

Northwestern College, Iowa

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# Campus moves toward inclusion

## DIVERSITY IN INCLUSION

**VANESSA STOKES**  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

“We embrace diversity in God’s creation. We lament human brokenness. We reconcile with one another. We embody shalom.”

These four core statements in Northwestern’s Vision for Diversity are meant to lead the faculty, staff and students in a diversity initiative. Recently there have been crucial conversations and steps forward regarding NW’s reality when it comes to diversity on campus.

“Scripture is clear that the kingdom of God will include people from every tribe, tongue and nation,” President Greg Christy said. “We long to see Northwestern College look like and more fully represent his coming kingdom.”

Steps have been taken over the years through various positions added on campus. Martha Draayer’s position of Hispanic Community

Liaison was created to reach a part of the surrounding community that NW had found it was lacking outreach in. This year, two positions were added on the Diversity Resource Committee (DRC) that did not exist.

Rahn Franklin will become the Director of Strategic Diversity Initiatives, leading campus-wide diversity efforts, promoting the thriving of multicultural students and working with students and faculty to develop cultural intelligence. Dr. Valerie Stokes will start as director of academic diversity initiatives that will work to promote diversity initiatives within the academic side of NW, particularly with representation and curriculum. Both positions will come into effect fall 2021.

“Over the past twenty years, I have seen Northwestern make intentional efforts toward inclusive excellence,” Dr. Stokes said. “This work has been incremental over time; so even though at any given point, one might not see the change,



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
Dr. Valerie Stokes will be the new director of academic diversity initiatives.

it is happening. I have seen it happen.”

Like Stokes, Franklin recognizes the need for these changes on

campus.

“This is relational work that touches all of us both personally and professionally but most

importantly it is missional toward God’s redemptive work in the world and extending what it really means to stand out,” Franklin said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Unsung Heroes: MarComm Office

## KEEPING NW'S MISSION ALIVE

**ALLISON WHEELER**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

When it comes to being involved in all areas of Northwestern’s campus, the marketing and communications office MarComm at the college has that covered. Their responsibilities not only include promoting NW as a whole, but they also take on public relations duties for individual departments and offices on campus.

The responsibilities and duties of the MarComm office range from organizing photo shoots, to publishing the alumni magazine known as The Classic, to managing the college’s website and social media accounts, to drafting emails and writing news releases.

Two of the office’s staff members are Duane Beeson, director of marketing and communications, and Juliana Pennings, assistant

director of marketing and communications. Beeson has been working in NW’s MarComm office for 35 years.

“When I started, the web wasn’t even around, nor was social media,” Beeson said.

Beeson also commented on how the college’s campus has physically changed with the construction of new buildings as well as the increase in student enrollment. The technology used within marketing and communications has also drastically changed over the years.

However, NW has continued to be a tight-knit community that aims for excellence in academics and strives to remain a Christian institution.

“Northwestern and its mission haven’t changed at all,” Beeson said.

Pennings is a NW alum who graduated in 2012 and has been working in the college’s marketing and communications office for three and a half years.



PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP  
(Left to right) Duane Beeson and Juliana Pennings both work in the marketing and communications office.

“My favorite part of this job is being able to tell Northwestern’s story,” Pennings said.

Being on the MarComm team

allows Pennings to be a part of sharing about a college that has deeply impacted her life as well as her family as a whole. Pennings cares

about NW, and she enjoys talking with others who have also been impacted by the college and sharing their stories.

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## AJR did it again, album of exuberance

MUSIC REVIEW

### A MIXTURE OF SKIPS AND FUN

CAMBER HERRIG  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The distinct feature of their music is their multi-instrumentalist aspect to every song. This rings true on AJR's fourth album, *OK ORCHESTRA*, which debuted on March 26.

It's theatrical meets indie. Quirky meets catchy. Electric pop meets orchestra. I can't stop from listening, humming and dancing to AJR on repeat.

There's one word for this album: exuberant.

The album opens with "OK Overture." AJR is known for including overtures to their albums. It's the perfect opening song, featuring a small sample of each individual melody. Even in the first minute, the trumpets can be heard alongside the electronic beat to the songs.

Next is "Bummerland," which was released as a single in August 2020. This song was on repeat as I started college in the midst of a pandemic. I'm sure most of us thought we were in Bummerland, arriving to college

with a mask mandate and slipping anxiety regarding quarantine. AJR acknowledges this with a still cheerful anthem. As the band writes, "Cause you're only going up from here."

"3 O'Clock Things" is how your mind works in the middle of the night. Topics like politics, sex, advertisements and college are discussed in a commentary or rant of sorts. AJR makes me smile because of their ability to play a happy tune even if they are talking about scary things. The song builds up until 3:15, with a major drop that leads into a chorus of brass, strings and electronic bass. The song takes a political stance, claiming that if you're racist, don't come to their show. This is one of my favorites.

"My Play" slows down the album, telling the story of a parent's divorce. It's a sad song with a nice melody, but it seems out of place in an otherwise jazzed album. It's a skip for me.

The fifth song, "Joe," reflects upon asking someone you used to know if they think you're cool now. It's a well-blended song with the piano and electronic-pop sounds.

"Adventure Is Out There" is a song seemingly perfect for our pandemic. AJR tells the story through a pair of socks, a quirky move that is not surprising coming from the band.

"Bang!" was released as a single in February of 2020. There is a lot of mixed reviews about this song, and I truly don't know why. If you could categorize a song as a "coming of age piece," this song would be it. The chorus is catchy, dynamic and loud. The band pukes over taxes and finds an apartment across from the park. Maybe the lyrics are generic, but the piano and the build-up make up for it.

"The Trick" is a skip. The track opens up with an annoying, wavering voice, and it persists throughout.

The next track makes up for the prior. "Ordinaryish People" features the Blue Man Group, a performance art company, with characters who are painted blue and never speak a word. The impressive percussion is thanks to the group. This song sticks to a theme we will continue to see regarding the middle ground and being just okay.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AJRBROTHERS.COM

Hiding your problems is the theme of "Humpty Dumpty," using another unique story to tell the tale.

