

Northwestern College, Iowa

NWCommons

The Beacon, 2023-2024

The Beacon student newspaper

1-26-2024

The Beacon, January 26, 2024

Beacon Staff

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A day in the life of Stacy Roberson

THE DAY TO DAY LIFE OF
NW FAN FAVORITE CHEF

JORDAN DESMET
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chef Stacy Roberson starts his day by getting up bright and early, seeing his wife off to work and sending his son, James, to school. “Normally, by the time you see me, I’ve been up since 5 a.m. It’s a very busy day,” Roberson said. However, his early mornings do not stop him from being his energetic self once he arrives at the cafeteria.

“Stacy has a big impact on our dining program at Northwestern College,” food service director Barry Shroeter said. “Stacy’s flair with food and charisma makes his station one of the most popular stations at mealtime.”

Roberson has been in the kitchen for nearly 40 years, and with that type of experience, it does not take him long to cook up whatever is on the menu for the day. “You’re not going to believe me when I tell you

this. I walk in the door at 10 a.m., and I’m up and ready to go at 11,” Roberson said.

It takes a sort of laser focus to ensure everything is done on time and correctly. “Once I get here, I think I just go into Chef Stacy mode,” Roberson said. His ability to get into “Chef Stacy mode” results in an unforgettable experience for anyone that decides to wait in his line for one of his signature dishes.

“Every time I walk up to Stacy’s line, I expect to be greeted with a smile and some good food,” Cole Habben said. “It always seems like Stacy is in a great mood and is happy to hear about how the students are doing.”

Roberson has always had a student-centered approach. When it comes to his favorite meal to prepare or the way he interacts with students, he always puts NW students first.

“My favorite meal is whatever you want it to be,” Roberson said. “I am drawn into bringing you all in at any cost. I do not care what



COURTESY OF JORDAN DESMET
Stacy serves up noodles and smiles for NW campus.

it is. I want you to have the best experience, the best meal, and I want to know how your day went, and what are you going to do to make someone else’s day better?

Whatever that takes. If that’s chicken alfredo, bring it on. If it’s a chicken salad, and the line is all the way out to Taco John’s, bring it on.” And to Chef Stacy, his job

is about more than cooking food. “Sometimes that line can reach out 30, 40, 50, 60 people, but in a matter of 8-12 minutes, that person who left home for the very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NW men’s and women’s retreats

A WEEKEND AWAY TO
RELAX AND REFRESH

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Men and women of Northwestern traversed off campus during the cold and snowy weekend of Jan. 19 – 20. The women were able to go off campus and out of state to stay at a lake house in Minnesota, while the men stayed in Iowa and went to Okoboji for their retreat.

The women left campus Friday afternoon, packing 18 students and three staff members - Fern Resident Director Natalie Wheeler, Stegenga Resident Director Caylan De Lucia and Director of Discipleship Kristin Brouwer - into two vans.

The main base for the retreat was a lake house owned by Brouwer’s parents. After unpacking, it was time to share the theme: ABIDE. “Abide means to remain in the Lord,” Wheeler said.

After discussing the theme, students were able to ask questions about what it means to abide. “Someone asked what it looks like to abide in a season of waiting, the unknown,” Wheeler said. “Someone else asked us (the resident directors and Brouwer) about our stories, and how the Lord has moved and guided us.”

The rest of the night involved playing games. According to Wheeler, many played card games as well as a game she brought along called “Cover you Assets.” “It was a relaxing and hang out time before bed,” Wheeler said.

On Saturday, Brouwer led a discussion about Sabbath and solitude, and how resting in those ways looks different for everyone. After that session, students were given two hours of solitude time. They read books, read their Bible, did a devotional, went on walks, took a nap and even shoveled snow.

In the afternoon, the women headed to Brookings, South

Dakota. The students were separated into groups of three, given five dollars and free reign in a Good Will to purchase any clothing or items to present later in the day. According to Wheeler, some memorable presentations included a statue of a horse head in a onesie and women cut holes into pillowcases and modeled them

as dresses. “Wearing leggings, of course,” Wheeler said.

After presenting their Goodwill finds, the women spent a time of recapping the weekend, talking about their take aways. “Someone mentioned what it means to become new wine, which led to us listening to ‘New Wine’ by Hillsong,” Wheeler said.

Jordan Bjork appreciated her time away from campus. “I learned that abiding or having sabbath isn’t what we normally think of when that word is mentioned. It can mean going out to shovel the snow on the lake or taking a nap. We need to have time to fill ourselves with Godly things so that we can give throughout the



COURTESY OF NORAH BEEKHUIZEN
The women of NW enjoy their time at a Minnesota lake house.

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New Kid Cudi album labeled mundane

LACKING FOCUS AND EMOTION

KATE MCEWEN
SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Kid Cudi released his newest album "INSANO" on Jan. 12, 2024. With original plans of releasing this album September of 2023, plans change as he wanted to "make sure that everything lines up". Later in October he sent out a series of tweets promoting "INSANO" and informing fans that they will hear over 40 songs between the main album and deluxe.

The two-hour long album dropped, making it Cudi's longest album, consisting of 21 songs. The album has many well-known artists working in collaboration with him. "INSANO" brings on Travis Scott, ASAP Rocky, Pharrell, Young Thug, Lil Wayne, DJ Drama, Lil Yachty and XXXTentacion as collaborators.

This album paints a portrait, like the album cover, depicting Kid Cudi's mental state.

Broken relationships, drug abuse, lavish lifestyles and money all seem to be themes. Most of his songs bring a fast pace, high beat and energy. "Keep Bouncin," "Get Off Me," "Cud Life" and "Wow" are a few songs that bring the energy. On the other hand, he drops the tone and brings a personal touch into his music. "A Tale of A Night" introduces his personal life as the lyrics emphasize his father's death on his pursuit of success.

