

*Northwestern College Magazine*

FALL 2008

# *the* Classic

**Faithful Voting**  
Politics and religion in America

*Also*  
Parkersburg Tornado  
From Home to Dorm  
Civil Servants



# 14

When a tornado devastated Parkersburg, Iowa, a Northwestern student's family lost everything—well, almost everything.



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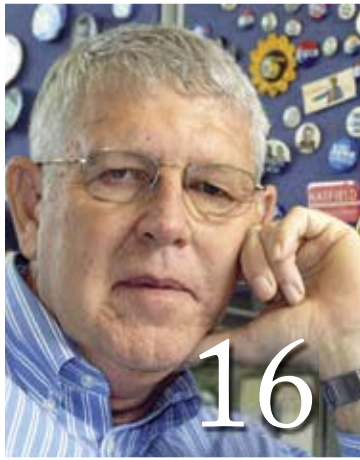
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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, July, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996 or [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).

Opinions expressed in the *Classic* do not necessarily reflect the official position of Northwestern College.



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Submit your photos and/or story from this summer's floods and tornadoes.

*visit* [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

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When Americans go to the polls this November, many will take their faith with them.

AP PHOTO/JAMES POULSON

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# Zwemer View

## Capitol Gains

In this issue of the *Classic* you will read about politics, faith, and the need for respectful conversations and seeking common ground. There are also profiles on three Northwestern alumnae who work as public servants. This timely issue comes as we prepare to elect a new president of the United States.

Having lived in South Dakota the last 12 years, I had somewhat forgotten about the major role Iowa plays on the national political scene with the caucuses every four years. My family and I were quickly reminded as Governor Mike Huckabee made a campaign stop on our second day as Orange City residents. Shortly after his visit, Michelle Obama came through town campaigning for her husband, Senator Barack Obama.

I had a unique opportunity to view our federal government up close the last several years. While raising funds for the McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service at Dakota Wesleyan University, I traveled frequently to Washington, D.C. Working closely with former Senator George McGovern on this project afforded me the opportunity to meet Republican and Democratic members of the U.S. House and Senate, as well as their staff members.

What I observed were, for the most part, dedicated public servants with strong convictions and a genuine desire to make a difference for their country—albeit from different political viewpoints. Many were persons who sensed a strong calling to their work, with a desire to live out their faith in the political arena.

During one of those trips, I asked Senator McGovern why he thought there seems to be such a division and unwillingness to work together these days. He said when he was representing South Dakota in Washington, most legislators stayed in the city on the weekends and socialized together.

He found that when the members got to know one another, they appreciated each other more—both personally as well as their political convictions and positions. As they grew to know and understand each other on a deeper level, it became easier to work together. He does not see that happening nearly as much today, largely due to the fact that most members leave on weekends to go back to their home states.

What does this have to do with Northwestern and our mission as a distinctively Christian liberal arts college? One of the questions our students—and staff—face regularly in this curious, impassioned community of learners is this: Is it possible for sincere Christians to study and discuss various issues—including political issues—and come to different conclusions?

Northwestern's mission is to prepare excellent citizens who bring their faith into all areas of God's world, including the political arena. We want to cultivate a spirit among our students, faculty, staff and the broader community that allows us to engage in and discuss difficult issues, even political issues, respectfully. Doing so brings honor to God and to those whom we are called to love and serve.

Greg Christy  
President

## Reflections on Place

From the article entitled "Plains Talk" in the summer issue, it appears Kathleen Norris discovered the concept of "place" through her Lemmon, S.D., sojourn and wrote a book about it that resonated enough with some to gain the attention of the *New York Times*. That is noteworthy.

Addressing the issue in the environs of northwest Iowa made me recall how this concept relates to the more subtle and complex notion of territoriality, especially when applied to the unique Dutch ethnic enclave that endures in greater Siouxland. I wrote a book, *Dutch Farmer in the Missouri Valley* (University of Illinois Press, 1996), and several articles that explored the nuances of place from a historical/geographic and social science perspective that tried to be holistic and ethno-culturally focused. Norris' evocative approach is, nonetheless, interesting as well.

Reaction to place can be negative as well as positive. Next May is the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Hamburger Hill in Vietnam. I spent a bit too much time near that mountainous place as an artilleryman with the 101st Airborne Division in the spring and summer of 1969. A man named Pickel died there while being evacuated as a wounded soldier; the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) used the white cross on the bottom of his medevac helicopter as a target for their rocket-propelled grenades to prevent his rescue and add six more Americans to the casualty list.

For 10 days, infantrymen with support from 10 artillery batteries, gunships and fighter jets focused on a horrible place with the intensity of life and death—a place where about 70 American men died and 372 were wounded. In turn, at least 600 NVA regulars (perhaps as many as 1,000) also perished on Hamburger Hill amid an onslaught from artillery guns and aircraft that made that rocky crag tremble, despoiled the mountain's normal habitat, and left the devastation littered with body parts and the usual wreckage of war. Being on the receiving end of 60 big guns and aerial bombardment defies description and numbs those who witness it.

I won't be celebrating the 40th anniversary of that place next May. Like Norris noted, all places have stories—be they good or bad. But the solace of prayer sometimes causes the door of memory about another place to be best left closed, even while the historian seeks the truth amid the nostalgia or the dark dream.

**Dr. Brian Beltman '67**  
Columbia, S.C.

## Not Amused

After reading "Fun Run Afowl" in the spring issue, I felt thoroughly disgusted. Where is the humor in watching 36 frightened, bleeding chickens pecking and killing each other? Maintenance arrives and starts throwing half-dead chickens in trash cans. To hear Scott Simmelink tell it, it was hilarious (quoting Sara James).

This would have been a good time to discuss cruelty to animals for our entertainment. Mahatma Gandhi said the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated. Will NWC be judged in the same way?

**June Van Oort '63**  
Orange City, Iowa



## Computer Memories

Coenraad Bakker's letter in the spring *Classic* brought back memories. When I started teaching at NWC in 1969, only a few of us on the faculty had any computer experience. When we lobbied for a computer, we were treated as wild-eyed idealists.

A few years later, I drove my physical chemistry students over to Westmar College and used their IBM 1130 computer. The 1130 had a FORTRAN compiler and employed an IBM card read-punch unit. Many of today's students have probably never even seen an "IBM card."

Virg Rowenhorst, a former banker, recognized the value of computers, and when he was inaugurated as president our lobbying began to pay off. In the spring of 1976, the college purchased a Digital Equipment Corporation Classic computer.

My recollection is that the Classic cost about \$10,000. Input/output devices included a standard keyboard, a printer, and two 8-inch floppy disk drives. One of the Classic's manuals started with line drawings of an electrical outlet and a standard three-prong plug, and instructed the user to plug in the computer. Those few of us who wrote programs for the

Classic used the BASIC language.

Bakker recalls correctly that the Classic "broke down very often." Some of these problems stemmed from an overheated power supply caused by a dust-clogged air filter. Owing to a turf problem, for months nobody had cleaned the Ramaker Library room in which the Classic was housed. On another occasion, work-study students sent to Omaha to pick up the computer after it had been repaired dropped it while loading it into a college van.

Bakker is also correct in recalling the "skepticism of many faculty and staff." One of the most skeptical was a member of the English department, who later discovered the marvels of word processing and became one of the computer's greatest advocates on campus.

The Classic wasn't much by today's standards, but in 1976 I thought it was a real gem.

**Dr. Peter Hansen**  
Professor Emeritus of Chemistry  
Iowa City, Iowa

## Wowed by the Web

I love the new *Classic* website. Fantastic work! Keep up the great job you do for the college. It is a service that impacts thousands of people worldwide.

**Matt Austin '05**  
Hesperia, Calif.

## WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

**Send letters to:** *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: classic@nwciowa.edu; fax: 712-707-7370. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.



# around the Green

## Rockin' the Rankings

The 2008–09 academic year started with impressive recognition for Northwestern.

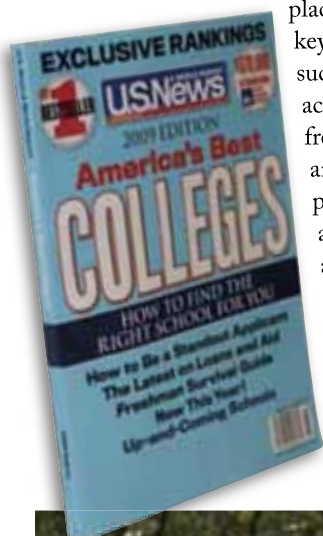
*U.S. News & World Report* ranked Northwestern fourth among 100 Midwestern colleges—the highest-ranking Iowa college in its category. The placement was based on key measures of quality, such as Northwestern's academic reputation, freshman retention and graduation rates, professors' credentials and availability to students, and the college's financial soundness and support by alumni donors.

Forbes.com included NWC among the top 15 percent of the

nation's colleges and universities. Forbes' recognition, which ranked 569 institutions based on the quality of education they provide and how much their students achieve, listed Northwestern at 211.

Only 14 Iowa colleges and universities were selected for the Forbes.com ranking: Cornell College (71), Clarke (90), Grinnell (107), Coe (182), Luther (188), NWC (211), Simpson (241), Iowa (331), Dordt (374), Wartburg (430), Northern Iowa (472), Drake (486), Central (554) and Iowa State (563).

Princeton Review.com listed Northwestern among 160 institutions selected for its "Best in the Midwest" designation, based on student opinion. In the survey, NWC students described the college as "exactly like they say it is during college visits, maybe even better." They also praised Northwestern's affordability, community life, leadership and attitudes toward diversity.



## Going Green

Northwestern has been named a 2008 Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation in recognition of the college's groundwater and environmental stewardship. The first Iowa college and only the second college nationwide to earn this designation, NWC was lauded for practices related to water use, pesticide and fertilizer management, and pollution prevention.

## Safe and Secure

A new campus-wide desktop security notification system has been launched to inform students, faculty and staff of campus emergencies and severe weather warnings. NWC Alert places a text crawl or flashing alert on computers, providing information about the situation and actions that should be taken.

"Security is a very serious issue, and we are pleased to have NWC Alert as one tool to help notify students and staff in an efficient manner," says Perry Krosschell, director of campus safety and security.

In addition to providing instant alerts, the system also offers users access to current weather information such as local and national radar, as well as severe weather safety tips, phone numbers to call in case of an emergency, and campus news.

Students, faculty and staff are required to install NWC Alert on their computers.

## WORK AT NWC

Ever thought you'd like a job at your alma mater? We have the following opening:

### FACULTY

Theatre Design/Technical Director

FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.nwciowa.edu/employment](http://www.nwciowa.edu/employment)

# Real to Reel

Critics call it: "Cool." "Creative." "Awesome." "Amazing." "Wickedly brilliant." "So hilarious I had to show my brothers."

From Michelle's no-holds-barred admission, "The first couple of weeks of school kicked my butt," to Jesse's footage of men in metal, *Real.Northwestern.* tells the unrated truth about Northwestern College.

Go in the classrooms and the bathrooms. Find out what NWC students really think about their profs, writing papers, discipleship and dorm life. Watch *Real.Northwestern.* on YouTube or Northwestern's website: [www.nwciowa.edu/realnorthwestern](http://www.nwciowa.edu/realnorthwestern).

*Real.Northwestern.* was produced by Passenger Productions, founded by Joe Hubers '03.



## New at Northwestern

Two new directors began their positions this summer.

Patrick Hummel joined Northwestern's staff as director of residence life after seven years at Calvin College, where he served most recently as assistant dean of residence life. A graduate of Taylor University, Hummel earned a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He replaces Eric Anderson, who is a financial planner for Van Rooyen Financial Group in Orange City.

Tom Truesdell '01 is Northwestern's new director of academic support. The college's writing center coordinator last

year, he previously worked as a writing center specialist at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill., and earned a master's degree in writing from DePaul University. He replaces Patti Thayer, who retired in May.



Patrick Hummel



Tom Truesdell

## Double Play

Northwestern baseball players and coaches held a baseball camp and did work projects during an 11-day service project in Romania and Moldova in August.

Working with For God's Children International (FGCI), a




Senior Jake Jansen was among the Raiders who developed relationships with Moldovan baseball campers.

ministry based in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the NWC contingent conducted a camp in Nisporeni, Moldova, for 30 kids ages 10-18. After each session, the Red Raider players taught a character lesson based on an event from the Bible.

The group also painted and did a variety of other projects on the FGCI property.

"This trip was a great opportunity for our guys to obey God's call to love your neighbor as yourself," Coach Brian Wede says. "We had the opportunity to reach out and spread the love God has given us."

# RAIDER REWIND



Relive your gridiron glory with the purchase of digital-format film of games from 1960 to the present. Request a specific game or games (\$25 for a DVD with 2 to 4 games) or a whole season (\$50).

Contact Karen in the athletic office, 712-707-7280 or [karen@nwciowa.edu](mailto:karen@nwciowa.edu), for a list of available games or to place an order.

