

Northwestern College, Iowa

**NWCommons**

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Beacon Staff

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# Unsung Heroes: Sherri Langton

LEARNING COMMONS  
JACK OF ALL TRADES

**COLLIN VERSCHOOR**  
ENGLISH TEACHING

You may have gotten an email recently about shamrock shakes in the learning commons, or maybe you have gotten similar emails in the past. If you take notice of the sender, you will see that they are from none other than Sherri Langton.

Langton is a long-time staff member here at Northwestern, serving 22 years. Langton was raised and grew up in Sioux Center, Iowa right down the road. After graduating high school, Langton decided to attend NW as a student, and she saw something special in NW, something that has kept her here for over two decades.

Langton holds the title of library cataloger and library systems specialist. Without her, the Learning Commons (LC)

would have trouble keeping track of information necessary for the smooth running of the LC and its programs. Langton was eager to share about her job and what it entails.

"The main portion of my job is Library Systems Specialist, which means that I am responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting our integrated library system (ILS)," Langton said. "An ILS helps libraries keep track of everything: check outs, budgets/purchasing, databases, licensing, etc."

However, Langton is a jack of all trades and is responsible for many aspects of how the LC works both for NW and for other college library databases. "I also do some original cataloging where I create a data record describing a book or other material," Langton included "This record is added to WorldCat (a global online catalog of library materials) and allows our patrons, as well



PHOTO BY PRATIK PAUDEL

Sherri Langton shares 22 years of her life serving the student body of NW in the DeWitt Learning Commons.

as other libraries, to see what we have in our collections. WorldCat is used by libraries worldwide for the purpose of sharing records and also sharing

materials through interlibrary loan."

Langton briefly touched on a third responsibility that she undertakes for the LC. "Finally, I

am part of the Library Marketing Team. We create designs and post regularly to our social media channels and the campus TV displays," Langton said.

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# Women's History Month at NW

IT'S THE LADIES TURN  
TO SHINE BRIGHT

**KAYLEE BANDSTRA**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The achievements of women are no small feat, and the month of March is declared Women's History Month to celebrate the varying achievements of past and present women.

Women's History Month was originally declared Women's History Week by former president Jimmy Carter in 1982. In a declaration, Carter stated, "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned for the national week to become a national month, and then-president Jimmy Carter signed the national week turned month into play. "Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as 'Women's History Month,'" according to the Women's History Month Government site. "These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields." This year's Women History Month's theme is "Celebrating Women who tell our stories," which celebrates the women of radio, television, social media and other communication forums.

Women's History Month celebrates a multitude of women and their personalities. Suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who are often



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT

Women in Leadership club hosts a women's book night event sharing some of their favorite women authors.

mentioned throughout the course of the month. Women who have made achievements in various sciences are celebrated. Sally Ride was the first

woman in space. Amelia Earhart was the first female pilot and the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. Women of the arts are celebrated,

and Aretha Franklin is often used as an example during Women's History Month.


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## Paramore makes triumphant return

HIGH-PACED AND HEARTFELT

COLLIN VERSCHOOR  
ENGLISH TEACHING

With the release of their new album “This is Why” in mid-February, Paramore ended their four-year hiatus from music. The new album is around 36 minutes long and consists of 10 songs, three of these 10, however, were released prior to the album as singles.

“This is Why” is clearly a Paramore album with many of the songs having the same style and feeling as prior songs released by the band. When looking at their last release “After Laughter,” the newest album is more of a punk, emo and rock album, rather than pop-punk or pop-rock that can be found in most of their discography.

With heavier reliance on drums, profound lyrics and emotion in the vocals, the album reveals the connections between songs and a clear tone that allows for a very cohesive album. The flow of the entire album is important considering how short listening time it has, and the band did an outstanding job

at using every single second. Paramore did an excellent job of keeping the audience engaged and making it easy to listen to the album straight through, rather than focusing on one song.

The first song on the album shares the same name, “This is Why.” When first listening to the song, the intro is interesting to say the least, with no vocals entering in until 30 seconds have gone by. The opening drums, electric guitar and bass are reminiscent of psychedelic rock in the electronic and altered sounds. When the vocals start from lead singer Hayley Williams, she starts off in a softer tone and takes her time with a slow and soothing voice. When the chorus starts, however, we see the nature of rock that Paramore is used to. Williams’s voice raises, and she puts much needed emotion into as the instruments pick up the pace and volume.

“Running Out Of Time,” appears just one song after “This is Why” and has a remarkably similar feel to the latter. The track starts with Williams singing in a monotone manner as the instruments stay simple and quiet. As the track progresses, so do Williams

and her bandmates. The buildup that Paramore shows in this song, as well as many of their others, is an aspect of the album that really stuck out to me. I enjoy that the songs do not try to start super big and loud, but rather, they find value in getting the listener’s attention and then bringing up the energy.

If you listen to the album passively, without looking at song titles or lyrics, the fourth song “C’est Comme Ça” can easily pass you by. When first listening, I thought Williams had adopted a British accent and was repeating the phrase “Say good sir.” However, after looking into the song I was able to recognize that she was saying “C’est comme ça” which is French for “It is what it is.” The song is easy and fun to sing along with due to the repetition of the title phrase, and like many of the songs on the album, it can hold a deeper meaning when looking at Williams’s personal life. The song is an examination into Williams’s mental health, and if it is worth taking the “dull or quite path” to mental health healing or continue in her “thrilling and chaotic life” and reap the consequences later.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMORE.NET

The album is easy to sit down and listen to while driving or doing homework, but it can just as easily be a song to scream and dance to depending on what mood you are in. After several times listening through, I have no hesitation in saying that Paramore’s

return to the music world is a triumphant one. Williams and her bandmates do an excellent job at finding the balance between their tracks being loud high-paced rock anthems and slow heartfelt lyrical ballads. If you used to be a fan a Paramore, are currently

a fan of them or even if you have never heard of them, I would highly recommend checking out “This Is Why.”

