

March 2016

# Wildcats in the winter



NU Ambassadors Winter Prospective Student Newsletter

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## Hiya!

Welcome to our winter quarter newsletter! By now you probably have some decisions to make, the last days of senior year to enjoy, and a lot of feelings and thoughts going on inside of you. We are excited for you in this time of transition because although some things are coming to an end (thank goodness some of them are ending), there is so much to look forward to. This time may get very overwhelming, but don't forget we are here as a resource. Email us any time! We know a thing or two (or five) about transition.

Winter is a time where the cold and dreariness are in abundance, but as the quarter ends the days are longer, the sun is shining, and the temperature is rising. Everything that was underground working during this time when it seemed all had died will soon be visible life for all of us to enjoy. However, there is still beauty in winter we don't want to miss! As the seasons in Evanston are now transitioning from winter to spring we are happy to share with you some of our winter quarter highlights.

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## Northwestern Community Ensemble celebrates 45 years

Right before finals every winter quarter, Northwestern Community Ensemble (NU's premier gospel choir) hosts its annual Anniversary concert. This year they celebrated 45 years at their concert entitled: "God's Legacy, Still Working." This year their special guest was recording artist William Murphy, III. The NCE concert always comes at a critical moment in the quarter where students are getting tired and ready to be done, but it always renews our joy and gives us the push we need to keep going. After 45 years of praise NCE is still here and still reviving Northwestern's campus and community with their message, spirit, and love.

**Alexandria B. '16**



*The choral members of NCE gather for a picture before taking the stage*

## Honoring Dr. King



*Dr. Nicholas A. Pearce shares some of his wisdom with the Northwestern community*



*Diane Nash inspires the audience with her personal civil rights stories*

In high school, students get a gazillion days off school...including Columbus Day (seriously, how are we STILL celebrating this??). In college, however, days off are rare. It took years for Northwestern University to finally grant students the third Monday off of every January, and students do not let it go to waste. The Alpha Mu chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosts a university-wide vigil to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the organization's most famous member, in Alice Millar Chapel. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Nicholas A. Pearce, a professor at Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, a Pastor at Apostolic Church of God on Chicago's South Side, and an executive adviser. His message focused on the privilege of a college education, using that education responsibly to improve the greater community, and living in the present instead of on autopilot. After Mr. Pearce reminded the audience that "how you live your days is how you live your life," he encouraged the students to go boldly and with determination after their dreams, rather than choosing to just live in safe zones or do what they feel is expected of them. The message warranted several "Mmmmmmm"-s, "Preach!"-es and snaps from the crowd.

And so did Diane Nash. The following Monday featured the Civil Rights activist as Northwestern's Keynote Speaker. Nash used her stories from the Civil Rights Movement to discuss activism and fighting for social justice today, using the same principles, and gave everyone many wise words to think about long after the address was over to end the week of celebration of one of the greatest men our country has ever birthed.

**Syedah C. '17**

## Jabulani



*A dancer from the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago*

Jabulani is an annual cultural event that celebrates African cultural diversity. The African Student Association, ASA, organizes the show every year. A mix of groups perform, this year AfroDescent from Loyola's campus traveled to show off some African dance moves, and Northwestern's own Prez Harris rapped to close out the show. Jabulani is also a place to partake in cuisines from different parts of Africa. The main attraction is a fashion show that showcases a single African designer's collection.

Timothy Duncan was one of the hosts of Jabulani this year. Timothy said that, for this particular year, the ambiance was amazing and the energy was great. This may have been because there was little space between the performers, hosts, and audience. Nneka Onyeka also attended; she said Jabulani's atmosphere was culturally rich and true to spirit of the event. She also said the hosts guided the show really well so everyone felt free to be themselves and enjoy their time there.

Timothy also had some advice for future students. She says it's really important to find two groups while here 1) a community where people share your beliefs, culture and background 2) a group where there are people who are different, in thought and appearance because that's where you learn the best. **Jordan F. '17**

## Black Healing Space: A place to combat the winter blues

No matter how many precautions you take to try to combat the winter blues, the truth of the matter is that there will be times in life, and especially during winter quarter, that get you down. In fact, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is known to many as the winter blues! And though not everyone is clinically diagnosed with this disorder, there have been several studies that show that the amount of sunshine exposure is positively correlated to happiness. So in addition to finding things to do to boost happiness, you also need to find space and time to heal when you acknowledge that you just aren't feeling so great.

Seniors Darien Rauhouse Wendell, Thelma Obiageliaku, Bria Royal, and Qiddist Hammerly, recognized the importance of such a space, especially for students who identify as Black at a PWI (predominantly white institute), and made it happen! On February 25, Ditmar Gallery was filled with Black art, good smells, good food, and lots of love. The space featured a coloring table with Assata Shakur quotes and other empowering or just generally happy Black images, a workshop with different oils, herbs, and spices (and descriptions of the purposes they serve, ranging from prosperity and peace to dispelling negative people and energy from your life) with small mesh drawstring baggies in which you could put your unique (and fantastically-smelling!) creation to take with you, and general space to talk and love on one another! And the whole time, there was good music playing to add to the vibes, leaving everyone truly feeling healed by the time they left.

