**Russia Intimidates Fragile Ukraine in Crisis**

By Kellie Diedrich

The Ukrainian crisis has been occurring for almost six months now with no clear end in sight. It all began in late November with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych’s decision to abandon the European Union (EU) Association Agreement. This would have established free trade and fostered political cooperation between Ukraine and the EU. Most importantly, the agreement was seen as possibly leading Ukraine to EU membership, a favorable opportunity for them.

One week after Yanukovych’s decision, protests began in central Kiev, in order to rally support for EU integration. Many carried flags with images of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who led the Orange Revolution in 2004, which was also against Yanukovych. Not surprisingly, the protests for the ongoing crisis grew more violent as the months went on. This led to the first deaths in January, and escalated to about 80 people dying in a two-day period in February.

Disagreeing with the majority of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin does not want Ukraine to join the EU. Ukraine would be a huge gain for the EU, having a population of 45 million people, a vast quantity of land and a valuable geopolitical position bordering both Russia and four EU member states (Ukraine is not an EU member state).

Many believe that Ukraine has been bullied “Ukraine,” continued on page 3

---

**Progress Continues on Upperclassmen Village**

By Will Edwards

Despite the snow this winter, builders have not slowed construction on the Upperclassmen Village, the newest student housing addition on campus. The apartment-style dorms are on track to be finished by August 2014, in time for the start of the fall semester. The $7.5 million structure has commonly been called the “Senior Village” around campus, giving the perception it will be reserved strictly for seniors. However, rooms will be available for juniors as well.

“After speaking to Katy Kresge, Director of Housing Operations, I was able to confirm that the Village will be both junior and senior,” said Melinda Quiñones, Director of Residence Life. Because of this, the title “Upperclassmen Village,” is becoming increasingly common.

The Upperclassmen Village will be apartment-style housing and will include three single bedrooms, one double bedroom, two and a half baths, and a full kitchen. Since no housing options on campus currently include kitchens, putting them in the Upperclassmen Village as well as making them apartment-style were aimed at keeping juniors and seniors on campus that would otherwise live elsewhere. It will give students the option of a larger living space and a personal kitchen, minus the commute from an off-campus residence.

Junior marketing and international business major Karen Luckie is excited for the new housing, and plans to apply to live there next year. “I think it would be cool to be able to cook my own food, especially when I don’t feel like leaving the room,” said Luckie. “Plus, being able to cook will prepare me for life after graduation when I’m on my own.”

As of now, it is uncertain what the cost of living in the Upperclassmen Village will be. However, an announcement is expected to come soon. Quiñones assured students that “the cost for living in the Upperclassmen Village and the breakdown of construction process are being finalized over the next couple days. I am excited to say that all students will be receiving information sometime early this week.”

---

**TV/Film Department Tests State-of-the-Art Camera**

By Katie Kusik

The TV/Film department has recently added some new equipment to their menagerie of toys. The latest addition to the collection is the MŌvi made by Freewly Systems outside of Washington state.

This piece of equipment is a holding device for the camera. The unique thing about the MŌvi is that no matter how you move the handles, the camera’s shot stays steady and balanced.

The MŌvi set costs about $23,000 as a whole and is the pride and joy of Chuck Gloman and the rest of the TV/Film department. "Mike Wagner, another professor at DeSales, and I went up to New York for the day in order to learn how to use it,” said Gloman. “You have to balance all the different parts, but once you can do that you can move the camera in any way and the camera will remain balanced. If you don’t know how to balance it correctly then it won’t work at all.

The MŌvi works wirelessly with a tablet or a computer via Bluetooth. There is also a GPS, which helps with positioning. This state-of-the-art piece of equipment takes about 45 minutes to get set up and adjusted. There are special screwdrivers you have to use in order to get it all set up.

The MŌvi can be somewhat temperamental. When setting up the battery, if you plug the wires in wrong, you could potentially blow up the battery and if you leave the battery uncharged for too long, then the battery will blow up. These are bugs that the company is still working out, but so far it hasn’t been a problem for the DeSales students using it.

