.

GC: How are you going to build off of that meet?

KT: We definitely learned a lot. You learn a lot from fencing really good fencers and you realize where the holes in your performance are, and you’re able patch them up in practice and you’ll be working on a lot of specific things in the coming weeks for the next tournament.

GC: How did you get into fencing?

KT: I read a lot of fantasy books about knights and I really wanted to try that. I looked up fencing clubs in my hometown and I got really into it before I realized that it was nothing like what I read in the books, but by then I already hooked.

GC: So what’s next for you guys this year as a team?

KT: In two weeks we have a two week tournament in Madison, WI. That will be good because we’ve arguably the top dogs in terms of club teams. Then two weeks after that we have the conference championships, and two weeks after that we have our regionals.

GC: Would you rather compete against fencers who are much better than you, or does it give you an added sense of confidence if you’re the team to beat?

KT: Well, I think for me and some of the other fencers that have been fencing for a long time, it’s nice fencing against good schools, but it’s nice for beginners on the team and those who have only been fencing for a few years to go fence against people who are more at their level.

GC: What are you looking forward to accomplishing personally this year?

KT: I would really like to get forth at conference as a team, and I would like to make the top twelve individually for regionals.

**By the Numbers**

The average number of points per game for basketball senior Jamie Nikitas. Nikitas currently leads the conference with this average.
Lunar New Year celebrates tradition and community

Mina Seo
Staff Writer

The annual celebration of Lunar New Year at Lawrence University took place on Saturday, Jan. 30. This family-friendly celebration of the event brought together not only students, but also Friendship Families, Fox Valley residents, faculty members and staff, offering a bonding experience for everyone in the greater community.

Lunar New Year is the most important festival in many Asian countries, including Korea, China and Vietnam. It originated from celebrating the first day of the year based on the lunar calendar. At Lawrence, students from these countries and various club members participate in commemorating this holiday. The Lunar New Year celebrations featured various multicultural activities, such as Chinese and Japanese calligraphy, tasting traditional Korean tea, trying on traditional Asian outfits and experiencing unique fortune telling. The organizing committee also invited engaging guest performers to represent a wide variety of Asian cultures and ethnicities.

Freshman Vy Ngo shared her experience of participating in this event. As a student from Vietnam, she helped people experience the multicultural activities and introduced the culture of her own country. She said, “Learning other cultures, eating international food and dressing in my traditional outfits is so exciting. This event helped me overcome my homesickness, and I hope this event goes on for the future generations as well.”

Senior Jason Park, who has been hosting the show for the last three years, was also excited for Lunar New Year. He originally started as a representative of the Korean Culture Club, but now, his feeling of duty to convey Korean culture to the Fox Valley community has become the primary motivation to organize this event. He believes the participants in this event grow close to each other and that the event builds a strong group bond. He said, “This group has already become a family for me [over] the past years. As we introduce other cultures such as Japan that do not necessarily celebrate this holiday in their own [country], I think the true value of Lunar New Year lies in its inclusivity that mingles a variety of international cultures and people in one place.”

Director of International Student Services Leah McSorley, who is also responsible for organizing this whole event, added, “And as an Appleton native, I am happy that people in my city can learn the various cultures of the world.”

The celebration started from a student’s desire to celebrate this Asian holiday in America. Despite being in existence at Lawrence for a long time, the event is still evolving each year. Students who experienced this event all share their common enthusiasm in witnessing this harmonious, energetic cluster of people from different countries.

Students and performers participate in the Lunar New Year festivities. Photos by Billy Liu

Eating off the Meal Plan: a Series on Where Else to Eat

Alanna Rieser
Staff Writer

One of Lawrence University’s most unique aspects is the availability of theme and formal group housing, and the meal plans they offer as alternatives to Bon Appétit. Among these, there is no single, collective food plan, allowing differences between each house.

