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*"Wear your power when you walk in
the room. If you are confident in your
skin, people will know that."* p. 26

Northwestern

WINTER 2025



Making Streets Safer

Professor Andrew Papachristos
uses network science to reduce
gun violence.
p. 18

Paralympic Champ

Gold medalist Hailey Danz '13 crosses the finish line of the women's PTS2 para triathlon at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris in September. Danz won her first gold medal with a dominant performance in the bike segment, pedaling 20 kilometers with her right leg. She finished the race with a time of 1:14:31, more than a minute ahead of silver medalist Veronica Yoko Plebani of Italy. Danz, who previously won silver at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, had her left leg amputated at age 14 after she was diagnosed with bone cancer. She became a triathlete while she was a student at Northwestern.

Read more at alummag.nu/Danz.



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Indigenous Art at The Block

A new museum exhibit showcases the breadth and history of Indigenous artistry, including this piece, left, *Totem, Animal Spirits* (2021), made of wood, oil paint, deer antlers, horsehair and found objects, by the late Jim Denomie, a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe.

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Investing in the Future

Sharon Bowen '82 JD, MBA, '23 H forged a trailblazing path to the New York Stock Exchange and is committed to helping the next generation follow in her footsteps.

By Lindsay Gellman



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← “Authenticity is what’s most valuable. You’re the only one who can offer up the exact thing that you are. Why would you try to present yourself as anything different?”

— Anamaria Sayre '21, co-host of NPR Music’s Alt.Latino podcast

TOTEM, ANIMAL SPIRITS: JIM DENOMIE, FORGE PROJECT COLLECTION, TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE MOH-HE-CON-NUCK. COPYRIGHT ESTATE OF THE ARTIST AND BOCKLEY GALLERY.

SAYRE: MIKE MORGAN; PINE WARBLER: COLLIN PORTER '24; ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS GASH; SIMMS: DARREN HATT



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Researchers are using network science to curb gun violence. By Clare Milliken



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Trombone Talent

Bienen School of Music student Hillary Simms is the first woman member of the American Brass Quintet, an acclaimed music group in residence at the Juilliard School.

On the cover: Andrew Papachristos. Photograph by Shane Collins; design by Leslie-Anne Mock. Back cover: Cooper’s hawk. Photograph by Collin Porter '24.

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Northwestern Magazine

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Talk Back

FOREVER YOUNG

The brain that Tamar Gefen '12 MS, '15 PhD was holding ["What We Can Learn From SuperAgers," fall 2024] could have been the brain of my father, William "Wiley" Rosenberg, a pioneering Chicago ophthalmologist who died in September 2018 at 101. He was a participant in the SuperAgers study and donated his brain.

*Neil D. Rosenberg '67 MS
Tamarac, Fla.*

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

I eagerly dove into Beau Tremitiere's piece, "Ensuring Free and Fair Elections" [Voices, fall 2024], and found myself agreeing wholeheartedly with his premise that we in the U.S. "have fallen far short of [the] utopian vision" of what democracy could be. I read on in expectation that Tremitiere '17 JD would outline the various forces undermining elections. Unfortunately, what I saw instead was the kind of slanted, partisan pablum that mainstream media publish every day. It would have been balanced and thoughtful to provide the other side of this discussion. Roughly half of the country would describe itself as conservative and half as liberal. We should assume that a similar proportion exists among Northwestern alumni.

*Bruce E. Roselle '72
Maple Grove, Minn.*

REMEMBERING ALBINI

I met Steve Albini '85 [In Memoriam, fall 2024] sophomore year, while he was spending his student loan

money to make his first album. He was smart, ridiculously talented and totally hilarious. He taught me to stop living some generic version of the Big Ten college life and start forging my own path.

We were supposed to get dinner the last time I was in Chicago, but he canceled, saying hopefully we would both live long enough to catch up later. His death was like a kick in the head. As a mutual friend put it, "Albini's presence seemed permanent." Requiescat, my friend.

*Lori Montgomery '84
Washington, D.C.*

Editor's Note: Read a tribute to Albini by Zeki Hirsch '24 at alummag.nu/Albini.

INCLUSIVE BIKE HELMET

Thank you for the article about students working to reduce the hurdles to helmet use ["A More Inclusive Bike Helmet," Innovation, fall 2024]. Bicyclist deaths in the U.S. have increased 16% since I graduated. More than 1,000 cyclists were killed in crashes with motor vehicles in 2022. Yet 62% of those cyclists were not wearing helmets. Discomfort and the effects on one's hair are often cited as reasons people don't wear helmets. Thus, efforts undertaken by the enterprising students to develop the CALYX helmet are well warranted.

Their work intersected with work to which I contributed as executive vice president and chief research officer for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which partly funded development of Virginia Tech's bicycle helmet rating system. It's nice to see

generations of alumni serving a common good.

David Zuby '86

Charlottesville, Va.

MY MENTOR STORY

My mentor was Judi Sheppard Missett '66, founder of Jazzercise ["Who Was Your Mentor?" Voices, fall 2024]. I was a physically weak and uncoordinated child. I felt a sense of dread when I learned that Northwestern had a physical education requirement. I met it through dance courses taught by Judi, an expert, nonjudgmental grad student. Since then, I have kept fit with dancing and exercise classes. Thank you, Judi.

*Karen Kraus Cohen '67
Walnut Creek, Calif.*

SUGAR SKULLS

The article "Sugar Skulls for Departed Souls" [Creation, fall 2024] could not be more timely. In our tumultuous and perilous times, our ancestors have much to teach us about resilience, perseverance and maintaining our humanity.

*Jim Sanders '73 MA, '80 PhD
Elizabethtown, Pa.*

THE GREAT DIVIDE

The Great Divide [Creation, fall 2024] is a fine novel about Panama's residents during the canal building. I lived in Panama for seven years during the treaty renegotiation in the 1970s. Cristina Henriquez '99 evoked many memories for this lover of the isthmus.

*Carmen Alden Cunningham '56
Hilton Head Island, S.C.*

Correction: Bill Osborn '69, '73 MBA, '18 H ["Alumni Who Lead," fall 2024] served on active duty in the U.S. Army Ranger National Guard, not as an airborne U.S. Army Ranger. We regret the error.

Voices

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Reducing the Wait for Autism Diagnoses

By Megan York Roberts

The number of children diagnosed as autistic has risen drastically over the past 50 years. One in 5,000 children was diagnosed as autistic in 1975. Today, it's 1 in 36. At the same time, our understanding of what autism is and how to best support autistic children's development has dramatically improved too. We know that autistic children who achieve the

best outcomes later in life are those who are identified early and receive high-quality therapy during their first three years of life, when approximately 80% of brain development occurs.

Yet despite continued advances in early detection — and the fact that autism can be reliably diagnosed by age 2 — the average age of diagnosis is 4 years old, one year past the critical period of neuroplasticity. And the pathway for medical diagnoses of autism remains inefficient and ineffective, riddled with logistical hurdles that have not changed in five decades.

Fifty years ago, children were diagnosed by a medical specialist, and the medical system could support these infrequent referrals. However, the drastic increase in prevalence has created a bottleneck in the system. There are few diagnosticians, and these limited diagnostic resources are poorly distributed.

Children must have an official diagnosis from a clinical psychologist or physician to have health insurance cover the more intensive and specialized interventions they need.

Improving access to such critical interventions requires an innovative overhaul of the current system. Presently, in Illinois, when a pediatrician or caregiver suspects that a young child may be autistic, the child is referred to both the publicly funded Illinois Early Intervention (EI) System and a specialist diagnostic center. However, many of those centers are overwhelmed with cases and have waitlists that are often over a year long. So it is not surprising that only 6% of autistic toddlers will receive autism-specific services before they enter kindergarten.

But the EI system includes more than 4,000 speech-language pathologists (SLPs), most of whom have experience working with autistic children. In fact, SLPs often serve on diagnostic teams. This begs the question: If a pediatrician with limited or no training in autism is "qualified" to diagnose autism, why can't the same be true for SLPs who have significantly more training and experience with autistic children?

We hope to answer that question with our four-year study, the Reduce the Wait Project. With funding from the Institute of Education Sciences, we are providing virtual autism diagnostic evaluations to more than 1,000 toddlers across Illinois — focusing on families from underserved areas — with the goal of creating a diagnostic pathway that is more efficient than the current system. Our initial results suggest that SLPs with minimal training in autism diagnostic tools are in fact just as accurate as specialists. Additionally, providing virtual at-home evaluations expands access for families who may not have the means to travel to offices.

We hope this study will catalyze a change in policy so that no autistic child must wait to receive a diagnosis — or the care they need.

Megan York Roberts, a licensed speech-language pathologist and professor in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, leads the Early Intervention Research Group in Northwestern's School of Communication.



SHANE COLLINS

↑ Megan York Roberts has worked with children with developmental delays for over 15 years.

SOUND OFF

Wildcat Instant Classics

Fans share their favorite Northwestern sports memories.

Jim Carper '79

THE PASS, MARCH 1, 2017

The 'Cats needed a win over Michigan to improve their March Madness chances. There was a little more than a second left in a tied game. The play was so audacious — heaving the basketball from one end line to the other — but Nate Taphorn '17 lobbed a perfect pass to Dererk Pardon '19 [below]. The basket was good. 'Cats win! No one wanted to leave the building.

Sherry Krsticevic '82

LAKE THE POSTS, SEPT. 25, 1982

I went to every Northwestern football game from 1976 to 1981, and it was hard to see the 'Cats lose week after week. But I returned as an alum to see them finally end their NCAA record-setting losing streak. Watching the fans tear down the goalpost, march it down Central Street and toss it into Lake Michigan is something I will never, ever forget. Just thinking about it makes me smile decades later.

Dan Peterson '58

COMING UP ROSES, JAN. 1, 1949

I remember Northwestern's upset win in the 1949 Rose Bowl like it was yesterday. Our family was gathered in our living room, listening to the play-by-play on our Philco radio. California was highly favored and complained the Big Ten was sending the JVs to Pasadena. When Cal

took a 14-13 lead late in the game, we figured it was over. Then, with seconds remaining, the Wildcats' Ed Tunnickliff '50 slalomed his way 43 yards for the winning touchdown on a trick play. You could hear the screaming all over Evanston. I still talk about it.

Krishnan Anantharaman '91

A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER, JAN. 11, 1988

From the wayback machine: I remember Northwestern's 1988 upset of Indiana, the defending NCAA basketball champions, with sports broadcaster Dick Vitale in Welsh-Ryan Arena calling the game for ESPN. It was the first game I attended as a freshman, and I remember our pep band pouring into the arena all dressed as Indiana coach Bobby Knight, with red V-neck sweaters and gray wigs. One of them was carrying a chair.

Read more reflections on great moments in Wildcats history — and share yours too — at alummag.nu/SportsMemories.

COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS



Dererk Pardon (5) hits the game winner over Michigan.



By Shonali Ditz '13

Shonali Ditz is executive director and co-founder of SparkShop, a nonprofit that delivers free engineering curricula and materials to teachers serving Chicago students who are underrepresented in STEM.

belonged. I stepped into leadership the next year, managing the team's growth and improvement. This set me on a career path in the automotive industry. In my first job, with manufacturer ITW, I designed vehicle refueling components. I loved seeing my projects out in the world (and will still point out the fuel door on a C6 Corvette).

But something was missing. The dismal lack of diversity in engineering was a problem too big to ignore, especially in Chicago, where so many young people represent backgrounds historically excluded from STEM. I spent hours commiserating with my roommate, Tiernan Murrell '16, wondering how we could make this industry more accessible and inclusive. We were inspired to start building again.

In 2017 we launched our nonprofit, SparkShop, to introduce students to the parts of engineering that we loved. Equipped with trunks full of prototyping machinery, we traveled to elementary schools across Chicago, inviting fourth and fifth graders to spark their confidence and curiosity about STEM by engaging in hands-on learning workshops that encourage problem-solving, creativity and teamwork. Since then, SparkShop has grown to support over 40 Chicago elementary schools, putting STEM futures within reach for thousands of kids.

The Formula team showed me my capacity for growth, instilled in me a love of building and gave me the confidence to tackle big, complex problems. While I no longer build racecars, I carry those lessons with me. And my time in the industry inspired me to open the doors wide for future engineers.

I'm motivated by the belief that the next generation of engineers will look different from the last, representing diversity across gender, race and socioeconomic status. As they enter the field, bringing in new brilliance and perspectives, I look forward to seeing them discover all the places they belong.

“It felt like magic when a racecar emerged from the mess of ... components that made no sense to me one year earlier.”

MY NORTHWESTERN DIRECTION

Building a Racecar Sparked the Joy of STEM

My track to Northwestern, my dream school, wasn't always easy. I got accepted off the waitlist into the McCormick School of Engineering and did my best to shake off the nerves that came with feeling like a second choice.

