OC natives reflect on life at NW

STUDENTS SHARE PERSPECTIVE ON ATTENDING SCHOOL CLOSE TO HOME

RACHEL SMART
ENGLISH TEACHING

In a college town, it is common for high school students to avoid their local university or college like the plague, and Orange City is no different. Some Orange City natives never imagined attending college in their hometown, yet, to their surprise, found themselves called to stay. For each Orange City resident who finds themselves at NW, it’s a different experience.

For some local students, NW played a huge role in their childhood, while for others it played little to none. Sophomore Vanessa Stokes recounts attending countless theater productions, trick or treating in the dorms and playing “Guitar Hero” at the AV Christmas parties. “My whole life has kind of been centered around Northwestern,” Stokes said.

In contrast, because of her family’s extensive history with Dordt College, junior Lexi Van Surksum said NW was barely a part of her life until high school when her mom started working here. No matter how much of an impact NW had on their childhood, many students from Orange City did not plan on coming to NW.

“I always said that after high school I would leave Northwest Iowa and not look back,” Van Surksum said. “There’s something about Northwestern that changed my mind. The students and my professors play a big part of that.”

Stokes adored NW’s amazing faculty, the dorm life of Fern-Smith Hall and fellow Orange City resident and junior Lauren Weber loved the idea of going to a school in a “familiar place with familiar faces” during a time in her life of so much change.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Campus considers adding E-sports

ATHLETIC DEPT WEIGHTS PROS AND CONS

MATT SCOTT
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Northwestern has recently considered adding a number of sports to the current lineup, including men’s volleyball, bowling and lacrosse. What most students may not realize is that NW has also been considering adding E-sports.

For those who have been staying up-to-date with the E-sports scene, this is to be expected. Professional video game leagues have been gaining popularity throughout the last couple of years. “Rocket League,” a game best described as 3-on-3 soccer played by rocket-powered cars, held its world championships last weekend with a $1 million prize pot.

Meanwhile, League of Legends’ recent world championship had a $2.25 million prize pot and, according to esc.watch, averaged 46.7 million worldwide viewers. To put this statistic into perspective, there were 103.4 million U.S. viewers for the 2018 Super Bowl, according to statista.com. With the growing popularity of professional E-sports, it is no surprise colleges have been adding it as a varsity sport.

The games NW is considering as possible options are “League of Legends,” “Hearthstone,” “Smite,” “Paladins” and “Overwatch.” According to Earl Woudstra, NW’s athletic director, “League of Legends” and “Hearthstone” would have spring seasons while the rest of the games would be fall sports. “League of Legends” is the most popular professional and collegiate E-sport.

According to ESPN.com, there were 36 NAIA schools offering E-sports as a varsity sport in March of this year, and that number has only grown. Despite the adoption of E-sports by other schools, NW does have some serious concerns.

When asked about the unique obstacles created by E-sports, Woudstra commented, “The most common questions that have been raised have related to the violent nature of some video games, objectification of women and potential for addictive behavior.”

Unfortunately, the majority of video games do seem to contain violence and the objectification of women. Of the five games NW is considering, “Hearthstone” is the only one that could be considered non-violent. “Hearthstone” is essentially an online card game where the user can customize his or her deck and then battle other players, similar to an online version of the card game “Yu-Gi-Oh.”

While a card game may seem harmless, some cards depict violent images and a few cards contain images that objectify female characters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
**MOVIE REVIEW**

**“Mid90s” produces nostalgia**

**SUCCESS FROM AUTHENTICITY**

**BRANT VERMEER**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Film has an enormous potential to connect with its audience in a vast array of ways. When done correctly, film can inspire empathy, transport audiences to a new world, and evoke strong emotions. In “Mid90s,” director Jonah Hill succeeds in bringing audiences into the world of the 1990s.

Immediately striking is the attention to detail brought by Hill in creating this film. Every precaution was taken to ensure that nothing on screen would betray the atmosphere cultivated. Everything, including the clothes, logos and even the garbage on screen is period-appropriate for the film. This is crucial because one of the greatest successes of the film is that it portrays a distinct culture during a finite time. The story of “Mid90s” follows a young boy played by Sunny Suljic. Suljic’s performance is outstanding, especially for an actor of his age. The cast is bolstered with the appearance of Lucas Hedges as the main character’s abusive older brother. The plot follows a young boy as he seeks an escape from his unstable life at home. He then finds a group of skateboarders that accept him.

