

CLASSIC



A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Fall 2003

Inside:

September Bears at Ground Zero

Annual Report



Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

Northwestern's hedgehog concept

I always look forward to our summer rhythm on campus because it gives me the chance to reflect once again on the big picture of Christian higher education and Northwestern's place in it.

This year the picture is a bit deceiving. It reminds me of the kaleidoscopes we used to play with as children. Twist it and you see a picture, keep twisting and another appears, and then another—all the same pieces of glass but different images depending on the twist.

One twist in Christian higher education today shows that with the decline of traditional moral standards and religious devotion in our society as a whole, Christian colleges are more attractive to people of faith than 10 or 15 years ago, and certainly as needed as ever. Another twist changes the picture dramatically; it reveals that rising costs have prompted more and more Christian young people to attend state schools, especially in areas where the economy is declining or where para-church organizations are growing on university campuses. Still another twist shows federal and state financial aid decreasing, and First Amendment protection for religious educational institutions eroding.

What does all of this mean for Northwestern as we seek to fulfill our mission with excellence?

The book *Good to Great* by Jim Collins, professor of business at Stanford University, has stimulated my thinking. Collins concludes that good organizations that continue to improve have at least four characteristics: *humility*—the employees, and especially the leadership, do not care who gets the credit for success; *perseverance*—daily faithfulness to assigned tasks and roles; *a purpose beyond the bottom line*—e.g., the good of the community; and *the hedgehog concept*—more on this shortly.

Collins was surprised to find these characteristics. He and his research team expected to learn that great organizations were led by “brilliant, larger than life” CEOs and vice presidents who helped their companies develop new, breakthrough products ahead of the competition. They discovered, instead, that while this did happen on occasion, charismatic leaders and innovative products were more likely to mark successful start-up companies than companies that survived with quality over time.

Collins' conclusions strike me not only because they are supported by careful research, but also because they reflect biblical values—though, of course, this was not his purpose. Humility, perseverance and a sense of purpose beyond self-interest are qualities straight from the teachings of Jesus. Whether they prove successful in this world or not, they are at the heart of our calling as Christian individuals and a Christian community.

Which brings me to the hedgehog concept. Collins bases this notion on Isaiah Berlin's extrapolation of an ancient Greek parable about the fox, who knows many things, and the hedgehog, who knows one big thing. Collins uses this description to call organizations to focus their work on what they do best. He suggests three overlapping circles to determine your hedgehog concept. The first circle is “what you have a passion for”; the second is “what you can be the best in the world at”; and the third is “what drives your economic engine.” Where these circles overlap is your hedgehog concept.

Consider this version of Northwestern's hedgehog concept: What we have a passion for is Christian liberal arts education—education that prepares young women and men to find work and worth in the world, and that explores Christian faith as the foundation of all of life. What can we be best in the world at? According to Dr. Muneharu Kitagaki, president of Keiwa College in northern Japan and longtime friend of Northwestern, it is education in community—education that grows individuals through interaction with other students, faculty, staff and townspeople. Our economic engine is the need young people have to prepare for work and service in the world. And where do these circles overlap? In my view, with the rich Christian notion of vocation, now being creatively renewed on campus through the \$2 million Lilly grant described in the spring '03 issue of the *Classic*.

These are challenging times for Christian colleges and universities and for Northwestern. They are also times of great opportunity. With humility, perseverance, unselfishness and imagination, we seek to be faithful to our calling.

Bruce Murphy

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“One twist in Christian higher education today shows that with the decline of traditional moral standards and religious devotion in our society as a whole, Christian colleges are more attractive to people of faith than 10 or 15 years ago, and certainly as needed as ever.”
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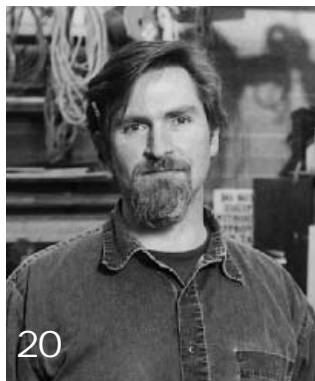
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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, June, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

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What's Inside

Construction projects near completion

Well over a year's worth of campus construction is coming to an end this fall.

The art department moved into the \$1.8 million Korver Visual Arts Center by Oct. 1. The building will be dedicated Oct. 10 as part of Homecoming activities. A special feature article on the facility will be included in the *Winter Classic*.

At the \$8.3 million

DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, workers are completing the finishing touches: installing the curtains, proscenium theatre seats, and lighting and sound systems. The facility is expected to be completed by Nov. 15.

Some classes will shift to the new theatre building yet this semester, and the scene and costume shops will move in gradually.

Faculty will move into their offices over Christmas break, and the building will be fully in use when the spring semester begins in January.

Meanwhile, 86 students moved into the two new apartment buildings on the northwest side of campus before the fall semester began.

NWC announces changes in administrative structure



Keith Anderson

Northwestern has announced some changes in its administrative structure.

The student ministries and chaplain's offices have been joined by the Career Development Center in the new Office of Spiritual Formation and Vocation. Under the leadership of Dr. Keith Anderson, dean of spiritual formation and director of the Lilly grant, the new office seeks to further the college's efforts to help students discover their calling in life.

"This brings together areas that serve our students well but are traditionally separated on liberal arts campuses," said President Bruce Murphy. "We believe this will benefit our students as they endeavor to find their place in God's world."

Headquarters for the new office are in the Center for Spiritual Formation and

Vocation, previously known as Kepp Apartments. The building will undergo a major renovation next summer, and the Career Development Center will move into it from the Rowenhorst Student Center.



Mark Bloemendaal

The financial aid office, which previously reported to financial affairs, now is combined with the admissions office to create the Office of Enrollment Services. Ron De Jong '71, a member of Northwestern's admissions staff since he graduated, has had his title changed from dean of admissions to dean of enrollment services. Mark Bloemendaal '81, an admissions staff member since 1981 and formerly the director of recruitment, is now director of admissions.

"This new arrangement will facilitate working with young people and their families in all facets of the admissions process. This seems like the most helpful way of serving prospective students and their families," said Murphy.

In a third move, Paul Blezien has been named dean of student development and assistant to the president for special projects. Blezien, who has been dean of student affairs since



Ron De Jong



Paul Blezien

1988, is completing his doctorate in higher education at Azusa Pacific University.

"It's an appropriate time to use both Paul's experience at Northwestern and academic training to assist the college in ways beyond the traditional role of the dean of students," said President Murphy. "This new position will enable Paul to work in some areas that are vital to campus but not previously in one person's job description. His major project this fall will be retention, which is one of Northwestern's priorities and one of the areas in which he has expertise."

Northwestern moves up in U.S. News rankings

Northwestern has again been ranked in the top tier of Midwestern comprehensive colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*. Northwestern is tied for 25th out of a total of 109 colleges, up from 28th last year, in the magazine's 2004 *America's Best Colleges* guidebook.

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on key measures of quality such as academic reputation, retention (freshman retention and six-year graduation rate), faculty resources (including class size, the percentage of faculty with the top academic degree, student-faculty ratio and faculty compensation), student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

"We are constantly working to improve the quality of the college, and it's very good to see that's being recognized by this national publication," said Dr. Bruce Murphy, president. "The ranking is an affirmation of the work of many people in all areas of the campus."

Northwestern fared particularly well in the magazine's ranking of alumni giving, tied for seventh out of the 109 colleges in its category with 32 percent of alumni donating to the college; and in the percentage of freshmen who were in the top quarter of their high school class, tied for 16th with 52 percent.

The *America's Best Colleges* guidebook is available on newsstands. Information also is posted at www.usnews.com.

Theatre facility named in honor of DeWitts



Northwestern's new \$8.3 million theatre facility will be named the Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Theatre Arts Center in honor of a former Board of Trustees member and major NWC benefactors. The Zeeland, Mich., couple were joined by members of their family in providing a sizeable commemorative gift for the project.

Other family members involved include former board member Jack DeWitt and his wife, Mary, of Holland, Mich.; board member Bob Haveman and his wife, Nancy (DeWitt), of West Olive, Mich.; Merle and Sheri DeWitt of West Olive; Keith and Mary DeWitt of West Olive; Gary and Joyce DeWitt of Holland; and Don and Minnie DeWitt of

Holland.

"It's fitting that this fabulous addition to our campus will carry the name of the greatest benefactors in Northwestern's history," said John Greller, vice president for development. "Since Marv became involved with the college in 1978 at the encouragement of his pastor, he and Jerene have been a tower of strength to Northwestern. Their gifts have been instrumental in shaping the look of the campus."

The DeWitt family has supported every capital building project at NWC over the last 20 years. Buildings named in honor of Marv and Jerene include DeWitt Music Hall, the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center and the

DeWitt-Cook Athletic Arena. The cafeteria is named the DeWitt Center in honor of Jack and Mary DeWitt.

"I can get excited about Northwestern anytime," said Marv DeWitt. "I hear a lot of good reports about the work they're doing, their leadership, the type of professors they have, how the campus is growing."

Jack DeWitt added, "We are excited about Northwestern's efforts to make a difference in the world through theatre. We as Christians can't stay silent; we need to take every opportunity to present a Christian point of view."

"We love Northwestern," said Jack. "There's something different on their campus—you see it in students' eyes and hear it in their voices. They are walking with the Lord. That's what has steered my wife and me to be more benevolent to Northwestern. They are developing young

people to go out and live like Jesus wants us to live and to find God's purpose for their lives."

Marv DeWitt and his brother, William, began raising turkeys in 1938, and BilMar Foods grew to become one of the largest turkey processors in the nation before it was purchased by the Sara Lee Corp. in 1987. Marv DeWitt served on Northwestern's board from 1978-87, and the college awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1988.

"The DeWitt Theatre Arts Center will have a great impact on the whole campus because theatre crosses both academic and co-curricular lines, and it is vital to all students' liberal arts learning," said Northwestern's Greller. "We believe strongly in the importance of the arts for addressing the difficult and fundamental questions of meaning so central to our educational purposes, as well as for enhancing the quality of life on our campus and in our community, region and nation."

Over \$7.5 million has now been raised toward the theatre project.



Northwestern participates in national tuition program

Northwestern is participating in Independent 529 Plan, a new prepaid college tuition plan tailored specifically for private colleges. Responding to a national call to make higher education more affordable and accessible to students, NWC has joined with more than 220 other private colleges and universities to offer an income tax-advantaged way for families to save for tuition.

"We see this as a vehicle to allow families to be able to better plan for funding a college education," said Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs. "Families can decide how much they'll contribute, lock it in at today's price and know they have that waiting for them."

Section 529 plans, so named for the IRS code that

defines them, have gained in popularity over the last decade. Families have found them attractive because accounts generate no federal income tax if used as intended, benefits are transferable to other family members, and refunds are available if the child receives a scholarship or decides not to attend college.

For purchasers, the effectiveness of Independent 529 Plan is not dependent on the performance of the stock or bond markets. Rather, contributions are actually pre-purchasing tuition, in part or in whole, at less than today's prices.

"Regardless of whether a student attends Northwestern or another member institution, this program allows families to consciously choose to invest for college,

and it's not at the whim of the market," said Beukelman.

