

# CLASSIC

A black and white photograph of a large group of graduates in caps and gowns standing in front of a multi-story brick building. The graduates are arranged in several rows, filling the lower half of the frame. The building behind them has many windows and a prominent arched entrance on the right side.

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Fall 2007

**Marking a Milestone**  
*Northwestern celebrates  
125 years of God's faithfulness*

**Inside: Farewell to the Murphys**





Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President

## 125 Years of His Stories

For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by our unpredictable, often imperfect, but—under God's gracious providence—still wonderful human story.

As Northwestern celebrates its 125th anniversary and looks forward to a promising but challenging future, I would like to highlight two fascinating people from our history. Their stories have inspired me and show how God has used different kinds of people to build the college we love.

The first is founder Seine Bolks, a visionary man who came to pastor Orange City's First Reformed Church with the dream of creating a Christian preparatory school. It took 10 years, but in 1882 the Northwestern Classical Academy was established with a purpose of teaching "science and literature in harmony with religion."

To our ears, now accustomed to the language of faith and learning, this purpose may not seem particularly striking, but in the late 19th century, it was indeed noteworthy. Northwestern was founded just a few years after Charles Darwin's theory of evolution swept across the Western world. These were also years when secular public schools, including land grant universities, were being built.

Very quickly, battle lines were drawn. Many Bible-believing Christians grew fearful of science and culture. And many more secularly minded folks became suspicious of Christians who took the Bible seriously. But at Northwestern, there was no division. The cardinal Reformed doctrine of God's sovereignty over all would not allow it. For Seine Bolks, God's truth was to be found in both nature and Scripture. To search for it diligently and prayerfully has been Northwestern's mission ever since.

But it takes more than vision to build a college. Throughout our long history, many practically minded community leaders stepped in at critical moments to make sure the dream of a truly Christian college that engaged the world did not die. Early on, there were Henry Hospers and Jacob Heemstra; in more recent times, Virg Rowenhorst and Marv DeWitt.

Bud Hart is not as well-known, but his story epitomizes the spirit of Northwestern's entrepreneurs. A man of deep Christian faith, Bud was the president of West Michigan Nail Inc. in Grand Rapids in the 1970s. One day after church, his pastor said he ought to consider becoming a trustee of Northwestern College, "a good RCA college over in Iowa." The pastor suggested he attend a board meeting in a couple of weeks. Bud knew nothing about NWC and quickly shelved the idea.

Two weeks later, for no reason Bud can recall now, Northwestern and the meeting came to mind as he was leaving the office. In true entrepreneurial fashion, he got in the company plane and flew to Orange City. Not knowing anything about the town or campus, he began walking north from the airport. Someone pointed him in the direction of Zwemer Hall. He went in, asked if there was a meeting going on, and proceeded to barge in on the trustees.

As Bud retold the story this past summer, he said he was hooked in 10 minutes. Here was a group of devout Christians who wanted to do something significant for God. Bud became a pivotal member of the board at a critical time when his bold faith, adventuresome spirit and business savvy were much needed.

There is, of course, much more to God's story of Northwestern. And many more people—students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends—have left their mark on the college. Turn to the cover story on page 16 for more. Foremost in all of these stories is the faithfulness of our Lord. By his grace, Northwestern has prospered in the past, and by his grace, we will be even stronger in the future.

*Bruce Murphy*

▼  
*Throughout our long history, many practically minded community leaders stepped in at critical moments to make sure the dream of a truly Christian college that engaged the world did not die.*  
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## classicpeople

## CLASSIC

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What's inside

# Northwestern names ninth president

Greg Christy, vice president for institutional advancement at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., will become the ninth president of Northwestern College in January. Christy announced Oct. 5 that he had accepted the offer from Northwestern's Board of Trustees to become the college's new leader.

"We are excited Greg Christy will be Northwestern's next president," says Drew Vogel, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "He brings a collaborative, team-oriented leadership style that has proven highly effective over the last 12 years as a senior executive at an academic institution. His warm relational skills and ability to work with others to form vision, execute strategic plans and build support for the mission of Northwestern will serve the college well."

"Greg was drawn to Northwestern because of our commitment to be an institution of both academic excellence and unwavering Christian faith," says Vogel. "He identifies person-



Greg Christy

ally with our mission to be a distinctively Christian college and senses a call to serve Northwestern in leadership."

Christy says he is "humbled and grateful" to be appointed to Northwestern's presidency. "Northwestern is widely recognized for being a high-quality academic institution with a very strong faculty and a Christ-centered focus," he says. "I have always had great respect for the college and its role in Christian higher education as an institution affiliated with the Reformed Church in America."

"I will work diligently to be a good steward of the human and financial resources the college has been blessed with and invite alumni and friends to continue to provide the support

necessary for Northwestern to achieve its next level of academic achievement."

Learn more about President-Elect Christy at Northwestern's website, [www.nwciowa.edu](http://www.nwciowa.edu). He will be featured in the spring 2008 issue of the *Classic*.

## Northwestern moves up in rankings

Northwestern is ranked eighth among Midwestern baccalaureate colleges in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 America's Best Colleges guidebook. Last year, NWC was tied for 20th in that category.

"This high ranking is another indication of the quality of a Northwestern education," says President Bruce Murphy. "Northwestern has been fortunate to receive significant recognition for our academic program within the last year."

Last November, theatre professor Jeff Barker was named the Iowa Professor of the Year—Northwestern's second faculty member to receive that honor in three years. In the spring, Daniel Berntson '06 was selected to receive one of two prestigious American Graduate Fellowships for doctoral study at top-tier research universities.

The recent recognitions may have helped influence Northwestern's high peer assessment score in the *U.S. News* rankings, as the college tied for sixth in its category with a 3.4 mark. Northwestern also fared well in the percentage of freshmen who were in the top quarter of their high school class, tied for eighth with 55 percent.

## Inbox

### A Northwestern Tragedy

The summer *Classic* arrived, and I sat down to read it right away. The article about the tragic drowning of classmates hit home, as my sister, Laura (Vander Schaaf '33) Lensink, was also invited to go on the trip. She could not go, as our parents couldn't afford the \$5 for the swimming fun.

I believe Laura was living with our grandpa, Sam Muilenburg, at the time, as our father was still a pastor in Springfield, S.D. She told me of standing on the curb and seeing the hearses go to church. She said Miss Blackburn was an excellent swimmer but probably felt like the "captain of the ship" and went down with the girls.

Laura died last year at the age of 90. I wanted to write to you about my sister not being able to go on that trip.

I enjoy the *Classic* so much and still think of my days in the academy, graduating in 1943 at the age of 16 years. I was young, because in South Dakota country school they advanced me a grade because I read so well.

Amy (Vander Schaaf '43) Breisch  
New Glarus, Wis.



## Fishing for hope

A family in the Republic of Moldova is attempting to improve its standard of living, thanks to Northwestern College.

In August, a team of NWC representatives traveled to Nisporeni, Moldova, to install an aquaponics kit at a home and develop a business plan for the family. The project, entitled Teach a Man to Fish, was begun by business professor Mike Avery and the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team he advises. Through four years of research and experimentation, the team has manufactured a self-sustaining kit that combines aquaculture and hydroponics to help alleviate poverty in developing nations.

The aquaponics system enables plants and fish to grow together, with the fish waste providing a food source for the plants, and the plants filtering the water in which the fish live. The NWC group hopes tomatoes and 100 carp can be harvested from the system every four months to provide food for Christian youth-worker Petru Cionchina's family and a nearby orphanage, while also supplying additional income for the Cionchinas.

"Life for the average person there is subsistence living," says Dr. Abe Scheaffer, biology professor, who joined business professor Vonda Post, business major Angela Jiskoot, and Director of Experiential Learning Dave Nonnemacher on the trip. "They spend all of their time surviving. This offers hope for them."



*Petru Cionchina's family hopes to benefit from this aquaponics system donated to them by Northwestern's SIFE team.*

## Enrollment second highest



*Freshman David Smit and about 150 other students participated in O-Serve, a new service component of orientation weekend. Students picked up trash along the Puddle Jumper Trail, cleaned at Orange City's new transitional housing facility for women and children, and joined in a prayer walk around the community.*

Northwestern's classrooms, residence halls, chapel and cafeteria are filled with students thanks to this fall's enrollment of 1,315—the second highest in school history.

This year's freshman class has a stellar academic record, with a mean composite ACT score of 25 and 31 percent of the students having graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

"Because we were at maximum capacity due to last year's record enrollment,

we needed to be more selective in accepting incoming students," says Mark Bloemendaal, director of admissions. "As a result, we recruited one of the best academic classes in the history of Northwestern."

Strong retention of students was one of the factors in the high enrollment. Records were set with 71 percent of the students who were freshmen in 2005 returning for their junior year, and with a 66 percent freshman-to-senior retention rate.

## Student's music video featured at festival

When Grammy Award-winning musician tobyMac took the stage at the Creation Northwest music festival in George, Wash., last summer, senior Vaughn Donahue was there. And so was the music video Donahue produced for tobyMac's song *Boomin'*.

The video opened tobyMac's concert, with the Christian urban/hip-hop musician beginning his live performance as Donahue's video ended.

Donahue had a seat on stage not far away to witness the moment. He earned an all-expenses-paid trip to the festival and a backstage pass by winning the tobyMac music video contest. The communication studies major says he's proud of his video, and even more proud that he shot and edited it within a four-day period.

"I found out about the contest on May 30, and the deadline was June 4," he says. "I planned the video out in two days, shot it in eight hours, and spent 30 hours editing. I took it to the post office 15 minutes before it closed on the day it needed to be postmarked."

The video is for a song that invites others to join in the adventure of following and praising Jesus. Shot in Orange City, Donahue's video depicts a young man inviting people to a party.

The high-energy video begins, though, surprisingly,



Senior Vaughn Donahue's award-winning music video can be viewed at [home.nwciowa.edu/vdonahue](http://home.nwciowa.edu/vdonahue).

Retired Northwestern theatre professor Keith Allen places the record player needle on an album and starts tapping his feet and moving his head to the beat of tobyMac's music—much to the chagrin of his wife, Marabel. Later in the video, she, too, is moving to the music, and at one point the couple even enjoys a slow dance.

Donahue, a native of Monmouth, Maine, has produced several videos that have been used on campus to promote the RUSH student dance concert and NC/DC Extreme contest. He also served as a production assistant during the shooting of *The Prairie Pirates*, which was written and directed by Northwestern professor Jamey Durham. Donahue's most recent project was a video for Northwestern's 125th anniversary celebration in October.

## Got video?

Northwestern is developing a video archive. We are seeking videos of NWC theatrical productions, concerts, athletic contests and other events, as well as films developed by students and homemade videos that depict campus life.

If you have videos we might be interested in, please contact student Vaughn Donahue at [vdonahue@nwciowa.edu](mailto:vdonahue@nwciowa.edu) or 712-540-8900 to describe the material you have and to see whether he would like a copy for the Northwestern College archives.

## New staff bring intercultural and mission experience

Two new directors aim to increase Northwestern students' intercultural competency through on- and off-campus experiences with diversity.



Dr. Kevin McMahan

Dr. Kevin McMahan, director of international and intercultural affairs, is working to encourage diversity and racial reconciliation among students, faculty and staff.

Most recently, McMahan was the director of international programs and international student adviser at Seattle Pacific University. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership/systems in higher education from Union Institute & University in Cincinnati.



Tommy Moon

Tommy Moon, director of missions, is leading the college's short-term missions programs, equipping students for cross-cultural experiences around the globe.

A preacher, teacher, trainer and mentor, Moon served as a missionary for 17 years in Puebla, Mexico, where he was involved in church planting, youth ministry and leadership development. He is completing a doctorate in leadership and spiritual formation through George Fox University in Oregon.





# New & improved

Northwestern's newly renovated Rowenhorst Student Center, opened this fall, is getting rave reviews for its modern design, open floor plan and bright, airy spaces. In a yearlong project totaling nearly \$5 million, the front portion of the building was gutted and a 30-foot-wide section of the roof was raised six feet and rimmed with windows to add height and light to the RSC's interior.

A student services mall extends from the front door to the mini-gymnasium and is filled with comfortable chairs and tables at which students can gather to talk and study. The mall itself is lined with windows into the RSC's offices, classrooms, conference rooms, work spaces and café, giving people a glimpse of the activity taking place in the building.