The actors cast as these skaters feel authentic because they are skaters first and actors second, which does not detract from their performances but helps them to be especially realistic. Overall, the film’s greatest strength is its commitment to authenticity. From the obsessive attention to detail to the casting of real skateboarders, “Mid90s” is committed to building a world for its audience to enjoy. Within this world, audiences will find plenty of experiences to relate to. The film masterfully captures distinct feelings from childhood. Hill’s characters struggle with relational conflicts between siblings, desiring to be like the older, cooler kids and longing to fit in with a group. These themes are conveyed throughout the larger plot of the story but are also emphasized in smaller scenes in between. The film succeeds in portraying the larger coming of age narrative but also tells smaller stories that many audience members will relate to throughout.

The film succeeds in conveying a specific story that very well could have happened in the ‘90s, but it also tells a story with elements that have likely happened to each one of us. Its success is that it conveys something that is at once specific and universal. For all its successes, the film is not perfect. At the beginning of this piece, film has an enormous potential to connect with audiences in a variety of ways. While it is obvious that the film succeeds in creating a world and teleporting its audience there, the film could have done more to present a grander thematic idea to its audience. This lack of driving idea does not detract from the overall experience, but it is a missed opportunity that could have caused the film to be even greater.

In Hill’s directorial debut, it is clear that he has a deep passion for the subject matter he seeks to portray. This shines through in his attention to detail, casting choices and even the language used throughout the film. These factors culminate in a movie that succeeds in authentically portraying a specific moment in history, while at the same time giving audiences something that they will be able to relate to.

**LYRICS RELATABLE, SOUND FRESH**

**LIZZY JOHNSTON**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Jon Bellion has finally released his fifth album this past week, making the world a little better. The album Glory Sound Prep has come two years after his previous album The Human Condition.

Most people know Bellion from his hit single “All Time Low,” a single which catapulted him to fame and put him into the music spotlight. Fame is the overarching theme in Bellion’s new album, but not for the reason one would expect — he wants to get away from it.

In almost every track, Bellion mentions fame in some way. He sings about wanting to run from the spotlight, the stress of always having the public eye, his journey to fame, trying to stay humble and not letting fame change or control him. He’s happy with his life and the talents he’s been given to make music (and he credits God for these talents in multiple songs), but he hates the fame that comes with it. He doesn’t want to be pressured by fame to change his sound or what he wants to say through his music. And in response, Bellion communi- cates all these factors with some fine tracks.

Not only does Bellion sing about fame, but he also brings up themes of genuineness in a shallow and fake world, real and sacrificial love, preserving memories, fake people, searching for love to fill a void and religion. He continues to get just as deep as he has in the past about what he’s experiencing and seeing in the world. Bellion doesn’t shy away from being honest, or sugar coat his music.

In fact, he intentionally, leave it to Bellion to not be afraid to experiment with all sorts of instruments. His tracks make use of pianos, violins, cellos, trumpets, violas, saxophones, organs, mandolins, drums and synthesizers to create hopping electric beats. There’s also a lot more bass than in his past work, which is in almost every track. Although none of his songs sound the same, Bellion’s unique sound from his past albums are still found on Glory Sound Prep.

Not only are all the lyrics profound, but the sound in each track is amazing. The tracks start with a couple of instruments, but then suddenly half-way through drop a few more instruments into the mix. For fans of Bellion’s raps, there are also plenty of those. The man proves yet again that he can spit verse.

One complaint is the last track, “Mal’s Joint.” The track is actually amazing — it’s an eight-minute track with thoughtful-provoking lyrics about memories and Bellion’s mom. The last five minutes have no lyrics, but instead use a whole slew of instruments that create a swing sound. If you are a fan of Bellion, you know his epic song “Hand of God” from The Human Condition. The track is an outro, where he combined songs from The Human Condition into one glorious and goosebump inducing six-minute track.

When I saw that “Mal’s Joint” was eight minutes, I automatically assumed it would serve as the next epic outro for Glory Sound Prep. However, the track is underwhelming if one was expecting another “Hand of God” type of song.