Although this album is getting a lot of praise, it is also receiving its share of critiques. It is said that "INSANO" is just another one of his mixed bag genres of music and that he is getting washed out by the artists he brings in and listeners cannot hear his work within it. Each song feels repetitive and there is no connection between the listener and the song. His work seems to be hidden and only a few times can listeners hear his strength of words and sounds.

Look back to 2009 when Kid Cudi released "Pursuit of Happiness"

and "Day 'N' Nite (nightmare)." Those two songs alone are in his top five listened to. In his past work, you hear emotion, feelings, and get a sense of connection. One year later, he released "Mr. Rager," which made its way up to the top. These songs had something that made them different from other artists. Now it is hard to tell who the real star in the album is. Is it Kid Cudi or one of his many collaborators?

Kid Cudi used to be a distinctive artist and now he is falling into the same vibe as every other artist. His albums "Man on the Moon: The End of Day (Deluxe)," and the subsequent, "Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager" were two of his top albums. Comparing these to his most recent, he sounds like a different artist. Some say he is getting lost in the chaos and losing track of who he is.

Mosi Reeves, a publisher of Rolling Stone magazine makes the comment: "He's one of modern rap's key architects, but his new album 'INSANO'

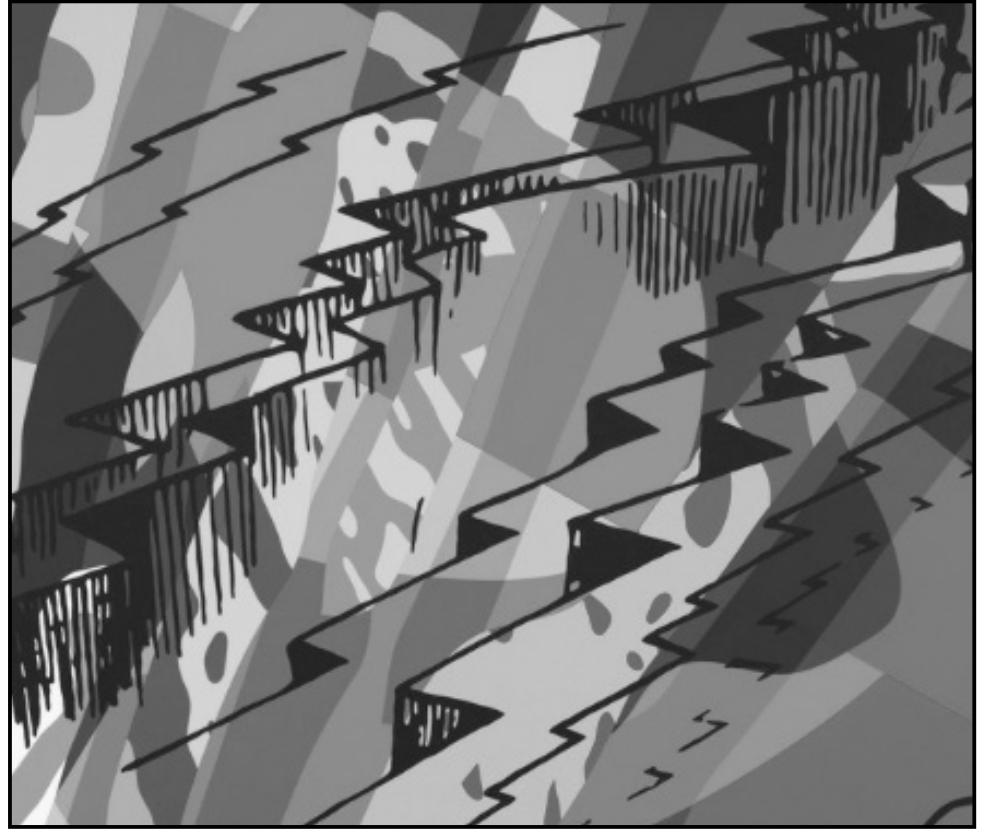


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

is too unfocused for its own good." He goes on to share that the album lacks the emotional factor that is depicted in most of his signature songs and albums.

As his new album was anticipated by many fans,

it was a letdown for those who wanted to hear his style. The collaborations are noteworthy, but people ask this question: Is Kid Cudi falling into the mundane genre that every other artist is producing, or will he release another

album showcasing his true talent that engulfs emotion and connection?

★★★

Triumphal true story seems innately human

"BOYS IN THE BOAT" ROCKS AUDIENCES

BRAYDEN DIRKS
EXERCISE SCIENCE

Within the holiday season and the few weeks following, movie theaters are generally jam-packed with showings of blockbusters, popcorn flicks, one-hit wonders and, occasionally, the feel-good story. This holiday season features a wide array of each of these genres. During the season a feel-good movie always seems to satisfy. This is exactly what the inspiring story of "The Boys in the Boat" accomplishes.

"The Boys in the Boat" is a movie directed by George Clooney that follows the true story of the University of Washington men's rowing team in their quest for Olympic Gold. In a rather simple yet profound plot, men from Washington train to be selected as one of the eight rowers for the team, and they journey through the season together to attempt to bring glory back to a dying program and a coach losing his touch for the sport. However, the tryouts for the junior boat are open to any male student at Washington, which gives the coaching staff many unexperienced

rowers to work with, creating a fascinating two-hour spectacle of ups and downs, showing that the simple message of teamwork and grit is sometimes all that is needed to win everything.

