A fond Fern farewell to Third North

DORM TO CLOSE WING
FOR 2018-2019 YEAR

ANNA PERRENoud
PUBLIC RELATIONS

A new experiment in community building will debut in Fern Smith Hall beginning the 2018-2019 Northwestern school year. Third North will be closing in an effort to condense the dorm and foster relationships between residents.

The decision, primarily made by Dean of Residence Life Marlen Hovenstine and Resident Director of Fern Lindsey Hubbell, came after noticing an empty feeling around the hall.

There is one central reason for that empty feeling: a decline in female students at NW. In 2014, females comprised 56 percent of the incoming class, and in 2017, that percentage evened out with the males at 50 percent.

Without much increase in overall enrollment, it means fewer females at NW.

Condensing the hall was also considered last year, but resident assistants were already hired at that point. The Residence Life office is currently working on hiring RA's for next year, so right now is the prime time to announce the closure.

Hubbell expressed her hope that the larger population on remaining wings will lead to more energy, community and diversity in interaction.

Closing the wing does not come without a sense of sadness and nostalgia, even if it's only temporary.

"Third North has always been a strong community, and I am saddened to see it go," Hubbell said. "It means one less RA for me to hire, one less leadership opportunity for a woman on campus, one less wing that I will walk on to say hi and hear about life."

Former residents of the wing are reminiscing on the memories they've made there. Senior Laura Korver, who was the RA of Third North during the 2016-2017 school year, said she had a good experience there.

"I absolutely loved being an RA on Third North," Korver said. "Being an RA to the women on that wing was one of the best college experiences I have had."

Sophomore Sophia Holt lived near Korver last year and has good experiences to talk about as well.

"My favorite memory from Third North is never getting homework done because there were too many wonderful Third North friends to hang out with," Holt said. "Third North and the lifelong friends I made there will always be in my heart."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

A capella choir travels to west coast

STUDENTS TO PERFORM
IN WASHINGTON

BLAKE MULDER
THEATRE

Northwestern's A capella Choir will be going on a tour over spring break to Seattle, Washington. They plan to leave on Saturday, March 3, and return on Tuesday, March 13. According to current plans, the choir will travel over 5,000 miles during their trip. They plan to perform 11 concerts and host several workshops for high school students.

NW's choir and band take turns touring every year over spring break.

"This year it is the choir's turn to travel over break," said director of A capella Choir Thomas Holm.

"We are headed to Seattle and will step and perform at schools and churches all along the way there and back."

This is the first time the choir has traveled to Seattle in at least 20 years, as they go to a different location each tour. There are 43 singers going on the trip, along with Holm.

The choir has paid great attention to detail in preparation for the trip. Choir members will often make recordings of themselves singing to review with Holm.

"Our director has been working with us on spots that are challenging," senior Ben Grei said. "Just the other day, we had a memory quiz to make sure we have a handle on the lyrics of some of the harder pieces."

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Marvel movie soars, but hits clichés

MOVIE REVIEW

135 MINUTES

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Marvel’s latest film “Black Panther” released in theaters this weekend, and it drew massive box office numbers. The film posted a remarkable $201.8 million on its opening weekend, which is the fifth biggest box office opening of all time.

Before its release, the film was praised by critics for its representation of African culture and the strong role women play in the film. This movie is a big step forward for cinema in terms of advocating for the role of women and for representing people of different cultures, yet it still suffers from typical superhero movie clichés.

The film’s core strength is that it makes great progress toward accurately representing a different culture than what we are typically accustomed to seeing. In it, it is a white male, and he is not saving a damsel in distress. In fact, women are empowered throughout the film, with one of the key fighting forces comprised of fierce, spear-wielding women.

The most refreshing aspect of the film and the main reason for all of the hype is its great strides toward this cultural and gender inclusion. What is even more interesting is that this is happening in a genre that has been filled with straight, white male protagonists for as long as it has existed.

I do not mean to understatement the importance of what is stated above, but the film has problems that cannot be ignored. It is also important to consider that films have been moving in the same direction “Black Panther” makes such a statement in. Earlier last year, “Wonder Woman” was praised for its casting of Gal Gadot as a strong female lead. Other films have been casting more ethnically diverse casts recently as well, with “Get Out” being a prime example. This is not to dismiss the importance of the steps “Black Panther” makes toward inclusion; it just highlights these cultural shifts.

