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Beacon

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Finding Aid
NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE RECORD GROUP
THE BEACON

1923-

NCRG 18

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Introduction

The Beacon has been the student newspaper of Northwestern College since September 1928, when Northwestern transitioned from being an academy into a junior college. Another publication, *The Monitor*, existed briefly for a few years in the 1920s before *The Beacon*. Hereafter, unless otherwise noted, references to *The Beacon* also include *The Monitor*.

As the student newspaper, *The Beacon* serves both as a chronicle of events that happened at Northwestern and a reflection of what ideas, issues, and events were important to students. It documents student life at this institution. Northwestern College is a Christian college, and the newspaper shows the religious identity of the campus.

Collectively, *The Beacon* provides a longitudinal student perspective on the institution, its culture, and its people.

Size: 56.75 linear feet.

Provenance: Northwestern students publish *The Beacon* throughout the academic year, and Northwestern College Archives collects and preserves the issues.

Restrictions, copying and permission to publish and citations: No restrictions on use. Citations should include the following information and acknowledgments:

The Beacon; date; page number; Northwestern College Record Group 18; Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections.

Alternatively, citations could refer to our online collection at <http://northwestern.advantage-preservation.com/>.

Processing Notes: The arrangement of the *Beacons* was created by Doug Anderson and Sara Huyser with processing help from Hannah Jorgensen and Samuel Olson in 2018. The finding aid was created by Greta Grond in June 2020.

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Historical Notes

Northwestern Classical Academy was founded on July 19, 1882. Northwestern, a co-educational institution, prepared students for college, teaching, ministerial studies, or mission work.

In 1891, the Academy began publishing *The Classic*, a monthly journal that contained student essays and reflections. In 1907, *The Classic* ended its run. From 1923 to 1925, students published a newspaper called *The Monitor*; however, in 1925 *The Classic* was revived and reformatted, serving as both a student course catalog and news bulletin.

In 1928, Northwestern added a junior college program. In addition to offering new courses, Northwestern also created a student newspaper, *The Northwestern Beacon*. In the inaugural issue on September 28, 1928, the editorial staff outlined the purpose of the paper: “This first number [issue] is trying to boost everything good and has to include the school in that. We want to be a source of fun and entertainment to each student and a good record of all that happens here for every alumnus of the N.W.C.A.”

The publication schedule varied throughout the years, but issues typically came out throughout the academic year and ceased during the summer months. It has always been produced by students with a faculty advisor. Often at the end of a semester a “spoof” issue was and is published.

The name has changed slightly from time to time, sometimes including Northwestern in the title, sometimes using only *The Beacon*. The volume numbers are not always consistent.

The Beacon continues to be published in print, but also has an online component at <http://beacon.nwciowa.edu/>.

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Related Materials

The Northwestern Classical Academy had other student publications during its independent institutional life before becoming a department of the college:

- [*The Northwestern Classic*](#) (1892-1906): [online](#), Dutch Heritage Room, and archives.
- [*The Cullings*](#) (1920-1921): Dutch Heritage Room and archives.

Northwestern College has other student publications:

- [*The Spectrum*](#), a student literary journal (1979 – present): [online](#), Dutch Heritage Room, and archives.

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Arrangement and Description

NCRG 18 The Beacon			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	--	Negative blocks for <i>The Beacon</i> , <i>De Klompen</i> , <i>The Classic</i>	1935-53
2	1	Opposing Viewpoints Memos	
NCRG 18.1 The Northwestern Beacon (issues)			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	Each issue is in its own folder	Issues from September 1928, Vol. 1 – June 1932, Vol. 4	1928 - 1932
2	Each issue is in its own folder	Issues from October 1932, Vol. 5 – December 1935, Vol. 8	1932 - 1935
3	Each issue is in its own folder	Issues from December 1935, Vol 8. – May 1940, Vol. 12	1935 – 1940
4	Each issue is in its own folder	Issues from October 1940, Vol. 13 – May 1948, Vol. 20	1940 – 1948
5	Each issue is in its own	Issues from September 1948, Vol. 21 – May 1953, Vol. 25	1948 – 1953

	folder		
6	Each issue is in its own folder	Issues from September 1953, Vol. 26 – May 1960, Vol. 22 [32]	1953 - 1960
7	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1960, Vol. 23 [33] – May 1970, Vol. 30 [42]	1960 - 1970
8	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1970, Vol. 31 [43] – May 1974, Vol. 34 [46]	1970 – 1974
9	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1974, Vol. 35 [47] – May 1977, Vol. 37 [49]	1974 – 1977
10	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1977, Vol. 38 [50] – May 1980, Vol. 40 [52]	1977 – 1980
11	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1980, Vol. 53 – April 1983, Vol. 55	1980 – 1983
12	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1983, Vol. 56 – May 1986, Vol. 58	1983 – 1986
13	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1986, Vol. 59 – April 1989, Vol. 61	1986 – 1989
14	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1989, Vol. 62 – May 1992, Vol. 64	1989 – 1992
15	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1992, Vol. 65 – April 1995, Vol. 67	1992 – 1995
16	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1995, Vol. 68 – April 1998, Vol. 70	1995 – 1998
17	Each issue	September 1998, Vol. 71 – April 2001, Vol. 73	1998 – 2001

	is in its own folder		
18	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2001, Vol. 74 – April 2004, Vol. 76	2001 – 2004
19	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2004, Vol. 77 – April 2007, Vol. 79	2004 – 2007
20	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2007, Vol. 80 – April 2010, Vol. 82	2007 – 2010
21	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2010, Vol. 83 – April 2013, Vol. 85	2010 – 2013
22	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2013, Vol. 86 – April 2016, Vol. 88	2013 – 2016
23	Each issue is in its own folder	September 2016, Vol. 89 – April 2018, Vol. 91	2016 – 2018
24	Each issues is in its own folder	September 2018, Vol. 92 -	2018 -

NCRG 18.2 Photos & Negatives

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	--	Negatives Binder, 1995(?)	1995(?)
	--	Negatives Binder, 1995	1995
	--	Negatives Binder, 1997(?)	1997(?)
	--	Negatives Binder, 1998-1999(?)	1998-1999(?)
	--	Negatives Binder, undated (possibly 1998 or 2000)	1998-2000(?)
	--	Negatives Binder, 2001(?)	2001(?)
	--	Negatives Binder, 2002(?)	2002(?)
	1	Beacon Photos, Athletics, 1990s	1990-1999
	2	Beacon Photos, Student Life, 1990s	1990-1999
	3	Beacon Photos, Academics, 1990s	1990-1999
	4	Beacon Photos, Theatre, 1990s	1990-1999
	5	Beacon Photos, Art, 1990s	1990-1999

	6	Beacon Photos, Misc., Undated	
2	1	Negatives Folder, 1987-1988(?)	1987-1988(?)
	2	Negatives Folder, 1988-1989(?)	1988-1989(?)
	3	Negatives Folder, 1988-1989(?)	1988-1989(?)
	4	Negatives Folder, 1989-1990	1989-1990
	5	Negatives Folder, 1991-1992	1991-1992
	--	Negatives Binder, Undated	
	--	Negatives Binder, Undated	
	--	Negatives Binder, Undated	
	--	Negatives Binder, Undated	
	--	Negatives Binder, Undated	
3	--	Beacon Photo CDs	2002-2009
NCRG 18.3 Beacon Duplicates			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	Each issue is in its own folder	September 1928 -	1928 -
NCRG 18.4 Beacon Microfilm			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	--	Microfilm rolls, 12	1928-2017
NCRG 18.5 Beacon PDFs			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	--	External hard drive, 1	1928-2017