

Northwestern College Magazine

the Classic

FALL 2009

Choosing Family

Alumni share the challenges, heartaches and joys of adoption

Also

Music Maker Retires
Clash of the Classes
Raider Rivalries



15

An anonymous \$250,000 gift led to record fundraising for the Northwestern Fund in 2008–09. Without those annual gifts, tuition would be \$1,255 higher per student.

Classic People

Editor

Duane Beeson
712-707-7116
beeson@nwciowa.edu

Staff Writers

Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson
Duane Beeson
Anita Cirulis
Teri Elgersma
Tamara Fynaardt

Designers

John Vander Stelt '83
Ryan James
Roy Trevino

Web Designer

Dan Robinson '01

The *Classic* is published quarterly—in January, April, July and November—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.

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

On the cover:

Jon Moss '99 has fun outside with adopted son David. Jon and his wife, Liz (Calsbeek '99), are among the hundreds of Northwestern alumni who have grown their families through adoption.

PHOTO BY VANESSA BARTELS



11

11 Music Maker

Kimberly Utke Svanoe logged more than 50,000 miles and traveled to 24 states and four countries while serving as the conductor of Northwestern's touring A cappella Choir. This spring she retired after teaching music at Northwestern for 33 years.



12

12 Class Pride

A weeklong competition gives Northwestern's freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors a chance to bond with classmates while battling for class bragging rights.

16 Family Tree

Welcoming children into their homes from China, Ethiopia, India and across the U.S., Northwestern alumni are experiencing the joys and struggles of adoption.



16

On the Web

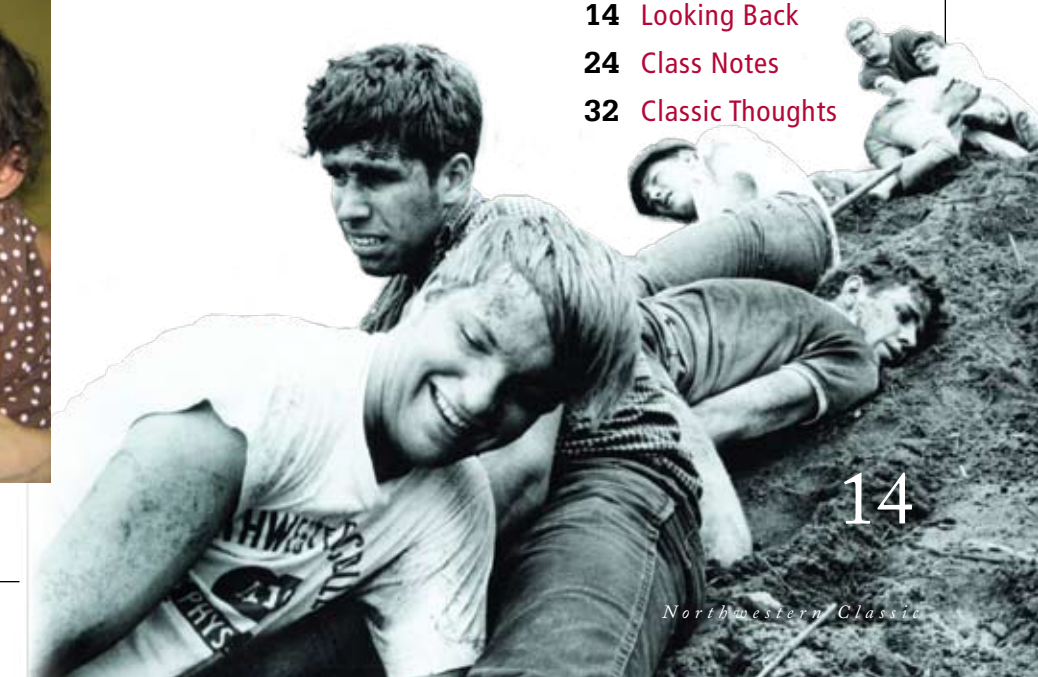
Your Turn

Add your comments to any article in this issue and share your adoption stories.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

Departments

- 2 **Zwemer View**
- 3 **In Box**
- 4 **Around the Green**
- 6 **Of Course**
- 9 **Face Value**
- 12 **1,000 Words**
- 14 **Looking Back**
- 24 **Class Notes**
- 32 **Classic Thoughts**



14



Zwemer View

Don't Keep It Secret

A year ago the stock market took the largest one-week dive since the Great Depression and a major financial crisis began rocking the country. Colleges and universities were affected too and wondered what impact the economic downturn would have on efforts to recruit and retain students.

We got our answer this fall when we welcomed a strong class of new students: 370 freshmen and transfers, up from 328 a year ago. That brings our total enrollment to 1,206, which is higher than we were expecting six months ago. We praise God for his provision for Northwestern and in the lives of our students. We're thankful that in spite of the financial strain many families are experiencing, a Northwestern College education is still highly valued.

In response to economic challenges, we implemented several new initiatives last year to maximize our enrollment. One program was the Red Recruiter Scholarship, which enabled alumni and friends to provide a \$500 scholarship for any prospective students who enroll. Last year the names of over 300 students were referred to our admissions office. Thank you for making this program successful. See the inside back cover of this *Classic* for details on how you can participate again this year.

What students in your schools, church or neighborhood might benefit from the Christ-centered education Northwestern offers? Are there other ways you can encourage students to consider Northwestern? In the past, alumni have offered to pay students' flights to visit their alma mater. Others drive them to campus themselves. Some simply use a phone call, personal note or e-mail to share how their Northwestern experience prepared them for the life they are now living.

A new initiative for this year is our Legacy Grant, which offers financial aid to students with a family or church connection to Northwestern.

Students are eligible for a Legacy Grant if:

- A parent or grandparent attended Northwestern for at least three semesters
- A sibling is currently enrolled or has graduated from NWC
- The student attends a Reformed Church in America congregation

Students receive a \$1,500 Legacy Grant if they meet one of the above criteria, \$2,000 if they meet two, or \$2,500 for meeting all three.

Several people from across the country who have recently visited Northwestern for the first time commented to me that our college is "the best-kept secret around." Best is good. Secret is not. Together let's change that.

Greg Christy
President

in Box

From the *Classic* website

The following readers posted comments about *Classic* articles at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Green Plea Reactions

I sense a lack of balance in what Dr. Sleeth seems to be championing. Washing dishes by hand and drying your clothes outside (even in the winter) may impart some perceived benefit to the environment, but the combined similar efforts of even a billion people can be completely wiped out in a single volcanic eruption.

I think some of us have an exalted view on just how much influence we can have on the global environment. God does not want us to worship or adore the earth or any of his creations. He didn't even ask us to preserve the earth. In Genesis 1:28 God commanded man to "subdue" the earth. That is, to understand it and gain the mastery of it; to put it to work in our own best interests. Certainly there is also stewardship implied, but preserving a "pristine" earth may not be in man's best interest. Focus on saving souls.

Evan Mortenson '80

I hope you will agree with me that as Christians we are called to a much higher standard than the world at large, that we are to be the light of the world, like a city set upon a hill. As such, we shouldn't stop at polluting less than China or keeping our litter inside our cars. We should, for example, be aware of purchasing items that are made in China and contribute to the pollution problem, regardless of whether or not those purchases are "within our means."

And Dr. Sleeth addresses the point about saving souls when he notes in the interview that fewer resources used by Christians in the production and consumption of material goods means more resources for the work of the church. Thank you, *Classic*, for printing this kind of interview that encourages conversation about how we can live and move and have our being in the one who is creator of all.

Carrie (Dean '96) Ronken

Unsung Heroes

Yay for the maintenance people! I worked with them a few summers and think back with great fondness. [They] all have touched my life.

Tessa (Rosier '06) Drijfhout



New Career Paths

As a Northwestern alumnus who himself is changing tracks, I very much appreciated the article in the summer issue of the *Classic*. My own story involves coming back to a path I first took in high school. I belonged to a medical careers club where I was the only male member—and where the predominant career path was nursing. After much exploration, being a nurse or physician just didn't appeal to me, and thus I went on a new path that brought me to Northwestern, as well as a long career with the Perkins Family Restaurants chain that taught me much about life and dealing with the public.

Now after all these years, the Lord has brought me back full circle to the world of health care, as I am currently attending North Iowa Area Community College to become a medical assistant. I was with my aunt for one of her regular appointments at our local clinic when I sensed the Holy Spirit speaking to me regarding my past work experience. After watching the medical assistants do their work, I said to myself, "I can do that." And so I am now in the second year of my studies.

It's been an interesting, sometimes scary, experience. But knowing that God has been directing my steps and supplying my needs as I take one day at a time—not to mention the regular prayers of fellow Christians who

are supporting me in answering God's call upon my life—has been of great comfort to me.

Kevin Young '82
Sheffield, Iowa

Favorite Magazine

The *Classic* is my favorite of all the magazines we receive. Your articles are thought-provoking and intentional—they connect with real people and real issues. So often when I read the *Classic* I think, "Wow! That was inspiring!" Also, you don't use the pages to brag about NWC. The *Classic* is read as soon as it arrives. Thank you for the excellent quality you put into each issue.

Karen Erickson
Mt. Horeb, Wis.

Gratefully Red

Alumni Director Jenny Neuhauser '00 challenged readers to submit articles about why they are "Gratefully Red" in her summer '09 Red Ties column. Read more than 20 submissions at www.nwciowa.edu/gratefullyred.

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

Executive Decisions

The Northwestern College Board of Trustees approved building a suite-style residence hall and endorsed new mission and identity statements at its fall meeting in October.

The board voted to move forward with constructing a residential facility to house about 60 students. Rooms will be arranged in suites, with a bathroom in each suite. The hall will include commons areas.

“This style of residence is something between a traditional residence hall and an apartment building,” says President Greg Christy. “Suite-style halls are becoming very popular, so we’re excited to be able to provide this new option for our students.”

Officials hope to begin construction next spring and have it completed by the end of 2010. The residence hall, to be located in what is now a parking lot north of Stegenga Hall, will provide needed housing for students following the closing of 60-year-old Heemstra Hall after this school year. Heemstra will remain on campus temporarily and will be available for other uses.

The new mission and identity statements were approved after much input from faculty and staff over the past year.

Mission Statement:
Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in coura-

geous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world.

Identity Statement:
Northwestern College is a Christian college in the Reformed tradition, founded in 1882 by the Reformed Church in America. We are committed to providing a Christian liberal arts education in an undergraduate, intercultural and residential environment. We offer bachelor’s degrees in a variety of traditional and professional programs.

Christy says the new mission statement is a fresh way of stating

what Northwestern’s mission has been throughout its history. “This isn’t a change in our mission, but a new way of articulating it,” he says.

“The new mission statement and the Vision for Learning that was adopted in 2006 make a very strong statement about who we are and what we desire to have happen in the lives of our students,” says Christy.

“The most important thing is that we’re living out the mission each day to the best of our ability, with God’s grace, and that the mission is the basis for all decisions we make.”

Campus Enhancements

Improvements completed this summer made a difference in student classrooms as well as in the center of the college’s campus green.

A new chemistry lab was added to Van Peurse Hall when a classroom was gutted and given new cabinetry, work stations and vacuum pumps. Workers also renovated the chemistry storage room—installing new vented cabinetry—and added a faculty office.

Remodeling also took place in the nursing department facilities in Orange City’s former hospital building. Four patient rooms were converted into a classroom, conference room and human patient simulator lab.

A gift from Leonard and Marjorie Maas of Holland, Mich., paid for the installation of a patio and sitting area north of Zwemer Hall that features pavers inset with the cross from the college’s word mark. The Maas’ donation also paid for a new campus directory sign that was placed south of Zwemer Hall between the visitor parking lot and Highway 10.

Among the summer renovations was a major landscaping project on the campus green, as seen from the tower of Zwemer Hall.



Spanglish Hoops



A team mission trip to Mexico in June gave Northwestern basketball players Randa Hulstein (right) and Becca Hurley the opportunity to teach proper shooting technique to schoolchildren in Mazatlan.

Coach Earl Woudstra discovered this summer how hard it is to conduct a basketball clinic when you don’t speak the language. In June he and 11 members of Northwestern’s women’s basketball team spent a week in Mexico on a missions trip.

Accompanying them was Woudstra’s wife, Karen; assistant coach Chris Yaw; and Yaw’s wife and three children.