To highlight one house and meal plan in particular, The Lawrence spoke to junior and Phi Kappa Tau (Phi Tau) President Neal Bauer about his experience living in the house and availing a different meal plan. He stated, “It’s amazing. We are able to bring in a wide variety of food options, which allows me to take ownership over my daily routine with food in a way I wasn’t able to at the commons.”

In Phi Tau, the active members are provided their food budget per term based on how many members live in the house. The types of food in the house are based on personal preferences with an ongoing grocery list for reference. Some of these include various meats, fresh produce, Oreos and several kinds of Naked juices.

This meal plan allows the members of Phi Tau, both living in the house and off campus, a haven to cook their own food. This is conducive to a variety of life-styles, allowing members to still eat in the commons or the café, or to only eat in the house, depending on their personal preference. There are various kinds of meal plans available to Phi Tau members, ranging from only having meals at the house to eating there from time to time.

When asked about the cooking duties and clean-up responsibilities, Neal responded, “The division of labor is equal amongst the house. Everyone supports each other, but mainly cooks for themselves.”

This sense of community is echoed in other theme houses across campus as they do things together, such as ensuring that there is food for all diets and making group dinners to eat together as a community. Phi Tau supports various living choices in addition to their meal plan. In order to live in the house, one must be an active in good academic standing.

There are 17 members currently living in the house, situated next to International House on the beloved Boldt Way.

Students and performers participate in the Lunar New Year festivities. Photos by Billy Liu

The celebration started from a student’s desire to celebrate this Asian holiday in America. Despite being in existence at Lawrence for a long time, the event is still evolving each year. Students who experienced this event all share their common enthusiasm in witnessing this harmonious, energetic cluster of people from different countries.

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Students and performers participate in the Lunar New Year festivities. Photos by Billy Liu
One Piece of Trivia: Gaming House

Karina Barajas
For The Lawrentian

Trivia weekend is a lively tradition at Lawrence that occurs in the last days of January. Being a freshman, I did not understand what all the hype was about. After spending time with the Gaming House team during Trivia, I now understand.

Alumna Julia Heller ’13 participated in the trivia contest her freshman and junior years. She played in the original Gaming House and at the time, was one of the eight people living there. She recalls the team her sophomore year was called “Mega Squid;” her senior year, “Chaz Bot” and the year after, “8Octo-bot.” She participated in 49th contest, but did not play the following year because she “lived in upstate New York and was too depressed to do anything.” This year, she played on Team 172 with alumni in Madison. “Trivia is the feeling you would do whatever it takes for the stupidest reason and knowing that everyone else in the room is right there with you,” said Heller.

Junior David De Stasio is playing his third year of Trivia in Gaming House. He said, “Trivia is the ridiculousness and willingness to just give up being serious and being crazy for a weekend.” He enjoys action questions where the campus is asked to do something outside of the ordinary. Some examples have been stealing one of the trivia masters or finding the campus’ largest tree. De Stasio’s favorite action question was returning dishes to the commons—at a time when one could take dishes out of the dining hall. One of his teammates wrote an apology letter in calligraphy, which was followed by a mock funeral procession. His team won that round. Trivia in one word to De Stasio is “insanity.”

Sophomore Daniel Thomas-Commins is playing his second year of trivia. His freshman year team was “Taking the Hobbits to #Octo-punks is not Death.” According to him, best thing about trivia last year was that “the basement was full of people, the energy was hardcore and there was food.” His favorite memory is an action question where each team had to create an infomercial. He took part in an infomercial selling the “Nipple of Knowledge.” Thomas-Commins credited alumnus Nathan Lawrence ’15 for coming up with the idea. For Thomas-Commins, trivia in two words is “Skull Squadron!”

I was also told some other stories from trivia’s past. One year, there was the question: “On this day in history, what did this person write in the Madison state capital guest book?” A team sent one of their friends to the state capital in Madison to find the answer and almost got arrested. The premise of this story is that someone who has never played trivia would say, “What were they thinking?” whereas someone who has played trivia would say, “I would have done the same thing.”

