A guide to the provost candidates

BY SOONDOS MULLA-OSMAN
Staff Writer

The university is currently waiting for the final decision on who Xavier’s next provost will be after two student forums were held March 28 and March 31. The forums were designed to generate student feedback, but ultimately the administration has the final decision.

How will they represent the student body?
We’ve compiled a concise list of some of the essential details of each candidate.

Melissa Baumann

• Received her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in materials science and engineering in 1998.
• Currently a professor and the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies at Auburn University.
• Currently the Director of the Auburn University Honors College.
• Has participated in numerous service committees, including serving as Faculty Advisor to the Michigan State University Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Student Society until 2013.
• Holds positions involving professional service, including editorial board member for the Journal of Biomedical Materials Research.

Judith F. Karshmer

• Received her Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in social psychology in 1988.
• Was a professor and the Dean of the School of Nursing & Health Professions at the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit Catholic University, until 2016.
• Currently Dean Emeritus and professor on sabbatical.
• On multiple board positions in the health field, including the Health Commissioner of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.
• In multiple positions involving nursing leadership, including the Board Treasurer in the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

FC Cincinnati Game
Wednesday, April 19
5:30 p.m.
Buenger Circle

SAC will be taking 90 students to see the FC Cincinnati game off campus for free. Buses leave at 5:30 p.m. First come, first serve.

Star Wars: Rogue One
April 20-22
8:30 p.m.
Arrupe Overlook/Yard

Thursday and Saturday, the film will show in the Arrupe Overlook. On Friday, it will show outside on the Xavier Yard. Graeter’s will be provided while supplies last.

XavierFest Hype Show
Monday, April 24
4 p.m.
Husman Stage

This event is a pre-event for XavierFest. Free BdBbs and free XavierFest merch will be provided for students along with a limited edition XavierFest t-shirt.

XavierFest
Friday, April 28
4-10 p.m.
Xavier Yard

Live music, t-shirts, and tons of free food! For more information go to http://www.xavier.edu/stu-dent-involvement/cam-pus-events/XavierFest.cfm

Local Woman Faces Deportation

Campus News, page 8

Despite public outcry from residents and Archdiocese of Cincinnati, a Fairfield woman is set to be deported to Mexico.

Senior Op-Eds
Op-ed, pages 4-5

Seniors James Hogan, Kyle Tooley and Luke Byerly share their parting words with the Xavier community.

Baseball Standout

Sports, page 6

Junior lefty Zac Lowther was named no. 99 in Baseball America’s Top 100 MLB Draft Prospects, a first for Xavier Baseball.

Preview: Into the Woods
A&E, page 7

Campus News Editor Kevin Thomas previews Xavier Theatre’s final production of the school year, Into the Woods.

A New Comic
Feature, page 8

Check out the new featured comic, Loose Gum, as well as how a few different students spent the Easter break.

In this issue of the Newswire...
More Than a Pipeline: Stories Under the Stars
Tuesday, April 18th @7:30pm
GSC Amphitheater
Kennedy Auditorium is rain location

Guatemala Team 2017 Presentation
Wednesday, April 19th @ 5:30pm
Arrupe Overlook

Holi (Rescheduled)
Thursday, April 20th @ 4:00pm
GSC Amphitheater

Free Hug Day
Friday, April 21st from 11:00am – 2:00pm
Fountain Square
Free Metro Plus transportation

Interfaith Shabbat
Friday, April 21st @ 6:00pm
Hofi Dining Hall
Free meals for those without a mealplan

(330x1100) - Paid Advertisement -
Fairfield mother confronts deportation

BY ELLEN SHREKE
Managing Editor

A Fairfield woman faces deportation to Mexico today after the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals denied her case for a stay of removal.

Maribel Trujillo-Diaz, who has resided illegally in the country since 2002, is a mother of four children ranging in age from 3 to 14. A member of St. Julie Billiart parish in Hamilton, Trujillo-Diaz had previously met with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in Columbus on April 3, according to The Enquirer. Upon arrival, ICE officials allegedly told her to report back to Immigration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in Columbus on April 3, according to The Enquirer. Upon arrival, ICE officials showed up at her home and arrested her. After spending time in the Butler County Jail, she was moved to the Morrow County Jail, typically used to detain those facing deportation. She is now staying in a Louisiana detention center.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati issued a statement decrying ICE’s actions and urging elected officials to show leniency. Her case for asylum was based on the danger presented by drug cartel activity in her hometown, specifically the cartel’s kidnapping of her father.

