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The Beacon, 2020-2021

The Beacon student newspaper

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# Unsung Heroes: Elizabeth Pitts

COMPASS CENTER  
DIRECTOR

**NOELLE PHILIPPI**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Northwestern has always taken great pride in the percentage of students who have found a job or made it into grad school six months after graduating, which currently sits at an impressive 99.5%. These numbers don't come easily. They are the result of the hard work of the employees in the Compass Center for Career and Calling, notably Dr. Elizabeth Pitts.

Pitts has been the director of the center for a little over a year, but her experience in Christian higher education stretches back much further. Her first job out of college was working in a career development office at a small Christian college in South Carolina.

Though she has not always worked as a career mentor, a few things haven't changed since her own college days.

"There were two things I knew leaving college, that I wanted to work with college students the rest of my life, and I wanted to work in a college campus setting," Pitts said.

On an average day, Pitts responds to meeting requests submitted by students through Handshake and connects those students with an available faculty member or Franken Fellow Tutor. She and the other employees help draft cover letters and resumes and connect students with internships and other opportunities. They host mock interviews and assist undecided students in finding an academic path.

The Franken Fellow program is something that Pitts pioneered, and she is proud of the impact they have had on over 100 students they have assisted. She also takes pride in how the Franken Fellows have developed in their own career journeys, as many of the candidates have used their experience in the CCCC to land impressive internships.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
Elizabeth Pitts poses in front of the Compass Center for Career & Calling.

Northwestern recently began a new "Adulting 101" series. Each installment in this informational

series is the work of a Franken Fellow. Each one chose a topic, then worked with Pitts to find speakers,

organize the content and publicize the event series.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# Celebrating Women's History Month

HIGHLIGHTING  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**VANESSA STOKES**  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

Nationally, March is celebrated as Women's History Month, dedicated to highlighted contributions by women. On Northwestern's campus, there are countless women in leadership as students and on staff who strive to be the best they can be and encourage others to do so as well.

One of Stegenga Hall's discipleship coordinators Kaarina Martilla is just that. As a member of Campus Ministry Team, Martilla connects with her peers weekly through d-groups and leading other d-group leaders in Steg. Martilla also leads through her position as a lab assistant.

"One big aspect of being a leader is being intentional: showing up and being there for people and actively loving and caring for

them," Martilla said. "Building other women up is a huge form of leadership."

Neftali Ramirez is co-president of La Mosaic and also serves as the Latina student liaison, a new position created from the need for Latinx voices in NW leadership and the surrounding community.

"All women can be leaders by supporting the women they see doing incredible things on campus," Ramirez said.

The vice president for student life Julie Elliott is a member of the President's Cabinet, the Strategic Planning Committee and advisor to the Women in Leadership club. She regularly attends student events. However, leadership to Elliott does not equate to the end goal of female empowerment.

"Our goal should be to live out our potential in the spaces where God has called us," Elliott said. "This will often result in leadership opportunities, but simply becoming a leader should not be our goal."



PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP  
(Left to right) Lydia Bader, Sarah Gelberg, and Celina Corrales are worship leaders.

Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser is an assistant professor of biblical and theological studies alongside

leading the Women in Ministry group. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and

is on a committee helping young people discern God's call in their life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## INSIDE

- 2 | Selena Gomez
- 3 | Senior Art Spotlight
- 4 | SSPs
- 5 | March Madness
- 7 | Track
- 8 | Todd Boote

## Selena's potential was danced away

MUSIC REVIEW

### LATIN AMERICAN BANDWAGON

MISAEEL BRUZZONE  
ECONOMICS

*Revelación* is the third EP, mini-album, by Selena Gomez, released a year after her sixth studio album. A more unusual product by Gomez, she strayed from her usual musical output to focus on more Latin inspired rhythms and influences. A standard example of what modern Reggaeton sounds like, *Revelación* feels like an attempt to cash in with the current trend of a rising popularity of Latin music in the global markets.

The last studio album released by Gomez, *Rare*, was received with mixed reviews to say the least. The synth-heavy pop songs did not seem to match up with what the public expected of her potential. Although she did sound more confident and had more musical creativity on her side, Gomez failed to leave a lasting impression and instead gave her audiences yet another pop album that was completely forgettable. With this background, it is hard to call the EP *Revelación* bold or brave, as a change in sound

was more than needed.

*Revelación* is an EP that does, however, challenge certain conventions. Although American artists have released songs or collaborations with Latin American artists, Gomez went a step further and released an entire collection of songs in Spanish with very few collaborations with other artists and only one song with some lyrics in English.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this EP is the fact that it is mostly in Spanish. Gomez sounds exactly like any other Latin artist, even including specific pronunciations of certain words that are synonymous with the genre. At times this comes across as forced and it seems like Gomez is trying too hard to sound like artists that are famous in the Reggaeton genre. But at least her delivery is confident in the language and there are no moments of linguistic inauthenticity.

Her lyrics on the other hand, leave a lot to be desired. Most if not all parts of the song are specifically about dancing and physical intimacy or wants. A very monotonous overall lyrical theme leads one to conclude that the EP is mostly intended to be danced to and not be thought about for too long. This trend in the

EP is aligned with what most of the genre chooses to sing about.

Instrumentally the EP fails to bring anything new or relevant to the table. Admittedly, some of the rhythms and instrumentals might sound new and exciting to American audiences yet they are nothing new to fans of the genre.

