

Northwestern College, Iowa

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COVID-19 changes across campus

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MORE

BEN HENKER
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

As we enter our sixth week of classes and continue to fight the virus, there are many different safety measures on campus. The college has introduced mandates put in place to keep students and staff at Northwestern as long as possible.

On Sept. 19, President Greg Christy released updated mitigation measures for the college. These four new measures were introduced with the increased amount of positive cases in Sioux County.

They include wearing your mask in your residence hall except while you are in your room, wearing your mask any time you are in close proximity to others (including outside), maintaining at least six feet of physical distance whenever possible (both indoors and outdoors) and being responsible when you get together with friends.

“We anticipated these types of cases might happen, and we’re

prepared to respond,” Christy said in an all-campus email. “So, to bring our number of campus cases down and to protect that in-person college experience, we’re enacting additional temporary mitigation measures.”

As these new measures are put in place, many others are still present, like the Raider Check app available in the Apple store and mask requirements in the chapel, classrooms, cafeteria and common areas.

Even though the Caf only allows students to be served by Creative Dining employees, new measures are being introduced for students in quarantine.

With the assistance of the COVID-19 coordinator for student life Michael Simmelink, Creative Dining is now allowing asymptomatic students to pick up their meals in the front of the Caf for the first 10 minutes they are open. This is to allow those students to get the right amount of food they feel is necessary. This is done to make things a bit smoother for the Caf workers that would need to stop serving and assist those in getting a prepackaged meal.

“It’s a constant battle of cost/benefit analysis. How do we do what we do safely



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT
Northwestern students participate in intramural corn hole on the campus green.

but also value the on-campus experience,” Simmelink said. “I want people to know that we are doing our best and everyone has their normal job plus COVID-stuff. If we don’t extend grace to each other, it’s going to be a bearcat of a year.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Supporting local during the pandemic

LOCAL BUSINESSES IN ORANGE CITY

CAMBER HERRIG
PUBLIC RELATIONS

At the beginning of the outbreak, everyone was urged to stay home. Don’t make unessential trips. Don’t go shopping. Restaurants operated as take-out only. Theaters and sport stadiums closed. Life boiled down to the bare necessities.

As time passed and more about COVID-19 became known, businesses slowly began to re-open. The previous norms of frivolous shopping and outings became a possibility again with new guidelines and mask mandates. The economy started to show signs of recovery.

But the pandemic hit businesses hard, and the importance of supporting local businesses and restaurants has never been higher.

For Orange City native Will Minnick, a sophomore history major, supporting local businesses has turned into supporting people he knows.

“I know a lot of the owners,” he said. “These times are crazy, and small businesses have really been shaken up, wondering how they will make a living. During my time at home, my family ordered a lot of stuff via takeout and brought it home to enjoy as a way to support restaurant owners.”

The Orange City Chamber, Orange City Betterment Board and the Alton City Chambers partnered in March 2020 to create the Retail and Restaurant Rebate Bucks program as a response to local businesses closing or reducing their hours and services. Residents could save their receipts from local businesses and restaurants and turn them into the Chamber office to receive \$10 of “Rebate Bucks.”

According to the Orange City, Iowa, website, this tactic was successful in reaching the goal of \$1 million being spent locally, helping small businesses out during the beginning of the pandemic.

One store that stood to benefit from the rebate program is Holland House,



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
The pandemic hit businesses hard and local businesses need more support than ever.

which is dedicated to home décor, furniture and women’s clothing. Owner and interior designer Marie Hofmeyer moved back to Orange City in 2010 and built her store from the ground up.

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Rom-com scrapes the barrel of originality

TV SHOW REVIEW

DISAPPOINTING AUDIENCES

MISAEAL BRUZZONE
ECONOMICS

“Broken Hearts Gallery” is a romantic comedy about two young New Yorkers who are trying to navigate their lives as they deal with past relationships. It stars Geraldine Viswanathan and Dacre Montgomery, and it is written and directed by Natalie Krinsky.

After a break-up, Lucy (Viswanathan) accidentally bumps into Nick (Montgomery), and they start a friendly relationship. Lucy comes up with the idea of starting a gallery where people can display items of past relationships in an effort to move forward and also share their story. The two characters ultimately bond over their shared struggles and learn different lessons from each other.

Krinsky’s directorial debut leaves a lot to be desired. The acting is slightly below average, as there are a couple of scenes with Viswanathan where the

viewer is left to wonder if she is deliberately offering a mediocre performance in an attempt to not be taken too seriously.

At times I was not sure if the movie was taking itself sincerely or not, which in any case, the uncertainty is not a good sign. Montgomery, on the other hand, offers a more solid performance throughout the movie. Watching his character develop and warm up to the main character is very enjoyable. Sadly, the same cannot be said about Lucy.

Lucy was undoubtedly written to challenge the stereotypical notion of a rom-com lead as she offers a more diverse main character than most Hollywood movies. However, in an effort to break clichés, Lucy ends up falling into the realm of the character that is so quirky it becomes annoying.

There are several scenes where she does things that would most likely infuriate the people around her, yet it’s played off as funny and unique because the audience is supposed to be rooting for her. This is evidenced by the fact that Lucy ultimately treats

nick like how her old boyfriend treated her. She treats Nick the same way her old boyfriend treated her, yet the movie makes no attempts at reconciling this.

The movie also suffers from the curse of trying too hard to be relevant. It believes that pop culture references and social media is going to make the film relevant to its audiences while failing to address the real struggles of the generation it is trying to target.

Both characters spend most of the runtime being unemployed while somehow living in downtown New York City, owning property, paying for the renovation of a hotel and spending money on various objects for the gallery.

As for its thematic elements, the movie sets up the interesting premise of keeping mementos or souvenirs from old relationships.