*Proceeds support the Red Raider Club.*



# Of Course



## Getting Out the Vote

### Class

Electoral Politics Field Experience

### Instructor

Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff  
*Associate Professor of Political Science*

Stuffing envelopes, canvassing neighborhoods, calling voters. It's part of every election—and of an eight-week political science course offered every election year.

Involvement in a political campaign is the foundational requirement of Electoral Politics Field Experience. Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff, who teaches the class, believes such experience is the antidote to both hardened cynicism and naïve idealism.

"Ultimately, I'd like students to be more realistic in their sense of how they can make a difference," he says. "It's better to get inoculated now with a healthy dose of reality. That will give them better staying power for the long haul."

He also wants his students to think about what their faith has to say about public life. Is one's faith just a personal matter? Does it only involve being ethical, or should being a Christian impact how one conducts a campaign?

And if it does, is it still possible to win?

Students explore those questions throughout the course. They're exposed to partisanship through their work on a campaign. They get an insider's look at what it's like to run for Congress in "The Political Education of Maggie Lauterer," part of the critically acclaimed PBS series *Vote for Me: Politics in America*. And they're challenged to consider a different kind of leadership by author Henri Nouwen—one based on Jesus' example of leader as servant.

### Texts and Assignments

- *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty*, by Thomas Patterson
- *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*, by Henri Nouwen

In addition to reading Patterson's and Nouwen's books, students volunteer a minimum of 25 hours for a political campaign. (The students enrolled in the course are working for Barack Obama, Iowa State Senate candidate Randy Feenstra, and U.S. Congressman Steve King.) They also write a paper that summarizes their campaign experience, discusses the electoral process, and reflects on the relevance of the texts—and this year, organized a debate between the Campus Democrats and the College Republicans.

## On Board

The latest person to join Northwestern's Board of Trustees is Wayne Van Heuvelen '74. President of Horizon Consulting and Investment Services in Urbandale, Iowa, since 1995, he previously served as a bank vice president.

Van Heuvelen was named Urbandale's 2006 Citizen of the Year for his many volunteer efforts in city, school and youth athletic activities. He is a member of Meredith Drive Reformed Church in Des Moines and the treasurer of the RCA's Classis of Central Iowa.

He and his wife, Priscilla, are the parents of two children: Matt '07 and Melissa Carrington '09.



Wayne Van Heuvelen

## Alumni Search

Northwestern is searching for a new director of alumni relations. Rachel Van Den Broek '02 left the post this summer to move to the Des Moines area, citing a desire to be closer to family. She is an enrollment counselor for William Penn University's College for Working Adults.

### To Learn More

Get ready for the election by visiting these websites:

- Project Vote Smart ([www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org))
- Federal Voting Assistance Program ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov))
- League of Women Voters ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org))
- The U.S. Congress Votes Database (<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/>)





## No Butts

Long a smoke-free campus, Northwestern College is even more so thanks to the Iowa Smokefree Air Act. The new law, which went into effect July 1, prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment and certain outdoor areas.

For Northwestern, the legislation means that now more than just the college's buildings are smoke-free. By law, smoking is no longer allowed anywhere on campus, including athletic fields, outside of buildings, parking lots—or in any vehicle on a Northwestern parking lot.

"The goal was to protect employees in their place of work from second-hand smoke," says Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs.

The law makes a visible difference on Northwestern's campus: Students who smoke no longer light up in front of Heemstra Hall, and as required by law, "no smoking" signs—more than 300 in all—now adorn every entrance to campus and the doors into each building.

# Face Value

## Gary Jeltema

Patient problem-solver

### What do you enjoy about your work?

The variety of tasks. In the maintenance department, planning a workday is difficult because emergencies arise and we must respond. I like having a job that involves solving problems for other people.

### Can you recall an example of a maintenance emergency?

Years ago, I responded to a 2 a.m. call about overflowing urinals in Colenbrander. By the time I arrived, water was running down the hall. Once repairs were made, students were very helpful with the cleanup.

### Why do you appreciate working at NWC?

Northwestern is more than just a great place to work—it's a family. In December 2005, one of our daughters, Heidi Altena '98, passed away from a heart problem. My family was overwhelmed by the love and support from the Northwestern community.

### Is there a busy season for the maintenance staff?

Summertime. Projects that can't be completed during the school year are done in June or July. All repairs and cleaning must be completed by Aug. 1, as well as yearly fire alarm and sprinkler system checks. Although summer is busy, I love this season because the staff and work-study students gather for devotions at 7 a.m. I think students who spend a summer with us gain a new perspective of the maintenance department.



DOUG BURG

**As Northwestern's supervisor of mechanical services, Gary Jeltema leads a three-man staff that maintains more than 35 boilers and air handling units, as well as 22 hot water heaters.**

### Any interesting stories?

I once responded to a call about an electrical problem in one of the women's cottages. I traced the faulty wire to the basement, where I knocked on a door, identified myself and waited. After the student let me in, my search for the wire led to a closet. To my surprise, I discovered a young man in there. With a startled look, he quickly asked the female resident which sweater he could borrow, grabbed one and fled. The funny thing is it was over 80 degrees outside.

### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy watching sports—especially volleyball, since two of my daughters played volleyball at Northwestern. I've also been a member of the Orange City Fire Department for 30 years.

If you'd like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).

# Number Crunch

Like many private colleges in today's economy, Northwestern experienced a drop in enrollment this fall. A total of 1,225 students are attending classes, compared to 1,315 in 2007.

In response, college administrators are evaluating the effectiveness of current admissions strategies and exploring new ways to recruit students. Counselors are expanding their efforts to reach high school students through digital marketing, launching an admissions Facebook webpage, and posting the college's new promotional video on YouTube.

Northwestern is also encouraging alumni to boost the college's recruitment efforts by giving Red Recruiter Scholarships to teens in their communities (see the *Classic's* inside back cover for details).

Cooperative agreements are being developed with community colleges—including Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City—in response to research that shows more students are starting at two-year colleges.

In addition, the Northwestern Tuition Guarantee will be optional in 2009.

The guarantee locks in tuition, room and board costs while students earn their degrees. By averaging anticipated costs during a four-year period, the guarantee helps families plan for their long-term college expenses. Because the guaranteed cost is based on averages, however, initial-year expenses are higher than they would be under a traditional pricing structure that includes unpredictable tuition increases.

"The guarantee tested well with parents when we researched the program before the current economic downturn," says Ron De Jong, vice president for external relations. "But while the benefits are clear, in reality, families right now are focused on paying for college one year at a time."



ANITA CIRIUS

## Sprucing Up

More park benches, trees and shrubs now grace Northwestern's campus, thanks to landscaping improvements completed this summer.

The college's maintenance department worked with a local contractor on the design and implementation of the landscaping. A paved area with benches was added to the north side of Van Peursem Hall. On the east side, flowering plants fill an edged bed bordered on one side by a low retaining wall. In front of the bed, a seating area is composed of chair-sized boulders arranged in a paved patio.

Landscaping around the DeWitt Center introduced more plants, another paved seating area with benches, and several rock formations—one with a water feature in the form of a bubbling fountain.

Funding for the landscaping improvements came through a restricted gift from Leonard and Marjorie Maas of Holland, Mich.

## RSC Design Award Winning

The renovated Rowenhorst Student Center raked in design awards over the summer. Among them, the project was named the only citation winner in the modernization category of the *American School & University Architectural Portfolio*.

### Honors

- *American School & University Architectural Portfolio*, Citation
- *American School & University Educational Interiors Showcase*, Outstanding Design
- *School Planning & Management* and *College Planning & Management's Education Design Showcase*, Honorable Mention
- Featured in *Design Cost Data* magazine's May-June 2008 issue

PAUL BROCKING

"The design team used one simple gesture to achieve many things. This building gives hope to campuses that there is an opportunity for regeneration."

Jury member, *Architectural Portfolio*





# New in the Classroom

Seven new full-time faculty are teaching at Northwestern this fall. They include:

**Kathy Coyle**  
Instructor in Nursing  
M.S.N., Creighton University

A family nurse practitioner, Coyle joins the faculty after having taught at Briar Cliff University for the last four years. She also works part time in the home health department at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City.



Kathy Coyle

**Julie Dragstra**  
Instructor in Nursing  
M.A. in nursing, Augustana College

Dragstra, a nurse at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls for the last 23 years, most recently worked in the hospice area. She also worked at Sioux Center Community Hospital.



Julie Dragstra

**Dr. Ranjan George**  
Assistant Professor of Business  
Ph.D. in management, University of Western Sydney

Dr. George is serving a one-year appointment while on sabbatical from The Open University of Sri Lanka, where he is the senior lecturer in management studies. He teaches marketing and management courses.



Ranjan George

**Ray Gibler**  
Assistant Professor of Accounting  
M.Acc., Washington State University

A CPA, Gibler has extensive accounting experience at public accounting firms and a property management company in the Pacific Northwest. He also taught at a post-secondary Bible school and worked in accounting and administration for Mexican Mission Ministries.



Ray Gibler



Ethan Koerner

**Ethan Koerner**  
Instructor in Theatre Arts  
M.A. in theatre, Bowling Green State University

Koerner is serving a one-year appointment as technical director and scenic designer. Experienced in designing sets for both main stage and independent productions, he received a technical apprentice award for his work at the Santa Fe Opera.



Valerie Stokes

**Valerie Stokes '93**  
Assistant Professor of Social Work  
M.S.W., University of Nebraska-Omaha

Stokes previously directed The Bridge, a transitional housing agency in Orange City, and spent seven years as a therapist at Northwestern. She is a Ph.D. candidate in educational psychology at the University of South Dakota.



Maria Van Der Maaten

**Maria Van Der Maaten '05**

Instructor in Spanish  
M.A. in international development, University of Denver

Van Der Maaten is serving a one-year appointment after working for Sister Parish Inc., a nonprofit that links U.S. churches with churches in Guatemala and El Salvador to foster mutual understanding and a commitment to peace and justice.



## Make it a Red Christmas

Show your loyalty as you give gifts this Christmas. Shop the Northwestern Bookstore's website.

[bookstore.nwciowa.edu](http://bookstore.nwciowa.edu)



# Sweet



## On the Web *exclusive*

Submit photos of your sweet little trick-or-treaters at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)





**E**very October, Northwestern students dress up to welcome chubby-cheeked bears, fairies, robots and butterflies into the residence halls, accompanied by their parents (who are poorly costumed as college personnel). It's a charming tradition—students sharing treats with their teachers' toddlers. Or maybe it's sweet revenge—plying professors' progeny with enough sugar to turn them into little monsters.

*Photos by Doug Burg*



# Movin'

*New students talk about missing mom, forgetting necessities and more*

George Bush was in the White House when most of Northwestern's 300 new freshmen were born in 1990—George Sr., that is. This fall they'll "Rock the Vote" in their first presidential election. But first they participated in another rite of passage: leaving home for college. *Classic* staff asked how the transition is going.

**Classic:** What is the most important thing you brought with you to college?

Pictures of family, friends and girlfriend/boyfriend	40%
Music (iPod, piano music, guitar)	16%
Computer, laptop	13%
Teddy bear, blankie	9%
Pillow	7%
Bible	6%
Cell phone	6%
Media, electronics (radio, TV/DVD, Xbox 360)	4%
An open mind	3%
A special poster	3%
My sister (who's a junior)	1%
A world map	1%

"I brought my new acoustic-electric guitar—it was an amazing deal!"

*Alissa Abeler, Coon Rapids, Minn.*

"I can't imagine coming to college without my Joe Jonas poster."

*Ashley Christians, George, Iowa*

"My blanket is pretty important. I got it when I was 5 and still sleep with it all the time." *Angela Petrie, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

"As cheesy as it sounds, I think the most important thing I brought to college is a good attitude and an eagerness to get to know all these new people I'm encountering." *Aaron Bauer, Frost, Minn.*



**Classic:** What from home are you missing the most?

Family	40%
Mom's cooking and free food and laundry	20%
Friends	17%
My own room and familiar bed	10%
Familiar landscapes and landmarks	7%
Pets	7%
Air conditioning	2%
Cable TV	2%
Clean bathroom and warm shower	2%
Use of parents' car	2%

"I miss the mountains." *David Johnson, Yreka, Calif.*

"I miss my dog Panther—he's my best friend and cuddle-buddy during storms." *Becca Smidt, Kanawha, Iowa*

"I'm from Arizona; I miss Mexican food." *Collin Johnson, Tucson, Ariz.*

"Ever since my brothers and I could walk, it seems, we've all been involved in lots of different activities that keep us really busy. But each evening at suppertime, we'd all sit at the table as a family and talk and laugh about the adventures of the day. I miss that." *Kristen Menchaca, Columbus, Neb.*

**Classic:** What's on your list of things you wish you'd brought?

- ✓ Air conditioner
- ✓ Bike
- ✓ Blankie
- ✓ Bookends to keep my textbooks from falling off my shelves
- ✓ Bowl, spoon and fork
- ✓ Car
- ✓ Chair
- ✓ More clothes
- ✓ Room decorations
- ✓ Fan
- ✓ More food
- ✓ Light for my bed so I can read when my roommate's asleep
- ✓ Printer for my computer
- ✓ The remote for my DVD player
- ✓ My retainer
- ✓ My robe!
- ✓ Robot to read all my assignments
- ✓ More pairs of shoes

- ✓ More pictures
- ✓ My Social Security card
- ✓ Storage boxes
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bigger trash can
- ✓ TV—I missed the end of the Olympics!
- ✓ Winter coat—I'm sure I'll wish I'd brought one.