The movie fails to surpass the norms of the superhero movie genre, which drag down the film’s quality. First and foremost, the dialogue is at best tolerable and at its worst uncomfortable. Characters say things that actual people would never say and react to situations in unbelievable ways. The lines sound like they were obviously written by Hollywood writers trying to make everyone sound “cool.”

On top of the dialogue, the plot is unbearably predictable, and any twists come as no surprise to the astute movie-goer. The film follows the classic Marvel formula of (minor spoilers ahead) conflict, small victory, larger conflict, near hopeless state, miraculous victory. It feels tedious to watch a film and already know the ending.

I feel conflicted about “Black Panther.” On one hand, the film is a huge step forward for Hollywood in terms of equal representation, and it highlights a minority population in movies. On the other hand, the film stumbles in some very big ways that cannot be overlooked. The film does not ascend into greatness, but it is still a film worth watching.

Car Seat Headrest reworks past album

MUSIC REVIEW

TOLEDO SHOWS
NEW DEPTH

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Car Seat Headrest is the musical project of Will Toledo. The group is an American rock band, based in Seattle that burst onto the rock scene through the site Bandcamp with an album Twin Fantasy. The album acquired a devoted following and landed Toledo a spot on a record label where he produced three records that received critical acclaim. In late 2017, he decided to re-evaluate his Twin Fantasy record now that he has more resources and time to invest in the project. Car Seat Headrest’s sound is difficult to describe. The group is a rock band, but their music feels more like localized anxiety, confusion and deep emotion than rock-and-roll. Toledo is an intensely talented songwriter equipped with deep insights into what it means to be a young person in today’s world, and he couples those insights with witty observations about the world around him.

The album sets the tone early with its opening track “My Boy.” The song builds slowly with distant electric guitar riffs and Toledo’s falsetto slowly, until he gradually swells until listeners are hit with a wall of electric guitar paired with Toledo pseudo-screaming the same lyrics repeated at the beginning of the song. The song sets the tone emotionally as he expresses a deep longing to see the boy mentioned in the song one more time.

The song also highlights Toledo’s ability to create complex song structures with praised dynamics and his knack for a good crescendo. His music takes on a visceral, vulnerable quality.

The coupling of Toledo’s extremely personal lyrics with this intimate musical style is a phenomenal pairing. The sound of the record is very lo-fi, and the band’s sound has always had a polished garage band feel. The vocal performance on the record complements this style as Toledo does not possess a traditional singing voice. He doubles down on emotion and vulnerability with his vocal performance throughout.

The balance of sound on the record is improved from the Bandcamp original recording and his vocals are easy to pick up, but they do not drown on the instrumentals. The instrumentals and overall sound of the record is a unique take on garage rock with a musical eccentricity.

Highlights of the record include “My Boy,” “Stop Smoking, (We Love You),” “Sober to Death” and “Nervous Young Inhuman.” The cuts on the record range from 12- and 16-minute epic tracks to shorter tracks that hit hard musically and thematically.

It is unique to see an artist care enough about their work to re-work an entire album. Twin Fantasy provides an opportunity for old fans to remember why they fell in love with Car Seat Headrest, for new listeners to acquire themselves with the band’s older music and to highlight how much better the band has become over the years.
Students offer Oscar predictions

TOUGH COMPETITION FOR BEST PICTURE

EMILY RAPER
UNDECIDED

On March 4, the 90th Annual Oscars will be presented to honor the best films of 2017. The event will be at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, California and hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

As the upcoming awards are anticipated, questions and predictions about which films will be nominated and which will receive accolades are circulating social media and among loyal viewers of the Oscars ceremony. In fact, theatre major Warren Duncan and political science major Brant Vermeer, have some thoughts and predictions of their own.

"For my predictions, I'd say I expect 'Get Out' to win a lot of awards along with 'Dunkirk' and 'The Shape of Water,'" Vermeer said. "I also think 'Get Out' deserves a lot of wins as that movie was exceptional, and it was Jordan Peele's directorial debut which makes it even more impressive.

Duncan also had his own predictions on movie wins and best actor awards.

"I predict that Daniel Day-Lewis will win his fourth Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role," Duncan said. "Saorise Ronan will finally win a much-deserved Oscar for her performance in 'Lady Bird.'"

Duncan also noted specific actors that he had hopes for and mentioned that he "would be happy to see either Christopher Nolan, Jordan Peele or Greta Gerwig take home the Oscar for Best Director."

As far as his movie favorites, Duncan commented that he had high hopes for "Get Out" and "The Shape of Water."

