Student moves from field to sideline

PASSION SERIES SHARES LESSONS LEARNED IN CHEER

ANNA PERRENoud
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The number one rule of cheer is to stay in between the flyer and the ground.

That is what Sam Callahan learned when he joined the cheerleading team almost two years ago, partway through his freshman year. He did not have any experience being a cheerleader and only considered joining the team after being prompted by some friends who were also on the team.

In fact, Callahan had started out as a football player at Northwestern. As you might guess, there is a big transition going from football to cheer—a team of over 90 men to a tight-knit group of ladies—and now, Sam.

After skeptically going to try-outs, Callahan was pleasantly surprised at how much he enjoyed it.

"I found out that it was nothing like what I had expected it to be," Callahan said. "I just got to throw people up in the air and catch them, and it was so fun!"

Over the past two years, Callahan has enjoyed the sense of trust that has developed between himself and his flyer, fellow cheerleader Teagan Hill-Norby.

"I love the trust that develops with your stunting partner," Callahan said. "I trust that Teagan will do everything she can do not to kick me in the face, and she trusts me to do everything I can to not let her touch the ground."

The trust developed in uniform has led to strong relationships off the mat, and Callahan is thankful for the lessons he has learned from his female teammates.

"They've taught me when people need encouragement and how to give them that," he said. "If you're not going to show the highest respect to your female teammates at all times, cheerleading is not for you."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Senior art show season arrives

FIRST SHOW ENDING, SECOND SHOW TO DEBUT MONDAY

ABBEY SLATTERY
THEATRE

Seniors Yu-Wen Liu and Shelby Mazzio are the next two art majors hosting their final showings in the coming weeks. Though Mazzio's show concludes today, Liu's show will follow directly after, picking up on Tuesday, March 27 and runs through April 8.

Mazzio's exhibit focuses on "Art of Words" and features pieces like ceramic dishes, embroidery, watercolor and graphic design lettering. Through her final show, she combines her passions for art, graphic design and journalism to create an artistic experience.

"It was combining my love of words and my love of art and finding that connection between the two," Mazzio said.

For Mazzio, the most challenging part of the process was not necessarily the work, but simply planning out a schedule for when to complete it.

"Planning the timeline for getting everything done was the most challenging because some parts, like the ceramics, had multiple steps to it, but then there were others that I could just crank out," Mazzio said. "So just figuring out when to get everything done was a process."

Though it was a lengthy process, the reward of completing the show was worth it in the end.

"Seeing it all up in the gallery space and having that sense of accomplishment to round out the years here was great," Mazzio said.

After finishing up at NW, Mazzio plans to pursue a job in a creative field in Sioux Falls, SD.

Liu's exhibit, titled "Becoming Me," focuses on an introspective approach to art. Liu will use watercolor, drawings, oil painting, screen prints, monotype prints, photographs and sculptures to help illustrate important aspects of her life—both from her home in Taiwan and from her time in Orange City.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
“Wrinkle” plagued by messy narrative

MOVIE REVIEW

RATED PG
120 MINUTES

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Disney’s “A Wrinkle in Time,” based on the novel of the same name, is a unique film that is desperately in need of some consistency. At best, the film is entertaining with some unique scenes that will keep audiences on their toes. At worst, it is a scrambled narrative that attempts to teach morality to kids but cannot decide on a singular message. The ultimate shortcoming of the film is its inability to interest older audiences through lack of a meaningful narrative.

The plot of the film starts off slow and it is not until about halfway through the movie that it begins to get interesting. The real high points of the movie happen in the middle with some creative scenes and impressive special effects. However, this high is short-lived, and a very obvious ending rounds out the film. Overall, the plot seems haphazardly strung together. There is a central goal, but at times it is difficult to see how the actions of the characters are attempting to reach that goal.

The film also attempts to include some moral messages clearly targeted toward children and pre-teens. It covers subject matter such as self-love, bullying, and familial love. It has a few points where it successfully delivers a moral message that young kids should be exposed to but falls short by being a little too all over the place.

No theme is really fleshed out; each is sort of bluntly stated by a character. This may be the best way for children to grasp the messages, but it does not make for an interesting movie for all.

The performances in the film are satisfactory. There are no standout children in the cast, but none tarnish the experience with bad acting. The adult cast is the same way, except that Zach Galifianakis delivers a standout performance and Reese Witherspoon brings down the overall experience with her sub-par performance.

