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# One year later: department cuts

11 FACULTY AND THREE MAJORS CUT

**VANESSA STOKES**  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

In December of 2019, Northwestern made the decision to cut 11 faculty positions and three majors.

This decision stemmed from 18 months of an Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process aimed at choosing the smart and strong decisions for the college as a whole now and in the future. The APP analyzed the quality, productivity, relevance, contribution margin and opportunity of every academic program NW was currently offering. The process was a long and rigorous process that did not cut corners.

In response, President Greg Christy cut faculty positions in art, English, history, music and theatre programs. The philosophy, literature and writing/rhetoric majors were eliminated alongside the faculty reductions.

From those three majors, only ten

students were affected.

However, smaller programs like minors were also affected by the changes. For example, in cutting one English faculty member, the German minor offered at NW was thus eliminated as well.

"I knew a number of students affected by the program cuts last year," senior Camila Wede said. "My own German minor was cut, and I have been so grateful for those in the Compass Center for Career and Calling and the Registrar's Office who have assisted me as I work toward graduating with my minor."

Parallel to these reductions were the additions of five full-time faculty and three staff members for NW's Master of Science program, the hiring of one faculty member in the business department, increased degree tracks for the Master of Education program and funds toward a Center for Innovation and Leadership.

Since 2019, the Master of Education department has seen an increase in enrollment with its highest start in a term this year at 446 students. There are now seven



PHOTO BY COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

In December of 2019, the Academic Program Prioritization process finalized department cuts.

degree tracks available with over 50 adjuncts spread throughout the country teaching asynchronously. This year, the program hired one full-time professor and one part-time instructor.

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# Unsung Heroes: COVID-19 medical team

WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK

**EMILY ROZENDAAL**  
WORSHIP ARTS

When an orange bar pops up on the Raider Check App, many thoughts rush through the mind of a Northwestern student. What often goes unnoticed, however, are the people behind the app, working in the background around the clock—meet the COVID-19 Medical Response Team.

The COVID-19 Medical Response Team is composed of four members: Dr. Jerry Van Es, Dr. Jennifer Rogers, Jessica Kruger and team leader Brooke Hughes.

Before the medical team can do their job, an app for NW had to be created. Dan Robinson, associate director of computing services, developed the app. He continues to update it, allowing NW to keep track of the virus on campus.

"Our entire COVID-19 response team rests on his work. He is a god-send!" vice president for student life

Julie Vermeer Elliott said.

Once a student starts feeling poorly or was exposed, the medical response team steps in.

"Primarily we provide consults to students who have any symptoms they report on the Raider Check, determine contact tracing, and quarantine and isolate students if they were in contact with or tested positive for COVID," Rogers said.

Because much of the student body has been affected by COVID-19 in some way, many have also had the opportunity to interact with a member of the COVID-19 Medical Response Team through the messaging system of the Raider Check App.

"When I was experiencing the symptoms of COVID and decided to contact the response team, they were really quick about getting back and answering any questions I had," freshman Madison DenHerder said.

As a registered nurse, Hughes leads the medical response team. In such an uncertain time, communication is key from students to make their job easier.

"I know that it's annoying and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

(Top left to right) Brooke Hughes, Jennifer Rogers, (Bottom left to right) Jessica Kruger and Jerry Van Es make up the COVID-19 medical response team.

frustrating to report on Raider medical team and guidelines we students a version of a normal college Check daily, but because of the have in place, NW is able to give experience," Hughes said.

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## Rodrigo to be the new Taylor Swift

MUSIC REVIEW

PR STUNT OR HEARTBREAK

MADELYNN HARRE  
ENGLISH TEACHING

Olivia Rodrigo is a rising star from the Disney Plus series *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* who has gained a lot of popularity for her singing ability in the show. Her newest song, "Driver's License," has made that popularity and renown triple.

The song is catchy, unique and expertly interwove some car sounds into the track. It also speaks to young women who have or are going through tough break-ups, becoming their unofficial anthem.

According to The New York Times, "It's a canny inheritor of Taylor Swift, Lorde and Alessia Cara, among others."

Taylor Swift has showed great support of Rodrigo, as "Driver's License" is a co-sign of Swift and appears below the songs in her album *Evermore*. Swift also declared her love of Rodrigo on Instagram going as far as quoting her own mother, posting "I say that's my baby and I'm really proud."

Swift is not the only one to show their interest in Rodrigo's song. TikTok

blew up in response to this release. TikTok users' For You pages were filled with parodies and impressions deriving from "Driver's License." Some of the videos that riddled TikTok were people rewriting the song to fit different perspectives surrounding the song's topic. There were people who took on the persona of the car, the driving instructor, the best friend of Rodrigo, God's perspective, and many others as well. This trend gave Rodrigo some unparalleled publicity and has greatly supported her song despite the mocking that some videos contain.

"Driver's License" has created a major celebrity gossip opportunity as it implies that there is a love triangle between herself, Joshua Bassett her co-star of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* and Sabrina Carpenter. Though Bassett, the person Rodrigo allegedly sings about, not so coincidentally announced his newest song, "Lie Lie Lie" an hour after Rodrigo announced hers. Then around a week later Carpenter announced a surprise new song of her own.

Between these three songs, their music videos and the lyrics there are some hints that these artists

are all talking about each other. In "Driver's License," Rodrigo yells at her ex through the lyric, "I guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me." According to Vulture, fans believe that this is referring to "Common Sense" and "Anyone Else," both songs written and sung by Bassett.

Rodrigo also mentions a blonde girl who is "so much older than [her]," popularly thought to be Carpenter as she is four years older than Rodrigo. This claim is further supported by the fact that Carpenter and Bassett have been seen together a lot recently and are rumored to have started dating after Rodrigo and Bassett broke up. Then in response to Rodrigo's lyric, Carpenter wrote her own lyric "maybe you didn't mean it/ maybe blonde was the only rhyme" in her surprise new song "Skin."

