

Northwestern College, Iowa

NWCommons

The Beacon, 2020-2021

The Beacon student newspaper

2-19-2021

The Beacon, February 19, 2021

The Beacon Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/beacon2020>

Unsung Heroes: John Menning

COORDINATOR OF THE NEXT PROGRAM

JORDAN DESMET
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Individuals with intellectual disabilities have plenty of challenges to overcome. One of those challenges is finding an institution that caters to their needs. However, John Menning works tirelessly to give students with special needs the education they deserve.

Menning is the coordinator of Northwestern's NEXT program, and he has been giving students an opportunity they thought they may never have.

NEXT is a two-year program that teaches vital life lessons to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. NEXT students learn concepts such as independent living, interpersonal skills, career readiness and self-confidence. Four students have graduated from the NEXT program since Menning started it in 2018, and 10 students are currently enrolled in the program.

The program has recently been

approved as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program by the U.S. Department of Education. NW's is the second in the state and one of 129 across the country. This approval grants NEXT students access to federal financial aid.

Before arriving at NW, Menning worked in special education for 32 years. In 2009, he started working as the disability service provider in the Peer Learning Center. After serving in this position, Menning was asked to work with a student with Down syndrome, and soon his family began to look for an institution to give him a quality education. Menning was willing to volunteer his time to help the student receive a valuable learning experience.

However, Menning was disheartened by the lack of opportunities for students with disabilities. After the individual graduated in 2018, Menning brought an idea to NW's administration.

"I went to the administration and asked if we could start a program. I had several families interested in having their son or daughter attend a program similar to what we did

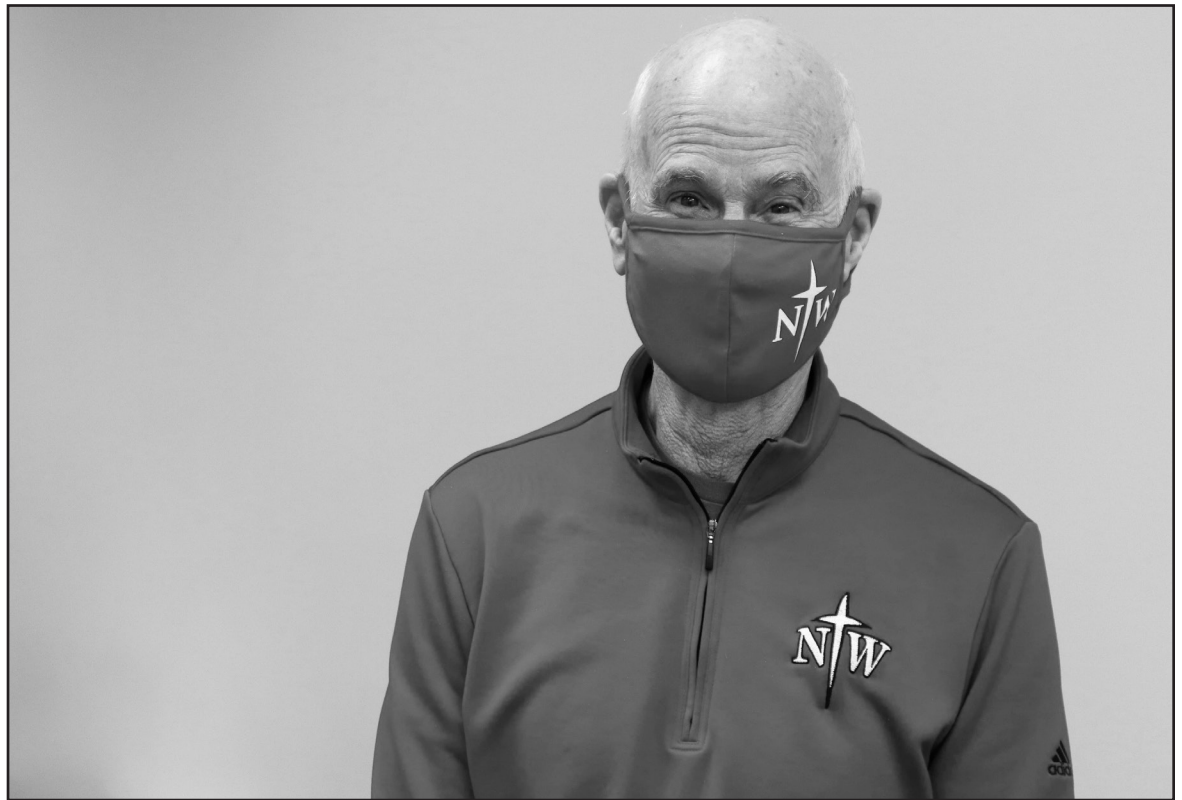


PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT

John Menning, the coordinator of the NEXT program, wants to create opportunities for students with disabilities.

with [his previous student with Down syndrome]," Menning said. "It just seemed to be the right thing to do. It was not just in the name of Christian college, have so much to offer this population." diversity – intellectual diversity if you will – but also because we, as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cats galore on the Fynaardt farm

CAMPUS CATS THAT LEFT A MARK

NOELLE PHILIPPI
PUBLIC RELATIONS

On campus, you have likely run into one of the many cats who make Northwestern campus their home. Though most remain nameless, there are a couple cats that made their mark on the students recently.

In the fall of 2019, a gray stray cat captured the hearts of many. He had made the space outside the Learning Commons his home, leading to his unofficial nickname of Library Cat. Many students encountered Library Cat as they came and went from their classes and study sessions.

Though no one knew exactly what brought this cat to campus, students went above and beyond to make him feel at home. Library Cat was often gifted snacks by passing students, living off of leftovers from cafeteria lunches. However, he needed a more permanent home.

English professor Dr. Fynaardt has been taking in stray animals

from campus for 15 years. The Fynaardt farm, 10 with acres of land, houses many cats and a few dogs, and in Fynaardt's words, "There is always room for more."

Many students are familiar with the farm as the family has regularly hosted events for the campus. Along with the farm, students have grown accustomed to their welcoming attitude toward strays. This resulted in Alexander Lowry and Kelsey Epp asking the Fynaardt family to take in Library Cat.

After arriving on the farm, Library Cat was quickly renamed Stacks. Stacks began to make the adjustment from being a campus cat to a country cat. He bonded with his new animal friends and roamed the woods and pastures freely.

Unfortunately, his happy ending on the farm was cut short. He disappeared, and no one knew where he was off to. After a few days, it became increasingly clear that Stacks was never to return.