“This is cruel and unacceptable,” the statement said.

Numerous prayer services and demonstrations have taken place across the city in conjunction with phone call and letter-writing campaigns. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, along with Gov. John Kasich, have likewise issued statements. The story has even gained national attention from the likes of The New York Times, The Guardian and CBS.

The Xavier community was given the opportunity to learn about Trujillo-Diaz’s story following an April 5 presentation on immigration by Father Dan Groody of Notre Dame. After Groody’s talk, Archdiocese Director of Catholic Social Action Tony Stieritz explained the situation and offered a sign-up sheet for audience members to provide contact information so that they could receive regular updates. Each update also offered suggestions for action, such as calling the ICE offices in Columbus and New Orleans to leave messages asking for leniency.

“We continue to appeal to everyone that this is a nonpartisan cause, motivated by our love for Maribel and her family, rooted in our faith’s teachings on family, migration, justice and mercy,” Stieritz said in one of the updates.

With Trujillo-Diaz about to be deported, another prayer service is planned for 2 p.m. this Sunday at St. Julie Billiart Church.

Left- and right-wing protestors clash in Berkeley

BY SAVIN MATTIZZI
Staff Writer

Clashes broke out in Berkeley, Calif., on Saturday when pro-Trump and anti-Trump protestors crossed a police line and attacked each other.

According to authorities, 11 were injured, and seven had to be transported to area hospitals. An additional 21 were arrested, some on weapons charges. In a video posted by Rastor, people could be seen using flagpoles and brass knuckles to attack one another.

“It’s the same nonsense, just a new day,” James Hogan, a senior Philosophy, Politics and the Human History.

Hogan believes most of the tension arises from a lack of dialogue.

“Just talk to each other,” Hogan said. “One of the reasons I think that things are becoming more polarized is because it’s so easy to only talk to people that you agree with. Whether you’re on the right or the left, it’s so easy to get on social media and only be friends with people that are other Republicans or other Democrats or follow people from one side or only get your news from one side, and then as soon as you see something that isn’t that, we’re not sure how to react to it. You just gotta sit down and have a chat. You don’t have to agree with them at the end of it, you don’t have to come to a consensus, but you have to at least try to understand.”

Senior biology major Tamara Mahmood, however, empha-

sen the need for authentic conversations.

“Yeah, we could talk, but talk- ing isn’t going to do anything un- less you are open-minded about the situation,” Mahmood said.

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Fairfield mother confronts deportation

Left- and right-wing protestors clash in Berkeley

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Photo courtesy of The Enquirer

Demonstrations, prayer services and various phone campaigns have been conducted in support of Maribel Trujillo-Diaz of Fairfield, Ohio.

Maribel has made a life in Ohio based on positive contributions to her church and her community. She has no criminal history.

“We fully respect the Department of Homeland Security’s duty to enforce our immigration laws, and we recognize that this is not an easy task. At the same time, it is clear that the common good cannot be served by separating this wife and mother from her family. Our community gains nothing by being left with a single-parent household when such a responsible and well respected family can be kept together.”

Senior biology major Tamara Mahmood, however, emphasizes the need for authentic conversations.

“Yeah, we could talk, but talking isn’t going to do anything unless you are open-minded about the situation,” Mahmood said.

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For your information:

Sports management struggles

This is a story about an ignored group of people. This is a story about brave souls that have been ridiculed throughout their entire college careers. This is a story about following your heart, even when no one else believes in you.

It was April of 2013, and I had just made my decision to attend Xavier. I knew that this was the perfect decision for my future for a variety of reasons. But the next step was weighing over my head. What major should I choose? How can I spend my four years enjoying myself academically? How can I best set myself up for a long and successful career in the real world?

I didn't choose marketing. I strayed away from finance. I disregarded biology.

I chose sport management, otherwise known as the major that everyone makes fun of. Whether it be your friends, family or even popular culture, you know someone that has made a joke about sport management.

It is not as peaches and cream, let me tell you that right now. We go through hardships that other students do not have to endure. We earn our stripes while you all laugh about our decisions.