Despite the overwhelming evidence that there is some major tension between these three stars, many believe that this all has been an elaborate public relations stunt. Even though Rodrigo and Bassett allegedly broke up sometime in August, the releases of their new songs were suspiciously close together.

According to Vulture, Rodrigo announced



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA RODRIGO.COM

the release of "Driver's License" on Jan. 4 and then a short hour later Bassett announced his song "Lie Lie Lie." It is hard to see this as a coincidence especially since the two songs are

clearly talking about each other. To further this connection, Carpenter's song was released a week after Bassett's as a surprise track for her fans.

"Driver's License" is now

at the number one spot on Billboard's Top 100 list with over 284 million streams on Spotify, and it continues to climb without any sign of stopping.

★★★

## Forgotten stories brought into the light

MOVIE REVIEW

AN ODE TO ARCHEOLOGY

MISAEAL BRUZZONE  
ECONOMICS

*The Dig* is directed by newcomer Simon Stone, stars Ralph Fiennes and Carey Mulligan, is based on a true story, and is set in the backdrop of an oncoming world war. In the film, Edith Pretty, played by Mulligan, contracts excavator Basil Brown, played by Fiennes, to unearth possible archaeological treasures in her estate. This results in a race to finish the job before the start of the second World War and a struggle between the different agendas in relation to the treasure. The movie was released on Netflix in January.

Fiennes and Mulligan yet again pull rank and demonstrate why they are household names when it comes to British actors. Fiennes depicts an unforgettable performance as a remarkable yet mild-mannered excavator Basil Brown. Fiennes excels in portraying a calm, aged Englishman that feels a little

too much like a grandparent we wished we had had growing up. He is solemn, wise, humble and, more importantly, believable. Mulligan, on the other hand, plays a more layered character. Mrs. Pretty is a widowed owner of a massive estate whose health is put in question as the movie goes on and has to face outside pressure as well as her own inner struggles.

The film is fairly straightforward and not terribly ambitious. The whole movie centers on the fleeting nature of human life and the legacy we leave behind. Attention is paid to characters, yet most of their storylines are explored in relation to the dig. Themes of legacy, history, greed and love are explored. However, none of these are taken to satisfying depths. This, on the other hand, does not detract from the movie as any further inflection might have taken the film to more pretentious ground. Thankfully, for a movie that feels like classic January Oscar-bait, it knows not to be too apparent in this regard.

*The Dig* is Stone's biggest project yet and, at times, this is fairly transparent. The camera makes questionable movements, as Stone opts for hand-held camera movements at seemingly random points in the movie with no clear motive. A handful of scenes also suffer from questionable editing as the audio and visuals are intertwined in a way that seems unnecessary and often comes across as baseless.

Nonetheless, when the camera is not being hand-held for no reason, cinematographer Mike Eley does produce more visually interesting shots. Particularly, scenes that are set at sundown are clear signs of Eley's strengths as he manages to capture so much more than just the fading golden sun in the English countryside. Eley captures most of the character's feelings in subtle expression and looks. No character seems like an exaggeration or an overdramatized portrayal we sometimes observe in the genre. The camera pays close attention the minute details in characters, adding layers but

also contributing to a sense of realism.

Composer Stefan Gregory offers a very soothing piano-based score with light sections of string often accompanying the melodies. The soundtrack matches the tone and pace of the movie perfectly. The movie itself is no grand epic and the score follows suit. Nevertheless, Gregory does a fine job of following the action and also allowing space for contemplation.

*The Dig* is definitely a movie with a lot of heart. It brings to light the hidden stories of great men purposely forgotten by history. Fiennes and Mulligan carry the movie to its desired emotional effect and convince the audience of the true humanity of their past real life counterparts. Although there are some questionable decisions spaced through the film, it never becomes too pretentious as other January dramas. The story itself is riveting and worth watching; the fine acting choices elevate this film to great places.

★★★★



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

## Freedom found in love of photography

CRAFTING WITH CARE

VANESSA STOKES  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

Senior William Chase Peterson was not the artistic type growing up nor were his parents artists. Yet as he grew older, he found a quality in art that he loved and that still remains true: "Art provides the freedom to be able to do whatever I love."

He has been impacted most in his art by his parents. They are his role models. They both love art and have a medley of paintings and sculptures around Peterson's house from a handful of artists. Although, Peterson's favorite artist is Vincent Van Gogh.

Coming into Northwestern as an art major with a graphic design focus, Peterson has continued on this path all four years. His journey with graphic design started a year before he came to college. While at NW, his graphics class of Layout and Design with public relations professor, Ann Minnick, has been his favorite because it helped shape

his designs in other areas of his life.

The style of art that Peterson loves most, though, is photography.

"In photography, no two photographs are the same and the possibilities are endless," said Peterson.

Crafting and art seem to be some things that many people picked up during their times in quarantine throughout 2020. Peterson and his fiancé, Brayden Paul, were no different.

Paul and Peterson decided to launch a business venture during the summer of 2020 stemming from Peterson's photography business. His photography business had been growing since his freshman year, fall 2017. At the time, Paul was his most featured model.

Their rebranding of Peterson's business, Brase Images, launched in September 2020. Paul, instead of modeling, now does posing with clients and handles the social media pages on Instagram and Facebook. Peterson focuses behind the scenes, working the camera and editing software, but he also is in charge of the website.

Brase Images is named after its owners: Brayden and Chase. Peterson built the photography website using tools he learned in a design class at NW. He photographs portraits, families, couples and weddings. Although, his favorite category to photograph is weddings.

"We know that each person has their own unique story and we strive to translate that into our photos," according to Brase Images website.

For Peterson's senior project, he has pulled from his love of photography and his love of people. His showcase features landscape works based on a summer 2020 trip to multiple national parks with his fiancé. The portfolio will include photos from these national parks: Zion National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Yellowstone, Yosemite and Arches.

"I believe everyone needs an escape from their daily lives. If I can give that to someone through my photography, that would make me ecstatic," said Peterson.