Though the circumstances of his disappearance are unknown, the assumed cause of his untimely



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Welcome Oatmeal, the cat named by *The Beacon* poll on Instagram.

death is an airborne predator. It is likely that Stacks, who was a cat accustomed to a somewhat cushy campus life, was unaware of the dangers unique to farm life. The current theory is that an eagle or owl swooped down and took advantage of poor, ignorant Stacks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

INSIDE

- 2 | The Beatles
- 3 | Senior Art Spotlight
- 4 | Spring on Campus
- 5 | Legacy Students
- 7 | Softball
- 8 | Theater Festival

 beacon.nwciowa.edu
 Northwestern College - Beacon
 @NWC_Beacon

Revolver, more than simple dad rock

MUSIC REVIEW

CREATIVITY UNLEASHED

MISAEAL BRUZZONE
ECONOMICS

The Beatles had a prolific career spanning only eight years and an astounding 13 official records. Among fans, identifying their best album is a hard task. However, there is one album that makes everyone's list: the 1966 release, *Revolver*.

Revolver came during a hectic time in their active years. In 1966 the Beatles made the news for the infamous John Lennon quote about fame and Jesus. Later that year they once again made the news by taking to the stage for the last time to focus solely on recording. A year later, in 1967, they released *Sgt. Pepper*, the album that most critics have pointed to as their greatest. Two years later, in January of 1969, they recorded their last song together and in 1970 they officially disbanded.

Amongst the milestones and important dates, the making and release of *Revolver* marks a decisive moment in the band's history. If the 1965 release

of *Rubber Soul* had raised a few eyebrows (and a few critics), then *Revolver* made heads spin. So, what was it about *Revolver* that still has people talking about it 55 years later?

The Beatles approached *Revolver* in an entirely new manner. They did not worry about being able to reproduce their songs on stage. Instead they focused on unleashing creativity in-studio, and while doing so they pioneered recording techniques (like artificial double tracking) that would later inspire giants like Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix and Queen. They started viewing the recording studio as an instrument itself, focusing on their raw output and not on tours and concerts.

This resulted in a daring, boundary-pushing sonic landscape that both challenged listeners and cemented their act as more than just pop music. They dabbled in psychedelic rock and brought the genre to the general public's consciousness for the first time. They incorporated Eastern instruments such as the Indian tambura into songs like "Love You Too" while incorporating Eastern philosophy and religion into their lyrics as

well. The drums were put on center stage for the first time in songs like "Doctor Robert" and "Taxman," something not very common for pop music at that time. In songs like "Eleanor Rigby," the only instrumentals are a string octet – something almost unheard of from the most popular band in the world at that time.

At this time George Harrison was blossoming as a songwriter and was given more space to show his prowess. Paul McCartney had become more interested in the London Avant-Garde movement, incorporating elements of the art form into their music. John Lennon started getting interested in psychedelic drugs such as LSD and worked them into songs like "I'm Only Sleeping." With many creative directions, the environment was that of creativity and friendly competition as they would push each other to their musical best. This is something that would later deteriorate completely before the band would hate recording with each other.

Lyrically, *Revolver* is another departure from their previous six records.

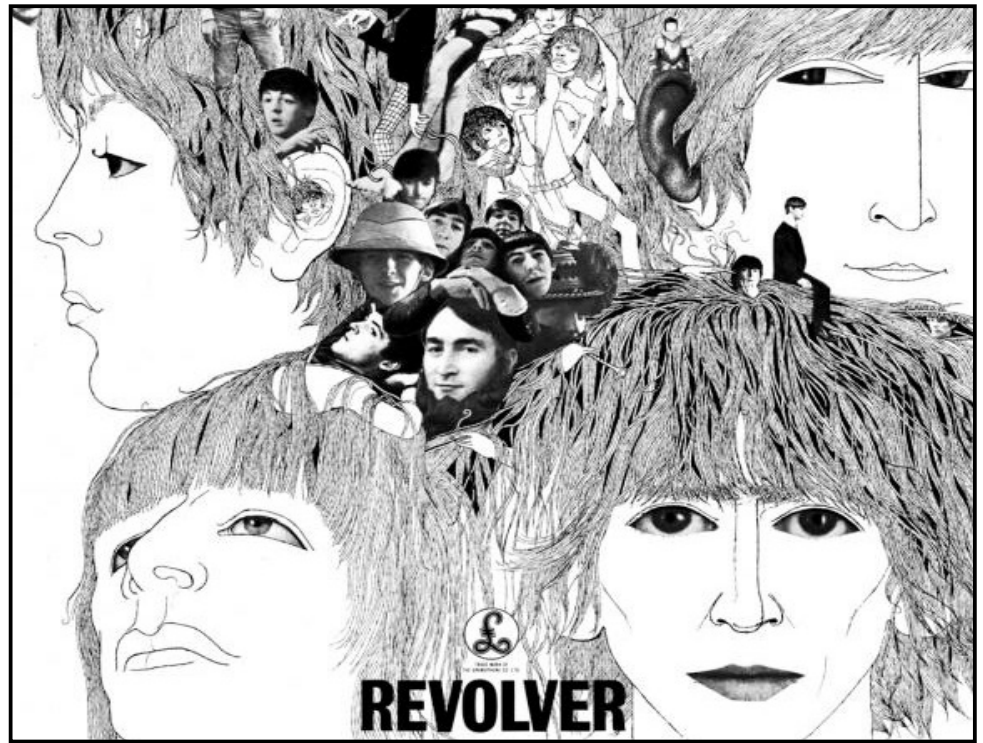


PHOTO COURTESY OF THEBEATLES.COM

Songs were no longer about relationships and love, they were about the meaning of life and death, drugs and even transcendentalism. Though they showed a glimpse of this in their previous record, *Rubber Soul*, they made a full dive into these topics in *Revolver*. They stopped writing poppy love songs meant to be played on staged and began writing more musically and lyrically complex songs that would largely define

the sound of the rest of their musical output.

Revolver was an important step for the Beatles. They pushed their own sound past its boundaries, largely redefining what pop music was "supposed" to sound like. They challenged listeners with more complex harmonics and instrumentation unlike ever before. The ambient sounds in songs like "Yellow Submarine" proved to be not a wall but an open door for

listeners. Lyrically they began singing about what they really wanted to say – not what they thought listeners wanted to hear. The studio-as-instrument approach also proved to be a significant innovation on their own sound and the sound that would later be an inspiration to many other bands. *Revolver* is a timeless classic that changed music forever and is a highpoint of their career.

★★★★★

WandaVision brings mystery and suspense

MOVIE REVIEW

THE GROWING MARVEL FAMILY

PAIGE GINGER
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

WandaVision is one of the newest shows that Disney+ has come out with. This series is a part of the Marvel Universe and so much of what is happening might require some Marvel background knowledge. The first episode was released on Jan. 15. According to IMDb, the series first starts out mimicking a black and white sitcom style from the '50s then gradually transforms into color as it progresses through the different forms of sitcoms throughout the decades. These changes do not affect the plot as it continues to morph with the changes.

