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Husband and Wife Join NW Faculty

DREAM DUO CULTIVATE ACADEMIC LEARNING

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Northwestern welcomes two new faculty members to the Raider family: Jay and Lindsey Medenwalt. Jay is an assistant professor of psychology, and Lindsey is an adjunct English professor. The husband-and-wife duo are happily enjoying the welcoming community of NW.

Prior to NW, Jay was in the Air Force for nine years as a behavioral scientist before earning a Masters of Divination in apologetics and ethics at Denver Seminary. Then, he went to gain a Ph.D. in social psychology at Baylor University.

Psychology interests Jay because “people are weird, and I mean that in a good way,” Jay said. “I remember being fascinated as a kid that people acted in counterintuitive ways or that our minds were capable of so many great things and so I

have always wanted to learn about the incredible potential we have as humans.”

Jay heard about the job opportunity through his Ph. D. adviser. “I was initially on the fence about the job, since my wife and I were not sure if the timing was right for moving our family,” Jay said. “After I visited the campus and met the people, I started to move off the fence. The faculty and students that I met on my visit were so kind and welcoming that I knew this would be a great place to work and raise a family.”

He appreciates the open talk of faith on this Christian campus. “I appreciate that I can have meaningful conversations about faith inside and outside of the classroom,” Jay said. “It is the best academic environment I have taught in in regard to integrating faith into learning, or even just having conversations about religious belief.”

Before coming to NW, Lindsey was a children’s pastor in Waco, Texas. She also currently works



PHOTO BY PRATIK PAUDEL

Jay Medenwalt, new NW psychology professor, is excited to engage with students this fall.

for Mama Bear Apologetics, a ministry that guides mothers to live faithfully. Because Jay accepted the job, Lindsey headed to northwest Iowa, and was eventually contacted

about teaching a few courses. She teaches two Writing Studio courses and is an instructor for a First Year Seminar class. As an adjunct English professor, she is passionate about

writing. “My interest in writing in particular started in high school when I began writing for the school paper,” Lindsey said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Multicultural Church in Sioux Center

MARTHA DRAAYER
MAKES AN IMPACT

PRINCESS BOLA-LAWAL
MEDICAL LAB SCIENCE

Maria Magdalena Reformed Church (MMRC) is a small church located in Sioux Center, Iowa. The church was founded by Martha Draayer, the director of intercultural development, and Jason Leif (Biblical and Theological Studies). The church was founded on August 2022 and service was formerly held at the Fruited Plain. Now, it has been moved to an old bank building near the cinema building. MMRC is a multicultural church that celebrates the diversity in God’s creation. Their mission as a church is to “Break down walls of division that separate we form one another and separate us from God”. The mission goes in to say “We faithfully follow Jesus’ call to share the gospel through multiethnic, multilingual worship as a reflection of the diversity of God’s creation”.

The attendance includes people, especially students, from all over the world. A lot of Dordt University international students attend MMRC and there are international students from Northwestern who populate the worship team. Many students attend because they fall in love with the beauty of the mixture of languages and cultures in the service.

When asked many students say wonderful things about attending MMRC and the service. One student from NW said, “I love the fact that there are many people from other countries and we all worship the same Lord”. Others love the welcoming atmosphere and the community meals that are done.

MMRC strives to be an inclusive church. Recently, the church has been improving in ways to accommodate people with disabilities and have invited people to preach on what the Bible says about disabilities and Christ. The women’s and men’s Bible study



PHOTO BY JESSICA NIBBELINK

Maria Magdalena Reformed Church, founded by Martha Draayer, celebrates God’s purpose in creation.

have been reading “My body is not a prayer request” by Amy Ken. This book discusses how much Christians and churches need to look at disabled people as fully part of the body of Christ and more

than any miraculous healing. Week II service starts at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. This gives attenders, especially students, the opportunity to attend other churches in the morning. Community meal starts

at 12:30 pm which is followed by the service. The service starts with a welcome and opening prayer which is followed by the worship team leading the congregation.

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Mitski's melancholic reflection on love

GENRE BENDING SELF-EXPRESSION

TYSON BRAUNSCHWEIG PSYCHOLOGY

Ever since her debut album, Mitski has set herself apart as an artist unafraid to experiment with the way she produces music. Some of her most famous tracks, like the drum-heavy single "Washing Machine Heart" and the kaleidoscopic "First Love/Late Spring" are impressive examples of what it means to truly express emotion as an artist. In her 2023 release, titled "The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We," Mitski once again radically alters her sound to fit the subject matter of the record. In this project, there is a much more stripped-down and orchestral sonic palette with a heavy emphasis on lyricism.

The first single of the album, titled "Bug Like an Angel," presents us with a simple acoustic guitar performance as Mitski sings about promises she has broken and mistakes she has made while also mentioning her struggle with alcoholism. At certain moments, there are beautiful interjections of a full choir singing backing vocals for Mitski's voice that set the tone for the melancholy themes of this album.

"Buffalo Replaced" consists

of a thudding drum beat and wild expressions of confidence in her decisions. There is also some fascinating synthesizer work being done on this track that makes the song feel like it is tripping over itself, similar to how Mitski describes herself as a buffalo stampeding through life.