The main character, Joe Rantz, is a young man who barely had anything. Joe grew up in Seattle during the Great Depression, which took his father's job. His mother had died a few years before. His father, needing work to feel useful, told Joe that he was strong enough to grow up by himself, so he left Joe alone when he was 14. Joe, being the determined, gutsy young man that he is fought for himself and made it into Washington to become an engineer. However, he soon realized his funds would run out. He joined the rowing team to cover the costs, and through the journey he learned so much more about himself and the men around him.

"The Boys in the Boat" easily entered the realm of comfort movies with its delicate charm, playfulness of becoming adult and camaraderie of friendship through sport. It was surely comforting in many ways, but one aspect audiences thoroughly enjoyed was Joe's story. The story was handled rather lightly and did not have as much emotional

depth as it could have, but it still was one of significance and intrigue. One of the best parts of the movie and within Joe's storyline is when he is on a date and sees his father outside the restaurant and talks with him. Although it is simple conversation, it is a pivotal point in his character development as he realizes that his father has lived only a few minutes from him for several years.

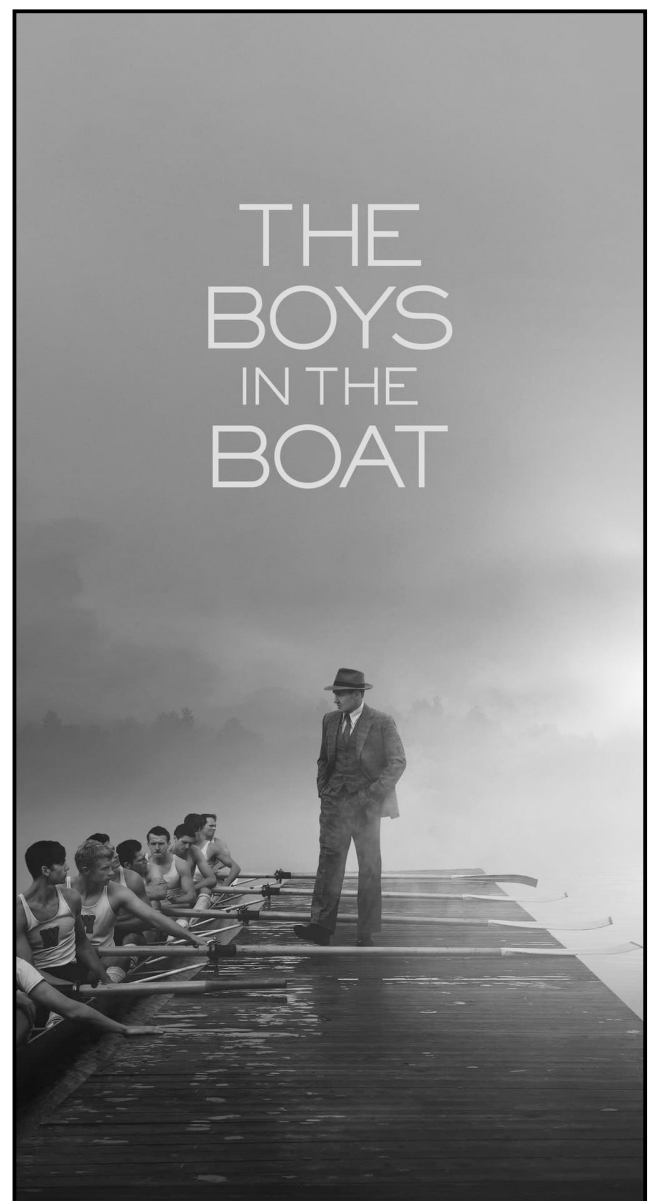
The storyline then does a phenomenal job of keeping that thought in the back of Joe's mind, and making it evident that his father's presence, or lack thereof, is clouding over his ability. At first, this idea was shocking and slightly disheartening, seeing the main character know his childhood was not what it should've been. The comfort from Joe's story truly came when his father donated to the team and listened to each of their competitions. In only a few small scenes, Joe's father made a massive difference in the film's narrative and made it even more rewarding when Joe and his team won it all.

"The Boys in the Boat" did many things right in making a true story seem innately human, and it did this in many ways. A lovely way of doing so was through the joyfulness of growing up and

being a college student. There was craziness, love, getting out of comfort zones and the joy of being with one another. It was incredibly fun to see the young men grow up in the background even in pursuit of a seemingly unattainable goal.

Another way this movie nailed the heartfelt overtone was through its poignant, yet interspersed soundtrack. There wasn't always sound going on in the background for most of the movie, it was relatively quiet. The music always appeared in moments of great emotion, which truly emphasized the character's feeling.

Finally, this movie was simply inspiring through its characters overcoming poverty, challenges with each other and lots of self-doubt. It greatly shows the importance of friendships, support and encouragement as we face life together. This is simple, yet impactful cinema that accomplishes its goal: to provide general audiences with a feel-good story that has a slight ray of hope, love and inspiration through people doing marvelous things.



★★★★★

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Students recognized at regional festival

KENNEDY CENTER FESTIVAL RECAP

LIAM NIBBELINK THEATRE

Last week, several students traveled to Des Moines, IA for the annual Kennedy Center for the Arts College Theatre Festival, or KCACTF for short. This was a five-day event in which hundreds of college students from schools in various states across the Midwest came together and took part in a wide variety of theatrical workshops, competitions, presentations and performances.

Several students from Northwestern brought in prepared presentations and auditions to the festival. One of the biggest events at this festival is the Design Expo, where students can submit their work in various areas of design, technology and management to be considered for recognition and awards at the festival.

Senior theatre major

Madison DenHerder submitted a presentation of her work as the costume designer for NW's winter 2023 production of "Silent Sky," as well as her stage management work for the fall 2023 production of "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical."

