

Northwestern College Magazine *the* **Classic** FALL 2011

## Roommates

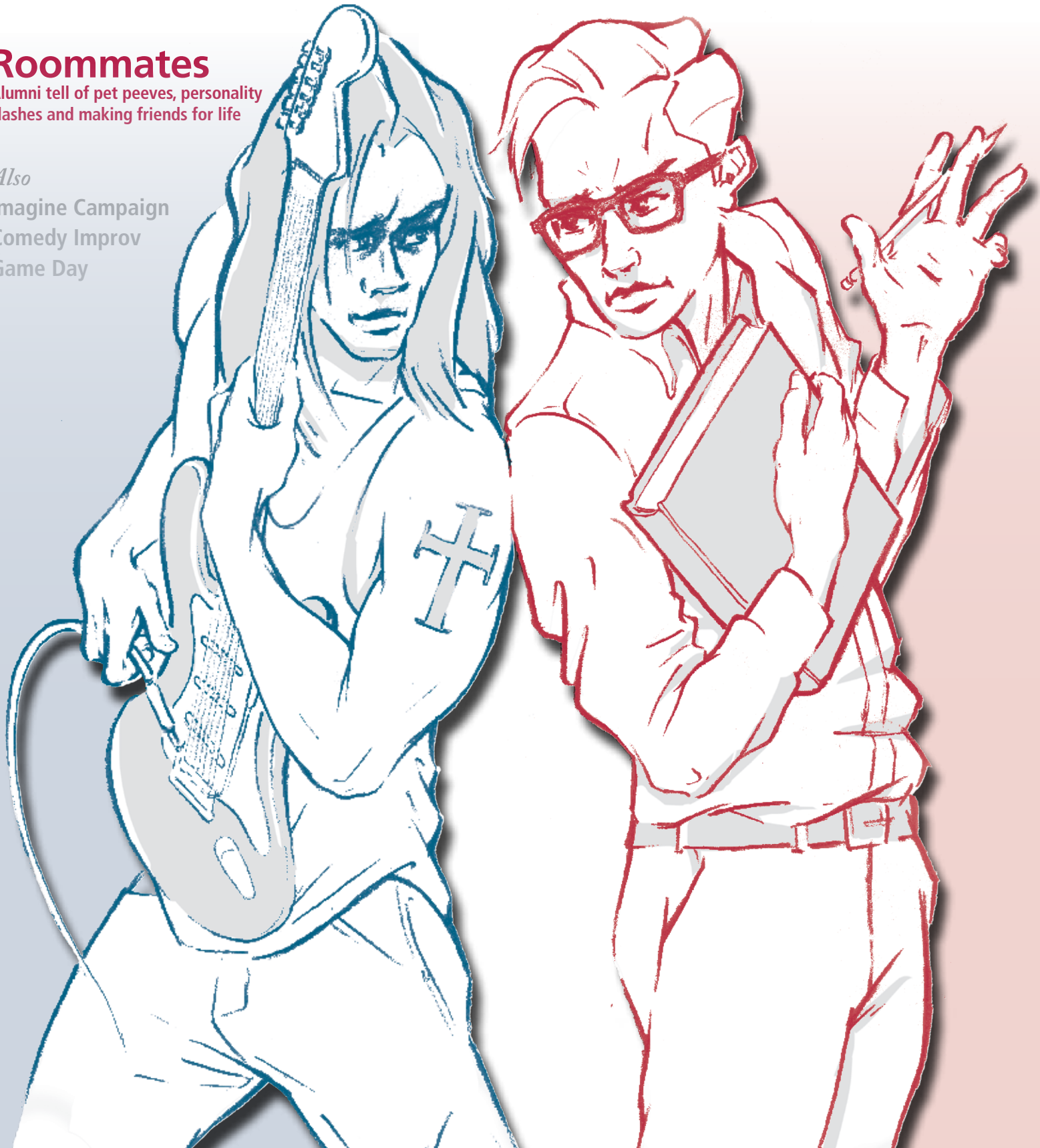
Alumni tell of pet peeves, personality clashes and making friends for life

*Also*

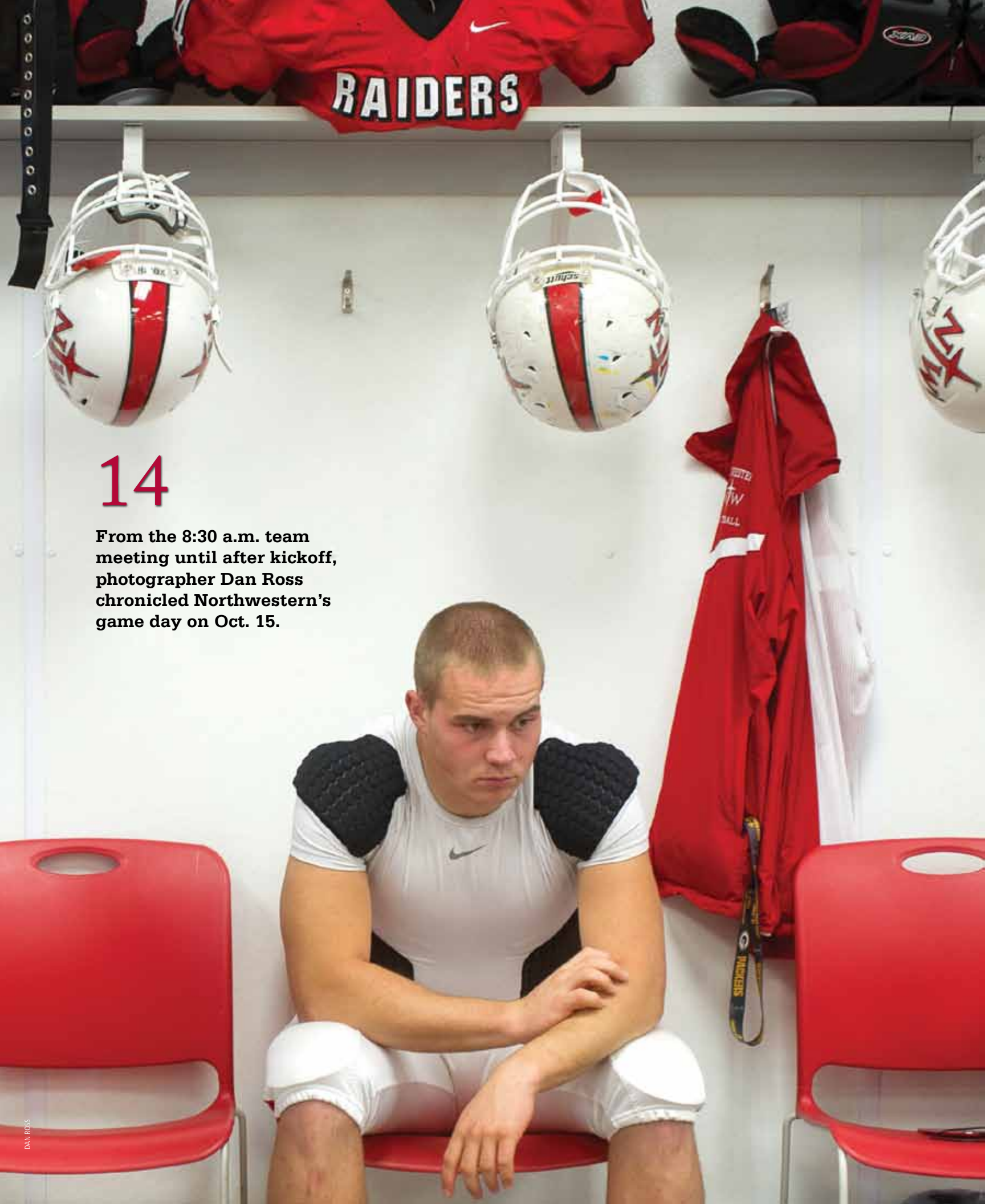
Imagine Campaign

Comedy Improv

Game Day







14

From the 8:30 a.m. team meeting until after kickoff, photographer Dan Ross chronicled Northwestern's game day on Oct. 15.

Classic People

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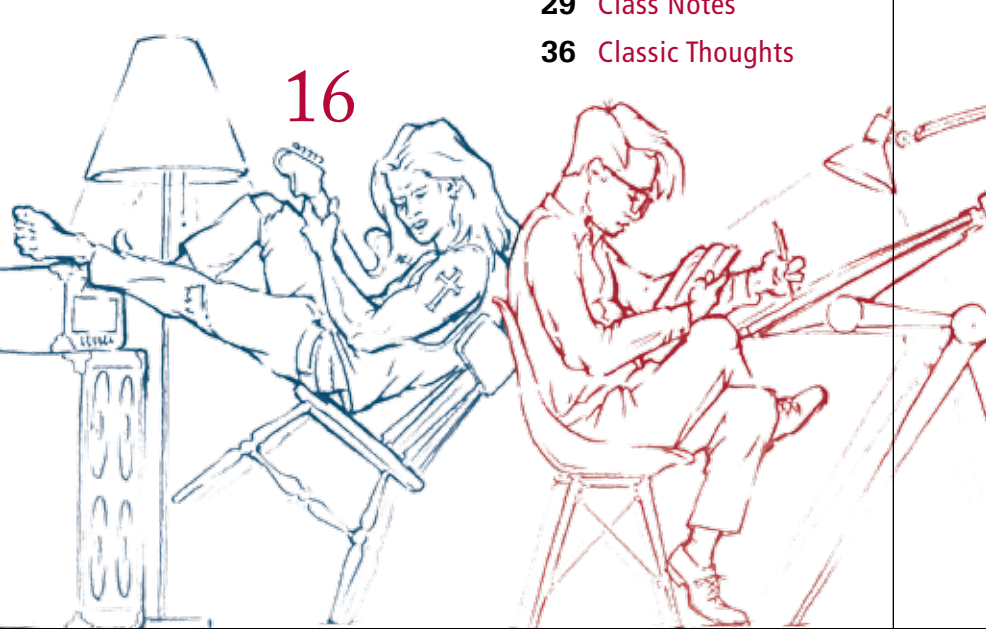
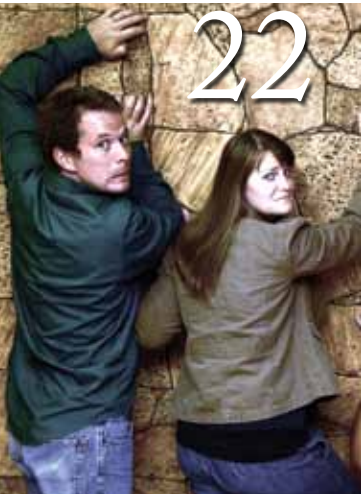
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Dan Robinson '01

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

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996 or classic@nwciova.edu.

