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Dr. Kasonso joins business department

KASONSO ADDS HUMOR TO THE DEPARTMENT

MARISSA LERAAS
THEATRE

Frequently, when asked what the benefits of Northwestern College include, a student would say “the professors.” This response has a great deal to do with the care considered when hiring and the professor’s personal decisions to invest in their students’ lives. These things are no less true when a new professor comes onto campus and begins their influence in the worlds of students and faculty alike. Given this, we would expect no less from NW’s newest addition to the business and economics department, Dr. Jones Kasonso.

NW’s new accounting professor comes with an unbreakable resume and experience beyond his years that will no doubt enrich his department. Receiving his bachelor’s at the Oxford Brookes University, Kasonso

continued to earn his Master of Business Administration, and finally his Ph.D. at North Central University. Additionally, Kasonso has a graduate certificate from the Multnomah Biblical Seminary.

A well accomplished man, he previously worked as both founder and managing principal at an accounting firm in Washington, D.C, and taught several university accountings classes in Maryland, Illinois and the United Arab Emirates. Further still, having achieved Chartered Global Management Accountant certification, Kasonso also worked for the California State Controller’s Office as a management auditor and fiscal analyst. There is no doubting his lengthy and impressive list of accomplishments. However, paper can only say so much about one’s personality – can paint only a fraction of their personality.

Dr. Han-Yen Kao, chair of the business and economics department, touched on some of his newfound experiences with



COURTESY OF JONES KONOSO VIA LINKEDIN
New accounting professor, Dr. Kasonso, joins the business department bringing real-world experience.

Kasonso. First recounting what it was like to be a new faculty member, Kao mentioned feeling supported and welcomed. “We’re trying to do the same for our

new colleague because this is what I experienced firsthand,” he said. Even while the business and economics department’s professors continue to get to

know Kasonso, the interactions are positive – “He has a good sense of humor... Its pleasant to be with him and talk with him,” Kao said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New student led ministry on campus

JESUS CHRIST IS NEEDED ON NW CAMPUS TOO

HOPE WALLACE
ENGLISH TEACHING

Fellowship, in the Oxford English Dictionary is defined as “friendly association, especially with people who share one’s interests.” Fellowship is taken seriously here at Northwestern. As students and faculty across campus share the common interest of desiring to know more about our Savior and dive deep into His Word, it is vital that we gather to do so.

This desire for fellowship and meeting with peers in an intimate setting where the Lord is lifted up came to AJ Schaefer, senior, this past summer. Schaefer claims that he had originally longed for an opportunity to either serve overseas or attend a public college where he would have the opportunity to be a witness to people who didn’t know Jesus. Soon after developing these desires, Schaefer found a new desire. “God helped me to see that my longing

to be somewhere else blinded me from the opportunities that were right in front of my face,” he said. “Northwestern is a Christian college, but people need Jesus here too, just as much as anywhere else. I assumed that everyone was thriving, but in reality, there are a lot of people who are hurting and broken.”

Schaefer was hesitant about starting another ministry on campus, but as God continued to reveal the plan He had in store, the decision became clear. “I came to the realization that this ministry would not take away from the other ministries, but rather support them by giving them a platform that allows for students to share what God has been putting on their hearts,” Schaefer said.

Shortly after this realization, Schaefer spoke with senior Lauren Eidsness. Together, they talked about how significant it can be when God uses people to accomplish His work. For this work to be done through God’s people, Christians must be honest, open and transparent. They must have a faith that is on fire for the



PHOTO BY JADEYN SJAARDA
“Hot faith” allows NW students gather in a safe setting to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lord. This is where the name “HOT Faith” comes from. Schaefer and Eidsness’ vision was to create a space where all attributes were evident. “We hope that everyone who shows up, whether they be a leader or a

first-time attendee, feels comfortable in this setting and is willing to share about how God has been working in their lives.” HOT Faith meets every Thursday night at 8:45 p.m. in the Ramaker basement. A typical night

includes a speaker, studying a passage from the Bible, a time of discussion in small groups and prayer.

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5SOS 'stands out' more in lyrics and sound

5SOS STRONGER THEN THEY WERE

HANNAH JACOBSMA
MUSIC

5 Seconds of Summer, often known as 5SOS, is a band from Sydney, Australia, formed in 2011. With hits such as "She Looks so Perfect," "Amnesia" and "She's Kinda Hot," the band has grown in popularity over the years throughout the world.

5 Seconds of Summer released their new album "5SOS5" on Friday, Sept. 23, and have refreshed their sound with this album. They build on their already impressive discography with an album with 19 tracks. The first song, "COMPLETE MESS," was one of the first singles to be released from this album and contains strong vocal lines and some strings. It is a great first song to start with.

"Easy For You To Say" and "Bad Omens" are similar in musicality, including a driving beat and a good bassline, but different in style. "Easy For You To

Say" is a slower ballad-type song, but still has the classic rock beat found in most of their songs. "Bad Omens" is described by the band as one of their favorites on the album, and that it "feels like fall in Australia." Once again, "Bad Omens" adds in the strings that are used in both "COMPLETE MESS" and other songs of theirs from the past such as "Ghost Of You" and "Amnesia." "Bad Omens" is definitely a highlight of the album.

"Take My Hand- Joshua Tree Version" is another standout song with incredible lyrics that speak of the reality of being an imperfect person and speaking to your younger self. Some examples are these lyrics: "Shallow hearts for shallow minds/That ache to be alive/You fall apart and redefine/What keeps you up at night." This is one of the most influential moments on the album and definitely one of the favorites.

"CAROUSEL" is yet another song on the album that holds its own, while

still sticking to the overall theme of the album, as it is an upbeat song that you could listen to while driving. In stark contrast, the album continues on with "Older (feat. Sierra Deaton)," which is a slow ballad that talks about growing old with someone you love.

"HAZE" adds another contrast because there is a different, faster beat and autotuned parts that add to the riff-based style of the song. "You Don't Go To Parties" contrasts to the rest of the album as well. The country-like style didn't appeal to me as much, but it is good the band is adding contrast.