Junior theatre major Jack MacGregor went all out and submitted three design presentations for the expo. He presented two scenic design presentations. One was for his work on "Silent Sky" and the other for his work on NW's fall 2023 children's production of "One Snowy Night." For his scenic design work in "Silent Sky," MacGregor received the National Scenic Design Award. This award comes with an all-expenses-paid trip for MacGregor to the national festival at the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C. The NW Theatre Department is incredibly proud of MacGregor and this monumental achievement.

Another impressive and notable presentation from NW's group at the festival was given by Marissa Leraas.

Leraas submitted into a workshop titled ASPIRE. This workshop gave students the opportunity to present their pitch for opening up their own theatre company. The theatre department loves to see students taking the initiative to pave their way in the industry and making connections to help them work towards their future careers.

In addition to these wonderful presentations, students also participated in a variety of auditions and workshops at the festival. MacGregor and Anna Frangenberg both submitted auditions for the Irene Ryan Acting competition; Liam Nibbelink auditioned for the Musical Theatre Intensive Singing Event; Ailee Moquist, Leraas and Liam Nibbelink worked and performed as a group in a Devised Theatre workshop.

There are many opportunities for young artists to present their work and also learn new skills and techniques from professionals in the theatre industry. Some students

participated in workshops that specified how to approach performing Shakespeare and mastering the interpretation of his iambic pentameter through monologue work. There were also workshops on musical theatre choreography, as well as tips and tricks for getting the most out of a theatre career.

Everyone had a wonderful time being in community with one another and sharing their love of artistry with hundreds of other people who shared that passion. It was an unforgettable week and the department cannot wait to go back next year.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
NW theatre students explore workshops at KCACTF.

Dr. Lief explores the future of youth ministry

MENDING THE WORLD THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

JADEN LORANG YOUTH MINISTRY

On June 27, 2023, Dr. Jason Lief released his newest book, "To Mend the World: A New Vision for Youth Ministry." Dr. Lief, a practical theologian, co-wrote this book with Kurt Rietema, the senior director of Youth Front Neighborhood at Youthfront, a Christian youth ministry organization based in Kansas City, MO to offer a practitioner's point of view on the topic as well. Together, they argue that the old ways of doing youth ministry are no longer effective. Instead, they offer a new and fresh way to approach it.

When asked about the writing process, Lief said it was great because he loves writing. On why they wrote the book he said, "We feel there is a way to do youth ministry that tends to the lived experience of young people. Sometimes it feels like we are answering question they are not asking." He said the writing process took about a year because their editor switched jobs while working on it. When asked if he had anything else to say about the topic he said, "Youth ministry is much more than knowing how to throw a pizza party. There is an art to pastoral care."

In "To Mend the World," Lief and Rietema argue that the old ways of offering abstract theological concepts and biblical narratives to young people without showing how this

intersects their lived experience is ineffective. They argue that this answers questions that young people are not asking. In chapter four, Lief states, "This is a fundamental problem with youth ministry: youth leaders teach young people what to believe about God and living a moral life, assuming these ideas will lead to transformation, but these doctrinal or moral lessons rarely address the ingrained ideological habits formed by the dominant culture." Instead of continuing this problem, readers see Lief offer an idea of a ministry that focuses on the lived experience of young people and answers the questions that they are asking. They offer up a view of ministry that is interpretive and focused on the lives of young people.

In the book, readers see the authors combat the marketization of ministries. They do this by putting social entrepreneurship, the disruption of the existing social arrangement, in conversation with youth ministry. They argue that you can do this by using the economic sphere to directly address the systematic issues that cause social problems. The authors spend time focusing on helping young people develop a sense of agency to free them from some of these systematic issues. The book includes real life experiences and stories from the authors that show these concepts in action and support their arguments.

In the concluding chapter of the book Lief writes, "Youth ministry should focus less on order, certainty, and young people fitting into the way the world is and focus more on the beautiful chaos that is the source of life." This attitude towards youth ministry is something

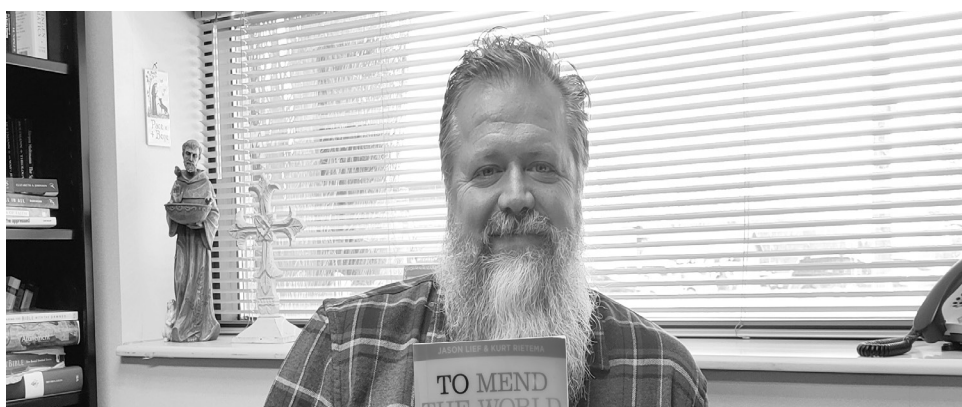


PHOTO BY PRATIK PAUDEL
Co-writer Dr. Lief poses with newly released book, "To Mend the World."

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Creating a major helps Raiders stand out

COMBINING CLASSES TO CREATE MAJOR

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

While it may seem like many people are aware of what they want to do for the rest of their lives, choosing a major can be a stressful process. While Northwestern has many majors to choose from, they may not reflect students' wants and needs. To accommodate this, NW has the option for students to create their own major. Student Initiated Majors, or SIMs, are created by combining several classes from different programs into one major. However, creating a SIM can be a tedious process, as the created major needs approval from your academic advisor and the Academic Affairs Committee.

