

CLASSIC

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Fall 2004

Tales of Summer





Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

No magic wand

This summer Di and I visited our grandson, Diego—and, oh yes—his parents: our daughter, Karen, and son-in-law, John. Almost before we had a chance to unload the luggage, Diego had a new game to show me.

He came over with an old broomstick (toys are hardly necessary for creative four-year-olds) and said, “This is my magic wand, Grandpa; when I tap you three times, you fall down.” Three not-so-gentle hits later, I was on the floor. A few cycles through the game, I got smart.

Before he could hit me a third time again, I grabbed his arm. Just as quickly, Diego responded, “Grandpa, how about when I hit you one time you fall down?” Before I knew it, I was on the ground again. A few minutes later I stopped his arm before even one hit. Now Diego made his final correction: “Grandpa, how about you play this game asleep?”

What does this delightful story have to do with Northwestern College? Quite a lot, actually. We all have a tendency to create our own reality, define life in a way favorable to us—college presidents as well as their grandchildren. If you were to listen to presidents describe their schools at national conventions, you would think there were hundreds of Yales, Harvards or Northwesterns—see, I can't help myself. Part of being a president is being a cheerleader, but part also is defining reality.

At Northwestern we have much to be thankful for: a strong and ever stronger staff and faculty, many very competent and committed students, excellent facilities, a clear mission and financial stability. But as we face the future, two challenges loom especially large in my mind.

One is very practical: the cost to the student. Northwestern is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Our tuition ranks 22nd out of 25 private liberal arts colleges in Iowa. Nationally, our costs are below those of most Christian colleges. On average NWC students receive \$12,000 in financial aid annually, enabling many to attend Northwestern for the same expense as a state university. Still, as institutional costs increase and tuition, room and board go up, it will be difficult for many qualified students to attend NWC.

There are no easy answers. Schools with much larger endowments (at least \$100 million; ours is about \$35 million) are able to use the interest to significantly reduce student costs. For Northwestern to increase the amount of aid appreciably would require operating on an even leaner budget, threatening our efforts to maintain quality.

The answer, I believe, is a combination of approaches. We must build the endowment to make more scholarships available. State and federal aid to students also will be very important. Efficient management must continue. Students and parents will need to make sacrifices—believing that a Northwestern education is worth it. And we must make sure it is!

Which brings me to the second challenge. More and more Christian youth are not attending Christian colleges. When they are, it is not always for the *best* reasons. There are many good reasons: a caring community, chapel, service opportunities, Christian faculty/staff, classes that present the truth of the Christian faith. But the best reason is more than any of these. It is the product of their integration. The best reason to attend a Christian college—and, when necessary, make financial sacrifices—is to grow in wisdom, to forge convictions and discover how to live them humbly yet confidently in the world.

But forging deep convictions is not popular today; it isn't the same as expressing joyful faith or even growing Christian passion—marks of contemporary Christian culture. It requires critical thinking as well as zeal. It takes time and sometimes raises daunting questions that prompt doubt. Wisdom begins with “the fear of the Lord,” and it takes shape when “iron sharpens iron.”

Unfortunately in today's evangelical milieu, enthusiasm often becomes not a healthy stepping stone to wisdom, but its replacement. And the desire for a distinctly Christian education of intellectual and spiritual rigor wanes. Our challenge is clear: to communicate convincingly the Christian's call to wisdom and then do all we can to see it grow within our students.

I believe Northwestern is up to the challenge.

That's why on his next birthday we are presenting Diego a new “magic wand”: the first installment on his 2017 Northwestern tuition.

Bruce Murphy

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“Forging deep convictions is not popular today; it isn't the same as expressing joyful faith or even growing Christian passion—marks of contemporary Christian culture. It requires critical thinking as well as zeal. It takes time and sometimes raises daunting questions that prompt doubt.”
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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, June, September 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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Campus News

Cover photo: English professor Keith Fynaardt's research includes studying and writing about abandoned farms. This summer he bought one and began its restoration by using cables to straighten the barn.

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Mailbag

Your *Classic* articles about the old and the new in the theatre department brought back many memories. I was fortunate to have been around during the dedication of the Playhouse in 1970 and enjoyed the activities during the recent dedication of the new theatre center.

I grew up in American Reformed Church, my grandfather's church, and was a college student when it became the Northwestern College Playhouse. I haunted old Sunday school rooms upstairs searching out an old dress for a scene in the 1970 dedication play, and worked on sound recordings for a children's play. Downstairs I had classes in children's theatre and creative dramatics, and waited for the play to begin, remembering Christmas pageants and Sunday mornings of the past.

My memories of the building will always include both theatre and church.

Susan (Klay '73) Swalm
Dingmans Ferry, Pa.

Editor's note: To read a poem Swalm wrote and dedicated to the memory of Northwestern theatre matriarch Dr. Theora England Willcox, a fellow member of American Reformed Church, visit www.nwciowa.edu/newssports/pub/.

Just wanted you to know I thought the issue of the *Classic* I received last week was one of your finest! Great photos combined with diverse, informative and interesting stories. Kudos to all.

John Vander Stelt '83
Maurice, Iowa

Theatres named for beloved professors

The DeWitt Theatre Arts Center's two performance spaces recently were named to honor former professors who built Northwestern theatre into the nationally recognized program it is today.

The Theora England Willcox Proscenium Theatre is named for the woman known as the "Mother of Northwestern theatre." England Willcox came to Northwestern in 1942 and is credited with beginning a drama program for the academy and junior college.

"She was a woman of vision," says President Bruce Murphy. "[She had] strength and perseverance. The children's play, which still is presented to thousands of area schoolchildren each fall, was her baby, and so was readers' theatre"—which evolved into



Dr. Theora England Willcox

the touring arm of the department.

Also called the "jewel box theatre," the England Theatre has stadium seating for 196, a fixed stage and orchestra pit.

The R. Keith Allen Black Box Theatre, which can seat up to 250, will accommodate a variety of production styles. Allen taught in the college's

theatre department from 1967 to 2002. In 1970 he led the department in converting a former church into the Northwestern College Playhouse, which served as the primary performance facility until the opening of the DeWitt Theatre.

"Keith was 'Mr. Dependability,'" says Murphy. "[He was] always able to accomplish just what was needed to ensure a successful production." Murphy adds that Allen's "versatility, professional excellence and love for students is legendary."

"It's unusual for any college, let alone one our size, to have two theatres so equally excellent," says Professor Jeff Barker, chairperson of the theatre department. "To be able to name these spaces for the two people who built this



Dr. Keith Allen

program and personified excellence as artists and people—it's wonderful to be reminded of their legacies every time we walk through the doors."

The Allen Theatre will be dedicated on Oct. 22, prior to the 7 p.m. performance of *Honk, Jr.*, which will be guest-directed by Allen. The England Theatre will be dedicated during the run of *The Odyssey*, on stage Nov. 19-20 and Dec. 1-4.

U.S. News ranks NWC 19th

Northwestern College has continued its steady climb in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. The magazine's 2005 *America's Best Colleges* guidebook ranks NWC in a tie for 19th out of 108 schools in its category: Midwestern comprehensive colleges. That's up from 25th last year and 28th in the 2003 publication.

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 pleased that the improvements we're continually

making to the campus are being recognized externally, as seen by our rise in the *U.S. News* rankings," says President Bruce Murphy. "This recognition reflects positively on 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 15th with 29 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 18th with 52 percent.



Six join board

Six new members have been appointed to the Northwestern College Board of Trustees. They are Doug Boone '82, Dr. Nick deVries '75, Arlan Draayer '65, Iva (Koele '65) Fylstra, Dr. Erik Hoekstra and Dr. Maggie Jackson '69.



Doug Boone

Boone works as chief executive officer at Mutual Telephone Co. in Sioux Center.

Director of radiology for Orange City Health System since 1998, deVries graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He also completed residencies in internal medicine and diagnostic radiology at the University of Utah and a fellowship in neuro-radiology at New York State University Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He previously worked as director of neuroradiology at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.



Dr. Nick deVries



Arlan Draayer

Draayer, who previously served on the board for 12 years, is a real estate agent in West Okoboji, Iowa. Earlier, he owned Sioux Feed Co. and Sioux Feed Confinement and taught at Sioux Center Community School. He took graduate courses at the University of South Dakota.

Fylstra served as vice president and co-owner, along with her husband, Ron, of insurance brokerage corporations in Las Vegas and Lexington, Ky., before retiring in 2002. A Las Vegas resident, she previously taught 10 years at the junior college and high school levels and pursued graduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa.



Iva Fylstra



Dr. Erik Hoekstra

Hoekstra works as chief development officer for Harbor Group/Interstates Companies in Sioux Center. A former business instructor at Dordt College, he received a doctorate in organizational learning and human resource development from Iowa State University and an M.B.A. from the Rotterdam School of Management at Erasmus University. Hoekstra completed his undergraduate studies at Trinity Christian College.



Support Red Raider athletics

The Red Raider Club—a sports booster club for former players, parents and fans—helps support NWC athletics through membership dues. Last year the club purchased equipment for the baseball, football, basketball and golf programs. The Red Raider Club also committed a substantial pledge for the renovation of De Valois Stadium and Korver Field.

With your membership, you'll receive e-mail sports updates, premiums in all but one level, game passes for former players, a Red Raider Club window decal, and your name in our award-winning football program. If you'd like to support NWC athletics, visit www.nwciova.edu/rrc or contact club board member Karen Vander Pol '75 at 712-707-7280 to receive a membership form.

Go Big Red!

Jackson, who previously served six years on the board, serves as director of the School of Social Work at Cleveland State University. She earned a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Denver.



Dr. Maggie Jackson

Projects spruce up campus

Northwestern students returned to a greener campus with more parking thanks to projects completed by the maintenance department during the summer.

In keeping with the college's long-range plan, the parking lot west of the library and Heemstra Hall—what formerly had been Arizona Avenue—was removed and replaced with grass. College crews created or expanded parking lots by removing a building east of Casey's General Store, two houses north of Stegenga Hall, and a storage barn next to the former Bushmer Arts Center. The result is a net gain of 80 to 90 parking spaces.