Once on campus, my first engineering classes hit me like a ton of bricks. I had always been good at school, but receiving the lowest grades I'd ever seen made it harder to ignore that voice in my head: “Am I supposed to be here?”

My sophomore year I joined Northwestern Formula Racing, a group that designs, builds and races a single-seat racecar against other collegiate teams. Working on the car was a technical challenge — and nothing like the lectures I

was struggling with. It required skills I didn't have — machining, wiring, programming and more. But it was the perfect opportunity to figure out if I actually wanted to be an engineer.

Before Formula, I wasn't a “car person” — I still had my learner's permit at age 19. So I was assigned a job that didn't require any specialized knowledge: welding. At first, it felt frustrating, intimidating and foreign. But with practice, I improved. As my welds got more even and my hands steadier, my confidence came back.

The process of building something was so fulfilling. It felt like magic when a racecar emerged from the mess of suspension, drivetrain and bodywork components that made no sense to me one year earlier. I was so proud of our team and truly felt I

Illustration by Arthur Mount

WHAT I LOVE

Sliding Through Barriers

Hillary Simms listens to her inner (trombone) voice.

Hillary Simms, trombonist and doctor of musical arts student in the Bienen School of Music

I have a love-hate relationship with the trombone. I mean, it's kind of hilarious — I blow into a tube for a living. How can I not love what I do?

But, though fleeting and few, there are moments when I don't love the trombone. As artists, we often associate what we do with our identity. So when I have trouble executing a specific technique or sound, it can lead to negative self-talk. I try to remind myself and my students: We play the trombone; it's not our whole life.

I love how versatile the instrument is. We can blow away a Mahler symphony from the back of the orchestra, but we

can also sound delicate and sorrowful when we play a ballad. We can steal music from cellists and violists and bassoonists and make them our own. We can rock out in a jazz band. We can rock out in a rock band. It's very flexible.

For me, trombone is my inner voice. When I sing or hear music in my head, I hear the trombone. So apparently, I'm in the love part of the love-hate relationship right now.

In 2023 Hillary Simms became the first woman member of the acclaimed American Brass Quintet and the first woman trombonist on the faculty at the Juilliard School, where the quintet is in residence. (She finished her Northwestern coursework and is preparing for qualifying exams, the final tests of one's knowledge



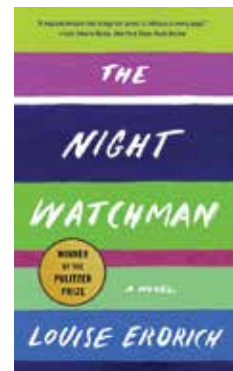
↑ Hillary Simms

and musicianship before a doctoral degree is granted.) Now Simms, a "proud Newfoundlander," is in New York City training the next generation of trombonists, with a focus on encouraging women and other underrepresented musicians to be heard. Read more at alummag.nu/Simms.

HEARD ON CAMPUS

Native Rights

In October author Louise Erdrich spoke at Northwestern's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall about her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Night Watchman*, the University's One Book selection for 2024-25. While fictional, the story's main character is based on Erdrich's grandfather, Patrick Gourneau, former chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, who fought federal government efforts to terminate tribal treaty agreements. The



following highlights from Erdrich's remarks have been adapted for clarity.

"My grandfather managed — with an eighth-grade education — to figure out what was going on in Washington. [The so-called termination bill was a] total abrogation of all U.S. government treaties with Native people.

... People depended deeply on those treaties. The [elders] who decided those treaties ... were thinking way, way, way ahead. ... They put health care [and] education into the treaties. [Thanks to those treaties,] they at least had their land, at least had the basics. So to [potentially] have that taken away was something I wanted to write about.

"... There [are] so many people who aren't here because their homelands, their reservations were terminated. ... Turtle Mountain was the only reservation [that] was able to fight back ... and that was because

of my grandfather. ... He studied his oppressors. He learned their language. He figured out what they wanted.

"... We really need people to tell stories that ... tell us who we are as we go on. And we really need people who are going to work together to get [us] out of the mess we're in [and who] understand what democracy is and how it's brought us all together."



← Louise Erdrich

SIMMS: RICKY FENG NAN; ERDRICH: © HILARY ABE

News

Northwestern rises to No. 6 in U.S. News rankings p. 12

Kellogg students seek inspiration overseas p. 11

Remembering the first Black woman CPA p. 13

Brotherhood on the soccer field p. 12

DEEP BREATHS

Lessen Your Stress

Professor Judith Moskowitz shares skills to help boost your mood and build resilience.

Judith Moskowitz understands that people feel anxious right now. And her No. 1 priority is to help everyone turn down the stress level.

For decades, Moskowitz has studied how positive-emotion skills help us cope with stress. She developed a toolbox of eight skills, including practicing self-compassion and savoring positive events, that have been proven to reduce anxiety, boost your mood and improve well-being.

“People can absolutely learn how to increase their positive emotions, even when things seem pretty bleak,” says Moskowitz, vice chair for scientific and faculty development in the Department of Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

There’s clearly an appetite for stress reduction tips. When Moskowitz partnered with NPR in September to share her toolkit and invite listeners to enroll in her Resilience Challenge course and research study, the response broke the internet. The surge in participant registrations overwhelmed the server — before *Morning Edition*’s “Stress Less” story even aired.

The online, self-guided study asked participants to learn eight skills (see “Stress Busters,” right), practice them nightly and fill out brief daily surveys over the course of five weeks. The course had reached capacity — 20,000 registrants — by November. “This topic resonates,” Moskowitz says. “No matter what you’re going through, life is hard. These skills can help you. It doesn’t make the negative emotions or stressful feelings go away, but it helps you build the psychological resources to continue coping with whatever comes along.”

Moskowitz, who is also the director of research at the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Feinberg, first realized the power of positive emotions when, as a postdoc in the early 1990s, she worked

with men who were caring for their partners who had AIDS. “We were doing an observational study, and the caregivers were talking about the stress,” Moskowitz recalls. “This was before AIDS treatments were effective, so their partners were dying.”

She and her colleagues followed the caregivers throughout the care and bereavement processes — two of the most stressful human experiences — and asked them details about the stress they were feeling.

“The participants started saying, ‘Well, you’re not asking me about the good things,’” says Moskowitz.

That “brilliant” insight, she says, inspired the researchers to begin asking about the positive moments in the caregivers’ lives. “And in almost every single interview

— and there were hundreds of them — the men said, ‘Yeah, there was a beautiful sunset’ or ‘I was able to make my partner a meal he could enjoy.’

“That set me on the path to looking beyond what is stressing people out. We found that even under extreme stress, people have moments of positive emotion.”

Her team has tested the positive-emotion toolkit in randomized controlled trials with people experiencing serious illness, as well as with health care workers during the pandemic and those caring for people with dementia, among others. “We know these tools are effective,” Moskowitz says. “We see statistically significant increases in positive emotion compared to control groups. Our work now is focused on delivery and implementation of these skills.”

STRESS BUSTERS

Pick one or two to practice consistently, Moskowitz says.

- * **Notice positive events.** It’s contrary to our nature, but even in awful times, take note of good things that happen.
- * **Savor the good stuff.** Re-experience a positive event by looking at photos or telling a friend or journaling about it.
- * **Practice gratitude.** Be grateful. It’ll make you happier and healthier and potentially boost longevity.
- * **Be mindful.** When you’re stressed, take a few deep breaths and focus on the here and now.
- * **Reappraise with positivity.** Find the silver lining in a less-than-ideal situation.
- * **Practice self-compassion.** Don’t beat yourself up for feeling stressed. Everyone struggles at some point. It’s OK.
- * **Acknowledge personal strengths.** Take stock of — and celebrate — your good attributes and skills.
- * **Set attainable goals.** Once you’re aware of your strengths, create achievable goals — ones that still require effort but aren’t impossible.



AND A BOTTLE OF RUM

Guyana

After a long day of classes at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Kimberley Charles ’24 JD, MBA and Kiyon Savar ’24 JD, MBA would sometimes unwind with a glass of rum. Charles, whose parents hail from Guyana, a nation known for its rum production, was curious about what goes into making the perfect blend. So she and Savar traveled to Guyana, Barbados and Martinique. “Rum is inextricably linked to the history of these nations,” says Charles, pictured above in a sugar cane field in Martinique. Charles plans to launch her own brand, Cane Cutter’s Rum, in 2025, using a distillery in Guyana.



MUSHROOMS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Australia

Jim Brazeal (left) and Christina Kappil (right) both have family histories of treatment-resistant depression. Seeking innovative solutions, they visited clinics in Australia that offer therapist-guided sessions where patients consume pharmaceutical-grade psilocybin, commonly known as magic mushrooms. Though treatments are logistically challenging and expensive, clinical trials have seen promising results for patients, says Kappil ’24 MS, MBA. She and Brazeal ’24 MBA served as co-chairs for Kellogg’s 2024 Business of Psychedelic Therapies Conference.

TRAVELOGUES

When in Doubt, Trek It Out

The Kellogg School of Management’s Levy Inspiration Grant Program gives entrepreneurial students a chance to do firsthand research.

ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT

Switzerland

Noor Johal ’23 MBA grew up in Punjab, India, where her family owned a small dairy farm. But the farm failed as they lost customers to grocery stores. To find out what made other farms successful, Johal visited Unterseen, Switzerland, where a farmer had begun selling his cheese via a vending machine on his property. Rather than going through a retailer, which would take a cut of his profits, he invested in the quality of his cheese and priced it the way he wanted. “[Now] 85% of his cheese revenue is from that one vending machine,” says Johal in an episode of the *Levy Inspiration Grant Program* podcast. “The most successful people [are those who try] something new.”



MOTORBIKE MAYHEM

Vietnam

Cammie Merten ’23 MBA wanted to know how drivers in some countries deliver packages and food so quickly — often within an hour of an order being placed. In Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, she found an impressive system of “organized chaos,” with 8 million motorbikes zipping through busy streets and narrow alleyways to make deliveries. The trip sparked ideas for Merten, now a consultant at Deloitte. “Should the motorbike be reinvented to carry more goods? Could you shave minutes off deliveries by improving infrastructure?”



WANT SOME GRUB?

Japan

Scientists are exploring insects as a potential food source for humans. Intrigued by the idea, Jonny Vaux ’23 MBA traveled to Japan, Vietnam and Singapore to see how insects are produced and marketed to consumers. In Tokyo he visited Anticada, a restaurant serving 10-course insect meals, and met with chef Yuta Shinohara, who uses beetles that crawl out of spoiled macadamia nuts to produce a macadamia flavor in his jelly dessert. After his trip, Vaux worked with the World Bank, studying startups across Africa that were launching new insect production models.

Listen to the *Levy Inspiration Grant Program* podcast and learn more at alummag.nu/LevyGrants.

TICKER ILLUSTRATIONS BY LESLIE-ANNE MOCK

The Ticker

Big discoveries from 2024

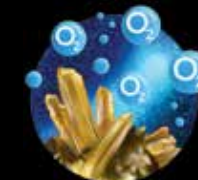
● A team led by McCormick School of Engineering professor Alessandro Rotta Loria discovered that **a zap of electricity can strengthen coastlines by transforming marine sand into an immovable solid**, reducing the threat of erosion.



● McCormick professor Ludmilla Aristilde and her team identified a key enzyme secreted by a common wastewater bacterium that allows it to break down plastic into a food source. The discovery opens new possibilities for **developing bacteria-based engineering solutions to clean up plastic waste**, such as microplastics in water.



● Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences professor Franz Geiger co-authored a study that found that **metallic minerals on the deep-ocean floor produce oxygen**. The mineral deposits, which contain metals essential for making batteries, generate enough electricity to split water molecules, creating oxygen.



● Engineering students in a Segal Design Institute class partnered with Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium to make **GastroPops — artificial snails for sea life to snack on** — with the hope of reducing predation of queen conch, a threatened species.



MEN'S SOCCER

Brothers in Arms

Nigel Prince and Reese Mayer shore up the Wildcats' back-line defense on the pitch.

Brothers Reese and Bryant Mayer make up half of the defensive back line for Northwestern men's soccer. Sandwiched between them on the pitch is teammate Nigel Prince — but he likes to joke that he's basically a Mayer brother too.

It's easy to see why Prince feels like part of the family. He and Reese finish each other's thoughts and talk with pride about how they challenge each other and their soccer teammates to be the best they can be.

"I'm a vocal and emotional guy, especially on the field," says Reese. "Nigel gets caught between Bryant and me in our screaming matches, but he understands I'm never yelling out of anger. I'm pushing guys to the next level."