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

**On the cover:**  
Sharing a 12x12 dorm room can result in many life lessons—and some amusing anecdotes too.



# Contents

- 16 Roommates 101**  
Sharing a room isn't always easy. But it can lead to deep friendships, lasting college memories, and—if nothing else—learning that benefits future relationships.
- 22 Making a Scene**  
Four Omaha-based Northwestern alumni are bringing their clean brand of improv to audiences around the Midwest.
- 24 Imagining Northwestern's Future**  
A new facility that will help to transform how learning takes place on campus is one of the key components of Northwestern's \$55 million Imagine Campaign.

## On the Web

**Your Turn**  
Share comments about any article in this issue, and see more Game Day photos.

visit [classic.nwciova.edu](http://classic.nwciova.edu)

## Departments

- 2 Zwemer View**
- 3 In Box**
- 4 Around the Green**
- 6 Of Course**
- 9 Face Value**
- 13 Red Zone**
- 14 1,000 Words**
- 28 Looking Back**
- 29 Class Notes**
- 36 Classic Thoughts**



# Zwemer View

## The Beauty of Community

**W**e describe Northwestern College as a **Christian academic community**. These three words are inextricably linked, forming the core of who we are.

We have been committed to academic rigor, along with a Reformed and Christian worldview, since the time of our founding as a classical academy in 1882. Virtually all private institutions of higher education across America were also founded by church bodies. However, during the 1960s and '70s, many church-related institutions distanced themselves from their Christian heritage. That's where Northwestern is different.

We chose a different course at Northwestern and became even more intentional about our Christian mission. The late '70s and early '80s were years when NWC poured resources into Christian missions and outreach programs, establishing our Summer of Service (SOS) and Spring Service Project (SSP) programs that continue to offer students the opportunity to put their faith and learning into action.

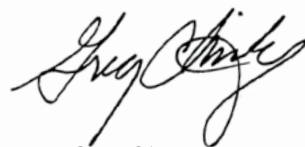
The decision to become even more intentional about the Christian aspect of our mission changed everything about our destiny as a college, influencing hiring practices and curriculum development and leading to the excellent reputation and strong brand we enjoy today: a Northwestern that is an *authentically* Christian college. We're known for our exceptional campus community and admired for preparing graduates who are devoted Christians and deep thinkers.

We are committed to living out the best of what it means to be a Christian college. And we are an academically rigorous institution preparing students not only for the workplace and graduate school, but also for a lifetime of learning. In addition, there's a third word besides "Christian" and "academic" that describes Northwestern: community. Perhaps more than any other word, "community" is how alumni describe their Northwestern experience.

Many colleges and universities talk about community, but there is something truly distinctive about the type of community built here. Chaplain Harlan Van Oort '82 may have described it best during a recent chapel service. He said, "When you mix worship with service it creates community."

Walls and barriers are broken down as we worship and serve together. This happens on SOS and SSP trips, within discipleship groups in our residence halls, and all across our campus—including in the classroom, where excellence is offered in worshipful praise of God and learning is pursued in the context of how it might be used to serve God and humankind.

The mixture of worship and service we have at Northwestern creates a strong sense of community. It is not something we can manufacture ourselves. It is a gift that can only be attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. And it's a beautiful thing to be part of.



Greg Christy  
President

# in Box

## Proud

Each time I receive the *Classic*, it makes me proud to be a Northwestern alumna. Not only does the magazine look great, it continues to be unafraid to address tough issues.

I very much appreciated the "Faith in our Genes" article in the spring issue. This topic can be quite divisive, and I felt the article handled it with boldness and fairness. The complexity of the issue was discussed, and the author refrained from offering simple black-and-white answers that no longer satisfy in our world where there is more and more gray.



Admittedly, I did agree with the main thrust of the article: that God is good and in the business of restoring what is broken. Perhaps using a discarded embryo to relieve the suffering of another is his way of redeeming what would otherwise be lost.

I was again impressed with the summer issue. The articles "Across the Faith Divide" and "Understanding Islam" are important first steps in educating Christians

about the beliefs of our Muslim brothers and sisters. My hope is that these articles will prompt honest, educated discussions about how Christians can embrace the similarities we share with Muslims as we all worship God the best way we know how.

**Betsie (De Boom '01) Swartz**  
Rochelle, Ill.

## Truth in Advertising

The summer *Classic* is as its name proclaims. The reality of a "diverse world community" is embraced with the loving conviction of the Christ we serve, and in whom we put our hope and trust, without demonizing those with a different faith—a winsome love that builds relationships instead of fences.

**The Rev. Don DeYoung**  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

## Middle East Memories

Thank you for all the work you put into the *Classic*. I read through each issue cover to cover because I enjoy keeping up-to-date on a place that holds so many wonderful memories for me.

The cover evoked many great memories of the Middle East Studies Program—I could not wait to delve into the issue. What a blessed learning experience it was; it's still life changing.

I hope more students will take advantage of the opportunity not only to study abroad, but more importantly to learn about the world and its people. There may be no better time than when in college to travel and learn about other cultures, religions, people and places (and probably no cheaper or safer way either).

Thank you for delving into the issue of Islam and Christian relations. Islam is not often studied in most Christian circles; too often Christians shrink back in fear or uncertainty when they hear someone mention Islam.

I found the Muslims I encountered to be so similar to myself that it took some time for me to process how and why their religion and beliefs were different from my own. With knowledge comes wisdom and understanding.

I wholeheartedly agree with Rev. Hubers' statement, "The best way to share the love of Jesus Christ is to know who they are—to understand how they see the world." It is not really fair or loving to judge something or someone you do not know or understand. I firmly believe Christ loves these non-Christian believers, enough to die so that they too can be redeemed, and that we will win more hearts for Christ through compassion, understanding and sharing his love than by any other means.

**Marla (Van Steenis '98) Bruins**  
Bellflower, Calif.

## On the Web *exclusive*

Read more comments about "Across the Faith Divide" at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu).

## WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

**Send letters to:** *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu). Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.



# around the Green

## In Good Hands



Chris Butler was recognized by President Greg Christy at Homecoming for being named to the American Football Coaches Association's 2011 Allstate Good Works Team.

When the American Football Coaches Association and Allstate Insurance Company were reviewing candidates for the 2011 Good Works Team, Chris Butler was an easy choice. The senior from Victorville, Calif., helped to start Northwestern's La Mosaic multicultural student association and has served as a multicultural intern. He has also spoken at local middle and high schools, encouraging students to avoid drugs and alcohol, and volunteered at The Bridge, a transitional home for women and children. A starting cornerback and punt returner, Butler was among the

team's leaders in interceptions this fall. He also is a two-year letter winner in baseball, where he was second on the squad in runs scored and bases stolen last season. The psychology major, selected by his football teammates to be a member of the Raiders' leadership council, plans to pursue a master's degree in marriage and family therapy after graduation. In the meantime, he's leaving his imprint on the campus and community.

## New Directors

Six new directors began their positions this fall. Aaron Beadner, director of student programs, comes from California's Simpson University, where he was director of student involvement and associate director of student programs. He earned a master's degree in college student affairs at Azusa Pacific University and a bachelor's at Taylor University. Seth Currier is serving as interim director of service learning. The resident director of West Hall the last four years, he earned a master's degree in spiritual formation and leadership from Spring Arbor University, where he also did his undergraduate study. Rahn Franklin has been hired for the new position of multi-ethnic student counselor. Formerly a residence hall director at Buena Vista University, he holds a master's degree in school counseling as well as a bachelor's degree, both from BV. Marlon Haverdink '97 is the new director of residence life. Northwestern's director of service learning since 2007, he also previously served as director of leadership development and resident director. He completed a master's degree in higher education at Geneva College. Patrick Hummel, director of residence life for the last three years, is now the director of missions. A former assistant dean of residence life at Calvin College, he earned a Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree at Taylor University. Mike Wallinga '01 rejoins the Northwestern community as director of institutional research. He taught computer science at NWC for nine years before serving for a year as an analyst at Interstates Control Systems in Sioux Center.



Aaron Beadner



Seth Currier



Rahn Franklin



Marlon Haverdink



Patrick Hummel



Mike Wallinga



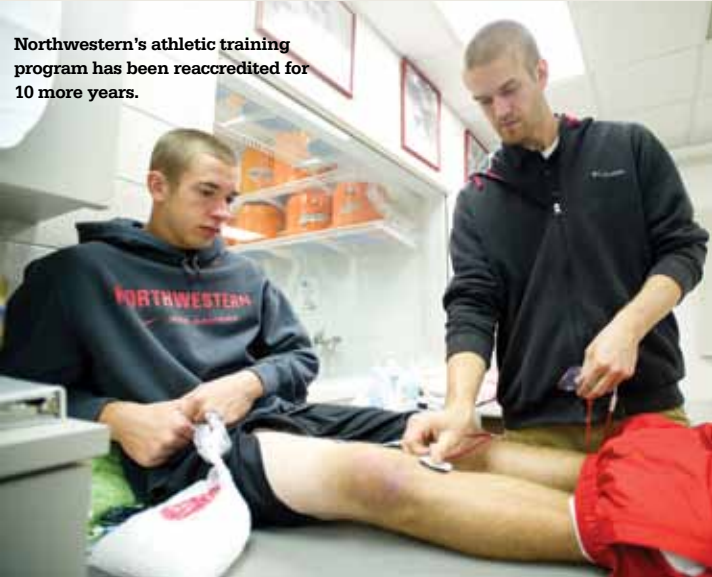
Northwestern is one of only four colleges and universities in the U.S.—and the only Christian college—offering a bachelor's degree in translation and interpretation (Spanish-English). Now it has something equally as rare: a lab that allows students to learn and practice simultaneous interpreting. "We're not aware of any simultaneous interpreting lab in the whole Midwest," says Piet Koene, assistant professor of Spanish, translation and interpreting. "This gives our program a very big advantage." In simultaneous interpreting, interpretation is provided while the speaker continues to speak—typically with a lag time of three to five seconds. Koene, who holds a master's degree and professional certification in interpretation, says the process is mentally taxing, as it involves listening, understanding the meaning of what is being said, deciding on the interpretation, and

then speaking that interpretation. "Simultaneous interpreting is one of the most sought-after aspects in the professional interpretation market," Koene says. That's because it takes less time than consecutive interpretation, in which the speaker pauses while the interpretation is being done. And today's technology—with wireless headsets and receivers—makes simultaneous interpretation possible. Students in Northwestern's

program learn how to translate and to provide both consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, thanks to a \$75,000 investment in the simultaneous interpretation lab. Located in the lowest level of Van Peursem Hall, the lab consists of 13 booths identical to the ones used at events—like international conferences—that require professional interpreters. Electronic equipment in each booth allows students to listen through headsets to recordings of a person speaking either Spanish or English. As the students interpret into the other language what is being said, Koene uses a control board to select which student he wants to listen to and, at times, let them listen to and learn from each other. Because students must be fluent in both Spanish and English in order to learn interpretation, only bilingual students are accepted into the program. The college already has 10 students majoring in translation and interpretation. The goal is to have a total of 24 by 2013.