We have a class in which you manage a fantasy football team, with the idea being that you learn about salary cap management, so get out and ignore classes, but make sure there are no endless possibilities, so get out there.

This isn't as easy as it sounds. I am advocacy going out and ignoring classes, but make sure there is time for other things. College is maybe 25 percent classes (sorry, mom), 25 percent figuring out how to be an adult, and 50 percent becoming who you are and who you are to be forever. Try not to be afraid of it. This experience is one of a kind, and you have a short window of time. Live it up.

Of course it's tempting to take a lazy day, and it is hard to deny that spending all afternoon in bed watching Shameless would be fabulous. But, in a few years, you will be a senior getting ready to pack up for one last time and bounce on out of here. Make some memories. Be one of those people who always talks about college being the golden years because you filled every day with excitement and interest.

So do something today, just for fun. Go exploring, write a poem, try a backflip and just go for it. Remember. Spending a lot of days sitting around doing some classwork, napping and being lazy. That is only one of my biggest regrets. I should have been outside, even if that meant just doing my classwork while sitting outside. I wish I had gotten out and seen new people and places.

As I am home for Easter, I realize that I never got out and explored Cincinnati. I know how to get downtown and get to OTR or the airport, but there are huge chunks of this city that I have never seen. But that brings me out.

Cincinnati really is a great city and a wonderful place to live – there are so many nooks and crannies to explore, from the hundreds of coffee shops to the parks all around.

This is not just an experience to be passed over. This is a story about an ignored group of people. This is a story about brave souls that have been ridiculed throughout their entire college careers. This is a story about following your heart, even when no one else believes in you.

So, make it count, enjoy yourself and hold on tight.
Free press under a Trump administration
A journalist’s rising concern for the state of American media

“Sometimes we can disagree with the facts.” This is not a satirical skirt, nor is it a quote from a silly movie. These were the ex-act words from the press secre-tary to the President of the United States of America when commenting on the size of the audience at the president’s inauguration. This statement, ironically, came from the same administra-tion who coined the terms “fake news” and “alternative facts.” Just to be clear, facts can neither be alternative, nor can you disagree with them. Facts are facts. If you can disagree with them or offer alternatives to them, they are no longer facts but some-thing called opinions. Arguably, another concept which originated from Sean Spicer’s mis-understanding of objective re-ality, he has become notorious with his treatment of the press. He constantly interrupts and de-mands reporters who attempt to ask questions.

When seasoned White House Correspondent April Ryan was attempting to ask a question about U.S. relations with Russia, Correspondent April Ryan was asked to “stop shaking your head.” This type of offensives might seem trivial or insignifi-cant to those not in the field of journalism, but this attitude signifies a blatant disregard for the rights of the press. It is the job of a free press to ask diffi-cult and unpopular questions. The purpose of a free press is to keep our government in check and to make sure it is operating in a transparent way.

When government officials disregard the press, censor what they can ask, label questions as “fake news” simply because they themselves don’t agree with it or are embarrassed by things the press has found, this limits the ability of the press to be “free.”

This trend of constantly be-littling the press is a common tactic among autocratic and oligarchic governments. The view that this administration re-sembles dictatorships in terms of its treatment of the press is not a fringe point of view or hyperbole. — Savin Mattozzi

“[In 10 years I won’t be able to tell you anything about most of the other things that happened during college, but I will be able to tell you about the great times my friends and I had in between the work.” — Luke Byerly

Prioritize happiness and cherish the memories
People expect me to tell you that Xavier is special to me because of some sappy reason that distinguishes us from oth-er schools. The administration would probably love that, but something like that would be a lie. It would be misleading if I told you that I really love this school because it’s really far away, because the campus is beautiful and because I got a good education, even though those things are true. I don’t love this school, but I do love the people here. In 10 years, I won’t be able to tell you anything about most of the other things that happened during col-lege, but I will be able to tell you about the great times my friends and I had in between the work. I was doing well in school, I had a great internship, I was leading some clubs and I was having a blast with my friends. But, things took a turn for the worse during junior year after a cer-tain physics department misled me. I switched one major and took on one of the most difficult double majors at Xavier on the promise that it would be manageable… it wasn’t. I tried to be a hero. I honestly can’t tell you about anything from that lost year because I barely saw my friends. But as soon as I stopped and put my own happiness back as a priority, everything got better. My grades recovered, I did better at my intern-ship and most importantly, I made some real great mem-ories with my friends. I was disappointed with what hap-pened, and it really derailed my plans for after graduation, but my friends helped me turn it around. I’m happy now and really proud of what I did here.

