Vagina Monologues seeks to educate, normalize ‘vagina’

Tina Czaplinska

Last Friday, Feb. 19, marked Downer Feminist Council’s (DFC) annual performance of “The Vagina Monologues.” DFC members performed skits from the play, written by Eve Ensler in 1996. Vagina-themed patches—made by juniors Lexi Ames and Willa Johnson—were sold and all the proceeds went to Harbor House, an Outagamie County program to help survivors of domestic abuse.

Senior McIayla Hutton has participated in “The Vagina Monologues” for two years now after seeing the show her sophomore year.

“It really struck me how little as a society we talk about vaginas. I felt like I really connected with a number of the monologues and decided that I wanted to help tell the stories of these women,” Hutton began.

Interestingly, the show began by emphasizing its shortcomings.

“The Vagina Monologues” but that everyone can get something out of them. 

“They’re funny, they’re poignant, they’re sad—I think audience members can connect with them on some level whether or not they have experienced the same things as the women in the monologues,” said Hutton.

Freshman Taylor Reifert agreed, emphasizing that being a male audience member did not phase him. As a manager of the softball team, Reifert went in support of softball player and performer in the show, senior Katie Schumacher.

“I had no idea what to expect. Obviously, vagina is in the title. But I thought it was funny and there were parts that really made you think,” said Reifert.

The stories range in their tone, ultimately aiming to create an open dialogue about the various manifestations of female sexuality.

Junior Jori Warwick enjoyed the show’s humor, like the skits that asked, “What would your vagina say?” and “What would your vagina warn?”

“It was my first time seeing the show and I really liked it,” said Warwick. “I thought it was empowering and a really good way to normalize vaginas.”

Hutton believes that every audience member has a different experience when they see “The Vagina Monologues,” but that everyone can get something out of them.

“Guest writers Erin McGraw and Andrew Hudgins share original fiction and poetry

Last Thursday, Feb. 18, Lawrence University welcomed writers Erin McGraw and Andrew Hudgins to showcase their writing in “An Evening of Fiction and Poetry.” The reading lasted from around 4:30 to 6 p.m., during which both writers read from a collection of their own written works.

The authors came to promote two varying strands of writing, Hudgins occupied the first thirty minutes of the event by reciting original poetry and McGraw filled the remaining time reading a few of her fictional short stories. Both segments were cushioned by introductory speeches by Assistant Professor of English Melissa Range and Associate Professor of English David McGlynn.

In his introductory speech, McGlynn mentioned that his friendship with McGraw facilitated her presence that evening.

The two guest writers are married and were invited to speak together at one event. Range expressed much admiration for the works of Hudgins, deeming them “humorous, dark and compassionate.”

The writers also promoted their books, which were available for purchase at the back of the room. The session ended with a short question-and-answer session.

According to Range, these types of events offer a “vital” source of inspiration for aspiring writers on campus. “As far as I’ve seen, they’ve always been pretty good,” Range added, commenting more generally on similar events that have been held in the past.

Hudgins also noted the importance of poetry recitals and fiction readings on college campuses during the question-and-answer portion of the event. “Poetry lets us enjoy the pleasures of the world, because what a grim life it would be if we worked eighteen hours a day, slept, got up and then did it again,” said Hudgins, addressing the topic with a famous quote.

Freshman Claire Engman, who decided to attend the reading after previously enjoying a similar event, appreciated the contrasting literary works. “I thought the readings presented an excellent melange of two mediums of artistry that are frequently overlooked in the modern world of literature. Erin McGraw’s final short story centered on college icebreakers also made the event unexpectedly topical,” said Engman.

“It was so easy to lose oneself in the unceasing fluidity of the writers’ performances, diminishing the sometimes-intimidating,” replied Engman when asked about what aspect of the reading she most enjoyed. “They harmoniously transitioned into a discussion instigated by an audience member about the mere practicabilities and simultaneous joys of being an aspiring writer whilst in university,” she continued.

“Overall the reading was a well-rounded event perfectly tailored to the word-hungry student,” concluded Engman.
GlobeMed hosts Dance-a-thon to raise money for a community garden in Rwanda

Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 19, GlobeMed hosted the 2016 Dance-a-thon, a four hour event in the Esch-Hurvis Room where on-campus dance groups lead participants in a variety of dances. The event lasted from 8 p.m. to midnight. The cost for a ticket was $2 per participant and proceeds went toward helping the Community of Potters, a marginalized ethnic group in Rwanda, build sustainable community gardens. Junior and GlobeMed Co-President Monica Paniagua-Montoya explained, "The gardens are supposed to help fight malnutrition in the community, which is a huge issue in the community, especially among the children."