# Nine join NWC faculty

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



**Dr. Thomas Bogue**

Assistant Professor of Physics

- Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics, New Mexico State University
- Served as a postdoctoral fellow at Seattle Pacific University last year
- Researched the effectiveness of a diagnostic tool for middle and high school physics teachers



**Deb Bomgaars**

Instructor in Nursing

- M.S.N., Nebraska Methodist College
- Coordinated multi-county grants and regional education on bioterrorism through Community Health Partners in Orange City
- Served in various staff roles as an R.N. at Orange City Area Health System for 17 years



**Arnold Carlson**

Assistant Professor of Art

- M.F.A., Memphis College of Art
- Taught sculpture, ceramics, 2-D and 3-D foundation, and figure drawing at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan for eight years
- Artwork featured in exhibitions in Tennessee, Michigan and Maine



**Karissa Carlson '03**

Instructor in Chemistry

- Ph.D. candidate in biochemistry, University of Iowa
- Received a predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association
- Research published in *Molecular and*

*Cellular Biology* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*

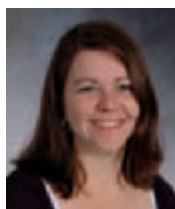


**Dr. Luke Dahn**

Assistant Professor of Music

- Ph.D. in music composition, University of Iowa
- Served as visiting assistant professor at Iowa last year

- Composer of several commissioned pieces, currently developing a large ensemble work for Studio New Music of the Moscow Conservatory



**Andrea Donahoe**

Instructor in Psychology

- Ph.D. candidate in developmental psychology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Previously a visiting psychology professor at Whitworth College, where she won the Outstanding Collaborative Teaching Award in 2006
- Research published in *Developmental Psychology*



**Ann VanderKooi Minnick '88**

Assistant Professor of Communications

- M.A. in journalism and public relations, University of Iowa
- Directed community relations at Orange City Area Health System for eight years
- Also worked in public relations and marketing for hospitals in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Iowa City and Grinnell, Iowa



**Michelle Van Wyhe**

Instructor in Nursing

- M.S. in nursing, South Dakota State University
- A board-certified advanced registered nurse practitioner who also serves as Northwestern's student health services coordinator
- Worked as an R.N. for Orange City Area Health System and a health coordinator for Mid-Sioux Opportunity



**Linda Ver Steeg**

Instructor in Nursing

- M.S.N., Nebraska Methodist College
- Former campus nurse at Dordt College and Northwestern
- Coordinated hospice patient care for CHEARS in Sioux Center and also worked in critical care and medical-surgical care roles as an R.N.



Ofcourse

# Hollywood and the Meaning of Life

## Class

Philosophy Through Film and Fiction

## Instructor

Dr. Don Wacome, professor of philosophy

If a film plays in a theatre and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?

Students in Dr. Don Wacome's course, Philosophy Through Film and Fiction, might want some popcorn while they mull that one over.

A new take on a typical introduction to philosophy course, PHI 216 is offered annually. Students wait in line to get in, Wacome says, because they'd rather watch films than read a book. In PHI 216, though, they do both, watching 10 films throughout the semester and reading nearly as much as they would for a typical introduction to philosophy course.

Students spend three 90-minute class periods both watching the entire movie and then, when the lights come up, discussing the philosophical questions the film raises.

After watching *The Truman Show*, for example, in which insurance salesman Truman Burbank, played by Jim Carrey, discovers he has been the unsuspecting star of an elaborate reality TV show since birth, students questioned whether it's possible to know an objective reality. Or are we all limited to a *perceived* reality at best?

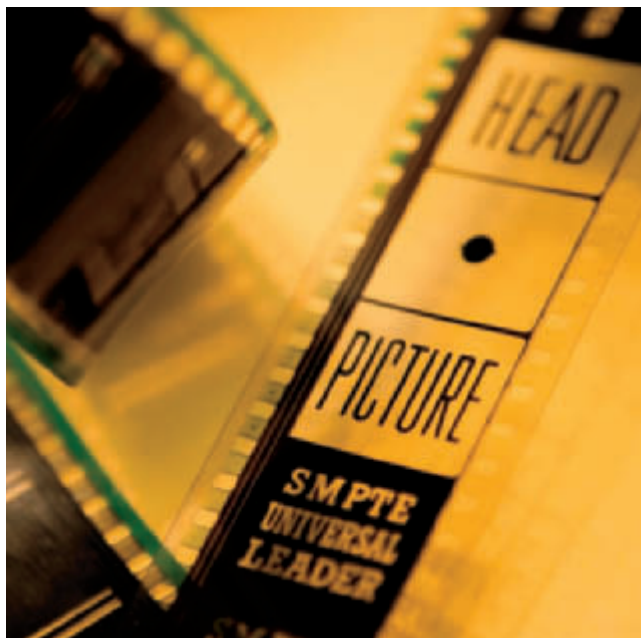
Truman discovers he lives in a big dome and his whole life has been orchestrated by his show's creator, Christof. What if the world is just a really big dome? And how does Truman's and Christof's relationship differ from ours with God?

Wacome chose movies covered by the course's text, most of which can be described as art house films rather than blockbusters.

Several of the course movies are rated R. "It's nearly impossible to find the kind of challenging movies you want for a course like this that don't have something students might find objectionable," says Wacome. So they talk about it. He takes pains to prepare students for movies' content, and then he discusses with them questions like "What is a Reformed perspective on appropriate and inappropriate movies?"

As engaging a lecturer as he is, Wacome concedes that Brad Pitt and Reese Witherspoon—or at least their characters—might be even more engaging for 18- to 22-year-olds, for whom movies are pervasive.

"Film is one of the main art forms of our time," says Wacome. "In addition to helping students understand philosophy, I also want to help them become more perceptive, critical and imaginative watchers of movies."



## Text

*Movies and the Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood* (Open-Court, 2005)

## Films

*Being John Malkovich*, starring John Cusack and Cameron Diaz (1999)

*Boys Don't Cry*, starring Hilary Swank (1999)

*Chasing Amy*, starring Ben Affleck (1997)

*Contact*, starring Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughey (1997)

*Crimes and Misdemeanors*, starring Woody Allen (1989)

*Fight Club*, starring Brad Pitt (1999)

*Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell (1993)

*Life is Beautiful*, starring Roberto Benigni (1997)

*Memento*, starring Guy Pearce (2000)

*Minority Report*, starring Tom Cruise (2002)

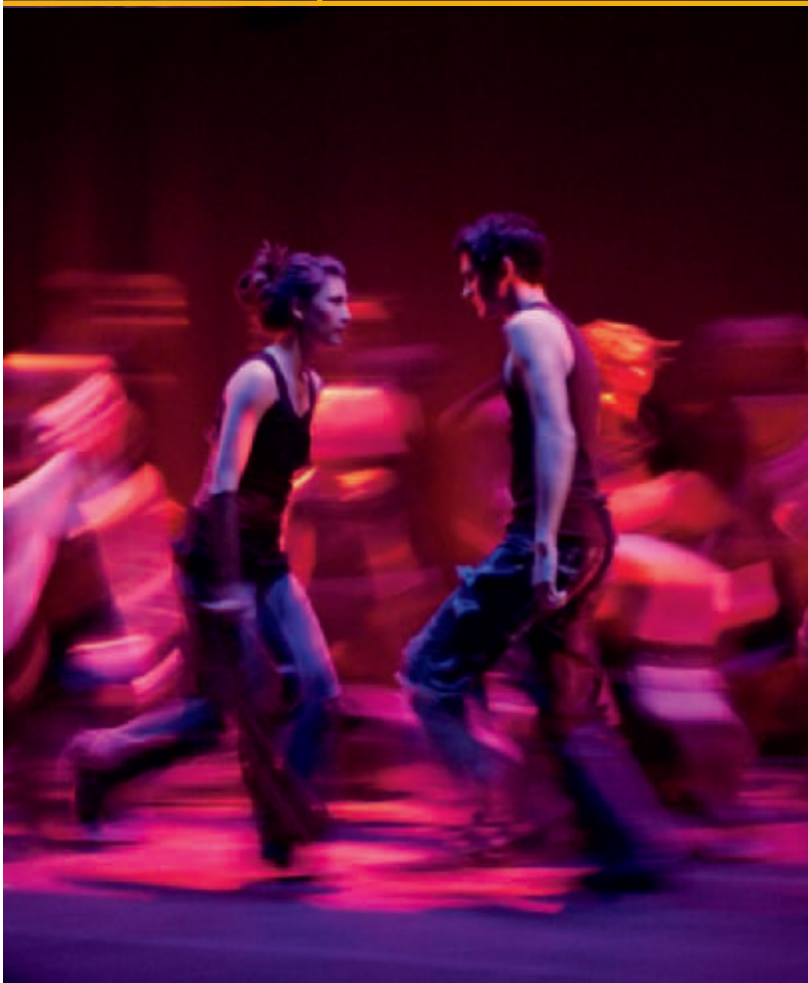
*Pleasantville*, starring Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon (1998)

*Shadowlands*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger (1993)

*The Shawshank Redemption*, starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman (1994)

*The Truman Show*, starring Jim Carrey (1998)

RUSH





# What a

# RUSH!

**N**amed for the adrenaline surge that accompanies dancing, RUSH started as one show with nine student performers in six dances. It has since grown to a five-show production of 14 dances performed by approximately 200 students. Started by Corrine (Mings '05) Christian and Rebecca (Fanning '05) Donahue in 2003–04, RUSH is still produced entirely by students. After auditioning, students get to groove in one or more student-choreographed numbers ranging from hip-hop and salsa to ballroom and ballet.

*Read more about RUSH in an essay by dancer Aleisa Schat '07 at [www.nwciowa.edu/rush](http://www.nwciowa.edu/rush).*



## Facevalue

## Roger Ewoldt

*Accountant, loan collector, ping pong player***What is your role at NWC?**

I generate the monthly budget reports for the department chairpersons and the Administrative Council. A lot of my work is with loan collections. I also do exit interviews with students who are leaving the college.

**Why do you value working at Northwestern?**

It's a place that makes a difference in a lot of people's lives, and I like being a part of that.

**What is your unique perspective on the college?**

I see the quality of the graduates versus those from a lot of other schools. That's reflected even in our loan default rates. Our graduates feel an obligation and a connection with the school, so they're willing to repay and support Northwestern.

**What has surprised you about students' comments in their exit interviews?**

The level of satisfaction among people who are not returning for various reasons. They rate Northwestern very high in most areas. They're leaving for another academic program or for some other reason, but they still feel good about their NWC experience.

**Describe yourself in three words.**

Quiet, active and competitive.

**What do you value?**

Family, spiritual things and keeping busy. I'm always busy doing something; I don't like to sit.

**What are your hobbies?**

I go camping and fishing when I can. I play ping pong or pool at lunch in the student center. I basically take on all comers, even if they whip me pretty good.

**What is it about ping pong and pool that is fun for you?**

The competitiveness of it. And I enjoy the time away from the office and the opportunity to interact with students a little.

**Do you have a secret weapon in ping pong?**

I use a lot of spin on the ball.

**How did you feel about the game room's demolition as part of the RSC renovation?**

It's been underutilized, so I could see it coming. But I was sad to see it go.

**How else does your competitiveness come out?**

I played cribbage a lot when I served in the Navy as an electronics technician. I used

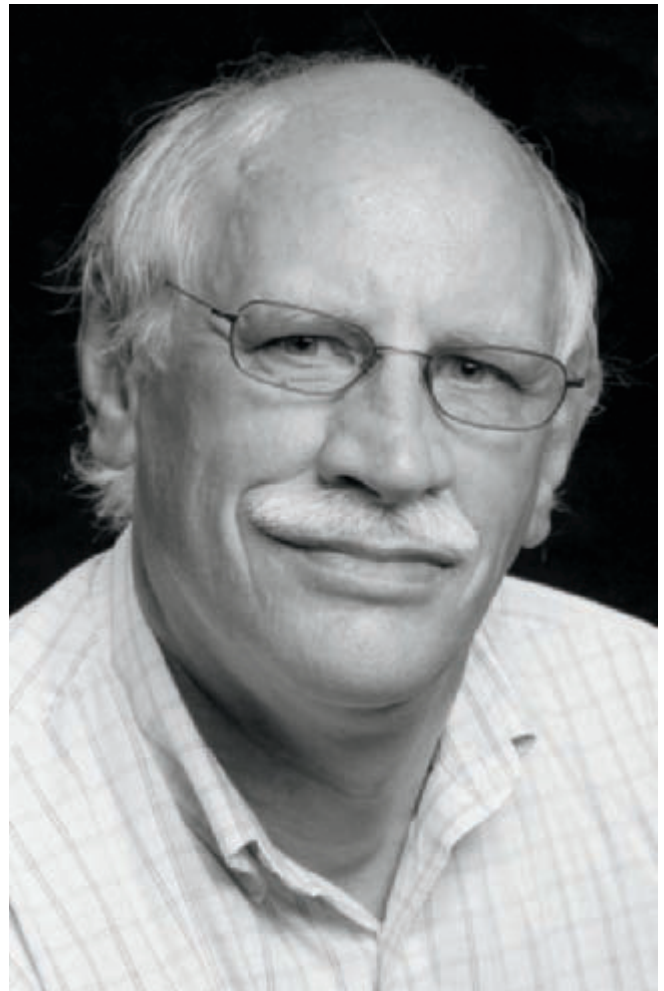
to have five guys playing the other hand, trying to beat me. I got a kick out of it. One guy always bugged me to play for money. I said, OK, a dime a game, a penny a point. I had won \$3 dollars after 3 games, and he said, "Let's just play for fun."