Although it is quite an intriguing idea to explore, the movie fails at developing the theme to a decent level and cannot seem to make up its mind as to the conclusion. It is never clear what the movie believes people should do about broken hearts and not being



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROKENHEARTSGALLERY.MOVIE

able to let go of the past.

At best, this movie advises people to get rid of old trinkets, which is lackluster to say the least.

There are some saving graces in this movie. The relationship between Lucy and Nick is quite endearing and entertaining to watch even when Lucy can be a

little too much at times. Lucy’s relationship with her friends is also one of the movie’s strengths as they encourage her and always have her back.

“Broken Hearts Gallery” clearly misunderstands its target audience, and except for having a non-white lead, brings nothing new to the table as it

stumbles across multiple clichés of the genre. The movie is predictable, which considerably drags the pace, and tries too hard to be funny and different. Ultimately the movie is shallow and forgettable. Nevertheless fans of the genre will not fail to have a good time.

★★

Alicia Keys digs deep in self-titled album

MUSIC REVIEW

KEYS TURNS INTROSPECTIVE

NAOMI LIEF
ART

When I first sat down to listen to Alicia Keys’ newest album, “Alicia,” I didn’t know what to expect. I had listened to some of her music in the past, but it mostly just consisted of her most recognizable tunes that play on the radio.

With this in mind, I was prepared to be impressed with whatever Keys had to offer.

Keys’ seventh album was released on Sept. 18, 2020, almost 20 years after her debut album, “Songs in A Minor,” which earned her five Grammys. The simplistic style of the album cover features four portraits of herself, each from a different angle. The vibrant pastel colors make for a unique and minimalistic palette, which captures the eye and draws attention to the subject of the album, which is in fact, Keys.

The album kicks off with

“Truth Without Love,” which introduces the audience to her first of 15 songs with a touch of class, using orchestral strings and a harp, met with more modern synth as the melody progresses.

Keys seems to get straight to the point with her lyrics and immediately jumps into the chorus with “What if I wasn’t Alicia? Would it please you?” She is brutally honest and upfront when addressing these rhetorical questions. “What if to you I was just Alicia? ... Tell me why the hell I ought to write this song...” She sings. “Truth without love is just a lie” is a phrase that will go down in music history.

Keys is confident in what she is trying to say, and she expresses her thoughts in a personal, and almost vulnerable sort of way. As the album continues, each song differs greatly from the last. Keys combines multiple different genres of music together to create her songs, which is something she’s

been known to do with her previous albums. She uses hints of classical, R&B, folk, soul, gospel and even disco to create her masterpieces.

One of her most popular songs in the album, “Underdog,” starts out in an indie style, with Keys’ voice accompanied by a guitar. Everything quickly progresses into a more upbeat, get-going sort of rhythm, featuring an entire backup choir and piano, all put together cleanly and modernly with what seems like household percussion.

She emphasizes empathy in her lyrics, and jumps into her chorus, saying, “I Sing a song for the hustlers trading at the bust stop...” We quickly learn that Keys wrote this song, this entire album, really, for those who are overlooked. “Single mothers waiting on a check to come, young teachers, student doctors, sons on the frontline knowing they don’t get to run...” This song ties to themes that are relevant specifically to the occurrences of 2020, and

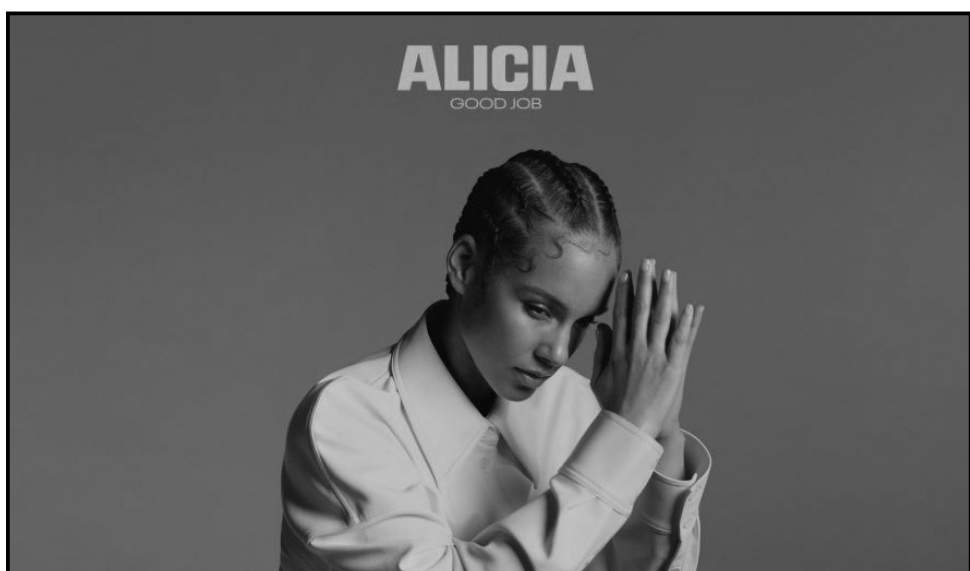


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICIAKEYS.COM

it emphasizes that one day, these people will rise up. Keys is a voice for those who feel like they will never be heard.

One of my personal favorites, “Grammercy Park,” starts out as a slow, acoustic melody, and continues to keep adding layers of Keys’ voice to create haunting harmonies. She ends with the phrase, “I forgot about the person who I used to be.”

The album wraps up with “Good Job,” a slow moving,

melodic piece that features Keys and a piano with echoing reverb. “You’re the engine that makes all things go, and you’re always in disguise, my hero,” she begins. “You’re doing a good job, a good job... You’re doing a good job; don’t get too down. The world needs you now; know that you matter...” The chorus repeats these words intentionally, because Keys knows how much people need to hear them.