★★★★

## “Cocaine Bear” movie laced with let-downs

MOVIE REVIEW

BLOOD, DRUGS AND FURRY FURY

HOPE WALLACE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Producer and professional actress Elizabeth Banks had the inspiration to tell the story of how a 500-pound black bear went on a drug-fueled rampage. This inspiration soon became a motion picture that had fans and critics taken aback when in March of 2021, Universal Studios announced that the movie “Cocaine Bear” was under development.

This movie is based on true events, and it takes place in Newnan, Georgia, at Chattahoochee Bend State Park. One of the lead female roles, Park Ranger Liz, played by Margo Martindale, is managing the ranger’s station when the action starts to unfold. This dense forested area in Northern Georgia happened to be the location where an entire shipment of cocaine, contained inside duffel bags, was dropped. This was done by drug smuggler Andrew C. Thornton, who was

an active drug smuggler all his life until his death of narcotic-overdosage in September of 1985. A female black bear, who soon became known as the “Cocaine Bear”, found the cocaine and accidentally inhaled it. After her first time inhaling this deadly white powder, the bear kept coming back to the substance, therefore becoming more aggressive in her actions as the movie progressed.

The first victims of the Cocaine Bear were two hikers, Elsa and Olaf. While Olaf was able to escape, he was unable to rescue his girlfriend, Elsa, who was being mauled into pieces by the intoxicated beast right in front of him. This is the first time in the movie where there was a lot of blood and gore depicted. In this instance, along with many others throughout the movie, the directors and producers made the decision to show the limbs of the characters being ripped off. This is something for potential viewers to keep in mind before watching this movie, especially for younger viewers as it is rated R for its violence and mature

language.

As previously mentioned, this movie takes place in a state park in Georgia. Although it was entirely filmed in Dublin, Ireland, the scenic pictures still represent that of a state park. Along with the visuals that come with the scene is the costuming. Because “Cocaine Bear” is based on true events, the hair, makeup and costume designers thought it to be essential to accurately portray the characters according to the time period in which it was set. When I saw this movie, it was easy for me to tell, based off these three things, that it took place in the mid- 1980s.

There were a couple of people who stood out to me with their hair and costumes. The first is Sari, a distressed mom who is looking for her daughter in the woods, played by Kari Russell. Russell wore a pink jumpsuit and had her hair teased. The second character is drug smuggler Dentwood, played by the late Ray Liotta, whom the film was soon later dedicated to. Liotta, playing the protagonist, was wearing a brown leather jacket, a chain

around his neck and his hair was slicked back into a mullet. These were all good choices to make in order to accurately portray the ‘80s.

Although there were many good decisions made by those in charge of this production, the plot itself seemed to be a little boring. Many of the scenes were essentially the same thing. Someone would either die or get seriously injured when they accidentally encountered the bear while at the state park. Then someone would try to come find them and would fall into the same trap. The thrilling aspect of watching the bear go crazy and chase people became all too repetitive after a while. For viewers who are not disturbed by lots of blood, mature language and the usage of narcotics, this might just be the movie for you. For those more weary of heart, perhaps it’s better to stick to the Disney movies.

★★★



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE

## Spreading the gospel through theatre

SCRIPTURE  
BROUGHT TO LIFE

MARISSA LERAAS  
THEATRE

As many students already know, Northwestern is frequently booming with opportunities. Regardless of major, department or interests, there is something for everyone to be involved in. This lengthy list of possibilities is home to one of the theatre department's most beloved groups - Drama Ministries Ensemble. Currently, this group of students is being directed by Molly Wiebe Faber and consists of six students, all varying in majors. Together, this band of actors craft shows using verbatim scripture and perform in schools and churches within the area as well as some travelling gigs.

A semester with DME is marked with Black Box theatre shenanigans, piling in the 15-passenger van and sharing the gospel with all ages. Freshman theatre major Jessica Schulmeister notes that her

favorite part of DME has been "the development of a Christ-centered ensemble." To most of the members, it truly feels like another family.

Presently, DME is preparing a full-length production, titled "The Passion." This play follows the life of Jesus, beginning with His baptism and ending with His crucifixion. All DME students would agree that this show is something different in many ways. For one, the dialogue is unique, following more of a Shakespearean style rather than modern text. Additionally, as this play is ordinarily produced with a cast of nearly 30, director Wiebe Faber had to get quite creative with the casting. Consequently, each student portrays upwards of four characters throughout the course of the play.

Regardless of challenges this group has faced with "The Passion," they are all thrilled to watch it take the stage. Freshman public relations major Hope Wallace is particularly a fan of the scenes in which she portrays Jesus, saying, "My favorite is the

role of Jesus in the last supper scene because He's just chopping it up with His disciples and I think it's a fun way to portray Jesus's humanness." This is exactly the heart of what DME is getting at - a way to interpret Jesus and His life visually. Wallace said it well, "My hope is that it will reach the people who might not otherwise get the chance to hear the gospel."

Sophomore public relations major Kaylee Bandstra shares the same love for the message of "The Passion," but takes a different perspective on who her favored character is. "My favorite character to portray is Mother Mary," Bandstra said. "It is intriguing to portray all the different emotions that the real Mary could have been feeling during Jesus's crucifixion."

For DME members, one of the most gratifying outcomes of participating in these plays is gaining a different perspective on the characters that most of us have known all our lives. There is something beautiful in these people that some would argue can only be attained

by attempting to step in their shoes. Junior theatre major Talea Errington said something similar, "Doing 'The Passion' has been a neat experience, especially getting to play Jesus. Developing that character specifically has helped me grow in my walk with God as I learn a little bit more about the depths of His love for us."