**What do you hope for?**

Continued good health and being able to see my children and grandchildren grow up.

**What are you about?**

I try to treat others as I'd like to be treated myself.



A 1974 Northwestern graduate with a business administration degree, Roger Ewoldt has been an accountant in the NWC business office for 30 years.



# Bible Study

**Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods and Themes**  
by Jim Mead Westminster  
John Knox Press

When Northwestern religion professor Dr. Jim Mead began teaching Biblical Interpretation and Theology in 2001, he couldn't find a current, comprehensive textbook. After years of searching, Mead decided to remedy the situation himself.

The result is *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods and Themes*, published this summer by Westminster John Knox Press. The book has been hailed as the first overview of biblical theology in 30 years.

**Classic: Why is there a dearth of current books on this topic?**

**Mead:** Scholars prefer not to treat the entire Bible because it takes so much expertise to understand a testament and related issues. Scholars who have an interest in the theology of the Bible either try to produce a major work in one of the testaments or get very caught up in the maze of issues no one can really resolve, such as how the testaments relate or how the theology of the Bible relates to its history.

**Classic: What is the book's purpose?**

**Mead:** It is to survey the field

of biblical theology, making it manageable for beginning students. Beyond that, I have a passion for relating the Bible and theology to the church, so I hope it's going to help future pastors and teachers see how relevant scholarly study of the Bible can be to ministerial use of the Bible.

It's not merely an academic exercise to me. It comes out of the confluence of several streams in my experience, having been a pastor for a dozen years and having taught at Northwestern for seven years.

**Classic: How do you anticipate the book will be used?**

**Mead:** I will be using it in Biblical Interpretation and Theology, which is a required course for our religion majors.

I'm hoping it will get used in seminaries and other Christian colleges. I also hope pastors might use the last chapter on the themes of the Bible to help them think about the message of the whole Scripture.

**Classic: Why is biblical theology important?**

**Mead:** Biblical theology attempts to study and understand what the Bible says about God and God's relationship to creation, especially humans. It is at the very heart of the Christian tradi-



Dr. Jim Mead, associate professor of religion, is the author of a new textbook on biblical theology.

tion to explore the Bible's message about God, from God, for God's people. I can't think of any more important discipline than that.

**Classic: As you look back on this project, what most pleases you?**

**Mead:** Other than completing it? It's so early in the phase of marketing that it's hard to say I'm pleased with its reception. But it's gotten some very kind initial remarks. I think the publisher's very hopeful it will take its place in the field.

I'm pleased I was able to do it in a way that seems pretty coherent, and I tried to be as fair and representative of as many positions as possible. I tried to be current—half of the works cited in the bibliography were pro-

duced since 1995 and the others are more classic treatments.

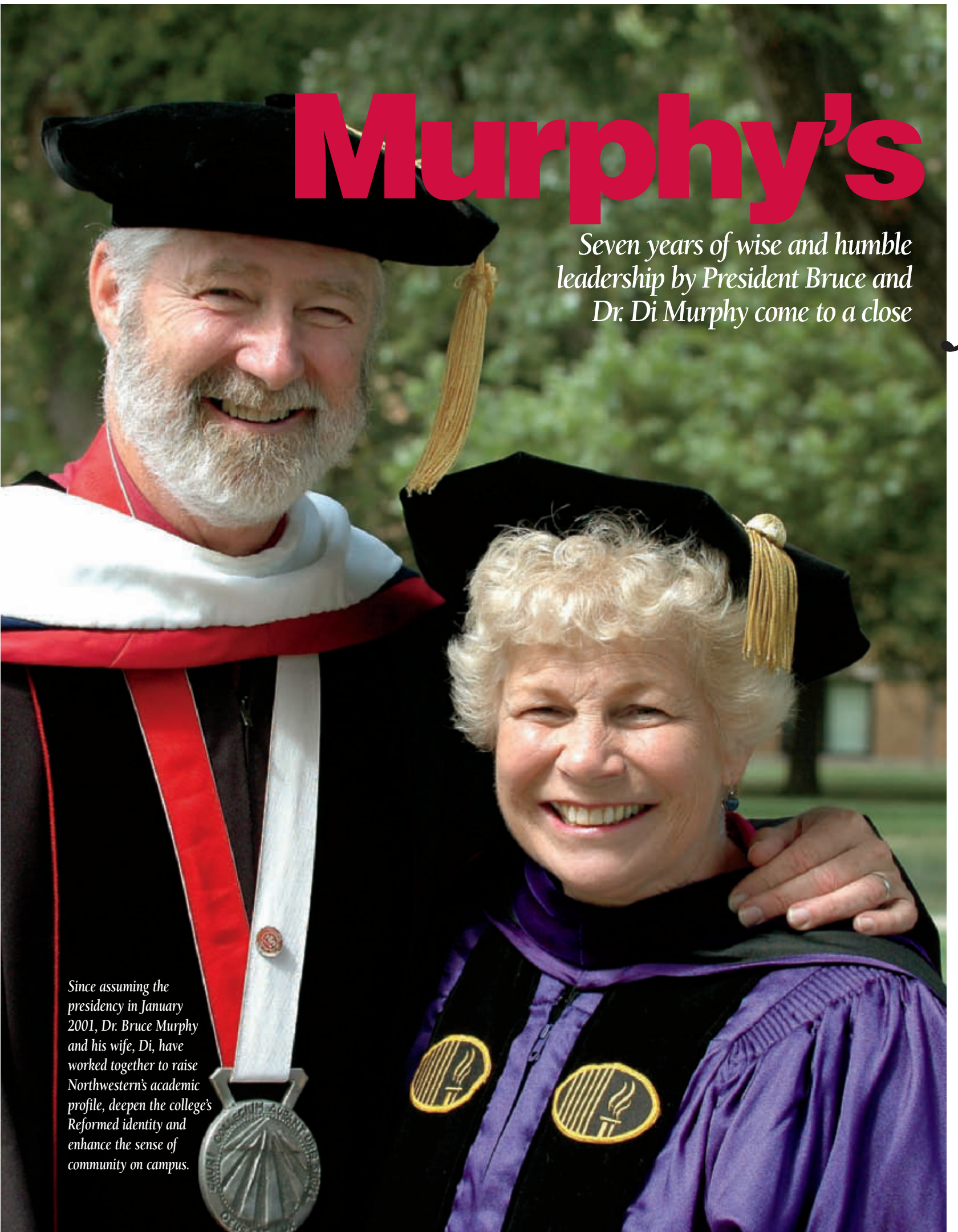
I tried to discuss issues that are very hotly debated—the role of feminist theology, liberation theology, post-colonial, postmodern questions—as well as the major classic questions like how the testaments are related and whether there is a central theme to the Bible. I think I was able to accomplish my goal of synthesizing the field, boiling it down to 250 pages of introductory material.

*Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods and Themes is available at the Northwestern College Bookstore and through online booksellers such as Amazon.com.*

# Murphy's

*Seven years of wise and humble leadership by President Bruce and Dr. Di Murphy come to a close*

Since assuming the presidency in January 2001, Dr. Bruce Murphy and his wife, Di, have worked together to raise Northwestern's academic profile, deepen the college's Reformed identity and enhance the sense of community on campus.





# Laws for Leading

by Tamara  
Fynaardt

**W**hen Drs. Bruce and Di Murphy returned to Northwestern College in 2001, it was like coming home. They'd started their careers here in 1970—Bruce as a history professor and Di teaching physical education. They left eight years later, just as Northwestern was becoming a liberal arts college.

In the intervening years, Northwestern had grown. So

had the Murphys. They raised their two children, Di earned her doctorate, and Bruce served as both a pastor and a college provost. Most of their family and life was on the West Coast.

But some roots were here, and the Murphys couldn't resist the opportunity to return and participate in reaping some of what they had helped sow.

## Murphy's Law I: Live the mission

Returning to lead Northwestern as president, Murphy says he and Di—who was hired as an education professor—couldn't help but notice the ways in which Northwestern had changed since the 1970s.

"There were obvious signs, like new buildings," he says. "But we were most gratified to learn that Northwestern had matured in its identity as a Christian liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition."

During his presidency, Murphy sought to deepen Northwestern's Reformed identity by modeling the pursuit of wisdom, which requires spiritual as well as intellectual development and discernment.

Members of the Northwestern community followed his



*Well-known and beloved by students, Murphy sought to understand and improve their Northwestern experience by connecting students' classroom and co-curricular learning. The Murphys often welcomed students into their home and were, in turn, invited to join students in the caf, residence halls and Student Activities Council events.*



*Bruce and Di championed efforts to recruit more international and American ethnic minority students to Northwestern and worked to ensure a positive experience once they arrived. The Murphys enthusiastically participated in the International Coffee House, Ethnic Fair and other campus celebrations of diversity.*

lead, and at the completion of the college's reaccreditation study in 2005–06, evaluators praised nine specific strengths, including “a shared commitment to the college's mission and an extraordinary ability to articulate the mission on the part of all constituencies.”

Murphy supported academic freedom, enabling teachers and students to discuss complex, even divisive issues—like stem cell research, Muslim-Christian relations, stewardship of the environment, and human sexuality.

“Fear of losing students and donors can make Christian colleges wary of controversial topics,” says Dr. Doug Carlson, professor of history. “But Bruce allowed and encouraged such discussions as genuine expressions of the Reformed confidence in a sovereign God and our injunction to reclaim *all* of creation for God's glory.”

### Murphy's Law II: Lead by serving

Midway through the fall semester in 2003, Murphy made the difficult decision to accept the resignation of Northwestern's former vice president for academic affairs.

The leadership team he has built since then is one part of his legacy, and those leaders will oversee the rest in the years ahead. Murphy hired four of six members on the Administrative Council and has sought to empower each to share in institutional decision-making—even as they formulate, own and implement strategies within their respective areas.

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, says, “Bruce surrounds himself with people of different skills, backgrounds and personalities. Then he allows them to manage independently while still blending them into a cohesive team. He maintained a firm hand on Northwestern's rudder, but his grasp was not white-knuckled.”

“Bruce doesn't have a large ego and doesn't need the credit,” says Barb Dewald, associate dean of spiritual formation. “He listens and watches for where he might best serve or give insight.”

“The best leaders are those who lead from who they are,” says Drew Vogel, chair of Northwestern's Board of Trustees,

adding that the Murphys wear their heart—for God's kingdom, for Northwestern, and for individual students, employees and friends of the college—on their sleeves.

### Murphy's Law III: Love students

Asked to reflect on the Murphys' tenure, current and former students praise Bruce and Di as wise, humble, warm and fun-loving. Emily Hoekema '07 calls Murphy “my next-door-neighbor president” and adds that few of her friends at other colleges knew their presidents as well as she knew hers.

▼  
“He maintained a firm hand on Northwestern's rudder, but his grasp was not white-knuckled.”  
▲



*Known as authentic and approachable, Murphy says the deep friendships he and Di formed with some alumni and supporters of Northwestern have been more significant to him than the six- and seven-figure gifts facilitated by those relationships.*

Students tell stories of Di sharing her umbrella and giving them rides to student-teaching assignments. They were invited to Bruce's office, where he comforted their freshman homesickness and listened to their upperclassman ideas for ways to improve students' Northwestern experience.

While the Murphys didn't repeat their 1970s “Prexy experiment” of living with students full time, they invited many to their home for meals and overnight stays. They ate with them in the caf, performed in student acts during Homecoming and the Ethnic Fair, and even spent cozy evenings on dorm couches watching movies.



## Murphy's Law IV: Pray continuously

"Northwestern students know Bruce's faith runs from his toes through every fold of his brain," says Dewald. "They're eager to learn from him—especially when he talks about prayer."

Throughout his presidency, Murphy insisted that prayer was one of his most necessary—and powerful—leadership tools. He modeled his dependence on prayer by leading a group of faculty and staff in weekly intercession for Northwestern's mission and people. He devoted his early-morning solitary rounds of golf to conversation with God and tried to spend one day every six weeks at a nearby monastery, listening for the Holy Spirit's leading.

"Many Christians are able to trust God with their lives," says Dr. Eric Elder, Northwestern economics professor who served for a time as the college's interim vice president for academic affairs. "But Bruce was able to trust God with the entire college."

