

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER: THE FRESH FACULTY

THE ONES WHO KEEP US YOUNG

Matthew Craig is a graduate of Northwestern State University, and loved his time here so much, he decided to stay.

Matthew Craig graduated from the New Media, Journalism, and Communication Arts department in 2019, spent two years working in the university's recruiting office, and has now been back with the NMJCA department for the last three years. He currently works as the Student Media Coordinator for KNWD, Current Sauce, and Potpourri.

In his position he plans student media events such as Journalism and Media Day and advises student media groups. During his time as a student, as well as in his professional career, he has gained leadership and organizational skills that have helped him thrive in his role.



Mr. Matthew Craig

"Helping students develop their storytelling skills and seeing them take ownership of their work in radio, newspapers, and digital content is incredibly rewarding," said Craig.

Seeing students grow in all aspects of their life in ways such as building confidence and skills, as well as being able to serve as a mentor, is his favorite part of his job. "Most importantly, I want students to graduate feeling confident in their skills and prepared for careers in media, journalism, and communication," Craig stated about his hopes for the future of this department.

Through creating more hands-on experiences for students and updating technology as it quickly improves, Craig believes that students will continue to graduate feeling prepared and confident in their abilities.

The NMJCA department and student media will continue to grow, with Matthew Craig right alongside.

As an Administrative Assistant, Amber Miley has played a vital role in the New Media, Journalism, and Communication Arts department since February of 2023.

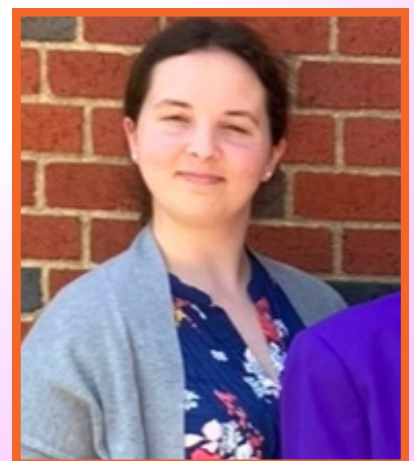
In her role, Miley is able to learn something new from everyone she interacts with. By having an inquisitive attitude when working with students, professors or co-workers, Amber is able to take away newfound knowledge or skills. Upon walking into her office, she is sure to treat everyone with the same level of kindness and respect due to her firm belief in the Golden Rule.

"As a student myself, I understand the struggles and concerns of our students and it helps the Department to better understand our students and what they need. I plan to help as many students as I can while I am here," said Miley.

The unique perspective she is able to offer faculty is very valuable to our department. Her door is always open, and she is always ready to lend a listening ear to any concern or question students or teachers may have.

When asked about her hopes for the future of the NMJCA department, Miley said, "I hope that NMJCA continues to grow and be a department that students love and feel safe in."

With Amber Miley as an Administrative Assistant, this goal will not be hard to meet.



Ms. Amber Miley

The Future of Communication: Fresh Faces of NMJCA

Zoe Knighton chose Northwestern because, as she said, "it felt like a home."



Zoe Knighton

Knighton is in her freshman year but is already heavily involved. She has done work such as creating promotional material for our department and has a love for video production and broadcasting. In high school, she was chief editor of her school's news telecast and placed in the top three for state and national competitions for different forms of media.

Knighton also participates in the work study program where she works with Department Head, Dr. Jie Zhang.

Since being at NSU, her favorite project she has done was making characters, stickers and comic strips using Adobe Illustrator, a graphic design application.

In her future as a student, she hopes to continue to take advantage of every opportunity that is at her fingertips.

Northwestern was the right choice for Hal Williams, "... because of its strong emphasis on family, community, and persistence." These values align with who Williams is.

Hal is in his freshman year, but his passion for communication began in high school. He participated in several extracurricular activities in high school and hopes to participate in organizations and projects while in college. He was able to improve his public speaking and learned the power of storytelling through theatre and choir. These experiences helped him learn about culture, community, and leadership.

Since being at NSU, Williams' favorite project has been his Defining Moments presentation for Oral Communications. Through retelling the key moments in his life who shaped him into who he was, he was able to gain confidence in his public-speaking and self-expression.

In his future, he hopes to have experiences that challenge him, participate in projects that prepare him for his future, and ultimately find his place in the world of communications.



Hal Williams

Sachiri Henderson also felt like Northwestern was her home, and felt it was a place that could, "...prepare you for greatness."



Sachiri Henderson

Sachiri is in her sophomore year and is already involved on campus through organizations but plans to become even more involved. She hopes to hold more leadership roles, become more involved in student media, and take advantage of the opportunities for professional growth. In high school she was social media manager for the student council as well as being a member of the media staff.

Since being at NSU, Henderson's favorite course has been Media Law and Ethics, which provided fundamental knowledge about the foundations of free speech as well as real world issues.

In her future as a student, Henderson hopes to build stronger industry connections, take advantage of further hands-on opportunities, and participate in collaborative projects across different student media platforms.