"BLENDER" continues the album as before, in the same style as the first songs and is a highlight of the album as well. The bass line and the rhythms between the vocalist, guitar and drums are exceptional, and you can't go wrong with a lyric like "I'd die for you." When I first heard this song, I listened to it on repeat in my car every time I drove.

"Caramel," "Best Friends,"



COURTESY OF 5SOS.COM

"Bleach" and "Red Line" all kind of felt like a package deal, reminding me of the band's older songs, especially ones on their previous album, "YoungBlood." "Moodswings" is yet another ballad on the album and is quickly preceded by "Flatline," a more upbeat and uplifting song with vocals that are higher.

On one of the last tracks, "Emotions," we hear lead guitarist Michael Clifford's

voice throughout this song which reminds me of the band's first album. The last songs, "Bloodhound" and "TEARS!" are a great conclusion to the album. "Bloodhound" adds an upbeat conclusion and "TEARS!" showcases the drummer, Ashton Irwin, on the lead vocals.

Overall, this album is a true work of art, from the strings added, to the vocal

overlying as well as the incredible songwriting from both the band and their writers. You can see why 5SOS took their time on this album, seeing as it stands up against the rest of their discography with pride. If you need a good album to listen to, 5SOS have a little bit of everything in this album.

★★★★

We can and will most definitely worry, my darling

EMOTIONS THAT RATTLE VIEWERS

GRACE HARRE
SOCIAL WORK

When someone calls you darling, is it comforting or patronizing? As one of the most anticipated movies of this year, "Don't Worry Darling" has finally dropped. This movie has a stellar cast including Florence Pugh, Harry Styles, Olivia Wilde, Chris Pine, Gemma Chan and Nick Kroll.

"Don't Worry Darling" is set in a 1950s suburb where Alice, played by Pugh, and her husband Jack, played by Styles, live in a small community called Victory, that houses the families working on a top secret experiment. While the husbands are at work, the wives are left to enjoy a frivolous, care-free life. When odd occurrences start to disrupt the reality of her life, Alice faces serious questions about why she is living in Victory.

Pugh's performance in this film is remarkable.

Through the entire movie, it is evident Pugh is giving her all in her performance and it showcases her acting range. Many of the scenes and themes in the movie required a lot of emotion and boy, did she deliver. She conveys an array of compelling emotions such as joy, curiosity, terror, sadness, confusion, mundanity and scared determination. Pugh's acting is so well done, the audience cannot help but sympathize with her. The critical reviews of the movie do not reflect the amount of artistic skill and layered performance Pugh expresses. This movie is by far the best work Pugh has demonstrated yet.

There has been some controversy over Harry Styles' presence in this movie, as well. Although he was not up to snuff with the talent Pugh demonstrated, Styles was able to give a convincing performance all things considered.

As one of the main roles, Styles was required to give almost as much emotion as Pugh. It should be pointed out that he is not a professional actor so the

amount of emotion and skill he was able to convey was impressive. Styles was able to convey anger, frustration, passion, determination, psychosis and easy-going class. In defense of all of the nay-sayers about Styles' acting, it was hard to separate cultish, pop icon "Harry Styles" from the role Styles depicted in the movie. Overall, the film was a fascinating new take on the mysterious thriller genre. The film's pacing was slow at the beginning, however once it picked up, there was deeper plot development and character building.

The one critique about this movie is that most of the symbolism or odd flashing sequences that were used as set up in the first half of the movie were not explained or contributed little to nothing to the overarching plot. Due to the nature of said symbolism and sequences, it might have served as one added layer of cinematography to build up the tension to really deliver the thriller aspect of the movie. However, these undescribed elements might set up a potential sequel in

the years to come.

One major theme in the movie was gaslighting. Gaslighting was a central part of the mysterious Victory community and the effects of treating people this way lingered in a way that suggested the toxicity and demeaning nature of it.

Another major theme was traditional gender roles. The film's progression of events compares traditional roles to the modern gender roles that are more seen today. Because the film was set in the 1950s, it explores the expectation for women to cook, clean and stay strong to support their husband while he makes the money and the absence of these women in the home. The flip of said traditional gender roles accentuates the grip these roles have and misconceptions that are often attached. As this movie tackles some serious topics, be cautious if you have a trigger regarding abuse, suicide, alcoholism and violence.



★★★★

COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Slam poetry: not just for the prose anymore

CREATIVITY IS FOR ALL

ELENA LEE
HISTORY

On Friday, Sept. 23, our very own Hub was transformed into an outlet for creativity, spoken word and self-expression. The honors program hosted an open mic slam poetry event in which students were invited to share and appreciate creative writing and music. Poetry fans, Creative Dining staff and unwitting dinner-goers, who were just there for cheese curds, witnessed performances from Northwestern students of all different backgrounds and interests. Many of the performers had never attended nor presented slam poetry prior to this event, but their talent and willingness to be vulnerable made up for any lack of professional experience. Acts ranged from Elton John's "Rocket Man," Rumi's "The Guest House" to Lemonade Mouth's "She's So Gone," as well as a large amount of original material. Naomi Lief, Clara Pahl, Collin Verschoor and Alec Schultz opted for personal poetry and prose, while Nora

Olson, Garrett Hurt and Sawyer Hildrith chose selections from preexisting music artists. In essence, for both the performer and audience, there was something for everyone.

During the hour-long event, each student had the opportunity to share what has been on their minds and in their journals in a casual but intentional environment. Audience member and junior psychology/genetics major Anneka Sterk described it as "a very soothing atmosphere. A lot of art was being shared in a safe space." Which, for Pahl, organizer and founder of this event, was the goal. Pahl recited some of the poetry she had written over the summer during her time abroad in Oxford, speaking of her childhood experiences and encounters with OCD. To her, poetry "is the art of ambiguity and subtlety; beauty is found between the two." Although everyone has their own definition and interpretation of creative writing, the event itself was organized in a way that both casual and dedicated fans could appreciate it.

