

THE NORTHERN POST

Volume 1: Issue 1

CONDUCTING MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

October 21, 2019



Photo by Jack Anstey on Unsplash

A Letter from the Editor

by Dr. Kay Tronsen

Welcome to a First!

Maiden voyages, the first step on the moon, launching a new university, a first kiss, a baby's first step – firsts come in all shapes and sizes. This first issue of a student publication may not be lunar-landing big, but it is no small step. We are a small team, inspired by student vision and initiative, creating something that we hope will grow and represent Great Northern University's faculty, staff, and students well.

Starting a newspaper like this, from the ground up, is based on making decisions. Picture a blank whiteboard, markers, and a team, asking huge questions like who is our audience, what is our purpose, and what kind of stories do we want to write. It was a first step, a beginning. Imagine the results as concentric circles, with the smallest circle closest to where we, the team, stand at the center. AND that one, the closest circle, would be GNU. We see ourselves primarily addressing GNU faculty, staff, and students

– yes, you. So, in this first issue, you will find GNU-specific interests featured like GNU housing, Field Education, and a staff interview. The next circle would be Spokane, and the farthest circle would be the public, not the general public, but a public who might be interested in GNU for any number of reasons. And who's to say how it might change in the future as new voices, new visions, join us.

How can you be a part of this growing endeavor? Sign up for Communication 4500 in the spring as an elective class for Journalism, scheduled for Wednesdays from 12:15 to 3:00. We are looking for dedicated and visionary members to join our great team.



GREAT NORTHERN
UNIVERSITY



Photo by Heather Wilking

We remember

Jordan Hills

1999-2019

*In gratitude for your
service to Great
Northern University*

A Humble Abode

by David Bradley

Ease of access, affordability, and nearby food are essentials for successful college housing. While Great Northern University may not have a cafeteria or dorms, the university has taken steps to provide comfortable and affordable housing that meets these criteria; the method, though, isn't exactly what you'd expect.

Having a low, set rate; a good environment with opportunities for growth; and plenty of chances to share laughs (or role-playing campaigns) are just some of the things that GNU has sought to provide through houses such as 713 E. Baldwin— the first of many housing options available to the student body.

The house is furnished to hold as many as eight members, but can function even more spaciouly with fewer. An in-house washing machine and dryer, well-maintained interior and exterior, as well as convenient alleyway parking are just a few of the house's many amenities, not to mention that the rent is a flat rate of only \$350 per month.

Students are able to share in the camaraderie of dorm living while staying within the comfort of an actual house.

One of the goals GNU set for its housing that has certainly been met in this option is the need for a convenient location. Arguably the best part

