

FALL 2010

Northwestern College Magazine *the* Classic

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Memorable Mentors Orchestrator of Fun Campus Views

14

Photographer Tom Becker brings a new perspective to campus scenes you've viewed thousands of times.

Classic People

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The *Classic* is published three times a year—in March, June 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:

Like it or not, social media like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are having a tremendous impact within society.

ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN JAMES



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Share comments about any article in this issue, including thoughts about how technology is affecting your life and memories of your favorite prof.

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Zwemer View

Distinctive Community

One of the distinctives of Northwestern College is its unique sense of community. We build community here in ways other colleges do not—in classrooms and residence halls, as well as through student life and spiritual formation programs, athletic teams, fine arts groups, and our chapel program.

Our mission statement emphasizes how valuable we believe the community fostered here is: *Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.*

As a Christian academic community, we are intentional about each of these defining characteristics. We are authentically Christian—we aren't perfect, but we desire to honor God in all we do. We strive for academic excellence, and our faculty devote themselves to helping students grow spiritually and personally as well as academically. All of this is done in the context of community.

In a world of fragmented relationships and increasing isolation, we work to achieve a sense of community students treasure and seek to replicate after graduation. Some may consider our methods of building community to be old-fashioned—compulsory chapel, no cable TV in the residence halls, and requiring students to live on campus until they are 23. We do this not to be different but because these practices have proven effective for creating the kind of community young people crave and need to face today's challenges. Alumni frequently tell us how much the NWC community shaped who they are, what they value and how they live now.

Washington Monthly recently named Northwestern the nation's No. 2 baccalaureate college, based on what students do with their lives after they leave college. Among the factors figuring into their rankings are the number of graduates who earn doctoral degrees or serve in the Peace Corps and the number of students who participate in community service. Northwestern is in the top 10 in the percentage of alumni who serve in the Peace Corps and complete doctorates, as well as in its support for community service. Our emphasis on Christian academic community contributes to our graduates' passion for both learning and serving.

Ultimately, community is about people and relationships. The Christian academic community of Northwestern provides an ideal environment for students to learn more about who God is, who they are, and who their neighbors are. This in turn provides our students with a worldview focused not on self, but on God and others. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" our students and alumni are the kind of people who ask, "How can I help?" This is what a Christian academic community is all about.



Greg Christy
President

around the Green

Lifetime Achievement

When Ron De Jong, vice president for external relations, was helping to present the distinguished alumni awards during halftime of Northwestern's Homecoming football game, he had no idea he would be the next person honored.

Chant Thompson, executive director of the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP), and Krista Meckling '00, the organization's coordinator for membership services and communication, strolled onto the field to present De Jong a Lifetime Achievement Award, only the fourth such award in the 40-year history of NACCAP.

De Jong, who oversees the admissions, financial aid and public relations offices, has worked for NWC since he graduated in 1971. He plans to retire at the end of this academic year.

"Ron's commitment to Northwestern and Christ-centered higher education is simply remarkable," says Meckling. "His leadership and innovation have helped make NACCAP the organization we are today, and he has served as a mentor to many in the admissions profession."

Mark Bloemendaal '81, Northwestern's director of admissions from 2003 until becoming director of alumni relations this summer, says De Jong's enthusiasm for Northwestern helps co-workers realize the importance of their work.

"Ron has a unique ability to be personable and professional with the people who work for him," he says. "He values everyone's contribution and makes the workplace enjoyable. He doesn't take himself too seriously, which helps employees realize they don't have to be perfect—just committed."



President Greg Christy commends Ron De Jong for his 39-year service to Northwestern College after the VP received the NACCAP Lifetime Achievement Award.

in Box

Nicely Woven

Thanks for the fine article on Haiti in the summer *Classic*. You nicely wove together the past and the present, the large issues and the personal perspectives, all on the warp (or is it woof?) of God's new creation work.

Dr. Doug Anderson
NWC Professor of History



Thoroughly Researched

I enjoyed and appreciated the thorough article on "Rebuilding Haiti." I especially appreciated all of the research you provided on the historical background of the country as it related to past slavery conditions. I'm certainly interested in reading Dr. Farmer's book, *The Uses of Haiti*.

I also appreciated the human interest integration with all of the different individuals and groups involved in various types of projects following the earthquake.

This was an extremely well-written article. Thanks for your investment of time and writing skills.

Dr. Ron Juffer '56
NWC Professor of Education

Steps to Romance

Regarding the "Raider Romance" article in the winter *Classic*, our love story began on the steps of Zwemer Hall. Jackie (Bonhuis '43) and I met there in the fall of 1941 when I was a sophomore and she was a freshman. Our first date was at the roller skating rink across the street from the college. We were married in 1944.

This past June we celebrated our 66th wedding anniversary. Two weeks later we celebrated my 60th ordination anniversary. Both dates were celebrated by the El Dorado Park Community Church of Long Beach, where I serve as the interim pastor.

We are proud to be a part of Northwestern's history.

Rev. Dr. Chester Droog '42
Seal Beach, Calif.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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

Enrollment Up

A strong recruiting effort and excellent retention of last year's students resulted in a 3 percent increase in enrollment this fall. Total enrollment is up by 37 to 1,243. In addition, this year's entering freshman class is 351, the largest since 2006.

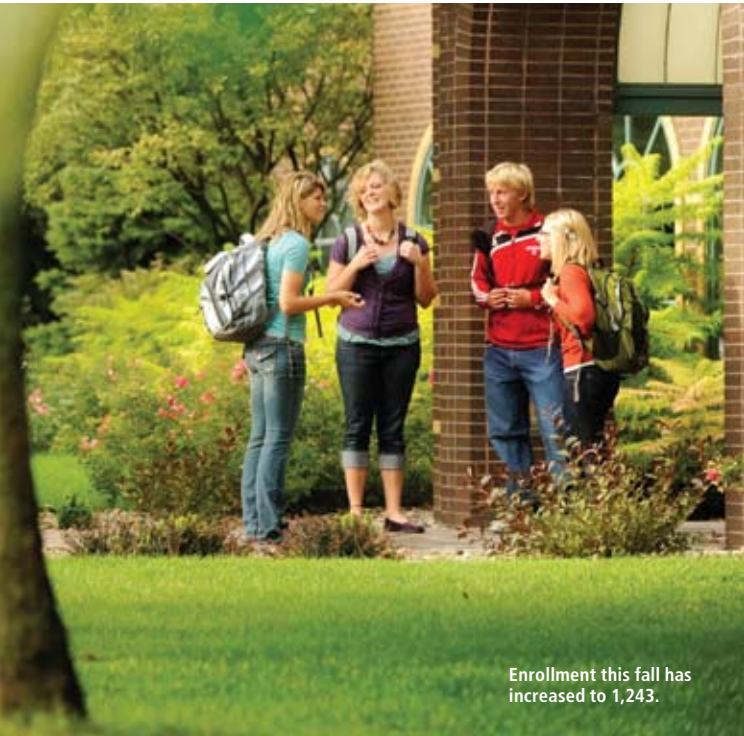
"We had success identifying students who would be a good fit with Northwestern," says Ron De Jong, vice president of external relations. "That's due to a great effort by the admissions staff and the entire campus community."

The retention rate of freshmen returning for their sophomore year was 80 percent, second best in school history. "That shows we are

providing the kind of experience students anticipated they would receive," De Jong says.

This year's enrollment includes the highest-ever percentage of American ethnic minorities, nearly 7 percent. Of the freshman class, more than 10 percent are ethnic minorities.

That increase is partly attributable to a special effort to recruit students from the Southwest. California is now the fifth most represented state on campus, with 59 students.



STEPHEN ALLEN

New in the Classroom

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

Frank Bentrem
Assistant Professor of Physics
Ph.D., Southern Mississippi

Bentrem has 10 years of experience as a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory, where he worked on algorithms for acoustical seafloor images. A frequent presenter at scholarly conferences, Bentrem was also a visiting research professor of physics at Tulane University.

John Hubers '76
Instructor in Religion
Ph.D. candidate in world Christianity and global mission, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

A Reformed Church in America missionary in the Middle East for 13 years, Hubers also supervised the denomination's mission programs in the Middle East and South Asia. In addition, he pastored churches in three states, most recently in Plano, Texas.

Carol Kleyer
Instructor in Nursing
M.S.N. candidate, Briar Cliff University

A registered nurse, Kleyer has worked with patients ranging from pediatric to geriatric, and her experience has included medical clinic, emergency room, coronary care, labor and delivery, post-partum, and medical-surgical. Kleyer coordinated nursing care in an Orange City long-term care facility for many years.

Diane Smith
Instructor in Nursing
M.S.N., Briar Cliff University

Smith, a registered nurse, has experience in admissions, outpatient, surgery, labor and delivery, nursery, emergency room, intensive care unit, and skilled nursing departments of rural hospitals. She also provided community health education for Woodbury County and in a family practice setting.

Tom Tiahrt
Instructor in Computer Science
Ph.D. candidate, University of South Dakota

Tiahrt was previously chief scientist for BrightPlanet Corporation, where he oversaw research and development of novel indexing, storage, search and retrieval software. He has extensive software development experience in accounting systems, newspaper production, image databases, picture archiving communication systems, bioinformatics, and information retrieval software.

Paul Whitley
Instructor in Music
D.M. candidate, Northwestern University

Whitley is serving a one-year appointment after teaching piano at the Hinsdale Center for the Arts and Wheaton College, where he obtained extensive experience as an accompanist. He earned a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music.



Frank Bentrem



John Hubers



Carol Kleyer



Diane Smith



Tom Tiarht



Paul Whitley

More Than a Facelift

Northwestern's website, www.nwciowa.edu, has a new look and content overhaul.

The revised site is focused on providing information for Northwestern's external audiences, particularly prospective students and their families. Packaged in a bright, bold design, the site seeks to convey Northwestern's strengths and unique personality through compelling content and photography.

The site allows users to receive constantly updated news and sports stories by subscribing to RSS feeds and makes it easy to forward Web content via e-mail or social networking sites. In addition, prospective students and employees have the ability to create personalized accounts for navigating the application process.



Leadership Emphasis

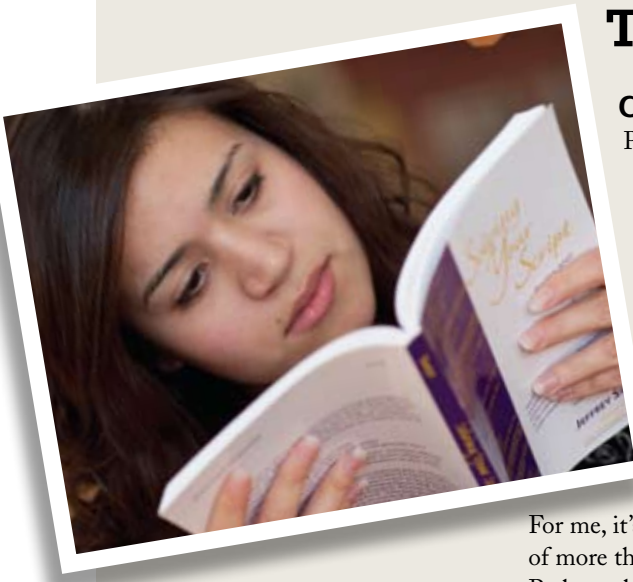
A new effort to enhance the leadership development of NWC students was officially launched in October. The Franken Servant Leadership Institute was introduced with an inaugural address by Dr. Richard Mouw '59, author and president of Fuller Theological Seminary.

The institute was established through the generosity of donors in memory of Jim Franken '75, a Northwestern board member who was president and CEO of Interstates Companies and Harbor Group in Sioux Center when he died in 2001. Drs. Jennifer Feenstra, associate professor of psychology, and Jeff VanDerWerff, associate professor of political science, serve as co-directors.

"There are a lot of leadership development efforts taking place on campus," says VanDerWerff. "We want to offer substantive support to those efforts and provide opportunities for other students to focus on leadership and faith-at-work integration."

The program has an experiential component, seeking to develop students' leadership skills through such efforts as the pre-orientation Portage trip for freshmen to Minnesota's Boundary Waters and opportunities to work with local youth. The institute also focuses on helping students anticipate the challenges of living out their faith in the workplace.

Of Course



The Play's the Thing

Class

Playwriting: The Full-Length

Instructor

Jeff Barker

Professor of Theatre and Speech

Few undergraduate college students can say they've written a full-length play. Northwestern theatre majors and non-majors alike have that opportunity as part of an elective taught by a published playwright.

"Writing a full-length play is a huge project. For me, it's the toughest kind of writing," says Jeff Barker, author of more than 50 plays, who teaches the NWC playwriting course. Perhaps that's why the experience is usually offered only in graduate theatre programs.

Northwestern's emphasis on playwriting is distinctive for an undergraduate Christian college theatre program. It's also part of the theatre department's mission.

"We're out to change the culture," says Barker. "Since the theatre arts field is a script-based form, we realize if we're going to be culture-changers, we need to contribute to the pool of writers."

Two other members of the theatre faculty—Bob Hubbard and Jeff Taylor—are also playwrights. Taylor teaches a playwriting course on one-acts, which is required of all theatre majors. The one-acts are produced every other spring, while in the alternate years when the full-length playwriting course is offered, an external judge reads the students' plays and chooses one for production. For both courses, students direct the work of their peers.

Barker warns students in his course it's very difficult to get a play published and there's little money in playwriting. "You have to be in it because you love it and think it's important," he says.

That describes at least one of the department's graduates. Colette (Johnson '00) Mazunik chose Northwestern specifically because of the theatre department's emphasis on playwriting. She went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree from The Actor's Studio Drama School, one of the finest playwriting schools in the country, and now is getting plays she's written produced on New York City stages.