Musically, all the songs follow the same structure. A slow start until the well-known and often despised Reggaeton rhythm kicks in until the end of the track. There are no moments of musical brilliance or sonically impressive songs. There are some moments where guitars or synths can be heard accompanying the beat and Gomez's voice. Nonetheless, this is not enough to rescue the EP from a desperate sludge of subpar musical feel that fails to amount to anything pleasing or amusing.

Incorporating such sounds and influences has become a recent trend in the American music charts. Artists like Jennifer Lopez and Beyoncé have recorded songs in the same vein as *Revelación* and have received a welcome reception by fans and a lukewarm reception by critics. And of course, there was the



PHOTO COURTESY OF SELENAGOMEZ.COM

now dreaded Despacito remix featuring Justin Bieber. In light of her mostly disappointing sixth studio album, Gomez has now jumped on this train. One can hope she will do more than just imitate the genre in the future if she is to stay on these tracks.

*Revelación* deeply

struggles to become anything meaningful. Gomez's delivery is confident and melodic yet the often atrociously monotonous lyrics detract from any sort of message she might have intended to sing about. Instrumentally, the EP is similar to watching paint

to be more than just a cheap imitation of an already shallow and musically lacking genre. *Revelación* is a fun EP to dance to but it never reaches anything resembling a musical height.



## Chaos Walking: worst high budget movie?

MOVIE REVIEW

### LIMPS THROUGH THE PLOT

MADELYNN HARRE  
ENGLISH TEACHING

A new movie released on March 5 of this year titled *Chaos Walking* follows a boy named Todd Hewitt who lives in a future dystopian society on a new planet where all the women are gone, and the men's thoughts can be seen and heard around their heads. Then he meets Viola, the first woman he has ever seen and the only person who doesn't have the Noise. Todd goes against everything that he's taught to protect her and unlock the dark secrets held by those closest to him. This movie is based on the best-selling novel "The Knife of Never Letting Go" by Patrick Ness who also co-wrote the screenplay with Christopher Ford.

Despite this movie's star-studded cast that includes Tom Holland, Daisy Ridley, Mads Mikkelsen and Nick Jonas, this movie was horrible almost to the point of being comical. According to Rotten Tomatoes, the consensus

between all the critics was that "Chaos Walking sets out on a potentially interesting path, but this dystopian adventure badly bungles its premise and limps toward the finish."

Throughout the movie the audience is forced through a series of events that don't have any motivation or point to them at all. At first, we see Todd, played by Holland, as a vulnerable and immature boy who is trying to win the favor of the mayor of his town, David Prentiss. Once Ridley's character, Viola, crash lands on New World, the duo is forced on a seemingly pointless journey to contact Viola's ship, constantly pursued by Prentiss and his followers.

There were elements of the story that created huge plot holes as well. The explanation as to why the women in Hewitt's village were killed was flimsy and seemed like a last-ditch effort to create some tension that would have been missing otherwise. The men of Prentisstown, Hewitt's village, all explain that the women were all killed by the native species, the Spackle, who live on the planet. The Spackle is not the home-improvement

substance that creates a smooth surface, yet it felt like the director used them to fill in the cracks and holes of the plot but applied it with a hammer. The Spackle only show up in one short high intensity scene and then are completely forgotten with no other explanation regarding them.

Furthermore, there was an insane preacher character as an added form of tension with a constantly fluid loyalty and source of motivation. He began the movie as an ominous presence and that he could be helpful to Hewitt later in the movie. However, he moved on to be an ally with Prentiss, then morphed into a murderous psychopath pursuing Hewitt and Viola alone. He was driven to insanity so much he drowns a dog in cold blood. His motivations were unpredictable throughout the film leaving viewers confused.

The cinematography was one of the saving graces of this film. With only a few unconventional cuts in some scenes, the visual effects were stunning throughout. The Noise's visual effects surrounding the male

character's heads was beautifully sinister and realistically rendered. It did not distract the audience from the shallow story being told but enhanced the plot.

Despite the sad plotline and shallow screen play, the actors were phenomenal and gave compelling performances all around. Holland and Ridley carried the movie with their portrayals of Hewitt and Viola. Holland, with his background in the Marvel Universe, portrayed a sweet unassuming young man who grew into a dangerous one with ease throughout the course of the movie. Ridley's background in the Star Wars universe and other critically acclaimed films has developed her skills to be able to play formidable, sweet, but guarded characters. Both actors have extensive experience with visual effects created by CGI thus drawing the viewers into the movie despite its shortcomings.

I would not wish this movie upon anyone as it didn't resolve any loose ends created in the plot and leaves the viewers confused and angry as they exit the theater.

