

Northwestern College, Iowa

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The Beacon, 2020-2021

The Beacon student newspaper

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The Beacon Staff

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# We're back on campus: now what?

## EXPECTATIONS OF CHANGES ON CAMPUS

**KAITLYN VAN PEURSEM**  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

With the anticipation of a fall semester full of changes, many students and faculty had different expectations of how the semester would turn out.

Last spring, the pandemic abruptly halted all in-person activities on campus and completely changed how we interact with those around us. When Northwestern reopened this fall, students, faculty and staff had a new set of rules to follow, which included wearing masks in all buildings on campus except in one's own resident hall, creating six feet of distance in all areas possible, extending cafeteria hours and prohibiting self-serve, moving chapel and other large events to the Rowenhorst Student Center four-court area to incorporate more seating, and limiting fans at athletic events.

As students returned to campus knowing these restrictions, there was a lot of anxiety in wondering if NW could still provide their valued community that students love.

Freshmen have nothing to compare. This is their first semester at college, and many bring a sense of positivity and optimism to campus.

"I wasn't sure what to expect. I haven't experienced a pandemic-free college year yet," said freshman Luke Haverdink. "The only worry I had was that I wasn't going to be prepared to go back to school since I haven't been in a physical classroom since early March, but so far, I'm having a ton of fun."

Upperclassmen know different. They recognize the changes being made and some feel anxious about how the precautions will affect their college life. With the first few weeks of classes complete, they're starting to adjust.

"To me, all the safety changes seemed inevitable if we were to have class on-campus this fall," said senior Jason Van Dyke. "The



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
O-Staff leaders welcome new students to Northwestern's campus for orientation.

masks, distancing and sanitizing protocols all seem fitting and well thought out, and they're actually not as intrusive to my normal life as I first thought they would be when they were announced."

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# Unsung Heroes: Allison Cahill

## CAHILL IS INVOLVED AT NW IN MANY WAYS

**ALLISON WHEELER**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

Allison Cahill might be the best juggler on Northwestern's campus. That is, she might be the best at juggling several jobs.

Cahill has worked as the athletic facilities director and director of recreational sports the past six years. As the athletic facilities director, Cahill acts as a bridge between the maintenance department and the coaches in the athletic department to schedule reservations for the various athletic facilities. She also manages 40 work study students within the intramural program and oversees the planning of fitness classes and other wellness programs as the director of recreational sports.

This school year, Cahill added two more titles to the list: senior woman administrator and pandemic response team member.

The senior woman administrator position is a brand-new role

within NW's athletic department. "The purpose of the position is to get women in the leadership roles within athletics," Cahill said.

Someone who has influenced her and led the way for women in NW's athletic department is Carrie Krohn, assistant track and field coach and assistant cross-country coach. Cahill admires the way Krohn is an inspiration for other women to be confident leaders in male-dominated fields.

"Carrie Krohn is such a woman of God. She is so inspirational," Cahill said.

Cahill has also been busy this summer attending meetings, making decisions, researching and making plans as a member of NW's pandemic response team. As a staff member of the athletic department, Cahill's main focus while trying to navigate around COVID-19 was to strategize and decide what was best for the athletic department and student athletes.

The common thread and her favorite part of all these roles is the



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
Allison Cahill has been the athletic facilities director and also the director of recreational sports for six years.

students. She said that NW students are great motivators for her, and they inspire and invigorate her. One student that Cahill has worked closely with is senior Erica Hulsing.

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## Next on queue: Psych, Sherlock meets Brooklyn 99

TV SHOW REVIEW

### THE SHOW THAT HAS IT ALL

VANESSA STOKES  
WRITING AND RHETORIC

For lovers of crime, drama, comedy and sometimes even horror, "Psych" fulfills it all. Now that may sound like lofty expectations to put on one show, but it does not disappoint.

The show first aired in July 2006 and continued until March 2014. From the start, the eight-season series was the highest-rated U.S. basic-cable television premiere of 2006. "Psych" features main actors James Roday Rodriguez and Dule Hill as Shawn Spencer and Burton (Gus) Guster.

Set in Santa Barbara, California, the eccentric nature of the show starts from episode one. Shawn Spencer has been brought up by his police officer father in the hopes that he too would join the force. His father trained Shawn in visual and aural skills so that his son would be an even better police

officer than he was.

Contrary to what his father would have, Shawn instead uses his eidetic visual memory and hyper-observance to call in tips to the Santa Barbara Police Department while holding a variety of jobs from driving a hot dog truck to opening an acupuncture clinic with no experience.

But after tipping the police off on the true perpetrators in a number of crimes, the department becomes suspicious. Shawn is brought into police custody and does the one thing he knows how to do best: fake it.

Shawn pretends he is a psychic who has had visions of various crimes and manages to convince almost everyone, including the police chief.

With the reluctant help of his practical, lifelong friend Gus, Shawn decides the perfect way to continue helping and defying the police is to start his own psychic detective agency called Psych.

This begins the budding relationship between Shawn and the department as their one and only psychic police consultant.

As Shawn puts it, "The best way to convince someone you're not lying to them is to tell them that you are."

Quotable lines like this make up most of the show's infamous script. Though most of the beloved lines by fans are actually ad lib by the actors. Throughout the show, there are many quote arcs running from "I would rather..." and "Gus, don't be...". For example, "I would rather marry a vegan" and "Gus, don't be a rabid porcupine."

But what the show's followers appreciate most are the improvised aliases for Gus invented by Roday's character Shawn. Fan favorites include Lavendar Gooms, Ghee Buttersnaps and, personal favorite, Hollabackatcha.