**Syedah C. '17**



*A beautiful drawing created by Qiddist H. '16*

## NSBE's first annual Mr. Northwestern Male Pageant



*Our Mr. Northwestern, Sterling, poses for a victory picture*



Scan this QR code using a QR reader app to see Sterling's promo video. If the code does not work use this link: [6hjc.qr.ai](https://6hjc.qr.ai)

On February 19th seven dashing, brave young men took the stage at Northwestern's first "Mr. Northwestern Male Pageant" in Fisk 217. Designed to be the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) annual fundraiser, the event was created and organized by NSBE's Junior Executive Board (JEB), which is entirely comprised of first-year students. The JEB strove to make history and to create a new legacy for NSBE with this event. In previous years there had been a different, successful annual fundraiser, but this year the JEB wanted to try something new that would attract more students from all schools on campus.

In total there were seven contestants and they all had to compete in the "Brains vs. Brawns" and talent events. Talents observed included playing the cello flawlessly blindfolded (yes, blindfolded!), hip hop and tap dancing, and some amazing singing. We even had somebody perform as a one man circus! (he was truly hilarious) In the Brains vs. Brawns competition the participants were either quizzed on their knowledge of NU trivia or had to complete an activity based on the piece of paper they pulled out of a hat. Then after those two events the audience voted for who should be the top three semi-finalists during the intermission. After the intermission the three semi-finalists took the stage and were interviewed by the three female judges. While the judges deliberated there was a raffle where gift cards to local Evanston eateries, like Blaze pizzeria and Farmhouse kitchen, were up for grabs. And at the end of the deliberation the winner, Sterling, was selected by the judges. Oh, and did I mention that the winner would walk away with a \$100 Visa gift card? Pretty sweet deal, huh? This year's JEB did a great job with the pageant; it ended up being a huge success. (I mean it was *impossible* not to laugh during the event!) A new JEB is appointed every year, but hopefully we can expect to be entertained with another Mr. Northwestern Male Pageant next year!

**Bobbie B. '18**

## Look who came to campus!

Every quarter at Northwestern we get some pretty cool visitors. Here are a few from this winter quarter:



On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Weinberg sponsored "An Evening with Spike Lee" where there was a feature showing of "Chi-Raq" followed by a Q&A.



On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Pulitzer Prize winner author, Junot Diaz, came to talk to campus to talk about his experience as an immigrant.



On February 19<sup>th</sup> A&O productions brought out Chicago-born comedian Hannibal Buress. Tickets were only \$5 for students!



Chicago Tribune's Chicagoan of the Year in Jazz, Tomeka Reid, performed at the Mary Leigh Block Museum on campus with percussionist Adam Vida and animator Selina Trepp on February 17<sup>th</sup> for FREE!

## The community that changed my life



*Members of House on the Rock at the annual Vision Conference for Black Campus Ministries held on February 26th-28th*

When I came to college it was important for me to find a Christian community to help me not only stay grounded, but to also grow in my faith. I joined House on the Rock my first week of freshman year and never left. House on the Rock is a Black Campus Ministry (BCM). As a BCM HOCR seeks to serve and provide a safe place for black students to fellowship and grow together. Many black students like myself have grown up in the church. But for some of us our faith was never our own and we never had a relationship with God other than doing what our parents required of us (going to church, praying for our food, etc.). Coming to college everything changes because whether you like it or not, or your parents like it or not, you are responsible for your life. You are making decisions that will impact the rest of your life.

For me this has been a time of understanding my story, unpacking my identity, discovering my passions, identifying my values, establishing my boundaries, and delving into my faith. Everyone's journey looks different, but I would not be where I am today without the community in HOCR that has walked with me, cried with me, laugh until we cried with me, and prayed with and for me. As I am about to enter my last quarter of college I can look back and confidently say that this community of black Christians has changed my life for the better and made my rough times at Northwestern bearable and my good times even better. They have reminded me that we were not made to do this alone. As you begin on your journey, remember that you were not created to do it alone either. Seek and build community, especially around the things that give you strength, peace, and joy! **Alexandria B. '16**

## Be where you are: advice from a senior

I AM WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO BE. I AM WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO BE. I am where I am supposed to be..." These are the words I repeated to myself over and over as I walked on Northwestern's campus and became overwhelmed with feelings of senioritis and just not wanting to be here. I think all of us have moments in our lives where we wish we could either go back to a previous time or rush ahead to moment that has not yet come. We just want to encourage you all in those moments to remember that nothing in life is permanent. If you are currently in an uncomfortable place you won't stay there, and the same goes for those of us who are in comfortable places in our lives. Life is full of change. Each season of life prepares you for the next one. So, we challenge you to BE WHERE YOU ARE. Remain open to what is happening around you-- what you can enjoy and what you can learn, because sooner than you think everything will change. Refuse to spend so much time in the future or the past that you miss the gift of the present. Keep repeating it until you believe it. Say it with me, "I am where I am supposed to be."