It is obvious that the film is catered toward a younger audience, and therefore, performance really drives home the idea that children should be watching this film.

It should be noted that this review is too harsh for a children’s movie. The film offers some nice moral messages that pre-teens or children should hear. However, the idea that a children’s movie should be just for kids is not one I buy into. A truly great children’s movie is one that can be enjoyed by all audiences.

Disneys Pixar typically nail the delicate balance between making something simple and easy to understand for kids but also witty and complex so that adults will enjoy the film as well. “Toy Story” is an excellent example of this. The film succeeds in delivering an important message to young audiences, while at the same time it succeeds in entertaining mature audiences with witty humor and more complex themes.

Songstress releases emotional album

MUSIC REVIEW

SOCER MOMMY
GETS PERSONAL

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Soccer Mommy is the musical project of singer-songwriter Sophie Allison. Her studio album Cleo is an indie rock album dripping with emotion. The record is a thoughtful mediation on relationships, infatuation and feelings of teenage sadness and inadequacy. Allison succeeds both in her writing of each song and in her delivery to create one of the most powerful albums of 2018 thus far.

The vocal performance is outstanding throughout the album. Allison delivers paired, airy vocals that both seem distant and are clearly understood. Her voice is tender, and her delivery is delicate. The hooks on the record will stick with listeners, and her pleasant melodies nearly make you forget how tragic the subject matter is.

 Accompanying her is a guitar that at times wanders with her voice and at other times delivers lightly distorted chords. The musical style varies from quieter songs with a soft vocal delivery to louder, more emotionally-charged tracks. The vocals are the highlight musically, with the instrumentation there to drive it all home.

Throughout the record, Allison conveys this feeling of inadequacy. Her opening track “Still Clean” describes a relationship that ended poorly and ends with the repeating phrase, “Only what you wanted for a little while.” Another track, “Last Call,” describes how she wishes she could be like the girl her current boyfriend dated. She compares the last girl to a sun and compares herself to a dying flower. Throughout the album, Allison is saturated in experiences of inadequacy and her desire to deserve love. It is apparent throughout the first nine tracks that Allison’s perception of herself is unhealthy and that toxic relationships have contributed to this negative self-image.

The album also conveys the deep feelings of desire that often accompany young romance. Allison highlights relationships that have not worked out for her in the past that have marred her. The song “Your Dog” describes an abusive relationship, and the song “Cleo” describes when she lost her virginity and later regretted it.

The tracks on this album are tragic, and each will hit home emotionally for listeners. Each track explores an aspect of relationships, infatuation, desire and self-image and contains long-lasting lyrics.

The album covers a variety of topics but adheres to a central theme about how the relationships and experiences Allison has had have shaped how she views herself. Her reoccurring thoughts of inadequacy are put to rest with the concluding track, “Wildflowers.” In this song, Allison points out how she failed to accept herself in the past and how this caused problems for her. The song describes how she is more accepting of who she is and has a healthier self-view.

Cleo is an emotional outpouring from Sophie Allison that explores themes relevant to young people, with a keen focus on relationships and self-image. Allison’s album is a deeply emotional experience that will remain with listeners who decide to give it a chance.

CAMPUS QUOTES

“I don’t sleep. I gave that up for Lent.”—Sydney Wright

—Reghan Harms

“A dab: It’s kind of like a celebratory gesture.”—Lucas Sander describing the dab to Dr. Lundberg.

—Emily Wikner

“I’m glad the Lord freed you from gluten.”—Clayton Ehlers to Christopher Millsch, a man who cannot eat gluten.

—Warren Duncan
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"My show deals with every aspect of my life, even my questioning of what I really want to do or be in my life," Liu said. "Sometimes I feel I am lost, but every feeling and difficulty I have gone through has made me who I am today. Every view I have seen, every person I have met and every moment I have been through, it becomes part of me. So, although there may not be images of 'me' in my show, there are foods, people and views that are a part of who I am."

Liu plans to include the memories and emotions that have impacted her experience the most while at NW. Through looking back on her time here, she has found that the project has allowed her to do some helpful self-reflection.

"The most rewarding part of the process is when I start thinking what makes me who I am," Liu said. "When I start searching through my memories and pictures, I feel I review my life again and realize something that I hadn't noticed before."