“We learned the hard way that the system doesn’t like to operate at temperatures below 32 degrees because the battery will stop working,” said Gloman. “They tested it in Sweden in cold temperatures, and it worked for them because they wrapped the battery in electric hand warmers. I think we will just have to invest in battery warmers, especially with the cold temperatures that we experience here.”

The MŌvi has just been released to the public for sale, but DeSales is privileged enough to be trying it out for free.

“I am fortunate enough to be a contributing editor to five magazines,” said Gloman. “I get to review new products before they are released to the public. Having new equipment available to me in this school setting is extremely valuable to me and other students because they are able to try out all of these new products before they get out into the industry and work on official sets.”

“Camera,” continued on page 2
Students Help People in Need on Alternative Spring Break

By Katie Kusik
The Minstrel

On Saturday, March 1, four groups of DeSales University students took off to Louisiana, California, Oklahoma City, James River State Park, Va.; and Washington, D.C. for an alternative spring break.

These locations offered students an opportunity for service. In Louisiana and Oklahoma City, the students worked with Habitat for Humanity. The Virginia trip focused their efforts on cleaning up a park by working with the American Hiking Society. In Washington, D.C., the students worked with the Boys and Girls Club of America.

All of these trips cost $150 per piece of equipment, which included the cost of meals, transportation and housing.

Junior Jimmy Herrighty went on an alternative spring break. He joined the group going to Oklahoma and had an amazing time doing service and spending his break helping the students to keep it for the students to use and to borrow for their personal projects.

"I helped build three houses to have," said Herrighty. "My favorite aspect of the trip was meeting one woman who was going to move into the house. She had four children and three of them were triplets. Seeing that we were able to help her family in such a significant way was really a amazing opportunity."

When the workday was over, there were plenty of fun activities for the students to partake in.

"One night we were able to go see a basketball game," said Herrighty. "It was amazing to see how important this game was to the people of Oklahoma and even though they are also Americans, it was great to experience it in another culture."

Everyone who went on the spring break enjoyed the aspect of being able to make a difference for others in need instead of anything else they could have done at home. There isn’t a wrong way to spend a spring break, but for the students who went felt like they made the right decision.

"It was a great way to spend my spring break," said Scirrotto. "I am amazed that, for my spring break, I can say I helped build three houses to help support families in need. It is overall just a great feeling to have."

One of the great qualities about these trips is that you do not need any previous experience to go on one. The leaders teach you what you need to know on the spot, and you just have to try your hardest.

"I am a criminal justice major so building a house is a little outside my realm of experience," said Herrighty. "But you don’t have to be a contractor to be good at this and help change someone’s life."

Scirrotto was also not very handy before she went on the spring break trip, but while she was there she was able to develop new skills that she can hold on to for the rest of her life. "I have never thought of myself as a builder, but I know that I am definitely better at hammering nails into wood now," said Scirrotto. "I feel much more confident in this skill now."

These alternative spring break trips are also a great way to get to know people that you might not have known before the trip. Traveling across the country in a van and learning knew skills can really bring people together and make bonds that wouldn’t have been there otherwise.

"People think alternative spring break is about religion, hard labor or long hours," said junior Victoria Gaffney. "Honestly, yes, things can get difficult, but service trips are the most fun I’ve ever had in one week. We always have time for some fun, friends and food. At the end of a workday, the group finds a fun activity to do together, from bowling to ice cream to swamp tours. Last year, I was seated in a small canoe feet away from a huge crocodile! There is always some kind of adventure to be had."

These trips provide experiences that will change your view on life. It is an opportunity that you will never have outside of college, so take advantage of them while you can.

A group of DeSales students on alternative spring break in Oklahoma City. Photo by Jimmy Herrighty

TV/FILM Students Test MOVI Camera

“Camera,” continued from page 1

Once the TV/film department is done reviewing the product, Gloman usually gets the use of equipment for a reduced price, so he can keep it for the students to use and to borrow for their projects.