▼
“[The new chapel sound system] is a substantial improvement. It's louder, it's clearer, and it accommodates the needs of praise and worship bands. Plus, now every single row in the auditorium will be able to hear the sound clearly.”
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Fill dirt for the lots came from another summer project: installing an artificial playing surface on Korver Field. Due to the high crown on the old field, more than 600 truckloads of dirt were



Korver Field's artificial surface, dedicated on Sept. 4, enables NWC to host more football games, soccer games, band contests, and additional college and community activities.

removed—half of which were used elsewhere on campus, including the Arizona Avenue parking lot.

“Since the city was a partner in the field, they agreed to truck it over to that site at no cost to us,” says Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, “so it was a very economical time for us to do that.”

Simmelink's staff helped install the plastic membrane and drainage system that form the field's base. That was followed by nearly a foot of crushed rock, which in turn was topped by synthetic turf.

While the grounds crew was occupied with the Korver Field project, other members of the maintenance department were busy remodeling the Center for

Spiritual Formation and Vocation. The center, formerly known as Kepp Apartments, housed campus ministry offices last year in apartments on the upper floor, and married students in the apartments downstairs.

This summer, Simmelink's staff converted both floors into offices, conference rooms and meeting areas that will serve not only campus ministries, but the Career Development Center and multicultural affairs.

Over in Christ Chapel, technicians spent nearly three weeks replacing the sound system for the 1,000-seat auditorium where chapel services and concerts are held. New amplifiers and speakers were installed. Connection points for microphones, guitars and other

instruments were added. What was a 1,000-watt, 24-channel mono sound system now features 8,000 watts, 32 channels and stereo sound.

“It's a substantial improvement over what we had before,” says audiovisual director Mike Stokes. “It's louder, it's clearer, and it accommodates the needs of praise and worship bands. Plus, now every single row in the auditorium will be able to hear the sound clearly.”

Other campus improvement projects this summer included painting the interior of Colenbrander Hall, putting a new roof on Granberg Hall, installing parking lot lights by the Korver Visual Arts Center, and upgrading Colenbrander and Heemstra Halls with magnetic hold-open fire doors in their stairwells.

Nine join faculty

Nine new full-time faculty members are teaching at NWC this fall. They include:



Dr. Dean Calsbeek '97

- Kinesiology
- Ph.D. in physiology and M.S. in exercise physiology, Colorado State University; B.A. in biology-health professions, NWC
- Spent the last two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver
- Replaces Michael Reed, who is working on his doctorate



Dr. Graham Lemke

- Business and economics
- Ph.D. in economics, Binghamton University; M.S. in finance, Cornell University; M.B.A., University of Alberta; B.S. in electrical engineering, Alberta
- Received an award for teaching excellence at Binghamton
- Replaces Dr. Clyde Vollmers, who is helping to start an M.B.A. program in Russia



Angel Santiago-Vendrell

- Religion
- Th.D. in mission candidate, Boston University; Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; M.Div., Church of God Theological Seminary; B.A. in theology, Lee College
- Directed an after-school program for Latino children in Lynn, Mass., last year
- Replaces Dr. Jim Rohrer, who has joined the faculty at Western Washington University



Dr. Robert Winn

- History
- Ph.D. and M.A. in early Christian studies, The Catholic University of America; M.A. in history, Miami University of Ohio; B.A. in history, Cedarville University
- Spent the last three years as a visiting assistant professor of theology at Creighton University
- Replaces Dr. Steven Isaac, who is teaching at Longwood University



Martin Cockcroft

- English
- M.F.A. in creative writing (poetry), University of Montana; B.A. in English, Wheaton College of Illinois
- A former assistant editor of *Campus Life* magazine, he led creative writing workshops for Houston schools last year
- Sabbatical replacement for Dr. Carl Vandermeulen



Joseph Long

- Philosophy
- Ph.D. candidate in philosophy, Purdue University; M.A. in philosophy, Colorado State University; B.S. in philosophy and religious studies, Ball State University
- Dr. Don Wacome's sabbatical replacement



Dr. Abe Scheaffer '93

- Biology
- Ph.D., nutritional physiology and M.S. in ruminant nutrition, North Dakota State University; B.A. in biology, NWC
- A postdoctoral fellow at Colorado State University the last three years
- Appointed to a two-year term while Drs. Ralph Davis and Sara Tolsma fulfill commitments in research and administration



Dr. Alexandar Tokarev

- Business and economics
- Ph.D. in economics at Southern Illinois University; M.S. in industrial management and B.A. in chemical engineering, University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Appointed to a one-year term while Dr. Eric Elder serves as interim vice president of academic affairs



John Vonder Bruegge

- Religion
- Ph.D. candidate in religious studies, Yale University; Th.M., Harvard University; M.Div., Covenant Theological Seminary; B.S. in secondary education and Spanish, University of Missouri
- Sabbatical replacement for Dr. John Brogan

NWC records fourth largest enrollment

Northwestern's fall semester enrollment is the fourth largest in school history. This fall's total enrollment of 1,284 is one less than last year's.

"We are pleased with this year's enrollment," says Ron De Jong, dean of enrollment services. "We have one of the largest freshman classes in school history—357, a 15 percent increase over last year.

"In addition to attracting greater numbers of new students, we are also enrolling students of high caliber. Our freshman class' mean ACT score is 24.1; nearly 27 percent of the freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class and their average high school grade point average was 3.51," says De Jong.

The number of students from the Reformed Church

in America, the denomination with which Northwestern is affiliated, increased by 11 percent this year to 446.

Over the last 15 years, Northwestern's enrollment has increased by more than 22 percent. This year's figures are 13 percent higher than those of 10 years ago and a five percent increase over five years ago.

Enrollment records

1. 1,313	2002
2. 1,294	2001
3. 1,285	2003
4. 1,284	2004
5. 1,243	2000

Student body snapshot

- 58 percent are from Iowa
- 27 states and 16 foreign countries are represented
- 32 students are American ethnic minorities
- 36 are international students

Faculty/staff news

Dr. Doug Anderson, history, wrote articles on evangelicalism and Lutheranism for the recently published *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*.

Dr. Keith Anderson, dean of spiritual formation and vocation, directed the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities' Summer Institute for Campus Ministry in June. The institute was held on Whidbey Island, Wash. He also served as the speaker for the Oak Harbor (Wash.) High School baccalaureate service.

Jeff Barker, theatre, was selected by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities as one of 21 Christian college alumni to be featured during Christian Higher Education Month in October. A profile on him can be viewed at www.cccu.org/chem. In June, he gave a presentation on "The Plays of the Old Testament" with Dr. Tom Boogaart of Western Theological Seminary at the national Christians in Theatre Arts conference in Southern California. He also spoke on the new musical *And God Said*, gave a presentation on enacted prayer with Northwestern's touring theatre ensemble, and served as a judge for the conference's national sketch competition.

Karen Bohm Barker, theatre, was selected to serve on the national board of Reformed Church Women in Mission and Ministry.

Dr. Thomas Holm, music, had an article entitled "Choosing Literature for a Powerful Performance" published in the spring 2004 edition of *Melisma*, the official publication of the North Central American Choral Directors Association. The article discusses several practical aspects of building a strong concert program.

Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, is the author of an article, "Performing a Christian Icon: Tom Key's 'C.S. Lewis on Stage,'" published in the May issue of *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*. In July, he presented his original one-person show, *Dancing with Jimmy*, at the Thunder Bay Fringe Festival in Ontario.

An article by **Dr. Mike Kugler**, history, was published in the winter/spring issue of *Fides et Historia*, the journal of the Conference on Faith and History. His article is entitled "The Cross, the Powers, and Enlightenment Techniques of the Self." In June, he spoke at the joint meeting of the 18th Century Ireland Society and the 18th Century Scottish Studies Society, at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He presented a paper entitled "Pulpit and Stage: Moral and Rhetorical Education in Early Enlightenment Edinburgh."

John Paul, theatre, designed the set for the Highland Summer Theatre production of *Showboat* in Mankato, Minn.

Dr. Joonna Trapp, English, presented a paper, "The Haunting of the Gothic Past in Octavia Butler's Science Fiction Novels," at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Conference. The meeting was held in September in Boulder, Colo.

Dr. Marc Wooldridge, music, served as artist in residence at the Akron (Iowa) Care Center in July, helping the residents compose and perform their own original music. In September, he premiered a new composition for percussion and electronic tape by composer Bruce Hamilton at the Electronic Music Midwest Conference in Romeoville, Ill.

Students' praise earns Princeton Review honor

Northwestern is among 170 institutions selected for 2005 "Best in the Midwest" designation by the *Princeton Review*, based on the opinions of current students. The colleges and universities recognized "stand out as academically excellent institutions of higher learning," according to the publication, and allowed their students to be surveyed anonymously.

The *Princeton Review's* academic profile of Northwestern gives professors high marks. One student said they are "super helpful in any way



possible, and they provide a great example for students to follow." Another student wrote, "Most of the professors make themselves available to students outside of class, even providing home phone numbers. The classes

aren't easy, but there is not a single professor on campus who will refuse a student help."

Students also praised Northwestern's numerous off-campus programs, including the Chicago Semester, study abroad programs, Summer of Service and Spring Service Projects. "These opportunities allow us to experience life for a time in a situation many of us would not encounter in any other way," wrote one.

A student described Northwestern as being

"about experiencing God and appreciating people in academics, activities and all of life." Another NWC student said, "I love being here because I am surrounded by a family away from home. These people become like brothers and sisters—people we love, uplift, encourage [and] support."

"It is gratifying to learn our students value the very things we seek to cultivate on campus: academic rigor, strong relationships and spiritual vitality," says President Bruce Murphy.

Staff appointed to new roles

Several staff members are in new roles for the 2004-05 school year.

Kim Case is serving as interim dean of student development following the resignation of Dr. Paul Blezien. Previously the associate dean for student programs, Case has been a member of the student affairs staff since 1995. She earned a master's degree in Christian education at Asbury Theological Seminary and a bachelor's at Asbury College.