All of these quirks have made the show lovable to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF USANETWORK.COM

point that the fans even have their own name: Psychos.

The following has allowed the 14-year running show to also produce "Psych: The Musical," "Psych: The Movie" and "Psych 2: Lassie Come Home." According to the show producer Steve Franks, there are even three more movies still in store.

Be sure to watch every epi-

sode and film with an eye out for pineapples, the show staple. This running bit started from the pilot when Roday decided to ad lib the line "Should I slice this up for the road?" in reference to a pineapple he found stocked in the set fridge of Gus's apartment. The producers loved it.

Ever since, the cast has conjured unique ways to incor-

porate pineapples into every episode from Hawaiian shirts to pineapple smoothies. It is just another reason to keep re-watching the best episodes.

This show is for any audience, young or old, with an affection for wholehearted, sarcastic comedy and lovable characters. It deserves all five stars with a pineapple on the side.

★★★★★

## The Killers new album: "Imploding the Mirage"

MUSIC REVIEW

### THE KILLERS RETURN TO ROCK

MISAEEL GONZALEZ  
ECONOMICS

"Imploding the Mirage" is The Killers' sixth effort, which feels like more than just a triumphant new record but a dazzling return to the familiar, glamorous indie rock sound that came to define them at their best.

The Killers deliver yet another exploration of their hometown of Las Vegas and the characters that inhabit it in 10 anthemic tracks. The record oozes with the nostalgic yet modern indie-Americana sound that came to define their style since their sophomore album, the Springsteen-infused "Sam's Town."

Brandon Flowers and the rest of the band embraced their strengths and doubled down on the huge sounds of bright synthesizers, roaring backbeats and grandiose guitars that permeate the rest of the record.

They ditched the typical song structure for more forward-looking songs, more concerned about melodic and excellently mixed build-ups that climactically

burst in unforgettable and catchy choruses.

The many instruments blend seamlessly with each other as climaxes are built and layer upon layer is improved harmoniously without drowning any sound. The eruption of a grandiose chorus feels like an earned achievement and not like a forced part of a song.

Lyrical, however, the album fails to impress or improve on their repertoire. Flowers is known for more ironic and flashy lyrics that are not too concerned about ridiculousness. In their sixth studio album, Flowers does not stray too far from the path he has always taken.

Still, this record is a celebration of all that has made The Killers a household name in the alternative rock scene. They draw from their own content and from their classic influences.

Songs like "Human" and "Spaceman" from their third record, "Day and Age," are clear guidelines for what they set out to achieve in this effort. It also captures the ever-present Americana sound of Springsteen, a stated big influence for Flowers, reminiscing of records like "Born to Run" and "Born in the U.S.A."

The record is not too daring or revolutionary, as the band has clearly not taken a step in any new direction but rather demonstrated that they can still do what they do so well. The record is, undeniably, just right in all the right places. It confidently delivers 10 new classic songs for their already extensive roster.

The opening track, "My Own Soul's Warning," sets the stage for the powerful, sing-along stadium rock that the rest of the record will follow almost formulaically. This track defines the sonic feel of the album and is one of the standouts of the record.

The fourth track, "Caution," is another standout of the record. It is the headliner of the act as it was also the first single released for promotion. It is full of powerful choruses and soaring instrumentals that are perfectly orchestrated. It also delivers the most entertaining story of the record.

The second half of the record kicks off with the bass-driven and perhaps the most daring song, "Fire in the Bone." This track includes the most different sort of feel in both instrumentals and vocals, which proves to be a welcome and refreshing



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEKILLERSMUSIC.COM

sonic break.

"My God" is another standout of the record, a catchy dance and gospel-infused track that delivers the catchiest lyrics and melodies of the whole album. It is a track one

cannot help but come back to.

Overall, "Imploding the Mirage" is a refreshing return to form by The Killers, full of stadium sing-along anthems. The record does not have any tracks that detract

from the rest. It is impeccable synth-Americana and a love letter to their established sound and to their new and longtime fans.

★★★★★

## New Clash of Classes: Residence Hall Rumble

COMPETE ALONGSIDE YOUR DORM

MORIAH WITTENBERG  
NURSING

For years, Clash of Classes has been a greatly anticipated event on campus. Over the course of a weekend, freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors compete in various events with only one class being crowned the victor.

This year, however, Clash of Classes will look a little different as it takes on a new name — Residence Hall Rumble — and structure to follow COVID-19 guidelines.

Each residence hall will be assigned a team color: Fern will be green, Steggy will be blue, Hospers will be orange, Coly will be red, North Suites will be purple and the Bolks apartments and Courtyard Village will be black.

As for the events, some slight changes have been implemented with the goal of having minimal contact with other units.

The competition will kick off on Friday night with the first round of Water Balloon Sand Volleyball. Teams will consist of four members from each dorm. They'll be given half of a bed sheet to use to catch and launch their water balloons.

Teams can earn points in one of

two ways: the opposing team fails to catch the water balloon on their sheet, or the balloon explodes. The top three teams will compete for points on Saturday night.

Saturday starts with the Ribbon Dance at Christy Cross. This event is the same as in previous years, except that no extra points will be given for co-ed teams.

Following the Ribbon Dance will be an intense game of Rock Paper Scissors. This event is laid out in bracket form with single eliminations. A max of 10 students per hall will be allowed to sign up for this event.

The Trike Race will then ensue with a few modifications. This year, the race will be in the form of a relay. However, in order to continue the next leg of the race, the teammate must disinfect the trike before passing it along. This event requires four members per unit.