The two trailers for the show leave you with only a small taste as to what the series is about. There is a mid-season trailer that sheds a little more

light, but still leaves things unanswered.

New episodes air on Fridays, and there are currently only nine episodes listed to come out according to an article in Men's Health. The next episode is set to be released Feb. 19.

The series is based on Wanda and Vision who live together in a town called Westview. They moved there after getting married and deciding that they want to blend in with the people around them. However, there is a dark twist that starts to unfold around the third episode. As each episode unfolds more of the truth comes out, leaving viewers anxious to find out the truth behind the mystery.

Many Marvel fans are excited for this series but are also a little confused with how everything will play out as the series develops. There are comment sections filled with excitement as people watch the show unfold.

The overall reviews of the show are very positive. Some, however, disapprove of the layout and how slow the episodes are released.

One issue that was voiced in a USA Today article said, "It struggles to claim an identity as a TV show at all."

While this review did have a slightly more negative tone, there were still parts that emphasized the success that the series is seeming to show. Even Rotten Tomatoes gave the series a 94% average from fans and an 80% overall satisfaction from the population.

The show is a brilliant mix of history's most popular sitcom styles and the Marvel Universe. There is a certain amount of previous Marvel knowledge that is needed due to how many references were made to the other movies.

Something Marvel does well is adding to the already bursting universe so that their audience comes back wanting

more. *WandaVision* is another great addition leaving viewers with a desire to watch the other stories in the universe.

One problem that all viewers seem to have with the show is the approximately six minutes of credits at the end of each episode. Marvel is famous for their end credits scenes and the long credits on *WandaVision* leaves viewers wondering if there will be an extra clip, but disappointing them every time when nothing appears.

So, the next time that you want to procrastinate on homework but are unsure what to watch, consider falling into the Marvel Universe and watch an episode or more of the new series *WandaVision* on Disney+. Make a bag of popcorn, curl up under a blanket and dive into the slightly confusing, but incredibly worth while.

★★★★★

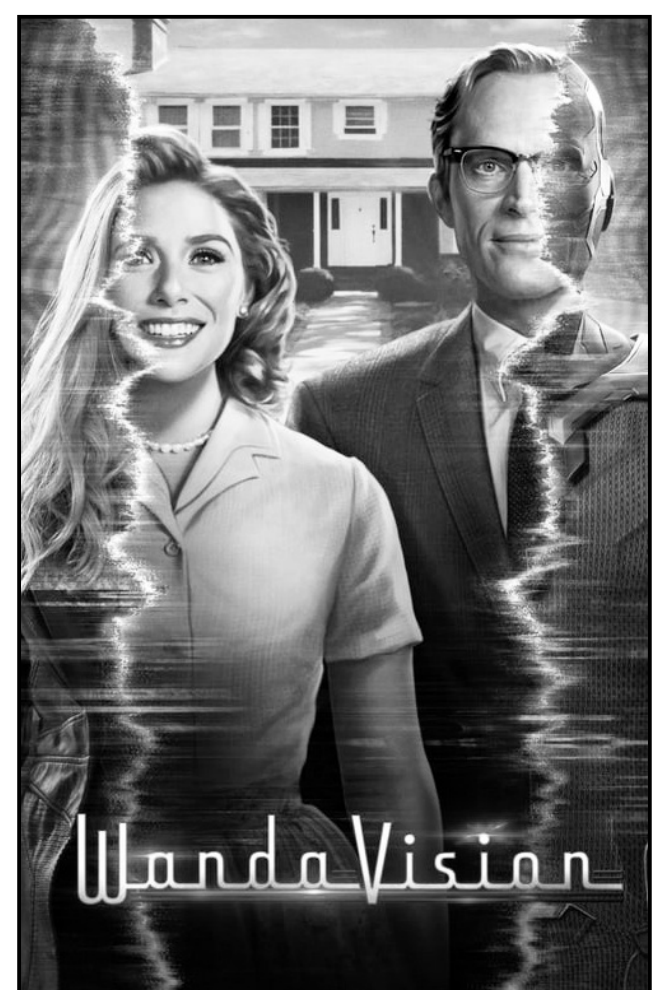


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Sports and ceramics combined in love

POTTERY IS A NEWFOUND LOVE

CLARA PAHL
MATHEMATICS

Jacqueline Ingram, an elementary education major with an art minor and a K-12 endorsement, makes everything into art. However, in high school, she didn't obsess over paint brushes and pencils at the craft store. Art was not her thing, sports were.

In high school, Ingram became a four-year letter winner in three sports, collecting all-conference honors in volleyball and basketball and qualifying for state twice in doubles tennis. She claimed a spot on the Iowa Basketball Coaches All-Academic team. Ingram made sports her art.

However, she wasn't without creative talent. Some of her artistic pursuits included creating prom corsages and refurbishing a table. Though she discovered an interest in hands-on crafts, she didn't take any art

classes in high school. In fact, the thought of doing so never crossed her mind; college credit classes and band dominated her schedule.

Ingram was the next step: Jacqueline would choose to major in elementary education and sign her letter of intent to play tennis—sports were an avenue of success and joy for her. This time, taking an “arts and aesthetic” course was unavoidable. Second semester of freshman year, she took her first art class which changed her life.

“It suddenly clicked. It connected with my brain,” Ingram said.

Not only did it make sense, her ceramics professor Yun Shin made all the difference. Shin saw a creative spark in Ingram and inspired her to challenge herself and explore the field.

“Professor Shin knows how to reach art-minded people,” Ingram said.

Now, Jacqueline was faced with a new opportunity and a new decision. It was an easy

one to make. She would add an art minor and an art K-12 endorsement to her major. Ingram had a clear gift for teaching, challenging herself: “Can I teach art so students can understand it?”

She could, but not without immersing herself into more art classes. Ceramics, specifically wheel-throwing, became her passion.

She understood it and said that “It's the process of doing steps repeatedly until you perfect it.”

It's not the first time Ingram mastered the art of process. This same excellence came from her success in sports. It takes one step at a time to create a masterpiece.

First, masterpieces need inspiration. Ingram's is Jon the Potter. Jon Schmidt, entrepreneur and artist, gives step-by-step instructions for fashioning practical pottery out of clay. His YouTube channel is loaded with videos of making marbled and textured mugs and plates out of vibrant clays.

“I like the practicality of the finished product,” Ingram said.

She dreams of owning a pottery studio with a café attached to it. But for now, she will teach young artists the beauty of ceramics.

For the past six weeks, she has been doing exactly that. Ingram has been student-teaching at MOC-Floyd Valley High School with Mrs. Roberta Pottebaum. Not only has Ingram inspired her students to challenge themselves creatively, she has also increased her own skill.

