

Editor's Letter

Love Stories

When I was a little girl, I loved to listen to the story of how my parents first met. Now, I love to tell it.

My parents both went to college at Western Washington University. Though they attended school there at the same time, they didn't meet each other until a few years after.

At that time, Mom's best friend was dating Dad's best friend. Knowing my parents and thinking they would be perfect for each other, their best friends set up my Mom and Dad on a blind date. Mom tells me she was nervous about meeting Dad, but that when she first met him, she just knew he was "the one." It's really cute because Dad says the exact same thing.

After dating for a few years, Mom and Dad were married two days after Christmas. Mom wore a lace wedding dress and carried the most beautiful bouquet of red roses as she walked down the aisle to where my Dad stood with the happiest smile on his face. This past December, my parents celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary. As their daughter, I am grateful to have a Mom and Dad who are committed to their love for one another. It inspires me to see how my parents have always been there for each other.

I am also inspired by another love story – that of the Houggers, missionaries and NU College of Ministry professors, who I interviewed for this month's Valentine's Day feature (pages 7-8). Weldyn and Barbara Houger first met as college students at Northwest and were married after graduating in 1972. The Houggers have graciously shared with *The Talon* what they have learned, after 40 years as husband and wife, about how to have a love that honors God and lasts a lifetime. I know their words of wisdom will be a blessing to you.

Whether you are single or in a relationship this Valentine's Day, I encourage you to remember that the greatest love we could ever receive is God's love for us. He loves each of us more than we could ever imagine! May we allow His love to fill our hearts so that we can love others with His love.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Colleen Weimer

Colleen Weimer, Editor in Chief of *The Talon*



Editing this issue of *The Talon* before sending it to the printer.
I love being Editor! :)

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.

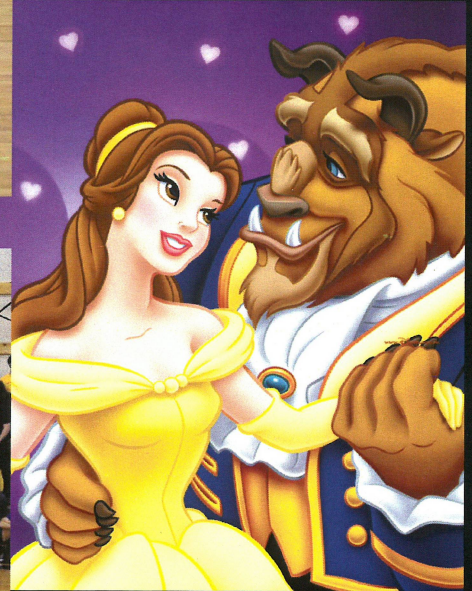
Contact Info:

phone: 425.791.5428
e-mail: Colleen.weimer10@northwestu.edu
office: Hurst Room 109

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Dr. Matt Nelson

What's the perfect date for Valentine's Day?

Creative ideas for February 14th

The Perfect Date:

A Girl's Perspective

by Kalynn Brown, Staff Writer

The perfect Valentine's date would be a surprise! The date would be classy and somewhat traditional. Of course, dinner somewhere with actual waiters and menus is preferable. But, what happens after that?

In case my fiancé happens to read this, here are some of my favorite ideas: bowling, skating, going home and making dessert together then watching a movie, or going out for coffee, then going home and playing board games.

The best date I have ever been on was dinner on the top of the Space Needle after wandering around the Seattle Art Museum. Was it totally frivolous and extravagant? Of course! Was it beautiful, romantic, and completely memorable? It most certainly was!

Then, there is the timeless question of flowers. Red roses? White? No roses? Here's the simple answer: if you are buying a girl flowers, you should probably know what her favorite flowers are, so you should buy her those. If you somehow are at a loss for her favorite, buy her red roses. Girls are very picky. But, if they like Valentine's Day, then they probably like romance. And, if they like romance, they probably will like these ideas and your romantic endeavors will be a success.



The Perfect Date:

A Guy's Perspective

by Dakota Wise, Staff Writer

The perfect date should be unforgettable, mysterious, personal, intimate, and unique. It would combine the passions and personalities shared between two people into a unique event, which will be remembered and shared in stories for years.