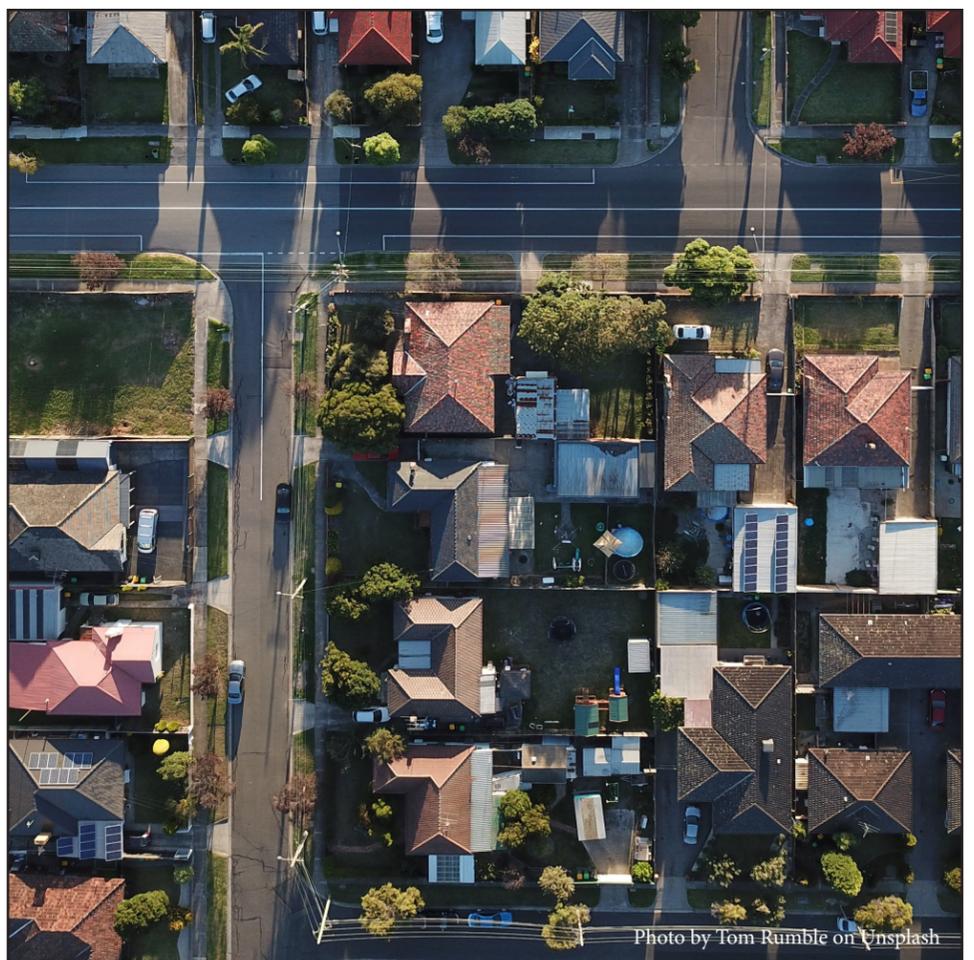


Photo by Tom Rumble on Unsplash

A Humble Abode, cont. from page 1

about this house—especially for those without personal vehicles—is its extremely close proximity to the school. In just under a minute students can get from the house’s front door to GNU’s entrance. This short distance makes arriving to class and quick transitions between school and work more efficient than ever. Furthermore, the nearby location allows students easy access to the school’s extensive library collection for studying as well as late night research.



vv

Beyond the school, Papa Murphy’s, Safeway, Subway, Donut Parade, De Leon’s Tacos, Arctos Coffee and Roasters, and McDonald’s can all be reached within just half a mile, making this house perfectly located for a quick bite, great coffee, and accessible groceries. Additionally, the location will undoubtedly prove helpful once winter hits, bringing snow with it, since the occupants won’t even need to warm up the car before heading to class or to coffee with friends.

Currently, this house facilitates the needs of five male students. Noah Torres and Matthew Moeller, two of the university’s newest students, are just a few of the four-bedroom, two-bathroom house’s occupants. The two sophomores are joined by some of GNU’s more seasoned attendees; Hayden Ivey and Luke Alcalá, both juniors here at GNU, have recognized the many benefits of campus housing and chose to spend their third year of schooling here.

Additionally, because of his close affiliation with the GNU community and classroom presence through Greek Exegesis II, Turner Perkins lives alongside these students as one able to offer help as they encounter some of the difficulties that accompany undergraduate education.

As a student, cool-down times are essential for success; for 713 E. Baldwin, a beloved Nintendo masterpiece—Super Smash Bros. Ultimate—helps to fill that role nicely. According to Ivey, an Applied Linguistics major here at GNU, “Video games bind our souls together.” The house provides a way for these otherwise unconnected men to interact and form bonds through the fires of virtual competition. I sat in for a while to play along during a Smash Bros. battling session and couldn’t help but notice the sheer amount of laughter, game-related dad jokes, and competitive spirit that fueled an abundantly fun and enjoyable time for all.

If the group isn’t playing Smash, making coffee together, or chatting about some of the five languages known between the five of them, you will likely see them studying in communal spaces or taking the six-minute walk to McDonalds to “break bread” together.

If you find yourself in need of a place to stay for your next semester or year at GNU, I recommend finding Nathaniel Schey at his office to ask about a spot in one of our convenient student housing locations.



Photo by David Bradley

Field Education at GNU: Where Dreams Get Wheels

by Dr. Kay Tronsen

As Dr. Jennifer Mills, Provost, put it, the Field Education requirement at Great Northern University helps to “transition dreams into reality.” Field Education is more than just a ‘requirement’ for full-time students; it serves concrete purposes and meets concrete goals. Dr. Mills said that most colleges identify the transition from college to work life as one of the hardest that students face, and colleges develop different ways of addressing this transition. Other colleges meet such needs through testing or portfolio systems, or major-specific internships, but GNU is “unique,” according to Dr. Mills, to require Field Education of *all* their full-time students.