## Perfect Checkup

Northwestern's athletic training education program has received continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Standards for accreditation are set with the support of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Inc. Northwestern's athletic training education program was initially accredited in 2005. Jennifer Rogers, program director and instructor of kinesiology, oversaw that and the most recent accreditation review, which included a comprehensive self-study, on-site evaluation, review by the accreditation committee, and approval by the CAATE board of directors. The CAATE-accredited status of the college's program ensures that athletic training graduates are eligible to sit for the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer test. The department's next accreditation review will be in 2020–21.



Northwestern's athletic training program has been reaccredited for 10 more years.



# Of Course

**Parents: Read to Your Kids**

Among the books Sybesma and her students pour over for good teaching ideas are titles that might prove popular with parents too. Check these out:

**Infants and toddlers**

- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

**Ages 3 to 5**

- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr., John Archambault and Lois Ehlert
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein

**K-2nd grade**

- *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
- *Parts and More Parts* by Tedd Arnold

**3rd and 4th grade**

- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Queen of the Falls* by Chris Van Allsburg

**5th grade and up**

- *Amelia Lost: The Lie and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candice Fleming
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

## LMNO Peas and Other Great Reads

**Class**

Children’s Literature

**Instructor**

Dr. Lila Sybesma  
*Assistant Professor of Education*

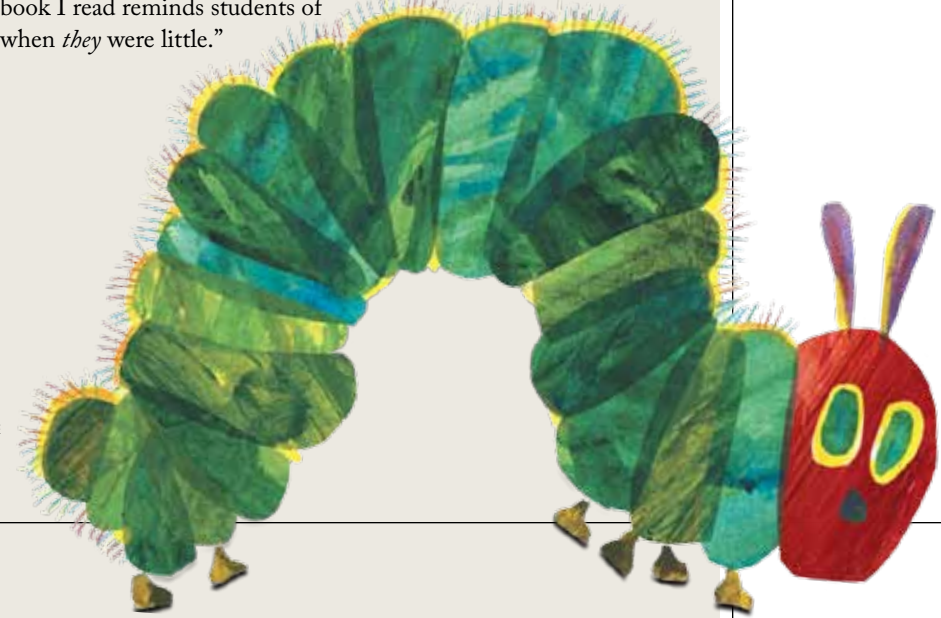
Baby boomers sometimes get a bad rap. But among the good things they’ve inspired are great books for the kiddos. That’s one of the history lessons future teachers learn in Dr. Lila Sybesma’s Children’s Literature class. “More babies, better books,” says Sybesma, showing her students children’s books from the 1940s and earlier—books with long, blocky paragraphs and simple black-and-white illustrations.

“Then in the 1950s children’s literature exploded,” she explains, passing around books with vibrant colors and vivid illustrations. Children’s authors became more playful, engineering pop-up books and interactive books with texture and sound. They broke the rules, writing books with words running all around the pages rather than just left to right.

In addition to reading and reporting on oodles of children’s books, Sybesma’s students must also lead Story Hour at the Orange City Public Library, demonstrating they can hold the attention of a dozen preschoolers through reading and associated activities that are both entertaining and educational.

For example, after a rousing recitation of *The Seven Silly Eaters*, by Mary Ann Hoberman and Marla Frazee, a soon-to-be teacher and her subjects might munch on carrot sticks while talking about the Food Plate (which recently replaced the Food Pyramid).

“It’s a two-credit class, so students have to work fast and hard,” says Sybesma. “But it’s full of warm fuzzy moments, too, like when a book I read reminds students of when they were little.”



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR BY ERIC CARLE. COPYRIGHT © 1969 AND 1987 BY ERIC CARLE. IMAGE USED WITH PERMISSION.

## School’s Online for Teachers

One of Northwestern’s online programs for educators will serve teachers who want to earn a unified endorsement enabling them to teach in integrated settings for children from birth to age eight.

The unified endorsement is valuable for educators in preschools, K-3 classrooms, early childhood centers and Head Start classrooms. Teachers with a unified endorsement can also serve as administrators for early childhood programs.

Northwestern is the only college in Iowa that offers an online unified endorsement program, which makes it convenient for working teachers.

NWC also offers its coaching and early childhood endorsement programs entirely online.

For more information or to enroll, contact Online Learning Director Rebecca Hoey—712-707-7388 or [online@nwciowa.edu](mailto:online@nwciowa.edu)—or visit [www.nwciowa.edu/online-learning](http://www.nwciowa.edu/online-learning).



DAVE ROSS

Thanks to a \$1.5 million renovation this summer, the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center’s four-court area features better lighting, climate control and flooring.

It’s amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do.

And new lighting, windows, flooring, partitions and climate control.

This summer the four-court area of the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center underwent a \$1.5 million renovation funded by donors who saw surveys showing students’ declining satisfaction with the college’s physical fitness facilities and

decided to do something about it. The result is a vast improvement in both form and function.

Gone are the beige walls and green track. Red steel that’s perforated to absorb sound now accents the upper half of the white walls. New energy-efficient high-intensity lights make the facility brighter, as does the addition of more than a dozen 10-by-5-foot windows running along the top of the north and

south walls. Improving insulation made the addition of air conditioning practical.

“People are really excited about the way it looks,” says Allison Weeldreyer, a senior member of the track and cross country teams. “When I talk to the student admissions ambassadors, they’re more willing to show this area to campus visitors.”

It’s the flooring and partitions,

however, that will make the biggest difference for those using the center. A half-inch-thick sport surface—twice as thick as the former flooring—covers the courts and running track, providing more cushioning for those running, walking and playing basketball and volleyball.

New gym divider panels lower from the ceiling to separate the track from the courts and the courts from each other. There are also three net practice cages that lower from the ceiling for baseball, softball and track.

“The ability to contain activity is going to enable more people to be in the place at once,” says Dale Thompson, director of the Rowenhorst Student Center.

Eventually Thompson would like to see what is known as the Mini-Gym renovated as well, with new fitness equipment, refurbished racquetball courts and locker rooms, a game room, and areas for aerobics and other fitness classes. As with the four-court area of the fitness center, funding will dictate the timing and extent of those improvements.

## Recharging

Three faculty members are pursuing professional development and research projects on sabbatical leaves.

Jeff and Karen Barker, theatre and speech, have been based in Oak Harbor, Wash., this semester. Jeff is working with members of First Reformed Church on the presentation of Scripture within worship. He also spent time in Africa doing research for his third play about Arlene Schuiteman’s missionary career. Karen is involved with the church in a Scripture memorization project and is preparing to perform *Early One Morning*, a one-woman musical from the vantage point of Mary Magdalene.

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, psychology, is serving as a Fulbright Scholar in Romania for the 2011–12 academic year. She is assessing the success of the program the New Horizons Foundation has developed to empower Romanian youth and increase responsibility, teamwork and

trust among them. Feenstra is also teaching research methodology courses in a master’s degree program at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj.



Jeff Barker



Karen Barker



Jennifer Feenstra



# Hall of Famer

Earl Woudstra has many great memories of times in Sioux City, having led the Raiders’ women’s basketball team to the NAIA Div. II national championship there in 2011, 2010, 2008 and 2001. He’ll have another one on March 6, when he’s inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame as part of national tournament activities.

Woudstra was named this fall as one of 18 individuals in the 2011–12 Hall of Fame class. The 1978 Northwestern alumnus led the Red Raiders to a 403-139 record during his 17 years as head coach, the all-time winningest coach in the program’s history, and was named national coach of the year four times.

Northwestern qualified for 10 national tournaments during

Woudstra’s tenure and holds the record for the most wins at the event. The Raiders were runners-up in 2000 and advanced to the Final Four in 2006 and 2009.

“I’m delighted that Coach Woudstra has been selected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of retirement,” says Barry Brandt, athletic director. “The incredible success his teams had on the court was a direct reflection of who he is. Earl personified servant leadership. He was always far more concerned about the personal development



Earl Woudstra, Northwestern’s head women’s basketball coach from 1994 to 2011, will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in March.

DAN ROSS

of his players and coaches than he was about himself or the sport. Nothing was more important to him than seeing spiritual growth and understanding take place in the women on his squads.”

Woudstra, who continues to serve as assistant athletic director and kinesiology professor, will be the fourth Northwestern representative in the Hall of Fame.

He will join former football coach Larry Korver ’54, quarterback Lee McKinstrey ’85 and former wrestling coach Paul Bartlett.

## New on the Board

Northwestern’s Board of Trustees welcomed six new members at its fall meeting in September.

The Rev. Stephen Breen, rural Orange City, has been pastor of Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church since 1995. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary and a bachelor’s degree at Calvin College. He and his wife, Linda, have four children, including Tim ’02, Dan ’05 and Sarah ’09.

Adrie Groeneweg of Orange City is president and founder of Pizza Ranch. He and his wife, Marla, have four children, including Spencer ’15.

The Rev. Keith Krebs has been senior pastor of Orange City’s American Reformed Church since 2004. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary and a bachelor’s degree at Biola University. He and his wife, Denise, have two daughters, including Katie ’14.



Steven Breen



Adrie Groeneweg



Keith Krebs



Mike Pitsenberger



Roger Voskuil



Carl Wynja

The Rev. Mike Pitsenberger of Dyer, Ind., is lead pastor for Faith Church’s Dyer campus. A graduate of Minnesota’s Concordia College, Pitsenberger earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Gina (Langstraat ’89), have four children, including Janet ’14.

The Rev. Roger Voskuil ’69, director of spiritual care at First Reformed Church in Sioux Center, rejoins the board after serving on two different occasions. He has been appointed board secretary/treasurer. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of three daughters, including Lori Scholtens ’94 and Renae Pottebaum ’98.