**Classic:** What's the best advice you got about starting college?

"Never change who you truly are just to fit in." *Lisa Walters, Zeeland, Mich.*

"Study your buns off!" *Amber Taylor, Sioux Falls, S.D.*

"Get to know people with allergies, because they get to have air conditioners." *Matt Negaard, Sioux City, Iowa*

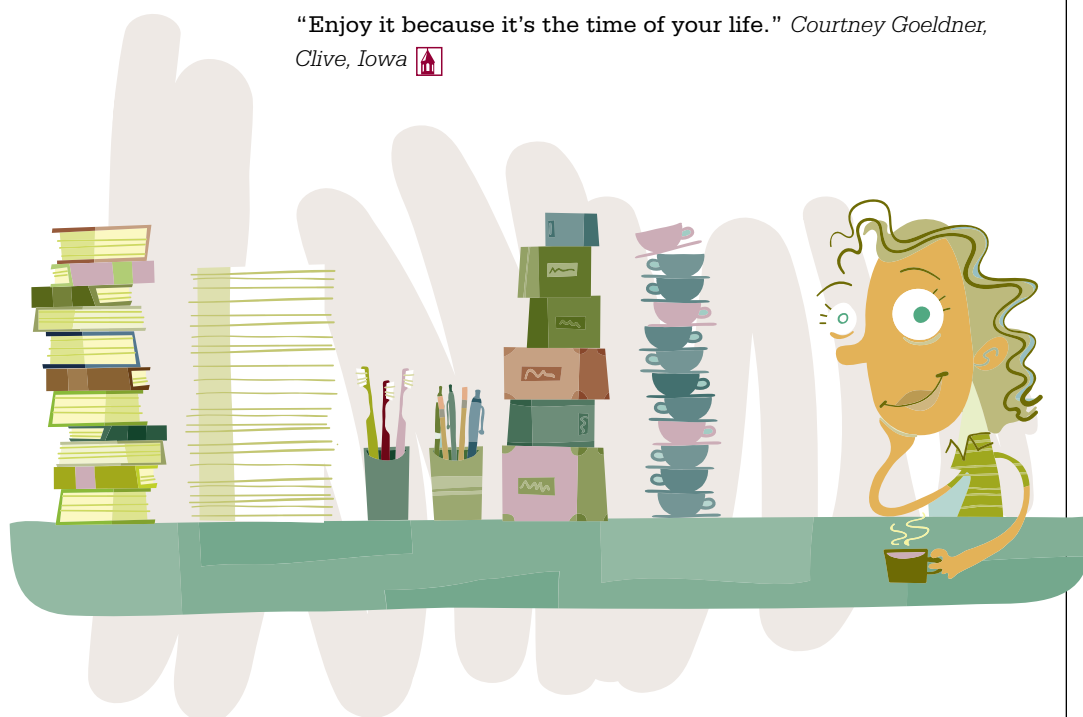
"Check your oil and tire pressure because Dad won't be doing it anymore." *Anna Cloeter, Lincoln, Neb.*

"Come home often—but not too often." *Erica Graber, Marion, S.D.*

"My sister told me college is scary at first, and you feel out of your comfort zone. But now that she's a senior, she's so excited to return to college and see all her friends. I hope that happens for me too." *Jenna Van Oort, Orange City*

"Get organized and don't procrastinate." *Jacklyn Brooks, Sioux Falls, S.D.*

"Enjoy it because it's the time of your life." *Courtney Goeldner, Clive, Iowa* 🏠



When winds became too strong to continue a card game with fellow campers, junior Carrie Manifold and her family thought they'd check in with neighbors back home in Parkersburg, Iowa, 20 miles west, to see if the storm had passed their way.

Carrie's mom, Diane, dialed the number and heard screaming. Their friends were trapped in the basement by what was left of their house, they told her. Through a window, this frightened family could see a neighbor lying on the ground where her home used to be.

Between 4:45 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 25, an EF5 tornado with winds at an estimated 205 mph devastated northeast Iowa, taking the lives of eight people and injuring 70 others. The storm blew away a third of Parkersburg's buildings, 350 in all. When Carrie's father, Tom, the city's chief EMT and a gas/electric serviceman, got in the car to head back, he didn't know if his house would be among those destroyed.

He reached the site of his home of 24 years to find only a wall and part of a staircase sitting on an open foundation.

But right where the garage had been, Tom's work boots were waiting. Taking no time to dwell on his own loss, he changed out of his camping sandals and began helping everyone else.

## Lost and Found

"I'd never seen something so terrible in my life," says Tom, well acquainted with the "before" picture of the small town of 1,900 people. "It looked like someone had come through there with fighter jets and dropped bombs."

Amidst all the wreckage, the Manifolds prayed they'd find a small blue booklet. Carrie was scheduled to leave for a Northwestern Summer of Service trip to Bahrain in just four days. How would she ever find her passport?

## Relief comes to student's family after Parkersburg tornado

BY AMY SCHEER

# Blown

# Away

*"I'd never seen something so terrible in my life. It looked like someone had come through there with fighter jets and dropped bombs."*







ASHLEY WRIGHT '11

Senior Nick Adams helps clean out the Manifolds' basement during the NWC service project in Parkersburg.

She called Tommy Moon, Northwestern's director of missions, who acted quickly to delay Carrie's departure date and prepared to replace necessary paperwork. A day or two later, good news came.

Although Carrie's car was found upside down on top of a house down the block, her passport and an encouragement journal from friends sat intact under a fallen wall. Pairs of neatly folded pants, which had been left on the bed next to the passport, flew only a short distance; a

neighbor would wash the pile for Carrie to pack.

It appears God wanted Carrie to go to Bahrain.

"My passport could have been in a cornfield or all the way in Wisconsin," she says. "God took the trip out of my hands. He would provide not only what I needed, but he would also pile on the blessings."

## Helping Hands

Meanwhile, Moon worked with Marlon Haverdink, the college's director of service learning, and Barb Dewald, associate dean of spiritual formation, to send a Northwestern service team to aid relief efforts in Parkersburg.

On Friday, June 13, when they got word the Manifolds were ready to receive outside help, they e-mailed faculty, staff and students. By Monday, 24 people had volunteered to go.

The Northwestern group arrived on June 22 and registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, requesting to work on the Manifolds' property. Members of the team helped clear the house's foundation of debris and gutted the basement, successfully finishing the job before leaving three days later. Some group members worked at a half dozen other sites as well, aiding in flood recovery or skill-specific jobs. (Bruce Roetman, a member of the maintenance staff, found his carpentry skills in high demand.)

The Manifolds' church, First Congregational, housed and fed the team.

"We're having to allow everyone to help us, so I wanted to do something to help them," says Diane. "They've done so much for us. From day one, as soon as Carrie called, all the help Northwestern offered, the prayers, the support—it meant so much to us."

Ashley Wright, a Northwestern sophomore on the trip, left impressed with the hope and joy of the people of Parkersburg. "Their attitude was, 'It's just stuff. We can replace it. We're just thankful to be alive.'"

It got her to thinking: "I have all this stuff in my room. It's a chaotic place, and it's just stuff. If it got lost in a tornado, I'd be OK. Does that make me who I am, all this stuff?"

## Not All Gone

By August, Carrie was back from Bahrain, and her mother and father had moved from their hotel room to a rental house. They've told their story to many people along the way.

"People would ask us if we lost everything, and we'd say, 'Yeah, we lost everything,'" says Diane.

But in time they changed that answer, realizing they were overwhelmed with gratitude for what the storm left behind.

"We lost our house and all our stuff, but we didn't lose everything," they'd respond. "We have our family, and we have our friends." 🏠

### On the Web *exclusive*

Submit your photos/story from this summer's floods and tornadoes at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

According to the reams and streams of 2008 election coverage, Republican presidential candidate John McCain says prayer sustained him as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. An unbaptized Baptist, he acknowledges his church attendance is at times spotty. Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee, was forced to defend his faith, calling it “both a personal commitment to Christ and a commitment to my community,” after inflammatory rhetoric by his pastor hit YouTube.

Senator Joe Biden is a devout Catholic, and Governor Sarah Palin, a committed Protestant. Both have had their Christian convictions praised—and called into question—by fellow believers.

These and other stories about the candidates’ faith, values, ethics and morals have resulted in

religion being a large part of the commentary around the 2008 election. Has it always been like this?

The *Classic* asked religion and politics expert Corwin Smidt ’68 to explain some of the history of the relationship between faith and citizenship, especially when the convictions of both accompany us into the voting booth. His essay may also help readers answer the question: Why don’t all Christians vote the way I do?

# Faith in the





**T**he separation of church and state: Certainly.  
The separation of religion and politics: Impossible.

Religion and politics are intertwined in such a way that no strict separation of church and state can ever disentangle the two.

According to our Constitution, there cannot be religious tests for holding public office. Churches are not to be financially supported by the state, and the state can't dictate membership in a religious denomination or congregation. These constitutional laws can be strictly enforced.

But no strict enforcement of a separation of church and state can prevent people from entering a voting booth and pulling the lever according to their religious beliefs, identity or affiliations.

## Belief in America

Americans have long been recognized as being highly religious. When the religious beliefs and practices of Americans are compared

the U.S. is a multifaceted and complicated phenomenon. And as people's patterns of religious beliefs, belonging and behavior change, so does the way in which religion and politics are linked in our country.

Historically, the main way in which religion affected politics has been through religious affiliation. During the American Revolution, Baptists and Presbyterians were mostly strong supporters of independence, while Anglicans (Church of England) were more likely opposed. As immigrants came to American shores, they also sorted themselves out politically: German immigrants who were Roman Catholics tended to align with the Democratic Party, while Germans who were Lutherans aligned with the Republican Party.

Following the Great Depression, religious groups still tended to align differently. Most Northern "mainline" Protestants were Republicans, while most Southern evangelical Protestants, Catholics and Jews were Democrats.

BY CORWIN SMIDT

# Voting Booth

The influence of religion is inescapable in American politics

with people from countries industrially and culturally similar to ours, the distinctive quality of American religious life is particularly evident.

This religious character of the American people has important consequences politically. For many Americans, religion is the foundation of our basic beliefs and values—even our identity. Religion shapes our pattern of social interaction, influencing our decisions about those with whom we talk politics. It also affects where and how we get information for making political decisions—including voting.

Americans' religious character also shapes our expectations about the kind of presidential candidate we think is worthy of consideration. Surveys reveal Americans want our president to be religious and, by extension, our presidential candidates to be people of faith.

The specific nature of that religious faith is less important than the need to have some kind of faith. National surveys have consistently revealed—both before and after 9/11—that Americans are more willing to vote for a Muslim than an atheist. Similarly, most Americans welcome presidential candidates who talk about their faith and share the ways in which their religious views may guide their political thinking and policymaking.