Paniagua-Montoya noted, "We started Dance-a-thon last year, after hearing that a couple of other GlobeMed chapters do a similar event. We're hoping to continue the event every year!" Each hour, a new group leads the dances. This year, representatives from Swing House and Alianza taught participants. Music each hour corresponded with some of the cultural influences in the dance steps being taught. Sophomore Elizabeth Utter-Limon attended the event and remarked, "I like how you learn dances like the Bachata and Merengue." In addition, refreshments and snacks were provided, catered by Bon Appétit. This included cookies, a fruit plate, quesadillas, and chips with dips from around the world. Participants also won prizes from Lawrence Apparel & Gifts, including sweatshirts, water bottles and t-shirts.

The total number of attendees was fewer this year than last year. Utter-Limon said, "I feel like they didn't advertise it as much so [...] there were limited people at the Dance-a-thon." While the event was small, Paniagua said, "We really hope that the event brings a little bit of awareness to the campus. The Community of Potters in Rwanda is not a known group, yet the problems they face should be addressed. We hope that by doing fundraisers and other events, Lawrentians will be more aware of other groups around the world."

BIG PICTURE small space

Bon Appétit and Greenfire are working towards minimizing food waste by allowing students to sample food before committing to a full-size serving.

Reducing food waste for a more sustainable Lawrence
Hey there!

Was he talking to me? I was the only one he talked to besides a group of neighborhood kids playing tag. There he was, in that gaudy ice cream truck, waving at me. When I waved back, he beamed over with a smile. Reluctant, I glanced around the street to make sure no one was watching before walking towards him. Was he talking to me? I was the only one he talked to, but I didn’t know he was talking to me.

"Hey, what’s up?" the ice cream man asked brightly. He was skinny with a crayon red mohawk and houndstooth, kind eyes. "You busy?"

"No."

"I see you around here a lot. Want some ice cream?"

"No."

"There was something weird about this ice cream truck and its driver: showing up out of nowhere, giving out free ice cream. "Thanks." Someone told me you were bald." He just grinned and shrugged, so I persisted, "Everyone’s been raving about hot ice cream. What’s with that?"

"You’ll have to ask jack," the driver answered. "I’ll bet he’s figured it out by now.

Shaking my head, I watched the little kids play tag, laughing and splashing in puddles that had recently been snow. The air was warmer. It felt like spring. Everything was changing.

"Is all this you?" I asked. "The weather, the kids … even Jack Shi — even Jack has changed.

The best thing you can do is talk to your friends about it. Say exactly what you just said to them. They should be able to take your feelings about the situation and put them in account; they are your friends, after all.

Though the solution to your problem is simple, it is not a simple problem. As for myself, I spend so much of my alone time thinking about political issues that the last thing I want to do when I’m uninvolved with friends is talk about politics. It’s like if you work with kids a lot; you might want to spend your free time hanging out with adults. It’s not that you don’t like kids — if you didn’t, you wouldn’t be working with them — it’s just that you need some grownup time in your life. This sort of principle applies in this situation. It’s all fun and cool, but everything in moderation. The best advice I can give is to be honest with your friends. If you just sort of change the subject every time politics come up, they’re going to think it’s weird. It would be much better for you to instead just be direct and honest about how you feel about their discussing politics all the time.

I went through with this a friend of mine. I felt exhausted by how much they talked about politics and I just couldn’t take it anymore. After several weeks of stewing things up I finally opened up about how I felt, and they were really receptive. We still talk about politics, just not as often. They usually wait for me to bring up the topic, which is really respectful of my feelings and reflects the wishes I had expressed at the time.

Of course, it is easier to explain this when you all agree on a topic of political discussion. If you don’t agree, and it’s causing tension, approach the situation with compassion and urge others in your friends group to do the same. A little compassion goes a long way.

If you approach the conversation with a set opinion that you need to prove to someone, you’re not learning anything, and the other person is just going to become more entrenched in their opinion. There can be compassion for each other and really listen.

If this is something that you and your friends cannot do, then that is a good enough reason to not talk about a divisive subject.

—Defeated Debater

Pacifying Politics

Fiona Masterton

Columnist

Dear Fiona,

I consider myself a political person. I have well-informed opinions on almost any political topic you can think of, and I enjoy thinking about politics. The thing is, I don’t like doing it all the time. Not with my friends. I feel like recently what all my friends do is talk about politics and the upcoming presidential election.

At first, it was interesting, stimulating and fun. But now it’s just frustrating. I am sick and tired of talking politics with my friends! Either we all agree on a subject and it feels like preaching to the choir, or we disagree and we argue the subject into the ground. Either way, the conversation is not productive. What can I do about this? I don’t really know how to approach this situation.