“Networking is one of the great benefits for students, providing ‘a sea’ of support.”

When considering possible outcomes for Field Education, Dr. Mills cited various results including demonstrating competence (students can do

what they’re going to school to do), providing service in their communities (using beginning skills in ministry), and developing networks, connections, and resources in their chosen field.

Dr. Gordon Jacobson, retired Director of the Career and Vocational Office at Whitworth University, agrees that networking is one of the great benefits for students, providing “a sea” of support. In addition, he said field education allows students to “test-drive” a career or vocation before committing to it. He also said that when students are asked an inter-

view question such as, “Can you give me an example of a time when you . . .?” they have a reservoir of experience from which to pull.

Field Education sites for GNU students include churches, hospitals, clinics, clubs, outreach ministries, construction sites, English as a Second Language programs, schools, and libraries. This semester, GNU freshman, Rachel Denney, will work with the Jonah Project – according to their website, a ministry serving “survivors of human trafficking and at-risk women.”

Denney reported that finding her Field Education site was a “God thing.” She didn’t know that she sat across from one of the founders of the ministry until Denney was asking her co-workers about potential Field Education possibilities. Her co-worker mentioned the Jonah Project – and, true to God’s style – Denney had just seen their logo. She will be serving those who have already transitioned through the program and now have “access to a normal life.”

Denney said that so far, though she is just starting, she has experienced the spiritual challenges of working with those whose faith expressions, backgrounds, and foundations are different from her own. She is excited at the “hands-on” nature of the work, seeing what is happening here in Spokane, not just in missions, nor just what is talked about in class, but “jumping into people’s lives,” seeing ministry lived out.

One of the blessings for Dr. Mills is watching students realize “who they are and who

they are not,” to see how they respond and change due to real-world opportunity. Some students have changed majors after their Field Education revealed unexpected gifts, and they realized God had given them gifts better suited for a different career. Dr. Mills has seen the benefit to students when their efforts are rewarded in real-time service to such diverse groups as refugees or camping ministry attendees, or Habitat for Humanity recipients. In short, dreams need scaffolding, process, and interwoven experiences that lead students step-by-step toward a life-goal. Field Education at GNU not only puts wheels to dreams, it sets them spinning in the right direction.



Rachel Denney, Great Northern Freshman Majoring in Leadership Studies

Green GNU *by Lewie Warren*

In Genesis, we learn that humans are intended to “be with God and steward the earth” (as Dr. Kibbe might say). As college students, we may feel as though we cannot contribute to cleaning up the earth as much as we may want to. We do not own houses to renovate for sustainability; we use whatever transportation is the easiest and cheapest; we cannot contribute to the latest attempts to rescue the earth like refreezing the ice caps or building net-zero energy factories. But, as students, as Christians, we are set apart to be with God and to take care of the earth. At a Christian university, we spend time with God. Now let’s focus on taking care of the earth.

Here are 12 tips for sustainable living as a college student:

1. Take notes electronically. This cuts down on the school supplies you buy and the amount of waste produced.
2. Use plants to freshen a room instead of Febreze.
3. Use reusable shopping bags. They are cute and practical.
4. Eat out less. Not only does this save money, but it encourages creativity in menu planning.
5. Create a list before shopping.
6. Buy second hand clothing. Again, this saves money and promotes creativity.
7. Recycle // Reuse // Compost.
8. Community gardens.
9. Reusable water bottles and coffee mugs.
10. Change the lightbulbs: LED lights use 21 time less energy than fluorescent and last five times longer. LED lights also mimic the sun’s rays, keeping seasonal depression at bay.
11. Use dish towels instead of paper towels and reusable dishes rather than paper.
12. Eat less meat. Raising and packaging meat uses much more resources than veggies and grains. I am not suggesting adopting full-on vegan or vegetarian habits, but reducing your meat intake can cut down on resources that can be used elsewhere.

While these may seem like minor changes to everyday life, the money and resources saved add up quickly.

Taking care of the earth can happen in large leaps, or quiet shuffles, but we are called to do it one way or the other.