From here the album moves to themes of love and how soothing it can be on the track "Heaven," but these positive tones are intercut with lyrics that imply flaws in a dying relationship. This song has a nice country swing to it, but there is also a glamorous orchestral presence within the composition that makes it feel like so much more than a simple country piece. The roots of negativity in "Heaven" begin to affect Mitski in "I Don't Like My Mind" as she sings about her attempts to ignore the dark thoughts she has through unhealthy and dismissive coping mechanisms. Her wailing vocals combined with a complex ambient soundscape and small touches of lap steel instrumentation do a great job of conveying the helplessness that Mitski is attempting to portray.

Heavy classical influence and a lilting violin memory are present in "The Deal," which talks about Mitski's desire to sell her soul so she doesn't have to deal with it anymore. From here Mitski becomes introspective on the

sixth track, "When Memories Snow." This song is thematically similar to the thoughts expressed in "I Don't Like My Mind," but here there is an aggressive and repetitive drum beat and even some elements of dissonance between instruments during the chorus.

"My Love Mine All Mine" has a simple guitar performance with Mitski's singing and other small instrumental touches. Here she entrusts her love to the moon, so that it may show how much she loves her lover even after Mitski is gone from this world.

The eighth track, "The Frost," touches on the loss of love and how cold the world is without a best friend to talk to. "Star" is a story of two people who were once madly in love with one another but now only partly care about each other. With gut-wrenching lines like "Keep a leftover light burnin' so you can keep lookin' up" coupled with an arrangement that becomes more glittery and beautiful as the song progresses, this track is a standout moment on the album and a true reflection of Mitski's innate ability to communicate such raw emotions.

"I'm Your Man" discusses an experience in which a woman's lover treats her as though she is a god when she is in reality only a woman and cannot be held to such heights.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MITSKI.COM

The closing track, "I Love Me After You," is the perfect sendoff to this melancholic relationship that Mitski describes herself as being a part of throughout the project. Here she is backed by noisy post-rock guitars and muffled white noise while she sings about moving on and loving herself. The aggressive choice of instruments

reflects her knowledge of the pain she is going through while also reflecting on her ability to keep walking through life.

Mitski's seventh studio album, "The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We," is a powerful emotional statement on love and how it can hurt. This record is one that came from an incredibly personal

space in her heart, and because of this depth and emotional involvement, she has yet again evolved in her production and her vocal delivery. For anyone interested in listening to a genre-bending and creative example of expression through music, look no further than this project.

★★★★★

Stereotypical, sappy, sports story falls short

MOVIE REVIEW

CLICHÉ AFTER CLICHÉ

LIAM NIBBELINK THEATRE

We have all seen those inspirational faith-based movies, and we have definitely all seen those family sports films about inspirational players from various times in history. Well, if you are looking for a combination of the two, look no further than "The Hill," which came out in theaters on Aug. 25. This film tells a story based on the real-life story of famed baseball player Rickey Hill, who was a standout player in history because of the fact that he played the sport despite suffering from Degenerative Spine Disorder.

Famous actor of the silver screen, Dennis Quaid, stars as Rickey's ultra-conservative father who was head pastor of a Baptist church in rural Texas. Quaid, along with his fellow co-stars, gives an A-plus acting performance that should have been enough

to keep the audience fully intrigued. However, when the highbrow acting talent is used to cover up a screenplay filled with cliché after cliché and uninspired dialogue that lacks the nuance that makes its storytelling truly captivating, it can only go so far, and this film took it nowhere near far enough.

We begin the film following through Rickey Hill's childhood, where he and his siblings sneak out to watch baseball on the TVs through the diner window, and he and his brother sneak off to hit rocks with sticks (since they don't have baseballs or bats), despite their father's strict rules against participating in the sport. It is a story we have seen time and time again, and it hits every stereotypical story beat that can be expected of a cheesy sports drama oversaturated with sappy emotional moments and the typical uplifting "big game" scene at the end.

For every moment of this film, everything that happens is to be expected and does not give any surprises. While that is

not necessarily a problem in and of itself, it becomes a problem when those predictable moments are scenes we have all seen before in movies that are much more enjoyable. Never once do audiences feel for these characters in the way the storytellers want them to.

The pacing is inconsistent throughout the film as well. Certain scenes drag on for too long to try and allow the audience to feel intense emotions, such as sadness or fear, but the story never reaches the place to where it actually earns those prolonged emotional sequences. Even worse is when it spends about half of the runtime telling the story of Hill's childhood, and then abruptly jumps forward to when he's a young adult. Of all the moments in which to pick up the pace, the film does so in the one place within the plot that actually warrants a more steady pace.

For those who love a feel-good story of an underdog overcoming the obstacles of his upbringing to rise up and become a legend, then

this may be the film for you. This film does avoid the awkwardly preachy tone that many films from Christian film companies fall victim to. It provides a perspective on a family dynamic in which the father uses scripture and Christianity as a form of punishment for his children. For example, if they sneak away or do something wrong, they must face their father and recite a Bible verse, and then their punishment is a lashing with a belt out back. This is probably a perspective that many unfortunately may be able to relate to, and therefore could give the film some justification for why it might be poignant or meaningful to some.

Overall, this film attempted to utilize a tried-and-true storytelling formula that has worked well for many other films of its kind, but forgot one key element to allow itself to stand out amongst the others: any sense of originality or ambition.

