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Martha Fern Smith Rowenhorst

REMEMBERING HER LIFE AND IMPACT

JORDAN DESMET
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Since 1970, Fern Smith Hall has been a mainstay on the northeast side of Northwestern's campus, and as the residents from Colenbrander Hall prepare to make the move to the now Smith Hall next school year, it is important to be reminded of the legacy of the hall's namesake – Martha Fern Smith Rowenhorst.

Smith came from humble beginnings. In 1898, she was born in a sod house in the Sandhills of Neb. to Clarence K. Smith and Emma Amanda McAdams Smith. Her father was a cattle and hay rancher and broke horses for the army. Unfortunately, he died in a farm accident when Smith was just three years old. After her mother married John Porter, the family moved to Marysville, Kan. before settling on a ranch near Debeque, Colorado in 1905.

A few years later, tragedy struck the family again when Smith's stepfather succumbed to tuberculosis in 1908. After that, the family decided to live closer to her grandparents in Grand Junction, Colorado, where Smith's mother married for the third time. Smith attended school through her high school years in Grand Junction, developing a love for music and taking piano lessons from Karl Hillyer at the Hillyer School of Music. According to a short biography about Fern Smith in the NW Archives, "Whenever she heard a piece of music in a concert or at school, she could go home and play 'by ear' the songs that she had heard."

After high school, Hillyer encouraged her to attend Central College in Pella, Iowa, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree in 1919. Once she finished college, Smith taught at the Hillyer School of Music for a couple of years until an illness forced her to resign. What ultimately brought her to the Orange City area was when her



COURTESY OF NWC ARCHIVE
Martha Fern Smith Rowenhorst shepherded the fine arts programs at NW.

brother-in-law, Arie Vander Stoep, was named the Superintendent of Schools in Maurice, Iowa. His wife, Smith's sister, Leona, felt homesick, so Smith lived with the couple

to keep Leona company. Smith gave piano lessons in Maurice and Orange City until NW asked her to be the music teacher in 1928. She accepted, and the rest was history.

"From what I know, Fern Smith shepherded the fine arts programs at Northwestern during the junior college years," NW library director Greta Grond said. "She started as

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History behind Colenbrander Hall

REVEREND HENRY COLENBRANDER

ESTHER SHORTENHAUS
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Colenbrander Hall, also known as "Coly" by many, is a building showing Northwestern College's rich history and honors the impact of one remarkable individual: Reverend Henry Colenbrander, D.D. While the name is engraved on the building, the story behind it is not well known to the many students on campus.

Reverend Henry Colenbrander D.D. left a mark at NW, paving the way to make what the institution is today. As pastor at the First Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa, for 35 years, Dr. Colenbrander also served as President of the Northwestern College Board of Trustees for over 30 years. He earned the esteemed title of President Emeritus when he retired in 1960. Dr. Colenbrander intertwined his passion for faith and education in teaching religion

classes at NW when his colleague passed away. His dedication is recognized through his service and leadership in both Northwestern College and the Reformed Church in America.

Arriving in Orange City in 1925, Dr. Colenbrander witnessed NW's evolution from a classical academy to a junior college, and ultimately to a full four-year institution. He played a pivotal role in shaping its trajectory, earning the honor of having the male dorm named in his honor in 1960.

Dr. Henry Colenbrander was born into a Dutch immigrant family in Alamosa Valley, Colorado, in 1893, eventually moving to New Jersey during his formative years. He went to Hope College and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan and was ordained in 1916.

Before his tenure at NW, Dr. Colenbrander served as a missionary pastor in Sioux City, Iowa, for two years and Pastor at Rock Valley, Iowa for eight years. Through Dr. Colenbrander's



COURTESY OF NWC ARCHIVE
Dr. Colenbrander and his son have quite the legacy at NW.

ministry at First Reformed Church, he inspired 29 members to enter full-time Christian service. Dr. Colenbrander had a heart attack and passed away suddenly on Feb. 22, 1963, while supporting the Raiders at a NW basketball game

in Orange City, IA. While Dr. Colenbrander's legacy is impressive, it is important to distinguish him from his son, Rev. Paul Colenbrander, who was also an influential figure at NW. Some might assume Colenbrander

Hall is named after Rev. Paul Colenbrander due to his legacy with the athletics at Northwestern College and associate it with the stereotype that it is the "athlete" dorm on campus. Although they both contributed extensively to the

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Vampire Weekend's wistful new release

BAND RETURNS TO THEIR ROOTS

SOFIA GARDNER
BUSINESS ADM/
MARKETING

Music is an art, an expression or feeling that is related through vocal and instrumental sounds. Often, a song can evoke a sort of nostalgia, even if it is the first time you are listening to a particular piece. A perfect example of this style is Vampire Weekend's newest album "Only God Was Above Us." If readers are unfamiliar with the band, Vampire Weekend is an indie group of four that formed out of New York City in 2006, and their new album draws out the wistfulness associated with their forming era.

The album begins with the song "Ice Cream Piano" that is the musical equivalent of driving with windows down through the country. As elegant and freeing as the intro piece is, the following song "Classical" was teased prior to the album release and features, 90s café jazz highlighted by its prevalent saxophone solos. Even if indie is not your taste, you should consider giving at least this tune a listen while studying.

Next up is the song "Capricorn." This track is a bit

crisp and is reminiscent of a brisk, sunset walk during the fall. The song merges from soft tones to a peppy chorus of violin and crunchy electric guitar that is just chaotic enough to feel calming. If you want a song that encompasses Vampire Weekend's popular sound, "Capricorn" is the one, as this track sits at second in their list of top songs and has garnered roughly six and a half million streams. For comparison, the average monthly listeners for this band via Spotify is about seven and a half million, meaning that 85 percent of their fans have listened to "Capricorn."

Succeeding this hit is the track "Connect," a sharp contrast to the last song with its cool, sorrowful undertones. The piece starts with what sounds like an advanced piano warmup before flowing into pessimistic thoughts that are laced with a grieving of the future. While this one is about searching for connections with people socially and romantically, the main theme points towards the despair that ensues not finding these connections.

"Prep-School Gangsters" is the next track, and the title easily describes the mood the narrator brings forward throughout the song. The lyrics paint the image of living in the

early, 90s to 2000s as a wealthy teen who feels entitled to the opportunities they are given and mocks the people that wish to have their life.