"Independent 529 Plan proceeds can be used at any of the participating colleges. Think of it as buying a shopping certificate for use at any of the stores at a mall," said Doug Brown, president and CEO of Tuition Plan Consortium, an Albuquerque-based nonprofit group that oversees the plan. "Students don't choose their college at purchase, but after they have applied and are accepted in the regular manner."

As an example of how the plan works, a person who makes a \$10,000 contribution into Independent 529 Plan this year would receive tuition certificates that would cover 33.3 percent of a year's tuition at a participating college that charges \$30,000 for

tuition this year. At a college that currently charges \$10,000, the investor would receive tuition certificates worth a whole year of education, regardless of how high tuition may be at the time the student eventually chooses to use the certificates.

In fact, because participating institutions must offer a discount off their current tuition fees, the certificates would cover slightly more tuition at each college in this example. Northwestern offers a half percent per year off current tuition rates.

For more information about the plan, visit independent529plan.org on the Web, call its toll-free number, 1-888-718-7878, or contact Northwestern's Beukelman at 712-707-7121.

Enrollment third largest



Students give the campus a welcoming touch in preparation for Orientation Weekend.

Northwestern's fall semester enrollment is the third largest in school history. This fall's total enrollment of 1,285 is behind only last year's 1,313 and the 2001 figure of 1,294.

"Our retention of students was very good, with 78 percent of last year's freshmen returning this fall," said Ron De Jong, dean of enrollment services. "We are pleased that we've been able to attract the largest number of American ethnic minorities in some time, 31, and our number of international students, 35, is the best it's

been for six years. We are also pleased with our students' academic quality. Our freshman class's average ACT score of 24.1 indicates we're consistently attracting good students."

Fifty-eight percent of Northwestern's students are from Iowa. Twenty-nine states and 13 countries are represented.

Over the last 15 years, enrollment has increased by 35 percent. This year's figures are 18 percent higher than those of 10 years ago and an eight percent increase over five years ago.

Two in new athletic roles



Josh Bolluyt

Josh Bolluyt '99 has been named director of athletic recruitment. He replaces Derrion

Hardie, who now serves as director of recruitment at the University of Sioux Falls. Bolluyt has been defensive coordinator of the Raider football team and a kinesiology instructor since 2001. He earned his master's in physical education from the University of South Dakota this year.



Tom Cliff

Tom Cliff is the new head women's soccer coach. He replaces Lori Couch, who continues in her

role as director of student activities. Cliff was assistant men's soccer coach at Spring Arbor University, his alma mater, the last two years and previously was the head coach at Greenville, Ill., High School. Cliff also will teach activity courses in the kinesiology department and manage the equipment room and concessions.

Planned givingnotes



Cornie Wassink '73
Director of
Planned Giving

Seven ways to remember Northwestern

There are many ways to remember Northwestern College in your estate plan, only a few of which involve any expense or professional fees. You may wish to consider one of the following options:

1. Amend an existing life insurance policy to add Northwestern as an additional beneficiary, or simply purchase a new one for our benefit.
2. Visit your personnel office and ask to amend your group life insurance policy or retirement plan to add NWC as one of your beneficiaries. Or, add the college as a recipient if another person predeceases you.
3. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing will, creating a bequest for Northwestern.
4. If you are over 65 and disappointed with the income you are receiving from your long-term stocks or certificates of deposit, consider the benefits of placing some of your assets in a Northwestern College charitable gift annuity. Most likely, your lifetime income would increase. In addition, you might avoid some capital gain taxes, and you will receive a current income tax deduction for a portion of the gift. After your death, the remaining principal could be used to create an endowment fund in your memory or in honor of someone else.
5. Deed your house to Northwestern and continue to live in it. Your income tax savings from the gift may cover the legal costs.
6. Leave written or verbal instructions for your surviving spouse to include NWC when redrawing his or her will.
7. If you have a sizable estate, let us show you how to create a trust that will pay an annual income to Northwestern for a period of years prior to distributing the principal to your children or grandchildren. The income the college receives will create a charitable estate tax deduction. This technique may allow you to make a substantial gift for as low as five cents on the dollar while avoiding taxes that might otherwise claim as much as half of your estate.

There are many ways to benefit NWC through planned gifts, some of which will provide you with positive benefits during your lifetime. Although we do not practice estate planning, we would be pleased to sit down with you and help you get started with the process.

If you place Northwestern College near the top of your charitable priorities, we hope you will, at a minimum, consider naming us as a contingent beneficiary of your will, insurance and retirement programs, to receive your estate only in the unlikely event that you outlive all of your heirs.

Please use the reply form below to let us know how we can serve you. And thank you for your longstanding support of Northwestern.

(Please complete and return this reply form. There is no obligation on your part.)

- ☐ Please contact me regarding one of the planned giving options mentioned above.
☐ I have already remembered Northwestern in my estate planning.
☐ Please send me information about the Northwestern College Heritage Society.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Phone

Mail to Cornie Wassink, Director of Planned Giving, Northwestern College,
 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041 or contact him at 712-707-7109 or
 cwassink@nwciova.edu.

New faculty come to NWC

Several recently appointed full-time faculty members are among the many new faces at Northwestern this fall.



Dr. Laird Edman

Dr. Laird Edman joins the psychology department as an associate professor. He comes from Iowa State

University, where he was associate director of the honors program. He previously was honors program director and associate professor of psychology and English at Waldorf College, where he was named the 1995 Professor of the Year. He earned a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota, master's degrees in counseling psychology and English literature from the University of Notre Dame, and a bachelor's degree from Luther. He replaces Dr. Don Lindskoog, who retired in 2002.

Also new to the psychology department is Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, assistant professor. She recently completed her



Dr. Jennifer Feenstra

doctorate in psychology and master's degree in teaching at the University of New Hampshire, where she also

earned a master's in psychology. Feenstra did her undergraduate work at Calvin College. She replaces Dr. Doug Trimble, who is now on the faculty at Eastern University in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Juyeon Kang

Dr. Juyeon Kang is a new assistant professor of music. She has been a piano instructor at the South

Shore Conservatory in Hingham, Mass., and the New England Conservatory in Boston. She won first prize in 1998 at the Josef Hofmann Piano Competition at the University of South Carolina at Aiken and at the Heida Hermanns Young Artists Competition in Southport, Conn. Kang earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance/literature at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where she also received master's degrees in pedagogy of music theory and piano performance/literature. She earned her bachelor's degree at Seoul National University. Kang replaces Brian Lee, who is teaching at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and Moody Bible Institute.

Jennifer Rogers has been appointed to the kinesiology department faculty and named program director of athletic training after serving

NWC as head athletic trainer since 2000. She also was an athletic trainer for the Center for Neurosciences, Orthopaedics and Spine in Dakota Dunes, S.D. Rogers holds a master's degree in education with an emphasis in biomechanics and sport psychology from the University of Kansas. She did her undergraduate studies at Briar Cliff University. She replaces Wendy Potratz, who



Jolynn Tonsfeldt

has moved to Bemidji, Minn. After serving in a one-year position as an instructor of education last year, Jolynn Tonsfeldt has been appointed to a tenure-track faculty position in the education department. She taught English and German for 13 years at Le Mars Community High School and spent three years as a 4-H and youth development specialist in the Plymouth County Extension Office. She earned a master's degree in education from Drake University and a bachelor's degree from Dana College.

Kevin Bullis '96, a visiting instructor in English last year, is serving in another one-year position as the sab-



Kevin Bullis

batical replacement for Dr. Keith Fynaardt. Bullis completed a master's degree in English at Western

Washington University and has taught composition at Whatcom Community College and Western Washington.

Ruth Grossmann is serving as a visiting instructor in biology, filling in as Dr. Sara Tolsma's sabbatical



Ruth Grossman

replacement. She earned a master's degree in biology at the University of Iowa. She received a bachelor's degree at Georgia's Covenant College, where she has served as a visiting professor of biology.

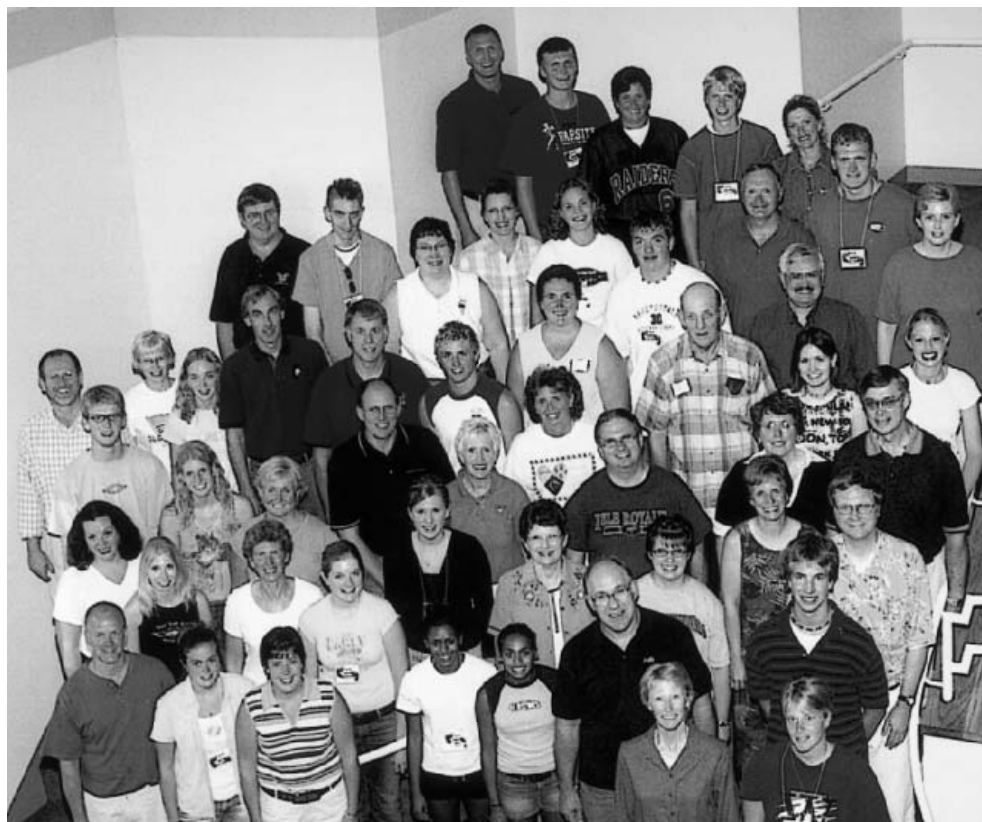


Dr. Andrew Sauerwein

Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, visiting assistant professor of music, is Dr. Marc Wooldridge's sabbatical replacement.

Sauerwein received a doctoral degree in music composition from Duke University, where he has been a visiting instructor. He earned master's and bachelor's degrees in

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Freshmen continue NWC legacy

Forty-one of Northwestern's 311 freshmen are children of NWC alumni. Many of the alumni parents and their students paused during Orientation Weekend for this photo.