Campus has seen a surge of events relating to music, art and

language this year, with slam poetry nights, art exhibits and the resurrection of NCDC this spring. This trend is in direct contrast with the fact that the humanities are disappearing from college campuses. In fact, this is the eighth consecutive year that the amount of college graduates in the humanities dropped, since more young adults are choosing more career-driven fields such as business and health professions. According to Pahl this "is ironic, considering the many movements that aim to advocate for inclusion, diversity and mental health; all of these societal potholes can be pushed towards the light using art and words." In other words, areas of study such as English, history and philosophy provide opportunities for societal growth and reform, but many students shy away from them due to the uncertainty of the career benefits.

Even though students may not choose to study the fine arts and humanities, they are still an essential service and emotional outlet for many students on campus, which is why Pahl worked to create a no-pressure performance space that encouraged creative expression,



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIA HOLT
Clara Pahl performs her original poetry in The Hub at the Honors Poetry Slam.

not perfection.

For those looking to get involved, Pahl plans on hosting more opportunities such as "casual poetry symposiums," where students can gather and share their stories and poems without the pressure of performing or receiving a bad grade. And for those who are

having bad flashbacks to middle school poetry units, be assured that there is a place for everyone at events such as these, and that no formal training is required to appreciate and participate in art. Creative writing is both an outlet for personal expression and opportunity for self-reflection and growth.

In Pahl's words, "poetry is not the endgame to helping others, but it is an effective beginning," and we hope that this event is just the beginning of NW's commitment to the humanities, art and creative outlets.

A presentation of talents at the Fall Music Showcase

ALL NW TOGETHER WITH MUSIC

KATIE STRUCK
MUSIC

There are lots of exciting things to take part in and attend this homecoming, one of which is this year's Fall Music Showcase Concert. The concert will feature all music ensembles at Northwestern, as well as some student music scholarship recipients.

The concert will begin with an organ prelude performed by Evan Gutzmer. He will perform the piece "Fantasy" on the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Dutch organist Piet Post. The piece involves different styles and speeds of notes that will showcase the main melody of the hymn. He said that "this involves most of the pipes and manuals on the organ, resulting in some very different

sounds between the different parts."

Following the prelude will be a welcome and prayer by Dr. John Vonder Bruegge. Then the Women's Choir will perform two pieces.

Following Women's Choir will be a performance from the orchestra of "Czárdas" by Vittorio Monti, which will feature a solo on the violin by Jamie Stoscher. Stoscher said that this is a piece he is preparing for his recital, which will be held this spring. The orchestra will then play a second piece, "In Peace Let Us Pray" by Wally Ost, before the choral ensembles begin to perform.

The chamber ensemble, Heritage Singers, will perform "With Drooping Wings" from Henry Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas," which will be performed by the choir in January 2023. After they perform, there will be a solo performed

by soprano Katie Struck. Struck will be performing "Come Scoglio" from Mozart's opera "Cosi fan Tutti." The piece is sung by the character Fiordiligi, who declares her loyalty to the man she loves and will have nothing to do with the strangers who are trying to woo her.

After the solo, the A capella Choir will perform four pieces. The first will be "Still" by Ola Gjello, a piece solely sung with vowel sounds instead of text. They will then sing Ching-Ju Shih's, "Little Station," followed by Elaine Hagenberg's "To Thee My Heart I Offer." The last piece the choir will perform is "Go Where I Send Thee," a gospel spiritual by Paul Caldwell.

Once the choir is finished with their performance, MaryLou Wielenga will play the hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" on the organ.

The Symphonic Band will then

perform two pieces, "Aurora Borealis" by Rossano Galante and "Symphony No. 3," 'Slavyanskaya,' by Boris Kozhevnikov. The concert will conclude with the Alumni Band which will perform three pieces: "Galop" by Dmitri Shostakovich, "Amazing Grace" arranged by Frank Ticheli, and "Alleluia Laudamus Te" by Alfred Reed.

The Fall Music Showcase Concert will be held on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Christ Chapel. Those attending the concert are also invited to join the musicians in the Dewitt Learning Commons after the concert for refreshments.



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
The Symphonic band practices for their performance at the showcase.



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Students embrace Latinx culture with book study

EMBRACING LATINX CULTURE

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In today's world, it can be extremely hard to find a place where you fit in today's society for several different reasons. Whether that be because of your race, age, gender or disability, it is difficult to discover a community where you truly belong. Recently on Northwestern's campus, the Bridge Center has set up its own book study, dedicated to Hispanic Heritage Month, making Hispanic students feel welcome and known on campus. The book they are reading, *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed*, is written from the perspective of different Latinx authors across the world and edited by Saracicia J. Fennell. Each of the 15 chapters stars a different Latinx individual and experiences of what the world is like through their eyes.

Though the Bridge Center initially started it because of Hispanic heritage month, several other factors played into the creation of the group. Social Enterprise major, Jillian Simon, and faculty member Martha Draayer came together to give people an opportunity to learn. "One of our 4 pillars is LEARN (Love, Link, Listen, Learn)," said

Draayer. "That is how we get to bridge-building, embracing one another and growing together as a beloved community. We also see more of God through the beautifully diverse world he created. One way we are celebrating and bridging these two ideas together is by learning more about Hispanics/Latinx and celebrating their contribution to this country. The book study is a result of providing campus an educational opportunity to learn more about Hispanic/Latinx culture. We often get clumped into one large homogenous group, however, that is far from true. The Latinx community is wide, diverse and far-ranging. The book study is highlighting the diaspora of Latinx voices from different Latin American countries with very different backgrounds."

Sophomore Elena Lee, who participates in the club, mentioned how it is "an opportunity for students to look to a guided resource on information regarding a current world topic."