Kim Case



Carrie Odell

To enable Case to focus on her new duties, Carrie Odell '01 has been appointed assistant director of student programs. She served as the resident director of Hoppers Hall the last two years.

Dr. Sally Oakes Edman has been appointed director of student counseling services. A counselor for NWC last year, she previously directed Waldorf College's counseling center; counseled at a family practice medical clinic in Decorah, Iowa; and operated a private practice in Forest City, Iowa. Edman earned a



Dr. Sally Oakes Edman

doctorate in counseling psychology and a master's in psychology from the University of Notre Dame. She received a bachelor's degree from Luther College. Edman replaces previous co-directors Joan Andres and Valerie (Roman '93) Stokes, who remain on staff as therapists.



T.J. Buchholz

T.J. Buchholz '99, head men's soccer coach since 2001, has added a newly created position to his responsibilities: campus safety and security director. He previously worked as the juvenile court liaison officer for the Sioux Center School District.

Matt Bos was hired this summer as sports information director and assistant baseball coach. A teacher at Bradenton (Fla.) Christian

High School since 1997, he served as the school's athletic director the last four years. A Dordt College alumnus, Bos earned a master's degree in physical education from the University of South Florida and is pursuing a doctorate at the United States Sports Academy. He replaces Jen McAlpine '02, who now serves as a missionary in Sarajevo, Bosnia.



Matt Bos



Freshmen continue Northwestern legacy

Many of the parents attending Orientation Weekend with their students remembered what it was like to be Northwestern freshmen. Those who paused for this photo include:

Row 1 (left to right): Tom Katsma, Norine (Dirkse '76) Katsma, Amy Katsma, Dolly (Van Meeteren '72) Jiskoot, Allen Jiskoot '72, Michael Dykstra, Chris (Hegstad '79) Dykstra.

Row 2: Sue (Schutte '73) Korver, Sarah Korver, Allison Henrich, Julie (Den Hartog '87) Henrich, Sarah Palsma, Nolan Palsma '77, Phyllis Palsma, David Vander Broek '74, Emily Vander Broek, Julie (Van Hove '82) Hegstad, Bethany Hegstad, Gary Hegstad '82, Dave Boender '82, Tim Boender.

Row 3: Eric Vander Ploeg, Tim Vander Ploeg '79, Sherry (Stubbs '81) Vander Ploeg, Byrla (Rensink '73) Busch, Paula Busch, Deb (Brommer '79) Tensen, Annie Tensen, Doug Tensen '80.

Row 4: Susan De Groot, David Busch, Ken Moss, Kristen Moss, Jana (Neerhof '83) Moss, Joe Heitritter, Steve Heitritter '87, Laura (Dykstra '84) Heitritter. **Row 5:** Clark Johnson, Beth (Paekel '78) Johnson, Kim Johnson, John Johnson, Connie Kroeze, Bethany Kroeze, Jerry Kroeze '74, Amanda Van

Kekerix, Ken Van Kekerix '81, Lisa Van Kekerix '83, Ashley Van Kekerix, Marliss (Pieksma '83) Katsma, Renae Katsma, John Katsma '84. **Row 6:** Kelsey Carroll, Kyle Carroll '80, Sharon (Schoon '79) Carroll, Lila (Elliott '81) Sybesma, Jenni Sybesma, Dennis Popkes '76, Bethany Popkes, Linda (Sikkema '75) Popkes. **Row 7:** Gerald De Kruif, Lindsey De Kruif, Fonda (Koerselman '72) De Kruif, Lonnie Boekhout '83, Miranda Boekhout, Connie (Thompson '84) Boekhout.

Not pictured: freshman Angela Jiskoot, Joyce (Eason '73) and Perry De Groot '73, Terry Johnson '80.

How do we rate?

Express your opinion about this issue of the *Classic*. Take a short online survey at surveys.nwciowa.edu/classic to let us know your thoughts about this magazine and what you'd like to see in the future.

We're All Brothers Here

The Wolfswinkels



Mason Wolfswinkel could be the next member of his family to play Raider football, thanks to the influence of his dad and uncles: (left to right) Scott, Tim, Blake, Mark and Brent. The brothers credit NWC football with helping them become not just better players, but better people.

by Tara Meekma '03 and Tamara Fynaardt

Mason Wolfswinkel already is getting recruited to play football for Northwestern College. There's just a slight problem with his eligibility: He's two.

Maybe the Raider coaches are getting ahead of themselves, but the idea isn't that crazy. After all, Mason's dad, Scott '97, played for Northwestern, and so did his uncles.

Wolfswinkels on the Raider gridiron has been a family tradition for over a decade. In addition to Scott, brothers Brent '98, Tim '00, and Mark '02 wore red and white too. Blake, currently a sophomore, is a middle linebacker.

The Wolfswinkels' commitment to Raider football is important to their family, but it also means a great deal to NWC's program. Coach Kyle Achterhoff '90 often uses their family as an example when talking with recruits.

▼
"In high school at Rock Valley, we never got to play together. Playing together at Northwestern, I think we epitomized Raider football's theme: 'A Family on a Mission.'"
 ▲

"The Wolfswinkels are committed to the college," says Achterhoff. "It is not unusual to have brothers play at Northwestern. But what makes the Wolfswinkel story extraordinary is the number of players and how good they were."

Although coaches still had to recruit each individual, their job was made easier because the brothers grew up loving football and roughhousing with each other.

"I was running, trying to receive—then smack," recalls Mark, telling how a pass from one brother resulted in a collision with a tree. Accident? Their parents still wonder.

Along with their love of football, each brother's NWC experience seemed to recruit whoever was next in line. "The younger brothers saw our experience and knew we liked it," says Brent.

"I never had pressure," says Blake. "I thought it would be

continued on page 12

cool to carry on the tradition, but I also think I fit into the program well.”

The brothers all realize how fortunate they were to be able to experience two of their passions at once: football and family. “It is something we’ll have in common the rest of our lives, which is awesome,” says Brent. “All five of us can reminisce about what a great experience it was.”

Scott, Brent and Tim played together in 1996. “In

high school at Rock Valley, we never got to play together,” says Scott. “Playing together at Northwestern, I think we epitomized Raider football’s theme: ‘A Family on a Mission.’”

But just because they were brothers didn’t mean they weren’t competitive with each other. Scott was a defensive end when Tim was an offensive tackle. “In drills, we’d have to go one-on-one,” says Tim. “He’d try to rush, and I’d try to block. We



Scott Wolfswinkel’s oldest son, Mason, already knows how it feels to wear a Northwestern helmet.

▼
“[Raider football] taught me a lot of responsibility. A big part of it was being accountable. We always were told we were like a chain, and if a link breaks, you’re all in the hole.”
 ▲

probably went 50-50. He was one of the quickest I went against.”

Mark was a freshman tight end in 1998 and played on the offensive line with Tim. “A lot of the time we’d line up next to each other,” recalls Tim. “That was the most fun. He’d have a touchdown or a great catch, and I’d sprint down the field and give him a big hug.”

Even when they have to play without a brother on the team, everyone still manages

Building tradition

“Raider football taught me to work to the end—to persevere,” says Scott, who describes himself as the “runt” who always had to work hard.

Scott and his wife, Sarah (Rosberg ’00), and their sons, Mason and Kaden, live near Des Moines. A biology-health professions major, Scott turned a summer job during his college years into a successful full-time business.

Wolf Construction, begun in Scott’s hometown of Rock Valley, Iowa, when he was just a freshman, now is the parent company for an 85-employee business that builds custom homes and commercial properties, does trimming and roofing, and is expanding into land development in the Des Moines region.

“I found my passion,” says Scott, who first worked construction in northwest Iowa and now regularly recruits employees from there. Five Raiders or former Raider athletes worked for his business this summer.

Wolf Construction’s trademark is quality craftsmanship and the unbeatable work ethic of their workforce. “Our carpenters are second-to-none,” says Scott, adding that it’s his builders, not him, who should be credited with the awards Wolf Construction has won during the annual Iowa Home Show Expo: best landscaping this year, and best landscaping, interior, craftsmanship and overall home in 2002.

“The key to our success has been talented and skilled employees who have a passion to do whatever they do well.”

to stay involved. Scott, Brent and Mark come regularly from Des Moines to watch Blake play, and Tim makes the trip from Kansas City.

“Since we’re all so passionate about football, it’s like a homing signal that brings us back to northwest Iowa on weekends,” says Scott.

“It brings tears to our eyes when Jim and I see that,” Helaine, their mother, says about her sons’ commitment to one another.

“They surprise us,” adds their dad. “We don’t know if

they’re coming for sure, then we see them walking up to the fence.”

Jim and Helaine appreciate that their sons chose NWC. “Over the past 10 years as they left, it’s been a comfort to us that they’ve gone to a faith-based college,” says Helaine. “We’ve seen the commitment of the coaches not only to the game, but to the players. They’ve helped them become more committed, responsible and motivated men.”

“[Raider football] taught

me a lot of responsibility,” says Brent. “A big part of it was being accountable. We always were told we were like a chain, and if a link breaks, you’re all in the hole.”

Accountability, loyalty, teamwork, faith—all at the center of “A Family on a Mission.”

“You don’t see a lot of cocky guys here. There’s respect between players at Northwestern,” says Blake. “When we see each other off the field, we smile and say hi. It’s like we’re all brothers here.”

Tara Meekma is a journalism graduate student at the University of Iowa.

“We teach life, not just football.” — Orv Otten, head coach

Raider football invests in and produces not just quality athletes, but quality men. The Wolfswinkels are several among many former players living what they learned on the field, out in the world.

Brent worked for Wolf Construction until 2002, when he started B. Wood Construction, a custom home-building company also based in Des Moines.

He says he identifies with Coach Otten better now that he is, in effect, coaching a team of employees himself. “I use what I learned in football to help my employees understand the concept of teamwork and accountability,” he says. “That commitment to the big things means being committed to all the little things first.”