"World's Smallest Violin" is a metaphor for how small problems can be invalidated.

The second to last song, "Way Less Sad" is a slower

tempo, with the same themes of feeling a little better, or as the band puts it, feeling less sad.

The album ends with "Christmas in June," a song about missed events but making it up for with celebrating Christmas in June.

Overall, the album is a

hit, although a few skips are blended in. AJR's unique storytelling and lyrics with the dynamic, theatrical sounds and multiple instruments are here to stay, and with this album, I am way less sad.

★★★★

## Godzilla vs. Kong, the big creature feature

MOVIE REVIEW

### STUNNING BATTLES WITH CREATURES

MISAEAL BRUZZONE  
ECONOMICS

*Godzilla vs. Kong* is exactly what the title describes, a movie about two beloved and iconic movie monsters fighting on screen once more for a new generation of audiences. Directed by Adam Wingard, a popular director in the horror genre, *Godzilla vs. Kong* delivers titan-sized action and destruction.

The movie stars Alexander Skarsgård and Millie Bobby Brown as its lead human characters. Their performances fit the tone of the movie and they work for what it is trying to be. Other performances are also up to par, never quite showing brilliant skills, but rather offering entertaining portrayals that only serve to carry the plot.

Most, if not all, characters in the movie are mere caricatures of existing movie tropes. There are big villainous corporations, children that seem to understand everything that is happening better than

adults, comic relief and worried parents. No character offers something audiences have never seen before. Yet, the movie is clearly not about the characters as they have no arcs or character development. At its heart, this movie is solely about two monsters fighting and not much else.

Although there are some interesting subplots that draw from Jules Verne and H.P. Lovecraft, they take a backseat as soon as they serve their purpose, which is usually to get characters from point A to point B and offer some impressive computer generated visuals. Any nuance or alternative storylines realistically go nowhere and are only there to bring Godzilla and Kong together.

The movie attempts to develop, or at least bring to mind, themes of industrialization and the effect of human interference in nature. Nonetheless, any themes the movie tried to explore fall flat or are too on-the-nose to be taken seriously. Ultimately, the only depths this movie reaches are not as deep as a giant lizard fighting a giant ape.

However, when it comes to action, the movie promises on what it delivers and so much more. Action sequences are well thought-out and orchestrated. The cinematography by Ben Seresin, someone used to big budget action movies, captures everything perfectly and even offers a few memorable shots. The camera captures the gigantic magnitude of the action successfully, convincing audiences of the size and power of the monsters on screen. Fight scenes are impressive and incredibly entertaining. More than once can audiences forget about characters or storytelling in order to marvel at the two creatures fighting.

It is clear from the get-go that this movie is not trying to be anything other than a computer generated spectacle where audiences can watch two well recognized monsters fight each other. This movie accomplished everything it set out to achieve, but there is so much the movie just decided not to do. The movie did not fail at character development, for example, because it never attempted to depict any. In this regard, it is

not easy to decide if the movie is good or not.

Nonetheless, for fans of action and creature feature movies, this movie will have everything they could want. Fans of movies with more content will be left disappointed. Nevertheless, the fact that some people will be left disappointed is not enough to say this movie is not a good movie.

*Godzilla vs. Kong* lacks substance, any resemblance of memorable or important characters and it has a very shallow exploration of any themes and a plot that is outrageous at times. Nonetheless, having any of these elements would have made the movie even worse. This movie is, at its best, a celebration of big action movies and creature features, with several nods to its predecessors. It is big action fun with a couple of surprises and memorable moments that are enough to entertain viewers and offer quality action-movie filmmaking.

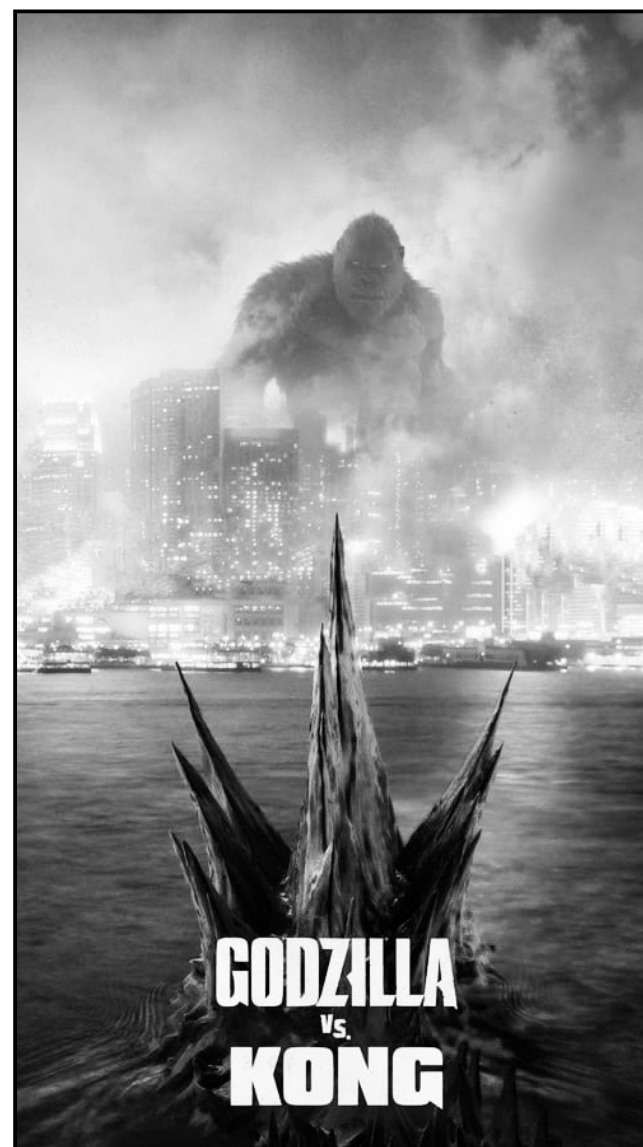


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

★★★

## Trust in God and a deep love of people

### NURSE TO ART THERAPY

ANGELA WINTERING  
THEATRE

Rebekah Stoscher is a senior art therapy major from Albania, a small country neighboring Greece and Italy of about 3 million. She's part of a missionary family who has taken in 10 permanent foster children. She found her way to Northwestern through her older biological sister, AJ Stoscher, who graduated with a theatre degree the year before Rebekah started as a nursing major. Now, her younger biological brother James has followed both of his older sisters here as well.