Texts and Assignments

- *August: Osage County*, by Tracey Letts
- *Solving Your Script*, by Jeffrey Sweet
- *The Value of Names and Other Plays*, by Jeffrey Sweet
- *Unspoken for Time*, by Jeff Barker

In addition to reading about how to write a play, students read scripts. They then write a 90-page full-length play using classic dramatic structure, attempting to craft a drama that will stand the test of time.

On Board

The Northwestern Board of Trustees welcomed two new members at its fall meeting in October.

The Rev. Tim Breen '02 is the new lead pastor at Orange City's First Reformed Church. He previously served as teaching pastor at Sunrise Ministries in Hudsonville, Mich., and director of youth and family ministries at First Reformed Church of Sibley, Iowa. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Sittser, Northwestern's chaplain from 1979 to 1985, has been a theology professor at Whitworth College since 1989. He is the author of seven books, including *A Grace Disguised*, *The Will of God as a Way of Life* and *When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer*. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and a doctorate in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago.



Tim Breen



Jerry Sittser

National Recognition

Northwestern was rated second in *Washington Monthly's* 2010 rankings of the top baccalaureate colleges in the nation, based on how well graduates are prepared for lives of achievement, service and research.

Bard College at Simon's Rock in Massachusetts was ranked first. Other institutions in the top 10 include Taylor University, third; Messiah College, fifth; Augustana College of South Dakota, sixth; and Trinity Christian College, ninth.

An article at www.washington-monthly.com says the magazine's rankings feature a different approach than other ratings. "Instead of asking what a college could do for you, we asked, 'What are colleges doing for the country?' Colleges should be judged not just on who they enroll and how many graduate, but on what students do with their lives after they leave."

Among the factors figuring into the rankings are the number of bachelor's degree recipients who go on to earn doctoral degrees or serve in the Peace Corps; the number of students who participate in community service and the staff support those efforts receive; the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants; and the predicted and actual graduation rates based on percentage of Pell recipients and incoming SAT scores.

"It's great to be affirmed externally for what I witness every day,"

says President Greg Christy. "Our students, faculty and staff have an incredible commitment to serving others and impacting the world for good. Society is in desperate need of leaders, especially Christian leaders, and Northwestern is in the business of educating Christian scholars and servant leaders who are actively engaged in research, scholarship and service."

The *Washington Monthly* ranking was the latest among several impressive recognitions NWC received in August. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked NWC ninth among 95 Midwestern colleges; Forbes.com included Northwestern among the top 15 percent of the nation's colleges and universities; and Princeton Review selected the school for its "Best in the Midwest" designation.



Northwestern's No. 2 ranking by *Washington Monthly* was based in part on the involvement of alumni in leadership, service and research.

DAN ROSS

Adoption-Friendly

For the second year in a row, NWC is ranked alongside Ivy League and Big Ten institutions as one of the leading adoption-



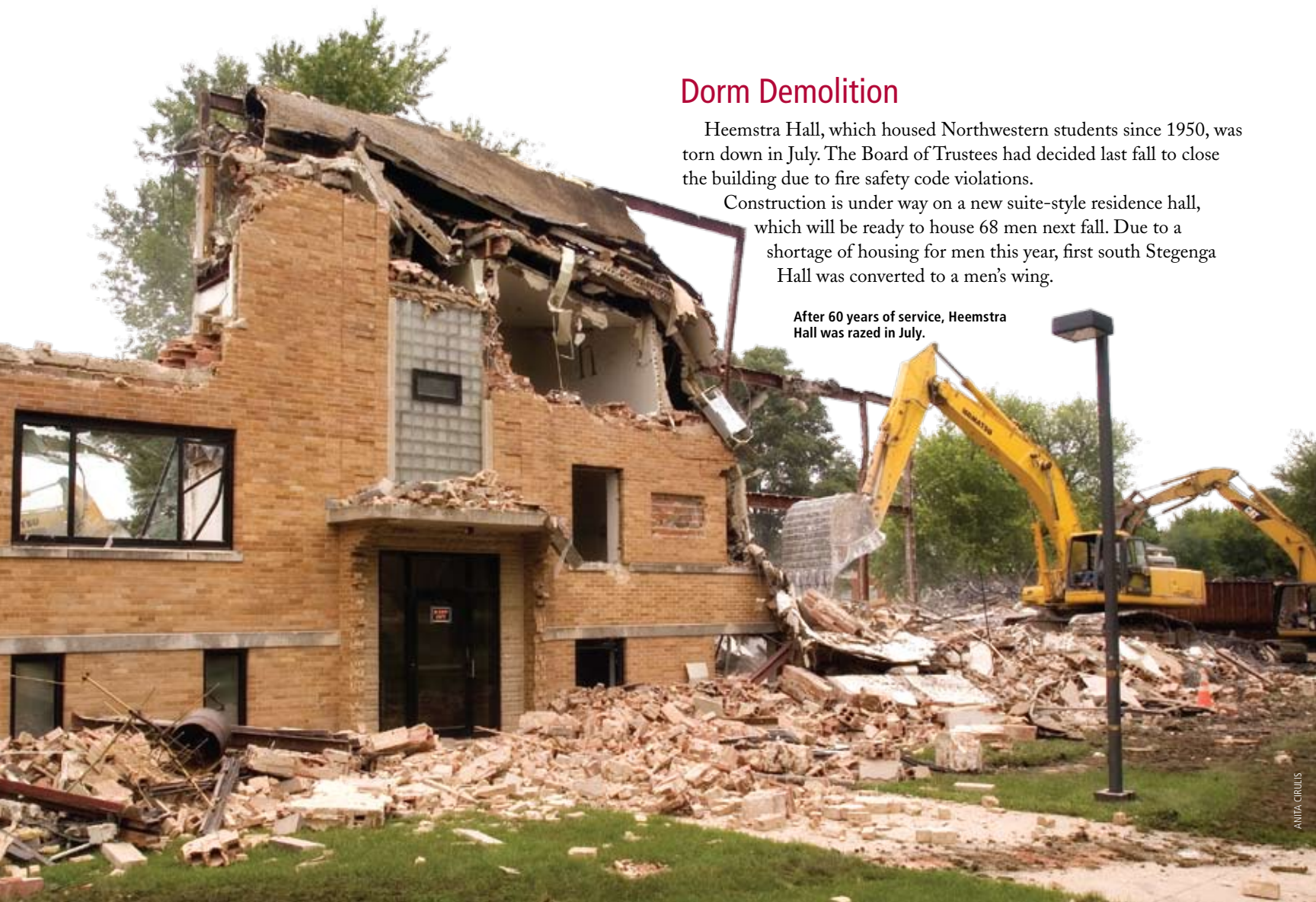
friendly workplaces in higher education. Northwestern is ranked fifth—behind Cornell University and New York University (tied for first), Harvard (third) and Ohio State (fourth)—on the 2010 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces education list released by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. “We are pleased and humbled to receive this recognition,” says Deb Sandbulte, director of human resources. “The support we provide employees in the adoption process is another example of our

commitment to being a family-friendly place of employment. And it resonates with our mission to pursue God’s redeeming work in the world by caring for all of his children.” 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 child with special needs. Adoptive parents are offered up to seven days of paid leave in addition to accumulated sick leave, vacation

and personal leave. Sherri (De Zeeuw ’95) Langton, cataloger/library systems specialist, used Northwestern’s financial assistance to pay court and attorney fees incurred in the adoption of son Ahman, now 4, from Ethiopia. “I felt very fortunate to have a supportive employer,” she says. “Northwestern’s efforts benefit families greatly and show acceptance of adoption as another way to build your family.”

Dorm Demolition

Heemstra Hall, which housed Northwestern students since 1950, was torn down in July. The Board of Trustees had decided last fall to close the building due to fire safety code violations. Construction is under way on a new suite-style residence hall, which will be ready to house 68 men next fall. Due to a shortage of housing for men this year, first south Stegenga Hall was converted to a men’s wing.



After 60 years of service, Heemstra Hall was razed in July.

AMTACIRIUS

Parents of the Year

Jerry and Dee Herlyn’s daughters nominated them as Northwestern’s Parents of the Year because of their lives of service. It’s an example their children have followed. The Herlyns, who farm near Marion, S.D., spend several months each winter in Texas, where they build houses with Habitat for Humanity, make meals for people in the community, and interact with those who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina. They also regularly donate time to the Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch in Lampe, Mo., doing electrical work, installing Sheetrock, painting and performing other jobs.

“They’re just so giving,” says their daughter, Kelsey, a senior at Northwestern. “If they see somebody in need, they’re right there.” Kelsey spent spring break this year on one of the college’s Spring Service Projects (SSP). Her team went to Jackson, Miss., where they worked in a community health clinic that offers free services. Her sister Megan, a junior, was part of an SSP team that served with City Youth Ministries in Jonesboro, Ark. And Jennifer ’07, the oldest of the Herlyn siblings, participated in three Spring Service Projects—to Oklahoma, Trinidad and New Orleans. Northwestern recognized the Herlyns as part of Family Week-end in October.

Face Value

Darla Hettinga

Quietly diligent

What are your main job responsibilities? I track chapel attendance, make ID cards, keep housing records, maintain the student handbook, supervise work-studies in the student development office and do a variety of other things. New to me this year is issuing parking tags and supervising the switchboard.

Working so closely with students and their parents, you must get questions that make you laugh sometimes. I do. Once a mother of an incoming freshman boy asked if she could stay in his dorm room during orientation weekend.

What makes your job great? I especially enjoy working with students, helping them however I can. It’s fun to watch them grow from freshmen to seniors—to see how they have matured and grown spiritually as they make plans for the future.

What’s among the worst excuses you’ve heard for poor chapel attendance? “I thought I would make it,” or “I overslept just this once. Can you let me in even though I am [20 minutes] late?”

Describe yourself in three words. Organized, honest, concerned.

Having so many student employees in your office over the years, you must have some interesting stories. The craziest was a student who overslept all the time and asked me to call him to make sure he came to work in the morning. We were nearing the end of the semester without any time to hire someone else, so I worked with him until the end of the year—but I didn’t rehire him the next year!

What have been some of the highlights of your time at NWC? The opening of DeWitt Theatre and the remodeling of the Rowenhorst Student Center.



DOUG BURG

Darla Hettinga originally came to Northwestern in 1992 for a part-time, temporary job working in both student affairs and admissions. She returned to campus in 2002 to serve as the student development assistant.

As attendance tracker, you get to a lot of chapels. What have been some of your favorites? I enjoyed the “I Have a Dream” student chapel speakers last year, especially Sarah Earleywine, who spoke about trusting the Lord to lead her after graduation. I also like musical chapels like the one done by Ken Medema.

What do you do in your free time? In the summer I like to ride motorcycle with my husband and spend time with our children and grandchildren. I also enjoy gardening.

If you’d like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail classic@nwcioa.edu.

Recognized as Northwestern's 2010 alumni of the year at Homecoming were, left to right: Barb Lubbers, Brian Renes and Rachel Klay.

Achievers

Three receive distinguished alumni awards

Barb (Jacobs '70) Lubbers

Service to Northwestern

Barb Lubbers and her family served as a host family for NWC international students every year from 1985 to 2009. For six of those years she was the host family coordinator. She also served for many years on the National Alumni Board and Women's Auxiliary and chaired the auxiliary's Hostess Supper event.

In 1991, Lubbers became the office assistant in Northwestern's campus ministry office, supporting staff and students involved in chapel programming, campus ministry and short-term missions. She retired in 2008, the same year she received the college's Diane Murphy International Inspiration Award.

Brian Renes '85

Service to Humankind

Brian Renes and his wife, Donna (Rensink '87), have been Reformed Church in America missionaries since 1989. The Reneses started their ministry as Bible translators among the Tojolabal people in Chiapas, Mexico.

Since 1996, Renes has worked for United Bible Societies as a computer consultant, providing training and support for Bible translation

projects in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Using what he's learned traveling to translation projects around the world, Renes is one of the developers of a translation software program, Paratext, which is used by nearly every Bible translation project worldwide.

Rachel Klay '80

Professional Achievement

Rachel Klay joined the Secret Service in 1983 when she was one of just 36 women in a force of 2,000. Over her 23-year career, she protected Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton; hunted child abductors and serial killers as part of a joint task force with the FBI; and served as the Secret Service liaison to the Pentagon, CIA, and legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. government.

Klay retired from the Secret Service in 2007 and is now senior special agent in the protective services unit for Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Funding Northwestern's Mission

2009–10 giving tops \$3.5 million

Fundraising Report

July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010

\$3.6 million	Total giving to Northwestern College in 2009–10; giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1.8 million
\$703,610	Total giving to endowed scholarships for students; \$116,800 was received from bequests in 2009–10
266	Tower Society (\$1,000+) members; 43 gave at the silver level (\$2,500+), and 24 gave at the gold level (\$5,000+)
240	Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
233	Members named to the new Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor, which recognizes donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years
24%	Percentage of Northwestern alumni giving to their alma mater

Northwestern Fund (operating)	2008–09	2009–10
Alumni	\$485,881	\$519,297
Friends	812,947	687,736
Foundations/grants	150,168	127,425
Corporations	131,299	134,579
Churches	350,365	314,008
Other	25,300	27,109
Subtotal	\$1,955,960	\$1,810,154

Capital and Endowed Gifts (non-operating)	2008–09	2009–10
Alumni	\$279,433	\$344,706
Friends	529,019	637,153
Foundations/grants	259,750	281,665
Corporations	81,179	111,545
Churches	2,225	25,350
Estates	289,006	360,183
Other	50,500	37,034
Subtotal	\$1,491,112	\$1,797,636
Grand total	\$3,447,072	\$3,607,790

Imagine Campaign

	Goal	Total raised
Learning Commons	\$15 million	\$7,180,040
Northwestern Fund	10 million	6,452,175
Strategic initiatives	9 million	3,837,912
Scholarships	8 million	5,348,356
Deferred giving	8 million	3,327,176
Facilities upgrade (RSC, etc.)	5 million	1,350,628
Total	\$55 million	\$27,496,287

Alumni giving

Best giving percentage

Class of 1945	70%
Class of 1937	67%
Class of 1946	63%
Class of 1944	61%
Class of 1951	60%

Best giving overall

Class of 1975	\$108,529
Class of 1972	103,755
Class of 1982	88,600
Class of 1981	76,572
Class of 1939	62,650

Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

Class of 1965	\$47,358
Class of 1972	26,300
Class of 1997	24,744
Class of 1955	22,525
Class of 1975	21,172

Seniors Kaitlin Beaver, right, and Bobbie Jean Rich celebrate a kill. The Raiders were ranked fourth nationally at press time.