Coming next in the lineup of titles on this album is "The Surfer." This song has a simple message, that one can feel stuck and not good enough no matter where they may be in life. It explains how in this age no one can ever seem to achieve quite what they want or desire and the disappointment that ensues at this realization. The song is characterized by its soft drums and airy piano style that drones on for a minute into the song, an artistic choice that reaffirms the overall emotion of struggling against the weight of life that this piece delivers.

The seventh title on this album starts with a siren-like guitar intro which is appropriate for the track name "Gen-X Cops." This song was released prior to the album release and the music video is one that is easily identifiable as 1980s themed. As one would guess, this song has a lot of hidden meaning. The overarching idea this track expresses feeling overwhelmed by the history of humankind and our task of attempting to fix all the wrong.

The concurring two tracks, "Mary Boone" and "Pravda," discuss the depression of



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY.COM

the narrator's friend and the painful truth that the narrator has to accept that they see the world different because of their differing experiences. Finally, the ending song "Hope" is not what you would expect from the title. This track talks with both encouragement and numb recognition. The

chorus states, "I hope you let it go" and continues this phrase with lists of good events, but that came about or had poor consequences. An example is America winning the war. The pain associated with a war was overlooked by the fact that America won. This is a good event, but the narrator

emphasizes remembrance, the destruction and pain that linger even in presence of good. That hope is beautiful as long as we respect the struggle it took to get to where we are today. Vampire Weekend's album places this imagery with the listener to conclude their new release. ★★★★★

New "Ghostbusters" film leaves viewers dead

NOSTALGIC, YET NONSENSICAL PLOT

LOGAN THOOFT
YOUTH MINISTRY

"When there is something strange in your neighborhood, who are you going to call? Ghostbusters!" That theme song has been a staple of the pop culture zeitgeist ever since the release of the original "Ghostbusters" film in the summer of 1984. In the 40 years since, "Ghostbusters" has made a name for itself as a beloved movie franchise.

"Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" is the latest addition to the franchise, serving as a sequel to "Ghostbusters: Afterlife (2021)." Unfortunately, while "Afterlife" revived fan enthusiasm for the franchise, "Frozen Empire" does not do any favors as it attempts to bring both the original and the new Ghostbusters casts together for a less than thrilling ghost busting adventure.

The main plot of the movie involves an ice ghost escaping from his capture as he seeks to conquer the world, the basic movie plotline movie goers have seen so many

times already. Except it has two different teams of Ghostbusters working together to bust this ghost. Some may think this would make for an interesting storyline with a growing dynamic between the old and the new Ghostbusters. However, the biggest problem that "Frozen Empire" dramatically fails to bust is that there are so many other plotlines and characters it wants to tackle that there is no focusing on the main one. There are so many side plots going on alongside the main plot that they end up either factoring into nothing, or they make the main plot less and less interesting to watch as the movie progresses.

An example of a plotline that has nothing going for it involves Trevor, one of the new Ghostbusters. The only memorable thing he does throughout the whole movie is attempting to catch Slimer, a green slimy ghost from the original movie. The only thing that plotline has going for it is nostalgia with Slimer but that is literally it.

Another plotline that was really hard to watch was the whole subplot with Kumail Nanjiani's character. Not to give away any spoilers, but they essentially set him up to be more important than

the titular Ghostbusters to the main plot as he has a connection with the ice ghost. However, he is not a particularly good character, as he is unbearable to watch, and he provides terrible humor for the movie. Watching this guy develop to be able to fight off the ice ghost rather than the titular Ghostbusters in action became very tedious.

Phoebe, another one of the new Ghostbusters, does have an interesting plotline where she is benched from being a Ghostbuster because she is a minor. Sadly though, that plotline quickly gets overshadowed with her meeting a ghost named Melody who is important for the plot but has nothing else character wise that is developed or interesting. Phoebe and Melody do bond, but in a way where the writers could not decide if they were becoming friends or something more. It was utterly bizarre and that is not even half of what happens.

There are over 15 main characters in this movie between the old and new Ghostbusters along with Nanjiani, Melody, the ice ghost and several others. That is too many characters that are battling for screen time and development throughout a runtime that is under two

hours. It is really unfortunate because a bunch of the characters the film follows are either unlikeable, not a Ghostbuster, or both, while the Ghostbusters themselves end up pushed to the side as things happen around them. The original cast is only there for nostalgic bait and the new Ghostbusters are forced to have their movie possessed by characters that are there for the plot but do not contribute anything that is enjoyable to watch. This movie's entertainment value is spread way too thin by the outrageous number of characters, badly plotted subplots, cringey humor and only a couple of scenes that have actual ghost busting. That is how much time is wasted in this movie.

"Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" should be added to the list of legacy sequels that did not aim to tell an interesting story but, instead, set out to cash in on their audience's nostalgia. It tells a completely nonsensical story that does not have the ghost busting making me feel good. Perhaps some fans of the original movies might have fun with this one but, as a casual viewer, this movie left viewer much to be desired.