“I am a TV/film major and we pride ourselves on being the best in our field,” said Gloman. “In order for them to thrive in this industry they need to be kept up-to-date on all the latest equipment, and my job as their professor is to provide them with all the technology and knowledge that we can get our hands on."

For junior TV/film major Taylor Turchick, the MOVI has come at a perfect time in his training at DeSales.

“It took me about 20 minutes to really figure it out,” said Turchick. "I have had the opportunity to use the camera for one shoot so far and I am in the process of using it for another." Turchick and fellow TV/film major Lance Bracale are in the process of making a commercial for Under Armor they hope to get on television.

“We sent them an email asking for some of their products to use for a promotional campaign. They sent us some great stuff and gave us the rights to their logo, music and products,” said Turchick. “For the shoot, we are using the DeSales campus and actors from DeSales. We are really lucky to have the MOVI to shoot with, and I think it will help make a great commercial.”

The TV/film industry is very competitive. The students need to be focused and have access to all the latest equipment and technology.

“Being a TV/film major here is a lot of hard work,” said Turchick. “But you get out what you put in. With the TV/film department at DeSales University, there are opportunities there that are yours for the taking. You just have to be proactive and take them.”

This department is making a name for itself in terms of being one of the best programs in its field. Keep an eye out for upcoming events that they are offering.
The Minstrel

Ukraine Crisis Continues

“Ukraine,” continued from Page 1

by Russia in recent years. In 2008, Putin threatened Ukraine with nuclear missiles if they joined NATO. With the crisis today, Russia has been trying to baffle Ukraine by promising cheaper gas if they do not join the EU.

Tired of being bullied, Putin signed an agreement with the opposition in Ukraine and fled, leaving Tymoshenko’s ally, Alexander Turchynov, as president. A week later, Russian gunmen appeared in Crimea, an autonomous republic in Ukraine. The gunmen seized parliament and raised the Russian flag above the building.

While President Obama believes sending troops to Ukraine’s peninsula was a clear violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty, Putin believes he has a duty to protect the Russian-speaking population that lives there. It is important to know that the eastern part of Ukraine was a part of the Russian Empire for centuries, so a handful of people still have strong ties to Moscow. Crimea also has Russian ties, and it would be beneficial for Russia to control its strategic naval base in the port of Sevastopol among other advantages.

The Crimean parliament petitioned the country will soon vote whether or not they want to be a part of Russia. In turn, the Russian parliament responded by saying they will discuss whether or not to accept Crimea on March 21, though it seems Russia will gladly accept.

Meanwhile, the protests in Kiev are still taking place today with countless people angered by Russia occupying Crimea. Tymoshenko seems to have the best solution and refers back to the Cuban Missile Crisis, when two superpowers were in great conflict but managed to end it peacefully. While ideal, Tymoshenko’s solution of peace is a bit too late. Ukraine has already seen too much violence and stubborn Russia doesn’t seem to be going anywhere but further into Ukrainian territory.

By Matt Metzler

The Minstrel

March Madness Preview and Predictions

The word parity is defined as “the state or condition of being equal.” While the term is probably overused in the sports world, there is no question it perfectly applies to college basketball at the Division I level this year. The number one ranking in the country has been a revolving door this season, with Florida at the helm as of the publishing article.

The beauty of the parity this season is that there is no clear-cut favorite like in previous seasons. Undoubtedly, Florida will go into the tournament as the favorite. The Gators haven’t lost since December 2. That is not a misprint. But what about Wichita State, the team that hasn’t lost a game all season? The Shockers made the Final Four last season and returned the key players from that magical run. Cue the haters cry, “but they haven’t played anybody, they are in a weak conference.” I’m not a Wichita State apologist, but when your win column says 34 and there is a goose egg in the opposite column, you are a force to be reckoned with come March.