"I really hope 'Get Out' takes home the Oscar for Best Picture, Director and Original Screenplay," Duncan said. "To see a movie that came out of nowhere near awards season take home an Oscar for Best Picture would be incredible, although I think 'The Shape of Water' will give it a run for its money."

As far as other categories go, Duncan said that he wasn't a huge fan of the Animated Short category but that "Disney Pixar's 'Lou' is phenomenal."

Vermeer also had high hopes for the movie "Get Out," but had another suggestion. "My personal hope is for 'Blade Runner 2049' to get some wins. It's not nominated for Best Picture, but I think it definitely deserves to be," Vermeer said. "I think it was the best movie of the year."

Overall, it should be an eventual night as movies of all varieties from this past year will be recognized.

"The Oscars provide a great list of movies to check out," Vermeer said. "I encouraged other students to watch the

"Bachelor" craze sweeps campus

NW RESIDENTS HOST GATHERINGS FOR THE SHOW

DARBY SKILLERN
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Love it or hate it, something about "The Bachelor" hooks people in enough for the show to last 22 seasons so far. On Northwestern campus, weekly viewings of the show have become popular among residents. In North Suites, Noah Havendink hosts a weekly gathering to watch the show with some of the other guys from the dorm, with about 15 other guys often showing up to watch. The viewing happens every Tuesday night, since they stream it on Hulu.

"We watch after D-group, so D-group numbers have been through the roof lately," Havendink said. They also have turned the show into a fantasy league, with each viewer making their picks for who will receive a rose that week and scoring points based on how many they guessed right.

"You make your picks before the episode, and you aren't restricted to the week previous," Havendink said. "You get one point for everyone who goes through up until week six. By week seven, only four people go through, so from there you have to pick your winner without watching the rest. So everyone has their winner selected by now."

The scoring system for the bracket is complicated and changes every week based on the importance of moving forward that week. If you are able to guess the winner correctly, then you get 30 points for just that pick alone.

"It's intricate," Havendink said. "I found it online, so I can't take credit for it. All of the brackets are hanging in the hallway outside my room."

Since the North Suite residents watch during quiet hours, they can't celebrate loudly when their pick makes it through, but they still find ways to make it fun.

"While you're watching, every time someone you picked gets a rose, you snap. We can clap or cheer because it's quiet hours. Usually there's resounding snaps when Tia gets a rose."

In Steggery Hall, a gathering also takes place, although it is a little less competitive. Resident Director Celeste Ryan invites ladies to watch the show in her apartment every Monday night, when anywhere from four to 15 people come.

"It was something my RD did when I was in college, and I always really enjoyed it," Ryan said. For me, it feels like such a good, light-hearted connection point, and I love sharing those silly, dramatic moments with residents in Steg."

"Honestly, I'm a little morally opposed to the show, but as much as I hate it, I also really love it. It's dramatic and funny, and I love the shared moments of freaking out over what so-and-so said this week or who went home and who didn't," Ryan said. "But it's kind of like a train wreck; you can't stop watching even though it's awful and weird and gross. It's just too good."

Ryan thought Tia would win the show, but after she was sent home last week, she switched her pick to Becca Kufrin. Havendink, on the other hand is pulling for Kendall to make it to the end.

The season finale of "The Bachelor" airs on Monday, March 5 on ABC.
A fantasy for a literary future

STUDENT WRITES FANTASY SERIES

VICTORIA HORN LITERATURE & WRITING AND RHETORIC

Nursing a cup of hot cocoa at Town Square Coffeehouse, sophomore Olivia Vander Ploeg described the fantasy series she has been writing since her junior year of high school. Vander Ploeg's hands gestured in circles as she talked, as if touching the worlds and characters so real in her mind. The electronic music blaring from the kitchen faded to white noise beneath Vander Ploeg's gentle voice as she excitedly painted her world of prophecies and magicians and battles of good against evil.

A writing & rhetoric and literature double major, Vander Ploeg has been working on a series of four fantasy novels for four years now. This past fall, Vander Ploeg finished writing the first draft of her second novel, "The Silver Tree." She is currently working on the fifth draft of her first novel, "Malvaria Eira," as well as the first draft of her third novel, tentatively entitled "The War of the Worlds."

Each novel in the series takes place on one of the four worlds within the universe Vander Ploeg created. The first novel follows three characters on their journey to fix a well-intentioned magician's miss cast spell. According to Vander Ploeg, "there was a prophecy that all four worlds would be united under one king," and when the magician cast a spell to fulfill the prophecy more rapidly, the spell had unexpected consequences. He could not lift the spell himself, so he left clues behind to help others figure out how to mend the spell. The first novel begins with these characters and their search for answers.