It can sometimes feel a little "turbulent" to be caught in the crossfire, says Prince, an only child. But having a pseudo big brother on the team means "somebody [is] always looking after me. Reese has seen a little bit of everything and has given me

a lot of perspective, which I really appreciate."

Prince, a junior, arrived at Northwestern in fall 2022 as a highly touted recruit. But he came into his own after playing alongside the veteran Reese, who transferred to Northwestern in fall 2023 after playing for Notre Dame.

"When you talk about Nigel's growth and development, you can't help but talk about Reese," says head coach Russell Payne. "Reese has shown Nigel what it means to be consistent both on and off the field — playing every play in practice, being on time to meetings, all the little things that are important. Reese came with those things already

in his back pocket. And he was the perfect player for Nigel to partner with so that he could continue to grow."

The Prince-Mayer back-line bond helped Northwestern to a 10-4-3 record in 2023, when the Wildcats allowed just 17 goals on the season. After a hot start in 2024, the Wildcats battled through a rigorous Big Ten schedule to finish 9-7-1 overall. The team

enjoyed back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2013-14. But Prince is focused on the team's longer-term legacy.

"We've done a great job laying the groundwork," he says. "But we're not done yet. My goal is to win a Big Ten Championship and play in the NCAA Championships. I want to establish a culture that stands the test of time."



Nigel Prince, left, and Reese Mayer

RISING THROUGH THE RANKS



Northwestern jumped three spots to No. 6 in U.S. News & World Report's 2025 Best Colleges list. This new ranking in the national universities category is Northwestern's highest ever. The

University shares the No. 6 ranking with the California Institute of Technology, Duke University and Johns Hopkins University. Northwestern retained its ranking — 15th — for best value schools, as measured by academic quality and the cost of attendance for an out-of-state student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

'CAT TALES

Paving the CPA Way

Mary T. Washington Wylie '41 made history as the first Black woman in the U.S. to become a certified public accountant (CPA).

She started her own accounting practice in her basement in 1939 and was the only woman in her Northwestern graduating class to earn a degree in business. But due to widespread racism and sexism, no firm would hire her. So Washington Wylie founded her own firm. She brought on two other Black CPAs as partners at Washington, Pittman & McKeever and made the firm a launching pad for a new generation of Black CPAs.

By the 1960s, Chicago had the country's highest



concentration of Black CPAs, thanks in no small part to Washington Wylie's mentorship. She retired in 1985 and died in 2005.

In 2018 former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel '85 MA declared Sept. 30 Mary T. Washington Wylie Day to celebrate her legacy.

Read more at alummag.nu/CPA.



↑ Members of the Class of 2028 on Northwestern Medicine Field at Martin Stadium

RARING TO GO

Meet the First-Years

Students in the Class of 2028 hail from all 50 states and 90 countries.

Northwestern is "everything I wanted it to be and so much more," says first-year student Alexia Sextou, a journalism major from Thessaloniki, Greece. Nearly a month into her University experience, Sextou had already joined *The Daily Northwestern* and Northwestern News Network. An international debate champion, she also joined Northwestern's Parliamentary Debate Union.

Sextou is one of more than 2,100 students in Northwestern's Class of 2028 — a cohort of students from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, 90 countries (including Togo for the first time) and six continents.

Approximately 13% of the class are international students — a University record — and more than 90 different languages are spoken by students in the class.

"The other day I met a guy from Brazil and learned about his language and culture," says first-year Bowie Wu, a computer science and bassoon performance double major from Austin, Texas. "There are so many different people here, each with their own interesting stories."

Students in the Class of 2028 come from more than 1,400 high schools worldwide. Jesse Smyth came to the University as valedictorian of Plainview High School in Ardmore, Okla., a town of 20,000, where he was an all-state French hornist and captain of the academic team, robotics team and *Mario Kart* esports team. Smyth wanted a school with "an inclusive, collaborative environment." He found that at Northwestern, joining the Biomedical Engineering Society and the design competition team for Medical Makers, which creates

devices that serve unmet clinical needs. Mariam Muhammad, the daughter of Bashir Muhammad '03 MS, attended the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences in the city's Mount Greenwood neighborhood, where she focused on horticulture. With a background in agriculture and leadership, she was president of her school's National FFA Organization chapter, served as a delegate for global food security issues at the World Food Prize and worked as a camp counselor at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. "I'm interested in education, specifically helping younger students connect with their local urban ecology," she says. "I'm hoping to take environmental science and biology classes. With the interdisciplinary research that happens at Northwestern, it's easy to connect your interests."



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Where Startups Are Born

For 10 years, The Garage has helped students turn innovative ideas into thriving business ventures.

Even before graduating from high school in Frisco, Texas, Rudy Arora was no stranger to the startup world. He had already launched WorkBee, an app to help homeowners hire reliable contractors, and had won a national award for young entrepreneurs. When looking at universities, Arora was drawn to Northwestern because it provided the ideal place to take his business-building skills to the next level: The Garage.

Launched in 2015 in a converted space within a campus parking structure,

The Garage has helped more than 10,000 students explore the world of entrepreneurship. Arora quickly found like-minded student partners through a

“The successes of The Garage, our students and our alumni over the past 10 years are all due to the people.”

— Mike Raab

“startup matchmaking” event and joined The Garage’s residency program, which granted his team access to both office space and mentorship.

With The Garage’s support, Arora, now a sophomore, launched Turbolearn AI, a software platform for students who struggle with taking notes. Users upload an audio recording of a class, and the study tool uses artificial intelligence to automatically generate notes, diagrams, charts, flash cards and quizzes. Within four months Turbolearn AI had more than

155,000 users, and in 2024 it won the \$100,000 grand prize in Northwestern’s VentureCat competition, an annual event for the University’s most promising student businesses. Since that time, the platform has grown to 750,000 users and has millions of dollars in annual recurring revenue.

Stories like Arora’s have been plentiful throughout The Garage’s first decade of operations, with inventive students fueling its growth. It has expanded beyond its initial 11,000-square-foot space on the Evanston campus, utilizing Northwestern’s academic space in San Francisco to offer programming for Bay Area alumni who are a part of the startup ecosystem.

“The successes of The Garage, our students and our alumni over the past 10 years are all due to the people,” says Mike Raab ’12, ’22 MBA, the program’s executive director, citing the support

KYLE LA MERE

← Students jointly solve the problems they see in the world and bring their ideas to life at The Garage.

of donors and mentors. “Most importantly, it is the ambitious, curious, collaborative students who contribute to The Garage’s culture of helping each other succeed.”

Thanks to donor contributions, The Garage offers vital programming, resources and funding that help students in their endeavors. In addition to VentureCat, which annually awards more than \$175,000 in prize money, the Jumpstart Pre-Accelerator program provides programming and \$10,000 to early-stage startups. And the NUseeds investment fund helps fast-track the success of new businesses by investing \$100,000 in one to three promising startups each year.

“The Garage brings together students with diverse skills and interests but a unified passion to pursue a nontraditional path,” says Tony Owen ’97, ’03 MBA, who, along with his wife, Monique, funded the Little Joe Ventures Fellowship to support students at The Garage. “We have been amazed to see the impact of the fellows and the companies they create during their time at Northwestern and beyond.”

Programs at The Garage do much more than provide capital for new ventures.

Students learn from established entrepreneurs, intern at alumni-owned businesses, practice the art of pitching and hone their leadership skills. And specialized initiatives such as Luminare, an eight-week experience for first-generation and/or lower-income students, are designed to support populations traditionally underrepresented in the entrepreneurial space.

The Garage’s offerings have evolved over time, bolstered by gifts from donors such as Valerie Friedman ’85 and her husband, Mark, who were among the earliest

supporters of The Garage. “These programs help students develop the full range of skills they need to be effective business leaders,” Friedman says. “The Garage has made tremendous advances over the past decade in shaping a new generation of entrepreneurs.”

Startups spun out of The Garage span a wide range of industries, including medical devices, online marketplaces, AI software, sustainability-focused organizations, consumer products and more. Alumni have developed home batteries that reduce electric bills, drones that promote

public safety, software tools that enhance manufacturing operations and apps that help shoppers uncover resale bargains. Companies that were supported by The Garage also have created thousands of jobs in these areas and others.

Learn more about The Garage’s impact at thegarage.northwestern.edu.

↓ From left, Steven Gu ’24, ’24 MS, Jack Burkhardt ’24, ’24 MS and Ashley Guo ’26 explore drone capabilities in The Garage’s prototyping lab.



Inside The Garage

(since its launch 10 years ago)

1,500+ startups incubated

500+ mentors in its network

\$1.5B raised by companies

SEAN SU '15 MS



← Lecturer Alan Pierson conducts the Bienen School of Music's Contemporary Music Ensemble, which performs at the biennial Northwestern University New Music Conference.

program for the first time, “in an effort to more fully integrate and showcase the breadth of creative activity taking place within Bienen,” Mincek says.

The excitement of discovering novel work by boundary-pushing composers and hearing that work performed by stellar Bienen musicians draws audiences to such events. It also can inspire philanthropy, which is critical to the institute's success, allowing it to host “some of the most adventurous artists of our time, who work side by side with our student ensembles and composers in an open, risk-taking manner,” Mincek notes.

“We're interested in new music because of the possibilities,” says Trine Sorensen, chair of Bienen's Music Advisory Board. She and her husband, Michael Jacobson, made an endowed gift in 2021 that supports both NUNC! and the institute. The couple lives in Silicon Valley, and Sorensen says their proximity to the tech world may be why, as concertgoers, they enjoy taking chances on music they haven't heard — and want to invest in innovative composers.

“There is something about the possibility of the unknown that is similar to a startup, where you're really not sure if it's going to take off,” she says. “But that's OK, because it's taking that leap forward and saying, ‘I want to be a part of that. I want to understand it.’”

Learn more about NUNC! at music.northwestern.edu/nunc.

PERFORMING ARTS

A Leap Forward for Music

Northwestern's Institute for New Music connects students, faculty and visiting artists to push the frontiers of contemporary music.

In the 1760s a young Mozart wrote a symphony and multiple sonatas that are still played today. In the 1930s Duke Ellington penned popular songs that have had a seismic impact on jazz. And since 2012 Northwestern's Institute for New Music has nurtured composers and performers who are shaping the present and future of music.

The institute serves as a hub for contemporary music-related activities in the Bienen School of Music. It organizes workshops, symposia and residencies for visiting composers and ensembles and gives students opportunities to interact with and learn from prominent figures in the new music world.

“The Institute for New Music brings world-renowned guest artists together with our students and faculty to collaborate on ambitious projects in Bienen's state-of-the-art facilities,” says institute director Alex Mincek, an associate professor of composition and music technology.

Northwestern has grown in stature as a leader in new music. Every two years the

The Northwestern University New Music Conference is open to the public and takes place April 25–27.

school awards the Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Music Composition to a contemporary classical composer, bringing renowned musicians such as Jennifer Higdon, Tania León and Steve Reich to the Evanston campus.

The institute also hosts the Northwestern University New Music Conference (NUNC!), which biennially convenes composers, performers, scholars and other new music advocates for an intensive weekend of workshops, panel discussions and concerts. Featuring guest composer and trombonist George Lewis and the International Contemporary Ensemble, this year's event also will highlight performers from Northwestern's jazz studies

VISUAL ARTS

Making History Together

A Block Museum of Art exhibition spotlights the perspectives of Indigenous artists who have ties to Chicago.

For centuries, Chicagoland — Zhegagoynak in Potawatomi — has been a cultural and economic hub for people from many Indigenous nations. Home to the third-largest urban Indigenous population in the U.S., Chicago is an important center for Native American art from the Great Lakes region. Even so, Indigenous voices often are left out of the area's art narratives.

A new exhibition at Northwestern's Block Museum of Art in Evanston addresses that gap with an approach grounded in collaboration, reciprocity and dialogue. Five years in the making, *Woven Being: Art for Zhegagoynak/Chicagoland* runs Jan. 25–July 13. Organizers describe it as an interwoven view of Chicagoland's many Indigenous art histories, with more than 80 works showcasing various materials — including painting, basket weaving, bead work, sculpture, photography and mixed media.

The exhibition is a unique, in-depth collaboration with four Indigenous artists who have ties to Chicago and the region: Andrea Carlson (Grand Portage Ojibwe/European descent), Kelly Church (Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Tribe of Pottawatomi/Ottawa), Nora Moore Lloyd (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) and Jason Wesaw (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi). The layered exhibition includes work by these four artists exhibited amid pieces by 29 other artists

of their choosing. The diverse array of artworks and artists in *Woven Being* are linked by shared values, community connections and family ties.

“Visitors will be surprised when they see how the artists have woven together their own work with works of art by other Native American artists and non-Indigenous artists,” says Lisa Corrin, the Ellen Philips Katz Executive Director of The Block. “It will tell an unexpected story about the history of art of our region from their perspectives.”