PHOTO BY AVERY CALSBEEK

Chase Peterson plans on continuing his photography business after graduation.

As a senior, Peterson plans to graduate this spring, be married in August and then move to Sioux Falls, S.D. with her. Both Paul and Peterson hope to continue flourishing their photography business in this new location. Peterson

also hopes to find a graphic design or marketing position while living in Sioux Falls since there is not currently enough clientele for financial freedom in his business.

Being on the wrestling team is what Peterson says

he will miss most. He loves working with his coaches and teammates.

"Thanks to everyone here for making this place feel like home," said Peterson, "and for making sure everyone has always felt loved."

## Performing dreams realized through theater

DREAM ROLES AND DO-OVERS

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

Every year, the students in the Northwestern theatre department host a Cabaret night but, unfortunately, last year NW transitioned to online classes before the event could take place. This year, junior theatre students Karisa Meier and Angela Wintering have taken on the responsibility of bringing back this beloved event on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 7p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

Cabaret is a theatrical form of entertainment originating in 1880's France that resembles vaudeville theater, variety shows and open mic nights. Cabaret performances usually include an assemblage of various acts in music, song, dance, comedy and skit work which is presented in a club or restaurant as entertainment. Traditionally, performers will transition between acts through verbal rapport with the audience called "patter." NW's cabaret tradition typically focuses on vocal performance, where students showcase their musical talents by performing musical theater numbers.

This year, Meier and Wintering have given cabaret

the theme "Dream Roles and Do-Overs." Meier came up with the idea after a conversation about future cabarets with a fellow theater student her freshman year.

"I thought the do-over portion would give people a chance to show how much they've grown since performing a role for the first time," she said. "And dream roles are simply that—a role you've always wanted to play or a song you've always wanted to sing. We'd get to see a little glimpse of people's love for musical theater and the stories behind those songs."

Saturday's showcase will include twelve musical acts featuring numbers from popular musicals such as Waitress, Wicked, The Book of Mormon and Newsies. Wintering and Meier will both be performing songs from the musicals Come From Away and Amelie respectively.

Most acts will be presented by single performers, but several duets will be included as well. Additionally, in order to achieve the classic patter and comedy of cabaret, several members of the Black V will be hosting the event and acting as emcees.

Since the cabaret's cancellation last spring, Meier and Wintering were both passionate about bringing back the event this year. Meier was unable to participate in a cabaret during her time

at NW but has wanted to be involved in the process since for a long time. On the other hand, Wintering participated in the last cabaret at NW in 2019 where she performed a solo act and the famous "Cell Block Tango" from the musical Chicago with several other women from the theatre department. Since she had such a great time, Wintering wanted to be a part of the planning process so others could participate as well.

Part of the magic of cabaret is the atmosphere. Wintering states that when she took part in 2019 it was great to perform in such a casual and fun environment.

"I love being able to sing and not care about how it sounds," she said.

Meier agrees, emphasizing that cabaret is specifically meant to be easy and low stakes for all ability levels and departments.

"Cabaret reduces the gate keeping around musical theater and the theater department, like how one-acts do," she said. "It gives people a place who like performing to do it."

If you like musical theater, singing or just need a break from studying, head to the black box Saturday night at 7p.m. to support your fellow raiders in a wonderful evening of music.

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PHOTO BY ALLISON HAVERDINK

The theater masks keep everyone safe while making performing possible.

## Social justice conversations on campus

IMMIGRATION AND WHITE PRIVILEGE

NOELLE PHILIPPI  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the past few months, it has been easy to look at the history-making events dominating the headlines and see a divided country. Students and faculty at Northwestern have taken the initiative to confront some of the country's most pressing issues head on in hopes to educate a larger portion of the student body on social justice issues.

There are multiple new groups and opportunities in the coming weeks on campus designed to help students learn about two different topics, white privilege and immigration.

Senior Sarah Gelberg has been prayerfully considering creating the Privilege Life Group for quite some time. About a year ago, she felt the Lord challenging her to lead a reform group.

A few short months later, the murder of George Floyd flooded the headlines. After this, she felt called to address the issue of white privilege with her peers on campus. Her goal is to discuss how she has seen privilege show up in her own life and encourage others to do see privilege, too.

Fifteen students have already committed to being a

part of this journey. Members will be reading is *White Awake: an honest look at what it means to be white* written by pastor Daniel Hill. Gelberg remains hopeful despite concern that her group may not be well received by all.

"There will always be pushback and controversy when fighting for something important," Gelberg said.

Gelberg looks forward to growing alongside members and creating a space for students to be vulnerable about their experiences. Privilege can seem like a complex and intimidating issue, but this life group aims to provide clarity in how followers of Christ should respond.

"I truly hope members of NW will join, ready to dive deep and be vulnerable with one another" Gelberg said.

Another opportunity started on Thursday, Jan. 28 in Ramaker, Across Barriers, a book club. This group aims to bridge the divide between people who may not always see through the same lens, specifically regarding immigration. They plan to do this through reading and discussing the text.

Hispanic Community Liaison Martha Draayer is the driving force behind this group. She spends her working time fostering a more inclusive campus community. The need for this group



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT

Across Barriers will meet to discuss the book they are reading, with the group led by Martha Draayer.

arrived after Draayer spoke at chapel back in October about immigration from a biblical perspective. Afterward, many students approached her and expressed a desire to learn more about this topic.

She noticed the need for a space for students to have fruitful discussions about immigration and hopes to use this new group to fill

that need. There are many immigrants who call NW home, and Draayer feels creating an open conversation has the potential to positively shift how people view immigration.

"This is not a political issue, but a church issue," Draayer said. "You don't often hear about Jesus being

an immigrant."

*The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong* by Karen Gonzalez is the guiding text for this group. Gonzalez is an immigrant herself and explains her journey from an unstable life in Guatemala to America by comparing various prominent biblical

figures. Hagar, Joseph, Ruth and Jesus are all parallels drawn by Gonzalaz to demonstrate the biblical relevance of immigration.