So in a last-ditch effort to convince you, here’s what I got to do when I was priori-tying my happiness at Xavier. I got to know my squad. I got to make a ton of memo ries that I’ll never forget with them. I got to fall in and out of love a few times. I got to write a 60 page thesis that I’m immensely proud of and incorporate a Chainsmokers song into it. I was Managing Editor of a damn fine news-paper. I made it to regionals with the Ultimate Frisbee team while wearing a One Tree Hill jer-sey for every game. I got to cel ebrate when my friends and I got our jobs for next year. I found happiness and yourself during college. You’re young, and you have time. Stay woke.

Sincerely,
Lucas Scott #3 Shooting Guard

Luke Byerly is a senior VLAB major and the outgoing Managing Editor for the Newswire from Cincinnati.
Cavs, Warriors favorites in NBA Playoffs

By DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

The NBA Playoff picture is finally set, after a dramatic fin-
ish to close the regular season.

The Boston Celtics managed to overtake the Cleveland Cavaliers for the top seed in the Eastern Conference, holding the spot for most of the year. The Portland Trail Blazers clinched the final seed in the Western Conference after the Nuggets, the last team that could catch them, lost on a 36 foot Russell Westbrook three-pointer at the buzzer. The Miami Heat, after an 11-30 start to the season, managed to go 36-11 to close the season, missing out only because of a tiebreaker with the Chicago Bulls.

Once the dust settled on the regular season, it did not take long for people to move to the potential playoff matchups.

The first round features eight series, but only a few look like they will actually be competitive. Despite the seeding difference, Boston and Chicago looks to be a tight series, with many analysts picking it to go a full seven games.

Boston vs. Chicago split their regular season games, and both can exploit the others weaknesses very well. Boston finished in the bottom of defensive rebounding while Chicago was in the top 10. However, Boston’s perimeter players are a tough matchup for the Bulls defensively.

Another first-round matchup that looks interesting is the Toronto Raptors vs. the Milwaukee Bucks. Although many people are picking the Raptors to win the series, they face a difficult matchup problem with Bucks’ point forward Giannis Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo became the first player in NBA history to finish in the top 20 in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks per game in a single season. This could spell trouble for Toronto, as it has no single player who can match up with Antetokounmpo.

The Oklahoma City Thunder and Houston Rockets matchup presents an interesting storyline, as Westbrook and Houston head guard James Harden are widely considered to be the top candidates for this season’s MVP award. Although the series should play no part in the outcome, as MVP is a regular season award, it will be an interesting one to watch.

As exciting as the early round games may be, there does not appear to be much question as to who will make the NBA Finals. Both the Golden State Warriors and Cavaliers, who have split the last two Finals, appear to be ready to meet up for a third straight year. Although the Cavs fell to the second seed in the East, the Warriors finished with a six-game lead over the second-place seed San Antonio Spurs in the West.

Even though Golden State and Cleveland appear to be favorites in their respective conferences, they still have obstacles to face. San Antonio should never be counted out with its record of success. Its defense might be the only one in the West able to down the Warriors offense enough to win a series.

On the flip side, Houston’s offense might be the only one in the league able to keep pace with the Warriors. While the Warriors should make the Finals, the road will not come without challenges, as should be expected in the NBA Playoffs.

After winning the finals in the past two seasons, the Cavs remain the heavy favorites to come out of the East, as no one has posed a major challenge to them during the past two post-seasons. Although the conference final opponent will most likely pose the toughest challenge, no team looks to have the firepower to keep up with the Cavs in the playoffs.

Although the playoffs could be interesting early, they have the potential to get even more exciting in the later rounds, as both Cleveland and Golden State are heavy favorites to meet in the Finals yet again.

Hopefully if they do meet up, it will be as thrilling as last year. Otherwise, it could be a boring post season.

Lowther named top prospect

By BY JULIA HABER
Staff Writer

The Xavier Musketeers have their first-ever ranked baseball prospect, with junior left-handed Zac Lowther ranking number nine on Baseball America’s Top 100 MLB Draft Prospects list.