At its core, DME is a group passionate about Jesus, theatre, and spreading the gospel through performing arts with minimalistic costumes and set and the belief that Jesus is the mouthpiece of everything that they do. "The Passion" is one of the ensembles more somber productions, but there are still specks of humor and lighthearted interactions on stage. Overall, audiences may be entertained but will most definitely see Jesus. DME's next performance of "The Passion" will be on March 19 in the Black Box Theatre at 2 p.m.

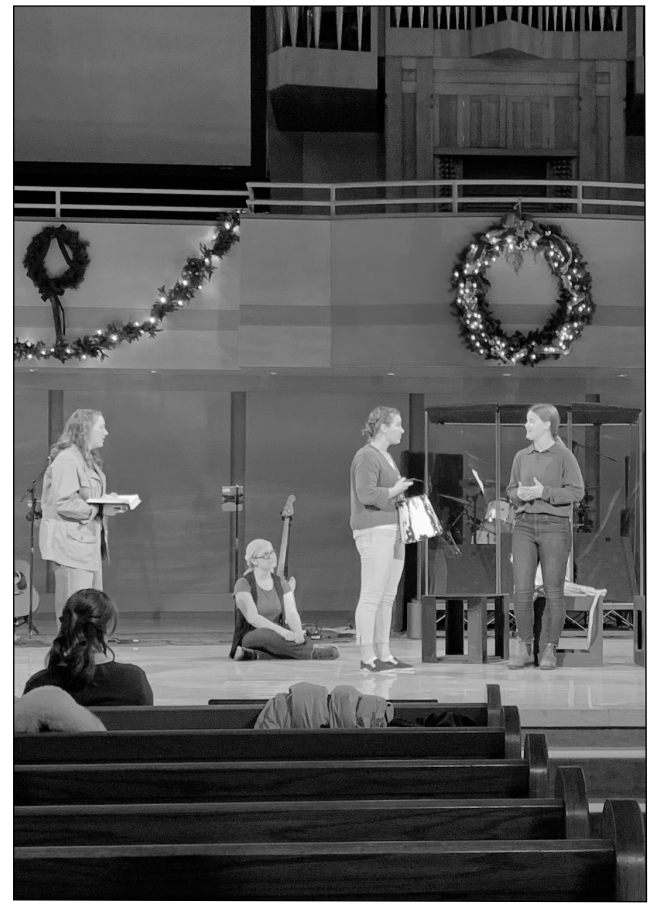


PHOTO BY NICHOLE HANSEN  
DME members share their performance during chapel.

## NW concert band shares gift of music on tour

SPIRITUAL AND MUSICAL  
GROWTH

KRISTA GLEASON  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Over spring break, many Northwestern students left small-town Iowa to serve, form friendships and relax. The NW band had a unique opportunity to do all these things in a single band tour in addition to, of course, making music. As classes ended, the band packed up and set out for a nine-day road trip that would take them to Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and Nebraska. They left on March 4 at 5 a.m., travelled for 11 hours and performed that same evening. This was only the beginning of an experience that many saw as both exhausting and transformative. Numerous late nights, early mornings, long drives and constant hard work meant a lack of sleep for many of the band members.

Sarah Sundet said, "though we didn't always get enough sleep, everyone still had a great attitude about the whole trip and we had a really fun time."

Even the early mornings were the perfect soil for spiritual growth - as evident by an early morning sunrise hike memory. Elena Lee said, "It was a way to reset and remember why we were on the tour in the first place: to create beauty and music, to use the gifts he has given us to worship him and represent his kingdom."

Representing the kingdom of Christ took many forms during the band's journey such as serving at schools in different communities. "The opportunities to connect and interact with younger musicians and show compassion to everyone we came in contact with was a true blessing," Nathan Jensen said.

In addition to serving at schools, the band spent

some time performing in nursing homes. One of the residents told the band that witnessing the NW band perform for the Lord restored his faith in younger generations.

Band members felt their own faith being transformed through these experiences as well. Lydia Zink said, "It opened my eyes to see how God led me and my friends to share this gift of music we were all drawn to in the course of our lives." "This trip was a personal reconnection with God," Jensen said, "Seeing him work throughout band to reach people was amazing."

The spiritual growth the band was experiencing was accompanied by artistic growth as musicians. "This trip made me a better musician because it allowed me to have a small glimpse into what it is like to be a professional musician on tour... we had to adapt to our environment so that our music sounded good," Shayler Van Gelder said.

The success of the tour was obvious in the reactions of their audiences. In a small Christian school outside the homes of the Zuni Tribe, a community member stood up and began to dance with Dr. Holt. Later in the tour, Dr. Holt gave someone in the crowd the chance to conduct the last piece of the performance, a piece composed by Karl King. The audience member who conducted had played under the direction of King when she was younger. "She started to cry while conducting us and this was such a surreal moment and something I will never forget," Van Gelder said.

Despite the struggles of sickness, lack of sleep, and other tribulations, the band members will walk away with memories of using their gifts and time to spread the gospel. "All the moments of uncertainty did not stop us from sharing the gospel with others and spreading God's love and NW's compassion to all we came in contact with," Jensen said.



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT  
Band members performed nearly every day of the eight-day tour.



## NW students have an opportunity to learn Latin

### INCOMING LANGUAGE CLASS

**NICHOLE HANSEN**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Here at Northwestern, students have lots of opportunities to learn new topics and grow in their interests. One of these interests' students have shown they appreciate is the ability to learn new languages. Within the fall semester of 2023, students will have the opportunity to learn Latin through the Latin 101 and Latin 102 courses provided by the history department's own Dr. Robert Winn.

Winn has been teaching ancient and medieval history here at NWC for 19 years now. Because of his degree, which specializes in Late Antiquity and early Christianity, he frequently works with Latin language. "I really enjoy ancient languages," expressed Winn. "So, I find it fun to be able to introduce students to Latin."