Carl Wynja ’88 of Sioux Falls, S.D., is regional president at U.S. Bank, where he has worked for 18 years. He and his wife, Lori (Vanden Hoek ’88), have three children, including Emma ’15.

## Positive Test Results

Recent graduates of Northwestern’s athletic training and nursing programs have posted board exam pass rates that exceed national averages.

The college’s 2011 athletic training majors had an 83 percent first-time pass rate and a 100 percent pass rate overall on the Board of Certification exam. The national first-time pass rate average is 60.7 percent. Graduate school placements of the program’s May graduates include the University of South Dakota and Baylor University in Texas.

Northwestern’s 2011 nursing majors posted a 95.2 percent first-time pass rate on the Board of Nursing exam. The national average is 91.4 percent. Placements of the 21 B.S.N. graduates include the Sanford Health System and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital.



LYNDIE SCHLINK

More than 95 percent of Northwestern’s 2011 nursing graduates passed the Board of Nursing exam on their first try.

# Face Value

## Joel Westerholm

Book lover

**You taught at universities on the East Coast before joining Northwestern’s faculty. What enticed you to move to Iowa?**

I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting myself into, having graduated from a Midwestern Christian college—though nothing prepared me for the two weeks in December that first year when the temperature didn’t get above zero. We stayed because we found people we enjoyed living among in a place where God was doing his work in which we could find a role.

**Both of your children are students at Northwestern. Did you ever imagine they would be attending the same college at which you teach?**

I raised them to cheer for the Raiders as loudly as possible. As they grew older, I could imagine them sitting in classes answering questions, or writing articles for the *Beacon* and stories for *Spectrum*. I just hoped their rather sharp senses of humor (which they got from their mother) wouldn’t create too many problems for my colleagues.

**What are some challenges involved with teaching college-level English?**

The biggest challenge is trying to develop students’ attention spans and imaginations. In a culture of instant gratification, in which people expect entertainment to be shallow and immediate, I want my students to discover the greater joys of more complete involvement in a work of art.

**When did you realize you wanted to teach English as a career?**

I needed to find a job in which someone would pay me to read. To my mind, what could be better than a job in which I read books I enjoy and get to talk about them with intelligent people?



DOUG BURG

Dr. Joel Westerholm, a member of the English faculty since 1988, also teaches classical guitar for the music department.

**What do you like to read?**

Besides box scores when the Cubs have won, I read novels and poetry from the rest of the world. I am curious about the lives of people who live in other places. And I read quite a bit of journalism about the environment, the plight of the poor around the world, and issues of war and peace.

**What’s your guilty pleasure when it comes to books?**

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

**What do you wish you were an expert at?**

In heaven, I want to have [acclaimed jazz guitarist] Martin Taylor’s fingers. I’m a pretty good guitarist; he’s amazing.



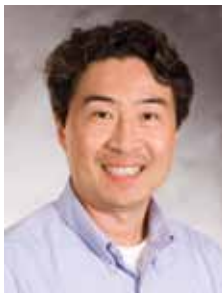
# First-Year Faculty

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

## Terry Chi

Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley

Chi joins the faculty after teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and conducting research at the University of Southern California and Vanderbilt University. His research on the influence of parenting histories has appeared in peer-reviewed publications such as the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* and been presented at conferences.



Terry Chi

## Rachel Foulks '07

Assistant Professor of Theatre  
M.F.A., University of South Dakota

The sabbatical replacement for Jeff and Karen Barker this fall, Foulks has taught at Wayne State College and the University of South Dakota. She also served as the wardrobe supervisor for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and directed plays for the Children's Theatre Company of South Dakota and the Vermillion (S.D.) Community Theatre.



Rachel Foulks

## Chris Hausmann

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Hausmann brings expertise in social theory, social movements, research methods, microsociology, emotions, and global sociology to Northwestern. He most recently worked in Notre Dame's Center for Social Research, helping researchers with survey design. Hausmann recently co-edited a special issue of the *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*.



Chris Hausmann

## Emily Stokes

Assistant Professor of Art  
M.F.A., Arizona State University

Stokes has taught at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio; the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Art Center; and Arizona State. She has had solo exhibitions at Arizona State, the University of Michigan Hospital and Mallett's Creek Library in Ann Arbor. Her work has been part of group exhibitions in 16 states.



Emily Stokes

## Brandon Woudstra '03

Lecturer in Business  
M.B.A. candidate, University of South Dakota

Woudstra played professional basketball for six years in Europe. He recently served as program director for Blueprint Basketball, responsible for program development and marketing, basketball skills instruction, customer services, and site and session management. He also is an independent contractor for other basketball organizations and a licensed residential real estate appraiser.



Brandon Woudstra

## High Praise

The 2011–12 school year started with Northwestern receiving numerous accolades for its high-quality education:

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked Northwestern seventh among 100 Midwestern colleges. To achieve that listing, Northwestern scored well in areas that measured:

- Our reputation for offering an excellent academic experience
- Students' desire to stay at and graduate from Northwestern
- Professors' credentials and availability to students
- The college's financial soundness and support of alumni donors

*Washington Monthly* placed Northwestern third in the nation in its listing of the country's top baccalaureate colleges, based on how well we prepare our graduates for lives of achievement, service and research.

Factors figuring into the rankings include the number of graduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees and the institution's commitment to community service.

Forbes.com includes Northwestern among the top 15 percent of the nation's colleges and universities, based on the quality of education we provide and our students' great career prospects, graduation rates and low levels of debt.

The Princeton Review lists Northwestern among 153 institutions selected for its "Best in the Midwest" designation, based on institutional data and student opinions. Our students praised Northwestern's integration of faith with learning, financial aid, accessibility of administrators, acceptance of minority students and campus activities.

# Standouts

## Three receive alumni awards for their accomplishments, service

### Peggy (Leeds '82) Bilsten

*Service to Humankind*

As the vice mayor for Phoenix, Peggy Bilsten advocated for people with disabilities and fought the abuse of women, serving on the mayor's and Arizona governor's commissions to prevent domestic violence.

A passionate opponent of child sex slavery, Bilsten has participated in rescue trips to Indonesia, China and war-torn Central Africa. She now works with StreetLight PHX, a ministry dedicated to eradicating child rape for profit. She also serves as the executive director of the Arizona Sexual Assault Association and is part of the staff of the Global Training Network, which equips church planters, leaders and pastors around the world.

### Dr. Bryan Den Hartog '81

*Professional Achievement*

Bryan Den Hartog is an orthopedic surgeon at the Black Hills Orthopedic & Spine Center. He also serves on the faculty for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS).

Den Hartog has published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* and is a journal reviewer for *Foot*

and *Ankle International*. Active in missions and part of the humanitarian committee of the AOFAS, he has trained doctors and performed surgery in Haiti and Venezuela.

Den Hartog earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine and received further training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

### Harold Vander Laan '49

*Service to Northwestern*

Evidence of Harold Vander Laan's commitment to his alma mater is displayed each Tulip Festival when the Northwestern College float parades through the streets of Orange City. Featured on the float is a seven-foot-high wooden replica of Zwemer Hall, built to scale and with such detail that every brick is visible. The model took the retired woodworker more than 500 hours to complete.

Prior to retirement, Vander Laan served in the U.S. Navy, taught high school and earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado before fulfilling the role of registrar at Northwestern College for 28 years. He was also the college's director of admissions for the first seven of those years.

Recognized as Northwestern's 2011 alumni of the year at Homecoming were, left to right: Bryan Den Hartog, Peggy Bilsten and Harold Vander Laan.



DAN ROSS



# Support for the Mission

2010–11 giving reaches nearly \$4 million

## Fundraising Report

July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

\$3.9 million	Total giving to Northwestern College; giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1.4 million
\$780,015	Total alumni giving to Northwestern; 21% of alumni supported their alma mater
\$621,956	Total giving to endowed scholarships for students; \$330,557 was received from bequests
468	Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
299	Tower Society (\$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund) members; 42 donors gave \$2,500 or more, and 36 gave \$5,000 or more
286	Members named to the Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor, which recognizes donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years

Northwestern Fund (operating)	2009–10	2010–11
Alumni	\$519,297	\$508,601
Friends	687,736	347,292
Foundations/grants	127,425	100,004
Corporations	134,579	130,395
Churches	314,008	321,315
Other	27,109	25,525
Subtotal	\$1,810,154	\$1,433,132

Capital and Endowed Gifts (non-operating)	2009–10	2010–11
Alumni	\$344,706	\$271,414
Friends	637,153	1,332,583
Foundations/grants	281,665	331,622
Corporations	111,545	193,834
Churches	25,350	3,329
Estates	360,183	324,557
Other	37,034	23,543
Subtotal	\$1,797,636	\$2,480,882
Grand total	\$3,607,790	\$3,914,014

## Imagine Campaign

	Goal	Gifts & pledges
Learning Commons	\$15 million	\$10.7 million
Northwestern Fund	10 million	7.6 million
Strategic initiatives	9 million	4.6 million
Scholarships	8 million	6.1 million
Deferred giving	8 million	4.9 million
Facilities upgrade (RSC, etc.)	5 million	2 million
Total	\$55 million	\$35.9 million*

\*Funds raised between Jan. 1, 2005, and Oct. 31, 2011

## Alumni giving

### Best giving percentage

Class of 1949	67%
Class of 1948	60%
Class of 1944 & '45	56%
Class of 1954 & '32	50%

### Best giving overall

Class of 1972	\$110,830
Class of 1975	\$86,828
Class of 1977	\$74,737
Class of 1953	\$61,680
Class of 1965	\$57,621

### Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

Class of 1965	\$46,216
Class of 1997	\$30,719
Class of 1977	\$25,995
Class of 1953	\$25,340
Class of 1955	\$23,165

# Red Zone

### Football Winning Streak

The Raiders won their last eight games to finish 9-2 tie for second in the GPAC and earn a 17th-place national ranking. Brandon Smith ran for 189 yards and four touchdowns in the 47-13 season-opener over Southwestern and was named national player of the week. Quarterback Davis Bloemendaal also was a GPAC player of the week.

### Men's Soccer Turnaround

The Raiders posted their first winning season in four years and their best record since 2004, finishing 12-7-1. They tied for third in the GPAC with a 6-4 mark. Freshman goalkeeper Luis Hernandez earned GPAC defensive player of the week honors.

### Women's Soccer Ended Right

The Raiders were 4-11-3 overall, 2-8 in the GPAC, but won their last match. The women and men enjoyed a major renovation of Northwestern's soccer complex, which included leveling and reseeding of the fields as well as drainage and irrigation improvements. The complex also features a new scoreboard, lighting and fencing.

### Volleyball Finished Strong

After graduating two All-Americans and an all-region honoree, Northwestern relied on a mix of returning players and new recruits. The Raiders won 13 of their last 18 matches to finish the

season 19-16. They tied for third in the conference with an 11-5 mark. Freshman Kaitlin Floerchinger earned GPAC setter of the week honors twice.