Before I get into my preview and predictions for this year, I want to take a look back at my article from last year and disclose what I got right and what went wrong. My first sleeper was Colorado State who won a game and then got blown out by eventual champion Louisville. The next sleeper I predicted was Colorado State. The Lobos lost to Harvard in the opening round. I patted myself on the back for that one. Now, it gets rough. I also advised to stay away from the Syracuse Orange. To refresh your memory, Syracuse made it to the Final Four. Somehow, some way, Michael Carter-Williams proved my prediction wrong.

It’s a new year and I’m ready to guide you to glory. I will use the same process as last year but since I am feeling generous, I will give you my prediction for the winner of this year’s NCAA Tournament (hint: they have not been mentioned in this article yet). Let’s get it on.

Sleepers: Baylor Bears: The Bears are playing their best basketball at the perfect time of the year. The tournament bracket has Baylor as a six seed. Baylor was a seven seed in the Big 12 tournament and fell in the Big Twelve Championship against Iowa State. Prior to that loss, The Bears hadn’t lost since February 26. Playing in arguably the best conference in the country, Baylor is athleticism superior to most teams in the country. Senior forward Cory Jefferson, who leads the team in scoring and rebounding, at 13.6 and 8.4 per game, respectively, leads the Bears.

Eastern Kentucky Colonels: Before you call me crazy, listen to my rationale. First, they took a very good Virginia Commonwealth team to overtime earlier in the season. Secondly, when it comes to March Madness, I use key stats to determine who I think will surprise some people. The Colonels have the second best turnover margin in the country at a 6.3 ratio. They are fifth in the country with 9.2 three-pointers per game. The Colonels have the second best three-pointers per game. The Colonels will probably be a 15 seed at best, but they don’t turn the ball over and knock down three-pointers consistently, they could give teams trouble.

Teams to stay away from: Kansas Jayhawks: Lunnardi, of ESPN, currently has Kansas sitting at a two seed in the field. The Jayhawks have lost three of their last five games going into the tournament. They also are dealing with a big question mark in the form of star center Joel Embiid’s injured back. It could spell disaster for any team relying on a freshman to carry them in the NCAA tournament. This will be the case for Kansas as freshman star Andrew Wiggins will look to shoulder the scoring load. Unfortunately for Kansas, that burden will be too heavy for the 19-year-old.

Virginia Cavaliers: Defense plus balance = the recipe for success of a national championship caliber team. The Cavaliers may seem like an obscure pick, but I love the way they are flying under the radar. The team will probably end up being a three seed in the NCAA tournament. They have lost two games since January 13. They have the best defense in the country; only allowing 55.4 points per game. Their leading scorer, Malcolm Brogdon, only averages 12.4 points per game and they aren’t a flashy team by any means, but somehow they get wins, as evident by their 16-2 record in ACC play this season. I’m not one for clichés, but I remember, defense wins championships. Do not sleep on the Virginia Cavaliers.

How far will Ron Baker (31) and undefeated Wichita State go in this year’s NCAA Tournament? Photo courtesy of Sports Illustrated

MARCH 19, 2014

PAGE 3
DUDE IMMERSES AUDIENCE IN CULTURE AND DANCE

By Jaclyn Silvestri
The Minstrel

From March 14 to March 16, the DeSales University Dance Ensemble (DUDE) was presented in the Labuda Center for the Performing Arts. The show included four dance pieces followed by nine dances choreographed by Michio Ito, and an African tribal piece. DUDE included a variety of types of dance including musical theatre, modern, West African and ballet. The dancers had the opportunity to work with several other choreographers such as Natalie Desch, Janet Peck, Jeff Shade and Lynn Wiener.

The first piece performed was called “Bea & David” and focused on three different movements all having to do with love, and how it evolves from a date into marriage. This was a musical theatre piece choreographed by Lynn Wiener, and it did a great job of engaging the audience.

The second piece that was performed was called “Oily Birds,” choreographed by DeSales dance professor Angela Sigley. This piece focused on the idea of migration and utilized that through the dancer’s movements.