Overall, I seriously encourage giving this album a listen several times through. The lyrics are thought-provoking and relatable, the sound is fresh and unique, and how could you dislike Jon Bellion’s voice? You can’t, so give it a listen.
Local church to host Turkey Trot

Turkey Trot Rac-es have been tradition across the country since the late 1800s, and there are nearly a million races that take place every year on Thanksgiving. Orange City is no different and has had their own race host-ed by Trinity Reformed Church for the past several years. This laid-back race is sure to stir up hunger food comas. However, when he saw Reece created the very first superhero with Down Syndrome for his son Ollie, who also has Down Syndrome. Jesse Carbert of Book Riot says in her article about the book, “the public has begun to recognize ‘Meta-phase’s importance, not only to the medium, but to disability at large.”

“Metaphase” is about a boy whose father has super-powers. The son thinks he’ll be just like his dad someday, but his father tells him that because of his weak heart and Down Syndrome, he probably won’t have superpowers.

“There’s a heartbreaking moment when the father is trying to gently tell him that you probably won’t be like me, you won’t have superpowers,” Martin said. “And you can see in the artwork how crushing that is for the kid in the sto-ry and he’s like, ‘Is it because I’m different, because I have Down Syndrome?’” So, the boy embarks on a quest to gain superpowers, but he has to deal with the consequences as well.

“It’s one of those pieces that actually broadens the imagination,” Martin says. Reece graduated from NW with a social work de-gree. However, when he saw that there were not many superheroes with disabilities and none with Down Syn-drome, he wanted to give his son someone he could relate to, and created “Metaphase.”

The purpose of the event is not to competitive-ly race (although the race is timed), but rather to offer a fun start to Thanksgiv-ing while raising money and awareness for a mis-sion. This year’s mission is Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County, and the mission partner is Trinity Youth Ministries. According to their website, Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County serves to provide local support for local efforts and innova-tions to ensure all children in Sioux County receive adequate nutrition to thrive. Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County funds Sack Pack programs in lo-cal Sioux County schools and supports other com-munity efforts that feed food insecure children and families.”

The organization was formed in 2011 by a va-riety of groups aiming to lower childhood hunger in Sioux County. Events they put on include Free Will Dinner and Auction, Tailgate, Tip Night and the Sack Pack program. Overall, the Sack Pack program reaches Sioux Center, West Sioux, Boy-den-Hull and MOC-Floyd Valley schools. Last year, over $350 was raised through the Turkey Trot. Organizers this year hope to raise even more money for their mission partner.

In addition to the 5k, a community worship ser-vice will be held by Living Water Community Church and Trinity Reformed Church in conjunction with the event. There will be free meals at Trinity and Thanksgiv-ing Eve worship service. In the lobby of Trinity. To conclude the day’s festivi-ties, a community Thank-s- giving meal will be held at Living Water. Registration for the 5k is still open and the cost is $32. The registration price also includes a t-shirt and refreshments before and after the race. Both the Thanksgiving Eve worship and Thanksgiv-ing meal at Living Water are open to the public.

A superhero with Down Syndrome

Have you ever seen a Marvel movie? Do you watch action blockbusters just to see a good hero story? On Tuesday, Nov. 20, a new super- hero is coming to North-western’s campus through the Deep Song Reading se-ries. Hosted by the English Department, the reading arranged by English profes-sor Sam Martin, will be led by NW alum, Chip Reece, author of “Metaphase.”

Deep Song Readings are a series of reading events that take place on campus each semester. The department usually brings in one reader from either on or off cam-pus to read and talk about their creative work. Faculty members who are working on manuscripts have partic-ipated, as well as alumni and a few young, locally-acclaimed writers like Scott Cairns, the American poet.

In the past, NW has also brought in poets, short story writers, novelists, non-fiction writers and people that work in multiple genres, but this year is the first year to have a graphic novelist introduced. Reece created the very first superhero with Down Syndrome for his son Ollie, who also has Down Syn-drome. Jesse Carbert of Book Riot says in her article about the book, “the public has begun to recognize ‘Meta-phase’s importance, not only to the medium, but to dis-ability at large.”

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Deep Song Readings are usually a time of learning and exploration. Students who attend have the oppor-tunity to hear from published authors and to ask them ques-tions. Reece will talk about the process he went through to make “Metaphase” and may talk about the sequel he is currently working on.