“The intense collaboration between The Block, the artists and our guest curator, Jordan Poorman Cocker of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, has taught us so much about what a true partnership with shared decision-making can look like.”

Woven Being's partners include Northwestern's Center for Native American and Indigenous Research and its affiliates. The Terra Foundation for American Art, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and National Endowment for the Arts provided financial support. The show is part of Art Design

→ Top: *Entrance to the Lodge* (1984) by Daphne Odjig (Odawa/Potawatomi, 1919–2016), from the J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection, University of Arkansas

Bottom: *My Family's Tennis Shoes* (2023) by Teri Greeves (Kiowa), from the Collection of the School for Advanced Research

Chicago, a Terra Foundation initiative that highlights Chicago's artistic heritage and creative communities.

To document the exhibition, The Block has produced a 160-page book containing photography, essays, artist interview excerpts, and poetry

and prose on key themes. The book will be available in stores across the U.S. It and other Block publications are supported by a gift from longtime donor and volunteer leader Sandi Riggs '65, who is a member of The Block Board of Advisors.

“*Woven Being* will be a visually stunning and compelling exhibit,” Riggs says. “I urge everyone to experience it.”

Access Block exhibitions via the free *Bloomberg Connects arts and culture app*. Learn more at alum.nu/BlockDigital.



STOPPING

Northwestern researchers are using network science to support intervention efforts and help save lives.

BY CLARE MILLIKEN

GUN

VIOLENCE





Alantha Miles, a CORNERS research project coordinator, worked for almost two years at a Chicago violence prevention program.

“When I met Jane*, her son had just been gunned down a block away from her house,” Alantha Miles recalls. Jane was in shock, staring blankly while people around her were crying and wailing. “I walked up to her and asked, ‘Can I hug you?’ And we just stood there for 10 minutes and allowed the tears to come.”

In the months that followed, Miles checked in with Jane weekly. “We would just talk. I would let her yell, cry, whatever she needed,” says Miles. “A year later she was still hurt, of course — she lost her son — but she was living again: loving on her grandchildren, loving

*Name has been changed to protect privacy

on her other children. Every now and then I reach out to make sure she’s still progressing. She has stayed with me every day.”

For almost two years, Miles was a victim services coordinator at Breakthrough Urban Ministries, a nonprofit that provides violence prevention programming, economic support and more to residents of Chicago’s Garfield Park neighborhood.

During her 24-hour shifts, Miles would rush to scenes of gun violence and survivors’ hospital rooms, meeting with families and friends and providing all kinds of assistance — pain management, wound care and emotional coaching in the immediate aftermath, as well as

longer-term help with school supplies and academic and career development services.

Now Miles brings those firsthand experiences to her current role as a research project coordinator at Northwestern’s Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS), which partners with community organizations in Chicago to provide data analysis and research insights that can improve public safety.

Gun violence is a public health crisis. According to a 2024 U.S. surgeon general report, firearm-related injury has been the leading cause of death for U.S. children and adolescents since 2020. Among young people living in large U.S.

ALL PHOTOS: SHANE COLLINS; ILLUSTRATIONS: CHRIS GASH

cities, Black and Latino youth were up to seven times more likely to experience (firsthand or proximity to) a firearm homicide than white youth in the past year. While Black Americans make up 14% of the U.S. population, they account for 60% of those killed by firearm homicide each year, according to a Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence analysis. And gun violence incidents ripple through communities, affecting many more than just those who experience them up close.

Miles is one of several Northwestern staff, faculty and alumni who are working alongside those most affected by the crisis in order to reduce gun violence, understand risk factors and empower communities. Their research

shows that violence intervention efforts are making a difference.

A NETWORKED APPROACH

Sociology professor Andrew Papachristos has been studying gun violence and intervention programs for more than two decades.

“The most common misconception about community gun violence is that it’s random,” says Papachristos, who is faculty director of CORNERS. “But we know that gun violence is linked to ongoing neighborhood disputes. And we actually know, with some of our science, where and when it’s going to happen.”

The John G. Searle Professor of Sociology in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Papachristos is world-renowned for his application of network science — the study of connections among people, institutions and other entities — to our understanding of crime, violence, policing and urban neighborhoods. He developed neighborhood- and city-level maps to show that victims and perpetrators are often part of the same social network and that violence cascades through communities, similar to the way an infectious disease spreads through a school or workplace. His maps for Chicago, Boston, Newark, N.J., Oakland, Calif., and elsewhere show the links between incidents of violence within each major city.

These network maps demonstrate that gun violence is concentrated in

small social networks and exposure to violence has an enormous impact: If one person in a network gets shot, others in the network face a significant increase in their own victimization risk. Understanding how shootings are connected can inform community-based violence prevention strategies.

In 2021 Papachristos, who is also director of Northwestern’s Institute for Policy Research (IPR), founded CORNERS. Housed within IPR, the center comprises a multidisciplinary team of neuroscientists, sociologists, lawyers, social workers, data scientists, geographers and others who collect data and update these network maps to analyze the reach and impact of gun violence — and, importantly, the impact of violence reduction initiatives.

CORNERS works closely with community violence intervention (CVI) programs, which provide a broad range of services intended to improve community members’ lives, including mental health services, legal support, mentorship, and recreational and educational opportunities.

CVI programs typically operate in communities that have been disproportionately affected by racism and economic and educational inequities. They rely on teams of street outreach workers and victim advocates like Miles to de-escalate conflicts and offer resources to those most at risk of violence.

CVI workers often live in or near the neighborhoods in which they work. Many have experienced gun violence



Of 132 HOTSPOTS — small geographic areas with high levels of interpersonal conflict — where violence interventionists were staffed, ONLY FOUR HAD SHOOTINGS over the 2024 Fourth of July holiday weekend.

the Toll on Youth

In 1995 Northwestern psychiatry professor Linda Teplin began investigating the mental health needs of children in juvenile detention, surveying and following more than 1,800 youth during detention and after their release. In the Northwestern Juvenile Project, she discovered that many of the study participants died in the years following their detention — a significant portion from firearm violence.

“You never study youth expecting to study death,” says Teplin ’72 MA, ’75 PhD, the Owen L. Coon Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Feinberg School of Medicine.

She found that 15- to 19-year-old boys and young men in the juvenile justice system were five times more likely to die than those in the general population, while 15- to 19-year-old girls and young women in the system were nine times more likely to die than general-population girls and young women.

Teplin found that during the 16 years after detention, 90% of the deaths among boys and young men were homicides, most often with a firearm. More than one-quarter of Black and Hispanic boys and young men in the cohort had been injured or killed by firearms.

By following the research participants into adulthood, the investigators also found that being injured by a firearm or having access to a firearm in childhood or adolescence significantly increased the risk of perpetrating firearm violence as an adult.

“Mostly, it’s poor kids who get detained,” Teplin says. “And living in a low-resource neighborhood is the No. 1 risk factor for gun violence.” In *JAMA Network Open*, Teplin’s team wrote that preventive interventions targeting “the neighborhoods where [high-risk youth] live — will have the greatest impact” on reducing shootings. Effective interventions “include assistance with conflict resolution” and connecting people with “mental health services, substance abuse rehabilitation, education services and employment training.”

themselves, and some CVI workers were formerly incarcerated or involved with gangs. With their on-the-ground knowledge of the social connections within a given area, Papachristos says, CVI workers can diffuse conflicts and even prevent gun violence. But their work extends far beyond violence prevention — CVIs are “community institutions,” he says.

“A lot of times, young adults do not have mentors. They don’t have people who are giving them a stern hand but love at the same time,” Miles explains. “CVIs provide guidance and a nonjudgmental environment. They help people understand that you don’t have to take a life in order to get what you need.”

CORNERS designs and implements studies of CVIs and their violence reduction initiatives in partnership with practitioners and CVI organizations. With this valuable network data, the organizations are better equipped to respond to incidents, prevent violence and provide services to those most at risk.

Soledad Adrianzén McGrath ’98, executive director of CORNERS, says

the center takes a “community-engaged approach” to its work. “We have to be in the same spaces that our CVI partners are in,” says McGrath, who is also a research professor at IPR. “We are doing surveys, interviews, observations and other data collection in the neighborhoods. And sometimes we’re just there to break bread because we are also human beings doing work in a really hard field.

“We also provide critically important feedback,” McGrath adds, offering as an example the 2024 Fourth of July weekend, when more than 100 people were shot in Chicago. “We got calls first thing after the holiday weekend,” she says. “Our CVI partners needed to understand what happened. When did

the shootings happen? Did they have outreach workers in those communities during those times? We’re providing rapid analysis that helps our partners see a fuller picture of what’s happening.”

CORNERS was able to show that of 132 hotspots — small geographic areas with high levels of interpersonal conflict — where violence interventionists were staffed, only four had shootings over the holiday weekend.

“That’s information that our partners can use to figure out what they need to do the next weekend,” says Papachristos.

REAL RESULTS

One of CORNERS’ long-standing partners is Chicago CRED. Launched



Northwestern researchers found a **73% DECLINE IN VIOLENCE-RELATED ARRESTS** among those who finished the Chicago CRED violence intervention program. “Most participants stopped carrying guns, getting into fights, robbing or shooting people,” Papachristos wrote in *The Washington Post*.

Professor Andrew Papachristos is renowned for applying network science to our understanding of crime, violence and policing.



in 2016, CRED works directly with those most at risk of gun violence on Chicago's South and West sides. Over approximately two years, participants take part in coaching and trauma counseling, assistance with earning a high school diploma or GED, and job support services. The program also offers housing assistance and support for vocational training.

A CORNERS analysis bears out CRED's impact, showing a 73% decline in violence-related arrests among those who finished the program compared with a similar group who didn't participate in CRED.

"Most participants stopped carrying guns, getting into fights, robbing or shooting people," Papachristos wrote in

The Washington Post. "Most important, [CRED] reduces gun crimes, saving lives."

Another CORNERS partner is Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a coalition of 15 CVIs working across 28 Chicago areas and neighborhoods.

"CP4P is trying to reach those at highest risk of gun violence and get people to go in a different direction," says Vaughn Bryant '00 MS, executive director of Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), which provides behavioral health, workforce development and legal aid teams to CP4P. MPI also provides capacity building for CP4P organizations and trains the outreach workers, case managers and victim advocates across the entire CP4P network.

A CORNERS analysis of the CP4P program showed that participants experienced a 44% decrease in gunshot victimization after 12 months of accessing services through CP4P partner organizations, relative to the 12 months before accessing services. Furthermore, a CORNERS review found that at least 383 shootings and homicides were potentially prevented thanks to CP4P's initiatives.

AN APPLIED SCIENCE

CORNERS' data collection helps find patterns in gun violence that has already occurred — but it also helps outreach workers plan ahead and respond more quickly and effectively to incidents that are likely to occur.



Soledad Adrianzen McGrath is executive director of CORNERS and a research professor at IPR.



A Northwestern analysis of Communities Partnering 4 Peace showed that participants experienced a **44% DECREASE IN GUNSHOT VICTIMIZATION** after 12 months of accessing services through CP4P partner organizations relative to the 12 months before accessing services, and at least 383 shootings and homicides were potentially prevented thanks to CP4P's initiatives.

CORNERS partnered with four CVIs in Chicago to create the Street Outreach Analytics Response Initiative (SOAR), a digital dashboard that incorporates network maps and data on arrests, shootings and deaths.

About twice each month, the CORNERS team meets with these four organizations across the city to review network maps of the previous week's shootings and coordinate responses.

"The network maps are just a starting point," Papachristos says. "The process of sitting down with our partners and bringing data analytics and human intelligence together is actually what makes SOAR powerful. It links workers as much as it does incidents and events."

Given their knowledge of street dynamics in the areas they cover, CVI outreach workers often have a hunch about which individuals are most at risk of gun violence. "SOAR is a way for

them to validate their intel and intuition, but the process can also provide some information that they weren't necessarily aware of," says CORNERS research project manager Dallas Wright '12, who previously worked for a CVI services provider in Chicago. "And with that they can make an even more informed decision about who may be at the greatest risk."

Eventually, McGrath says, the team hopes to make SOAR data more mobile-friendly so that street outreach workers can see it on their phones in real time.

THE FULL PICTURE

Critics of CVI say the programs haven't yet been shown to make a substantive dent in crime rates. But Papachristos believes such pushback doesn't capture the full picture.

"In medicine, only 8% of clinical trials succeed. But people don't say, 'Well,

let's give up on medicine,'" he says. "But in the gun violence space, when CVIs don't prevent *all* shootings, people say, 'Shut it down.' And part of the reason is because CVIs are Black and brown organizations that hire people with criminal backgrounds. Shutting down these organizations without giving them an opportunity is a huge harm. This field is just taking off. It's saving lives. But it's going to take time and sustained support to see it pay off."