—Defeated Debater

Dear Defeated Debater,

The best thing you can do is talk to your friends about it. Say exactly what you just said to them. They should be able to take your feelings about the situation and put them in account; they are your friends, after all.

Confusedly, when people first told me of the existence of “Greek Life” in American universities, I rejoiced! I imagined that this term was used to describe spontaneous, emotional dancing, eating Greek food on a daily basis, and reading one of Plato’s epistles. When I arrived here at Lawrence University, I realized my expectations was fulfilled — thanks to the Freshmen Studies program. Of course, “Greek Life” is used to describe the system of fraternity and sorority chapters located on a university’s campus. Initially, I was quite suspicious of Greek organizations; as a European, the only source of information I had about them came from references in the media and throughout popular culture. After acquainting myself with the Greek Life culture here at Lawrence and eventually becoming a fraternity member myself, I realized how erroneous the representation of the Greek Life system is in mainstream media.

In my experience, there are three basic arguments which represent the opposition to Greek Life culture. Firstly, many people believe that members of a given Greek organization do not branch out beyond their social circle. Secondly, another grave argument generalized among members of Greek Life is that they are notorious party animals. Finally, numerous people are convinced that Greek Life is not taken seriously in the professional world. These represent the three main stereotypes that drive arguments against Greek Life culture. I had firsthand experience as a member of a fraternity, I can confidently say that each of these perceptions are false.

I would like to take the refutation of these conceptions in reverse order. Being a member of a Greek organization can actually help bolster one’s resume when entering the workforce. According to the George Washington University’s Greek life database, more than nine million people nationally are members of Greek organizations. This means that the network of individuals with whom a member of a fraternity or a sorority can connect, thereby placing Greeks at a more advantageous position compared to the competition. Also, due to the high expectations of companies today, experience in philanthropy and extracurricular work is a quality that is greatly appreciated by potential employers.

As a member of a Greek organization, one is obliged to go through several trials related to work in philanthropy, academic excellence and even the completion of job applications. This also invalidates the second argument against Greek Life; partying may be a very important part of being in a fraternity or a sorority, but it is not the main concern of these groups. Each of these organizations has an official code of conduct according to which all members are obliged to behave in a manner that is respectful to both the organization’s values and the rest of society. Being involved in such an organization also provides opportunities to make a difference as an active member of the Greek Life community. Through brotherly and sisterly love, members of Greek Life bolster each other’s academic performance and encourage each member to be a leader in their circles.

Admittedly, the reputation of the Greek Life system is often blackened by individual instances of impudence and recklessness. Nevertheless, generalizations against Greek organizations are quite unbecoming, given the goals of the latter. Personally, joining a fraternity has helped me improve my social skills and excel in areas of organization and planning, whilst also providing me with opportunities to give back to the local community.

—Savvas Stairepoulos

Columnist

This serial story is written by Lawrence University’s Creative Writing Club.

This week’s author is Kellyn Gagner.

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See page 5
about the ice cream; it's about the steals and 11 rebounds during his part on defense, grabbing four of 23 shots this season for a .391 2015-16 season record at 10-13. finished his first season as a mem

On Friday, Feb. 19, the Vikings traveled to Lake Forest, Ill., to face the Foresters in the series opener. The first period went scoreless; but both teams demonstrated how serious they were about win-

about winning together. That's be a very balanced team that cares

round and award the winners of the matchups for the semifinal stretches this weekend.

The first round is single game elimination, so if the Vikings beat the Saints in this one game, they will move on to the semifinals. To determine the next opponent, the remaining teams are re-seeded based on overall record to help position the first, the third-place team faces the second. The second place is a two-game series with a mini-game if necessary to break a tie.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the Vikings delivered a huge win put the Vikings at 19

The 2 points from Saturday’s huge win put the Vikings at 19 points, tied with Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSE) at last and good enough to beat them out for the third place spot in the Northern College Hockey Association (NCHA) North Division. Lake Forest fell just short of Concordia University Wisconsin (11-11-3, 7-10-3 NCHA), who edged them 17-16 out of the third place spot in the South Division for the final playoff spot.

The Vikings traveled to Duluth, Minn., to take on the College of St. Scholastica (Saints) (14-8-3, 12-7-1 NCHA) in the quarterfinal round of the Harris Cup Playoffs. Marian University (17-5-3, 15-4-1 NCHA) will play Concordia for the South Division quarterfinal title. First Adrien Chriscant (21-3-1, 17-2-1 NCHA) and second-place St. Norbert (23-2-2) will each receive a bye in the first photo of Emei Thompson

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Over the past few seasons, the Lawrence Men’s Basketball Team has been successful as well as a model of success. They have made it to the NCAA tournament and are certainly going to make it again. This team has a lot of potential to make it to the NCAA tournament and many seasons before it.