GREAT NORTHERN UNIVERSITY INVITES YOU TO THE NEXT

Crock Pot Talk

CONVIVIALITY, COOKERY, AND COMMUNICATION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

5:30-7:00 PM



Photo by Matt Collamer on Unsplash

Union Gospel Mission: Investing with Compassion

by Lewie Warren

As it has been reported in Spokane local news, though the number of homeless people has not changed all that much over the years, their visibility has increased due to the reduction of shelters and changes to city ordinances. One organization stands out above the rest in its efforts to assist the homeless. The Union Gospel Mission was established in Spokane, WA, over 75 years ago by Albert Arend and a group of local businessmen.

After Arend gathered the businessmen around the dinner table to hear the testimony of a man’s life transformed by the gospel, Arend asked if they would help him to set up a men’s shelter to share the gospel and get men back on their feet. They all said yes.

Now, more than 75 years later, the Union Gospel Mission not only provides shelter and meals for men, they also have shelters for women and children, as well as a thrift store and car dealership to help support and train their residents.

The aim of the Union Gospel Mission is not only to provide the basic necessities of living, but also to transform hearts to love and chase after Jesus. According to their staff, the Mission’s goal

is “to reach the poor with the love and power of the gospel so they may become God-dependent, contributing members of society.” In hopes of attaining this goal, the Mission’s staff and volunteers encourage those seeking to recover from addictions to complete the UGM’s 18-month program.

First, the physical needs of the human are met: food, water, shelter, and clothing. These needs are met by the UGM Thrift Store, the volunteer-staffed kitchen, and the hundreds of beds available for those in need. In addition to food and clothing, residents are encouraged to have a checkup by the family practice doctors, eye doctors, and dentists who volunteer their time to The Union Gospel Mission.

Second, a basic need for humans to thrive is to have community. In Genesis, we see that God deemed it good for Eve to join Adam and to multiply the human race. The UGM believes that with social connections comes a restored self-esteem that is often lost when living on the streets.

Third, the UGM requires all of their residents to attend chapel and Bible studies, and they encour-

age residents’ attendance at prayer and worship events. The Mission recognizes that while they can provide for a person’s physical needs, only God can change a person’s heart and transform their life. Along with this heart change is individual and group therapy for any and all emotional, mental, physical, or sexual trauma.

Finally, the UGM’s recovery program residents receive training in practical life skills and the ability to pursue more specific training of their choosing. In an interview with a previous board member, Rob Mildes stated that “UGM doesn’t encourage people to just get any job they can find, but to find a job that they really care about and can find passion in.” The recovery program helps to change the body, heart, and soul of those who want to alter the trajectory of their lives.

Albert Arend’s vision for the Union Gospel Mission has turned into a reality by the hard work of thousands of volunteers in the Spokane area for the last 78 years. While the UGM has been flowing with the strength of the Holy Spirit, volunteers are always welcome and put to work.

Approachability 101

by David Bradley

While Katie Merrifield might not be found at the front of a classroom, her presence at Great Northern University has been instrumental in shaping us into the institution we are. Though she would humbly say that her work here is to assist where needed, it is members of the GNU team and community like Katie who will continue to make our name known.

Merrifield's role is interwoven in the very fabric that is Great Northern University. As the Executive Assistant to the President, Merrifield's primary function is to organize Dr. Liddell's affairs, such as meetings with giving partners and trips to schools across the country. She also answers an email here and there. The list goes on. Merrifield also works with the team for Recruitment, Advancement, and Marketing. She often has the pleasure of being the smiling face of GNU at a number of different events.

While she is unashamed to proclaim her passion for GNU to anyone who approaches, it is clear from talking with Merrifield that one of the most influential parts of our school is the staff and faculty. Each individual on the team has played a big role in her success here and in building the confidence that she has in her own abilities.

There are a few GNU team members who have clearly affected her in phenomenal ways. While

managing President Liddell's schedule, Merrifield occasionally has the opportunity to go along for recruitment trips. These trips are beloved to her because she absolutely enjoys any opportunity to travel and see new things. Additionally, she gets to see Dr. Liddell approach difficult situations and interact with all kinds of individuals. Merrifield also recognizes Dr. Hernández as being influential, not only for his role in getting her the job, but also in his unwavering belief in her God-given abilities. Since the time when he caught her writing a flawless essay the day it was due, his support has helped boost her confidence. In fact, he still regularly gets her assistance editing his own writing.