Tim left NWC before graduating, earning a degree from Southeast Tech, Sioux Falls. He and his wife, Becky, live in Gardner, Kan., where Tim is a nuclear medicine technologist for Kansas City Cancer Centers. He says great friendships, started on the field and still strong today, are the lasting legacy of NWC football in his life.

Mark—who owns and operates Wolf Roofing, Des Moines—also credits Northwestern football with expanding his family to include teammates who became like brothers. “I met some of the most quality people. I still look forward to getting together with them.”

The Wolfswinkels

Legacies

George De Vries '43, '48 says he grew up with Northwestern. An academy and junior college graduate, he taught history at NWC from 1957 until he retired in 1988. Along the way, all of his children attended the college.

A number of years ago, his children established the George and Kathleen De Vries History Scholarship at Northwestern in lieu of a Christmas present. “We wanted to give something back and help others in our parents’ names because of the sacrifice they gave, joyfully, their whole life,” says son Nick '75. “We’re so grateful for what Northwestern has done in our lives, and we want others to have the same experience.”



George and Kathleen De Vries (center) received an unusual Christmas gift from their children: a Northwestern student scholarship named in their honor.

For information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, 712-707-7109 or cwassink@nwciowa.edu.

Tales of Summer

Students, faculty and staff tell what they do when school's out

Summer means rest and renewal for Northwestern students, faculty and staff, but it also means research, study, service and more. Enjoy this look at summer '04 on Northwestern's campus—and beyond.



Guten tag

by Emily Hennager '06

I walked off the plane in Munich with only a handful of German words in my pocket, but I was optimistic. A month in Europe with great friends and professors from Northwestern couldn't be disappointing.

Not understanding the language couldn't make the trip disappointing, but it *could* make it frustrating. Besides an attack of stage fright whenever I tried to speak German, I had to rely on someone to constantly translate. How could I fully experience German culture when I was clueless about the language?

With daily language classes and pages of vocabulary to memorize, my German skills quickly increased. Despite having the language ability of a preschooler, my efforts to speak German changed people's perceptions of me from a tourist to someone who wanted to live within the culture. And it changed my perception of myself. I was no longer there just to see the sights, but rather to live and learn alongside the citizens of Munich.

Weeks later, I walked off the plane in Chicago with a backpack full of German words and the knowledge that comes from fully embracing another culture.

Emily Hennager, Daniel Berntson and Kayli King pose in front of the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany.



Listening and learning in Nashville

by Courtney Wichtendahl '05

This summer was the fulfillment of my dream to work with Christian musicians. It was an indescribable joy to devote my time and energy to the art and ministry of my fellow believers as an intern for EMI Christian Music Group and Chaffee Management Group. I did everything from designing a Web site and reading fan mail to proofing the copy on CD displays and filing/faxing.

While God satisfied the deep desires of my heart, he also used this summer to put my education into perspective. These internships forced me to draw upon all my knowledge and experience, but more than that, they showed me how much more I have to learn. Experience is valuable, but the ability to learn on the job is even more significant. I discovered the value of my education is not so much in *what* I studied as *that* I studied.



Gold, silver and platinum albums fill the walls at EMI Christian Music Group, where Courtney Wichtendahl (right) interned in marketing with supervisor Kathy Maynard.

From the classroom to the campaign trail

by Dave Mulder, professor emeritus of business/economics

I wasn't particularly enjoying the free time that was mine since retiring from Northwestern last year. So when three members of the Republican Party in Sioux County approached me about running for the Iowa Senate, I was definitely interested.

After praying about it with my wife, I entered the race. Prior to the primary election on June 8, I traveled more miles, visited more towns, and talked to more service clubs, boards, business leaders and elected officials in Plymouth, Lyon and Sioux counties than I ever imagined.

That was the fun part. What I didn't like was writing letters asking for financial support. But more than \$19,000 came in, and I won the election.

Since that time, I've met with the governor, Senate leaders, various legislators and numerous lobbyists. I've also participated in half a dozen parades with my grandkids.

The general election is in November. If I win then (and I'm unopposed, so the odds are pretty good), I won't have to wonder what to do with my time.

Dave Mulder's signs dotted the northwest Iowa landscape during his successful campaign for state Senate.





Franklin Yartey, a student from Ghana, found northwest Iowa summers to his liking as he helped keep the campus green and blooming.

Snake!

by Franklin Yartey '06

Despite a few encounters with garter snakes, it was a blessing to be part of Northwestern's grounds crew this summer.

Imagine driving around on a golf cart all day, enjoying the warm summer sun while you make frequent stops to trim grass, pull weeds, plant flowers and push lawn mowers. I even got to see how a synthetic-surface football field is made and to take part in its construction.

The best part of the job, however, was morning devotions with the maintenance department staff, when we'd prepare ourselves for our work by starting the day in God's word.

As for the snakes, I got so I could handle them, but they still give me the creeps.

Abandoned beauty

by Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English

I spent the summer documenting abandoned farm sites in several townships around Sioux County with Jeannine Lovas '04, who is an historical interpreter at Living History Farms in Des Moines. Jeannine took photographs, and we wrote a portrait of the places and structures that have been left behind as agriculture moves forward.

The portraits are part of a fuller documentary I am working on that surveys current agricultural structures and practices. The pace of change in agriculture is brisk, especially in northwest Iowa, and keeping track requires tools more flexible and timely than the USDA Census of Agriculture.

I liked one of the old places so much, I bought it. There is no driveway or house, only a dilapidated barn and tangled grove. I'm restoring the barn. Twisted and leaning, it's now standing straight again. It will need a new roof, hayloft floor and paint. Work for future summers ...

While mapping, photographing and describing abandoned Sioux County farm sites, English professor Keith Fynaardt bought one—and began restoring its barn.



California streamin'

by Dr. Laurie Furlong, biology

For the third summer, I traveled back to California to continue research I started over a decade ago, comparing island and mainland stream ecology. Working in the hills behind Santa Barbara and on nearby Santa Cruz Island, I collected hundreds of insects from streams at each field site and recorded their behavioral responses to the odor of trout.

Although it probably wasn't what most people would want from a California vacation, I had a great time. The project keeps me actively involved in field research, enables me to spend time in my old research stomping grounds—and I really do enjoy spending hours collecting insects from streams! I also appreciated the chance to reconnect with West Coast friends and colleagues.

That trip was followed by a month of traveling and researching in France. By summer's end, I was eager to return home—to fireflies, to my overgrown garden, and to good friends here in Iowa.



Biology professor Laurie Furlong (in Jeep) drives along the bluff overlooking her research site on Santa Cruz Island, Calif.



In addition to conducting mathematics research at the University of Tennessee, Michael Holm had the opportunity to attend a number of faculty seminars.

Counting on grad school

by Michael Holm '06

What Northwestern student would turn down the chance to be paid to study, or even to do research? I used to believe undergraduates couldn't do math research, but this summer I learned differently.

The University of Tennessee Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (funded by the National Science Foundation) jump-started my pursuit of graduate studies and math research. During my seven weeks in Knoxville, I was exposed to the vast arena of current mathematical research and challenged to consider my role in graduate school.

Not only did I see the broad range of fields, but I also worked more extensively in one of these areas: numerical approximation. Combined, the helpful overview of possibilities and the experience of attacking a personalized problem gave me a well-rounded introduction to graduate school.

As for now, I am excited to return to my studies at Northwestern with my first journal publication under my belt.

Traveling mercy

by Marta Kotzian '05

Arrive at church. Pray. Set up.

My two-month tour of the western U.S., performing the 9/11 drama *September Bears* with 11 teammates, was rhythmic like a spinning wheel. We rolled along, efficiently performing night after night.

Mic check. Meal. Warm-up. Pray.

Sometimes the rhythm would break, the wheel slowing so we could praise God for his amazing, varied creation, laugh together, tell stories, hear stories.

Places for the start of the show. Play begins. Play ends. Talk with audience members.

A stuttering voice steps on the brake, eases the wheel. A frail woman clutches the bear she received during the show. She looks at me with desperate joy.

"I needed this bear," her thin voice breaks. "God knew. He knew." She explains how she almost died, due to some medication she had taken, but God saved her.

"I should probably give this bear to someone else, but I'm going to keep it."

"Good," I say. "You should."

Bears performers Marta Kotzian and her touring teammates braked to sightsee during the annual bears festival in Grants Pass, Ore.

Moldova? Is that a city in Nebraska?

by Paul Menschner '06

My trip to Moldova left me with memories that will last a lifetime and an outlook on everyday life very different than before. I had never heard of Moldova before this trip, and now it is a place I will never forget.

Seven of us from the baseball team, along with our coach, Dave Nonnemacher, put on a baseball camp/vacation Bible school, visited orphanages, helped build a bakery for one of our host houses, and visited children in a Gypsy village. All of these experiences were absolutely amazing, but I think I speak for all of us when I say that working with the children was the best part. I was blown away by how something as little as a hug meant so much to these kids.

From an American's point of view, the people of Moldova had nothing, yet they had an inner joy I had never seen. I thank them for making me realize how much in life I truly take for granted.



Working with the children of Moldova and Romania was the highlight of Paul Menschner's baseball mission trip.



Among the Summer of Service students Jill Erickson (right) visited in June was Lisa Taylor, who worked with inner-city youth at the Dublin Christian Mission in Ireland.

A snapshot of service

by Jill Erickson '96, director of missions

Six countries in 15 days via 11 airplanes and 25 buses and trains.

It was a whirlwind tour, but it gave a colleague and me an opportunity to see some of our Summer of Service students in action.

Our destinations included the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Austria, Bosnia, England and Ireland. In each of these countries, we visited ministries where Northwestern has sent students over the years, met their staffs and gained a better understanding of how to partner with them.

Although our time with the SOSers at each site was brief, I was encouraged to see how our students were serving others with their gifts. As they shared what they were learning about themselves, the world and the complexity of cross-cultural missions, it was clear God was using the summer to teach them more about himself and his kingdom work.