Since the founding of the United States, religion has played an important role in American political and electoral life. But religion in

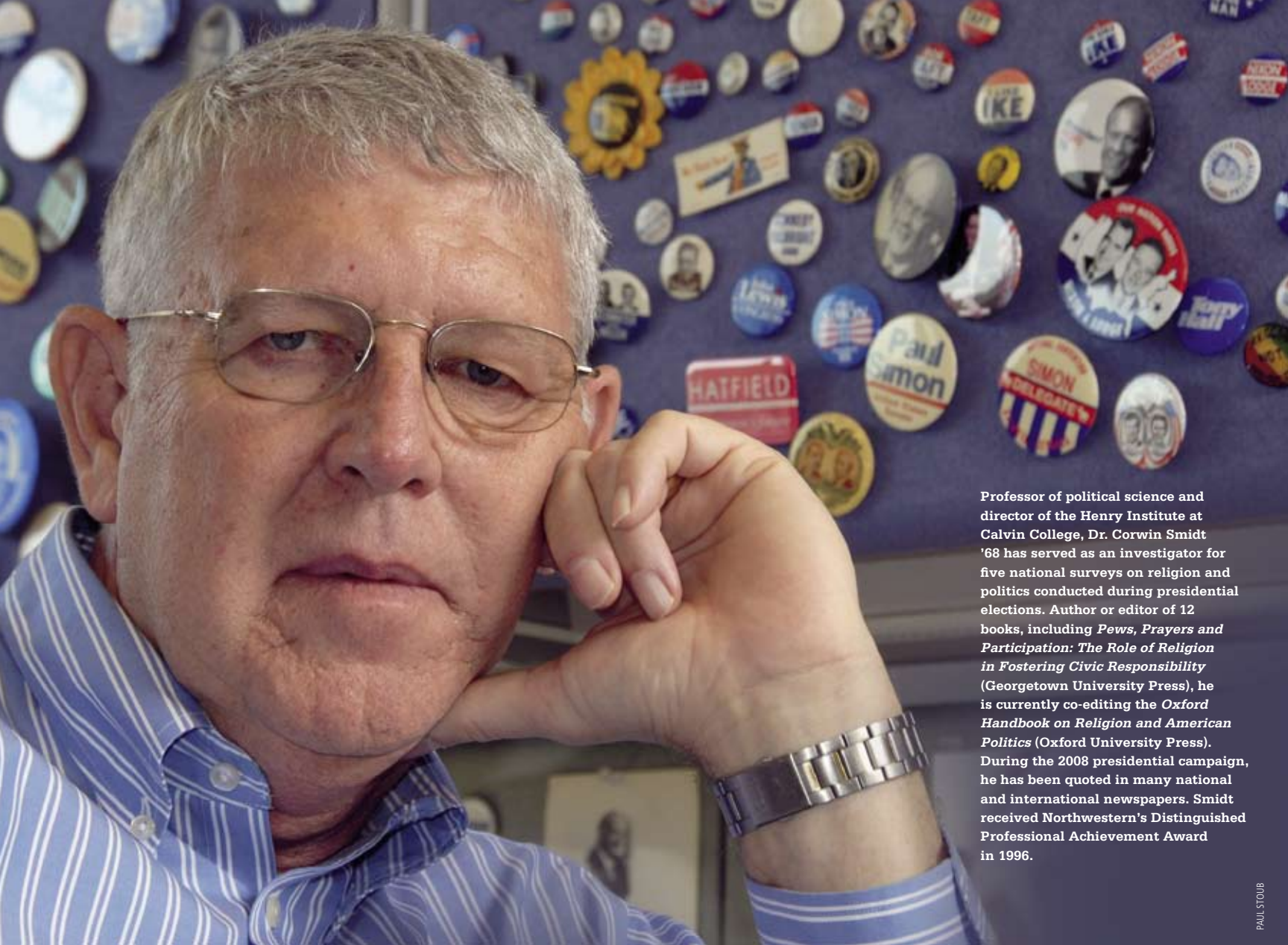
An "ethnoreligious" link between religion and politics basically prevailed from the early years of the republic through at least the early 1980s. The different lifestyles and worldviews of people of different faiths determined what political party—and governmental policies—they preferred. And with highly religious groups on both sides of the partisan divide, of course, highly religious individuals could be found on both sides too.

## The God Gap

Increasingly, Americans are seeing a new interplay of religion and politics. Now, it appears, people's religious *beliefs*, rather than their religious group *affiliations*, are largely shaping the way in which religion influences political thought and action.

Instead of our membership in a particular group determining our political loyalties, they are more determined by individuals' religious perspective as it relates to "traditionalist/modernist" positions and the conflicting worldviews that underlie them.

Religious beliefs and behaviors align religious traditionalists on one side of the partisan divide and secularists and modernists on the other. The result is a "God gap" in American politics, and one's religious affiliation is much less relevant.



Professor of political science and director of the Henry Institute at Calvin College, Dr. Corwin Smidt '68 has served as an investigator for five national surveys on religion and politics conducted during presidential elections. Author or editor of 12 books, including *Pews, Prayers and Participation: The Role of Religion in Fostering Civic Responsibility* (Georgetown University Press), he is currently co-editing the *Oxford Handbook on Religion and American Politics* (Oxford University Press). During the 2008 presidential campaign, he has been quoted in many national and international newspapers. Smidt received Northwestern's Distinguished Professional Achievement Award in 1996.

PAUL STOUT

After the 2004 victory of Bush over Kerry, much was made of the religious divide in the election. Exit polls revealed that large numbers of voters said moral values were the most important issue of the campaign and that high percentages of those “values voters” voted for Bush. The mobilization efforts of conservative Christians, particularly in states with gay marriage initiatives on the ballot, received a lot of media coverage.

But the election divide was perhaps best captured by the relationship between worship service attendance and candidate choice in 2004. As voters went to church more, they became less likely to vote for Democrats. And, following the election, a series of polls found that only a small minority of Americans thought the Democratic Party was “friendly to religion.”

Americans continue to vote according to their religious tradition (affiliations); evangelical Protestants, for example, have become and largely remain heavily Republican. But now Americans also increasingly vote according to religious traditionalism (beliefs). These different

means by which religion can impact political alignment are not mutually exclusive—religious tradition and traditionalism can both matter at the same time.

What is unclear is what will happen next. Will the new order (beliefs) erase the old order (affiliations), or vice versa? Or will they continue to operate in conjunction with one another?

## One Nation ... Indivisible?

It's likely the 2008 election will provide some answers to these questions. Various political changes over the past four years provide new opportunities for religious affiliations, rather than religious beliefs, to shape this election.

For example, the presidential primary process has been marked, in part, by efforts of Democratic candidates to appeal to religious voters. The Christian Right is seemingly more fragmented, as old leaders such as Jerry Falwell and James Kennedy have passed from the scene. And the




ongoing conflict in Iraq, rising oil prices and a stagnant economy have largely replaced social issues like abortion and gay marriage as major campaign concerns.

All of these changes suggest people of faith will be more likely to be found on both sides of the political divide following the 2008 presidential election. On the other hand, if the 2008 election and its outcome resemble the 2004 presidential election, then it would suggest that the “God gap” has remained relatively strong and that it may replace the more group-based link between religion and politics in the United States.

Whether the old affiliations-based order of religion and politics or the new beliefs-based order prevails is not simply a matter of academic curiosity. It has important consequences politically.

Since Americans as a whole are fairly religious, if parties or candidates appear to be “anti-religious” in their position or policies, it is likely to be politically disadvantageous. But the consequences of this religious divide in American politics move far beyond the relative partisan advantages or disadvantages associated with it.

When one party is perceived as the religious party and the other as the nonreligious, it magnifies the political stakes for many of those who take their faith seriously. Elections become almost a “holy battle” pitting good against evil—appearing to be a matter of ultimate, rather than relative, concern. Political debate becomes much more heated, relationships with those affiliated with the opposite party become much less civil, and political abuses are likely to occur as the ends begin to justify the means.

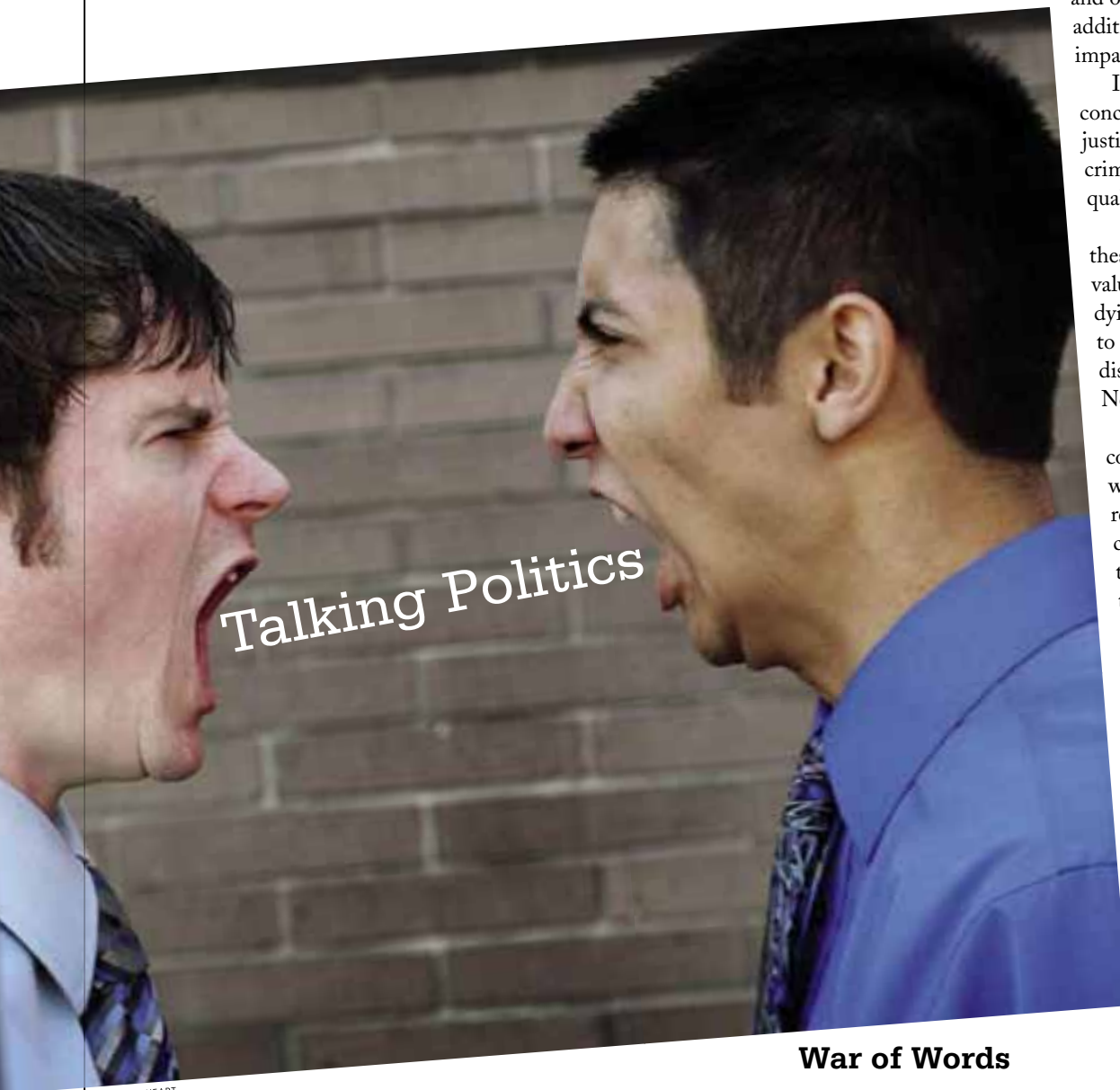
As in the past, when Americans enter the voting booth in November, religion will likely shape the election’s outcome. Whether religious affiliations or religious beliefs will drive the relationship between religion and politics in the 2008 election remains to be seen. Nonetheless, the ways in which religion shapes politics will continue to have important implications for us as American citizens and Christians. 

The 2008 presidential campaign has brought a renewed enthusiasm

to the electoral process.







For many Christians voting in the 2004 election, the primary moral issues were abortion and gay marriage. While these remain important issues, there is a growing recognition among Christians and other “values voters” that there are additional important moral issues that impact one’s politics.

Increasingly, Christians are voicing concern about issues like poverty, social justice, global climate change, an ailing criminal justice system, health care, and quality education for all children.

A Christian’s position on each of these issues is deeply informed by one’s values. A myth—which is thankfully dying—is that religious people want to bring their values into political discussions, while secularists are neutral. Not true!

All human beings have value commitments informed by their worldview beliefs, whether they are religious or secular. Politicians do not check their values at the door when they enter the halls of Congress. So there is no compelling reason for keeping our expression of “religious values” in the private realm. Political discussion should be an even playing field, where all values can be expressed and considered.

The expanded list of moral issues—and the recognition that all citizens have value commitments that inform their beliefs on these issues—is good news. But discussing these moral issues could be a nightmare if everyone, including Christians, decides to do politics as usual.

## War of Words

The current political system is broken. As I see it, the root problem is a “fixed-position” model for discussion—as seen in legislative debates and media coverage of those debates.

In its starkest form, politicians on both sides of the aisle hold stubbornly to their party’s fixed position on an issue without any inclination to take even a small step toward the opposing position. The result is nasty verbal confrontation and the political gridlock so rampant today. Politicians model an unwillingness to listen to the contrary views of others. They refuse to be open to the possibility of learning from those with whom they disagree, with the goal of seeking common ground.

Christians are easily prone to fixed-position discussions. In fact, Christians often amplify verbal confrontation in political discussion. We argue “I have the truth—so there.” We too easily play the Bible trump

Christians  
need a better  
way of voicing  
their political  
opinions

BY HAROLD HEIE

ROSIE GEARHEART



card, bringing political conversations to a halt with “Here is what the Bible says about [the issue at hand], and that settles it.”

Of course, one’s position on an issue should be deeply informed by biblical understanding. But appealing to the Bible when talking with those who do not accept its authority will quickly end the conversation. Rather, Christians engaged in politics need to express their values in terms that are accessible and understandable to those who don’t share their faith. Only then is it possible to search for common ground.