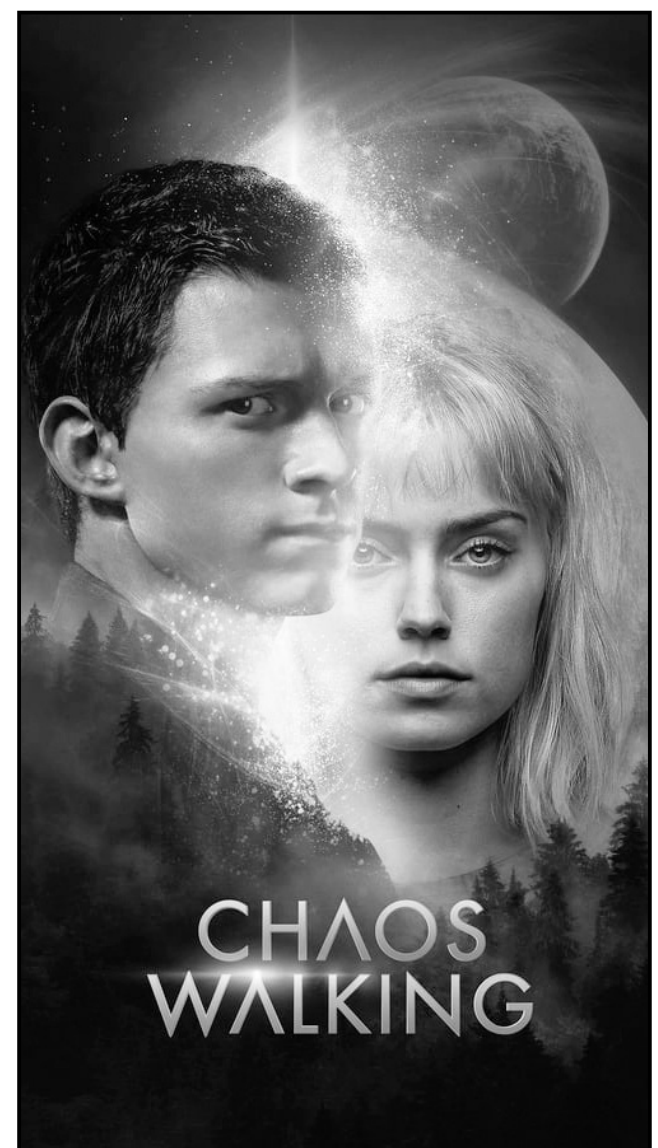


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE



## Themes of memories, hope and truth

### A SECOND CHANCE

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

Piper Williams is one of these students, but he is a particularly unique student with a wonderful creative journey.

Art has played a “prominent role” in Williams’ life since he was a child. For example, he specifically remembers being “engrossed by tempera paints” as a kid.

“My parents like to recall a time—shortly before a move,” he said. “when I painted a plethora of stylized interpretations of Noah’s Ark on many of the moving boxes. The movers were amused by the mobile gallery.”

As Williams got older, he became interested in photography as opposed to painting and drawing. He fondly remembers using a purple and teal Vivitar

camera every chance he had.

“I ‘booked’ photo sessions with my toys, the house plants, my older brother and occasionally persuaded my parents to sit for me,” he said. “From capturing images to processing film, I was fascinated with the whole process and couldn’t get enough.”

This love of photography would lead Williams to pursuing a degree in photography at Andrews University in Michigan in 2002. However, eventually he dropped out due in part to what he says was a “lack of career vision.” Since then, Williams has continued to use and foster his creative talents while also working in education. For example, currently Williams works as a para educator.

After fifteen years, Williams decided to go back to school to finish his education. He explains that the decision was a bit daunting, not because of doubts about studying

art, as many humanities students have but more of going back to school after so much time.

However, he said, “This time I had a clear vision, and having worked as a para educator, I had found a way to do art in a satisfying career.”

So, Williams began to study art at Northwestern—a natural fit as his wife is Dr. Emily Grace, professor of physics. Currently, Williams is a nontraditional Northwestern student who balances school, two jobs, and his family.

Williams has greatly enjoyed his education and time at Northwestern. Ceramics, painting and printmaking have been some of the most valuable classes he has taken so far, and he is very grateful for the instruction of his professors.

“Professor Stokes and Professor Shin have invested a great deal in me and my art,” he said. “In addition, Dr. Kensak

mentored me into academic writing while in his Lit class.”

As all Northwestern students know, however, often our fondest college memories are outside of the classroom. Williams is no exception and happily remembers having an impromptu movie night with friends and watching the movie *Heavy Trip* about a Finish heavy metal band.

Of the pieces he has made at Northwestern, two stick out the most to Williams. The first is a ceramic decorative dish with diamond cut outs and tan, blue and brown glazing. The second is an ink, charcoal and watercolor piece built on two 9” x 12” panels titled “I’m Still Here.”

As for the focus and overall style of William’s art, he explains that “as I have developed as an artist, medium is less important than the themes I chose to work with.” Williams frequently finds inspiration



PHOTO BY SUBMITTED  
Williams will remember his time with friends fondly.

from a variety of sources of the twentieth century, and themes. He states that his experiences of being a father, hope and truth. “greatest muse,” but he also draws from the first half

## RUSH 2021 showcases NW student resilience

### STUNNING LIGHTS AND CHOREOGRAPHY

VANESSA STOKES  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

The anticipation, excitement, adrenaline and excellence of RUSH kept captive the attention of the audience during every dance. Northwestern students participated in many different dances to showcase skill and entertain campus. In order to better handle COVID-19 cautions, there were videos intermixed with the live dances.

RUSH 2020 was abruptly ended before it could showcase. However, they did videotaped many of the 2020 dances. In a moment of brilliance, the RUSH managers decided to include the RUSH 2020 video dances alongside RUSH 2021 live dances. This decision did not in any way degrade the production. Upperclassmen students were able to see graduated peers and the shows had people happily hollering at the projected

dancers as if they were live.

Dance styles included hip hop, lyrical, modern, tap and interpretive. It had groups ranging from two to twelve dancers. The one outstanding difference from last year to this was the tech work put in by lighting designers and stage manager, Sierra Tumbleson. With an entirely new wall to wall projection system, the images were sharp and showed that there was little use of lighting of color or background in the 2020 show. There was not one in-person dance that did not use light colors, light patterns, fog, background, spotlight or strobe lights to accompany their pieces.