I tried my hand at trivia for a couple of hours and found it addictive. The questions and answers may be seemingly pointless, but the experience of being random with a group of people I otherwise would not have met is priceless.

Students express desire for authentic Asian food

Anh Ta
Assoc. Copy Editor

Recent changes made by Lawrence University’s dining service Bon Appétit—such as the infrequency of the omelet station, fewer fruit options and the introduction of the infamous clamshell—have received mixed reviews from the student body. However, a long-standing issue that has not been talked about much is the Andrew’s Global Market station that features an array of dishes from other cultures and countries in the commons. Despite the effort and possibly good intentions behind these dishes, Bon Appétit still has some room for improvement.

The Andrew’s Global Market station usually features various Asian dishes every day, adding more options for students during meal time. Many students, especially those from other countries, appreciate the availability of Asian food options. According to sophomore Mengxuan Wang from China, the occasional Chinese dishes “give [her] comfort when [she] is so far away from home.” She also added, “Even though a lot of times the Asian food [Bon Appétit] makes tastes really weird, I do appreciate their effort.”

It is unavoidable that most Asian dishes recreated at Lawrence would not be authentic due to lack of proper ingredients and techniques as present in the original cuisines. As pointed out by senior Sophia Wang from China, authenticity—especially in food—is a very subjective concept, as it is impossible to recreate a dish exactly as it exists in another country.

“Giving food authentic names when they are not that authentic happens every-where in the world, not just Bon Appétit,” said Wang. “To reach [a high] level of authenticity is not realistic for the popula-tion that Bon Appétit is serving or for the cooks,” she said.

However, sometimes, the dishes served bear little to no resemblance in appearance and taste to their authentic counterparts, causing not only confusion but also frustra-tion among international students.

Korean freshman Inwooon Oh recounted her disappointment when she saw kimchi listed on the menu and got something completely different at dinner. “If they are going to use the authentic names [of] Asian foods, I think they need to try their best,” said Oh. “I think [what they are doing] is great, but I wish [they could] be more accurate when making food.”

In my personal experience as a Vietnamese student, there are dishes that are claimed to be Vietnamese, but neither my Vietnamese peers nor I have ever heard of them before. One such example is the so-called Vietnamese turkey lettuce wraps that puzzled many of us, as no one really eats turkey in Vietnam. A quick internet search would show that this dish might have been Asian, but definitely not Vietnamese. Such dishes not only create frustration, but also misunderstanding among anyone who is not familiar with Vietnamese cuisine.

This is not the first time that Bon Appétit Management Company has struggled with their attempt at Asian food. In November of 2015, a group of Chinese, South Asian and Vietnamese students at Oberlin College raised their concerns with Bon Appétit—also their dining service—about the cultural appropriation in making traditional Asian dishes. Since then, there has been a meeting between Bon Appétit representatives and the students at Oberlin. However, the results from the meeting have not been made public.

Here at Lawrence, it is worth noting that Bon Appétit has recently put in effort to accurately represent different cultures’ cuisines, such as asking student workers for recipes from their home countries. Nevertheless, when the lack of ingredients and other necessities for these dishes is an inevitable problem, there has to be a better measure than trying to recreate with substitution and faking.

According to some students, it might be better if the dishes are served without mentioning a country or culture, and simply indicating the key ingredients. Even if
Music & Film
Outside Conservatory
LEWIS SUPER
Wendell Leafstedt

On Saturday, Jan. 30 in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel, the Lawrence University Wind Ensemble held a memorable con-
cert. Among the highlights was featuring selections from the soundtracks of "On The Waterfront," "Catch Me If You Can," and the ubiquitous "Star Wars." Students from Lawrence and people from all over Appleton came to experience music from the famous movies. While the musicians warmed up onstage, ushers were busy directing the endless stream of people entering the hall. The audience was made up of everyone from ushers favoring from "Star Wars" left everyone cheering exuberantly and clapping along.

Denise Encarnacion, assistant professor of music and director of jazz studies, who would be performing as a soloist on saxophone during "Catch Me If You Can," shared with me what the process is like leading up to a concert.