▼

*"I leave fully trusting God's work here. As the college remains faithful to God's leading, I look forward to hearing about things I can't see right now—things that might surprise us all."*

▲

## Murphy's Law V: Envision the future

During the Murphys' seven years at Northwestern, they have simultaneously strengthened the bonds of community on campus and modeled reaching beyond one's own world to understand and embrace different ethnicities, cultures and expressions of faith.

In 2001–02, Murphy led a campus-wide effort to consider the ways students explore and discern their various callings. The conversations led to a grant proposal and eventually to a \$2.5 million Lilly Endowment gift for Vocare, which includes initiatives aimed at helping students find their place in God's world.

Vocare has served as a bridge between students' academic and co-curricular experiences, ensuring their education doesn't stop when they leave class but continues as they are mentored by coaches, campus ministry staff and residence life leaders—as well as professors.

Di helped create the Multi-Ethnic Resource Team, which has identified intercultural competency as a critical goal for

Northwestern students and is designing learning experiences that prepare students for global engagement.

During Murphy's presidency, the number of students studying off campus has doubled, says Carlson, who is also associate dean of off-campus programs. "Students now come to Northwestern planning to participate in study abroad opportunities," he says, "and their understanding of the world is inevitably altered by their encounters with other cultures."

Some efforts initiated by the Murphys are just beginning and will be left in the hands of others who are well-equipped to carry them forward. Northwestern's new "Vision for Learning," for example, which articulates the college's goal of providing an education that teaches students to trust God, engage and connect ideas, and experience and respond to God's call, will guide the work of the task force revising the general education curriculum.

A new strategic plan, authored in 2006–07, will provide a "plan in hand" for Northwestern's next president. And the vision underlying the projects to be funded by the college's \$30 million Imagine Campaign will ensure that Northwestern remains true in the years to come to its mission of educating whole persons for their whole lives.

## Murphy's Law VI: Follow God's leading

The last several years—in response to what he has observed among students as increased busyness that has decreased the capacity for critical thinking—Murphy has been developing what he calls "A New Way to Do College."

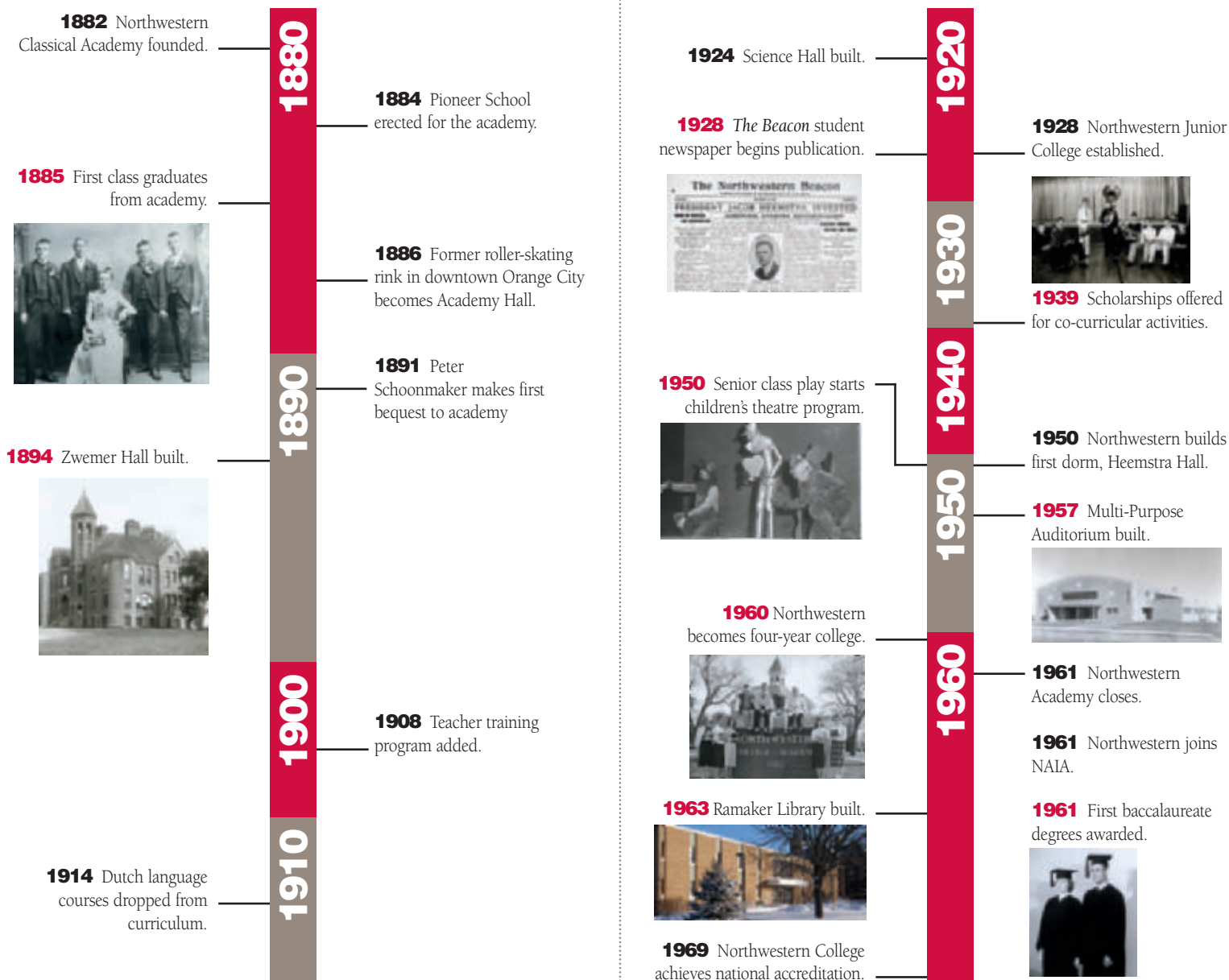
"Of course, it's not really *new*," says the historian, explaining that in a postmodern age of compartmentalization and specialization, we've simply forgotten how to integrate ideas, experiences and learning into a holistic worldview.

While Murphy will not be around to oversee implementation of the ideas outlined in his report, he remains committed to personally modeling a life of study, service and Sabbath. During his retirement on Whidbey Island in Washington, he hopes to continue developing his ideas so that someday Northwestern and colleges like it will have a workable model for a different—perhaps more faithful—way to deliver Christian higher education.

"With a learning commons and other facility and program improvements on the horizon, Northwestern has more immediate priorities than pursuing these ideas," says Murphy. "But I leave fully trusting God's work here. As the college remains faithful to God's leading, I look forward to hearing about things I can't see right now—things that might surprise us all."

# A Timeline of Northwestern College History

*Northwestern College was founded 125 years ago to provide an education that integrates faith and learning. Through the faithfulness of God and the sacrifices of those committed to its mission, the college has developed into an institution recognized today for its commitment to academic excellence and a Christ-centered education.*



HEEMSTRA



WEZEMAN



STEGENGA



GRANBERG



ROWENHORST



RADANDT



BULTMAN




MURPHY




1970

**1970** Teacher education department nationally accredited.



1973

**1973** Football team wins college's first NAIA championship.



1974


**1974** Northwestern offers Chicago Semester and study abroad trips.

1976

**1976** Northwestern purchases its first computer.

1978

**1978** Rowenhorst Student Center added to campus.




1981

**1981** Summer of Service program established.

1983

**1983** Spring Service Projects begun.




1983

**1983** Football team wins second NAIA championship.

1988

**1988** Christ Chapel built.



1988

**1988** Social work program nationally accredited.

1989

**1989** Enrollment exceeds 1,000 students.

1990

**1990** Northwestern named to first Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges and Universities.

1992


**1992** Northwestern joins forerunner of Great Plains Athletic Conference.

1994

**1994** First Northwestern College website developed.


1994

**1994** Northwestern first listed in top tier of Midwestern liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*.




1995

**1995** Bultman Center for Health, Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics built.




2000

**2000** Drama Ministries Ensemble conducts first summer tour.



2001

**2001** Men's and women's basketball teams win NAIA championships on same night.



2002

**2002** Lilly Endowment awards Northwestern \$2 million grant.

2003


**2003** Men's basketball team repeats as national champions.

2003

**2003** Korver Visual Arts Center built.


2004

**2004** Spanish professor Piet Koene named Iowa Professor of the Year.



2004

**2004** Multi-Purpose Auditorium transformed into DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.




2005

**2005** Athletic training program nationally accredited.

2005

**2005** New logo adopted.



2006


**2006** Theatre professor Jeff Barker named Iowa Professor of the Year.

2006

**2006** Deb Remmerde breaks every high school, college and pro record with 133 consecutive free throws.

2006

**2006** Northwestern begins Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.



2006


**2006** Business department nationally accredited.

2007

**2007** Northwestern's Tuition Guarantee established.

2007

**2007** Rowenhorst Student Center renovated.



## Northwestern College Presidents

Rev. Dr. Jacob Heemstra	1928–1951
Dr. Frederick Wezeman	1951–1955
Dr. Preston Stegenga	1955–1966
Dr. Lars Granberg	1966–1975
Virgil Rowenhorst	1975–1979
Dr. Friedhelm Radandt	1979–1985
Dr. James Bultman	1985–1999
Dr. Bruce Murphy	2001–2007

# 125 Years

in the life of

## Northwestern College



Early pioneers who surveyed northwest Iowa in 1869 for a suitable location for a Dutch colony.



Rev. Seine Bolks was the driving force behind the founding of Northwestern Classical Academy and served as a charter member of its Board of Trustees.



*I*n 1870, three wagon trains of Dutch settlers arrived in northwest Iowa and founded a town they named Orange City, after the royal family in the Netherlands. Two years later, the Rev. Seine Bolks arrived in Orange City to serve as pastor of the First Reformed Church—in part to pursue his dream of founding a Christian college. That dream, however, was delayed by plagues of grasshoppers that decimated crops until, in 1882, local banker Henry Hospers donated land and led in pledging funds for “Northwestern Classical Academy.”

Orange City businessman Henry Hospers, shown here with his family, donated land and led in pledging funds for the academy.





DeWitt Theatre Arts Center (above) and Stegenga Hall (left) are among the most recent additions to Northwestern's campus.



Northwestern's library, as shown in this 1950s photo, was first located in Zwemer Hall. It was named the Rapelye Library in 1895 in honor of a New York woman who was a frequent benefactor to its collections.



Northwestern students today have a choice of more than 40 majors.



Eventually used as the home of the academy's principal, Pioneer School was the first building constructed for Northwestern Classical Academy.

A two-story wood-frame building known as "Pioneer School" and a former roller-skating rink in downtown Orange City served as Northwestern's first buildings until community members pledged \$10,000 for a new classroom and administration building. When Zwemer Hall was built in 1894, the three-story brick-and-stone structure gave a sense of permanence to the fledgling academy. Today Northwestern occupies a 100-acre campus with 23 buildings, 10 of which were built or completely renovated in the last 20 years.

Northwestern Classical Academy was formed for the purpose of preparing young people for college. It was a "Classical" academy not only because of its emphasis on language and literature, but also because it was under the governance of the Classis of Iowa of the Reformed Church in America. A diploma in classical studies was offered for those intending to enter the ministry, while the modern classical program—which substituted German for Latin and Greek—was available to other students. In 1908, the academy began awarding diplomas in education to students who wanted to teach. Northwestern now offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in more than 40 majors, in fields ranging from art to business to chemistry to social work. In 2006, the curriculum was expanded further with the addition of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.



Students with their instructor in a 1908 physics class in Zwemer Hall.

Northwestern Classical Academy's first attempt to achieve accreditation in 1919 failed. It met all of the requirements except one: There were no toilets or drinking fountains in Zwemer Hall. Northwestern College likewise was denied accreditation when it first applied in 1962 for reasons that included inadequate library facilities and a shortage of professors with earned doctorates. Now Northwestern is recognized as a college that is both academically excellent and Christ-centered. It is annually listed among the top colleges in its region by *U.S. News & World Report* and appears in such college guides as *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* and *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*. Not only do 77 percent of full-time faculty hold doctorates or the highest degree in their field, but Northwestern professors have been named the Iowa Professor of the Year two out of the past three years.



Though stately in appearance, Zwemer Hall initially lacked toilets and drinking fountains—a fact that contributed to the academy's initial failure to achieve accreditation.



Students in the education department's curriculum laboratory in the 1950s.

College coursework was added to the curriculum in 1928, when 30 students enrolled in Northwestern Junior College. One year later, the Great Depression hit. Northwestern's income dropped nearly 60 percent, and donations fell from \$15,000 to \$2,000 in two years. Salaries were cut and football was discontinued to save money. The financial crisis led the Reformed Church in America's Board of Education to recommend in 1932 that Northwestern Junior College "close temporarily." Only strong and vigorous opposition from Northwestern's Board of Trustees and President Jacob Heemstra prevented such action. Today Northwestern is the strongest it's ever been financially. Budgets are balanced, debt is minimal, the physical plant book value is \$44 million, and the endowment has reached \$41 million. Northwestern consistently ranks as one of the most financially sound private colleges in Iowa.