★★

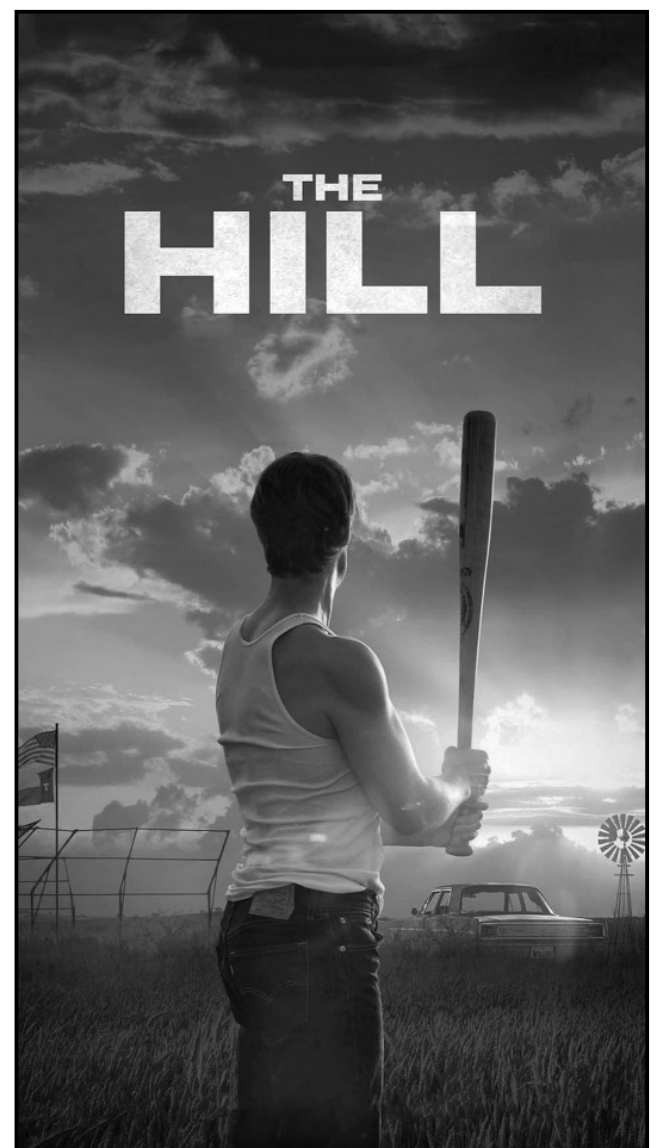


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Crafternoon: Creating beauty out of love

LOW STAKES ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

JOSEPH CALLAHAN
NURSING

An artist stands before a blank slate, their brush quivering, brow sweating and the demons of doubts loud in their ear. They make one feeble stroke forever scarring the pure white page. “Worthless” they mutter to themselves. “I will never satisfy the art craving souls of Northwestern College, the stakes are simply too high.” They throw the canvas away and another artist’s self-expression is crippled by the fear of never being enough. Why should one create if they will not be deemed a great artist?

Founder of Crafternoon,^a a low stake crafting club on campus, Elena Lee, would push back against the idea that if art is not great, it should not be done at all. When asked “Why should I do crafts if I am not good at

art?” Lee responded, “You should do crafts because you are not good at art! And who defines good? If something makes you happy and you enjoyed the process of making it, then it is good regardless of how it turned out. There is no right style of art. Everything created out of love has beauty, even if it doesn’t look like everyone else’s. The world could use more unique, imperfect art.”

In its rookie season, Crafternoon had numerous events. Lee had two favorites that spoke to the heart of what Crafternoon is as a club. First, was an event in the basement of Ramaker that included breakfast food, live music and painting. This event captured the essence of being the safe, self-expressive space that Crafternoon hopes to be. Campus musicians were given a place to share their talents without the fear of judgmental peers. Students were given room to paint without needing to impress those around them and everyone present left a little more seen

and a little more appreciated. The second event was the building of bird feeders. Lee especially appreciated seeing the feeders strung around campus welcoming birds and inevitably the squirrels as well. Seeing bird feeders in trees makes college feel a little more like a home that can be decorated in small ways by those living here.

Already this school year Crafternoon has collaborated with Colenbrander Hall in a pop-up event decorating the vans for NW’s Inaugural Mini Van Parade. Crafternoon supplied streamers and washable markers to graffiti the vehicles. Smiley faces, polka dots, quotes and all sorts of doodles covered the rusted minivans. Taking what some might see as “no-good vehicles” and turning them into a colorful parade. These champions even paraded in front of President Greg Christy’s house, playing music, cheering and celebrating mini vans. In true Crafternoon fashion, the club took a thing that

could be seen as shameful and worthless, and flipped it on its head. Making beauty and joy out of what the world may see as not enough.

This year, Crafternoon hopes to continue being a place that is safe for people to try new things, to fail and to get to know new people. They want to foster a campus that is accepting, creative and strive to make campus more beautiful through the things we create. They also hope to promote sustainably and recycling, a theme that will be present in many of their crafts. This last Saturday, Sep. 23, sustainability was evident in the creation of piñatas using recycled cardboard.

Be on the lookout for Crafternoon events in the future. Take a chance and tap into your creative side. There will be no better place to be the great artist you already are. Let your brush glide across a page and whisper to yourself, “This is good, I am good.”



PHOTO BY JACK MACGREGOR
Crafternoon members smile holding newly-crafted piñata.

Students’ candid conversations at The Table

DISCUSSION, IDEAS, INSIGHT AND CHAPEL CREDITS

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Table: a place for feasting, hanging out with friends and now, in true Northwestern fashion, a place to receive Christian formation credits. The Table takes place in the Commuter Lounge, located in the basement of the science building, during community hour on Thursdays.