Lowther moved into the rotation after making 12 appearances this freshman year. He ranks second in wins with a 2.47 ERA and an opponents’ batting average of .247, which ranked third. In his last five outings, despite Cleveland and Dayton.

After a fresh season start, Lowther truly broke out sophomore year. After leading Xavier in starts (16), wins (7), innings pitched (102.2) and strikeouts (94), he led the Musketeers to the Big East title for an appearance in the NCAA baseball tournament over the summer. For his efforts during the season, Lowther earned All-Big East Second team, Big East All-American team and Big East Pitcher of the Week (5/25) honors.

Lowther has followed up being awarded the 2017 Preseason All-Big East honors with an impressive start. In eight games this year, he is 3-2 with a 3.13 ERA. In 46 innings pitched, he’s only given up 23 hits, which is a team low for starting pitchers. In addition to only giving up two home runs this season, he also has the lowest opener batting average of .150.

As of April 10, Lowther is second in the nation with 13.95 strikeouts per nine innings, as well as ranked seventh nationally with 4.73 hits per nine innings. The southpaw is the only player from the Big East to be ranked this year. In Big East play, Lowther has an impressive 0.64 ERA and 25 strikeouts in 14 innings, including a win over Seton Hall, where he kept the Pirates scoreless through six innings while striking out nine.

Even though Lowther is the first baseball player from Xavier to be ranked, he would not be the first Musketeer to be drafted by the MLB. After a season to remember last year, two players from the 2016 team were drafted. Catcher Dan Rizzie went in the 13th round to the New York Mets while infielder Andre Jernigan went in the 14th round to the Minnesota Twins. With these selections, Xavier has had 12 players drafted since 2005.

Lowther looks to continue pitching well as the Musketeers take on the Butler Bulldogs this weekend.
Xavier Theatre prepares to go ‘Into the Woods’

By KEVIN THOMAS
Campus News Editor

If you want to leave Xavier this weekend, but you can’t physically, you can do so easily by going to Xavier Theatre’s production of Into the Woods, which will be open from April 20-22.

The show, directed by the artistic director from Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, Lynn Meyers, will be the final show of the year.

“I think it’s really wonderful to end the season with Into the Woods,” Emi Suarez, stage manager said. “Our theme for this season was kind of community, and I think it’s really showed very well in this show… I think it really sums up what we were going for with this season very well.

Into the Woods was written by James Lapine, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. It is loosely based on the Brothers Grimm fairy tales and follows a baker and his wife, cursed to be childless by a witch, as they go on a journey into the woods to reverse the curse. They eventually meet Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood and Rapunzel.

The musical goes on to describe what happens as they all try to have their wishes granted and how these affect their community.

“I think people are really going to enjoy it,” Suarez said, “especially if they have never seen Into the Woods before because it’s always really fun to see the show for the first time and be surprised by everything that’s happening. I think if people have seen the show before, they’re still going to enjoy it, knowing what’s coming.”

However, the show has another interesting aspect to it, aside from the compelling plot. The set was entirely designed by senior Tori Kiraly for her senior thesis.

“I went to Stephen Skiles last year for my last advising meeting before senior year... and I told him that I wanted to set design,” Kiraly said. “He was like, ‘Well, we can put you on this show because this is the only one we don’t have a designer for yet.’”

Kiraly also thinks that the show will be a good one.

“It’s kind of like remembering your childhood as it was, and then also remembering how re-creating memories also changes them in a way,” Kiraly said. “So, you’re seeing all the good things, but that’s not how all the stories went, but, like, that’s OK. We’ve all been there, we’ve all done that.”

Tickets for Into the Woods can be purchased either at the box office in Gallagher Student Center or online at xavier.edu/ theatre/tickets.

Final installment of jazz series coming to Xavier

By SOONDOSS MULLA-ÖSSMAN
Staff Writer

“I can’t believe the season just passed,” Polina Bespalko told the Newswire with a mix of emotions on Monday. The Music Series, in which accomplished musicians come to the Xavier stage to perform, is drawing to a close for the year. The final performance, as many anticipate, will go with a swinging, melodic bang.

As one of the most important figures in the jazz world for the past 20 years, Christian McBride has “one of the most extensive biographies,” Bespalko said. It’s so extensive, it doesn’t even fit into the program. To name only two, he is the host of NPR Jazz Night in America and has five Grammys, but to Bespalko, the most remarkable thing he can do is touch everyone’s hearts.