There are three years older than me, it can be tough to keep up sometimes. How does Lawrence’s atmo-
sphere differ from that of your previous team?

I went to a somewhat privileged school north of Chicago. Anytime I went from there, it will open your eyes a little bit. But, I became more dependent on other people, and I’m not as willing to accept and acknowledge the people around you a lot more. You have to rely on others and yourself to get things done, as compared to high school, when a lot of things were done for you.

How have your teammates helped you with your transition into the life of a collegiate student?

Lawrence Basketball is all about family. Since day one, the team has been so good, and I’ve been making me feel a part of the family. I’m happy to feel like you’re part of something bigger than just a team, but a group of guys that you’re going to share a lot of mem-

Where do you see this team going during your time here at Lawrence?

I think it’s scary to realize how fast it goes, and I think that watching the seniors graduate and move on is scary to me because you need to work hard. In the coming years, we’re going to be a very balanced team as well as a model of success. This team has a lot of potential to make it to the NCAA tournament and many seasons before it.

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**STANDINGS**

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

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**STRESS ADDICT**

Continued from page 3

If no one is willing to be compas- sionate and listen to one another, there's no point in continuing the argument.

All in all, the best thing to do is to be honest. These people are your friends. They want you to be happy and enjoy the time you all spend together. They will un- derstand that means not talking about politics as much.

Good luck! -Fiona

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**SPORTS**

**THE LAWRENTIAN**

**Female Athlete of the Winter**

_Hayley Cardinal - Swimming_

by Gabriel Armistead Chapman

Andrew Fleen know I also swam. I had taken my senior year of high school swimming for various reasons, so I didn't have any expectations of myself and if I'd even be competing on a college swim team. I think I did to get to know people and make friends, but I never really had any imagined being what it was. As it turns out, I could've never imagined being at this level and dropping five seconds in my 100-butterstroke from my high school time. I thought that getting a 1:03 in warm-ups was pretty good and it could take another year. So, I guess I've surpassed all the goals I've set for myself, and I think that's because of the people I've been able to swim with. I've been pulled by my teammates more than I ever expected, which sounds bad but has been really great for me.

GC: So swimming for Lawrence has changed your whole outlook on the sport.

HC: Yeah, I was just thinking about what my life would've been like without swimming, because the majority of my friends are swimmers and we spend so much time together. Having that foun- dation of friends and having upperclassmen on the team balancing swimming and homework and other extracurricular activities was very important to me because as a freshman I didn't know if I would be able to fit it all in. But to me, swimming is the best stress reliever because it's a mental break from everything. It motivated me to set goals and think about what I can do. When I see freshmen come in and are concerned about whether they can balance it all, I would say you don't have to be defined as a swimmer because there are people on this team who do a million other things.

GC: What's your leadership role on the team like?

HC: I'm one of three female captains. My favorite part about being a captain is every week we have a swimmer of the week, and it's a way to recognize people on the team who may not be the fastest. But we recognize how much effort they're putting in or how positive they are, because attitude is such an important part of swimming and the mental aspect of the sport. This year we've been really good about having one every week, just so everyone sees them and they are recognized as an upperclassman of the team. Especially with Division III swimming, knowing they're doing it by choice is really important and something I like to make sure to value. Another thing I promote is cheering and supporting each other in every single race, especially for the distance races, because those are very long and grueling races. My parents mentioned this weekend that Lawrence was the only team who had swimmers cheering next to the lanes for all the races. For me, that's the legacy I want Lawrence to be remembered for because that just isn't true of every team. The person could be coming in last, but we will be cheering for them every single yard.

GC: Was there one point this season you think you was a definite moment in your Lawrence career?

HC: I'd have to say it was last year when we swam at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh—which carried over into this season. That's where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-butterstroke. I swam it all by myself – which is terrifying – and it's just a really hard and passionate race, where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-breaststroke. I swam it all by myself – which is terrifying – and it's just a really hard and passionate race, where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-breaststroke. I swam it all by myself – which is terrifying – and it's just a really hard and passionate race, where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-breaststroke. I swam it all by myself – which is terrifying – and it's just a really hard and passionate race, where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-breaststroke. I swam it all by myself – which is terrifying – and it's just a really hard and passionate race, where I dropped a lot of time for the 200-breaststroke. 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Students attended parties at Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (top) and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Laura Leppink
Staff Photographer

Just past the information desk in the Warch Campus Center, across from the Somerset room, a wide range of photos are now being displayed. From beautifully pink colored skies to a grumpy looking lizard, these photos seem to come from all corners of the world. In actuality the photos are from around the world, showcasing the photos students have submitted for the Off-Campus Programs photo contest. The context—which was run on the Off-Campus Programs Facebook page—used photo ‘likes’ to determine the winners.