★★★

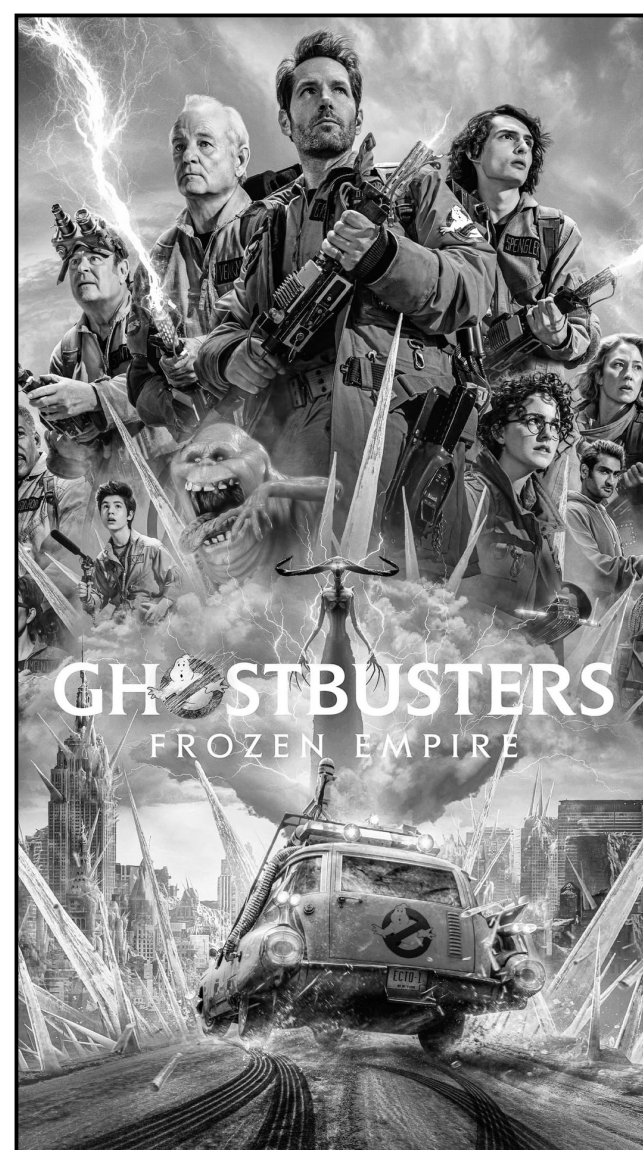


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

NW takes on Shakespeare's "Hamlet"

GRUSOME AND
POIGNANT
TRAGEDY

TABITHA THATCHER
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

For the final show in the Northwestern theatre department's spring season, Director Robert Hubbard chose to take on Shakespeare's infamously difficult "Hamlet." However, this daunting play was not chosen on a whim. The 2023-2024 season was announced to students last spring, but the theatre professors were selecting shows long before. "For years, I did not think I would ever direct this show; it seemed so challenging and has been done so well by so many different theatre companies. But, as I get older, I am getting a little more daring," said Hubbard. "I did not want to leave 'this mortal coil' without taking a stab at 'Hamlet.'" Many students were equally excited about this opportunity to act in Shakespeare's most famous tragedy.

Freshman Emily Espinoza said, "I wanted to participate in this show because I thought

it would be a really big learning experience. From learning different ways to bring your character to life, to creating effective relationships that bring scenes together, the experiences productions bring to an individual are unmatched." Espinoza plays Gertrude, the queen of Denmark and one of the central roles in the play. Senior Elliana Zerr, who plays Ophelia, Hamlet's love interest, shared a similar excitement for this production. "Shakespeare's plays can be very difficult to understand, but they come to life when they're put on stage," said Zerr. "Dr. Bob talked about how everyone knows Hamlet, and yet very few people have actually seen it live. It is really special to be a part of some people's first experiences seeing Shakespeare live." This is the first time both Espinoza and Zerr have acted in a Shakespeare play. However, the actors are not the only members of the theatre ensemble that have been working on this show for months.

Lighting designer, Drew Schmidt, said, "As designers, we started dreaming what we might do for Hamlet the day we announced the season –

envisioning moments that seemed palpable." Similarly, senior Talea Errington, the dramaturg for "Hamlet" said, "I started my research way back in October. My biggest goal as a dramaturg was compiling my dramaturgy packet to give to the designers and actors, so that they could have easy access to that information and reference it as they created their designs or developed their characters." The role of the dramaturg is to research and help interpret the play for both the actors and the audience.

As Zerr stated earlier, one of the challenges of performing "Hamlet" is that it can be difficult for modern audiences to understand, but the writing is part of what makes Shakespeare's work so unique. "The language is so gorgeous and honest. His use of words and rhythm conveys complex emotions so completely," said Zerr. It is important to note that one of the roles of the designers is to make the complex language and storyline more accessible for audiences. When asked how his area of lighting design helps move the story along and helps audiences better understand what is happening

on stage, Schmidt said, "Lights are fun because they help you know where to look and how to feel. Characters often break into soliloquys, and we use bold lighting to help separate the world of the play from the world of the character's mind."

While the complex language may make "Hamlet" feel like an old play, the story and themes explored in this show hold true to this day. "Hamlet struggles with depression, clearly, which is obviously a growing concern in our culture. Without knowing anything about modern psychology, Shakespeare poignantly and powerfully created a central character in the throes of situational depression. I think this part of the play really resonates," said Hubbard. While "Hamlet" is a gruesome tragedy, at the heart of the play are characters audiences can see themselves in. Espinoza said, "I think the story itself is made for everyone. It is a representation of how an unjust world can corrupt even the sweetest of individuals and the hardships that stem from these misfortunes. You cannot help but sympathize with the characters."

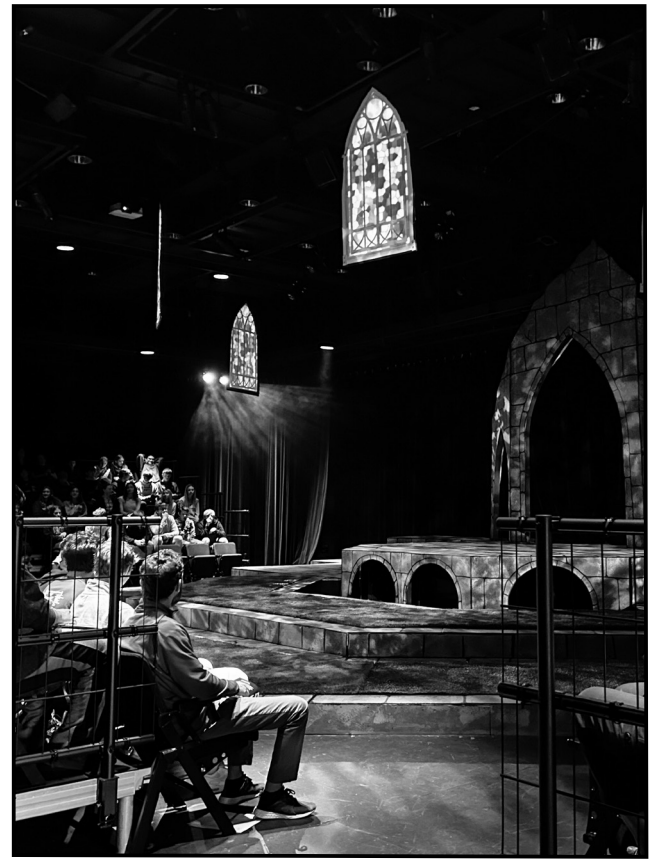


PHOTO BY ALEXANDRIA SQUIER
Audiences mesmerized by "Hamlet" design elements.

"Hamlet" will have its final showings Friday, April 19. and Saturday, April 20. at 7:30p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://nwciowa.com>.

ticketleap.com/, by calling or visiting the theatre office, or night of performance at the box office.