Keys wraps up her album

with her last verse, “The mothers, the fathers, the teachers that reach us, strangers to friends that show up in the end... From the bottom to the top, the listeners that hear us...” And then she states, “This is for you; you make me fearless.” This album was truly created for the underdogs; for those who can’t speak for themselves. Through her album “Alicia,” Keys is a voice for those who have never had one.

★★★★

I-Club and La Mosaic bring culture to campus

REACHING ACROSS CULTURES

SCHUYLER STERK
ENGLISH TEACHING

Many people from across campus participate in two of the Intercultural Development office's student groups: Intercultural Club and La Mosaic. Each organization has a purpose, as well as a message they hope to communicate to the campus through their events.

I-Club serves as a bridge at Northwestern and seeks to unite different communities across campus. They emphasize the excitement of connecting with new cultures and meeting people from a variety of backgrounds. This is something that students from all areas of campus are invited to be a part of, regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, home country or personal background.

"We believe in the beauty and unifying power of diversity and difference," said student representative Ali Almail. "We changed our name from International Club to Intercultural Club to emphasize that I-Club is for everyone willing to step into the exciting endeavor of engaging with different

cultures and perspectives."

To accomplish its mission of promoting diversity on campus, I-Club hosts a variety of campus events that are designed to celebrate different cultures and help expose students to the food, music, dances and styles of those cultures.

These events include the yearly I-Club Coffeehouse and the Cultural Fair, both of which celebrate students' cultures by giving them a space to perform, cook, display their art and share pieces of themselves with the campus community.

Of course, like other organizations on campus, I-Club and La Mosaic are faced with the challenges of adjusting and altering their events in lieu of the pandemic. Both groups still aim to continue working to build connections and dignify difference while still taking proper precautions.

"Social distancing may imply that because we are separated, we cannot build community, which is wrong," Almail said.

I-Club Coffeehouse is scheduled to still take place, starting at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9 in the intercultural office area in Ramaker, where there will be a variety of performances,

a space to form great connections, and a great deal of Town Square coffee.

Extra precautions for events involving food, like Coffeehouse, include a limited amount of people serving food and a minimized number of shared surfaces. Venue changes for events are common as well, including La Mosaic's group discussions, which may be moved to the Vogel Room or to the chapel.

Though some events may be postponed for future years, and some events will be altered or adjusted for safety, many events from both groups will still be held this year, and all of campus is invited to attend.

In addition to these large events, I-Club also hosts small food nights and more intimate gatherings to help people get connected with those who might be different than them.

La Mosaic's role on campus looks similar to that of I-Club but with a more focused purpose. It serves as a support group and is designed to fit the needs and desires of its members. To do so, they schedule events and activities surrounding hot topics and subjects of personal meaning. This includes immigration, the Black Lives Matter movement and police brutality, and they look for



PHOTO COUTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Exchange students perform at Northwestern's cultural fair.

ways to grow together.

"La Mosaic is a space that allows for people of many backgrounds to come together, discuss issues that matter to them, learn from each other and enjoy growing in fellowship with one another," said Johnathan Johnson, intercultural intern. "It's intended to be a safe space for all to come together and unapologetically be themselves."

One of La Mosaic's biggest events is the Beloved Festival held each spring. This festival highlights the diverse artistic talents of the NW students and faculty, as well as the greater Northwest Iowa community.

It usually involves musical performances of various genres that represent a myriad of cultures. La Mosaic also partners with the Campus Ministry team to host group discussions with some of the

guest chapel speakers. These events normally dive deeper into topics the students find pressing or interesting. Other fun events include things like mini golf, movie nights, game nights, laser tag and bowling.

"We are all passionate about very different things but stand on the same moral platform that every human is deserving of love, respect and to be represented," said student leader Neftali Ramirez.

Free and enjoyable, music showcase has it all

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT PLAYS ON

PAIGE GINGER
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Are you looking for things to do on campus this Friday night, Oct. 2? If so, look no further. Northwestern's Music department has got you covered.

They are performing a concert involving both singing and instrumental music. Included in this showcase are the Symphonic Band, A cappella Choir, Orchestra, Women's Choir and Heritage Singers. They all have a full line up of music for your listening pleasure.

The show will feature songs that have a good mix of upbeat and relaxed pieces. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and usually lasts for a couple of hours. It will be held in Christ Chapel, and seating will be limited due to COVID-19. Entry is on a first come first served basis, and wearing a mask will be required.

COVID-19 has changed a lot of things throughout the including the way that the performers have prepared.

"It was definitely different moving out of the normal space and being more creative with things including getting to know new members of the ensemble," senior Cassandra Koel said. "It has also been helpful to have a constant reminder of faith."

Even with facing new challenges, the experience of doing what the students enjoy is a wonderful thing. Senior Anna Iekel talked about the different layers of sound that the band has with the spacing, but that it also provides a challenge in terms of trying



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT
Dr. Holt directs rehearsal for the concert.

to hear others.

"Overall, it is still good to play and make music with everyone," Iekel said. "In a way it is quite humorous with the best ways to navigate COVID-19 issues including covering instruments with socks, tights and T-shirts to prevent the spreading of germs. This is more effective with brass compared to woodwinds due to the structure of the instrument."

Iekel also mentioned that they have been doing more practices outside, and that she has enjoyed having a change of pace. At the same time, some form of consistency is appreciated. Iekel added that being able to still have the opportunity to have performances has been nice.

Having students in and out of quarantine has posed some challenges, according to band members. There are moments when

people are not in rehearsals and the empty spaces stand out. It is strange to have them gone, but then they come back, and things continue like normal.

The show – or in this case, concert – must go on.

More information about the event can be found under the music tab at nwc.edu. This is also where you can find the link to the livestream.

Unsung heroes: Becky Donahue

FRIENDLY AND CARING HEART

BREANNA CARR
ENGLISH TEACHING

Walking into the De Witt Theatre Arts Center, the first face you'll see is Rebecca Donahue.

With her strong ties to Northwestern, Donahue makes an impact in students' lives as she cares for those around her.