In the early days of NW's existence, Latin was an offered course that students could take. It was required for students to take the class as a part of the Christian curriculum. Since then, it has been removed, but it has come back. Winn expressed that he is excited to teach it again, as he has taught

the course six other times.

Winn has also openly expressed that every major is welcome to take the course. He believes that it is an important cultural experience that each student should get to experience if they so choose. In the past, he has had students of all kinds take the course. From biology majors to theatre majors, each one sought importance in the course.

The class will focus mainly on classical Latin, which he expressed is the "language of the ancient Romans." However, in Latin 102, students will have the opportunity to read in medieval Latin. Students in these courses will even get a chance to read from the Biblia Sacra Vulgata, which was a translated version of the Bible in ancient times.

For most students, the two classes combined will count toward their language credits. Although this is true, some students may be able to skip over Latin 101, but only if they have a good background in Latin already. Both courses will still be offered this upcoming fall for anyone who is interested, even if it does not apply to their major.

Dr. Winn has frequently been asked whether Latin is a difficult language to pick up. "In most cases of students dropping out, it is a matter of trying to



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT  
Dr. Robert Winn will teach students Latin in the upcoming semesters.

balance a busy schedule on top of scheduling time to practice Latin in order to succeed," said Winn. He expressed that at some point during the semester, Latin eventually clicks with his students, and they do well in the class, even though it takes time

and work to succeed. Though it sounds like a lot of work, Winn works hard to create a fun environment for his students. At some points during the class, students will take a look at what Latin looks like in the modern world, in which they view spells

that wizards cast in the famous Harry Potter series.

Overall, students and staff are anxiously awaiting the course's arrival on campus. It has proven to provide the campus with a new experience other campuses may not have.

Winn is excited to start the program back up and hopes to see you in class soon.

## Langton embraces community in her role at NW

FROM PAGE 1

Langton urges students to follow the LC on social media. "If you are not following us, you should," Langton said. The Instagram handle is @nwciovalibrary. "We provide important info about the library, as well as advertise fun events, activities and giveaways."

Langton has helped put together several events, designs and information displays for the LC. These include afternoons in which drinks or snacks are served in the LC, coloring sheets that are put out during finals weeks and different highlighted pieces of books or studies displayed in the LC.

Even though campus has changed in many large and small ways since Langton was a student, she still holds a deep love for NW and the LC. She finds joy and fulfillment through her job, that allows her to be creative when planning events or activities and helpful to her LC coworkers as they navigate through the integrated library system.

If you need help in the LC, do not be afraid to ask. "Many people view librarians and library staff as always serious and slightly intimidating, but that does not describe the DeWitt Library staff,"

Langton said. "We are here to help patrons find what they need, and we LOVE to help! While we are serious about doing our jobs well, we also enjoy having fun with students at the various events we host."

So, whether you spend every free moment in the LC doing homework or stop by every so often, remember to be thankful for the amazing and important work that Langton has put into numerous parts of the LC. Just remember if you ever need help, Langton and all LC staff members are more than eager to help you in any way they can. To stay up to date on different LC events, make sure to follow "@nwciovalibrary" on social media and check your emails.