According to the directory, there are currently four individuals who have SIMs: seniors Carlee Harmelink, Clara Pahl and Anna Bram and junior Rose Hoogers.

Carlee Harmelink's created major is Teaching Spanish and TESL with student relationship emphasis. "I created this

major to be able to step into a part-time teaching position while doing my student teaching (and finishing up classes at NW," Harmelink said. "I am hoping to continue to teach Spanish (and) TESL while focusing on building strong relationships and rapport with each one of my students."

Clara Pahl has created a major in English, to go alongside another major, psychology. Pahl created an English SIM because she does not desire to teach high school students. "I just put as many writing and literature and humanities courses into it," Pahl said.

Rose Hoogers created a SIM in writing and publication. "I love literature and writing. I do not love teaching," Hoogers said. "My major was humanities for a while (another major that is not really talked about), but because I wanted to learn different writing styles, crafting my own major made the most sense."

Hoogers wishes to work in the publishing industry, and to create her major, she enrolled in classes that involved literature and writing, which includes English and communications courses. She was also able to add courses that would allow her

to study abroad. "Something a bit different I did with my major was I essentially made studying abroad a requirement," Hoogers said. "I added a section where I put courses taught at Florence University of the Arts as options to fulfill the publishing aspect of my major."

The process to create a SIM requires a lot of paperwork and communication. "There is a lot of communication that has to happen between departments and with your advisor!" Harmelink said. "It takes a lot of time, perseverance and patience, but it is all worth it in the end!"

Pahl emphasized that creating a major takes a lot of brainstorming but would encourage others to create their own major if they are considering it. Harmelink would tell those curious about creating their own major to "go for it! It never hurts to try - NW is amazing at accommodating and making sure that you get the education and the experiences off campus that you desire and/or need for a successful future."

Hoogers highlighted the need to show just cause for the creation of a SIM. "A huge part of creating a major is justification for its creation or explaining



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Senior Clara Pahl created her major in English.

why you would not be able to reach your goal in a major already offered at the college as well as comparing it to programs at other institutions," Hoogers said. "From there it needs to be approved by your collaborating faculty member, the dean of the

department you'll mainly be studying in and the academic affairs committee chair."

So, if you are feeling out of place in your major, or if you do not think that any of NW's listed majors apply to what you want to do, check out creating your

own major that will fit your needs.

Chef Stacy brings joy to the cafeteria

FROM PAGE 1
first time met a friend, a Christian friend through Christ. They're making memories with that who knows for how long," Roberson said.

Roberson also takes pride in knowing he can have a lasting impact on the hundreds of students he gets to chat with daily.

"A lot of the students that graduated four, five, six, seven, eight years ago, I will run into them, and I will ask them how they're doing and how their lives are going forward," Roberson said. "A lot of the times when I meet a student that went here years ago, I'm very interested in what turns, what events, where has Christ taken you, and the majority of

the students that I run into, they're still following Christ. They're still remembering the fun times and the experience at NW."

As Roberson reflects on his time at NW, he says he is grateful for everything God blessed him with. "It's unbelievable where God has brought me. It was not me. It was God. I am here because of God. I know that," Roberson said. "He has a place for me, and it's right over there in that corner hanging out and growing older. That's my spot now, and I love it," Roberson said.



PHOTO BY JORDAN DESMET

Chef Stacy enjoys creating students' favorite meals and relationships.

Masked Singer event returns to campus

THE HIDDEN TALENTS OF NW

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the center of Northwestern's busy college campus, a mysterious and captivating event will unfold as several masked singers, who will be our very own college professors, take center stage on Friday, Jan. 26. The chapel is set to buzz with excitement as students will eagerly gather to witness a unique blend of talent and secrecy. Dressed in elaborate costumes and concealed behind intricately designed masks, professors will showcase their vocal abilities, leaving the audience guessing about their true identities. Is that Dr. Leif or is it Dr. Monsma? The masked singer phenomenon brings an air of mystery to the campus, creating a sense of unity as students join together in the

thrill of uncovering the hidden talents within their community. The event aired two years ago and is now back and ready to wow its audience. But what does the Masked Singer event entail? The event, which was done only two years ago, is a showing of faculty and staff of NW's talented singing voices. Faculty and staff wear costumes and perform a song to an audience of NW students. The audience and the judges then attempt to guess who is singing. Students will also get to vote for their favorite performance and may learn something about someone they previously did not know. Student Activities Council has decided to bring the event back from the past because it was a fan favorite among both staff and students. Not only has the event been a past fan favorite, it allows students to see faculty and staff in a different setting than normal,

which can be rare and hard to come by. Not to mention, this year they are bringing new ideas and new performers to the chapel stage, which will create more of an exciting buzz around campus. Senior Anneka Sterk expressed her excitement towards the event this year saying, "I am excited to see who is involved this year! I want to see who they roped in." She also expressed what the event was like in later years, explaining, "Me and my friends tried to guess who they were as a competition with each other. It was so fun!" Ella Van Zee attended the Masked Singer event two years ago, and is excited to attend this year. "I remember there were a lot of people, and we were very excited," Van Zee said. "I remember how funny it was. I remember thinking 'Wow, our professors must love us so much to do this'"



PHOTO BY KACEY ZICKEFFOOSE

Contestants for the Masked Singer will be in disguise as students attempt to guess the talent.