This can be something as simple as a movie, as elegant as star gazing in the moonlight, or as intimate as the foxtrot. It all depends on the people involved, their passions, and what makes them truly a couple in their hearts.

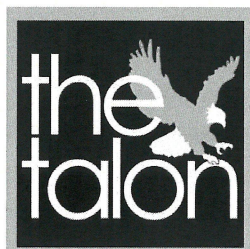
The perfect date can be anything to anyone. To me, the perfect date is elegant, intimate, and personal. However, it is my job to make it unique, a bit of a mystery, and unforgettable for her.

I really enjoy hiking and being up in the mountains, so I would start with a hike up a mountain pass. Though, I would have gone up before hand to set up a surprise. I would set up a picnic table with a table cloth, glasses, candles, a picnic basket, and a small radio playing some of our favorite songs. I would have cooked a few special dishes and would set up the table when we get there. I would offer my hand for a dance. This would be the perfect ending to my perfect date.

Stories by Heather Karnes, Senior Staff Writer

New Talon Website!

Designed by Web Manager, Bryttani Giles



If you are reading this now, then you could also be reading it online! The new Talon website gives users online access to all of the issues printed this school year. Be sure to check on the site for interactive features to come such as surveys, videos, and calendars. You can find the website by visiting:
nutalon.wordpress.com

Intramural Sports Update

Intramural basketball season began Tuesday, Jan. 22. Teams from each respective living area compete in informal games every Tuesday and Thursday night in the Pavilion. This year, the games will utilize the full court as opposed to only half of the court in past years. Teams represent students living on each of the floors in the residence halls as well as students living off-campus and in apartment housing on-campus. If you are interested in joining a team, contact Intramural Sports Coordinator Scott Lane at:
scott.lane10@northwestu.edu

Pavilion to Host Open Gym Hours

The Pavilion will begin hosting open gym hours on Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 8-11 p.m. The hours will continue on Wednesday nights for the rest of the semester. The gym will be open to Northwest University students only, and those wishing to utilize the open gym hours will have to sign a waiver. The new hours are part of an effort to make the Northwest campus more open to student schedules.

Jan. 14th CD Recording to Release this April

“One of the most known staples of Northwest University is our worship program and music projects. This year we are proud to present our new live worship album entitled “For You.” With an anticipated April release, these eleven tracks are a combination of covers, hymns, and original songs. Whether you like rock, gospel, country, or indie music this album will be sure to have something for you. By the grace of God, we have created an album that will define Northwest Worship and the mission that God has set out for our school, students, and community.”

- Christian Dawson



Photo by Clayton Hines

Rec Sports Off in a New Direction

by Brandon Hollis, Staff Writer

After nine strong years under the leadership of Gary McIntosh, Rec Sports will be undergoing a transition by moving to NUSG - a new direction that will appeal to many students.

McIntosh, after looking at his greatest achievements while running the Rec Sports program said, "Each year, we have less injuries."

He also brought in stability within the program that will be missed but stated that the future is looking great with potential to be even greater as it transitions over to NUSG.

"I have overseen Intramurals/ Rec Sports since 2003. It has been a pleasure to serve with the different student coordinators over the years," said McIntosh. "I'm really excited that we are moving Rec Sports to NUSG. I believe that this will give the coordinator more support and a better line of communication with the students."

McIntosh is handing off the position to Director of Student Life, Andy Hall, who oversees NUSG, and retaining Scott Lane as the Rec Sports Coordinator.

Lane, who has been in this position for the last three semesters, is in charge of all sports under Intramurals, which have included football in the fall and basketball in the spring.

When asked if he wanted to change anything about Rec Sports, Lane said he wants to involve more people in sports.

"The more sports, we have the more work it takes, but also the greater amount of students can be involved - from competitive varsity level sports to playing a sport for their first time," he said.

In the past few years, some students were frustrated with the amount of sports offered. Andrew Bonesteel, a junior Psychology major, shared his take with the sports currently offered: "There are more interests than just basketball and football. We can definitely do more in Rec Sports."