### Men's Golf Record-Setters

The Golfers set a school record for lowest team score when they shot a six-under 278 at the Siouxland Invite. Two other scores this fall are among the Raiders' finest lowest of all time. After two rounds of the GPAC qualifier, NWC is in third place and Neil Malenke is tied for third individually. Malenke, Jay Monahan and Kyle Stanek were each named GPAC golfer of the week.

### Women's Golf In Third

Northwestern is in third place after two rounds of the GPAC qualifier. Taylor Kline is third individually. The Raiders tied the school's all-time lowest round with a 333 at the Dordt Invite.

### Cross Country Middle of the Pack

Northwestern's women placed fifth at the conference meet; the men were eighth. The women's team, which received votes in the national rankings nearly all season, won the Dean White Invitational in Crete, Neb.

For more on Raider sports, visit [www.nwcraiders.com](http://www.nwcraiders.com)

Freshman midfielder Gabriel Goncalves of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, contributed four goals and three assists for the 12-7-1 Raiders.





# GAME DAY

A lot goes on before the football is placed on the tee and the De Valois Stadium crowd of 3,000 cheers the Raiders on to victory. Photographer Dan Ross chronicled the activities that led up to Northwestern's 35-10 win over Concordia on Oct. 15. Visit [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu) to see dozens of other Game Day photos.





# ROOMMATES 101:

## LESSONS FOR LIFE

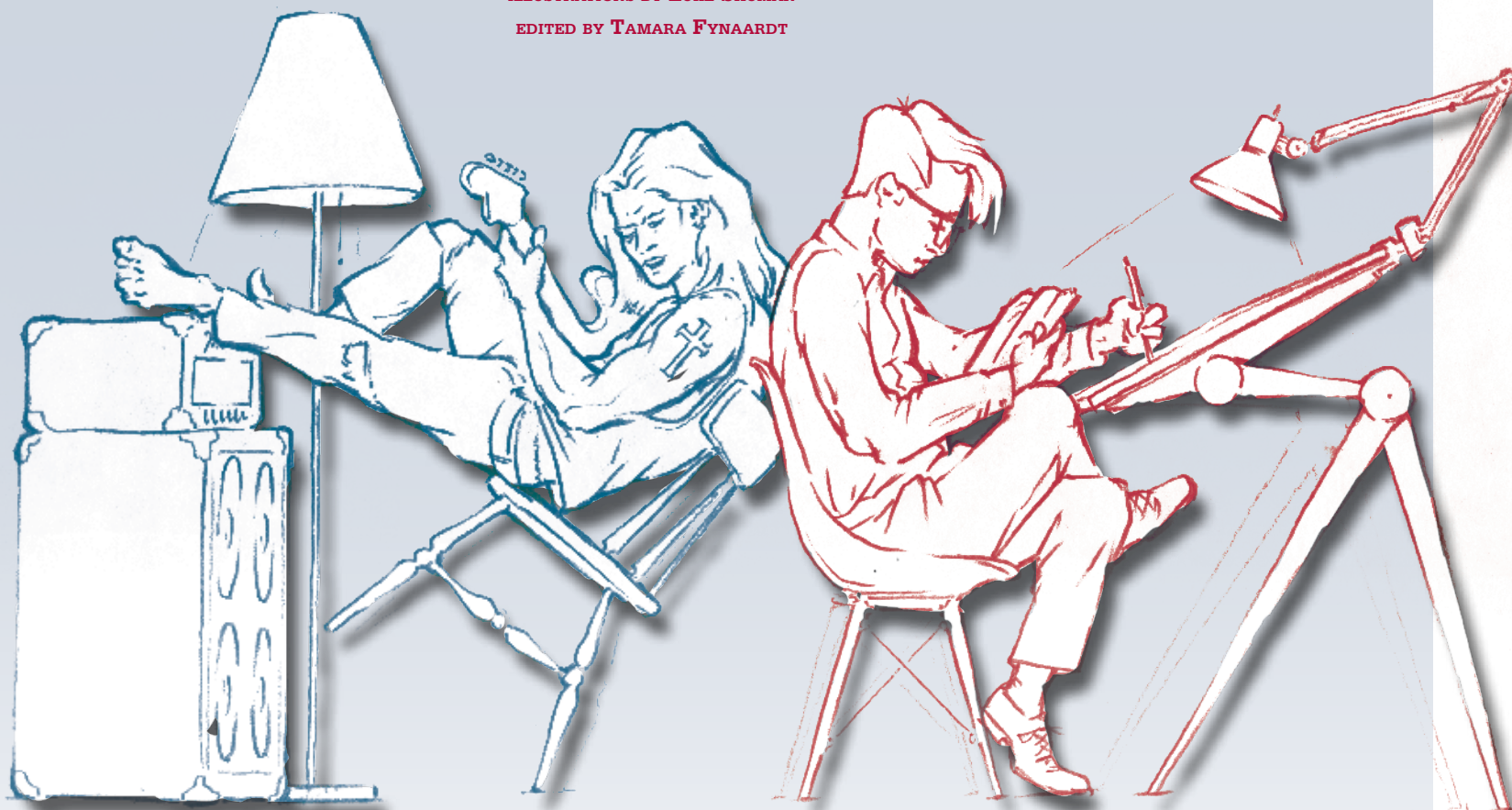
Nearly 90 percent of Northwestern's students live on campus, a factor that plays a major role in the college's strong sense of community. After four years of sleeping through each other's alarms, listening to each other's music, and tolerating each other's quirks, many roommates find they've learned a lot about getting along—and building community among the diverse collection of people they live with.

Sharing a room isn't always easy. But it can lead to deep friendships, lasting college memories, and—if nothing else—learning that benefits future relationships.

We asked our readers to send their roommate stories to the *Classic*. Here's what they shared.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LUKE SHUMAN

EDITED BY TAMARA FYNAARDT



### Picture this

My freshman roommate arrived first, and when I came later, our RA snapped a photo of the two of us practically before we'd even had a chance to say hi. That picture became a treasure because on both our faces you can see the fear of two freshmen who don't know what to expect.

That was the beginning of a long-lasting friendship that endured living together for four years, three of them in the same room. We experienced each other's joys and trials. Favorite memories are taking long walks and movie nights on the weekend. We took an interest in each other's majors and shared what we were learning in our classes. We didn't always get along, but we always worked through our disagreements, which is a great relationship skill to learn.

**Sarah Hilkemann '08**  
PLANO, TEXAS

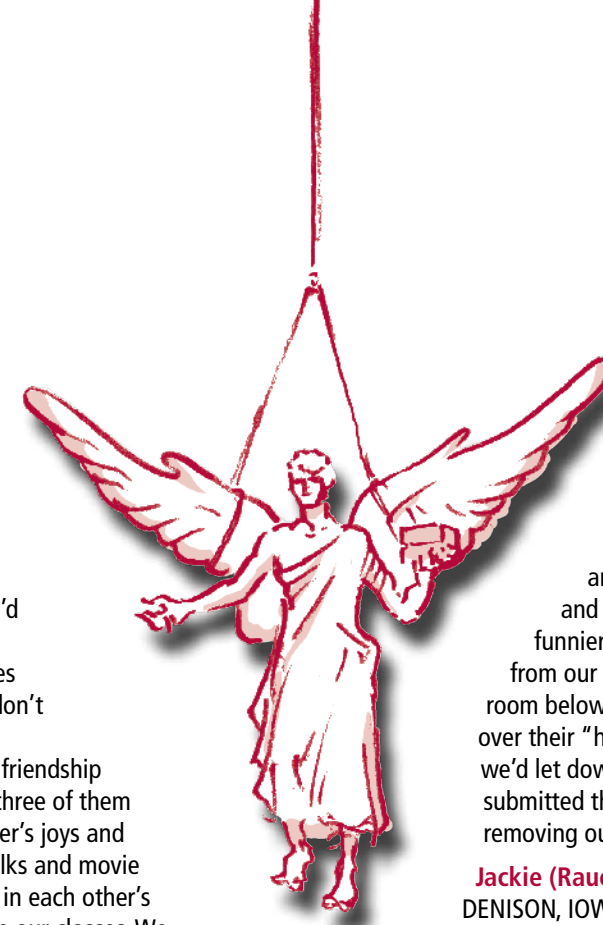
### PB & J and other great combos

The summer before my freshman year, I was a little nervous about my roommate assignment. So my mom suggested that after I got my roommate match-up letter, we could contact her family and arrange to meet halfway before fall to get to know each other, talk about preferences, figure out who would bring an iron, blow-dryer, etc.—to avoid doubling up and that sort of thing.

Finally the letter arrived! I opened it, started to read and said, "Mom, remember your idea for meeting my roommate and her family in the middle? What's halfway between here and Tokyo?!" Yep, I'd gotten matched with Sawa Sasaki '98 from Japan.

That year I learned to live with someone by bridging cultural differences. I taught her how to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and I learned to sleep through her early morning calls home to Tokyo. She taught me the best way to teach someone how to speak English is lovingly and gently.

**Tara (Simmons '98) Kluth**  
MANTORVILLE, MINN.



### Angelic behavior

My roommate and I had a big plastic angel—left over from Christmas decorating—and late at night (when everything seems funnier), we'd tie a rope around it and let it down from our window to knock against the window of the room below ours. When our downstairs neighbors got over their "holy" fright, they'd open their window, and we'd let down a basket of goodies. (Maybe I should have submitted this anonymously—can we still get fined for removing our screens?)

**Jackie (Rauch '00) Swanson**  
DENISON, IOWA

### Roommate arrangements

First semester of my sophomore year, due to an increase in enrollment, eight of us lived in Fern Smith's second-floor lounge. A row of wardrobes down the middle of the lounge separated two "rooms" with four beds each. It was a little hectic, so I spent that semester studying in the chapel sound booth, which I had access to because of my work-study job.

I spent the second semester on the island of Zamalek in Cairo, Egypt, with a roommate from a different college. We both were students in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities' Middle East Studies Program. I learned a lot from my roommate that semester, who was learning her fifth language while we were there!

During my junior year, my roommate and I rearranged our room about once a month, more as the year drew to an end. It was a standing joke on our floor; our wing mates would offer to call the fire marshal when we piled stuff in the hall so we could move the bigger furniture around.

My junior roommate and I were also friends with the same guy. We all went together on a Spring Service Project, during which she and he officially started dating. The year after we graduated, that guy married my roommate. Five years after that, I married his roommate.

**Marla (Van Steenis '98) Bruins**  
BELLFLOWER, CALIF.



## Cracking up

One evening in October of 1983 during my junior year at Northwestern, my roommate Craig Pennings ['85] and I were studying in our dorm room. On my desk was a box of Ritz crackers I was munching on. I offered him some and he said, "No, thanks."