“This story might not have billions of dollars of Hollywood special effects ex-plooding behind it, but it has a much deeper humanity, and I think a more original sto-ry than anything you’ll find in the blockbuster theaters,” Martin said. “It’s a fun story, it has heart, and it’s a story that gives hope.”

The Deep Song Reading will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20 in the Fire-side Room.

ARTS & CULTURE

RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS

HANNAH WAMHOFF THEATRE

Orange City’s Annual Turkey Trot is coming to town Thanksgiving morn-ing. The event serves as a kick-off to Thanksgiving Day by giving participants the opportunity to run or walk a 5k. Turkey Trot Rac-es have been tradition across the country since the late 1800s, and there are nearly a million races that take place every year on Thanksgiving. Orange City is no different and has had their own race host-ed by Trinity Reformed Church for the past several years. This laid-back race is sure to stir up hunger food comas. However, when he saw that there were not many superheroes with disabilities and none with Down Syn-drome, he wanted to give his son someone he could relate to, and created “Metaphase.”

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE CITY TURKEY TROT

PHOTO COURTSEY OF GOOGLE

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Participants running in the Orange City Thanksgiving Turkey Trot race last year.
E-sports popularity continues to rise

FROM PAGE 1

League of Legends, Smite, Paladins, and Overwatch, a variety of third- and first-person shooters, face similar problems with violence and the objectification of women.

While some of these games may be problematic, it is important to remember that E-sports is not limited to these games. NW could offer any number of these games or none of them. One potential solution mentioned by Woudstra would be avoiding first-person shooter games. Games like League of Legends, a two-dimensional third-person shooter, provide more of an arcade feel and less realistic violence. There are also other games that do not contain violence or the objectification of women. As E-sports becomes more common, games like FIFA (soccer), Madden (football), and 2K (basketball) will definitely find their way into college athletics.

NW still has a lot to consider when it comes to E-sports, but it is exciting to see the athletic department’s willingness to consider a non-traditional sport. As more and more schools add E-sports, NW has to decide if it wants to join in on the fun early or wait to see if E-sports becomes a crucial addition to college athletic departments.

Kao’s journey from Taiwan to OC

KAO REFLECTS ON FIRST TWO YEARS

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Northwestern business-economics department has undergone some big changes over the last few years. Two long-time faculty members retired or moved to other jobs, and two new, econ faculty joined. One of these new faculty members is Han-Yen Kao.

Kao’s story begins in Taiwan. When one grows up in Taiwan, their major is often chosen for them. Kao was given the major of public finance, which has three distinct available paths. These paths are accounting, economics, and law. He decided when he was a rising junior in undergrad that he would pursue economics and aim to become a professor.

He described the key factor that led him to this decision, which was based on his professors in undergrad. Professor Kao explained that he received advice to choose a lifestyle instead of a career.

Kao was accepted into graduate school at Rutgers University. He explained that he chose to study in the United States because it has many of the world’s best economists. It was difficult to get back into the rhythm of studying, and it was difficult adjusting to a new culture at the beginning of graduate school. He explained that the beginning of graduate school was one of the harder times in his life. He passed the qualifying exam at Rutgers, which over half of PhD applicants do not pass.

He had originally planned to return to Taiwan after obtaining his degree but chose to stay because he enjoyed the U.S. culture and work environment. He explained that there is a cultural freedom in the United States that is unique. He described that the freedom to be yourself is something that other countries do not enjoy in the same way. In the U.S., people can be themselves, but in other countries there are often social hierarchies that shape behavior.

Kao was drawn to teach at NW at first by a simple job posting. He explained that NW knew where to put their advertisement, as it was the first place every recently graduated PhD student will look. He also noted that he was happy to apply to a Christian institution. As he began to learn more about NW, his interests in coming to Orange City grew.

Meeting Professor Fan Fei was an important factor in his decision. He and his family were nervous about being accepted in a community like Orange City. When he met Fei, he was assured that his family would be accepted in that community. It was also reassuring to have a colleague that had gone through something very similar to what he had gone through.

“The moments I enjoy the most are when I’m in class and I feel like the students are really learning. I try to increase those moments,” Kao said.