Stoscher started out as a nursing major quite determined in the career choice she had started. She admires nurses for what they do, especially in the aspect of being an emotional support for their patients. This is what drew her to become one herself, to be able to support

people mentally, emotionally and spiritually through the tough times.

While in the nursing major, she learned about Shalom, caring about the whole person in mind, body and spirit. Even though it was getting Stoscher closer to a career embedded with caretaking, it was a large challenge that pushed her more into fear multiple times.

Stoscher said, "I stuck with nursing for so long because I didn't want to feel like I failed or quit just because it was hard."

During the quarantine of spring semester 2020, Stoscher faced the question of switching majors.

"I was quite determined that I was going to be a nurse," Stoscher said. "But I guess God wasn't in on the plan."

After much prayer and help to make the decision from her family, Stoscher decided to switch from nursing to art therapy.

"It was honestly a blessing to be able to pray with my

parents about it and have their support," said Stoscher.

She now hopes to use art to help people through their trauma and life struggles. She'll be taking a fifth year in order to finish her new major.

When considering the time she has had here at Northwestern, Stoscher is welcoming the fifth year in her schooling in order to spend more time exploring her gifts and find out the steps God wants her to take.

In her efforts to use art as a form of worship, she reflects the mission statement of Northwestern's theatre department, "To the King!", in her work.

When asked why she enjoys art, Stoscher said, "It gives people joy and brings them together, as well as using creative talents to bring glory to God."

During her time here, she has enjoyed working with all the different aspects of a theatrical production, from acting to building the sets. Since her major switch this past year, she has also enjoyed



PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP

"[Art] gives people joy and brings them together." - Stoscher

improving her drawing, painting and sculpting skills.

Stoscher will be taking her fifth year on campus to both look to the future and do her

best to bless those around her. She'll be looking into graduate schools in order to get the proper certification for art therapy.

"The future is unknown and a bit scary, but I am trusting God through it all. I am open to whatever He wants to teach me."

## Choir tours the local area with packed schedule

### MORE FAMILY TIME TOGETHER

PAIGE GINGER  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

It is that time of year when Northwestern College's A capella Choir heads out on their annual tour. This year the choir plans to stay relatively local by going to area schools and churches in Orange City, Sheldon, Sioux Falls Christian and other places as well. The tour will only last a few days over the weekend, April 8-11, but it is packed full of concerts and other activities.

This year COVID-19 made it so the tour will not have any overnight stays off campus. They will head out in the morning to their location and come back when they are finished at the end of the day. They will wear masks except when they're performing, similar to their previous concerts.

The choir performed on Thursday, April 8 at First Reformed Church in Hull, Iowa. They will also perform at Sheldon High School, Unity Christian and Rock Rapids First Reformed Church over this weekend.

When a choir member Katie Struck was asked for her thoughts she said that she was excited to be spending an extended period of time with her choir family and building stronger bonds among the choir while making a lot of great memories. To continue promoting this bonding, the choir is planning to have time to hang out together getting ice cream and even going bowling.

One tradition of this community is the song

that the choir will end with. The song is "Beautiful Savior" and they allow alumni to join them in their singing as well. It just proves how close knit the choir family is and the connections that they still have.

As Katie said, "It takes a lot of work but is a lot of fun." She expressed that she thinks this is when the choir grows the most as they are able to spend so much time together.

The choir's repertoire, a little longer than usual, is a list containing a variety of songs. Some of the songs are new that the choir is excited to share mixed with a few older ones. They will sing "It Is Well With My Soul", "William Tell Overture", "Dawn and Dusk" among others.

There are themes of the presence of God expressed with and without words. Director Thomas Holm took on the challenge of singing songs not only without words to convey the theme of the tour, but also incorporated songs in other languages, such as Taiwanese. There is also a variety of soloists that will perform over the course of the tour as well.

As the choir tours the local area, they will be ambassadors for not only Northwestern but also the music department. During and after their concerts they will have a chance to show how Raiders stand out, showing God's light throughout whatever environment they are in.

While most of their tour will be happening away from the college, they will have a homecoming concert in Christ Chapel on April 16 at 7:30 p.m. to wrap up their tour experience. This is a chance for campus as well as others from the community to come and experience the songs that they shared while on tour.



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT

Director Thomas Holm prepares the choir for their annual tour.

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## Students anticipate summer service

LONG-TERM MISSION WORK

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

Summer of Service partnerships are a big part of the missionary work at Northwestern. Each year, several students travel to other states and countries to partner with service programs and spread the love of Christ.

“SOSs provide students with opportunities to sacrificially serve, respectfully participate and humbly learn in communities, which more often than not, are culturally different from their own,” Patrick Hummel, NW director of missions, said.

Unfortunately, last year the Summer of Service trips were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year, the program is back up and running. Eleven students will be spending their summers on in countries like Nicaragua, Chad, Haiti and Sri Lanka, as well as states like Colorado and Illinois.

Half of these students will be traveling to Haiti for two weeks and partnering with United Christians International. Founded in 2005 by Jean Jean and Kristie Mompremier, UCI resides in northern Haiti

by the town of Caiman and houses nine nutrition centers, a health clinic, an elementary and secondary school and a university which includes programs in: theology, agriculture science, nursing, medical doctors and elementary education. Here, NW students will interact with local children, volunteer at the hospital and in the nutrition centers and assist with short term missions.

On the domestic side of SOSs, freshman Elyssa Tang is one of two students staying in the United States. She hopes to travel to Urbana, Illinois and partner with Pioneers where she will build relationships with students at the University of Illinois or potentially help with local immigrants.