These new opportunities on campus are a great way to address some of the issues that traditionally cause division and approach them from a biblical perspective.

## Unsung Heroes: COVID-19 medical team

FROM PAGE 1

While the team works directly with students through the Raider Check App, they also work alongside many members of Northwestern faculty, including the resident directors.

"Monitoring the Raider Check app is a large responsibility, and the COVID team does it faithfully and efficiently," Stegenga Hall's residence director Caylan DeLucia said. "Because of their work, the RDs are more free to engage the 'normal' parts of our jobs with greater ease."

The job of the responders, as one may guess, is not an easy one, and it comes with many challenges. For one, it requires flexibility.

"No two situations are

the same," Kruger said. "We come across many scenarios that are unique, including symptoms, exposures, the CDC and guidelines."

Another challenge the team faces is a lack of awareness about the position.

"I don't think students really understand what all goes on behind the scenes of the Raider Check App. It's not just a ticket to get to eat in the cafeteria," Rogers said. "It helps us keep you safe as well as your NW community."

For others, it's the heart of the students that they appreciate most.

"I am thankful for the willingness, trust and support of NW students to openly and honestly answer our questions to help us effectively manage their health. We are here to

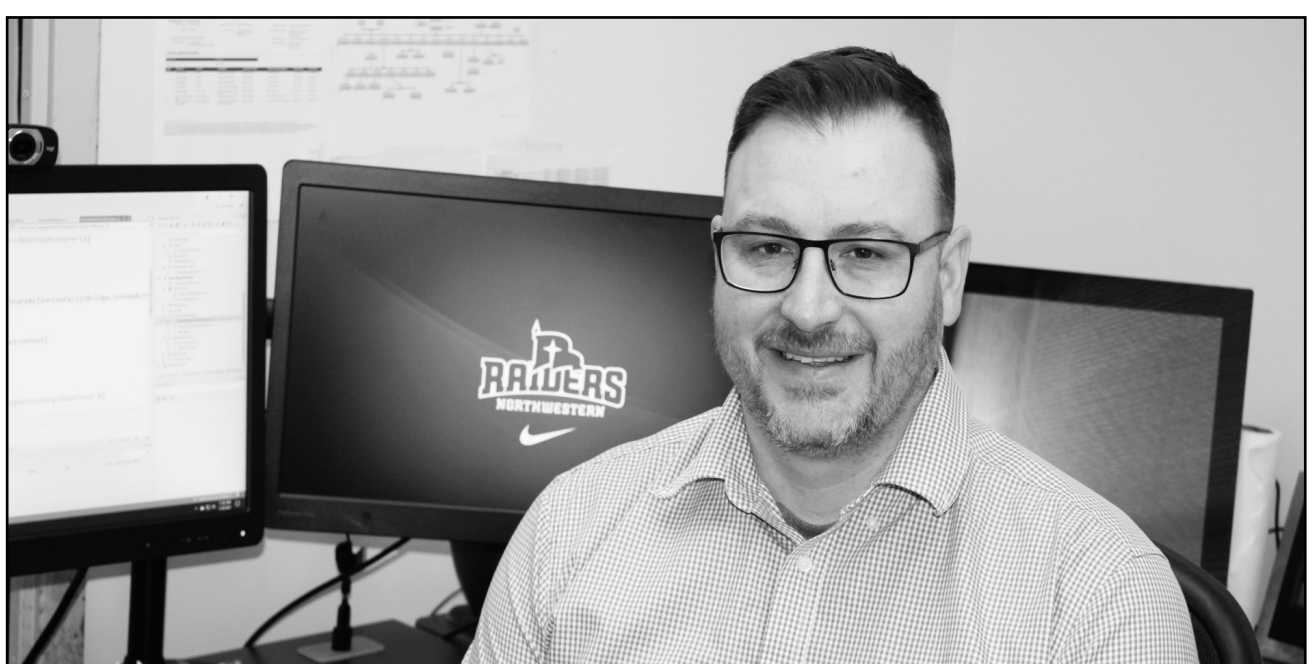


PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP

Dan Robinson developed and maintains the Raider Check App, allowing the medical team to communicate with students.

support you!" Kruger said.

For Van Es, it's the reward of being able to still help people using his knowledge during his retirement.

"I am a retired physician,

so it is rewarding to use some of my knowledge and experience to help NW

and students," Van Es said. "It has been rewarding to get to know many students in just a small way as they

navigate going to college with the COVID-19 pandemic."

While every day of the job may bring about a new challenge, the COVID-19 medical response team

continues to work around the clock to ensure NW students can be safe while attending in-person class and extracurricular activities.

## Colenbrander Hall RD to leave NW

NW SAYS GOODBYE TO CODY HUGHES

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

After four years of faithful work at Northwestern, Cody Hughes, resident director of Colenbrander Hall, and his wife Brooke Hughes will be moving on from NW next fall.

Hughes, a NW alum, said that being an RD was a part of his career plan since the end of his junior year at NW. During his time in Coly, he was greatly influenced by his own RD, Dustin Hamm, and eventually took a job as an RD at Geneva College after graduating NW in 2015. In December of 2016, he learned Coly was looking for a new RD, and the rest is history.

A native to Coly, holding the RD position there has been very special to Hughes.

"Sometimes when I walk down the hallways, I think back on who used to live there during my time," Hughes said. "It wasn't too long ago that I was a student sitting in my RD's apartment. This isn't unique to Coly as other halls have it too, but I like to think of the Coly guys being a part of a special lineage that you can trace."

Hughes has learned many lessons

during his time at NW. The first is realizing the importance of stories in understanding others and living in community with them.

"Stories can impact us greatly, especially when we are able to listen to someone tell their own story," Hughes said. "I hope my guys see me as someone who wants to hear their story and perspective. I'm not perfect and I don't do this all the time, but it's something I try to be about."

The other major lesson Hughes has learned is what he calls "posture."

Hughes shared how posture is "not how we physically sit or whatever, but how we embody conviction and truth. Throughout the last 10 years or so, this is an idea that I have felt particularly convicted in."