“I was doing a lot of arm waving and thumbs up or thumbs down,” Woudstra says about the clinics. “It was fun to see our kids with the Mexican girls. Our players were trying to learn Spanish, and they wanted to learn English.”

Former missionaries James and Robin Schofield met the team, made arrangements for the week, and served as interpreters. The Schofields

spent seven years in Mexico with Mazatlan Missions and in 2007 brought 13 Mexican girls to Northwestern for a basketball camp. Robin is related to a Northwestern professor, and the Schofields also hosted a Spring Service Project team while in Mazatlan.

In addition to the basketball clinics, the Northwestern players and their coaches spent time at a school, where they painted, interacted with kids, and taught English. They also visited a home for teenage girls, conducted a neighborhood Bible school, dug the footings for a Sunday school room, and helped lead worship at a local church.

Of Course

You in Context

Class

Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Instructor

Mark De Ruyter
Assistant Professor of Social Work

“I take no fame; I take no blame,” says social work professor Mark De Ruyter, quoting advice he once heard. It’s advice he shares with students so they remember they are not responsible for future clients’ successes—or failures. Potential areas for failure are explored in Human Behavior and the Social Environment (HBSE).

“Social workers don’t work just with individuals,” says De Ruyter, “nor just with groups. We work within the dysfunction that sometimes arises between those two.”

HBSE focuses on families as a central influence on behavior and development. De Ruyter calls it his “frying pan course” because it covers crisis at every life stage, from child abuse and teen pregnancy to infertility and divorce.

In this class, as in nearly every one he teaches, De Ruyter tells students, “It may not be fun, but it is interesting.”

Texts and Assignments

Exploring Human Behavior and the Social Environment, by L. Allen Furr
A Child Called “It,” by Dave Pelzer

In addition to reflecting on Pelzer’s child-abuse autobiography, students write two other papers:

- A “Self as a System” paper that answers “Who are you and why?” from the perspectives of biology, sociology, psychology and spirituality
- A family research project that explores generational changes within the context of social changes

Mission Minor

Northwestern is now offering a minor in Christian mission. The program replaces the career concentration in mission service.

The minor requires 24 credit hours of courses in such areas as theology, intercultural communication, missiology and world religions, as well as an experiential component.

“Mission is about both knowledge and the application of that knowledge,” says Dr. Rod Spidahl, associate professor of religion and a former missionary in Cameroon. “You’ve got to be able to apply it—to learn how to engage people where they live. This program will enable students to translate what God has done through Jesus Christ into whatever culture they’re in.”

Spidahl says the minor is pertinent for students no matter what their major. “The phenomenal rise of short-term mission participants and the increasing interaction of congregations with other religions and cultures make the program very relevant in helping to prepare students who will bring clarity, depth and informed passion to the mission of Christ’s church.”



Northwestern’s new mission minor includes a cross-cultural immersion requirement that can be fulfilled by participating in the Summer of Service program, a mission internship, or an approved study abroad program.

Teaching Leader

Just a year after receiving the highest honor given by the Iowa Writing Project, Barbara Turnwall has again garnered statewide recognition from her peers. The assistant professor of English received the Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English (ICTE) in October for being an instructional leader, an advocate for English language arts teaching and learning, and active in professional development and service.

A member of Northwestern’s faculty since 1966, Turnwall has served as an advisory board and steering committee member for the Iowa Writing Project (IWP). She has also directed numerous IWP workshops and given presentations at meetings of the ICTE, National Council of Teachers of English, and Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

In collaboration with the Iowa Writing Project, Turnwall began Northwestern’s Pedagogy Project in 2000. Through the program, more than 70 NWC professors have come together for a year of focused

study to reflect on and discuss their teaching practice and to experiment with new strategies in their classrooms. The program has spawned Pedagogy Project II, which engages faculty members in a yearlong focus on integrating writing more effectively into the learning process.

One of Turnwall’s latest ventures has been directing the Hispanic Story Project, which has gathered, translated and published stories of northwest Iowa’s Hispanic immigrants. Some of the stories have been published bilingually by IWP and provided to area teachers for a variety of uses, including curriculum materials and sensitivity training.

Donna Niday, executive director of ICTE, nominated Turnwall for the award. “Perhaps greater than all of her named accomplishments,” says Niday, “is Barb’s enthusiasm for teaching and learning. She embraces the challenges of the classroom energetically and joyously and goes beyond talking by acting upon her beliefs to provide faculty professional development.”



Barbara Turnwall is the 2009 Distinguished Service Award recipient from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English.

Studying a Family Tree’s Growth Rings

HBSE students interview extended family members, gathering information about relatives’ education, occupations, religion, marriages/divorces, children, physical/mental health, life spans, and causes of death.

They then create family genograms and ecomaps. Both diagrams go beyond a typical family tree, depicting relational strengths and weaknesses as well as psychological and social factors that enhance or inhibit familial connection and function.

Genograms and ecomaps are used by social workers to help clients identify physical, psychological and social patterns within their family.

You can create your own genogram using software available at www.genopro.com/genogram.

Make it a Red
Christmas

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

bookstore.nwciowa.edu

First-Year Faculty

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

Weston Cutter

Instructor in English
M.F.A., Virginia Tech

Cutter was included in *Best New Poets 2008*, and two of his poems were nominated for the Pushcart Prize in both 2008 and 2007. His poetry and fiction have been published in several literary journals.

Yin Lam (Nicole) Lee

Instructor in ESL
Ph.D. candidate, Ohio State

Working within the foreign language department and the intercultural affairs office, Lee leads Northwestern’s English as a second language (ESL) program and teaches a variety of ESL courses. She earned master’s degrees in applied linguistics and computer-aided translation from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Jonathan Sabo

Associate Professor of Theatre and Speech
M.F.A., Wayne State University

Sabo brings more than 20 years of experience as a college scenic designer, technical director and lighting designer to the faculty. He previously taught at Bethel College of Indiana, Nazareth College of New York and Westmont College in California.

Richard Sowienski

Assistant Professor of English
M.F.A., University of Iowa

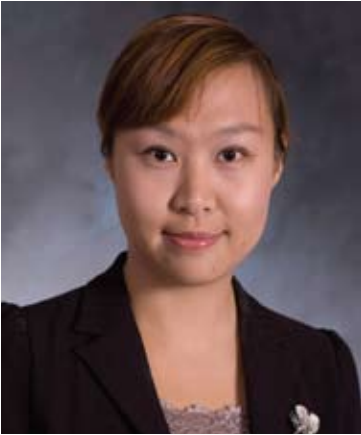
Sowienski joins the faculty after serving as managing editor for *The Missouri Review* and lecturer at the University of Missouri. He previously was parenting and education editor of *Better Homes and Gardens* and senior editor of *Country America*.



Weston Cutter



Jonathan Sabo



Yin Lam (Nicole) Lee



Richard Sowienski

Courses Online

Northwestern made its first official foray into offering online courses this summer. Dr. Michael Kensak, English, and Dr. Lila Sybesma, education, were the professors for the pioneering effort. Kensak previously offered an online course on a one-on-one basis.

Kensak and Sybesma see the online courses as a service Northwestern needs to provide for students and other constituents. Sybesma taught two courses that lead to the unified early childhood endorsement, a program that is in demand by experienced teachers. One of Kensak’s three courses is only offered every other year in the classroom. In addition, one of this summer’s students was a Northwestern senior who was deployed in Afghanistan at the time.

The two professors plan to offer online courses again next summer, and they may be joined by others. Kensak is preparing a distance education manual for NWC and will

give a presentation to faculty next spring about how to provide a distinctively Christian approach to online education that builds community.

“From my experiences, I think online courses can improve learning outcomes if they are taught in a thoughtful manner,” says Kensak. “In a typical classroom you can have three extroverts answering most of the questions and 75 percent of the students not talking during the discussion. In online courses, everyone answers every question. In my literary studies course, I asked every student for an original contribution and a response to someone else’s comments. Everyone was involved in doing literary analysis.”

By lecturing less and involving students in more problem-solving and discussion, Kensak says he saw the students become more confident and engaged. “They were resources for each other and began to think of themselves as young experts in the field.”

Compiling Kudos

- As the 2009–10 academic year began, Northwestern received impressive recognition from a number of publications and organizations.
- *U.S. News & World Report* again ranked Northwestern in a tie for fourth among 100 Midwestern colleges.
 - In recognition of its environmental stewardship efforts, NWC was named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation for the second year in a row.
 - Northwestern was named to the 2010 list of Military-Friendly Schools by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. Northwestern participates in the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Yellow Ribbon Program, contributing \$7,500 per year in tuition expenses for up to three eligible veterans.
 - Forbes.com included NWC among the top 15 percent of the nation’s colleges and universities. Only 14 Iowa colleges were selected for the Forbes.com ranking, and NWC ranked sixth among them.
 - Princeton Review.com listed Northwestern among 160 institutions selected for its “Best in the Midwest” designation, based on student opinion.

Face Value

Dave Nonnemacher

Compassionate visionary

Describe the essence of what you do at Northwestern.
I’m a seeker of the possible.

As the administrator of NWC’s \$2.5 million Lilly Grant, what would you say has been the best impact of that gift?
The incredible opportunities it provides for our community to explore vocational call.

Why is experiential learning important?
When we can help students connect the head to the heart, learning is maximized. We have a number of faculty and staff who seek to do that by incorporating experiential learning into curricular and co-curricular offerings.

Name something about your work you really enjoy.
When I have the opportunity to connect students to work that matters—be it work centered on research, serving in under-resourced communities, or loving the marginalized in Jesus’ name—it’s a great privilege.

Describe yourself in three words.
Proactive, focused, compassionate.

What is your favorite spot on campus?
The rehab area in the Bultman Center. Some of my best ideas have come during a hard workout on the elliptical machine. I can get alone with my thoughts, hammer a bit, listen to some U2 and dream.

What is one of your treasured NWC memories?
It was at the Region 3 championship baseball game in 2007 against Dickinson State. Brad Payne flipped the ball to Austin Malone to force the runner at second base, clinching our first regional championship. Plus, Mihai Burlea, our All-American from Romania, was the pitcher. It brought together a bunch of stuff for me. It was an emotional moment.



DOUG BURIG

Since joining Northwestern’s staff in 1987, Dave Nonnemacher has served as a resident director, director of residence life, service learning coordinator and head baseball coach. His current role is director of the Lilly Grant and experiential learning.

When have you been surprised at work?
I was so moved by the humbling, incredible response of my co-workers to my family’s attempt to have Rodica, a young woman from Moldova in need of medical intervention, come to live with us two years ago. The folks in the Franken Center spearheaded a fundraising effort to help us defray expenses, members of the community lifted her visa application process up in prayer, and many others participated in ways too numerous to mention.

How has your family changed in the last year?
Jody and I adopted Zoe and Grace, half-sisters from Liberia, last October. What a ride! We are grateful for the encouragement and support we received from Northwestern through this process.

What are your hobbies?
I love to read. I enjoy chasing pheasants on a cool fall day, a good workout over the noon hour and taking in all my children’s activities. Maybe more than anything I love to imagine “what might be.”

On Board

Six new members have joined Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. Appointed to four-year terms and attending their first meeting in October were the Rev. Carl Boersma ’75 of Sioux Center; Anita (Plantage ’77) Bomgaars of Orange City; Dr. Bryan Den Hartog ’81 of Rapid City, S.D.; Merlyn De Vries ’68 of Edmond, Okla.; Marty Guthmiller ’82 of Orange City; and Lori Scott of Omaha.

Boersma, the teaching pastor at New Life Reformed Church since 1991, previously served on the board from 1991 to 2003. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary.

Bomgaars, a longtime substitute teacher for MOC-Floyd Valley, served as a trustee from 1995 to ’97 when she was president of the National Alumni Board. She has been a community leader and co-producer of the forthcoming *Winning Favor* movie.


Den Hartog has been an orthopedic surgeon at the Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center since 1995. He earned a medical degree at the University of Iowa and completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Kansas. He served on Northwestern’s board from 1999 to 2007.

De Vries has been the senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer of Maxcess International Corp. since 1989. Recipient of Northwestern’s Distinguished Professional Achievement Award in 2006, he earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of South Dakota.

Guthmiller, CEO of Orange City Area Health System since 1994, received Northwestern’s Distinguished Professional Achievement Award in 2007. He earned a master’s degree in health administration from the University of Colorado.

Scott has spent more than 20 years as a leader for local community service organizations. She earned a master’s degree in public administration from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor’s degree at the University of Northern Iowa.