The top three winners are displayed in frames, yet with so many photos the temporary gallery shows a sampling of all the photos submitted. The gallery also reveals the many places where Lawrentians have studied and their numerous great experiences.

Each photo has a small explanation next to it, describing the photo and story, allowing the viewer to live in the same moment the photographer did. A few of the many places shown in the gallery include Madagascar, Berlin, London, Senegal, Italy, Granada, Austria, France and Thailand.

The debut of these photos follows a push for study abroad education at Lawrence University, working toward increased awareness and participation in the numerous program options both inside and outside of the United States.

This year also represents an increase in the financial aid available for students studying abroad with an increased cap from $5,600 to $8,000 per term to make it possible for more Lawrence students to study abroad.

One of the greatest barriers to studying abroad often centers on money concerns, which this change seeks to mitigate.

Margaret Koss
Staff Writer

Campus was ablaze last weekend with a few high key parties all in one night. On Saturday evening, Sigma Phi Epsilon’s (Sig Ep) “Tight and Bright” and Delta Tau Delta’s (Delt) “Dirty Barn Party” turned campus into a mass of oddly outfitted Lawrentians, while Sinfinu crashed out live music from 3 p.m. until midnight.

Some Lawrentians were overwhelmed by the options, and rumors circulated that some of the party hosts were frustrated by the timing of the events. However, junior and Sig Ep member Andres Capous pushed back against any assumptions of animosity.

Capous explained that one of the goals of Tight and Bright was to bring Greek organizations together. “Over time, Greek organizations have lost connection with one another and every year that goes by we lose more and more presence on campus. We want to strengthen the bonds within the Greek community so that we can support one another,” Capous said.

To improve that connection, Sig Ep sent videos to each of the sororities personally inviting their members to attend the party, as well as formal invitations to some of the fraternities. Capous stressed that this inclusivity applies to other groups on campus as well, which leads to his second point about the importance of Tight and Bright. “Many organizations are trying to provide safe spaces where people aren’t able to go downtown or to the VR [Viking Room] still have a chance to relieve some of their stress,” Capous explained. “Unlike these on-campus safe spaces, neither the bars downtown, nor the VR, are great places to dance with your friends.”

Themed parties like Tight and Bright and Derry Bara offer this outlet for students. Themed parties also offer something for students to look forward to year by year. “Tight and Bright has been a recurring theme for Sig Ep for many years now,” Capous said. “I think keeping a tradition alive is essential for organizations that have been around campus for so long. It helps build a culture by adding historical value to the event.”

However, since some of these themed parties have grown to be expected events each year at Lawrence, if other things happen on the same night, it can either take away from that party’s crowd – if it is a similar event – or it can add to the amount of people that go out – if it’s a different kind of event.

Last year, Greenfire hosted a party titled “Slack and Black” on the same night as Tight and Bright. The play-on-words was intended to attract the opposite demographic crowd of what might be interested in Tight n Bright, thus encouraging more of campus to feel included in campus events.

Senior Emily Wendorff explained why Greenfire did not have Slack and Black again this year. “Although it was fun to have Slack and Black to juxtapose with Tight and Bright last year, there were already a lot of parties going on during that particular weekend this year,” she said. “Our parties typically feature live music from off- and on-campus bands, and it’s important for them to have decent attendance.

“So we figured that, rather than have bands prepare and rehearse music only to see low attendance, we could just as easily reschedule Slack and Black – partially out of respect to the performers and partially to displace unnecessary work for Greenfire.”

When asked if Sig Ep felt affected by Delt’s party, Capous said, “It definitely didn’t bother us. There are enough people on campus for both parties to be a success. That being said, we’ll try to communicate better next time.”

Delt was willing to answer similar questions about their own event, but were not able to get in touch with me before this article went to print. We always welcome letters to the editor to respond to anything we publish.
study abroad photo contest

"Poppies, Tower of London" taken by senior Hannah Jeruc during the London Centre program in Fall Term 2014.

"1973 Plane Crash" taken by junior Bailey Reiners during the IES Berlin program in Fall Term 2014.

"1973 Plane Crash" taken by junior Bailey Reiners during the IES Berlin program in Fall Term 2014.

The winning photo, “Karlskirche at Christmas,” taken by junior Anne Ela during the ISA Granada program in Feb. 26, 2016.

Reflections on “The Vagina Monologues”

Karina Barajas
Staff Writer

Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” was performed by the Downer Feminist Council (DFC) on Friday, Feb. 19. It was the annual hour of anecdotes collected about vaginas.

Lecturer of Gender and Freshman Studies and faculty advisor to DFC, Helen Boyd Kramer said, “The Vagina Monologues focuses on the core issue of body shame that women are taught, the misogyny that’s based on fear of and ignorance about women’s bodies. Being a feminist means being part of a movement to end oppression. For me, being a feminist means being engaged in social justice of many kinds.”