Southern study

by Dr. Joonna Trapp, writing and rhetoric

Junior Allison Simmons and her mother met me at the airport for our trip to North Carolina. Seeing their excited eyes, I could tell Allison's mom had decided I wasn't some psychopath whisking her daughter into unknown terrors.

The heart of our trip was research. We both relished our time in the Duke University library. I read letters, speeches and other documents housed in the archive. And I helped Allison get a start on her own exploration of Eliza Ann Dupuy, a Southern fiction writer during the antebellum period. I thought she would need lots of help to learn to read 19th century handwriting, but within hours, she was clicking along independently.

We also visited North Carolina State's graduate program in public history. Allison impressed the professor we met and is excited to apply to that program.

The only hitch in the whole excursion was finding ear plugs for my young scholar. Apparently, I not only snore, but make many other noises during the night!

The privilege of race

by Rick Clark, Spanish

"I doubt greatly that even once a day you think about the fact that you are white. On the other hand, I'm sure at least 20 to 30 times daily I am confronted with the fact that I am black."

The speaker was the pastor of a Chicago church. I was one of 12 Northwestern faculty and staff participating in a three-day multi-ethnic faculty exchange.

Funded by Northwestern's Lilly Grant and led by Dr. Brenda Salter-McNeil of Overflow Ministries, the experience immersed us in the ethnic communities of Chicago. It also moved me deeply.

Struck anew by the privileges I enjoy because I'm white, I returned with a strengthened commitment to become more knowledgeable about racial issues, to challenge my students in their awareness, and to help make our campus so welcoming that minority students and professors would love to learn and teach here.

It is no small challenge and no small priority for our students, staff and community.

Rebuilding Russia

by Dr. Laird Edman, psychology

White nights. Onion-domed churches. Profound beauty. Deep sadness. Thanks to a Lilly grant, I spent 12 days in Russia and Estonia preparing for a summer '05 study abroad course. I made contacts at universities in Moscow and St. Petersburg and met educators, people in Christian ministry, and specialists in cross-cultural student trips.

I was in Russia in 1992. The changes since then are impressive—and not all good. There were many signs of economic prosperity, but I also saw crushing poverty and heard firsthand about rampant alcoholism, pornography, a divorce rate of 80 percent and a largely unchurched population.

Russia is struggling with a legacy of corruption, pollution and decay left over from the Soviet regime. The bright lights in that society are the Christian educational organizations working to transform the once-mighty nation one student at a time.

I'm eager to bring Northwestern students there. It should be one of the most powerful experiences of their lives.



The sights of Russia—some impressive, some depressing—were witnessed by psychology professor Laird Edman as he prepared to lead a 2005 Northwestern summer study abroad course.

Lounging around

by Chaplain Harlan VanOort '82

This summer I got a vacation from my office, but not from my work. During the renovation of the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation, my office was stored in a semitrailer. Instead, I moved my “essentials” to a Stegenga Hall study lounge, where I had a computer and several inches of table space.

Daily, I hunted for files or books only to lament, “It’s in the truck.” Co-workers were at each elbow, and basketball campers ran the halls. We propped locked doors open with rocks. The rocks disappeared, leaving us to crawl through the bushes and knock on the window. We shared a phone. No one could find us. With limited space, even our essentials became cluttered and started to smell.

But the experience wasn’t a total loss. A summer in close quarters gave me an even greater appreciation for my colleagues. And now, when students say, “It’s impossible to work in a study lounge,” I believe them.

Chaplain Harlan VanOort spent the summer working in a dorm study lounge while most of his office was stored in a tractor-trailer.



Who let the dogs out?

by Ryan Musil '05

When my internship supervisor with the Woodbury County Sheriff's Department asked me to help with their dog training, he didn't say what to expect.

Hours later, I was lying in tall grass wearing a SWAT helmet and a 50-pound protective suit, nervously waiting. Then I heard the dogs barking—it sounded just like in the movies. I didn't have much time to react. As soon as they started biting, I fought to get away. I wrestled with three different dogs for about a minute each before they called them off.

Later, I met an inmate who had been bitten by one of the dogs that attacked me. He had to have surgery on his leg—the skin had been torn off clear down to the bone.

Another experience I'll never forget was a traffic stop. I noticed the screws in the car's speaker box had been tampered with, so I suggested we remove the speakers. There we found over \$17,000 in a plastic bag.

Surviving bites and making busts. My internship gave me a great glimpse into the world of law enforcement.

British class

by Paul Beltman '92, academic systems manager

Rather than eating footlongs and funnel cakes on the first day of Orange City's Tulip Festival, I was jet lagged in London. For three weeks, I participated in NWC's British Culture through Art and Theatre summer study abroad course, taught by professors Bob Hubbard and John Paul. I was one of 13 students, the only nontraditional one.

I went to plays (*Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing*), operas (*Carmen* and *The Valkyrie*) and spectacles (*Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Black Rider*). I was face-to-face with the works of masters in art galleries. I studied the history of London, England, the Empire and the world in museums. I walked past palaces and through parks, and was part of a Worcester family for a few days. In this class, the world really did become my classroom.

On the court

by Carli Blom '05

One of my favorite memories of summers past is attending girls' basketball camp at Northwestern during junior high. Along with 250 other campers, I'd stay in the dorms, eat meals in the cafeteria, and play basketball morning, noon and night.

It was a time to build fundamental skills and work on my shooting form. It also was an opportunity to play with and compete against girls who later became my teammates—or opponents—in high school and college.

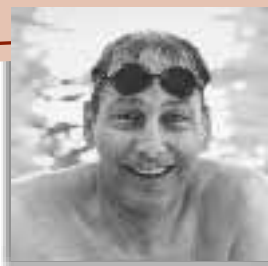
In part due to those camps, I'm now a student and basketball player at Northwestern. And this summer I was at basketball camp again—this time, along with the majority of my NWC teammates, as a camp counselor and part of the coaching staff.

As I helped the girls develop their skills and experience the community of Northwestern, I looked in their faces and wondered: Who will be in my Nikes a few years from now?



Developing relationships with young basketball players was among the highlights of Carli Blom's experience as a counselor and coach.

John Greller, Northwestern's vice president for development, medaled in the summer games. See page 30 for details.



Alumni corner



Karen Woudstra '79, director of alumni and parent relations, with her husband, Earl '78, at Kinderdijk, the Netherlands.

with charming Dutch architecture.

We enjoyed wonderful accommodations, excellent food, hearing about the interesting history of the country from James, experiencing an outdoor church service in Dutch, riding along canals, tasting cheese at a cheese farm, browsing museums and art galleries, seeing beautiful windmills, and I could go on and on ...

What a wonderful opportunity to experience another culture and God's creative variety in people and landscape. James and Simone did a fantastic job organizing our trip and meeting the individual needs of our group. We didn't know each other well before we arrived, but our group bonded on the trails, at pastry and coffee stops, and during our two-hour meals.

I think everyone in the group felt the concern and care of the rest. We encouraged each other when we were tired and waited for each other, making sure no one was left behind. We laughed together and made new friendships as we found out who the jokesters were! I think we had more flat tires, rain and bike spills than any other trip, but I can't imagine any other group having more fun. While traveling, we recalled Northwestern memories and talked about how the college has grown in size and spiritual vitality.

What a sense of accomplishment everyone felt when the trip ended and we had made it from Amsterdam to Germany by bike! Having done it myself, I recommend it to anyone who wants to reconnect with other alumni and friends of NWC, learn more about Holland, or see God's handiwork in another part of the world.

There will be another opportunity in the summer of 2007. It's not too early to get your name on the list (and start getting in shape!). Contact me at 712-707-7106 or karenw@nwc-iowa.edu.

"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can" was running through my mind on the day we pedaled more than 40 miles during the alumni bike tour of the Netherlands. I regretted not listening when we were told to prepare physically for the trip.

Thankfully, most days we biked flat terrain, and we gave our legs (and bottoms) frequent breaks, stopping every couple of hours to see something new and be treated yet again to coffee and a pastry. (You would think biking over 210 miles would be a great weight-loss program, but our Dutch hosts made sure that didn't happen!)

Thirty Northwestern alumni and friends met in Amsterdam on June 18 to begin an 11-day bike tour with guides James '84 and Simone Kennedy. What an awesome trip we had, riding past canals, through forests, and in cities



The NWC alumni biking group gathers in the city square of Delft, the Netherlands, before enjoying the Dutch treat of *poffertjes*.

Death

Emma (Lange '66) Brinkhous, age 88, died June 1 at a care center in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She taught in rural schools before marrying Kenneth Brinkhous in 1939. They farmed near Doon for 30 years. She taught for 29 years, working with first and fifth graders in the Boyden-Hull School District and special education students in Sioux Center. The Brinkhouses retired to Rock Rapids in 1980; he died in 1991. She was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Rock Rapids. Among her survivors are a son, a daughter, a brother and a sister.

'32

The Rev. Albert Mansen and his wife are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this year. He says he'd like to hear from other '32 or '31 alumni. His address is 3240 Perry St., Hudsonville, MI 49426-9613.

'51

Norm Bastemeyer, West Des Moines, retired this summer after 18 years as ethics administrator for the Iowa Supreme Court Board of Professional Ethics and Conduct. He plans to continue with some part-time work for the board.

'67

Dan Smith is serving the First Presbyterian Church in Holland, Minn., as a commissioned lay pastor.

'69

Evan De Boer took early retirement in 2003 after teaching 34 years. The last 33 years were at Central Lyon in Rock Rapids, Iowa, where he taught junior high math for 10 years and high school math for 23. He keeps busy with substitute teaching and handyman projects. He and his wife, Linda (Vermeer), live in Rock Rapids and have three daughters.

Mini profile

Bleil and Svoboda coach at major college level



Bill Bleil coaches at the University of Pittsburgh, which is seeking a berth in its fifth consecutive bowl game.



Jim Svoboda was offensive coordinator for two NCAA Div. II national-championship teams at Northwest Missouri State.

by Duane Beeson

Bill Bleil '81 and Jim Svoboda '83 will be on the sidelines for several nationally televised college football games this fall. But the two, now on the coaching staffs of storied NCAA Div. I teams, say their approach to the game hasn't changed from their playing days at De Valois Stadium.