There is a plan to expand the current model of the Rec Sports program as it stands right now. Scott Lane explained: "We want to take advantage of what we have around us and not just what we can get on campus."

There have been talks about using the Rec Sports budget for events outside of Northwest University. Some examples include going to the mountains for snowboarding and ski trips, as well as organized hikes on the beautiful trails located in the Greater Seattle Area.

This plan for expansion could happen as early as this semester. There have also been talks about having a dodgeball and a futsal league. Futsal is essentially indoor soccer. A possibility would be for students to use the pavilion as a field after basketball season ends.

Another expansion that NUSG is looking at is more involvement of female students.

"We want more inclusion for females in the program. There is intention for females in Recreation Sports," said Hall.

More involvement could help expand the program.

"NUSG and Rec Sports are all student-led. I oversee everything, but all of the ideas come from students," said Hall. "If you want to see something happen, tell NUSG or Rec Sports."



COLEMAN

Effort. Pain
Intervals. Agony
Nothing class. Priceless

Northwest
UNIVERSITY

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Valentine's Day Feature: Interview with The Houggers

College of Ministry professors share words of wisdom from 40 years of marriage

Interview by Colleen Weimer, Editor in Chief

Photo by NU Marketing Department

1) Please tell a little about your own love story.

We met at NU. We started out just building a friendship for several months. We took long walks together, talking about anything and everything. We would walk through Watershed Park, but it was called the Clover Bowl back then and it was a great place to play Frisbee.

After several months, we started dating and ended our evenings together with prayer and sometimes Bible reading. That helped us keep safe boundaries in our relationship. We graduated from NU in 1972 and were married that summer, entering home missions ministry in Alaska immediately.

We are each other's best friend. Having that friendship relationship established a base that helped us in many lonely places of ministry – an Eskimo village that one can only fly into, starting a church in the interior of Alaska, and years in Indonesia. We have had many adventures together seeing new places, working with many different nationalities and ethnic groups. We have been married 40 years and never regretted a day.

2) What should you do when you're single and still waiting on the right person God has for you?

Pray! A single person should pray and ask the LORD to prepare him/her for the partner the Lord has for him/her. Ask the Lord to help you grow and change to be the person your future mate needs and pray the Lord also prepares your future mate for you. Don't get impatient or desperate. It is better to be single than be with the wrong person or with a non-believer.

3) How do you know when you've met the right person?

That is really hard to say. If you have been praying for the right partner, and praying you are ready for that partner, when the right one comes along there will be a deep inner peace. For us, there were not any questions in our mind. We had established a great friendship and built a solid relationship with Christ as the foundation and we knew it was right and of course, we truly loved each other.

4) What does godly dating look like?

Godly dating should reflect Christ and His Word. It used to be people would ask WWJD (What would Jesus do?). That should be our lifestyle. When we are with someone of the opposite sex, our actions should always exemplify Christ. Praying together and reading His word together is great preparation for a good marriage. Being open and honest with each other, living a life of integrity before each other are keys to building a good relationship.

5) What advice would you give to newlyweds?

Keeping Jesus in the center of your relationship from the beginning makes the main difference. Be humble and forgiving, always willing to admit you are not always right. Look at your marriage as a wonderful adventure together with your best friend. Be completely unselfish – giving 100% to your marriage. Don't ever think, 'I give 50% and my spouse gives 50%.' One needs to come into marriage willing to give 100% to this special, God-ordained union!

6) What are the keys to a successful marriage that glorifies God?

- Always keep Christ and His Word as the center, which keeps a marriage going forward.
- Solve conflict that day; do not let anything negative hold over to another day.
- Be open, honest and trusting.
- Treat each other with respect and honor.
- Please each other with little things that are special to the other person.
- Intentionally do things together. This doesn't mean you can't have other friends, but make sure you have fun together.
- Purposely keep that "fire and passion" in your relationship.
- Encourage and build the self-esteem of your spouse.
- When children are a part of the marriage, still make sure you take special times together.
- Always respect and show appreciation for your spouse's family.

7) What lessons have you learned from being married that you would like to pass along?