Merrifield believes in the mission of GNU. Providing applicable degrees while training believers in faith, without piling on insurmountable debt, is a reason to shout about GNU from the rooftops. If only there were one rooftop high enough to reach the whole world that they might listen (and apply).

The path that brought Merrifield into our school can be traced back to a single source, Dr. Dominick Hernández. After the news of Moody Spokane's closure, he did everything in his power to convince Merrifield that she should come to Louisville, KY, to continue working with him as his editor. When he realized that she would not budge in her decision to stay, he did the next logical thing. He turned to Dr. Liddell and proclaimed, "Hire her!" If you don't already know Merrifield, you certainly need to. She is one of the sweetest, kindest, and most genuine individuals around. If nothing else, she cultivates an open and pleasant environment for anyone willing to visit her office, and loves to talk about GNU, Wes Anderson movies, and travel, along with discussing faith, theology, and God. I challenge you to pay her a visit; the first thing you'll learn is that her official title ought to be "approachable." Go ahead, give it a shot. You won't regret it.



READING CORNER

Book Recommendations

Photo by Stanislav Kondratiev on Unsplash

Students	Shelby Mogge <i>The Red Rising Series</i> - Pierce Brown <i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians</i> - Rick Riordan	Melody Bradley <i>Jane Eyre</i> - Charlotte Brontë
	Sophie Miller Rooted Series	Lewie Warren <i>North and South</i> - Elizabeth Gaskell
	Kaleb Barkman Anything written by Ted Dekker	David Bradley <i>Great Expectations</i> - Charles Dickens <i>St. Francis of Assisi</i> - G.K. Chesterton
	Hailey Scott <i>The Armor of God</i> - Priscilla Shirer	Hayden Ivey <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> - Alexandre Dumas
	Dr. Ferderer <i>Understanding Sexual Identity</i> - Mark Yarhouse	Dr. Vreeland Classic <i>The Odyssey</i> - Translated by Robert Fitzgerald Faith <i>The Knowledge of the Holy</i> - A.W. Tozer <i>The Death Christ Died</i> - Robert Lightner <i>No One Like Him</i> - John S. Feinberg <i>The Intellectual Origins of the European Reformation</i> - Allistair McGrath Fiction <i>The Stormlight Archives</i> - Brandon Sanderson History <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> - Thucydides <i>New Testament History</i> - F.F. Bruce Science <i>The Universe by Design</i> - Danny Faulkner <i>The Privileged Planet</i> - Guillermo Gonzalez and J. W. Richards
Faculty	Dr. Orr <i>The Confessions of Saint Augustine</i>	Dr. Tronsen <i>Approaching God</i> - Steve Brown <i>Unwritten</i> - Charles Martin, Novel
	Dr. Schneider <i>Knowing God</i> - J.I. Packer <i>Jane Eyre</i> - Charlotte Brontë	
	Jacob Beal <i>Always Ready</i> - Greg Bashan	
	Dr. Kibbe <i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i> - Baroness Orczy <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> - John Steinbeck <i>The Chosen</i> - Chaim Potok	

Photo by Patrick Tomasso on Unsplash



The first three *Toy Story* films appear to share a common theme or value. “Toys” (and their human counter-parts) stick together. As Buzz says in *Toy Story 3*, “The important thing is that we stick together!” *Toy Story 4* has some of the same emphasis as they band together to rescue their fellow playmates; however, in this latest comic adventure, there are some clear departures from the first three films in the series.

First, there are noticeable diversity shifts. Except for Bonnie’s father, the vast majority of the human depictions in the movie are women. Strong female toys also appear to dominate the primary toy characters with the exception of Buzz and Woody. Even Woody’s dominate role as “The Sheriff” seems to be diminishing as the film unfolds, and Bo seems to possess more courage and directs the battle plan to recover Forky from his evil captor, Gabby.