Bleil was named tight ends and tackles coach at the University of Pittsburgh in February. The tight ends coach at Northern Illinois last year, he has coached at nine colleges over the last 22 years. He was head coach at Western Carolina from 1997 to 2001, earning Southern Conference Coach of the Year honors in his final season.

Svoboda, who coached with Bleil at Dana College and Eastern New Mexico early in his career, was appointed quarterbacks coach at UCLA in February. The offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for former NWC assistant Mel Tjeerdsma at Northwest Missouri State University over the last 10 years, Svoboda served as head coach at Nebraska Wesleyan University from 1987 to 1993 and was named Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times.

Bleil, who describes former Raider mentor Larry Korver '54 as a "great role model" who positively influenced many young men, has similar goals for himself. "I want to help these young kids, to let them play at the highest level their abilities

allow, to graduate them all, and to help them develop into good people."

Similarly, Svoboda says his coaching philosophy hasn't changed even though he's work-

ing in front of 90,000 fans in the Rose Bowl for the school that produced Troy Aikman. "I'm going to do the best I can, treat players the right way and help get the most out of them."

The Northwestern alums acknowledge, though, the differences between coaching at their level and in the NAIA—or even NCAA Div. II.

"You don't have to do *all* the things because you have more staff, so you have more time to spend with the kids doing a better job of teaching," says Bleil.

"It's a big business," says Svoboda, noting that UCLA has the biggest Adidas contract in the country. "But it comes down to coaching and the relationship you have with the players. If I can still find what it means to be an athlete and maintain relationships, it'll be worth it. If I can't balance those things, then it won't be for me."

Despite the pressures of coaching, Bleil and Svoboda say they can't imagine doing anything else.

"It's not something I have to work at—it's a hobby," says Bleil. "I've been lucky enough to get paid for it. I've never had to go to work a day in my life."

"I'm intrigued and fascinated by the game itself—the planning, preparation, game-day excitement," says Svoboda. "Frankly, I don't know what else I'd do."

'70

Jacob Moss serves as the executive director of Jackson County Ministries in Annville, Ky.

'79

Judy (Bergman) Huisman, Rock Rapids, Iowa, received a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Sioux Falls in May. She teaches 9–12 general math at Ellsworth (Minn.) Public School.

'82

Maria Khoury lives in Manama, Bahrain, where she serves as director of marketing and international relations for Bahrain Radio and TV. She says she would love to hear from her classmates; her e-mail is mkhoury@batelco.com.bh.

'83

Joyce (Andrews) Moeckly works at the McFarland Clinic in Ames, Iowa. Her husband, Brad, farms near Elkhart.

'85

An exhibition of paintings by Dan Addington opened the season at Northwestern's Te Paske Gallery this fall. His works, employing a variation of the ancient technique called encaustic—in which pigment is mixed with beeswax—explore the nature of mortality, express a sense of loss, and address mankind's desire to find spiritual meaning. He is owner and director of the Gwenda Jay/Addington Gallery in Chicago.

'86

Rhonda (Van Abbema) Young teaches third grade in Colorado's Lewis Palmer School District. Her husband, Max, works for the sheriff's department. The Youngs have two children, Josh (13) and Sami (12), and live in Palmer Lake.

'87

Kevin Derr is in his first year as assistant principal at West Middle School in Holland, Mich. He previously taught social studies and

served as head softball coach and an assistant football coach at Holland High School.

'91

Pete and Amy (Bonnema) Mullenberg live in Omaha, where Pete works as a human resource generalist at Werner Enterprises. Amy serves as a guidance counselor at Roosevelt Elementary in Council Bluffs.

'94

Eric Cheng earned his bachelor's degree at Indiana University and has been working for Cargill in

Hong Kong for nine years. He is a sugar trader.

'95

Jason Kanz has completed all requirements for his doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Iowa; he will officially graduate in December. He has begun a residency in adult neuropsychology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. His wife, Heather, is a stay-at-home mom for their daughter, Grace (4).

Michelle (Smith) Mays is an attorney

focusing on family law for Kershek Law Offices in Milwaukee.

'96

Mark Laman works as a corporate trainer at Ontuet Technologies in Urbandale, Iowa. He also owns and runs a Web site selling custom golf equipment. His wife, **Abby (Verburg '97)**, works part time in human resources at Emco Enterprises, a subsidiary of Andersen Windows.

Tina (Vellema) Anderson, Lakewood, Colo., coaches varsity volleyball at Front Range Christian School.

'97

Craig Madsen is working in a bank as a loan officer. His wife, **Tara (Meyer '98)**, teaches at an elementary school. They live in Cresco, Iowa, with their son, Carson (1).

Jenny Martin has completed her master's degree in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) from Azusa Pacific University. She serves English Language Institute/China as personnel director of the University Teaching Program and a part-time

continued on page 26

Miniprofile



Lynn Schneider received a regional award for her commitment to church and community outreach.

Schneider makes impact through serving

by Emily Hennager '06

Whether it's providing food, teaching Sunday school or serving on community boards, Lynn (Patton '82) Schneider always is ready to lend a helping hand.

"It's the reward of seeing a smile and knowing how much your work means to someone that makes a huge difference," she says.

But this spring, Schneider's work was rewarded in a different way, with the Quiet Disciple Award. Given by the United Methodist Church's northeast Colorado subdistrict, the award recognized her commitment to church and community outreach.

"It was a big surprise!" says Schneider, who didn't know she'd been chosen until arriving at the award luncheon.

Schneider's award didn't surprise those who know her well. "Anytime you ask her for help, it doesn't matter what it is. If she's capable, she'll do it," says Pastor Darrell Dennis of Holyoke United Methodist Church.

In addition to teaching third grade and taking care of her daughter and husband, Schneider teaches and coordinates the Sunday school program, directs the Christmas production, provides food for funeral dinners, assists with vacation Bible school and serves on various church committees. Besides being on the church's call list to take meals to families, she often delivers home-cooked meals on her own initiative.

"The meals grew out of providing food for funeral dinners," Schneider says. "I started seeing places where people might appreciate a meal—families in need, new people in the community, or friends who just mentioned people they know."

In the community, she served several terms on the Dragon's Wagon Preschool Board and the city library board. Schneider also was president of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary women teachers' sorority, and volunteered for Baby's First Steps, a home visitor program for families with new babies.

"My parents inspired the feeling of doing things for others. They were always willing to do little things for people who needed something," she says of her father, Phil, professor emeritus of business, and late mother, Marty '70.

With that in mind, Schneider always is willing to step in when last-minute help is needed. She has been a daycare fill-in, a preschool substitute and a temporary church secretary.

"I feel truly blessed, and it feels good to be able to share it with others," Schneider says. "There are certain people you touch that it may be their only opportunity to see God's love."

In June, Schneider was again honored with other subdistrict award winners at the annual gathering of the Rocky Mountain Conference in Denver. She says the award and meeting the other honorees has changed the way she looks at service.

"I knew that service was important to me, but it's made me more aware of how valuable it is to others as well," Schneider says. "I'm more aware of how much it takes to help a church and community grow and be close."



Vice president for academic affairs

A senior-level administration position to begin in the fall of 2005. Reporting directly to the president, this person is responsible for the college's academic personnel and program.

An earned doctorate is required. Administrative experience and a strong record as a teacher/scholar is preferred.

To apply, send a letter of application and curriculum vitae to chair of the VPAA Search Committee, fax: 712-707-7104, president@nwciova.edu.

Vice president for student development

A search will begin this fall. Check www.nwciova.edu/about/employment for a position description.

Art faculty

A tenure-track position to begin August 2005. Teaching graphic design, photography, foundation course for art majors and a general education studio course. Opportunity to design a concentration in graphic design within the art major. Other responsibilities include student advising and recruiting, scholarship/exhibiting and committee/departmental tasks.

The preferred candidate is an exhibiting artist whose teaching emphasizes creative and conceptual foundations. Requirements include an M.F.A. in graphic design or related field and ability to teach PhotoShop, Illustrator and QuarkXPress on Mac and PC platforms.

Application materials must include portfolio of artwork and examples of student artwork. Art must be documented in one of the following forms: 35mm slides (20 personal, 20 student), CD or DVD. No e-mail submissions.

Social work faculty

A tenure-track position to begin August 2005. Seeking a generalist able to teach in several of the following areas: human behavior in the social environment, history, policy, research, and general practice methods. Responsibilities also include practicum supervision, advising, scholarship and committee service. Familiarity with CSWE accreditation procedures and administrative skills desirable.

Requirements include an M.S.W. with at least two years post-master's practice experience. Teaching experience in higher education is preferred. License in the state of Iowa or willingness to obtain licensure is essential.

Spanish faculty

A tenure-track position to begin August 2005. Teaching assignments include beginning and intermediate language and culture courses, plus upper-level courses in Hispanic literature, language and culture.

Doctorate or nearly completed doctorate in Hispanic literature, native fluency and proven teaching excellence preferred.

Northwestern seeks administrators and faculty who are Reformed and evangelical in theology and committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education. For faculty positions, submit applications, curriculum vitae and copies of transcripts to Dr. Eric Elder, interim academic dean, vpaa@nwciova.edu. Applications can be completed online, or downloaded as PDF files, at www.nwciova.edu/about/employment.

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Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Mini profile

A Tour de France of their own

by Emily Hennager '06

While millions of Americans watched July's Tour de France on TV, Kory Johnson '95 and his wife, Kina Miller, were on their bikes experiencing it firsthand.

The couple spent two weeks in France with a private cycling tour that followed the race route. Each day they rode to a vantage point, watched the racers go by and then continued their own ride.

"It blew our expectations out of the water," says Miller. "It was the trip of a lifetime."

Though the Denver couple have done some local rides and frequently return to Iowa for RAGBRAI, this was their first major cycling trip.

"After last year's Tour, we decided we wanted to watch Lance [Armstrong] go for the historic sixth win. We're also fans because of his battle with cancer. My mother had cancer too," Miller explains.