Chapel worship music selections explained

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN MUSIC
AT NORTHWESTERN

HOPE WALLACE
PUBLIC RELATIONS

When choosing songs to do at chapel and Praise and Worship many factors are taken into consideration. The Director of Worship for Campus Ministries, Josh Kuipers, who is currently finishing his eighth year in the position, works closely with the three student worship leaders on campus - senior Dustin Groen and juniors Samantha Vermeer and Gabrielle Johnson. Together, they choose songs that, to quote Kuipers, "First and foremost, align with scripture and lift the name of Jesus."

To ensure every song aligns with scripture, Kuipers and the student leaders look at every line of every new song that they consider introducing. "If there is a lyric in a song we find questionable, we look to the Bible to see if the lyric is rooted in scripture," says Kuipers. "If not, we don't do that song. It's pretty simple." Something Kuipers has implemented over the past few years as a response to people who have concerns as to whether lyrics are biblical is placing the scripture passages where each lyric comes from at the bottom of each lyric slide.

Beyond assessing each individual lyric, Kuipers is mindful of what songs need to be sung at certain points in the school year. One way he does this is by slowly introducing Christmas songs during the Christmas season, as well as Easter songs during the Easter season. Kuipers also does this by choosing songs that align with certain chapel

series. For example, when we walked through the "Idols" series last semester, Kuipers introduced the song "Idols Fall" by Influence Music, which talks about putting God before all else.

When asked how he and the student leaders go about choosing songs that satisfy the needs and the desires of most of campus, Kuipers responded, "We realize that there are people of many theological backgrounds and denominations. For everyone who says we sing the same songs repeatedly, there is another person who says we do too many new songs. For every person who thinks we should sing more hymns, there is someone who thinks we need to do more of the latest and newest songs. For every person who thinks chapel is too tame and boring, there is another person who thinks it's too much of a show. The first and most important step is to ensure we are praying and following the spirit. If we're doing that, we can be confident in what we're doing."

"When we receive positive feedback on certain songs," says Kuipers, "We like to know why." Kuipers went on to talk about how Planning Center, the software he and the student leaders use to plan services, is helpful because he can go in and see how many times a certain song has been done throughout the year. By doing this, he can also see how many times certain themes were sung about and how many times certain names of God were used.

Overall, Kuipers and the student leaders try to focus on what Northwestern as a campus and as brothers and sister in Christ have in common. He says, "When we focus on our collective love for Jesus and our need for Him, rather than our differences, we are able to worship more freely."



PHOTO BY SUBMITTED
Josh Kuipers works closely with student worship leaders to plan chapel.

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More campus transitions come to NW

TRANSITIONS AND
FAREWELLS AT NW

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC REALIONS

As the academic year comes to a close, a few familiar campus faces are saying goodbye. Others are transitioning into different roles. The changes range from positions involving resident life, professors and other staff roles.

Dr. James Mead, professor of biblical and theological studies, has taught at Northwestern for 24 years. Mead has enjoyed teaching and mentoring students as a professor, as well as “having the opportunity to connect with students outside of class through dorm talks, Bible studies, chapel talks and retreats, but also experiencing their artistic and athletic talents through plays, concerts and games,” Mead said.

Before coming to NW, Mead was a pastor for 12 years. “While I enjoyed a great deal about church ministry, my first love was teaching the Bible,” Mead said. “I would sit in my pastor’s study and wonder what it might be like to be a professor in a Christian college.”

“I really like Mead’s ability to relate the content he is teaching to things that are relevant to his student,” said Sophomore Jaden Lorang. “He is also hilarious.”

Mead has taught Christian Story 1, Biblical Interpretation and Elementary Biblical Hebrew and Culture.

“I really liked when Mead described God putting humans on the earth like Squidgames,” said senior Jillian Simon.

“I really liked it when Mead played a song that went: ‘future so bright I gotta wear shades,’” said junior Tabitha Thatcher.

“I am grateful to God and also Northwestern for granting me this privilege,” Mead said.

Amber Huizenga, the theatre department’s costume studio supervisor, has helped with NW theatrical productions since 2010. Alongside designing and providing costumes for NW productions, Huizenga has also costumed for Orange City area performances and the Orange City Tulip Court.

There are also NW staff members who are not leaving campus but are changing roles.

Lindsay Simmelink,

current resident director of the Bolks apartments and Court Yard Village apartments will officially take on the role of director of student programs and first-year experience. Simmelink is currently interim director while still being RD, but she will drop the RD role effective June 1.

In place of Simmelink leaving her apartments RD position, Jason Katsma, the resident director of North Suites will become the RD of the Bolks apartments and Court Yard Village apartments.

On Thursday nights, Katsma and his toddler daughter, Ellen, often visit the Beacon lab, located in North Suites’s basement, on Thursday evenings.

“The Beacon will miss visits from Jason and Ellen,” said Thatcher.

Caylan DeLucia, the RD of Stegenga Hall for five years will take on the position of Administrative and Communications Coordinator at NW’s Compass Center.