The last event of the night is a giant game of Ping Pong toss where plastic cups are laid out similar to a dart board. Three different kinds of plastic cups will be laid out, each with their own point value. For this game, there is no limit to the number of participants per hall, but each participant is granted only three ping pong balls to compete with. This is a come and go event.

Finally, the Slime Fight will be the



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Students participate in the tug-of-war event from last year's Clash of Classes.

spectacle of the weekend. For health and safety reasons, this event has been organized as a relay race with each team running parallel to each other.

The goal is to fill your team's tank as quickly as possible. The winner of the Residence Hall Rumble will be announced at the Slime Fight. At the end

of the Slime Fight, each student must be hosed down before leaving.

No Slip n' Slide will be available this year due to potential exposure to COVID-19.

Masks are strongly recommended to be worn during these events but are not required. Before participating in any of

the games, the use of hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be expected and social distancing encouraged. Another change is that masks will be awarded to winning students at the conclusion of each event instead of the traditional t-shirts. Masks will be available in each unit's color.

## Changes with campus ministry events

EVENTS LOOK DIFFERENT IN 2020

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

As students approach their fourth week on campus, life at times appears to have shifted back to the way it was before March.

Yet, there are still many changes on our campus this semester as each department works to operate in a new normal.

The Campus Ministry Team is no exception.

While most of the events and services from years past will still be offered, the manner in which they will be carried out has changed.

Chapel is the biggest change that CMT has had to make.

Chapel is being held in the RSC four-court area to reach a higher capacity and maintain social distance. Students who attend are expected to wear a mask and have the iAttended app downloaded on their phone to track their attendance.

Tuesday and Friday chapels are traditionally not the only way to receive chapel credits, and this year will be no different.

Spanish chapels, held once a month on Wednesdays at 10:05 a.m., began on Sept. 9 in Christ Chapel. NED Talks, held on the other three Wednesdays of the month at the same time, will begin on Sept. 16 also in Christ Chapel. And the semester's first NGAGE, held once a month, will be on Sept. 29 in Christ Chapel, where Sho Baraka will speak on

how to balance faith and politics.

Sunday night Praise and Worship, a campus favorite, is also being held in the RSC this year. At its regular time of 8:30 p.m., students will have the opportunity to worship while staying socially distant and wearing masks.

CMT worship leader Lydia Bader says that the worship team is also working on starting up Wednesday night worship once more.

Discipleship groups, commonly known as D-groups, are also beginning in every dorm on campus. Here, students meet in small groups on Tuesday nights to go through Bible studies together or simply connect through the Word.

In years past, D-group sizes have mostly ranged from eight to 10 students, but most dorm rooms cannot safely accommodate groups of these sizes.

"We've been learning to be creative and choosing to look at it as a new opportunity to change things up a bit," said Abigail Moody, the Stegenga Hall discipleship coordinator.

In Fern Smith Hall, for example, most D-groups have been decreased to six women or less to fit into a dorm room, but a few larger groups have moved their meeting spaces to areas like the third floor computer lounge, which has a capacity of 25 students.

CMT also hosts many smaller events, which are less frequent but also great ways for students to take study breaks and find much needed quiet time with God like Prayer Labyrinths and "Alone Together."

Some of this event planning



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT  
Camila Wede greets students as they head to chapel in the RSC four-court area.

is the responsibility of Vanessa Stokes, who is the apartment coordinator and a member of the Prayer and Event Team.

"Due to COVID-19, the event part of my title has gone from large event planning to more intimate gatherings," Stokes said, "Major events of from previous years are on the books for this year. They'll just be adapted to fit

this year's needs."

Finally, even though no one knows exactly what the global pandemic will bring by next spring or summer, the student coordinators in CMT are actively doing their best to make tentative plans for Spring Service Projects and Summer of Service internships.

Kaitlyn Hassman, a SOS co-

ordinator, said that for these opportunities, most of the COVID-19 adjustments will be regarding location.

Spring Service Projects are on the calendar, but there will be no international trips this year, only domestic. Likewise, for SOS trips, the coordinators are specifically looking at domestic loca-

tions rather than the usual international ones.

While CMT events this year are not the same as in years past, students may take comfort in knowing that the students and staff of CMT are coming up with new and creative solutions to keep the same activities and opportunities available to campus.

## Enrollment up through pandemic

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

CAMBER HERRIG  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

As the start of the new academic year approached, colleges began to worry: How will the pandemic affect our enrollment?

For Northwestern, enrollment numbers have not been a problem. In fact, NW has seen another record-breaking year.

This fall NW boasts a mighty 1,546 students, up 9% from last year's 1,412. On top of a record-breaking enrollment, the number of graduate students also rose from 351 to 461, thanks to a new physician assistant program and record-breaking enrollment in the master of education program.

How? Some speculate it's the abrupt change students saw this spring with their education and the longing to return to normalcy.

Tamara Fynaardt, vice president for enrollment and marketing, said, "We're finding that due to their COVID-impacted education experiences last spring, undergraduates are more eager than ever for the highly personal classroom and campus life experience Northwestern offers."

The enrollment team's reliance on the NW Network has increased due to virtual fairs and cancelled test dates. In fact, the team is beginning to rely on NW students.

"Through the month of September, the NW Network is giving students a coupon for free cheese balls at the Hub if they share names of high school students who would be a good fit for Raider Nation," Fynaardt said. "And if any of those names are new to us, then students will get a free smoothie coupon for every new name."

NW students can bring names of prospective students to Kristin Rucks in the Compass Center for Career and Calling.