Red Zone

Volleyball Unbeaten

The Raiders set a new Great Plains Athletic Conference record with 58 consecutive regular-season match wins, dating back to 2007. NWC went unbeaten in the league this fall and was 32-0 overall entering postseason play. With nine victories over ranked teams, the squad won its third consecutive regular-season conference title and qualified for the NAIA national tournament. Kaitlin Beaver was a three-time conference setter of the week, and Hillary Hanno earned the league's player-of-the-week honor twice.

Football Great Ground Game

Taylor Malm and Brandon Smith led the league's leading rushing offense and were in the top five nationally, averaging 123 and 121 yards apiece, respectively. Northwestern was ranked 15th in the nation and 6-2 with two games left. Malm, Smith and defenders Aaron Jansen and Grantley Samuels were named GPAC conference players of the week.

Cross Country Nationally Ranked

The women's team was ranked as high as 23rd in the national poll and won two fall invitationals. Charity Miles and Sara Hess were the first two runners to cross the finish line at the Doane meet.

Men's Golf Three Meet Championships

The Raiders won three fall invitationals and were in fifth place after two rounds of the GPAC

tournament, which will continue in the spring. Michael Dykema, Ryan Kiewiet and Neil Malenke earned GPAC golfer-of-the-week honors. Kiewiet was tied for fourth in the conference.

Women's Golf Two-Time Medalist

Maggie (Achterhof) Rozenboom was a medalist at two meets and twice earned GPAC golfer-of-the-week honors. Northwestern won the Doane Invitational and was in fourth place in GPAC tournament play. Rozenboom was fourth individually.

Women's Soccer Tournament Qualifiers

The women qualified for the postseason tournament, losing in the first round to Dakota Wesleyan, after finishing the season seventh in the conference with a 5-5-1 mark. The Raiders were 7-10-1 overall. Goalkeeper Ariel Watts was named a GPAC defensive player of the week.

Men's Soccer Player of the Week

The Raiders compiled a 5-10-2 record, placing 11th in the conference at 3-7-1. Goalkeeper Jeff Lanser received GPAC defensive-player-of-the-week recognition.

For more on Raider sports, visit www.nwcraiders.com

Time in a Bottle

BY ANITA CIRULIS



President Jacob Heemstra (front left) and other Northwestern Junior College employees gather with construction workers for a ceremony celebrating the laying of Heemstra Hall's cornerstone in 1950.

Workers were removing Heemstra Hall's cornerstone this summer in preparation for the building's demolition when they discovered a metal box tucked inside.

It must have seemed a good idea at the time: Fill a container with Northwestern memorabilia, solder it shut, and place it inside the newly built dormitory.

But 60 years of Midwestern weather foiled the best-laid plans. When maintenance staff stumbled across the time capsule, they knew water pouring from the box didn't bode well for its contents. Cutting it open, they found a sodden mess of discolored, moldy documents whose pages had fused together.

There was a student handbook as well as the *Guide for Conduct for Women Students and Dormitory*

Regulations. There were also copies of Northwestern's alumni and student newspapers; a Reformed Church publication; and English- and Dutch-language local newspapers.

Fortunately, additional copies of all of those documents are also stored safely in the college's archives. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the one-of-a-kind correspondence from the building's namesake.

"There was an envelope with a letter from President [Jacob] Heemstra, but all the ink was washed away," says Jill Haarsma '95, the president's assistant, who was present when the box was opened. "That's the piece that would have been really incredible to have. We'll never know what he had to say."

The archives' copies of the

newspapers give details about the dorm's groundbreaking, which took place in October 1949. President Heemstra introduced the Rev. Henry Colenbrander—president of the Board of Trustees—who "turned up the first sod."

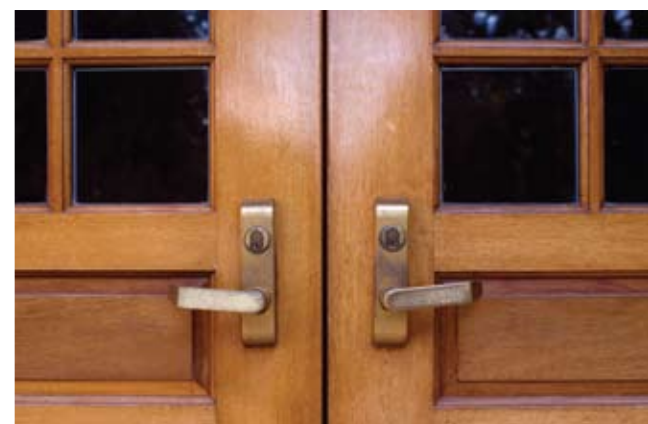
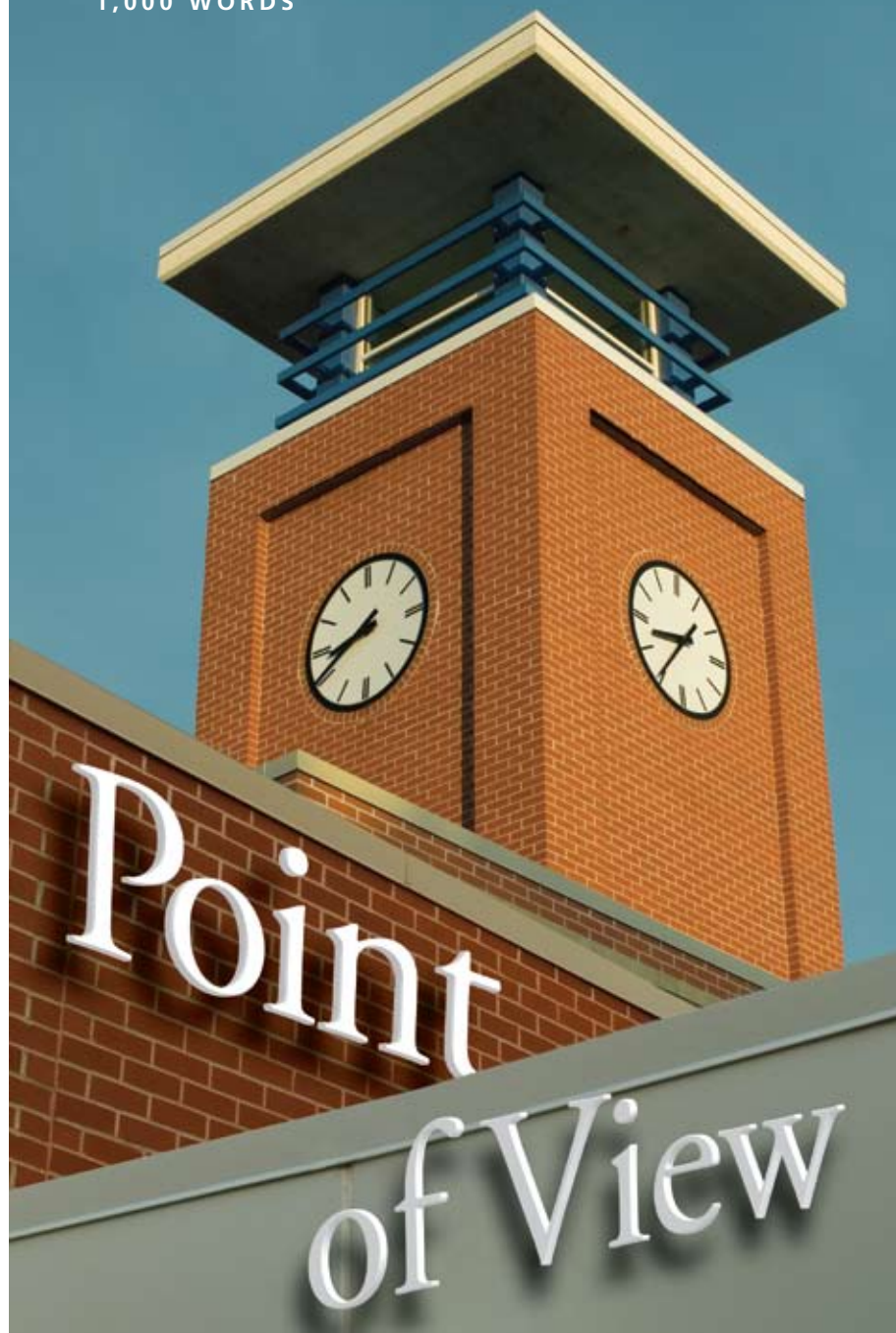
In the *Guide for Conduct*, one learns women were required to be in their dorm by 7:30 on weeknights. They had to sign in and out, giving their destination and name of escort, and when leaving town, were given a card to return with the signature of their host or parent. Rooms were to be clean and ready for inspection anytime after 8 a.m.

Heemstra Hall opened in the fall of 1950. Built and furnished for \$195,000, it had rooms for 80 female students on three of its four floors and a dining hall on its lowest level. Also included were a

kitchen, recreation rooms, snack rooms, laundry room, and lounge with a grand piano.

Heemstra served Northwestern for 60 years—eventually becoming a men's dorm known for its unique, tight-knit community of "brothers"—before the fire marshal declared it unsafe. The college closed the hall in May and razed it in July.


As one dorm went down, another is going up. A new suite-style men's residence hall is under construction on the northwest corner of campus. If a time capsule is involved, maintenance director Scott Simmelink has a plan: Put it in a PVC pipe, glue the ends shut, and locate it *inside* the building—away from any potential source of rain or snow.



Northwestern alumni might think they spent enough time on campus to know it completely: every building, hallway, doorway—even the nooks and crannies. We asked photographer Tom Becker to give us a new view of campus. His shots make the familiar seem peculiar, and the ordinary, fresh and fascinating.

For 35 additional images of campus locations, visit our online photo gallery at classic.nwciowa.edu.





Social Media and Society

EDITED BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

In July, Facebook hit 500 million “friends.” According to Wikipedia, that means about 1 in every 14 people on the planet is on Facebook.

Is the ubiquitous nature of social media a boon—or bane? It depends. A mom watching her son thumb his smart phone through dinner won’t be as enthusiastic as the dad whose daughter has just texted, “Storm over. I’m OK.”


The same technology that enables new parents to chat about Afro hair care with other U.S. families who’ve adopted children from Ethiopia has been complicit in suicides by teenagers bullied online. The potential and pitfalls seem as

boundless as the medium itself.

In *Super Sad True Love Story*, author Gary Shteyngart satirizes a future in which handhelds track data—like credit ratings and cholesterol levels—and broadcast the information publicly when users pass kiosks on the street or in the mall. Anyone can stream their own reality show, and “verballing” (talking face-to-face) is quaintly nostalgic. Is that where we’re headed? Or will broader connectedness lead to deeper community? Will a society with unlimited access to information be more informed?

We asked 10 alumni and students to share their thoughts.

Capitalizing on the Internet

 **Joel Anderson '02** lives in Massachusetts and teaches at Smith College and the University of Hartford; this fall his class Total Noise: Going Deaf in the Information Age was named a Hot College Course by thedailybeast.com.

Remember when using the Internet meant no one else in your house could use the phone? Remember when your computer contained less memory than today’s coffeemakers and loading even a modest-sized graphic was like watching a window shade being pulled down your screen by an arthritic hand? Of course, you didn’t mind because the Information Age had arrived, and everything was about to be possible.

Well, from where I’m sitting (in a café, surrounded by the blue glow of laptops) there are at least two ironies of the Information Age. The first is that one of its effects has been a decline in vetted news: Journalists are out of work, and print news agencies are fiscally broke. That’s unfortunate for anyone who believes being a responsible participant in American democracy requires access to reliable information about what is actually going on across our nation.

A corollary to this first irony is that a lot of information is still out there; I just have to do some industrious sifting, sorting and hyper-nuanced Googling to make sense of it—assuming I don’t want to just go ahead and take Glenn Beck’s or Keith Olbermann’s word for it.

Which brings me to the second irony of the Information Age: The technological tools I can use to figure out whether or not lowering taxes might jumpstart the economy (enabling informed citizenship and voting) are the same tools I use to watch YouTube videos, read celebrity gossip, and tweet my friends for movie recommendations.

And at the end of a long day, chances are deciphering the U.S. tax code and figuring out how it affects GDP is not even within a high-powered telescope’s view of watching some dude fail to execute a backflip on YouTube. It just isn’t—most of the time, anyway.

So to make time for all the Information Age has to offer, I might simply resort to the comfortable dogmatism of the TV Right or the TV Left, choosing the sound bite that supports what I originally thought anyway.