"I was looking to contact me. However, I found out that the process is a lot more musicians outside of the Conservatory. If there are musicians out there who are interested in joining the Conservatory, they are definite-
young, talented musicians and I was expecting. This diversity of musicians makes it work. It is clear Lewis Super's music is an extension of Tankersley. It gives his listen-
ers a look at what he is feeling and thinking at the time. This organic growth gives his music a special quality. Furthermore, he has a lot of creative people are participat-
ing through music. It does matter to him what genre the Conservatory—all of which play a part in his ever-changing sound. "Being in a place where lots of creative people are hanging out and talking to each other about music or other-
wise is really helpful and makes me think about things in a dif-
ferent way or a way in which you necessarily be inclined to think," Tankersley shared with me. Like MG's music, it is easy to hear that the Conservatory plays some role, but a lack of music education can also add an interesting flavor and aspect, although it is not always easy to articulate it.

Although Lewis Super's career is still forming, it is promising. I can see his music going in many different direc-
tions, and I am really looking forward to seeing what he will do in the future. If you want to hear more of his music, you can find it on www.lewissuper.bandcamp.com.
Music is a continuous learning process. Talent and skill are honed through years of practice. But no growth will take place without the proper teacher.

Senior Mya Hunt knows this sentiment all too well. She is majoring both in viola performance and instrumental/general education; two areas of study that go hand in hand.

“I want to teach the whole world; viola’s that’s my life goal now,” Hunt said. “Without fail, it’ll happen someday, so be warned.”

While her passion for education is evident, this was not always the case.

“I actually was not in love with music education until I took introduction to music education here. I realized that I really love teaching,” Hunt said. There have been many rewarding experiences that have reinforced this fervor.

One of her most enriching episodes was “the first time that I was working in a practicum situation, and I saw that light in the child’s eyes when they got it; they just got something. And it was something so simple, some rhythm thing, but they got it. And their face just lit up.” Hunt said. “I was like, ‘OK, it’s worth it. It is worth all of the struggle that I just went through for the past half-hour trying to teach you this!’ And it’s been uphill from there.”

In addition to practicums, Hunt has developed her skill as an aural skills teaching assistant.

“It’s basically a teaching lab I get paid for. And it’s awesome,” she said. “I have a whole class of freshmen trying to learn aural skills with completely different skill sets and learning styles.”

In this setting full of diversified learning, Hunt has crafted and strengthened a teaching philosophy based on improvisation and practice.

“I took an improvisation class, and it changed my life,” she said. “That really changed my perspective on teaching as well as performing.”

Hunt elaborated that this music became a much more personal experience for her.

She was able to see “the change in myself as a musician from that, because I felt so much more ownership of my own musicianship. The music was coming from me and my instrument, not just the page,” she said. “And I want to give that to all my students. Every single one of my students will improvise from day one. It will happen. Even if they can only play one note; they will improvise on that one note.”

Hunt wants her students to leave her studio with the personal control and expression of a true musician. She wants her students to be able to “create whatever they feel is worth creating.”

But this improvisation cannot be perfected without practice, and no one is above the seemingly tedious task.

“One of the things with performance and music education is that they’re so intertwined for me and for a lot of us that are doing both. All of my teaching skills I apply in the practice room,” Hunt said. “When I’m in the practice room, I am my own teacher.”

The Héctor del Curto Tango Quintet performs as part of the World Music Series on Monday, Feb. 1. Photo by Natalie Cauth

World Music Series brings Argentinian tango to Lawrence

McKenzie Fetters
Staff Writer

This past Monday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m., Lawrentians experienced some music in a unique style from a different part of the world. As part of the World Music Series, the Argentinian Héctor del Curto Tango Quintet performed to a packed Harper Hall.

The quintet specializes in traditional tango music and features a bandoneón—an instrument like an accordion used specifically for tango music—along with a piano, violin, cello and bass.

