

## DARK ROOM

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Without access to campus last spring, Smith adapted Alternative Photo Methods and taught a technique that does not require negatives to work. Students worked with crushed berries, various objects, and sensitized paper to create prints. These prints can take several weeks to develop. Students can continue to access the darkroom after taking either of these courses, though, Smith said, "I've only had a few students take me up on this. I suppose they just get busy with the next semester."

As of now, these are the only courses that allow students to access the darkroom. Smith said that there used to be more courses available including an Advanced Black and White course, but the chemicals needed for the techniques of the course have become expensive and hard to find.

There are three other photography courses offered, all in digital photography, that have access to a photography lab of computers that Smith calls the "digital darkroom." Additionally, the Ireland in the Spring program, which alternates its course offerings widely, occasionally teaching a Travel Photojournalism course.

For those students who are looking for a way to fulfill their fine arts Veritas requirement, photography courses offer another option to the typical studio arts.



Photo of Irish landscape taken as part of a final portfolio for Travel Photojournalism. Submitted Photo.

## Life at 22: Elliott Johnston

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The name Elliott Johnston is well known by all CSS students from an abundance of emails, but many may not know about his path to where he is now. The dots that connect his college graduation to his career as director of Residential Life are spread across the country and even the globe.

From the age of 12, Elliott Johnston wanted to be a veterinarian, but his freshman year chemistry course threw a wrench in those plans. After a year of taking general education classes, he decided to major in psychology instead. Johnston spent five years at the University of Minnesota Duluth and had many diverse experiences to share.

"My life at 22 was [as a] college student dressed as a giant bulldog on weekends," Johnston said about his time as "Champ," the UMD mascot. He was able to travel with the football team to Alabama as they won the football national championships, the women's hockey team as they competed in the Frozen Four in Boston, and even skated as Champ at the Xcel Energy Center when the men's hockey team was in the playoffs.

When Johnston graduated at 23, he was still not sure what he would do. He decided to reclaim his citizenship in Spain and moved there to live with his grandmother. He took a five and a half month unpaid internship at a US-based study abroad program called CEA (Cultural Experiences Abroad), and he was the first contact point for students arriving for their semester.

"Five and a half months though, I was not getting paid. I felt like I was mooching off my grandma, and half a month later my loans were going to start kicking in that I was going to have to pay back," he said. This led him to the decision to return to the U.S. With 700 USD to his name, he decided to cut his losses and flew back in 2009. Then came the challenge of finding his next move.



Elliott Johnston's 2020 Christmas card, complete with all of his pets. Submitted photo.

"I applied to 62 jobs and got two offers," said Johnston about his application process. He continued, "Job searching is kind of a full-time job. You really just need to keep at it and not just think you're going to get whatever you want or wherever you apply for." He did accept one of those offers and began working as a psychiatric associate. Because of the lack of career advancement without more schooling, Johnston continued to apply for jobs at colleges.

Finally, he received an offer from Arizona State University, who offered him a job and the opportunity to earn his master's degree in postsecondary and higher education.

"I kept applying for jobs and finding out I either didn't have the work experience or education experience, so then all of a sudden a job and school said 'We'll give you the work experience and give you the degree,' so I moved."

He eventually landed a job here at CSS and quickly moved up the ranks to the director of Residential Life, a position he has held for the last four years. He said he hopes to eventually become a dean of students.

Even though Johnston did not become a veterinarian, his passion for animals has continued throughout the years. He currently has two dogs, six cats, and a bunch of chickens. He is always fostering animals. Johnston loves getting outside and hiking around Duluth, and has a love for gardening and cooking. "Essentially, I'm preparing for the apocalypse so I can live off the grid," he said.

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