In this antagonist, Gabby’s gender identity as a female villain is a departure from earlier episodes. In sequel 3, the antagonist was a male Strawberry Bear named, “Lotso,” who remained determined to destroy all the toys to

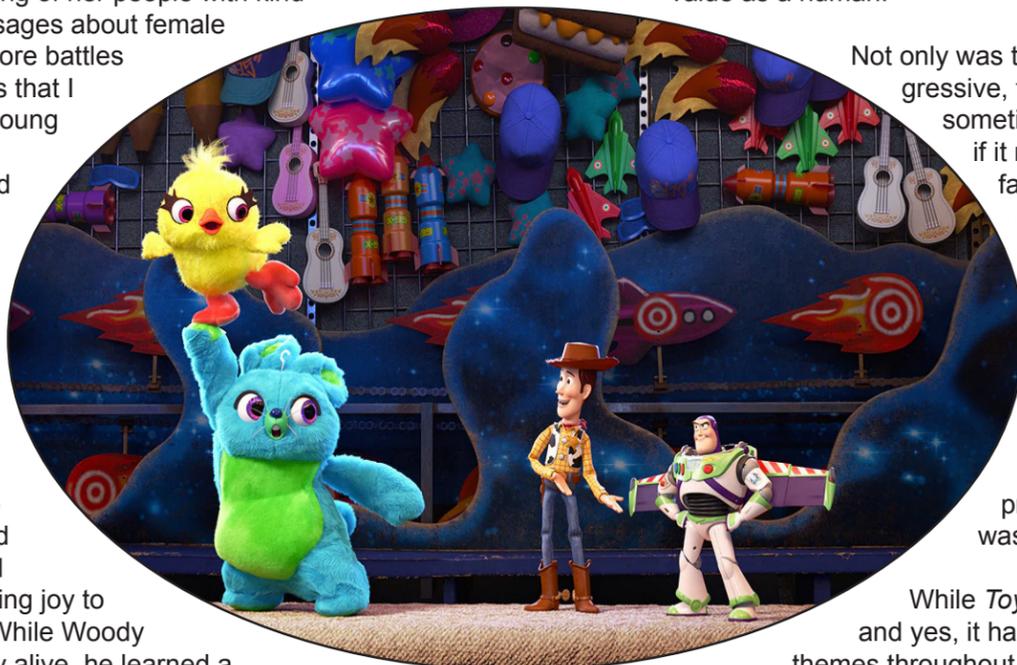
A Lesson in [Toy] Story Telling

by Lewie Warren

Toy Story 4 was an admirable attempt at a children’s movie filled with socio-political emphasis. For the most part, I am a fan of kids’ movies that push for a more progressive way of walking through life. The plotline of *Frozen*, where Anna does not need a prince charming to break her curse, or *Moana*, where she ends the suffering of her people with kindness toward her enemy, offer messages about female strength and how kindness wins more battles than force does. These are lessons that I would encourage teaching to our young and older viewers. *Toy Story 4* had similar themes, to help children and adults alike understand the freedom that comes with an untethered lifestyle.

The main theme of *Toy Story 4* was finding each person’s true purpose in life. This purpose for Woody was to keep Forky alive, and the purpose for Forky was to find the nearest trash bin, because he thought he was trash. Forky had to understand that his purpose had changed from being trash, to bringing joy to a little child who needed a friend. While Woody had a heck of a time keeping Forky alive, he learned a valuable lesson about how each person, or toy, is crafted, and the purpose they fulfill.

The writers of *Toy Story 4* attempted to show its viewers that living outside of the traditional scope of life is still a valid way of life. One character comes into view as a “lost toy” and where our beloved Woody sees that as a hor-



ror, this character sees the freedom and community that comes with not belonging to a child. The parallel in our world might be telling children that to be a dentist or lawyer may not be for everyone, and just because a person does not choose a traditional occupation or lifestyle, it does not lessen their value as a human.

Not only was the theme in *Toy Story 4* progressive, the animation was so well done, sometimes I caught myself wondering if it really was animated, and not, in fact, the actual landscape of America. The exquisite animation was coupled with the traditional *Toy Story* music that we heard in each of the previous additions, which brought back nostalgic feelings of curling up to watch the first film with family. These feelings are what saved the movie and connected it with the previous films, even when this film was a bit of a let down.