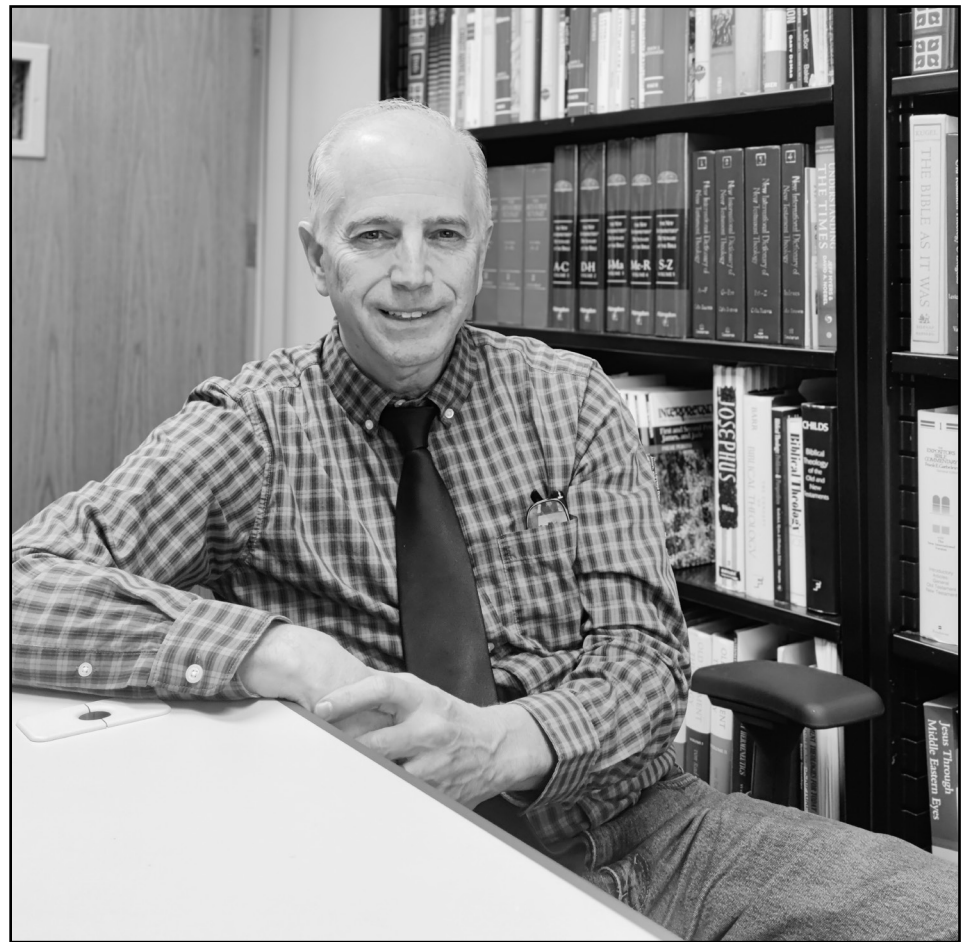


PHOTO BY PRATIK PAUDEL
Dr. Mead has enjoyed being a part of NW for 24 years.

The legacy of Martha Fern Smith

FROM PAGE 1

a music teacher, which segued into helping with costumes and sets in the theatre department.”

Smith showed off her skills as a set and costume designer for multiple operettas until she shifted her focus to leading the a cappella choir in 1930. During her 24 years as director, she took her students to Reformed churches throughout the country to raise money for the college while also teaching nearly every music course NW offered.

Although she was short in stature, Smith knew how to get the most out of her students. The biography from the NW archives states, “Miss Smith was about 4’11”, and she directed with only her fingers right in front of her, and she expected every eye to be looking right there. If you goofed, her brown eyes snapped at you, and you knew you had better pay attention or be ‘out’ of the chorus.”

Many also knew Smith as

a lifelong learner. She took graduate classes in art at the University of Colorado, which helped her establish NW’s art program in 1953.

In addition, she took additional courses when she was appointed the college’s first dean of women in 1955. “Fern was one of the first female leaders on campus,” Grond said. “Our fine arts tradition can be traced in part back to Ms. Smith’s efforts in demanding excellence from her performers.”

Smith retired in 1961, the year NW graduated its first four-year class. In that same year, at 62 years old, she reconnected with and married Herman Rowenhorst, who was the president of Northwestern State Bank. The two remained happily married until Rowenhorst’s death in 1967.

Three years later, NW built and named their new dorm after Smith to honor her years as a dedicated teacher and Christian. In the Winter 1970-1971 edition

of The Classic, the author writes, “Because Fern Smith taught here, beauty is more easily recognized, and creativity is less elusive.”

Smith remained in the area until she died on Dec. 20, 1982, at 84. She was well-respected by her family and colleagues alike, and in the spring 1983 version of “The Classic,” her nephew James Flikkema wrote, “She loved each student. She was a special lady, this aunt of mine. I am glad to have shared with her all those she taught. I know she is with Jesus, whose beauty will be so real to her as she lays her ‘crown of stars’ at His blessed feet.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ARCHIVES
Smith was passionate about fine arts and pioneered many of NW’s creative arts’ programs.

Students prepare for cross cultural serving

OVERSEAS AND SERVING

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC REALITIONS

Every summer, Northwestern prepares a handful of individuals to serve on short term mission trips, called Summer of Service (SOS). This year's team will serve across several continents.

A few of the participants spending their summer in Africa are sophomores David Soundjaran and Kallie Van Kley.

Soundjaran is headed to Ghana this summer from late May to mid-July to serve with Pioneers, a missions organization, to help out missionaries in the area. Soundjaran will aid the missionaries with "teaching English at schools, helping out with the health clinics and preaching the Gospel." Soundjaran wanted to participate in SOS because "I wanted to see and be a part of the local church in an international place where they do not have a baseline or have never heard of Jesus. I wonder if the Lord is calling me to

be overseas helping the local church."

Soundjaran asks for prayers "that the Lord will soften the hearts of the unreached people groups out there," he said. "[and that] I will be able to preach the true gospel and for discernment if long-term missions is my calling."

Van Kley is traveling to a rural village in Tanzania from June 10 to July 1. "The Lord has revealed His heart for the nations in scripture a lot over the past year," Van Kley said. "I am so excited for the opportunity to see how medicine can be used as a bridge to share the gospel."

Van Kley will be working with Siouxland Tanzania Educational Medicinal Mission (STEMM). "We will be assisting in their medicinal clinic, community programs, as well as various other outreaches they are involved with," Van Kley said.

Sophomore Tatum Schmalbeck will serve in three different European countries with World Team's Europe internship from May 31 to July 10. "I decided to go on my SOS because I felt that God was leading me to pursuing missions this summer," Schmalbeck said.

"My heart was being stirred with a calling to the nations and learning more about how the gospel is proclaimed in different areas of the world."

Schmalbeck will visit Paris, France; Madrid, Spain and Chisinau, Moldova. "I will be experiencing a variety of church plants and have the opportunity to learn from and be equipped by long-term missionaries," Schmalbeck said. "On this trip, I will learn about the spiritual climate and culture, work alongside experienced church planters and engage with locals. I will be channeling my passion for children through working various kids' day camps and teaching English vocabulary at English events."

Schmalbeck will work with long term missionaries at each site, experiencing their work as church-planters. "I will be working with locals as well as with children in various camps and activities," Schmalbeck said.

Schmalbeck welcomes prayers for her and her team, and "for the relationships we will build with each other and locals," Schmalbeck said. "For open hearts and minds to



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOM
Ten students will gain cross-cultural experiences with missions.

see the work the Lord is doing and the things he is teaching us. Pray that the Lord will have His way in Europe, that the gospel would be shared, and the local churches will be strengthened and upheld by his mighty hand."