Many of the SOS teams have felt called toward missions for a long time. Sophomore Breanna Oolman, a member of the Haiti team, grew up in Orange City and has looked forward to going on an SOS even before she enrolled at NW.

“Medical missions are something I have felt led to do since my senior year of high school,” sophomore Kaytlyn Keeler said, who is also traveling to Haiti. “I think Christians have a responsibility to spread God’s love everywhere they go. I feel I can do this as a doctor serving in places around the



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ

Throughout the semester, students have been preparing to embark on their summers of service.

world that have very limited access to medical care.”

There is uncertainty and nerves surrounding this summer’s SOS trips. COVID-19 has drastically altered the operation and planning of the program. Finding sites and partners was difficult to begin with, and unfortunately in March multiple partners canceled trips affecting ten students. Students whose partnerships have remained intact

and those who have been relocated will likely have to become accustomed to wearing masks, testing and immunization requirements for travel, and potential quarantining protocols.

Also, is the fact that some of the countries the students will be visiting have ongoing political unrest that can sometimes conflict with missions.

“Nothing is ever certain,” Jayden Schutt, a Haiti team

member, said.

Despite these uncertainties, the SOS teams still hold great hopes and passion for their upcoming trips.

“My prayer for this summer is that all of the SOS members will be molded to reflect Christ more, so that we may be a blessing to others, both during the SOS and beyond,” Tang said.

Schutt emphasizes the importance of missions and

why she feels called to pursue them as a Christian.

“Jesus tells us to feed the hungry and give the thirsty something to drink,” she said.

“I believe a lot of people are physically hungry and thirsty but also spiritually deprived. We have the opportunity to address both aspects—physically and spiritually—through loving our neighbors and empowering them to do the same.”

## Campus moves toward inclusion

FROM PAGE 1

The DRC has existed long before either of these positions were instituted. The difference now is that the DRC will be receiving funding. This allows for the Multiethnic Resource Committee to have resources that will make a stronger and lasting impact.

The long-term goals of the committee are to increase recruitment and retention of faculty of color, create improved campus climate survey results and teach and learn that which supports NW’s Vision for Diversity.

Recently, conversations have been held on campus between some students and faculty regarding inclusion. Overall, the meetings were set to discuss the feelings

from BIPOC, LGBTQ and other students that have felt that NW was not creating an environment that retains and embraces students who are diverse.

“In having this call to action at NW, we are creating change that can create ripples throughout our community,” freshman Linsy Gonzalez Marcelo said. “Many do not like change, but change is necessary for growth and reparation.”

Students are filled with passion and a drive to create change on campus.

“Some of us are angry. Some of us are hopeless. Some of us are scared. All we want is to come here and learn, make friends, have fun, and do all the things normal students do,” junior Maria Lopes said. “But right now, with things

the way they are, we either assimilate to the culture and go quiet or accept that we have to be in a constant battle to defend our existence and justify why we deserve to be respected.”

The group of around ten students have all seen NW fail in various actions or instances regarding inclusion on campus and in the media the college posts.

“The feedback from these meetings will greatly inform the focus for my work,” Franklin said. “Interestingly enough, their feedback has frequently overlapped with the work my position intends to do more of.”

Diversity work on campus will never end, but has been and will continue to be something that NW strives for.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

Franklin’s promotion will lead campus-wide initiatives for diversity and inclusion.

## Wheels return to NW's sidewalks

ROLLING, BLADING AND BOARDING

**JORDAN DESMET**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Spring weather is finally in the air at Northwestern, and students can finally begin to enjoy the outdoor activities that were halted by the unforgiving Iowa winter. The increasing temperatures over the past few weeks have allowed NW staples such as Spikeball, gennis and sand volleyball to make their return to the campus green.

However, games are not the only leisure activities that have experienced a long-awaited revival. The current, and hopefully permanent, absence of snow has allowed modes of transportation such as scooters, rollerblades and skateboards to hit the pavement of NW sidewalks for the first time since last fall, and students are now able to experience a little more fun as the semester begins to wind down.

On top of it being an exciting leisure activity in warm weather, some students claim that riding around campus on a set of wheels is also convenient and efficient.

"I ride to lifting, classes and the cafeteria," said freshman elementary education major and proud electric

scooter owner, Cody Moser. "I enjoy how fast I can get around campus."

However, other students recognize that they use a type of transit to get from place to place because it can make their journey to various spots on campus much more enjoyable.

"It is really exciting to ride my electric scooter," said freshman Jalyn Gramstad. "My favorite part about riding it is zooming around and passing people."

On the other hand, some students at NW consider modes of transportation to be much more than an effective and thrilling way to get to class. NW senior and Orange City native Shonna Ritz prefers to use her rollerblades to venture outside of NW's campus and meet new people along the way.

"I love rollerblading around town. Starting from the Learning Commons and going around Windmill Park is a great loop," said Ritz. "Rollerblading is a great conversation starter and a way to get to know more people."

Ritz also said that rollerblading has allowed her to spend time with an unofficial club on campus known as the Blade Gang. For them, wheels are not just a hobby. Instead, it is another way for the students of NW to form a sense of community and belonging.

"The Blade Gang is a group of



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ

Riley Rasmussen and Shega Heitritter pose in front of Stegenga Hall as they head out to scooter across campus.

people who have wheels on campus. We include scooters, rollerblades, skateboards and anything with wheels," said Ritz. "There is no schedule, but we meet mainly at night. When we skate, we go around town."

Ritz admits that her rollerblading skills can be improved upon, but that did not matter to the Blade Gang. They still invited her into the group with open arms.

"They welcomed me in with no

hesitation," said Ritz. "Any and all wheels and skill levels are accepted. [The Blade Gang] has been one of my favorite parts about rollerblading."

As students transition into April and finals week creeps closer, the pressure of ending the semester on a high note can be stressful. Thankfully, the spring weather allows for students to use their wheels to get their minds off their homework and spend some much-needed time with their peers.

"It allows me to get outside and take a break from schoolwork," says sophomore digital arts major Riley Rasmussen. "It is a great way to build community."