Today Northwestern College is recognized for its academic excellence, as evidenced when theatre professor Jeff Barker became the second Northwestern faculty member to be named the Iowa Professor of the Year.



Northwestern has required its students to attend chapel since the 1880s. Among the buildings that have housed the daily gatherings in the past are Pioneer School, Academy Hall (a.k.a. "The Rink"), Zwemer Hall and Science Hall. A student-initiated-and-led Sunday night worship service began in the early 1990s and continues to fill Christ Chapel. And in the early '80s, Northwestern established its Summer of Service and Spring Service Project programs, which today send hundreds of students throughout the U.S. and around the world as short-term missionaries.



Almost 500 students have ministered to people around the world through the Summer of Service program.



Northwestern's football team captured the college's first NAIA championship in 1973.

Basketball, football, baseball and tennis were the earliest sports offered by Northwestern Classical Academy.

Members of the 2001 women's basketball team proudly display their championship trophy.



Though voluntary, a student-led praise and worship service on Sunday night regularly fills Christ Chapel.



Chapel services in the 1940s were held in Science Hall.

In 1928, Northwestern Junior College's football team lost its first game to Sheldon Junior College by a score of 122 to 6. A few decades later, however, it had captured the conference title, and the basketball team was the state's junior college champion. It was in football that Northwestern won its first national championship in 1973 and another national title in 1983. Today the college is known for its success in one of the toughest conferences in the NAIA. In one of those rare moments in sports history, both the men's and women's basketball teams won national championships on the same night in 2001, and the men repeated as national champs in 2003.







Fern Smith (second from right) with members of Northwestern Junior College's orchestra in the 1920s.



*Gone to Earth* was produced by the theatre department in 2006.



The Northwestern Junior College choir in the 1940s.



Dorms such as Hospers Hall, pictured in the 1980s, are the center of community life at Northwestern College.

Northwestern's music and theatre programs owe much of their success today to two remarkable women. Fern Smith joined the faculty in 1928 when Northwestern became a junior college. As its sole music professor, she gave unselfishly of her time and talent for 32 years, directing the college's choral groups, orchestra and band and setting the stage for a department that today includes six full-time faculty and 10 performance ensembles. Likewise, the theatre department was championed by Dr. Theora England Willcox, who served as its chair for more than 30 years, established the long-running Choral Readers (today's Drama Ministries Ensemble), and, with her feisty charm, protected play sets from athletes when the theatre's stage was one end of the gymnasium. Northwestern now is home to one of the best Christian college theatre programs in the nation, with an award-winning faculty and a new building that's been called the best theatre facility of any college in Iowa.



Mud volleyball and a tug-of-war were annual traditions in the 1970s.



Today's students would find it hard to believe that Heemstra was once a women's dorm, that Colenbrander's basement originally housed the college's cafeteria, and that Hospers Hall was initially called Union Hall and came complete with a student union that included a snack bar known as the Koffee Kletz. Until Heemstra was built in 1950, most students didn't have the option of living on campus. Now it's required, and the resulting tight-knit community has become one of Northwestern's hallmarks. Years ago there was freshman initiation, mud volleyball and the bucket brigade. Now there's Air Band, Ballyhoo and Clash of the Classes. And then there are the traditions—like Great White North and the Battle of the Mighty Floyd raft race—that are passed down from generation to generation.



*Class pride and unity is fostered through the start-of-the-year Clash of the Classes, which began in 2004.*



*One tradition that has continued through the years is the Battle of the Mighty Floyd raft race.*



*Beanies made freshmen easy to pick out during their initiation.*



In his last report to the Board of Trustees before retiring in 1951, President Jacob Heemstra said: "Looking over the history of Northwestern ... we must and can say, 'Hitherto hath the Lord led us.' It is a history of prayer and consecrated effort on the part of many interested in her life and usefulness in the kingdom, but also one of achievements. She has sent forth in every walk of life men and women consecrated in the service of the Lord, devoted to the cause and the kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. She stands and lives today as an answer to much prayer and hard work, as a product of the love of the church for Christian education, and as a living testimony to the determination of faithful men and women." Heemstra's words remain true to this day. After 125 years, God's light still shines.

*Then as now, prayer and consecrated effort have made Northwestern College a living testimony to the Lord's faithfulness.*

# New Life

*Kevin Jansma finds grace—and hope—in the midst of grief*

by Amy Scheer

Last year, a few days after Thanksgiving, two men in their late 20s sat together in a room of a suburban Chicago church. One man wore an ankle bracelet that would notify authorities if he left the approved area; the other wore a new wedding ring.

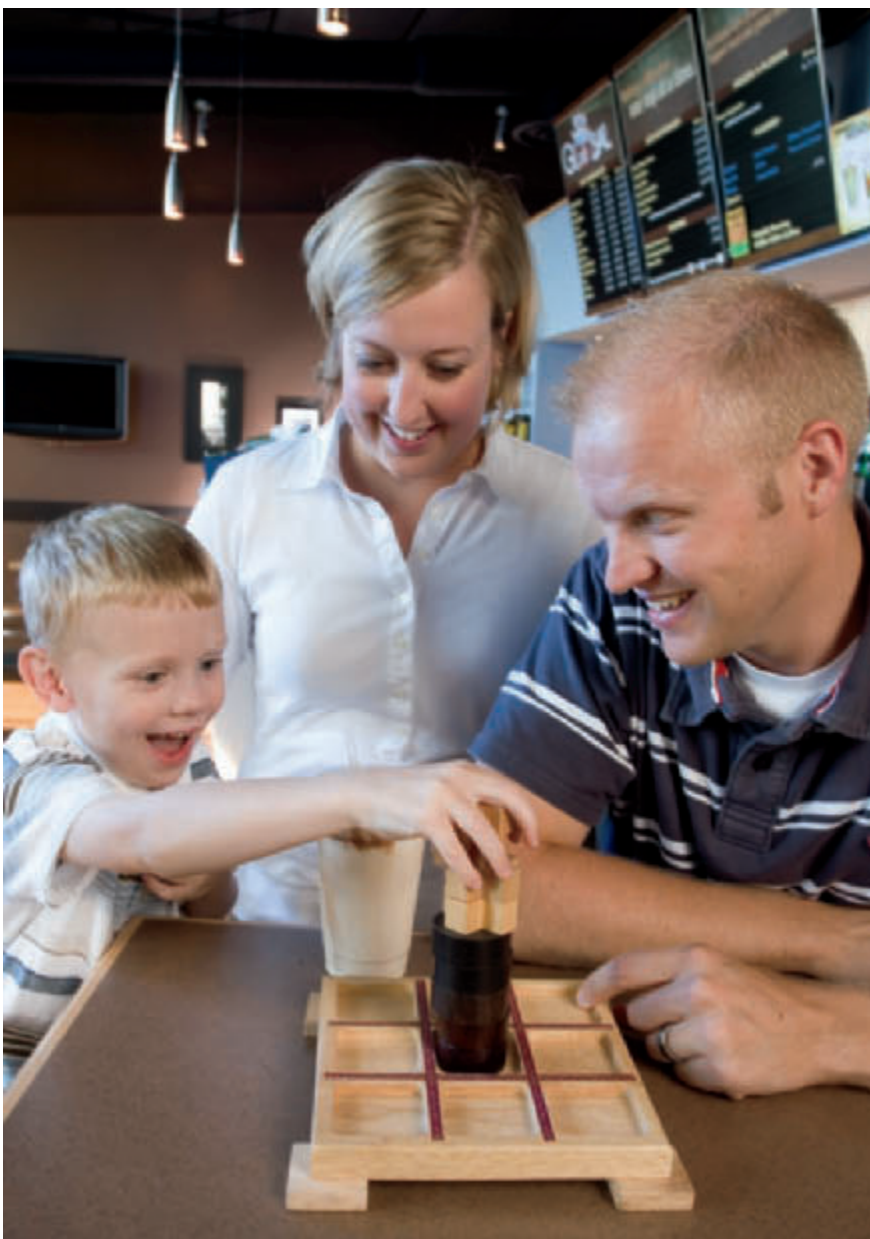
Kevin Jansma '99 was meeting the driver responsible for the death of his first wife.

The road that led there began, you could say, in Jansma's senior year at Northwestern as an elementary education major. Smitten with Marilyn Lupkes '97 and headed to a semester of student teaching in inner-city Chicago, Jansma met with Chaplain Matt Floding, who'd been observing the student's skills as a worship leader.

"You sure you want to be a teacher?" Floding asked. He suggested Jansma contact Mike Van Rees '93, who was starting an RCA church in the Des Moines suburb of Ankeny.

In May of 1999, Jansma graduated from Northwestern. July 1, he began working with Van Rees at Prairie Ridge Church. July 31, he married Marilyn.

The new church thrived and grew, as did the young marriage. Marilyn eventually joined the staff as director of small groups. Lives were changing for



*Kevin, Kelly and Trey Jansma enjoy family time in the Global Café, a neighborhood coffeehouse inside Prairie Ridge Church that was built with memorial funds in honor of Kevin's first wife, Marilyn. Run by volunteers, the café gives all its proceeds to mission projects, celebrating Marilyn's dedication to the service of others.*

the better, and a new life was born—the Jansmas' son, Treyton.

In August of 2004, Marilyn's Northwestern roommate, Jill (Rasmussen '97) Groezinger, also had her first child. Jansma and Trey, now 16 months old, declared "Man Weekend" and stayed home while Marilyn visited Jill in Chicago.

"It was a pretty normal weekend," Jansma says, "until the police showed up at the door."

An officer appeared holding a paper that Jansma could read faster than the man could talk. There had been a car accident. Severe head trauma. Call the hospital right away. Jansma knew immediately, he says, that Marilyn had





A car accident took Marilyn Jansma's life at the age of 28.

died. He was right. Though rescue workers restored her heartbeat temporarily at the scene of the accident, Marilyn had died on impact.

A whirlwind week followed. The church's numbers had grown to 800 by then, and members joined Jansma's family and friends to mourn the loss of Marilyn, who was 28. Some 1,000 people attended the funeral, evidence of a strong network of faith and support that sustained Jansma during this difficult time.

"After Marilyn died, I felt an overwhelming peace and comfort that I knew was the Holy Spirit. Praying felt inadequate. It's like God was saying to me, 'I'm right here with you; don't worry about it.'"

Jansma speaks articulately about this time in his life probably because of the unique circumstances of his mourning: As he began to heal, a large church congregation still grieved alongside him. He gave public messages, assuring people he was grateful for the blessing of "the person Marilyn was and the relationship we had."

And the congregation gave back. "The church did the best job of anybody to help our community as a whole to appropriately grieve and honor who she was but not feel we couldn't be joyful," says Jansma.

That's not to say there weren't days

of immense sorrow. Nights when Jansma would lie in bed reading *A Grace Disguised*, written by former Northwestern Chaplain Jerry Sittser about the experience of losing his wife, mother and daughter in a single car crash.

In the book, Sittser says catastrophic loss will "transform us or destroy us, but it will never leave us the same." Jansma read this sentence, looked across the hall to where Trey slept beneath a photo of himself with his mother, and sobbed. "That's where I'm at," he thought, and made the choice to carry on.

Every morning, Trey's smiles reminded his daddy to stay on the right road.

"He got up every day, and he was happy and he needed a dad. He needed to be cared for. He was a great distraction."

Two years after the funeral, the Illinois state's attorney called Jansma. The driver of the car, who was traveling 75 mph when he hit Marilyn's nearly-stopped vehicle, would plead guilty to most of the charges facing him. He'd do jail time. Any questions?

"I'd like to meet him," Jansma recalls hearing himself say.

A victim's advocate from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists scheduled the meeting. Jansma arranged for it to be held in the Chicago church where Jill Groezinger's husband worked.

"I had a chance to sit down and write out the story of my life over the past three years—all the things this accident has caused," Jansma says, referring both to the terrible and beautiful changes in his life. (He'd recently remarried, having become reacquainted with Northwestern classmate Kelly Van Haaften '00.)

Neither man expected much from the other, it seemed: Jansma didn't expect to see the display of remorse from the driver, who took responsibility for his actions. And when Jansma shared his faith and said, "I forgive you,"

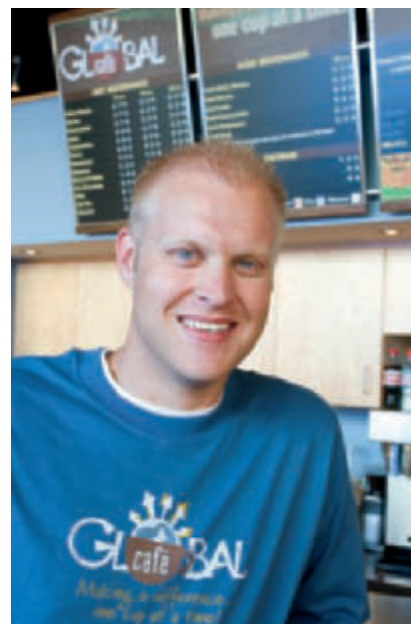
the man was overcome with emotion.