We were promised a brave, new world, but instead we’ve settled for just a bigger version of the planet that already exists behind our eyelids. There’s an “I” in Internet, after all, and it’s capitalized. 👍

Social Media and the Masses

👤 Dr. Eileen (Ringnalda ‘96) Barron is the Utah communications and public involvement manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff, an international engineering firm. A blogger and tweeter, she tracks industry trends in social media use and also teaches communications at Utah Valley University.

In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time; historically, mass media gatekeepers are a relatively small number of people, like producers or editors.

Social media revolutionize the gatekeeper role, enabling information seekers to be their own information gatekeepers. You decide who you



want to hear from by clicking on links of interest, visiting recommended websites, and participating in online chats or discussions of value to you.

We’ll still turn to mass media to meet certain information and entertainment needs, but social media’s customizable information facilitates a new kind of interaction with the larger world—one, I believe, that is earning its place alongside other media formats in our multimedia society. 👍

Ski Tweets

👤 David Harding ‘90 is a senior writer and constituent response manager for “Family Talk with Dr. James Dobson,” available online at myfamilytalk.com.

While driving to work recently, enjoying the golden aspens beneath Pike’s Peak, I caught part of an advertisement for a ski resort proclaiming itself “the most wired ski resort in Colorado!” and offering to “alert you when your friends hit the slopes!”

Alert me when my friends hit the slopes?! It’s annoying enough that wherever I go, all I see are the tops of people’s heads because eyes are glued to handhelds that have to be checked during meetings, while shopping, at the theatre, in church or even behind the wheel. But on the slopes? We’re talking Colorado skiing. Look at that view! Watch out for that tree!!

It’s true: We’re obsessed with being connected. Online networks like Facebook satisfy a primal desire we have to be part of the group. They also satisfy our yearning to be heard: “On my way to work. Fifth red light in a row!” invariably elicits a sympathetic “Too bad! Happened to me yesterday.” Someone feels my pain.

But Facebook creates false intimacy. I can connect with old—I mean *former*—classmates, be their “friend,” and voyeuristically see what they look like, who they married and whether their kids seem normal. I can read their posts and view their photos without offering anything in return (except maybe permission to view my photos, which show I still have my hair, and my wife and kids are adorably photogenic). I can reach through cyberspace and “poke” my friends, but it’s like giving a man-hug, my fingertips barely tapping someone’s back while I avoid any real contact.

Do I really want to be tweeted when my friends hit the slopes? Nah. But for anyone who’s thinking, “Cool! What’s the name of the resort?” I can’t tell you. I tuned out and went back to enjoying the view. 👍

Simulating the Social

👤 Dr. Bill Swart ‘88 is a sociology professor at Augustana College, Sioux Falls. He assigns students to read Robert Putnam’s *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, about society’s decreasing connectedness.

“... [O]ur society is perhaps in the process of putting an end to the social, of burying the social beneath a simulation of the social ...”

Jean Baudrillard, *In the Shadow of the Silent Majorities*

Evan’s text arrives during English 210: “Diana, you’re so beautiful. I’m thinking about you. I can’t believe we’ve been dating for 1 year, 53 days and 7 hours!”

“He’s so romantic,” she thinks.

“How awesome to have a boyfriend who’s always thinking of me.”

Social media. Isn’t it interesting how our understanding of “social” has changed—how we’ve lowered the bar on social interaction? Certainly Facebook, e-mail and texting have expanded the immediacy, efficiency and breadth of our interactions, but haven’t they simultaneously eroded the depth of emotion we experience in our interactions? Evan’s text messages may enable him to share his emotions instantly with Diana, but his digital sweet nothings aren’t quite as sweet—or substantive—as if he had communicated them in person.

Social theorist Slavoj Žižek takes this one step further by suggesting that social media doesn’t just dull our experience of the social, it destroys it altogether. Social media transforms our interaction into “interpassivity” by severing our emotional connections to one another while simultaneously providing a simulation of social life.

Consider “Girlfriend Keeper,” the iPod app that sends automated text messages to your significant other. Diana doesn’t realize that Evan’s electronic endearments have been randomly chosen from thousands of pre-written text messages in Girlfriend Keeper’s database. These virtual love notes transfer the romance to the technology, freeing Evan from any real emotional effort while interpassively simulating romance.

One danger of social media lies in the “poverty of affect” that comes with interpassivity. Žižek cautions that we are becoming so embedded in social media that we’re less capable—and even less willing—to make emotional connections. We choose instead to hide behind our Facebook profiles, carefully sharing “what’s on our mind” one update at a time.

Even more unsettling: If Cooley’s theory of the Looking-Glass Self is right, and we really do see ourselves as we think other people see us, then a culture of social media doesn’t just erode our understanding of one another; it also limits our ability to understand ourselves. 👍

“Social media severs our emotional connections to one another while simultaneously providing a simulation of social life.”

To Friends on Facebook

👤 Anna Bartlett is a Northwestern College junior majoring in English literature and serving as an R.A. in Fern Smith Hall.

Hey, buddy, I’ve noticed you spend an inordinate amount of time staring at a screen. I walk down the hall and see you clicking through someone’s pictures. Two doors down, Carrie is reading someone’s wall post. Why don’t you sign off and chat with each other? Last year one of the wings in Fern held a Facebook fast, and for once, wingmates hung out together in the hallway instead of alone in front of their computers.

Humans are always inventing new technologies for the purpose of increasing efficiency, saving time and expending less effort. But I’d argue that relationships should be neither efficient nor something we wish to spend less time and energy on. There is something rich and gratifying about giving your entire attention to the person in front of you.

So, friend, if you are going to procrastinate, procrastinate by spending time with people on our wing; get to know someone you haven’t talked to very much or reach out to someone who isn’t well known. Think how much better you will feel procrastinating in the name of loving others rather than for the hollow “community” Facebook offers. 👍

Writing in Decline? DSL. (Doesn’t Seem Likely.)

👤 Tom Truesdell ‘01 is the director of academic support at Northwestern College. He also teaches writing and is earning a doctorate in composition and teaching English as a second language from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Truesdell does not have a Facebook page, but he watches the kids while his wife updates hers.

Invariably when I announce I teach writing, someone will use my career confession as an opportunity to lament the degradation of students’ writing skills: “Kids today just do not know how to write,” they’ll say before adding the caveat, “I blame technology. Texting and e-mail are ruining the English language.”


I probably shouldn’t be surprised by this response. As someone who studies writing, I know people have been lamenting declining writing skills throughout history. In the 17th century, the Royal Society of England endorsed the creation of a National Language Academy to rectify the declining writing and speaking skills of English citizens. Two

hundred years later, Harvard University was offering the first college composition courses for “uneducated” rural students.


Interestingly, these examples occurred before e-mail and texting. So for me, the argument that technology has somehow resulted in poor writing is shaky. Instead I echo Denis Baron’s observation that digital technology is simply the latest step in a long line of writing technologies.

Baron points out that the computer’s development into a writing tool parallels the development of the pencil: Like the computer, pencils were not created for writing communication, and like the computer, pencils were initially resisted by educators who believed that student writing would decline if they were allowed to erase and revise.

The truth is, more people are reading and writing today than ever before, and they’re reading and writing more than they ever have. Perhaps students are writing fewer carefully crafted thesis statements, but they are more aware of their audience because they have learned writing an e-mail to Mom is different than commenting on their friend’s Facebook photos.

Of course, all of this goodwill toward technology is coming from someone who loves reading but refuses to buy a Kindle. 

Community Haiku


 **David Bruxvoort** is a Northwestern College sophomore majoring in pre-engineering. He also keeps busy as an R.A. in Colenbrander Hall.

Walking down the hall
Doors closed on the left and right
No community


I often ask the guys on my wing: What brought you to Northwestern College? The answer is as varied as the students who attend NWC. However, for many of us, the tight campus community was part of the draw.

Yet even though many students came here to experience a unique sense of community, what I see, walking through the hall as an R.A., is disheartening. On any given night, the men on my wing are on Facebook, texting, following Twitter, using Skype, perusing MySpace, sending e-mails or talking on their cell phones.

Information Age enthusiasts will argue my nightly observations are proof that widespread social media use is indicative of its value. I disagree. A Facebook update is no substitute for one that is face-to-face.

Connectivity isn’t the same thing as community. Just as the 17 syllables of the haiku I wrote only hint at what I’m trying to express in these four paragraphs, the avenues of communication available to us today—like tweets and Facebook updates—should be supplements, not substitutes, for the personal contact necessary to build deep and meaningful community. 

Social Networking @ Work

 **Emily (Gosselink ‘00) Ford** is the associate dean of students at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga. She’s had a Facebook account since the website was launched in 2004.


As depicted in the recently-released film, *The Social Network*, Facebook started on college campuses. As someone who spends a lot of time on a college campus, I enjoy observing how social networks like Facebook affect the relationships we seek to develop in residence life. Yes, there are negative aspects of Facebook (Farmville, anyone?), but if used properly, it can be an effective tool for nurturing communication and community.

“Facebook reminds us we’re all part of a larger world—and that a life far away does not have to be a life far removed.”

One of our freshmen was having an especially difficult time transitioning to college this fall. A California native, Julie* hadn’t met anyone on our Georgia campus before arriving. But when she was having a particularly rough time dealing with a situation back home, she felt immediately comfortable going to her R.A., Carrie*, because Carrie had connected with Julie on Facebook during the summer.


In fact, Carrie had used Facebook to start building relationships with all the women on her floor before they arrived on campus. Their Facebook friendships weren’t a replacement for the personal relationships they’re building with each other now, but that initial connection helped Julie and her wingmates feel like they already had a home and a community at Covenant.

Students at Covenant eat meals around tables full of friends, talk through tough issues in class, and live as close as family in our residence halls. But they’re also having conversations by Facebook chat, commenting on each other’s photos and sending invitations to events.

Facebook doesn’t replace community; instead, it broadens it. It helps us stay connected with family and friends across time and place, which makes relationships feel less temporary and transient. It reminds us we’re all part of a larger world—and that a life far away does not have to be a life far removed. 

**Student names have been changed.*

The Beauty of Being Two-Faced

 **Julie (Vermeer ‘97) Elliott** teaches Christian ethics and interdisciplinary studies at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. She has written about the faux friendships fostered by reality TV for *Christianity Today* and in a *New York Times* “Room for Debate” blog post.


When I was in middle and high school, I often participated in a favorite pastime of teenage girls: scrutinizing one another. We were always on the lookout for fashion and social faux pas. Was her skirt too skimpy? Her hair too poofy? (Given it was the late ’80s, it was never poofy enough.)

Or worst of all: Was she two-faced? Reflecting back, I realize this was not merely a teenage social ethic, but rather, a universal one: A two-faced person is deceitful and hypocritical; she’s resented because she alters her one authentic self depending on her company and context.


But what if there is something right about being two-faced (or three- or four-faced)? While it’s wrong to be dishonest or phony, I’d argue there is something appropriate about shifting our words, tone and gestures according to our intended audience. I project a different persona when I’m teaching than when I’m chatting with my auto mechanic.

The ability to present different faces to different audiences is a key to being a discerning communicator. Unfortunately, it’s just this ability that is inhibited by social networking sites, where people we know from diverse contexts—former classmates, co-workers, distant acquaintances, family members—all converge into one indistinguishable group of “friends.” Whenever I post something online—whether a photo, link or status update—it’s broadcast indiscriminately to all my “friends.”

The problem, of course, is that this information is not filtered or nuanced, as it is in personal encounters. While half my Facebook friends may appreciate my perspective on the proposed cultural center in lower Manhattan (a.k.a. the “Ground Zero Mosque”), the other half may be offended. Although my close friends may like to know if I am frustrated by my job on a given day, my supervisor might not appreciate that tidbit. Online postings lack a specific audience, which leaves me with two imperfect options: Post something substantive and risk offending someone, or post something superficial that neither offends nor enriches anyone.

On Facebook we have only one face for an amorphous audience. Perhaps it’s time to reclaim a more discerning kind of communication that recognizes the inherent complexity of relationships and embraces, in the very best sense of the word, the beauty of being two-faced. 

Facebook Friends to the End

 **Todd Thompson ‘85**, Lubbock, Texas, is a writer and author of the blog ASliceOfLifeToGo.com. Self-described as “always late to the technology party,” Thompson recently purchased a Droid Incredible and is still unsure whether buying a smart phone was a smart move.

The small world/big world nature of Facebook hit home for me recently when an elderly missionary friend serving in a remote part of Kenya became very sick with a life-threatening kidney ailment. He was transported to a hospital in Nairobi, where he had no support network.


I put out a prayer request on Facebook, asking for help from anyone with connections in Kenya. A Facebook friend I’ve never met personally e-mailed from San Antonio to say she used to live across the street from the Nairobi hospital and a friend was still a physician there. A couple of quick e-mails, and my missionary friend had a physician by his bedside.

Most of us underestimate the potential of these friend-of-a-friend connections. If one has 200 friends—be they Facebook or otherwise—and each of them has 200 friends, you’re one introduction away from 40,000 people.

Most of us wouldn’t know where to start if we wanted to communicate with a quarter-million people, but that’s the networking potential of a fairly average Facebook friend list. Apply that to business, politics or ministry, and you quickly realize the potential to organize, impact and influence.

If Facebook is that powerful a communication tool, how are we using it? Are we using it to connect people for kingdom purposes, reveal our needs for prayer, encourage one another, and enhance and equip ministries to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus?