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, for a list of available games or to place an order.

Proceeds support the Red Raider Club.



Carl Boersma



Anita Bomgaars



Bryan Den Hartog



Merlyn De Vries



Marty Guthmiller



Lori Scott



Music Maker

**Kimberly Utke Svanoe retires
after three decades at NWC**

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Kimberly Utke Svanoe was just 22 when she signed her first teaching contract with Northwestern College. Fresh from graduate school on the East Coast, where she’d earned a master’s degree in choral conducting, she was hired to direct the A cappella Choir after Professor Lawrence Van Wyk retired.

“It’s uncommon to have a female conduct a touring Christian college choir in the Midwest. They’re predominantly conducted by men,” says Svanoe, who retired in May after 33 years at NWC. “I think it’s a distinctive of Northwestern College that they weren’t afraid to put a woman in that capacity.”

Svanoe wasn’t afraid to accept the job either. Born into a Norwegian-German family in Maddock, N.D., she credits her prairie girl background with her forthright way of getting to the heart of the matter. That background also helped her win the choral position at Northwestern. The dean who hired her told her that, although she had concert experience in Boston, she could understand the rural student who has talent because she herself was from North Dakota.

Svanoe’s own musical talent was evident at an early age. She started piano at age 5 and cello when she was 9, adding voice lessons in high school. Originally interested in becoming a concert pianist, she switched her emphasis to choral conducting after her first year of graduate school.

“I realized I wanted to make music with people,” she says of the hours alone in a practice room that a career as a pianist would require.

Svanoe credits God’s call with bringing her to Northwestern—and keeping her at a place she deeply loves. “Next to raising my son, Will, Northwestern has been my life,” she says.

During Svanoe’s years at the college, she helped coordinate music for chapel services; supervised more than 50 vocal music student teachers; gave voice, violin and cello lessons; and taught conducting, music

methods and music survey courses. She also directed the Symphonette and Women’s Choir for more than three decades and the A cappella Choir from 1977 to 2000, visiting 24 states and four countries during national and international tours.

Now retired from Northwestern, Svanoe is embarking on a new phase in her career: teaching music at Sioux Falls Christian School, where she will continue discovering and developing musical talent—this time in what will, in some instances, be the children of her former students. 🏠

SVANOE CLOSE-UP

Year hired by NWC

1976

Education

Minot State University (B.S.), New England Conservatory of Music (M.M.), University of Iowa (D.M.A.)

Favorite composers

Brahms, Bach and Mahler

Miles traveled during choir tours

Over 50,000

Career highlight

Construction of Christ Chapel and the DeWitt Music Hall

“We worked about five years on that chapel design. Our task was to create a facility that would be a place of worship first of all, but also acoustically excellent for music. I believe we did.”

CLASS PRIDE

It's a tradition as old as Northwestern: Students battling each other for class bragging rights. Since 2004 those battles have taken the form of Clash of the Classes, an elaborate competition held at the start of each school year. Beginning with the Slime Fight and including everything from human foosball to tricycle races to synchronized swimming on land, the weeklong event allows students to test their physical and mental prowess, practice teamwork and bond with classmates.



Class Warfare



Gary Hofmeyer (foreground), now a pastor in St. Petersburg, Fla., says he was cheating when this photo of the sophomore tug-of-war team was taken in 1969. “I was in the river and still pulling when I was supposed to stop. We cheated and we still lost!”

BY DUANE BEESON

Across sloughs, ditches, fences and alfalfa fields they ran, young men and women leaving a trail of chalk and paper—and sometimes blood—behind them on a dark October night. They were the seniors of Northwestern Classical Academy, and they were looking to prove their supremacy over the junior class.

During the 1920s and ’30s, the annual fox-and-geese chase pitted the seniors—geese—against their younger counterparts—foxes. With a 30-minute head start, the geese would take off on an adventure, hoping the foxes couldn’t find their path and capture them. At the end—when the seniors were found, the juniors gave up, or

the lost foxes were corralled near midnight—the students gathered at Zwemer Hall for refreshments.

A generation earlier, competition between the seniors and juniors revolved around an attempt to hoist their class flags on the Northwestern flagpole. A 1906 newspaper reported on a back-and-forth five-day “scrap” that resulted in several ruined flags, bruises but no serious injuries, and the senior class flag ultimately waving proudly in triumph.

During the 1960s and 1970s, men from the freshman and sophomore classes battled in the annual rope pull over the Floyd River as part of May Day festivities. Gary Hofmeyer ’71 remembers practic-

ing pulling technique and digging holes to stand in, yet still losing badly to the freshmen in 1969.

Women took part in class competition of a different sort in the same era, as the freshmen and sophomores sang and performed skits in the Stegenga Festival. In 1967, the winning sophomores’ theme was a trip around the world, while the freshmen presented a “Berkeley girls” protest march.

A story in that year’s *De Klompen* declared that more school spirit was generated at the event than at many athletic contests.

“What the presentations lack in professional touches is made up for by the enthusiasm of the girls,” it said.

Paying for college?

It's a LOCK



Invest in the Independent 529 Plan, and lock in tomorrow’s tuition at less than today’s price. Northwestern and more than 270 private colleges participate in this prepaid tuition plan. It could be the key to your child’s or grandchild’s higher education.

www.independent529plan.org

888-718-7878

Independent 529 certificates must be held a minimum of 36 months before they can be redeemed for tuition.



Funding Northwestern’s Mission

2008–09 giving spurred by \$250,000 gift

Fundraising Report

July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009

- Total giving was \$3,447,072.
- Northwestern Fund giving was \$1,955,960, compared to \$1,392,149 the previous year. A challenge gift of \$250,000 from an anonymous donor led to \$338,863 in new and increased gifts.
- The average alumni gift to the Northwestern Fund jumped \$45, from \$190 in 2007–08 to \$235 in 2008–09. Alumni giving to the NW Fund totaled \$485,881, which was \$65,000 more than the previous year.
- The percentage of alumni giving to Northwestern was 23%. Twenty-six classes increased their participation percentage, compared with only 13 classes that increased their participation the previous year.
- The Tower Society (\$1,000+) totaled 231 members; 41 gave at the silver level (\$2,500+), and 24 gave at the gold level (\$5,000+). (In 2007–08, only two Tower Society members gave at the gold level.)
- The Heritage Society (donors making planned gifts) grew by 16 members to 630.

Northwestern Fund	2007–08	2008–09
Alumni	\$420,653	\$485,881
Friends	\$306,916	\$812,947
Foundations/grants	\$112,878	\$150,168
Corporations	\$130,216	\$131,299
Churches	\$371,815	\$350,365
Other	\$49,671	\$25,300
Subtotal	\$1,392,149	\$1,955,960

Capital and Endowed Gifts	2007–08	2008–09
Alumni	\$496,335	\$279,433
Friends	\$736,260	\$529,019
Foundations/grants	\$262,300	\$259,750
Corporations	\$62,745	\$81,179
Churches	\$1,101	\$2,225
Estates	\$683,379	\$289,006
Other	\$95,000	\$50,500
Subtotal	\$2,337,120	\$1,491,112
Grand total	\$3,729,269	\$3,447,072

Imagine Campaign

	Goal	Total Raised
Learning Commons	\$20 million	\$6,982,727
Academic Innovation (new and improved programs)	\$5 million	\$1,454,365
Rowenhorst Student Center renovation	\$3 million	\$523,587
Scholarships	\$2 million	\$3,977,839
Undesignated gifts		\$273,228
Total	\$30 million	\$13,211,746

Alumni Giving

Best giving percentage

Class of 1944	63%
Class of 1949	60%
Class of 1946	60%
Class of 1956	56%
Class of 1952	52%

Best giving overall

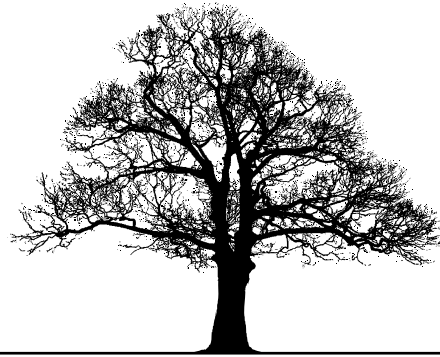
Class of 1975	\$116,219
Class of 1972	\$112,990
Class of 1982	\$83,929
Class of 1981	\$64,083
Class of 1965	\$61,840

Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

Class of 1965	\$46,202
Class of 1972	\$41,620
Class of 1975	\$33,704
Class of 1968	\$26,108
Class of 1955	\$21,970

Planned Giving

Bequests received	\$455,318
Gifts for endowed scholarships	\$560,987



Family Tree

Families who branch out through adoption grow in more ways than one

BY AMY SCHEER

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, Stephanie (Ells '03) and Nathan Huisman '02 were standing in the parking lot of the Bismarck, N.D., Hobby Lobby when Stephanie's cell phone rang. They had been shopping for supplies for a baby book, where Stephanie was recording their process of adopting from Vietnam.

The Huismans were 150th on a waiting list, which would likely mean another 12 to 18 months until a referral came, and then another four to six weeks before they'd travel. After years of dealing with infertility, this would be one more test of patience for the Huismans, but they stayed positive and had even purchased nursery bedding they'd been eyeing—a brown, green and white fleece blanket with a smiling elephant motif.

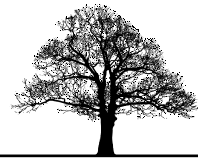
A friend from church was calling. Someone she knew in Ohio had given birth to a baby boy the day before and planned to abandon him at the hospital under the state's Safe Haven laws. Would the Huismans consider adopting him?

By the next afternoon they were driving to Ohio, an infant car seat installed securely in back.

A 2-by-2-inch photo was Leanne De Vos's first picture of Emma, whom she adopted from China in 1996.



BARRY GUTIERREZ



If you want to make God laugh,” begins the film *Bella*, which won the Excellence in Adoption Media Award, “tell him your plans.” Couples plan to expand their families naturally. Women expect to become pregnant in good and convenient timing. A young girl playing with her dolls never guesses that one day, when she bears her own children, she might not be able to afford diapers or even enough food.

Adoption is simply this: A child whose birthparents are unable to provide care finds a new family. The playing out of this act of societal redemption, however, is as varied as the faces and personalities of the children themselves; laws, processes and costs differ from state to state and country to country.

Just as diverse are the reasons why people choose to adopt, and how children come to be found.

Leanne De Vos '78 was 39 and single when *The Rocky Mountain News* she had been receiving on a free six-month subscription ran a photograph of people returning from China with girls they had adopted. China's one-child policy, instituted in 1979 to cap population growth, results in fines for urban families with multiple children, leading to high abortion rates and a preference for male babies.

De Vos, a Denver attorney who taught in Taiwan for a year after graduating from Northwestern, had never previously entertained the idea of adoption nor felt the push to have children. She managed her life as she did a lawsuit waiting to be filed—with careful planning and forethought. When she saw the newspaper photo, however, she knew instantly she should adopt a daughter from China.

“I felt a certainty I didn't have any facts to base on,” De Vos says. “Empirically, this was not a rational decision at all.”

In Sioux Center, Iowa, Sheila (Born '94) De Jong and her husband, Kelly, were hoping to expand their family. Sheila had had difficult pregnancies with their two boys and a miscarriage in between; when the concept of adoption began weaving through the Bible study she was attending at the time, she took notice.

Jesus was raised by an adoptive father. Moses' mother gave him up so he could have a better life. Romans 8:23–24 says, “We wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.”

In 2003, the De Jongs traveled to Guatemala to meet their new daughter, Maria. “She likes to tell the story,” Sheila says. “You put out your arms and I touched your face and you were crying.”

Ajay Eshcol '03 and his wife, Lindsey (Erickson '03), talked about adoption even before they were married.

“We dreamed of having a family that looked like the family of God, full of different colors and cultures,” Lindsey says.

The Eshcols had been married for four years when, a few days before last Christmas, Ajay received an urgent e-mail from his parents in India. A woman had given birth to her sixth daughter and was forbidden by her husband to return home with another girl; the mother and child were temporarily staying just a few miles from Ajay's parents' house.

Ajay, an Indian citizen, assumed he could easily adopt the girl and bring her back with him to the States. In February, he flew to India to meet the baby and begin paperwork to adopt her; Lindsey joined them a month later.