The book study typically starts with the participating students reading a set of three or four chapters in their own free time. They come together every Wednesday to discuss what they read. Participant Jessica Nibbelink explained how Draayer opens the discussion, and

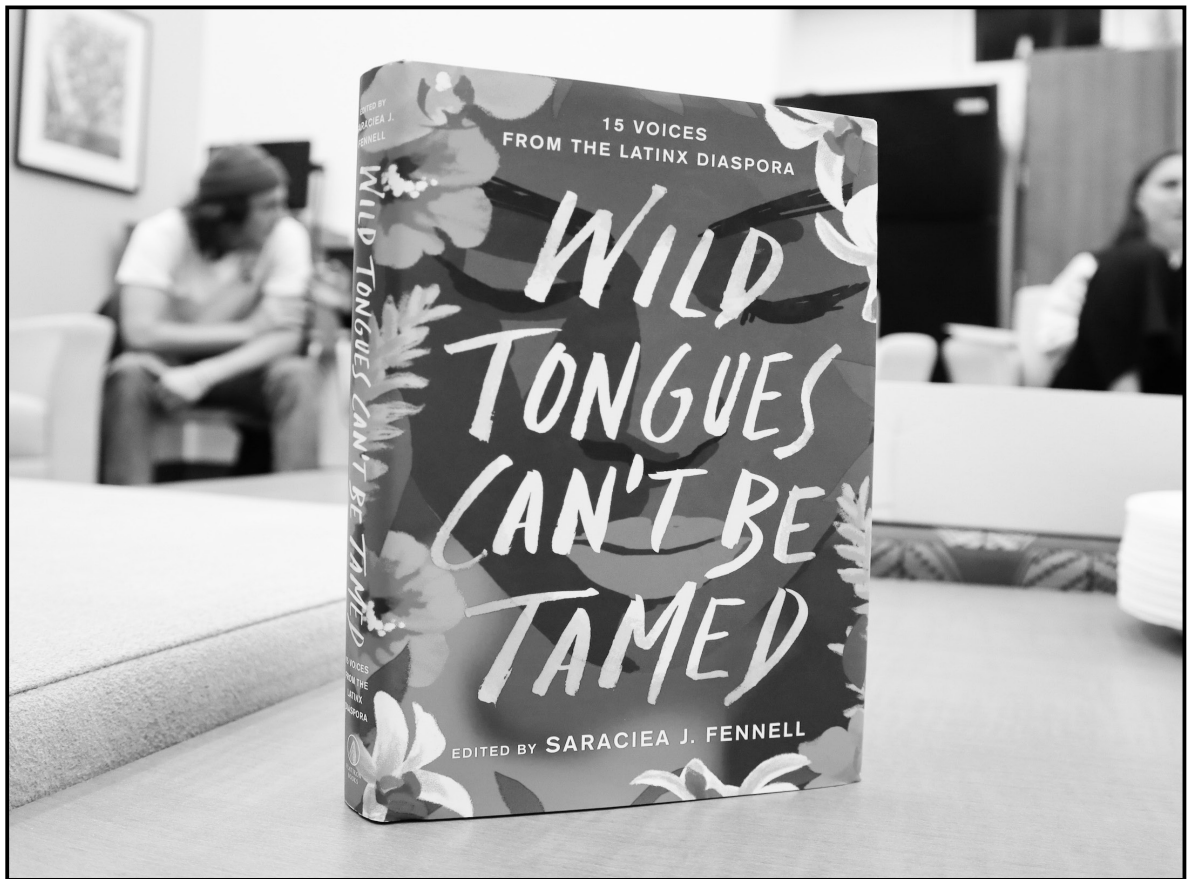


PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT
Students are reading and discussing the chapters of "Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed" alongside the Bridge Center.

then passes it over to the students. "Different Latin voices around campus are invited to share their voices in the discussion of each chapter," said Nibbelink. "[it is] unique to hear a different perspective on life in another person's eyes."

Students have had great experiences with the book and study. "So far, my biggest takeaway is that above all else the book humanizes the systemic issues that I've heard about

for a long time," said senior Amelia Holt. "I would like to say I was aware of a lot of the problems, but the book puts it in the context of a human's life, and it makes it more understandable and it's very heart wrenching."

More than 50 million Latinx people have different cultures, rather than one common culture. Because of this, Latinos may feel left out, and why something like the Bridge Center's book study could make Latinx students

feel comfortable on campus, while also teaching students of different cultures about Latinx culture. This book study allows all students on campus to share their experiences.