After the initial decision to go, the two faced hours of preparation. Starting months in advance, they peddled 80 to 150 miles a week and trained in the Rocky Mountains. Even that couldn't quite prepare them for the mountain challenges of the Pyrenees and Alps.

"The first day we didn't know what to expect," says Johnson of their French cycling adventure. "We started to climb, and it got steeper and steeper. Great scenery, but there just wasn't any relief."

"We were a lot more tired than we thought we'd be," Miller says, adding that the physical challenges were part of the excitement.

The trip also allowed them to see professional riders up-close, including a brief encounter with Armstrong.

"One morning I was standing by his bus when he arrived to warm up. He was right in front of me and I just said, 'Good luck today,'" Johnson remembers. "Lance looked up and said, 'You're the first person to tell me that today."



Kory Johnson '95 and his wife, Kina Miller, pose in front of the Arc of Triumph while in Europe to bike the Tour de France route.

Everyone else just wanted autographs."

Armstrong went on to win the time trial that day.

Though Johnson and his wife rode parts of the race route, the two noticed major differences between the way they rode and how the professionals raced.

"At parts I was going about five miles per hour and the pros take those climbs at 15 to 20 miles per hour," Johnson says. "I'm in survival mode, but they're in attack mode."

Despite the differences, the trip gave them a new perspective on cycling.

"When you ride a stage just before the racers, you can understand when you see them suffering," Miller says.

"I have a new appreciation for what professional cyclists do on a regular basis," says Johnson. "My respect for them has increased tenfold, and it was already at a high level."

teacher in Beijing, China. She spent the last three and a half years as an English teacher and supervisor of other English teachers in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia.

Cheri (Bergman) Van Der Hart is teaching second grade half time at Montezuma (Iowa) Elementary this year so she can spend more time with her daughter. Her husband,

John, also is a teacher.

David Wenell was ordained for specialized ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church of America in

June. He continues serving as the program director at Twin Lakes Christian Center near Manson, Iowa.

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82
Chaplain

Northwestern College serves the church. It seeks to educate persons for leadership not only in the world, but in the church's ministry in the world. Northwestern has a special relationship with the Reformed Church in America and also with the whole Christian family.

This summer, I attended the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America. Northwestern was asked to lead worship one day at Synod. Four students served as worship leaders. As they expressed their passionate vision for the work of the church in the world, they revealed how they are being prepared for ministry.

The General Synod wrestled with its mission to start new churches and revitalize existing congregations. A key question is: "Who will listen to the Holy Spirit's call to leadership for this task?" Synod delegates saw how Northwestern College is committed to preparing such leaders.

Northwestern prepares leaders with wisdom. Like the apostle Paul, tomorrow's church leaders must be liberally educated, biblically grounded and open to the Holy Spirit. As you pray for the missionaries who serve the church around the world, pray for Northwestern's role in that global ministry.

'98

Trent Baatz is in his first year of teaching fifth grade at Travelli Elementary in Fort Collins, Colo. He previously taught in Mountain Lake, Minn.

Karri (Franken) Faber works as a CPA at Kroese and Kroese in Sioux Center.

'99

Faith Ketelsen teaches physical education at James Ward Elementary near Chicago's Chinatown.

Dr. David Nystrom graduated in May from Des Moines University – Osteopathic Medical Center. He is a family practice resident in Sioux City.

Adam Vander Schaaf has moved from Colorado Springs to Sioux

City, where he teaches sixth through eighth grade at-risk students for Woodbury County. He also coaches the boys' basketball team at Sergeant Bluff-Luton High School.

'00

Joanna Essells lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where she has begun a remedial reading program at Dubai American Academy.

Dr. Anne (Neerhof) Hellbusch graduated in May from Des Moines University – Osteopathic Medical Center. She has begun a family practice residency in Sioux City.

James Koop, Ackley, Iowa, teaches social studies at Northeast Hamilton High School. His wife, **Christy (Smith)**, teaches Spanish at Iowa Falls High School.

Brent McLaren works for MetLife in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Craig Paulsen and his wife, Lindsay, have moved to Omaha, where he works as the area director for Young Life in western Omaha. He previously was assistant director of annual giving at Dakota Wesleyan University and active in the establishment of a Young Life chapter in Mitchell, S.D.

John Paul Sundararajan earned an M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary in 2003. He works as the overseas projects director for Audio Scripture Ministries and directs teen ministries at Montello Park Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.

Eden (Bruce) Tompkins, Sunnyvale, Calif., is a licensed practical nurse who is working toward an R.N. degree.

Jennifer Van Beest earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls. She now lives in Redwood Falls, Minn., where she provides home-based counseling for at-risk youth and their families through Greater Minnesota Family Services.

Julie Wynia joined Northwestern's admissions staff in August as the visitation coordinator. She previously taught biology at South Sioux City (Neb.) High School.

'01

Jackie Cheung is enrolled at Wheaton College, pursuing a master's degree in intercultural studies and teaching English as a second language. She taught for three years at a Christian elementary school in Chicago's Chinatown.

Matt Foss was quoted in a July 18 *New York Times* article about the annual tour of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. He was in the 10-actor theatre company for the

second consecutive summer.

Jennifer (Schultz) Hetrick works as a registered respiratory therapist at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha. Her husband, Jason, is an electrician for Century Electric.

Jacob Koczman placed eighth in the 800-meter run at July's U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento with a personal-best time of 1:47.06. Continuing his training, he also has begun studies at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Carrie Odell, resident director of Hoppers Hall for the last two years, now is assistant director of student programs at NWC.

'02

Angela Brouwer teaches first grade at Dallas Center-Grimes Elementary School near West Des Moines, Iowa.

Trudi Hansen graduated in May with a master's degree in higher education from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa. She now serves Hope College in Holland, Mich., as a career counselor.

Andy Hugen works in government contracts for the Boeing Corp. in Long Beach, Calif. His wife, Jessica, graduated in May from Chapman University.

J.R. Mock lives in Bloomington, Minn., and works as an assistant manager for Walgreens.

Lisa Murphy serves as a residence hall director at Malone College in Canton, Ohio.

Natalie (Bosma) Sandbulte is in her third year of graduate studies at Wheaton College in Illinois, pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology.

Greg Schoolland is the new resident director in Northwestern's West Hall.

Mini*profile*

Not your typical librarian

Passion for customer service brings alumna success in business world

by Anita Cirulis

Marcia Schemper-Carlock '76 remembers her first library visit as a child. While it piqued her interest in libraries, it also left her frustrated.

"I remember thinking what a great place this is, but why aren't these people helping me?" she says. "I would walk in and say, 'I'm looking for a book on such-and-such,' and they would just point me places and not take me by the hand."

That experience gave her a passion for customer service—and that passion has led to a successful career using library skills in the corporate business world.

Schemper-Carlock majored in library science and music at NWC. Now the manager of client research for Verizon Communications in Dallas, she is one of four national winners of Dialog's 2004 InfoStar Awards. The awards, presented by a leading worldwide provider of online-based information services, recognize information professionals whose creativity and innovation are inspirational to others.

Schemper-Carlock was cited for taking an off-the-shelf software product and customizing it to meet the needs of Verizon's research team. As the team leader, she heads a five-person staff that supports 800 management employees and handles 3,500 requests per year.

"It's still very much using library skills," she says of her job, "but it's all about research."

As members of Schemper-Carlock's staff did their work, they found themselves inundated with research requests.

"We were getting so many incoming requests we couldn't keep up with the paper," she recalls. "So one night while I was walking around CompUSA, I saw this electronic form software package. I installed it on my laptop, and at night I would play around with it while I was watching TV."

The result is a database that allows Schemper-Carlock's staff to track research hours, new client numbers and product usage.



Marcia Schemper-Carlock received a national award for information professionals this summer.

"For the products we buy, we can determine if we're using them, and if not, cancel our subscription," she says. "We can slice and dice the data and get any of the statistics we want out of it."

Talk about statistics and data may seem unusual from a woman who holds master's degree in organ performance from the University of Iowa and a Master of Library Science from the State University of New York–Geneseo. Schemper-Carlock spent four years as the music librarian for the Houston Public Library before landing a job as an engineering librarian with Compaq Computers.

"I knew nothing about engineering," she says of her transition to the corporate world, "but good customer service and good listening skills get you a long way."

Jennifer Sowa is pursuing a doctorate in the biosciences at the University of Iowa.

'03

Sara Brands is an editor for Thomson West, a publisher of books by legal experts and jurisdictional publications. She recently

was certified by the Minnesota Literacy Council to assist in teaching weekly adult education citizenship classes. She lives in Eagan, Minn.

Melanie De Boer works in the athletics department at Loyola University Chicago. She serves as administrative assistant, assistant compliance director and life skills coordinator.

Penny (De Haan) Rott works as the education coordinator at the Still National Osteopathic Museum in Kirksville, Mo. Her husband, **Chris '01**, is a second-year medical student at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Brandon Woudstra is playing professional basketball in the Netherlands. He's a member of the Woon! Aris team in Leeuwarden. Last year he played for Njardvik in Iceland, being named the Eurobasket All-Icelandic League Guard of the Year and selected as a member of the league's All-Import Players Team.

'04

Kristin Flaugh lives in Kingwood, Texas. She teaches third and fourth grade special education at Johnson Elementary in Houston.

Jason Grow serves as youth director at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Waukee, Iowa.

New arrivals

Danel and **Dan Raak '83**, son, David Wayne, joins Sarah (2).

Richard and **Elisabeth (Bakker '86)**

Johnson, twin daughters, Caroline Faith and Susannah Grace, join Lillian (2).

James and **Marcia (Berndt '87)**

Schultz, daughter, Laura Kay, joins Allison (12), Evan (9), Seth (7), Luke (4) and Micah (2).

Melissa (Vickery '89) and **David Bareford '90**, daughter, Eleanor Jane.

Amy (Bonnema '91) and **Pete Mullenberg '91**, daughter, Adison Grace.