Front row (left to right): Dale Kraayenbrink, Nicole Kraayenbrink, Brenda (Westra '84) Kraayenbrink, Colleen (VenHuizen '76) Palmer, Jill Palmer. Second row: Ruth (Shicks '83) Landegent, Lynn Harrison, Marilyn (Denekas '76) Harrison, Angela Meendering, Christy Moss, Carmen Moss, Jake Moss '70, Ben Kappers. Third row: Megan Van Peurse, Vicki Van Peurse, Jessica De Haan, Myra (De Jong '73) Bowman, Jill Bowman. Fourth row: Titus Landegent, Dennis De Haan, Deb (Dunlop '78) De Haan, John Bowman, Sue (Alderink '79) Kappers, Dan Kappers '79. Fifth row: Dale Landegent '82, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Linda Van Der Weele, Bob Reynen '68. Sixth row: Judy Dykstra, Jill Dykstra, Lowell Dykstra '77, Jeff Meyn '78, Dusty Meyn, Judy (Bergman '79) Huisman, Russel Huisman, Priscilla Van Der Weele, Liz Reynen. Seventh row: Clyde Rensink '77, Chris Rensink, Debbie (Sinkey '78) Rensink, Sharon (Mol '79) Smits, Melinda Smits, Kendall Huisman, Vern Wallinga '75, Jeff Van Der Weele '71, Joyce (Kuyper '75) Wallinga. Eighth row: Earl Woudstra '78, Brady Woudstra, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, Kody Tesch, Lisa Tesch, Kent Wallinga.

New administrators on board

Several administrators are in new roles at Northwestern this year.



Anita Cirulis

Anita Cirulis has been added to the public relations staff as an associate director. She comes to NWC after

12 years on the staff at Oregon's George Fox University, most recently as director of university communications. She was director of public information at the University of Sioux Falls, her alma mater, for nine years.



Kirsten Hyatt

Kirsten Hyatt has been appointed to the new career counselor position funded by Northwestern's Lilly grant. Formerly a hall director at Calvin College, she earned a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis in student services from North American Baptist Seminary. Hyatt graduated from the University of Sioux Falls.



Gerry Korver

Gerry Korver '77, a 25-year employee of American Identity/K-Products in

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Faculty/staff news

A new book, *The Science of the Soul: Christian Faith and Psychological Research*, includes two chapters written by **Dr. Don Wacome**, philosophy. He wrote the chapters on the epistemological foundations of science and on evolutionary psychology. Edited by former NWC psychology professor Scott VanderStoep, now at Hope College, the book was published by American University Press.

Dr. Ron Takalo, Spanish, was selected for participation in the Christian Perspectives on Foreign Language Education workshop at Calvin College in June.



Barry Brandt, athletic director, has been appointed chairman of the NAIAs

Region IV. He represents the region on the 15-member Council of Athletics Administrators, the group responsible for initiating operational policies for national competition in the NAIA.

Dr. Sara Tolsma, biology, is on sabbatical this year. She is writing a cell and molecular genetics textbook for non-science majors.

Mitch Kinsinger, religion, was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship from the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, where he conducted research in May. The research is for a chapter of his dissertation on Presbyterian

struggles for religious liberty in Colonial America.

Michael Avery, business, was awarded a Doctor of Business Administration degree in international management in June from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. He and senior Matt Van Groningen wrote a paper, "Improving U.S.

Transportation Logistics Efficiency through Intermodal and Infrastructure Development," which was published in the July issue of *The Voyager*, a global publication of TRANSLOG

International. In May, Avery, junior Jeremy Youngers and Craig Dalen '03 presented a project entitled "Tierra Bonita: International Economics Simulation in the College Classroom," at the Classroom of the Future Conference at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Dr. Michael Kensak, English, has been chosen to serve as a peer review reader for *The Chaucer Review*, the primary journal for Chaucer and Middle English.

Dr. Marc Wooldridge, music, performed solo percussion music at Northwestern College, Roseville, Minn., in April and at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in September. He also hosted the Iowa Percussive Arts Society's 2003 Iowa Days of Percussion on our campus in April. In July, he participated in a two-

week residency at the Akron, Iowa, Care Center, helping residents and staff learn how to perform percussion instruments. They worked with him to compose three new musical works that also incorporate technology via film and slides, and they premiered a new work he composed for them. On sabbatical this year, Wooldridge has been chosen for inclusion on the Iowa Arts Council's Touring Artists Roster and Artists in Schools and Communities Roster. He also has been approved as one of 20 Iowa artists to teach Character Counts principles as part of artistic workshops.

Dr. Barb Top, education, will be doing research and writing on the topics of autism and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome during a spring semester sabbatical.

Todd McDonald, director of multicultural affairs, has been selected to join the Reformed Church in America's Commission on Race and Ethnicity.

Dr. Scott Monsma, sociology, is serving as president of the Association for Christians Teaching Sociology. He presented a paper, "Teaching with My Mouth Half Shut," at its June conference in Dallas.

Dr. Tim McGarvey, music, was selected by a panel of jurors to present and conduct at the College Band Directors National Association's national convention in Minneapolis in March. He presented on and conducted the "Overture for Winds" by

Felix Mendelssohn as part of the convention's "Chosen Gems" session.

Dr. Paul Bartlett, head wrestling coach, was selected to serve as an honorary assistant coach at Sioux City's Two Worlds, One Mat freestyle wrestling meet in April. He and Buena Vista's coach backed up Olympic champions Dan Gable and Tom Brands.

Joonna Trapp, English, was awarded a Ph.D. in English, with an emphasis in rhetoric and composition, from Texas Christian University in May. She presented a paper at Penn State's Rhetoric and Composition Conference in July. Trapp spoke on "Epideictic's Southern Road Trip: The Lyceum Impulse in the Old Dominion."

Piet Koene, Spanish, gave a presentation at the annual conference of the North American Christian Foreign Language Association in April. He spoke on "Integrating the Bible into the Language Classroom: A Practical Approach to Key Biblical Passages and Their Relevance to Language" in the conference at California's Azusa Pacific University.

Dan Young, political science, recently published a book chapter. "Martin Wight: Politics in the Era of Leviathan" is included in *The Christian Realists: Reassessing the Contributions of Niebuhr and His Contemporaries*, published by University Press of America.

Faculty/staff news

Dr. Ralph Davis, biology, and Karissa Carlson '03 presented a poster presentation on their electrophysiology research at the Midwest Neurobiology Meeting in May at Iowa State University.

Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoe, music, was a clinician at the summer convention of the Illinois ACDA (American Choral Directors' Association) in Bloomington. She led a workshop on preparing students for scholarship auditions and presented a paper about the importance of basic skills and musicality in the development of student musicians.

As a member of the Reformed Church in America's



Commission on Theology, **Michael Andres**, religion, was the primary author of "God's

Sovereign Grace in Evangelism." The paper, aimed at giving fruitful reasons for the winsome articula-

tion of the Gospel in light of a Reformed view of divine providence, was passed by the 2003 General Synod.

Dr. Clyde Vollmers, business, and his daughter, a professor at the University of St. Thomas, spoke at the International Academy for Case Studies in Tunica, Miss., in April. They presented a case study entitled "Managing a Product Failure Lawsuit."

Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, spoke at the Leave A Legacy - Siouxland meeting in Sheldon in April. He presented suggestions for how to present the Leave A Legacy program to community groups.

Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English, is on sabbatical this year. He is working on a book about modern agriculture and agricultural literature.

Greg Scheer, director of music ministries, presented a paper entitled "Worship Composition: Looking Back, Looking Forward" at the Midwest conference of the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers on the

campus of Missouri's Evangel University in March. He also presented his electronic composition "Crossfade" to Evangel music students and held a songwriting workshop. In June, he led worship at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Campus Worship Formation Program, a gathering of worship leaders, students and chaplains from 20 Christian colleges, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Northwestern College Board of Trustees has awarded tenure to **Dr. Randy Jensen**, philosophy, and **Dr. Bala Musa**, communication studies. They were promoted to the associate professor rank, as was **Dr. Ed Starkenburg**, education. **Dr. Paul Bartlett**, kinesiology, and **Dr. Carl Vandermeulen**, English and communication studies, were promoted to the full professor rank.

Dr. Todd Tracy, biology, has been selected to be a volunteer for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' IOWATER program, which seeks to protect

and improve Iowa's water quality. He will be monitoring nearby rivers and streams. Students from his ecology classes and Terra Nova, the ecology club, will help with water testing.

Jeff Barker, theatre, co-presented a three-day master class on directing ancient Israelite dramas (Old Testament plays) at the Christians in Theatre Arts national convention in Virginia Beach in July. In addition, the Saltworks Theatre Company is performing his new play, "Albie's Honor," this fall throughout western Pennsylvania. Samuel Van Wyk '03 is a member of that touring company.

Emily Lodine, music, presented a faculty vocal recital in Christ Chapel in September. A part-time lecturer who made her Carnegie Hall debut under the baton of John Rutter and who has appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Lodine presented a variety of works from operas and oratorios.

New faculty come to NWC

continued from page 8

composition at the University of Oregon and an associate's degree in biblical literature at Multnomah Bible College. He is a board member of the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers.

New administrators *continued from page 9*

Orange City who served most recently as general manager, has been named director of financial aid. An NWC Board of Trustees member since 1997, Korver replaces Carol Bogaard, who now is director of financial aid at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.



Mike Stokes

Mike Stokes '94 has been named interim director of AV and the Learning Resource Center after serving as com-

puter support manager for the last three years. He previously worked at Interstates Electric and Engineering in Sioux Center and at Gateway in North Sioux City, S.D. Stokes replaces Barry Lawrensen, who is on a two-year leave of absence to teach at the Black Forest Academy in Germany.

Other new administrators whose appointments have been previously announced include Dan Daily, director of Ramaker Library; Dave Nonnemacher, service learning coordinator and head baseball coach; and the Rev. Harlan VanOort '82, chaplain.



Team members in front of St. Paul's Chapel. The chapel served as a rest station for the thousands of volunteers who worked to rescue and recover victims of the September 11 disaster.

Teddy Tour

Photos by Ami Christensen '02 and Andrea Jo Taylor '03

The Drama Ministries Ensemble's summer tour, funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc., included almost 50 performances across 13 states in May through July. The team performed *September Bears* by Jeff Barker, a new play about events surrounding September 11. Tour highlights included performing Off-Broadway at The Lamb's Theatre, and meeting and ministering to 9/11 volunteers during and after performances at St. Paul's Chapel, near Ground Zero.

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"Teddy bears have become, for me, a universal symbol of the need all of us have to be comforted, to be touched—to be hugged." – Jeff Barker in Fox News Magazine interview, aired nationwide on July 13
 ▲



Performing at St. Paul's. The chapel continues to house many 9/11 memorials and messages for the thousands of tourists who visit daily.

The Drama Ministries Ensemble will perform *September Bears* during spring break 2004, March 1-9, in the college's new DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. For performance details or to make an individual or group reservation, contact Bob Reynen in Northwestern's development office, 712-707-7106.