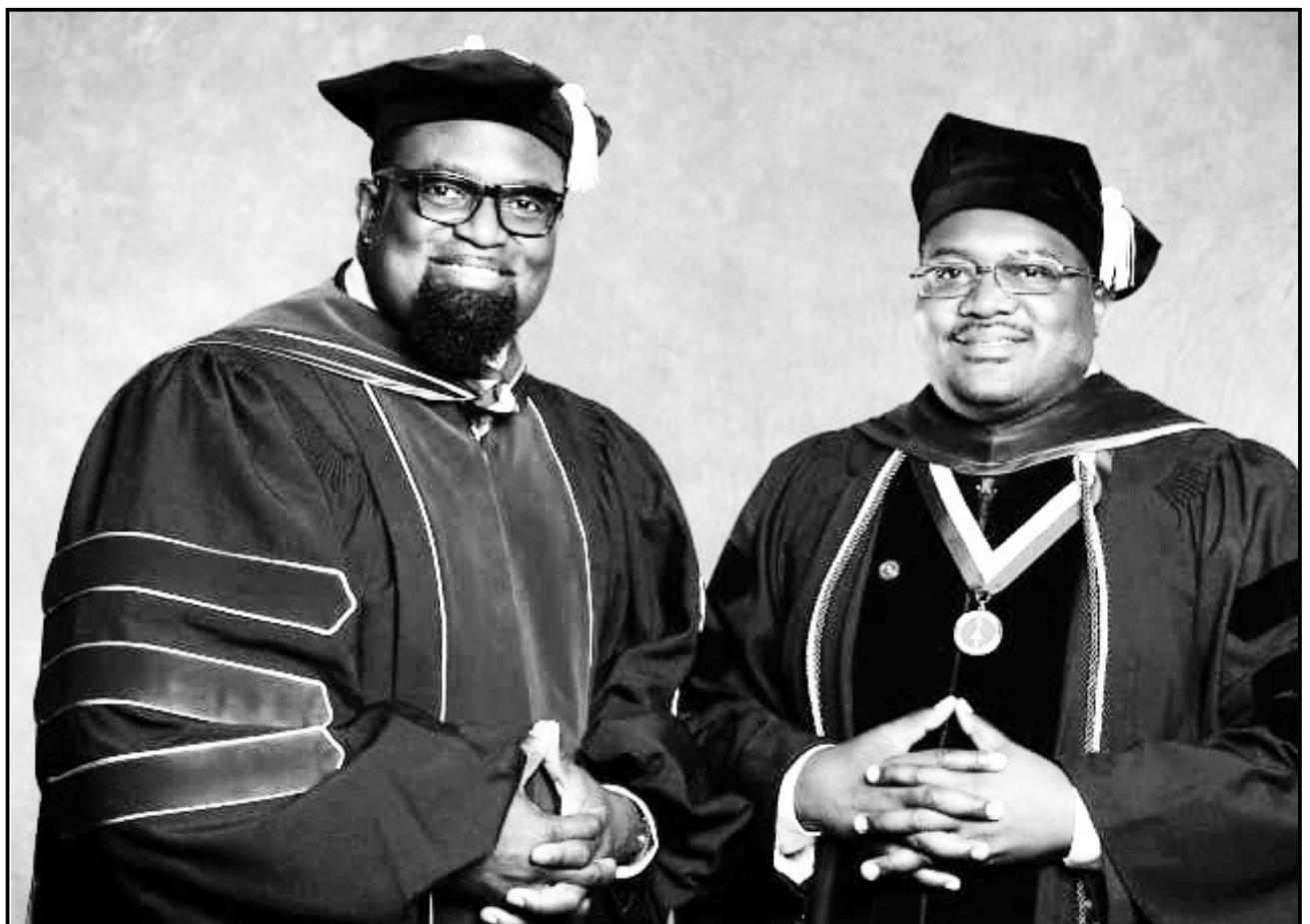
Business department gains new accounting professor

FROM PAGE 1

No doubt his students feel the same as the adapt to his teaching styles and begin to build relationship with their new accounting professor.

Kasonso himself is thrilled for the opportunity to be at NW, serving in this position. During conversation with Kao, he mentioned this feeling of Kasonso's, "He's very excited about it. That's something he told us". His excitement is shared throughout the campus and Orange City community. Students and faculty alike wait in ecstatic anticipation

to see how Kasonso will take his position and roll with it. Fellow business and accounting professors look forward to developing comradery with their newest colleague and students of this same department relish at the chance to learn from a new and deeply experienced professor. NW hopes that Kasonso finds a home here as many professors and students do, and look ahead with joy, considering all the good works he will do here in the lives of colleagues, students and every person who walks past the business and economics department!.



COUTESY OF JONES KASONSO VIA FACEBOOK
Dr. Jones Kasonso worked as a magement auditor and fiscal analyst at CalState.

RDs connect through Survivor watch parties

COMMUNITY
WITH REALITY TV

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

Could you survive 39 days in the wild with nothing but the clothes on your back, 20 strangers who are ready to attack you to win and a film crew? While maybe you cannot, this is a question that the resident directors, their spouses and other staff and faculty members ask themselves for about 12-16 weeks out of the year.

No, our leaders on campus are not the ones who put themselves into these survival situations, rather they all choose to watch the hit show Survivor together.

This tradition is nothing new to campus. However, this gathering once a week has been ongoing since 2003, when Eric Anderson, who now resides in financial aid, was the director of resident life.

When asked about how the viewings have helped him connect with others Anderson said, "my engagement story involved Survivor ("making a

permanent alliance"), which the RDs at the time had a big hand in helping me plan. So, all along, this has helped build relationships outside of the job.

Even after moving to a new position on campus, Anderson kept his love for both Survivor and the people in charge of residence life. He continued to put together survivor watch parties throughout the many seasons the show has gone through.

As RD's and staff have come and gone, survivor watch parties are one thing that seems to stick around. It has welcomed all our current RD's into this makeshift family of reality TV lovers. Even our newest RD on campus, Brian Follett, and his wife, Madison Follett, have been brought in quickly to the community. Last year, Brian and Madison hosted the weekly viewings in their Colenbrander Hall apartment.

This act of hospitality is appreciated by the rest of the viewing members and allows for a space for RDs and other staff members to connect and

bond outside of their work lives in a way that allows them to grow closer and truly become friends and neighbors.

RDs spend so much time with students that it always been a fun way to let them be together with peers for an hour each week for social reasons. "Sometimes after the episode, if people have time, some stay and chat for a while," said Madison. "This time offers us more community within the resident life family and gives us something to look forward to every week."

The atmosphere of the watching ranges from week to week, with some weeks being "intense." No matter how intense each week is Natalie Wheeler RD of Fern-Smith Hall had this to say about the tone of the parties. "Overall, the atmosphere is pretty relaxed while watching the show," Wheeler said. "We definitely have some competitive people in the group who get a little more into the challenges and drama of it all, but as a whole, it's very



PHOTO BY JADEYN SJAARDA
Survivor watch party in the Folletts' apartment.

chill - but fun nevertheless!"

To keep the seasons fresh and exciting, Anderson has set up a draft for the beginning of the seasons. The viewers compete in an array of challenges and then draft the player who they think will win that season of Survivor. This twist allows each viewer to become more invested and involved in the season.

Another twist that Anderson has made a part of the seasons is a weekly survey that allows viewers to predict what will happen on that week's episode. At the end of the season, a winner is picked from the viewers. This winner is decided by if one of their draft picks wins the show or based on who obtained the most points from getting predictions right

on the weekly surveys.