The tragedy has given Jansma a renewed sense of urgency to help others. He recalls looking around during a shopping trip he took shortly after the funeral, thinking, "If I just went through this and I'm buying groceries, what are all these people going through?"

"There's a lot of hurt in the world," he explains. "My eyes were opened to all these things around me."

Life has leveled out now, Jansma says. To Trey, Kelly is no longer New Mommy, but Mommy. When he asks her, "What was I like when I was a baby?" Kelly pulls out the scrapbook of Trey's first year, crafted by Marilyn weeks before her death. Trey knows he has one mommy in heaven, and one mommy on earth.

His daddy sees both places with new eyes. He tells his story to others, hoping the same will happen for them.



"After Marilyn died, I felt an overwhelming peace and comfort," says Kevin Jansma. "It's like God was saying, 'I'm right here with you; don't worry about it.'"

**Kevin Jansma welcomes correspondence. E-mail him at [kjansma@ridgelifelife.org](mailto:kjansma@ridgelifelife.org).**

# Annual Report

Northwestern College | 2006-07



**A**s I prepare to retire from the presidency of Northwestern and look back on this last year—and, indeed, the last seven—the words of the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth come to mind: “I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way ...” (I Corinthians 1:4-5).

From our first days back on campus, Di and I have felt honored to lead such a gifted and blessed group of

men and women—and that includes all of you alumni and friends. Thank you for your faithful support of Northwestern and for all you do each day to build God’s kingdom. Our second tenure at Northwestern has indeed been wonderful.

*Bruce Murphy*

## Fund raising 2006-07

July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007

- \* Total giving was \$4,111,313.
- \* The average alumni gift to the Northwestern Fund was \$215, up 30% from 2005-06. (Nationally, the average alumni gift to private liberal arts colleges was \$466.)
- \* The % of Northwestern alumni giving to Northwestern was 26%. (The national average for alumni giving to private liberal arts colleges in 2006-07 was 25%.)
- \* The Tower Society included 177 members, eight of whom were new; 60 members gave at the leadership level of \$2,500 or more.
- \* The Heritage Society grew by 14 members to 598.

Northwestern Fund (operating)	2005-06	2006-07
Alumni	\$438,547	\$526,345
Friends	\$462,345	\$395,545
Foundations/grants	\$107,839	\$620,280
Corporations	\$138,997	\$149,268
Churches	\$418,813	\$375,303
Other	\$34,760	\$34,467
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,601,301</b>	<b>\$2,101,208</b>

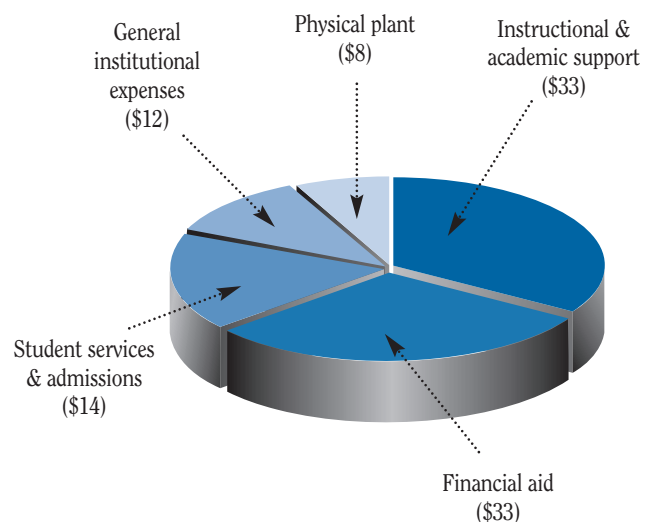
  

Capital and endowed gifts (non-operating)	2005-06	2006-07
Alumni	\$241,660	\$493,564
Friends	\$2,589,039	\$543,232
Foundations/grants	\$33,500	\$220,720
Corporations	\$31,231	\$125,197
Churches	\$1,000	\$1,000
Estates	\$1,619,593	\$530,892
Other	\$41,200	\$95,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,557,223</b>	<b>\$2,010,105</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$6,158,524</b>	<b>\$4,111,313</b>

## Your gift dollars

Did you know that without your annual gifts to the Northwestern Fund, tuition at Northwestern College would have to be \$1,737 higher each year for every student? For the year ending June 30, 2007, annual Northwestern Fund gift income represented 11 percent of the total dollars expended for educational and general purposes.

## How does Northwestern spend each \$100 given?





## Alumni giving

### Best giving percentage

Class of 1946	..... 67%
Class of 1951	..... 63%
Class of 1947	..... 61%
Class of 1954	..... 57%
Class of 1963	..... 56%

### Best giving overall

Class of 1953	..... \$394,439
Class of 1944	..... \$128,626
Class of 1982	..... \$86,215
Class of 1972	..... \$75,423
Class of 1975	..... \$75,000

### Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

Class of 1953	..... \$27,305
Class of 1965	..... \$26,175
Class of 1955	..... \$22,495
Class of 1997	..... \$22,379
Class of 1988	..... \$16,345

## Planned giving 2006-07

Bequests received: \$600,026

Irrevocable planned gifts consummated: \$40,000

Gifts for endowed scholarships: \$811,894

## Memorial gifts 2006-07

Memorial gifts were given to honor the memory of these individuals:

Taylor Grace Brunick  
 Franklin "Bob" De Haan  
 Marvin Duenk  
 Genevieve Duven  
 Albert Jolink  
 Alberta Langstraat (4 gifts)  
 Melvin Molman  
 Robert Prien  
 Irene Slater  
 Helen Utke  
 Dr. Carl Van de Waa (4 gifts)  
 Dr. Lyle Vander Werff (70 gifts)  
 Wilbur Ver Steeg (21 gifts)

## New scholarships 2006-07

Elizabeth Bolluyt-Madigan Scholarship  
 Boyd Maurice Reformed Church Scholarship  
 Boyd MOC-Floyd Valley Graduate Scholarship  
 Computer Science Scholarship  
 Josiah & Kristen Dunlap Scholarship  
 Chaplain Matthew & Marcia Floding Scholarship  
 Maintenance Department Scholarship  
 Northwest Iowa Sibling Scholarship  
 Henry & Alberta Vermeer Christian Service Scholarship

## Endowment fund

1998	..... \$26,000,000
1999	..... \$29,200,000
2000	..... \$33,700,000
2001	..... \$33,400,000
2002	..... \$31,400,000
2003	..... \$31,800,000
2004	..... \$34,400,000
2005	..... \$35,700,000
2006	..... \$37,900,000
2007	..... \$41,400,000

Read and review the full  
 2006-07 Annual Report at  
[www.nwciowa.edu/annualreport](http://www.nwciowa.edu/annualreport).  
 Use the password "give2nwc"  
 to access the report. If you  
 prefer a printed version,  
 please request one from the  
 college's advancement office,  
 712-707-7106.

# Fluent in Friesland (and Other Fantasies)

by Sara Veldhuizen Stealy '98

"If you want me to do the bike tour with you, you're going to train this time."

My husband, the triathlete, looked skeptically at me, the couch potato. We were both thinking of the same number: 26. The exact number of miles I rode my bike in preparation for the Northwestern Alumni Association's 250-mile

Netherlands Bike Tour in 2001.

But this time would be different. Train I did, physically and linguistically. Seven months later, on a Friday evening, we boarded our flight to the Netherlands. I had garnered 250 training miles and the ability to say, in semi-coherent Dutch, that Haarlem is the capital of North Holland.

I reassured myself this would be just as useful, if not more useful, than knowing how to say, "How are you?" a



Sara Veldhuizen Stealy and her mother, Marsha, participated in their second NWC Netherlands Bike Tour this summer. They were joined this year by Sara's husband, Dave.



phrase that consists of sounds my Dutch CD assured me we all make “when attempting to dislodge a hair stuck in the throat.” Anyway, I was sure I’d pick it up soon enough, and by the end of the tour I’d be chatting easily with Dutch shopkeepers.

▼

*“I was not the ugly American who didn’t know how to speak a foreign language. I was the polite American who knew how to say, in a foreign language, that I didn’t speak the language!”*

▲

By Sunday our jet lag was fading and we took our first excursion by bike to the North Sea. I hated to admit it, but Dave was right: The physical training actually made a difference. After having taken a week off to nurse a sore knee, my muscles were pleased to be moving again. Still, I resolutely denied any internal suggestions that I was becoming, of all things, someone who exercises.

The linguistic battle, however, was not so easily won. At dinner that night, in Haarlem, I tried out my Dutch on James, our guide.

“Haarlem is de hoopstad de Noord-Holland,” I said, proudly. He smiled benevolently at me, as one might look at a child who has managed to count to 10 while only skipping three numbers. “Haarlem is de hoofdstad van Noord-Holland?” I pleaded.

I was undaunted. The next day, during a brief rest, James asked how I was doing.

“Niet slecht!” I responded. *Not bad!* There was a long pause as his ears attempted to translate my Dutch into real Dutch.

“Ohhhh. Niet slecht!” he corrected, making a sound more akin to dislodging an entire pelt than a solitary hair. “Yes, *that*,” I sighed.

As we crossed the IJsselmeer by ferry and biked further to the east, I accepted the fact that most people in this area would not give two scoots that Haarlem is the capital of North Holland. Determined to overcome my shyness and charm the entire Netherlands with my courageous spirit, I tried again when we stopped for lunch in Camping de Tol. We stood in line to order our drinks and Sylvia, just in front of me, confidently ordered a *Spa rood* (red).

I clarified with her: “Spa rood is just plain sparkling water, right?” She affirmed. I approached the counter and, hoping to project fearlessness, requested a Spa rood. The server turned to the fridge, pulled out a green-accented bottle and

handed me a Spa Citroën. I returned to our table as dumbfounded as my companions were amused.

“I don’t understand,” I whined. “I swear I said the exact same thing Sylvia said!” I was clearly experiencing a few detours on my path to fluency.

On the last full day of our tour, we enjoyed a few hours of morning free time in the delightfully walkable town of Ootmarsum. My fantasies of chatting it up with storekeepers were rapidly fading. I wandered into a bakery, in search of treats to bring home with me. An employee came out from behind the counter and approached me.

“Kan ik u helpen?” she asked.

I processed for a moment. She was asking if she could help me! I took a deep breath.

“Ik spreek niet Nederlands. Ik spreek Engels.”

The woman stared at me. “I’m just looking,” I added quietly. She returned to her spot behind the counter.



*If you would like to add your name to the list of alumni seeking more information about the 2010 Netherlands Bike Tour, contact Alumni Director Rachel Van Den Broek at 712-707-7127 or [alumni@nwciowa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwciowa.edu).*

I floated out of the store, beaming. I had spoken two sentences in Dutch! No matter that those two sentences were, “I don’t speak Dutch. I speak English.” And maybe I was supposed to say “Ik spreek geen Nederlands.” I didn’t care. I had managed to fuse together two complete thoughts in a foreign language and turn them into spoken words. I was not the ugly American who didn’t know how to speak a foreign language. I was the polite American who knew how to say, in a foreign language, that I didn’t speak the language!

I fairly skipped back to the hotel. “Niet slecht,” I said to myself, practicing the guttural sound, imagining errant hairs. “Niet slecht!”

*Sara Veldhuizen Stealy is a graduate student at North Carolina State University, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in international studies with an emphasis on French-speaking Africa.*

## Alumni*corner*



Rachel Van Den  
Broek '02  
Director of Alumni  
and Parent  
Relations

I'm a story person. I love reading stories and sharing them with my book club. I love watching stories on TV and in the movie theater. I'm especially a sucker for stories that are inspiring.

I'm realizing my new job will be full of stories—like this one I heard just a few weeks after I'd moved to the top floor of Zwemer Hall.

Newly graduated and married, Candace (Kuiken '07) and Blayne Van Marel '06 recently left family and friends in Orange City to move to Charleston, S.C. Before they left, Blayne's basketball coach, Kris Korver '92, connected his player with another former Raider athlete, Cam Olson '98.

Cam and his wife, Heather (De Groot '99), had also recently moved to the Palmetto State. The Olsons invited the Van Marels for supper and a swim and also gave them directions to the church they attend. Cam and Heather knew just what to do, because not long before, they'd been welcomed to South Carolina by Jana (Kluis '94) and Billy Estes '94.