Criteria for enrollment has also changed for fall 2021. For the upcoming year, NW will waive the once required standardized test score. Enrollment will be based solely on GPA, as will academic scholarships provided by NW.

Prospective students will have the option to report a score, but it is not required.

Admissions counselors also had to change the recruitment process and how they connected with prospective students amid the pandemic.

On March 13, NW announced the move to online classes, resulting in cancelled



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Even through the pandemic, Northwestern enrollment is up as students want an on-campus experience.

RED101 days and individual visits for high school juniors. Virtual visits became the reality, as admissions counselors soon learned how to make the NW community as vivid on screen as it is in reality.

Sarah Pemberton, admissions counselor and '17 alum, says counselors are continuing to look into different virtual options: state specific group virtual dates, one general virtual visit page and department specific Zoom meetings.

As of June 8, guests were

welcomed back to campus with new safeguards.

"Guests are required to follow campus policies just as the students are," Pemberton said. "Wearing masks while inside and meeting with professors and staff."

Now that the academic year has commenced, NW has begun their recruitment for the coming fall. However, as college fairs are still virtual and COVID policies differ from school to school, a counselor's job has taken on a new form. Most admissions

counselors should be getting ready for a busy travel season of visiting high schools, but this year will contain more office time.

In place of travel, counselors are forging new communication paths that include reaching out to churches and youth groups, partnering virtual visits with guidance counselors and a texting app for interpersonal communication.

Despite the various changes, Pemberton remains hopeful amid this

new season of recruitment.

"Being on campus during the fall will allow the admissions counselors to make more contact with the students that are visiting and hopefully that leads to better connections with students even after they leave campus," Pemberton said.

If any NW students enjoy free food and know high school students who would be a good fit at NW, they can be referred on our website: [nwciova.edu/admissions/refer-a-student](http://nwciova.edu/admissions/refer-a-student).

## We're back on campus: now what?

FROM PAGE 1

Even with masks being required in the classroom, students don't see an effect on their learning or productivity. In extracurricular activities, however, there have been some changes that have taken longer to get used to.

"Volleyball practices have been changed as we can only do a drill for 15 minutes or less," said senior Jessica Mouw. "We have not had any games yet, so I'm unsure what other changes there might be."

Athletes aren't the only ones seeing changes to their routines. New guidelines also apply to the arts.

"It has been great to be back and singing in choir with friends," said senior Joel Van Peursem. "Wearing a mask is not bad at all if we can still keep making

music in person."

For resident directors and assistants, dorm life has looked a bit different this fall. They were very motivated coming into the semester but understood that their jobs would require flexibility.

"We needed to figure out a way to provide a meaningful residence life experience for students," said Hospers resident director Michael Simmelink. "Most of Hospers' first semester events can carry on with normalcy and slight adjustments. Coffeehouse will be postponed to the spring semester."

Overall, most students aren't worried for their own physical health, but they want to protect those who are more compromised. Most students and faculty have high expectations of staying on campus all semester.

"I trust our students don't want to spend another six months at their parents' house," Simmelink said. "There's a motivation there I can believe in. If this goes online, we have no one to blame but ourselves."

While the changes were significant this fall, professors felt prepared by the NW administration for the changes to instructional delivery.

"Our required summer course revisions to prepare for some quarantined students showed great foresight and follow-through by our vice president of academic affairs and deans, so those adjustments were already in place at the start of classes," said Dr. Thomas Holm, music department chair.

Professors say the transition was easier than expected.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Faculty and students have high expectations of staying on campus throughout the semester, as students don't want to leave the beloved NW community.

"Spending time this summer on classes to make them adaptable to move online or accessible virtually for students in quarantine was not at all difficult, though it was time consuming," said Dr. Rebecca Koerselman, associate professor of history education.

Overall, NW has done well at still providing their beloved community.

"I think our policies so far have been strict enough to ensure campus takes them seriously, but not so strict that we miss out on crucial elements of the campus community,"

said senior Schuyler Sterk.

One thing has become clear to Derek Brower, associate professor of education: It's important for everyone to do their part.

"We want to be here on campus," he said. "So let's be responsible Raiders and make it work."

## To tell a story via action figures

STAR WARS COLLECTION

**BEN HENKER**  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

If you ever go to the Peer Learning Center, odds are you have probably met Randy Van Peursem.

Van Peursem is a support services professional and helps out at the PLC. While the bulk of his day revolves around science and academics, his free time is spent exploring the science fiction world as he gets lost in a galaxy far, far away.

His Star Wars collection first began in 1992 when he spotted some action figures at a flea market. He remembered that he got the first six original ones when they came out around the time of the first three Star Wars movies. He thought it would be fun to get the “original 12” and go from there. After that, the collecting bug bit.

Today, Randy has around 6,000 action figures, plus ships and playsets. However, not all 6,000 are from Star Wars. Van Peursem also collects figures from Star Trek, Babylon 5, Stargate and Lord

of the Rings. He found all these figures by either hopping in the car to find the nearest Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreens, etc. that were selling the figures or looking on eBay.

The biggest collection he has is his Star Wars and Lord of the Rings collection. As he built more of his collection, he was able to create a diorama in his house with specific scenes from each show or movie.

The very first diorama was built in 2002 when he moved into his current home in Orange City. The theme of the diorama was the Grand Army of the Republic from “Star Wars: Attack of the Clones.” The more he collected, the bigger his dioramas became.

Today, he has two notable themed dioramas. One of them is an updated version of the emperor’s arrival scene from Star Wars, and the other diorama is of the “Prologue Battle” that is present in the Lord of the Rings.