▼
"September Bears is well told and gracefully acted. It shows real people living through hell, yet comforted by heaven—something we long to see. If there are any happy endings in the 9/11 saga, September Bears certainly is one." – Lin Sexton, *Worship Leader* magazine editor and contributing editor for *Maranatha Worship Bible*
 ▲



September Bears cast members Ami Christensen '02 and Crystal Brown '04 with bears they distributed during the tour. The team toured with over 200 bears, giving out five during each performance.



Tour manager Kait Petersen '01 with Sue Lucarelli, the Manhattan schoolteacher who became known after September 11 as "the bear lady." Sue's church, Manhasset Community Reformed Church on Long Island, helped her collect and distribute over 60,000 teddy bears to New York children and 9/11 rescue workers. September Bears tells the story of Sue and her church's efforts.

▼
"It was an emotional experience, finally realizing where all those cuddly teddy bears at the chapel came from. The acting was marvelous. The play brought tears to my eyes, along with feelings of admiration and inspiration." – Dr. Arthur Gudeon, St. Paul's Chapel rescue effort podiatry volunteer coordinator
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▼
"I'm so glad my wife and I experienced September Bears! We went through a whole pack of tissues, but we went away uplifted and filled with hope." – Rich Swingle, playwright and staff actor at The Lamb's Theatre
 ▲



A bulletin board in the Manhasset Community Reformed Church reminds Sue and her fellow parishioners of the ministry they started with a single bear given to one frightened child. Hugs Across America is a mission of love to bring peace to little hearts in times of crisis. Hugs recently provided bears to children whose military parents were serving in Iraq. Churches or individuals interested in starting a Hugs Across America teddy bear ministry in their community can contact Sue Lucarelli, 516-627-2734 or sueluc@aol.com, or the Manhasset Community Reformed Church, 90 Plandome Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030, 516-627-3494.

Rooted Wanderer

by Tamara Fynaardt



The author of *College Knowledge: What You Need to Know Before You Go*, Jennifer Bagley, wrote, "Most important, I wish I had known that where I came from and where I want to go are *both* important to remember."

Northwestern senior Jeannine Lovas has reached that realization, too, changing over the last three years from a painfully homesick freshman into a rooted world traveler.

Jeannine was born in North Dakota on a farm that has supported her family for four generations. "My family is very focused on home,"

said Jeannine, who grew up relating more to Minnesota writer Patricia Hampl, who said, "It's the Midwesterner's birthright to wish to be elsewhere."

"Being from North Dakota gave me the desire and need to venture out and experience places with more people, more buildings, different ideas," said Jeannine.

But her first venture—out of state for college—left her longing for home. "I thought success in college was all about who could forget their home and family and old friends as quickly as possible and move on—for-

get where you came from. I guess I felt guilty for leaving home," she said, admitting she put 16,000 miles on her car driving home every two or three weeks.

Homesick but stubborn, too, Jeannine stuck it out, returned to NWC as a sophomore, and things improved. "My friendships really deepened. I also wrote for the *Beacon* and gained an identity as a writer and a close circle of writer friends," said the communication studies major and writing minor.

"Northwestern pushed me," said Jeannine, who became more comfortable

with who she is and more confident in who she can become. "What you learn at Northwestern breaks into your head and rattles your beliefs and gets you to look clearly and critically at yourself." Jeannine learned she can long for home and be interested in elsewhere at the same time.

Since those first lonely trips between Hillsboro and Orange City, Jeannine has become an eager and expert traveler. She's lived two summers in Fargo, working with tourists to the Red River Valley at the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau. This summer she was in the Twin Cities, subletting an apartment and rid-

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"What you learn at Northwestern breaks into your head and rattles your beliefs and gets you to look clearly and critically at yourself."
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ing the bus to her downtown internship at the St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau. And she spent last summer living in a Manhattan loft, taking a media ethics class at New York University.

Last spring break Jeannine traveled to the Netherlands with a team of Northwestern students to serve at two youth hostels

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near Amsterdam's Red Light District. The experience whet her appetite for international travel, so this fall she's living and studying in Great Britain. Rather than the more urban London study abroad program, Jeannine chose Carmarthen, Wales, where she is taking a creative writing class and one called People in the Countryside.

"Professors like Carl [Vandermeulen, English and communications] and Keith

[Fynaardt, English] have influenced me immensely," said Jeannine, who is thinking of being a writer—and maybe a professor. "I have more expectations now—of others, of myself, of life. I see the world as a smaller place. I have a real sense of identity. I know I'm the same person whether I'm on the Dakota plains, in a New York high rise or in the Welsh countryside."

Rooted Writer

"Wallace Stegner wrote to his student Wendell Berry that it's hard to come into the literary world with manure on your boots," wrote Jeannine in an essay about herself—a writer—and her most personal subject—rural life. "But I have a passion for rural writing," she decided at the end of The Agricultural Imagination, a Northwestern course she took with Dr. Keith Fynaardt last spring.

Jeannine read rural writers like Dakotans Kathleen Norris and Linda Hasselstrom for the course. "At first I thought, 'Real artists hail from L.A. and New York, not places like Hoople, N.D., or Buttermilk, Kan. And serious writers don't write about barns and windrows, lunchboxes and cowbells,'" she wrote.

But Fynaardt, who studies Midwestern farm literature and is writing a book about modern American agriculture, convinced Jeannine that her love for the land is appropriate and important.

"Maybe not many people will be interested in reading about the goings on at the local church bazaar or implement dealership, the history of the moldboard plow, or the year the drought was so bad no crops came up, but it's a history—and a reality—that is dying. And it should be recorded," Jeannine concluded.

The "silence of the plains . . . [is a] fruitful silence that produces poems and essays," wrote Norris, who's become one of Jeannine's favorite authors. "That's what my home has done for me, too," wrote Jeannine. "It's given me the material for when I need to 'write what I know best.' It's been a way for me to more closely understand the farm and land I come from."

Setting His Sights

Political science major practices what he's learned

by Anita Cirulis

His parents always thought he would be a minister, but in high school, Mick Snieder discovered another calling: politics.



Now, just turned 20, the Northwestern sophomore is running for Orange City's City Council this fall.

Holding office is a logical next step for a young man who served as a page in the Iowa State Senate and spent this past summer working as an intern for Iowa Congressman Steve King in Washington, D.C.

"He's pretty atypical in that he really knew from the start exactly what he wanted," says

Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff, a political science professor who has had Snieder in class. "Mick is pretty ambitious. He has his sights set on cutting his teeth on local politics, and he's not waiting."

"I really love politics," admits Snieder. "I don't think you can ever learn as much in a classroom as you do seeing things happen right in front of you and actually doing the work yourself."



"He's very much the conservative, but he's also respectful of other perspectives. He's not afraid to say what he believes, yet he's thinking about the alternative. I think that's what makes him a good student. He's not just always unthinkingly parroting the party line."



In that sense, his summer internship was the perfect learning experience. "Working in government, I can see how the legislative process works, how a bill becomes law," says the political science major. "It's much more detailed than the 12-step textbook example."

It was Snieder's involvement in politics that led him to Northwestern. Serving as a page his final semester of high school, he found himself admiring King's views and work ethic, and volunteered to help him run for Iowa's fifth district seat in the House of Representatives. By attending NWC, Snieder was able to continue working on King's campaign during the summer and fall.

King, likewise, was impressed by Snieder. "There's a crop of about 30 pages in the state Senate," King says, "and out of those 30, you can pick one to three that rise to the top in the first two weeks. You see it in their eyes, in the spring in their step. You see it in what they're paying attention to. Mick was one of those."

During the campaign, Snieder stepped to the stage in his hometown of Orange City and introduced King at a community forum. The politician noticed Snieder's poise and self-confidence, so when the Northwestern student applied for an



Mick Snieder, right, with Congressman Steve King in front of the Capitol.

internship, he hired him—despite the fact Snieder was four years younger than the other interns.

Snieder's interest in government started during a youth leadership conference held in the nation's capital. Nominated by a teacher when he was a junior at Unity Christian High School, he was encouraged to attend by his mother, who had home-schooled him from third through seventh grade.

While surprised at her son's passion for politics, Susan Snieder says it fits his personality. "He's always been very serious about life," she says. "He knows what he believes, and he's going to stand firm. That's the kind of person he is."

Plus, she jokes, "He thinks he's always right. That's why he'd be a good politician."

That doesn't mean Snieder never changes his mind. In the last campaign for Iowa's governor, he convinced his parents to vote one way, and then ended up voting for another candidate.

In fact, it is Snieder's openness to other viewpoints that impresses VanDerWerff, who sees in his student the right combination of ambition and hard work, as well as one who—while politically involved—also excels in the classroom.

"He's very much the conservative," VanDerWerff says, "but he's also respectful of other perspectives. He's not afraid to say what he believes, yet he's thinking about the alternative. I think that's what makes him a good student. He's not just always unthinkingly parroting the party line."

Snieder admits he likes a good argument and enjoys classroom discussions that allow students to look deeper into issues and examine other people's viewpoints.

He also likes the way his classes examine the relationship between Christianity and politics. As VanDerWerff, his professor, says, "The fact of the matter is that we're all citizens. We really need to think more about how our faith engages the public order. Is our faith purely a private, personal matter, or are there things about our faith that demand we go out and get involved and seek justice?"

Snieder is answering that question with his life—and with the backing of others.

"I've certainly encouraged him," King says of his protégé's City Council race. "I don't know of a more dedicated, conscientious young man."

See for Yourself



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Soul Doctor

Chaplain Harry Tysen answers call to hospital ministry

It was 6 p.m. on a Friday evening, and Harry Tysen '70 had just finished a nearly 12-hour day as chaplain at Salina (Kan.) Regional Health Center.



by Anita Cirulis

On his way out the door, he heard his pager go off. A 15-passenger van—part of a Missouri church group on a mission trip to Wyoming—had blown a tire on Interstate 70 just west of Salina, causing the vehicle to roll. One person was dead. Several were severely injured.

Suddenly, instead of heading home, Tysen was ministering to 40 people who were members of the mission team. The group was too large to fit in the chapel, so he used

one of the hospital's main conference rooms as a place for them to gather. Realizing they had nothing to eat, he contacted the Red Cross, which provided 10 pizzas for the group. And with a few phone calls, he found them lodging for the night.

"Harry really worked some miracles," says Randy Peterson, the health center's chief executive officer. "Those folks were overwhelmed by the service and compassion they received."

Meeting people's needs—whether physical, emotional or spiritual—is all in a day's work for Tysen, who is in his 23rd year as a hospital chaplain at Salina. The degree to which he excels at that has earned him the love and respect of patients and staff alike. Tysen, they say, is deeply caring, a wonderful listener, non-judgmental and empathetic.

"He can relate to anybody. It's just amazing. But he's genuine," says Rex Snively, a former supervisor. "He's the best hire I was ever involved in, and I was in human resources for 28 years."

A typical day for Tysen usually starts as early as 6:15 in the morning with visits to patients scheduled for surgery. He works most closely with two intensive care units, the mental health unit, and open-heart surgery patients and staff.