We can agree that with all these Survivor watching group parties, watching with those we love beats watching alone every single day.

Students 'on fire' with HOT Faith

FROM PAGE 1

The series that is currently being studied is the Fruits of the Spirit. Every week, there is a different leader who will take a passage or passages from Scripture and speak on what God tells us about the Fruits of the Spirit through that passage. The Fruit that is currently being studied is "love." Some of the main points of love that have been discussed thus

far at HOT Faith include "Experiencing God's Love" and "Self-love vs. self-denial."

One thing I love about this ministry is that the teaching all comes from the Bible. The leaders take their roles seriously, and the work that they do always points back to the Lord and gives Him all the glory for the work that He is accomplishing through HOT Faith. Anyone who wants to check out this

ministry is welcome to come Thursday nights at 8:45.



PHOTO BY JADEYN SJAARDA
Students discuss the Fruits of the Spirit during HOT faith session.

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HOT TAKES

WHAT CONSTITUTES HALF-NAKED? BE GENDER SPECIFIC.

“You are half naked if you don’t have socks on!”

“Girl: bra & undies
Guy: no shirt but AT LEAST boxers (briefs/whitey tighties = >1/2)”

RED. YELLOW. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

“Raider Red of course!”

“Yellow, because it is not so much scream in your face that red is.”

“Yellow is the color of cowards and Defenders. And I don’t know which is worse.”

“Red because we are the red riders”

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!

King Harry and Queen Megan of the U.S.



Aimee Hulstein
Biology Health Professions

The recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II has got me thinking. For taxpayers to fund the royal family, there must be some benefit to the countries and common people. So, is it possible that those benefits would also translate to the United States if we were to have a Monarchy alongside our president?

Before I go into my reasons, I am going to add some credibility to my opinion. I like to consider myself an avid fan of the royal family (Yes, more than just having watched the Netflix show The Crown). I was also able to spend some time this summer in London during the Queen’s platinum Jubilee celebrating alongside the people of Great Britain.

Growing up in the Midwest, I understand how much we value our patriotism and #Merica. Yet, in the

past ten years, we have seen increasing division and tension between political parties and Americans overall. Similarly, Great Britain has divisions between its Conservatives and Labour parties. Like America, their parliament and prime minister are voted on by citizens older than 18. Which has also created recent division among their citizens.

However, what they have overarching all of it is a central monarch. The royal family serves as a figurehead for the nation. Politically they are neutral because they are also the head of the church. This means they are the literal bridge between church and state by having regular meetings with both the prime minister as well as appointing different leadership positions within the church. Someone who publicly represents the nation beyond the political party in office. So, no matter whether you think there needs to be more or less separation of church and state. Both viewpoints should recognize that a bridge would be helpful, no matter the extent of it.

Now stick with me and imagine what it would look like to start a monarchy. The most obvious question is who would get to be the king or queen. I don’t think as a nation we can just vote

on, because then that would create another thing for us to be divided on. I think the most obvious choice would be Prince Harry and Megan Markel since they are living in the United States already. They would be able to bring in the tradition of the British monarchy while being able to focus on and address issues pertinent to Americans. Both Harry and Megan have spoken out against injustices concerning the British monarch and Megan’s mixed-race heritage, which I think is another reason they would help the new monarchy achieve a positive impact in both our country and around the world. A final addition I would suggest is that whoever is the reigning monarch, both the king and queen would be equal in rank and status to promote balanced leadership in America.

All in all, I understand that the possibility of a new monarchy is unlikely. However, I hope the idea of it helps people recognize the bigger picture of our divisions and the importance of finding shared goals and values that go above politics.

Everyone Need a Space Guy



Gideon Fynaardt
Ecological Sciences

On Sept. 13, Julie Elliot lead an NGAGE panel of ‘unexpected friendships’ to highlight the importance of building relationships across societal and cultural divides. My friend Harold Heie and I were invited to participate and speak on behalf of those whose friendship transcends age: There’s a 66-year gap between us; Harold was retirement age before I was born.

Harold and I have shared a church for my entire life, but our initial connection was established as a high school sophomore when I delivered a children’s sermon that Harold remembers impressing him. When the COVID-19 lockdown hit and sent our congregation into strictly virtual communication, our pastors designed a pen-pal program among members of the church to mitigate the detrimental effects of isolation. So moved by what he remembered of me as a sophomore (it had been two years

since), Harold accepted our pastors’ offer on the condition they partner him with me. It’s now been another two years since we began emailing back and forth. I’m gracious for the COVID vaccine and other measures that have allowed us to meet in person for the past several months, as we can both attest that building a friendship virtually pales in comparison to being face-to-face. I look forward to our futures. I’m infinitely grateful for the things Harold has taught me so far, and excited for all the many things we have yet to cover.

Harold was born in Brooklyn in 1936 and lived in the Bay Ridge area for much of his childhood. After college he began working for NASA designing heat-protective shielding for re-entry. As was true of many young mathematicians and physicists in the 1960s, his work helped us reach the moon and return. To a receptive NGAGE audience, this earned him the unofficial and endearing title “Space Guy”. Now if you were to ask Harold, he would de-emphasize the importance of that work in his youth, perhaps even criticize the space-race era’s obsession with the technological imperative (or, the motivation to do something for the simple reason that we can). Rather, he would remind you to constantly ask ‘why?’ and let the answer drive you closer to a fulfilling

and thoughtful life.

In the years since his retirement, Harold has committed himself to promoting respectful conversations among those at odds. He has focused his efforts on dissent within the Church or political arenas and his work is a hopeful testament to us living in a world so often called ‘divided’. Much of his work can be viewed on his website, “respectfulconversation.net,” and from there he can also be contacted if anyone is curious or brave enough to reach out. Together we’re working on a project that will hopefully involve the participation of Northwestern College students, but lest anything change in the blueprints before it goes public I’ll refrain from saying too much.