Van Zee enjoyed the humor and mystery of the event. "I enjoyed how funny the acts were and it was fun to listen to everyone try to figure out who it was." For this year's event, Van Zee is "excited to see if any of my professors are in it. I also want to see if I can guess who is under the mask before other people

can," she said. "I would love to see Natalie Wheeler and Dr. Holm because it would be so funny." The event not only holds itself in mystery and suspense but also excitement and anticipation. SAC member, Alaina Reinke states, "If you attend, you will be shocked.

You will want to experience this firsthand, not hear about it later!" Surely the event has a lot to entail. Between guessing who is who and simply just having fun, the event is set to wow you.

Off-campus weekend retreats

FROM PAGE 1

throughout the week to people, but that is not defined as how we do that, and it will be different for everyone."

In Okoboji, the men played board games, had lots of food and praised Jesus. "I challenged myself not to play the same game twice," Hospers Resident Director Dana Van Ostrand said.

Hospers Resident Assistant Collin Verschoor claims that retreats like these are his favorite campus activities. "The people you meet and interact with is not limited to the dorm you are a part of," Verschoor said.

Wheeler also claims that retreats are a wonderful opportunity to get away from campus, even for a short while. "If you get opportunities to go

on things like this, like retreats or events that get you off campus, if your wallet and schedule allows, do it," Wheeler encourages.



PHOTO BY JOE CALLAHAN

Participants of the men's retreat had a great time.



Show your college ID for a discount on the buffet!

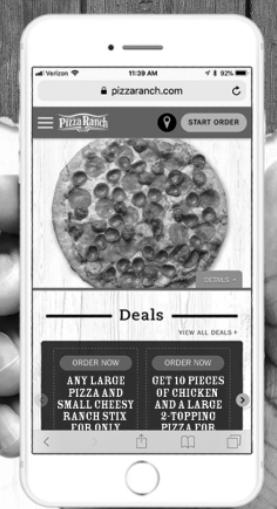
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HOT TAKES

WOULD YOU RATHER:
BE A SNOWMAN ALL
WINTER OR LIVE IN AN
IGLOO ALL WINTER?

SNOWMAN:
18%

IGLOO:
82%

EDITOR'S TAKE:

The easy answer is the igloo. Snowmen live in constant fear of attack from small children. I cannot tell you the number of times I built a snowman at recess as a kid just to come out the next day to see the other children had destroyed it. Menaces. I am still not over it. Also, why would I want to be out in the elements when I could be chillin' in a shelter that is proven to be successful? Snowmen have to stay still all winter, with the threat of melting if the weather heats up. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a cold place. Freezing cold, but if it heats up you melt. No thanks. I'll be in my igloo with string lights, fuzzy blankets and faux polar bear rug. Watch out for my RSVP to my ice cream party collab with the penguins. I'll have natural isolation, a sturdy shelter, no rent and an aesthetic crib. Sounds like a winter dream to me.

xoxo, Jillian

The quotes expressed in these polls represent student opinion and is no way intended to indicate particular perspectives or beliefs of the beacon staff.

Be sure to follow the Beacon on Instagram to submit your own HOT TAKES!

Adding love into the air



Wilson Addink
Psychology

Mark DeYounge said in chapel last year that “the bland and innocuous can suddenly take on beautiful hues and colors.” This was in reference to living a life for Christ. How can bland sights, like the weather this time of year, suddenly be changed into something we see as beautiful? I think it is about attitude.

When we shift our attitude of the world from a cynical and bitter perspective to something more reflective of how Jesus saw the world, we might just find that life becomes a little bit more enjoyable. This could mean noticing that despite the cold, the black squirrels around town still scavenge (and yes, there are black squirrels in Orange City).

Then in October, he quoted Karen Barker, who said, “ordinary can be significant if built in fullness,” which again he pointed to living a life for Christ. How can the everyday interactions we have with others,

whether it be walking past a friend or a stranger on the sidewalk or eating lunch with a group of friends reflect Christ?

A simple smile goes a long way. Acknowledging that you see the random person walking past you, and throwing out a simple, “hey!” might just be what they needed to hear. Doing this ordinary motion is good for the soul as well, it asserts that we are not alone walking down the slick sidewalk on the way to class but are walking together with brothers and sisters in Christ. We may think the face across from us is a “rando,” but to Christ they are loved and so we are to love them, even if that love looks as small as a smile or a “hey.”

Then last week, Jan. 16, DeYounge quoted Dorothy Sayer, who said, “When we take a critical look at ourselves, we have to recognize that competition, not compassion, is our main motivation in life.” While I think this quote is true, that doesn't mean we cannot change its significance—its measure of truth.

Our culture has shaped our ‘significance’ to be measured by marks like grades, income, awards, you name it. Our value has been construed to be measured by how much we have, how much we give and other forms of vanity. But what Sayer is saying, and what DeYounge is implying, is that we need to change

our competitive spirits to spirits of compassion, spirits of love, spirits full of Christ. Then, and only then, can our fullness be seen as ordinary. Our love can be shaped into not just what everyone values implicitly, but what we value as ‘significant’.

In my senior capstone class, shoutout to psychology majors, the few of us—we're reading a book about this very thing: love. James K. A. Smith, the author of “You Are What You Love,” points to what Augustine, I hope everyone knows who this guy is because he's pretty cool, says about love: “since our hearts are made to find their end in God, we will experience a besetting anxiety and restlessness when we try to love substitutes.” When we love ourselves, which in our modern American culture is very easy to do, we will be left desiring more. But when we love God, our craving for ‘significance’ may be satisfied.

The point is this: being a loving Christian is hard, yes, but when we love like Christ then life may be more easily satisfied and uplifting. Doing the little things continuously can be tiring at first, but over time they will transmogrify—this is a cool word, look it up—into your fiber of being. Be loving, be like Christ.

Are you a broke college student?