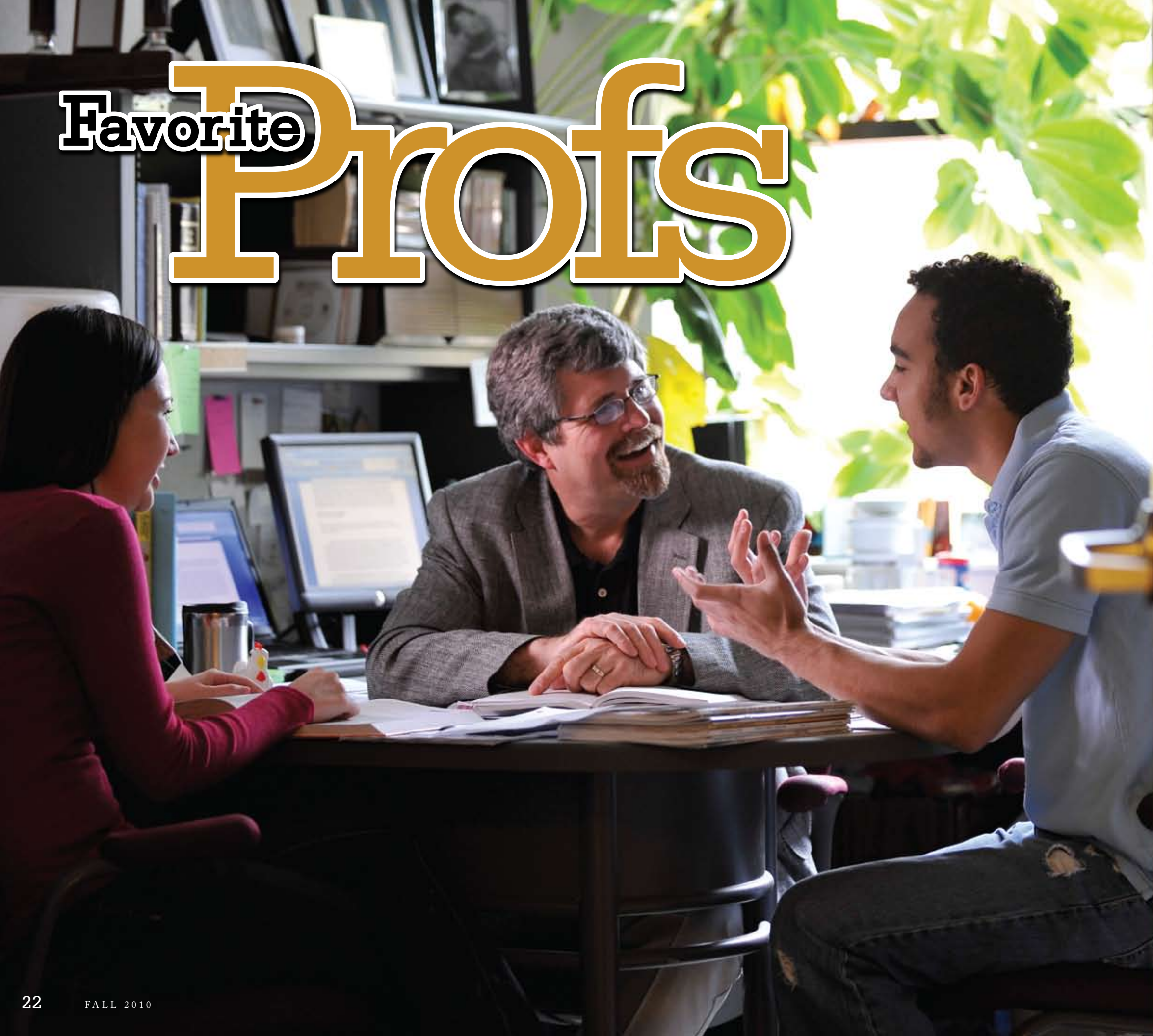
The popularity of Facebook illustrates that we want to belong to something bigger than ourselves. That someone would find our status update interesting or care to look at our Colorado vacation photos is indicative of our desire to connect.

Yet I confess that as much as I appreciate the glimpses into my friends’ lives, I also feel a little like I am “on the outside looking in.” I’m thankful I can connect with people far away but sad I don’t live close enough to be more intimately involved in their lives. It makes me look forward to heaven, where relationships won’t be bound by time or place. 

On the Web *exclusive*

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to comment on any of these articles or add your own thoughts about whether technology is improving or ruining your life.

Favorite Profs



After four years of classes at Northwestern, students graduate with memories of dorm pranks, service projects, first dates, athletic successes, late-night discussions—and professors who made a difference in their lives.

Who was your favorite prof? We asked that question of our readers, and these are some of your responses.

Toward the end of my freshman year, I began to talk with a sociology professor about wanting to become a counselor. Through that conversation, **Dr. Scott Monsma** convinced me to become a sociology major. To this day I'm not sure how that happened or even why I thought sociology would be a good major to prepare me for a master's degree in counseling.

I didn't know it at the time, but that proved to be pivotal in my approach to education. Upon changing my major, I also changed academic advisers. This became one of the best things that could have happened to me, as my new adviser—the same man who encouraged me to major in sociology—taught me to learn for the intrinsic value of learning.

I came to college to jump through the necessary hoops so I could get a degree and get a good job. I remember telling people it was ridiculous we had to take all the “extra” classes to graduate. Until I met Dr. Monsma, my definition of learning was simple: memorize data and then regurgitate it on a test or paper so I could tell the professors what they wanted to hear and get a good grade.

In my first Monsma class, he threw the idea of regurgitating information out the window and challenged me to learn for the simple value of bettering myself so I could give back to the world around me. His approach to learning was really based on the idea that students needed to develop holistically in order to reach their full potential academically. In many ways he set the foundation for my beginning to understand the importance of self-authorship.

My love for learning was very much developed by Dr. Monsma. For that, I will forever be thankful.

Josh Perkins '04 CANTON, OHIO

There is no doubt in my mind that **Dr. Ron Juffer** is a favorite among many alumni. He knew my name, where I was from, my hobbies and more even before I completed my first week in his class my freshman year. I always looked forward to seeing him in the RSC or the halls of VPH because he made sure to say hi and ask how volleyball practice was, or if I'd been back to Lincoln. He knew specific information about me—I don't know how he remembered that about all of his students. You could just tell he loved what he did.

Rachael (Martin '05) Becker AUSTIN, TEXAS

Dr. Adrienne Forgette taught me research methods and more. She had such high standards for us, and she prepared me so well for graduate school. I remember she made us homemade cookies to help us get through our final exam.

Mark Vellinga taught me computer programming, but more importantly, I learned lessons about being a good teacher. He challenged us, encouraged us and understood that we were individuals. Perhaps most importantly, he showed faith in our abilities.

A younger student needed help but was too nervous to talk to her professors, so he taught me what he wanted her to know and then I tutored her. He went above and beyond to see that his students got the help they needed! I teach college courses myself now, and he is one of the teachers I try to emulate.

Laura (Whitwer '00) Hilkeman FIRTH, NEB.

Dr. Laurie Furlong was an amazing instructor who always found ways to get her students engaged in her courses. I will never forget taking Invertebrate Zoology and Water Ecology with her. These courses didn't require us to stay in the classroom every time we met, which made class exciting. We actually got an opportunity to do field work!

In the past few months I have learned how important her classes are to me, as I'm not as clueless when I take our pets to the vet! Dr. Furlong made class challenging, but we could always count on her knowledge and life experiences to guide us along the way.

Gretchen (Black '03) Engelmeyer LEE'S SUMMIT, MO.

John Vonder Bruegge turned class into an adventure. While his Greek course demanded more work than my other three classes combined, his class was much more fun.

We spent hours in study groups trying to prepare ourselves for any curveball he might throw on the next test—and we loved it. Our efforts were well-rewarded.

I miss Greek. But more than that, I miss Prof. V., the grand orchestrator. He was a classy, professional, fun, caring, engaging professor.

Ben Kester '09 CHICAGO

Dr. Lyle Vander Werff was a wonderful man. His passion for missions and for following God's leading was always evident. Besides being our religion prof, he was special to us in another way. We went to him for premarital counseling, and he performed our wedding ceremony during a snowstorm. We will always remember him as a great guy!

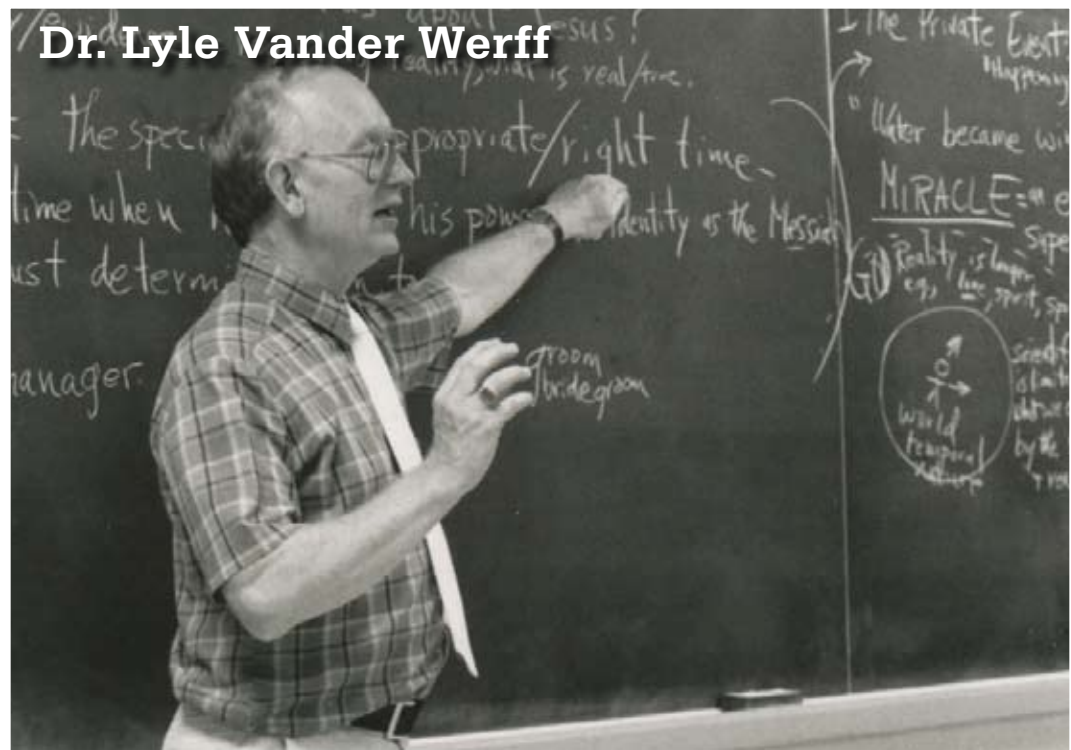
Laura (Kreun '70) and the Rev. Terry Muller '70 PARMA, OHIO



Dr. Scott Monsma



Dr. Laurie Furlong



Dr. Lyle Vander Werff

I didn't fully appreciate **Dr. Monsma** until after I graduated. I thanked him several times for interesting discussions after class, but it wasn't until I had left the NWC community that I began to see how lessons learned in his classroom would become valuable for my everyday life.

His courses, especially Cultural Anthropology, deal with the beauty and complexity of social interactions. As someone who lives and works in a cross-cultural environment, not a day goes by that I don't thank God for being able to live and work here—and not a day goes by that I'm not grateful to Professor Monsma for being able to live and work here *well*.

Kadie Becker '08 LUPENI, ROMANIA

Dr. Mike Kugler was amazing, eclectic, and made me think beyond what I knew. He connected with students well and cared deeply about helping us grasp how wide and deep our world is.

Dr. Ray Weiss's freshman biblical studies class was extremely hard for me. He only accepted the best. I didn't like it then, but now I understand the same academic rigor can be applied to my walk with Christ.

Jason Sniff '99 BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

Hands down the best math teacher we ever had was **Ralph Mouw**! He was very knowledgeable, a great instructor who cared for his students and Northwestern. You could tell he was in it to help students progress and for Northwestern to receive the credit. He was a truly humble servant.

Nellie (Fikse '66) and Dennis Harmelink '65

OLATHE, KAN.

I have fond memories of **Dr. Lyle Vander Werff** and how he blessed me as a student my junior and senior years at NWC. It was during those years I sensed God calling me into full-time ministry.

Despite my academic struggles and indecisiveness, Dr. Vander Werff encouraged me to be a lifelong learner and to give my struggles to God. He could have written me off as an unfocused and undisciplined student, but through his encouragement, he assured me that with God's help, I could endure the rigors of seminary. I thank God for bringing Dr. Vander Werff into my life.

The Rev. Mark Haverdink '96 MAURICE, IOWA

Dr. Thomas Holm will always be a favorite part of my experience at Northwestern. He is one of the most caring, gentle and tender-hearted professors on campus.

He invites the choir to stop by his backyard and jump on their family's trampoline. In my fourth year at NWC, he and his wife hosted a dinner at their house for all the married choir students and their spouses.

He was an encourager to the choir. I have a memory of him being totally speechless after we finished a song. When he recovered, he described how our singing filled his heart with joy.

After I got married, he continued to show interest in my life and what my husband and I planned to do with our future. He encouraged us to listen to God's calling in our life and to support each other in love.

Dr. Holm also is the goofiest, most hilarious professor I ever encountered. He can get pretty intense during a game of four square. And when the choir made some dance moves using his unique, passionate directing style, he would dance those moves right along with us!


He also used funny metaphors like "It's as if you're holding a baby chicken, and if you drop it, it will die" to help us visualize how he wanted us to sing.

His gentle spirit and outrageously funny characteristics make Dr. Holm absolutely unforgettable for me. I was so blessed to have him as a professor.

Bethany (Landegent '09) Norine BLAIR, NEB.