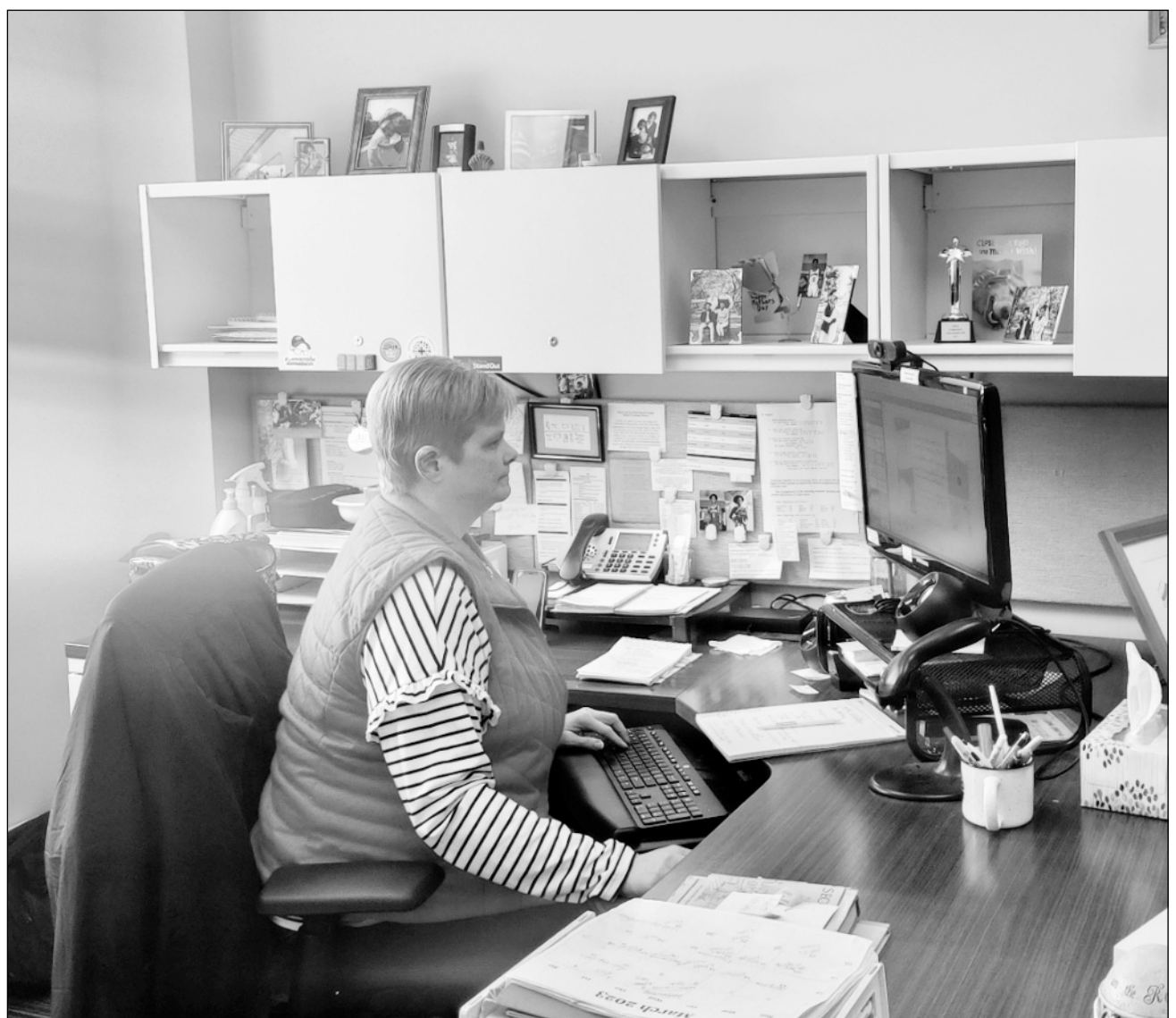


PHOTO BY PRATIK PATEL  
Sherri Langton performs tasks around the LC such as adding information to databases and contributing to various activities.

## Whodunnit comes to Fern for a second year

### MYSTERY IN THE DORMS

#### ELENA LEE HISTORY

The first week back on campus after spring break: the sun is shining; students are recounting stories of Spring Service Partnerships and there are no exams or essays for at least two days. Life is good. A little too good. Never fear, because Fern Smith Hall is here to shake up the post-spring break bliss with a good old fashioned whodunnit. On March 18 at 8 p.m., all of campus is invited to participate in a dorm mystery where they can put together clues, solve puzzles and guess which of their beloved campus figures could have committed the crime.

Fern Fallout made its debut last spring as Fern Smith Hall's campus dorm event, similar to Stegenga's event Steggy Keggy or Colenbrander's Coly Christmas. Students were invited and challenged to solve the mystery of Natalie Wheeler's mysterious death by collecting clues and interviewing residents, all while being

jump-scared by the women of the dorm. Moving through the halls in small groups, the attendees were shocked to find out at the end that a member of their own party had committed the crime.

The event, although it was the first of its kind, was a hit, not only for those who attended, but also for the Fern women involved. A lot of preparation was needed in order to pull off the event. Students decorated the exterior of the building with caution tape, put together short skits to help piece together the clues and even removed the lightbulbs from the ceilings in order to create the atmosphere of mystery. Last year, 2nd North resident Jessica Nibbelink said that it was good for wing bonding, and she explained that she "liked watching people's reactions and hanging out with my wing as the story unfolded." Like the other events, it offered the opportunity to showcase the creative ability and camaraderie of the members of the dorm, and this year promises to do the same.

Throughout the last month, Fern has been at work putting together the plot and preparing the details of this year's mystery. All of the Resident Assistants



PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT  
Caf greeter Kathy is captured! Fern Fallout will unveil the mystery.

in Fern contributed to the brainstorming process for the event, but Amelia Holt, Bailey Brown and Noelle Wamhoff wrote the majority of the plot. They are being intentionally secretive about the details of the event, but Holt did say that "it is a night of twists and turns."

This year promises to be bigger, better and more puzzling than the last. Beloved

Creative Dining member Kathy has been abducted, and it is up to the Northwestern student body to figure out who committed the crime. After the teaser trailer release, there has already been a buzz on campus about who could have the nerve to kidnap Kathy. Stegenga resident Anneka Sterk says that she is "really excited to save Kathy because she's an

integral part of campus, and the fact that she's been taken by someone means that vengeance and justice needs to be dealt." For all the criminal justice majors, Sherlock fans, amateur sleuths or anyone looking for something to do on a Saturday night, Fern Fallout is the place to be. Dust off your detective hats and bring your magnifying glass to the Caf lobby on

Saturday, March 18 at 8p.m. to put your puzzle skills to the test, hang out with friends and witness the creative and chaotic ability of Fern Smith Hall.

## Women's History Month

### FROM PAGE 1

Women in politics, whether a part of the Supreme Court, the US senate or served time as the First Lady are often looked up upon this month.

Women's History does not only celebrate individual women, but the collection of women as a whole. This month serves as a reminder of the misogynistic history women were under for a majority of history. NW college president Greg Christy sent out a campus-wide email when the month started, and gave interesting statistics about women.

White women were unable to vote until 1920. Women have the minority leadership roles in the corporate world. Many women recognize a pay gap between them and their male coworkers. Women make only 27% of Congress.

On March 2, the learning commons partnered with NW's Women in Leadership by providing selections of books written by women, for women. The genres varied from Women and Science, Memoirs from Remarkable Women, Women and Faith, Fiction by and about Women and Women in Leadership.

Even though the month is over

half-way done, there is a myriad of events that students can attend on campus to celebrate Women's History Month. "Hidden Figures," a movie that is based on three black female mathematicians at NASA during the Space Race, is having a showing on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Vogel Room. On March 28, La Mosaic is hosting a notable women trivia night at 8 p.m. in the Ramaker Fireside Room.

NW is exceptional at providing resources based on the prospective history month, and Women's History Month is no exception.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE  
Film features female mathematicians at NASA who face racism and sexism in the workplace.



Show your college ID for a discount on the buffet!

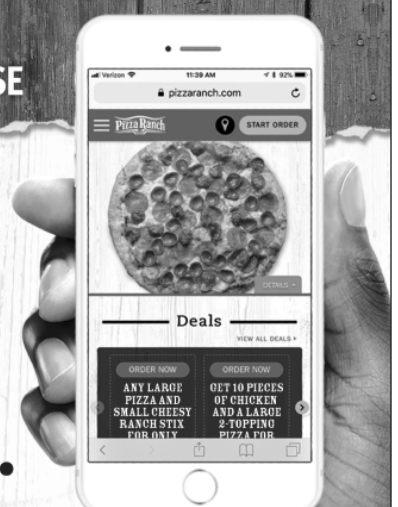
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## HOT TAKES

If you could change the name of NWC, what would you change it to?