Donahue grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she attended performing arts schools throughout elementary and high school.

"Theater and dance have been important to me (along with the appreciation of all arts) as long as I can remember," she said.

Aside from school, church was Donahue's home away from home. She enjoyed the welcoming aspect of her home church and the people who always made her feel loved.

Growing up in performing arts schools and being involved in her church both played an important role in her choosing to attend NW.

"I thought Northwestern had the best theatre department of the Christian schools that I looked at, and I still believe that today," Donahue said.

In August 2002, she applied to NW. Donahue had been passively a part of the NW community since 1998. She had two older sisters who were already theatre majors on campus. What made her transfer was watching her older sisters and the interactions they had with the school community.

"I wanted the personal connections that my sisters had with their professors and peers around them," Donahue said.

As the theatre department building and office manager, Donahue interacts with students in many different ways. She loves when students stop by her desk and tell her about their day.

"I love connecting with students and hearing their dreams, how they process what is going on in life and mostly just laughing and being goofy," Donahue said.

She also interacts with students through RUSH, an annual dance performance directed and performed by students on campus. When Donahue founded RUSH back when she was a student, she wanted to offer a way for all students to be involved in dance, even for those who may not think they have the skill. Last year was her first year advising RUSH after not running it since she was a



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
Rebecca Donahue is known for her friendly and caring personality and loves having conversations with students.

student in 2005.

"Unfortunately, it was cut short, but it was still fun to get to know students that don't usually frequent our building," she said. "My favorite thing about the performances is that I get to encourage and empower students to use the gifts that God gave them that make them unique."

When asked what her favorite parts about NW are, she said theater of course, and that everyone should go

see the shows and experience great theater. Along with that, Donahue has always loved the connection and passion that the faculty and staff have for the students at NW.

"Some of my most incredible friends today are people I had as professors while I was a student at Northwestern," she said.

Donahue has also left an impression on the students who visit her office.

"I have spent many hours, just within the last year, in

her office chatting about many different things," senior Kevin Griffiths said. "She cares about us very much and will always be there with a helping smile and a caring heart."

Junior Wyatt Waage echoed Griffiths and could also attest to the welcoming environment that Donahue creates as soon as you step through the door.

"Becky is someone who is always willing to help out in

any way she can. No matter if it is getting things ready for rehearsal, answering any questions you have or helping you figure out life's mysteries," Waage said. "Personally, I have gone to her numerous times to have her help me externally process things. She is almost always at her desk and greets you when you walk into the theatre office. She helps make the theatre building the warm, friendly and welcoming place it is."

Supporting local during the pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

"It can be difficult to continue to do business if we do not have people purchasing from us throughout the year," Hofmeyer said. "During the mandated shutdown, that proved the point even more how important it is to have local support. Holland House was able to continue to do online ordering for our customers, we were able to do curbside pick-up and delivery as well as shipping. We were shown a lot of support from Orange City as well as many other surrounding areas."

For Holland House, having students back in the community means having an extra vibrancy.

"I love when we have students shopping in Holland House and

seeing them walk around downtown. We would love to connect with them even more and find ways to get them involved in our community," Hofmeyer said.

For Whitney Erickson, a sophomore elementary education major, shopping local is a way of showing support.

"All the local businesses in town have a way of making their customers feel welcome and invited," she said. "They work hard to make their businesses thrive, and it's important we give them the support they need as members of the community."

Besides local retailers, there are a number of locally owned restaurants, like Town Square CoffeeHouse, that had to quickly change the way they do business.

For owner and operator

Steve Mahr, the reality of the pandemic was a big deal.

"Our business has seen about a 45% decrease in sales. It sucks," Mahr said. "When you buy local, you may not see the direct benefits in the short term. But what you see in the long term is that your downtown or local commercial spaces aren't vacant after a long economic downturn. Shopping local helps sustain a community so that when a crisis is over, your community still has the amenities that attract new people to your community."

With students returning to college, Orange City gains at least 1,000 more potential customers.

Mahr depends on this influx to create and sustain an inclusive community eatery and gathering place.

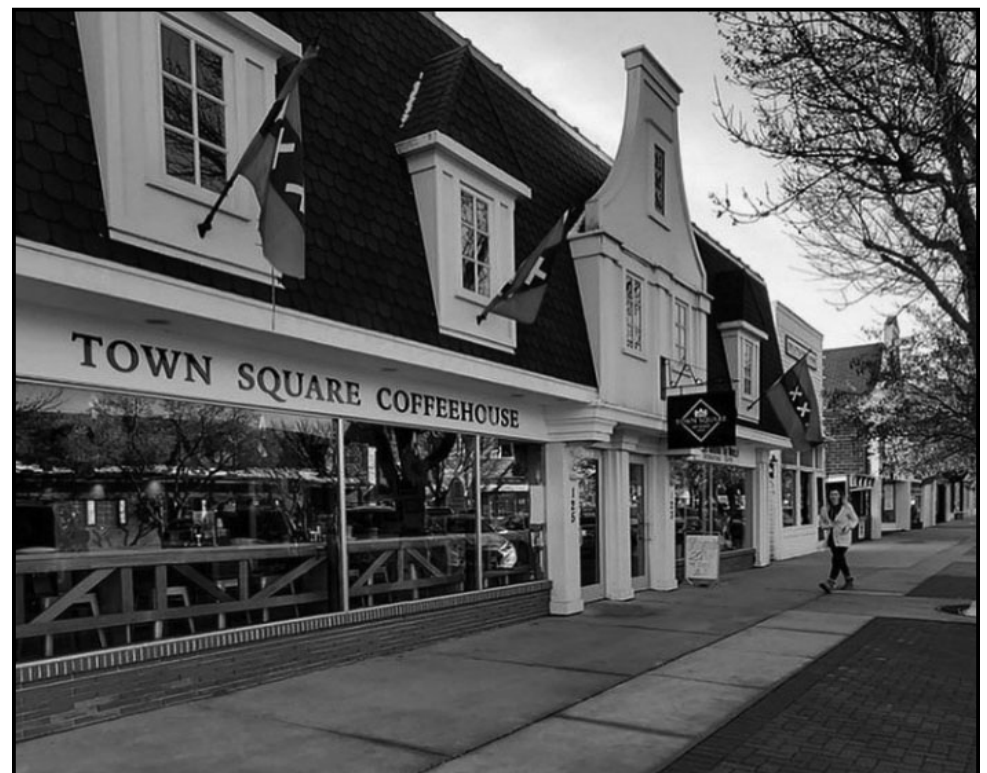


PHOTO SUBMITTED
Local businesses are beginning to open up again and are excited that students are back in town this fall.