Kao was drawn to teaching for its lifestyle, but also by his passion to teach and relate to students. He described that he values building relationships with students, and he explained that he has already begun to enjoy doing so with students at NW.

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Han-Yen Kao is one of two economics professor at NW, having joined the college in 2017.

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Volunteers Needed!

Thousands of spectators fill an arena to watch the championship of an E-sports tournament.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE
Students react to midterm elections

IOWA DISTRICT
FOUR MAKES NEWS

EMMA VAN DRIE
POLITICAL SCIENCE

This year’s midterm election was marked by unifying successes, including record highs for voter turnout rate and the number of women running for office and holding congressional seats. At the same time, this election has reflected the great division that continues to shape the nation.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the 2018 midterm elections was the 47.5% national-vote-turnout rate, which has been the highest mid-term voter turnout since 1966. Percentages historically tend to be much lower in midterm elections than in general elections; however, there has been a stimulating shift toward wider voter participation, especially from young voters and early voting in this year’s election.

The state of Iowa also had a record number of voters, with 61% of registered voters casting their ballot on election day. “It was very exciting to see more people make it out to the polls and exercise their right to vote this midterm election,” junior Kelsey Lang said.

Records have also been broken in regard to the number of female candidates who ran for office and were elected to office. Before this midterm election, there were 107 women in Congress, which was an all-time high. Post-midterms, there are now 123 women holding congressional seats. This election has been compared to the 1992 “Year of the Woman,” where an unprecedented number of women were elected to Congress.

These record highs were also met with strong party divides across the country. This division is revealed in the divided legislature, as Democrats won the House for the first time in eight years after gaining more than the 23 seats they needed to obtain a majority, while the GOP still holds the Senate.

In the days following the election, Democrats continued to pick up many of the close seats in the House and Senate, prompting debate over whether this election can be considered a “blue wave.”

Now that the Republicans do not have a monopoly on the legislature, there is more opportunity for challenges to President Trump’s legislative agenda and potential Supreme Court nominations in the next two years.

“The election definitely feels like a referendum on the Trump administration. Iowans were hurt by his trade policy and Republicans lost two seats in Iowa,” senior Brant Vermeer said.

Iowa District 4 looked quite a bit different from the whole of the nation, however, as Republicans have accumulated more power following this election.

In the U.S House District 4 election, Republican incumbent Steve King came out on top over Democratic candidate J.D. Scholten, though by a much smaller margin than typical in such a historically conservative district. The House District 4 race was more competitive this election due to Steve King’s provocative anti-immigrant remarks that resulted in criticism from members of both parties.

“I was definitely disappointed to see that King still won, but it was encouraging to see Scholten come so close,” Vermeer said. Republican incumbent Kim Reynolds won the race for Iowa Governor after being endorsed by President Trump at a rally in Council Bluffs, Iowa, during her campaign.

Republican Paul Pate was re-elected as Secretary of State in Iowa in light of the voter identification law that he advocated for in 2017 and the elimination of straight-ticket voting in Iowa.

Democratic incumbent Tom Miller was also re-elected as Attorney General.

The Iowa State Senate was closely divided with 12 Democratic seats and 13 Republican seats. The Iowa State House also had the Republican majority with 44 Demo- cratic seats won and 51 Republican seats won.

Iowa House District 4 Representative Skyster Wheeler, the Republican incumbent, ran uncontested this year.

In two years, there will be another major election. It will be interesting to see if this election sparks a continued increase in voter participation for future elections.

Midterms matter. Voting matters. This is why it is important to get engaged, educated and to go vote, because you can make a difference,” junior Lauren Faber said.

The 2018 midterm elections have revealed just that.

Attending school just miles from home

FROM PAGE 1

While some of us can’t imagine going to school in the same town they grew up in, the situation has its fair share of advantages.

Free laundry is the most obvious, but these students also enjoy things like not having to find a new job or church, getting baskets of goodies on sick days or having the ability to spend time with family several times a week. And of course, no one would complain about the money students like Van Surksum save by living at home.

Another interesting plus of going to school at NW after growing up in Orange City is knowing some of the professors. When she was young, Stokes was a part of the local-made film “Prairie Pirates” along with her FVS professor Karen Barker and recalls the hilarious grouchy old woman Barker played. For Weber, knowing her professors is something she merely enjoys and doesn’t find awkward at all.