Furthermore, Papachristos says, focusing exclusively on shootings and victimization data does not capture the full picture of community gun violence intervention.

"CRED participants stopped carrying and using guns, but they were still getting shot," he says. "CRED didn't change the neighborhood, but people in the program changed their behaviors. One-third got high school diplomas. Job readiness went up. Mental health went up. That's a win by any metric."

Clare Milliken is senior writer and producer in Northwestern's Office of Global Marketing and Communications.

Papachristos' gun violence research supports the University priority to harness the power of data analytics. See the priorities at northwestern.edu/priorities.

Helping the Helpers

Working in the field of gun violence prevention can take a serious toll on mental health. In partnership with the University of Albany and two outreach organizations, CORNERS in 2021 conducted a first-of-its-kind survey of street outreach workers in Chicago, including many from both CRED and CP4P, and intervention workers in Boston and cities in New York state. The researchers found that 60% of street outreach team members witnessed shootings while working and 20% reported being shot at while working. More than half saw a CVI participant die as a result of violence.

"The average citizen moves away from violence, and we're asking street outreach teams to go toward the violence," says Domonique McCord '01, chief program officer at Metropolitan Peace Initiatives. "It's really important that we understand how to best take care of them." That includes career advancement, fair pay, manageable hours and support for staff who experience trauma.

Working for a CVI, "you put so much of yourself into this work because you want to see people thrive. You don't want them to hurt," says Alantha Miles, a research project coordinator at CORNERS. "That compassion just starts spilling out of you, and you've got to rehydrate and reenergize yourself."



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



BECOMING QUEEN OF WALL STREET
SALUTATORIAN
MS TRACK STAFF
M ▲ UVA.1978 A
BS/ECONOMIC
SHARON BOWEN TRUE BATON-PASSER ▲ NU/HON.2023 WALL ST. LAWYER ▲ 30/YRS
FIRST BLACK WOMAN APPOINTED BOARD CHAIR ▲ NYSE.2021 FIRST AFRICAN AMER
ERICAN COMMISSIONER ▲ US/CFTC.2014 OBAMA APPOINTEE ▲ SIPC.2010 VICE CHA
PARTNER ▲ L&W/NY.1991 NFP ▲ PALS/NYC.1982 LAW MENTOR ▲ DP&W/NY.1982 PARTNE
MANAGING EDITOR ▲ NJILB ACTIVE MEMBER ▲ NU/BLSA DUAL DEGREE ▲ JD/MBA.1982

In a pathbreaking career of Wall Street firsts, Sharon Bowen has built an impressive track record as a mentor and leader.

BY LINDSAY GELLMAN

Sharon Bowen stands on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) trading floor, surrounded by a group of college students. Moments earlier, they had watched as Bowen '82 JD, MBA, '23 H, on the podium overlooking the historic space, participated in the afternoon closing bell ceremony to signal the trading day's end. As a line of visitors snakes past, the students pepper Bowen with questions.

A young woman asks about imposter syndrome. The notion comes up whenever Bowen is asked about being the first woman or person of color to chair NYSE's board of directors. In fact, Bowen's career in corporate law and financial regulation comprises many firsts — moments where she broke gender or racial barriers — and she has excelled in mentoring others who hope to follow in her footsteps.

"If you have a little bit of imposter syndrome, you can overcome it," Bowen counsels. "Wear your power when you walk in the room," she says, straightening up to demonstrate. "If you are confident in your skin, people will know that."

It's an ethos that has served her well during her more than three decades in law and finance and now at the NYSE — where she regularly meets with company founders or CEOs, including celebrities such as tennis champion and venture capital firm founder Serena Williams. Perhaps that confidence is part of what made an impression on former President Barack Obama '06 H, who selected Bowen for major financial regulatory roles. Before that, it likely helped propel her to the upper ranks of New York City's elite law firms.

Yet Bowen's power rests as much in this quiet composure as in, at other moments, her ready smile, the ease with which she draws others into conversation, and her occasional wry quip.

"The first time I ever set foot on the floor of the stock exchange was as a summer associate with one of the investment banks here in New York," Bowen says. "I never would have imagined some decades later I'd be walking into this building as the chair."



Bowen grew up in Chesapeake, Va., where she and her four older siblings attended an all-Black elementary school. She remembers seeing KKK cross burnings as a child. But from a young age, she says, she drew confidence from a family and community that supported education. There was an emphasis, too, on activism.

"I watched my neighbors and family members fighting for civil rights," with a focus on access to health care and education, Bowen says. "So the concept of being a 'first' wasn't frightening — it was a reward for my good work."

In junior high, Bowen ran relays in track, where she learned the importance of setting one's teammates up for success. And she was salutatorian and homecoming queen at her then-recently integrated high school.

As an undergraduate at the University of Virginia in the '70s, Bowen wasn't sure at first what she wanted to study. She loved reading and writing and considered majoring in English. But an economics class changed her mind.

PHOTOGRAPH ON PAGE 26: LAURA BARISONZI

↑ Sharon Bowen celebrates the ringing of the opening bell with, from left, Serena Williams and Alison Stillman of Serena Ventures and NYSE Group president Lynn Martin.

"I didn't know what Wall Street was at the time," Bowen says. "But through reading *The Wall Street Journal* — a daily class assignment — I discovered our financial markets."

Bowen enjoyed the intellectual challenge of analyzing the markets, but she remained undecided on a career path. She applied to both law schools and MBA programs and found in Northwestern a pair of outstanding, highly ranked options. It

BOWEN, ABOVE: NYSE GROUP

"IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF IMPOSTER SYNDROME, YOU CAN OVERCOME IT. WEAR YOUR POWER WHEN YOU WALK IN THE ROOM. IF YOU ARE CONFIDENT IN YOUR SKIN, PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT." — Sharon Bowen

was one of three universities that offered her a full scholarship to both its law and business schools. Northwestern's collaborative culture and the sense of place on its campuses, she says, won her over.

"I was attracted to the smaller class sizes, which I thought would give me an opportunity to engage with my fellow students," Bowen says. "The professors knew all of us inside and outside of the classroom, which really makes a difference."

The Kellogg School of Management on the Evanston campus provided a close-knit community with her peers, she says, while the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's location in Chicago's bustling Streeterville neighborhood allowed for points of connection with the city's broader population.

At the Law School, Bowen learned the importance of critical analysis and how to approach the rule of law. Her cohort, she recalls, became so close that they could sometimes predict one another's academic arguments in the classroom.

"We respected each other's viewpoints," she says, "and it was great to be in an environment where it's safe to do that. Not everyone sees cases in the same way. There were opportunities for people to express both sides, to see the pros and cons of judges' decisions, and to explore unintended consequences."

As a dual-degree student in what was then a four-year program, Bowen says, "I was surprised by how interconnected law and business were." She learned how companies raised money, how markets influenced opportunity and how antitrust laws

worked as guardrails. "I enjoyed both schools," she says. "Most people are surprised when I say I really enjoyed law school."

Outside of the classroom, Bowen was a member of the Black Law Students Association and served as managing editor of the *Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business*.

Northwestern Law classmate Leslie Donovan '82 JD remembers Bowen as "very bright, ambitious, hardworking and a natural leader." But she first gravitated toward Bowen simply because she liked being around her. "She was fun. She was funny. I enjoyed her company."

Donovan, who is president and CEO of Starfish Aquatics Institute, a water safety training and certification agency, says Bowen's caring nature carried over into service. In



+ NYSE Explained +

Each business day, between the opening and closing bells, more than 2 billion shares of stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange. But what does that mean, exactly?

The NYSE dates to a 1792 agreement signed in lower Manhattan by two dozen stockbrokers. It stipulated rules for stock trading and fees. Today, NYSE makes use of electronic trading. But people still play an important role.

NYSE runs as an auction market, where buyers and sellers interact directly. Share prices are set at the highest amount a bidder will pay and the lowest amount a seller will accept. Designated market makers ensure that stock transactions are executed in a fair and orderly way. When shares are traded, prices are listed and updated continuously throughout trading hours.

particular, she remembers Bowen's involvement with fundraising for Student Funded Public Interest Fellowships, which support law students entering public interest careers. "She didn't do things to build her resume," Donovan says. "She did things because she believed in them."

Donovan and Bowen reconnected at their 40th reunion in 2022. "She's just one of those people who lights up a room," Donovan says.



In 1982, after earning her Northwestern law and business degrees, Bowen joined the law firm Davis Polk in New York City. "There weren't many women of color or Black lawyers on Wall Street," Bowen says. "Early on, because we didn't have role models, we found each other and mentored one another. We were aware of the need to build a pipeline." From their efforts came the Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program (PALS), a New York City-based mentorship organization that pairs young lawyers of color with more senior ones.

In 1991 she became a partner at the New York City firm Latham & Watkins, where she worked on a wide variety of

corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, and venture capital financings. Her leadership at the firm included an active role in its recruiting, and returning to Northwestern was a key part of her strategy, Bowen says.

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, Bowen heeded a call to service that took her career in a new direction. In 2010 President Obama appointed her to the position of vice chair of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, a federally mandated nonprofit that protects investors and restores their cash and securities if their brokerage firm fails. Bowen saw the role as an opportunity to ensure better protections for the everyday investor.

Her term coincided with fallout from the collapse of major firms including Lehman Brothers, Madoff Investment Securities and MF Global. "As a Wall Street lawyer, I saw my clients lose jobs. I had friends and family who lost their jobs as well," Bowen says. "So when I became a regulator, I wanted to represent the underrepresented — those who were disproportionately affected by the financial crisis — and to make my rulemaking through that lens."

In 2013 Obama again tapped Bowen, appointing her to be the first African American commissioner of the U.S. Commodity

Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), an independent U.S. government agency that regulates the U.S. derivatives markets. (Derivatives are financial instruments whose value comes from an underlying asset, such as a stock, a bond, an interest rate or an index.) During her term, she focused on cybersecurity and the regulation of high-frequency algorithmic trading, as well as on implementing rules established by the Dodd-Frank Act reforms.

When Bowen left the role in 2017, she drew an analogy to the track relays she ran as a youth. "The image most burnished in my mind is the necessity and beauty of passing the baton ... giving the next person the opportunity to turn her leg of the race into a better position for the next person receiving the baton," she said in her farewell address. "Dropping the baton isn't an option."

Still, Bowen says it occasionally surprises her just how significant some of her "firsts" might be to others. She recalls that when Jeffrey Sprecher, former chair of the NYSE and founder, chair and CEO of its parent organization, Intercontinental Exchange, selected Bowen for the board chair role in late 2021, he told her that people would celebrate her many "firsts." But, Bowen remembers, he emphasized that he hired her for being the best person for the job.

Lynn Martin, NYSE Group president, agrees. "There is no one more emblematic of a trailblazer than Sharon Bowen," Martin says. "Her renowned career in law and government has been crucial to the NYSE board. Her passion for supporting women and people of color and dedication to improving access to the financial markets are present in all that she accomplishes — which is a lot!"

As chair, Bowen oversees the governance and strategic direction of the NYSE. She also uses the position to promote the work of the NYSE to government officials, corporations,

nonprofits and students, among others. Indeed, Bowen says she accepted the role in part because it would allow her to champion the economic empowerment of women and girls. She is a partner with Seneca Women, an organization dedicated to supporting women's financial interests.

Bowen recently hosted 120 high school and college students — all young women of color — at the NYSE for a financial literacy workshop that included presentations on saving, investing and managing debt. "I wish I'd heard some of those things when I was their age," Bowen says.



Close personal relationships, including with her husband of 38 years, Larry Morse, are the core of Bowen's life. She draws strength from time with family and friends — especially when it involves great food and wine. "My husband's the cook and the sommelier," she says. "So I'm really fortunate that I don't have to do either one."

Bowen has learned that it's essential to take breaks before you need them. She unplugs by reading mystery novels or financial literature. (In the past, she sometimes read three books a week.) She also enjoys watching films, traveling and "just going to the beach and doing nothing."

Along the way, in her personal life, Bowen has taken a page from her career playbook; she's developed a model for cultivating her own "board of directors" made up of family, friends and colleagues, past and present — a diverse brain trust she can rely on when it's time to make a decision. "It's about who knows you the best — who you can call up and say, 'This is what I'm thinking,'" she says. It's also important to return the favor by serving on others' "boards," she adds.

In this spirit of reciprocity, Bowen has remained closely involved with life at Northwestern, returning multiple times to speak, and serving as a former executive committee member and chair of the Northwestern Law Board. Along with fellow Black alumni of the Law School, Bowen helped establish the African American History and Culture Endowed Scholarship, which is awarded annually to outstanding Northwestern Law students who demonstrate interest in, or commitment to, African American history and culture. In 2023 Bowen received an honorary doctor of laws from the University. And in October she received the Law School's Distinguished Alumni Award.