The Table is a collaboration between the Bridge Center and Campus Ministry. Last year, the Bridge Center and Campus Ministry attempted to have a Bible Study with the commuters. “We had a grand total of one person show up,” Leo Costa, commuter liaison for the Bridge Center, said. As commuter liaison, Costa helps commuters connect to the NW community, and The Table is an opportunity for commuters have a voice and gain some Christian Formation credits.

This year, the Bridge Center and Campus Ministry collaborated again, and an idea was formed, giving students another opportunity for chapel credits. No longer dubbed as a Bible study but is now named The Table. The title “The Table” fits well with certain NW visuals, as Jesus and his disciples are often depicted around a table, and there is a table in the commuter lounge, “so it fits,” Costa said.

This semester, The Table is going over the “Amen” series, “walking us through the genres of Scripture and the character of God,” according to a student-wide email sent from the Bridge Center. Christian formation credits are available for attending multiple sessions. Each study focuses on a certain chapter that has specific scripture written on the left-hand side and open-book discussions questions on the right.

“We want to give an option for people to interact, (and) focus on the Bible.”

About eleven people have been regularly attending during community hour. The hour focuses on the study and encourages group discussion, ideas and insight. “It is a way to connect with people.” Costa emphasized the importance of the discussion, as it is different from the one-way path that students face during chapel. “If you are going to spend four years here, you cannot spend all of them in the chapel, even though chapel is very nice,” Costa said. According to Costa, the small size of The Table gives attendees the comfort of being themselves, which may make people more comfortable to express their testimony and ask questions.

Costa is attempting to be more committed to the Bridge Center and his faith this year. Which is why he hopes to bring more people, more speakers and more food to The Table, which attendees seem to enjoy. “We are here to grow together.”

The Table used to be student led, but now has faculty leaders as well. Faculty speakers include Kristin Brouwer, director of discipleship; Dr. Jason Leif, professor of biblical and theological studies and Dr. Erika Vonk, assistant professor of business. Worship has been led by Kelsey Joseph, associate director of intercultural development, and senior Abigail Sutton. “It is nice to have different people talking,” Costa said.

Commuters are encouraged to attend, but The Table is open to all. The Table happens during community hour, from 11 a.m. until noon, on Thursdays. Rumor has it that there may be snacks available.

If students want to receive more information, contact Costa (leandro.costa@nwciowa.edu), Joseph (kelsey.joseph@nwciowa.edu) and Martha Draayer (martha.draayer@nwciowa.edu).



PHOTO BY LEANDRO COSTA
NW students gather around The Table in the commuter lounge during a Thursday.

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Student Government Association Election Success

SGA ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

KARA VAN GEDEREN
NURSING

Sept. 15 was another exciting day for the students of Northwestern College. Eight students were elected to serve on NW's Student Government Association, a collection of students who desire to make a positive impact on campus.

With some experienced members and some entering the game, SGA has a perfect blend of students to properly represent the student body as a whole. Grace Harre, one of the new members voiced her thoughts, "I am very excited to work with this year's SGA members because there is a balanced mix of returners who know how to do the job well and new individuals, like me, who are eager to contribute to making campus enjoyable for all." Noah Roisum, an experienced member of SGA has a similar view. "We've got a great room of representatives

and cabinet members that I cannot wait to work with," said Roisum.

The elected members for this year include Noah Roisum, a senior political science major, as the president and Academic Affairs Committee student representative; Jillian Simon, a junior social enterprise major, as the at-large representative; Allie Oberhelman, a freshman political science major, as the freshman representative; Mackenzie Schram, a sophomore biology health major, as the Fern Smith Hall representative; David Grandell, a freshman biblical and theological studies major, as the Hospers Hall representative; Wilson Addink, a junior psychology major, as the North Suites representative; Grace Harre, a junior social work major, as the Stegenga Hall representative; and Caitlin Hornback, a senior psychology major, as the Apartments and Plexes representative.

Colenbrander and the commuters had no one run for



PHOTO BY SADIE DE JONG

Both new and returning members of SGA are eager for to represent student voices this school year.

the position, so SGA will confer about who will later fill these positions.

Although SGA is currently short a few members, that has not stopped them from forming ideas for how they will make a positive impact on NW's campus. With it still being early on in the game, nothing is a guarantee, but SGA has been discussing topics such as student dining, uses of

flex money, representation for graduate students, and events they want to put on throughout the year. Their president, Noah Roisum, has expressed great excitement over all these topics and what the future could hold for NW's campus.

The other topic stressed by the SGA was their desire for the students of NW to be more aware of SGA. They'd like to see a bigger interest in the

election next year, in both those running and voting, and it is really easy to vote. All you need to do is respond to the email sent to your college account and choose the running students that you believe will best represent you. It isn't too difficult to run either. Grace Harre described the process in a single sentence, "I gathered signatures from the women of Steg, as it was important to

me to have signatures from the women I would be representing and submitted my ballot."

You don't need a certain major or status on campus to run; you just need to be a student who desires to make a positive impact on your beloved campus.

Medenwalts enjoy the NW welcome

FROM PAGE 1

"I had always loved reading and writing, but that's when I started editing, too." In college, Lindsey earned a bachelor of arts in mass communication, in which she had been an editor for her college newspaper. "In law school, I was an editor on the law review, and I've taken up several writing projects since then, including contributing a chapter to a book about world religion. I just finished my manuscript for my first book, 'Bridge Building Apologetics.'" "Bridge Building Apologetics" is forthcoming, spring 2024.