Seeing the different types of wheels on campus once again can be seen as a sign of accomplishment. It marks the close of a brutal Iowa winter and another challenging semester. Now, students can finally look forward to enjoying another warm summer with their friends, family and loved ones.

## MarComm Heroes

FROM PAGE 1

Like his coworker, Beeson enjoys seeing how NW's legacy continues as he talks with alumni and hears about their experiences at the college. Beeson has an appreciation for the work that is happening for God's kingdom here at NW.

"A lot of us wouldn't be here if it wasn't a Christian institution," Beeson said.

One of the most challenging parts of working in the MarComm is how there is constantly a list of tasks needing to be done which requires

prioritizing and good time management. There is always a variety of work going on in the office, and no two days look the same. However, Beeson and Pennings find the variety of work fun and challenging.

While the MarComm team is always busy working on various projects, a lot of their work goes unnoticed because it takes place behind the scenes.

"There's a lot of planning and collaborating that goes on before things happen," Beeson said.

Pennings commented that those of us here on

campus and the general public would be surprised by the amount of work that goes on inside of the MarComm. A lot of the team's work isn't seen on campus because the purpose of it is to target a specific audience and entice students to come to NW.

The staff members work individually, but they are also able to come together to bounce ideas off of each other and help each other be better.

Beeson said, "Everybody in the office is an unsung hero."



PHOTO BY JADEYN VELTKAMP

Pennings and Beeson collaborate over *The Classic*, NW's alumni magazine.



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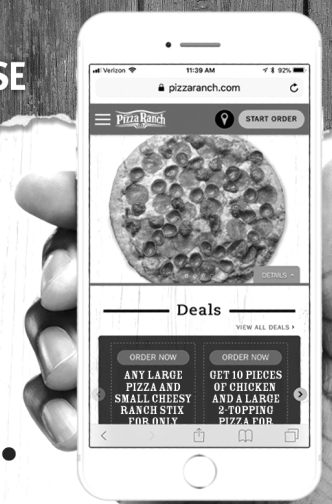
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## WOULD YOU RATHER?

(As voted on by you, the students)

For your life, would you rather have a...

**Rewind button**

47%

OR

**Pause button**

53%

Would you rather pick...

**Godzilla**

55%

OR

**Kong**

45%

Would you rather...

**Rollerblade**

62%

OR

**Skate/longboard**

38%

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

# The benefits of the liberal arts



**Landon Van Berkum**  
History

Northwestern College is, what we call, a 'liberal arts college'. This means that Northwestern College educates students in the 'liberal arts'. What does it mean for a college to teach the 'liberal arts'? Despite the name, it really has nothing to do with painting or the mystical practices of progressivism.

The liberal arts originate in Roman antiquity as Artes Liberales, referring to the subjects which were worthy of a free person, a free person being someone who could participate in society. These subjects would later be confined to the seven liberal arts of Medieval Europe: grammar, rhetoric, and logic making up the 'trivium'— music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy making up the 'quadrivium'. These two branches, trivium and quadrivium, formed the basis for the whole tradition of western

higher education, though we know them today as the humanities and the sciences. With the rise of universities in Medieval Europe, the liberal arts stood as the guides for these places of study, instructing the studious and the wealthy in their version of class requirements.

Today the liberal arts are made up of natural sciences, social sciences, the arts, and the humanities. Although it looks quite different, the point of collecting these disciplines into one academic experience is similar to the purpose of the liberal arts in Medieval times, namely, to provide a student with a well-rounded understanding of the world. We should strive for well-roundedness in our pursuit to love others.

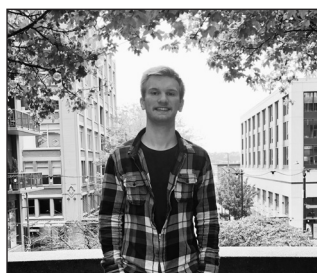
It is easier to love someone if you know their story, it is easier to empathize if you know their context. While it is impossible to learn the story of every human on earth, you have before you an opportunity to learn as much as you can about the world outside of yourself. The liberal arts college, as opposed to a technical or vocational school, is intentionally different for the purpose of experiencing new things. The goal here should be to not only prepare yourself for your particular career, but to also try out other disciplines, to push your comfort zone, and to learn what it is like to live and understand things in a

different way.

It should go without saying that this mindset of learning, of trying new things, should apply to your life outside of academics as well as in the classroom. Sign up for events, engage with the humanity around you and celebrate the opportunity to be in such proximity to mindsets and worldviews different from your own. There can a tendency on campus for people to want to stay in their established zones, almost going out of their way to avoid trying new things. This can be seen in people who do not care about elective classes, events outside of their interests, or people outside of their friend group. I encourage you to explore classes outside of your major, to go to plays and sports games, to talk to people you might not otherwise talk to. Diversity is not passive; it requires you to actively seek out people who have lived different experiences than you, college is place where you have more opportunities to do that.

This is not an advertisement for Northwestern College, or an endorsement of the liberal arts system; I do not need to advertise something you are already paying for. This is, rather, a call to utilize what you already have. You are already here, the people and experiences are already around you, go and live them.

# Do we really love LGBTQ students?



**Caleb Arnett**  
Political Science

What does it mean to love our neighbor? Maybe similarly, how do we define what love is? It is the central tenant of the Christian faith, but that does not mean there is a clear-cut answer. Is love personal? Political? Perhaps both? We can say that Jesus defined love but even that gets us only so far. Despite the popularity of the phrase "what would Jesus do?", different historical and social contexts render it rather difficult to determine exactly how Jesus would act in today's world.

This has led many Christians to freely interpret a "tough love" that they deem necessary in order to correctly combat sin, best epitomized by the "love the sinner, hate the sin" mantra. These Christians stress kindness towards everyone while having a zero-tolerance policy against every perceived sin. They see Jesus as someone who desired to free humanity

from their sinful ways. However, this tough love is not an accurate picture of Jesus and can be extremely problematic because it puts a standard on what is lovable based on our own fallible interpretation of sin.