The Michio Ito dance took a special importance to the dance department. Michio Ito was a Japanese choreographer of modern dance during the early 19th century. The Dance Department read a biography on Michio Ito’s life, and had several lectures about the type of dance and showed up in master classes with Michio Ito’s choreography. A choreographer, who had learned Michio Ito’s technique straight from him, came all the way from Tokyo for two weeks to work with the dance department and teach them the dances of Michio Ito.

“We firmly believe that by embodying our past, we are bringing that lived experience into the present where we can examine its inherent lessons and become better artists,” Tim Cowart, the chair of the dance department, said.

The African tribal dance, choreographed by Janet Peck, was the last piece of the show, and seemed to be a real crowd-pleaser. It was performed to live music being played right on the stage. This piece brought the traditional dance of West Africa to the stage and allowed the audience to experience another culture just by watching the performance.

The DeSales University Dance Ensemble was a great performance, combining different cultures with unique performances that engaged the audience.

“Dance helps us to celebrate life and to enliven our emotions, our intellect and, of course, our spirit,” Cowart said.

DSUTV GETS INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

By Dan Beck
The Minstrel

Everyone loves their gen eds, right? Students from every spectrum of the academic realm converge in one classroom to learn about something that doesn’t really apply to their major.

Some DeSales TV/film students took this experience and turned it into a hilarious sitcom, called The Classroom. Using a mockumentary style of filming, the show has the feel of a documentary, but, of course, it is all made up. The premise of the show is that a group of students are enrolled in a class no one really knows anything about. The show is successful in its ability to convey the awkwardness of a classroom setting in which the professor has little to no control over their misfit students.

Senior Alex Strine created the show and wrote and directed the first two seasons. Senior Rose Hayes produced the show. Strine and Hayes have now passed the reigns to junior Matt Longua, who will direct the third season. Junior Mark Thackray is on board as the head writer of the show.

“The Classroom follows a handful of students enrolled in a course called Survey of the Liberal Arts,” Longua says. “This is a technical term for a course in which anything goes. One day the lesson plan could be yoga, the next could be team-building exercises, the next could be knitting. Everyone in the class is just as outlandish as the class itself.”

The first season followed oddball teacher Mr. Will, played by senior Ryan Kober. Ms. Joy, played by junior Valerie Berger, replaced Mr. Will in season two as the Survey of Liberal Arts professor. Ms. Joy has a degree in early childhood education and would probably be better-suited teaching kindergarteners, but somehow ends up in a college classroom.

Matt Enters is one of the show’s standouts as the neurotic teacher’s pet, Tim Albright. Tim’s antics, joined by Mac (played by first-year student Dane McMichael) and Sky (played by junior Eddie Souaid) make for a formidable comedy team.

Another highlight is Ashleen Rowan as Wednesday Friday. The peculiar behaviors of her character, whose middle name is unsurprisingly Thursday, add a great slice of humor to the show.

Thackray credits the cast for helping develop the personalities of each character.

“Seeing how the actors portray the characters, and watching them improvise, lets us know what to write for their characters. Because of this, three of the actors, Ryan Lind, Claire Noone and Dane McMichael, have become writers on the show;” Thackray says. “Everyone involved with the production of the show works extremely hard every week to make the show, so it means a lot when people watch the show.”

The new season will feature some changes from the first two seasons. While the previous seasons were filmed almost exclusively in Dooling Hall, the show will be stepping outside for season three.

“We’re taking the show out of the classroom itself and following the students and the teacher around campus in their personal lives,” Longua says. “It’s definitely a change of pace, but I guarantee the charm of the show is just as wonderful as ever.”

“The Survey of the Liberal Arts class is now based on outside assignments, and the show will focus on our characters completing their homework, and the hilarity that ensues,” Thackray says. “Ms. Joy also finds herself some extracurricular activities with two possible love interests.”