In addition to acting as a liaison between patients, their families and medical staff, Tysen leads grief support groups, consults with physicians about patient care, provides workshops for the hospital's residents and serves on its ethics committee. He counsels staff on everything from stress management to marital problems. He's "on call" for crises and helps



Having studied the healing components of laughter, Tysen often incorporates humor into his work. He will don a clown's rainbow-colored wig and red nose to help cheer patients, juggle in the hallways, and cajole patients or staff into joining him in blowing bubbles or singing.

with debriefings after particularly stressful critical incidents. And he provides comfort, prayer and encouragement for those who are hurting.

"Harry's got a calming approach," Peterson says. "He's able to go into stressful situations and put people at ease, and yet he's able to deliver the difficult messages that sometimes need to be delivered."

As he does so, Tysen finds himself consoling people who are facing serious illnesses, the loss of a loved one or even their own death.

"The one question I hear most often is, 'Why me?'" he says. "There's never a promise that bad things won't happen to us, but when they do, God promises to walk with us through them. What we find in the midst of those times of questioning is that God is there to give us strength, not to abandon us."

Don Jiskoot '61, a Reformed Church in America endorsing agent for prison chaplains, spent a day in March with Tysen as part of an official visit. While shadowing Tysen, Jiskoot saw him interact with a man in his 50s who had suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Salina.

From the look on the man's face, Jiskoot could tell he was terrified. Then Tysen began visiting and praying with him.

"It wasn't rote," Jiskoot says. "He was talking like this man was really important to him. He was really tuning in

to this man and his wife, and as he was doing that, I literally could see the fear disappear."

Jiskoot was impressed with Tysen's balance of encouragement and honesty.

"He never said, 'You're going to be all right,'" Jiskoot

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"I really feel like I'm doing ministry on the front line. I always go home feeling fulfilled."

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remembers. "Instead, it was, 'You're in a good hospital, you're going to be well taken care of, and you have people here who are concerned about you.' He gave them reassurance, but never false hope."

Tysen first became interested in hospital chaplaincy

while in seminary, but he credits his alma mater for giving him a solid foundation.

"I think one of the things that equipped me to be a good chaplain was the training I received in social work at Northwestern," he says. "I look not only at the individual and the family, but at the dynamics that are happening in that family. Those are things I learned from Ben Wiese and other faculty in the sociology department."

Like her husband, Linda (Aalberts '70) was a sociology major. She manages the health center's Morrison House, a hospitality/guest house for families of patients.

"We often work with the same families," Tysen says of his wife. "I take care of the patients at the hospital, and she takes care of the families when they come home in the evening."

Tysen's commitment to

his profession extends beyond his hospital's walls. He served two terms as president of the Kansas Association of Chaplains and was his state's representative on the Association of Professional Chaplains. He also participates in peer reviews of chaplains and supervises college interns. In 1999, the Kansas Association of Chaplains recognized his contributions by naming him chaplain of the year.

Such accolades, however, aren't what motivate his work. Instead, it's the calling he feels to hospital chaplaincy and to Salina.

"I really feel like I'm doing ministry on the front line. I always go home feeling fulfilled," Tysen says. "I've felt Christ's presence with me in ministry. There's always the sense that I'm in the right place doing the right thing."



Chaplain Harry Tysen provides support and encouragement for Salina Regional Health Center's staff as well as patients.



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 “Students shouldn’t limit themselves to doing only ‘Christian theatre,’ because you’ve eliminated most of your audience right there—you’re just preaching to the choir. Our students’ goal should be to be excellent: Live your life well and be excellent. You’ll make a much bigger impact.”
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The Hollywood Connection

by Tamara Fynaardt

“Hey, that’s my leg!” John Paul laughs as he tells the story of the props crew for the movie *Fargo* using his wooden prosthesis to set up the wood-chipper scene—the one where Peter Stormare’s character “disposes of” Steve Buscemi’s character.

Fargo is one of seven feature films on the design resume of John, professor

and technical director in Northwestern’s theatre department since 2001. Other titles include *Grumpier Old Men*, with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau; *Feeling Minnesota*, with Keanu Reeves and Cameron Diaz; and *Jingle All the Way*, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Fargo remains John’s

favorite because the small crew and relatively small budget (\$10 million) for that film made for a family atmosphere. He became friends with Joel and Ethan Coen, the writer-director brothers who also did *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and Joel’s wife, Oscar Award-winning actress Frances McDormand, who recently starred in *City*

by the Sea and *Almost Famous*.

“The Coens are very likeable,” John remembers. “We’d go out after filming, and I’d have friendly conversations with Fran. I brought my son to watch filming one day, and Joel whisked him onto his lap while he directed Fran and her screen husband.”

The son of a Hope College professor and a Holland, Mich., elementary school teacher, John says he’s the answer to the question, “Why get a liberal arts degree?” “Because then you can do anything!” he answers. He started Hope as a pre-med major, then switched to psychology and physical education and

moved to Minnesota after graduation to work as a rehabilitation consultant, helping people who'd been injured at work.

After work and on weekends he volunteered at a small community theatre, painting sets and even doing a bit of designing. "Art and drawing are hobbies and a love of mine," said John, "but never something I thought I could make a living at." Then one night a theatre professor from a nearby graduate program asked him, "You ever thought of doing this for a career?" "I laughed at him," John said. But six months later, burned out from battling insurance companies, he enrolled in a master's program in theatre design.

Before he could finish, a summer stock theatre gig convinced him of the need for a higher level of professional experience, so he moved to the Twin Cities, where he worked two years as technical director at the Cricket Theatre. "It was an incredible experience," he remembers. "Lee Blessing, one of the most famous contemporary playwrights of our time, wrote the first play I technical directed. I got to hang out with him during its run because his wife was the show's director."

John returned to his M.F.A. program at the University of Minnesota but was distracted again, this time by the opportunity to do some drafting for a small film called *The Cure*, directed by Peter Horton of *Thirtysomething* fame. That experience led to *Fargo* and five more films that were produced in Minnesota.

Eventually, John landed in Los Angeles. "I'd had lots of offers to move to California and work with art directors I'd worked with in Minnesota," said John, "but I said I'd never move to L.A." He reconsidered, though, when a friend offered him a teaching position at California Institute of the Arts. "I really wanted to get into teaching," he said.

After one year in the classroom, he worked a summer at Scenery West, a popular scenic company in Hollywood, and was "seduced" to stay. "They just paid an outrageous amount of money," he admits.

Despite the great pay and opportunity to work with famous actors, directors and designers, John and his wife, Jill, left L.A. after five years of 14-hour workdays so John could return to teaching. His desire to teach at a Christian liberal arts college led him to Northwestern. The more reasonable hours enabled John to finally finish his M.F.A. this past spring, and he also has more time for his kids: Danny, now 12, and Elizabeth, who's almost one.

"It was culture shock," said John. "Every day at Scenery

West, Academy Award-winning designers came through our shop. Now I'm back to being a new-ish faculty member at a small college.

"This is what I want to do, though, and I have something to offer," he said, eager to connect talented students with theatre and film professionals in the Twin Cities and Hollywood. "I still know people—like the production designer who did *Erin Brockovich* and *Traffic*. I can call him and say, 'I have a promising student who could be a production assistant for you.'"

Mostly, though, he's eager to mentor design students as they learn what it means to be a Christian doing theatre. "It's a strange world, and it has the reputation it does for a reason," he admits. "But it doesn't have to be that way. *Fargo* was for a mainstream audience, but it had a moral message.

"Students shouldn't limit themselves to doing only 'Christian theatre,'" said John, "because you've eliminated most of your audience right there—you're just preaching to the choir. Our students' goal should be to be excellent: Live your life well and be excellent. You'll make a much bigger impact."

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"I still know people [in Hollywood]. I can call and say, 'I have a promising student who could be a production assistant for you.'"
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Lilly grant launches

Northwestern's \$2 million Lilly grant project, *Vocare: Find Your Place*, was officially launched this fall with a variety of activities.

Dr. Tim Brown, the Henry Bast Professor of Preaching at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich., was on campus to kick off the project Oct. 6-8. He spoke in chapel on the topic of spirituality and vocation, talked with faculty and staff about the lifelong process of discerning one's call from God, and met with students considering church vocations.

The fall chapel schedule includes two other Lilly grant series. Dr. Keith Anderson, Northwestern's dean of spiritual formation and director of the Lilly grant, will speak Oct. 27-28. Brennan Manning, author of *Abba's Child* and *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, will speak Dec. 1-2.

Several faculty and staff traveled overseas during the summer, funded by the Lilly grant, to explore possibilities for developing study abroad courses and strengthening cross-cultural ties.

Pedal Power

Northwestern RDs bike across country

by **Brian Gunderson**
West Hall RD

While you're pondering what you might do on your vacation, do you ever think, "I'm going to bike across the United States?" If you think a family outing to Glacier National Park or perhaps a trip to Disney World is more suited for you, you're in the majority.

But for Jon Cavanagh, Marlon Haverdink '97 and me, it only seemed right that three out-of-shape men nearing middle age should embark on such a journey. So on May 19, we set out from Florence, Ore., with all the excitement and trepidation of three freshmen making their way cross-country to begin their college experiences. Of course, that analogy fails to include the fact that most recent high school graduates would be making any such trip in a car—with an engine—and air conditioning.

Traveling 3,000 miles with nothing supporting the majority of your body weight except a half-inch of foam on a seat four inches wide can be hazardous. Not many sign up for such a task, but if you happen to try it, remember to stand up every so often while pedaling. Besides the saddle discomfort, the majority of the ride went fairly smoothly—no major mishaps, anyway. From the Oregon moun-

tains through the Great Divide, across the plains and Pennsylvania hills to the East Coast beaches of Rehoboth, Del., we traversed this great nation and gained memorable experiences with every mile completed.

Our two greatest challenges were the mountains and the wind. Which do I hate more? I look at it from a philosophical point of view: The mountains have been on this earth since before God breathed life into humankind's lungs. I respect that and have little problem attempting to climb these old patriarchs of the earth.

The wind, however, is a different story. It is as fickle as it is two-faced. One day it is

our best friend, and we praise it for pushing us along. The next day it slaps us in the face, bracing against us, slowing us and aggravating us as we look forward to another 100 miles against our neurotic foe. Even now, as I write this, my legs burn in memory of wind-caused lactic acidosis. The wind will always be my most painful memory of this trip.

If the ride itself was exhilarating yet painful, the people we met were nothing short of amazing. Whether Northwestern alumni and friends, family members or complete strangers, the servant-hearted hosts we encountered opened their homes to us, fed us until we

were uncomfortably full and made sure we had adequate places to rest our weary bodies. I hope many of our hosts are reading this now, because we want to thank you again for your outstanding hospitality. People asked us, "What was the best part of your coast-to-coast ride?" Always the same answer: "The people." It was probably the only thing we could always agree on after spending six weeks almost exclusively together.

Marlon said before we started that he wanted this to be a capstone experience for the three of us, having worked together as Northwestern resident directors for the past two years. Now that Jon and Marlon have moved on to graduate school and away from NWC, I think we all agree that this truly was a grand finale to a great working friendship.



Resident directors (left to right) Jon Cavanagh, Brian Gunderson and Marlon Haverdink celebrate the end of their coast-to-coast ride in Delaware.