Apart from writing, Lindsey enjoys spending her time in the classroom. "Well, I have always wanted to be in the college classroom, which is

probably why I spent so much time getting degrees," Lindsey said. "I think if magic were real, it would happen in the college classroom." The value of Christian faith and learning at NW is what "ultimately" convinced her to teach here. Lindsey enjoys getting to personally know her students. "Helping students hone their writing and speaking skills has been such a joy," Lindsey said. "We have had some projects in FYS that have allowed me to learn more about their backgrounds, hopes and dreams. I have always felt like we have welcomed by the staff in ways I was not necessarily expecting, and Orange City has been lovely!"



PHOTO BY PRATIK PATEL

Jay and Lindsey Medenwalt enjoy teaching at a faith-based institution.

Dr. Wacker's office stands out, students love it

EMBRACING CREATIVITY

JOSIAH TROUTNER WORSHIP ARTS

Maximalism has a name, and it's Dr. Kali Jo Wacker. Northwestern's newest English professor may only be a year into her position, but she's already standing out with her reputation as both a talented, passionate and inspiring professor, and for her immaculately styled office. With its loud colors, graphic wallpapers and ornate collages, her office may not be everyone's cup of tea, but Kali Jo has undoubtedly made her space a home.

From your first step in the door, Kali Jo's eccentricity is unavoidable as murals, babushka dolls, old happy meal toys and that one painting of Jesus everyone seems to have in their basement all fight for your attention.

A thrifting guru and curator of aesthetics, Kali Jo describes herself as, "a collector of things in general: pictures, quotes, words."

However, although a talented artist herself, one thing you might be surprised not to find in Kali

Jo's office is her own art. In home and office alike, most, if not all items, are curated and thrifted, whereas her own work gets gifted to friends and loved ones, with Kali Jo going as far as to say she sees her own work at her friends' homes more often than her own.

Kali Jo's themes and inspiration range far and wide, though a love for texture and color provide the lines that bring it all together. Everything you see is deep blues, royal purples and pops of pastel. Even her bookshelves are color coated, to the befuddlement of her colleagues. Everything is gilded, inlaid, silk, silver and suede. While this can be primarily traced to Kali Jo's long love affair with all things maximal, according to Kali, this is also due to her poor eyesight, which otherwise leaves everything a beige mush. And if that's the alternative, her desire to add color and contrast to her life wherever she can makes even more sense.

If you frequent Van Peursem Hall at all, you have probably already caught a glimpse of her office, situated just inside the

southeast entrance.

Additionally, you are probably familiar with her office due to her strict "open door" policy. "I want--at all costs--to keep the door open," Kali commented. "Both literally and metaphorically," Kali Jo strives to transform her dismal office space into an inviting atmosphere in which students feel free to hang out, blow off some steam, get inspired to push through writer's block or just enjoy a refreshing Capri Sun from her well-stocked mini fridge.

Though effortlessly home-y, the kindergarten art teacher vibes of Kali Jo's office also serve as both an enforcement of her mantras as a professor and as an anarchist statement against the imposing and sterile gray walls and bookshelves of academia. The whimsy Kali Jo curates paired with her self-evident brilliance as a professor serve to challenge the idea that academia and austerity must go hand in hand. Instead, her office silently preaches that curiosity, creativity and learning are meant to be fun, meaning-making and enjoyable.



PHOTO BY LILLIAN REITH
Wacker's office is open to all.

Further, the welcoming air also serves to cultivate Kali's goal of radical hospitality. A deep introvert at heart, Kali Jo is committed to being "a welcoming part of the Kingdom, even if it's not how I'm naturally wired," she said. "Even though I'd rather be a hermit on a mountain with a library like 'Beauty and the Beast'"

Through her maximal aesthetic, eccentricity, and radical approach to hospitality and the ethos of academia, Kali Jo uses her voice, platform, and space on campus to carve out a newer, more wholistic way of doing academia. By being inviting even when it's tiring, present for all those seeking solace and creating a space for

creativity, and rejuvenation, Kali Jo brilliantly demonstrates the radical hospitality of Christ on our campus through something as simple as her office space and its wordless yet powerful ethic of aesthetics.

Multiple cultures; one church

FROM PAGE 1

Between songs the audience has the opportunity to greet each other and hear words of encouragement. The songs are often sang in a mixture of English and Spanish since there is a large Hispanic population present. After two songs, a passage of scripture is read in Spanish with the English translation projected for people to see. This is followed by a message and the last worship song. Messages preached are

often very encouraging and great for challenging people to love and show Christ in all we do. Christ is the center of the charge which people love.

After the last song, community prayer follows. This is time people from the congregation bring prayer requests, praises and concerns to be shared. The person in charge often writes down the prayers and prays for everyone or spreads them in groups for people to pray together. Prayer are often said in Spanish,

French, Japanese, Cantonese and many more.

After congregational prayer, announcements are shared and Benediction is said. The service ends and the worship team plays a song, often for fun, as people greet each other and leave. The worship team is populated by talented people from different continents. The service is mostly student lead and s enjoyed by all who attend.



**MARÍA
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María Magdalena captures a taste of heaven by incorporating multicultural elements.