The group was barely on stage for a minute before they began playing. The tango style washed over the audience in an instant, drenching everyone with the multi-layered sound. With the music’s lulls and pushes, bow strokes to keep the beat, and melody lines that were shy, sassy and passionate all at the same time. Often, the pieces contained long, sweeping lines that would abruptly cut back to short, choked strokes, resulting in a sound that started out husky and soft that then became harsh and quiet. Almost every single song ended with a short, short note played after a pause.

At all times during the performance, I enjoyed watching the players’ techniques—the loose wrists of the bassist on every bow stroke, the gentle swaying of the cellist, the impeccable phrasing of the bandoneonist, the careful nodding to the beat of the pianist and the heavy yet lifting tone of the violinist. My personal favorite piece was the sentimental and passionate “Verano Porteño,” but, judging by the subsequent loud applause that urged the group back onstage for an encore piece, I think that the overall audience favorite would have to be the final number, “Adiós Nonino,” a piece that Piazzolla wrote to commemorate his deceased father—a majestic celebration of a life that everyone could appreciate.

Overall, the Héctor del Curto Tango Quintet played an inspiring performance that also educated audience members about another style of music heard around the world. For those interested in enjoying superb music in different musical styles from around the globe, the next concert in the World Music series, featuring Zafir with Simon Shaheen, will be Friday, April 1 at 8 p.m. in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel.
Staff Editorial

High cost of off-campus study creates an unfair financial obstacle

For many Lawrentians, the opportunity to study abroad is one of the biggest highlights of their four years and achieves the university’s goal of transforming us into globally minded individuals. However, for many students, studying abroad is not a feasible option. While the failure to meet academic requirements is one reason preventing students from going abroad, the most common cause seems to be a lack of adequate financial support.

Lawrence University’s mission statement says that our campus is “committed to the development of intellect and talent, the pursuit of knowledge and understanding, the cultivation of sound judgment and respect for the perspectives of others.” However, those of us who have lived on the Lawrence campus have realized the potential shortcomings of this statement due to our reality-shielding “Lawrence bubble.”

One of the best ways for students to accomplish the goals of our university’s mission statement is to burst the “bubble” by living in a new and unfamiliar environment. By studying abroad, students are able to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom and experience vital personal development that is unattainable in a small, comfortable environment like Lawrence University.

Unfortunately, studying abroad generally costs more than the tuition at Lawrence, not including the added costs of airfare, traveling and living expenses. While they may realize the extra personal costs necessary for study abroad, many still look forward to having the support of their academic scholarships and financial aid packages. That is, however, until they learn that some of their Lawrence financial assistance does not apply to the cost of studying abroad.

While need-based aid can still be applied to Lawrence-run centers and other accepted programs, students cannot apply their merit or music-based scholarships to their off-campus experiences. That means that not only are students having to shell out more money to just go abroad in the first place, they are also losing thousands of dollars they expected to be able to put towards their education.

At some level, all of this seems to make sense for students studying abroad in non-Lawrence affiliated programs. However, unfortunately, the loss of merit and music scholarships applies to Lawrence-specific programs as well, such as the ones in London and Senegal.

The relevant Lawrence departments of financial aid and study abroad would recommend that students apply to outside scholarships for their study abroad experiences. That is true; we can apply for scholarships, but two major hindrances make this a near-impossible option.

First, the Lawrence study abroad staff does not prioritize finding scholarships over handing in important travel materials and documents, such as travel insurance, that hold the university liable for students’ safety. Considering that students must be able to settle how they will pay for this experience first, there should be specific workshops that guide students through the process of looking for scholarships available.

The second issue is that most study abroad scholarships are extremely competitive. Lawrentians would have to compete with fellow Lawrentians as well as students from all over the world to prove that they are the most deserving of a scholarship that is only worth a fraction of the study abroad cost. Not to mention that it is hard for a full-time student to find the time to apply for them.