She said, “Because I've had to teach [ceramics], I've become better at my craft, too.”

From Shin's expertise and encouragement to the leadership in the education department, Northwestern has “made it easy” for Jacqueline to be successful.

That success will be carried to Ames, Iowa, where Jacqueline and her fiancé are seeking job opportunities and where she hopes to continue her passion for creating masterpieces.



PHOTO BY KILEY MEEDER
Wheel-throwing is Jacquelin's favorite form of ceramics..

Excitement to share unique stories about racism

REALITY MEETS THE STAGE

ANGELA WINTERING
THEATRE

May 25, 2020 is a day that will live in infamy as the day of George Floyd's murder. What we didn't know then in our grief was that that day would also be the catalyst for many people saying “no more” for good to many forms of racial injustice throughout the United States. One of the effects of that catalyst is the play being staged by Northwestern this week, Lynn Nottage's *Sweat*, directed by Dr. Robert Hubbard.

Sweat takes place in the years of 2000 and 2008, years that both were heavily impacted by the economic fluctuations and crises that took place in the United States. It follows a group of friends who work at a steel mill who get affected in various ways by rumors, promotions and racial tensions. Friendships crack and ties break as changes occur within the workplace and their world of Reading, Pennsylvania.

The play calls for a racially diverse cast. NWC's theatre department would not be able to put on this play with the existing members of the department, since most students regularly involved in the productions and program are white or Caucasian.

Hubbard said, “We understand these portrayals as limited and inadequate depictions of Christ's authentic body. Unfortunately, a similar lack of diversity plagues many small theater programs at liberal arts colleges, especially in rural areas.”

So the theatre department reached out to the campus Intercultural Development Office when the play season of 2020-2021 was announced to seek out students who would be willing to help tell the story. As a result, *Sweat* contains one of the most diverse casts ever assembled to perform in NWC's theatre department.

“Our prayer is that the gifted performers you see will continue to define Northwestern's Ensemble for years to come,” said Hubbard.

Hubbard isn't the only one excited to have this story told. Everyone involved, from assistant director to those hanging lights for it, is itching to have people see the final product.

Ryan Altman, junior theatre major and assistant director on the project, said, “I strongly believe that educating ourselves about other people and their stories is extremely important, and this production is a wonderful opportunity.”

Recently, plays staged by the theatre department take place in the 20th century or before. *Sweat*

is the first play in a while done by the department that takes its stand in a very recent real-world event, along with taking on the very real world issue of racism and racial tensions.

Along with being the first play in a while to take on such a strong subject matter head on, it also brings many new faces into the theatre department with the alliance of NWC's Intercultural Development Office. Sophonisbe Nielson, a freshman music major, is one of those newcomers. She plays the character of Cynthia, a woman who receives much of the brunt of the racial tensions between the characters.

“This has been a great experience to ‘live’ in someone else's shoes for a while, so to speak, but also realize that we are a lot of the same people,” Nielson said. “It is a good thing to put this play on now because we need to be reminded that at the end of the day, we are all we have, and we need to have each other's backs.”

The play will be performed in a Reader's Theatre format in order for the performers and the audience to focus on the words of the play, as well as giving the performers the ability to take off their masks when speaking. It is taking place Feb. 18-20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Proscenium Theatre.

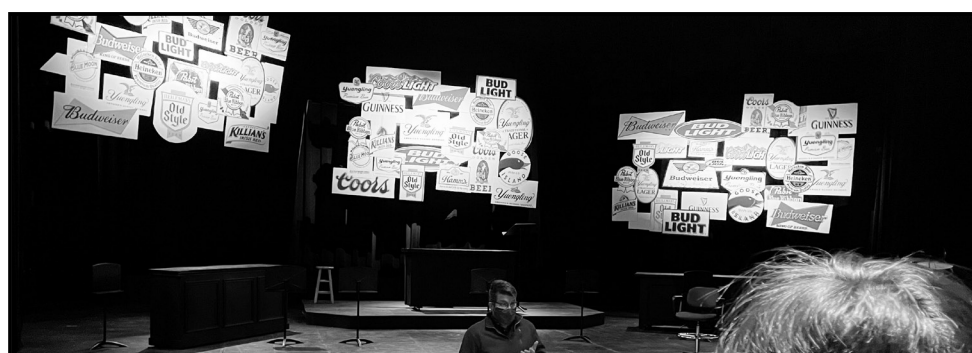


PHOTO BY ALLISON HAVERDINK
The reader's theater format allows for mor emphasis on the dialogue.

Knock her socks off...



With a 1 Carat Diamond Solitaire for under \$2000.

Sparkling White, Conflict-Free and Backed by the BEST Guarantee in the Industry



Windmill Park Jewelers
for every ever after

112 2nd Street NW, Orange City

712-737-4208



The anticipation of spring on campus

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

ALLISON WHEELER
GRAPHIC DESIGN

Although the temperatures outside have recently been below zero, spring is right around the corner and Raiders across campus are ready to welcome the new season with anticipation. Senior Danica Bang compared the feeling of excitement while waiting for spring to the scene from High School Musical 2 where everyone is excited for summer and is chanting, “Summer, summer, summer, summer!”

“I love spring on campus so much and I’m really disappointed we didn’t get to experience it last year,” Bang said.

Due to the events that occurred last March revolving around COVID-19, students didn’t get to fully experience and enjoy springtime on campus last year. Several activities and events that typically happen each year didn’t take place after students left campus to quarantine at home.

“There are a lot of really cool events that happen in spring,” said junior Colin “Rex” Kaemingk.

One of those events is Hoppers Hall’s annual cardboard and duct tape battle. Students are excited

to participate in the battle as well as watch it.

Spring sports’ seasons were also interrupted due to the premature dismissal, and student athletes are hoping to have their spring seasons this year.

“Definitely golf,” Carlson said when asked about the upcoming spring. “I’m really excited for that.”

Freshman Emma Anunson and junior Brandon Glasgow are both in symphonic band and are looking forward to welcoming the new season while playing their instruments on the band tour during spring break.

Several students are also looking forward to seeing the snow and ice melt away and watching the trees and flowers bloom.

“I am just really missing things that are pretty to look at outside,” junior Karisa Meier said.

Noelle Wamhoff, a sophomore, has yet to experience spring on campus, like all students who were transfers or freshmen last year.

“I will be watching the campus green turn green again because I didn’t get to see that happen last year,” Wamhoff said.

The visual changes to campus during springtime are obvious, but there are other changes that occur as well.

“Spring just smells



Flowers, green grass and active students will be spotted out and about once the snow melts and warmer weather arrives. PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

different. I associate spring with happiness. A light, fragile happiness,” junior Vanessa Gomez said.