## Listening, Learning, Loving

Christians need to model a better way of political discussion about the many moral issues our nation faces. The better way is to engage in respectful conversation with those who disagree with you—whether they are fellow Christians, people committed to other religious faiths, or secularists. To be respectful partners in conversation—in politics and everywhere else, including our homes and churches—we should:

- Listen well, ensuring that each person feels welcome to express his or her perspective on the issue at hand.
- Seek to understand different perspectives—religious or secular—by trying to understand the assumptions behind another’s views and the reasons for our differences.
- Share our perspectives in a non-coercive way that invites further conversation with those who disagree.
- Seek some common ground with those who disagree with us, while also trying to shed more light on our differences.
- Demonstrate respect and concern for all participants in the conversation, even when significant common ground is hard to achieve due to irreconcilable differences in perspective.

My suggestion that Christians model respectful conversation in discussion—political and otherwise—is deeply informed by my understanding of the Christian faith. It is an expression of humility, to which all Christians are called. As finite, fallible human beings, we do not have a “God’s eye” view of the truth. As I Corinthians 13:12 reminds us, one aspect of the human condition is that “we see through a glass darkly.”

Respectful conversation also expresses love for others, another Christian calling (Matthew 22:37–40). Christian love is not coercive. To genuinely love includes providing a welcoming space for people to freely express their beliefs and then respectfully discussing disagreements we may have, being open to the gift of learning from one another.

By first listening and then responding respectfully to a person who disagrees with me, I will be able to present my Christian perspective on the issue at hand. At the same time, I will be loving the other person and opening the possibility for mutual learning.

What I propose won’t be easy. It requires that Christians be characterized by what is a very rare combination these days: commitment and openness. Religious scholar and author Ian Barbour describes this rare synergy in his definition of “religious maturity”: “It is by no means easy to hold beliefs for which you would be willing to die, and yet to remain open to new insights; but it is precisely such a combination of commitment and inquiry that constitutes religious maturity.”


This combination of commitment and openness is hard to find—in politics and everywhere else. Openness to the beliefs of others without

commitment to your own too easily leads to relativism: You have your beliefs; I have mine—end of conversation. Commitment without openness too easily leads to fanaticism, even terrorism. As C.S. Lewis observed—and to which recent world events tragically testify: “Those who are readiest to die for a cause may easily become those who are readiest to kill for it.”

One of the most pressing needs in our world today is for human beings—Christians and all others—to embrace and live in the tension between commitment and openness. Christians committed to doing so in politics have the potential to be a significant redemptive influence. 🏠



After earning a Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering, Harold Heie learned he loved to teach and served 40 years as a math professor and administrator at four Christian colleges, including Northwestern, where he was vice president for academic affairs from 1980 to 1988. A senior fellow at the Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College and the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, Heie is the author of *Learning to Listen, Ready to Talk: A Pilgrimage Toward Peacemaking* (iUniverse 2007) and a co-editor of *Christians Engaging Culture: A Better Way* (Cascadia Publishing, forthcoming 2009). He lives in Orange City.



**F**rom the person who delivers your mail to the one willing to take a bullet for the president, the jobs of our nation's civil servants are as varied as the people who fill them. Here are the stories of three Northwestern alumnae serving our country.

BY ANITA CIRULIS

# Working for Americans

Laura Keith lives and works in Washington, D.C., where she helps conduct a roundtable series with foreign ambassadors to learn best practices for defeating terrorism.

## Fighting Terrorism

As a 7-year-old, Laura Keith sat transfixed in front of the TV, watching the fall of the Berlin Wall. As a young teenager, she would clip photos of world events from her local newspaper and tape them to her bedroom walls.

Not surprisingly, Keith majored in political science and history at Northwestern. Before graduating in 2004, she also participated in both the Russian Studies Program and the American Studies Program through the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. Her semester in Russia coincided with the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

"Suddenly I was having to field questions from fellow Russian students about U.S. foreign policy," she says. "That was a really interesting and challenging time to be there."

The final semester of her senior year she was in Washington, D.C., taking classes in domestic and foreign policy and interning with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

While Keith doesn't work directly for the federal government, she still considers her job a public service. As a policy analyst for the Homeland Security Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., she views U.S. security through the lens of foreign affairs. Her research and writing is used in testimony before Congress and in advising the federal government.

"Our audience is policy makers within the Department of Homeland Security, the intelligence community and the Department of State," she says.

Keith is also working on a master's degree in security policy at George Washington University.

"Tons of people go to school for international affairs or foreign relations and are generalists," she says. "I wanted a specific skill. I'm interested in international security cooperation. I'm interested in how to stop terrorists."





Rachel Klay confers with two members of the U.S. Capitol Police while working as a member of the Secret Service during President Reagan's funeral in 2004.

## Providing Protection

Rachel Klay remembers Geraldine Ferraro's white-knuckled grip on the Secret Service agents as they struggled to extricate her from the crowd. The Democratic vice presidential candidate in 1984, Ferraro had stepped off a plane and entered a crowd to shake hands during a campaign stop.

Suddenly Ferraro was completely surrounded, with people pushing forward in their enthusiasm to see her.

"People weren't trying to be dangerous," Klay says. "The danger was just a large crowd moving on its own accord. We had to lock arms and physically force our way out of there."

A petite 5-foot-3, Klay enjoyed a successful career in what has typically been a man's world. When she joined the Secret Service in 1983, she was one of just 36 women in a force of 2,000. Even today, less than 5 percent of agents are women. Retired in 2007 after 23 years, she continues to use her skills—though now as a special agent in the protective services unit for the Federal Reserve Board chairman.

Klay's interest in law enforcement was encouraged by her father, who was a lawyer, and grandfather, a U.S. district court judge. She graduated from Northwestern in 1980 with majors in psychology and sociology and joined the Secret Service three years later.

Over the course of her career, Klay protected Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, hunted child abductors and serial killers as part of a joint task force with the FBI, and served as the Secret Service liaison to the Pentagon, CIA, and legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. government.

Despite all the 10- to 15-hour workdays, she has no regrets. "I looked at it as more than a career," she says. "It's a service to my country."

## Representing America

In February, the State Department offered Sara Veldhuizen Stealy a job. Now she's in Zambia, serving as the assistant public affairs officer for the U.S. Embassy.

While that timeline may seem quick, Stealy first applied to the department more than four years ago. The positions are so competitive there wasn't a question what her answer would be when the assignment finally came.

"The foreign service officers I know say it's not just a job—it's an entire lifestyle," she says. "But they say it's the most worthwhile and interesting career you can have."

A 1998 Northwestern graduate, Stealy spent seven years in communications and marketing for a national accounting firm. In Zambia, she is working with the media and directing cultural and educational exchange programs. Her career track changed when she saw a newspaper article about government jobs. The opportunity to serve her country fit her upbringing.

"My dad was a civil servant. He worked for the postal service," Stealy says. "He was very proud of being able to provide that service to people."

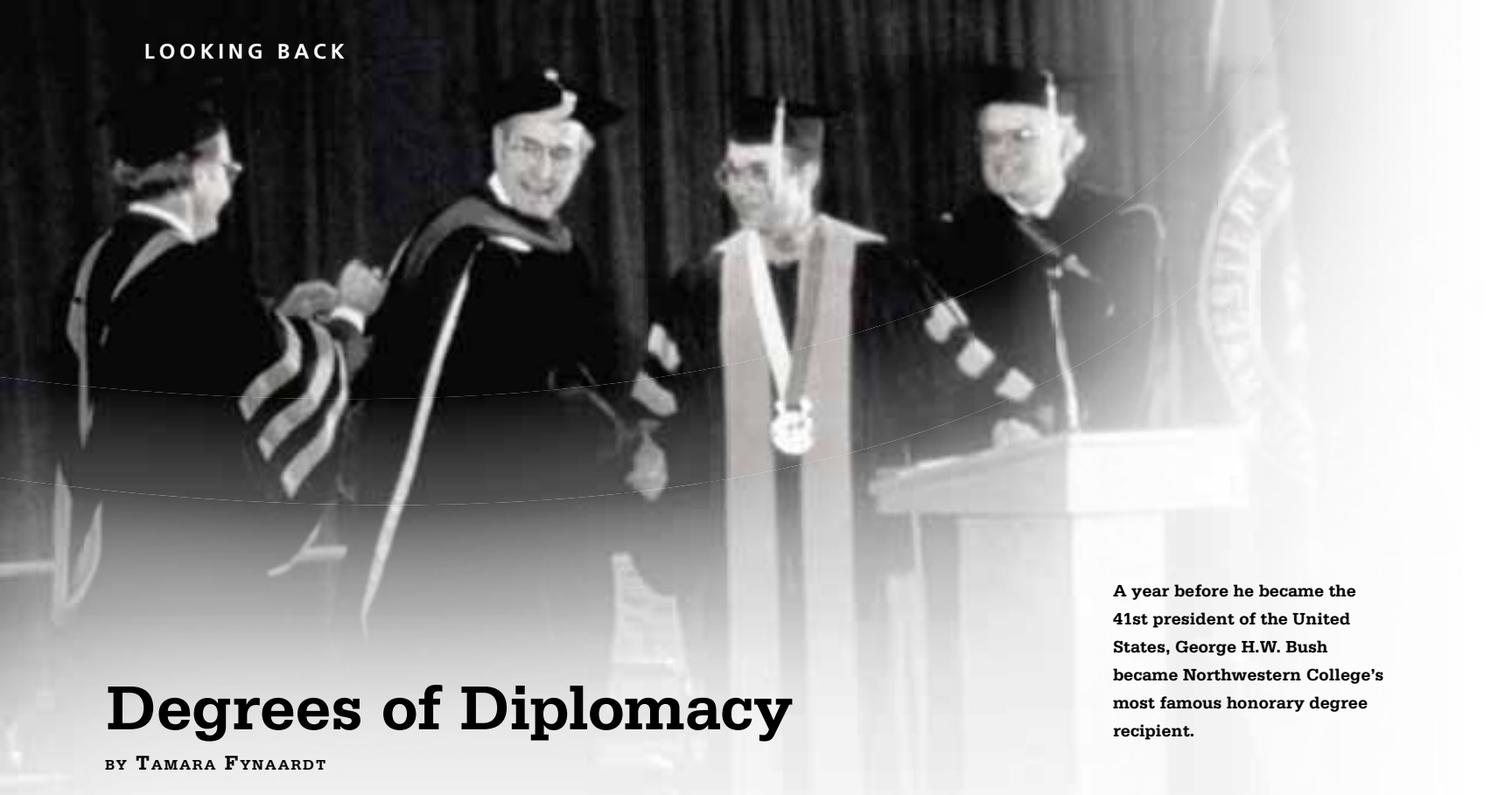
The selection process for foreign service officers is extensive, involving a written test, oral assessment, medical and security clearances, and final suitability review. The qualifications are simple: Candidates must be U.S. citizens, 21 to 60 years old—and willing to go wherever the State Department sends them.

"In our training, they emphasized the most important word in your job is 'service,'" Stealy says. "We're in the foreign service, and we all officially sign on and swear that we are worldwide available, according to the needs of the department."

For Stealy, that means a new life in Africa. 🇺🇸🇿🇲



The flag of Zambia will become as familiar as the Stars and Stripes to Sara Veldhuizen Stealy, now that she is a foreign service officer in that African nation.



A year before he became the 41st president of the United States, George H.W. Bush became Northwestern College's most famous honorary degree recipient.

## Degrees of Diplomacy

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

November 19, 1987. Sharpshooters perched on the top of the Orange City grain elevator. Bomb-sniffing dogs paced inside the Rowenhorst Student Center while a helicopter circled overhead.

Inside, the highest ranking government official ever to visit Northwestern College, Vice President George H.W. Bush, sat before a packed arena and listened as music professor Dr. Herb Ritsema listed his achievements: naval aviator at the age of 18, Yale University graduate, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, director of the CIA, Ronald Reagan's running mate.

The impressive litany was followed by the conferring of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, making the future president Northwestern's most famous honoree.

Former Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Harold Heie, who placed the academic hood over Bush's head, remembers the veep leaning over during the introduction, pointing to his program and asking, "Where are we?"

Political scandal often misses agreeable little communities like Northwestern, but the dignified ceremony and Bush's nonpartisan speech on family values were the culmination of weeks of campus controversy.

The campaign to award Bush an honorary degree was launched when Andrea Van Beek '74, a Board of Trustees member and chair of the Sioux County Republicans at the time, asked Bush, a personal friend, to include northwest Iowa in his fall travel.

She'd seen a list of Northwestern's honorary degree recipients—honorees like Sen. Mark Hatfield and the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale—and asked

President Jim Bultman, "Wouldn't it be nice to see the vice president's name on this list?" Bultman agreed.

Plans to bestow the degree were announced on campus in October, around the time Bush announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination. Protestors were small in number, but vocal. Incensed Democrats and others argued that honoring a Republican candidate this close to the Iowa caucuses was inappropriate—tantamount to a political endorsement.

*Sharpshooters perched on the top of the Orange City grain elevator while a helicopter circled overhead.*

Bultman maintained that the honorary degree was being given to a statesman who had achieved much, including the second-highest office in the land. He insisted the pomp and circumstance were not political.

Impassioned protestors wrote scathing letters to the *Beacon* student newspaper, advocating a boycott of the event and other forms of protest. The controversy escalated when the Young Democrats organized a mock election, asking voters to determine whether an honorary degree should be given to George Bush, the burning bush, or Busch beer.