At the same time, Liu also recognizes the difficulty in narrowing down these memories and pictures to the most important but hopes that through the ones she has chosen she can accurately depict the experiences that most fully encapsulate who she has become.

Once Liu graduates this spring, she plans to continue her artistic pursuits at a school of visual effects called Lost Boys Studio in Vancouver, Canada.

After Maznić's show concludes this Friday, Liu's show will run from March 27 until April 6. A public reception for Liu's show is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NWI ART

Liu has used her experience in Orange City to produce her senior show artwork.

Black V premiers two new games

THE IMPROV TEAM EXPANDS THEIR REPERTOIRE

BLAKE MULDEN
THEATRE

The Black V has been expanding their repertoire of games; they have two new games called Yogema and Gooby.

Junior theatre major and Black V member Becky Ochoa brought the basic concept of Yogema back with her from KCACTF, a theater festival that Northwestern students attend yearly.

"I learned the basis of Yogema at KCACTF in a long form improv intensive workshop I was a part of during the week. It was a bunch of random people coming together learning how to improv, and Yogema was one of the forms we learned," Ochoa said. "I liked it and wanted to try it with the V. So I brought it back, explained it, and it worked!"

Though the V tweaked the game to be a little more open-ended, the core of the game is the same.

Alexander Lowry, a sophomore theatre major on the V, explained that Yogema 'starts off with stories we tell that actually happened to us, which we then draw inspiration from.'

After being introduced at their last performance, the game was well-received by both the members and the audience.

"It ended with me, a German rapper named Hans Epitahet against Kátricc Fynnaar as third-grader Timmy Chris. It was funny and we learned all about unions and workers’ rights," Lowry said.

"For Gooby, we start with a vognette, and each person tells a short monologue that we then use to inspire our characters," Lowry said, adding that it’s not very structured, which fits the Black V’s style.

Warren Duncan, a senior theatre major on the Black V who helped in naming the new games, compared them to other types of shows the Black V performs.

"They are not actually super different from some of the games we normally play," Duncan said. "They have the same basic principles, with just a few adjusted rules. We are all trying to craft a story; the new games just give us different rules on how to do so.

Duncan explained that the V decided to expand on some of their games in order to bring new experiences for themselves and the audience.

"The V is compiled of ridiculously imaginative people who are always bringing in new ideas for games. So when we hear an idea, we run with it," Duncan said. "It’s really like, ‘Hey, I have this new game idea. Awesome! Let’s try it.’"

According to Duncan, the open-minded and creative nature of the team has helped them launch into new types of games that will hopefully stay around after these members leave. It is also nice for the members to have some varying length in their new games.

"The new games are very fun and quick," Duncan said. "We have a lot of fun playing them."

Both Duncan and Lowry are excited about the potential that the new games bring for growth on the team and hope that they can continue to invent new ways to improve.

"We’re always looking into new stuff, so be on the lookout for more," Lowry said.

"We want to really stretch the limits of what we do, so there’s some really extreme ideas floating around right now that might surface soon," Duncan also mentioned that they’re always trying new games to use. Many of the types of shows that the Black V perform, such as game shows, scenes shows and spicy bingo shows have been around for years. The members this year hope to expand on that repertoire for future members.

The next Black V show will be Monday March 26 at 8:32 p.m. in the Proscenium.

All proceeds support Bible placement in Haiti.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED
The Black V is made up of students from varying classes and majors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NWI ART

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NED talks challenge students

SERIES ENGAGES NEW IDEAS

BREE HODNEFIELD WRITING AND RHETORIC

Northwestern College will be presenting a new NED series over four successive Wednesdays in April. Starting April 4, Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Husbands will be presenting a talk entitled "Holy Grit." On April 11, Director of Intercultural Student Development Rahn Franklin will be discussing the concept of "Cultural Intelligence." On April 18, professor Erica Yonk will be speaking on "Leadership" and on April 25, lecturer in religion Dan Den Boer will close the series with a talk on "Reconciliation."

During each of the NED talks, students can look forward to being challenged in more ways than one. Husbands will define how to have a persevering faith that expects to face difficulties as part of a purpose-filled life. Franklin will be challenging students to possess a biblical vision for flourishing in the midst of culturally diverse settings. Yonk will be asking students to engage in an effective Christ-centered understanding of how to encourage and lead systemic change. Lastly, Dan Den Boer will encourage students to incorporate an active faith that seeks God's redemptive purposes in the world.