With spring comes changes in weather and freshman Sarah Sundet is ready to exchange the snow for rain.

“Like thunderstorms? Heck yeah!” Sundet said.

The change in weather will be welcomed by several students, especially with how cold it’s been lately. Once it starts warming up, it won’t be necessary to wear as many

layers to stay warm while walking around campus.

“Literally just being outside. Walking to Town Square,” junior Melissa Lansink said, “I want to not feel cold. I want to have fun when I walk to my classes.”

Junior Paige Ginger agreed with Lansink.

“Not having an artic freeze,” Ginger said. “I love when all of the flowers start to bloom. All of the baby animals start popping up everywhere.”

Several students mentioned that with the warmer weather comes the opportunity to hang out outside more, to hammock in trees around campus, take walks around town or work on homework while sitting on the green.

Being able to travel, catch up with friends and see how people have grown throughout the year were also mentioned as things students are looking forward to for spring.

“Being able to go outside

and hangout with people on the green, go for walks and being able to be somewhere besides my room,” junior Sara Bosman said.

While some students are anxious to get out of their rooms and apartments, some students are anticipating leaving NW for good after graduating this spring. With a new season comes a lot of changes, but NW students are ready to welcome the new season with open arms and smiles on their faces under their masks.

Unsung Heroes: John Menning

FROM PAGE 1

A few weeks later, President Christy informed Menning of a \$100,000 donation. This was enough to get the program started. However, Christy had one condition: Menning had to oversee the program.

“I could not believe it and just started crying,” Menning said. “It did not take me very long to accept the position, and the rest is history.”

As NEXT coordinator, Menning is involved with his students from start to finish.

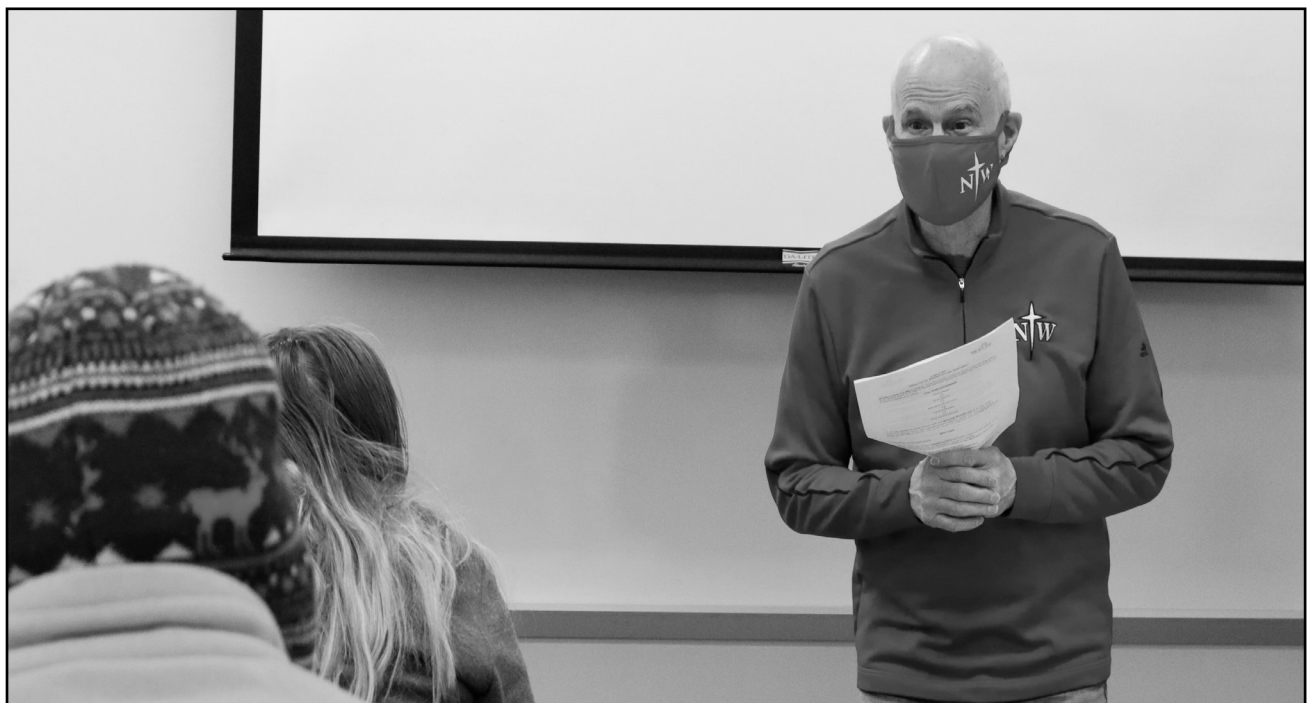
“There really is not one typical day,” Menning said. “Each day seems to stand alone. There are always problems to be addressed, mentors that need to be connected to

students or parents that need to be contacted.”

His many duties include recruiting, giving tours, scheduling courses, teaching classes and finding job placements for his students after graduation. All his responsibilities may seem daunting, but Menning knows his hard work is worth it.

“The most rewarding part for me is to see them thrive and love being here at NW,” Menning said. “I constantly hear from parents how much they appreciate what NW is doing on behalf of their son or daughter, and to see them graduate is one of the best days of the year.”

On top of impacting the life of every student he has led through the



Menning instructs NEXT program classes, preparing students for life after college. PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT

program, Menning’s actions have also touched the people who work with him.

“John Menning is

amazing,” program mentor Julia Zora said. Zora runs the NEXT physical education class twice a week and takes

several NEXT students to lunch and basketball games.

“I did not know all the work that went into this

program until I became a mentor,” she said. “John does it all, and he does it with passion, joy and love.”

Generations of legacy students

ALUMS AS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

DANICA BANG
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Legacy. The word has multiple definitions, such as relating to, associated with or carried over from an earlier time. Northwestern College's campus is sprinkled with legacy students, 41 to be exact. These students have parents or grandparents who have also attended NW. Among them are third generation students Adam De Boer, Allison Haverdink, Jadeyn Veltkamp, and fourth generation student William Minnick.

Each student has long-term roots in Orange City. Veltkamp, a sophomore public relations major, has lived here her entire life. De Boer and Haverdink both had fathers who grew up near Orange City. Minnick's mother grew up in Orange City.

De Boer, a freshman elementary education major, has lived in Orange City for 10 years, but his father, a NW alum, grew up on a farm outside of town. After moving to California, Chicago and again to Ames, the De Boer family returned to Orange City.

Similarly, Haverdink, a sophomore psychology major, lived outside of town and attended Orange City

schools until moving into town when she was 11. Her father grew up outside of Orange City, lived in Michigan for a short time and then returned the Orange City area.