All of the above is the kind of wisdom and guidance to be gained from a friend unlike any other. That’s why I think everyone needs a Space Guy; someone different and alien to your own type who can look at you from an angle you cannot even see yourself from and talk to you honestly about what kind of beauty and significance you are capable of. So, get yourself a Space Guy!

As Harold often says to conclude his sometimes-wordy emails: Well now I’m just preaching.

All the best,
Gideon

Editor’s Note

The opinions published both in print and online are the opinions of the authors only. Beacon staff members do not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this section. Research and editing (other than formatting) of articles is the responsibility of the authors rather than the editors.

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NW Student of Tennis: Ainslie Robinson

WOMEN'S TENNIS PROGRAM RISING

EMMA WILSON
MATHEMATICS

"All for the glory of God" is a common phrase to find among athletes when things are going right, but how many do you see living this out when things go wrong? For women's tennis player Ainslie Robinson, this phrase is who she is. It is what drives her on the court and how she shapes her game.

"I never want someone to know whether I won or lost when I come off the court," said Robinson.

She uses the simple things to show others her love for Christ and His kingdom. Whether that be

looking her opponent in the eye when she shakes their hand at the end of a match or having a servant heart through matches and practice, she puts her mind to do whatever she can to point back to God. According to her teammates, once Ainslie sets her mind to something, nothing is going to stop her.

While faith is the biggest thing that shapes who Ainslie is, family comes in a close second. She has three older siblings who have been playing tennis as long as she can remember. "[Tennis] became a family thing," she says. "My parents always joked that they had four kids so we could play doubles."

Over the years, Ainslie's parents and siblings have

always pushed her to be her best. Even when she did not reach where she wanted to be, they were there to support and stabilize her again so she could keep pushing forward. Through tennis, choosing a college, and faith, Ainslie's family has always been there to help her make the best possible decision.

Robinson's team also shapes her life. When asked about her goals for her tennis career, Ainslie responded, "I want to help build the Northwestern tennis program and build a foundation for future players." While she hopes to improve personally, she is clearly focused on the future of the program rather than just her four years in college.

Even at the GPAC tournament, where she picked up three wins on the weekend (two in singles and one in doubles), all she focused on was the environment and the team.

"There's lots of energy, even though you're running on six hours of sleep. It reminds you why you're there: because you love tennis and being next to the team."

She loved getting to know her teammates better during the time spent in Lincoln at the tournament and watching them be competitive. Whether on the court or the sidelines cheering her team on, to Ainslie, tennis is about bringing up the team and bringing the glory to God.



Photo by Allison Haverdink
Ainslie points teammates to glorifying God through tennis.

NW Red Raiders Suffocate Jamestown Jimmies

FOOTBALL DOMINATES EARLY SEASON

JANAYA BATTLES
EXERCISE SCIENCE

On September 17, Northwestern football proved the adage that defense wins games. The Red Raiders dominated the Jamestown Jimmies scoring 48 points over their meager three. The Raiders' defense made it quite difficult for Jamestown to make a play. The Raiders almost picked off two passes and allowed the Jimmies to have a gain of six yards on six plays in the first quarter.

On the other side, NW earned 141 yards and nine first downs within the first quarter.

NW's Logan Meyer set up the first touchdown of the game after breaking through the Jamestown defense and running 19 yards. Blake Fryar and Michael Storey were able to finish the play with Fryar throwing

a six-yard touchdown pass to Storey. NW did not quit. After Cody Moser forced the first turnover of the game inside the Jamestown 20-yard line, Jaden Snyder recovered the ball, and Fryar found Storey.

As the half came to a close, NW ran a fake field goal play with Fryar finding his younger brother Parker for their first-ever brother-to-brother touchdown. NW led 27-3 going into halftime.

The second half was a similar story to the first half. Tristan Mulder ran a pick-six back for 38 yards which triggered the scoring of the second half, and the Red Raiders were able to add 21 more points to the Jimmies' three.

For players like Blake Fryar and Logan Meyer, this was a monumental game, as Meyer tied his career high of 131-yards on 15 carries and Fryar had a career-high of five touchdown passes, becoming the 12th Raider to reach this fleet, and puts him at a tie for third in program history.

When asked how he felt about

the game and his career high of touchdowns, Fryar replied, "We had great energy which was awesome to see after a long road trip. A career-high of touchdowns for me is just a result of being surrounded by great teammates."

Another monument of this game is that for the sixth straight game in a row Red Raiders have been able to keep Jamestown to tallying a score of fewer than 17 points.

Road games can be challenging to win, as the other team has the home-field advantage. However, when teams "bring the energy" and dominate in all aspects of the game, the result is not so far-fetched.

"This was an all-around team effort versus Jamestown," Fryar replied. Defense is not the only ingredient to win games— an all-around team effort often does the trick.



Courtesy of NW MarComm
Football crushes the Jamestown Jimmies in North Dakota.

Kaelin Alons on The Real Goal in Women's Soccer

ORIGINS OF A PASTIME

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Senior Kaelin Alons believes teamwork and community is the core of soccer.

"People come together to accomplish a goal. Personally, it helps me through my daily life challenges every day... it combines everything important in my life," Alons said.

Some people find their comfort and joy through soccer, but why are people so attracted to playing and watching it?

Women's soccer was founded toward the

end of the 1880's in the United Kingdom. Soccer was gaining great traction among these women much to male disappointment. Soccer was an extremely violent sport, so violent that many people— both men and women— were concerned with women becoming a part of such a "manly" sport.

In 1881, Helen Graham Matthews sparked the creation of one of the first female teams. She found that the topic of women playing soccer was often so controversial that her teammates were forced to hide behind fake names to avoid any sort of backlash from citizens

of the community.

Their first match attracted such a large crowd (in the thousands), but as soon as disapproving people came on the field, their match ended. Unfortunately, the team never recovered from the incident, but much can be said about the women's courage to play a sport that many people disapproved of.