By definition, adoption is a legal process by which the rights of a child toward the birthparents are ended and a new set of rights is established toward the adoptive parents. The act of adopting starts with a series of decisions and a pile of papers, making it difficult to ignore that the forging of family bonds must necessarily begin as a transaction.

Stephanie Huisman remembers being handed a list of 80 medical conditions and asked to check those she and Nathan would accept in a child adopted from Vietnam. No choices on their part would ultimately matter—they eventually halted the international proceedings, and only en route to Ohio did they realize they hadn't even asked the baby's race. But earlier, working down the checklist, choosing a child felt like selecting a china pattern.

“You battle within yourself,” Stephanie says. “If I was having a biological child, I wouldn't have these choices. Some of the decisions in the adoption process seem selfish, but you're trying to make the best choice for you and your child.”

She admits it was helpful to think through these decisions, to face the shock of events not following an expected course: marriage, pregnancy, kids. Of not having a daughter with curly hair, just like Stephanie's.

Bonnie (Adkins '83) De Jong, former director of the Southern California branch of Bethany Christian Services, agrees these thorough first steps are essential. The current trend for birthparents and adoptive parents to bypass agencies' counseling and screening services, usually through online social networking sites, doesn't protect the child's best interests, she says.

Adoption Facts

- Over 500,000 children are in foster care in the United States.
- There are at least 130 million orphans worldwide.
- More than 15 million children in Africa have become orphaned due to AIDS.
- A study by the Dave Thomas Foundation showed that 48% of people seriously considering adoption look first to their church to find information.
- If one out of three churches in the U.S. would find just one family to adopt, the domestic orphan problem would be solved.

Source: Marc Andreas, vice president of marketing and communications, Bethany Christian Services

“With the Internet, people just find each other. The screening process has been removed from adoption as a whole,” says De Jong. “When you forego that front part, a lot can go wrong. There's a huge emotional piece of this that needs addressing before, not after.”

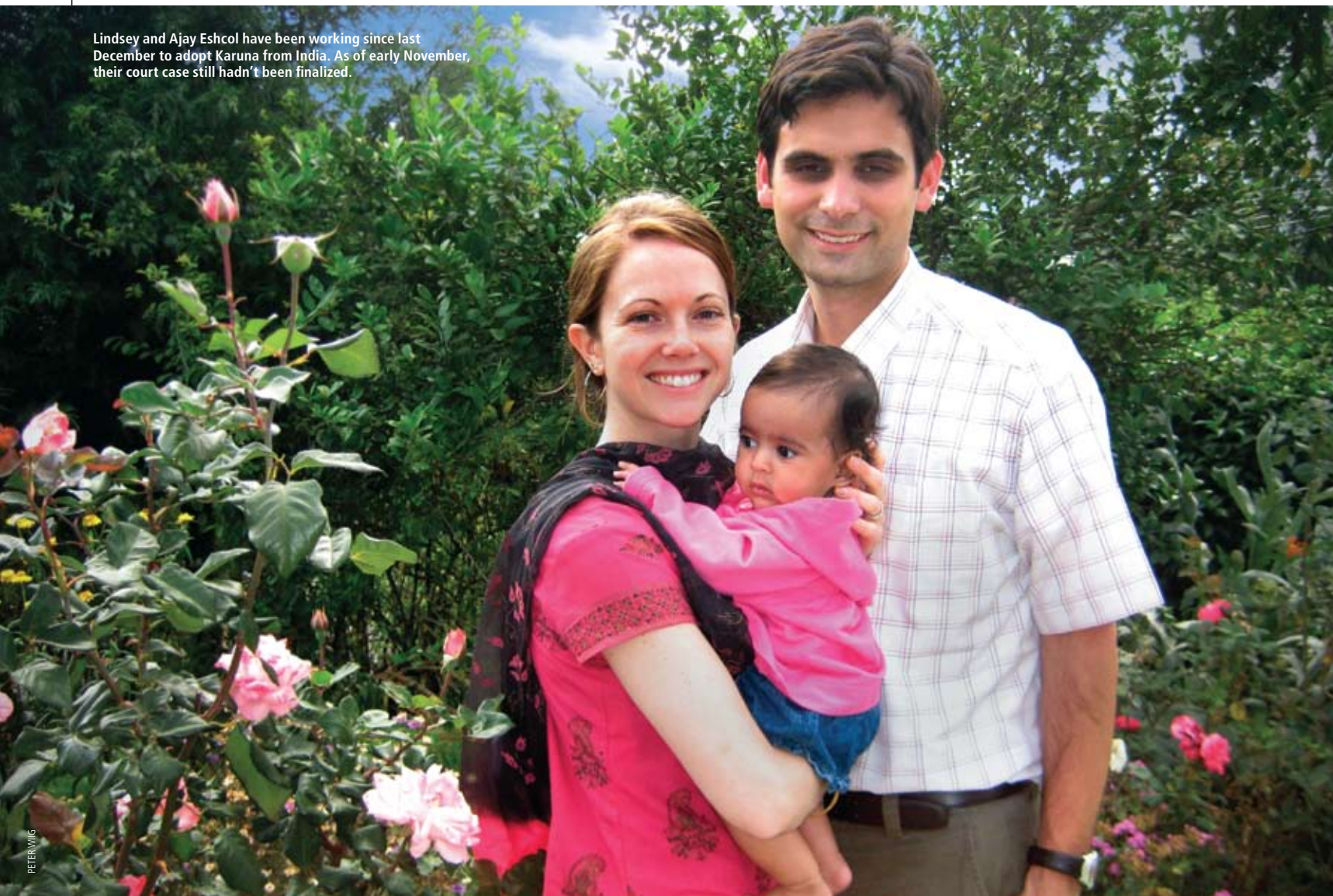
Some agencies, like Bethany, post prospective adoptive family profiles online to be browsed by birthparents before they begin the standard process. But when families and birthparents make their own matches and pay agencies for limited legal services, organizations like Bethany oblige but often do so without their stamp of approval, recognizing that perhaps there is still grief to be lived through and choices to be made.

“We dreamed of having a family that looked like the family of God, full of different colors and cultures.”

One such choice is open adoption, in which contact between the adoptive and biological parents is maintained at some level.

In 1974, research indicated that psychological problems experienced by adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents were a direct consequence of the secrecy maintained in adoptions up to that point. Open adoptions became more common in the following decades, but

Lindsey and Ajay Eshcol have been working since last December to adopt Karuna from India. As of early November, their court case still hadn't been finalized.



NWC Named “Adoption-Friendly”

Northwestern College ranks alongside Ivy League and Big Ten institutions as one of the leading adoption-friendly workplaces in higher education. Northwestern is fifth—behind Cornell University and New York University (tied for first), Harvard (third) and Ohio State (fourth)—on the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces in America education list released in May by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Northwestern offers financial assistance of up to \$2,000 per adopted child to faculty and staff, with an additional reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for the adoption of a special needs child. Adoptive parents receive up to seven days of paid leave in addition to accumulated sick leave, vacation and personal leave.

Since its start in July 2007, the policy has benefited several employee families, including Sherri (De Zeeuw ’95) and Ben Langton; Dave and Jodi Nonnemacher; and Laura (Dykstra ’84) and Steve Heitritter ’87, whom *The Wall Street Journal* mentioned in a July story on employee benefits. The Langtons and Heitritters each have two children from Ethiopia; the Nonnemachers’ two daughters are from Liberia.

many adult adoptees still find themselves lobbying policymakers just to learn where they came from. Only eight states currently allow access to birth records, with legislation being considered in 10 other states to remove the need for a court order to open sealed records.

Linda (Vanderhorst ’68) Van Beek can point to only a handful of times when she considered finding her birthparents. She always knew she was adopted—“picked,” not “had,” her parents told her—but it wasn’t until her own daughter was pregnant and asking about the family’s medical history that she began sleuthing out her past.

With the help of a private detective, Van Beek learned her birthfather had died of cancer and her birthmother was living just 25 miles away from her California home.

On Sept. 9, 1995, her 49th birthday, Van Beek decided to make the call.

“I weighed my words very carefully; I wrote them down,” she says. She used her birthmother’s maiden name to arouse curiosity and to be sure she wasn’t mistaken for a telemarketer.

“Do I know you from a long time ago?” the woman asked.

Van Beek replied, “I believe you are my mother.”

The National Council For Adoption maintains on its website that “policy and practice should not empower one party to adoption to receive identifying information or unilaterally impose contacts without the consent of another party.” The media likes to sensationalize these reunions, but sometimes they aren’t happy ones, says Bonnie De Jong. Some birthmothers desire, for complicated reasons, to remain anonymous. The birthmom is not necessarily a hero or a villain, she says,

“just a regular human being trying to make the best choice.”

Van Beek was fortunate—her birthmother was thrilled to hear from her. They kept up a correspondence by mail and eventually met in person. “We became best friends.”

Making the call was worth the risk of being hung up on, she says. “It was like a nagging feeling of having no connection. You finally know your roots—it makes you feel complete.”

These issues of identity arise often in discussions of transracial adoptions.

In 1985, William Merritt, then president of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), told a Senate committee, “Black children who grow up in white families suffer severe identity problems.”

Just 10 years before, the NABSW had helped reverse the position of most state agencies on transracial adoptions, stating that minority children should, when at all possible, be placed in homes that share their racial origins in order to preserve their culture and sense of themselves.

Around that time, the parents of Mary Ann (Anker ’77) Pals were welcoming home their 26th foster baby. Rachel, an African-American girl, had osteomyelitis, an inflammation that settled in just after birth in the bone and marrow of her hip.

The agency asked the Ankers to keep Rachel through her first surgery at 15 months, during her six weeks in a body cast, and while she learned to walk. By then, the Ankers thought of Rachel as their own, and when they began the process to adopt her, they had to stop and ask themselves if this was best for the girl.

Their hometown of South Holland, Ill., was, at that time, occupied primarily by white families with roots tracing back to the Dutch immigrants who settled there in the early 1800s; black faces were rarely seen. When Rachel was two, the family was at a restaurant with their

five girls, including Kim, who is also adopted and is deaf. As they began eating, Kim, age 12, grew increasingly angry. She stuck out her tongue at a family sitting at another table.

“Kim!” her mother exclaimed, horrified. “What are you doing?”

Kim had been reading the lips of the other family. “They’re saying mean things about us because we have a black baby.”

Pals, who was in her early 20s at the time, says her parents had to

Their agency, which had placed dozens of diverse foster children with them, wouldn’t process a transracial adoption. A friend who was a social worker advocated for them, and the Ankers became, to their knowledge, the only white family in their region at that time to adopt a black child. Rachel was four, and life went on as it had before the papers made it official—she had been part of the family since she was two days old.

Pals, Rachel, their mother and two other sisters were featured in



Nathan and Stephanie Huisman planned to adopt a Vietnamese child. Instead, a phone call from a church friend led to a whirlwind adoption of Adrian from Ohio.

carefully weigh the reality of racism against their own desires to adopt Rachel, in order to best serve Rachel’s needs growing up as a woman of color.

“They asked themselves, ‘Is this selfish of us? What’s the most loving thing to do?’” says Pals. “They decided to risk it and trust that love would get them through.”

a series of books by Rita Simon and Rhonda Roorda on transracial adoptions into white families.

“Sometimes transracial adoption is a good thing,” says Rachel in the first book, *In Their Own Voices: Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories* (Columbia University Press). “A lot of children of different ethnic backgrounds are in the foster care system without any possible adoptive

homes for them. And if white people want to adopt them, that’s great. But I think they need to make sure that the children stay in touch with their roots ... I feel as though I’ve lost touch with who I am.”

Since that 1997 interview, Rachel has married an African-American man, had a son and secured a teaching job in a Christian school. She met with her birthmother a few years back, and, according to her sister Lynn in the third book, *In Their Siblings’ Voices*, she came home the same day and said, “Mom, Dad, thank you! They led totally different lives without the values our family has.”



Mary Ann Pals, left, and her adopted sister, Rachel Wooley, laugh while viewing old family photos. Transracial adoptions were rare when their family adopted Rachel in 1979.

Perhaps Rachel is still a “black Dutchman,” as she once called herself, but she appears to have found a balance in her life between the culture she comes from and the one she calls home.

Studies conducted since the 1970s movement against transracial adoptions have concluded that white families are indeed able to raise children of other races in a psychologically healthy way, provided they stay realistic about racism and open to the individual needs of the child. The federal government stepped in with the 1994 Multiethnic Placement Act and the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act, which essentially removed race as a barrier for agencies placing children into adoptive families.