Alumnicorner



Karen Woudstra
'79, Director of
Alumni and Parent
Relations

I love to hear a good story, especially if it makes me laugh or touches me emotionally. When I was a kindergarten teacher, storytelling was one of my favorite activities. Now, in my new role, the stories are different—but I enjoy them just as much.

At the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities alumni conference I attended in July at Wheaton College, I was challenged to really listen to alumni stories. Hearing about what you are doing with your careers, in your churches and communities, and with your families is an important part of my job for many reasons. First, it broadens my view of God and His world as I hear about the many places and positions God has put you in since leaving Northwestern. Second, your stories challenge others and me in our faith as you share what God has done in and through you. Third, your stories, which tell how God is using your gifts and talents to serve in his Kingdom, validate Northwestern's mission to all who work at NWC or support the college. Stories from alumni need to be shared as witness to God's presence in our lives.

When you send updates of new jobs, moves, marriages, births, etc., to the college, you probably simply want to keep NWC and your classmates updated. That's wonderful, because we do need your new information so we can keep you knowledgeable about what's happening at Northwestern or to send out Homecoming and reunion information. But I want to invite you also, if you have the time, to write a brief story or note when you send your information updates. You need to know that by sharing your story, you just might be an encouragement to others.

Are you doing Kingdom work that would challenge or encourage others? Do you know someone else you could share about? Has God worked in a miraculous way in your life or is He challenging you in some way? Sometimes we include these stories in the *Classic* or other publications; always we celebrate, thank God and praise Him for what He's doing.

Storytelling is a great gift that passes down something important for us to remember from one generation to another. Don't stop telling your story, whether it's a note or e-mail to me or to someone who needs to hear how God is working. Real stories from real people are truly inspirational and a way to witness and bring glory to Christ.

To update your information and/or to share a story, visit www.nwciowa.edu/alumni/email/addrform.asp.

Deaths

Frances (Brink '40, '41) Bloemendaal, age 80, died June 14 at a nursing home in Remsen, Iowa, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. She assisted her husband, Lawrence, in the operation of the Bloemendaal Hatchery in Alton and was a homemaker. Survivors include her husband and three children, including daughters **Nora Reekers '71** and **Nita Savage '78**.

Reynold Van Gelder '41, age 80, died July 13 at the Orange City Municipal Hospital Long-Term Care Facility. After his time at Northwestern, he graduated from the University of Alaska and attended Sioux City's National Business Training School. He served in the Army from 1943-46. He farmed for 15 years near Alton, was part owner of a Ford agency for eight years, and then became a realtor and auctioneer. Reynold was a member of the Alton Reformed Church, where he served on the consistory, taught Sunday school, and sang in choirs and small groups. He served on the boards of the Newkirk Consolidated School, Sioux County Board of Education, Northwest Iowa Community College and Alton Community Bank. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; three sons; two sisters, **Elizabeth Brown '48** and **Ann Vande Weerd '52**; and a brother, **Gerben '64**.

Anna Marie (Geurink '42, '44) Kolberg, age 77, died Aug. 5 at a care center in Yankton, S.D. She worked as a secretary at Northwestern and later as a bookkeeper at Great American Insurance Co. in Chicago. She married Robert Kolberg in 1956 and moved to a farm near Gayville, S.D. She was a member of the Gayville Lutheran Church, American Legion Auxiliary and Gayville Garden Club. Survivors include her husband; two daughters; a son; and a sister, **Henrietta Slobe '50**.

Robert Mouw '54, Albany, Ohio, died May 23 at the age of 68. An Air Force pilot, he retired as a major after 21 years of service that included terms in the Vietnam War and in Libya, Spain, Turkey and Greece. He earned degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and in education from the University of Houston, Victoria. He taught advanced math and physics at the high school level for 15 years in Port Lavaca, Texas, and spent the last 10 years farming in Ohio. Bob was a member of Albany Baptist Church. Among his survivors are his wife, Evonne; a son; and a daughter.

Jeremy Davenport '05, age 20, Granville, Iowa, died July 29 of injuries he received in an automobile accident near Hospers. He was a business administration/management major. Among his survivors are his parents, Paul and Carolyn; and a brother.

Megan Queitzsch '06, age 19, Melrose, Wis., died as the result of a farming accident in Irving, Wis., June 20. An agri-business major, she is survived by her parents, Yvonne Weihrouch and Leonard Queitzsch; two sisters; and a brother.

Freeman DeGroot, Bozeman, Mont., who worked in the maintenance department from 1975-89, died on June 4 at the age of 75 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Plus. He served in the Marines during World War II, attended Finley Engineering College in Kansas City, Mo., and worked as an electrician and HVAC technician in Orange City. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; two sons, including **Tad '84**; a daughter, **Thea '89**; and two brothers, including **Stewart '40**.

Miniprofile



Jodi Rodgers, director of the Redlands, Calif., Sylvan Learning Center, presents a teaching award to Josh Bird.

Bird is big role model for fourth graders

by Amy Scheer

A few games on Northwestern's campus green, and Josh Bird '95 knew he wanted to be an elementary teacher.

During his junior year, Bird took an elementary education class with professor Laura Heitritter, who paired up her students with fifth grade pen pals from a

local school. One afternoon the pen pals came to the college to visit, and Bird enjoyed them immensely. Playing games and interacting with the kids confirmed Bird's long-held suspicion that he should become a teacher like both of his parents.

Sylvan Learning Center and KNBC-TV in Los Angeles recently affirmed Bird's choice of vocation by awarding him a trophy for being an educator who makes a difference. Community members recommended Bird for the honor, thankful for his devotion to their children in his fourth grade classroom at Redlands Christian School. The school, where Bird has taught for seven years, received the Sylvan/KNBC Spotlight School Award—a distinctive honor for a small Christian school sitting among thousands of schools in the Los Angeles basin. A short commercial spot featuring Bird and his school aired

throughout the week of the award ceremony on KNBC.

"I love teaching," says Bird. "I hate taking days off. They give us free days, but I don't take them. I enjoy being with the kids." Bird also coaches the elementary soccer team, the junior high boys' basketball team, elementary softball and an intramural program. He'll play on the playground at recess just to find out about a kid's life. He'll take his class out for ice cream at the end of the year to watch them interact in a new setting. And this past year, the 6'8" Bird played Goliath in a school musical, to the cheers of the young crowd.

A strong supporter of Christian education and its mission, Bird grew up attending Christian schools in Hull, Iowa, before enrolling at NWC. "People in the education department really inspired me to teach," he says of Northwestern, complimenting professors Heitritter, Ed Starkenburg and Ron Juffer (who Bird calls "a great role model"). "To this day, I still think of things they taught me."

Summers find Bird tutoring at his house and at Sylvan. He and his wife, Jamie, also make time to enjoy life on the West Coast, designating their summer Fridays as "Beach Days." During the school year, Jamie is an active presence in her husband's classroom, appearing regularly to play games or get involved in activities.

For Bird, the trophy from Sylvan and KNBC is impressive but unnecessary—teaching is its own prize. "It's very rewarding because I have the opportunity to work with kids every day."

Alumni - What's New with You?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to beeson@nwcwiowa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the Winter Classic is Oct. 24.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____ Class of _____
 E-Mail _____

'37

The Rev. Lloyd De Jong recently received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Rotary Club of Fond du Lac, Wis.

'47

A new film highlighting the lifelong ministry of Ken Jacobs and his wife, Elaine, was premiered on campus and at Orange City's Dover Avenue Alliance Church in late June. *The Right Thing* tells of the Jacobs' 50 years of service with Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Chamula people of southern Mexico. The movie was coordinated by Barry Lawrensen, Northwestern's director of AV and the Learning Resource Center, with

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82
Chaplain

Scholars pray. Northwestern College is a distinctively Christian educational institution, dedicated to the life of the mind. It is bold to assert that the teacher is God through the reign of Jesus by the power of the Spirit. There is a connection between learning and praying.

Simone Weil, the brilliant German mystic from a few decades ago, uses the word "attention" to get a handle on the task of studying. In her book *Waiting for God*, she explains that to learn anything, one must pay attention. Because prayer is deep attention to God, it becomes the beginning for learning in two ways. First, it puts us initially in touch with the One who owns everything we learn. Second, prayer induces humility to make us teachable.

The author of Psalm 71 understood this connection: "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wonderful deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come." The psalmist seems to be saying three things about education: First, it is connected to faith. Second, it is lifelong. Third, teaching is mostly proclaiming what God has done.

Northwestern College connects learning and prayer, paying attention to God, alert to the reign of Christ in the world, listening to the Holy Spirit. When a college lives by prayer, as Northwestern does, scholarship forms the lines of a prayer. Those who study and serve at NWC, with attention to God, are learning to pray.

Scholars who are not at Northwestern are asked to pray for those who are. Together with Christ's disciples in Luke 11:1, let us say, "Lord, teach us to pray."

assistance by Paul Lubbers '70 and Sarah Yoder '02. Tim Poppen '76 narrated the film.

'49

Bernie Nibbelink, Sioux Center, and his wife, Hazel (Sprik '52), will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in October. They are among six couples of the Sprik family who held a family reunion in Prairie View, Kan., this summer. All six couples have been married for at least 50 years. Included in the gath-

ering were Alvina (Sprik) and Cornie Keunen '48, '50 of Orange City and Leona and Stanley Sprik '50 of Worthington, Minn. Both of those couples have been married 52 years.

'54

Carol (Onken) Spiering, Biloxi, Miss., has been a widow since 1995. She has a daughter in Little Rock, Ark.; a son in Pass Christian, Miss.; and three grandchildren.

'65

Dean Reeverts, Colchester, Ill., is serving as pastor at Blandinsville First Baptist Church. His daughter graduated as student of the year and valedictorian of her high school class, and is a freshman at Hope College this fall.

'66

Clarence Krygsheld is retiring from the Chicago Public Schools on Oct. 31 as the assistant principal of the Ray Graham Training Center, which serves severe to profoundly cognitively disabled students from ages 15-21. In his 36 years in education, Clarence taught regular classes and special education, coached numerous sports, served as a counselor at the elementary and high school levels, and worked in various administrative capacities.

'69

Ron Van Berkum retired from teaching in June. He taught two years at Sioux Center and spent the last 32 years teaching junior high social studies and 10th grade world history and coaching junior high sports at English Valleys School District in North English, Iowa. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children: Matt, Chrissy and Joni.

'70

Junko Nagao, Tokyo, Japan, is enrolled in Northwestern's one-year English as a second language program to brush up on her English.

The Rev. David Schutt, pastor of Christ Community Church in Carmichael, Calif., is serving as president of the Reformed Church in America's General Synod for 2003-04. He was vice president last year.

'75

The Rev. Dr. Tom Smith and his wife, Peg (Hofmeyer), have moved to Rock Valley, Iowa, after 17 years in Bloomington, Minn. Tom is minister of church life at Faith Reformed

Church, and Peg is the secretary for the superintendent of the Boyden-Hull School District.

The Rev. Paul Wernlund, Brown Deer, Wis., was appointed chairman of the mission committee for the Regional Synod of Mid-America in June.

The Rev. Bruce Wilterdink is serving as minister under contract at Elim Reformed Church in Kings, Ill. He's also doing outreach ministries in nearby Davis Junction.