Aimee Hulstein
Bio Health

“I'm a broke college student.” A phrase most people have heard or have even said themselves. While I'm not here to argue that this is a false statement, I am going to share my opinion that even as a broke college student you can still make smart financial choices. Navigating the financial challenges of college life requires a proactive mindset. Instead of viewing financial stability as a post-graduation goal, you can employ strategies that cultivate responsible financial behavior during your academic journey. Habits established while in college can shape future fiscal responsibility.

Now you are probably thinking, that sounds great, but what can I do while still in college? Well, I asked that exact question to Northwestern alumni, Alan Hulstein '21, who is a current financial advisor. Here are the three pieces of

advice he gives to young adults to set them up for financial success.

The first is to know where your current money is going. This is important because when you eventually have a larger income, more money doesn't teach you good behavior. Rather you will have the same current financial issues, just on a larger scale. This also doesn't mean creating a strict budget to follow, but rather simply tracking what you spend money on and how much you bring in. Similar to most things, knowledge is power. So, knowing where your money is going will automatically allow you to make more informed decisions. For example, if you are trying to decide how much you can potential invest, or if you are able to make the payments on a house mortgage. If you are tracking your money, you will be able to make those decisions.

The second piece of advice is understanding that there are three ingredients to investing. It is the amount you invest, your return, and how much time you invest. To increase your return, you can either increase the amount you invest or the length of time you invest. Even if it is not a large amount, if you start when you are young, you can still hit your

desired savings level. This allows you to actively work towards those goals without having the rely on being able to just invest a larger amount later in life. Which leads to the third piece of advice.

Simplify and automate your finances so that you can save small over a long time. While this is mundane advice, it is the most tried and true. Investing a small amount right away and automating the amount you put in each month, allows it to be ‘out of sight and out of mind.’ Which minimizes decision-making friction. Ultimately, simplifying the process will make it less overwhelming. Another example of how you can simplify your finances connects to the first piece of advice. It is to use an app that automatically tracks both your income and expenses. This makes it less time-consuming and allows you to always be on top of your finances.

In conclusion, altering the perception that financial literacy is a post-college concern empowers students to establish enduring financial habits. The insights shared offer a blueprint for financial success, showing that even as a broke college student, one can make intelligent financial decisions.

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Basketball is on the road to quarterfinals

TEAM STATS POINT TO A SOLID START

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
BUSINESS ADM/
MARKETING

The men's and women's basketball teams are making quick work of the season with overall scores of 16-4 and 11-8.

Their next games are home against RV Hastings on Jan 27.

Team leaders on the men's team are Alex Van Kalsbeek, Zach LaFave, Kaleb Booth, Craig Sterk, Luke Korver and Dillon Carlson.

On the women's team the team leaders are Molly Schany, Maddie Jones, Emily TerWee, Hali Anderson, Jenna Kluxdal and Peyton Beckman.

With only eight and nine

games left in the season until GPAC quarterfinals on Feb. 28, the teams look to be in good standing.

They are looking to get back to the championships and add another conference championships title to the list. For the men, who haven't won since the 2020-2021 postseason. The women's team has yet to gain a championship title since the 2013-2014 season.

The men's team is full of sophomores and freshmen, so they are still young and able to grow together as a team.

The team does have experience and stats to reflect that growth thus far this season.

The women's team also has a small advantage in their younger athletes to grow together. this is also

reflected in how the majority of their stats beat out their opponents.

Junior, Hali Anderson is leading the women's team in points with 247, with senior, Molly Schany close behind with a points total of 241.

Leading the men's team in points is Sophomore, Alex Van Kalsbeek with a total of 423 points with an average of 21.2 points per game.

The most points made in a game on the men's team is 114 at Midland on Jan. 14. On the women's team it was 89 at Dakota State on Dec. 15 last year.

Molly Schany is keeping her hold on her spot in the 1,000 point club with 1,253.

Senior, Craig Sterk is also in the 1,000 point club, as is Alex Van Kalsbeek with 1,588 and 1,414 respectfully.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
Emily TerWee prepares to shoot a free throw.

Raider wrestling is battling injuries with grit

SEVERAL MAKING HEADLINES

THOMAS VANCE
SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHING

The Northwestern wrestling team has been through an up and down year. With several injuries stacking up throughout the year, the team has struggled to wrestle at every weight at duals. The team is currently 0-4 in conference duals. Losing to Dakota Wesleyan, Briar Cliff, 16th ranked Morningside, and 6th ranked Doane. However as the season is coming close to an end and as we near senior day for the wrestlers, the team is looking in some of the best shape it has been all year. On Friday Jan. 26 the Raiders will dual Jamestown at home. They will then head

to Sioux City on Saturday. The Raiders will walk out with a full starting line-up for their three duals against Concordia, Hastings and Midland.

The Raiders will walk out with some interesting bright spots on an otherwise painful year. Firstly, Logan Schroeder, He is the team's current 125-pound wrestler and has grown as a wrestler a lot throughout the season.

Coach Rik Dahl said, "I was proud of the growth and is excited to see him wrestle this weekend."

Another sophomore on the team is making waves, Noah Parmalee has shown an immense amount of grit and perseverance throughout the season. He has battled through the bad parts of the sport and everybody knows he will toe the line when it is

match time no matter what. He is a leader through his actions and finds a way to provide a spark that was previously missing in duals. A third stand out Raider on the wrestling team is Luke Jeness. Luke is the embodiment of consistency, It doesn't matter if it is a GPAC dual or a tournament. You know what you are going to get out of Jeness. This year he has beaten the number one guy in the nation and recently took fourth in a very hard tournament that is renowned for its difficulty. Along with Jeness, there is yet another wrestler this year making headlines. Jaxon Hildebrandt is a freshman heavy weight. Being light for the weight Hildebrandt uses his speed to make his opponents guess constantly and try to put the puzzle together.