The challenges for these families remain numerous, but success rates of transracial adoptions are quite comparable to those of inracial adoptions, according to the books by Simon and Roorda.

International adoptions carry their own set of similar trials as well, say the families interviewed for this article, but the joys and trials are uniquely situated within the dynamics of a given family, and not necessarily a product of race or culture.

“Love cuts across all racial boundaries,” says Pals.

All adoptive families count on this bond seeing them through the difficult times, especially because, as Sheila De Jong puts it, “with adoption, there’s great joy and great loss.”

Ajay and Lindsey Eshcol were thrilled when, in May, an Indian court accepted their case for legal guardianship of the baby girl. In June, a judge told them the case should wrap up soon, but he neglected to appear at the next two court dates.

Ajay, meanwhile, needed to return to the States to continue his medical residency, and later, on Aug. 8, Lindsey had to fly back to prepare for her upcoming year of teaching. Ajay’s parents were to appear in their stead at the Aug. 13 court date, but the lawyer had a fever and the date was postponed.

The Eshcols continue to wait for permission to bring home the little girl they named Karuna. *Karuna* is the first word Lindsey,

an American citizen, learned to read in Telugu; it’s the word used to describe Christ’s act of mercy on the cross.

In early 2005, Sheila and Kelly De Jong completed the paperwork to adopt again from Guatemala. Twin baby girls had been born in May of that year, and the De Jongs were busily readying their hearts and home when in July they received word that one of the girls had died due to a respiratory virus. The family’s time of preparation had been so joyful that they found themselves devastated.

Though the little girl, whom they named Katelyn, would be buried in Guatemala, the De Jongs planned a local memorial service. A few days before the service, their eight-year-old son came to them and said, “I had

this dream that Katelyn only needed a family for a little while.”

The De Jongs traveled in October 2005 to bring home Elizabeth, now four, who is as bouncy and exuberant as her curly black hair. The experience birthed Katelyn’s Fund, a ministry that provides emotional and financial support for Christian families looking to adopt. Over the past three years, they’ve awarded 82 grants of \$3,000 each.

“It’s taught our family lots about trust and not holding things so tightly,” says Sheila. “Knowing all things are God’s. God is beyond us.”

On March 22, 1996, Leanne De Vos walked into a modest orphanage in the southern province of China. A uniformed worker brought out a thin, five-month-old girl dressed in traditional Chinese garb and handed her to De Vos. The two stared at each other. In that moment, an act that once seemed impulsive and irrational made all the sense in the world.

The concept of adoption evokes the word “grafting” for Lindsey Eshcol; a baby born half a world away becomes family, just as a young, severed branch can, after a period of time, grow from a new tree.

At little Adrian Huisman’s two-year checkup, a new doctor inquired about his family medical history. His parents went on and on about grandpa’s heart condition, grandma’s glaucoma, until it occurred to them that they had forgotten, briefly, that their son was not related by blood.

“We’re just a normal family,” Stephanie says. “Just like with biological children, Adrian was meant to be in our family, and we were meant to be his parents.”

Horticulturalists say the formation of a successful union—the juncture where grafting takes place—depends on a complex series of events; the parent tree must be bound to the young shoot, which is working to draw nutrients from a foreign root system.

Eventually the two will grow as one and, as on these Northwestern family trees grafted through adoption, the union’s faint scar disappears in the shade of strong, healthy branches. 🏡

The winter *Classic* will feature Northwestern love stories. If you’d like to share yours, e-mail classic@nwciowa.edu or call 712-707-7116.

Helpful Sites

- www.katelynsfund.org
- www.bethany.org
- www.adoption.state.gov
- www.adoption.org



After the death of one of Sheila and Kelly De Jong’s adopted Guatemalan daughters, the couple began a ministry in her name. Katelyn’s Fund aids Christians seeking to adopt.

On the Web *exclusive*

Share your stories about adoption at classic.nwciowa.edu

class Notes

'41 The Rev. Henry Schoon has recently become a resident of Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Sioux Falls, S.D.

'43 Mariann (Kraai) Utech and her husband, Bob, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

'64 Dr. Kella Klinker-Simonin, Spencer, Iowa, received the Spencer Community Theatre's 2008–2009 Best Supporting Actress Award for her role as Ma Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*.

'69 Phillip Sand, St. Louis, retired in June. He plans to do volunteer work, play more golf and spend time with his children and grandchildren.

'73 Peg (Powell) Werner was recently named Woman of the Year by the Fergus Falls (Minn.) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The director of the Viking Library System, she has advocated for better access to information for residents of rural west-central Minnesota and has served two terms as a branch officer of the AAUW.

'77 Randy Oostra has been named chief executive officer of the ProMedica Health System in Toledo, Ohio. He joined ProMedica in 1997 and served for the last three years as president and chief operating officer.

'78 Thomas Heiman, Baldwin City, Kan., is a member of the play selection committee for Region V of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He is an associate professor at Baker University.

'79 Debbie (Hitchcock) Moats, Wingate, N.C., teaches Spanish at New Salem School.

Timothy Westcott visited Italy and Greece in June with students from a

Kansas City high school for which he has taught a correspondence history course. He is an associate professor of history and chair of the department of social sciences at Park University in Parkville, Mo.

'81 Sara Lubbers, Madison, Wis., is an elementary school counselor for the Oregon School District. Her husband, Ron Wiecki, is a library services assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

'82 Gary Bruxvoort, Marion, Iowa, provides tax support services for 2nd Story Software in Cedar Rapids.

Shelley (Andrew) Hewett, Andover, Kan., received a master's degree in special education from Southwestern College in May. She teaches in the Butler County Special Education Co-op.

'83 Noel Davis Jr. is the south central area director for Wycliffe Associates. His wife, **Debra (Boon)**, is a tax professional for H&R Block. They live in Bradley, Ill., and have three children: Dayna (26), Keith (23) and Brice (16).

'84 Ruth (Birkelbach) Layman, Yorktown, Va., retired from the Air Force in January after serving 23 years. She now works in development at the College of William and Mary.

'85 Dan Addington is the owner of Addington Gallery in Chicago and worship leader at Evanston Baptist Church. He and his wife, Stephanie, have a son: Aedric (1).

Todd Thompson, Lubbock, Texas, is a regional manager for Saladmaster Cookware.

Bob Vander Plaats, Sioux City, officially launched his campaign for Iowa's 2010 Republican gubernatorial nomination on Sept. 7 in Sheldon. He is president of MVP

Red Ties

JENNIFER NEUHAUSER '00
Director of Alumni Relations

Have you ever been without your family? I remember my mom's teary-eyed goodbye as she and Dad drove away from Fern Smith Hall after dropping me off as a freshman. It made my stomach hurt: I was truly alone—well, for about 30 seconds. Then I was engulfed by floor-mates, RAs, and Orientation Staff members who whisked me off to a busy and engaging first semester of college. My family wasn't gone; it was expanding.

My "family" no longer includes just the wonderful people who make up the tribe into which I was born. I love that people who were once complete strangers can also love us unconditionally—whether we have everything in common or nothing, whether we speak the same language or have the same color skin. It doesn't matter.

As I watched our newest family members—NWC freshmen—move in, it made me nostalgic for my own introduction to this special place and community. Northwestern enlarged my family when I started here, and those relationships have so far been as lasting as the bonds I have with my blood relatives. Like in any family, sometimes we have a lot of contact and other times we're out of touch, going about our lives. Still, when we're together again, it's like we were never apart.

How long has it been since you connected with your NWC family? Visiting campus is a great way to get back in touch. Or, attend a regional alumni gathering and join our Facebook page (facebook.com/NWCIowaAlum).

Remember: We're related—maybe not by blood, although Raider red runs through all our veins, right? We're bonded through shared experiences. I'm grateful to have that in common with you.



Leadership, which specializes in strategic vision and executive leadership for business and industry, economic development, education, health care, human services and private foundations.

'86 Curtis Linhart, owner of Paragon Personal Training in Urbandale, Iowa, has been appointed to the Iowa Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition. In that role, he helps to design curriculum for K-12 PE teachers to fulfill the Healthy Kids Act and the Iowa Governor's Challenge.

'88 Susan (Van Meeteren) Brush teaches math and physics at Northview High School in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Rachel (Kooistra) Floyd and her husband, Armond, are planting a church called Bridge of Hope in Waterloo, Iowa. They also work with troubled teens.

Ted Schultz was named a recipient of the 2009 Iowa High School Athletic Association's news media award for excellence, which he received at the state boys' basketball tournament in Des Moines last March. He was in the newspaper business for nearly 20 years and won numerous statewide awards while serving as sports editor of the *Clinton Herald*. He is now sports information director at Grinnell College.

'89 Paula Wanken, San Antonio, serves as administrative assistant to the director of the Bexar County Area Agency on Aging.

'90 The Rev. Vicky (Colby) Eastland is pastor of First Reformed Church in Catskill, N.Y.

'91 Kelly McKeever is a child abuse investigator for the Iowa Department of Human Services in Estherville.

'92 Dave Einerwold is business manager of InnoVac, a new biotech company in Sioux Center dedicated to improving the science of vaccination.

Terry Gaalswyk, Scottsbluff, Neb., is the vice president of educational services at Western Nebraska Community College.

Marcie (Walker) Sasso is a medical biller for CVS/Caremark in Gurnee, Ill.

Sarah (Walton) Stillion, Edmonds, Wash., is a freelance theatre artist. Her newest play, *Christmas Moon*, will be performed Dec. 3–22 at the Baylight Dinner Theatre in Stanwood, Wash.

Lori (Burris) Van Beek, Chino, Calif., went on a summer mission trip to Kenya with her two sons: Griffin (11) and Ethan (8).

Jordan Walton recently finished building a recording studio. He has played in a band, Conrad Ford, for five years. He is a life skills assistant at Parkview Services in Seattle.

'93 Curt DeJong works in Internet sales for Vern Eide Motorcars in Sioux Falls.

Cheryl (Van't Hof) Heronemus of Alton was recently named a regional extension education director for Iowa State University Extension. Her region covers six counties in northwest Iowa. She served most recently as an ISU Extension education director in Sioux County.

'94 Scott Yoder, Sioux Falls, S.D., is an agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services.

'95 Kyle Lewis has been named head wrestling coach at Lawton-Bronson (Iowa) High School. He served most recently as assistant coach at Sioux City West.

'96 Elise (Rens) Binsfeld, Blaine, Minn., is a part-time family practice physician at the Fairview Fridley Clinic near Minneapolis. Her husband, Charlie, is a stay-at-home dad.

Kristi (Kraayenhof) Van Der Weide is a media center associate for the Ankeny (Iowa) Community School District.



Henrietta Klumper, a retired elementary schoolteacher, is one of 10 alumni who faithfully participate in a round-robin letter that has been circulating for 40 years.

Pen Pal

Though some think writing letters is a thing of the past—replaced by phone calls, e-mails, text messages or social networks—Henrietta (Ernissie '49) Klumper is still a believer. From her home in Edgerton, Minn., she writes to a group of classmates every four months as part of a round-robin that has been circulating for 40 years.

"We were known as the 'dorm girls.' We lived so closely together that we got to know each other very well. We had devotions together every evening. We just had a longing to keep in contact," she says.

"We have a bond in Christ," adds Luetta (Friesse '48) Weeldreyer. So, 53 years ago four "dorm girls" from Dykstra Hall, a dorm—now gone—that was located to the north of Granberg Hall, began getting together annually. The group later grew to six when additional classmates moved to the northwest Iowa region.

"Normally we go out to eat and to the hostess' home for dessert. When our children were little, we met in a park for a picnic so the kids could play," Klumper explains.

As the visits continued, a round-robin letter was started. In it the women write about their health, family, traveling—they even share jokes about aging they get from the Internet.

The group now includes alumni from Sheldon, Iowa, to Ferndale, Wash. Despite the development of new communication technology and hikes in postage costs, the round-robin still flies.

BY TERI ELGERSMA

David Wynn is a computer programmer/analyst for Hormel Foods in Austin, Minn. His wife, **Kay (Hekter '97)**, is a stay-at-home mom for their two sons: Alex and Derek.

'97 Craig Madsen is the branch manager at Security Savings Bank in George, Iowa. His wife, **Tara (Meyer '98)**, is a substitute teacher and a stay-at-home mom to Carson (6) and Hadley (3).