He puts many of his dioramas behind a polycarbonate sheet on a display rack to protect them from being



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Randy Van Peursem shows off his immense collection of action figures.

knocked over or destroyed.

“I enjoy giving tours,” Van Peursem said. “I set up dioramas and display figures to share with others. What’s the point if you can’t share the fun and fantasy with others?”

One of the many visitors who has seen Van Peursem’s large home display is sophomore Conner Van

Peursem, Randy’s second cousin. He saw them when he was younger and when he was interested in watching science fiction. When he saw all those figures for the first time, the only thought that came to mind was “wow.” He was amazed by all of the dioramas of battle scenes from the same locations that he loved.

Van Peursem also has a YouTube account, toycollectibles, where his dioramas can be seen.

Even with such a large collection, there are some rare figures that are still missing.

“There’s a couple of holy grails,” he said. “Every collection has a couple of holy grails, but sometimes, some of the most common figures

are actually the coolest, too.”

Van Peursem doesn’t plan to stop collecting any time soon, but it has become a slower process with the gradual increase of prices. Even though his collecting has slowed down, his heart for collecting has not. His basement is the setting of a science fiction world, and his passion for collecting will continue to grow with every new discovery.

## Allison Cahill

FROM PAGE 1

Hulsing is the assistant intramural director and has been working alongside Cahill for a year. During that time, the two of them have run the college’s intramural program. Last year, Hulsing was able to be a part of starting a new wellness program known as RaiderFIT with Cahill.

While working with Cahill, Hulsing has learned what the working world is like and has been able to see what career paths are available to her after graduation. During Cahill’s maternity leave last year, Hulsing was able to fill in and take on Cahill’s responsibilities.

“She is my mentor, one of the people that I look up to the most,” Hulsing said.

Cahill may be the featured Unsung Hero this week, but when it comes to Cahill’s appreciation for Hulsing and all she has done as a work study student, Cahill said, “Erica Hulsing is my hero.”

Before coming to NW in the summer of 2014, Cahill had never worked at a faith-based institution before.

“That is why I wanted

to come here. That was the draw,” she said.

Cahill has been able to stretch herself and grow in her faith while working at NW because faith has been incorporated into her work life.

“Not a day goes by that I’m not reminded of faith, family and work,” Cahill said.

While working at NW, Cahill has had to be flexible when it comes to fulfilling various roles, being on ma-

ternity leave and making decisions on issues surrounding COVID-19. That flexibility does not go unnoticed.

“Whether it be impromptu meetings, coaches stopping in to talk or ask a question or questions from the students that work at the desk, no matter what gets thrown at her that day, she handles everything effortlessly,” Hulsing said.

Like a pro juggler, Cahill makes it look easy.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
Allison Cahill juggles many jobs on campus and enjoys the faith aspect of working at NW.

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# So united yet so divided



**Carter Behler**  
History

In the partisan world of politics, all Americans have the "pleasure" of experiencing, at some point in their lives, both parties wanting to give the impression that the other side represents bad actors, evil people, or people you should generally not associate or be friends with. What is often forgotten in the height of the partisan battles is the general opinions of Americans, regardless of political affiliation, and how this is interpreted into policy.

The American public is more united than we are made to believe. Media, politicians and other elite organizations in America paint us as opposites; this is not the case.

When it comes to abortion in America,

Gallup polling from 2018 shows that 81% of Americans surveyed are in favor of making abortion in the third trimester illegal. Additionally, 65% of Americans believe second trimester abortions should be illegal. However, in January 2018, Democrats filibustered a bill in Congress that would ban abortion after 20 weeks.

On the issue of the environment and climate change, Americans that were polled showed that 47% care a "great deal" about the environment, and 27% said they care a "fair amount." Along with this, 61% of those polled said the U.S. does "too little" to protect the environment, and 64% believe our environment is getting worse. Yet we are made to believe Republicans care only about the economy, and Democrats only care about getting rid of fossil fuels and ignore renewable energy sources like nuclear energy.

On police reform, a topic that has made its way into the spotlight in recent months, 58% of Americans polled believe the police need "major changes." When separated by political affiliation, 91% of Republicans and 99% of Democrats believe in "changing management practices so officer abuses are punished." For specific policy opinions,

75% of Democrats and 52% of Republicans support banning "no-knock" warrants. Furthermore, 85% of Democrats and 60% of Republicans support banning the use of chokeholds by police. Earlier in the summer, a bill was passed in the House of Representatives that banned both of these practices, and it provided more funding for police training and education programs. The bill was later killed in the Senate.

In a country with this much civil unrest and this much partisanship and polarization, it is hard to remember the commonalities we all share.

An important question needs to be asked. If we as Americans generally agree on these types of reforms, why can't we seem to get anything passed in our government to address them? The only common factor is the partisan in-fighting that occurs in Washington and state governments that eventually force Americans to "pick a side."

It is important to recognize that we share closer opinions across the aisle than we are made to believe. Maybe if more Americans are able to come to this understanding, our elite leadership may be forced to follow suit and begin addressing the issues we can all agree on, regardless of political affiliation.

# Let's all do our part together



**Noah Karmann**  
Political Science

Let's get this straight right off the bat: COVID-19 is real. Global cases top 27.6 million, and deaths near 190,000 in the United States, alone.

What makes this virus even worse is the range of symptoms that it can cause. Some of the symptoms are as harmless as the common cold while others can cause heart and lung failure that lead to death. It disproportionately targets people who are older and have underlying conditions, yet it has killed numerous healthy, young people our age. In short, COVID-19 sucks, and it has made our collective lives miserable since March.