No where is this more obvious than with the LGBTQ community. Christians have been advocating for a tough love against them, claiming to accept them while rejecting their sin, often times not allowing them to serve in the Church or sometimes attend if they do not change. In response, LGBTQ Christians have been leaving the church in droves. They feel rejected, and most importantly, unloved.

Why? Is it possible that tough love is not love at all? Would real love cause depression, anxiety, and fear in the LGBTQ community?

One of the places LGBTQ youth feel the most unsafe is in Christian circles exactly like Northwestern. This should be incredibly concerning but not at all shocking. It should also cause us to reflect, not just on our attitudes, but also the theology that rejects part of the humanity of God's people simply because of who they love.

It is uncontroversial in straight circles to define who we love as part of who we are. It is practically a rite of passage for straight people to have and show love for a significant other.

However, we do not consider the same to be true of the LGBTQ community. For some reason, we think we can separate who they love from who they are even when science tells us that sexual orientation is not a choice. And in the case of transgendered individuals, we think it acceptable to directly challenge their Imago Dei.

It makes sense then why those in the LGBTQ community feel threatened by a Christian theology that permits us to only love a fraction of who they really are. We are letting our own fallible interpretation of Biblical text prevent us from making LGBTQ students feel fully welcome and loved on Christian colleges like ours. Loving their queerness is not compromising your own beliefs, it's acknowledging that there are things more important than our own interpretation.

At the very least, we should decenter love away from how it makes us feel and towards how it makes others feel. Love makes people feel welcome, not isolated or incorrect, and it certainly does not try to prove a point.

Jesus once told us that good branches produce good fruit while bad branches produce bad fruit. If so many fellow Northwestern students are experiencing bad fruit from our sexual theology, than maybe it is time to consider that that theology may be a bad branch.

### Editor's Note

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## Women's head basketball coach Chris Yaw parts ways

### COACH YAW STEPS DOWN AS COACH

**KESLIE PAUL**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Northwestern's head basketball coach Chris Yaw announced his resignation after the team's trip to the GPAC national tournament. The team went 18-11 in Coach Yaw's season, with a slow start the Raiders were able to end strong and make it to the national tournament.

After being head coach for 10 seasons, Coach Yaw has made the final decision to step down from the position. Although, Yaw has made his mark in NW women's basketball. He is ranked second in the program's all-time list for both wins and win percentage, finishing his career with a 224-96 overall record.

There have been many memories made in his 10 years coaching.

"I have been extremely fortunate

to have gotten to work alongside and coach some outstanding people," Yaw said. "The conversations and relationships with these people are the special part about coaching. There are big games, moments and seasons that are highlights as well but, in the end, it is the people that you are able to share the experiences with that make it worthwhile."

Coach Yaw had nothing but great things to say about his last season as head coach. He is incredibly proud of where they had finished and the growth throughout the team.

"Having that improvement end in an opportunity to compete in the national tournament is special," he said. "I believe there is a good sense of accomplishment and achievement for the team. I pray that they all recognize, regardless of their individual roles, how much they each contributed to such a memorable season!"

Northwestern qualified for the GPAC tournament in each of Yaw's

10 seasons, finishing among the top five in one of the most competitive conferences in the NAIA eight times.

"Coach Yaw has been a blessing to the Red Raider Athletics. He has accomplished a lot as a positive role model who impacted many student athletes, NW vice president of athletics Dr. Micah Parker said. "I am sad I only got the pleasure of working with him for a single season. He will be the standard by which we look for another head coach."

Yaw will be greatly missed by the NW athletics.

"I am humbled and grateful to have been able to serve NW in this role. There have been numerous mentors in my life that allowed this to be rewarding and successful experience," Yaw said. "My hope is that I have been able to impact the people in our basketball program and others on campus in a way comparable to how the experience has impacted me and my family."

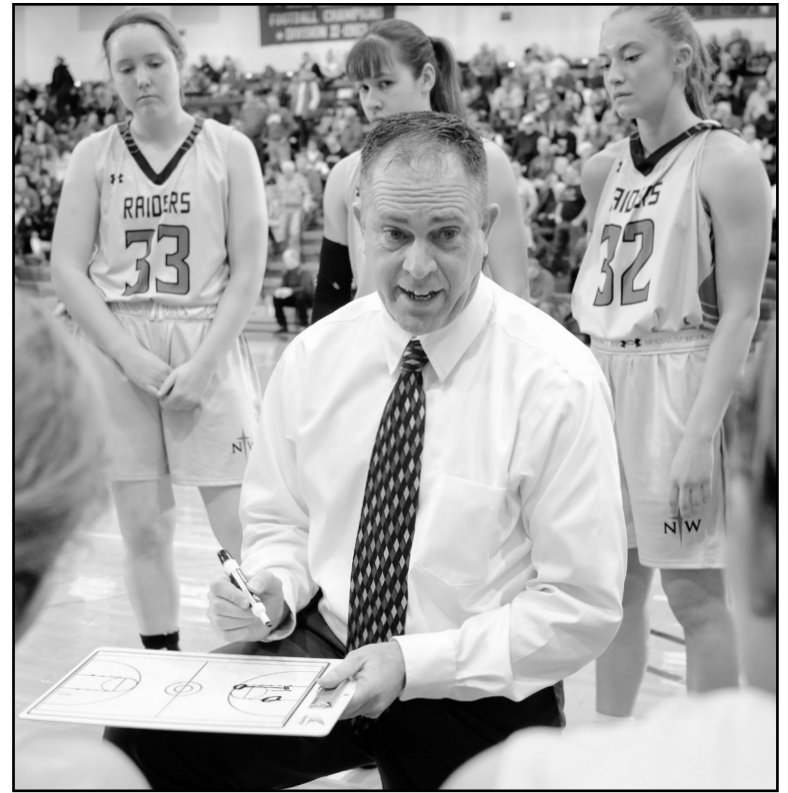


PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Head coach Chris Yaw had a great last season making it to nationals.