Lisa (Dummer) Percy and her husband, Benjamin, have moved to Ames, Iowa, where he teaches creative writing at Iowa State University. She is a stay-at-home mom.

'98 Khuram Dewan, Sialkot, Pakistan, is director of marketing and business development for Durafford Construction and Water Proofing.

Jaime Meyer, Pella, Iowa, serves as strategic human resources manager for the Pella Corporation.

Zac Nesper, Mountain View, Calif., is treasury manager for Hewlett Packard, managing long-term debt issuance, capital structure and interest rate risk management. He and his wife, **Ellen (Sterup '99)**, have two daughters: Annika (3) and Katia (1).

Rochelle (Grooters) Postma, Johnston, Iowa, is an accountant for Wells Fargo. She and her husband, Aric, have three sons: Andrew (7), Sam (5) and Cooper (1).

Dan Pottebaum is the new principal of Boyden-Hull (Iowa) Junior-Senior High School.

Ryan Stander, Grand Forks, N.D., served as the summer artist-in-residence at the Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project in Cyprus. He is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of North Dakota.



As director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Cal Groen seeks to build upon his state's rich wildlife heritage.

Wildlife Lover

Cal Groen's parents knew that if he wasn't at his Orange City home, the boy was exploring a nearby pond or creek. And when he did return, it was standard practice to check his pockets for frogs, insects or other treasures of nature.

"I was told many times, 'We know you like wildlife, but you can't make a living at it,'" says Groen, whose career has proved otherwise. A 19-year staff member in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, he has directed the agency since 2007. Groen earned a master's degree in fisheries management after graduating from NWC in 1969 with biology and political science majors. He held fish-and-game positions in Kansas and Washington before moving to Idaho.

An avid pheasant hunter and fisherman, Groen is surrounded by many who share his love for the outdoors. Ninety-one percent of Idahoans say wildlife issues are important to them. Hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing have a \$1.3 billion economic impact in the state and bring in more than \$100 million in tax revenues.

Overseeing more than 700 full-time employees and an \$80 million budget, Groen faces controversial issues he could only dream about in Orange City, such as how to manage grizzly bears, wolves, bighorn sheep and salmon. Yet one of his top five goals is to encourage children to do what he did 50 years ago—enjoy the outdoors.

BY DUANE BEESON

'99 Ryan Busboom is pursuing an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a senior financial analyst for MetroPCS in Dallas.

James Culver, Cypress, Calif., is recovering from a hit-and-run moped accident that killed his best friend on Feb. 8. James spent a month in the hospital recovering from severe trauma to his face, leg and arm. He is adapting to a wrist injury but expresses his thankfulness for still being able to walk, talk, smell, taste and see.

Kelly Jager completed a degree in early childhood education last December after working in human resources for several years. She is a preschool teacher at Governors State University in University Park, Ill.

Andrew Manz, St. Paul, Minn., works for Apex Systems as a server administrator at 3M.

Laura Netten, Memphis, Tenn., works in advertising and writing/editing for three local quarterly publications, *The Downtown Merchant Guide*, *Midtown Magazine* and *Edible Memphis*, while pursuing long-term mission service opportunities.

Ben Petty, Cumming, Ga., recently received an M.B.A. from Georgia State University. He is a senior network engineer for Infor Global Solutions in Atlanta. His wife, **Marianne (Koolhaas '00)**, serves as talent acquisition partner for Equifax.

Josh Pyle of Cedar Falls is a youth associate for Lutheran Services in Iowa.

Julie (Van Manen) Wiederstein is the children's ministry director for NewLife Church in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, and a stay-at-home mom to John (4) and Emma (1). Her husband, Scott, teaches elementary music in Des Moines.

Anna (Van Pernis) Wing teaches history at Alexander Dawson School in Lafayette, Colo. Her husband, Robert, is an owner/partner of aMind Solutions, a software development firm.

'00 Eden Bruce became a registered nurse last December. She works for Nightengale Home Healthcare in Lafayette, Ind.

Dr. Laura (Whitwer) Hilkemann, Firth, Neb., is vice president of Technology as Promised, leading the firm's curriculum and seminar development efforts.

Andrew Lee and his wife, Kathryn, own an online import retail business, World's Doorstep (www.worldsdoorstep.com).

Jessica (Wilcox) Strand, Tacoma, Wash., recently became a certified teacher through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Her husband, **Donny**, is a mental health therapist at Pearl Counseling.

Laura (Schoolen) VanDerLinden teaches elementary music for West Marshall Schools in State Center, Iowa.

'01 Aaron Allen, Elizabethton, Tenn., is an assistant professor of mathematics at Milligan College.

Leigh Anne (Hicks) Kreykes, Phoenix, is the fine arts director for the Hillcrest campus of Rancho Solano Private Schools.

Chris Rott is in the orthopedic surgery residency program at Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich.

'02 Art DeVos, Madisonburg, Pa., is the program director of Krislund Camp and Conference Center.

Matthew De Vries, West Fargo, N.D., is a financial adviser for Edward Jones.

Kristen (Van Roekel) Dunlap is pursuing a master's degree in conducting from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. She is a graduate assistant with the university's concert and marching bands.

Laura (Fryman) Jackson serves as principal of Fort Crook Elementary School in Bellevue, Neb.

Amanda Magnuson serves as coordinator for graduate programs in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing.

Darin Namminga is a chaplain and professor at Jamestown (N.D.) College.

Dave Perrigo is the new dean of students at Edmunds Elementary School in Des Moines.

Brandon Van Marel is participating in a one-year graduate program at Jerusalem University College, where he is studying the history, culture and geography of the Bible.

'03 Christy (Alquist) Amundson, Meriden, Iowa, earned a master's degree in education from Southwest Minnesota State University and teaches English at South O'Brien High School. She and her husband, Derrick, have a son: Tyler (1).

Tracey (Halma) Branderhorst, Long Beach, Calif., teaches eighth grade science for Valley Christian Schools.

Malinda Burk, Lincoln, Neb., recently spent two weeks on the JOIDES Resolution, an ocean-research vessel. She joined 15 other educators in learning about ocean floor sediments, rocks and nannofossils.

Dr. Brooke (Fister) Conner is a chiropractor at Blackman Family Chiropractic in Roscoe, Ill. She has a daughter: Harley (3).

Aaron Delhay teaches junior high math in Kimball, Neb. He is also head coach for the high school boys' and girls' golf teams and the junior high MathCounts sponsor.

Matt Ernster lives in Vancouver, Wash., and plans to return to the Czech Republic for mission work in two years.

Tara Meekma-Frizzi works as membership sales manager for the Denver visitors' bureau. Her husband, Andrea, is the owner/chef of Il Posto, an Italian restaurant.



Tim Hielkema's involvement in neighborhood revitalization in Des Moines has earned him recognition from the American Institute of Architects.

Cities by Design

As a kid, Tim Hielkema's interest in architecture started from looking at house plans in the newspaper and redesigning them with his brother. Years later, Hielkema's own designs are featured in magazines like *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Now a commercial and residential architect based in Des Moines, the 1987 NWC alumnus designs projects across the country, including a significant portion of an \$870 million complex in Las Vegas. But his work goes beyond individual buildings.

As a board member for three greater Des Moines government organizations, Hielkema advises the city council on neighborhood planning and revitalization programs, as well as economic development. He was recently designated as a national and state participant in the American Institute of Architects Citizen Architect Program, which recognizes architects for service to their community.

"Architects are uniquely qualified for city government because of the way they view society," Hielkema says. "They realize the context in which they're building. Each structure is a piece in the fabric of the town."

Hielkema earned master's degrees from Iowa State University in architecture and community and regional planning. His sense of civic involvement, however, was inspired by his parents—particularly his father, Art, director of Ramaker Library from 1969 to 1996 and an Orange City councilman for 12 years.

"For me, this is where I can use my skills and talents to help better my community."

BY EMILY HENNAGER '06

Sarah (Wynia) Smith recently completed her Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Aubrey Van Sloten teaches physical education at Hicks Elementary School in Houston.

Joey Weber is the assistant director of residence life at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

'04 Grant Baker, LaVista, Neb., is a Web designer for Mutual of Omaha.

Emily (Marth) Barrie of Vero Beach, Fla., teaches first grade for St. Lucie County Schools.

Mindy (Haeflinger) Buckley, Wetumpka, Ala., teaches art for Sylacauga City Schools.

Talitha Landegent is continuing her education at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, Mich. She is pursuing a certificate in worship and music ministry.

Kristin (Nikkel) Lewis teaches kindergarten and first and second grades at Sully (Iowa) Christian School.

Mark Milbrodt, Springdale, Ark., serves as international global accounts sales manager for Tyson Foods.

Travis Risvold, Grimes, Iowa, is pursuing a master's degree in social studies and language arts at Simpson College.

Jeremy Van Soelen teaches sixth grade math at Highland Middle School in Ault, Colo. He also serves as girls' basketball coach and assistant high school football coach. His wife, Melanie, coaches and teaches sixth grade language arts at the same school.

April (Johnson) Weber works as a registered nurse at Sanford Clinic in Worthington, Minn.



Laura Ferguson opened her New Orleans home to sisters Faith (center) and Hope.

Faith, Hope and Laura

Laura Ferguson '98 doesn't buy the American dream. "The American dream says we have the right to store up treasures on earth and isolate ourselves from others if we choose," she says. "I don't believe that's from God."

Instead, Ferguson, the director of development with Urban Impact in New Orleans, believes her life—including her earthly possessions—is not her own.

"If this is not my house, that means it's not just for my pleasure," she says. "So, who else may God be saying this house is for?"

Three years ago, God called Ferguson to open her home to Hope. Ferguson became close to Hope and her family—including Hope's grandmother, Lilly, and sister Faith—when she began work with Urban Impact in 2001. After Hurricane Katrina, the family scattered. Hope eventually returned to New Orleans with her ailing grandmother.

"From the beginning I felt very much like I was responsible for these girls," says Ferguson. "It was something God had given me to do, and I needed to follow it to completion."

Hope, now 15, moved in with Laura two years ago. Faith, 17, joined them last year.

Ferguson says raising her "God daughters" has been challenging while also fun and rewarding. "Both have the potential for greatly impacting the kingdom of Jesus Christ," she says. "They have very tender hearts for people who are suffering."

That makes their "God mom" proud.

BY SARAH ASP OLSON '03

'05 Kelli Anderson teaches kindergarten at Elliott Elementary School in Lincoln, Neb. She is pursuing a master's degree in education at the University of Nebraska.

Marie Christianson moved to Tanzania in July to teach special education at Haven of Peace Academy.

Solomon Davis, Seattle, is an actor in Taproot Theatre's Road Company. His ensemble performed *Camp Super Friend* at the New York International Fringe Festival in August.

Carissa (Kuiken) Janssen is a physical therapist at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City.

Rachel Kramer is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling at the University of Iowa.

Rachel Menke, Eagan, Minn., is a resource consultant for Children Desiring God, a curriculum ministry.

Melanie (Algood) Soper is a math teacher at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. Her husband, Robert, is an electrical engineer for Western Area Power Administration.

Marilyn Stoneman, Viroqua, Wis., is a hospital pharmacist at Vernon Memorial Healthcare.

Casey Weerheim of Woodbury, Minn., earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic in February.

Nathan Willems, Chelmsford, Mass., is the youth minister at Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell.

Erin (Beard) Wilson, Paullina, Iowa, and her husband, Torray, farm with his parents. She also does organic farm inspections.

Amanda Ytzen earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in costume design from

Minnesota State University. She is now a costume designer and lecturer at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Elizabeth Zinkula is a remedial service provider for A New Beginning, a counseling center in Des Moines.

'06 Alecia (Grider) Amezcua, Norfolk, Neb., is a family support worker for Better Living Counseling in Columbus.

Andrew Bardole is associate pastor of First United Methodist Church in Indianola, Iowa. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque in May.

Dana (Jensen) Blayney works as a charge nurse at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Her husband, Jonathan, was recently deployed to Iraq as a member of the Tennessee National Guard.

Rose De Haan is a site supervisor for YMCA of Greater Des Moines.

Dustin Heino, Strasburg, Colo., is a casualty claims representative for Allied Insurance in Denver. His wife, **Stacy (Parker '07)**, is a laboratory scientist at the Medical Center of Aurora.

Michael Holm is pursuing a Ph.D. in math from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His wife, **Hannah (Vander Helm)**, teaches math at Lincoln High School.