When it comes to the word “vagina,” the cast had different points of view. Sophomore and DFC President Shelby Johnson said, “When I hear the word ‘vagina,’ uncomfortable memories from seventh grade health class come to mind. It certainly isn’t a sexy word.”

Senior and DFC Secretary Hannah Shryer said, “I think of naturalistic beauty, mystery and strength.”

Junior and DFC Vice President Allison Wray thinks of beauty, but also “the overwhelmingly negative culture we’ve built around vaginas and how that both saddens me and encourages me to promote body/vagina positivity in my life!”

Kramer said, “I hope the audience takes away the understanding that it is only recently we have started undoing the sexual shaming of women for having bodies at all, and that having a vagina doesn’t mean being a woman. That is, there are women who don’t have vaginas, and there are men who do. Genitalia don’t equal gender, and sometimes this play makes it feel like they do.”

DFC hopes that the audience, especially those who identify as female, leave feeling empowered. The monologues were prefaced with an acknowledgement that the monologues included, originally performed in 1994, are not perfect and do not include all women in today’s society as far as race and gender are concerned. However, it is a starting off point for individuals who are not familiar with positive empowerment and validation of their own experiences.

The cast shared their thoughts in performing the monologues. "When I first read the script I was very intimidated and nervous. The script is funny, but it requires a lot of practice to do it justice. When I performed last year, it was incredibly empowering and gave me a lot of confidence in different spheres of my life,” said Johnson.

"I really enjoyed the script when I first read it and enjoyed it even more when performing,” said Wray, who is performing for her second year: “I think there certainly is an element of the monologues that comes to life when performed live,” she said.

"Reading the script is always fascinating, but when I get to perform the monologues I can connect with the words viscerally. In a way that feels uplifting and broadens my perspective. This is my third year participating in ‘The Vagina Monologues,’ and I’ve learned a lot each time,” added Shryer.

What did the cast learn from doing the Monologues?

Shryer said, “The monologues have helped me to foster feelings of self-love and empowerment. My affection for all women and their diverse experiences has increased in the process.”

Wray said, “I’ve learned that different casts create different and beautiful combinations of monologues and each individual brings their own personal experiences that impact their performances.”

Johnson says talking about vaginas is very fun “and we should do it more often.”

Johnson’s favorite monologue is “Because He Liked To Look At It.” It was not my second year. “I think there certainly is an element of the monologues that comes to life when performed live,” she said.

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Johnson’s favorite monologue is “Because He Liked To Look at It.” It was not initially her favorite monologue, but it grew on her over time. "It really emphasizes the power of a single experience and how powerful it feels to love yourself.”

Wray said, “My favorite monologue to perform, even though it’s incredibly difficult, would probably be ‘My Vagina Was My Village.’ This year was my first time performing this monologue and I was drawn to it because of its beauty and intense emotion,” she said.
Music in Wriston galleries mimics displayed patterns

Wendell Leaftedt Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, students gathered in the Wriston Art Center Galleries to watch a presentation of interconnected music and visual art called “Pattern: Music & Performance in the Galleries.”

Nine musicians performed contemporary compositions in front of mordantly beautiful artworks. The event was all about finding beauty in patterns of all kinds—in the modern art pieces and in the musical techniques demonstrated—and re-creating the value of pure aesthetic attraction, rejecting the need for ethical appeals.

For a long time, Frederick Layton Professor of Art and Associate Professor of Art Rob Neilson and Assistant Professor of Art History Benjamin Tilghman worked to join forces with artists that fit this theme. Neilson and Tilghman feel that “Beauty has been so experienced in our society that we have learned to mistrust it. [...] Carefully crafted objects and pristine surfaces are considered superficial.”

The first musical offering was a performance in the main lobby of Wriston at 6 p.m. Streampit is comprised of senior Joe Connor on saxophone, senior Matt Blair on piano, Dan Reifsteck ‘15 on percussion and senior Ian Blanck on guitar. Their delivery of Lou Reed’s “Hurt” set the mood for the following hour.

Described by members of the audience as “musicians,” the performance of “Hurt” uses a familiar musical form, the canon, and turns it on its head. Rosskamp was positioned only one sixteen note after the others, creating an “organized chaos” in the piece. The piece undergoes numerous transformations during its ten-minute runtime, but it usually retains its active canonic pattern.

Immediately after “Hurt” concluded, juniors Jason Koth and Jack Brennan performed a wild saxophone duet at the bottom of the lobby stairway. The audience had to stand up from their seats and lean over the railing to watch. From this point on, the event was much more freely structured; people were walking around the gallery as they pleased—the music could be heard from anywhere in the space.