Haverdink, whose parents and grandmother are NW alums, was also familiar with the campus.

"I grew up on campus," she said, explaining that she visited frequently for various athletic events and high school conferences that the college hosted.

Minnick, a sophomore history major, followed his mother, grandmother and great grandfather to NW and has roots that date back to the founding of Orange City.

"Everyone who came over from Holland came here," Minnick said, "and we haven't really left."

Because of their ties with both the town and the college, these students felt at home at NW.

"I knew the faculty, I knew the staff, I knew the campus. It felt comfortable to transition here," Minnick said.

While all have strong family connections and a familiarity with NW, it didn't seem to be the biggest influence on their decision to continue their education in Orange City.

"I was in no way pressured by any of my family members to come to



William Minnick sits for a photo with his grandmother, Marilyn, and his mom, Ann, both NW alum.

NW," Veltkamp said, whose mother and grandmother attended NW. When Veltkamp began to think about college, she realized that she wanted a smaller Christian college close to home.

For De Boer and Minnick, the financial assistance of free tuition was a large factor in their decision to attend NW, as both have parents who work at the college.

While NW begins and continues to impact the lives of these current legacy students, they are also able to see the importance the school has had in the lives of their relatives and are happy to carry over the history of those who came before them.

"NW has given my grandma, mom and I all a great college experience," Veltkamp said. "We were able to receive a great education

that emphasized living out our faith. Not all colleges can offer that."

Haverdink would agree, as the college has always aligned with her family's values: excellence in education, working hard and a focus on faith.

"It has acted as a second home for all of us," De Boer said about his family. "I hope I can say the same when my time here concludes."

NW cats on the farm

FROM PAGE 1

Though Stacks may be gone, he was not the last cat to leave his mark on NW.

Emily Schwarz recently brought a new addition to the clan of cats on the farm. She noticed a cat wandering around Kepp Hall in need of some love and decided to feed him. She knew of the Fynaardt's history and brought him out to the

farm. He has spent the past week or so adjusting to life in the country.

His new name is Oatmeal, as decided by a poll run on the *The Beacon's* Instagram page.

He spent the first few days at his home meeting all the new animals and exploring the environment but was soon interrupted by a bout of harsh winter weather. Like most students, the cold

has hindered his ability to get out and mingle, so he spends the bulk of his time cozily curled up in a bundle of wood. He stealthily sneaks out at night in search of food, but quickly retreats back to his home in the firewood. The farm cats are cliquey, and often take a while to warm up to the idea of a new cat in town, but Oatmeal doesn't seem too worried.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM MINNICK
Fynaardt holds yet another farm cat, one of many that runs wild on 10 acres of land.



EASY • FAST • FRESH



EXPIRES 05/31/21 **Pizza Ranch** CODE: 53802

ANY LARGE FOR \$10.00

Available online only

Valid at Orange City location only. Some restrictions may apply. Additional charge for extra cheese and \$2.00 charge for specialty crust. Prices subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offer, gluten free crust or third-party delivery. Delivery where available and charges may apply.

EXPIRES 05/31/21 **Pizza Ranch** CODE: 53416

ANY SMALL FOR \$5.00

Valid at Orange City location only. Some restrictions may apply. Additional charge for extra cheese and \$2.00 charge for specialty crust. Prices subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offer, gluten free crust or third-party delivery. Delivery where available and charges may apply.

ORANGE CITY • 712-737-3711 • 1505 8TH ST. SE

JOIN OUR TEAM!

pizzaranch.com/careers

 Check out our Facebook page!



WOULD YOU RATHER?

(As voted on by you, the students)

Would you rather name the Fynaardt's new cat...

Oatmeal

76%

OR

Bread

24%

Would you rather date...

In college

74%

OR

After college

26%

Would you rather...

Hammock

92%

OR

Lay in the grass

8%

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

Snapchat is ruining our lives



Allison Haverdink
Psychology

Snapchat has been the main source of communication for our generation for a while now. I think that it is safe to say that it is actually ruining our lives. Snapchat is killing our social and communication skills. Here are some reasons why we need to start verbalizing our feelings instead of sending obscure selfies.

#1: There are unwritten "rules" of Snapchat. We all know them, right? Do I send a full-faced selfie, or just half of my face? Or do I just send a picture of the ground because I don't actually want them to see that I haven't showered in three days? Or do I send just a black screen to show that I'm interested enough to respond but not that interested? Also, when do I open their snap? If I open it too soon will that show that I have been waiting of them to respond? Seriously. What is this all about? Why are we so concerned with how fast we respond when we all literally

have our phones on us at all times of the day? All of these questions are a product of using Snapchat as a main source of communication. We are so focused on what we are saying with our "Snapchat nonverbals" that we cannot form good, meaningful relationships with people in real life.

#2: "Talking" has somehow become a way to label a relationship. We hide behind our screens and call it a relationship when we've been "talking" to the same person for months without actually having a face-to-face interaction. We get flustered when we have to have a real-life conversation with the person. We can use Snapchat to say things to people we would never actually say to them in person. We can be way flirtier with someone over Snapchat than in person because we don't see their immediate reaction. We can have a usually awkward and uncomfortable conversation over Snapchat because you can precisely plan out the words you want to say. It's really nice to have a conveniently placed "delete" button on your keyboard. If you were having an actual, normal conversation with someone face-to-face, would you say the same words you are typing to them? No, probably not.

#3: We have started to define our friendships and depth of relationships by a number with a fire emoji behind it. Sending a black screen to someone just to

keep the "streak alive" is not a relationship. It is really great that we have a 147-day streak with our locker neighbor from 3rd grade, but seriously, have we even tried to connect with them other than sending them a picture of our breakfast in the morning? Maintaining snap streaks is a sorry excuse for keeping in touch with people we don't see every day. Instead of sending them our breakfast, we should maybe try and reach out. If we really want to call someone a friend, we need to start initiating conversations, not to keep that streak going, but because we should actually start to care about others deeply.

Do I use Snapchat? Absolutely. I've started to realize these things because of my own Snapchat use. Yes. Snapchat can be great! It is super fun to be able to communicate with someone (sort-of) face-to-face, especially in the world we are living in now. It is great to be able to see someone's reaction when you send them something. However, I do think that we must be careful with how much we use Snapchat for our daily interactions with people.

We are social beings. God created us to be in relationships with people. So, next time you are snapchatting that special someone, remember that a physical, in person conversation will mean so much more than just a selfie of half your face with a few words on it.

Would you wear a mask for the unborn?



Caleb Arnett
Political Science

This year was supposed to be better. 2020 had continually gotten worse, with death counts rising, restrictions being extended and normal holiday plans altered or cancelled. However, 2021 would be the bright and shiny future: the final waning of the pandemic as the vaccine gets widely distributed, restoring life to its previous glory. Reality said otherwise. As we turned the calendar to a new year, deaths kept rising to new grim numbers. 3,000 per day. 70,000 for the month. Over 400,000 total.