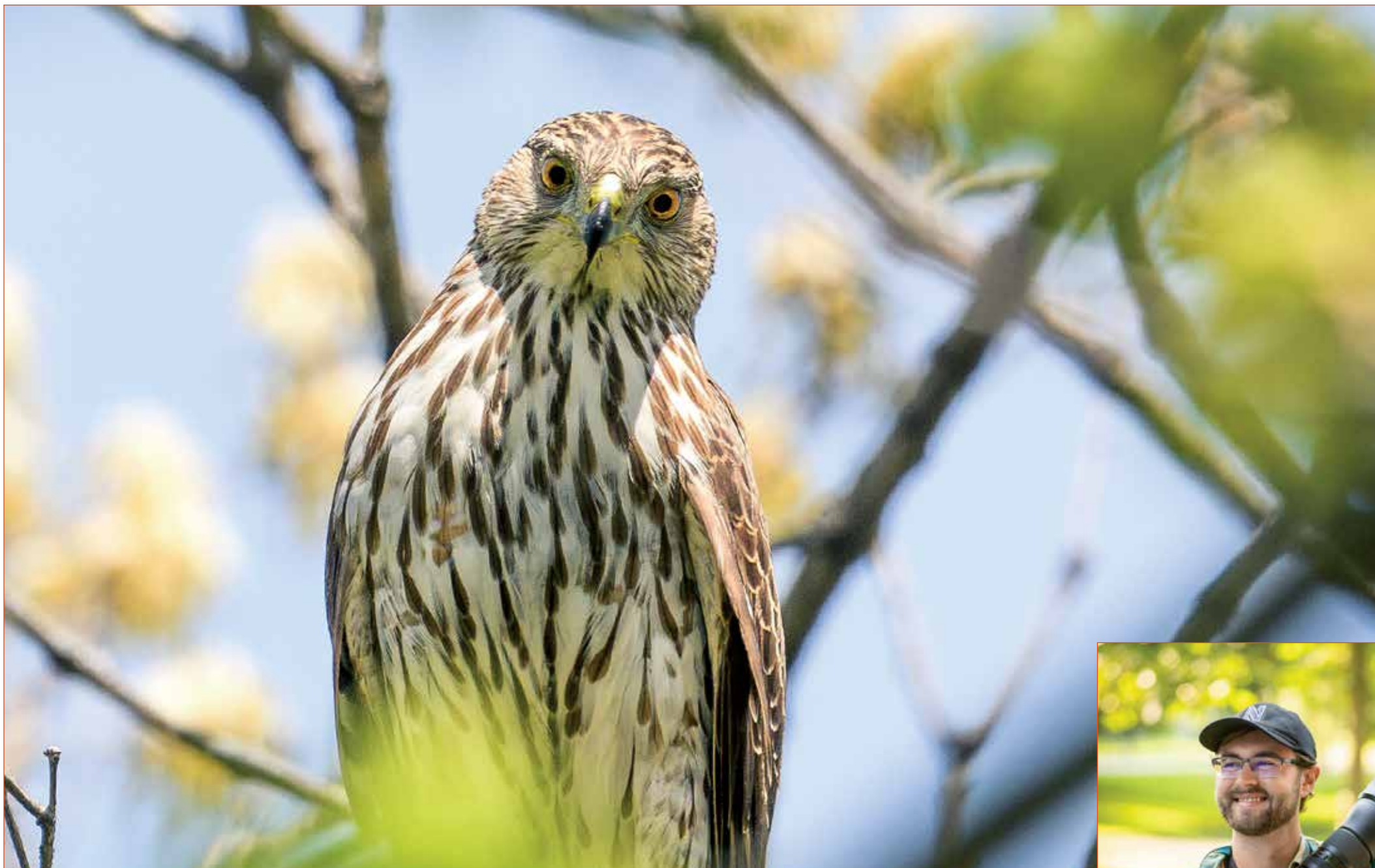
Among her Northwestern alumni cohort, Bowen has found "a circle of people who care about the same issues," she says. Without the help of the scholarships she received as a student, she would not have been able to attend Northwestern, she says. "So it's key for me to give back."

As she did on the track in her school days, Bowen is still carrying the baton, preparing to pass it to the next generation of legal and financial leaders.

Lindsay Gellman is a writer in New York City, where she teaches in New York University's graduate journalism program.

Bowen's journey supports the University priority to deliver an outstanding educational experience. See the priorities at northwestern.edu/priorities.

"THERE IS NO ONE MORE EMBLEMATIC OF A TRAILBLAZER THAN SHARON BOWEN. HER PASSION FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR AND DEDICATION TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE FINANCIAL MARKETS ARE PRESENT IN ALL THAT SHE ACCOMPLISHES — WHICH IS A LOT!" — Lynn Martin



BIRD WATCHER

With the click of a camera, Collin Porter highlights avian life on the Evanston campus.

ESSAY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLLIN PORTER / CURATED BY DIANA BABINEAU



I've loved watching birds all my life.

I grew up in central Pennsylvania with woodland wildlife in my backyard, and I had binoculars and field guides in my hands before I could even read. As a kid I joined my family on bird walks in the forest, memorizing the birdsongs I heard. Yet I didn't consider myself a "birder" until I came to Northwestern.

The Evanston lakefront campus lies within one of the largest bird migration pathways in North America. Nearly 400 unique species have been documented within Cook County, Ill., which contains crucial patches of habitat for both resident and stopover birds. So when I got here, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to seek out such amazing avian diversity.

I started bringing my camera with me on early-morning birding expeditions around campus. I'd been doing portraiture and street photography for years and realized those skills could be translated to natural subjects. Uniting my interests truly paid off on a chilly October morning in 2023, when I spotted an unusually chunky brown-and-silver songbird foraging in the grass on the north end of campus. I quickly lined up a shot and posted the photo online.

Fellow birders confirmed it to be a gray-crowned rosy-finch — the second ever recorded in Illinois and the first seen in Cook County. This bird breeds high up in the Rockies and other Western mountain ranges and then winters at lower elevations. Discovering this bird right next to Lake Michigan — over 1,000 miles away from its typical range — was stunning.

After that extremely rare sighting, I went on bird walks almost every morning. Then, during my senior year, I set a goal: Record over 190 bird species at Northwestern before graduating. By the time I drove back home to Pennsylvania at the end of summer 2024, I had spotted 196 species on campus.

For me, birding has blossomed into so many things: a calming pastime, a way to appreciate the biodiversity around me and an avenue to grow as a photographer. It has been encouraging to see birding become more widespread too. Social media and online platforms such as eBird, which allows anyone to report bird sightings, help collectivize access to and enjoyment of wildlife, all while benefiting research and conservation efforts with something as simple as awareness.

As I prepare to pursue graduate studies in ecological and evolutionary research centered in ornithology, my goal is to widen that access. I share my photography not only to contribute to the scientific documentation of species but also to publicize my personal experiences with birds and the joy they bring. My hope is that you too will be inspired to go out and experience this joy for yourself — perhaps in your own backyard.

Collin Porter '24, left, a birder, photographer and ecologist from Williamsport, Pa., studied environmental sciences and musicology at Northwestern. He was a trombonist in the Northwestern University "Wildcat" Marching Band.

"This immature Cooper's hawk [opposite page] is likely one of several residing on campus. While they were seen nesting south of University Library in 2023, I observed nest-building behavior over the Marjorie Weinberg Garden in spring 2024, as American crows had seemingly taken over the previous nest. Despite sharp population declines decades ago, Cooper's hawks are now one of the most successful predators in the area." — Collin Porter

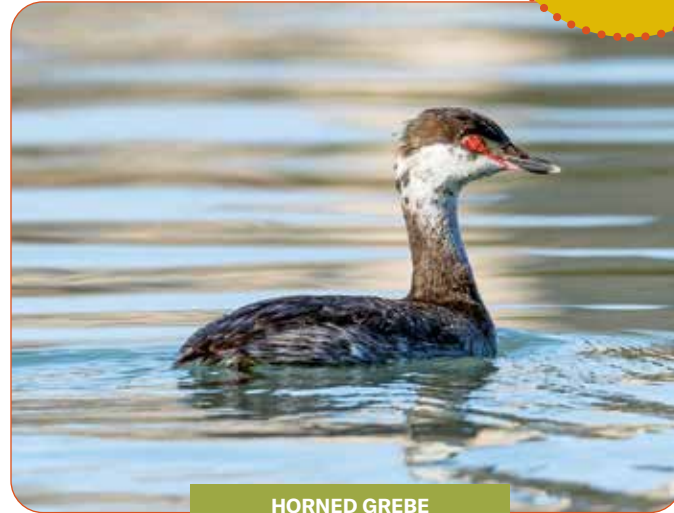
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED

A well-known birding hot spot, Northwestern's Evanston campus has been visited by more than 280 bird species. During the 2024 fall migration season alone, more than 95 million birds passed through Cook County, Ill.



CAPE MAY WARBLER

"While many migrating warblers are found high up in tree canopies, this one came within 3 feet of me while it searched a yew shrub for bugs. Many songbirds are brightly colored in the spring in order to attract mates. But come autumn, many shed their bright plumage, becoming drabber and more difficult to identify. When I spotted this one in the fall, it lacked the distinct rufous mask around the eyes that distinguishes breeding males in the spring." — C.P.



HORNED GREBE

"This diving bird can be found during migration seasons on Lake Michigan and sometimes in Northwestern's lagoon, where I photographed this one. While grebes, loons and ducks have similar swimming and diving habits, they actually are not closely related at all. The swimming-based orientation of grebes' feet prevents them from traveling on land, meaning that they rely on bodies of water for rest during migration as well as breeding activity." — C.P.



CASPIAN TERN

"While scanning Lake Michigan for migrating shorebirds, I spotted this tern hovering overhead within 30 feet of me, likely seeking small fish to strike with its elegant dive. While they are easy to find in the summer, I usually see them streaming past at high speed without stopping. It's not as common to capture them poised to dive so close by." — C.P.



SCARLET TANAGER

"Even on a very sunny day, this beautiful scarlet tanager quickly caught my eye among some of the low maples near Norris University Center. They're fairly common migrants, but they often stay out of sight while they forage for insects in the high tree canopies. In the fall, these bright red adult males molt into a rich olive-yellow." — C.P.

Sound the Alarm! Duck!

(No wait, that's not a duck)

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

"Anyone who has visited the campus Lakefill in the spring is probably familiar with these territorial birds and their loud, piercing and shrill calls. While red-winged blackbirds have a reputation for dive-bombing passersby to defend their nests, I find it important to recognize that they share this space with us and have survived — and thrived — in spite of changing environments and land development. Photographing these 'common' birds might not seem as exciting as rarer ones, but it is still one of my favorite ways to capture and share the ecological diversity and fascinating behavior of the wildlife around us." — C.P.



SEASONS OF CHANGE

Many birds fly south for the winter. But Illinois is south for species that breed in the Arctic, such as the snow bunting. Others, such as Cooper’s hawks and American kestrels, are year-round campus residents. As the seasons turn, some species also experience dramatic shifts in color. To attract mates, many migratory birds grow vibrant feathers in the spring, which requires a lot of energy. Come fall, they often shed their worn breeding plumage for a fresh (yet drabber) nonbreeding look.

Bright feathers signal that a bird may have had an easier, food-abundant winter — and therefore may be a better mate.



AMERICAN KESTREL

“In the colder months I usually scan the lake for migrating waterfowl and gulls, but there are also several species that spend the entire winter on campus. I became pretty familiar with this male kestrel who almost always made an appearance nearby when I was birding on the Lakefill from November through April. The American kestrel is the smallest falcon in this area — only a little larger than an American robin — and primarily hunts over open spaces for small birds and insects.” — C.P.



SNOW BUNTING

“I came across a group of these cute songbirds on a snowy day at the north end of the Lakefill. Snow buntings are incredibly hardy, wintering in the northern United States and southern Canada. After breeding in the summer, they drop their purely black-and-white plumage for the adorable toasted marshmallow color seen here.” — C.P.

Tips for Beginner Birders

You don't need fancy equipment or binoculars. Just open your eyes and ears. Tune in to the bird calls around you and try to locate where they're coming from.

Download a birdsong identification app, such as Merlin Bird ID, to get more familiar with each bird's unique songs and calls.

Borrow a field guide from a local library to study up on birds in your area. Northwestern's University Library now offers bird-watching kits for checkout.

Find a local bird-watching group, such as NU Birders, which organizes free bird walks on campus.



BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

“I first heard this bright orange male Blackburnian warbler singing in the trees just north of Deering and University libraries. After recording its vocalizations, I was able to spot it gleaning insects in the lower canopy. Many migratory songbirds like this one molt into more colorful breeding plumages before they start moving north in the spring. This male will molt into a duller plumage before heading south again in the fall.” — C.P.

PILEATED WOODPECKER

“One of my favorite birds I've seen on campus is this pileated woodpecker, which flew through the oak grove near the Weber Arch and landed in the Marjorie Weinberg Garden. It is the first time this bird has ever been photographed on campus, to my knowledge. They are hard to find here because they prefer mature forests farther from the lakefront and don't migrate. These are the largest woodpeckers in North America, measuring up to 20 inches from bill to tail.” — C.P.



Birds are critical to controlling pest populations, consuming 400 million to 500 million metric tons of insects per year. Pileated woodpeckers help preserve trees by eating wood-boring beetle larvae.

1st

EVER PHOTOGRAPHED ON CAMPUS

LISTEN CLOSELY

Songbirds, such as sparrows, warblers and thrushes, have a special two-sided vocal organ called a syrinx, which allows them to produce two different notes at once. These birds use various songs and calls to attract mates, defend their territories and alert other birds about nearby predators. Some songbirds instinctively know their tunes from birth, while others are born babbling — much like human babies — and must learn their songs from other adults.

A 2022 research study in *Nature* showed that listening to birdsongs reduces anxiety, depression and paranoia.



HERMIT THRUSH

"I found this wintering hermit thrush — my favorite North American songbird — in the sunken garden south of Deering Library. Local thrushes, including the abundant American robin, are known for their beautiful, resonating songs. Though Cook County is generally considered north of their traditional wintering ranges, hermit thrushes seem to be becoming more common in this area in winter, a tangible sign of shifting ranges, likely attributable to climate change." — C.P.

Listen to the hermit thrush sing and see more of Porter's photographs at alummag.nu/birds.



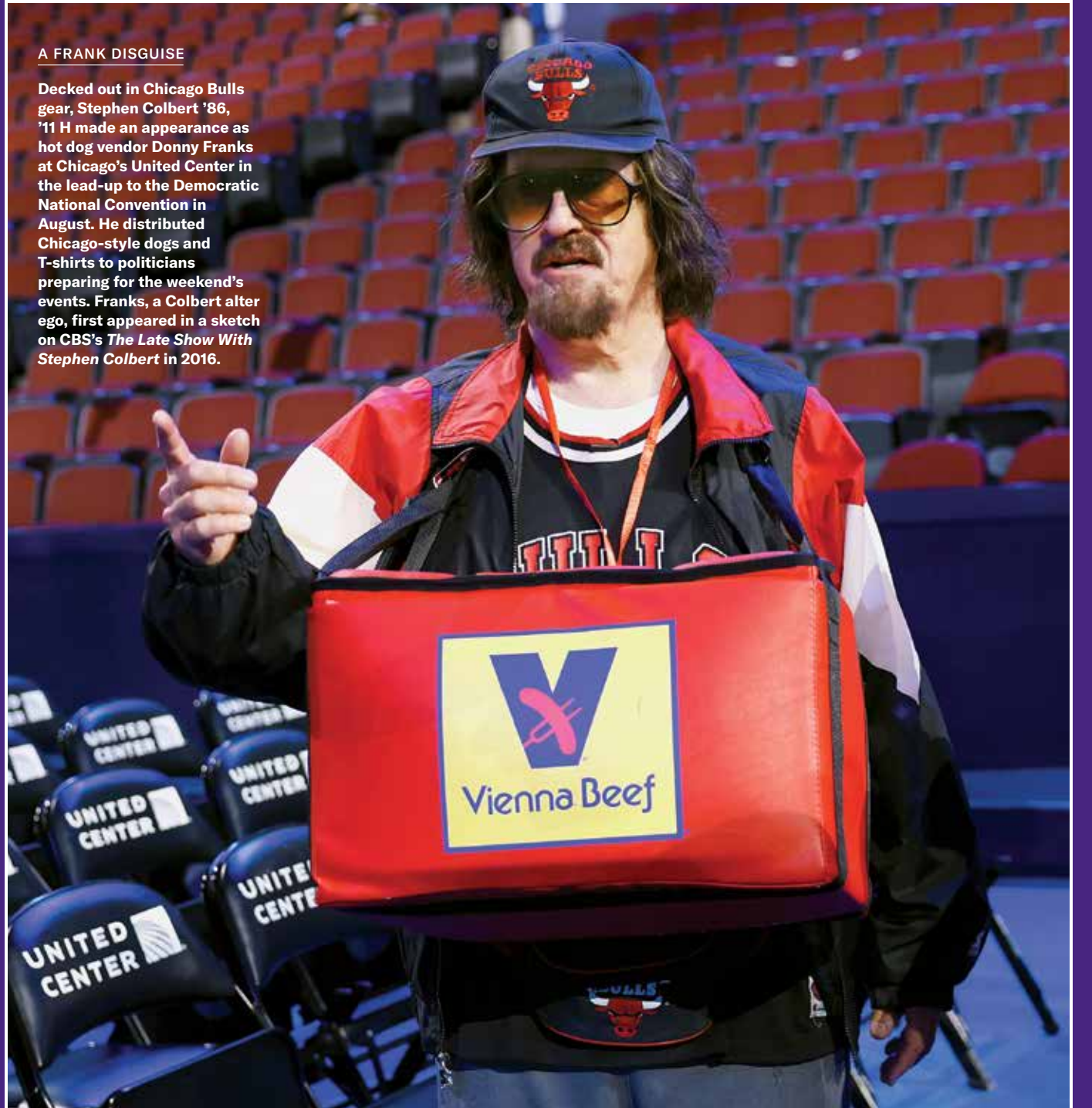
Lights Out

Because birds are unable to see glass windows and are attracted to bright lights, bird collisions — when birds fly into buildings — are unfortunately common throughout Chicagoland during migration. Environmental activists recommend turning off lights between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., when birds are most often in flight. Window decals can help steer birds away from buildings as well. In 2018 Northwestern installed patterned decals on its Kellogg Global Hub, resulting in a 73% reduction in bird strikes that year.

Diana Babineau is senior editor and writer in Northwestern's Office of Global Marketing and Communications. An enthusiastic birder, she met Collin Porter when he led an early-morning NU Birders walk on the Evanston campus.

Porter's work supports the University priority to be a leader in sustainability. See the priorities at northwestern.edu/priorities.

Alumni



A FRANK DISGUISE

Decked out in Chicago Bulls gear, Stephen Colbert '86, '11 H made an appearance as hot dog vendor Donny Franks at Chicago's United Center in the lead-up to the Democratic National Convention in August. He distributed Chicago-style dogs and T-shirts to politicians preparing for the weekend's events. Franks, a Colbert alter ego, first appeared in a sketch on CBS's *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* in 2016.

ILLUSTRATION: GETTY IMAGES

KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Creation



ARTMAKING

Five Questions with Lilli Carré '16 MFA

A Guggenheim fellow and interdisciplinary artist, Carré explores depictions of the body through experimental animations, sculpture, drawings and more.

1

What materials do you use in your art? I enjoy shifting between varied mediums as I work — experimental animation, print, comics, drawing, clay and textiles. I'm drawn to meditative methods that require slowing down, breaking up a whole into smaller parts or motions — these are essential aspects of creating hand-drawn animation, stonework and weaving. Currently I'm teaching myself some simple

game design programs to be able to use in my own way.

2

What concepts do you explore in your work? I've made a lot of different kinds of work — some are narrative comic stories, some are figurative clay forms, some are abstract animation — but I'm always exploring a range of experiences, renderings and limits of bodies. Recent works focus on perceived misbehaviors, bodily communication and the grotesque. I'm particularly interested in the open-ended possibilities and histories of the animated body — simultaneously physical and virtual, free of expectations or fixed form.

3

What is one of your favorite projects? I recently collaborated with artist Laura Harrison on *Overheard in the Underworld*, a video installation for 150 Media Stream in Chicago. The seed for our collaboration was Alice Notley's book-length poem *The Descent of Alette*. Laura and I created a series of interlaced, hand-drawn animated scenes responding to specific imagery and scenarios found in Notley's words. Beginning with a subway ride into surreal and unfamiliar depths, our piece takes a circular journey through tunnels of the flesh and the mind. A shape-shifting female protagonist confronts shadow selves and power structures in pursuit of healing and transformation,

CARRÉ: COURTESY OF LILLI CARRÉ

moving from despair to revolt and renewal. [The exhibit is on display through April 27.]

4

What are you focusing on as a Guggenheim fellow? One of the most amazing things this fellowship allows for is time. Right now I am working on three projects: Two are hand-painted, 2D animated shorts that I'm creating on paper, and the other is an experimental narrative game.

5

How did Northwestern influence you? The Art, Theory, Practice program allows for a lot of independent studio work, which gave me time to explore. I dipped into learning computer-generated imagery, expanding my practice in both virtual and physical mediums. In one class, we would critique a single work of art for three hours as a group each week, which I really enjoyed. There were several teachers who were very influential in terms of expanding my awareness of my own work in ways I'm not sure I would have seen otherwise.

Northwestern is still a regular part of my life. I co-organize the Eyeworks Experimental Animation Series, a curation of classic and contemporary animated films. We do annual screenings in New York City, Los Angeles and Evanston. The Block Museum of Art has hosted the Evanston screenings since I was a student there, and I look forward to it every year.

DOGS: COURTESY OF TASTE TV AND JACK OWICKI; RAY: AMAN AHMED



HANGING TEN WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Each summer, thousands of canine lovers line the shore of Linda Mar Beach outside San Francisco to watch the world's best four-legged surfers catch some waves at the annual World Dog Surfing Championships (formerly the Small Wave Surf Dog Competition). Founded by André "A.K." Crump '91 MBA, the first event was held in San Diego in 2006. Crump later launched the world championships. Dogs compete in four size categories and are awarded points based on technique, confidence and style. "It's very satisfying to see a sport that I created from scratch become this popular," says Crump, founder and CEO of media company TasteTV. He and his wife, Stephanie Green Crump '91 MBA, are the parents of twin daughters, including Anise Crump '22.

SMART FASHION

Leave Your Baggage Behind

An avid and experienced traveler, Jehana Ray '03 first felt the freedom of traveling light on a trip to Cuba in 2022. Exhausted from lugging multiple bags around the country, she felt compelled to donate her belongings to a local resident. "I didn't keep much other than a swimsuit and the dress I had on," says Ray, right.

It might seem impulsive — but Ray felt unburdened. And it gave her an idea.

Almost two years later, in 2024, Ray launched PackLess Travel, a clothing rental service for travelers. Unlike typical clothing rental services that ship items to customers' homes, PackLess Travel delivers a personalized capsule wardrobe to travelers' hotels before they arrive. Travelers enter their destination and length of trip on the PackLess website,

then select seasonal clothing items vetted by local fashion consultants. PackLess sends the selected wardrobe to the destination hotel. The traveler wears the clothes during their trip and then returns them to the reception desk at checkout.

"By leaving behind excess baggage — both literally and metaphorically — travelers can connect more deeply with the world," says Ray.

Read more at alummag.nu/Ray.





↑ LOVB Pro players, from left, Chiaka Ogbogu, Annie Drews and Jordyn Poulter

PRO SPORTS

Set for Success

Katlyn Gao is building a volleyball ecosystem.

When a world record 92,000 people showed up at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Memorial Stadium in August 2023 for a women’s college volleyball match, the sports world took notice.

But Katlyn Gao ’01 wasn’t surprised. “This is a mainstream sport,” she explains. Volleyball is the team sport with the highest participation among girls in the U.S. It’s bigger — and growing faster — than basketball, soccer or softball.

Gao, right, is co-founder and CEO of League One Volleyball (LOVB). She co-founded LOVB with Peter Hirschmann ’99 MBA. The organization is launching LOVB Pro, a women’s volleyball professional circuit that’s set to begin regular season play this January with franchises in six U.S. cities.

Even before the first match, it’s off to a hot start. Ten players from the U.S. women’s Olympic team, which won a silver medal, have signed on to play in the league. ESPN has media rights to the LOVB Pro broadcasts. And early backers include tennis icon Billie Jean King ’17 H

and WNBA legend Candace Parker.

LOVB has also become the largest youth volleyball community in the U.S. It runs 50 youth clubs, with more than 14,000 athletes competing on 1,300 teams across 23 states. LOVB’s “community-up” model ties clubs to pro teams. In Madison, Wis., for example, Madtown Juniors club players train at the same state-of-the-art facility as the pros. And the league’s 2025 LOVB Classic tournament will take place in Kansas City, Mo., in February alongside the Triple Crown National Invitational Tournament, an annual elite youth volleyball event.