While *Toy Story 4* was not a terrible movie, and yes, it had progressive and encouraging themes throughout, there was a certain enthusiasm lacking which distanced it from the previous movies. Lost are the friendships we came to love in the earlier *Toy Story*’s, and where there are new friendships introduced in the new movie, there was not enough time to truly love those characters as much as the writers hoped. On the whole, *Toy Story 4* was not a complete waste of time, but I would not spend money to watch it again. My advice? Wait until it comes to Netflix.

Photos by Disney.com

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

the very end of the film. Gabby, in contrast, first seeks to steal Woody’s voice box for personal gain, but, at the end of the film, she repents of her evil efforts when she is rejected by Harmony, the granddaughter of the woman who owns the antique store, Second Hand. With the help of Woody and Bo, she is introduced to a lost girl at the fair who embraces her as her own toy and fulfills Gabby’s single desire to belong to a human.

Gabby’s new family are African American as are the voices of two stuffed toys who escape from the fair with Buzz and help to free Forky from his captors. This also provides a more subtle shift toward cultural diversity along with the much more obvious shift in gender authority roles.

This is especially noted at the end of the film when Woody removes his sheriff’s badge and presents it to Jessie as if to say, “I am turning over the leadership of the toy community to you, now.”

Toy Story 4 is a welcomed sequel to the earlier films with humorous dialogue and a dynamic plot filled with captivating adventures and many reversals of fortune. Many of the comic’s supporting toy characters return with their signature voices and characterizations. Most of the developed characters encourage the viewer to face their fears and follow their inner voice (conscience). In the last scene, Buzz encourages Woody to join Bo, his romantic interest, and leave his human charge, Bonnie, behind when he says, “Bonnie will be OK; listen to your inner voice.”

Audiences are treated to an hour and forty minutes of pure, fast-paced entertainment and are encouraged by their beloved toy community to abandon their fears and work together to oppose evil. Woody, their leader, personifies a hero who is willing to sacrifice himself for the needs of others regardless of the personal costs. In that sense, he presents himself as a Christ figure and universal role model.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Chapel Schedule

Fall 2019

"I am passionate about..."

October 16: Dr. Michael Orr, Communication

October 23: Dr. Elaine Ackerman, Leadership

October 30: Dr. Craig Ferderer, Youth and Family Ministry

November 6: Dr. Dave Beine, Missions Conference

November 20: Dr. Jerry Vreeland, the Bible

December 4: Dr. Craig Ferderer and Worship Team, Christmas

Photo by Eberhard Grossgasteiger on Unsplash

Student Life Events

Thursday, October 24: Harvest Gathering
6:00 at Dr. Liddell's home
Pumpkin carving

Friday, November 1: Bunco Night
7:00 at Old Pine

Friday, November 8: Warren Hang Out
7:00 at Warren's home

Monday and Tuesday, November 11-12:
Missions Conference
9:00-3:00 at Great Northern University
See below for more details.

Friday, November 22: Vespers
7:00 at Great Northern University

Sunday, December 8: Christmas Vespers
7:00 at Great Northern University
Location subject to change.

For additional details contact Shelby at smogge@greatnorthernu.org

Photo by Emilia Morariu on Unsplash

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2019

ถึงที่สุดปลายแผ่นดินโลก
ΤΟΙΣ ΕΘΝΕΣΙΝ
TO THE NATIONS
जाति-जातिहिरुमा
До края земли



NOVEMBER 11-12
2000 N Standard St.
Spokane, WA 99207

THE NORTHERN POST TEAM

DR. KAY TRONSEN: ADVISOR/EDITOR



From a young age, Kay has enjoyed using her imagination while chasing butterflies and avoiding bees. *The Northern Post* offers her a chance to serve her school and mentor others. Kay cries at sad moments in her favorite novels and laughs with her husband.

DAVID BRADLEY: WRITER/DESIGNER



Year: Senior
Major: Biblical Studies
From a young age, David has enjoyed pretending to know what he's doing while being truly lost. *The Northern Post* allows him the chance to hone that ability. David cries at his inability to feel and laughs at his own dad jokes.

LEWIE WARREN: WRITER/DESIGNER



Year: Junior
Major: Communication
From a young age, Lewie has enjoyed frolicking in the fall foliage while imagining her life's greatest adventure. *The Northern Post* offers that next adventure. Lewie cries at cute cats and laughs at legendary memes.