- As it relates to ministry or work never let it come between you and your spouse's relationship.
- Continually discover and work with your mate's love language.
- Don't use "you never" or "you always" or "I told you so" or "see my idea was right."
- Always lift up your spouse in front of others. We often heard friends saying negative about their spouse in front of a group. DON'T!
- We learned it is important to always be ready for change – change in ministry, in circumstances, income, in health, etc.

After serving at NU for five years as missionaries in residence and professors, Drs. Weldyn and Barbara Houger are returning to Asia this month.

Yes you are my dreamer

Poem by Crista Greenwood

Yes you are my dreamer's dream
Dreamt upon a dreamer's sea
Buffeted and tossed among the waves
Yet fear did not o'ertake me

I drifted in the ocean blue
Which did sometimes bring gale
and storm
Upon which I held the mast in fear
I'd be swept over board

Yet all the while I held this hope
Upon my dreamer's sea
That maybe all these dreamer's
dreams
Were more than what they seemed

Upon a day when the fog was thick
Like it had been every light
And although it cleared upon the
night
There was left no moon so bright

I sailed for years this dreamer's
dream
Never seeing what lied ahead
Until this man upon the shore
Sent out a beam of red

The red washed through the fog and
wave
then slowly turned to white
to this day I've never seen
such a holy light

He told me I could wander no more
I should see the dreamers' sea
He said to me "Now take these
ropes.
The sea's a wondrous sight to see"

If you ever run out of supplies
I'll be watching all the way
Just call out to me
I'll show thee to the bay

Although the waves may scare thee
It will guide you back
Keep an eye on my light
In this fog it's easy to lose track

"Keep thine eyes on the prize"
So he sent me on into the night
"There's no way you can't win"
I kept looking at the light

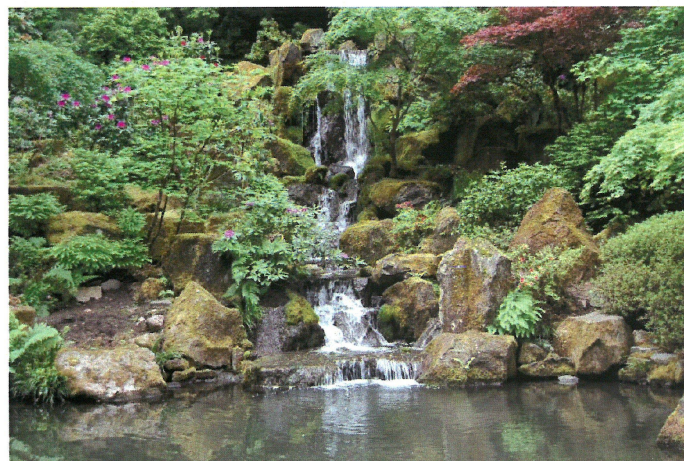
I saw among me many ships
And to the man they'd reunite
I told many a sailor
Of that very special night

Although some followed me to him
A few just stayed behind
The fog was all they'd ever known
They were o'er taken by their fright

It's a hard task to know,
To see so many turn it down
But I speak for the man's sake
He has never let me down

Everyone should listen
He is gracious. He is kind
I know that one day soon enough
This fog won't be around

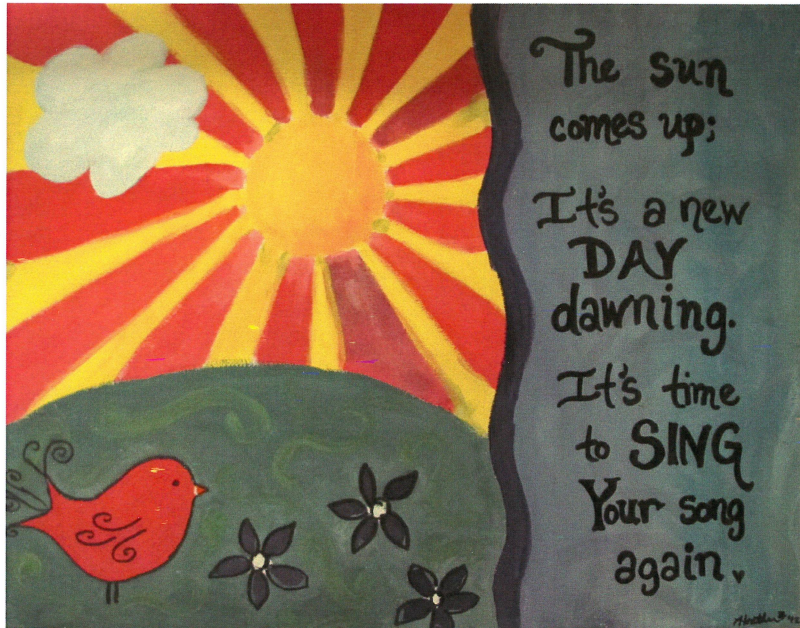
Yes you are my dreamer's dream
Dreamt upon a dreamer's sea
Buffeted and tossed among the
waves
Yet fear did not o'ertake me