Although all short-term missions are cross-cultural, not all missions are international. Sophomore Jaylin Gaston

is going to New Orleans, Louisiana, to help with Urban Impact from May 25 to July 22. "I will be helping them run a day camp for the kids in the community, and also doing some community outreach in the area," Gaston said.

Concerning prayer requests, Gaston said, "People can pray that I am able to serve the people in the community

through the Lord."

There will be an SOS commissioning service on Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. All the students serving this summer are Kaylee Thorson, Tatum Schmalbeck, David Soundjaran, Mary Walnofer, Hannah Beckoff, Kallie Van Kley, Jacob Lewis, Joshua Lewis, Emma Anunson and Jaylin Gaston.

Who were the Colenbranders?

FROM PAGE 1

development of NW, it is named after Dr. Henry Colenbrander.

Rev. Paul Colenbrander, referred to as "Coly," was the first man hired by NW to coach and teach physical education. Coly graduated from Northwestern Junior College in 1942 where he was a star basketball player. He then served in the United States Navy for four years during WWII, then attended Westmar College where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1948.

He coached at Paullina High School for two years

before going to work at NW. Paul Colenbrander found success in coaching football and basketball for 12 years and helped turn the athletic program to what it is today. In 1963 Paul Colenbrander moved his family back to Holland, Mich. to go to Western Seminary and served as pastor of Maplewood Reformed Church for 14 years.

The Colenbrander men, Dr. Henry and Rev. Paul, have been in inspiring roles to their communities and to NW. Their commitment to faith, education and service continues to inspire generations. With

Colenbrander Hall expected to be torn down, it is important that the Colenbrander legacy lives on and continues to inspire future leaders. Their impact goes beyond the walls and is embedded in what NW is today.

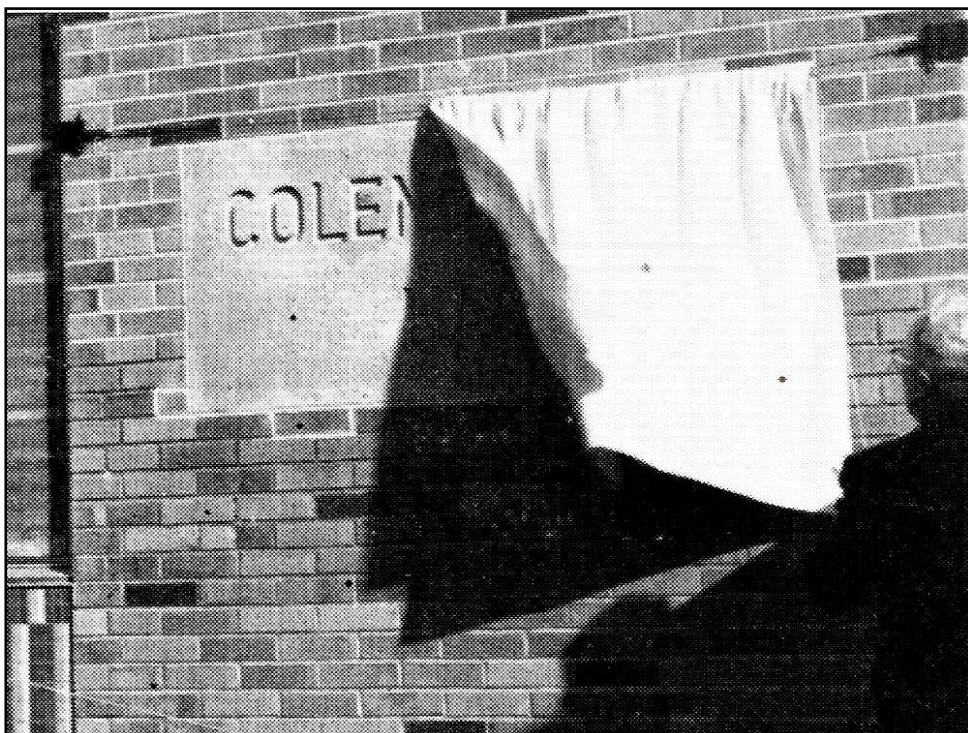


PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC ARCHIVES
The Colenbrander name is revealed to be the name of the (at-the-time) new men's dorm.



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HOT TAKES

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

“Garrett Hurt being Sharpay in the senior ribbon dance”

“A funeral for a dead fish”

“Rend Collective”

“ALL NIGHTERS”

“Tornado”

“PGC saying the women of Fern are his favorite because they are moving into Christy”

“Minivan parade”

“Dr. Koerselman class and getting my outfit complimented by her”

“When Collin pooped his pants”

“My SSP in Costa Rica”

“Bob Ross painting night”

“When my car broke down at La Juas during a snow storm and we couldn’t leave”

“Eating a roly-poly with Sam Brandt”

“Watching the student body attempt to swing dance at the Jazz Soiree”

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

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

Christians have no enemies



Elena Lee
History

The idea that Christians practice and embody love in a way that is different from the rest of the world is ingrained in the church starting in elementary Sunday school. One of the pieces of evidence that was used to back up this understanding was the idea that Christians love their enemies. The fact that this faith calls us to respect those that cause us harm was made out to be the pinnacle of empathy. Christians could not only tolerate, but actually love their enemies? That was unheard of and completely against secular society.

However, I have come to believe that the notion of loving our enemies is not enough. To label someone as an enemy is to reduce them to their negative impact on you, which is an act of dehumanization rather than love. To look at someone and to name them based on what they have done to you is not consistent with Jesus’s naming tendencies in the Gospels. He calls people that society viewed as unclean, impure and potentially harmful as friends, daughters

and students. As Christians, we have no enemies; only fellow image-bearers of God.

The word “enemy” is common in religious circles, but is incredibly vague in its limits. What must someone do to be called an enemy? The boundaries are murky and subject to interpretation. It seems equally justifiable to call someone that cuts you off in traffic and someone on the other end of a global conflict an enemy. If that is true, it is a poor word choice for Christians who are supposed to welcome and love the stranger and not fall into worldly anger and judgment. Even though this word is frequently used on Sunday mornings, it is not an appropriate word to call another human being that we claim to love.

There are several uses of the word “enemy” in the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms. The literal translation of the Hebrew word that is commonly used for enemy is “one who hates.” Therefore, Christians are called to love those who hate. I propose that calling someone an enemy is a form of hatred, which reduces us to what we deem others. Instead, we are to view people through their inherent goodness in Christ. To be able to say that “this person has hurt me and yet I will call them friend, family and loved by God” shows radical and encompassing love. On the opposite side, saying “this person has hurt me and I will reduce them to their poor actions and only refer to them as such” is just another form of labeling, unforgiveness and dehumanization – exactly what makes

someone an enemy in the first place.