Amie Uithoven and Moriah Wittenberg’s piece “Brother” involved ten dancers painting a raw picture of a friendship that endures time and distance, joys and hardships. The line, “And when you’re in the trenches / And you’re under fire, I’ll cover you” was emphasized by camo light patterns from above that colored the stage floor.

Lisa Li and Riley Rasmussen’s “Hip Hop”

was backlit by strobe lights and rotating images that highlighted the tutting and flips. The entire piece had the crowd wanting to dance along. Instead, they all just whooped and hollered from their seats.

Angela Wintering’s “Rolling Stones” included choreography from American Sign Language in the moves and patterns. The contrast of darkness and light, death and life improved to be a very powerful show.

Then came “People’s Faces” choreographed by Kiley Meeder and Jessica Rogers. The spoken word of Kate Tempest was magnified in the dance moves the choreographers chose. The poetry spoke into this past year’s situation, and our world’s future saying, “There are no new beginnings / Until everybody sees that the old ways need to end.” The piece relied on Tempest’s words alone to impact its audience with no extra lighting.

Allison Wheeler’s “Survivor” was RUSH 2021’s last dance. It roared that this year the campus, community, country and world would not stop no matter the circumstances.

Each dancer had flashlights on their wrists that shone a message of hope and resilience. Fog, strobeflights, and colored lighting assisted in its mission. The crowd’s uproar at the end assured the dancers that their message was received, loud and clear.

“We are not just celebrating dance moves,” said the voiceover at the RUSH competition. “We are celebrating hard work. Together.” Though each choreographer chooses what they wish to showcase without a set theme, each chose a dance with the dance undertone of resilience. They tell the stories of this past year’s collective impact. It was a free place to express the pain, triumph, oppression and hope found.

“RUSH is a place where you can express yourself without being judged,” said Becky Donahue, RUSH producer. “It is a place where you can tell stories and have a voice. It is a place where we can support one another no matter what.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC THEATRE  
Stage manager, Sierra Tumbleson beautifully paired lights and movement.

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## SSP participants tell their stories

### SPRING SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

**DANICA BANG**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

During Northwestern's spring break, approximately 125 students were able to travel to ministry sites across the U.S. to serve in various Spring Service Partnerships.

With COVID-19 concerns and restrictions, there was potential for this year to look different for participants. Regardless, this year's trips were concluded successful by a number of accounts.

At many ministry sites, service consisted of cleaning, painting and sorting to assist in the upkeep and functionality of facilities or to serve members of the community. Some teams also had opportunities to work with youth in street camps or after school programs.

In Waco, Texas, kids at a local apartment complex were excited to play outside with new friends from Iowa. Natalie Wheeler, faculty advisor of the Waco team, shared how one young girl was thrilled to return for a second day of street camp after they taught her the song "My God" by Go Fish.

"The next day after we did that, she just kept asking, 'Can we do the Jesus song? Are we going to do the Jesus song?'" Wheeler said.

Teams were also educated on various challenges that their partnered organizations face.

Opelousas, Louisiana team leader Colin Kaemingk reflected on what he learned from a director at Hope for Opelousas who said, "Everyone has wealth... The question is how do you use your wealth for the community you're in?"

Kaemingk explains that this was a big takeaway for his team as they learned about racial reconciliation and poverty.

Individuals even saw personal growth as a result of their SSP experience.

"I prayed before the trip that my heart would be changed and that my eyes would be opened," Denver participant Alyssa Feely said.

She explains that through hearing the stories of the people they partnered with, she walked away with a different perspective on the world and homelessness, as that is a focal point of Denver Rescue Mission.

Paige Ginger also found spiritual growth during her first SSP experience in New Orleans, Louisiana. Struggling with trust, it was a challenge for Ginger to participate in a trust fall activity with her team. The Lord, however, allowed her to become more vulnerable with her team members and



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
Students who went to Kansas City for their Spring Service Partnership raked leaves.

break down those walls and complete the activity.

"God just wants me to trust Him more," Ginger said, "and He used that experience to show me that."

While many students have stories to share of their time on site, others had a much different SSP experience. Wheeler's team to Waco departed with 15 members, but after arriving in Kansas

City, two were sent back to campus after being exposed to COVID-19.

"The two others were still willing to video call in for debriefing and stories every night," Wheeler said. "They still wanted to get to know their team members."

This development of a team bond was common among SSP teams. Feeley explains that her team developed a

family tree throughout the week, deeming their faculty advisor Dr. Chris Nonhof their "spiritual guru."

Ginger explains that her team was able to connect well at the beginning of the week. On one of their first nights, the team came together for an unplanned night of worship with guitars and a garbage can drum.

"It was so beautiful to see

us all worshipping together," Ginger said. "I don't think I could have asked for a better group."

Although some students are unable to participate in future SSPs due to spring schedules or finishing their time at NW, many hope to participate again.

"A lot of people told me they regretted not doing one their freshman year," said Feeley. "I'm very glad I went."

## Celebrating Women's History Month

FROM PAGE 1

"Leadership is about listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit to step more fully into the person that God is calling you to be," Kaltwasser said.

As resident director of the campus apartments, director of the Koinonia House and assistant director of Student Activities Council, Lindsay Hubbell is also a role model for women on campus. She encourages the students in the Koinonia House to embody leadership daily.

"The core of leadership is intentionality," Hubbell said. "Intentionality in your conversations. Intentionality in your vision. Intentionality with your service."

Female leadership is necessary on campus because representation matters, which is a founding principle in Women's History Month.

"I would say that we need to keep this tradition of strong women leaders alive, for the sake of both men and women on our campus," Kaltwasser said. "Women need to see that God asks more of us than to be nurturing and compassionate, that God has and continues to call women to take courage and speak truth in difficult situations, to lead by example."