Dean of Christian Formation Mark DeYounge spoke of the value the NED talks bring to cultivating a better understanding of God's world. "As a Christian academic community rooted in the wisdom of the Bible, NW seeks to use our minds to better understand, serve and love God's world," DeYounge said. "We are called to participate in God's redemptive work as we strive to love what God loves, valuing diverse people, cultures and ideas."

NW decided to create NED talks for a number of different reasons. One of the primary reasons for these talks and different series is because, according to DeYounge, "the integration of faith and learning is a critical distinctive of NW's educational mission."

NW places high value upon excellence, intellectual insight and innovative presentations of ideas. A NED talk is a compelling, faith-integrated 17-minute lecture capable of connecting NW faculty, staff and students to generative ideas as well as perspectives of cultural significance. The final motivation behind NED talks has been one students especially appreciate — general manager of campus dining Ned Price agreed to sponsor the event with free warm cookies, hot chocolate and coffee.

"I love the cookies and coffee, but more importantly, I love how engaging each talk is — leaving me with a completely different perspective of the topic," freshman Becca Biedert said. "I am looking forward to the upcoming series in April; the headlines for each Wednesday sound interesting."

Sophomore Ally Pettit enjoys the variety of topics NED talks have to offer.

"I think they provide a different experience and insight from chapel," Pettit said. "Everything still comes from biblical truths but is presented from an academic perspective."

The upcoming NED talk series kicks off 10:05-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4 in the Vogel Community Room.

Cheerleading
FROM PAGE 1

While cheer provided Callahan with a newfound sense of encouragement, being a male in what is usually characterized as a "female's sport" has come with its fair share of challenges.

Naturally, Callahan got some funny looks from friends and family when he explained that he joined the cheerleading team.

"The most challenges have come when I go back home and try to explain to my high school friends that college football didn't work out and I'm a cheerleader now," Callahan said.

Explaining his new role as a cheerleader to his friends was the easy part.

"The funniest story about breaking down stereotypes is actually when I told my mom I was going to be on the cheer team," Callahan said. "She had always sworn that God gave her three boys on purpose so she would never have to have a cheerleader or a dancer."

Just like any passion, blood, sweat and tears required to make it work.

"Sometimes it's really tough to stay motivated, especially if things just aren't hitting," Callahan said. "New stunts are always a challenge. There's a lot of falls, a lot of hard collisions, sometimes some blood and a lot of frustration."

However, it's the challenges that make the success so much sweeter. "The feeling of finally hitting something new just when you started to think it was impossible is so rewarding," he said.

PHOTO SUBMITTED
Callahan has worked hard in his new sport and enjoys being part of the team.
POP CULTURE GURU TO SPEAK ON CAMPUSS-

LIZZY JOHNSTON
PUBLIC RELATIONS

With experience in radio and newspaper, being an editor of a website and attending multiple film festivals (including Sundance, Toronto and Chicago International), Josh Larsen is well equipped to deliver a message about pop culture. On Tuesday, April 3, Larsen will be speaking in chapel about the biblical mandate to create and participate in culture, especially pop culture. Larsen hopes through his message that attendees will ask the question: "What if we approached this as a gift to enjoy, not a responsibility to beart?"

"I hope students will see the possibility of a different posture towards pop culture than one some Christians usually take, a posture that emphasizes God's sovereignty over and goodness in the culture we encounter," Larsen said.

Larsen's interest in film began decades ago. His family was not only passionate about movies, but also about God. Larsen discovered his interests were in writing and literature throughout his school years. When he finished school, he began his career working as a journalist. Larsen wrote as a beat reporter for a weekly community newspaper, then became the film critic for Sun-Times Media — a Chicago-based newspaper publisher — for over 10 years. In 2011 he became the editor of Think Christian, a digital magazine dedicated to readers who are both Christians and pop culture fans. "As Reformed Christians in particular, we recognize God's sovereignty over all of creation, including popular culture," Larsen said. "To fully live into our faith, then, we cannot separate what we believe from what we participate in as an accomplishment. It's our mandate and privilege to consider how our faith and our popular culture speak to each other." Part of his work on Think Christian is to critique films in the context of how they interact with God's story; if there is a glimpse of the gospel, if there is evidence of our need for good news and if it contradicts our understanding of the world. Recently, Larsen has written pieces for Think Christian about the films "A Wrinkle in Time," "Phantom Thread," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Justice League," "Blade Runner 2049" and "Dunkirk," to name a few. He has also published other pop culture pieces such as topics on music in 2017, U2 performing on Jimmy Kimmel, Sundance 2017 and serving refuges.