On the 19th, though, even dissidents—who wore orange stickers as a sign of their protest—couldn't resist watching as Secret Service agents ushered the vice president's motorcade through campus.

After Bush and his entourage of politicians and press had left, students tallied the results of the mock election. The burning bush edged out George Bush by 50 to 42 votes.

Votes for Busch beer were not counted.



# Funding Northwestern's Mission

2007–08 giving tops \$3.7 million

## Fundraising Report

July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008

- Total giving was \$3,729,269.
- The average alumni gift to the Northwestern Fund was \$190. (Nationally, the average alumni gift to private liberal arts colleges was \$497.)
- The percentage of Northwestern alumni giving to Northwestern was 23%. (The national average for alumni giving to private liberal arts colleges in 2007–08 was 25%.)
- The Tower Society (\$1,000+) totaled 224 members, including 47 new members; 42 gave at the silver level (\$2,500+), and 2 gave at the gold level (\$5,000+).
- The Heritage Society (donors making planned gifts) grew by 16 members to 614.

Northwestern Fund	2006–07	2007–08
Alumni	\$526,345	\$420,653
Friends	\$395,545	\$306,916
Foundations/grants	\$620,280	\$112,878
Corporations	\$149,268	\$130,216
Churches	\$375,303	\$371,815
Other	\$34,467	\$49,671
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,101,208</b>	<b>\$1,392,149</b>

Capital and Endowed Gifts	2006–07	2007–08
Alumni	\$493,564	\$496,335
Friends	\$543,232	\$736,260
Foundations/grants	\$220,720	\$262,300
Corporations	\$125,197	\$62,745
Churches	\$1,000	\$1,101
Estates	\$530,892	\$683,379
Other	\$95,500	\$95,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,010,105</b>	<b>\$2,337,120</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$4,111,313</b>	<b>\$3,729,269</b>

## Imagine Campaign

	Goal	Total raised
Learning Commons	\$20 million	\$6,893,297
Academic Innovation	\$5 million	\$1,377,865
Rowenhorst Student Center renovation	\$3 million	\$482,837
Scholarships	\$2 million	\$3,332,647
Undesignated gifts		\$222,855
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30 million</b>	<b>\$12,309,501</b>

## Alumni Giving

### Best giving percentage

Class of 1944	55%
Class of 1946	55%
Class of 1947	52%
Class of 1948	50%
Class of 1949	50%

### Best giving overall

Class of 1972	\$135,352
Class of 1953	\$117,855
Class of 1982	\$75,580
Class of 1981	\$74,105
Class of 1965	\$39,710

### Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

Class of 1955	\$23,620
Class of 1969	\$20,073
Class of 1997	\$19,480
Class of 1965	\$18,820
Class of 1972	\$18,592

## Planned Giving

Bequests received	\$683,379
Gifts for endowed scholarships	\$1,130,312

### On the Web *exclusive*

Review the list of 2007–08 donors to Northwestern College at [www.nwciowa.edu/annualreport](http://www.nwciowa.edu/annualreport). Use the password "give2nwc" to access the list. If you prefer a printed version, please request one from the college's advancement office, 712-707-7106.

# class Notes

**'68 The Rev. Leon Draayer** recently retired from ministry with the Reformed Church in America. He and his wife, Marion, have moved from Baldwin, Wis., to Mira Loma, Calif., to be near their children and grandchildren.

**Marlis (Van Veldhuizen) Kuiper** retired in May after teaching for 33 years in Spencer, Iowa. The last 26 years of her career were spent at the Spencer Family YMCA Preschool. Her husband, **Gary**, is also a retired teacher.

**'72 Leon Pannkuk**, Manchester, Mo., is a regional coordinator for Evangelism Explosion International. His wife, **Marlene (Van Aalsburg '78)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

**'73 Cornie Wassink** was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame during May ceremonies at the state track meet. It was the 13th state meet at which he has served as a starter.

**'76 Dennis Durband**, Chandler, Ariz., is a marketing and development writer for the Alliance Defense Fund, an organization dedicated to the defense of religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family.

**'77 Mary Ann (Anker) Pals** is a professional artist living in Chesterton, Ind. She teaches art and serves on the board for the Chesterton Art Center. One of her pastel paintings, a sunset over Lake Michigan, was recently selected by the Indiana lieutenant governor to hang in the Indiana Statehouse.

**'78 Kim Donat** is the director of student financial aid at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. He previously was registrar and director of financial aid at Delta College in Michigan.

**Robert Van't Land** and his wife, **Bonnie (Hoskins '82)**, teach at Boyden-Hull (Iowa) Schools. They have two sons in college, Drew and J.C., and a high school junior, Gabe.

**LaVonne (Meyer) Witte** teaches special education at Rock Valley (Iowa) Elementary School. Her husband, **Scott '79**, is an administrator at Hope Haven. They have three children: Seth (24), Sara (20) and Erica (18).

**'83 James Miller**, Rochester, Minn., continues to teach but has retired from coaching football after 24 years. In his 14 seasons as head coach at Mayo High School, he led the team to six conference championships and finished with a 111-37 career record.

**Jim Svoboda** was recently promoted to assistant head football coach and co-offensive coordinator at Montana State University in Bozeman.

**'88 Ann Dahl**, Liberty, Mo., has been an elementary school counselor for 15 years.

**Brenda (Pool) Keene**, Colorado Springs, Colo., traveled to Europe this past summer with her daughter, Brittany, who was selected to play flute for Colorado Ambassadors of Music.

**The Rev. Mark Widman**, Walker, Minn., is pastor of Calvary Evangelical Free Church. He and his wife, **Kara (Coykendall)**, have four children.

**'91 Crystal Dykstra**, San Mateo, Calif., is a financial adviser with Edward Jones Investments.

**'92 Sandra (Tew) Heeren** is a program manager for Staples Promotional Products in Orange City.

**Michele Mason**, Gibsonia, Pa., is an enrollment counselor for the University of Phoenix.

**'93 The Rev. Nathan de Vries** is pastor of Willmar (Minn.) Christian Reformed Church.

**Peter Gepson** is a high school band director in Albert Lea, Minn. He and his wife, **Nicole (Molnau '96)**, have two children: Jack (8) and Emma (2).

## Red Ties

**RACHEL VAN DEN BROEK '02**

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

As I move on from Northwestern and relocate to West Des Moines to be closer to family, I will be connecting electronically with my alma mater like many of you are already doing.

**Jake Moss '70** lives in Annnville, Ky. A former Northwestern athlete, he enjoys watching Raider sports via webcasts—especially games against rivals USF and Dordt. His Web connection to Raider athletics has led him to other areas of our website. As a result, he often recognizes students' names when they arrive with Spring Service Project teams to serve his organization, Jackson County Ministries.

A former youth minister, **Alli (Fiene '98) Van Roekel** used Facebook to connect with teens and their culture. She and her husband, **Jamison '98**, moved recently and have been keeping in touch with distant family and friends via Facebook. They've also renewed relationships with college classmates they'd lost track of. Alli says, "It's been so much fun to remember these wonderful people from the different stages of my life."

**Angela Jiskoot '08** spent last spring participating in the Chicago Semester and learned how important networking is. Beginning her job search while in the Windy City, Angela joined LinkedIn, a professional social networking website. She says, "LinkedIn helped me land my dream job in public relations."

As a Northwestern graduate, you're already "linked in" to a network of 11,000 alumni. Tools like Northwestern's website, Facebook and LinkedIn help us maintain some of the friendships we made on campus—and begin new relationships with fellow Raiders we haven't met yet.

Visit [www.nwciowa.edu/alumni](http://www.nwciowa.edu/alumni), which includes a new gallery of alumni photos. And be our friend by joining the "Northwestern College Alumni" group on Facebook or the "Northwestern College Alumni and Friends—Orange City, IA" group on LinkedIn.





**Laura (Foland) Hollinger** does tech work and teaching correspondence for Murray (Iowa) Community Schools. She and her husband, Dave, have three children: Jason (16), Kahlan (7) and Justin (1).

**'94 Lori (Voskuil) Scholtens** teaches kindergarten at Orange City Elementary. Her husband, **Rick '92**, is an engineer at Interstates in Sioux Center.

**'95 Jason Kaat** serves as director of youth and emerging ministries at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Wis. He was recently appointed Wisconsin state coordinator for the National Network of Youth Ministries.

**Jason Kanz**, Eau Claire, Wis., recently become the first board-certified clinical neuropsychologist in west and northwest Wisconsin.

**'96 Caroline (Rogers) Musgrove** is an information technology manager for Walt Disney World Park and Resorts in Orlando, Fla.

**Travis Voltz** is pursuing a master's degree in communication studies at Regis University in Denver.

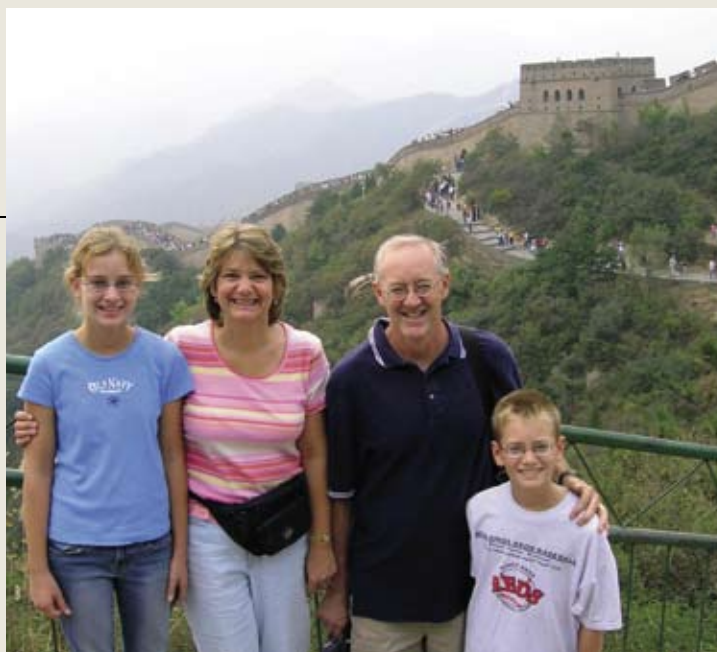
**'97 Jason Kooiker**, Sioux Falls, earned an M.B.A. from the University of Sioux Falls in May.

**'98 Kenya (Kowalke) Arrants**, Ames, Iowa, recently received a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois. She is a librarian for the Madrid School District.

**John Boyer** is a chaplain at McGuire Air Force Base near Trenton, N.J. He and his wife, Crystal, have three children: Kyndra (5), Caleb (2) and Brennan (1).

**Kelli (Hansen) Holthe** runs an in-home daycare business in Grand Forks, N.D. She and her husband, **Jon '96**, have two daughters: Bria (8) and Emmy (5).

**Brad Keyn** is the director of Youth Alive. He and his wife, **Cheryl (Jamieson)**, live in Hammond, Wis., with their three children: Autumn (7), Hunter (4) and Grace (2).



Curt Weerheim says his family's ministry in China was like a two-year campout. "It was a family adventure—we took advantage of a lot of opportunities to experience life in China and get to know the people."

## Going for Real Gold

When China pulled off an Olympics known for breathtaking ceremonies, dazzling venues and record-breaking performances, Curt Weerheim '76 was not surprised. He'd spent the previous two years living in Beijing, working closely with coaches and members of the organizing committee.

"China had been waiting for an opportunity to prove to the world what they're capable of doing," he says. "It was amazing to see all the work and detail they went to."

Weerheim saw Beijing literally transformed. Every apartment building was painted, the city was groomed and manicured, construction was halted, factories were temporarily shut down and traffic reduced to clean up the city's smog, and banners were erected to hide anything deemed not presentable. Even street beggars and peasants hauling vegetables on mule-driven carts were conspicuously absent.

Weerheim and his wife, Sherri—in China on student visas to learn the language—pioneered a sports ministry for Athletes in Action. He taught English to people preparing to run the games, trained basketball coaches, set up sports exchange programs, and advised a group of 80 individuals from around the world who shared the gospel with Olympic athletes.

Weerheim found the Chinese to be extremely gracious, eager to make friends and open to learning more about Christianity.

The Weerheims are now back in Lebanon, Ohio, where they continue their work with Athletes in Action.

BY DUANE BEESON

**Tara (Simmons) Kluth**, Mantorville, Minn., stays home with her four children: Evan (7), Aidan (4), Toby (3) and Avery (1).

**Clint Lutterman**, Grimes, Iowa, is a physical therapist at 21st Century Rehab. He and his wife, Jody, have a son, Nate (2).

**Sara Veldhuizen Stealy** is a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. She and her husband, Dave, have moved to Zambia, where she is the assistant public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy.

**Jennifer (Calhoon) Talarico** works as a program director with Heartland Family Service, an early childhood health education program, in Omaha.