While studying abroad is certainly a privilege, it should be one that the university’s financial aid structures inherently promote and encourage. Lawrence should align itself with the liberal arts values it promotes by making the opportunity to study abroad available to as many students as possible.

Letters to the Editor can be sent to in Opinions & Editorials Editor Jessica Morgan at jessica.m.morgan@lawrentian.com. 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.

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.

Pluralism at the Western Wall

Religious pluralism and Liberal Jews have made gains in Israel this week, but the fight against extreme religious policies, which have eroded from over fifty years until now, the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, has been restricted to non-Orthodox prayer services. The separation is based on gender.

On Jan. 31, the Israeli cabinet voted to create a mixed-gender Orthodox egalitarian space at the wall for Reform and Conservative Jews to pray. The Religious Nationalists and the Haredi—ultra-Orthodox—leadership voted against the measure, but did not continue to fight it by threatening to leave the coalition government once it was passed. They likely chose not to fight the measure because relaxing the religious policy has been expected for some time now.

The space being used was formally designated for non-Orthodox prayer, but it had no institutional structure or religious items, like prayer books and shawls, that are needed for religious services.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Office Eli Groner said that this is “a practical compromise between religious and ideological considerations.” The Israeli government is clearly limiting the authority of the Rabbinate, the religious governing body of Israel, and is giving leeway to the practices of other Liberal Jews by using government money to run non-Orthodox services.

Many believe that the move was made to pander to American Jews who are some of Israel’s most ardent supporters abroad, but who have been alienated by the Coalition’s Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies and the 2014 conflict with Gaza.

Groups like the Women of the Wall have been calling for changes like this for years, and feel that the Western Wall was being run by male-dominated groups instead of uniting all Jews like-mindedly.

This is a landmark case in the too much work continued from page 3

an improve class at the company.

I think that we should intro-
duce more play in education, too. Sir Ken Robinson, whose life’s work is focused on the study of creativity in schools, has observed that “the current approach to education is fueling creativity through play, schools stick to con-
ventional techniques, thereby kill-
ing any kind of creative ability. The word school is derived from the Greek word scholē meaning "leisure." I firmly believe that it is time we have a paradigm shift in our education system by introduc-
ing this kind of leisure in our daily activities. By applying an essentialist approach to education and keeping everything in moderation, we can balance heavy workloads with numerous play sessions. Doing so would lead to a healthier, stress-free lifestyle, whilst also boosting their creative abilities and their passion for work.

Asian food continued from page 7

there are still some drawbacks with this cooking; it could be the more appropriate thing to do.

"I feel that the […] ethnic-
ity or nationality indicates more infor-
mation, such as the flavor, spices [or] how the dish is cooked, rather than [just listing] out ingre-
dients," said Wang. "It will be an ideal situation not to put ethnic-
ity or nationality as part of the dish name." Oh, when asked, also agreed that this would be a better way of action.

Although this is a difficult task for Bon Appétit, it is still important to keep looking forward to more actions taken by Bon Appétit in collabora-
tion with the Food Bank to help better represent the different cultures here at Lawrence.
Valentine’s Day: A Terrible Holiday for Terrible People

Yik Yak: An Outlet or a Problem?

Electra Arnade
For The Lawrentian

Yik Yak is begrudgingly accepted on the Lawrence’s campus. We all know it exists, and some of us check it, but it is like an emanating out-of-touch and distant family member. It is hard to hold wonder why I still even use this application when it is sometimes frustrating and contains negative content or ignorant and racist viewpoints. I often use it to give people advice or post pictures myself. It is not inherently bad. As long as people are mindful about what they are posting here, I have with their posts, it can be a part of college life.

Yik Yak is a location-based mobile application that allows people to post 200-character anonymous threads. It is often used on college campuses and that is where it has gained most controversy. Articles have been written about the potential for cyberbullying and hate speech on the application. An incident of bullying in a high school in Atlanta brought the application to the attention of the media and raised concerns among many parents. Some schools have either banned the application or started a petition to ban Yik Yak for such reasons. A petition was even released online to ban the application itself. Criticism of Yik Yak is legitimate and should be acknowledged. Unfortunately, it is very hard to stop what people are doing in their personal devices, but developers have taken some steps to dissuade bullying and other issues.