Simple gestures? Perhaps. But I believe they meaningfully epitomize what it means to be part of something bigger than yourself—part of a community 11,000 strong with a common set of experiences that enable strangers to feel immediately like friends.

While people in the South are known for their hospitality, I'm glad our Southern alumni aren't the only ones who make it a point to welcome fellow Raiders to their neighborhoods. It happens all over the U.S. and around the world, and it's one of the things that excites me not just about this job, but about my role as a fellow alum. I'm proud this is my college. I hope you are too.

## Deaths

**Elsie (De Vries '23) Rosdail**, age 101 and believed to be Northwestern's oldest alum, died May 9 in Amana, Iowa. After graduating from the academy, she earned an R.N. degree from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Sioux City and worked as a nurse in several cities in Iowa and Ohio. She is survived by two sons.

**Margery (Bloemendaal '29) Freriks**, age 95, died May 31 in Alton, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern Academy and Junior College, she

was a teacher for several years. She was a lifelong member of Alton Reformed Church. Her survivors include two daughters and her sisters, **Myrtle Vanden Berg '39** and **Phyllis Tuininga '41**.

**Grace (Sneller '35, '64) De Boer**, age 92, died Aug. 6 in Omaha. A long-time elementary schoolteacher in Sioux Center, she was very active in her church. Among her survivors are five children, including **Darrell '60**, **Owen '67**, **Evan '69** and **Janet Richards '75**, and two brothers.

**Dr. Clarence Ver Steeg '42**, age 84, died July 2 in Evanston, Ill. He graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City and received a doctorate in American history from Columbia University. He served in World War II and joined the history faculty at Northwestern University in 1950. During his career at Northwestern, he served as dean of the graduate school for 11 years and wrote dozens of books. He was a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston. He is survived by his wife, **Dorothy (De Vries '41)**, and a son.

**Lois (Muyskens '43) Hector**, age 82, died June 7 in Orange City. She graduated from Hope College and partnered with her husband, Robert, in pastoring churches in Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. She served on several committees for the Reformed Church in America and was active in the Bible League. Among her survivors are four children—including **David '74**, **Carol Braaksma '73** and **Janice Fox '87**—and two brothers, **Paul '48** and **Joseph '49, '51**.

**Milton Rensink '66**, a resident of Dana Point, Calif., died unexpectedly June 5 in Las Vegas at the age of 63. After attending Northwestern for two years, he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University and a master's degree from Stanford University. He designed computer hardware for several companies in California. He is survived by three brothers, including **Darrel '58** and **Carl '66**.

**Linda Gustavson-Wobschall '81**, age 48, died July 29 in Sioux City from a pulmonary embolism. She attended NWC for two years before enlisting in the Air Force. Her career including working at the Census Bureau, the Department of Transportation and Mercy Home Care. She also operated her own home cleaning business. She was active with community theatre. Her survivors include a son.

## Class notes

'47

**Dr. Samuel Noordhoff** received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa in June. The honor recognized his achievements as a leader in cleft lip and palate surgery, having operated on more than 10,000 patients with disfiguring birth defects in Taiwan alone. The retired medical missionary also created the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, which funds medical care for indigent children.

'62

**Cal Hoekstra** has retired after 45 years in the classroom. He spent the past 38 years teaching science at Southwest Minnesota Christian High School in Edgerton, where he also coached basketball and soccer.

'72

**Mary Reinders**, Orange City, recently retired after 35 years as an elementary teacher in Newkirk and Hospers.

'76

**Beth (Hietbrink) Hagan**, Decatur, Ill., teaches college-preparatory English at Meridian High School in Macon. She earned a master's degree in English from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2000 and achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in 2005.

'80

**Scott Lensink** has been named interim president of Lake Land College in Mattoon, Ill. A 15-year Lake Land employee, he has served as vice president of academic services since 2001.

'82

**The Rev. Scott Rees** earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Western Theological Seminary. He is the senior pastor at New Life Community Church in Sayville, N.Y.



## Miniprofile

# Top Doc

by Emily Hennager '06

A Northwestern alumnus practicing family medicine in Pocahontas, Iowa, won physician of the year honors for 2007 from the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association (IOMA). Dr. Ted George '77 was presented with the award at the state convention in Des Moines in May.

"He is a champion of rural health and has excellent input on the issues facing our boards," says Leah McWilliams, executive director of IOMA. "The award recognizes all he's done for the profession and the state."

This distinction, only given when suitable candidates are presented for consideration, recognizes a physician who has exhibited notable commitment to his or her profession, patients and colleagues.

In addition to sitting on the IOMA board for 11 years, including one year as president, George completed two years as president of the Iowa Chapter of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and served on the Iowa State Board of Health for 10 years, includ-



*Ted George has been named the 2007 physician of the year by the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association.*

ing seven as chairman.

The State Board of Health, an advisory board for the Iowa Department of Public Health, is made up of medical personnel as well as individuals in a variety of professions.

"We deal with things people take for granted in their health—everything from immunizations to plumbing code issues," he says.

As chairman of the State Board of Health, George initiated ways to get local boards of health involved and fostered connections between the state's Department of Health and local health departments and boards. He also encouraged the development of statewide wellness programs such as

Lighten Up Iowa.

After graduating from Northwestern with a degree in biology, George attended Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has practiced in Lake City, Manson and Corning, where he also served on the county board of health.

George's experiences practicing medicine in small towns has enabled him to contribute to the state boards, he says.

"Most of the other board members had an interest in public health, but didn't know how it would affect everyone else," George says. "They were used to thinking at the city and regional levels. I had the grassroots perspective."

'83

**Jim Svoboda** is the quarterbacks coach at Montana State University in Bozeman. He previously worked as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at UCLA.

'84

**Karen (Goettsch) Fenedick** has switched careers after 21 years as a nanny. She took a year of computer courses and now works for State Farm Insurance in Waldorf, Md.

'86

**Nancy (Nelson) Hughes** is the payroll/benefits coordinator at NWC.

'87

**Cynthia (Honeycutt) Petersen** works as the administrative hearing officer for the city of Blue Island, Ill., where she resides over the courts of housing and ordinance. Her husband, **Blaine '89**, is a paralegal in the same office. The Petersens are active at Mission Covenant Church and have two children, Calvin (5) and Justice (2).

'89

**Paula Wanken**, San Antonio, coordinates prospective student diagnostic assessments for Sylvan Learning Center.

'90

**Beth Ellis**, a music teacher at Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream, Ill., was one of five individuals nominated for the 2007 Kane County Regional Office of Education Elementary Teacher of the Year award.

'91

**Lisa (Gunnerson) Krogman** teaches first grade in the Atlantic (Iowa) School District. Her husband, John, is the general manager for Connect-a-Dock and the mayor of Atlantic. They have two daughters, Alison (13) and Lauren (12).

**Doug Van Zyl** serves as superintendent of education for the Harrison-

ville (Mo.) School District. Doug and his wife, **Danielle (Smith '92)**, have three children, Parker (12), Lani (10) and Liza (7).

**'92**

**Heather (Blankers) Bulthuis**, Seal Beach, Calif., received an associate's degree in interior design from the Interior Designers Institute in Newport Beach in June. She works as a designer for Elegant Kitchens. Her husband, **Sean '94**, is a manager at Westminster Memorial Park. They have two children, Henry (9) and Elizabeth (7).

**Doris Martin** directs the student affairs office at AMA International University in Manama, Bahrain.

**David Weiss**, Urbandale, Iowa, works for UCB Pharmaceuticals in the respiratory specialty sales division. He previously worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

**'93**

**Brenda DeVries** recently earned the accredited rural appraiser designation from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. She is a senior appraiser

for Northwest Farm Credit Services in Billings, Mont.

**Linette (Hugg) Nyberg** is a home-based Web designer in St. Louis. Through an interesting series of events, she has recently worked on some websites for Orange City businesses with Christi Vander Voort, for whom she babysat when she was a Northwestern student.

**Tonya (Danger) Van Dam** teaches fifth grade at Nevada (Iowa) Middle School. She will graduate in December with a master's degree in education and special education from Iowa State University. Her husband, Steve, is the exercise physiologist at Story County Medical Center. The Van Dams have two daughters, Alexandria (11) and Abigail (8).

**'94**

**Steve Eelkema** teaches art at La Quinta (Calif.) Middle School. He and his wife, Jenny, have two children, Emma (4) and Gabe (1).

**Shanda (Van Riesen) Knight**, Evansdale, Iowa, serves as director of children and family ministries at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo.

**'95**

**Giovanna Carnet**, Sioux City, recently opened a bridal boutique, The Glass Slipper. She has two children, Dielle (8) and Caelen (1).

**Juliana (Van Engelenhoven) Else** and her family have moved from Holland, Mich., to Harrisburg, S.D. Her husband, Travis, is the pastor at The Connection, a Reformed Church in America church start. Juliana is at home with their children, Ian (7), Sophie (5) and Annie (1).

**'96**

**Bryce Assink**, Kalamazoo, Mich., is a research chemist for Albemarle in South Haven. His wife, **Darcie (Dop)**, stays home with their children, Marisa (7) and Carter (4).

**Ryan De Haan** completed his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology and his fellowship in surgical pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He serves at Pathology Medical Services in Lincoln, Neb. He and his wife, **Sherry (Ferrell)**, have two daughters, April (7) and Janna (4).

**'97**

**Jackie (Hueser) Budden**, Pipestone, Minn., teaches students with learning disabilities in the Edgerton Public School District.

**Shiran Nathaniel** is a general manager for Sodexo in Sioux City.

**'98**

**Cam Olson**, Mt. Pleasant, S.C., recently graduated from Nova Southeastern University and is now a physician assistant.

**'99**

**Adam Schnell** works in information technology for Michael Foods in Minnetonka, Minn. His wife, **Lorie (Coy '98)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

**'00**

**Summer (Kurtz) Barber**, Ames, Iowa, is a pediatric occupational therapist at Childserve. Her husband, **Kevin '01**, received a master's degree in architecture from Iowa State University in May. He works at Shiffler Associates in Des Moines.

**Lori Gorter** works in the architectural food processing department at Excel Engineering in Fond du Lac, Wis.

**John Liesveld**, Lincoln, Neb., is the host of Lincoln's Morning News, a talk show on KLIN Radio. His on-air name is "Jack Mitchell." He was previously in a private law practice. His wife, **Meagan (Morrison '01)**, coordinates donor relations for CEDARS, a local nonprofit that serves abused children.

**Rachel (See) Valentine** has joined Plains Area Mental Health Center as a full-time psychotherapist in its Le Mars and Orange City offices. She previously coordinated Dordt College's safe campus project and counseled students.

**'01**

**Josh Neeb**, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., is assistant vice president, commercial banking, at an Associated Bank branch in Sheboygan.

## 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 Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu); fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the winter '07-'08 *Classic* is Oct. 22.

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**Ryan Petersen** is the pastor of Skandia Evangelical Free Church in rural Balaton, Minn.

**Travis Schueller**, Cherokee, Iowa, teaches science at Sioux Central High School. He is also the athletic director and an assistant coach for football and track. He and his wife, Carrie, have two children, Tyler (10) and Abby (7).

## '02

**Alissa Dornink** lives in Omaha, where she works as the information services librarian for Nebraska Methodist College. She was previously head of the cataloging department for the Brazoria County Library System in Angleton, Texas.

**Justin Halbersma** graduated from Duke Divinity School in May and now pastors the Chatfield (Minn.) United Methodist Church.

**David Perrigo** teaches physical education at McKinnley Elementary in the Des Moines Public School District. He is also an assistant football coach at West Des Moines Valley High School.

**Lance and Anna (Teigland) Reinke** live in Bolingbrook, Ill. Lance is a clinical psychologist, and Anna is a physician assistant.

**Shelley Warnemuende**, Paramount, Calif., is pursuing a master's degree in archaeology at UCLA.

## '03

**Aaron and Lisa (Stubbendick '02) Delhay** have moved from Butte, Mont., to Kimball, Neb., where Aaron teaches middle school math. They have two children, Elijah (3) and Solomon (1).

**Caleb Ingersoll** has completed two years of studies toward the Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is now taking classes part time while serving as interim pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Peabody, Mass.

**Lisa (Bonnema) Smit** is an administrative assistant for the computer science department at Iowa State University. Her husband, **AJ '04**, is studying veterinary medicine at ISU.

**Tim Van Gelder**, La Crosse, Wis., graduated from the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine with multiple awards in May. He is in residency in family practice at Franciscan Skemp Mayo Health System in La Crosse. His wife, **Andrea (Ackerman '05)**, serves as director of youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

**Jonathan (Samuel) Van Wyk**, Minneapolis, spent the summer acting in the Medora Musical, held in the North Dakota Badlands' Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

## '04

**Jessica Baade**, Monroe, Iowa, graduated from Des Moines University in May with a doctorate in physical therapy. She is a physical therapist with Mercy Clinics in Ankeny.