**Allison (Fiene) Van Roekel**, Davenport, Iowa, is a sales associate for Von Maur.

**Linsay (Carlson) Vladimirov** is campus ministries coordinator at Dordt College.

**Amber (Soldan) Widstrom** is a physician assistant at Meridian Clinical Research and the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. She and her husband, Jess, have a daughter, Hannah (4).

**Steven Wilbur**, Golden Valley, Minn., recently earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Bethel University.

**Sherrie Barber Willson**, Grand Rapids, Mich., is pursuing a master's degree in communications at Grand Valley State University. She is in charge of the website for Steelcase Inc.

**'99 Candace (Hup) Boerema** is an English instructor for Litchfield (Minn.) Public Schools. She recently completed a master's degree in education through St. Mary's University.

**David Brommer** is an assistant professor at the University of Alabama, teaching and doing research in climatology. He received a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Mississippi State University and a master's

degree and doctorate in geography, with an emphasis in climatology, from Arizona State University.

**Kirk Johnson** serves as high school principal for Vinton-Shellsburg (Iowa) Community Schools. He recently completed coursework from Iowa State University in order to become a school superintendent.

**Dr. Dave Nystrom** is a family practice physician at St. Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll, Iowa.

**Josh Thomas**, Arlington Heights, Ill., completed a doctorate in kinesiology at Iowa State University in May. He is a professor of human performance and wellness at Trinity International University.

**Jeremy Van Engen**, Pella, Iowa, teaches elementary physical education at Knoxville Community School.

**'00 The Rev. Cory Moss** serves as senior pastor of Christian Park Reformed Church in Indianapolis.

**Tom Scholtens**, Mannheim, Germany, is an optometrist with the U.S. Army. His wife, **Sara (Katzenberger)**, stays home with their son, Nathaniel (2).

**Tom Truesdell** is the academic support center director at Northwestern.

**'01 Amber (Davis) Backes** is the records manager for Environmental Systems Design in Chicago.

**Andrea Brouwer**, Grimes, Iowa, graduated from Mercy College of Health Sciences and serves as a registered nurse in the emergency room at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. She also works for a local ambulance service, volunteers for the Grimes Fire and Rescue Department, and substitute teaches.

**Alicia (Moehring) Ellingson**, Santa Fe, N.M., designs electronic medical record software for hospitals around the U.S.

**Dr. Steve Vander Leest** graduated from the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation family medicine residency



As a voluntary adviser for the U.S. Army, Jeff Knowles met daily with government officials, clergy and farmers to determine how to rebuild Afghanistan's agricultural system.

## Growing Concern

For six months, Jeff Knowles' work as a soil conservationist required a flak jacket and a military escort. Today, he's back with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kealahou, Hawaii, but he can't forget his time as an agricultural adviser in Afghanistan.

"It was the most rewarding experience of my life," says Knowles, a member of Northwestern's class of 1980. "The Afghans are wonderful, hospitable people; they literally would give you the last food they had in their house."

One of Knowles' goals was to help ensure that subsistence farmers in two eastern Afghanistan provinces could raise even more food—and their standard of living. In a land with only one tractor for every 1,000 farmers, he offered advice on issues such as soil erosion and crop irrigation. Ten of the projects he developed received \$1 million in U.S. Army funding, including an apple juice factory, apricot drying facilities and food storage systems.

Knowles contracted malaria while in Afghanistan, but he knows that wasn't the harshest threat. After he returned to the U.S., another agricultural adviser in his region was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED).

Today he watches news of the country's deteriorating security conditions with a heavy heart. "I think about Afghanistan every day."

BY DUANE BEESON

program in Sioux City and serves as a family physician at Sanford Sheldon (Iowa) Medical Center and Clinic. His wife, **Tarra (Klein '00)**, is an optometrist in Sheldon and Sibley.

**Katie (Severson) Winne**, Rockford, Mich., manages the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge, which houses cancer patients and their caregivers during treatment.

**'02 Brian Darby** earned a doctorate in plant and soil science at the University of Vermont and is a post-doctoral researcher at Kansas State University.

**Jen Medema** graduated from the University of Texas in May with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, specializing in language and literacy. She is the director of education for Sylvan Learning Center in Lubbock.

**Sarah Yoder** completed a Ph.D. in English (rhetoric and composition) from Texas Christian University in May. She is an assistant professor of English and director of the writing center at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif.

**'03 Christy (Amundson) Alquist**, Meriden, Iowa, is a special education teacher at South O'Brien High School. She completed a master's degree in education with an emphasis in leadership in May.

**Christina Bakker**, Fairport, N.Y., is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. She is a resident counselor for Heritage Christian Services.

**Malinda Burk**, a science teacher in Lincoln, Neb., was recently named an associate fellow by the National Science Teachers Association. The honor provides her with a yearlong professional development fellowship.

**Heidi Church** is director of youth and family ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee, Iowa.



**Melanie DeBoer**, Fayette, Iowa, is director of athletic recruiting for Upper Iowa University.

**Christie (Jans) Kille**, Sioux Center, is employed in merchandising at Staples Promotional Products in Orange City.

**Kristin (Erickson) Lassen**, Remsen, Iowa, stays home with her daughter, Kienna (1), and works part time as a personal trainer.

**Sarah (Fanning) Ortega**, San Pedro, Calif., works for Laser Pacific Media Corp., a post-production company.

**Robert Reitz** is a document solutions consultant for Better Business Equipment in Omaha.

**Carleen (Owens) Smith** is the teen pregnancy prevention director at the Clarinda (Iowa) Foundation.

**Tim Vander Ploeg**, Omaha, is a document solutions consultant at Better Business Equipment. He and his wife, **Kelli (Hansen)**, have a son, Connor (1).

**The Rev. Josh Van Leeuwen** serves as pastor of North Holland (Mich.) Reformed Church. His wife, **Heather (Boersma)**, recently received a master's degree in social work from Grand Valley State University and an M.Div. from Western Theological Seminary. She works at ATLAS in Zeeland.

**'04 Mary Beth (Sears) Breen**, Sheldon, Iowa, completed a master's degree in teaching from Morningside College in May.

**Kelli (Vermeer) Cummins**, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., works in the human resources department at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

**Tyson Graham** is the head cross country and track and field coach at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

**Cory Nyhuis**, Sioux Falls, is one of three NWC alumni who participated in the Sea to Sea Bike Tour sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church. Cory was a driver for the "sag wagon," and fellow alums **Lynn**

**Verros '89** and **Tyler Buitenwerf '99** rode bikes. The ride began in June in Seattle and ended two months later in Jersey City, N.J. Participants were required to raise approximately \$10,000 each to fund initiatives aimed at reducing poverty.

**Brooke Oehme** is director of youth and family ministry at Wesley United Methodist Family Life Center in Muscatine, Iowa. She also serves as an instructor of world religions and philosophy at Muscatine Community College.

**Nick Wellman**, Monroe, Wis., is a veterinarian for Argyle Veterinary Services. His wife, **Toni (Gilliam '05)**, is a second grade teacher at Parkside Elementary.

**'05 Kim (Boersma) Dykstra**, Lennox, S.D., is a physician assistant for Sanford Health. Her husband, **Jamie**, is pastor of Delaware Reformed Church.

**The Rev. Chris Jacobsen** graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree and was ordained into RCA ministry. He serves as pastor of the Reformed Church of Freehold (N.J.). His wife, **Sarah (Huibregtse)**, teaches first grade in Freehold Borough Public Schools.

**Matthew Klomp**, Cedar City, Utah, is on the wilderness therapy field staff for RedCliff Ascent.

**Brent Mulder** received an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in May.

**Teresa (Larson) Templin**, Charlotte, N.C., teaches first grade for Union County Public Schools. Her husband, Cody, works for Jackson National Life.

**Nathan Willems** graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree in May. He is serving as a graduate intern at Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell (Mass.).

**'06 Brittany Caffey, Amanda Kirkpatrick and Anna Wilkinson** biked from East Glacier, Mont., to Orange City over the course of three weeks this summer. Before departing, they raised money to donate to organiza-



DAVID GEMAS

A college internship with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs office in Des Moines led Tiffany Gemas to a nine-year VA career that has included service in Iowa, Japan, South Korea and now Florida.

## Vet Servant

Although he hadn't seen combat in 50 years, his experiences in World War II still haunted him. He had never held a job long term or had strong personal relationships, and by the time he finally asked the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for help, it seemed too late. That didn't stop Tiffany (Lassen '99) Gemas, a VA specialist who found a way to provide assistance.

"Here's someone who willingly served his country, and because of that, he was never able to live the life he had dreamed," Gemas says. "Remember Lincoln's speech, where he challenged us to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for those who have borne the battle, their widows and orphans? That's what I'm here to do."

With the current wars adding injured vets nearly every day, Gemas is busier than ever. After four years at an Army base in South Korea, she now works in Orlando, Fla., evaluating disability claims submitted by veterans. It's a weighty responsibility—and a stressful one. Often she wants to grant a request, but the person isn't eligible and the law requires her to refuse the claim.

Those situations, however, are balanced by the many opportunities she has to help people—like that World War II veteran who's still learning how to live. "Hopefully, my compassion and care for them come across," she says.

BY **SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98**

tions such as Southern Sudan Health Care and Bethany Christian Services. Caffey said a highlight of the trip was the last day because they saved their biggest ride for the finale—biking 107 miles from Canistota, S.D., to Orange City.

**Amy Commers** recently earned a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She serves as a youth services librarian at the Ames (Iowa) Public Library.

**Kristin Heumann**, Chandler, Ariz., is a lifestyle coordinator at Club One. She's pursuing a doctorate in physical activity, nutrition and wellness at Arizona State University.

**Danielle (Dornbierer) Whigham**, West Des Moines, Iowa, is a marketing coordinator for Vodaci Technologies.

**'07 Amanda Gilliam** is pursuing a master's degree in forensic psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

**Emily Hoekema**, business communications coordinator for Lawrence and Schiller in Sioux Falls, scripted a video used to announce Sanford Health's plan to seek a cure for type 1 diabetes. The video features Ben Calsbeek (5), the son of NWC employees **Tina (Ter Horst '97)** and **Dr. Dean Calsbeek '97**.

**Brooke Huizenga** is the resident director of Walker Hall at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark.

**'08 Amanda Allen** is pursuing a law degree at the University of the Pacific in Sacramento, Calif.

**Carley Christoffers**, Pocahontas, Iowa, is a second grade teacher for the Nodaway Valley Community School District.

**Elizabeth Colbert**, Sioux Falls, is a lead patient service representative for Avera McKennan's regional clinics. She assists clinics in converting computer systems to electronic medical records and billing.

**Anthony Ebert** is the assistant band director for Colorado Springs (Colo.) Christian Schools.

**Renae (Katsma) Heesch**, Palatine, Ill., is a staff accountant at Trinity International University in Deerfield.

**Jessica Jenkins** teaches first grade for the Millard Public Schools in Omaha.

**Angela Jiskoot** is an administrative assistant at Weber Shandwick Worldwide in Chicago.

**Sara (Vee) Meekhof** is an early childhood preschool teacher in Sioux Falls.

**Laura Schmidt**, Littleton, Colo., is a missionary service volunteer recruitment processor at Youth for Christ.

## New arrivals

Robert and **Julianne (James '86) Doty**, daughter by adoption, Jill Lynn (3), joins Kristin (12) and Drew (10)

Jason and **Karla (Jongeling '90) Hanson**, daughter, Hattie Ann, joins Ketia and Luke

Kevin and **Ann (Lapinski '90) Jongsma**, daughter by adoption from China, Abby Qian (2), joins Jenna (6)

Ryan and **Cindy (Pletke '92) Blackard**, son, Andrew Ryan, joins Ian (6) and Garrett (3)

Miguel and **Stacy Rulla-Parroquin '93**, daughter, Cristina Isabel

**Lori (Voskuil '94) and Rick Scholtens '92**, son, Gabriel Paul, joins Trevor (10), Garrett (7) and Karsten (2)

**Sherry (Ferrell '96) and Ryan DeHaan '96**, son, Grant Abraham, joins April (8) and Janna (5)

Amy and **Kevin Kroeze '96**, daughter, Emerson Renae, joins Brent (3)

John and **Caroline (Rogers '96) Musgrove**, son, Roger John (RJ)

**Catherine (Vermeer '97) and Matthew Bloom '97**, daughter, Maria Dawn

Greg and **Julie (Vermeer '97) Elliott**, daughter, Annalise Marilyn, joins Victoria (14)

David and **Sarah (Elgersma '97) Strobe**, son, Daniel Charles

# Be Counted

Make sure you're among those alumni and friends making a difference in the lives of Northwestern students.

Say "yes" when a student caller contacts you this fall with an opportunity to give to the Northwestern Fund.

## Fall Phonathon

Sept. 15–Nov. 6

Not by your phone much? Give online. It's safe, secure, and puts your gift to work for Northwestern students right away.