I said, "What's the matter? My crackers aren't good enough for you?"

He said, "Hey, I'm not hungry."

When he left the room, I put the box on his desk. Later, without a word, he put it back on mine. And so it went for a couple of days. Finally, when I got them back on my desk for the umpteenth time, I put them away.

But before going home for Christmas that December, I dug those crackers out, tied them up in their wax paper wrapping, and stuffed them inside a shoe in his closet. I scribbled a note that said something like, "Since you didn't eat them in October, I thought you might be hungry by now." Then I laughed and left. By the time I came back for second semester, I had forgotten all about it.

In May 1984 after final exams, I was packing up to go home for the summer and found the crackers stuffed in one of my shoes with a note from Craig saying he thought I should keep them.

I did keep them—for a whole year, until graduation the spring of 1985 when I went to his closet and stuffed them back in one of his shoes just before leaving the dorm for the last time. I attached a note that said, "Thought you better have these crackers since you wouldn't eat them in October of '83. You thought I'd forgotten, didn't you?" I chuckled, thinking I was having the last laugh, and left.

In April of 1988, three years after we graduated from college, I got a package in the mail. Inside were the crackers, along with a note that said, "Remember these? I thought you might be hungry."

This was entirely too much. Believing for three years that you've had the last laugh, only to realize you were, in fact, dealing with a very patient person is a real jolt. In 1991, I mailed them back to Craig with a note.

For my birthday in 1993, he mailed them back to me with a can of Cheez Whiz.

In May of 1996, I sent them back to him with a poem: "Roses are red, old buckets are rusty, after 13 years, these crackers are crusty."

I got them back through the mail in 2000 as a belated birthday present.

While preparing a sermon on friendship in September of 2004, I realized I had the crackers in my closet. I thought it would be an appropriate occasion to send them back to my old roomie.

Just this past spring, about the same time the *Classic* was asking for roommate stories, I got a suspicious package from Craig.

These crackers, or more accurately cracker dust, get mailed back and forth every few years—always after the other guy has forgotten all about them, and always with a note stapled on top of all the other notes we've written. It's been going on for more than 25 years. Craig knows that if he dies before I do and the cracker dust is in my possession, I will find a way to bury it with him. I know he will do the same for me.

To anyone else, that bag of Ritz cracker dust is worthy of a trash can. For Craig and me, our running joke is part of the legacy of our deep friendship. Craig has been there for me during the most difficult times in my life. He is an encourager with a caring heart and one of the most loyal friends I've ever known.\*

**Todd Thompson '85**  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

*\*The story of Todd and Craig's cracker exchange was first printed in March 2008 on Todd's blog, ASliceOfLifeToGo.com.*



## Pickled

Almost every night before she went to bed, my roommate had milk and pickles—straight out of the jar.

**Emily (De Weerd '10) Moret**  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA



## Sweet cheeks

I introduced one of my roommates to wearing blush. She always thought it wouldn't work with her ivory skin, but she just hadn't found the right shade. She says she still thinks of me whenever she applies her blush to this day—which makes me smile.

**Elizabeth Colbert '08**  
SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

## Groovy

One of my roommates—who had an uncle who worked for Alcoa Aluminum—came back from a weekend at home with dozens of boxes of aluminum foil. So we wallpapered room 327 in Colenbrander Hall with foil and then painted pictures and words with black light paint (a '70s thing) to create "atmosphere." It was pretty cool!

**Glenn Van Ekeren '74**  
ELKHORN, NEB.

## Roommate redux

One of my college roommates, Nicole (Koencke '05) Forbes, graduated with a communications degree; I majored in marketing. We had different career goals and never expected to both end up in the Christian nonprofit marketing world.

After jobs with different organizations our first four years following college, we both landed on the same team at World Vision! I live near the World Vision headquarters in Seattle. Nicole lives and works out of Minneapolis but sometimes has to travel here for work, so over the past year, she's spent a lot of time as my roommate again!

**Amanda (De Boer '05) Bowman**  
GIG HARBOR, WASH.

## Responsible in an emergency

I met my roommate, Melanie (Vigneron '01) Safly, when we were freshmen in Northwestern's athletic training program. Our love for Jesus and pranks made us fast friends. Because we shared the same major and internship requirements—and loved pulling pranks—we spent most of our time together.

During our senior year, one evening after a football game, we were in charge of bringing the ambulance golf cart back to its storage shed on the north side of campus. (No one thought it was a bad idea to entrust students with an ambulance golf cart because we were perceived to be very responsible; in fact, I was also an EMT at the time.)

In truth, the trip across campus took several detours, including through the Taco John's drive-through and across the green around 11 p.m. with the lights flashing and sirens blaring.

We were caught by a fellow EMT, which put an end to our mischief with the golf cart—but didn't end our mischievous ways. To this day, Melanie is still the person I call in a crisis, with exciting news, or if I have an opportunity for an ill-advised joyride.

**Gina (Wenzel '01) Greene**  
WATSEKA, ILL.

## Game on

I was a fan of the Philadelphia 76ers, Minnesota Twins and Southern rock. My roommate was a fan of the Boston Celtics, New York Yankees and Elvis. We roomed together for four years, proving you can get along with someone in spite of differences—a great life lesson.

**Mark Davis '77**  
ARLINGTON, MASS.

## Meet the sister

My roommate, Tim Bishop ['94], definitely opened my eyes to something: his sister, Stacey, who also attended Northwestern. Thanks to Tim, I met my wife, and we've now been married for 18 years.

**Anthony (T.J.) Roberts '95**  
LELAND, IOWA





## Roommate déjà vu

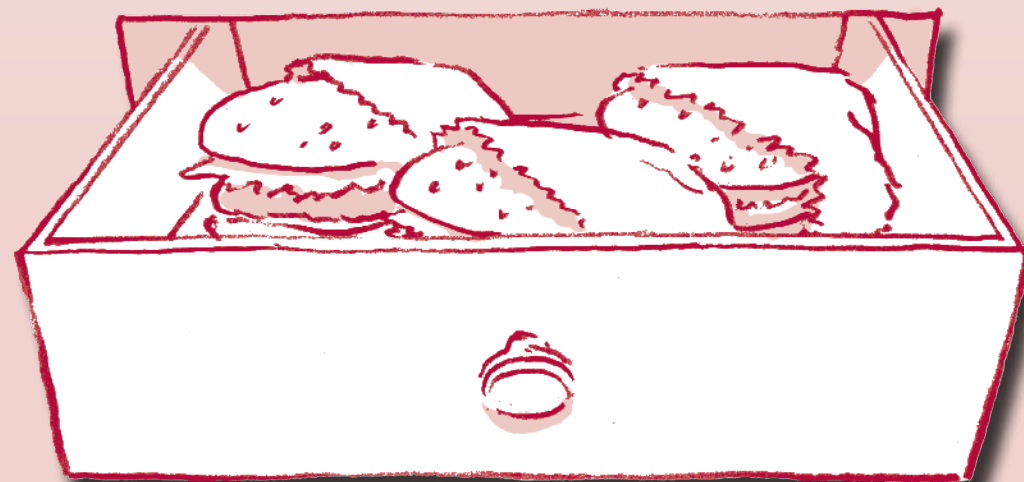
My freshman year roommate and I didn't get along. We were completely different in temperament and expectations—and probably both quite immature. It got so bad we couldn't have a civil conversation, and by Thanksgiving, we'd agreed we both wanted someone else—anyone else!—as a roommate.

Nonetheless, imagine my surprise when I came back from Christmas break, opened the door to my room and found all my stuff gone! My roommate had gotten some friends to help him move my stuff into an empty room down the hall. Second semester, living in different rooms, we got along better, although neither of us would have said we were friends.

But the story doesn't end there. My former roommate hailed from the same hometown as my eventual girlfriend; in fact, she had dated him in high school. When my girlfriend and I later married, my brother couldn't attend at the last minute, so guess who my wife-to-be asked to step into our wedding party as a substitute? The guy I couldn't live with as a freshman ended up in a number of my wedding pictures.

And it continued. Six months after graduation, my wife and I moved back to Orange City into an old Victorian just north of downtown. We lived downstairs, and guess who lived upstairs? My old roomie and his wife! Both older and a little wiser, we finally managed—with the help of our wives—to develop a cordial sense of community.

**Phil Somsen '73**  
FORT DODGE, IOWA



## Planning ahead

We first met when we woke up one August morning in the same dorm room (bed hair and sleepy eyes—what a great first impression!). We still refer to each other as “my roommate” and are the best of friends. In fact, we've made plans to be roommates again when we are old and widowed!

**Deb Stralow-Dyson '96**  
FORRESTON, ILL.

**Midori Okawa-Ataka '96**  
TORRANCE, CALIF.



## Breakfast burgers

Back when I went to Northwestern, in the mid '60s, we used to change roommates a lot—even during the middle of the year. In my first two years, I had a different roommate every semester, which wasn't unusual at the time. I lived all over Colenbrander: on first north, second west, third west, down in the Ghetto. As an athlete, sometimes I roomed with a teammate, sometimes an athlete in another sport, and sometimes a non-athlete.

I had one roommate who'd go over to where Subway is now—it used to be called Debos—where you could get four hamburgers for a buck. He'd go to Debos and buy eight hamburgers; he'd eat four before bed and put the other four in a drawer so he could eat them for breakfast.

**Barry Brandt '69**  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA


## Friending without Facebook

Some of my best memories from college are of falling asleep at night, telling jokes and chatting with Steve, who bunked above me, and Bryan, who bunked below me.