Japanese Garden

Photograph by Daniel Girsang





Painting by Heather Vereide

Birds at Sunset

Photograph by Alayna Wood



<< City Lights at Night

Photograph by Kaisa Hall

Peter's Perspective: Beware the Rom-Com

Staff Writer Peter McMurray's take on romantic comedies and reality

It's that time of year once more when the heart-shaped chocolates appear and many lovers have the opportunity to show their affection through a vast array of romantic presents and elegant dinners. Many of us, whether in a relationship or not, often watch a surplus of romantic comedies to complement this season of the year.

However, it's entirely possible that there might be danger in watching too many romance films, especially the ones from the last decade or so.

Back in 2008, Eben Harrell wrote an article for *Time Magazine* in which he discussed a few recent studies that had investigated the possibility of misguided expectations in relationships due to idealistic portrayals of love in Hollywood. Most of the research showed that couples who had an early and vast amount of exposure to romantic comedies were more easily disappointed in their own romantic relationships and had more unrealistic expectations.

If you think about it, this is not a radical idea. Most romantic films make love look like something that is simple and in a lot of cases, selfish. They take something so crazy and stick it into a formula: boy meets girl, they hit it off (sometimes not right away, but eventually), cut to a

montage of the couple doing cute things together while a Kelly Clarkson song plays, the guy does something stupid, the girl leaves, the guy chases after her, then they end up living happily ever after. Or in some movies, the protagonist realizes they were in love with their best friend the whole time. This doesn't sum up all romantic comedies, but a vast majority of them have a similar plotline.

Love, by the Hollywood definition, is just a feeling. But love is so much greater than



(500) Days of Summer

Photo by Fox Searchlight Pictures

that. It's a verb; it's a state of being; it's complicated, messy, and cannot fit into a simple formula. When people are exposed time and time again to this formula, they often start to expect this formula – whether consciously or subconsciously.

The unfortunate reality is that so long as humans are involved, there will never be a completely real-life romantic comedy.

Now I am not trying to be a Debbie Downer, but I thought it best to warn you. The good news is that I have made a list of a few films that keep with the romantic theme but may not build unrealistic expectations:

Realistic Romantic Comedies:

Joe Versus the Volcano

(500) Days of Summer

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Benny & Joon

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Beauty and the Beast

Pride and Prejudice

While You Were Sleeping

His Girl Friday

Edward Scissorhands

Casablanca

The Last of the Mohicans

Groundhog Day

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Walk the Line

So if your plans for Valentine's Day include kicking back and throwing on a movie, feel free to use one (or many) of these films. I hope you have a wonderful holiday and remember to beware the rom-com.

Men's Basketball - Go Eagles!!





Augustine Ajuogu

NU senior starts online business: "SOGOOD"

by Alycia Scheidel, Senior Staff Writer

Senior and Pre-Med/Biology major, Augustine Ajuogu has a passion for global health that has led him to recently start up an online business with some other NU students.

In 2006, at age 16, Ajuogu moved from Nigeria to the United States with his family. His community was able to give him the opportunity to attend college through scholarships, and ever since then, he has wanted to give back to his community in some way.

"I have developed strong friendships in both America and Nigeria," he said, "Both societies have offered me great invaluable experiences and they both continue to inspire me to work for the common good of our communities."