This concept may seem abstract, but the names that we identify people and people groups matter. If someone who holds certain ideologies, looks a certain way or is from a certain place is my enemy, then it is easy to place this label on others who fit these demographics as well. It’s a slippery slope. This can lead to misguided stereotypes and a casual use of the word enemy without thought of the consequences.

If Christians are supposed to love enemies and neighbors alike, why does there need to be separate names for the two? You cannot love your enemy if you call them one. Christians are supposed to welcome the stranger and love their neighbors. An enemy is just a mislabeled neighbor or a stranger that you have not met yet. There are times where this concept seems childish and impossible, and it seems far more satisfying to treat people cruelly based upon how they have treated me. Like wishing harm on people that have caused me harm, and only seeing them through the lens of their past actions that have hurt me. But then I remember my friend Jesus. How he never condemned those who spit on him and nailed him to a piece of wood. How he never lashed back, never succumbed to anger. If Jesus did not call his murderers enemies, then I will not call fellow children of God enemies either. If Jesus does not have enemies, then neither do I.

Sports consumption and love



Collin Verschoor
English Teaching

I am a consumer of sports, both in person and virtual. It is something I enjoy and something that allows me to connect with other people. I am sure that this is true for many people, especially here at Northwestern. We have a high number of student athletes as well as those involved with sports in the form of student assistants, statistic takers, photographers and pep band members. However, I’ve recently wondered how well we exude the love of Christ in the way that we consume sports.

Many people are passionate about their teams. They get excited for team triumphs, and they feel hurt by losses. They get attached to players and coaches. They buy in to long-standing and new traditions. This is not where I see a problem. If people choose to partake

in sports, then more power to them. It is entertainment after all; we should be able to have a good time. My critique is the way that we talk about players and the way that people are talked of as a commodity.

After attending several different live sporting events this school year, and watching plenty of football and basketball games, I have noticed that people consistently cut down and heckle those who are playing the sports. Let it be known that I am fine with heckling, and even think it is an essential part of sports. However, many do not heckle a person’s ability to play the sport, rather, they target personal aspects of a player’s life. This can include targeting family, personal beliefs or overall derogatory and belittling language.

It is within this that I start to find an issue, but I must admit that I see this problem within myself as well. When we begin to personally attack players we have lost not only the point of sports, but we have failed to reflect the love of Christ.

1 John 4: 7-8 reads, “Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (Christian Standard

Bible). How do we love someone if we consistently cut them down without even knowing them. It concerns me that not only is this a problem when watching sports on TV but also in person.

I can understand the disconnect between seeing a person’s humanity on a screen, but in person it becomes much easier to recognize the person in front of you. As soon as you think about the things that you have said, you recognize that another person, who has their own life, beliefs and feelings, is right in front of you. This is not something that we do daily. It would be concerning if it was. You would never walk down a grocery store aisle and tell someone they suck or that their mom is disappointed in them, so why would you say it to someone playing a sport that they love and have put time and effort into.

I understand that it sounds like I am trying to police language, and I want it to be known that I am not trying to do that. In fact, my goal is to bring to light the harmful and degrading way that we consume sports and talk about athletes. In order to fully reflect the love of Christ, we must view people in their full humanity, as a fellow creation of God.

Editor’s Note

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Tennis and golf seasons coming to close

EVENTFUL WAY TO WRAP UP

ALEXANDRIA SQUIRE
BUSINESS ADM/GENERAL

It has been a very intense and competitive season for many of our sports this year, but a special highlight to the Northwestern men's and women's tennis team and the men's and woman's golf team.

As these couple of sports start to wrap up their seasons, let's take a special look at the season overall for both these sports.

Tennis for the men's team will be wrapping up their regular season at home against Iowa Central on April 22.

They have had a record of eight wins and seven losses this year. Seniors that are

graduating from men's tennis are Jack and Noah Roisum.

While the women's team has had a record of nine wins and eight losses this year.

The woman's tennis team ends their regular season on April 17 at home on the NW Iowa Tennis courts.

They will be sure to miss their seniors who are graduating in May who are Maria Esther Shortenhaus and Rachel Coppock.

Along with tennis season coming to a close, the golf season for both the men and women's team is also wrapping up.

The women's golf team is finishing up their season at the Great Plains Athletic Conference championships being held in Spencer, Iowa on April 22 and 23.

The women's golf team got a third place finish at the Bronco Fall Invite out of nine teams. Their seniors that are leaving are Madison Schrack, Martha Stein, Sophie Swart and Taylor Van Ostrand.

While the men's golf team after having a very successful first place finish at home to end the regular season, they are heading down to Beatrice, Nebraska, to participate in the GPAC championships to conclude this season as a whole.

The men's golf team has also come into the top three placement at the 2023 Fall Siouxland Invite where they got second out of 17 teams.

They also got second place in the Southwestern Premier Invitational. They are losing Kyle Christy in May.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
Golf and tennis teams will miss their graduating seniors.

New raider award show to be on May 5

FOR STUDENTS AND ATHELETES ALIKE

KATE MCEWEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

This year sparks an exciting new raider tradition. On May 5 Northwestern will hold the N-dubs, a semi-formal event held in the Rowenhorst Student Center 4-courts honoring athletes, coaches and NW athletic teams.

This event not only honors athletes and coaches for their hard work they put into their teams, but students and coaches are also given awards based on qualities shown and are received by the many sponsors of NW.

N-dubs will be an exciting new tradition as it gives a chance to give proper recognition to

each hardworking athlete and devoted coach. It is a time to appreciate each team for the hard work and time they devote to NW.

All athletes are expected to come, and all students are welcome to attend. Doors open at 6p.m. and the show begins at 7p.m..

All athletic staff will be in attendance as well as there will be entertaining presenters lined up for the evening that are either sponsors or members of the community.

N-dubs will be a fun night and is intended to be full of surprises. There will be photo stations set up, and deserts will be available while the award show is going on.

Not all information has been given out on what the night

holds, as the staff holding the event want to make the night a surprise and something to look forward to. It is said that there will be "hilarious encounters that you won't want to miss!" Taylor Decker, head cheer coach, said, as she is part of the team putting the event together.