Already, women's leadership has made an impact on campus. The President's Cabinet over time has become more diverse when it comes to gender. There was a time

when Elliott was the only woman on the cabinet. Today there are three. The topic is so important that there will be an Ngage in April on gender equality. The new Koinonia House was installed for this specific purpose: to foster leaders. However, this cannot be a one-sided conversation.

"My wish is that I would see more men participate and stand alongside the female leadership on campus," Ramirez said. "Time and time again I see women taking advantage of opportunities on campus for learning apart from classes, but I see low male attendance."

Leadership does not have to mean being president of a club, college or country. Sometimes it simply means being a light for others because lighting



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Professor Kaltwasser is a part of the Biblical and Theological Studies Department.

someone else's candle does not diminish your flame.

As Hubbell said, "Leadership does not

require you to have a title but an attitude."

## The return of March Madness

### ENDLESS BRACKETS

**JORDAN DESMET**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

One year ago, the entire world was turned upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the virus made its way to the United States, almost every public place in the country was forced to close its doors, including Northwestern. Unfortunately, sporting events were also one of the many victims of the pandemic.

During a two-day span in March, the NBA and NHL suspended their seasons, the MLB put a stop to Spring Training, the 2020 Olympics were postponed and the NCAA basketball tournaments for both the men and women were cancelled. However, the 2021 NCAA Division I basketball tournament signifies a return to normal. For the first time since 2019, NW students and faculty can finally get excited about the madness the tournament brings.

The college basketball fans on campus have been eagerly waiting for the return of March Madness since its cancellation last spring. The supporters of other leagues received closure because the NBA, NHL and MLB each picked up their seasons

a few months later and crowned a champion. However, fans of the NCAA did not receive this luxury. Now, students can experience the dramatic upsets, come-from-behind victories and Cinderella stories that “The Big Dance” produces every year.

“I was disappointed to not watch the NCAA tournament last year. It brings a lot to the sports world,” freshman sport management major Brandon Lampi said. “It is inspiring to see low seeds achieve huge upsets, so I am glad we can potentially see that this year.”

If someone were to take a walk through one of the living spaces on campus during March Madness, it would not be surprising to see students talking about their broken bracket or huddled around a television in a small dorm room to see the last seconds of a tight contest.

“The discussion on campus is almost always focused on March Madness,” senior Hospers Hall resident assistant Colin Kaemingk said. “I do not think I can get through a single conversation with a guy on the floor without hearing about an upset or how their bracket is broken.”

After noticing the notoriety of the tournament among its students, NW’s staff decided to host a campus-wide bracket challenge, and it has proven



PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP  
Students in North Suites have created a bracket wall for this year’s March Madness.

to be a great source of enjoyment and competition for students and faculty.

“It’s been popular,” director of student programs and first-year experience Aaron Beadner said. “We average close to 250 entries every year.”

NW can finally participate in a bracket competition that has been a tradition since 2012 after sticking together and pulling through the difficulties the pandemic has brought over the past year. To enter, students

and faculty had to submit their picks to a pool specifically for members of NW on the website of CBS Sports. Prizes will be given out to the first through 10th place finishers, with the top prize being a \$50 gift card to Roadhouse. By the time the deadline rolled around, 316 brackets had been filled out.

As of March 25, Trey Harms and Ana DeKruyter were tied for first in the campus wide pool. Harms has the Baylor Bears earning the victory,

and DeKruyter picked the Iowa Hawkeyes, but the Big 10 team lost in the second round to Oregon.

Unfortunately, no bracket submitted to NW is perfect thanks to multiple unexpected first and second round upsets. However, this is not uncommon for the NCAA tournament, and it is part of the reason why it has been dubbed “March Madness.”

## Unsung Hero: Pitts

FROM PAGE 1

Since last summer, Pitts has been the driving force behind a full remodel of the center’s website. By this summer, she aims to have completed the redesign. The new site will include an easy access “toolkit,” 12 career guides, written by Pitts herself. The guides will cover a variety of important pieces of career development, like how to write a standout resume or cover letter.

Directing the CCCC also comes with challenges. Many students in last year’s graduating class were forced to cut study abroad experiences short, had job

offers rescinded or internship opportunities cancelled as a result of COVID-19. This did not stop Pitts and her team. They quickly worked to set students up with alternate opportunities and ended up maintaining their stellar post-graduate placement rates.

Pitts is an advocate for starting your post-graduation preparation early. The professional world is full of opportunities, but according to Pitts, many great companies are now looking for candidates who have already completed an internship experience. Pitts, along with the rest of the CCCC, welcome any student to stop by and get their professional portfolio started,

which includes a resume, cover letter, reference sheet, and Handshake and LinkedIn accounts.

As a sophomore, Micah Van Kalsbeek started her preparation for post-graduation early, hoping to have the right resources to land an internship.

“I’m basically a grown-up now,” Van Kalsbeek said after receiving her padfolio.

Pitts finds joy and motivation in the success stories of NW students.

Pitts said, “When students send you that email and tell you ‘I just got the internship!’ or ‘I just got an offer!’ that’s why we do what we do.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Elizabeth Pitts and her family outside of Blue Bunny Ice Cream in LeMars, IA.