The new season will premiere Wednesday, March 26 at 8 p.m. on Channel 99, DSUTV. All of the episodes will then be uploaded to YouTube, which can be found by searching for the user “DSUTVTheClassroom.” You can catch up on previous seasons on YouTube as well.
**Minstrel**

*On the street...*

By Austin Berner
*The Minstrel*

...What is your favorite thing about spring semester?

“I like it when the seasons change! I like to see the snow melt, the grass grow and the trees bud. Everything feels so alive. Spring is my favorite season.”

--Zach Schatkowski
Freshman
Mathematics

“I like that it gets warmer out so I can not be judged for wearing shorts!”

--Chris Herre
Sophomore
TV/film

“I like that it’s light out when I get home after choir.”

--Ben Durham
Instructor of Music and Coordinator of Choral & Liturgical Music

“Being able to walk outside without freezing my face off!”

--Clay Hollie
Sophomore
Computer Science - Digital Art

“‘I like spring because I come out of hibernation! I feel like I sleep a lot in the winter.’”

--Catie Chovanes
Junior
Psychology

What’s not to love about right now? The gloom and doom of our prolonged winter and outrageous amount of snow is appearing to (very slowly) dissipate. But mainly, basketball is in the air. And no, I’m not talking about the NBA (R.I.P. Sixers). I’m talking about March Madness.

Sports editor Matt Metzler gave you some pointers on how to fill out your bracket for NCAA March Madness (my pro tip: don’t pick Mount St. Mary’s). What a wonderful time of year it is. The madness is the greatest thing in sports, and I highly recommend indulging in binge watching of the tournament. (Disclaimer: Many of the games take place during class time. I’m not saying to skip class to watch the games, but if you happen to come down with a cold this week keep your fellow students in mind. You wouldn’t want to get them sick, right?) Have fun with a bracket and root on your favorite teams.

Not a basketball fan? Be appreciative of the warmer weather and get outside.

Soon we will be able to walk on the grass and fill those post-class hours with outdoor enjoyment. And maybe pray for no more snow, too.

This is also a good time to dish out props to the DeSales men’s basketball team. After winning the Freedom Conference back on March 1 in overtime, defeating Misericordia, they followed up by shocking the 20th-ranked team in the country, Randolph-Macon College, in the first round of the NCAA tournament, winning 76-70. Good job to our fellow Bulldogs!

We are past midterms and into the stretch run of the semester. Enjoy the final few months of the semester, enjoy the basketball and most of all, enjoy the warmer weather. We deserve it.

Keep keepin’ it real, DeSales,
Dan Beck
Editor-in-Chief - The Minstrel
PUZZLES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
1- Encourage in wrongdoing
5- “West Side Story” song
10- Uh-uh
14- Crescent-shaped figure
15- Representative
16- Toward the mouth
17- Pertain to right angles
19- Not tamed
20- Tranquil
21- Execution
23- Aseptic
25- City on the Ruhr
26- Collection of maps
28- Tooth deposit
31- Ollie’s partner
34- China setting
36- Peruses
37- Lingus
38- Unity
40- Asian holiday
41- Big rigs
43- Riga resident
44- Course list?
45- Iago’s wife
47- Reptile
49- Snow conveyances
51- Companion of Aeneas
52- Clerisy
55- Timber wolf
57- Like Nash’s lama
58- Mule
62- ___ Raton
63- Rare delight
65- Like Nash’s lama
66- Spa
67- Golfer Norman

Down
1- At ___ for words
2- Graduated glass tube
3- Nouns
4- Midlevel capital
5- Portuguese navigator
6- “…” and seven years
7- Actress Sofer
8- Foolish
9- Finally
10- Not anywhere
11- Turn toward the east
12- Inner surface of the hand
13- Icelandic epic
14- Put a lid on!
15- Former Russian rulers
24- Artist’s support
27- Trig functions
29- Arabian Sea gulf
30- Queue after Q
31- Freelancer’s encl.
32- Abound
33- Truce
35- Big name in insurance
36- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree
39- Rapid-fire
40- Forbidden by law
41- Expressive
42- Goes with the flow
43- Asian prince
50- Gaze fixedly
52- Indonesian island
53- Related on the mother’s side
54- Baseball commissioner Bud
55- Timber wolf
56- Pressing need
57- Rapper born Tracy Marrow
61- Krazy ___

Sudoku 4puz.com

Find and circle all of the songs by The Beatles that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of an additional Beatles song.