“Everyone who comes to his show; everyone, never leaves disappointed. Positivity,” Bespalko continued, “is his number one priority. There cannot be a greater choice for the final performance.”

When Bespalko tried to book a season, she looks for traits in musicians that are “magentic” to her. Because McBride is a host on NPR, his voice is smooth and immediately recognizable. Bespalko described him as charismatic and funny and said that audiences will leave with a “good feeling,” which is also the name of one of his albums.

While beginning to reflect on the Music Series as a whole, Bespalko expressed her hope to bring jazz back to Cincinnati.

“High-class jazz, the jazz you would hear at Newport Jazz festivals, in Chicago, in Los Angeles,” Bespalko said.

Currently, regular jazz performances are difficult for younger students in Cincinnati to attend, since they are often exclusive to clubs only permitting people 21 and older. The jazz performances through the Music Series at Xavier are very accessible in comparison, open to families of all ages and affordable for Xavier students at $5 a ticket.

“Accompanying McBride will be Emma Cohen on piano and Dan Wilson on guitar. Both are also highly accomplished musicians in their own right, creating the potential for an evening for which Bespalko is very excited.”

Tickets for McBride’s performance can be purchased at xavier.edu/theatre/tickets.
“What are the parallels between today’s hike and journey and your spiritual journey?”

Typically, my family celebrates Easter by going to Easter Mass then going somewhere nice for brunch. But this year my Easter Sunday was a bit mixed up. Instead of Easter Mass, I was invited to attend an Easter service at Crossroads, a nondenominational Christian church in Cincinnati. I agreed to go; I was curious about how Crossroads celebrates Easter. Plus, who can say no to free coffee?

I knew to expect the high production show that Crossroads usually puts on, but I was thrown for a loop when it came to Communion. I noticed as the Communion stations were set up that the bread was not wrapped in its typical napkins. Brian Tome, one of the church’s two pastors, came up to explain that the church did not want to have the usual somber Communion. Tome explained it should be a joyous occasion. Volunteers started popping champagne bottles and revealing petit fours. My Catholic upbringing was boiling on the inside. I was thinking the whole affair was disrespectful, but looking back it was an insightful experience. Why shouldn’t Communion be more festive?

“What are the parallels between today’s hike and journey and your spiritual journey?”

This was the question written out by our club’s adviser for the Muslim Student Association. That day, we hiked more than eight miles from Old Man’s Cave to Cedar Falls and back in Hocking Hills. I honestly wanted to go to sleep instead of answering—I had never walked for so long in a place that wasn’t a theme park. Yet, like a theme park, I felt the mystical wonder that children experience when finally spotting Cinderella’s castle in Magic Kingdom or Dragon Alley in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter—except without the noise pollution, the trash pollution and the people pollution.

When I went down stone steps, tiptoed across streams or weaved through mossy logs, I saw only more things that were dreamlike, found in filtered photographs: Slim waterfalls cascading into blue-tinged pools, soothing gorges with love letters carved into wood and hidden rock trails leading to charming mushrooms, fat stumps or boulders begging to be scaled.

I appreciated the broadness of our adviser’s prompt: We answered in any way we wished. Technically, we were supposed to keep our responses private, but I’m sure she’ll forgive me for sharing here.

When going uphill with nothing but trees in sight and my legs aching for a break, I told myself to keep going, to keep trying. When pausing to take in a new scene, a sense of awe and humility overcame me. When at Cedar Falls, my adviser told me not to jump over a stream at least three feet wide because she was positive I would not make it, but I did, without getting a drop of water on my shoes. I immediately connected this rush of energy to the feeling of success in life. So, I guess, as an answer to this question, the attitudes I had toward this hike are precisely how I should be feeling about my spiritual hike: Persevering, optimistic and open to challenges.

During Easter break, I travelled to Northern Illinois to see my family for a much-needed visit. I caught up with family, visited friends and had a little down time. Depending on personal practices, someone else may have gone to Mass or an Easter egg hunt, or it could be just another day. For my family, it is a day of appreciation and reflection on religion by attending Easter Mass, along with preparing a traditional Easter dinner. Though I do not consider myself to be a religious person, attending an Easter Sunday Mass with my family is something that has always brought us closer.