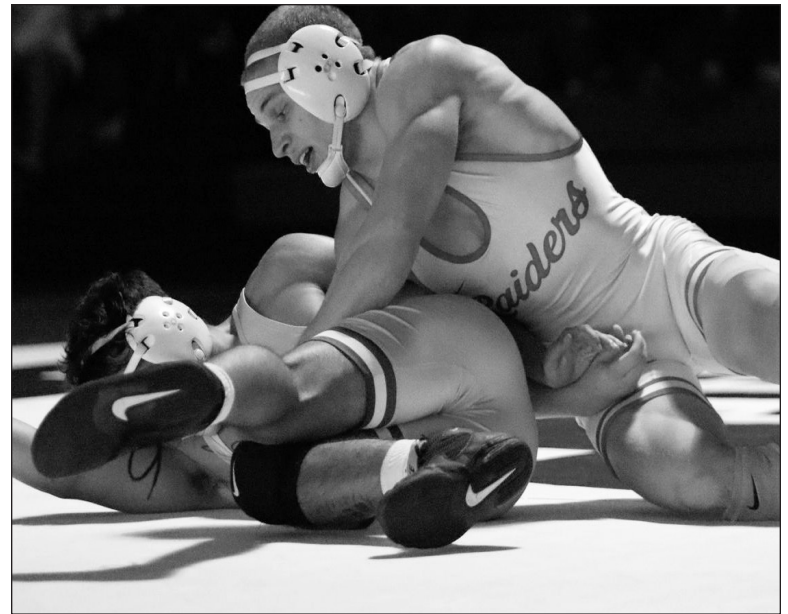


PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC RAIDERS.COM
Red Raider wrestler works to pin an opponent.

Esports team with new season and new recruits

LOOK TO WIN TOURNAMENTS

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
BUSINESS ADM/
MARKETING

Raider esports starts a new season this spring with the reemergence of "Overwatch." The main goal for the team is to make the top two in conference, or to take championships.

A schedule for the Overwatch team's matches will be on nwcraiders.com soon.

Teams are also starting to get recruits for their rosters in the 2024-2025.

Overwatch has three recruits who are Bradley Anderson, Sam Green and Shaun Carver, who is also recruited for Smash Brothers Ultimate along

with Ezekiel Pruitt. Rocket League has one recruit who is Logan Schumann.

Anderson is a season MVP at Centennial High School as well as being a member of the undefeated Kern High Grand championship team. He plans to study civil engineering while at NW.

Carver has been a part of two seasons of Overwatch, in which one has placed fourth at the state level, as well as a season of Smash Brothers while he attended Ames High School. He intends to study sport management while attending NW.

Green has been a part of an Overwatch team at Gretna High School that has won several championships at the state level as well as

tournaments in just two years. The major that he hopes to obtain is computer science.

Schumann has been on the esports team as well as on the football and soccer teams at North Polk High School where he was also a member of the gold honor roll. He is deciding between majoring in business or Spanish while at NW.

Pruitt chose NW for the faith-based community to help strengthen his own faith and because he saw the family environment in the current esports team. He intends to study engineering while at NW.

When asked about why they chose NW, they commented about pursuing a higher education while

surrounded by a Christ-centered community while competing in their respective esports teams at the colligate level.

The combination of the recruits and the current team rosters is sure to make the next few seasons ones to watch, especially with how the past several seasons have gone.

Last season, Overwatch finished 8-3 overall, Rocket League finished second at the Rockstar Energy Colligate Esports Invitational and finished their past season (fall 2023) 16-5 overall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC RAIDERS.COM
Raider looks at winning score after a match.

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Students test their mettle in Mario Kart

RAIDERS, START YOUR ENGINES

JAMES ULSTAD
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

This past week Northwestern's Student Activities Committee hosted a Mario Kart tournament on Jan. 16-18. With fourteen people competing, it was a fun time. The competitors played the newest entry in the series, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe which was released on the Nintendo Switch. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is the updated release of the original Mario Kart 8 which was released on the Wii U. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe has 96 different tracks, and 50 playable characters, providing lots of variety in every race you play. The tournament was set up in a classic four race circuit which makes the most sense if you truly want the best to advance in the bracket. They raced at 150 CC which is the second highest CC rating in the game behind 200 CC. 150 CC is the baseline for most tournaments because 150 feels fast but still controllable to people who

haven't played much. 200 CC goes so fast that it's hard to control your racer sometimes. Doing four races meant that even if you got unlucky with bad items an entire race, you wouldn't be out of the tournament. Luck plays a pretty important part in Mario Kart as you could be in first place the first two and a half laps, but even good racing can't save you from the compounding failure of red shells and blue shells hitting you over and over. The randomness of the game primarily comes from the item boxes which give you better items the further behind you are, so even if you aren't doing too great at the beginning of the race you're never truly out of the competition. In each race the track was decided randomly by the game. This made it so no racer was able to pick the track that they excelled in. Competitors were free to pick their own racers and cart combos so everyone could lean into their preferred playstyle. Jorge Menendez ended up winning the tournament defeating Maria De Jong and Gideon Fynaardt defeated David Grandel for third

place in the tournament. The prizes were handed out to first, second, and third place. Jorge got a twenty five dollar Amazon gift card and

a Mario Kart plush, Maria got a fifteen dollar Scooters gift card, and Gideon got a ten dollar Scooters gift card. Overall, it was another fun

activity orchestrated by the SAC. Be sure to be on the lookout for their upcoming events!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRINCESS BOLA-LAWAL
Gideon Fynaardt secures third place.



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