The next two novels follow different plainspellers, centering on a rebellion against an evil king and a war between all four worlds—and Vander Ploeg is keeping the plot of the fourth novel under wraps—but all four novels take place in the same universe.

"Each book could stand on its own," Vander Ploeg said, "but they connect together—kind of the way "Narnia" does."

Vander Ploeg is particularly inspired by her two favorite authors and literary giants, Madeleine L'Engle, author of the "Wrinkle in Time" series and C.S. Lewis, author of the "Chronicles of Narnia" series. However, Vander Ploeg noted that both L'Engle and Lewis aim their writing at a younger audience than she intends to.

"Most of the time, fantasy is for younger generations, but in my generation, I feel like there has been more of an interest in fantasy," Vander Ploeg said. "There's also not a ton of fantasy for my age group that is clean, so I see a hole that needs to be filled."

While it may seem like a student with majors in both writing & rhetoric and literature would be too burnt-out on words to spend another minute writing, Vander Ploeg reminds herself of her literary dreams and charges forward day by day—"I just have to remember this is what I love to do. Instead of saying, 'I don't feel like writing because I've been reading and writing all this boring stuff,' Vander Ploeg said. "When I'm intentional about it, I can find the time."

Vander Ploeg hopes to one day publish all four of her novels. Looking forward to that day, one thing is certain: with such dedication, passion and originality, Vander Ploeg could very well become a literary giant worthy of a fantasy novel.

Students share testimonies of faith

STEGGY STORIES TEACH EMPATHY

ALYSON EVERSMAN BIOLOGY ECO. SCIENCE

About two or three times each semester, 50-60 Stegenga Hall residents come together on Saturday mornings to eat pancakes, drink coffee and listen to other women share their stories of struggle and the impact that God has had on their lives.

Madison Godfredsen, the discipleship coordinator in Steggy, helped create this casual time for testimonies called "Steggy Stories." "We used to do what was called 'Lobby Lessons,'" Godfredsen said, "where women around campus and the community would give their testimonies or life advice within Steggy. We really liked the concept but didn't want to limit it to those who lived in the dorm to provide their own stories."

Each "Steggy Stories" session lasts for about an hour, and two to three women within the dorm give their narratives while others listen.

Godfredsen stated that some of the women delivering their stories volunteer while others are asked to share their powerful testimonies.

Previous speakers have shared past struggles and trials, or how they have seen God's redemption and overcome various difficulties during their years at Northwestern. By inviting Steggy residents to hear about the speaker's background and situation, aspects of which may be similar to their own, listeners are able to relate to and appreciate the speaker more.

Steggy Resident Director Celeste Ryan believes that "Steggy Stories" has been an excellent way to cultivate community within the dorm. "There's something about eating pancakes in your pajamas on a Saturday morning that feels like home and family," Ryan said. "I love that we do that together a couple times a semester."

Ryan also talked about the power of listening to other people's stories and being vulnerable within a community. She said that these stories allow Steggy women to realize that they are not the only ones with hard experiences, teaching them how to better empathize with others.

"Knowing the experiences of others gives us a better understanding of who people are and what things shape them," Ryan said. "We learn so much about who God is together as we hear stories of his faithfulness."

Godfredsen recognizes that the environment of "Steggy Stories" enables Steggy residents to be more intentional about building relationships with one another.

"The testimonies being given show how God is working within the lives of multiple people, and it's hearing how everyone has their own story from the same God," Godfredsen said. "The ladies of Fen or the apartments and complexes are also welcomed to come to these events if they would like." Godfredsen said.
New club aims to build fellowship

CAMPUS MINISTRY STARTS INNER CIRCLE

BREE HODNIEFIELD WRITING AND RHEOTIC

Want to get to know more people on campus and dig deeper into God's Word? Northwestern's Campus Ministry has been receiving feedback, saying that students on campus have been yearning for depth and to know God better over the last few months. The Campus Ministry team has been praying, thinking and working on what is called "Inner Circle" since the beginning of the semester. Their official launch of this new movement took place a couple weeks ago.

"The Inner Circle is an idea based on the life of Jesus," junior Betsy Bolt said. "Though Jesus had a big community (his disciples), he had a few within that larger community that were his closest friends (Peter, James and John)."