Dr. Michael Kugler has numerous Western Civ students each semester. It would be easy for him to simply teach the class without connecting with his students, but that is far from the reality of how Kugler teaches. He connects and genuinely cares about each of his students.

Throughout my time at Northwestern, he was always there to listen, provide guidance, challenge students to grow, or to tell a story that would make us laugh. Even though I had him for only a few classes, he will always be one of my favorite professors.

Elizabeth Colbert '08 SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 

On the Web *exclusive*
Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to add a memory about your favorite prof.

Captain of the Action

Student Activities
Director Lori Couch
plans fun with
a purpose

BY ANITA CIRULIS



Lori Couch's creativity provides students with events—like this year's Clash of the Classes' Slime Fight won by seniors—that connect them to each other and Northwestern.

At the blast of an air horn, four teams of students—class affiliation indicated by the colors they're wearing—race toward two stock tanks in the center of a playing field.

A red-clad freshman tosses a small plastic bucket to a teammate in one of the tanks who reaches down, scoops up liquid the consistency of weak rubber cement and hands it back. Carrying the precious cargo as it leaks out deliberately placed holes in the bucket's bottom, the freshman sprints toward his team's tank 80 yards away.

During the race, Lori Couch never stops moving. The director of student activities for Northwestern, she runs over to give advice to a referee, stops to remind a participant of the rules, and heads toward the seniors' tank to check their progress.

Slime Fight—and the beginning-of-the-year Clash of the Classes competition it launches—is Couch's brainchild and just one of 25 major events staged by the college's Student Activities Council (SAC) each year.

Couch first heard about the powdery product that turns water into slime from a student who used it at summer camp, but as is typical for the event planner, she turned it into something bigger. "You've got to put something like that on steroids to make it really great," she says.

Couch's imagination and willingness to think big are what make her so good at her job. The first indication of her gift for student activities came when she was a resident director in Hospers Hall. Aiming to make a big splash with Hospers' traditional Beach Bash, she turned the hall's lounge into a giant sandbox using plastic sheeting and three truckloads of sand.

Hired to lead Northwestern's student activities in 2001, she continued her "think big" approach, developing the Ballyhoo talent night, Senior Night with bingo, and a dodgeball tournament during Homecoming. There's also NC/DC—a vocal competition with Dordt College based on TV's *American Idol*—and Dancing With the Profs, modeled after the hit show *Dancing With the Stars*, that pairs students with professors. For the latter event, Couch worked with faculty, getting art students to create the design elements for the contest and a PR class to come up with a marketing plan.

Wes Garcia, a member of the SAC leadership council, transferred to Northwestern from the University of California, Berkeley. "I got to see what activities at another school look like," he says. "A lot of schools just bring in acts to put things on for students. Lori's focus is using the talents of the students we have on campus. Students working with students builds community."

Couch's reluctance to purchase ready-made, for-hire events is due in part to budget constraints, but it also grows out of her philosophy of student development. She holds a master's degree in higher education and can easily discuss the developmental theory behind the hilarious

spectacles she orchestrates.

"There's definitely a social element to student activities," she says, "but beyond that, it's about connecting to the college. It's about connecting to your community—forming relationships that cement you into an environment in a way that helps bring growth in all areas: academically, spiritually and socially."

The need for a strong student activities program is especially important at a college in a small rural town. "If we didn't have events—or only had a few events—I don't know what students would do," says Garcia. "Things close here at night, and the nearest cities are 45 to 75 minutes away."

Couch created Clash of the Classes to fill the first weekend of the school year and help freshmen get to know upperclassmen. "I wanted to get them engaged with their peers and comfortable enough to ask questions in class," she says. "The bonus has been the growth that's happened with the other classes in terms of class unity and campus unity."

Participation in student activities has also grown. Couch remembers her staff feeling thrilled when the former 200-seat Bogaard Theatre was nearly full for a *Price Is Right* game show. Now more than 1,000 students pack Christ Chapel and the Bultman Center gym for events.

"The expectations of the students have grown significantly over the years," she says. "The hardest thing is staying fresh and ahead of the curve."

To accomplish that, Couch is always surveying pop culture to see what can be incorporated into a student event. A Food Network show about bizarre foods led her to a California company that sells baked bugs—ideal for a Clash of the Classes challenge. Watching Diamond Vogel's private jet fly over her backyard made her wonder if she could arrange a ride as a grand prize. (She could and did.)

"I always say to the students: I want you to dream and I want you to dream big—then I'm here to figure out if we can make it happen." 🏠



class Notes

'54 The Rev. Dr. J. David Muyskens, Grand Rapids, Mich., is the author of *Sacred Breath: Forty Days of Centering Prayer*, published by Upper Room Books. The volume explores the analogy of breathing to the receptivity and letting go that we practice in spiritual life.

'58 Dr. Roger Van Ommeren, Tehachapi, Calif., recently published a book entitled *From Rebellion to Submission*, the story of a Mississippi drug dealer who now has a successful radio ministry. Van Ommeren is a retired journalist and professor.

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'66 Christina McGrinson received the Arts, Letters and Communications Award from the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was honored for her years of service to Kalamazoo Public Schools, particularly her work to incorporate bilingual studies. She was also honored for a children's book she wrote on grief, *Forever Friends*.

'70 Dr. Bob Boerigter is the new commissioner of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association. He was athletic director at Northwest Missouri State University since 2001.

Laura (Kreun) Muller, Parma, Ohio, is the administrator of Pay it Forward Café, a meal outreach program at Parma Park Reformed Church, where her husband, **Terry**, serves as pastor.

'71 Lyle Kroon traveled with First Reformed Church of Sioux Falls in August to Yokohama, Japan, to help with an English-speaking vacation Bible school. While there, he met **Etsuko Fukuoka '92**.

Dr. Jerry Van Es, Sioux Center, traveled to Israel this summer with his wife, Kim, an English instructor at NWC. They participated in a tour led by **Sally (Hoekstra '68)** and **Marlin Vis '70**, and were joined by fellow alums **Linda (Gernhart '74)** and **Lyle Fikse '72**. The men, who played baseball together at Northwestern, climbed Mt. Arbel, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee.

'73 Scott Bovenkerk, South Bend, Ind., was inducted into the Indiana Football Coaches Hall of Fame in May. He coached football for 35 years in various schools in Michigan and Indiana, most recently at Jimtown High School. A past president of the Indiana Football Coaches Association, he helped coordinate football clinics and received a number of coaching awards. His induction class included Lou Holtz, former football coach at Notre Dame.

Red Ties

MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81
Director of Alumni Relations

Throughout my years in the admissions office, fundamental to our success was a steady stream of communication, starting usually with NWC information arriving in one's mailbox and progressing to phone calls and personal visits between counselors and recruits. In the last decade, we've added e-mail, texting and Facebook to the ways we build relationships with prospective students.

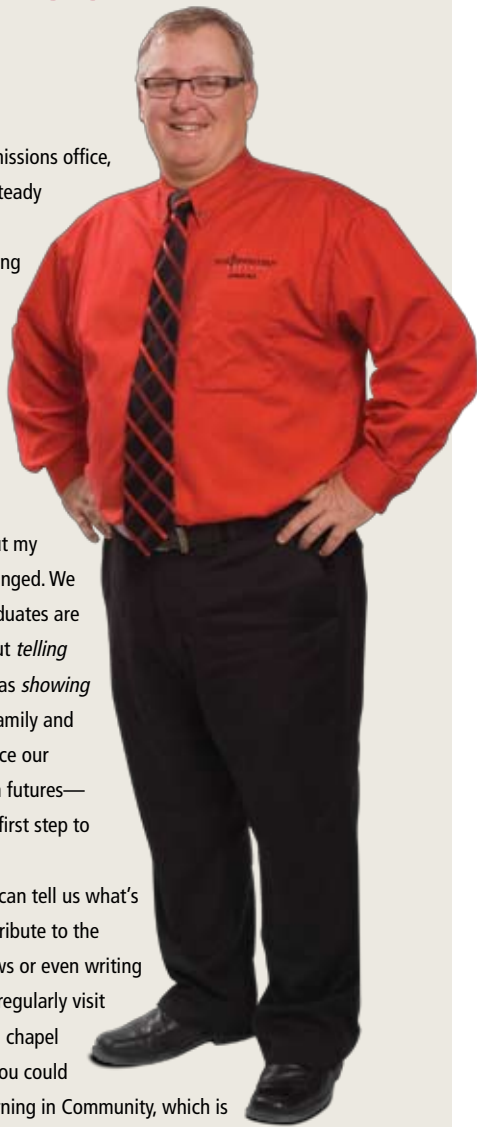
Now I'm in the alumni office, but my passion for communicating is unchanged. We tell students that Northwestern graduates are making a difference in the world. But *telling* them doesn't have as much impact as *showing* them through sharing your career, family and faith stories. Your stories can convince our students—who are facing uncertain futures—that responding to God's call is the first step to realizing big dreams.

There are a variety of ways you can tell us what's happening in your life: You can contribute to the *Classic* by sharing "class notes" news or even writing a "Classic Thoughts" essay. Alumni regularly visit campus to share spiritual insights in chapel or career advice in classes; in fact, you could participate in February's Day of Learning in Community, which is focused on the theme "Faith at Work" (see the ad on p. 33).

I also want alums all over the world to know what is happening on campus. Beyond the *Classic*, there are several other ways to ensure you get NWC news when and how you want it:

- Join our alumni e-mail directory and subscribe to the "Net News" e-mail newsletter: www.nwciowa.edu/alumni/update
- "Like" the "Northwestern College, Iowa" fan page on Facebook.
- Receive tweets from Northwestern: twitter.com/nwciowa.

Communication really is key, and in today's interconnected world, staying in touch no matter where you are is easier than ever.



'78 Jim Mickelson retired from coaching baseball, volleyball, basketball and golf after 32 years. He continues to teach middle school and elementary physical education in Odebolt, Iowa, and his wife, **Kim (Witte)**, teaches fifth and sixth grade special education in Denison.

'80 Carol Van Brocklin is spending a yearlong furlough in the United States. She is a missionary school librarian in Davao City, Philippines.

'81 Christopher Nelson is finance director for the Kearney (Nebr.) Public Schools.

'83 Jerry Heemstra is vice president of accounting and finance for Simpson Investment Company, a forest products firm in Tacoma, Wash. He was previously the controller at Simpson, where he has worked for the past 15 years. He and his wife, **Janet (Folkers '84)**, live in Tumwater.

Lee Van Wyhe, Springfield, Mo., is the data center manager at Great Southern Bank. His daughter Kiersten is a freshman at Northwestern.

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'85 The Rev. Donovan Drake, Nashville, Tenn., is the new senior pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which has around 1,900 members and is active in local and world mission. The church is a host site for flood disaster relief teams.

The Rev. Kevin Fischer is senior pastor of Miami Vineyard Community Church. He oversees 85 Vineyard churches in the Southeast and serves on the national board of Vineyard USA.

Christine (Radandt) Marklin is the vice president of Marklin Candle Design in Contoocook, N.H.

'87 Melanie (Odens) Olson and her husband, Greg, of Chamberlain, S.D., are in their 13th year as owners and operators of the Old West Trading Post in Oacoma. They sell antiques and collectibles in a tourist destination along Interstate 90.

'88 Dr. Randall Haight was recently named the vice president of medical affairs at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City, Mo. He continues to practice general internal medicine.

Jeff Herzberg is the chief administrator for the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency in Pocahontas, Iowa. He previously served as the superintendent of Sibley-Ocheyedan School District for five years.

'89 Dr. Doug Hochstetler wrote an article entitled "Coaching Philosophies and Experience," featuring an interview he conducted with former NWC football coach **Larry Korver '54**. The article was recently published in *Texas Coach Magazine*. Hochstetler is an associate professor of kinesiology at Penn State Lehigh Valley.

Lisa Tomkins-Rivera is director of operations for Olive Branch Mission in Chicago.



JIM HEEMSTRA '72

Retired from a career as a sales and marketing VP, Linda Van Roekel uses her skills to tutor adults seeking their GEDs.

Retirement Counts

Linda Van Roekel's successful career was a source of great satisfaction, but it also prevented her from pursuing other passions. Constant travel and leading a team of 200 as vice president and division manager for the multi-million-dollar company Inficon left little time for volunteering or teaching.

In 2004 Van Roekel retired and moved back to Iowa after 40 years away. The 1969 NWC alumna now volunteers at a charity book sale, her church, the Iowa State Fair, and as a math tutor for adults seeking their GEDs.

"I haven't been bored yet," says Van Roekel, who lives in Urbandale and serves on Northwestern's Board of Trustees. "It's freed me up to try things."

Van Roekel spent the first three years after college teaching chemistry and math to college-prep students in Germany, so she's enjoying the return to this first love provided by tutoring.

"I like the one-on-one aspect of it," she says. "You're not developing a broad approach for 20; it's one person you're helping. You have to admire these people—a guy in his 50s going back to classes for algebra and geometry and stuff he hasn't seen in 30-plus years. There's a lot of satisfaction when students pass an exam and say, 'Oh, I understand now.'"

BY **SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98**

'90 David Harding, Colorado Springs, Colo., is a senior writer for Family Talk with Dr. James Dobson.

Londa (Wagner) Revis is a therapist at the Senior Evaluation and Counseling Center in Conway, Ark. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons: Paul (15) and Sam (11).

'91 Thomas Walters, Long Branch, N.J., is the owner of VitaminFUSE, an online nutritional supplement and health product store. He is pursuing certification in nutritional coaching.

'93 Stacy Rulla-Parroquin teaches Spanish at Brownell-Talbot Upper School in Omaha.