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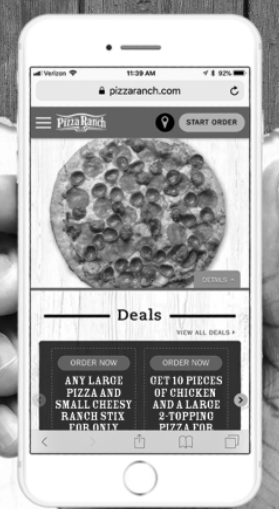
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HOT TAKES

WHAT DOES HEAVEN SMELL LIKE?

“Warm cookies”

“Crisp fall air with early morning dew”

“Smells like the delicious scent of Stacy’s food!!!”

“Breakfast”

“Early Grey tea”

“Lysol”

“Cut grass”

WHAT DOES HELL SMELL LIKE?

“Not breakfast”

“Skunk/marijuana”

“Musty basement”

“Burnt toast”

“Devoid of all smell”

“Warm tuna”

“Silage”

“Axe body spray”

The quotes expressed in these polls represent student opinion and is no way intended to indicate particular perspectives or beliefs of the beacon staff.

Be sure to follow the Beacon on Instagram to submit your own HOT TAKES!

Have people lost all hope?



Erin Brouwer
Psychology

Recently, I was sitting at our beloved hometown coffee shop, Brad’s Bakery Bistro. This is a standard practice for me. You can probably find me there at least once or twice a week. On a typical afternoon at Brad’s, I pop in my AirPods and attentively listen to the “La La Land” soundtrack, sip an iced caramel oat milk latte, read various assorted excerpts for class and rapidly type some notes to prevent short-term memory loss from getting the best of me - all while sitting in the perfect spot near the window. But this particular time, I resisted the temptation to connect my AirPods and block out the external noise. Instead, as I caught up on my homework, I listened to the conversations around me. Call me an eavesdropper or an overly observant psychology student, but one conversation in particular piqued my interest.

As I sat wasting away in my chair, my AirPods-neglected ears became focused on the conversation between two elderly

women behind me. I assume the two were on their weekly ‘coffee outing’ at Brad’s (relatable). Listening to their conversation unravel, I discovered that the two were close friends. Their conversation reminded me of similar ones I have with my grandparents back home, discussing changes in my family members’ lives, the Sunday sermon at church and the seemingly never-ending game of Dutch Bingo. But the two coffee-loving senior saints moved toward a topic that has become a thought-provoking lesson for me over the past few months. One woman said, “This world seems to be falling apart. Where is Jesus in all of this? I can’t help but assume it will come to an end soon.”

Questions and thoughts like these are something many of us have thought about, encountered online or heard mentioned in our local churches. Some of the most heavily reported topics are issues like the injustices at America’s border, the millions of people displaced around the world due to wars and corrupt governments and a massive human trafficking industry that sends an estimated 50 million people into a life of suffering, both physically and mentally. With problems like these, how can we not see potential signs of the second coming? I have also fallen victim to these thoughts.

While I spent my summer in Greece working with refugees, I witnessed many people who suffer because of deep systematic injustices, where they are treated as numbers, not given access to

basic human rights and do not know what their tomorrow looks like. This lifestyle is exceptionally hard for me to wrap my mind around, but through these Persian people I learned the importance of being aware of the injustices that permeate our world. I feel ready to fight for justice, and the Christian faith should inspire us to do so.

We may not be able to singlehandedly change the ways of corrupt governments in other countries, but what would it look like if we, Christians around the globe who are already familiar with the cultures we operate in, were aware of the causes and effects of these worldwide issues? What would it look like if we worked locally to spread awareness of global issues and discovered ways we can actively help vulnerable populations? What if instead of asking, “Where is Jesus in all of this?,” we recognized that we are the hands and feet of Jesus, who are empowered through the Holy Spirit to spread the light of the Gospel throughout our communities and the world? Yes, the world is marked by wickedness and sin - it has been since the Fall in Genesis - but there is so much hope beyond that brokenness. I encourage you to look for the good in all things, be present in your everyday life, identify how you can be the light of Jesus, spread hope in a world that is seemingly “falling apart,” be aware of the importance of electing officials that are not just red or blue but align with how Christ calls us to live in this world and empower those around you to do the same.

Social ministry and Jesus



Alex Nonhof
History

The worldwide Christian church is called to participate in social ministry in the ways of charity and justice work. In Matthew 25, Jesus stated that “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Throughout Jesus’ ministry, there were many stories of him healing and spending time with those who were outcasted or looked down upon in society whether it was people with leprosy, tax collectors or beggars. I’m not here to talk about the importance of social ministry or why the church should participate in it though. I believe that how the church participates in social ministry is perhaps just as important as the actual actions it entails.

This past semester and summer I spent my time at a nonprofit that commits to doing relational work with Denver’s unhoused teens and young adults. Despite being a

Christian organization, they do not focus upon proselytizing. Why is this? Surely saving souls should be the main work of the church and Christians, right? Perhaps, but maybe a good question to ask alongside of that one is this; does proselytizing prevent the church from investing further into social ministry?

Many of my unhoused friends have experienced trauma from the church or people who profess to be followers of Christ. They have been told that they are not welcome in certain church communities, been blamed for the situation they are in because of sin and received many other implicit or explicit messages. If social ministry and the offering of resources is only given if directly connected to converting people to Christianity, many people who may want and need help may choose not to accept it. The idea that ‘we will only love you if...’ can quite easily sink in. Church trauma can run deep and even if a certain church or individual has not harmed someone in that capacity, that connection to Christianity is still present.