The main goal is spiritual development and encouragement through deep friendships. While this goal is broad and vague, the ambition is quite intentional.

"We want the Inner Circle to be organic and tailored to each relationship, hence why the definition is so broad," Bolt said. Bolt hopes that each pair or trio will be consistent and dedicated in not only intentionally living life together, but also in asking and wrestling through hard questions together. This tool is here for students to be spiritually challenged and encouraged with others who are either going through the same things or have been through different situations.

NW talks a lot about community, but in order to understand that community Bolt says we've got to be intentional about choosing to connect with people.

Community doesn't just happen because we want it to. Campus Ministry's hope is that "Inner Circle" will be a tangible and practical way to make this experience of community a real thing in students' lives.

There are not very many steps to follow in order to get started. Grab a friend who wants to create a stronger bond while growing closer to Jesus, take a trip to Campus Ministry in Ramaker and sign up with one of the team members. Everything after signing up is left to the partner or partners. This movement is for students. Campus Ministry wants students to get out of it what they as individuals need.

For those who don't attend a D-group but would like more information about "Inner Circle," the Campus Ministry team made bookmarks outlining the movement with ideas and questions on how to get started. These bookmarks are located at the Campus Ministry area in Ramaker.

Dean of Christian Formation Barb Dewald can all be contacted to help connect those who are interested with others who also want to be involved.

Overall, the main goal of "Inner Circle" is to deepen relationships, but also to grow, support and truly know one another as friends grow together in Christ.

Closure of Fern wing

FROM PAGE 1

Sophomores MaKayla Tjernagel and Nicole Koertner also lived on Third North last year and have fond memories of it.

"Third North made my freshman year experience a lot better," Tjernagel said.

Koertner agreed with Tjernagel.

"I made so many amazing friends on Third North last year that mean so much to me," Koertner said.

Sophomore Karly Summer is the RA of the wing this year and she loved it.

"Third North had a great dynamic and was just a great place that was so welcoming and full of life," Summer said. "Hopefully Third North will open again in the fall of 2019. It feels weird to be the last RA of Third North for now."

So, why Third North? The south wings host the kitchens and the east wings tend to be the biggest. Location wise, it just makes sense to choose a wing on the top floor.

Many of the current Third North residents have already made plans to move to new wings or dorms, so it should be a smooth transition.

The closure of the wing is hoped to be temporary. Third North could potentially reopen in August 2019 or even stay open this fall if female enrollment is strong. However, seven wings will still be open and full of residents ready to build community the old-fashioned NW way.
OPINIONS

Public libraries are dangerous

SHELBY VARILEK
SOCIAL WORK

A few days ago, every home in Orange City received a letter inviting them to the public library's board meeting on Tuesday. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a circulating petition that proposed the labeling and separate shelving of materials that deal with LGBTQ+ issues as well as the halt of new acquisition of such materials at the public library.

At the board meeting, members of the Orange City residents proclaimed their opposition toward these controversial materials being so easily accessible to the public while others defended the library's obligation to provide materials that members of the community had requested.

As I listened to the different opinions that were presented, I was struck by one woman's comment regarding the role of the library in the community: the library provides ideas, and ideas are dangerous. She's right. The ideas we can acquire from books such as these may cause a lot of discomfort. We may learn that what we have been brought up to believe may not be entirely true. We may be presented with a perspective that contradicts our understanding of the world and its inhabitants. We may be prompted to step outside our comfort zone. We might even grow. That's painful stuff.

But just because an idea might not align with your values does not mean that it isn't worth exploring. When we only pursue information that confirms what we already believe, we are missing out on a wealth of valuable insight. Pushing aside a perspective that might challenge our beliefs denies us the opportunity to better understand our neighbors.

The library provides us with stories that allow us to explore the struggles, successes, passions and fears of others. As we delve deeper, we learn to think critically about how the function of our society might work for or against certain groups of people. We become sensitive to the experiences of others, and as a result, we can begin to tear down the walls that divide us and find common ground.

The only thing we have to lose by acquiring more knowledge is our own ignorance. The more we encounter compelling literature, the more willing we have to be to reexamine our worldview and adjust accordingly. That is not to say that we replace our beliefs, but rather expand our framework of understanding to be more holistic.

The public library is dangerous because the pursuit of knowledge is dangerous. We may begin to doubt and ask questions and disrupt our comfortable state of ignorance. But it is more dangerous to remain in this state of ignorance while there are people hurting because of it.