At NW, Hughes will be greatly missed by his co-workers and Coly residents that he leaves behind. Junior Kirby Willats, residence assistant of the basement of Coly, explains just how intentional Hughes has been with his residents.

"The best thing about Cody is the genuine interest he takes in our lives," Willats said. "He loves Coly and the guys in it and wants to get to know every guy, and he cares for every one of us."

RD of Hospers Hall Michael Simmelink has known Hughes since middle school.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

Cody Hughes lived in Coly while he attended college at NW, just to return as the dorm's RD.

"Cody is much more comfortable living in the complexity and gray areas of life," Simmelink said. "I want answers and black and white. He's helped me be more empathetic."

For the men in Coly, adjusting to a living space without Hughes will be different, but his legacy will remain.

"I believe Cody's legacy will be how he interacted with the guys," Willats said.

Fern Smith Hall RD Natalie

Wheeler believes that students will remember Hughes' furry companion most.

"I think his legacy has to be something revolving around him being the 'father' of Odin Marlon Hughes, his dog, and all he's done to incorporate Odin into the resident life family and Coly brotherhood," she said.

As for what the future holds,

Hughes is not entirely sure.

"I could see myself working in higher education after this, and Brooke could always be a nurse," he said. "We are also considering some ideas outside of our careers in higher education and nursing."

Whatever comes next for the pair, NW will always value the impact Cody made on Coly and the campus as a whole.

## One year since cuts

FROM PAGE 1

"The Graduate School and Adult Learning enrollment continue to grow, and we are fortunate to be able to keep up with the demands," director of the Master of Education program Gary Richardson said.

The Center of Innovation and Leadership started its launch in November 2020 as a center that seeks to connect students' ingenuity and organizational leaders with the surrounding community. There is not a set opening

date as of now, but the center hopes to be up and running soon.

With all of these improved graduate, business and science-based programs, the humanity departments are feeling a decline in interest.

"From a teaching and learning standpoint, I do not believe that the cuts benefited the college as a whole," professor and chair of theater Robert Hubbard said. "This said, numbers in the programs had dropped dramatically in recent years, largely because of wider

and ill-informed cultural perceptions regarding the value of the arts and humanities."

As can be seen in the faculty and student responses, some are still being affected by the cuts of faculty members and reduced programs.

"While I understood the need for some of these cuts," Wede said, "I lament the loss of great programs and professors and missed opportunities for those who will come after me."



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

The art department was hit by the departmental cuts announced in December 2019.



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## WOULD YOU RATHER?

(As voted on by you, the students)

Would you rather go take notes with a...

**Pencil**

44%

OR

**Pen**

56%

Would you rather attend class...

**In the snow**

55%

OR

**On zoom**

45%

Would you rather graduate...

**A year early**

73%

OR

**In 5 years**

27%

The opinions expressed in these polls represent student preference and is no way intended to indicate superior qualities of one choice over another or endorse certain stereotypes

## Serving people with disabilities is rewarding



**Ellie Natelborg**  
Public Relations

After job shadowing nurses at a hospital for 10 days my junior year of high school, I quickly decided that the medical field was not for me. Passing out while observing a nurse simply find the vein to properly insert the IV in a patient's arm was maybe what prompted me to suddenly consider the business field, which ended up sparking my interest and tailoring to my talents more. Oddly enough, that didn't mean my exposure to the medical field would be over.

In my scrambling to find a summer job after the virus that shall not be named caused mine to fall through, I came across an application to work for a non-profit organization that has homes for people with severe disabilities who are unable to take care of their own needs. After getting hired, trained, and certified, I

jumped into a job that quite honestly terrified me. I didn't feel equipped for the position and I convinced myself I would fail before I even started.

But through surviving each shift, I saw that God granted me the strength I needed for every moment. As I worked full time all summer and over breaks, I began to grow in a powerful way and strengthen some of my weaknesses. I fell in love with the work because of who it shaped me to be and the life skills and lessons it taught me. It wasn't easy or glamorous, but it opened my eyes to a love that I didn't know existed and gave me patience, empathy and humility – skills that I will carry into any job as a businesswoman.

I found that often times, it is the most mundane, unglamorous work that draws out the greatest satisfaction. I really believe that even though it has great challenges, working with people with disabilities is the most rewarding and eye-opening experience. I have learned that serving people who are less fortunate than I am is truly humbling. Seeing their eyes light up when they are watching a movie or playing a game, hearing them giggle profusely from across the house and seeing them smile at you while you tuck them into bed at night are just a few

moments I will never forget. It was a joy and an honor to help them through their day, make them smile and simply love them.

So, with my experience and story of working in a field that I never thought I would, I can easily say that it has done wonders for me to help people in such a meaningful way. I know that it's not a job that everyone can do, but I think that everyone should experience working with people with disabilities to some degree. I was intimidated to serve because I didn't feel like I would be enough, but I found that when you get a call to serve, God will give you the strength and skills you need to not only get through it, but to make an impact.

It's so easy to stay inside of our comfort zones and to focus on our own lives and problems. This job forced me to set aside my selfish desires, take a step down and care for the least of these as God calls us to in Matthew 25:40. I think if more people would do the same, the world would be a much better place. It is totally okay if direct care isn't for you, but I would challenge you to find a way of serving that pushes you outside of your comfort zone. God created you to serve and to love. Look for ways in this next week you can serve someone in need.

## Defund Brian Vandenberg



**Evan Rich**  
Political Science

*This opinion is a work of satire and does not reflect reality.*

Where do I even start? Brian Vandenberg's snobbish Black V opinion piece in December can teach us many things. Was I the only one whose blood was boiling as I took in the athlete-elitist tone as he ripped into the Black V? I could not control my rage as I read Vandenberg's entitled view on what power athletes should hold in the affairs of a college. Thanks to Vandenberg, I have learned that drywall repair is pretty pricey. The \$313 repair charge for the massive hole that I punched into my North Suites wall in a fit of rage while reading his article should come out of Vandenberg's pocket because it was damage that he incited. Unfortunately, the views of Vandenberg are not all that uncommon among athletes on American college campuses. His condescending Black V hit piece masquerading as satire illustrates the notion that college sports ballers believe they run the game here

at NWC.