While attending Northwest, Ajuogu also began work with the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute. There, he was inspired to begin work on a project to create biodiesel. However, he continually ran into experimental problems during the project. One major problem that Ajuogu faced was a consistent side reaction called saponification that occurred during his experiments. This meant that instead of making biodiesel, he was making soap. Rather than allow this to

discourage him, Ajuogu saw that there was profit in this "soap making," and so he began the business known as "SOGOOD."



Above: Ajuogu, Borisov, and Lee at the launch party for SOGOOD.

Ajuogu teamed up with fellow senior Pre-Med/ Biology major, Paul Lee and Business Administration graduate, Nikolay Borisov to create a business

that produces and manufactures high quality all-natural personal hygiene products ranging from soap to lotion, lip balm, body wash, and shampoo.

"We believe in helping transform our communities," Ajuogu said. "This business will give us some leverage to help partner with community organizations to better work on some social issues."

The team is partnering up with Light House ministries, a local Bellingham based homeless shelter, and has committed to giving half of all proceeds to them.

Nikolay Borisov, co-creator of SOGOOD said that Ajuogu thinks on a higher level than most people he has met.

"Augustine is an amazing person and has a passion to change the world. He is innovative and a hard worker, and has inspired me to follow my dreams," said Borisov.

Ajuogu plans to attend Oxford in the fall.

To find out more about his business, go to: sogoodproducts.com



Dr. Nelson:

What would you do if you really loved them?

Thoughts on Love

By Dr. Matt Nelson

Dean, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

How does God define love?

I sometimes wonder, How important is love in God's economy? In scripture, the Apostle John writes, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is quoted as saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength [and] Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:29-31).

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is recorded as saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

The Apostle Paul writes, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails" (I Corinthians 13:4-8).

Selfish versus Selfless

I am not surprised as I review the characteristics outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 that they boil down to an individual's internal battle between selfishness versus selflessness. Your life can be placed on a continuum of selfishness versus selflessness.

As a child, I was the youngest of two and my sister was eleven years older than me. As a result, she went off to college when I was young and I was raised like an only child. Consequently, I never had to share my toys, my room, or my parents' time. This environment was a breeding ground for selfishness.

One of God's ways of ridding me of my selfishness was blessing me with three children of my own. Through my children, God has taught me many lessons about

the importance of being selfless. I wonder sometimes if the way my children treat me is similar to the way I treat God. Am I so unaware of my selfishness that I regularly act selfish toward God and completely miss the lessons He is teaching me?

What would I do if I really loved them?

Chip Anderson, former Professor of Education at UCLA, asks the question: "What would I do if I really loved them?" As a student: What would I do if I really loved my fellow students and my professors? As a roommate? As a son or daughter? As an employee or employer?

As we express love to our friends and family through the Valentine's Day celebration, I ask you these questions:

What would you do if you really loved your friends and family as Christ loves you?

How would your love be different if you loved them with the selfless love described in 1 Corinthians chapter 13?

What would you do if you really loved them?

February 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Chapel: Lead @ NU Screaming Eagles Week: Floor Olympics 8pm, Pavilion	2
3	4 Chapel: Pastor Rob Carlson, Bethany Christian Assembly	5	6 Chapel: Pastor Jeff Kirkland, Peoples Church	7	8 Chapel: Dr. Sarah Drivdahl Basketball Home Games: Women's/Men's 5:30pm/7:30pm	9
10	11 Chapel: Pastor Chad Germany, SAGU	12	13 Chapel: Pastor Chad Germany, SAGU	14 Valentine's Day	15 Chapel: Student Testimonies	16 Basketball Home Games: Women's/Men's 5:30pm/7:30pm NUSG: SNL - Movie Night, 7pm
	Reach Conference					
17	18 President's Day No Classes	19	20 Chapel: Life Group Leaders Only	21	22 Chapel: Pastor Phil Rasmussen	23 Roomies Weekend
24 Roomies Weekend	25 Chapel: Dr. Paul Kress	26 Spring Drama Production - 7:30pm, Millard Hall	27 Chapel: Faith Integration - Social & Behavioral Sciences Spring Drama Production - 7:30pm, Millard Hall	28 Spring Drama Production - 7:30pm, Millard Hall		



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