“When I took one of [Professor Fynaardt] classes last year, I had so much to talk about. It was so fun to re-tell stories from when he and his family lived on my street,” Weber said.

Best of all, growing up in the area means that these students know the best places to eat and hang out. For those that don’t know the area very well, these local students have a few recommendations to share.

Stumano Pizza, a restaurant outside Orange City, uses all-natural ingredients to create phenomenal pizza and gelato, and if you’re in Sioux City for a Walmart run, try heading to Olivia’s, a completely authentic Mexican pastry shop, for a great price.

Next time you see a friend on campus who grew up in Orange City, ask them about the area. You just might hear a hilarious story about one of the faculty at NW or discover your new favorite restaurant.
The Northwestern athletic teams are killing it in performance levels this year. Both the volleyball and football teams have made it to playoffs. Shout out to all the athletes who work hard day and night, pushing to be the best they can be. Come out and support the Raiders in their advancements. The football team plays this coming Saturday (Nov. 17) at 1 p.m. and the volleyball team plays the Tuesday following Thanksgiving break (Nov. 27). Go Raiders!

Many students are overjoyed that the Hub now serves pizza; however, students who are gluten-free do not appreciate it as much. Gluten-free students are not able to use a meal exchange to order a pizza, but instead have to pay extra and use flex. This unfair decision leaves gluten-free students saddened by the inequality in price. NW should make the food options available and fair to all students, no matter their dietary needs.

Early next week, students will be headed home to spend some much-needed time with family; away from the library, heavy textbooks and research papers. Thanksgiving is right around the corner, which means there are only about three weeks left until the end of the first semester. The Beacon would like to wish the best of luck to those who have exams, projects, speeches and papers due within the next few days. Keep pushing a little longer, break will be here soon!

The pressure to be in a relationship, unintentionally placed on single people, is almost tangible in the air. This comes in the form of constantly witnessing the relationships of best friends, phrases like "Ring by Spring" and "M.R.S. degree" being thrown around, and the feeling that two people of the opposite gender can't walk down the sidewalk without others assuming something is going on. Even the existence of the "October Rule" points to this - we wouldn't have it if we didn't "need" it. The anticlimax and excitement of a potential relationship gets to many of us.

NW, as a small, Christian bubble, gives off a "standard expectation" that you should be in a relationship with someone, and if you aren't then you're doing something wrong. I've talked about this with my friends, some in relationships and others single, and they can feel this too. This is literally the only reason I have for saying anything negative about NW, and it makes me tell my family, "You know, NW can sometimes really stink."
NW runners head to Nationals

KELSEY LANG
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Five Northwestern College runners qualified for the 2018 NAIA Cross Country National Championship race which will take place on Friday, Nov. 16, at the Seminole Valley Cross Country Course in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Three NW women qualified individually. Bre Harthoorn, Autumn Muilenburg and Emma Van Meereren are among the 93 runners that make up the individual qualifiers in the 2018 championship field. These women earned their spot by placing among the top six runners at their conference championship, provided they were in the top 15 runners overall and not part of a team that already qualified.

Two NW men qualified individually. Dylan Hendricks and Caleb Benzing are among the 83 runners that make up the individual qualifiers in the 2018 championship field. These men earned their spot by placing among the top four runners at their conference championship, provided they were in the top 15 runners overall and were not part of a team that already qualified.

The NAIA Cross Country National Championship race will take place on Friday, Nov. 16 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

With the exception of Muilenburg, a freshman, all of the runners have competed at the national level before. Muilenburg, first-time National Qualifier, said, “I’m excited to run at such a big meet. I’m also pumped that I get to run with some of my teammates.”

The women’s race, a 5-kilometer race, will take place at 10:30 a.m. The men’s race, an 8-kilometer race, will take place at 11:30 a.m. This is the first time in NAIA Cross Country Championships history that the race will take place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mount Mercy will host again in 2020.

Both the women and men have 36 participating teams. Automatic berth is earned by winning the conference championship meet, being the meet runner-up or ending the season ranked in the top 30 final poll. For the women, three conferences received two automatic berths. For the men, one conference received two automatic berths. In addition to the automatic qualifiers, the women were allowed one host berth (Mount Marty) and 11 at-large berths. The men were allowed one host berth and 13 at large berths.