"Dordt and Northwestern students play a core part of developing our coffee

house into the space it is," he said. "We cherish all y'all." A complete directory

of businesses in the community can be found online at orangecityiowa.com/business.

Succulents in the dorm room

BENEFITS OF SUCCULENTS

BAILEY BANWART
SOCIAL WORK

If you poke your head into any number of female dorm rooms on campus, you can see windowsills populated with plants. Succulents have stolen the limelight as one of the most popular plants on campuses across the country.

The question is why? What makes succulents so popular among college students? What do they provide?

According to the Illinois Extension and a survey conducted by Garden Center Magazine, succulents have been rising in popularity since 2007 and accounted for 15% of garden sales in the Midwest in 2017. Another article by Turtle Leaf gave a possible explanation for why this group of plants is on the rise: "With many young people moving to cities and working long hours, a plant that requires minimal care is something we can all agree makes sense."

Senior Bree Hodnefield

sees the benefits of owning succulents, as she said, "They are so low-maintenance and make for cute, easy room décor. They are simple but can be dressed up with a cute pot. It gives me something to love on and point my attention toward."

Hodnefield also enjoys the fun bit of responsibility they bring to her everyday life.

Succulents are without a doubt one of the easiest groups of plants to care for, given their diminished need for water and provision. A college dorm windowsill provides an adequate amount of light for these plants, so all a college student needs to successfully grow a succulent is a little bit of time and some water here and there.

Succulents are great ways to bring light and life to your dorm room and give students a sense of accomplishment in keeping these plants alive. They also can build community.

A technique called propagating involves taking small cuttings of your pre-existing succulent plant in

order to form a new one. These small cuttings can be given to friends, wing mates or used to expand your own little dorm garden.

Senior Libby Ven Huizen said they add something "whole and good and green" to a dorm room.

Succulents are also relatively inexpensive and can be found at many greenhouses or even at Walmart.

There are plenty of other benefits to having succulents in your dorm besides bringing some life into a small, dingy room.

In research done by NASA, succulents have been shown to purify and humidify the air around them by removing formaldehyde, trichloroethane, benzene and other pollutants from the air and replacing them with breathable oxygen. Succulents, along with other houseplants, help purify the air simply by being alive.

Psychology research done at the University of Michigan shows that there are also cognitive benefits to having plants in your dorm room, as



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
Succulents are the new trend in dorm rooms across the nation.

interacting with nature can improve memory retention. In turn, having succulents in your dorm room will help you retain more knowledge as you're studying for that big test.

Northwestern's dorm life has already been impacted by succulents. Sophomore

Alexandra Breikreutz enjoys having succulents and other houseplants in her dorm room on campus.

"I love the green they bring," she said. "And it is a living thing that brings life into your room."

Given all these benefits, it's easy to see how succulents

have taken over college dorm life around the country.

Succulents add an expressive pop of color and a little bit of natural style to your dorm room, and for those who don't have a green thumb, they're an easy way to grow God's creation.

COVID changes

FROM PAGE 1

Different avenues of learning are happening in the classroom as well. NW has a mix of in-person, online and hybrid classes being offered.

New safety measures are being encouraged inside the classrooms, as students are required to sit six feet from each other and wear masks, and students in quarantine are able to Zoom into most classrooms so they don't miss out on potential learning. However, some students feel the physical distancing takes away from classroom experiences.

"It has been hard to get the full aspect of learning in

the classroom with physical distancing," junior Abby Van Peurse said. "One thing I love most about Northwestern is the community, the smaller classrooms and having one-on-one discussions. We haven't been able to do that with COVID, and I miss that interaction and chance to learn with peers."

Changes in the chapel experience have also been in effect for this school year. The iAttended app allows for easier and more environmentally friendly tracking of chapel attendance. However, with physical distancing and wearing masks being a requirement during chapel services, some

students feel a change in their worship experience.

"It feels a little lonelier," senior Schuyler Sterk said. "One of my favorite parts of worshipping together has always been to do it with my friends. I know the distance is not that big in reality, but it just feels a little more isolated and lonely."

As the year goes on, changes will continue to occur in order to keep students, faculty and staff safe. NW's procedures are in place and modified based on local healthcare's advice to keep everyone on campus and to improve the education and faith of each student.



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT
Physical distance in the classroom and in chapel has become the new normal.



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WOULD YOU RATHER!

(As voted on by you, the students)

Would you rather eat for a year at...

The Hub

33%

OR

The Caf

67%

Would you rather date a...

Fern girl

39%

OR

Steg girl

61%

Would you rather date a...

Hospers boy

52%

OR

Coly boy

42%

OR

North boy

3%

The opinions expressed in these polls represent student preference and is not way intended to indicate superior qualities of one choice over another or endorse certain stereotypes

Improvements for the outdoor classroom



Noah Smith
Religion

The outdoor classroom is a new addition to campus this semester. It is located between Ramaker and the Dewitt Family Science Center. It may have been difficult to notice because it does not look like a traditional classroom. For one, it does not appear to have anywhere to sit. Your options are the brick walls or the ground. Then, there are all the plants and flowers. They provide a change of scenery, away from all the white-walled classrooms, indoors.