Developers continue to improve the reporting feature. Yik Yak is not only for people 17 years and older, and the application has been blocked on some high school and college campuses. However, an official post from the developers on the issue of bullying support that it is largely up to the community to change the feed.

The good thing about the application is the feature of down-voting. If a post gets a collective score of negative five, it is removed. Occasionally, at Lawrence, posts that are egregiously prejudiced get down-voted straight away. That does not solve everything, of course, but it does reflect a positive side of our community. However, there are more insidious examples of big-octaves are sometimes allowed to avoid what would be debate. For example, posts that say there is no need for people to be offended or upset about bigoted attitudes sometimes appear and are not challenged as much as they should be.

At Lawrence, I have seen all sorts of uses for the application. What I find most striking are the times people use it to reach out, or ask for help or advice. There, they are met with chains of supportive comments and answers. This goes from serious mental health concerns to questions about teachers and exams. Troll responses quickly downvote on these threads. Having this anonymous outlet might be a very helpful way for some people to vent. I have a friend who feels comfortable expressing their thoughts in a non-anonymous setting.

This is in contrast to some degrading, racist, sexist or transphobic posts I have read. I tasted it with my tongue — it was a rich, creamy sherbert that fizzled pleasurably on my tongue — it was a rich, creamy sherbert that fizzled pleasurably on my tongue — it was a rich, creamy sherbert that fizzled pleasurably on my tongue — it was a rich, creamy sherbert that fizzled pleasurably on my tongue. To advertise in The Lawrentian, contact lawrentian@lawrence.edu

Winter Lane continued from page 3

“What’ll you have?” he asked, grinning at me.

“Uh, w-whatever your best seller is,” I replied. The eighth graders snick- ered behind me as the driver dug into his pocket and handed me a mug of the most beautiful ice cream I had ever seen. The mug was bright, a real cold cream, and I looked back up at the driver, who was still grinning as if nothing he had just said was real. The driver winked at me.

“Alright,” the driver said, ducking in the back again. He reappeared with three mugs of ice cream, although they were dull white and not very colorful. The boys didn’t seem to notice the difference between their treats and mine and began licking at them. Then one of them recalled with disgust. There was looking to be a piece of chicken sticking out of the ice cream and next to it, the bright orange color of a carrot. I stared. My mom’s soup? They all began to cough and walked past me with their treats in hand as if I no longer existed to them. No one acknowledged for any of this. The man delivered the mugs to the parents and taunts thrown over the shoulder. Who exactly was this driver? I looked up at the ice cream. “Enjoy,” the driver said and closed the window. I watched him drive away, and as he did so, he winked at me.

Make your message stand out and be heard.
If you have not yet studied abroad, do you plan to? Why or why not?

“I want to go to Scotland because that’s where St. Cran was buried alive.”
—Kip Hathaway

“I would like to, but I probably won’t be able to. I have a lot of classes on campus to take.”
—Isaac Mayhew

“Yes, but it would need to be structured and aligning with my academic interests. Ideally, Ireland would be nice.”
—Liam Keenan

“No. After traveling alone and with family extensively, I think I’m going to focus on more rigorous coursework on campus.”
—Glenn McMahon

“I want to study abroad in London because I’ve always wanted to further my studies and knowledge about that part of the world.”
—Jack Plasterer

“I have not yet, but I really want to do a program in Twente, Netherlands that is physics-oriented.”
—Aedan Gardill

“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.

—All submissions to the 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.

— 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.

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Members of the Associated Collegiate Press

Congratulations to incoming Editor-in-Chief Lizzy Weekes and Copy Chief Alex Kurki for being hired to lead The Lawrentian’s 2016-17 Editorial Board!

The rest of the Editorial Board will be announced in the coming week.