Both the NW women’s and men’s teams worked hard in the qualifying meet. Both teams qualified last year and had high hopes to return this fall. The women were just one point away from automatically qualifying.

Carrie Krohn, assistant cross country coach, is ready for Friday. “We are excited for the opportunity to race with the best in the nation and to show the courage and grit needed to compete well,” she said.

Football season coming to a close

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AND PREDICTIONS

BRADLEY LAACKMANN
SPORT MANAGEMENT

As the college football season winds down, we have a better idea of which teams will be in contention for a College Football Playoff (CFP) spot and the top bowl games. Each of the top four schools in the CFP Rankings won easily on Saturday, so the top four will remain as Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame and Michigan. Other schools currently on the outside are Georgia, Oklahoma, LSU and Washington State.

This year has seen the rankings shift frequently, but Alabama and Clemson have remained at the top for the entire season.

Alabama and Clemson have met in the CFP in each of the last three seasons, with two of those games being the National Championship. They are both likely to meet again based on their high level of play this year.

As for Michigan and Notre Dame, they will have tough matchups to finish the season. Notre Dame will face 13th-ranked Syracuse on Saturday and USC on Saturday, November 24. Notre Dame will not play in a conference championship, which creates “must-win” scenarios for their last two games.

Michigan has Indiana and #10 Ohio State to round out their schedule. The Michigan-Ohio State matchup will likely determine the winner of the Big Ten East division.

CFP Prediction: #1 Alabama, #2 Clemson, #3 Michigan, #4 Oklahoma.

For fans of local teams, Iowa will fall out of the rankings after losing to Northwestern 14-10 last Saturday. The Hawkeyes were ranked #21 in the CFP Polls and will face Illinois and Nebraska in the next two weeks.

The 23rd-ranked Iowa State Cyclones continued their 5-game winning streak last week versus Baylor and will play #19 Texas in a pivotal Big 12 matchup on Saturday. Nebraska is currently out bowl eligibility with a current record of 3-7 and will play against Michigan State and Iowa to finish their season.

Rocket League Championship Series recap

E-SPORTS GAME HOLDS INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

MATT SCOTT
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Last weekend marked the finale of the most intense RLCS season to date. For those who do not know, RLCS stands for Rocket League Championship Series and is the largest professional competition for Rocket League.

Rocket League is three-on-three soccer, but what makes Rocket League so unique is that instead of normal soccer, each player controls a rocket-powered car. The double-elimination tournament had a prize pot of $1 million and included four teams from North America, four teams from Europe, and two teams from Oceania.

Shockingly, all four of the North American teams lost in the quarter-finals and were bumped to the losers’ bracket. G2 E-sports went 0-2 over the weekend, losing both five-game series 2-3. Kristian Leppke, senior actuarial science major and long-time G2 E-sports fan, was disappointed with his team’s performance. “I thought (G2) would do well, maybe even win the whole thing. But instead they didn’t win a single series and were the second team eliminated,” remarked Leppke.

Meanwhile, in the winners’ bracket, defending world champions Dignitas continued their dominance of the Rocket League scene, advancing to the finals with no trouble at all. Dignitas defeated We Dem Girls in the winners’ finals to send WDG to face Cloud9 in the losers’ finals.

Earlier, WDG knocked C9 into the losers’ bracket. C9 would reign victorious in the rematch. This left C9 to play Dignitas in the grand finals. In the first set, C9 handed Dignitas their first loss of the season, defeating them in a best-of-seven series 4-1. However, since this was Dignitas’ first loss of the tournament, it required a bracket reset and another seven-game series.

Led by an MVP performance from C9’s “Torment,” the North American team was able to secure another victory over Dignitas to become World Champions. C9 fan Brant Vermeer was surprised by the win, saying, “I thought my boys were going to get clapped by Dignitas, but they came out with a massive upset.”

With this win, C9 became the second ever North American world champion and took a cap on an incredible weekend for Rocket League.
Speaker to address human trafficking

JIM MARTIN WILL BE SPEAKING ON NOV. 27

HANNAH ROSS
WRITING AND RHETORIC

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, Jim Martin from International Justice Mission will be at Northwestern. He will speak in Tuesday morning chapel at 11:05 a.m. as well as during an Ngage session at 8 p.m. in the Vogel Room.