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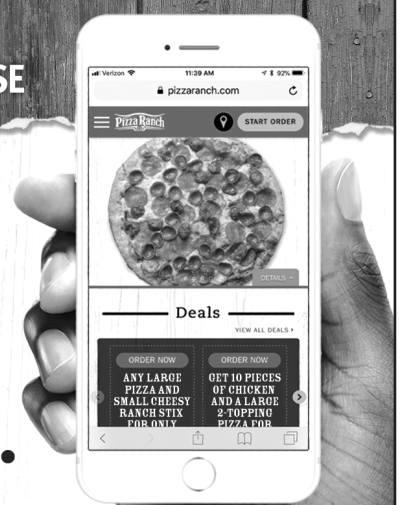
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## WOULD YOU RATHER?

(As voted on by you, the students)

Would you rather fill out a March Madness by...

**Ability**

30%

OR

**Mascot/team color**

70%

Would you rather...

**Be in RUSH**

28%

OR

**Watch RUSH**

72%

Would you rather eat Chef Stacy's...

**Chinese**

52%

OR

**Italian**

48%

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

# We need to listen to women



**Colin Kaemingk**  
History

Within the recent few weeks, there has been a major headline that has dominated the recent news cycle. It has involved Governor Andrew Cuomo, who right now is engaged in a fury of allegations which state that he was involved in sexual harassment within his workplace. As of the writing of this article, seven women have come forward, and it's likely that more will come. Their claims have been shocking and really have put into question Cuomo's leadership and character.

Governor Cuomo, of course, has denied these claims as false, and has stated that this is all just a representation of 'cancel culture.' But is this really a fair thing for him to claim?

With so much evidence and so many women coming forward, he's being indignant and not standing down. I understand the idea of defending one's name through the trial of law, but the evidence seems to be mounting. And I think this microcosm of a story plays into a larger problem within our workplaces and our society as a whole. The problem of when sexual harassment or violence occurs against a woman, the narrative for so long has been to stick head in the sand or denounce it as ad hominem or 'cancel culture.'

However, the reality is that this narrative of not believing women is a safety epidemic overall, as numbers state. From a study conducted from 2012 to 2016 by UMass looking at harassment claims, found that about five million people on average per year are harassed at work, and on average there was only just under 10,000 harassments reported. That means that on average, 99.8% of harassment goes unreported in the workplace. Now, we might look at those numbers and wonder why people don't just report more often. The answer is retaliation. The study also found

that 64% of sexual harassments often lead to job loss as a retaliation for the claim. And the problem is that women are disproportionately affected by this problem within the workplace, being affected by sexual harassment a lot more than men. And women don't want to report, because reporting can most likely lead to a loss of job security.

Further on, it's noted that only about 1,500 of those 10,000 claims actually end up making it to court. There have been movements like #MeToo which have pushed to bring more light to this issue and have succeeded. But of course, there has been pushback upon these movements, with people considering it too feminist or overbearing. The fact is that there is a real epidemic within American workplaces, and the reality is that we all probably have at least one friend who have experienced this problem within their lives. So, the point is that we need to be more receptive to those who bring to the front their accusations, because if we keep allowing people to cry 'cancel culture,' or if we remain ignorant, we are allowing this system of oppression to actively continue, and that is a damning thing.

# Why every family should foster



**Kaelin Alons**  
Public Relations

Let's be honest here, the foster care system is a hot mess. Recertifications, endless paperwork, weekly family visits, background checks, classes, disruptions of regular life, etc., the foster care system has caused serious headaches on more than one occasion. Not only that, foster care horror stories from the kids are more than enough to make anyone stay far away.

So why do I think every family should willingly walk into the hellfire that is the American foster care system?

First, I believe that as Christians, we are called to love the least of these. I don't know about you, but I can't think of anyone more least than a child without a safe place to call home, a child who may never stand a chance of experiencing the love we all seek from a mother or father figure.

Second, I believe we can change

our broken foster care system one family at a time. As Christians, we also take part in God's redeeming work in the world. As a foster family, we can reform the system from the inside by being a positive influence to every kid that passes through our house. As a member of the community, we can advocate for a better system: one that's safer for kids, works better with their parents so they can be reunited as a healthy family and is well-funded so every kid has their best shot at escaping the cycle of broken relationships.

Third, for those of us who claim to be "pro-life," we need to be pro ALL life. It's easy to call for an end to abortion; it's a lot harder to set up an adoption and foster care system that will take care of children born to families who cannot take good care of them. Being a foster family is a way you can "buy in" to being pro ALL life. For people who can't see themselves fostering, you can still be pro ALL life by contributing to a fund to help people adopt kids, advocating for local adoptions, being a support system for foster families in your area, and encouraging your kids or loved ones to befriend those kids. By taking these steps to make these kids and their families feel welcomed, you provide them with a community built on love for them

to lean on when times get tough.

Finally, I'd like to end with how my family and I have been positively impacted by the foster care system. I didn't always advocate so strongly for foster care, but it all changed when our family welcomed our first foster boy, Leo, in August of 2019. Now, I won't pretend it was all sunshine and rainbows; the first few months were a constant struggle. Among other things, Leo had night terror and sensory issues. But, we got to watch him grow and become mentally, physically and spiritually healthy as a result of the love we showed him. The night terrors are much less frequent now, and he doesn't mind getting dirty. Most importantly, Leo closes our family dinners in prayer almost every night.

Being a foster family helped us expose Leo to God's love in a way he may not have had otherwise. With the adoption of Leo on December 21, 2020, I am certain that Leo will grow up knowing God's love through how we love him. Fostering him was never an easy task, and it's not for the faint of heart. But trust me on this: if you stick with it, you will be blessed as you bless others. As more Christians enter the system as foster families, we will see positive, love-filled change that will benefit so many kids.