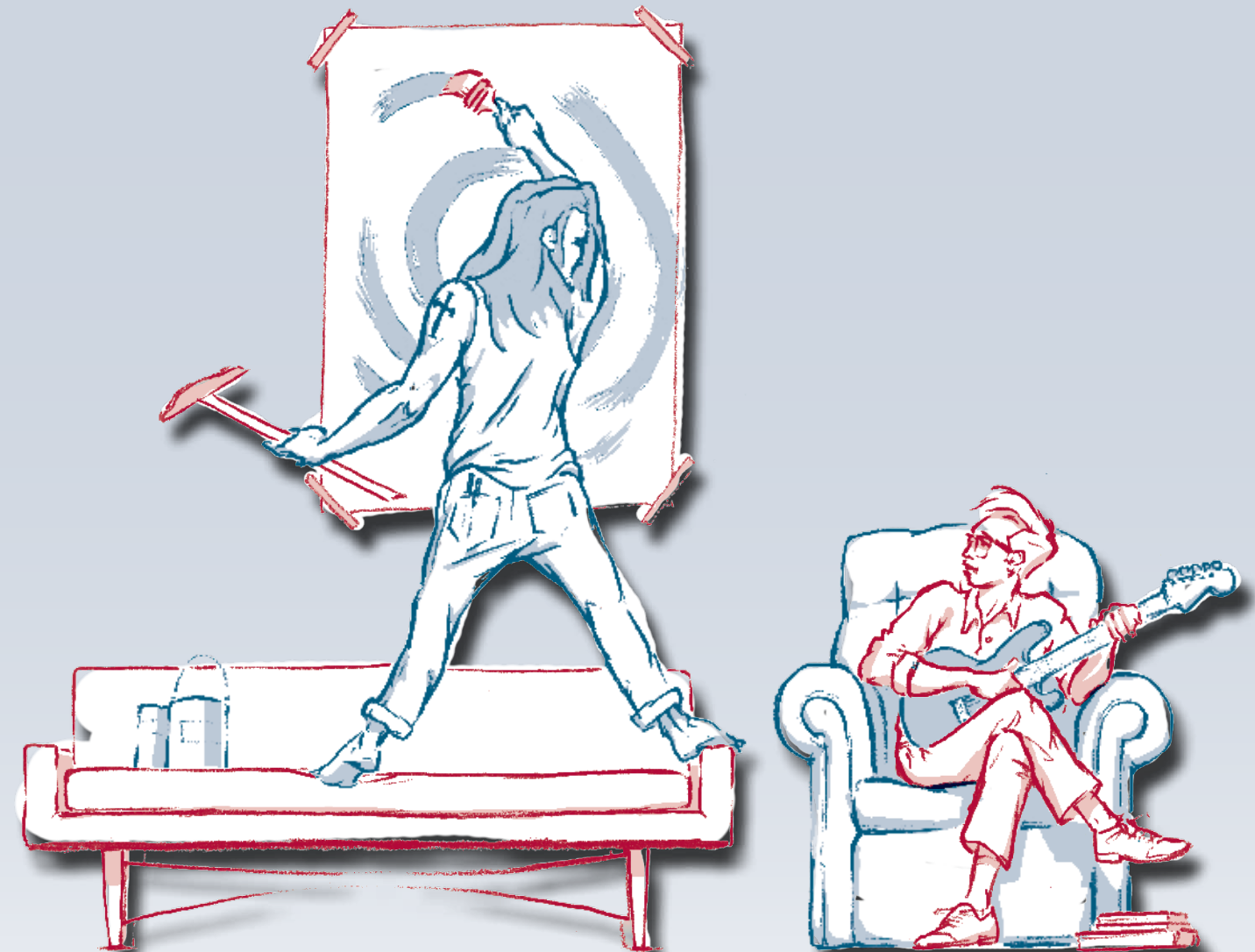
Even in this Facebook age, I still advise college students to let the college assign you a roommate you don't know. Then walk in with no expectations, and even if your roommate doesn't become your BFF, you can learn so much from rooming with someone you didn't choose. The roommate relationship is a microcosm of the most important life relationships. If you keep an open mind, you'll find along the way—or in hindsight—that you learned a ton from rooming with a stranger. One of the lessons might be that anybody can become a friend.

**Dean Van Farowe '96**  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

## Armed with friendship

My freshman roommate was Diane (Auman '96) Te Grotenhuis. We couldn't have had more in common and became fast friends. We shared everything and often stayed up too late talking and laughing. Diane was born without her right arm, but that didn't stop her from accomplishing everything she set out to do. She was a great athlete, student, musician and friend. She inspired me and taught me anything is possible. She's touched so many lives, and I'm grateful mine is one of them. 

**Kristen (Teigland '96) Puttmann**  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA







# MAKING A SCENE

Actors surprise audiences with clean comedy improv

BY AMY SCHEER

To put on a play, actors must memorize scripts and determine where emphasis will be placed. Dialogue and movement are honed in hours of rehearsal until, finally, there is no variation. When the curtain rises and the lights come up, a polished performance is revealed, one which the cast and crew will replicate the following night. To prepare for a weekend show in Omaha, Neb., or a comedy festival in Texas, the actors of 88improv listen to the news. They submit their imaginations to rigorous calisthenics, turning over current events and trivialities of the day. After planning an outline of improvisational games for their show, they arrive relaxed and ready, but not fully prepared for what is to come.

Because what was funny last time—a line, a character choice—will not necessarily amuse tonight’s audience in the same way. The dozens of ideas that raced through Tim Schoenfeld’s brain, of which he used three, will need to be discarded, even if, as might be the case, the audience once again calls out the suggestions “pickle,” “bathroom” and “Arnold Schwarzenegger.”

If a play is a blind date, with each party displaying his or her good side, improvisation is a marriage in its sixth year: still new, yet comfortable—the couple no longer reaching for mouthwash before their morning kiss. The spotlight shines not on one or the other, but is shared.

88improv, in fact, includes a married couple—Tim ’03 and Sarah (Kennedy ’01) Schoenfeld—as well as a pair of siblings (Nate ’02 is Tim’s brother). Steve Hydeen ’02 is practically family; he and Nate roomed together freshman year, and the four have performed together since their years in Black V, a popular improv troupe they helped start at Northwestern. Current students continue the tradition; on a recent visit



Northwestern alumni (left to right) Nate Schoenfeld, Steve Hydeen, Sarah Schoenfeld and Tim Schoenfeld perform regularly as 88improv in the Omaha area and throughout the Midwest.

to campus, 88improv met with the actors, who described to them a comic strategy they often employ.

“Do you know the Café Format?” the students asked, and the 88improv members could only chuckle—they had helped invent it.

Nate moved to Omaha in 2003. The rest of the group, scattered about the Midwest, would converge monthly to perform with him, eventually deciding to pick up their families and settle there permanently.

“At that point, we felt it was important to continue to have this creative expression as part of our lives,” Sarah says. The group intentionally sought out an area not known for improvisation in order to blaze a clean comedic trail.

“We do a different brand,” says Tim. “We don’t do dirty improv. We want to teach the people in Omaha that *this* is what’s funny.”

“To have people laugh,” says Nate, “we take that very seriously.”

The subtext of these actors’ scripts is unusual: No dreaming of names in lights is detected. A concern for the other takes precedence, and it’s a necessary part of their relationships onstage, as well.

“Improv is very selfless” says Steve. “It’s about making your teammates look good. No one knows what will happen next. If I make them look good and they make me look good, we all will succeed.”

The audience, craving a laugh, wants them to succeed. They want 88improv to use “pickle” in a scene because their kid yelled it. They want the actors to override mistakes with a quirky gesture, to “make things

funny that weren’t funny and make sure the audience is taken care of,” explains Tim.

The troupe prefers long-form improv, which gives them more time—45 minutes or so—to take a topic from the global to the personal, pairing the laughter with context and depth.

“We get out there in the political realm in one scene, but then we’ll do nine scenes about how it comes back to you at home,” says Nate. “We take a tender approach. It’s all funny stuff, but at the same time you can walk away from our show and think life’s not as bad as you thought. We say that having some fun is a fine way to live the American dream.”

When they finish performing, the group gets together to debrief before Sarah and Tim run out of babysitting hours (“dinner and a show,” she calls it). They’ll recall that Nate happened to invite an audience member with Down syndrome onto the stage, and how it didn’t matter that the young man, whose arms should have reached around Nate to animate the scene, didn’t move; everyone had a fantastic time.

*Did we rock that out? Check. Did we give the audience the show they deserve?*

88improv had, once again, met and exceeded the rules of engagement. 



Find upcoming shows or book one at [www.88improv.com](http://www.88improv.com)



# IMAGINING NORTHWESTERN'S FUTURE

\$55 million campaign will fund learning commons, student scholarships and new academic programs

BY ANITA CIRULIS



Imagine walking into a room filled to overflowing with all the information in the world, contained in books scattered everywhere with no system of organization. The books have no titles and can only be retrieved by searching their text.

How do you locate what you're looking for? More importantly, how do you judge the reliability of the information you find?

Dr. Tim Schlak, Northwestern's library director, uses that analogy to describe the Internet. In this Information Age of the Web, Kindles and iPads, some believe libraries are a thing of the past. Schlak argues they're more important than ever.

"Think of libraries in this new age of technology as an organized version of that room, providing services that can deal with information overload and address issues of information literacy," he says. "That's the direction we're moving in: teaching students not only how to access information, but how to evaluate it."

On Sept. 30 Northwestern publicly launched the Imagine Campaign—a \$55 million fundraising effort—during a banquet for college donors. Among the campaign's goals is the construction of a learning commons, a building that will house not only the college's library, but its academic support center, writing center, multimedia center and computer help desk.

"We're bringing key departments that are integral to what happens in the classroom and placing them in one convenient, accessible

location," says Schlak. Such an integration of function will better equip Northwestern faculty and staff to help students conduct research, evaluate sources and incorporate what they're learning into their own work and thinking.

At \$15 million, the learning commons is a key component of the campaign, which has already resulted in more than \$35 million in gifts and pledges. A \$2 million gift in April by Jack and Mary DeWitt of Holland, Mich., played a key role in fundraising efforts as other donors followed their lead. President Greg Christy and members of Northwestern's advancement staff are anticipating another \$1 million gift from other donors in the near future, leaving \$3.3 million left to raise for the building.

"The end of the calendar year is always an important time for giving," says Christy. "Having raised over \$1 million in recent months, there's great momentum to complete the funding and make this dream a reality."

Other campaign goals include raising \$8 million for student scholarships; \$8 million in deferred giving through wills, bequests, trusts and annuities; and \$5 million for facilities improvement—such as the recent renovation of the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center's four-court gymnasium.

Another \$9 million will be earmarked for strategic initiatives, including funding for new academic programs; developing an online learning curriculum; strengthening co-curricular, experiential and



I M A G I N E  
 A C A M P A I G N F O R N O R T H W E S T E R N

	GOAL	GIFTS & PLEDGES
Learning Commons	\$15 million	\$10.7 million
Northwestern Fund	10 million	7.6 million
Strategic initiatives	9 million	4.6 million
Scholarships	8 million	6.1 million
Deferred giving	8 million	4.9 million
Facilities improvement	5 million	2.0 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55 million</b>	<b>\$35.9 million</b>

\*Funds raised as of Oct. 31, 2011

imagine.nwciowa.edu

Go online to learn more about the Imagine Campaign, make a gift and track the progress toward each goal.

intercultural programs; providing resources for academic support and advising; and establishing endowed professorships to support faculty recruitment and retention.

A \$10 million goal for the Northwestern Fund over the course of the campaign will help fund the college's operational budget through annual unrestricted gifts.

While all of these goals will play a vital role in strengthening Northwestern, it's the learning commons that will arguably make the biggest impact on campus. The three-story, 58,000-square-foot building will be constructed just west of Christ Chapel, representing in a tangible way the integration of faith and learning that takes place at Northwestern.

Schlak, who holds a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, envisions the learning commons as a center for intellectual, scholarly and cultural dialogue. Gone are the days, he says, when the only option for students in a library was to sit quietly, reading or studying on their own.