IJM is an organization working to end the slavery that still exists in this world. Slavery is not a thing of the past. Slavery is an evident and ugly mark on history. It does not just exist in history, and the reality is there is more slavery happening today than ever before in human history.

IJM is dedicated to helping the more than 40 million people enslaved today. Their mission statement states they strive “to protect the poor from violence by rescuing victims, bringing the criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future that lasts.”

IJM rescues people from all sorts of slavery, including bonded labor slavery where people are forced to work 19-hour days to pay back a debt. IJM works with local law enforcement to arrest slave owners and rehabilitate the survivors of slavery. Their website has several ways one can get connected and help rescue captives.

Martin is the Vice President of Spiritual Formation at IJM and works with leaders and staff around the world to do the work of justice. He has a huge heart to see this next generation committed to becoming abolitionists for Christ. Before becoming the Vice President of Spiritual Formation, Martin was IJM’s Vice President of Church Mobilization, where he led a team working to move churches to a deeper level of understanding of God’s passion for justice.

Before joining IJM, Martin was a pastor at The River Church in San Jose, Calif. Throughout the years, Jim has spoken at churches, mission events and pastors’ conferences all over the world. He received a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Massachusetts.

“I invited Jim to come and speak because I absolutely convinced that International Justice Mission is one of the most courageous organizations doing some of the most difficult work for the kingdom of Christ,” said Mark DeYounge, Dean of Christian Formation at NW.

In chapel, Martin will lay out a foundational vision for how justice is essential to the gospel of Jesus Christ and how Christians should respond to the evils of injustice in this world like sex trafficking, human trafficking and global slavery as a whole.

“I believe our campus ought to be a part of the abolitionist movement, seeking to abolish slavery once and for all.”

“This is a kingdom vision, and may His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven through your efforts and mine.” DeYounge said.

According to DeYounge, at Ngage, Martin is going to talk specifically about “when there is sex but no love.” DeYounge believes people think things like sex trafficking are an out there but don’t know what to do about it.

“Here’s the deal — what if you could partner in the rescuing of those held in the oppressive captivity of sex slavery?” stated DeYounge. “What if you could be an abolitionist, partnering with IJM to end this global, systemic, evil injustice? What if another’s liberation starts with your commitment?”

The first Northwestern Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held last November.

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The first Northwestern Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held last November.

Christmas activities to attend around campus

VARIOUS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUR NOV. 26-30

EMILY VAN GORP
NEWS EDITOR

Before we know it, Christmas season will be upon us. The week just after Thanksgiving will provide various opportunities for students to get into the Christmas spirit.

The week will start out with the annual President’s Christmas Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26. Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to gather in front of Zwemer Hall for a time of worship. The audience will sing Christmas cards while the Northwestern Brass Ensemble and Women’s Choir accompany.

President Greg Christy will say his remarks, and theatre students will read various scripture passages. Individuals attending will light candles prior to the lighting of the actual tree. Once all the candles are lit, the Christmas tree will light up and various Christmas decorations across the campus green will follow.

NW student Anna Perrenoud attended the event last year.

“The Christmas tree lighting is a great way to get in the Christmas spirit early, and involves the whole NW community,” said Perrenoud. “It was cool to see so many people there.”

If weather is an issue, the event will be rescheduled to 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 27. The holiday activity is coordinated through the Student Activities Council.

Later in the week on Friday, Nov. 30, an Advent chapel will be held on campus. Advent addresses the importance of patiently waiting and preparing for the celebration of the Nativity. The 30-minute chapel Friday morning will discuss the importance of Advent and the role it plays in celebrating Christ’s birth.

Bringing the week to an end is the Sinterklaas Day celebration. Every year, on the first Saturday of December, the community of Orange City celebrates its Dutch heritage with Sinterklaas Day. This year, the event falls Dec. 1. The event celebrates the arrival of Sinterklaas, the Dutch version of Santa.

The event begins downtown with the arrival of Sinterklaas on a white horse. Following is a short parade that features children dressed in Christmas finery and a brass ensemble. The day will also feature various activities such as a puppet show, crafts, and a coloring contest.

While the event is primarily geared towards young families, everyone can find enjoyment in it. The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street.