It offers students a place to connect with nature while studying or spending time with friends. However, it is disrupted by the random placing of cement slabs dotting the ground. They do not seem to be placed in any apparent order, but rather take away from the symmetrical flow of the area as a whole. Outlets are positioned around the outdoor classroom, but that is the only piece that resembles anything remotely to a classroom.

An outdoor classroom is almost impractical in Iowa. It would be difficult to plan for class to be outside because the weather in Iowa is too unpredictable. You could decide to move class outside during a given class period, but that would take time away from actual lecture time.

Emilien Meray, a student from Florida, said, "Anything below 40 degrees is winter to me."

In that case, it is winter four out of the eight months we are in college with the other five months being so incredibly hot that it's hard to breathe or focus on anything else except the sweat beading down your face, or it is too windy to hear or accomplish any amount of coursework without all of your papers blowing away. There may be a few short weeks and a day here or there that would be conducive to outdoor learning.

As I was asking people how they felt about the outdoor classroom, I came upon Juani Mackery who's response was, "Outdoor classroom? I didn't even know there was such a thing."

Unfortunately, I feel that most people do not know it is intended to be an outdoor classroom. If it looked more like a traditional classroom, more people would use it because they would understand its purpose. It may have been more practical to create the classroom in a different way or to not have it at all.

If benches or other seating options

were added, more people would use it. Another possibility for the area could have been to build a gazebo or a miniature outdoor stage area. Either of these ideas would offer more use than random placed cement slabs and electrical outlets.

A gazebo would offer a more comfortable, partially protected place to sit around and talk with friends or study outdoors. A miniature stage would provide a focus to the outdoor area, but it would also pose the problem of seating if benches were not constructed. You would be left to decide whether to sit on a grass patch, a cement slab or a combination of a cheek on each, which would not be comfortable in the slightest.

Basically, the outdoor classroom would be greatly improved if it had more seating options.

Another way to improve it would be to have an actual purpose for the cement slabs. If the slabs are used as a place for yoga, I would feel sorry for whoever falls. Another possibility could be to place posts or stakes on either end of a slab so a hammock could be positioned between the posts. However, even that fell short of any ideas for the area.

Overall, I feel the planning of the outdoor classroom failed to explore other options that may have been more practical and used more often than it is now.

Water bottle station in Bultman



Kaelin Alons
Public Relations

In weeks past, the Beacon's opinion section has been more critical than uplifting of Northwestern College. While I don't want to contribute to this tradition, I believe this is something that needs to be changed: the water fountain in the Bultman Center between the basketball court and the Athletic Training clinic should be replaced with a water bottle fill-up station.

In previous years, the AT clinic provided water bottles for each NW sports team so that athletes stay hydrated throughout practice. Due to COVID-19, that is no longer the case.

The college's prevention measures do not allow the AT clinic to provide community water bottles to athletes this year. As a result, athletes bring their half-empty, personal water bottle to practice because there is no place

they can fill up their bottle quickly and easily.

By replacing the water fountain in the Bultman, this problem would be avoided, and our athletes would be in better health before, during and after practice.

Placing the fountain between the gym and the AT clinic is the ideal spot, as it is a highly trafficked place for athletes before practices.

Currently, the soccer, football, volleyball and cross country teams walk past this spot on a daily basis. That is approximately 300 athletes who could come into contact with my proposed water bottle fill-up station before every practice.

I know I am not the first to suggest this, and the common response is the high expense. At about \$1,500, the water bottle fill-up station we have other places around campus is an expensive addition. But it is a relatively low cost.

However, given there are about 300 fall athletes, realistically, if each athlete uses it one time, it would cost \$5 per athlete.

This "too-expensive" argument would be valid if each athlete only used it once. At that point, they might as well buy their own plastic water bottle. But that's not how water fountains work.

Those same 300 athletes will encounter that station five days a week, and the new relative cost is \$1 per athlete. After a month passes, the relative cost is 25 cents per athlete. That's not expensive.

Plus, my analysis doesn't take into account the other couple hundred athletes on campus not currently in season. When you consider the amount of athletes who will benefit, this simple fill-up station is a small expense.

Cost should not be an issue for something so necessary to our athletes this year. So why have we not put one in yet?

The real question is this: NW, you claim to care about the well-being of each athlete on our sports teams, and you want us to perform at our best. But, how can this be true if you are unwilling to take this simple measure to help keep us hydrated during a time when you can no longer supply water bottles at practice?

I know it's a small measure, but like every coach says, doing the small things right will win us games, and ultimately, championships.

Good performance starts with taking care of your body, and that includes hydration. Help us perform at our best and put this water bottle fill-up station in the Bultman Center.

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Foltz receives GPAC Defensive Player of the week

FOLTZ OFF TO A GREAT START

CAROLINE VAN BERKUM
SOCIAL WORK

The men's soccer goalie, Zeke Foltz, was recently named the GPAC Defensive Player of the Week. After two games, he still had not allowed a single ball to enter the goal.

The sophomore from Sioux Center saw his first game against Missouri Baptist University and made eight total saves. His shutout was a great way to begin the 2020 season, and it did not end there.

In the second game of

the year, Foltz returned to his hometown to take on the Dordt University Defenders. The game was sent into double overtime, and Northwestern eventually came out on top thanks to three saves from Foltz in 107 minutes of playing time.

This second shutout meant that Foltz had a perfect record thus far. Since Sept. 15, the stats have changed, but they are still impressive. Foltz has made 22 saves this year, adding seven against Briar Cliff University and four against Concordia University. Both matches added to the other 11 saves he had under his belt.

He is currently at a 71% save percentage on the season, which puts him third in the GPAC for saves per game, averaging 5.5.