Sarah (Hoops) Jackson teaches elementary vocal music for Omaha Public Schools.

Chris Keating, Aztec, N.M., is an exercise physiologist for the Arizona Health Institute.

Elizabeth Kingsley is an office manager for AutoSearch USA in Louisville, Colo.

Tami Meyer, Ames, Iowa, was recently voted best personal trainer in Story County. She is a personal trainer and advanced

health and fitness specialist at Ames Racquet and Fitness Center.

Sara (Kernes) Nessa, Orange City, is the textbook buyer and assistant women's soccer coach at Northwestern.

Kevin Ulmer is pursuing a master's degree in exercise physiology at the University of Kentucky. He previously taught health and physical education and coached varsity volleyball at Chattanooga Christian High School in Tennessee.

'07 Aaryn (Eckert) Bierly has begun a master's degree in English at the University of Rochester in New York.

Daryn Dockter is pursuing a master's degree in environmental science at Taylor University. His wife, **Candace (Gross)**, is working as a school psychology intern in the Mississinewa (Ind.) Community Schools.

Rachel Foulks is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing at the University of South Dakota.

Dusty Meyn is the new head girls' basketball coach at Forest City (Iowa) High School. He also teaches business education.

Heidi (Drewelow) Mouw and her husband, Dan, bought a home in White Bear Lake, Minn., this summer. They have a son: Isaiah (2). Heidi is a mental health rehab worker for People Incorporated.

Josiah Nelson is pursuing a master's degree in screenwriting from Pepperdine University.

Chris Rensink, University City, Mo., teaches sixth grade at The Freedom School in St. Louis.

Cindy Sybesma is serving with SIM as the ninth and 10th grade English teacher and as dorm assistant in Sahel Academy, a Christian international school in Niamey, Niger.

Angela (Jiskoot) Ten Clay works as a project manager at Trilix Marketing Group in Johnston, Iowa.

'08 Gena Dubois is a lab technician at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Candi Fender, Rapid City, S.D., recently served on a mission team in East Berlin, Germany, for seven months.

Bethany (Harms) Handsaker is an account executive for KORN/Q107 radio in Mitchell, S.D. Her husband, **Jon '09**, is a software developer for the Martin Group.

Laura Jacobson has been appointed to the staff of the *William and Mary Law Review*. The second-year law student at College of William and Mary is also starting a student organization that will serve the local Hispanic community.

Jessica (Regan) Knecht is an admissions counselor at Nebraska Christian College. Her husband, Adam, is a club manager at 24 Hour Fitness in Omaha.

Melissa (Hisel) Wallinga is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to become a registered dietitian.

Rachael Wittern is pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

'09 Ruth Cink is a research and design chemist at Marianna Industries in Omaha.

Mandi (Fox) Conover is an external studies coordinator at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

Heath Epperson teaches fourth grade for Bellevue (Neb.) Public Schools.

Jaclyn Knibbe, Omaha, is a pathology technician at Children's Hospital.

Jesse Nieuwenhuis is a public health microbiologist with the Iowa Neonatal

Metabolic Screening Program at the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory in Ankeny, Iowa.

Brittany Osborn, Orange City, is a nurse at Sanford Sheldon Medical Center.

New Arrivals

Danelle (O'Grady '92) and **Rick Starkenburg '92**, son, Tyler Mason, joins Gabby (5)
Megan and **Curt DeJong '93**, daughter, Ashlyn Kathleen, joins Kelsey (3)
Julie and **Steve Elkema '94**, daughter, Brooklyn, joins Emma (6) and Gabe (3)
Charlie and **Elise (Rens '96) Binsfeld**, son, Liam Taylor, joins Elliott (7) and Simone (4)
Susan (Boote '96) and **Shawn Hulst '97**, son, Hudson Michael, joins Davis (5) and Gramm (3)

Sally (Dykshorn '96) and **Scott Te Stroete '93**, daughter, Brooke Marie, joins Katie (5) and Kyle (3)
Kedron and **Rachel (Govig '97) Bardwell**, son, Eli Nathaniel, joins Micah (2)
Eric and **Heidi (Yost '97) Boehmer**, daughter by adoption, Elijah Grace Tuleen, joins Aedyn (2) and Justice (6 mos.)
Benjamin and **Lisa (Dummer '97) Percy**, daughter, Madeline Louise, joins Connor (3)

Renae (Voskuil '97) and **Dan Pottebaum '98**, twin sons, Jakob Paul and Tyler Anthony, join Erika (8) and Marissa (5)
Curt and **Carrie (Farley '98) Gear**, son, Brenden Gregory, joins Jacob (2)
Lorie (Coy '98) and **Adam Schnell '99**, son, Levi Thomas, joins Jenna (4) and Austin (2)

Todd and **Wendy (Rainboth '98) Tryon**, daughter, Lyncoln Rain, joins Tytan (5) and Jersey (2)
Kristin (Meyer '99) and **Nathan Kroesche '99**, son, Simeon Eugene, joins Isaiah (5) and Phinehas (2)
Keli and **Andrew Manz '99**, son, Campbell Jeffrey Andrew, joins Jensen (2)
John and **Leah (Huizenga '99) Meskis**, daughter, Sarah Elisabeth, joins Rachel (2)
Heather (De Groot '99) and **Cam Olson '98**, daughter, Juliet Annelise, joins Charlotte (5) and Briahna (2)

Jason and **Kathleen (McLane '99) Riggs**, son, Truett Daniel, joins Jacob (9), Adaiah (8) and Anakin (4)

Brian and **Erica (McLaughlin '99) Walker**, daughter, Hazel

Rob and **Erin (Peters '99) Wilkens**, son, Casey, joins Ky (2)

Jamie (Aguilera '00) and **Jason Bonnema '02**, daughter, Annika Janae

Lori and **Nate Johnson '00**, son, Trey Roman

Katie and **Ben Lacey '00**, daughter, Evangeline (Eva) Rose

Jennifer and **Tim Rogers '00**, son, Kaden H.T., joins Kiera (4)

Cami and **Ryan Beukelman '01**, son, Kolden Lee, joins Kellen (3)

Peter and **Liz (Huizenga '01) Brokaar**, son, Samuel Eugene, joins Emma (2)

Kara (Koopmans '01) and **Jeremy Eisenga '00**, daughter by adoption from Russia, Maella Svetlana, joins Ethan (6) and Owen (4)

Ron and **Abby (Thompson '01) Kassmeier**, daughter, Esme Rae

Chad and **T.J. (Hoftyzer '01) Simington**, daughter, Olivia Chosen, joins Caleb (3) and Avery (2)

Ben and **Shelley (Beal '01) Twigg**, daughter, Lily Marie, joins Emma (2)

Jaymi (Franken '01) and **Justin Vandewater '98**, son, Asher James, joins Grace (7), Lainey (5) and Joah (2)

Lisa (Stubbendick '02) and **Aaron Delhay '03**, daughter, Rebekah Elizabeth, joins Elijah (5) and Solomon (3)

Michelle (Vander Molen '02) and **Tom Didier '02**, daughter, Emma Grace, joins Noah (3)

Mick and **Laura (Fryman '02) Jackson**, daughter, Hailey Grace

Alicia and **George Kockler '02**, son, Kolton Allen Scott

Julie (Van Der Maaten '02) and **Kevin Lors '02**, twin sons, Ethan Michael and Isaac Samuel, join Naomi (2)

Emily (Darr '02) and **Reed McCullough '00**, daughter, Eliza Joy

Leslie and **Dave Perrigo '02**, son, Nelsen Scott

Megan (Bomgaars '02) and **Ben Roos '00**, son, Beckett Benjamin

Joseph and **Sarah (Hanson '03) Barbee**, son, Jonathan

Matthew and **Erica (Smith '03) Johnson**, son, Samuel Jack, joins Jacob (2)

Dan and **Sarah (Taylor '03) Wright**, son, Andrew Thomas

Lyndsey (Nehring '04) and **Grant Baker '04**, daughter, Anike Lyn, joins Jadon (2)

Lacey Fahl '04 and Henry Hall, twin daughters, Hazel Genevieve and Heika Ethelynn

Amy (Huyser '04) and **Nick Harthoorn '04**, daughter, Brooke Henrietta, joins Kate (2)

Abby (Michael '04) and **Mark Milbrodt '04**, daughter, Ava Kate

Seth and **Jennifer (Palmquist '04) Spiegel**, son, William Hudson, joins Jonah (2)

John and **April (Johnson '04) Weber**, daughter, Paige Victoria, joins Sofia (4) and Natalie (2)

Brad and **Tracy (Scott '05) Cleveringa**, daughter, Morgan Rae

Ashley (DeBower '05) and **Ryan Musil '05**, daughter, Sophia Marie, joins Riley (3)

Kali (Carroll '06) and **Dan Johnston '05**, daughter, Caroline Harper

Marriages

Tonya Van Peursem '94 and Blayne Brockmueller, Sioux Falls

Jennifer Martin '97 and Jordan Chapman, Fort Collins, Colo.

Anna Van Pernis '99 and Robert Wing, Longmont, Colo.

Andrew Lee '00 and Kathryn Riley, Fort Worth, Texas

Amber Smith '01 and Michael Potts, Anoka, Minn.

Sarah Yoder '02 and Scott Skripsky, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Tara Bonestroo '03 and Kevin Vonk, Sioux Center

Matt Ernster '03 and Leanne Madore, Vancouver, Wash.

John Wiberg '03 and Helen Vos, Burnsville, Minn.

Kristin Flaugh '04 and Drew Yotter, Wapello, Iowa

Jeannine Lovas '04 and Todd Bryant, Lincoln, Neb.

Emily Marth '04 and Scott Barrie, Vero Beach, Fla.

Carissa Meyn '04 and Levi Judge, Wausau, Wis.

Melanie Algood '05 and Robert Soper, Sioux Falls

Erin Beard '05 and Torray Wilson, Paullina, Iowa

Sarah Hill '05 and Chris Caughorn, Fremont, Neb.

Sarah Hoops '06 and Tony Jackson, Omaha

Dana Jensen '06 and Jonathan Blayney, Antioch, Tenn.



Roses are red
Valentines are too
Send us your love story
for the next issue

If you met the love of your life at Northwestern, let us know. Your romance might warm our winter Classic.

classic@nwc Iowa.edu ♥ 712-707-7116

Kevin Ulmer '06 and Kate Hampson, Lexington, Ky.

Hannah Vander Helm '06 and **Michael Holm '06**, Lincoln, Neb.

Kristi Woodyard '06 and Ryan Christenson, Sioux City

Candace Gross '07 and **Daryn Dockter '07**, Upland, Ind.

Katie Sells '07 and Basil Benoit, Brandon, S.D.

Bethany Harms '08 and **Jon Handsaker '09**, Mitchell, S.D.

Angela Jiskoot '08 and **Michael Ten Clay '07**, West Des Moines, Iowa

Sarah Korver '08 and Jonathan Dykstra, Okoboji, Iowa

Stacie Oolman '08 and Blake Snieder, Sheldon, Iowa

Jessica Regan '08 and Adam Knecht, Omaha

Addison Bartlett '09 and Daniel Cordova Gonzalez, Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico

Mandi Fox '09 and Mike Conover, Clinton, Iowa

Kristi Korver '09 and **Sam Galloway '09**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Samantha Olson '09 and **Tyler Nesper '09**, Federal Way, Wash.

Jenni Sybesma '09 and **Kyle Ochsner '09**, Lubbock, Texas

Kristina Van Peursem '09 and **Matthew Reiter '09**, Omaha

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Ralph Mouw '36, '38, professor emeritus of mathematics, died Aug. 14 in Orange City at the age of 90. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a bachelor's degree at Hope College and a master's degree at the University of Iowa. A captain in the Army during World War II, he served as a Northwestern mathematics professor from 1947 to 1983. He volunteered for many years as a scorekeeper and timer for Red Raider games. A Sunday school teacher at Trinity Reformed Church, he served as an elder and deacon. Active in the Tulip Festival, he and his late wife, Genevieve, were honored as grand mar-

shals of the parade one year. He is survived by a brother and three children, **James '68, Sandi Carlson '71** and **Edwin '72**.

Edwin Roetman '37 died July 7 in Sioux Center at the age of 90. After serving in the military during World War II, he farmed, was part owner of Tri-State Livestock Company, and worked in management at American State Bank. He served as a deacon, elder, vice president of consistory and teacher at Central Reformed Church. Among his survivors are his wife, Ann; two sons; and a daughter.