### Editor's Note

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## NW track and field indoor national championship

### GILBERT SHINES IN NATIONALS

**CLARA PAHL**  
MATHEMATICS

Three weeks ago, the men's track and field team competed at the Indoor National Championship in Yankton, South Dakota, showcasing their talent in five events: the 600-meter run, mile, the distance medley relay, long jump and triple jump.

Sophomore James Gilbert Jr. placed second in the long jump. Senior, Joshua Van Dusseldorp placed 11th in the 600-meter run. Senior, Dylan Hendricks placed 11th in the mile. Freshman Wyatt Pryor, senior Nick Bernhagen and juniors Ian Wiersma and Van Dusseldorp raced together for the first time in the distance medley relay at nationals.

"It was a great learning

experience for our men. They represented Northwestern College well," head coach Scott Bahrke said.

But one athlete stood out from the crowd: Gilbert, a long and triple jumper.

After beginning his jumping journey in basketball shoes and enduring an uneven path to college, Gilbert found his place at NW.

During his freshman season, he jumped a foot further than he did at his first meet and became an Indoor All-American.

That wasn't the end. One year and thirty inches later, Gilbert was once again named All-American. He annihilated his previous record and made his mark at 24 feet and 9 inches.

James is committed to a long career in track—not as an athlete who goes through the motions, but one who is remembered.

Proving this dedication at the

Indoor National Championship, James placed second in the long jump and earned his third All-American honor in dramatic fashion.

"James came up clutch in his final long jump attempt—he went from fourth place to second place in the nation," Bahrke said.

Gilbert is confident about his goals for the outdoor season,

"I've proved to everyone I can hang with the best. Now it's time to work on technique, so I can surpass my expectations."

Jumps and hurdles coach, Tim Vander Ploeg, has walked alongside Gilbert and witnessed his All-American leap at the indoor championship. He expressed his excitement for James' success and looks forward to the outdoor season.

"[My desire is to help my jumpers] improve in their events and reach their goals." coach Vander Ploeg said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
James Gibrert Jr. places second in long jump, receiving All-American title.

## Raiders basketball national tournament

### BOTH SEASONS COME TO AN END

**JILLIAN SIMON**  
CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH MIN

The Raider basketball teams closed their 2020-21 season at the national tournament. Both the men and women teams had a strong end to their season but did not finish with the result they were hoping for.

The women's team started their season 0-6 but were able to conclude the season with an 18-11 overall record.

"Starting 0-6 was not ideal. A wise man once told me that it doesn't matter how you start, but rather how

you finish," freshman Molly Schany said.

The women's team, coached by Chris Yaw, saw their season come to end after a 95-82 loss to number eight seed, Clarke University. Finishing a close first half holding a 43-40 lead, the Raiders were optimistic going into the second half. In the third quarter the Pride took the lead with a 14-2 run for which the Raiders had no response. After a hard-fought game, the Northwestern women saw their season close.

The men's team, under leadership of Coach Kris Korver, ended their season 23-6 after a 13-game

win streak. Due to this outstanding season the Raider team not only win the GPAC tournament but was able to gain an automatic bid into the national tournament.

"It was good just to get validation of all of our hard work that we had put in before and during the season," senior Craig Sterk said.

The NW men's team had quite the rally in the final minutes of their last game. Down by 14 with nine minutes left, the Raiders were able to gain momentum to shorten Bethel's lead by one. Bethel responded by scoring the next six points.

The Raiders were not able to gain the lead despite their efforts.

"We needed to get that lead. Had we done that – it likely would have changed the entire complexion of that game," Coach Korver said.

Both teams have been motivated by the experience of the tournament. Although the men's team is graduating six seniors and the women one, due to COVID-19, seniors will have the opportunity to come back for another season if they so choose. Regardless, both teams have key players returning and hope to make it even further in the seasons to come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
Jay Smalls helped the Raiders with an exceptional season.

## NW softball takes on Jamestown in double-header

### 1-1 END TO THE DAY

**BREANNA CARR**  
ENGLISH TEACHING

The Red Raider softball team went head-to-head against the University of Jamestown in a doubleheader match at home on Saturday, March 20.

Game one ended in an 8-3 loss for the Raiders. Jamestown earned the first five runs of the game in the first inning. This move caused Northwestern to have to play from behind early on in the game. Three Jamestown players led these five runs with

Santina Zito earning a bases loaded walk, Sydney Prussia hitting a double for two runs and Gracie Fisher adding a run to the score with a single.

In the second inning, both Jamestown and NW scored two more runs each, with junior infielder, Emily Strasser hitting the first of her two home runs in the bottom of the second. With Strasser's home run, junior Jordyn Kramer was able to score as well. Strasser would go on to hit another solo home run in the fourth inning, putting the Raiders within four points of the Jimmies. Jamestown's unearned

run in the seventh inning completed the score for game one. After a hard-fought battle, the Raiders were ready to fight back in their second game.

Game two ended in a 7-3 win for the Raiders. In the first two innings, NW pushed the first four runs of the game. Junior infielder, Jennifer Boeve, led the scoring in the first inning when she scored after stealing a base. Boeve continued to hit a runner batted in (RBI) groundout in the following inning.

Two errors by Jamestown errors led the Raiders to three more runs. The third and fourth

innings ended in no runs being scored by either team. Both NW and Jamestown earned one run each in the fifth inning. Boeve led the Raiders with her double base hit. Jamestown made another error that gave Boeve a chance to score which she did not pass up.