By attempting to sweep these controversial topics under the rug, not only are we depriving ourselves of an opportunity to acquire knowledge, but we are also avoiding and walk humbly with our God if we cannot see past someone's sexuality or gender identity and look at their humanity as a whole. The purpose of this is not to please everyone or be wishy-washy in any sort of belief, but to seek justice for people who have been wronged and who continue to be wronged in the world, the community of Orange City and on the campus of NW.

BEN PATZLAFF
YOUTH MINISTRY

There has been a certain confrontation going on this past week amongst different citizens of Orange City as well as students and faculty/staff at Northwestern. This conflict arises from books at the Orange City Library that speak on the subject of the LGBTQ+ community, either for or against. One-hundred sixty-eight items to be exact, some of which are child-level reading material.

The community conflict began when Dr. Terry Chi started a petition for the labeling and sectioning off of these materials as well as asking that Orange City's majority Christian population's beliefs and views about the LGBTQ+ topic be taken into consideration before acquiring more materials on the subject.

Along with this, a flyer, which Dr. Chi was not associated with and spoke out against, was handed out throughout Orange City. This flyer had Dr. Chi's petition on one side, which is hardly problematic. The appalling atrocity came from the other side of this flyer which had different "data points," whose purpose was to give voice to the reasons one should not associate themselves with homosexuals or transgender lifestyle including: "Transgenderism has a 46% [men] and 42% [women] attempted suicide rate," and, "Adult children of same sex parents report on using depression nearly triple that of adult children of heterosexual parents (51% vs. 22%)." I would hope that these facts would be disturbing to many, but not for the intended purpose that the Sioux County Conservatives group used the statistics. The fact that these statistics exist in the first place should unsettle us. Now this is a situation where I can't speak as an authority because of my lack of expertise as well as my own heterosexuality, but I would urge you as a reader to consider this rhetoric used as something that shows why people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community are pushed in ways that make these statistics exist.

Do you really think that it is someone's sexuality or gender identity that pushes them toward depression, anxiety or attempting suicide? Or are these statistics rather the outcome of a society and especially Christians have demonized this group and ostracized them to the edges of our civil society?

I would ask that we look at these statistics in the terms that they address: depression and attempted suicide rates. For the sake of justice and the flourishing of humanity which God seeks for all people, can we see how sickening of a standard we have created for how we should treat those who are different than us? How can we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God if we cannot see past someone's sexuality or gender identity and look at their humanity as a whole?

A new menu is coming to Town Square which sounds pretty rad. Along with the new menu comes an increased variety of food items and new drinks. All this comes with the hope that this new menu means the making of drinks and food can be done at a quicker pace to better satisfy the needs of customers.

Editor's Note
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Get wealthy off your words...
RAIDERS TAKE SECOND PLACE IN GPAC QUALIFIER

MATTHEW SHUKA

Last weekend the NW wrestling program traveled to Hastings, Nebraska, to compete for a place in the national wrestling tournament. Head coach Rick Dahl said, "There were many unknowns as we headed to Hastings, to battle a very even tournament field."
The Raiders had finished their dual season in a three-way tie for second place with Midland and Minnesota State, trading first-time GPAC champions, Briar Cliff. The Raiders fought hard throughout the day, and when all was said and done, six wrestlers had earned their place in the national tournament. Leading the six men's entries was Nick Null, Jake Hergott and Brandon Shuler.
Nick Null has been a dominant wrestler for the Raiders all season and lived up to that standard as he finished the day with a fall, a technical fall and a major decision in the finals to secure his first GPAC championship title. Both Shuler and Hergott finished second on the day with big wins over ranked competitors in their semifinals matches.

Sophomore Andrew Null also secured a place at the national tournament as he joined his brother at the top of the podium with a first-place finish and his first college championship title.

Of his younger brother's success, Nick Null said, "I thought making the GPAC finals with my little brother would be pretty cool! But then he won... talk about pressure. I can't let him say he's better than me yet, so I had to go out and win in a more dominant fashion over a returning All American."

Two other sophomores who earned a trip to the national tournament were 2017 All-American Dante Preciado and freshman qualifier Drell Gost. Preciado earned his third-place finish competing in the most challenging weight class in the conference. Gost knocked off his opponent from Concordia to make it to the finals.