But solely Brian can't be blamed for this line of thinking in a country that is obsessed with people who peak in high school or college as they play fun games with balls. The propped-up ego that our sports-crazed college system feeds athletes is not lost on many big shot NAIA NW athletes. We can't help but find ourselves pulled in by the gravity of an athlete's power and status. Although, this same elevated self-image that the college system builds up in athletes may create internal barrenness in the post NAIA days for some athletes. Their complacent will and entitled personality often doesn't mix well in a post-college world that generally isn't too concerned with how many tackles they had vs. Morningside or how many points they averaged as a GPAC basketball player.

The genius of the financially savvy college system should not be underestimated. Instead of their local 3-year community college or state college, many athletes are pulled into the allure of a \$40,000 college and the accompanying student loan debt by their often misguided dreams of athletic dominance. The acclaim that our society feeds athletes was apparent in Vandenberg's piece, as he seemed to view non-athletes as small pawns on this campus whose only role is to prop up his ego as an athlete. --HAAAA!!! Okay now that I have the attention of all the nerdy theater Black V apologists, let me really tell you what I think of the disgusting Black V. Nobody

wants to see the Black V papers littered all over the campus. (Last time I saw one I legitimately threw up.) Also, where does all that paper come from? It is all kind of suspicious if you ask me, and I am glad Vandenberg got the ball rolling on this issue.

I feel that the advertising strategy adopted by the Black V has helped to slowly normalize the anti-environmental, consumeristic mentality that we unfortunately see far too prevalent among many who matriculate at this institution. You can thank the Black V climate change deniers for the effects of global warming as they continue to tear apart forests in order to print out papers wielding black Vs for their improv advertisements. Many experts in the area estimate that upwards of 40% of worldwide deforestation is linked to the Black V. Also, paper isn't free. Where is all this paper money coming from? It is common knowledge among NWC insiders that the Black V is in the pocket of major lumber organizations and large paper-producing corporations as well as printer ink manufacturers. Vandenberg exposed the Black V's shady business dealings with Big Paper and the printer ink deep state that has unfortunately swallowed up NW's entire theater program. The integrity of NW is at stake on this issue. We cannot allow the Black V to continue operating. Vandenberg and I, along with the many never Black V-ers, must stick together to root out this evil that has gobbled up our campus.

Editor's Note

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## NW women's basketball holds its longest win streak

**RAIDERS RANK SECOND IN GPAC**

**APRIL VAN TOL**  
BIOLOGY ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Holding onto a great winning streak of six consecutive games the red Raider women's basketball team hosted the rival school Dordt Defenders on Jan. 27. Northwestern has been battling hard these past few days as their season is starting to wrap up

At the beginning of the game the Defenders won the jump ball leading to a 17-11 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Raiders fought hard tightened up the score at half to be 27-31 with the Defenders still in the lead. Determined to keep fighting, NW came back in the third quarter swinging, with the end score of 46-46, tying up the game. During the fourth quarter, NW went on an 8-2 run to close

the game and defeated Dordt with a final score of 64-58 in a conference match-up.

Tied during the final quarter at 56 points, junior Taylor VanderVelde knocked down a three-pointer off of a pass from sophomore Maddie Jones to put NW in front for good with 2:11 to go. The Defenders' next possession got them one point behind the Raiders but, following a timeout, freshman Molly Schany converted a floater on a pass by Jones to put NW in a further lead by three at 61-58. The Raiders then forced a turnover on the defensive end and VanderVelde drained a pair of free throws to put her team up, 63-58, with 15 seconds left. Following another defensive stop Schany closed out the scoring by making one-of-two free throws.

NW showed up defensively in the final quarter, limiting the defenders to only two field goals over the final seven-plus minutes.

Rebounding was a key factor for the victory as they held an outstanding 43-34 edge on the glass and limited Dordt. Schany led NW with 16 points, scoring double digits for the 14th time this season. VanderVelde held 12 points, 10 coming in the final half, and senior Sammy Blum contributed nine points, three rebounds and three assists.

After a great victory against the Defenders, the Raiders traveled down to Midland on Saturday, Jan. 30 where they won 70-56. After defeating Dordt and Midland, NW is on its longest winning streak since the 2018-19 season (12 straight) improving to 13-5 in the GPAC and staying tied with Concordia for second place in the current standings. The Red Raiders hope to continue their winning streak on Saturday, Feb. 6 against Mount Marty held in the Bultman Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
Women's basketball ranked second in GPAC.

## Raiders go unbeaten in GPAC duals

**JENNESS & SHUCK**  
2-1 IN DUALS

**REID SEELHAMMER**  
BUS ADMIN/GENERAL

The Northwestern wrestling team hosted Morningside, Dakota Wesleyan and Midland for the GPAC duals on Saturday, Jan. 30. The Raiders started out the day against 18th ranked Morningside Mustang. NW dropped the first dual, of the day 38-9, with freshman Trey Schuck and sophomore Luke Jenness both picking up wins for the team. In the second dual the Raiders battled the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers and put on a strong showing, winning 32-6. Captains junior Blake Pomajzl

and senior Bennett Sikkink earned majorly decisive wins for the team, winning 10-2 and 15-6 respectively. Jenness and freshman Chris Van Der Brink both picked up wins at 184 and biggest weight spread by decisions.

In the third and final dual of the day, the team took on Midland. Three Raiders, Schuck, Jenness and sophomore Sam Copley, picked up falls to push the Raiders past their Midland foes 33-15. Copley had a big match of the day, pinning an opponent that had beaten him by technical fall earlier in the season. The final Raider who won in the dual was sophomore Austin Hendrickson, beating Jeshua Castillo 8-6 in a tough match.