For comparison, that's roughly around the estimated rate of abortion in the United States, which averages around 2,000 per day. For decades, conservative evangelicals have preached on the importance on protecting the lives of the vulnerable unborn. We have taken them at their word, assuming the virtue of their speech. Now vulnerable elderly

fall in similar numbers to COVID-19, and those same evangelicals criticize preventative measures. Is not all life created equal? Why haven't they been as loud for the elderly as they are the unborn?

The politics of death is complicated and revealing. Put simply, death is not an equal opportunity employer. It disproportionately reigns over the fringes in society, given power by the exclusionary policies of the mainstream. Death doesn't silence, it takes the voiceless.

The mainstream often does not recognize the role in which death plays in politics because it is so disconnected from the fringes. It is this freedom from certain realities that allows the mainstream to declare some death "necessary" and others "unnecessary". But it's a lie. Death is inevitable, but it is not necessary.

Conservative evangelicals, by in large, have bought into this lie. It tells them that death by sickness and disease is natural and therefore less of a concern. It tells them that there is an economic limit on the price we should pay to protect human life. Most crucially, it tells them that death is sometimes God's will. But the reality is that all death is unnatural. Death is the separation of God's life breathing force, a direct result of Satan's temptation and the fall. Giving

in to the necessity of death is giving in to the necessity of sin.

While the politics of death is self-centered, the politics of life manifests itself in sacrifice. A true pro-life ethic is epitomized by the strong desire to lay oneself down at the feet of our neighbors. When John Calvin and the early Reformed tradition experienced a pandemic in the 16th century, they put their well being aside and cared for the sick despite knowing they could get sick themselves. If we want to be fully pro-life, we must adopt their sacrificial lifestyle. Back then, attending to the sick was the best way to save lives; now, for non-essential Americans, it is social distancing and wearing a mask. Early Christians sacrificed their lives for Christ's love, there is no reason why we can not sacrifice our lifestyles for the same.

What if masks and social distancing saved the lives of thousands of unborn babies, would you have changed the way you acted during the pandemic? If the answer is yes, it may not be life that you love, but your own tradition and ideology. Pro-life is not a voting ideology but a deep love for each other and God that changes the way we think about the human experience. It truly humbles you. So, next time you go out, mask up like you were saving a baby's life.

Editor's Note

The opinions published both in print and online are the opinions of the authors only. Beacon staff members do not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this section. Research and editing (other than formatting) of articles is the responsibility of the authors rather than the editors.

Respectfully,
the Beacon staff

Get wealthy

off your words...

...With the new Beacon pay scale

Write 1-4 stories = \$10 each | 5-8 stories = \$15 each | 9+ stories = \$20 each

NW softball off to a promising start

RAIDERS BACK AFTER LONG WAIT

GRACE REGINALD
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Northwestern softball team swept Viterbo, making a great start to the long-awaited season. NW defeated the Hawks 4-2 in game one and emerged with a 14-2, five-inning win in game two.

In the first game against Viterbo, the Raiders scored two in the bottom of the first when senior, Emily Bosch led off with a walk and came across home plate on a triple made by Madysn Grotewold. Bouman's squad hit three home runs and compiled 14 hits in a 14-2, five-inning blowout win in game two.

Senior pitcher, Samantha Ubben, struck out ten and allowed one run, leading the team to victory at 4-2. Ubben

finished one shy of matching her career high in strikeouts and allowed just six hits and two walks in a 92-pitch, six-inning effort.

"My team and I have been working very hard since we got back to school in August" Ubben said. "All the returners were so excited to get back on the field after not playing an official game in so long."

Considering that it's been 11 months since last softball season, she says that it's great to be back.

For sophomore, Sydnee Isom, felt that the clean sweep over the weekend set the tone for the rest of the season.

"Considering it's just the beginning of the season, it's a great way to demonstrate that our consistent hard work at practice is and will continue to pay off," Isom said.

"The things that are easy to do, are easy to not do". Through

hard work and dedication on and off the field, the girls want to be the team to beat in the conference championships," Coach Bouman said.

Bosch, was eager to get back on the field after a heartbreaking end they had last season. When looking at the team, she can't help but admire the sweat and hard work each player is putting in.

"Each girl works her tail off and does it so that our team succeed. Even though I am a senior, I have a lot to learn from my younger teammates! When I look at our team, I see passion and drive. We still have work to do, but I am confident we will be a force to reckon with this season." Bosch said. "We are going to take it game by game, but the end goal of the season is to take conference champs and bring back another national banner. With big smiles, we plan to check one game off at a time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS
Raiders softball team looks forward to outdoor season.

A new season underway for baseball

BIG PLANS FOR RAIDER BASEBALL

TREY HARMS
SPANISH

It's been 11 months since their last game, and the Red Raider baseball team is ready to be back on the field. Returning nearly the entire team from a year ago, there is a special determination and energy as they head into the upcoming season. Last year's squad finished the shortened season strong, winning six of their last seven games to finish with a record of 11-9.

Senior Sutton Derr noted that in comparison to much of the NAIA, they were fortunate

to get in so many games before the cancellation of the season, but nonetheless there is certainly an eagerness to play that back 60% of the schedule, which holds most of the GPAC matchups.

"I am super pumped for this year because of where we were headed last season" Derr said, mentioning that the team was on pace to break many offensive records.

Defensively, errors were occasionally a thorn in the Raiders' side but another year full of work and the addition of even more defensive talent figures to boost performances on both sides of the ball. Controlling the mound for Northwestern this year will be

a well-seasoned pitching staff looking to lead that defensive effort throughout the year.

"With our pitching staff having more time to develop and get stronger, they definitely have improved immensely and will be the backbone to our team," Derr said.

Also playing into the high expectations for the year is the strong chemistry the team shares.

"It's great being a part of a team where everyone is really close together, real tightknit," junior catcher Isaac Thurm said; "[I] just love the community aspect, and the relationships we have with each other."

Sophomore Mark Cooley also commented on the

positivity surrounding the team, mentioning that being around such a great group of guys pushes him to do his best not only on the diamond but in the classroom as well.

The season starts next week for NW as they will play a four-game series with Clarke University at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, followed by a string of games over spring break in Missouri and Oklahoma. As the season finally arrives, there is definitely an excitement about what this team will be able to accomplish.

Sutton said, "It will definitely be fun to watch because this team is special."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS
Raider's baseball has high expectations as a new season begins.