To find the solution to this Sudoku puzzle, visit our Facebook (DeSales Minstrel), also follow us on Twitter, @TheMinstrelDSU, and check out our website at www.TheMinstrelDSU.com
The next step would be either a full-time resident director position that's year-round and salaried, or area director, who supervises people like me now. Staying in Residence Life is going to be important to me and moving up in there, I definitely caught the ResLife bug. A lot of people do it at first and then try to get out and go somewhere else in student affairs, but I'm not going to try to go somewhere else. Along with that, I love Maryland, but I'm getting married and starting a family, so I want to come back as close to home in Pennsylvania as I can so I can be with family, to start my family where I grew up. It would be awesome one day if I could work at DeSales again. I love DeSales as much as I ever have, and hopefully one day the ResLife path will lead me back to DeSales in some capacity.

Minstrel: What advice do you have for undergraduate students?

AG: I don't think there's any cookie-cutter advice I could give to undergraduate students, but what I will say is that you need to know yourself and your own personal priorities. I think a year ago I would have said, "Get involved, do everything you can and learn how you can be a leader, and get good grades and focus on school," but that's not really addressing the whole person. Excel as much as you can without forgetting who you are and what you need as a person.

The Minstrel
FEATURED ATHLETE: BRITTANY WILSON

By Kate Bortz
The Minstrel

Brittany Wilson is one of the senior leaders of a very talented DeSales softball team. She put up a 5-1 record as a pitcher in 2013, including two saves and an earned run average of 2.33. The Minstrel caught up with Wilson to ask about the 2014 season, her passion for softball.

Minstrel: What prompted you to first start playing softball?

BW: My older sister played softball and my brother played baseball, so of course I had an interest in softball growing up. Because of that, I started playing when I was six years old.

Minstrel: Why did you choose to come to DeSales?

BW: I loved the location of DeSales. The small-town feel made me comfortable and right at home.

Minstrel: How do you think the season has gone so far?

BW: We opened our season in Florida during Spring Break, where we won five games, lost one, and yet to be able to practice or play outside other than that trip due to the weather, so it will be important for the team to get the field ready and get some practices in before the season.

Minstrel: What is the dynamic like between the team members?

BW: We have a young team with a lot of strong underclassmen. Some of them were here last year and contributed to the team. We also have some key freshmen players coming in to give us depth.

Minstrel: As a senior, how do you think you have impacted the team?

So BW: Absolutely like to lead by example. I am constantly ready to compete and perform in any situation. I hope that the underclassmen can follow my lead and realize everyone is important in making a successful team.

Minstrel: What do you think are your biggest strengths?

BW: My biggest strength is probably that I understand my role on the team. This helps a lot that we can all work together. Also, I always make sure that I am mentally prepared to come in and compete at any time and any situation.

Minstrel: What has been your favorite memory of your college softball career?

BW: My favorite memory has definitely been last year's team winning the Freedom Conference and advancing into the NCAA tournament, where we won two games. This made us the first DeSales softball team to win 30 games in a single season, which is a huge accomplishment.

Minstrel: What do you plan on doing after graduation?

BW: I plan on working as a registered nurse, but I also want to plan to continue my education and get my Master's degree in nursing. I hope to one day work in critical care.

Minstrel: What piece of advice can you give rising athletes that you wish you had heard earlier?

BW: Manage your time and take advantage of down time when you find it. Make every practice and game your best one because before you know it, your four years will be over. It goes by a lot faster than it seems.