Angeline (Vermeer '38) Cox died April 6 at age 89 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She was a teacher for several years and later was a manager of the Bellflower (Calif.) Water Company. She was also involved in the Paramount School District literacy program. Her survivors include two children and a brother, **Harold '48**.

Everlye Muilenburg '43, age 86, died Aug. 17 in Davenport, Iowa. She earned a master's degree in education at the University of Northern Iowa and spent her career as a teacher and librarian for the Davenport school system. She was an active member of St. John's United Methodist Church.

Ruth (Vande Garde '52) Meendering, age 76, died Aug. 24 in Sioux Center. After graduating from Northwestern, she taught grade school for a few years. She later worked as a certified nurse's aide for 25 years at the Sioux Center Community Hospital. She was a member of the First Reformed Church of Sioux Center. Survivors include her husband, George; two daughters; and three sons.

Aubrey (Christopherson '70) Boerema died of cancer Aug. 14 in Dell Rapids, S.D., at the age of 61. She taught elementary music for more than 30 years, the last 15 in Dell Rapids. She is survived by her husband, **the Rev. Frank '70**; three sons, including **Adam '00**; and a sister.

Karla (Aberson '70) Huitink, age 62, died Aug. 21. A resident of Wellsville, Kan., she established and directed Apple Tree Preschool for 16 years. Among her survivors are her husband, **the Rev. Don '70**; two daughters; her mother; a sister, **Debbie Kempema '81**; and two brothers.

David Schoon '73 died June 27 in Grand Rapids, Mich., at the age of 57. He earned an M.B.A. from Central Michigan University and a Master of Social Work degree from Michigan State. A stock analyst and investment specialist, he served most recently as vice president of sales and marketing for Xbosoft, a Beijing-based software testing firm. Among his survivors are his parents, Ruth and **Henry Schoon '41**; his wife, Eva; four children; a sister, **Susan Haggar '77**; and a brother.

Steven Pals '75 died of cancer at his home in Orange City on Aug. 18 at the age of 56. After graduating from NWC, he earned a master's degree in public administration at the University of Iowa and directed the Rock Rapids (Iowa) Community Affairs Corporation. He then earned a law degree at Iowa and spent more than 24 years as an attorney. Since 2004 he had worked in the public defender's office in Woodbury County. A member of Dover Avenue Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, he served as an elder, Sunday school teacher and secretary of the governing board. He also was a Boy Scout leader. Survivors include his wife, Cindy; four children; his mother, **Barb (Carlson '72)**; three brothers, including **Cedrick '79**; and a sister.

Capi (Vellinga '77) Kountz, age 54, died July 23 in Bozeman, Mont., after a six-year battle with breast cancer. She worked in the residential mortgage business for more than 30 years. A member of Shining Mountains Lutheran Church, she was active in Bozeman Rotary, Bozeman Saddle-lites and Gallatin County 4-H. Her survivors include her husband, Dayle; two children; and her mother.

Jackie (Hauptert '04) Langstaff, age 29, of Indianola, Iowa, died May 23 in a car accident that also killed her husband, Sam. She was a program specialist at Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines and was pursuing a master's degree in healthcare administration. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Jefferson. She is survived by her parents and a brother.

Pavel Rezabek '10 died of cancer April 4 at the age of 22. He played on a Czech Republic team that practiced with Northwestern's football squad during a mission trip to Eastern Europe in 2003. He enrolled at NWC in the spring of 2006 and was a member of the Red Raider team for two

years. His survivors include his parents and a brother, who is starting a sports ministry in Pavel's name to reach Czech youth.

Roland Simmelink, a Northwestern staff member from 1969 to 1990, died of cancer July 7 in Orange City at the age of 81. He was hired as director of admissions and later served as director of financial aid and Christian education instructor. A graduate of Hope College, he earned master's degrees at George Peabody Teacher's College and North American Baptist Seminary. Before coming to NWC, he taught and served as a principal and directed the Annville Institute in Kentucky. A member of Trinity Reformed Church, he served on the General Program Council of the Reformed Church in America. Among his survivors are his wife, Winifred; four sons, **Jim '75, Scott**, NWC director of maintenance and operations, **Ross '80** and **Randy '82**; two sisters; and a brother.

WORK AT NWC


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

FACULTY
Music Education

STAFF
Director of Library

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.nwc Iowa.edu/employment

SPEAK UP



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

Submit for consideration by Dec. 4 to:

Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College
101 7th Street SW • Orange City, IA 51041
classic@nwc Iowa.edu • classic.nwc Iowa.edu • 712-707-7370 (fax)

Name _____

Address _____

Home/cell phone _____ Class year _____

E-mail _____

Current employer(s) _____

My news _____

Classic Thoughts

Beloved

BY LIZ (CALSBEEK '99) MOSS

We live in different worlds. Most likely she lives in a small dirt hut in southern Ethiopia. I live in a four-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath house in a northwest Iowa town. Her education is basic, at most. I've earned a master's degree. Her employment is petty trade. Until recently, I served as a pastor in a local congregation. We are different.

I don't know much of her story—what her upbringing was like, what hopes and dreams she holds. But I do know on a spring day she gave birth to a baby boy in her parents' home. She named him Dawit, which means *beloved* and translates to David. His second name was Desalegn, which means *I am happy, I am proud*. I can guess she was proud of this boy of hers. I can guess she was delighted with her beloved son.

Dawit was nurtured by his mother for a few months as they lived with his grandpa and grandma. But with circumstances too difficult to bear and an abundance of love, she placed him into the care of others. I can guess her love for him must run deep.

On another spring day, my husband and I stood over the boy's crib in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. With his arms stretched above his head, he slept peacefully, as though he didn't have a care in the world. The nannies said he had fallen asleep while lying in the sun, part of the morning routine to boost the children's vitamin D.

We had traveled more than 24 hours, halfway around the world, to hold this child in our arms. We had endured adoption's paperwork, waiting and unknowns. We were forced to give up control and patiently discover the wonder of God's plan. At that moment, when the nanny handed this droopy-eyed little guy into my outstretched arms, the differences I once had with the woman vanished. We are both deeply in love with this same beloved boy.

When I rock David to sleep, I often look into his big brown eyes and wonder: What other world has he seen? What other eyes has he looked deeply into? What other kisses has he felt? What lullabies did she hum? What stories did she tell her son? What hopes and dreams does she hold for the one she gave in love?

I can't help but recall what the psalmist wrote: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:13-14). Now, as David's mom, I sing, tell stories, and hope and dream for his future too.

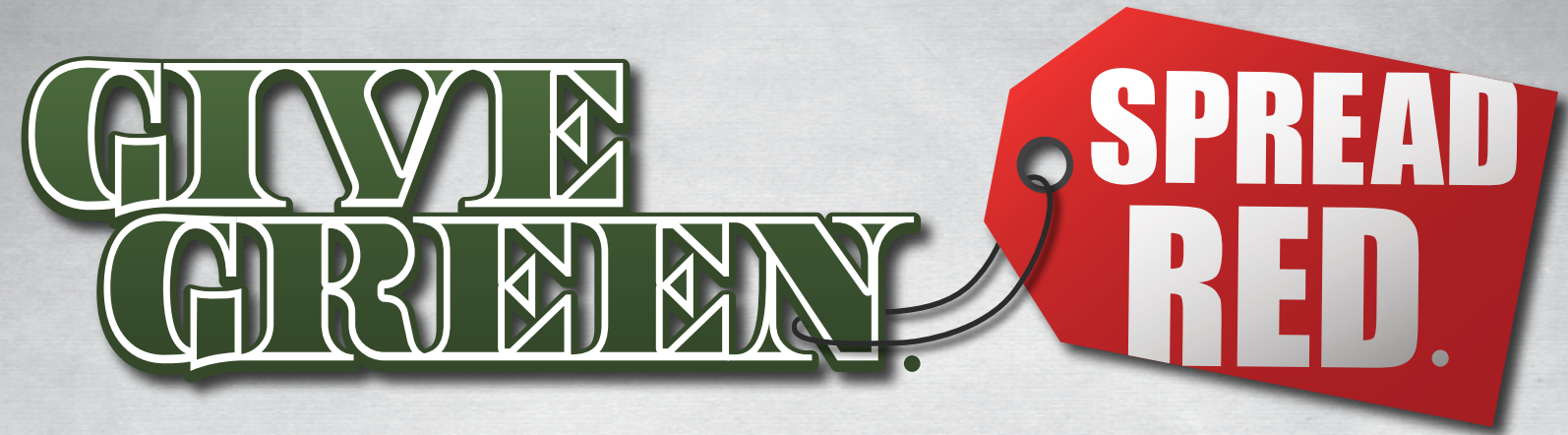
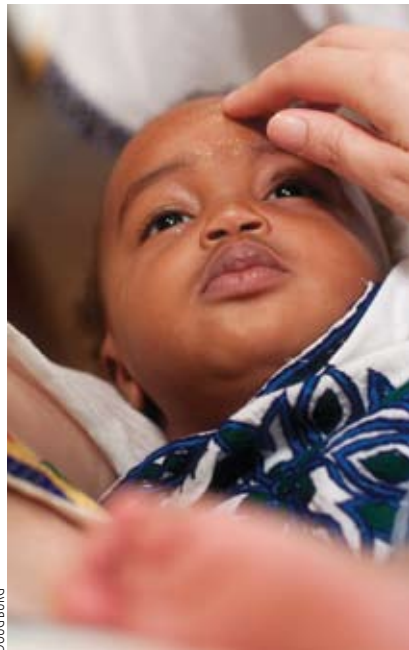
In the Reformed tradition, baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to God's people. It is God saying yes to us before we say yes to God. Sometimes, when I've struggled to hold a kicking and screaming infant while trying to sprinkle water on the little head, I've thought about the poignant symbolism when a child kicks and screams into the kingdom of God. As much as we don't always want to follow, God continues to say yes, yes, yes.

I wonder if, in adoption, baptism is also something more. When I baptized him, I uttered these words to my child: "David Jacob, it was for you that Jesus Christ came into the world; for you he died and for you he conquered death; yes, for you, little one, you who know nothing of it yet. We love because God first loved us."

I wonder if God has whispered into his little ear: "Dawit Desalegn—David Jacob, even while you were in your mother's womb, I loved you and I loved your mother. Even before your mother called you beloved, you were mine. Whomever you are with, you are mine. You are adopted into my family and you are marked as Christ's own forever."

Perhaps we don't have so many differences after all. In fact, we're pretty much the same—both adopted children of God. Yes, we may live worlds apart. I could never imagine what her life is like, and I suppose she could never imagine mine. But we both love. And we are both God's beloved.

Liz Moss and her husband, Jon '99, adopted David Jacob from Ethiopia this past March with assistance and support from Holt International. As an ordained pastor in the Reformed Church in America, Liz was blessed to baptize her own son.



You love Northwestern College.

You think more students should give Northwestern a look.

Put our money behind your message with Northwestern's Red Recruiter Scholarship.

The scholarship costs you nothing—you give the gift; we foot the bill.

The Red Recruiter Scholarship can be given to any high school students to encourage them to check out Northwestern College. Completed scholarship cards are mailed to Northwestern's Office of Admissions and kept until the recipient either decides to enroll or goes elsewhere. Recipients who enroll receive a \$500 Red Recruiter Scholarship as part of their NWC financial aid package.

Give the gift of Northwestern to a student. Give the gift of a student to Northwestern.

You can give the Red Recruiter Scholarship to as many students as you want, including any in your own family. Contact alumni@nwciova.edu to request additional Red Recruiter Scholarship cards.



www.nwciova.edu/redrecruiter

Moving Day

Northwestern welcomed 331 freshmen and 39 transfers to campus this August—the largest numbers for each group since 2006. Freshman-to-sophomore retention also improved. At 77.5%, it is the highest since 2005.

Total enrollment stands at 1,206 students, down 20 from last fall. College officials, however, are encouraged that a three-year drop in the number of new students was reversed. This year's freshman class includes more men and has the highest average ACT score of any class in NWC's history: 24.6.

Mark Bloemendaal, director of admissions, attributes this year's success to a campus-wide prioritizing of recruitment. Even President Greg Christy contacted prospective students.

"Recruitment is led by the admissions staff," Bloemendaal says, "but it takes significant buy-in. Everyone—including alumni—can make a difference."

the Classic