“Not a single pro league in the U.S. has ever been built intentionally from the youth level from the very start,” says Gao. “We’re building a legacy league.”

Read more at alummag.nu/LOVB.



HISTORICAL FICTION

The Wildes

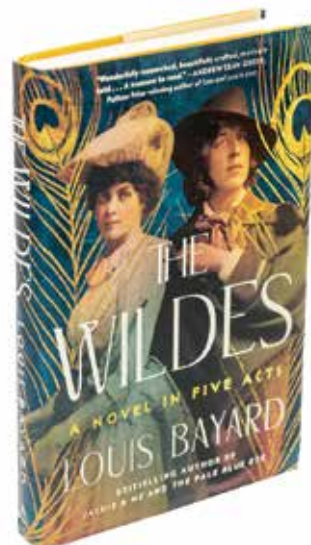
by Louis Bayard

A key figure in the late-1800s aesthetic movement, Oscar Wilde was well known for his plays, poems and prose, including his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Many also know of his imprisonment in London after being convicted of homosexuality. But far fewer people know that he was a devoted husband and father.

In his new book *The Wildes: A Novel in Five Acts*, Louis Bayard ’87 MS focuses on Wilde’s wife, Constance, and their two sons after she discovers Wilde’s affair with Lord Alfred Douglas.

“Constance was a writer and an editor. She was multilingual. She was well educated, and she was a feminist,” Bayard said at an Evanston bookstore talk. “Looking at what she and the two children went through, and the tragedy of it — that’s the story that has never been told in a fictional setting.”

Bayard has written 10 other novels, including *Jackie & Me* and *The Pale Blue Eye*, which was adapted into a Netflix film in 2022.



LOVB: MEG OLIPHANT FOR LEAGUE ONE VOLLEYBALL; GAO: MOLLY CRANNA; THE WILDES: SHANE COLLINS



← Pacemakers founder Susan Avery

captain of the New York Knicks City Dancers, to help. They held auditions and founded the Pacemakers with the goal of fighting stigma around aging. The dancers proudly display their birth years on the backs of their jerseys.

“There’s no shame in aging,” Avery says. “It’s a badge of honor.”

In 2019 the Brooklyn Cyclones invited the Pacemakers to perform during a game. Much to Avery’s surprise, the Pacemakers were a hit, receiving a standing ovation. The group has since performed at the 2023 premiere of the movie *80 for Brady* in New York City and the 2024 American Physical Therapy Association conference in Boston. In October the team performed and taught dance workshops in Austria. Videos of their performances have also been big hits online, racking up millions of views.

See them dance at alummag.nu/Avery.

BUST A MOVE

Never Too Old to Dance

The Pacemakers fight stigma around aging.

On Saturdays, a dance studio in Midtown Manhattan fills with music and laughter as people from all walks of life — a medieval history professor, a Hall of Fame boxing referee, a lawyer and a U.S. military veteran, among others — gather from across the tristate area. Spanning three decades

in age, they are united by a singular love: dancing.

In 2019 Susan Avery ’90 MS founded the Pacemakers Dance Team, a group of dancers ages 60–85. Two years earlier, at age 57, Avery had joined the dance team for the Brooklyn Cyclones, a New York Mets minor league

affiliate. She danced alongside teammates who were in their teens and 20s. But when videos of the performances were posted online, she faced an onslaught of cyberbullying.

“Some people took to Facebook and said, ‘What is this old bag doing on the team? We don’t need her. She should just stay home,’” Avery says. Her daughter Natalie Avery ’17 jokingly suggested she start an “old-person dance team.” With no experience running a dance team, Susan Avery called up Heather Van Arsdel, a friend and former

PLAY TIME

Raising Future Fans

Mike Schroder’s activity boxes make learning the rules of the game fun for kids.

In 2022, when the Cincinnati Bengals made their first run to the Super Bowl in 33 years, Mike Schroder ’14 MBA hoped to share the fan experience with his 5-year-old daughter, Ella. But despite his efforts to teach her about football, Ella remained more interested in the fight song and snacks than the rules of the sport. “I thought, ‘There’s got to be a better way to introduce kids to a sport,’” says Schroder.

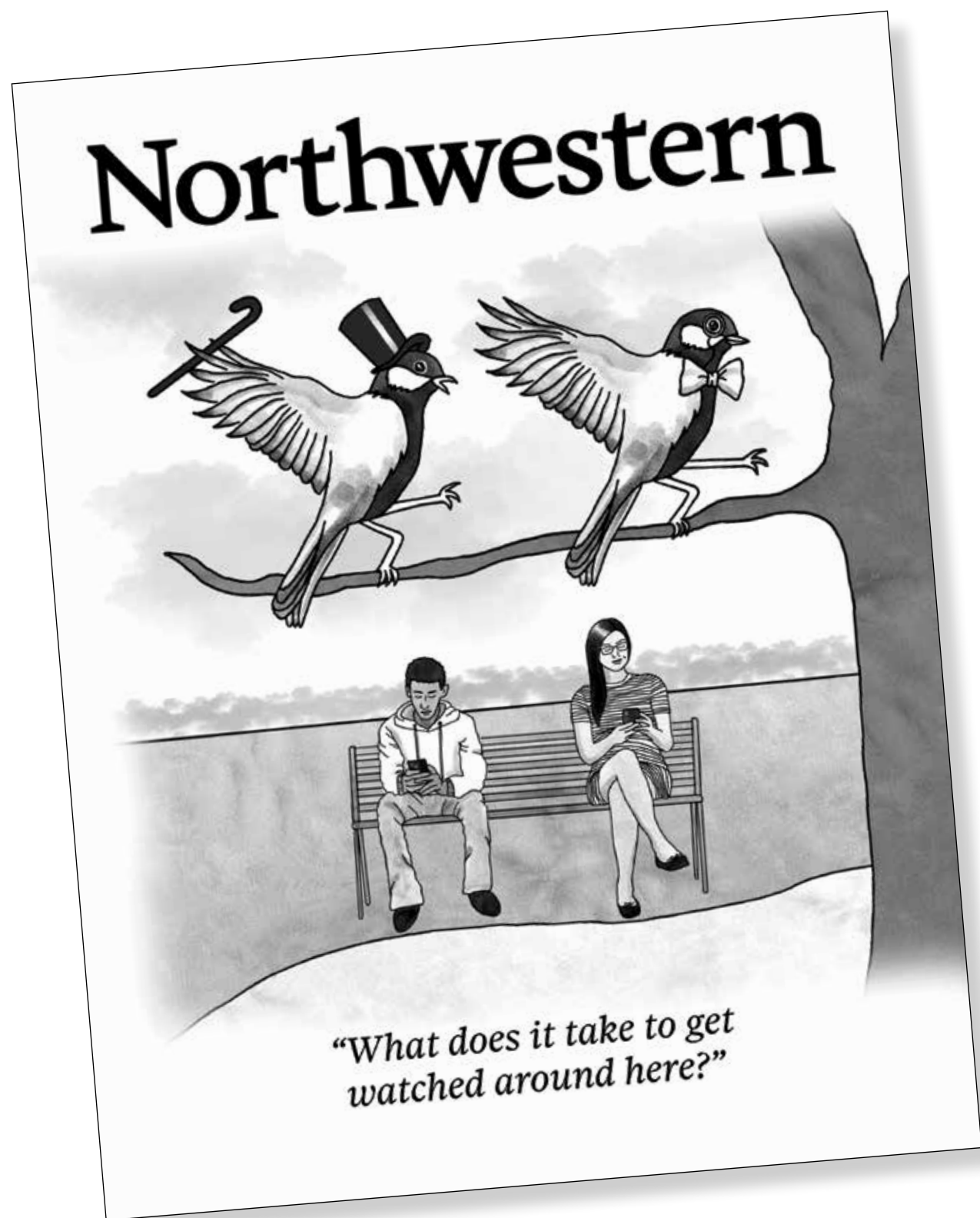
So he and business partner Michael Gold launched Future Fans, a series of activity boxes for kids. Each box includes

a storybook set in a fictional sports day camp. As families read together, they open surprises within the box, such as a beanbag toss game that mimics how downs work in football. Since launching in 2023, Future Fans has won eight national toy awards and offers football- and soccer-themed boxes, with basketball, baseball and hockey on the way.

Schroder’s efforts came full circle when he was set to fly to Kansas City, Mo., to watch the Bengals play the Chiefs in the



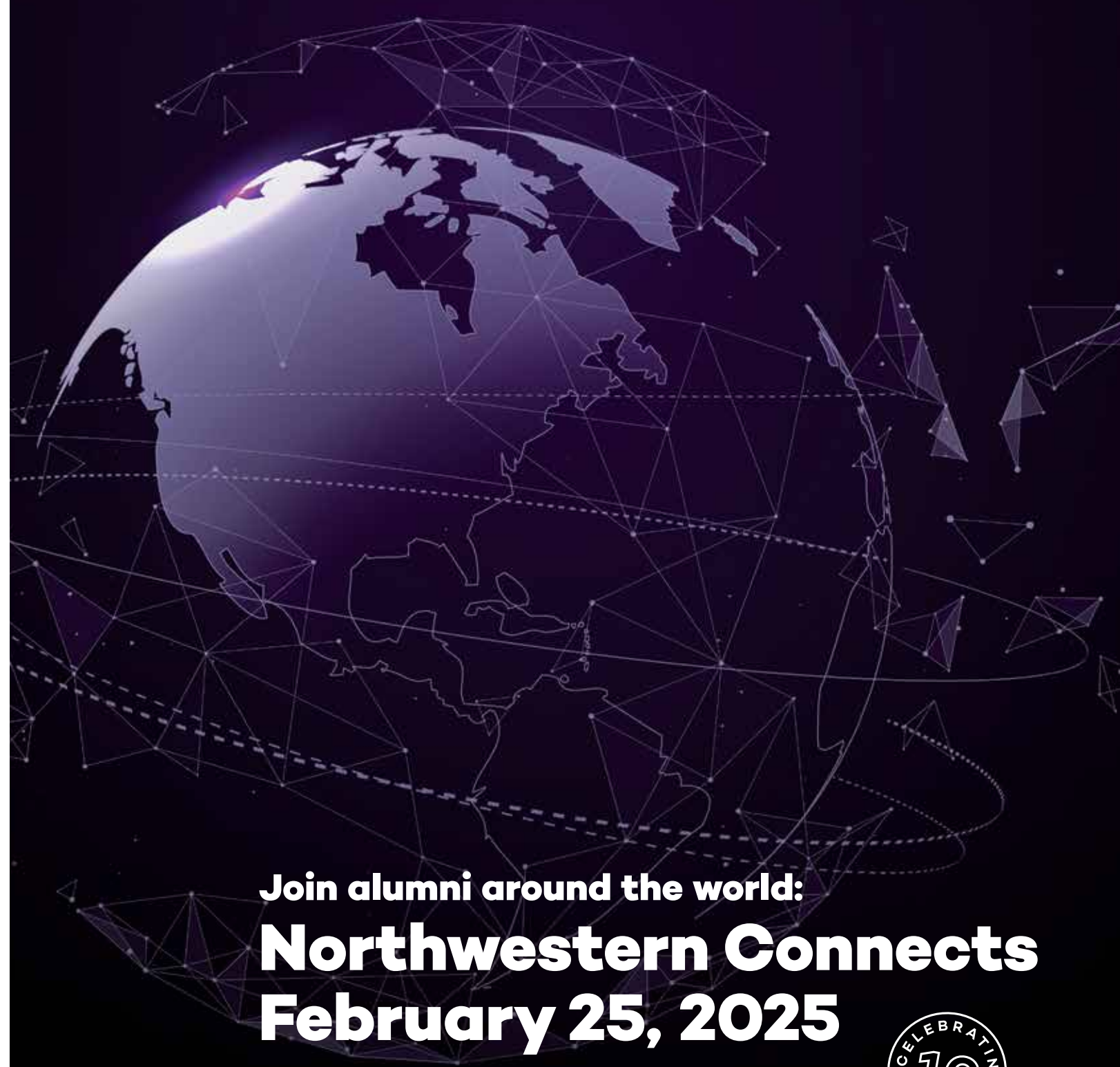
2023 AFC Championship with his brother. “Ella, then 6, said, ‘Daddy, I want to watch the game with you,’” Schroder says. “I canceled my trip. She and I took in that heartbreaking loss together on our couch. That’s what it’s all about: cross-generational connection.”



“What does it take to get watched around here?”

For photographer Collin Porter '24, birds are always the star of the show. See how he's giving them the spotlight on page 32.

ILLUSTRATION: SARINA BENOIT



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1966

Unique species of birds — including this Cooper's hawk — spotted on Northwestern's Evanston campus by Collin Porter '24, a photographer and enthusiastic birder.

See some of his most striking photos on page 32.