'95 Amy (Verdoorn) Scheaffer, Sheldon, Iowa, recently released a CD entitled *Incarnation*, a recording of classic Christian songs interspersed with passages from the Bible. Visit digstation.com for more information.

'96 Melissa (Harder) Drier, Latimer, Iowa, is a substitute teacher for CAL Community Schools. She and her husband, Mark, have three children: Austin (8), Jack (6) and Abby (4).



Kurt Dykstra's photo with President Barack Obama was published around the country following the July groundbreaking ceremony for a plant that will produce lithium-ion battery packs for electric cars. Dykstra, a 1994 alumnus, is mayor of Holland, Mich., where the \$303 million Compact Power facility is located.

'97 Julie (Vermeer) Beaven, Julesburg, Colo., teaches first grade at Holyoke Elementary. Her husband, Herb, teaches at Julesburg High School, and they have two children: Noah (7) and Hannah (4).

Sheri (Zimmerman) Gunderson is working as director of development and evaluation for the Center for Disabilities at the University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls.

'98 Wendy (Ackerberg) Ahrens teaches Title 1 reading and coaches junior high volleyball in Corning, Iowa. Her husband, Dan, is the technology coordinator for Orient-Macksburg Schools.

Khuram Dewan is director of the Utopians Welfare Organization in Sialkot, Pakistan. He is running a philanthropic project to provide relief to flood survivors.

The Rev. Brian Keepers is the author of a small group study guide entitled *Where Do I Come In? Joining God's Mission*, which was recently published by Faith Alive Christian Resources. He is the minister of preaching and congregational leadership at Fellowship Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.



As the Iowa Department of Public Safety's homeland security coordinator, Mike Van Berkum works with local, state and federal agencies to protect Iowans from terrorists and natural disasters.

Watchful

If a suspicious letter or package (maybe one with a dusting of white powder) is received at a public building in the state of Iowa, Mike Van Berkum '85 gets a call.

Since 2007 Van Berkum has held the position of homeland security coordinator for the Iowa Department of Public Safety. He also works with local, state and federal agencies through the Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center to deter terrorism.

While Van Berkum's job involves everything from rebuffing terrorist threats, protecting officials, and supporting crowd and traffic control—at events such as athletic contests, the Iowa State Fair and campus protests—he also keeps a watchful eye on the weather.

"In Iowa, our major concerns are still natural disasters like flooding and tornadoes," he says. "We supply equipment and people to help communities when disasters strike."

In 2008, when flood waters devastated portions of eastern Iowa, Van Berkum spent two weeks coordinating relief efforts out of the State of Iowa Emergency Operations Center.

With typical Midwest modesty, Van Berkum downplays his role in keeping Iowans safe—whether from raging rivers or terrorist attacks. He considers himself a public servant in the truest sense of the word, and has served proudly since his days as a state trooper 25 years ago.

"I really like helping people; that's what law enforcement is all about," he says.

BY SARAH ASP OLSON '03

'99 T.J. Buchholz is an assistant women's soccer coach at the University of California, Riverside. He was the head men's and women's soccer coach at Wartburg College the last two years.

Londa (Wassink) Dirksen, Sioux Falls, teaches second grade at Robert Frost Elementary.

'00 Joshua Federwisch teaches biology and general science at the International School of Florence, Italy.

'01 Katherine (Petersen) Morrell is pursuing a master's degree in educational ministries at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, where her husband, Mark, is working on a Master of Divinity degree.

Dr. Kevin Mueller, Duluth, Minn., is an optometrist at Austin and Treacy PA. He previously practiced for five years in Colorado Springs.

Jennifer (Jensema) Wulf is the chief information officer for MacDonald & Owen Lumber Company in Sparta, Wis. Her husband, **Lance**, is a chiropractor in La Crosse.

'02 Angela Brouwer, a first grade teacher at Dallas Center-Grimes Elementary School, received the \$1,000 One Classroom at a Time Education Grant from WOI-TV in Des Moines.

Julie (Korver) Junck, Orange City, is a substitute teacher and assistant eighth grade volleyball coach for MOC-Floyd Valley.

Brandon Van Marel is a resident director at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Covenant Seminary.

'03 Melanie DeBoer-Brunsdon is the assistant athletic director for compliance and student life/senior woman administrator at Minot (N.D.) State University.

Chuck Mullikin earned a master's degree in Christian thought from Bethel Seminary this summer. He has been the associate pastor to youth and their families at Orange City's New Hope Evangelical Free Church for seven years. He and his wife, Emily, have a daughter, Avery (2).

'04 Andrew Cleveland is a hall director for the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie.

Trent Fredericksen is the assistant director of university housing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Carissa (Meyn) Judge received a master's degree in elementary education from Drake University. She is a fifth grade teacher and varsity volleyball coach at North Iowa Community School in Buffalo Center.

Jessica Mueller, Burlingame, Calif., earned a Master of Divinity degree at the Jesuit School of Theology. She is a religion teacher and service-learning coordinator at Mercy High School.

'05 Rachael (Martin) Becker teaches art at Veritas Academy in Austin, Texas.

David Elder, Sioux City, Iowa, is an assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at Morningside College.

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KELLY LAMBERT

When storm clouds loom, meteorologist David Brommer keeps officials and fans alerted at University of Alabama football games.

Football Forecast

For the 102,000 Crimson Tide fans inside the University of Alabama’s football stadium and the 25,000 tailgating outside it, David Brommer ’99 doesn’t want to be wrong.

The Monday before the national championship winners take the field for a home game, Brommer, a meteorologist and geography professor, hands off his first game-day forecast. On Wednesday he’ll e-mail another, and Friday, one more, culminating in hour-by-hour predictions made early Saturday.

Then Brommer heads to his stadium office, where, for three hours before the game, he huddles with computers and radars, checking weather patterns and keeping an eye on the lightning sensors he installed on the roof.

“We’re looking good today,” he might say to the Southeast Conference officials, team reps, security and media at the 100-minute meeting. Or, perhaps: “Frontal system coming through around the third quarter; anticipate wind.

“You prepare for the worst, hope it doesn’t happen, but expect it will at some point,” he says.

During calm “no weather” games, Brommer watches from the sidelines, which enables easy access to his office.

Severe weather has yet to stop a game on Brommer’s watch, but he knows it’s possible. A former Red Raider, Brommer and his teammates once fled the field during a 1996 playoff game when blowing snow and lightning combined for a meteorological rarity called “thundersnow.”

BY AMY SCHEER

Maggie Keelan is the director of annual giving at Seattle University.

Michael Schreuder earned a doctorate in chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He works for Sharp Laboratories of Europe in Oxford, England. A poem by his wife, **Mary-Celeste (Korte)**, entitled *Wednesday*, was published in the 2009 edition of *The Broad River Review*, an annual literary magazine produced by Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina.

Emily Shelton, Lenexa, Kan., is a conference service coordinator at Hotel Phillips in Kansas City, Mo.

Kristi (Hilbrands) Vanderlip, Sioux Falls, has earned master’s degrees in reading and leadership from the University of Sioux Falls. She teaches third grade at Horace Mann Elementary.

’06 Daniel Berntson is pursuing a doctorate in philosophy at Princeton University.

Amber (Green) Christensen is a pharmacist at Walgreens in Spencer, Iowa.

Amy Gartland is serving with Teach Overseas in Karaganda, Kazakhstan. She teaches English to high school students and adults.

Julie Goettsch, Manson, Iowa, earned a master’s degree in special education from Morningside College. She teaches special education at Manson Northwest Webster.

Megan Hodgin, Holland, Mich., received a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary and was installed as the minister of discipleship and mission at Fellowship Reformed Church, Holland, Mich.

Rachel Martin graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 2009 and is an associate attorney in the law offices of Aaron Rodenburg in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Carly Miller, Normal, Ill., is the college relations and employment coordinator at COUNTRY Financial.

Megan Northway, Manly, Iowa, is a skill development specialist for Francis Lauer Youth Services.

Terika Raak, Holland, Mich., was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament for the Reformed Church in America this summer.

Shelby (Schmidt) Tessendorf is a dental resident with the Air Force in Biloxi, Miss.

Clint Wolthuizen is the head librarian at Rock County Library in Luverne, Minn. He is pursuing a master’s degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

’07 Bruce De Haan is a client service consultant at Wells Fargo Advantage Funds in Menomonee Falls, Wis. His wife, **Alyssa (Barr)**, is a recreational therapy assistant and is pursuing a master’s degree in art therapy and counseling from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

Nicole (Kraayenbrink) De Weerd teaches kindergarten in Sioux Center.

Stephanie Hague, Brooklyn, N.Y., is an account coordinator for JWT, the largest advertising agency in the U.S.

Jason Helmus teaches science at Westview Middle School in Longmont, Colo.

Dan Laaveg, Cedar Falls, Iowa, is the choir director at Waterloo East High School.

Carrie (Lokker) Mathison teaches secondary art for the Fillmore Central School District in Harmony, Minn.

Dusty Meyn teaches high school business at Forest City (Iowa) Community School. He also coaches girls basketball and junior high boys track.

Heidi (Drewelow) Mouw, White Bear Lake, Minn., recently earned a master’s degree in psychology from Walden University. She is a mental health practitioner.

Carla Shelton earned a master’s degree in museum science from Texas Tech University. She is employed by the city of Waco as a collection assistant for the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

’08 Susan DeGroot, Sioux Falls, works as accounts receivable supervisor for the Good Samaritan Society.

Josh Earleywine received a master’s degree in exercise physiology from Illinois State University. He is a personal trainer and instructor at Hybrid Fitness in Fitchburg, Wis.

Carrie Fowler is a graphic designer for Vinton (Iowa) Newspapers.

Katie Gard is pursuing a master’s degree in transformational urban leadership at Azusa Pacific University. Her studies will include time in India, Kenya or Haiti.

Amy Larson teaches math at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs, Colo.



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Samantha (Olson) Nesper, Medford, Ore., is an information specialist in the admissions office at Southern Oregon University.

Raeann Taylor, Kansas City, Mo., is the head athletic trainer at the University of Saint Mary.

Lisa (Walters) Yager, Yankton, S.D., is a biologist for the National Park Service. She recently earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of South Dakota.

’09 Heather (Nold) Dablemont teaches first grade in Rolla, Mo.

Ryan Dembeck is a student accounts coordinator at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn.

Andrea (Davis) and Abhi Dutt work at ARC Retreat Center in Stanchfield, Minn., where Abhi is the kitchen manager.

Jesse Nieuwenhuis is a student at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science’s Chicago Medical School.

Carson Norine, Blair, Neb., teaches sixth grade science at Otte Blair Middle School.

Heidi Otten, Sioux Falls, is a registered nurse in Sanford Health’s neonatal intensive care unit.

Jordan Plummer is pursuing a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

’10 Emily (Gaalswyk) Boote, Normal, Ill., is a registered nurse on the surgical floor at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. Her husband, **Brett ’07**, is pursuing a master’s degree in chemistry and serving as a teaching assistant at Illinois State University.

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Kristen Burghorn is administrator of the eSEAL program for the Sigourney (Iowa) Community School District.

Sarah (Van Leeuwen) Weins is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City.

New Arrivals

Angela and **David Harding ’90**, daughter, Elisabeth Anne, joins Camden (2)

Jennie (Wolf ’98) and Paul Smith ’98, daughter, Amira Erin, joins Mullin (9) and Annika (7)

Kirk and **Londa (Wassink ’99) Dirksen**, son, Kalen Joel, joins Brayden (3)

Jason and **Cynthia (Hustrulid ’99) Pfingsten**, daughter, Marissa Faith, joins Mallory (5)

Joel and **Sarah (Sikkema ’99) Seitz**, daughter, Maya Renae

Summer (Kurtz ’00) and Kevin Barber ’01, daughter, Hadley Joy, joins Emmett (3)

Mindy and **Tim Harskamp ’00**, son, Greyson David, joins Kenna (2)

Kelly (Van Haaften ’00) and Kevin Jansma ’99, son, Anderson Lee, joins Trey (7)

Brianna and **Kevin Noffsinger ’00**, daughter, Sophie Anne, joins Ian (4) and Mya (2)

Andrew and **Stephanie (Waage ’00) Turcotte**, son, Graham Ryan, joins Jack (5) and Ava (3)

Tarra (Klein ’00) and Steven Vander Leest ’01, daughter, Isabelle Anne, joins Aliza (3)

Carla (Kelm ’01) and Nathan Agre ’00, son, Evan Alan, joins Ethan (3)



DANI ROSS

Joe and Kendra Heitritter contributed their skills to education and public health during 14 months in Paraguay. In return, they gained an appreciation for the slower pace of life in the South American country.

Paraguayan Impact

Thanks to 14 months of living in Paraguay, Kendra (Van’t Hof ’08) and Joe Heitritter ’08 know how to fill an outdoor cement sink with soapy water and hand-wash laundry. They know that to protect a shirt’s color from the strong sun, you turn it inside out before hanging it and pull the garment off the line when the ants consider it dinner. Because their well had a heater with a finicky fuse, the Heitritters acquired the habit of unplugging the fridge to take a shower. And because they served with the Peace Corps until April of this year—with Joe specializing in health and Kendra in education—a school library is filled with children’s books; 17 families have brick ovens; elementary teachers try new methods with early readers; and a 5-year-old boy found friends in his foreign neighbors, who taught him an American pastime using a ball and broomstick. The couple is back in Iowa, where Joe is a Spanish-English interpreter at the Greater Sioux Community Health Center in Sioux Center. The Peace Corps sent volunteers to Paraguay to continue the Heitritters’ projects; the spirit of the community, meanwhile, has followed them home. “They sit on their porches and drink tea for an hour,” says Kendra. “It helped us really slow down. It’s an experience we’ll never forget.”