People who are living under the oppressive thumb of injustice need people who are able to stand up for justice in their lives, but can our hearts fully be open to people who do not want anything to do with Christianity? Are we truly living into

the spirit of charity and justice if we only allow ourselves to do so if we can convert someone? I am not saying that we should not share our faith with those who have been outcasted by society, but I do believe we need to reflect on if we are willing to serve others even if those we are serving do not think and look like us.

Proselytizing in social ministry is not harmful, but it can be if it leads to a lack of empathy or lack of giving/receiving of support to and for those who are not Christian and do not want to have anything to do with Christianity. If social ministry is indeed a way to spread Christianity, then time, energy and resources should be placed first to meet the direct physical needs of those who are being served and build a trust necessary to share one’s faith.

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Golf teams playing great season so far

REPRESENTING NW
ACROSS THE US

ALEXANDRIA SQUIRE
BUSINESS ADM/GENERAL

This season has been nothing less than exciting for both the men's and women's golf teams. The men started off their season at the UC Ferguson Invitational in Oklahoma City where Jackson Lavern shot a 209 (-9) for the whole tournament and placed second individually.

Then the men's team, as a whole, placed second at the Siouxland Invite with an overall score of 868 after three rounds.

At their latest tournament at TPC Deer Run course, the team placed fourth out of 15 teams with an overall score of + 28 for 2 rounds. According to the team Deer Run is a "fun and beautiful" course to play on, and playing on a course

that pros have played at was a "real treat."

"The culture has been great on the team this year, which has led to good team bonding and fun van rides!" says player Kyle Christy. "Guys have a good balance of competitiveness and keeping the game of golf in perspective, that it is not all there is to life."

The men's team lost a lot of seniors and teammates from last year, and the team looks a lot different this year. However, the team is beginning to become more confident in preparation for the April GPAC tournament.

Head Coach, Aaron Aberson, says, "We have had some ups and downs to begin our year but overall, I'm really pleased with how the team is playing."

For the women's golf team this season started on a good note placing fifth out of 18 at

Mount Marty. They followed with 4th place at the Siouxland Invite with a score of 665 over two rounds with Emily Hulshof placing 4th out of 88 girls with an overall score of 155.

The women's team on September 13-14 played at Two Rivers golf course for Briar Cliff's Lila Frommelt Invite where the team scored 679 total which earned them fifth place out of 11 other teams.

The team's latest tournament was in Hastings, Nebraska at the Lochland Country Club on September 25-26, where they finished in the top three. Placing in third at the Bronco Fall invite with a score of + 105 over par.

These two teams are looking to have amazing seasons this year working and demonstrating hard work and dedication both in practice and on the course.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ATHLETICS
Raiders compete at Lochland Country Club on Sept. 13-14.

New PRs for NW cross country at Wayne

NW TEAM UNSWAYED
BY WEATHER

KATE MCEWEN
SPORTS MNGMT-MEDIA

On Sept 22, the Northwestern men's and women's cross-country teams traveled to Wayne, Nebraska, and competed in the Wayne State Wildcat Classic.

As the women's race started at 4:00 p.m. and the men's at 4:45 p.m., the athletes showed impressive determination by achieving PRs and running in unpredictable weather conditions.

Recently, the NAIA National championship has changed the distance of the women's race from 5K to 6K.

Even with this new difficulty,

Emma Haley, Julia Fehr and Abby Ervin all hit new PRs. Haley, having a very impressive race dropped a minute off her previous time.

She was the first on the team to lead them to the finish line having a time of 24:49 and finished fifth out of 80 overall.

The team finished 4th out of six teams. As the women's team hit new accomplishments and had a successful race, the men's team had difficulties out of their control.

As the course was initially filled with the challenges of hills, they had to also face the unpredictability of the weather.

Winds reached up to 20mph and the coming and going of rain only made the race more challenging.

Despite these struggles, the men overcame the weather and had a successful finish.

Ben VanDeBerg, a sophomore on the team, finished first for the Raiders and seventh out of 81 overall while the team finished sixth out of 8 teams.

Wayne State Wildcat Classic was successful as the women's team hit new PRs individually and was a learning experience for the men as the race was less than ideal.

On Oct 7, they compete again at Briar Cliff. This will provide new opportunities for both men's and women's teams to hopefully come back with new PRs and records.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ATHLETICS
Men's cross country kneels to pray after a race.

All NW varsity teams receive NAIA award

MAKES GOAL
FOR NEXT YEAR

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
MARKETING

Northwestern Athletics are full of scholars. They have achieved the NAIA All-scholar Team on all varsity teams. The team with the highest average GPA, both as a women's team and surpassing the other teams was the women's cross country team with an average GPA of 3.74.

Coach Scott Bahrke said "The ladies on our cross country team had an academic goal at the beginning of the season to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher as a women's team for the 2022 cross country season. We

would talk about the goals throughout the season. The ladies took ownership of reminding each other of our goals."

Bahrke believes that distance runners are goal oriented and disciplined in their lifestyle choices.

Runner Mikalya Johnson says "This helps us stay motivated and set good habits early on in the school year. Being a student athlete helped me gain effective time management skills that create a healthy balance between cross country, school work and my social life."

Bahrke still pushes the team to keep their pace to break 19:00 in the 5K and has workouts to help them to run faster.

"The ladies do

a wonderful job of encouraging and cheering for each other at practice each day. It makes it easier to work hard when others are rooting for you" says Bahrke.