“Tulip University”

“Orange City University”

“Kuyper College”

“Very Smart Christians University”

“Korver College”

“Rembrandt University”

“Nicean University”

If we were no longer Raiders, what should our mascot be?

“The Beacons”

“The Windmills”

“President Gregory E. Christy”

“The Newly Weds”

“Whatever Beau Risley decides is best”

“Tulips”

“Anything but Raiders”

“Overvaller (Dutch for Raider)”

“The Apostles”

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!

## Reverse Amish Rumspringa



**Rose Hoogers**  
Humanities

There's a thing or two we can learn from the Amish. For instance, growing beards to applaudable lengths or matching outfits with your friends. One Amish tradition that I think we non-Amish or “worldly” people could benefit from is the concept of Rumspringa. If you're unfamiliar with the term, Rumspringa is the Amish rite of passage where teens aged 16 to 18 are permitted to live without traditional Amish restrictions. The word literally translates to “running around” in Pennsylvania Dutch. Teens are encouraged to explore what's beyond the community and engage in worldly activities. During this period, Amish teens travel, wear everyday clothing, use modern technology and even drink and party with worldly people. The purpose behind these two years of freedom is to give the young people a chance to experience what's beyond their culture and to let them decide, on their own, if they

want to continue the Amish lifestyle. Those who return after two years are baptized and decide whether they want to become committed members of the church and community.

I propose the opposite for worldly youth. A reverse Rumspringa. Instead of “running around,” call it “standing still” or “Shtaya Schtill” in Pennsylvania Dutch. Think of it like a domestic foreign exchange program: sending teens to live and learn in Amish communities for a time. In the reverse way that Amish teens are allowed to go a bit wild, you would live under the restrictions of the community and adhere to their tenants of simplicity.

There are so many forgotten yet practical skills you would develop. First, you'd learn to cook - and cook quite well. If you've ever purchased anything from an Amish market, you know they swing big. Recipes have been passed down and perfected for generations. Living in that community, you'd be privy to that information. Imagine the sheer joy at every potluck when you strut in with your homemade Shoofly Pie. You're the belle of the ball, number one in everyone's hearts and stomachs.

Sewing, gardening and carpentry are necessary skills within the community that could prove to be fruitful hobbies upon leaving. For instance, your community theatre may be doing a production of “Little House on the Prairie” and is lacking

costumes. Good thing you've spent the last three months learning to sew bonnets and pairs of suspenders.

As many of us are aware, social media has a chokehold on a multitude of young people. Living in a community where you're shunned if you use social media would be a great incentive to put your phone down and experience a complete digital detox.

On top of potential mental health benefits, there would almost certainly be benefits to your physical health. First, having no phones, you'd probably have a better sleep schedule, waking up early in the morning to get started on the chores for the day. You'd work all day long doing tiring physical labor, either farming, working construction or hand-washing clothes for a family of ten. Imagine how jacked your arms would get from churning butter. To refuel, you'd be eating a pretty good diet as well: fresh fruits and vegetables picked straight from the garden along with whatever animal was last butchered, all washed down with milk from a cow that you probably know the name of.

Above all, I think that with the lack of modern technology and materialistic society, teens would learn what is truly important and have some positive values instilled in them such as a strong work ethic, commitment to faith and community and the virtue of simplicity.

## The Great Northwestern Rebrand



**Beau Risley**  
Physical Education

We all love Northwestern College - the one in Iowa, that is. The name “Northwestern” is a common name for various colleges and universities, making it not unique at all. If you live outside of Iowa or any “dutch pocket,” you would never think of “NW Iowa” as the real Northwestern.

This is why NW needs a rebrand. The average person thinks of NW as the university residing in Evanston, Illinois. There are many unique options our school could go by. The University of North-West Iowa, University of Orange City and Orange City College are just a few examples that anyone could quickly come up with off the top of their head.

Furthering the rebrand, a new logo and new mascot are also needed. Many of you have probably had the same

thoughts as I have had and wondered to yourself, “what even is a raider?” Well, thankfully, there are smart people out there that create definitions for words. Oxford Dictionary defines a raider as “a person who attacks an enemy in the enemy's territory; a marauder.” This is the first definition that appears when you search the word raider on the internet. Although this might not relate to the made-up definition that NW has created for the word raider, this is what most people think of when they hear the word. I do not believe ‘raider’ shows the Christian love that we are trying to make known at NW. It does not reflect any of our values well.

Orange City is a small town, but it has plenty of character and many opportunities to promote a creative rebrand. Orange City holds the headquarters of Pizza Ranch. Based on this, the mascot could potentially be the “Rancher” to show love and appreciation to Pizza Ranch. Diamond Vogel is a massive paint company that racks in billions of dollars a year, and it is located here in Orange City. Although the “Painters” do not sound very intimidating and may not make an exciting mascot, maybe another name would be more suitable and still connect well with Diamond Vogel.

A paint roller is something used to spread paint, and a “Roller” would be a better mascot that still shows appreciation and values Diamond Vogel. “The University of Orange City Rollers” doesn't have a bad ring to it. The school could even keep the same color scheme if it wanted!

This monumental rebranding to the “Rollers” would not only make the school more unique but would also be less controversial, reflecting our Christian values better. Moreover, the name shows love to a major business in the area. The mascot being a roller would allow for many more opportunities for unique and exciting logos (that don't include a flag). This is just one of the many examples of a rebrand that would benefit the school, increasing its popularity and preventing students from having to endlessly explain that we don't go to school in Illinois or the Twin Cities to everyone who is not Dutch. Furthermore, this would also give students a cool logo to walk around with on their clothing rather than a random R-shaped flag.