Game, set, match for NW tennis teams

NEW SEASON, NEW FUTURE

CAROLINE VAN BERKUM
MATHEMATICS

As we inch closer to the long-awaited spring break, some teams are getting ready for their spring seasons. Two such teams are our men's and women's tennis teams. Both teams have high hopes for this season and are especially looking forward to the warmer weather.

Our Men's tennis played in Cedar Rapids last weekend against Wartburg and Coe. Even though they fell short in both games, they still have high hopes for the upcoming season,

"to finish in the top of the conference," head coach Monte Tilgner said.

This first competition of the year was a great way to prepare for the upcoming conference games. Two players, seniors Juani Mackrey and Peyton Scott came out with singles wins and brothers Jack and Noah Roisum won their doubles match

"Even though we didn't get the results we

expected on our first meet, we are training really hard and looking forward to what's coming," Juani Mackrey said.

The team is looking to learn from the meet this weekend and be able to move forward with the rest of the season. They have fun at practice and are just thankful to be able to play with each other since their season got cut short last year.

"It was fun, but we have room to improve and winslots of meets," sophomore Brian Vanden Berg said.

Our Raider women took the court on Feb. 5 this year against Buena Vista. Sophomores Wynne VanderSall and Jessica Wilson earned wins for the Raiders both in the singles and together in the doubles. The women are just as excited for the upcoming season as the men. They are a fairly young team, with just one senior, three sophomores and four freshmen, giving them time to learn and grow in the sport.

It is their hope to finish top in the conference as well. Their last match gave them a lot of things to improve on, and they are ready for their next match, on Friday,



PHOTO BY NW ATHLETICS
Men's and women's tennis teams anticipate great seasons as outdoor will start up.

Feb. 19, at Morningside.

In practice, they are trying to focus on improving their game, as well as having some fun out there on the court. Head Coach Jamie DeJong is working hard to make sure

her players are ready for every meet.

Coach DeJong said, "If they play like they practice, good things should be in their future."

Beacon Staff

Aaron Eckmann
Co-Editor/Copy Editor

Jocelyn McCormick
Co-Editor

Madie Harre
Arts & Culture Editor

Camber Herrig
Features Editor

Caleb Arnett
Opinions Editor

Katie Jacob
Sports Editor

Emily Berggren
News Editor

Jadeyn Veltkamp
Photo Editor

Riley Rasmussen
Advertising Manager

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, clarity and length. For advertising rates and submissions, email Advertising Manager Riley Rasmussen at riley.rasmussen@nwcsiowa.edu.

NW students attend theater festival

MULTIPLE AWARDS WON BY NW STUDENTS

PAIGE GINGER
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The theatre department at Northwestern College has provided many well respected performances over the years. This year some of that brilliance was recognized at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival – also known as KCACTF.

NW is part of region five of this competition. There are a total of eight regions and region five happens to be the largest, containing a total of seven states.

The KCACTF regional festival is a week-long event that for region five, is held in a major Midwest city in January.

This year, the festival was supposed to take place in Des Moines. With COVID-19, things looked a little different for the participants. Everything was online and many of the events were prerecorded and could be watched at later times.

The festival features shows from throughout the region that have been selected from the past calendar year.

There are many different categories that can be entered that have the potential to be showcased at the festival if selected. However, the festival offers participants more than just a chance to see theater. It includes workshops to improve techniques, design expos and the chance to see what other people can do.

As senior Maren Taylor stated, “We don’t know each other, but we all watch each other grow year after year which is really cool.”

NW had a number of students submit work for this year’s festival.

Karissa Meyer, Rachel Smart and Sierra Tumbleson were all a part of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition. For this



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Sophia Schaeffer and Maren Taylor were two of Northwestern’s recognized participants.

particular competition, over 100 participants were in the running. The semifinals knocked the number down to 64. All three made it this far, but the stakes got higher as only a mere 16 make the final round.

Smart made it to the semis in this contest but was also an honorable mention in the Gary Garrison Ten-Minute play competition. Her play was entitled “Lethe.”

Meyer and Tumbleson were chosen as finalists and were able to share monologues as a part of the Festival.

Other students recognized for their success included Taylor in the design expo category specifically for lighting design. Taylor saw big success at the regional festival as she was selected to represent region five at the

national conference.

That is not all, however, Taylor stated that, “I also won one of the four scholarships to the Stagecraft Institute in Las Vegas. I will spend a week studying under professionals and interning at big Vegas shows”.

Success kept coming as Sofia Schaeffer was the region five champion for costume design.

And as if that wasn’t enough, Jabberwocky was chosen as one of the handful of shows to perform at the Festival.

Overall, the participants agreed that it was a great learning experience, and they feel that they grew as artists. They appreciated the chance to share what you love to do with others and gain helpful knowledge for the future.

Spring enrollment at NW

UPWARD TREND FOR NW ENROLLMENT

JILLIAN SIMON
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The spring semester is in full swing at Northwestern College. You may be seeing more students walking around campus this semester. This is because NW is having a record-setting spring semester.

Enrollment this semester is 1,482 students, increasing from 1,406 last spring. This is the highest spring enrollment the college has seen. Even with the decline in higher education enrollment across the United States, NW is still increasing its numbers. Not only do students love NW, but there have been additions to the school that are proving to draw more students.

Tamara Fynaardt, vice president for enrollment and marketing, believes this influx is due to the new addition of programs, specifically at the master’s level.

Fynaardt said, “The success of our graduate programs is the main driver of our enrollment success as well as the strong retention we experience from enrolling students who are a good fit and then delivering on our promise of a standout

campus experience.”

NW’s fall-to-spring retention rate for freshmen sits at 90.5%. This statistic shows that students who come to NW feel at home here.

NW is known for its community environment. Students Abby Noonan, Lawson Bruxvoort and Emily Erck, all mentioned how much they loved the community aspect of the college and the people on campus.

Transfer sophomore, Bruxvoort said, “I love the people I’ve meet. Everyone here has been so welcoming of me and I’ve really apricated that as I’ve started to adjust to a new school”.

Both Noonan and Erck said that their favorite part of NW is greeting people they know when walking to class. This is due to the small atmosphere and

friendliness of students.

Erck said, “Everyone here takes such a wholesome interest in your day-to-day life and wellbeing. I feel so loved... I have made some of the best friendships I have ever had here.”

Along with the community aspect, students also share they love the faith integration that NW promotes unapologetically.

Noonan said, “The faith integration in the classroom along with chapel and Sunday night worship were the biggest things that attracted me to NW.”

NW continues to create an encouraging community that draws students from across the nation. They continue to culture excellence and stand out in all areas of college life.



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Students enjoy Northwestern’s community atmosphere



February
22-27

-Spring Arrivals
-Food Samples
-Giveaway entry upon purchase



109 Central Ave NE Orange City
@shophollandhouse