In addition to working as editor for Think Christian, Larsen is also co-host of Filmspotting, a podcast exploring classic and current film. For each episode Larsen and the other hosts review a film and will sometimes share top five lists on different topics.

In 2017, Larsen published his first book "Movies Are Prayers: How Films Voice Our Deepest Longings," where Larsen examined how movies are also expressions to God, whether those expressions are lament, praise or confessions. Larsen will be visiting campus to speak in chapel on Tuesday, April 3, and later that day at 7 p.m. in the Vogel Community Room. His messages will be engaging to students, faculty, staff and community members who have any interest in the relationship between Christianity and pop culture.

Celebrating a variety of learning

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FEATURES STUDENTS' WORKS

BREE HODNIEFELD
WRITING AND RHETORIC

On Thursday, April 12, the Rowellhorn Student Center will be holding a Celebration of Research. This event is a unique opportunity for 60 students from Northwestern to showcase their academic work and research. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"At a small liberal arts college like NW, you are just as likely to see a star point guard present her research on SEA-PHAGES as you are a political science and history major who can throw a curve-ball on the outside corner," Vice President of Academic Affairs Mark Husbands said.

While athletes perform for large, enthusiastic crowds who cheer them on to victory, students' scholarship and learning is often rather a private and quiet pursuit. The Celebration of Research is a way of changing this.

"It is an opportunity to encourage students to perform academically at a high level," Husbands said. "Such an event provides faculty, students, staff, townfolk and the Board of Trustees with the opportunity to honor and learn from many of our most gifted students."

The Celebration of Research is a relatively new contribution to the life and public witness of the college. For one day the RSC will be filled with tables, posters and students who are eager to share what they have learned and have been working on. With 2018 being the second year, the Celebration of Research is showing signs of growth.

While last year's celebration featured various students working in the areas of art, biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, religion and more, this year's celebration has expanded to include student research in 17 different majors including athletic training, public relations, sociology and translation and interpretation.


Husbands thinks it is very important for students to come see what their peers have to present. "One of the secrets to a full and meaningful life is showing up for friends when they are involved in a meaningful event of one kind or another," Husbands said. He also says that the Celebration of Research pertains to everyone who attends. "This is an opportunity to see, hear, learn from and celebrate the hard work of your fellow students," Husbands said. "At the same time, students can receive a greater sense of what they can accomplish next year in their classes and research."

Everyone needs models and examples to follow, which is why NW has chosen various students from a number of majors to attend this celebration, providing others with a wide range of options to consider for future years.

Join around 60 NW students on April 12 as they present their projects at the Celebration of Research.
Students arriving back on campus after spring break were pleasantly greeted by a day-light saving time miracle as the sun does not go down until after 7 p.m. and the days will only continue to get longer. The shift and increase in day-light hours give the hope of spring, increased temperatures and the variety of activities that come with the season.

Residents of the west side of campus are quite perturbed with the persistent snow that refuses to melt. This annoyance is held highest by those who would like to have the parking spots in "Heaven," which are currently inaccessible because of the snow piled there. Hopefully this warmer weather will increase the parking capacity of the school since the college is lacking adequate parking.

It's the season of Easter, which comes with a much needed break and time to celebrate. However, this Easter Sunday comes with a particular predicament of falling on April Fool's Day. We'll leave it up to you Raiders to determine whether this is a positively funny situation or an unfortunate happenstance.

think you're some lovelock fool who wants to wear their fingernail clippings in a pocket around your neck. I'm exaggerating, but you get my point. Love is scary because it involves letting yourself be fully seen and risking the possibility that the other won't understand or like what they see.

A couple weeks ago, I read an article entitled "Concerning the Lover and His Advance" by Jean-Luc Marion for my literature directed study with Prof. Westerholm. And what Marion said turned my world upside down.

Marion points out that the most common idea of love is one of reciprocity — you love me this much, and I love you exactly that much in return. This concept also involves an expectation that you will love me until I die, so I am surprised how much I love you back: "I will play the game of love, certainly, but I will only last the largest amount possible, and on condition that the other go first."