BY AMY SCHEER

Davee (Hubers ’01) and **Steve Connell ’00**, daughter, Maci Ruth, joins Austin (4) and Tate (2)
Stephanie and **Josh Hunstad ’01**, son, Ashton Craig, joins Brooke (6) and Clayton (4)
Luke and **Amy (Timmerman ’01) Vanasse**, twin daughters, Jayna Brynn and Thea Claire
Jennifer (Jensema ’01) and **Lance Wulf ’01**, son, Levi Paul, joins Abram (1)
Dave and **Sara (Fuoss ’02) Jansma**, daughter, Tricia Joy, joins Breanna (5) and twins Cole and Erica (2)
Brian and **Julie (Korver ’02) Junck**, son, Matthew Alan
Tami (TeSelle ’02) and **Drew Namminga ’00**, son, Asher Dean, joins Mason (4) and Kase (2)
Scott and **Tiffany (Mastbergen ’02) Zeilenga**, son, Micah John
Toby and **Laura (Boltjes ’03) Berry**, daughter, Ellie Mae
Daniel and **Kristine (Elbers ’03) DeGroff**, son, Malachi Daniel, joins Hannah (3)
Shawn and **Emily (Denekas ’03) Huisman**, daughter, Annika Ruth
Penny (De Haan ’03) and **Chris Rott ’01**, son, Elijah John, joins Logan (5) and Isaac (2)
Kelly (Huizenga ’03) and **Brandon Van Marel ’02**, daughter, Eliana Jean, joins Joanna (2)
Adrienne (Gaster ’04) and **Tristan Agre ’03**, daughter, Selah Clara, joins Aliya (2)
Lindsay and **Jason Grow ’04**, son, Jaxon David
Adam and **Lanay (Robison ’04) Smith**, daughter, Jayna Grace
Janell (Bly ’04) and **Matthew Williams ’03**, daughter, Mya Dorothy
Matthew and **Rachael (Martin ’05) Becker**, son, Caleb Matthew
Justin and **Monica (Mitzel ’05) Boogerd**, twin sons, Jordan James and Jacob Michael, join Blake (2)
Jenny (VanDerMaaten ’05) and **Ryan Simmelink ’06**, daughter, Macy Jayne
Sarah (Way ’06) and **Scott Treft ’06**, daughter, McKyndree Sway
Samantha (Schneider ’08) and **Scott Arft ’07**, son, Jack Edward
Brian and **Nikki Wede ’11**, daughter, Shea Nicole, joins Nicolai (5) and Larkin (3)

Marriages

Russ King ’66 and Sharon Reynen, Nisswa, Minn.
Trudy Peterson ’90 and Terry Pedersen, Newell, Iowa
Wendy Ackenberg ’98 and Dan Ahrens, Corning, Iowa
Jenny Neuhauser ’00 and Ross Tschetter, Salem, S.D.
Laura Reimers ’00 and Joel Stauffer, Orange City
Melanie DeBoer ’03 and Paul Brunsdon, Minot, N.D.
Kelly Engelkes ’04 and Vince Mancuso, Omaha
Sophia DeBoer ’05 and **Andrew Cleveland ’04**, Menomonie, Wis.
Katherine Wallen ’08 and Simon Connett, Lincoln, Neb.
Lisa Walters ’08 and Wyatt Yager, Yankton, S.D.
Katlyn Emory ’09 and Gustavo Guerrero, Monterrey, Mexico
Anne Eberline ’10 and **Nate Summers ’08**, West Des Moines
Rachel Schultz ’10 and **Josh VanDerMaaten ’09**, Holland, Mich.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Catherine Miller ’25, age 103 and Northwestern’s oldest alumna, died June 9 in Sutherland, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern Classical Academy, she worked as a telephone operator and later opened the Miller Motel in Paullina with her husband. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Paullina. She is survived by four daughters.
Marianne (Calsbeek ’55) Gier, age 73, died May 28 in Plainfield, Ill., after her second battle with cancer. She taught school in Minnesota and Illinois. She is survived by her husband, Jim; three daughters; and two brothers, including **Frank ’52**.
Phyllis Sterler ’70, of Lake Park, Iowa, died July 15 at age 73. She taught elemen-


tary education in the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (Iowa) district for 35 years, and she was a member of American Lutheran Church of Melvin. She was co-vice president of the Historical Society of Lake Park, a member of the Women’s Federated Club of Lake Park, and was active with the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her survivors include her husband, Ronald, and their two daughters.

Clint McMartin ’97, age 36, died Aug. 27 in Iowa City. An elementary teacher for the last 11 years in the Grundy Center Community School District, he also served as the high school head boys track coach. He earned a master’s degree in educational administration at Iowa State University. A member of First Presbyterian Church of Steamboat Rock, he served as a trustee and Sunday school and vacation Bible school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Caryn; three children; his parents; and four siblings, including **Dan ’99** and **Karla Hanson ’02**.

Phil Patton, business professor at NWC from 1962 to 2002, died July 6 at age 76. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Black Hills State University and taught high school in Wyoming and Nebraska before joining the NWC faculty. In addition

to teaching classes at Northwestern, he was the adviser for the Business Club and the co-adviser for the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club. He was a member of American Reformed Church, where he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He was president of the Orange City Lions Club, and he served 12 years each on the M-OC and Area Educational Agency IV school boards. He is survived by two children, **Lynn Schneider ’82** and **Greg ’84**.

Henry Peuse, Orange City, part-time NWC maintenance staff member from 1983 to 1999, died June 18 at age 89. In addition to farming, he worked at Woudstra Meat Market and was a custodian in Orange City schools before joining the maintenance staff at NWC. He was a member of First Reformed Church. He is survived by four children, including **Delwyn ’85**.



Dr. Preston Stegenga, president from 1955 to 1966, died in Sacramento, Calif., on Sept. 17 at the age of 86.

Stegenga became president at the age of 31 and led the institution’s transition into a four-year college. During his tenure, Northwestern received preliminary accreditation; more than doubled enrollment; and built the Multi-Purpose Auditorium [now the DeWitt Theatre], Ramaker Library, Colenbrander Hall, Hospers Hall and what is now known as Granberg Hall. He is cited for broadening Northwestern’s relationship with the Reformed Church in America and strengthening efforts to provide a global education.

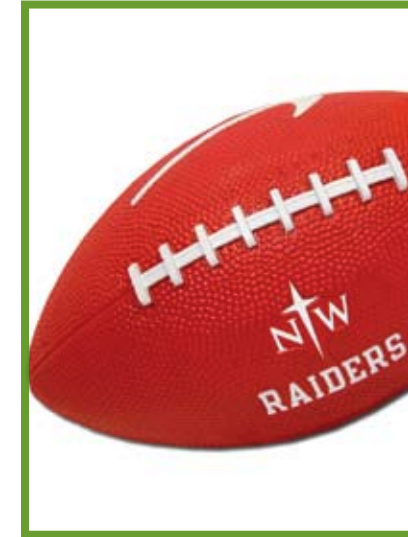
“Preston presided at a critical point in our growth. We are forever indebted to him for the institution we have become today,” says President Greg Christy.

Stegenga came to Northwestern after teaching at Berea College. Author of *Anchor of Hope*—the history of his alma mater, Hope College—he earned a master’s degree from Columbia University and a doctorate in the history of education and political science from the University of Michigan.

After leaving NWC, he advised the president of the University of Liberia in West Africa and then joined the staff of California State University, Sacramento, where he served as director of the International Center, vice president for academic affairs and coordinator of the international student program.

Stegenga was awarded an honorary doctorate from NWC in 1989, and he served on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1995. In 2003, the newest women’s dorm was named Stegenga Hall in recognition of his service.


Stegenga is survived by his wife, Marcia, and two children, including **Susan ’79**.



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Classic Thoughts

Intentional Community

BY REBECCA (JAMES '07) ALSUM

Closing the door of our apartment around midnight, I see two girls baking in the community kitchen across the hall. I ask what smells so good; they tell me it's apple crisp and ask if I want some. When I say I'm heading to bed, they offer to leave a piece on my kitchen table so I can have it for breakfast. We say our goodnights, and sure enough, in the morning a piece of apple crisp is waiting for me.

I love moments like that, when I'm ending my day saying goodnight not just to my husband, but also to others in my Stegenga Hall "family." I live where I work, so the people I work with see me at all times of day, including at midnight when I'm exhausted. There's something about interacting while wearing pajamas that brings authenticity to relationships.

When I was a student, I was encouraged through classes, experiences abroad and living in the residence halls to think about living in community after college. What does that mean? For me, it meant living with others intentionally and with a common purpose—not just as a collection of roommates, each doing our own thing. So when I was considering living with three women after graduation, we talked a lot about having a common vision. In addition to supporting one another, we wanted to reach out to our neighbors and try to live simply as a way to care for the environment.

Scripture teaches that to learn about ourselves, God and the world, we need to be in relationship with one another. For me, living in intentional community meant moving from "I"—What do I think? What do I want? What do I believe is the best way to live life?—to "we"—What do we think and want? How might we best live in community with each other?

Living in community offers constant opportunities to learn the fruits of the Spirit, like patience, for example. In community, you can't control your whole world; you need to give up your own desires. Your space is everyone else's space too—the same goes for

your belongings.

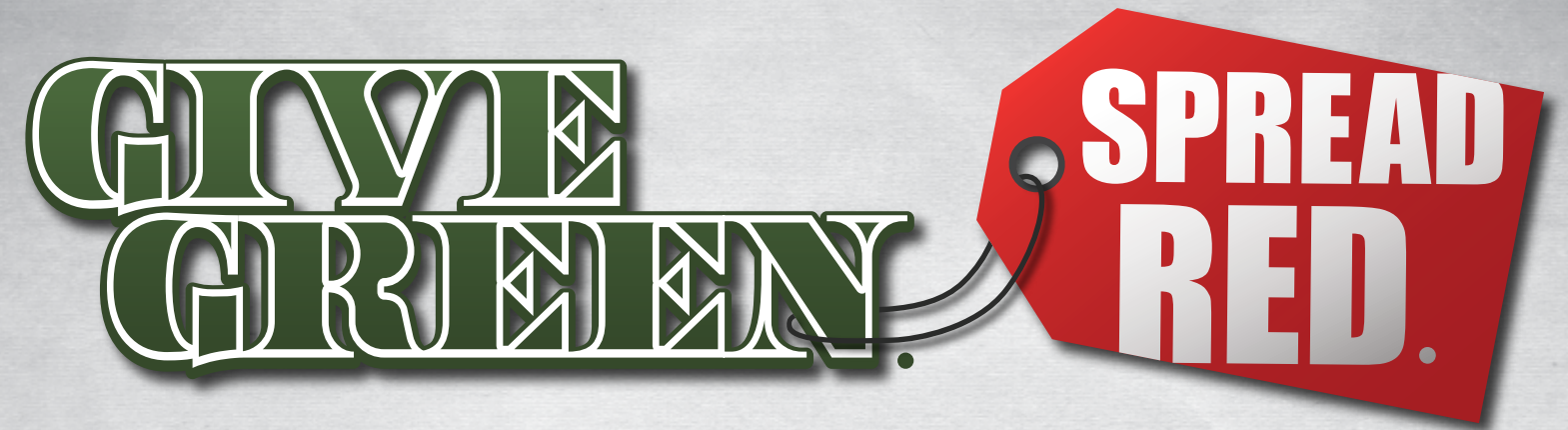
It wasn't easy to take the labels off "my stuff," but it made me rethink our culture's emphasis on ownership. Is this my coffeemaker or ours? Why can't the dishes belong to all of us? For the sake of the environment, might we be able to actually share ownership of and responsibility for something big, like a car, rather than each of us buying and driving our own?

As you can imagine, communication is essential to living successfully in community. When you try to live with others who may do the simplest things entirely differently from you, you have to talk, talk, talk until there is nothing left to talk about. You need to listen carefully, and then, instead of just saying "Whatever everyone wants to do is fine," you have to clearly state your expectations and the reasons behind them. Then you all work to figure out a new way—a truly communal way—to address the task or issue at hand.

Among the people I lived with in intentional community before I married, there was a gifted carpenter who made our home more functional with shelving. We wanted to help our neighbors, so we talked about what they might need and how our individual giftedness could be put to use. We shared music and stories and committed to holding one another accountable in important ways that help a young person figure out how to live as a Christian in today's world.

Living in community takes work, time and intentional togetherness, but the rewards are a joy. You give, but you get things you might never receive if you lived alone—like waking up to fresh apple crisp.

Rebecca Alsum is the resident director of Northwestern's Stegenga Hall, where she lives with her husband, Mark '09, and 175 wildly diverse women. She says the best part of her job is living in community and credits Bob, Brian, Brittany, Margareta and Zach, among others, for teaching her some of the lessons described above.



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Dutch Treat

Thirty alumni and friends enjoyed a Dutch culture immersion from the seat of a bicycle during a Northwestern-sponsored tour of the Netherlands in July.

Under the leadership of Dr. James Kennedy '84, Dutch history professor at the University of Amsterdam, the group biked 180 miles in nine days. Venturing eastward from The Hague into Germany, they walked along the North Sea shore, joined thousands in Rotterdam to watch a broadcast of the World Cup soccer finale, toured the Delft pottery factory, picked cherries, and viewed World War II battle sites.

"The trip packed a lot into a short amount of time," says Sarah (Huibregtse '05) Jacobsen. "It gave us a good view of the traditional Dutch way of life."

Northwestern is planning a bus tour of the Netherlands in 2012 and a bike tour in 2013. For more information, e-mail events@nwciowa.edu.