### Editor's Note

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## NW Cheer Team Ends on a High Note in GPAC

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES ABOUND

NICHOLE HANSEN  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Within the past few weeks, Northwestern's Cheer team has been busy making things happen out on the floor. For their preseason GPAC rating, the team came in 18th place, but after a wild season, their final scoring was in second.

Along with finishing second in the GPAC ratings, they also finished 22nd in the NAIA, which is higher than what the team had been expecting. In the preliminary rounds at GPAC, the team would come in first place and finish second in finals.

"The team was super energized," explained cheer member, Nathan Tornow "now we are more hungry than ever to get back on the mat."

Earlier on in the season, Coach Taylor Decker said, "We hope to finish within

the top-2 ranking at GPAC to give us the best chance at the NAIA Championships. It is safe to say that the team far surpassed their coaches expectations.

Though the team surely had good placements and scores, the team still has skills that could be improved on. Tornow spoke specifically on the team's expectations in the upcoming season. "We now know what we are fully capable of and should look to set our expectations even higher than before," Tornow said.

Within this past school year, the team was unsure of how they would do and how they would place, but after this last competition, they are looking to continue to push the bar higher.

Overall, the cheer team had an extremely successful season this year. Between their crazy schedules and extracurriculars, the members of the team came together in the end to make it to the top.

Cheer team members who made the NAIA scholar-athlete list includes Zoe Bruflat, Lauren Eidsness, Kate McEwen, Faith Olson, Jenna Smit, Hanna Stratton, Megan Van Kalsbeek and Sydney Zeutenhorst.

The dance team also saw success and racked up four scholar-athletes: Abby Bender, Nicole Coward, Sarah Moews and Sarah Weisbrod.

"My favorite part of this year was realizing just how great we can be," Tornow said. He expressed that, looking back, it made him excited to see how far the team could push the limit, and he is extremely excited he is to see what next year brings.



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Cheer jumps with joyful expressions on the mat.

## No. 17 Raiders Hot at Tucson Invitational

SOFTBALL TEAM  
MAKING MAGIC

JENNIFER BOEVE  
MATHEMATICS

The No. 17 Raider softball team extended its commanding start to the 2023 season, competing in Tucson, Arizona over spring break. The team compiled a 7-2 record over the course of the trip to improve to 23-2 on the season.

Highlights of the trip include a dramatic eight-inning walk-off victory over No. 2 (then No. 6) Indiana Wesleyan. The Raiders won 5-4 after Chloe Gallegos scored the winning run on a squeeze bunt from Kameryn Etherington. Etherington pitched all eight innings, giving up just three earned runs on seven hits and striking out three.

The Raiders won another one-run game against then-RV Olivet Nazarene

University 3-2. The team utilized its short game again when Gwen Mikkelsen scored the go-ahead run on a Maddie Kvatek sacrifice bunt. Four Raider pitchers combined to give up just one earned run in seven innings. Ellie Jacobson got the win, throwing two scoreless innings.

In addition to wins against Indiana Wesleyan and Olivet Nazarene, the team beat Siena Heights, 12-0, York 8-0, Dickinson State 8-0, Valley City State 4-3, and Viterbo 9-1. The team fell to St. Francis 1-6 and Ottawa 5-6.

Individual offensive leaders for the week included Mikkelsen (14-24, .583), Emily Strasser (14-29, .482), and Ashtyn Billings (13-28, .464). Mikkelsen batted in 14 runs and scored 11. Strasser batted in 9, and Billings scored 8.

NW pitchers gave up just 17 earned runs in 53.2 innings. Ellie Jacobson did not allow an earned run in 10.2 innings, appearing in 4 contests. Etherington

shined under pressure, earning two wins and a save in NW's three wins decided by one run.

NW is ranked No. 17 in the most recent NAIA Coaches' Poll, its first appearance in the top-25 since 2005. The team is set to resume its season on Friday, March 17 in Des Moines with a doubleheader against No. 14 Grand View University. The Raiders beat the Vikings 11-2 (5 innings) on February 11 at the American State Bank Sports Complex in Sioux Center.

Great Plains Athletic Conference play is set to begin March 22. The Raiders will travel, weather pending, to Mitchell, South Dakota to take on the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers. GPAC coaches picked NW to finish second in the conference behind Midland.



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM  
Squadron of softball players gather for team picture in front of mountains.

## Raider Intermural Basketball Champions: Tun-A-Sub

ELLEN IS  
DISSAPPOINTED

BRAYDEN DIRKS  
EXERCISE SCIENCE

On Thursday, March 2, the men's intramural basketball championship was played between the final two teams: Tun-A-Sub, headed by captain Tanner Schouten, and Ellen's Uncles with captain Kyle Christy. The former was able to edge out Ellen's Uncles with a score of 45-37.

With the season beginning in late January, the playoffs began a little over a month later. Ellen's Uncles entered the playoffs as the number one overall seed with a record of 5-0. Tun-A-Sub entered as the three seed with a 4-1 record. The two teams went on to defeat their respective sides of the bracket and met in the championship game.

Tun-A-Sub was able to pull off the upset, aided well by team member Jalyn Gramstad. Gramstad, who was also NW's star quarterback

on the national champion football team, said, "We had a great group that played hard and well together."

With nine players on their team and all being from the football team, Tun-A-Sub had a great athletic advantage with lots of depth. This combination led them to victory in the championship game. "Winning it all was a lot of fun!" Gramstad said.

On the other side of the game was Ellen's Uncles, who had had a phenomenal regular season going undefeated and having the highest point differential. Unfortunately, that undefeated streak came to an end, falling just short of victory in the final game. However, the team (made primarily up of North Suites guys) was still optimistic and proud of their game performance and overall season.