Getting sent home during the spring semester was a shock. I was incredibly disappointed when I got that announcement from President Greg Christy. I hated online learning, even though my professors tried their best. As I continued my college education at home, I could not help but be gloomy. I missed my friends, I missed interacting with my professors in person and I missed the learning environment of being on campus. I also just hated being at home, because honestly, my parents are horrible roommates.

I had to constantly remind my gloomy self that everything would be OK in the fall. I would be able to enjoy my last semester in person with my friends and professors. All I needed to do was keep my head up and wait for this virus to blow over. Unfortunately, it has not blown over, and it shows no signs of blowing over anytime soon.

Despite our country's lack of control over the virus, schools have been opening up for the fall semester across the country for better or worse. Most institutions have put in an incredible amount of effort and planning to make reopening as safe as possible. However, the reality of schools and colleges opening during the pandemic is one fraught with an immense number of difficulties.

How are schools supposed to plan for a pandemic that is sporadic and unpredictable? The simple answer is they can't. They can only try to implement as many precautions as possible while being constantly vigilant for positive cases in their student bodies.

This vigilance requires colleges to make sacrifices to their traditional campus experience in order to take the necessary precautions that will keep campus safe. These sacrifices are not what we want, but they are needed if we want to stay on campus for the entirety of this semester.

I am mostly impressed by Northwestern's response to the virus. However, whenever we gather in large groups, we risk the possibility of an outbreak. The congestion at

both the cafeteria and chapel are very concerning. (Remember the line at convocation?) It is evident that NW is trying its best to reduce that congestion and risk of infection. Nevertheless, more must be done at those locations and events to ensure campus's safety.

Even though NW as an institution could do more to prevent the spread of COVID-19, a large amount of the burden rests on our shoulders as students. If you want to remain on campus all semester, do your part! That means wearing your mask whenever possible. It also means wearing an effective mask (not those bandanas that do literally nothing) and wearing your masks properly. I am talking to you nose jocks.

Flaunting mask rules does not make you cool. In fact, it makes you look like an apathetic jerk who has no concern for the safety of others and the commitment to remaining on campus all semester. Additionally, COVID-19 exists outside. Wear your mask when in line even if that line goes outside.

Lastly, be mindful of the events that you attend. Each and every one of us is a vector of transmission. Keep practicing campus health guidelines even when you are not on campus.

If we can all do these things, then we have a solid chance of remaining on campus for the entirety of the semester. If we do not and an outbreak happens, then we all have to suffer through another section of online learning, which I am pretty sure none of us want.

### Editor's Note

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## NW volleyball starts seasons off with a 3-0 win

DEFEATS  
NW UNIVERSITY --  
ST. PAUL

RACHEL SMART  
ENGLISH TEACHING

On Sept. 5, the Northwestern varsity volleyball team won their first match of the year 3-0 against the University of Northwestern-St. Paul.

The match was held at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa, as part of the Dordt Classic and was observed by a modest, yet supportive, masked crowd. The first set was a hotly contested battle between the two teams for the starting victory.

For a majority of the game, neither team held more than a one-point advantage over the other. After battling back and

forth, NWC ended the game victorious with a final score of 25-23.

Having won the initial set, NWC entered the second set with confidence and power, holding a four- to six-point advantage for most of the game. About halfway through the match, UNW started to shrink the gap, only to lose their footing in the final scramble to end the game.

NWC ended the second set with an overwhelming victory of 25-18.

But UNW gathered their strength and started the third and final set of the match incredibly strong, consecutively scoring the first four points of the game and earning a safe lead.

After these first few volleys, NWC pulled themselves together and began to slowly

gain on their opponents. Eventually, after steadily decreasing the gap between the two teams, NWC finally overturned UNW's lead at 18-17.

UNW fought to regain their lead, but NWC held strong. After several ties and a bitter fight to the end, NWC finally ended the set victorious with a final score of 25-23.

Based on the performance of this game, the Raiders look to be off to yet another successful season. The team boasted almost twice as many kills as UNW, with NWC senior Mackenzie Fink ending the game with a match high of 11 kills. She also scored half of NWC's six aces.

Seniors Emily Van Ginkel, Anna Wedel and A.J. Kacmarynski also scored many kills for the team. In



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
Raiders volleyball kicks off to a great start with a 3-0 win.

assists, senior Lacey Reitz earned three — more than the entire team of UNW throughout the match.

Up next in their season, NWC will play Bellevue University on Thursday, Sept 10, and Dordt University

on Tuesday, Sept 15. Both matches will be hosted here at NW.

## Strong start to NW men's soccer season

PIZZA RANCH CLASSIC MENS DEFEAT MISSOURI BAPTIST

JACKSON HOFLAND  
BIO HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Red Raider men's soccer team opened their 2020 season with a game against the Missouri Baptists University Spartans on 5.

The 3 p.m. start time provided warm temperatures and the chance for the Raiders to get off to a hot start. That was a chance the men's soccer team took advantage of, defeating Missouri Baptist 3-0.

A solid defense was the name of the game for the Raiders, and three netted goals came spread throughout the game, giving the men a comfortable lead by full time.

The defense headed by goalkeeper Ezekiel Foltz, managed to turn down all

attacks from the Spartans. Foltz scored saves on all eight shots the Spartans put on goal. The defense, along with quality offensive play, allowed for the Raiders to nearly double the shot attempts of the Spartans, taking 19 to MBU's 12.