The sixth inning was tough for Jamestown as they were unable to score a run. The Raiders scored their final run during the sixth inning. Jamestown ended the night with two RBI singles during the seventh inning. Raiders ended the game with a 7-3 win over the Jimmies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
Emily Strasser leads the Raiders with two homeruns for the season.



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# Business leader in residence hired

**TODD BOOTE**  
HIRED TO FILL NEW ROLE

**BREANNA CARR**  
ENGLISH TEACHING

New to campus this year is the Center for Innovation and Leadership, a place to create opportunities for organizational leaders to serve Christ's kingdom and the community. With the new center, a new position opened up: Business Leader in Residence which is filled by Todd Boote from Lester, Iowa.

Boote has a long history of leadership and banking. For two and a half years, Boote has been with Peoples Bank as the Leadership Development Officer. This role involves many aspects, but it allows Boote to work with members from all nine locations of Peoples Bank.

Boote has a lot of experience outside of the banking industry. Boote has worked with Mindset LLC to impact business management; as a discipleship trainer, coach and board member with Primary Ministries; personal trainer at CPM Fitness; assisted several businesses and nonprofit ministries; and is a founding partner and director of business development of Bion Companies.

Boote currently resides in Lester, Iowa, but he said, "I worked in Sioux Falls for about 20 years, where I was able to build some relationships with many great people. I have been praying for an opportunity to build some relationships in Northwest Iowa."

Erica Vonk, Director of the Center for Innovation and Leadership as well as Instructor of Business and Economics, informed Boote of such an opportunity at the Center for Innovation and Leadership.

Boote said, "I was excited when she extended the offer to me to be involved."

After being asked about the new position, Vonk said, "The goal in creating this position was to bring experienced and emerging leaders together both in



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

Coming from a background in business, Todd Boote was a qualified candidate for the new position.

the classroom and the community."

Vonk also mentioned that Boote will spend time on campus in VPH 113. It is only a few hours each week, but during that time Boote is available for discussions as well as leadership mentoring.

Vonk said, "Todd is also assisting the Center in the development of some of our new ideas that are coming soon!"

In this new position, Boote will be speaking in classes, conducting training with organizations and being involved with the leadership development program Accelerate Siouxland.

Boote will also participate in Innovation Sandbox, is a campus laboratory that allows students as well as organizational leaders to engage in problem-solving, collaborative brainstorming and inventing.

There will be an Innovation Sandbox with Boote and Peoples Bank on Wednesday, April 7 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Students must pre-register in order to attend, but students will be able to get to know Boote and be eligible for three prizes.

Vonk said that having Boote onboard has been great this semester since he brings energy and a fresh, off-campus perspective.

# Bultman Center renovation

**BULTMAN IS SET TO BE REMODELED IN APRIL**

**JORDAN DESMET**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

This spring, the Bultman Center will receive an extensive renovation. The project is set to begin on April 25, and Northwestern staff expects the first phase to be finished by the time fall sports start in August. According to NW's vice president for athletics Dr. Micah Parker, the upgrade is necessary because the college needs to catch up to the growth and changes it has experienced in recent years.

"The floors and bleachers are 26 years old and in need of replacement," said Parker. "The Bultman Center was built for 300 athletes, and we have 530 now. It also does not have our new school colors, logo and brand displayed."

One feature that does not display NW's new school colors and logo is the gym floor. Parker plans to make its replacement the top priority.

To display the current school colors, the gym floor will also be repainted with a lighter shade of red, and the new bleachers will adorn the same color. Parker also plans to add graphics throughout the building

that portray the recently developed athletic logo.

Another reason for the renovation is to cater to the needs of spectators to improve the overall viewing experience.

Other future changes to the Bultman Center include replacing the lighting and front doors, adding air conditioning and a video scorer's table, fixing the roof in the lobby and providing better handicapped access.

"One of the goals with renovating the facility is to provide a friendly space for students and the community to be proud of," said Parker. "I want spectators to say 'wow!' once the Bultman Center is completed."

The recently announced updates to the Bultman Center have also garnered excitement from some of

NW's student athletes. Current athletes will see sections of the Bultman Center upgraded for the first time since its construction in 1995.

"I am very excited about playing in the renovated Bultman," said freshman basketball player Christian Heilbuth. "I have never been a big fan of its current condition, and I am very happy they are updating it."

Heilbuth also believes that the renovations to the Bultman Center have the potential to make the facility stand out from other gyms in the area.

"Out of all the gyms we played in this year, I would say the Bultman is average at best," said Heilbuth. "However, I think the renovations will make it one of the best in the conference."

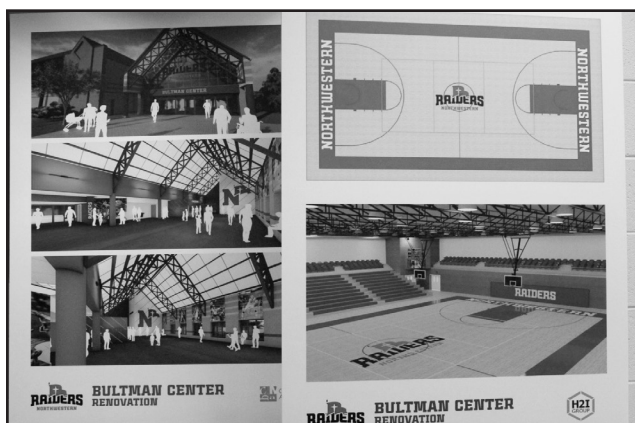


PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP

Bultman Center renovation intends to restore sense of pride.



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