[give.nwciowa.edu](http://give.nwciowa.edu)

Carly and **Patrick Blackwell '98**, daughter, Daphne Lynne, joins Madeline (9), Xavier (7) and Catherine (3)

Jonathan and **Jennifer (Hubers '99) Bentz**, son, Zachariah Jon, joins Hannah Morgan and **Jeremy Blom '99**, son, Alexander John

**Candace (Hup '99) and Adam Boerema '00**, son, Gideon Richard, joins Owen (7) and Margaret (3)

Jonathan and **Tasha (Kurtz '99) Cole**, twin daughters, Madison Anne and Ellie Kirstine, join Taylor (4)

Amy and **Kirk Johnson '99**, daughter, Amiah Lynn, joins Karson (2)

Mike and **Carmen (Biesheuvel '99) Law**, son, Nathaniel David, joins Charlie (5)

Matt and **Kimberly (McGlone '99) MonteMayer**, daughter, Mia Isabella, joins Dominic (2)

Jeanne and **Josh Thomas '99**, daughter, Eden Gabrielle

Rodrick and **Maria (Olson '00) Iedema**, son, Roman Edward, joins Isaiah (3)

**Kimberly (Verburg '00) and Daniel Peterson '00**, daughter, Amelia June, joins Jenna (6) and Ella (4)

Curtis and **Sarah (Everts '00) Rodgers**, daughter, Hannah Sue, joins Daniel (2)

Marissa and **Eric Vermeer '00**, son, Cael Evan

Dareck and **Nichole (South '00) Will**, son, Dalton Thomas

**Melissa (Vermaat '01) and Dave Nystrom '99**, daughter, Leah Faith, joins Zachary (2) and James (1)

**Dr. Elizabeth (Heeg '01) and Tom Truesdell '00**, daughter, Ava Yvette, joins Aiden (3)

Dave and **Abi (Seymour '01) Van Regenmorter**, son, Coy James, joins Blake (4) and Trace (2)

**Melissa (Clark '02) and Joel Bundt '93**, daughter, Evelyn Ruth, joins Josiah (5), Simeon (4) and Ezra (2)

Chad and **Karla (McMartin '02) Hanson**, daughter, Piper Janessa

Dan and **Laura (Menning '03) Lunder**, daughter, Ella Kathleen

**Penny (De Haan '03) and Chris Rott '01**, son, Isaac Harlan, joins Logan (5)

Jason and **Carleen (Owens '03) Smith**, son, Ian David

**Heather (Boersma '03) and Josh Van Leeuwen '03**, son, Josiah John

**Julie (Rutz '03) and Jordan Wondercheck '03**, twins, Stella Mae and Jackson Dean



**Andrea (Smits '04)** and **Steve Hydeen '02**, daughter, Brielle Shaye, joins Lillian (4) and Josiah (2)

Justin and **Monica (Mitzel '05) Boogerd**, son, Blake Alan

Alex and **Jenny (Przymus '05) Dighton**, son, Kowen Xander

**Regina (Prokop '05)** and **John Ranney '04**, daughter, Andalucia Noel

Aaron and **Renee (Van Regenmorter '06) Alons**, son, Asa Michael

Robert and **Jenna (Schweitzer '06) Johnson**, son, Laiken Robert

**Ashley (Adams '06)** and **Kendall Stanislav '05**, daughter, Madyson Nicole

**Katie Smith '07** and Sean Christensen, daughter, Mikayla Rose, joins Daniel (5)

## Marriages

**Linsay Carlson '98** and Simeon Vladimirov, Sioux Center

**Emily Gosselink '00** and Greg Ford, Chattanooga, Tenn.

**Melodee Crouse '02** and Kyle Webb, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Sarah Fanning '03** and Joshua Ortega, San Pedro, Calif.

**Sarah Hanson '03** and Joseph Barbee, Anchorage, Alaska

**Sarah Taylor '03** and Dan Wright, Norman, Okla.

**Lanay Robison '04** and Adam Smith, North Fairfield, Ohio

**Emilee Severson '05** and Robert Farrand, Plymouth, Minn.

**Katrina Hilberg '06** and Louis Yang, Katy, Texas

**Tessa Rosier '06** and Willem Drijfhout, Groningen, the Netherlands

**Derrica Dunn '07** and Daniel Hutchings, Glenwood, Iowa

**Heidi Ackerman '08** and **Jonathan Woehl '08**, Tempe, Ariz.

**Anthony Ebert '08** and Jennifer Smith, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Rena Katsma '08** and Jared Heesch, Palatine, Ill.

**Paula Pudewell '08** and Jesse Hovemeyer, Granada, Minn.

**Sara Vee '08** and **Richard Meekhof '08**, Sioux Falls

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**Alberta Schuller '39**, age 88, of Alton, Iowa, died June 29 in Orange City. After attending Northwestern Junior College, she was a secretary for the Agricultural Soil and Conservation Service Office in Orange City and then farmed with her husband near Alton. She was a member of Alton Reformed Church, where she participated in Ladies Aid. She was also a member of the Floyd American Legion Post Auxiliary. She is survived by her husband, Henry.

**Cecil Van Peursem '49** of Lantana, Fla., died June 27 at age 81, after a yearlong battle with colon cancer. After retiring from the post office, he volunteered with several organizations, including the Gideons and Missionary Flights International. He was an active member of Lake Worth Christian Reformed Church, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Among his survivors are his wife, **Dolly (Vreeman '50)**; five children; and a brother, **Mike '38**.

**Glenda "Marlene" (Brink '50) Alons** died July 5 in Sanborn, Iowa, at age 77. She taught in Sioux Center and Archer before farming with her husband, John, near Sanborn for 44 years. She was a member of Cornerstone United Reformed Church and volunteered at Village Northwest in Sheldon. She is survived by seven children and siblings **Allan '60, '62; Stan '64;** and **Joann Nelson '53**.

**Raymond Kiel '50**, age 75, died June 24 in Fullerton, Calif. After attending Northwestern Classical Academy, he received degrees from Morningside College and San Diego State University. He taught high school math for many years, and he later worked on the Apollo spacecraft at North American Rockwell. He was a member of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. His survivors include his wife, Edna, and two sons.

**Gilbert Schulte '67**, age 66, of Alexander, Iowa, died May 21 in Mason City. A former truck driver, he worked most recently at Lehigh Concrete in Mason City. He was a lifelong member of First Reformed Church in Alexander. Among his survivors are a brother and a sister.



# SPEAK UP

**Tell your NWC friends and classmates about the latest news in your life.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current employer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My news \_\_\_\_\_

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Submit by Oct. 31 to:  
Office of Public Relations  
Northwestern College  
101 7th St. SW  
Orange City, IA 51041  
classic@nwciowa.edu  
classic.nwciowa.edu  
712-707-7370 (fax)

# Classic Thoughts

## Election Blues

BY JOEY EARL HORSTMAN '87



It's September 1979. I'm in the 10th grade, running for a seat on the Fairmont High School Student Council. My opponent—let's call her Margaret Thatcher—is an experienced, able politician, captain of both the debate team and the cheerleading squad.

Any way you look at it, my campaign is in trouble. She is bright and articulate; I have said three audible words in the past two years. She is sophisticated and confident; I am perpetually embarrassed and prone to forgetting my locker combination. As our freshman class president, she pushed through a piece of legislation that improved study hall conditions; I was in a study hall.

My campaign manager is the starting left tackle on our football team—a sophomore whose GPA suggests multiple blows to the head. We adopt an aggressive media blitz: three posters that read—invitingly, if unconvincingly—“VOTE JOEY!”

The exclamation point was my idea.

I lost. Big. Think Mondale. Think election results announced over the loudspeaker in homeroom.

Thus began the political ill-fortune that has followed me into adulthood. In everything from presidential to school board elections, I tend to support campaigns that end in either defeat or embarrassment—sometimes both.

I was devoted to Jimmy Carter, who was first attacked by a ferocious swimming bunny while on vacation and then collapsed in the middle of a 10K run, his face as frightened and pale as mine when Ronald Reagan took the oath of office. In college, I supported Gary Hart (before he took up yachting), and in the 1988 Democratic primary, I proudly stood in Tom Harkin's corner—by myself, apparently.

Often in politics, the polls are fickle, the information ambiguous and inconclusive. But on this you may depend: If you have my vote, it's unlikely you have anyone else's.

So I suffer from low political self-esteem and high political anxiety, which has resulted in an odd mixture of confusion and righteous indignation. As I write this, my hometown is bracing for the Republican National Convention, making plans to keep the protesters out and the bars open.

Conservative commentators are getting more angry (Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh), liberal commentators more funny (Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert), and all sides are pining for that lost golden age of politics that consisted of clean campaigns, honorable candidates, objective media, and informed, intelligent voters who didn't debate issues so much as share their already common values and—after a group hug—maybe a Bundt cake.

Well, times have changed. Our challenges, enemies, economy, morals, determination and reputation—they aren't what they used to be, and depending on who you are, the nation is being ruined by terrorists, gays, illegal immigrants, cultural elites, evangelicals, atheists, Muslims, racists, mortgage companies, oil companies, liberal media, conservative talk radio, radical peaceniks or environmentalists.

There are real issues at stake in this election and much to be concerned about, from the serious (Do we really want to be a nation that tortures its enemies?) to the goofy (Do we really believe Obama is Muslim?). Most frightening of all, I think, is that we might really get the leaders we deserve—and that the last two presidents both reflect who we really are.

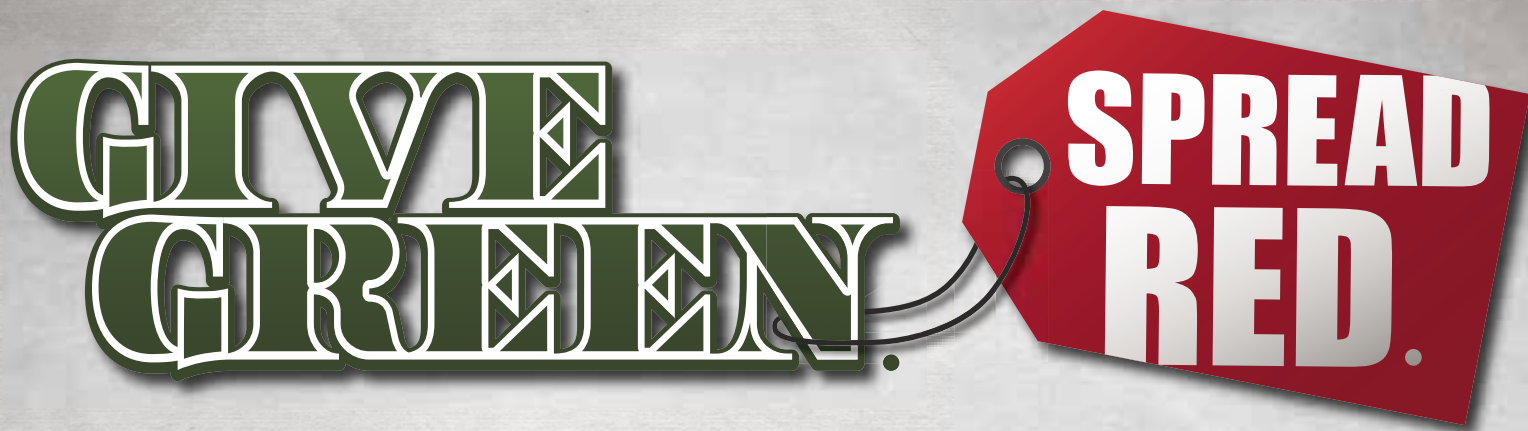
Sure, there is plenty—or, as we Minnesotans say, “Pawlenty”—that divides us. But why see the chad as half-off rather than half-on? Even if we quibble about foreign and domestic policy, at least we all—red states and blue—agree on two things: 1) Our side represents common sense and decency, and 2) No one is listening to our common sense or respecting our decency.

How odd that this system of government, designed to empower all people, has ended up making us all feel powerless, even when our side wins.

I have run for one elective office since my unsuccessful bid for high school student council. A few years ago I was up for elder of my church. I ran unopposed and won by a narrow margin.

Joey Horstman is an English professor at Bethel University in Minnesota. He earned a doctorate from Purdue University and is the author of *Praise, Anxiety and Other Symptoms of Grace* (Chalice 2000).





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# Celebración

Mexican folk dancing troupe Estrellas de Jalisco (Stars of Jalisco) performed in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center Sept. 20 during Northwestern's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15).

The performance was part of a Hispanic Festival, hosted by the college and the Hispanic Story Project for campus and community members. Outside the DeWitt Theatre, a mariachi band strolled the campus green, serenading niños (and kids-at-heart) as they played traditional Hispanic games, listened to Spanish and English stories, and took turns pounding piñatas.

Northwestern's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month also included performances by internationally known bilingual storyteller Antonio Sacre.

The Hispanic Story Project was initiated by Professor Barbara Turnwall, English. Turnwall and area writers are translating the stories of Hispanic immigrants to Sioux County; the collection, available in both English and Spanish, is being piloted as part of the curriculum in area schools.

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