One outstanding work in the gallery was “Arabesque” by the duo Misch and Patrick Marschke ‘15. While the theme of the show was well-developed, neither the performances nor art installations thrust it upon the attendees. People were free to walk around and space to draw their own conclusions about the nature of beauty and where it can be found.

Emma Arnessen Student Writer

Last Friday evening, Feb. 19, students had the privilege of being a part of the Donner Feminist Council’s (DFC) annual production of “The Vagina Monologues.” Originally written by Eve Ensler and first performed in 1996, this episodic play has been presented at many different college campuses in the United States. 

Every time I see a student carving out so much time to focus on their passion of music, especially when they are not in the Conservatory, I feel inspired and proud. These peers are continuing to express themselves via an art form that can often be hard to channel when not studying music or musically. I look forward to seeing Labak progress as a musician by himself but ultimately happy to be able to share his work and have so many different musicians to join forces with.

The upbeat nature of each piece was contagious, and it is inevitable the listener will find themselves smiling occasionally, bobbing their head and feeling happy. Labak does a fantastic job of changing the feel, genre, style or other aspects constantly through-out. He releases his hands still tying together each song with a thread of “quirky positivity” and bizarre storytelling.

Take, for example, the transition from “Eros Pulses” to “Tillghman” on his most recent album, “The Summer of the Wa.” While the polka-esque “Eros Pulses” has a strange but alluring feel to it, much like songs from Tom Waits’ 80’s trilogy, the following tune is completely different, packed with synths and off with a flash. However, the stark contrast makes sense and just pulled me in more.

Also not worth mentioning is Don Kongo is the prolific amount of work put into each piece. In all of his work, Labak compiles and records each track—drums, bass, guitar, synths and overdriven vocals. To not only know how to play each instrument but to have the knowledge to integrate it into each song is remarkable.

The unfortunate side of this, though, is that Labak will not be able to perform live without a band. However, he has started reaching out to other musicians, planning to put on shows and record with instruments he does not play. He would like to focus on live shows next term in order to experience that unfamiliar aspect of musical creation.

Eve Ensler was also present at the event, as her piece, “The Vagina Monologues,” has been so exploited in our society. As a Chinese and Spanish major, Ensler chose to immerse herself in an environment of music with this environment because sometimes he feels pressures to integrate the musicians around him but ultimately happy to be able to share his work and have so many different musicians to join forces with.

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I will praise them individually. It is a special moment of awe and reverence. Though all of the monologues held different meanings and shared unique perspectives into individual women’s lives, the performance as a whole was empowering and awe-inspiring. In our society today vaginas are objectified and viewed as a decorative part of the woman. However, in sharing these stories of women from all backgrounds, “The Vagina Monologues” is able to break these stereotypes and bring awareness to the challenges in loving this human body and understanding its beauty and value.

It is always interesting to see how actors and directors choose to do Shakespeare. He is a slippery fellow, the Bard, and “Much Ado About Nothing” is one of his slipperiest comedies. It starts out as a “hangout comedy,” a term more commonly used than we just like to sit back and enjoy a bunch of characters going about their entertaining ways. The play takes a sharp left turn into the serious after a false accusation, only to wrap itself up happily in a bow, the whole problem indeed being much ado about nothing.

But that leaves the production choosing to mount this particular play with a challenge. Namely: how to give this whole thing some entertainment ways. The play takes a sharp left turn into the serious after a false accusation, only to wrap itself up happily in a bow, the whole problem indeed being much ado about nothing.

Gregorich and Hathaway shine in “Much Ado”

McKenzie Fetters
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., the Lawrence University Memorial Chapel experienced a performance by the critically acclaimed Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet. The quartet, composed of one pianist, one bassist, one drummer and, of course, the namesake of the quartet himself—Ambrose Akinmusire on trumpet—performed approximately an hour and a half of jazz without an intermission.

From my view of the chapel stage on the center balcony, I thought I saw the lights in the auditorium actually dim a little as Akinmusire and his counterparts walked out onstage to enthusiastic applause. Ambrose Akinmusire noted that what can only be described as a seamless performance. The image that came to my mind for the first piece was a misty morning dawn, given color by the different tones of the trumpet. During Akinmusire’s solo moments, the pianist, drummer and bassist quietly and almost reverently played the accompaniment, and in turn, Akinmusire put his instrument down and walked over to the side of the stage when it was time for one of the other instruments to shine.

The smooth, velvety music and the lighting in the chapel all contributed to the relaxed and reflective atmosphere that is quintessential to jazz. Looking around, I saw many people sitting in the row of the balcony sitting in relatively similar positions, resting their hands on their thighs with their elbows leaning against the railing, quietly mesmerized by the performers onstage. In truth, much of the music passed by in a very slow-motion blur, even if I do nod my head in approval, if he was not too busy thinking of the next piece to be performed.