Both Schuck and Jenness finished the day unbeaten, Jenness improving his record to 17-1, picking up another two pins and a decision. Schuck beat 14th ranked Taylor Vasquez of Morningside 15-9 and pinned Mario Martinez by fall to improve his record to 14-4.

"Our guys responded well after losing the first dual to Morningside. They were a more physical team today and that won some big matches. Overall, though, I was pleased with how many guys were able to integrate what we worked on this week. Schuck handled another ranked wrestler and finished 2-0 on the day" head coach Rik Dahl said. "Jenness also made some little gains in

some of the areas we have been working on. However, I was most proud of Copley's win against Midland...that guy won by tech fall last time they faced each other but Sam was able to make some adjustments and pinned him this time out...that showed a great amount of courage."

The Raiders have high hopes as the season continues. NW competes in two more meets on Friday, Feb. 5 against Hastings held at Orange City and Saturday, Feb. 6 where the Raiders will be competing in the Sioux City open to receive points before the GPAC championship that is being held the week of Feb. 19-20 in Fremont, Nebraska.

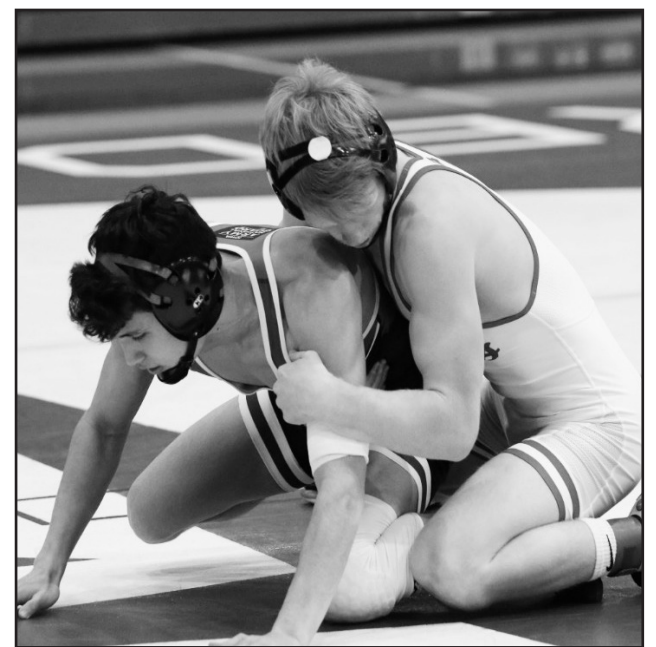


PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
Raider wrestlers show great results as the championships get closer.

## NW men's basketball continues to prevail

**ROAD TO SUCCESS**

**NEFTALI RAMIREZ**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

It was anyone's game in the first quarter, but the Raiders came out on top with a win against the "rival" Dordt Defenders last Wednesday, Jan. 27. Northwestern won 81-67 in the Bultman Center achieving their seventh win of their 2020-21 season. The last time NW played Dordt was at the Defender's home turf where NW suffered a 94-89 loss. Their only other loss this year has been against Concordia, where they fell 81-74, but since then they have bounced right back and continued their winning streak.

With a quick start to the game, the visiting Dordt Defenders began in front 16-11 after a three-pointer by a Dordt player with 12 minutes

left of the first half. Although, NW responded well with a 26-5 run where they held the Defenders to only two field goals over a nine-minute stretch to take the lead for good, 37-21. During the Raiders run, junior Craig Sterk scored 11 points, including a couple three-pointers, as well as five others of his teammates putting in at least two points over the nine-minute time period. NW led by 14, 44-30, by half time.

The Red Raider offense was powerful in their momentum throughout the game. Freshman Alex van Kalsbeek led the team against Dordt with 19 points. Senior Trent Hillbrands was right behind van Kalsbeek with 18 points, followed by Sterk who scored 15 points and senior Jay

Small with 10 points.

With the great performance from the NW Raiders, their lead quickly escalated to 21 points, their largest of the game, following a basket by Small at the 12-minute mark in the second half. The Defenders attempted to close the gap but the Raiders did not let Dordt any closer as senior Isaac Heyer drained four straight free throws during the final 60 seconds of the game.

"As a senior, playing Dordt never gets old," Small said. "The atmosphere and the intensity of the game always seem to rise. Coming out on top and being able to keep this winning streak going felt really good."

Saturday, Jan. 30, the Raiders were on the road to Midland where they added another victory, 85-



PHOTO BY NW ATHLETICS  
Raider men's basketball defeats rival Dordt and continues their win streak, Craig Sterk gives the fans a great dunk.

56. Their record improved to 12-5 left in the regular season. They in the conference and sits alone look forward to continuing their in fourth place in the current success as they host Mount Marty GPAC standings with three games on Saturday, Feb. 6.



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# NW introduces new major in fall 2021

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING MAJOR WILL BECOME AVAILABLE

**CAMBER HERRIG**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Coming this fall, Northwestern College will offer a major in software engineering to bridge the gap between what academics are offering and what the industry wants.

The new major will equip students with the skills to program for the business world. Students will design, test, validate, document and maintain programs. Careers compatible with this major include software engineering and development, database administration and web and mobile app development.

"This major is for students who see themselves programming and developing software in a corporate setting, in whatever form that takes – desktop programs, web sites, mobile apps, databases and more," computer science department chair Dr. Mike Wallinga said.

For the past few years, this idea for a major has bounced around but was finally solidified in the past 18 months. This major is a response to the national job market, as U.S. News ranks software developer as the number one best job based on salary, number of openings and work-life balance in 2020. It's been ranked number two for 2021.

In 2021, there are 316,000 projected jobs with a median salary of \$105,510.

This major will be affiliated with the computer science program but focus on the needs of the workplace and the unique processes there. Compared to the computer science program, software engineering is less math-based.