## NW volleyball continues on in national tournament

### RAIDERS TAKE OVER MATCH

**ALAYNA BAKKE**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

On Saturday, April 3, the Red Raider volleyball team (no. 2) swept Hastings (no. 7) in the Great Plains Athletic Conference quarterfinals. Ranked 7th in the nation, Northwestern improves their overall record to 18-3. The team's powerful offense hit .494 over the course of the match recording 46 kills out of 83 attempts. This is the fourth highest team hitting percentage in the history of the program.

"This was a great start to

the conference tournament," said head coach Kyle Van Den Bosch. "We played really well in the serve and pass game which allowed us to run our offense. I thought senior Lacey Reitz was really good at moving the ball around to the attackers."

The stats definitely proved this to be true. Raiders won the first set 25-17. It was clear from the start that the Raiders' offense was efficient. The Raiders hit 57% as opposed to Hastings' 16%. In set two, a few errors behind the service line gave Hastings a little hope, but back-to-back kills from the middle junior Bekah Horstman and senior Emily

Van Ginkel put NW back into the lead. They won set two 25-21. In set three, a dangerous front row and aggressive serving gave NW the lead. The Raiders won set three 25-10. All five Northwestern hitters hit at or above .320.

It was a great game for birthday girl, senior Makenzie Fink, who led the game with 12 kills, hitting .611.

"I feel really good about today's game," said Fink. "I think we played really well as a team and moved the ball around well. As some of our careers are coming to an end, I think it's important that we go into every game and give

it our best because in a few shorts weeks it will all be over. I'm really excited to be able to continue to play the game I love with my amazing teammates and really focus on ending our season well!"

Senior Anna Wedel followed close behind Fink with 11 kills, hitting .320. Horstman had a season-high eight kills with five blocks. Reitz had 34 assists and five kills. Junior Taylor Meyer matched her career-high with five aces.

This is just the start of an exciting post-season this spring. Northwestern will host No. 10 Concordia on Wednesday, April 7, for the GPAC semifinal.

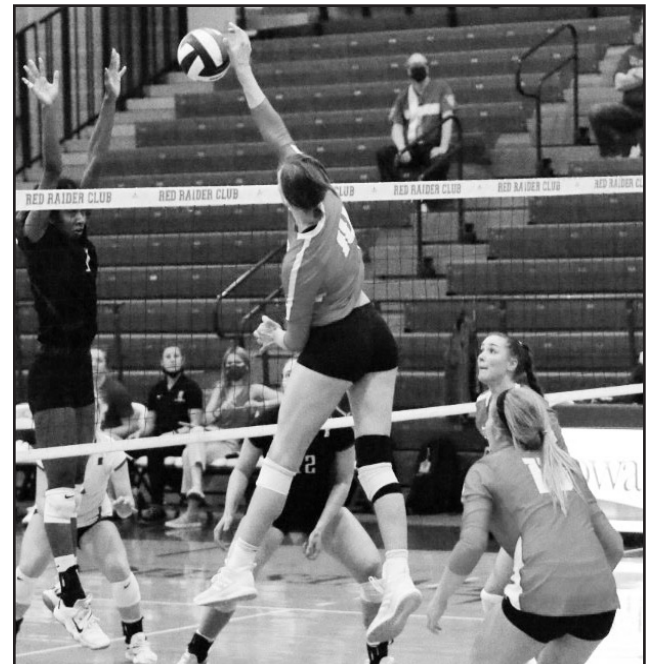


PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
A.J. Kacmarynski hits a spike to help Raiders in their win.

## Raider baseball fought hard in hosted double-header

### 1-1 TO END THE WEEKEND

**APRIL VAN TOL**  
BIO ECO SCIENCE

Saturday, April 3, Northwestern hosted a double header against Dakota Wesleyan, pulling out a win-loss split for the day. The Raiders swept the first game with a win although they fought hard, they lost momentum in the second game ending in a loss only lasting eight innings.

In game one, DWU was the first to score an unearned run in the top of the first on a single play which was after a sacrifice fly was hit by DWU Luke LeMay. In return, senior outfielder, Colton Harold tied the game with a solo home run on a 1-2 pitch

with two outs in the bottom of the first.

After the start to the second inning, the Tigers scored their second run, reaching base on a double. The Raiders went on for good with a five-run. In the third inning, Harold hit a grand slam and freshman Sam Stanford followed with a solo shot. The Raiders padded their lead with a run in each of the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Sophomore Jaden Snyder hit a triple home leading runner senior Hunter Rynders home in the fourth. Freshman Mason Porepp hit a two-out, solo home run in the fifth. Stanford drove in the final run with a single in the sixth, scoring Snyder.

Some great performances: freshman Dylan Kirkeby

pitched the final five innings, giving up three hits to go with a career-best eight strikeouts. Harold went two for three, two homeruns, and five runners batted in; the senior has hit eight home runs this season so far.

Ending the first game with a 9-2 win for the Raiders before their next and final game of the day.

In game two the Raiders lost their momentum and lost the game 14-4 against the Tigers. DWU came back game two swinging hard against NW, only having the game last eight innings.

DWU started out with two unearned runs in the first. After the first two innings, the Tigers were suddenly up 6-0 over the Raiders. After DWU got up 8-0 over NW, senior Sutton Derr gave NW

its first run on an RBI ground out, scoring in Stanford. Senior J.D. Wonder added a pinch-hit, RBI double to make the score 8-2 after the fourth inning.

NW looked as if they were fighting to come back, however, that was not enough to catch up to DWU's strong lead to the game. Senior Noa Vogel scored the last two homeruns for the Raiders bringing the score to 9-4 before the Tigers ended the game with five runs in the eight innings, 10 running the Raiders.

Northwestern totaled 10 hits, four Raiders having two hits each. The Raiders continue their season at Dordt University, April 9 - 10 for four games against the Defenders.