Offensively, the Raiders were opportunistic with the chances they had to score. Both teams were close in their number of shots on goal, Northwestern having the slight advantage at 10-8. The difference being that three NW shots found the back of the net.

The first goal came at the 24-minute mark and off the leg of Josh Wingfield. It was assisted by Marco Alessio. Within 10 minutes, the Raiders netted their second goal as Phillippe Patri put one in off a pass from Juan Mackrey. The score of 2-0 held until half.

The final goal of the match came quickly in the second half the 53rd minute. This goal came off the head of Jake Foscilina. The assist coming from Matt

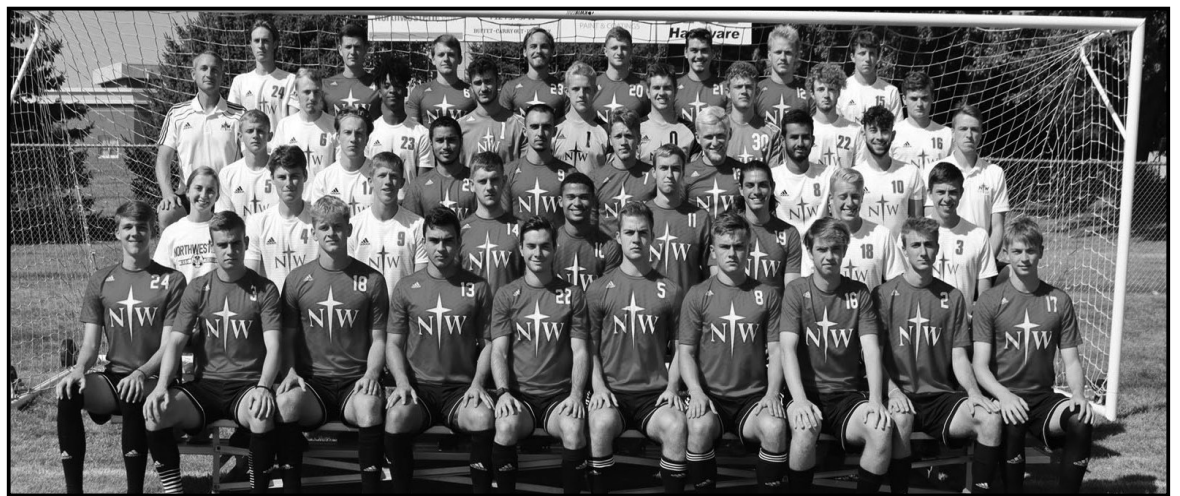


PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
Men's soccer team opens with a win during Pizza Ranch Classic.

Roll. The defense's preservation of the 3-0 score allowed for coach Dan Swier to go to his bench in the later minutes of the game, giving many players quality experience on the field.

The men's soccer team put themselves on track to success this Saturday with a win in their opening game against the Missouri Baptist Spartans. The team hopes to use this positive momentum as

they go into the rest of their season. The Raider's next contest comes Sept. 12 when they visit the Dordt University Defenders in Sioux Center.

## NW XC season starts at Dordt

RED RAIDERS COMPETE WELL IN MEET AT DORDT

BEN HENKER  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

On Sept. 5, the men's and women's cross country team traveled to Dordt University for the Sunflower Opener.

The event started with the women, which consisted of nine teams and 128 runners. NW registered 11 women for the 75-degree, calm winded, mid-morning 5K.

Autumn Muilenburg was the first Raider to cross the finish line with the time of 19:45, placing her 24th for the event. Close behind her was Anna Hiebner, finishing 26th with a time of 19:48. Hunter Koepke clocked in at 20:26, placing her at 39th. Katlyn Wiese finished 60th in 21:19 for her first career GPAC meet. Megan Shulstad was the next Raider that crossed the finish line, placing 62nd and beating her previous personal best with a 21:24. Angela Brinkman, 71st - 21:43 and Lindsey Groen, 76th - 21:48, rounded out the top seven for the raiders.

In total, the Raiders accounted for 109

points, finishing the day in fourth place overall. With a brief intermission and stretch, nine teams and 122 men took their places.

After 26:15 of running an 8K, Dylan Hendricks crossed the finish line, placing 14th overall, fifth among NAIA runners. This would be his 10th time finishing a race in the top 20 in his Raider career. Eighteen seconds behind Dylan was Joshua Starr, placing 23rd overall. Dawson Jacobsma, and Levi Cross were the next Raiders that crossed, finishing 35th and 36th with times of 27:26 and 27:27. Nick Bernhagen was able to compete for the first time since 2018. He finished 42nd with a time of 27:46. Chase Bulten was next, finishing 45th with a time of 27:54. To complete the top seven for the Raiders were Riley Chartier, who ran a personal best of 28:01 and placed 48th overall. In total, the Raiders accounted for 74 points and finished second behind the Defenders.

Coach Scott Bahrke is excited for what is to come for this year.

"I felt our team members competed well for their first race in six months," he said. "Our women had strong representation by our seniors with five of the top six finishers for NWC in their final season of cross country, [and] we had six men in our top 10 finish that were not



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
Raiders XC expect good results as they continue their season.

able to race last season due to injury or not competing."

Both men's and women's teams are preparing for their next meet at the Morningside Invite on Sept. 19.

"We were so blessed just to be able to compete when you think of other colleges and universities that are not having sports on their campuses right now," Bahrke said. "God is good."



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# The opening of the Koinonia House

KOINONIA: FELLOWSHIP, SHARING, PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION

**JESSICA ROGERS**  
PSYCHOLOGY

You may have noticed the white house planted between North Suites and Stegenga Hall and wondered who lives there, if not the president? The first ladies of the Koinonia House have made their home in the quaint Vanderhill Cottage.