"When a student combines a software engineering major with Northwestern's liberal arts NWCORE program, s/he ends up exceptionally well-prepared to contribute immediately in the workplace," vice

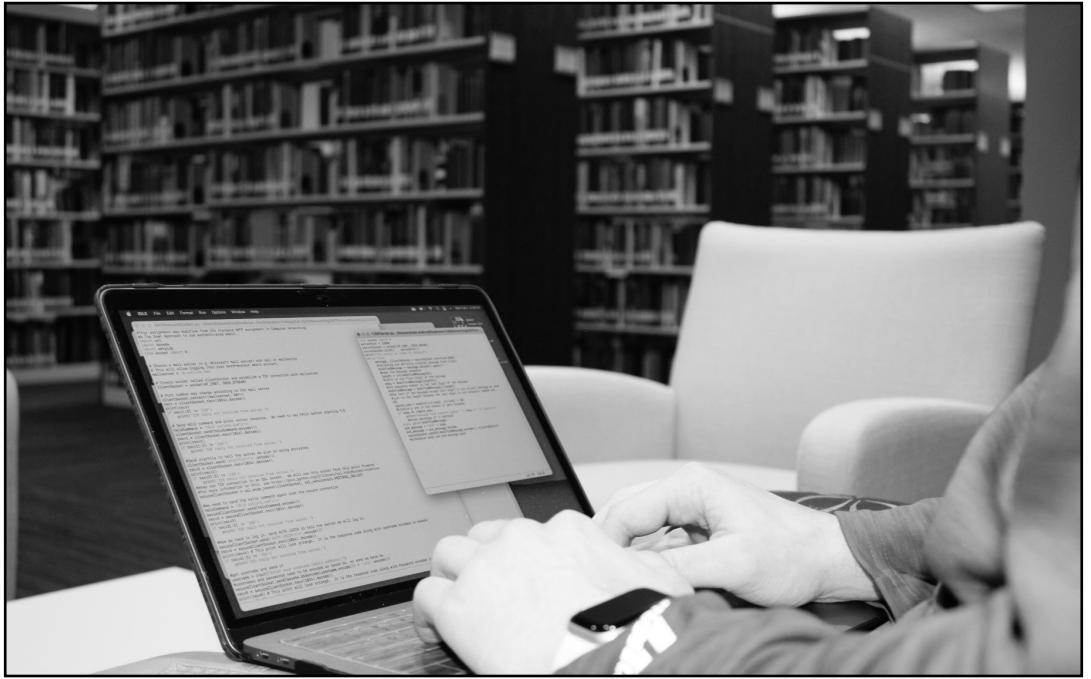


PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP

Software engineering major will allow students to bring their computer science skills in the business world.

president of academic affairs Dr. Phinney said. "Our graduates will be differentiated because they will have the needed technical programming skills and have had experiences with how employers want them to apply these skills in the workplace."

However, this major will require no new faculty to be hired.

"We were intentional about designing the major so that our existing faculty could teach all of the courses," Wallinga said. "We have prior experience as professional programmers, so we were able to leverage that experience and double down on our department's existing strengths."

Courses offered within the major include the same introductory programming sequence as computer science majors, with upper-level classes focused on web development, databases and networking. Other courses include cybersecurity, data mining and machine learning, and parallel programming.

Aside from the skills needed, students will learn how to collaborate on projects.

Wallinga said, "[Students] will use collaboration tools, work together on group projects and learn about project management, because those skills are increasingly important in modern software development."

# Recent increase in fifth-year seniors

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING NUMBERS GROW

**ALAYNA BAKKE**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Due to the recent NAIA eligibility rules that allow players another year of eligibility due to COVID-19 shortening seasons, there has been a slight increase in fifth-year senior athletes on campus. According to the Student Life office, the number of fifth-year commuters is higher, but not drastically.

Luke Hughes and Colton Harold are current fifth-year seniors and stayed at Northwestern for another year to get their full senior season of baseball that was taken away last spring due to COVID-19.

Hughes and Harold were able to find a house near the west side of campus that is more commonly tagged "The Baseball Home." They live there with one other teammate, and they appreciate what memories a fifth year at NW has given them.

"The advantages we have found are an easy course load and the ability to focus more on our sport," Harold said.

There is also the opportunity to spend a lot of time with their teammates at the house. Their off-campus housing is cheaper, more spacious and they get more practical adult experience.

"I don't know why you wouldn't take a fifth year or live off-campus... more time to live out the best years of your life," Hughes said.

Trevor Rozeboom is another fifth-year senior. He stayed because he was eligible play football for one more year.

"I am never going to be able to play football ever again and I knew that I could work the rest of my life so why not prolong my teaching career for a year," said Rozeboom.

He believes that there is going to be more fifth-year seniors down the road for the same reasons he decided to stay.

"Why not play one more year when you have your whole life to grow up and have a big boy job," He stated, "I was able to create more meaningful memories this year, and for me, I was able to start dating my girlfriend."

Rozeboom lives with three of his friends in a house just a quarter-mile from campus. He would recommend a fifth year of college to anyone who has the opportunity.

NW's off-campus housing rules have been around for many years. One must be married, 23 years old or above, fifth-year seniors, studying in off-campus programs, or living with parents at home in order to live off-campus.

These rules are meant to support NW's philosophy that the on-campus living experience is a central part of our undergraduate education.

According to vice president for student life Julie Elliot, "We believe that living with others, many of whom are different than you, navigating conflict, learning to share spaces and engaging the community and programs in the halls/apartments are all important for student formation."

There is a reason there have not been many fifth-year

seniors in previous years.

"Because the vast majority of students finish in four years, our policies are aimed at ensuring a residence life experience for those four years," Elliot stated.

However, due to the recent changes, more college athletes are being faced with a decision to stay for their fifth year of eligibility. This could very well lead to a continued increase in fifth-year seniors and off-campus housing.

The college experience normally only happens once in a lifetime. Athletes who have spent their whole lives playing sports recognize how fast this time goes. Many of them are eager for the opportunity to have it back and those who took advantage of it are glad they did.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM MINNICK

5th-year seniors have been enjoying off-campus housing and continuing their college experience.