The problem with this idea is that it insists that the most important part about love is the fact that someone loves you. But if I have learned anything from the love God has shown me through His people at Northwestern, it is that the most important part about love is the fact that it is given, and given unconditionally, without expectation.

I have always hated when confidants would respond to my misery over a certain crush with the question: What do you have to lose? I can always come up with an answer.

But according to Marion's vision of love, there is absolutely nothing to lose: "The lover has the unmatched privilege of losing nothing, even if he happens to find himself unloved, because a love scorned remains a love perfectly accomplished, just as a gift refused remains a perfectly given gift." No matter the response we get to our love, we always retain the identity of one who loves first and without condition.

Perhaps instead of thinking, "You see someone who could make me happy," we would all be happier if we thought, "You seem like someone I could give happiness to."

The Office: an overrated show

It's almost like fans of the show feel they are in some secret club. This is laughable, as the show has garnered a mainstream appeal and is one of the most widely viewed shows streaming today. The appeal of the show is understandable. It has memorable characters and delivers quality humor.

However, the show has been elevated to almost a sacred level in the minds of many students on campus, and this extreme devotion to the show makes little sense. The show is great, but it does not even remotely come close to being the best show that has ever graced television screens.

The main problem I have with "The Office" is this: people re-watch the entire nine season series time and time again without a second thought. I understand that it is a good show, and if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it.

However, I've heard it many times that a student has just finished the show and decides to give right back in at the beginning. The show is good, and it warrants being seen once, but this extreme devotion and watching the show over and over is a giant waste of time.

People fall into a rut of familiar-
SPORTS

Recap of winter sports at Nationals Tough loss in second round

RAIDERS FINISH A GREAT SEASON

EVAN SCHULER
FINANCE

The Northwestern men’s basketball team ended their season on Wednesday March 9 in the second round of the National Tournament against Saint Francis (Ind) with a 94-83 loss. Colton Koomey led the Raiders with 37 points in this contest in addition to 30 points in their first contest against Bellevue, which was enough to earn him a spot on the all-tournament team. Nathan Wedel also recorded 23 points and 12 rebounds this game, his sixth double-double of the season. The lead switched hands early, but USD pulled away early in the second half with a 15-5 run to take a 26-point lead with 14 minutes left, proving too much for the Raiders to come back from.

The Raiders finished the year with a 26-7 record, marking the 13th season with over 20 wins under coach Kris Korver and 20th overall. This was the second consecutive year the Raiders qualified for the National Tournament, advancing through the first round both times.

NW had two first-team All-Americans in Colton Koomey and Nathan Wedel, making it Kooime's second-straight year for the award. This was the first time in NW's history that they had two first-teamers in the same year.

NW graduates seniors Colton Koomey, Nathan Wedel, Riley Francis, Derek Buysee, Matt Hillman and Tanner Hillbrands. Kooime finished 2nd on the Raiders all-time scoring list (2,441 points), 2nd on the 3-pointers made (309) list and 13th all-time in assists. Wedel also finished 7th all-time in scoring (1924 points), 10th all-time in rebounds, and 11th all-time in assists.

Francis and Buysee also both ended in the all-time Top 25 for 3-pointers made in a career.

PHOTO BY: NWC ATHLETICS FACEBOOK PAGE
Senior Nathan Wedel attempts a layup at Nationals.

All-American at 165

TOUCH TOURNAMENT DOWN IN DES MOINES

MATTHEW SHUKA
MIDWEST

On Wednesday and Thursday March 2 and 3, the Red Raider wrestling program sent six men to compete in the National Wrestling Tournament at the Jacobson Center in Des Moines.

These included 133lb senior Jake Herrott, 149lb sophomore Dante Pecatteco, 165lb sophmore Drew Noll, 174lb senior Brandon Shuler, 184lb sophomore Drell Gist and 197lb senior Nick Null. These men headed to Des Moines with high hopes for the weekend and a chance to capitalize on a successful season.

Things didn't quite go as planned for all of these Raiders as only one, Drew Noll, prevailed past the first round of wrestling. However, these men's seasons and careers have meant a lot more than just achieving an All-American status.

"It certainly didn't go as scripted, but these guys battled hard - not just on Friday morning, but every day this season. I couldn't be more proud of a group of young men," head coach Rich Dahl said.