The team also has discussions at the beginning and end of practice about how the little things help them to become better and more disciplined in all areas of life. It seems like the women's cross country team has the right mindset to keep them winning both on the course and in the classroom.

Johnson says, "Our coaches do a great job pushing us not only in practice and meets, but also academically and spiritually."

Barke goes on to say

"They (the ladies) pay attention to their training for cross country and do what we ask for a workout. We are asking them to get the proper sleep, eat well and take care of their academics also."

The requirements to obtain an acknowledgement for an NAIA Scholar Team is to have an average team GPA of or above a 3.0, including grades from the whole academic year from all team members. Eight other NW teams scored that goal last year, and all 21 varsity teams accomplished it this year. The men's tennis team had the top average GPA over the other men's team with a 3.50 GPA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ATHLETICS
Women's cross country starts meet at Wayne State College.

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Students stirred by communal worship

HIGH P&W ATTENDANCE

OWEN KOLSTE
NURSING

On Sunday, Aug. 20, many Northwestern Students gathered outside of the Dewitt Learning Commons for the yearly candlelight service that commences the weekly praise and worship (P&W) gatherings for the school year. Afterwards, numerous students broke out into prayer groups, began a time of fellowship or simply went back to their dorm to prepare for classes to start the next day.

Attending a P&W service before the school year begins is a bit easier than later in the year because no one has tons of homework or stress yet or is coming back after being away for the weekend. Some may say there was a large turnout at this service because it was the first P&W of the year, because it received promotion during the other orientation weekend events or because students could literally hold fire while worshipping.

But the high attendance at P&W was not limited to the first one of the year. Each Sunday night of this school year, students have been filling the pews of Christ Chapel

for P&W, even as schedules have filled in and assignments have piled up.

This kind of P&W attendance has not been seen on campus in the last few years. As a result, some students have begun to wonder what is contributing to the growth in attendance this year.

It might be easy for students attending P&W to notice how full the chapel is and make a quick judgement. But longevity and the heart of worship plays a huge role in accurately assessing the attendance at P&W. Samantha Vermeer, a worship team leader, states "It is easy to look at numbers and view it as a 'reflection' on the worship that is provided. However, I believe this increase in consistent attendance is a reflection on the heart of campus that has grown greatly in my three years of being here."

While the music on Sunday nights has been beautiful, those on the Campus Ministry Team (CMT) believe that students' desire to worship in community is the driving factor behind the increasing attendance at P&W. Students' hearts long for this designated time to worship their heavenly Father, be filled with the Spirit and be encouraged for the week ahead.

Dustin Groen, another



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
P&W attendance has remained high since the candlelight service at the start of the year.

worship leader, states "I believe that increased attendance is a testimony to the culture that we have on campus." This NW culture reflects the continual investment, intentionality and challenge offered to students by the CMT and worship teams here on campus.

Throughout the years, NW's student-led P&W services have been foundational in leading

students closer into the presence of God. But students' worship is not limited to Sunday nights or candlelight services. NW is a place to continually worship God by loving others.

Saying hi to others walking to class, holding the door for someone at the cafeteria or asking someone how their day is going are simple ways people love one another daily on campus. These small, ordinary

acts cultivate a beautiful culture that loves to gather in community on Sunday nights and be led in a time of worship for the glory of God.

Celebration of culture, cuisine and contributions

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IS HERE

DAVID GRANDEL
BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual, month-long time designated to celebrate and bring awareness to Hispanic culture, history, contributions and representation overall. This is a time where Hispanic culture is honored and brought forth in amazing ways, including food and art. Like any other annual observation, there is value in learning about its origins and what makes it special.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 and runs until Oct. 15. There is an intentional reason why it starts in the middle of September and not at the beginning of the calendar month. There are numerous Hispanic countries that have independence days on or around Sept. 15, including Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. This is a special reminder that brings attention to these important days that deserve recognition.

This month also honors Latinos and Latinas that have made

important contributions to the U.S. since the Revolutionary War. A few notable figures in the Hispanic community are Cesar Chavez, a civil rights activist and farm labor leader; Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who made history becoming the first Latina on the Supreme Court and Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is making major contributions to representation in his works of entertainment.

Along with recognizing the inspiring contributions of Hispanic individuals, Hispanic Heritage Month also includes celebrating Hispanic culture. Each year, the Bridge Center puts on events geared toward this purpose.

This year, the Bridge Center held a showing of the documentary "The Hand That Feeds," a sampling of books written by Latinx authors and a Latin American dance class. Junior Kacey Zickefoose attended the dance class. "I love dancing and having a fun time on a Tuesday, but, more than that, I loved being immersed in a culture different from mine," said Zickefoose.

Sophonise Nielson was also in attendance. "It was a fun night to learn and freshen up my moves,



PHOTO BY LEANDRO COSTA
Students gathered in Ramaker for a night of Latin American dancing in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

to embrace a beautiful culture and to connect with some good friends," said Nielson.

There is also going to be a cooking class on Oct. 3. "The cooking class is always one of my favorites! This year we are having students lead the cooking class, which is also really exciting! I look

forward to seeing students use their new cooking skills to make delicious foods!" said Martha Draayer, director of the Bridge Center. On Oct. 9, students are encouraged to visit the Bridge Center to learn about the diversity of Hispanic and Latinx students on campus.

Although Hispanic Heritage Month is about halfway done, the celebration of cultures on Northwestern's campus can and should continue. "Highlighting special months is an opportunity for campus to reflect on the beauty of God's creation. We see more of who Christ is in each other, so let's