'79

Dr. Timothy Westcott has been named interim dean of undergraduate studies at Park University in Parkville, Mo. He is an assistant professor of history.

'80

Dr. Rhonda Pennings is the new dean of arts and sciences/business and health at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) in Sheldon. She taught communications at NCC for the past 11 years.

'82

Rebecca (Vander Laan) Koster, Morrison, Ill., taught an English as a second language course at Blackhawk Community College in Moline this summer. She is teaching French part time in Geneseo this fall.

'84

Dr. James Kennedy is a professor in modern history at Free University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

'87

Laura (De Geest) Magg received her master's degree in education from Doane College in May. She teaches fifth grade at West Park Elementary School in Columbus, Neb.

Terry Meier, Lincoln, Neb., is director of community development for the Southeast Nebraska Development District. His wife,

Miniprofile

Alum brings harmony to inner-city school

by Amy Scheer

"I chose Ms. B. because she's hard on us . . . it's because she loves us."

Hearing her music student's words, Barb Burlingame '99 knew that all those tears shed her first year of teaching were worthwhile. Her student was one of many nominating her for the Suave Performance Plus Award, given to Chicago teachers who achieve excellence in and beyond the classroom. From more than 350 applicants, Burlingame placed in the top five finalists for her area, with just 30 total finalists chosen from six regions. At a formal ceremony in downtown Chicago in May, she received a plaque and \$1,000.

Not bad for a third-year teacher.

Burlingame spent the fall semester of 1999 student teaching in a Chicago public school band program. She impressed the supervising



Barb Burlingame gives a percussion lesson in Chicago's Hirsch High School.

teacher, who swiftly recommended her for a position in a fine arts program forming at Hirsch Metropolitan High School of Communications. Hirsch's principal came to observe and interview Burlingame, and she offered her the job of band director on the spot.

The next school year found the Cameron, Wis., native living and working amidst gang activity and poverty in an inner-city high school without instruments

for her beginning band students. The school system had no music feeder program, so freshmen first encountered music training in Burlingame's class. Accustomed to the practice of starting instruments in fourth or fifth grade, Burlingame initially found that teaching theory, fingerings and musicality all at once was quite a challenge.

After six months of "a lot of stomping and clapping" that first year, the instruments finally arrived and the students' progress soared. To keep her young musicians motivated, Burlingame maintains high musical standards. For example, she requires that students pass a test before they can play in a concert. Her first year, just 20 were ready to perform in public; two years later, the number was up to 52.

It thrills Burlingame to watch the growth of her

"baby," as she calls it, the program she's nurtured for three years. This past year saw the first ever Hirsch High School musical, with Burlingame as musical director and assistant to the stage director. She's starting up a new percussion ensemble, too, while not at all daunted by the numbers—104 drummers and five drums.

Teaching in the inner city has its challenges, Burlingame says. "At times, it feels like you're teaching them life skills—how to survive." When she needs counsel, she seeks out Northwestern's Dr. Tim McGarvey via e-mail, thankful for the opportunity to ask questions of her admired former music professor. NWC is unique in its caring atmosphere and faculty-student connections, she says. "I can't imagine having gone anywhere else."

Jeanne, owns and operates a preschool. They have a child, Peyton (2).

Ruth Muyskens has been a medical records clerk for nearly 10 years. Living in Burnsville, Minn., she enjoys her hobby of colored pencil painting.

'89

Brenda (Bruxvoort) Latz is beginning her 11th year as a full-time social worker for the Zion, Ill.,

Elementary School District. She lives in Beach Park with her husband, David, and stepson, Brian.

'91

Dr. Billy Estes is an orthopaedic surgeon with a practice in Sioux Falls. He also provides services in Orange City and Sioux Center. His wife, **Janna (Kluis '94)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

Michaela (Rabenberg) Zimmerman has been promoted to activity coordinator in the Alzheimer's unit at Prairie Lodge in Brooklyn Center, Minn. Her husband, Tom, works for Cargill. They have three boys: Timothy, William and Daniel.

'92

Leslie Rider, Fircrest, Wash., has been in full-time ministry for seven years. She reports that her work with high school students has blessed her beyond words. She also enjoys theology (in which she earned a master's degree), upgrading her home and playing softball.

ing her home and playing softball.

Tammy (Mulder) Sieck and her husband, Randy, live in Ireton, Iowa. Randy is a self-employed truck driver, and Tammy is a stay-at-home mom.

Arlin Top teaches physical education and coaches at Manson Northwest Webster Community School. His wife, **Lora (Bandstra '94)**, teaches business in the Fort Dodge Community School District. The Tops live in Manson.

'93

Eric Pingel teaches high school computer classes and is the district's technology/curriculum infusion coordinator at Pella Community High School. He also coaches in Central College's men's and women's track and field programs. He and his wife, Kari, have four children.

'94

Mark Petersen is the new principal at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School. He and his wife, Ann, and their sons, Peyton and Reece, live in Hartley, Iowa.

'95

Joe Fontenot is beginning his ninth year as a teacher and coach for the Marion, Iowa, Independent School District. He teaches elementary physical education and health and coaches football, wrestling and softball. His wife, **Jayna (DeWaard)**, recently joined the staff of Comsys Information Technology Services as a software testing consultant. She is currently consulting at MCI in Cedar Rapids. The Fontenots reside in Marion with their twin daughters, Elizabeth and Katelyn (6).

Heidi Van De Wege is a middle school resource teacher for the San Francisco Unified School District. She volunteers at Nightline, providing emotional support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

'96

Daniel and Michelle (Maassen) Brands live in Harrisburg, S.D. Daniel is vice president at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls. Michelle is an elementary special education teacher in Harrisburg. They have a son, Joshua (2).

Ryan De Haan has started his second year as a pathology resident at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. His wife, **Sherry (Ferrell)**, is a stay-at-home mother for their two daughters.

'97

Jeff Beekhuizen graduated from Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in May. He is currently a family practice resident at Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita.

Marilyn (Lupkes) and Kevin Jansma '99 are both on staff in the small groups ministry of Prairie Ridge Church in Ankeny, Iowa.

'98

Brian Boote has been working at Home Federal Bank in Sioux Falls for two years. He lives in Lester, Iowa.

Kristine (Van Zante) Cornelder teaches K-6 music and fifth grade band at Pella Christian Grade School.

Janelle (Koolhaas) Dominguez is a missionary for the Reformed Church in America in Ocosingo, Mexico. Her husband, Angel, is an anthropologist.

Zac Nesper has graduated from Stanford Business School and is working as a financial analyst for Hewlett Packard's imaging and printing division in San Diego. His wife, **Ellen (Sterup '99)**, is a high school English teacher in Lakeside, Calif.

'99

Andrew Manz lives in Minnetonka, Minn. He works in the computing information center for Metris Companies as an analyst and documentation specialist.

Betsy (Russell) McFadden works part time for the Fontenelle Nature Association (Fontenelle Forest) in Bellevue, Neb.

Kyle Menke teaches third grade at Lake Mills, Iowa, Community Schools. He also is the head boys' basketball coach, head track coach and junior varsity baseball coach. His wife, **Marie (Tilderquist)**, is director of the Lake Mills

Community Preschool and Daycare.

B.J. Van Kalsbeek earned his M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary last November and was ordained in the Reformed Church in America in December. He completed a nine-month chaplaincy residency program at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich., in May and now works as a staff chaplain at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City. His wife, **Manda (Nelson)**, is an office coordinator for Bethany Christian Services in Sioux City.

'00

Ryan and Jackie (Van Engen) Freese live in Hartley, Iowa. Ryan is an agronomist for the Hefty Seed Company in Sheldon. Jackie, who completed a bachelor's degree in physician assistant studies at the University of South Dakota, is a physician assistant with Iowa Lakes Orthopaedics in Spirit Lake.

Bryan Haverhals received his master's degree in structural engineering from the University of Texas in May. He now works for Brockette/Davis/Drake Inc. in Dallas.

John Paul Sundararajan graduated with an M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary in May. He is now living in Bangalore, India, serving as the overseas projects director for Audio Scripture Ministries.

'01

Angie Ferguson has graduated from Bethany College of Missions in Minneapolis, receiving a two-year certificate in Bible and cross-cultural missions. She now lives in Kansas City, Mo., where she is an intercessory missionary at the International House of Prayer, part of a 24/7 prayer and worship effort.

Gina (Wenzel) Greene, Orange City, is an athletic trainer with the Center for Neurosciences, Orthopaedics and Spine.

Jacqueline Nockels is in her third year of medical school through Des Moines University. She is living in Sandusky, Ohio, rotating with doctors in clinics and hospitals for the next two years. She reports that she's very excited to start the work God has for her through daily interaction with patients.

'02

Chris Anderson works in the development office at The Cradle, a non-profit adoption agency in Evanston, Ill. He lives in Chicago.

'03

Kristin Breems is a Northwestern admissions counselor.

Lindsay Clay is working as an admissions counselor for NWC.

Craig Dalen is a resident director at Messiah College in Grantham, Pa.

Ezra Johnson works as a resident director at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion.

Matthew Nienhuis is working in commercial lending at North Cascades National Bank in Chelan, Wash.

Nick Scholten is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

Kelly (Huizenga) Van Marel works in the financial aid department at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa. Her husband, **Brandon '02**, is pursuing a master's degree in higher education.

Meagan (Wells) Wallinga is the computer support specialist at Northwestern. Her husband, **Mike '01**, teaches in Northwestern's computer science department.

Nathan Wolf is working as an admissions counselor for NWC.

New Arrivals

Mark and Roberta (Vander Pol '84) Brightman, son, Malachi Errol,

Seeking Distinguished Alumni Nominations

The Northwestern Alumni Office seeks nominations for future Alumni of the Year nominees. Candidates should be alumni of the academy, junior college or college, or have attended the junior college for one year or the college for three semesters. Candidates must have been out of college at least five years and not currently be an officer of the Alumni Association.

Three awards are presented:

Distinguished Professional Achievement: This person shows leadership, competence, dedication and continuing education and integrity in his/her chosen profession.

Distinguished Service to Humankind: This person shows leadership abilities in service to the community and/or society at large through notable Christian contributions.

Distinguished Service to Northwestern College: This person shows loyalty to the mission of Northwestern College, continued interest and support of the goals of NWC, and reflects honor upon the college by his/her Christian lifestyle.

Nomination for:

_____ Distinguished Professional Achievement

_____ Distinguished Service to Humankind

_____ Distinguished Service to NWC

Nominee's Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Occupation and Title _____

Reason for Nomination (Use additional sheet if needed)

Your Name and

Phone _____

Please send to: Alumni Relations, NWC, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041

Fax: 712-707-7117

E-mail: karenw@nwciowa.edu

joins Arianna (7) and Marina (3).

Janet (Hassebroek '84) and **Scott Guthmiller '84**, daughter, Emily Marie, joins Katie (8).

Jennifer (Mitchell '91) and **Dan VanPeursesem '89**, son, Luke Mitchell, joins Joel (4) and Abby (3).

Randy and Tammy (Mulder '92) Sieck, twins, Lila Joyce and Levi Louis.