**Jason Holtgrewe** earned a Master of Divinity degree at The King's College and Seminary in Van Nuys, Calif., where he serves as a development associate in the alumni relations office.

**Ethan (Wallinga) Pulscher**, Harrisburg, S.D., earned a master's degree in counseling from North American Baptist Seminary. She works as a family therapist and assistant director of the boys unit at the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls. Her husband, **Michael '03**, is a credit review officer at First Bank and Trust in Sioux Falls.

**Jessica (Aalbers) Vande Hoef** graduated from the University of Kansas in May with a doctorate in physical therapy. She received the Ruth Monteith Award, which honors the student who has displayed excellence in academic and clinical performance, has shown evidence of leadership skills, and holds great potential for contributing to the



## Searches are open for the following faculty positions:

**Business** (tenure-track)

**Spanish** (sabbatical replacement, 2008–09)

**Theatre design/technical direction** (tenure-track)

Each position begins August 2008. Job descriptions and application details are available at [www.nwciowa.edu/](http://www.nwciowa.edu/) employment. Northwestern seeks individuals who are Reformed and evangelical in theology and committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education.

*Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply.*

profession of physical therapy.

**Melanie (Coulter) Worstell** works as an art therapist at California's Coalinga State Hospital.

**Hannah Zasadny** graduated from Des Moines University in August with a master's degree in physician assistant studies. She works as a physician assistant for the John Deere Medical Group in Waterloo, Iowa.

## '05

**Matthew Austin**, Hesperia, Calif., received an M.B.A. from California Baptist University, Riverside, in May. He works in website administration and data management for Terrace International Distributors.

**Amanda DeBoer** spent seven months teaching English in Sarajevo, Bosnia, with Pioneers International. She now lives in the Seattle area and works as a project manager for Masterworks, a marketing and development agency that serves evangelical nonprofit organizations like World Relief, The Back to God Hour and Focus on the Family.

**Rachae (Vant Hul) Jensen** graduated from Des Moines University in August with a master's degree in physician assistant studies.

**Kelly Kleinhesselink** works for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, patrolling in San Marcos, Calif.

**Natalie Lamers** graduated from the Sioux City Medical Technology Program in July. She received her clinical experience at Mercy Medical Center.

**Joe Schueller** works for the Dallas County (Iowa) Sheriff's Department. His wife, Brook, teaches special education in Des Moines. They have a son, Kale (1).

**Allison Simmons** wrote an essay that will be published this fall in a book from Cambridge Scholars Publishing, *Popular 19th-Century American Women Writers and the Literary Marketplace*. Her piece is entitled "Finding a Voice: Eliza Ann Dupuy and the 19th-Century South." Allison is the site supervisor

## Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan  
VanOort '82  
Chaplain

Hopewell Junction Reformed Church in New York is celebrating 250 years of ministry. My late uncle, Harold Van Oort '49, was pastor there from 1954 to 1960. Dave Hondorp, husband of Marvelle (Suess '65), pastored the church from 1978 to 1997. Now my friend Taylor Holbrook is the pastor.

This summer I was honored to help them celebrate the past and look to the future. This church began before the Revolutionary War—prior to trains, planes, cars or phones. How have they maintained their ministry as the world has changed around them?

I think “youthful” Northwestern can ask a similar question. Why does NWC still exist after 125 years? Certainly some folks who have gone before us did some things right. Certainly the vision and mission of the college remains clear, consistent and strong. But are those the only reasons classes have resumed each fall for an astounding number of years?

The apostle Paul writes honestly about ministry in 2 Corinthians. He openly discusses the challenges and joys. And he answers a key question for us at the beginning of chapter 4: “Since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.”

Why are Hopewell and Northwestern still at work in the world? Because God is merciful, and by a sovereign power it is so. The wind of the Holy Spirit has placed them and maintains them. Like a hot air balloon, our destiny and course follow that divine wind—a wind that is not capricious or frightening, but the very presence of the loving and risen Lord.

We remain in ministry in the mystery and wisdom of God. In gratitude and humility, we continue to pray:

“Merciful God, you have been pleased to call Northwestern College into ministry, and you have blessed its mission for 125 years. Continue to guide her vision and steps by your mighty hand and outstretched arm. In your name and in relationship with you we pray, Amen.”

of the Victorian-era broom works at Living History Farms in Des Moines.

### '06

**Bruce Anliker**, Orange City, teaches eighth grade social studies and language arts at Sibley-Ocheyedan Middle School. He also coaches eighth grade football.

**Abby Landon**, Davenport, Iowa, is a student at Palmer College of Chiropractic.

### '07

**Dustin Bonnema** is an investment analyst for MainStreet Advisors in Chicago.

**Robbie Cundy** and his wife, **Emily (Jahn '06)**, live in Harlan, Iowa, where he teaches high school mathematics and coaches track, and Emily teaches elementary reading and music.

**Daniel Dekker** works as a staff accountant for Williams and Company in Spencer, Iowa.

**Jennifer Herlyn** teaches in the resource room at Peterson Elementary School in Kodiak, Alaska.

**Katie Schueller**, Primghar, Iowa, is a social worker for Family Solution Services.

**Josh Van Roekel** is an executive team leader for a Super Target in Omaha. His wife, **Erin (Ackland '06)**, works with toddlers at a child development center.

## New arrivals

**Tom and Shanda (Van Riesen '94) Knight**, daughter, Lydia Claire  
**Jill and Jeff Schemper '94**, daughter, Aidyn Mattea, joins Treyton (10), Chandler (7) and Jarace (3)  
**Lisa (Jarvis '95) and Joel Kraai '95**, son by adoption, Nicholas James, joins Samuel (4)  
**Delayne and Crystal (Sipes '95) Stallman**, son, Niall Maxwell  
**Satoshi and Shiho Yoneyama '95**, daughter, Asuka, joins Jotaro (2)  
**Stephen and Stephanie (Churchill '96) Ling**, son, Alexander James, joins Katrianna  
**Carrie (Moss '97) and Christopher Deam '98**, daughter, Carlee Elizabeth, joins Anna (3)  
**Heather (De Groot '98) and Cam Olson '98**, daughter, Briahna Lynae, joins Charlotte (3)  
**Lorie (Coy '98) and Adam Schnell '99**, son, Austin James, joins Jenna (2)  
**Daphne and Dan Eppinga '99**, son, Maximus Sean, joins Lilli (4)  
**Amy (Risler '99) and Jeff Hall '99**, son, Duncan Jeffrey  
**Summer (Kurtz '00) and Kevin Barber '01**, son, Emmett Riley  
**Lori and Shawn Blom '00**, daughter,

**Tessa Quin Laurel (Sandbulte '00) and Dan Milczski '02**, daughter, Kirsten Elizabeth  
**Jeff and Crystal (Vander Waal '00) Namminga**, daughter, Sydney Jean, joins Jasmine (3)  
**Nicole (Mentink '00) and Carl Velzke '99**, son, Jamison Dale, joins Grace (4)  
**Carla (Kelm '01) and Nathan Agre '00**, son, Ethan Edward  
**Dave and Krista (Boltjes '01) Pendergrass**, son, Finnian McCauley  
**Andy and Ginger (De Boer '02) Ebel**, daughter, Avery Ann, joins Grace (2)  
**Adrienne (Gaster '04) and Tristan Agre '03**, daughter, Aliya Christine  
**Jessica (Stienstra '07) and Dustin Hector '07**, daughter, Alivia Jade

## Marriages

**Rochele Schulte '91** and **Jeff Freburg**, Rochester, Minn.  
**David Weiss '92** and **Cari Charleston**, Urbandale, Iowa  
**David Perrigo '02** and **Leslie Nelsen**, West Des Moines, Iowa  
**Stacie Peter '02** and **Zac McGregor**, Ankeny, Iowa  
**John Kramer '03** and **Jacie Vos**, Sully, Iowa  
**Carleen Owens '03** and **Jason Smith**, Okeechobee, Fla.  
**Kelly Downer '04** and **Joshua Zylstra '05**, Harwich, Mass.  
**Paula Ewoldt '04** and **Kevin Hodgson**, Papillion, Neb.  
**Tony Hoftiezer '04** and **Jill Abbott**, Johnston, Iowa  
**Amy Jiskoot '05** and **Brad Baker**, Williamsburg, Iowa  
**Alison Sadler '05** and **Tim Ter Horst '05**, Sioux Falls  
**Emily Jahn '06** and **Robbie Cundy '07**, Harlan, Iowa  
**Alex Irwin '09** and **Bruce Anliker '06**, Orange City  
*The couples reside in the city listed.*





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# A Lesson From the Dean

by Leon Fikse '70

I arrived on Northwestern's campus in the fall of 1966, having traveled over 1,800 miles from California. I was anxious to be out on my own and was looking forward to what the future might hold. Taking up residence in Colenbrander Hall, I registered for classes and began a circuitous route of learning and maturing.

There were things about my life in Orange City and in the Northwestern community I absolutely loved—and other things I resisted with all my being. All of those things helped me become the man I am today.

Immediately, the community aspects of college life drew me in. Attending football games, playing basketball, sitting in on late-night bull sessions with other students, and playing cards cemented my fondness for Northwestern. I loved the social aspect of growing up within a college community.

Other necessary parts of being a student were less intriguing to me. Mandatory chapel five days a week was overkill, in my opinion. My parents made me go to church all through childhood; now Northwestern demanded the same, and I rebelled. Classes, with their accompanying homework, were much

less than even a secondary interest for me.

In 1966, I was much too immature to be able to decide what I wanted to do as an adult. I was at Northwestern for some very simple, understandable reasons: My parents wanted me there and were paying the bills; I was happy to be away from home and free to do what I wanted; and I was avoiding going to Vietnam by being in college and, therefore, not eligible for the draft.

Exploring and choosing a career path was way more intense than anything I was prepared to do. So I wallowed along in my formal education while delighting in my social education.

Then something happened that ultimately put me on a collision course with myself. During my sophomore year, I clearly heard the call of God to become a pastor. At one point I agreed with God that I would pursue that goal. Yet I let that decision go by the wayside as I continued to cut classes and studied less and less.

As the end of my junior year approached, I was at a crossroads—either start studying or get out. I could no longer get by with whatever knowledge I picked up by osmosis; I would soon have to dig in and grow or I would fail. I chose to get out.



Dean Ralph Mouw '36, '38 (right) taught at NWC from 1947 until he retired in 1983. He still lives in Orange City.

But that, too, was a problem. My parents wouldn't want me to voluntarily leave, so I cut chapel until administrators were forced to deal with me. Within a few days after the chapel cut that put me over the limit, I received a memo from the dean's office: Report to the dean ASAP! Entering Dean Ralph Mouw's office, I was informed I would be suspended from school because of my lack of chapel attendance. I retorted that he need not bother—I quit.

As I turned to leave his office, the most important moment of my Northwestern education took place. God used Dean Mouw to break through my crusty, resistant exterior and plant a seed that has remained and grown over the years.

He said, "Leon, whatever you do in life, don't stop learning." He let me know that gaining knowledge and growing as a person is a life assignment that can and should be done no matter who or where you are. Even more significant, he gently reminded me I was leaving Northwestern with a blessing of hope, rather than burdened

with a curse of failure.

It took a long time for me to grow up. Today, I am extremely grateful to Northwestern for the education I received while there, one in which I later re-engaged. In 1985, my family celebrated with me as I earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from California State University, Stanislaus.

God continued to nudge me forward, and my family rejoiced again in 1991, when I received an M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary. Then two years ago, Fuller Theological Seminary awarded me a Doctor of Ministry degree. As pastor of Bethany Reformed Church in Redlands, Calif., I continue to learn. Dean Mouw's words have impacted me beyond my wildest imaginations. I thank God for him and also for gifting me with an ability—and desire—to learn.

*The Rev. Dr. Leon Fikse '70 has been senior pastor of Bethany Reformed Church in Redlands, Calif., since 1995.*





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**H**aving a kid and starting a business within the last 18 months means

I have less time and money to give to anything right now, including my alma mater.

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giving, no matter what the amount, is a good habit that benefits both me and

Northwestern. I also realize small gifts lead to big dollars when foundations and other donors are impressed by the alumni giving rate of NWC.



*Colin Doughan '02 and his wife, Corinne (Fanning '02), are the parents of Jackson (1). Colin works in finance for Lockheed Martin in Omaha, Neb. He and his brothers, also Northwestern alumni, are the entrepreneurs behind Butlers Café and Coffee, a growing chain of restaurants committed to fostering Midwestern values and community through "others first" service.*

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Thanks to our models, Laurie (Aykens '97) and Vince Kurtz '98, with daughters McKenzie (5) and Kylie (1).

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**Events open to the public include:**

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Minding Place is funded in part by Humanities Iowa, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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