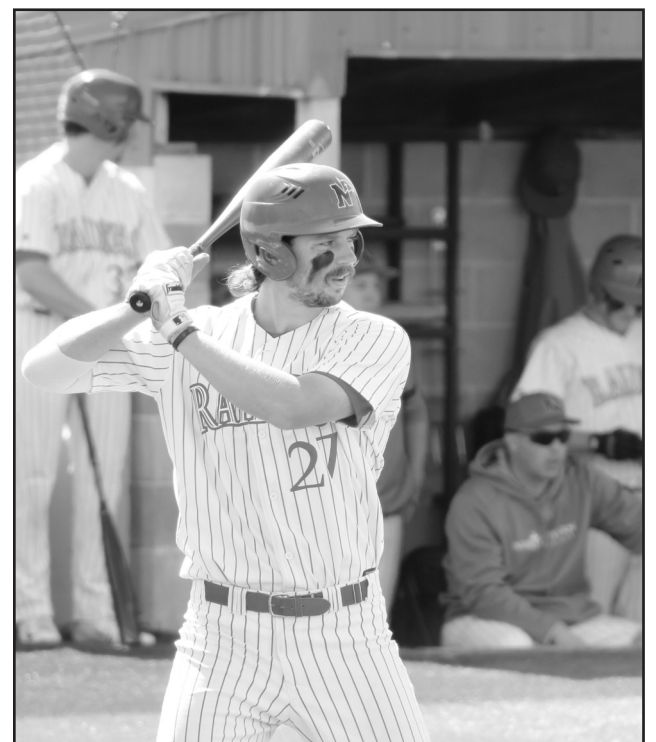


PHOTO BY WILLIAM MINNICK  
Colton Harold up to bat, ready to lead NW in homeruns.



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# NW offering leadership minor in 2021

CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP ADDS MINOR

**RACHEL SMART**  
ENGLISH TEACHING

This March, Northwestern announced its brand new leadership studies minor. The new minor is the first interdisciplinary minor offered by NW which will not be housed in a department, but rather in the new Center for Innovation and Leadership which opened in August of 2020.

Dr. Jenny Song, who helped facilitate the creation of the minor, said, "This program will allow students to deepen their understanding of leadership theory informed by biblical principles and servant-leadership as a way of living and its application to their field of study and career goals."

The minor requires a minimum of twenty credits which breaks down to three core courses, one practicum course and three elective courses from a list of ten. Many of these courses fall under the disciplines of leadership, management, sociology, psychology, Christian studies and public relations.

Students can declare their leadership minor this semester and begin taking classes toward the minor this coming fall. For example, Servant-Leadership (BUS/CEY 310), one of the new courses developed for the minor, will be offered fall of 2021 for two credits.

The idea for the leadership minor originally came to be when the business department began working on potential new program ideas. At first, the program was meant to work under the Northwestern Bridge Scholars and Franken Leadership Scholars programs, but eventually, it developed into a minor under the collaboration between Erica Vonk, the director of the Center for Innovation and Leadership, and professors Dr. Jason Lief and Dr. Jenny Song.



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

Erica Vonk, Dr. Jason Lief and Dr. Jenny Song all partnered to develop the leadership minor.

Vonk is responsible for marketing the new minor and monitoring enrollment and course offerings. Dr. Lief and Dr. Song both worked together to draft the proposal for the minor.

Many students are excited about this minor as well.

Bryant Agre, a freshman finance major who is adding the leadership minor, said, "The leadership minor excites me because Jenny Song is one of the core leaders and it seems like an opportunity that most colleges don't offer. God calls us to be servant leaders and this minor will help individuals like me to expand on this calling."

After completing the minor, students should expect to utilize leadership theory and language, come to an understanding of leadership founded on

biblical principles, apply knowledge and leadership skills to their future careers and more.

Erica Vonk has high hopes for this new program. She said, "This minor allows undergraduate students to set themselves apart in the interview stage," she said. "And they will feel more prepared and confident in their abilities in the workplace and communities in which they live. For the college, it sets a good example of calling and skillsets that cross boundaries of majors which breaks down silos and encourages us all to work together 'On Purpose, For His Purpose.'"

Students interested in this new program can contact Erica Vonk, Dr. Jason Lief or Dr. Jenny Song.

# Magician to perform at Northwestern College

JOHN MICHAEL HINTON COMING TO CAMPUS ON APRIL 9

**VANESSA STOKES**  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

On Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., Northwestern will have the pleasure of having a free performance by magician John Michael Hinton. It will be held at Christ Chapel and is sponsored by NW and the Orange City Arts Council.

Doors open for NW students at 7 p.m. and for the community at 7:10 p.m. Masks are required, and capacity is limited to 50% due to COVID-19. No ticket reservations are necessary.

Hinton is best known for his featured performance on CW's hit show "Penn and Teller: Fool Us" in which aspiring magicians try to impress the seasoned illusionists Penn and Teller with tricks that they themselves are unable to duplicate. Penn and Teller commented that Hinton "completely blows away" his audience.

"I am excited to see someone on the top of the field that fooled the great magicians Penn and Teller," said junior Noah Kryfka. "Penn and Teller are some of the best magicians out there. If he can fool them, I want to see him."

In addition to CW, Hinton has also performed for networks ABC and NBC. He has traveled to Christian-focused businesses like Thrivent Financial, Humelake Christian Camps, Upward Sports and Chick-fil-A. Hinton has even performed for Disney.

His tagline boldly pronounces that Hinton is a speaker, magician and redhead. He applies illusion, storytelling, humor and magic while using everyday objects to astound and amaze his audience. To help the audience, there will be a close-up camera projection shown during the performance so that every audience member can connect with Hinton and catch a glimpse of the magic.

According to his website, he is "driven by a passion to encourage people to embrace joy and find purpose." His hope



PHOTO SUBMITTED

John Michael Hinton will give a free magic performance at Christ Chapel on April 9.

is that people will be happier having seen his shows and that he will have made an impact, even if only to one person.

When not on the road for shows, Hinton spends his free time "sharing large cups of black tea" with his wife and "wrestling on the floor with his three children." He also enjoys the little things in life like "In'N'Out burgers, ice-cold root beer, a good

suspenseful movie and family trips to Disneyworld."

"I am excited because I would love to gain a greater appreciation for magic and what it's all about and the way that it is practiced," said senior Cole Verbrugge. "When I think about magic, it's not just about magic; it's about enjoying the work of another person."