The Raiders finished second place on Saturday in the tournament. It was not only the efforts of these six qualifiers that contributed to this second-place finish, but also the hard work and talent of the rest of the team. Five other Raiders helped earn team points for their second-place finish. Sophomore Daniel Zealey and freshman doubles performance. NW controlled singles' play as well. Three of the four matches were won in straight sets. Ingram needed a tie-breaker (10-5) to defeat Rachel West to earn her team-leading fifth win in the No. 3 singles. Hoocher defeated Madison Greiner to win 6-3, 6-0 in the No. 1 singles and McGinnis lost just one game in defeating Emily Hoesting in the No. 2 singles.

Of the match, McGinnis said, "Individually we all played to our strengths in both singles and doubles which lead us to be successful against Buena Vista."
The tennis team has the opportunity to travel to Orlando, Florida, over spring break to compete in four different matches.

Reid Seelhammer both earned two wins and Seelhammer finished sixth in the 197-pound weight class. Seniors Brock Breenman and Elijah Dahl both recorded wins in their final college tournament. Junior Cole Mills also won a match by a technical fall on the day. The Raiders will be back in the room training to compete at the 2018 national tournament March 2 and 3 at the Jacobson Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Six to Nationals

RAIDERS TAKE SECOND PLACE IN GPAC QUALIFIER

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Sophomore Andrew Null also secured a place at the national tournament as he joined his brother at the top of the podium with a first-place finish and his first college championship title.

Of his younger brother's success, Nick Null said, "I thought making the GPAC finals with my little brother would be pretty cool! But then he won... talk about pressure. I can't let him say he's better than me yet, so I had to go out and win in a more dominant fashion over a returning All American."

Two other sophomores who earned a trip to the national tournament were 2017 All-American Dante Preciado and freshman qualifier Drell Gost. Preciado earned his third-place finish competing in the most challenging weight class in the conference. Gost knocked off his opponent from Concordia to make it to the finals.

The Raiders finished second place on Saturday in the tournament. It was not only the efforts of these six qualifiers that contributed to this second-place finish, but also the hard work and talent of the rest of the team. Five other Raiders helped earn team points for their second-place finish. Sophomore Daniel Zealey and freshman doubles performance. NW controlled singles' play as well. Three of the four matches were won in straight sets. Ingram needed a tie-breaker (10-5) to defeat Rachel West to earn her team-leading fifth win in the No. 3 singles. Hoocher defeated Madison Greiner to win 6-3, 6-0 in the No. 1 singles and McGinnis lost just one game in defeating Emily Hoesting in the No. 2 singles.

Of the match, McGinnis said, "Individually we all played to our strengths in both singles and doubles which lead us to be successful against Buena Vista."
The tennis team has the opportunity to travel to Orlando, Florida, over spring break to compete in four different matches.

Reid Seelhammer both earned two wins and Seelhammer finished sixth in the 197-pound weight class. Seniors Brock Breenman and Elijah Dahl both recorded wins in their final college tournament. Junior Cole Mills also won a match by a technical fall on the day. The Raiders will be back in the room training to compete at the 2018 national tournament March 2 and 3 at the Jacobson Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Raiders take down BVU

NW GOES 2-1 IN THE PAST THREE MATCHES

CONNER UBBEN

The Northwestern College tennis team picked up its first win of the season, a 7-2 victory over Martin Luther. The team picked up its first win of the season in a 7-2 victory over Martin Luther. The team picked up its first win of the season.

The Red Raiders swept the Martin Luther College Knights in all three matches, nearly a tie-breaker (6-10) for sophomore Zoe Helms and freshman Jacqueline Ingram to come away with a 9-6 win at the No. 1 slot. Junior Kendra McGinnis and sophomore Elana Van Den earned a victory (8-5) in the No. 2 doubles.

NW earned win in first round

STRIVING FOR SECOND STRAIGHT GPAC TITLE

BRADLEY LAAKMAN

Northwestern used a strong offensive performance to defeat Concordia 107-87 in the first round of the GPAC Tournament. Both teams played well from the start, but it was the Raiders who used their hot shooting to extend their lead in the second half.

NW and Concordia exchanged the lead seven times in the first half, with Concordia's largest lead being six points. However, NW capitalized on a 9-2 run to take a 50-42 lead going into halftime. From there, they never looked back, extending their lead to as many as 23 points late in the game. The key to victory for the Raiders seemed to be found on the bench. NW's bench outscored Concordia's 33-6.

The Raiders were led in scoring by seniors Nathan Wedel and Riley Francis, who each scored 25 points. But the scoring did not stop there - NW shot 63.6% from the field, including a 3-point percentage. In addition to their scoring output, NW outrebounded Concordia 27-17.