One of the players, Luke Haverdink, said, "The championship was super fun. There were plenty of people watching and the atmosphere was awesome. I thought my team could've played better in several aspects, but I still had a blast!"

Members of both teams clearly enjoyed the game and season, displaying their love for intramural basketball. Playing this enjoyable and entertaining sport provided Gramstad and his team with "a chance to compete in a sport we all used to play."

Haverdink loved the season because, "Basketball is a great way to get to know people. It's fun to go out and play games with guy I don't get to talk to very often in my normal day."

Both Haverdink and Gramstad mentioned the season being a great time. "The only thing that could have made it better would be more games in the regular season," Haverdink mentioned.

With all the guys on the final two teams truly applying and engaging themselves into the sport, it made for a vibrant championship atmosphere. Despite Tun-A-Sub walking away with the title, the players could all agree that intramural basketball is more than just a game. It is simply a great time to find joy in bonding with others.



COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS  
Champion intermural team grins after beating Ellen's Uncles.



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# TEDx at NW to spark hope through ideas

NW TO HOST A TEDx EVENT

**JORDAN DESMET**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

What began as a mere idea became a growing reality that will soon reach its fulfillment. Northwestern College will host its first TEDx event on Saturday, March 18 in the Black Box Theater. The event will include a lineup of seven distinguished speakers from a variety of disciplines who will share their thoughts on subjects they are passionate about. Registration will open at 9 a.m., followed by a breakfast provided by the event coordinators. There will be a lunch break after the first round of talks, and the second round of talks should conclude around noon.

Junior Clara Pahl originally had the idea to put together an event that would resemble a TED event, with speakers giving talks on subjects of importance to them. As she was mulling the idea over with someone, she was pushed to not settle for a lesser version of a TED event, but to go for the real thing. Motivated by this, Pahl began to research what it would take to become licensed for a TEDx event and host it on

NW's campus.

With TED's tagline being "Ideas worth spreading," it was only fitting that Pahl's idea to have a TEDx event at NW would grow and spread. She dove into the process of applying for a license to host a TEDx event and assembled a team of individuals to make the event happen. The culmination of this process can be experienced by public audience members who attend on March 18.

According to Pahl, the seminar should be like the thousands of speeches from TED events available online. "The event is an independently organized TED event," said Pahl. "In other words, whatever videos you have watched, that is exactly what the event will be." In addition, at the conclusion of each presentation, speakers will have an opportunity to lead a discussion with the audience to help everyone assess their thesis.

This discussion aspect is what especially excites speaker Mike Kugler. "I am most interested in provoking a conversation with an audience," said Kugler. "I consider scholarship much less about completing a task and collecting the kudos that come



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The independently organized TEDx event is centered around the theme "Chiaroscuro."

with accomplishment. I think more of scholarship as joining an already ongoing interesting discussion and contributing something that pushes it a little in a new direction or offering a novel insight."

The event is centered on the theme Chiaroscuro, which event host Gideon Fynaardt describes as "a term borrowed from the world of

visual art, characterized by a sharp distinction between dark and light." Pahl believes this concept has the potential to motivate her peers. "It has allowed me to serve my fellow Raiders and inspire them to think critically about how to be a light in life's darkest moments," said Pahl.

Since last spring, the individuals involved in

coordinating the event spent numerous hours setting the theme and meticulously planning every detail. Fynaardt encourages members of the community to "Take advantage of this rare opportunity and learn from some incredible people you may or may not have had the chance to hear from before."

# NW students serve and are stretched in the process

SSP TRIPS TRAVEL TO 13 LOCATIONS

**JACK MACGREGOR**  
THEATRE

Spring break is a time for college students to relax and unwind from a full first half of the semester. Many travel home to recover or even hit the road to a warmer destination. For over 150 Northwestern students, spring break meant using their week and a half off of school to serve in this year's Spring Service Partnerships (SSPs). These groups worked with organizations and ministries that NW is partnered with in 13 national and international locations. Each of these missions are aimed at partnering with communities and shining God's light in them. The SSP groups served in after-school programs, prison outreach ministries, home repair projects and more.

These SSP trips gave NW students opportunities to get out of their inner circles and bond with those they wouldn't normally. There were moments where God's power shone through amidst social obstacles, cultural barriers and fear. Sophomore Collin Verschoor explained how those

in his group going to Opelousas, Louisiana had to discuss the cultural differences they would encounter interacting with kids in an education-crisis area. "There is a huge cultural difference from northwest Iowa, so before we left for the trip, and even when we got to our site, we had to go over several different points of interest to make sure that we were as respectful as possible to the people in the community."

Many students were brought out of their comfort zones on their SSP. Junior Owen Kolste shared that when entering a prison in Lindale, Texas for the first time to do ministry, "there were only nerves and second doubts." Even in his doubts, Kolste found hope in the words of Psalm 23:4. "Luckily, we serve a God who is always with us, so 'even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil'" Kolste said.

Throughout SSPs, groups reflected on who God is and how He impacts places and people in the most difficult of circumstances. "Through this trip, I was able to see how God works through hard times to make amazing people who show the



PHOTO BY MIRIAM RETE

Students pitched in to help with maintenance work at a ministry site in Kansas City.

glory and light of God," Verschoor said. Testimonies revealed how the Lord steps in to strengthen communities, provide in times of need and give reminders of his goodness. "Many of the people who work for HFO [Hope for Opelousas] have their own stories of hardship and obstacles, and yet they have persevered and created

a beautiful space that truly tries to promote their community and uplift the students and citizens around them," Verschoor said.

Through these partnerships, NW students were able to participate in the work that God is doing in communities across the country and world. Students gave of their time, efforts and talents,

and were spiritually sculpted in the process. Even though this year's SSP trips have returned to campus, the ministries they partnered with continue to work hard in serving and ministering to others while giving the glory to God.