During the games, Foltz can be heard talking to each player about where the ball is and where the other team's key players are. When the Raiders are on offense, Foltz is shouting words of encouragement to every single player on his team.

All of this success on the field is not something that Foltz just happened upon one day. One thing that helps is to have a ritual, and Foltz does. Every night before games,

Foltz can be found in Le Mars at La Juanita's.

Rituals aside, he said that the team understands "Every day you have to play or practice like it is the last game or practice of the year."

The spring season was cancelled due to COVID-19, but that did not get in the way of soccer team's vision for the 2020 fall season. Foltz is not alone in thinking, "With the proper mentality and hard work, we could shock the GPAC this year."

The whole team is working hard to be better than they were pre-COVID.

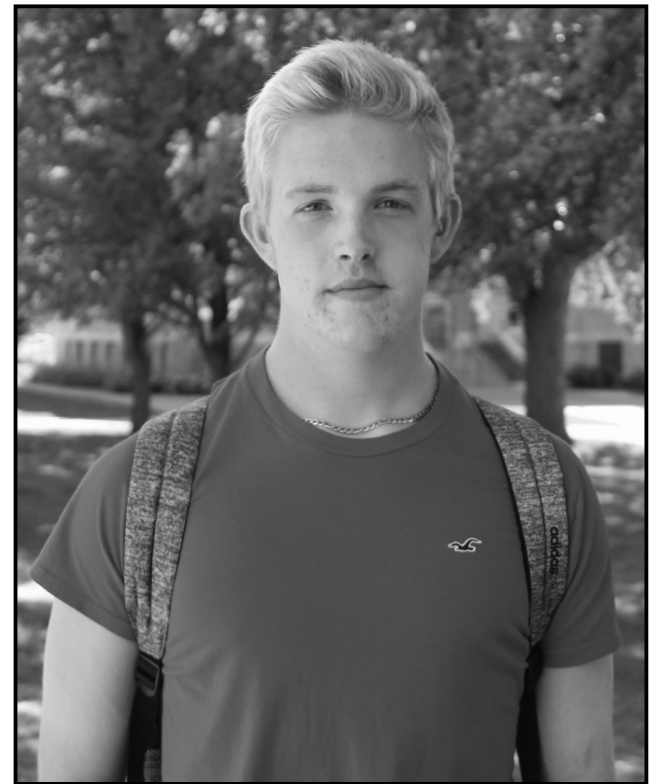


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
Soccer goalie Zeke Foltz begins the season with a strong start.

An athletic logo that stands out

NW ANNOUNCES NEW ATHLETIC LOGO

CARSYN HAMSTRA
NURSING

Things are looking different on campus this fall, and it's not all because of COVID-19. The athletic logo has a new look.

Rebranding took place last year to coincide with Northwestern's new tagline: Raiders Stand Out. There was a desire to do something similar with the athletic logo.

The marketing team decided that the old college logo could not be configured to embody the new "Raiders Stand Out" theme because of a question that came up:

What is a Raider?

As a result, the cross from the college logo was deemed the unifying symbol between the athletic programs and the college. By putting the cross on a flag, it is elevating the cross of Christ and keeping it the main focus, therefore letting it "stand out" in the same way students, faculty and staff are called to stand out.

This change drew mixed reactions among members of the NW community, particularly among the student athletes.

Devyn Kemble, a member of the women's basketball team, said she misses the "I miss the of the former logo."

A member of the women's volleyball team, Bekah Horstman, said, "I was

surprised at first by the new logo since I enjoyed the original one. I do enjoy seeing the cross at the center of the logo as a representation that God is the focal point of everything we do."

An athlete who wished to remain anonymous said, "I think this is a pointless change. Most people did not have a problem with the previous logo. Plus the new logo looks kind of strange on the jerseys."

Some athletes like Deonte Walker a sophomore football member, disagree saying, "I don't mind it to be honest. I think it looks really good on the apparel we have." Whether you agree or disagree with the new athletic logo, the fact still stands that we cannot wait to cheer on another year of the Red Raider Athletics.



COURTESY OF NW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
NW's athletic department reveals new athletic logo.

E-sports kicks off their season with new changes

E-SPORTS BEGINS THEIR SEASON

ANGELA WINTERING
THEATRE

When you hear the term e-sports, you may find yourself asking questions like: That's an actual group? Isn't that just playing video games?

You may be shocked to learn, then, that there is more to it than you may think. Having recently become a varsity sport, the e-sports teams have jumped into official seasons with as much excitement and spirit as a sport played on a court or field.

Before being declared a varsity sport, there were three campus teams: Overwatch, League of Legends and Rocket League. Last year, the season took on a routine of about three

practices or scrimmages a week, and every Wednesday, there would be an official match or game against other college teams. The teams would all play in one arena space within a seven to 10 week schedule in the fall, spring and summer.

With COVID-19, practice routines and normalcies have only shifted slightly. Instead of three practices per week, practices now occur every day. Because there is no need for contact, teams are being signed up to participate in as many tournaments as possible.

Along with the advantage of little to no physical contact comes the ability to play in locations other than the arena. If a student is unfortunately quarantined, they can still participate like normal in their e-sport team as long as they

have a computer and console in their room.

Precautions are also being taken within the main arena space. The players are not allowed to enter if they do not pass the Raider Check screening. Before sitting down at their individual station, the player sanitizes everything, even though they use their own equipment as to avoid cross-contamination. Their temperature is taken upon entering as well, and masks are required for gameplay.

Other than the changes to make sure all of the players stay healthy, e-sports teams are blessed with not many changes to their sport. They still come together and warm up together before every match, bonding together as teams before embarking on their missions



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
NW Raider's e-sports teams prepare despite COVID for upcoming season.

and competitions. They'll watch game tapes and form team strategies. They even have team jerseys that they wear on game days, proudly displaying their in-game names.