Next, the Raiders will be matched up with 7th-seeded Doane in the GPAC Semifinals on Saturday in Orange City. NW went 2-0 against Doane in the regular season, defeating the Tigers 97-87 in the regular season and 86-79 in the postseason. Doane defeated Briar Cliff 85-84, Wednesday night. Briar Cliff is currently ranked ninth in the NAIA. NW improved their record to 24-8 overall and has won seven of their last eight games. That momentum could be crucial as the postseason moves along. NW is looking to make their second straight trip to the GPAC Championship Game, as they defeated Briar Cliff 95-89 in the GPAC Championship last year.

NW GOES 2-1 IN THE PAST THREE MATCHES

CONNER UBBEN

The Northwestern College tennis team picked up its first win of the season, a 7-2 victory over Martin Luther College and dropped its match against College of Saint Benedict (Minnesota) to 1-1 on Saturday, February 17.

The Red Raiders swept the Martin Luther College Knights in all three matches, nearly a tie-breaker (6-10) for sophomore Zoe Helms and freshman Jacqueline Ingram to come away with a 9-6 win at the No. 1 slot. Junior Kendra McGinnis and sophomore Elana Van Den earned a victory (8-5) in the No. 2 doubles.

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PHOTO BY: JOSHUA DAHL
Dante Preciado is one of the national qualifiers for the Red Raiders.

PHOTO SUBMITTED
Sophomore Kelly Shortenhaus connects with the ball.

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GROUP EMPOWERS UNDERPRIVILEGED

EMILY RAPER UNDECIDED

On Friday, March 16, Northwestern College will feature a "ministry of Christian friendliness" as MAD Skills Poetry, presented by YouthHope, takes the stage in chapel. MAD Skills, which stands for Making a Difference with Skills, gives teens at YouthHope a chance to express themselves through poetry, dance and drama. YouthHope is a Christian ministry in Illinois that primarily focuses on low-income kids in three different communities. On a weekly basis, YouthHope takes 500 low-income kids and teens under its wing and provides them with after school activities, a Christian youth camp and other youth services.

NW's Director of Worship Josh Kuipers said, "We invited MAD Skills to campus because we highly value diversity in our chapel services; a diversity of voices, a diversity of viewpoints and a diversity of gifts used to point people toward Christ. MAD Skills is a very unique group that presents people's stories and the truth of the gospel in a way that we do not experience too often in our little corner of Northwest Iowa.

YouthHope's mission and ministry is to help broken lives become whole. They want to provide kids and teens with Christ's love and to show them they are part of a community that cares. This ministry is something Kuipers believes in.

"They are reaching kids in such a creative way," Kuipers said, "empowering students to unleash the power of their own stories and experiences, while developing their abilities to express themselves, to speak up for what's right and to advocate for change and justice through art.

The main purpose of YouthHope's MAD Skills concentration is to build confidence, character and expression. MAD Skills hosts two large poetry events each year: one in the fall and one in the spring. They also put on events and poetry slams throughout the year at churches and on college campuses. Although YouthHope's programming is available to all students in the community, their primary focus is those who are underprivileged.

"I think it is refreshing that MAD Skills doesn't just tell kids to not do drugs, to not be involved with gangs, to not sleep around," Kuipers said.

"They go beyond that, attempting to show their students that there truly is abundant life in Christ, and that through their poetry and through their testimony they really can make a difference and be a positive force in the world around them, even amongst a bunch of college students in Northwest Iowa."

CHOIR TO TOUR OVER BREAK

CHICAGO CHORAL TOUR TO TOUR OVER BREAK

FROM PAGE 1

The tour will incorporate a wide variety of songs. "We are singing some Taiwanese songs and actually a couple of Christmas songs too," Grev said. "Many of the songs are in English and have some great stories behind them, there are some with solos, and we are singing one that is really fun and is basically all nonsense sounds.

Grev is especially excited to spend more time with the rest of the choir. "I am very excited to get to know [members of the choir] more and spend time with those friends that I already know really well," Grev said. Fresherman Vanessa Stokes said, "The choir started preparing for this trip before we left for Christmas break. A number of the songs we have sung for past concerts will be used on the trip as well as many new songs that we have memorized in the short span we've had."

After their tour, the choir will perform their entire tour program for the NW community at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16 in Christi Chapel and will perform a few of their pieces in chapel on Tuesday, March 20.

BIBLES FOR MISSIONS

All proceeds support Bible placement in Haiti.

We'd also love to have you as a volunteer!