Andrew Null ended up being the only Red Raider to compete past the first session. He made his way to the quarter finals, finding himself in a match against the number one seed and eventual National Champion from Grand View. He lost that match but continued on to win his second match of the night against a GCAC opponent, Chris Hashmon of Briar Cliff to become NW's 37th All-American. Null went on to place 5th in the tournament.

LADY RAIDERS MAKE GREAT RUN IN TOURNY

EVAN SCHULER
FINANCE

The Northwestern women's basketball team had their incredible postseason run cut short by No. 2 ranked Concordia in the National Semifinals on Saturday March 12.

The Raiders won three straight games against tough opponents. In the first round, they beat Friends University 81-74. In the second round, they beat a very tough Eastern Oregon team by more than 20 points. In the quarterfinal game, they earned an overtime victory over the University of St. Francis (Ill) 89-83.

After winning those three games in the National Tournament, the Raiders entered the all-GCAC matchup in style. A close game in the first half, the Bulldogs went on a run early in the second half to give them a 12-point lead. This proved too much for the Raiders to overcome, as they ended up narrowly losing 84-77. The Raiders were led in scoring by Renee Manenman (19) and Kassidy De Jong (15). Maneman, a three-time all-conference selection, was named an NAIA second-team All-American. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team. De Jong was named an Honorable Mention All-American, making her a three-time All-American in her career.

Four Red Raiders, Rene Maneman, Haley Barks, Kassidy De Jong and Darbi Gustafson were also named NAIA Scholar Athletes. NW closed its season with a 25-9 record. This marked the final contest for seniors Renee Maneman and Paige Danner. Maneman finished as NW's all-time assist leader.

Great showing in Kansas

WOMEN’S TRACK TEAM PLACES SIXTH OVERALL

BRIAN FOLLETT
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Raider track team traveled to Pittsburg, Kansas, March 1-3 and competed in the NAIA Indoor National Championship. Both the men and women's teams competed well and took home many achievements.

For the men, sophomore Calvin Korver was the first to earn All-American honors as he placed fifth place in the heptathlon with 4,988 points. Korver was eighth in the 1000m, ninth in pole vault, and fourth in the 60m hurdles.

Seniors Aaron Lemon and Tim Rose earned All-American honors for the second year in a row. Lemon finished eighth in the 600m race with a time of 1:21.86. Rose placed fourth in the finals of the mile with a time of 4:11.12 and was only two seconds behind the second and third place runners.

The distance medley team of junior Peter Hollinger, senior Levi Telbrink, senior Hans Epp and Rose finished eighth place. That earned them All-American honors as well for the second straight year.

The women's team also had many All-Americans over the course of the competition. The 4x800 relay had a great day as they finished runner-up. They were less than a second away from the first place team from Wayland Baptist. The members of the team were junior Bekkah Muenleburg, sophomore 8th Harthoon and seniors Katie Lulich and Katie Bosch.

Muenleburg also placed fourth place in the 600m with a time of 1:34.03. Muenleburg is now a three-time All-American in the 600m. Lulich earned her her now two-time All-American status when she placed second in the 800m with a time of 2:14.2. Bosch placed second in the 1000m with a time of 2:52.18, which made her an All-American for the second straight year. Harthoon also earned her All-American status in the 1000m as she placed fourth place with a time of 2:54.86. Senior Sarah Lunn was the last All-American for the women as she placed sixth in the 3000m with a time of 10:05.2.

The women's team scored 37 points and finished an impressive sixth out of 54 teams.

PHOTO BY: NWC ATHLETICS FACEBOOK PAGE
Senior Sarah Lunn competes in the 3000m race at nationals.

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RUSH features genres of dance

PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT WEEKEND

ALYSON EVERSMAN
BIOLOGY, ECO., SCIENCE

This year marks the 14th anniversary of RUSH performances at Northwestern College. RUSH is a student-led dance concert that NW students have annually performed since 2004. This year will feature 10 performances ranging across a variety of themes from hip-hop to ballet. On any given year, around 100-150 NW students participate.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Drew Schmidt explained that RUSH was created by former NW students' desire to dance just for the fun of it and include the whole campus as well. Because of this, everyone who auditions for RUSH is placed within one of the varied performances, making this campus event one that literally anyone can be a part of.

"A typical RUSH performance is about three minutes," Schmidt said. "It's bold, excellent, beautiful and fun."