Several women of the nation caught sight of Matthew and her team's perseverance, which led to a large spark in women's soccer teams everywhere.

There were women playing soccer both in

the UK and the US, though this time would be cut short. In 1921, the Football Association of England banned women from playing the game, saying that it "should not be encouraged" and that it is "unsuitable for women." After 50 years, the ban was lifted and women were allowed to play again.

Since then, women's soccer has grown exponentially— 29 million women and girls nationwide are involved in competitive or recreational soccer.

Alons echoes these statistics, mentioning how it takes both competitiveness and



Courtesy of NW MarComm
NW women's soccer team bond through competition.

community to be involved in sports and how mental toughness cannot truly be defined in women's soccer.

"It's like getting back up after you fall, you never really lose, you

win, because you are learning in the process," she explained.

The first women who played the sport showed great courage and mental toughness through their journey, and these

attributes have been carried through most modern female soccer players.

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A weekend of rest and rejuvenation

NW STUDENTS GO TO LAKE OKOBOJI

MADDIE LOATS
THEATRE

A group of 51 Northwestern students and faculty left on Sept. 23 for the campus-wide retreat at Lakeshore Center in Okoboji, Iowa. This experience was organized by the prayer and event coordinators Abigail Blok and Emily Berggren, with the help of the director of discipleship, Kristin Brouwer.

“Working with Kristin, Emily and I were able to share what we had in mind for the retreat and the hopes that we had for the students and faculty that came,” said Blok. “This year our vision was to fully engage students in a time of rest, community, and worship.” The team sought to bring this vision to life through the schedule and theme for the weekend.

This year’s theme for the retreat was ‘multiply.’ Students were taught how they can grow, or multiply, in faith while making disciples. “Something I am taking away from this weekend is my ability

to multiply God’s disciples in every circle I am a part of. I have the ability to grow God’s kingdom through his children by intentional and intimate relationships with those around me,” said sophomore Abbie Mellgren.

The weekend began with NW vehicles leaving campus at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and arriving at the camp site at 8:30 p.m. Everyone then settled into their cabins before starting the first session with Erick Whigham, 2006 alumni of NW and co-lead pastor at Citylight Council Bluffs Church. Each session included a time of worship and teaching from Whigham. Students and faculty would then break out into small groups to discuss what stuck out to them the most from the lesson.

Saturday, the group’s only full day at Okoboji, began with a lesson in the morning from Whigham. Then, students split off again into small groups. Afterwards, everyone was encouraged to take time to spend in solitude.

Over the course of the weekend, students experienced God working in their hearts. “I



PHOTO BY EMILY BERGGREN
Students and staff spent time worshipping, bonding and enjoying the outdoors on the all-campus retreat.

want to say I kind of saw God the whole time,” said senior Karson Gieseke, “I felt like by the time we started worship the very first session, I could feel God’s presence.”

On the ride back to NW, students mentioned how if they could describe this weekend in a picture, it would be of the lake scenery or the feeling of everyone

worshipping together. Students came back to campus midafternoon Sunday feeling rested, refreshed and renewed. Mellgren said she was “feeling mentally rested and joyful.”

Students and faculty seemed to enjoy their time on the retreat and feel more prepared to take on the rest of this semester. From the deep, heart-to-heart conversations

at the table to laughing around the bonfire, the campus retreat allowed students the space and time to grow deeper in relationship with others and with God.

Candidates delight in dessert and conversation

DEMOCRATS VISIT CAMPUS

EMMA GEARY
HISTORY

On Friday, Sept. 23, Northwest Iowa voters had the opportunity to hear from six of the candidates running as Democrats in the upcoming general election in November. This event was free and open to the public. The program included Michael Franken, the Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, and Ryan Melton, who is running for Iowa’s 4th Congressional District. Other candidates present who are running for state office included Eric Van Lancker, lieutenant governor; (incumbent) Rob Sand, state auditor; Joel Miller, secretary of state; and John Norwood, secretary of agriculture. The Northwest Iowa Candidate Dessert Social was sponsored by Northwestern’s Campus

Democrats, Sioux County Democrats and the Democratic parties of Plymouth, Osceola and Lyon counties.

The event began with greetings from all the leaders of the sponsoring organizations. Then the floor turned over to the candidates who each took an opportunity to explain their views and why they would be the best candidate for office. The topics discussed throughout these speeches consisted of the political environment in America, public education, absentee ballots and the government’s role in regulating private corporations’ actions. Michael Franken and Ryan Melton, who are running for federal offices, addressed the Republican candidates opposing them in the election: Chuck Grassley and Randy Feenstra, respectively. Some NW students were then allotted time to ask their questions which

addressed issues like term limits, neurodiversity, religious liberty and women’s health care. The students who asked the questions felt compelled to ask about these topics because of recent events or conversations and their passion for public policy.

Junior Jessica Nibbelink took the stand to ask about a topic she cares deeply about: women’s health care. Nibbelink wants to elevate women’s voices so their experiences can be used to promote political change. “It was a great opportunity to have a conversation with these political figures, especially Mike Franken who grew up in Sioux Center like myself,” Nibbelink said. While she was grateful for the opportunity, she remarked that the candidates’ responses did not meet her expectations. “I was a little dissatisfied with how my question was answered by the candidates,” Nibbelink

said, “I felt they were more focused on the fact that I was asking a question, as a young person and as the future of politics, than the question itself.” This also rang true for the other NW students who participated.

After the Q&A portion, the night turned into a social hour with delicious treats. The candidates were present during this time and mingled with

those in attendance. This gave many people the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with the candidates and allowed the candidates to make connections with their potential constituents.

The Northwest Iowa Candidate Dessert Social gave an opportunity for anyone to enter a productive conversation about politics and

become more aware of the candidates and their beliefs. All the candidates asserted their love for Iowa and their hope that being elected would drive Iowa towards a better future.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM MINNICK
Four NWC students asked questions of Democratic candidates at candidate dessert social hosted on campus.