Just like other sports on

campus, you can watch their matches. All of them are live streamed at <https://www.twitch.tv/nwcesports>, and they also have a Twitter account, @NWCEsports, where they announce game times.

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Justice Ginsburg's death shocks nation

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SEAT LEFT VACCANT

MARIA LOPES

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death has sparked nationwide debates over how and when to replace her. The reality is that she was more than a Supreme Court justice, she was an American icon.

Although most of her work over the past two decades was behind closed doors, her incredible personality and determination in the fight for women's rights put her front and center. Across generations, the 87-year-old justice became: "The Notorious RBG."

During her years in the Supreme Court, RBG gained more cultural fame than any other Supreme Court justice before her. Her bespectacled face has appeared on T-shirts, socks, coffee mugs and tote bags. Bobbleheads and action figures have been made in her likeness. There's even a RBG Halloween costume and so many memes.

RBG's popularity is explained by the fact that even from the beginning of her life, she didn't let society's expectations about women dictate who she could be. Instead, she fought against those expectations. She got her college education, went to Harvard Law School, where she was one of nine women in a class with 552 men, and graduated first in her class while caring for her young daughter and cancer-stricken husband. Although she was an exceptional student, she still struggled to get a job after her graduation for the simple fact she was a woman and a mother.

RBG started making history in the Supreme Court long before she was even on the bench through her job as a professor. Through the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project, she started to build the idea of women's rights in this country, using each one of her cases to move this idea forward.

Between 1973 and 1978, Ginsburg argued six cases against gender discrimination, and case after case she broke down different barriers of gender discrimination, such as laws that kept women from getting their own a credit card, mortgage or car.

This is a characteristic Jillian Simon, a Northwestern student and soccer player, finds



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

Ginsburg's death left an opening on the bench resulting in a dispute as Trump puts a nominee forward.

especially motivating about RBG.

"She wasn't afraid to go after success even though she was a woman in a time when women had to pave the way for themselves," Simon said.

As a Supreme Court justice, RBG helped solidify the constitutional protections she fought so hard to establish as an activist decades earlier. Her opinions and work were so powerful that in 2007, even when she was a minority, the court used her dissent to change the law on a landmark case on employment discrimination.

For Ali Almail, a senior majoring in genetics, molecular and cellular biology and art, RBG was inspiring not only because of her strong opinions but for her humility.

"Even though she was very sharp and her opinions were strong, she never tried to overpower other people to support her own opinions," Almail said. "She just

gracefully let her powerful words enact change in other people's hearts."

Besides everything she accomplished as a lawyer, activist and Supreme Court justice, the thing students like Almail and Simon found extremely impressive and inspiring about RBG was her dedication to her work and mission to protect American women. Even through difficult times, when her husband died or while fighting against her own cancer, she never quit. She always showed up for work until she couldn't anymore.

RBG was only the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court. She died on Sept. 18 of complications from pancreatic cancer.

Since then, President Donald Trump offered his Supreme Court nomination to Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

USPS in distress as November election looms

USPS MAIL BALLOTS IN QUESTION

CARTER BEHLER HISTORY

In letters sent in July to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Thomas J. Marshall, the general counsel for the Postal Service, told most states that "certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service's delivery standards."

Because of COVID-19, mail-in voting has become a possible safe avenue for many people to cast their votes for the November election. It is estimated to be the largest number of mail-in votes cast in the history of the country.

In his letter, Marshall urged voters to request their ballots at least 15 days before the election in order to confirm their votes will arrive in time to be postmarked by Election Day, scheduled for Nov. 3.

"This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted," Marshall wrote. The only

states with regulations that match the needs of the Postal service are Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Oregon and potentially Vermont.

Predating COVID-19, the USPS reported net losses for the last several years as the demand for shipping items such as letters, magazines and newspapers has dropped over the last two decades. At its current rate, the Postal Service is set to be insolvent by June of next year. COVID-19 has only led to an exasperation of this issue. Mail volume dropped significantly after the pandemic hit, and online shopping is one of the main reasons the USPS is able to stay afloat as of now.

On top of all of this, President Donald Trump has aimed his rhetoric and some policies as a potential means to undermine trust in the USPS. In one instance, Trump, when referring to the USPS, called it "catastrophic" and described the use of mail-in voting as a tactic by Democrats to "steal the election."

In a phone interview with Fox Business in early August, Trump stated: "They

want three and a half billion dollars for something that'll turn out to be fraudulent, that's election money basically. They want three and a half billion dollars for the mail-in votes. Universal mail-in ballots. They want \$25 billion, billion, for the post office. Now they need that money in order to make the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots."

He continued: "Now, in the meantime, they aren't getting there. But if they don't get those two items, that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it."

When asked about Trump's comments regarding the USPS, Noah Karmann, chair of the College Democrats at Northwestern said, "Trump's attempt to sabotage the mail while simultaneously claiming that the election is rigged when he is the executive of the U.S. is no more than a massive political plot to try and guarantee his chance to win and then call corruption when he loses. It's

nonsensical and in line with Republican attempts at voter suppression over the past several decades. It's political chicanery at its finest and it's compromising the legitimacy of our democracy."

In testimony before the House Oversight Committee in August, Louis DeJoy, the recently appointed postmaster general, reiterated a pledge he had made earlier that month

and said ensuring successful mail-in voting would be the agency's "No. 1 priority." He called Democrats' assertion that he was working with Trump to hinder the program "outrageous" and testified that he planned to continue the agency's practice of prioritizing election mail.

Congressional bills with bipartisan support were put forward in August to attempt at reversing changes made to

the USPS in recent months by the postmaster general and also provide the agency with \$25 billion in relief funds. The bill was passed in the House of Representatives but most likely will not move forward in the Republican controlled Senate.

All of this is creating a potential problem for the faith in and execution of democracy in America as the election draws closer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

USPS warns it may not be equipped to handle distributing mail-in ballots this election cycle.