I definitely like to lead by example. I hope the underclassmen can follow my lead and realize everyone is important in making a successful team.”

ATHLETE: BRITTANY WILSON

Year: Senior
Sport: Softball
Position: Pitcher
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Troy, Pennsylvania
Honors: Deans list 2012-2014, team captain 2013-2014, Member of Sigma Theta Tau National Nurses Honor Society

LACROSSE LOOKS TO GET BACK ON TRACK

By Hutton Jackson
The Minstrel

After finishing last season third in the Freedom Conference and with an overall record of 8-9, the best record in DeSales’ history, the men’s lacrosse team had lofty goals for its 2014 season. To match its high aspirations, goals for its 2014 season. To match its high aspirations, the team they played to end the 2013 season. However, the team knows there is much to improve upon.

The team opened the season on the road against Frostburg State University, the team they played to end the 2013 season. However, the Bulldogs were not able to average last season’s ECAC tournament loss and fell 12-3 to the Bobcats. The team then traveled to Clearwater, Fla., over spring break and lost to Clark University 10-9 and St. John Fisher 14-1. They fell to a 0-4 record after suffering an 11-9 loss to Gwynedd Mercy University last week. However, with 11 regular season games left in the season, including all six Freedom Conference games, the team knows there is much more lacrosse to be played and is confident that they will again find themselves in the Freedom Conference playoffs this May.

“It’s a tough way to start the season,” said Schambach. “But the team is optimistic and no one is throwing the towel. These losses are fixable because they’re not caused by a lack of effort. The goal still is to win. As a team, we have the depth that it hasn’t had in recent years.”

The team opened the season on the road against Frostburg State University, the team they played to end the 2013 season. However, the Bulldogs were not able to average last season’s ECAC tournament loss and fell 12-3 to the Bobcats. The team then traveled to Clearwater, Fla., over spring break and lost to Clark University 10-9 and St. John Fisher 14-1. They fell to a 0-4 record after suffering an 11-9 loss to Gwynedd Mercy University last week. However, with 11 regular season games left in the season, including all six Freedom Conference games, the team knows there is much more lacrosse to be played and is confident that they will again find themselves in the Freedom Conference playoffs this May.

“It’s a tough way to start the season,” said Schambach. “But the team is optimistic and no one is throwing the towel. These losses are fixable because they’re not caused by a lack of effort. The goal still is to win. As a team, we have the depth that it hasn’t had in recent years.”

Despite the losses, the team continues to be able to find steady production from some key starters. Its starting attackmen, junior Ryan Rowse, junior Ryan Loughlin and senior James Guerrier, lead the team in scoring. Schambach stresses that he’s always been proud of the players’ character when dealing with adversity such as injuries to key players and not being able to practice outside on a full field due to the weather. He says the team has remained close and both veteran and young players continue to step up. It attributes much of the team’s closeness to their annual trip to Florida. Schambach is also proud of how the team has been able to rally around the devastating loss of assistant coach Bill Lawson. Having served as an assistant for three years, Lawson died in a fatal car accident last July at the age of 79.

“Emotionally, it has been a big loss. I’ve never met anybody full of such positive energy,” said Schambach. The players recognized what Lawson meant to the team. “During the trip down to Frostburg State, I was sitting in the same spot on the bus I always have, and I felt like something was missing. I look up and see two seats in front of me there is an empty spot,” says Matt Warnken. “You really don’t know how much you need someone until they are gone. Coach Lawson was always there to see how your day was going and always helped the team out when we were at our lowest point. He was a great man, a great coach and a great friend to us all.”

To honor the late coach, the players wear the initials “BL” on the back of their helmets and use the phrase “BL” when breaking the huddle. The team has dedicated the season to him and hope to honor his memory.

DeSales will travel to Union, N.J. tonight, March 19, to take on Kean University at 7 p.m. and will host Union College for their first home game of this Saturday, March 22 at 1 p.m.

Photo by Pat Jacoby

Photo by Pat Jacoby