An additional unique aspect about RUSH is the different themes and stories behind the chosen music and incorporated dance movements that follow. Randy Lynn Getz, a junior theatre major, is one of the choreographers for a performance as well as the stage manager of the event. Getz's dance theme is a hip-hop swing dance to the song "Stay" by Zedd.

"The dance is about two people going back through their memories," Getz said, "where the girl in the song is questioning whether she should talk to the guy, stay or let him go. Overall, the message behind the performance is treasuring the time you have with someone."

RUSH holds a special place in Getz's heart because dance is her favorite art form — it's also something she's done since she was four years old.

Schmidt appreciates RUSH for the teamwork that is naturally a part of it.

"I love RUSH because it is also about making people look good together," Schmidt said. "Here, students support another with the outcome of joy that's celebrated with everyone."

Elizabeth Johnston, a sophomore public relations major, said that she enjoys RUSH because she can meet new people and it is student orientated.

"It's really awesome to see the creativity student choreographers can have," Johnston said. "For example, the message behind the song and dance that I'm in is about mental illness, which I think is really cool."

RUSH kicked off last night and will continue with two performances tonight and three on Saturday.

Johnston first participated in RUSH her freshman year and enjoyed it immensely. She's looking forward to being on stage after all the hard work she and her team have put into this dance performance, as well as being flipped over backwards within the dance.

"RUSH is just a fun way to get through the winter months," Johnston said. "It's also a way for me to get my boogie on!"

RUSH performances began this Thursday and will continue throughout the weekend. Tonight's performances are scheduled for 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tomorrow, Saturday, March 24, performances are scheduled for 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Take the opportunity to come and cheer on your friends!

NC/DC competition brings changes this year

ANNUAL EVENT FEATURES STUDENT PERFORMERS

EMILY RAPER
UNDECIDED

The end of March marks the beginning of the highly anticipated NC/DC competition between Northwestern College and Dordt College. Around since 2003, this annual event features singing, unique performances and friendly competition that bring the two rival schools together.

New to NC/DC this year are a few changes that were created to promote fairness among both schools and efficiency throughout the competition.

"Dordt has a larger student body and has historically had more attendances than NW at finals, giving Dordt students a competitive advantage," said Aaron Beader, director of student programs and first-year experience.

"Dordt has won six out of the last seven years. We believe splitting votes among six finalists and having the judges vote helps to bring parity among performers so that the best group regardless of school has the greatest chance to win," he said.

An important change for NW performers involves the voting process. In years past, judges only provided feedback. This year's competition, however, will feature a judge's vote that will account for 25 votes towards the total tally for each judge's chosen finalist. Based on last year's 741 student votes, the judges' vote is currently weighted at approximately 10% of the total vote count.

The NC/DC coordinators are hoping this change will improve NW's chances at winning the competition, as the last NW student to win was Abbey Slattery in 2015.

An additional change involves the number of performers at the semifinal and final rounds. In the past, only five groups performed at the semifinals. This year, the round will feature six groups.

At the final performance, three finalists from each school will perform instead of the usual two. These finalists will be pre-announced and will only perform two songs in an effort to shorten the evening and increase student engagement.

Additionally, non-finalists will no longer perform during the final round. This will reduce the performances from the previous fourteen to twelve.

"Students seemed to be disappointed during the final voting period where non-finalists were performing songs," Aaron Beader said. "The coordinators of NC/DC are hoping that only featuring the finalists will prevent this."

Though the event brings many changes, there are some things that remain the same.

As in the past, this year's competition will consist of three rounds.

The first round will take place at 9 p.m. on Monday, April 9 in Christ Chapel. This preliminary round will consist of 16 to 12 groups of NW students. After a period of voting, six groups will move on to the semifinals.

The semifinals will take place at 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 in Christ Chapel. This time, the top six groups from Dordt will join the top six groups from NW on stage. Following a voting period, three groups from each school will move on to the finals.

The annual singing competition will include new features to encourage attendance.

The final round will take place at 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 in the BJ Haan Auditorium at Dordt College. After the voting period, one winner will be awarded a prize of $500.

All students are highly encouraged to attend the NC/DC performances, not only to support their school, but also because the event features some highly entertaining groups.

Auditions for NC/DC will be held from 8:10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday March 24 and 25 in NW's choir room.