It is funny how listening to an album on loop can force you to like a lot more than when you started. As I finish this article and listen for the tenth time, I have decided it is an album that promises an interesting path for Animal Collective and that it is pure fun. With some of their other albums, there are certainly moments of sadness, negative chaos and the like, but this album, in both the vocals and instrumental, is almost like a theme song to the album to the vocals, in my opinion, are the main attraction and do an outstanding job of not only providing lyrics and melody, but also rhythm, texture and a general mood from song to song.

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The rest of the cast acquitted themselves well, though their roles were not as juicy. Sophomore Evie King delivered a performance that was admirable and pitiable at the same time. The set design and music cues were also very choice, with admiration especially going to the lighting team, who were able to cue even the slightest of changes. While this may be minor Shakespeare, Lawrence’s production did an excellent job to elevate the material. The Bard would nod in approval, if he was not too busy thinking of the next piece to be performed.

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In today's United States, Jews are most certainly white.
Lawrence’s numerous clubs also serve to enrich the lives of students. Lawrence plays host to student organizations focused on all manner of activities, from community service to tea appreciation. Through these clubs, many new skills can be acquired. For example, Lawrence Swing Dance offers swing lessons, and the Lawrence University Curling Club is centered around a learn-to-curl program. Clubs are a great way to learn new things and better oneself in the process.

While it can never be said that there is a club for everyone, this does not preclude anyone from participating. To form a club, one simply fills out a form available in the Campus Life office. The requirements for club formation are outlined in the Lawrence Student Handbook. To be recognized by the Lawrence University Student Council, a club must have five or more members, at least two of whom are designated club representatives, and have a stated purpose or mission statement.

When forming a club, students practice independent organization and leadership skills. Additionally, they make the campus a better place. People should not hesitate to form new campus organizations.

On top of athletics and clubs, Lawrence offers opportunities that defy categorization. Student government, for example, involves many students in the inner workings of the university. Greek organizations, while not strictly speaking clubs, offer friendship and fellowship to many. Even this newspaper is student-run, written and read.

Lawrence offers numerous opportunities for self-enrichment outside of the classroom. These opportunities will not necessarily be easily accessed after graduation. Lawrentians should take advantage of these opportunities while they are available.

Lawrence offers students from taking advantage of the opportunities Lawrence offers. This is a travesty. College offers so much more than academics, Lawrence is a period of intense self-development. This cannot be completed in a classroom alone. Classes fail short in promoting growth in leadership, self-motivation and exposure to new activities. Superseding what one learns in a formal setting with extracurricular learning is the only way to become truly well-rounded.

Lawrentians are students first. In no way would I suggest otherwise. However, a balance must be struck between academics and student clubs. Extracurricular activities should not entirely eliminate academics, just as academics cannot be allowed to prevent learning that occurs outside of the classroom.

With this in mind, I make two suggestions. First, in your stay at Lawrence, please do not be afraid to challenge yourself. Take on more than you think you can. Do not hesitate. Throw yourself into that club. Join that organization.

Try a sport. Sure, it might lead to a busy term, but you will rise to the occasion. What is a little lost sleep in the face of massive self-enrichment?

Second, do not be afraid to take a lighter course load. There is no shame in taking an introductory-level course, rather than that 400-level course that will work your fingers to the bone. Of course, this must be done in moderation, but at times it is beneficial to take a term to work outside the classroom. Take a lighter workload to make taking on an extra activity possible.

Take risks! Push yourself! Jump at opportunities! Do not be afraid to at times step back from academics to allow personal growth through other activities.

For most, college only happens once. You have one shot to get the most you can out of Lawrence. So challenge yourself! Live, learn and grow, both inside and outside the classroom.
PHOTO POLL
Billy Liu
Staff Photographer

What do you think about Lawrence University hiring a new dean of religious and spiritual life?

“It’s great for the school to help students with their religious affiliations and make sure they are not discriminated against.” — Saahil Cuccira

“I think it’s great to have faculty that can support students with difficult backgrounds and beliefs.” — Isabel Dammann

“It’s a good choice; it caters to an academic department that is previously underserved.” — Nolan Ramirez

“I’m interested to see how that will fit into the effort of building a more inclusive campus, but I’m not sure where the decision comes from.” — Morgan Edwards-Rigler

“It benefits a student’s spiritual life, especially in a liberal arts school.” — Bre Sande-Martin

“The dean will be a welcome addition to our campus, and I hope they’ll work to increase the integration of minority religions into the campus culture.” — Dan Thomas-Commins

Photography: Billy Liu (Staff Photographer)