Lisa (Oliver '92) and **Greg Marco '91**, daughter, Rachel Kay, joins Nicole (2).

Doug and **Robin Pals-Rylaarsdam '92**, son, Todd Martin.

Laurie (Wipperling '92) and **Paul Van Engelenhoven '92**, twin daughters, Serena Anne and Madison Renae, join Thomas (4).

Jeff and **Cindy (Mulder '93)**

Nieuwendorp, daughter, Skyler Joy, joins Jacie (7) and Hunter (4).

Linette (Hugg '93) and **Scott Nyberg '93**, daughter, Anna Joy, joins twins Laine and Claire (3).

Derek and Kari (Sterk '95) Anderson, son, Max William, joins Laura (2).

Jeff and **Kay (Pals '95) Joiner**, twin daughters, Courtney Dayle and Tara Lynn.

Heather (Tysseling '95) and **Matt Oosterhuis '97**, son, Jared Tyler, joins Katherine (2).

Gene and Tina (Vellema '96) Anderson, son, Jacob James.

Tomm and Allison (Petersen '96) Eitrem, son, Ashton John Louis, joins Chandler (5).

Pam and Mitch Elbert '96, son, Ethan.

Brian and Kim (Kleinwolterink '96) Oolman, son, Austin Jay, joins Breanna (3).

Jeff and **Rachel (Vermeer '96) Runia**, daughter, Grace Madalyn, joins Mason.

Brenda (Van Donslear '96) and **Jason Spencer '97**, son, William Jason, joins Bethany (3).

Christine and Dean Van Farowe '96, twin sons, Zechariah Dean and

Elijah Royhab.

Abby (Verbarg '97) and **Mark Laman '96**, daughter, Audrey Kay, joins Grace (2).

Andrea and Joshua Mills '97, daughter, Erika Macy, joins Isaac (3).

John and Cheri (Bergman '97) Van Der Hart, daughter, Haley Nicole.

Sarah (Popkes '97) and **Hans Wagenaar '98**, son, Michael Jon, joins Matthew (3).

Tony and Heather (Horstmann '98)

Einck, daughter, Whitney Heather, joins Kaeley (2).

Sara (Armstrong '98) and **Robbin Eppinga '97**, daughter, Emily Aileen, joins Samuel (1).

Mike and Karri (Franken '98) Faber, son, Reese Michael, joins Austin (3).

Kyle and Juanita (Nyhuis '98) Siegling, son, Caleb John.

Beth (Fisher '98) and **David Wenell '97**, son, Anders David.

Christy (Smith '00) and **James Koop '00**, son, David Markley.

Kari (Leach '00) and **Brent McLaren '00**, daughter, Cora Beth.

Rachel (Bogaard '00) and **Bryan Van Kley '98**, daughter, Kallie Lynne.

Josh and Natalie (Bosma '02)

Sandbulte, daughter, Olivia Jo.

Marriages

Joyce Andrews '83 and **Brad Moeckly**, Elkhart, Iowa.

Ruth (Vande Hoef '89) Duin and **Jerry Boyer**, Ireton, Iowa.

Melinda Van Engen '91 and **Bob Timmer**, Hudsonville, Mich.

Eric Cheng '94 and **Vivien Chan**, Hong Kong.

Michelle Smith '95 and **Kelvin Mays**, Waukesha, Wis.

Sarah Falkena '96 and **Dean Otto**, Hospers, Iowa.

Marla Van Steenis '98 and **Peter Bruins '96**, Stanton, Calif.

Erin Cleveringa '99 and **Chris Rylaarsdam**, Bellflower, Calif.

Eden Bruce '00 and **Case Tompkins**, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Jennifer Schultz '01 and **Jason Hetrick**, Omaha.

Andy Hugen '02 and **Jessica Schricker**, Bellflower, Calif.

Belinda Vermeer '02 and **Nathan Ter Beest '03**, Omaha.

Shannon Gorres '04 and **Ryan Bowman '03**, Boone, Iowa.

Sandra Muilenburg '04 and **Peter Jenkins '04**, Sioux Falls.

The couples reside in the city listed.

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@nwciowa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the winter '04-'05 Classic is Oct. 22.

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Celebrating Life



John and Janeo Greller celebrate with his donor family, Darlene (far left) and Mike Van Bendegom (far right), at the U.S. National Transplant Games.

As my wife, Janeo, and I drove to Minneapolis to participate in the U.S. National Transplant Games in late July, I was eager to meet my fellow transplant athletes—and filled with questions.

What kind of journeys had they traveled? Did they harbor the same gratefulness of heart? Did they show a sense of stewardship of this precious gift of life-saving organs we all had received? Did they savor this new life? Did they cherish relationships with the utmost of enthusiasm? As the games evolved, it was clear all of the participants shared these priorities.

I am a goal-oriented person. My first goal was to be healthy enough to swim in the games. Done! My second goal was that it would be a time of healing and solace for Mike and Darlene, the parents of

Jodi, a 25-year-old social worker who was killed in an automobile accident, and whose kidney and pancreas have given me new life. This, too, was to happen. My third goal was simply to be open to the Spirit's leading—to have eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to feel what was going on around me. This was a prayer abundantly answered.

The opening ceremonies were held in the Metrodome. Some 8,500 family members (including our daughter, Katie) and donor families cheered 1,500 transplant athletes as we marched in by state teams, much as the national teams parade into the Olympics. As the first medal winner for Team Iowa (second place in the 100-meter individual medley), I had the honor of carrying the Iowa flag for our team of 25. This

was my first opportunity to meet the other Iowa athletes. They were as young as three and as old as 66. They—and the other athletes from almost every state—came in all shapes, sizes, colors and ethnic backgrounds. Some were in wheelchairs; others had walkers, canes and crutches. Some were amazingly fit athletes; more were not.

The Transplant Games are about celebrating life, not winning medals. Everyone there already is a winner, having endured long trials of debilitated health to arrive at this point.

The games also are about the donor families, like Mike and Darlene—perhaps even more so. The athletes are a visual reminder to them that the loved ones they so tragically lost are giving new life to people like me. It is bitter-

sweet. The biblical parallel of Christ's sacrifice—he died so that we may live—was not lost on many in attendance.

The real heroes of the games were those struggling to finish: a blind teenage girl, helped into the pool and guided by a loved one as she slowly swam the 50-meter breaststroke; Team Iowa's Kenny, a 66-year-old double amputee, completing the 5K road race/walk in a wheelchair; a 65-year-old man finishing last in the 1,500M race/walk, pushing his walker.

My most poignant moment came at the award ceremony on the pool deck, when Mike and Darlene presented me with the first of two silver medals. We embraced and cried in each other's arms. We held each other for a long time, not wanting to let go. When we finally did, I took the medal from around my neck and placed it on Darlene's. I told them I would not be here if it were not for their gift. Moments later, Janeo and I embraced with the same emotion.

This was a place in which joy and grief blended strangely together as one. It was another reminder that in God's timing, it will all become clear.

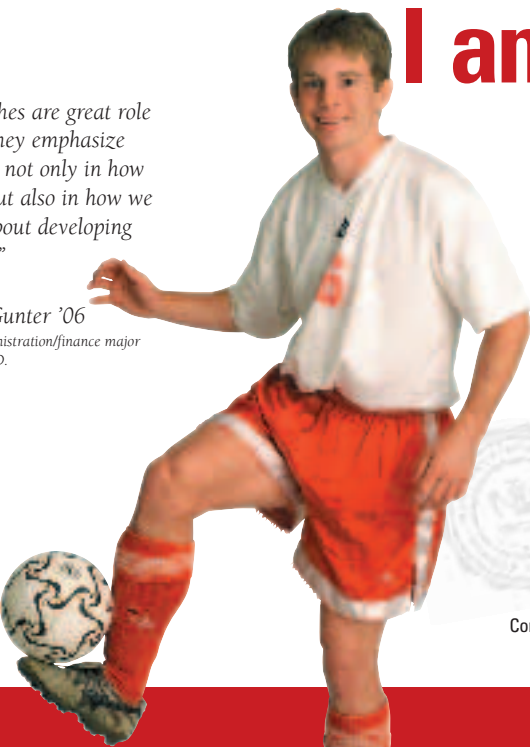
John Greller, Northwestern's vice president for development, was a severe diabetic for 28 years before he received a kidney and pancreas transplant at the University of Minnesota's Fairview University Medical Center in November 2001.

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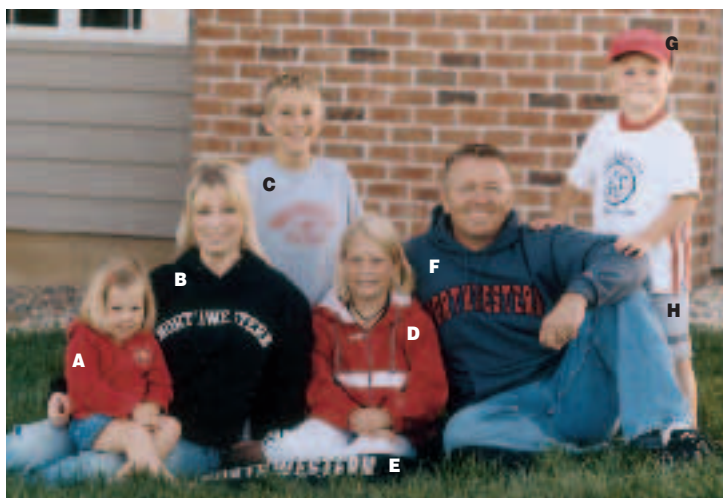
"The coaches are great role models. They emphasize excellence not only in how we play but also in how we live. It's about developing character."

Andrew Gunter '06
Business administration/finance major
Rapid City, S.D.

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Contact Jennie Smith, director of the Northwestern Fund, to find out how you can help student-athletes like Andrew. Phone: 712-707-7110; e-mail: smith@nwciowa.edu; www.nwciowa.edu/giving/



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Thanks to our "model family":
Perry '87 and Kimber Krosschell
and their children, left to right,
Mali, Bret, Elli and Kade.