Rick and Lorena (Hall '93) Brant, daughter, Claire Lorena, joins Cora (1).

Dana (Smith '93) and **Jim Daniels '98**, son, Alexander James.

Kara (Rankin '93) and **Jeff VanDerWerff '83**, daughter, Kathryn Marie, joins Jakob (2).

Abbey and Chad Brenneeman '94, daughter, Marissa Mae, joins Cassidy (3) and Joel (1).

Janna (Kluis '94) and **Billy Estes '91**, daughter, Ellaree Rae.

Yvonne and James Li '94, daughter, Angelina.

Cassandra (Kempema '94) and **Tracy Ping '90**, son, Jack Tracy, joins Hillary (4).

Brent and Teresa (Mesman '94) Sampson, daughter, Natasha Joy, joins Noelle (4) and Natalie (2).

Lora (Bandstra '94) and **Arlin Top '92**, son, Treyton, joins Kendra (5).

Sherry (Ferrell '96) and **Ryan De Haan '96**, daughter, Janna Faith, joins April (3).

Mike and Becky (Trost '96) Meyer, daughter, Makenzie Ruth, joins Colton (3).

Lori (Jensen '96) and **Tobias Posvar '96**, son, Brandon Conrad, joins Aidan (6).

Micah and Wendy (Hensley '96) Tamminga, daughter, Honor Emanuelle, joins Watchman (4) and Malachi (2).

Marilyn (Lupkes '97) and **Kevin Jansma '99**, son, Treyton Elliot.

Jeff and Michelle (Demers '97) Janssen, daughter by adoption from Guatemala, Eden Dulce Juliana, joins Grace (6) and Faith (3).

Donelle (Gesink '97) and **Jon Oostra '97**, son, Christopher John, joins Mitchell and Jordyn.

Miniprofile



Koczman keeps his eyes on prize

by Duane Beeson

Two years ago, Jacob Koczman '01 became Northwestern's first national champion in NAIA track. Today he is racing toward prominence at an elite level, preparing for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials.

After winning the NAIA indoor 600-meter and outdoor 400-

meter titles as a Raider senior, the biology-health professions and chemistry major left competitive training behind and focused on working at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and studying for the MCATs. He also prayed and thought deeply about entering the next level of track competition, and joined the Indiana Invaders in September 2002.

Sponsored by Nike, the Indianapolis-based professional club is comprised of college graduates who are chasing the Olympic dream. As an Invader, Koczman gets free coaching, shoes and gear, as well as travel expenses for competitions. He works full time as a research technician at Indiana University's medical school and trains in the evenings and on weekends.

At NWC, Koczman spent his first three years playing

basketball in the winter and running track in the spring. Only as a senior did he focus his athletic talents exclusively on track, which led the Invaders' coach, Greg Harger, to say Koczman was "more question than answer" when he joined the team.

After a year of intense training and competition, Koczman has made quite a statement. This summer, he qualified for next July's Olympic Trials in the 800-meter run, clocking a career-best 1:47.72 to place first at the national club team championships. That effort moved him into the top 18 nationally in the 800, only 1.5 seconds away from the top four. And Koczman's time represented a three-second improvement since he joined the Invaders.

"He listens very well and is not afraid to take on the disciplined challenges required for high-level training," says Harger, Koczman's coach. "The 800 is the most complicated event from a physiologic basis, and it is the most dynamically intense event from a tactical sense. Jacob has the intellect and the competitive fearlessness required to thrive in this environment."

Koczman says his training has been a challenge—both physically and mentally—but rewarding. "When you run in college, you've got the team pride thing. When you're by yourself like this, you have to dig down a little deeper and know this is what you want to do and why you're doing it. But anytime you push yourself to the limit and achieve something you've never done before, it's a great feeling."

Koczman, who has deferred his medical school admission at the University of Iowa for a year, says he hopes to continue training. "My main motivation is to use the gift God has given me for His glory. As long as I can do that, I'll keep running."

Corey and Cindy (Wiekamp '97)
Prins, daughter, Kaylee Jo, joins
Kianna (3).

Jason and Tish (Bergeson '97)
Wedgbury, daughter, Emmersyn
Grace.

Kristi (Reimers '97) and Chris
Wright '97, son, Caden Michael,
joins Alison (5) and Brady (3).

Jill (Godeke '98) and Matt Hugen '98,
daughter, Alissa Lorraine.

Roberta (Van Milligan '98) and Kris
Vander Zwaag '97, daughter,

Amelia Grace, joins Katryna (3)
and Sofia (2).

Missy and Chris Winterboer '98,
daughter, Emma Marie.

Mike and Carmen (Biesheuvel '99)
Law, son, Charles Aidan.

Erin and Betsy (Russell '99)
McFadden, daughter, Molly Kay.

Melissa (Crawford '00) and Lance
Baatz '96, daughter, Ellie Rae.

Dana and Pat Brenneman '01,
daughter, Maci Faith.

Christie (Veen '01) and Sid Bulthuis

'00, son, Trygve Arthur.
Sarah (Anderson '03) and Noah Metz
'02, son, Jeffrey James.

Marriages

Trygve Johnson '96 and Kristen
Deede, St. Andrews, Scotland.

Janelle Koolhaas '98 and Jose Angel
Lopez Dominguez, Ocosingo,
Mexico.

Kristine Van Zante '98 and Dave
Cornelder, Pella, Iowa.

Sherry Groen '99 and Monte
Koopman, Colton, S.D.
Sarah Everts '00 and Curtis Rodgers,
Washington, Iowa.

Sarah Kennedy '01 and Timothy
Schoenfeld '03, Des Moines.

Gina Wenzel '01 and Andrew
Greene, Orange City.

Meagan Wells '03 and Mike Wallinga
'01, Orange City.

The couples are residing in the city listed.

Finding Home



by Sherrie Barber Willson
'98

You know, if you had asked me even five years ago where I wanted my home to be, Grand Rapids, Mich., wouldn't have been the last place I'd have said, but it would have been close.

I'm not sure I'd even heard of Grand Rapids until I went to Northwestern and found that, with few exceptions, to live in Orange City was to be Dutch, and to be Dutch was to have some relationship to Grand Rapids. I heard some people call it the Motherland and thought they were joking, till I realized everyone with a Dyk, an Uit, a Ver or a Van in their last name had a friend or relative (often both) in this city of less than half a million people.

Coming from a family of mixed descent (none of it Dutch) and Baptist faith, I gave very little thought to Grand Rapids even after I'd heard of it. I was an Iowan, from the time I was six months old and my parents

(both second- or third-generation Iowans) adopted me and brought me home. I realized Iowa had its faults; some of its signature qualities—the ones so common people have named them, such as the heat and humidity (or “corn-growing weather”) and the barnyard smell (or “smell of money”)—were definitely problems for me.

But I certainly had no intention of leaving the state, any more than I was ready to let some Michigander tell me that Michigan was SO much better. If you've spent any time at all with someone from Michigan, you probably know the drill: “In Michigan, you can ski AND swim! It's bordered by FOUR of the five Great Lakes!” As far as I could tell, all Michiganders seemed to have an insufferable amount of pride in their state. I mean, I loved Iowa, but I didn't go around telling all the people from Minnesota how awful their state was, even though it had mosquitoes the size of Volkswagens.

But, as I have since discovered, God must get a lot of laughs from our intentions. I spent 15 months after college working at a job that nearly finished off my sense of humor and my sense of self-worth. Like an answer to prayer, I got an e-mail from a college friend living in Grand Rapids. Her company, The Wordsmiths, was looking for

a writer/editor. Did I know of anyone who'd be interested?

I didn't—then I realized I did. I'm highly risk-averse, so I force myself every so often to do something big and scary, to shake myself out of the deep, comfy ruts I love to dig. This, I thought, was just such an opportunity. I'd move to Grand Rapids, see what it's like to live in a new state, then, when I was done with my little adventure, I'd move back home to Iowa.

I never thought Grand Rapids would ever become home. After all, home is where the heart is, and my heart was safely back in Iowa, with all of my family and all of my friends. I didn't know a soul in Grand Rapids, aside from my friend, and I knew next to nothing about it, except that it had Calvin College and a whole lot of Dutch people.

It was the winters that first won me over. Yes, there was snow—a whole lot of wet, heavy, “lake effect” snow—but my car doors didn't freeze shut, my nostrils didn't stick together when I breathed, and I didn't have to get up 20 minutes early to chip inch-thick sheets of ice from my windshield. I threw away my metal-tipped ice scraper—the first sign that I was thinking of not coming home.

Before I knew it, there was a job I loved, good friends, a church, favorite restaurants, a hairstylist, doctor and dentist, favorite shortcuts—the kinds of

things they call putting down roots. And I realized I was starting to feel more at home in Grand Rapids than in my old hometown in Iowa.

Don't get me wrong; there are still a lot of things I find strange about this place—mostly when I'm driving. Michigan left turns remain pure insanity to me (Why on earth should you have to make a U-turn just to make a simple left turn?), and Grand Rapids drivers seem to operate under the logic that they have fought long and hard for their spot on the road, and they're not about to yield it to anyone, especially you. And don't even get me started on Michigan beef vs. Iowa beef—or the Spartans or Wolverines vs. the Hawkeyes.

But somehow, this has become home. Don't ask me how or why, out of all the towns and cities in all the world, this Iowa girl decided to settle here. But I know this is where I'm supposed to be. (Though I still won't take any Iowa cracks from Michiganders.)

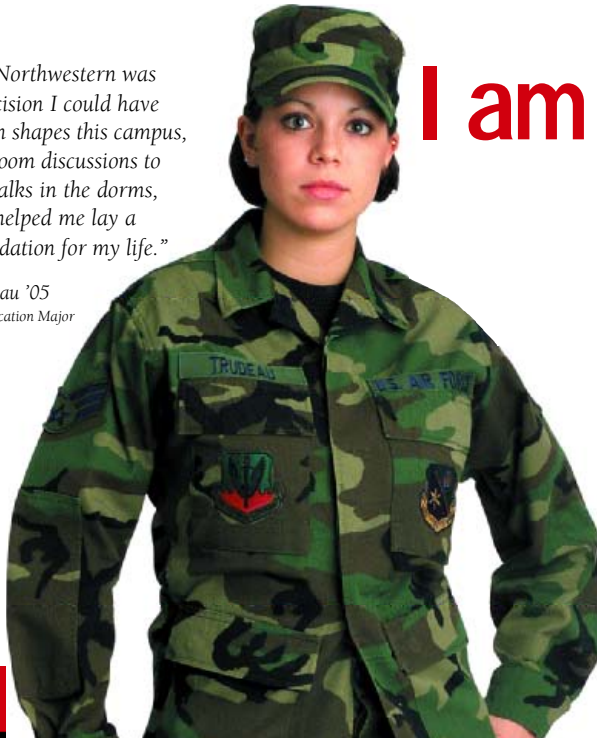
Sherrie Barber Willson is writer/editor with The Wordsmiths Inc., happily proving that you can do something with an English major besides teach. She also married a native Michigander last year, and, while she's gotten him to stop making Iowa cracks, she has yet to convince him to root for Iowa instead of Michigan.

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