Athlete or not, show up to support the amazing athletic accomplishments NW has done this year.

Contact Jacki Goebel on her NW email or find her in her office in the RSC athletic department for tickets.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be a part of NW's new annual tradition celebrating Raider athletics at N-dubs.

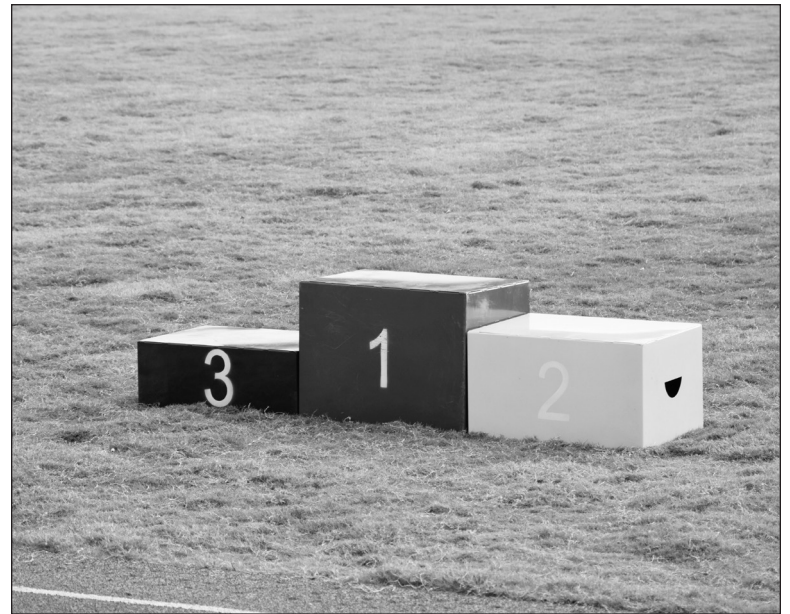


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH
N-Dubs is to be full of surprises.

Caitlin Clark is a source of inspiration for campus

FOR WOMEN IN SPORTS

CLARA PAHL
ENGLISH

The Iowa Hawkeyes Caitlin Clark was the number-one pick drafted to the Indiana Fever on April 15, 2024. For those who have just tuned into the Clark watch party, the six-foot guard's magical collegiate run was actualized by breaking records and, more importantly, changing lives with her joyful and selfless court presence.

Clark's contribution to women's basketball surpassed getting buckets and assists towards a higher calling of evolving into a beacon of resilience and empowerment. Her achievements crossed over into other categories

including inspiring female leaders in ministry. A committed fan of Clark and a retired star student-athlete herself, Reverend Kristin Brouwer applauds her confidence.

"One of the things that Clark inspires in women's leadership is her unapologetic self. As a woman in ministry, it is encouraging and empowering to see her interrupt the deep-rooted gender bias in sports," Brouwer said, "Caitlin Clark is unabashed about who she is, what she is worth, and the gifts she has been given."

The two-time national runner-up of the NCAA women's basketball tournament championship is regularly witnessed and filmed signing jerseys of little girls and boys alongside parents who stand in awe.

Clark's parents and brothers are included in this dedicated fan club.

Northwestern College's own women's basketball team recognizes how Clark has changed the game for men and women.

"I would say that we were all just grateful to play college athletics during a time where women's sports have started to gain attention. Therefore, Clark has more or less just been an inspiration for us as individuals— reminding us that we can do anything we set our minds to!" said Molly Schany senior women's basketball forward.

The state of Iowa now looks brighter on the map. Living rooms are fuller. Gyms have a spark to them. The landscape of women's basketball— perhaps, even the entirety of women's sports

as Dr. Jim Mead says— has been re-imagined by one unstoppable, humble individual and her committed teammates.

"In America, women still face continued challenges. Clark has been a face of change, giving hope and inspiration to young girls and women of all ages. She has been a catalyst of advancement for women's equality, not just for the respect she has brought to women's basketball but also for the respect she has brought to women," said Brouwer.

In keeping up with her rapid pace of competing, number 22 first WNBA game is May 3, 2024, against the Dallas Wings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN
Caitlin Clark is the first pick of the NCAA draft.

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Celebrating Northwestern research

HARD WORK ON DISPLAY

TYSON BRAUNSCHEWIG
PSYCHOLOGY

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 11, Northwestern College's Celebration of Research took place in the Rowenhorst Student Center.

A plethora of panels and posters were set up all across the mall, and a wide variety of topics were discussed by a vast array of confidently passionate presenters.

Attendees were invited to walk past each station and listen to short presentations on the research done by both undergraduate and postgraduate NW students. Every so often, the room would be quieted as a talented musician would stand onstage and perform a song for everybody in attendance. This music ranged from opera to classical and even a few selections from the hit musical "Matilda". The dichotomy of intellect in both research and art did not go unappreciated, and the performances were valued just as

deeply as the presentations.

One stand-out presentation was the second-semester Genetics class which annotated bacteriophage genomes that have never before been dissected by anyone in the scientific community. It was pleasant to see NW students making important and practical contributions to the modern world.

Pratik Paudel, Mari Hirota and Hyunsung Jun decided to take on the intense task of analyzing the data emitted by quasars to determine the distance of these high-energy beams from our solar system while also looking at whether newer galaxies differ from the ones that have been around for a larger segment of the universe's history.

Tirzah Wittenberg and Dr. Pam Hulstein took a look at how deaths of despair differ when it comes to rural populations and disproved many stigmas that American citizens have about the mental health of those who live in these rural communities.

Josiah Troutner presented



COURTESY OF NWC MARCOM
Many came through to admire the many displays.

the effects of Jewish liturgics on Christian worship and how Christians unintentionally appropriate these liturgics through their cursory understanding of the depth of these traditions.

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, Jessica Nibbelink, Anneka Sterk, and David Grandel examined how mindset and testing affect one's memory and the accuracy of their judgments. Nibbelink also did a solo project on the unseen sexism present in the hiring process for most occupations.

These students, their professors and others not included work tirelessly and regularly to contribute to humanity's unending quest to understand our existence and how the world around us affects it, it is incredibly important to recognize these efforts by giving both our students and staff an environment in which they can openly speak about their passions. NW goes above and beyond in doing so by advertising this event to students as well as researchers in the surrounding area. This

spreads the gift of knowledge from NW into the world. If you missed out on experiencing the annual Celebration of Research, be sure to catch next year so you can support the hard work students put into their education.



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