Lindsay Hubbell, resident director of the apartments and assistant director of student activities, selected six women: seniors Elissa O'Dell and Jessica Rogers, juniors Audrey Leyen and resident assistant Brenna Rauwerdink and sophomores Alaena Trevino and Sierra Tumbleson, to live together in a community fostering growth in identity, hospitality and leadership.

"I'm excited to continue to grow in my faith with these women," Rauwerdink said. "I can see how beautifully unique God made each of us and that He intentionally placed us together so that we can learn from each other's different strengths."

Northwestern hasn't gained a sorority but a new home for fellowship, sharing, participation and contribution with the rest of campus as the word *Koinonia* (koinonia) translates to these values. According to Hubbell, the House was inspired by academic living learning communities (LLCs) and Northwestern's own community-orientated culture.

The Koinonia House's mission is to prioritize the development of women into empowered and self-aware leaders who are prepared to make a significant contribution to God's global kingdom, and the House achieves its mission through three core objectives: discussion-based curriculum, one-on-one mentorship and campus camaraderie through hospitality.

Each woman in the house is a member of a Stegenga Hall wing where they participate in wing events, including community dinners, and will select a freshman to mentor. Three of the Koinonia women are also Steg discipleship group leaders to further their connection to the underclassmen.

As the women are mentored by Hubbell through weekly



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ  
The new Koinonia House develops leaders and mentors.

house meetings involving numerous studies such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together," they are preparing to be mentors themselves, facilitating community and growth outside the house walls.

"I incorporated the mentoring requirement to inspire meaningful interactions for more than just the six women in the program," Hubbell said. "As an RD, I deeply value the power of the ministry of presence and meaningful, challenging conversations. My vision for the mentorship is to help the LLC women learn what it means to be continuously present and vulnerable with one another as they continuously develop their own leadership skills and styles."

The women of the House have similar goals of intentionality, encouragement, integrity, hospitality and involvement all centered around their walk with Jesus.

"I've been enjoying living in community with other women who I know love the Lord with their hearts," Rauwerdink said. "I've enjoyed seeing different styles of leadership come out through each of the women and just watch-

ing the way that they see the world and how they serve you best. I've enjoyed the willingness to go deep and be vulnerable, and I look forward to that continuing."

The women have quickly made the House a home by interior decorating and enjoying meaningful conversations, communal activities and times of worship. They hope others will find refuge in the fostering fellowship, despite the COVID-19 limitations on maximum capacity.

"As of right now, I am excited about all the 'what-ifs' and 'potentials' this program has in store," Hubbell said. "I'm excited for my women to connect and make memories with one another during the mundane, joyful and challenging times in life. I'm excited to laugh, question and say 'me too' during our discussions. And I am excited to just see how the women and I will grow this coming year. There have been so many unexpected changes due to COVID, plenty of things to grieve, but I am grateful God has given me this opportunity and I want to dive-in with this first cohort of women."

# Derecho sweeps through the midwest

STORM CLEANUP STILL UNDERWAY

**NOAH SMITH**  
BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The storm that ripped through Iowa last month was unlike any other. The people of Iowa had little to no time to

prepare for one of the biggest storms of their lives.

Starting in South Dakota and sweeping through Ohio, the storm wreaked havoc with the most devastating part of it hitting central Iowa in cities such as Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha and Toddville.

Like an inland hurricane, the

sustained straight-line winds lasted for almost an hour with speeds more than 100 mph in some places. This rare phenomenon was described as a derecho. But unlike a hurricane, it came without warning or time for preparation. Areas like the coasts, which receive hurricanes more often, are often

given ample time to prepare for the storms.

That was not the case for people in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the surrounding areas. Jake Schulmeister, a resident of Independence, Iowa, a nearby town that was lightly affected by the storm, said, "Driving into Cedar Rapids looks like a warzone."

The extent of the damage covered the entire city. There was not one person that was not affected in some way or another. It seemed as though every street was blocked by a fallen tree or power line. Houses were ripped apart or had trees smash through the roofs. People were scurrying everywhere, searching for help or resources.

Worst of all, the power was out everywhere. Nobody could make phone calls to tell others that they needed help or that they were alright. Streetlights were not working. Gas stations were closed. Everything was

shut down.

Numerous people drove several hours to purchase generators just to keep their food from spoiling in their refrigerators. In some places, the power was out for over a week. In surrounding towns where gas was available, people were left to wait in lines that stretched for blocks in order to purchase fuel for their generators, chainsaws and vehicles.

Governor Kim Reynolds said an initial estimate indicated 10 million acres, or 4%, of Iowa's corn and soybeans were damaged by the storm. Reynolds requested \$3.9 billion in federal disaster aid, which President Trump approved within a day.

The devastation is immense. Thousands of homes are still in shambles as a result of the storm, and there had already been a shortage of materials because of the global pandemic. The derecho made

it much worse for Iowans in need of resources. Winter will be here sooner than what it may take to rebuild commercial and residential buildings.

Tree removal services are backed up with work and requests. Nature dumps have closed because they are too full for anymore debris. The economy is also taking a toll from the storm on top of the pandemic.

The storm has drawn people closer to each other, though. Friends are helping friends, neighbors are helping neighbors and strangers are helping other strangers. Workers from other states such as Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas have been coming to help Iowa with relief efforts.

There are signs of hope. Cleanup has begun, streets have been cleared and powerlines are being restored.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM  
This is an example of the immense amount of lightning that filled the sky during the storm.