"That's how learning used to look," he says. "We've moved from a very individualized approach toward a collaborative paradigm in which students partner and dialogue with each other. The current generation of students is very keen on learning in this way, and this building will support that learning style."

Northwestern's Ramaker Library has just one group study room, and Schlak says that room is always occupied. Students even commandeer areas—such as the children's library—that weren't designed as group study space in their search for places to work together.

In contrast, the learning commons will have nine group study rooms, plus another five that can accommodate up to two people. Many of the group study rooms will be equipped with high-definition television screens with ports for USB flash drives, laptops and cameras, allowing students, for example, to practice a PowerPoint group presentation with their peers.

This emphasis on technology will permeate the learning commons—from the multimedia center where students can review music and films to the walk-up computer kiosks where guests can check their email or search for a book upon entering the library.

There's also a 32-computer reference classroom where students will be taught research skills.

Other informal student study space will include a coffee shop on the main floor and a 12,000-square-foot community room on the second floor, with expansive views of Zwemer Hall, Christ Chapel and the campus green.

College officials have actually scaled back, from earlier plans, the space dedicated to shelves of books. Book ordering trends are down—students access journal articles as often as they do books—and Schlak is in the process of working with faculty to winnow from Northwestern's collection those volumes that are either out of date or not intended for an undergraduate curriculum.

"It used to be that the quality of a collection was measured by its size," he says. "I measure success in how often these items are being used. We shouldn't raise funds for a building to house books that are no longer relevant to a liberal arts, undergraduate curriculum."

Once that winnowing process is completed, Schlak anticipates moving a collection of 100,000 volumes, which would fill the shelves

to just under the 70 percent of capacity recommended for optimal browsing. With a continued commitment to electronic books and resources, however, Schlak hopes to have a total of 200,000 books and e-books in the collection by year's end.

Further room for expansion will be provided by a shelving-on-rails system to be housed in the lower level of the learning commons. Though

the storage space isn't needed now, the railing will be installed in the floor so shelves can easily be added in the future.

Those involved in talking to Northwestern alumni and friends about the Imagine Campaign are excited about its potential for

advancing the college's mission and touching students' lives.

"We have a sterling academic reputation, but this project, along with some curricular improvements we are developing, will transform how learning takes place at Northwestern," says Christy. "The new learning commons will impact every academic department on campus and launch us to an even greater level of scholarly excellence."

Whether it's the learning commons or some other aspect of the Imagine Campaign, Jay Wielenga, Northwestern's vice president for advancement, believes the variety of goals and projects will appeal to the many people who support the college financially.

"While the learning commons is the most pressing, or visible, part of this campaign, there are opportunities for individuals and organizations to give to Northwestern in a variety of ways," he says. "People need to consider a gift where their passion lies, and the Imagine Campaign enables them to do that."





## The Book Brigade

BY ANITA CIRULIS

The line of students and faculty snaked into the main entrance of Zwemer Hall, up the steps to the building's second and third floors down the back fire escape, over to the newly constructed Ramaker Library—and back to Zwemer Hall.

The wooden pop bottle crates they carried as they left Zwemer were full of books; those same crates were empty on the return trip to Zwemer. And so it was, on a winter day in February 1964, that the entire contents of Northwestern's library were moved from Zwemer to their new home.

"We did it in one day, but we didn't have too many books back then," quips Virg Muilenburg

'62, who was in his first year of teaching biology at NWC.

After 47 years, memories are fuzzy regarding how long the transfer of books took or how many people helped. Helen Van Wechel, the head librarian, planned the effort. Dave Van Engelenhoven '65, the student body president, recruited the volunteers.

"Classes were canceled," Van Engelenhoven says. "We didn't have a lack of person-power, even though the great majority of students at that time were commuters."

The ready availability of volunteers probably stemmed from their eagerness to begin using the new library. Van Engelenhoven

remembers the old library in Zwemer being "very cramped, with almost more books than could fit in the space and not much study area at all."

Ramaker Library, built for \$357,000, was designed to hold 100,000 volumes and provide seating for 250 students. Groundbreaking for the 29,000-square-foot building took place during Homecoming on Oct. 13, 1962. It was opened for use on Feb. 17, 1964—just four days after the book brigade filed its shelves.

"It was a night-and-day difference," remembers Van Engelenhoven. "Here was this beautiful new building with all the windows on the north side and

way more space than it seemed to need at that point and all kinds of study areas. It was seen as a huge improvement to the campus."

Among those celebrating Ramaker's opening was Dr. Sylvio Scorza, a religion professor. Rendered a paraplegic after a car accident, he had been unable to use the library in Zwemer because of its location two stories above the ground floor.

Ramaker Library, by contrast, had a ramp leading to the front entrance and an elevator to book stacks on the second floor, making the library fully accessible—and filing Scorza with one emotion as he watched the books being carried into their new home: joy.

## class Notes

'65 **The Rev. Duane Moret**, Harbor City, Calif., recently created an interfaith board game called "webelieve2," available from Amazon.com.

'67 **Dr. Brian Beltman** retired after 31 years with SCANA Inc., a Fortune 500 company providing energy services in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. He was the senior analyst for regulatory compliance. He also taught history for over 40 years, including appointments at Hamilton College, Dartmouth College, Arizona State University and the University of South Carolina. He recently completed his fifth book, *Transplanters on the Grasslands*, a rural ethnic social history focused on Dutch Americans in Iowa and South Dakota in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

'71 **The Rev. Ray Tilstra** is the teaching pastor at New Life Reformed Church in Sioux Center. He was previously senior pastor of First Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa.

'77 **Richard Keith**, Preston, Minn., is the new superintendent of the Fillmore Central School District. He previously served as a superintendent and elementary principal in Britt, Iowa.

'79 An exhibit by **Dr. Timothy Westcott**, associate professor of history at Park University, was on display at the Campanella Gallery in Parkville, Mo., this fall. Entitled "Platte County's Civil War," it highlighted the economic, military and social aspects of the American Civil War in one Missouri county.

'80 **David Menning** recently completed a three-year term as the vice president of admissions for the Casualty Actuarial Society. He is the director for countrywide pricing at the State Farm Insurance corporate office in Bloomington, Ill.

## Red Ties

**MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81**  
Director of Alumni Relations

During my 30 years on the campus of Northwestern, one of the biggest transitions I've watched every year is the one that happens when two people who may not know each other move into a 12-by-12-foot space together. Gone are the days of siblings bunking together at home, so most students today enter college never having shared a room.

So are there a lot more roommate problems? Not necessarily. In fact, the sense of community at Northwestern seems stronger than ever. Northwestern's residence life professionals encourage roommates and wing mates to respect each other. They teach students that living with someone different from you is an opportunity to learn and grow in ways that will serve you the rest of your life.

Northwestern is committed to building community for many reasons, the most important of which is to fulfill the part of our mission statement that describes Northwestern as an "academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning"—learning that takes place in far more spaces than just our classrooms.

We think the lessons you learn through residence life are important enough to require the majority (nearly 90 percent) of our students to live on campus. The ability to form, sustain and nurture relationships with the people you're stuck living, working or serving with is invaluable in college and beyond.

I was once advised, "Having a good roommate has a lot to do with *being* a good roommate." That was true when I lived at Northwestern, and it's been true living with my wife and three kids. If this issue's stories make you want to reconnect with a roommate who taught you how to get along, contact the alumni office, and we'll do our best to match you up again.



Northwestern's fifth annual Day of Learning in Community will include lessons in difference and togetherness—among people, cultures, ideologies. If you have a story about what separates and connects us, consider sharing it on Feb. 15. To explore how you might become involved—including whether you could be reimbursed for travel expenses to visit campus—contact DLC planner Jill Haarsma '95: 712-707-7100 | jhaarsma@nwcioa.edu





Dawn Wieking and her husband, Kim, have logged thousands of miles following their sons, (left to right) Braden, Brett, Bryant and Blake, to athletic events.

Overtime Is Quality Time

Over the course of a weekend in the late '90s, the four Wieking boys played sports in four different cities spanning several states: Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and somewhere else their mother can't remember.

"It's a blur, to be honest," says Dawn (Te Brink '80) Wieking on the early years raising star athletes who are six years apart. "The e were times we had supper in the van three nights in a row."

In this traveling diner and a house-turned-locker room in Sioux Falls, S.D., Wieking and her husband, Kim '80, clocked quality fam-ily overtime with their sons. Brett '06, Blake '08 and Bryant '10 all played soccer at Northwestern; the youngest, Braden, is a kicker for the archrival University of Sioux Falls football team.

"We always taught our boys to respect their opponents," she says. "In life, too. I'm not very athletic myself, but I can appreciate the les-sons they've learned through sports."

Wieking serves as president of the National Alumni Board, a role she defines as listening to oung people and meeting their needs. Those skils, honed en route to hundreds of games, now serve scholarship students and others on campus, making this mother a Northwestern champ both on and off the fiel


BY AMY SCHEER

'85 **Randy Ehlers** was named executive director of Siouxland PACE, a program that provides assistance and support to senior adults in the Sioux City area. He previously served as director of Rock County Family Service Agency in Luverne, Minn.

'96 **Allison (Petersen) Eitreim** teaches elementary special education in Adrian, Minn.

**Kristin (Falksen) Knoke** and her husband, Mark, recently lost a 5-month-old son, Andrew Michael. He is survived by brothers Jonathan (5), Jordan (4) and Matthew (2). The family lives in Ankeny, Iowa.

'97 **Deb Schleusener** received a master's degree in global leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary in June. She now lives in Seattle, where she hopes to work in nonprofit fundraising development. She also does freelance copy editing and grant writing consultation.



Time to publish a new alumni directory. When you get the card asking for your Raider informa-tion verification, please respond. You'll be offered the chance to purchase a directory, which will be published next summer.

**Jennie (Wolf) Smith** will leave her job as director of the Northwestern Fund in December to become an independent fun-draising consultant with Gronlund Sayther Brunkow.

'99 **Josh Thomas** is a professor of exercise science at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

'00 **Michael Greller** was the caddie for Jordan Spieth when the 17-year-old won the U.S. Junior Amateur title at Gold Mountain Golf Club in Bremerton, Wash., in July. Greller, a sixth grade teacher at Narrows View Intermediate School in University Place, Wash., caddies about a dozen times a year.

'02 **Cam Smith** is the principal of Atlantic (Iowa) Middle School. His wife, **Anita (Aeikens '01)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

**Dr. Judd Swensen**, West Union, Iowa, is president of Swensen Family Chiropractic Clinic.

'03 **Shannon Gorres**, a Master of Divinity degree student at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla., has received a 2011 Fund for Theological Education (FTE) Congregational Fellow-ship. She also attended the FTE Leaders in Ministry Conference in New Orleans in June. She was nominated by her congregation, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Lawrence, Kan.

'04 **The Rev. Jason Grow** is pastor of Bondurant (Iowa) Christian Church.

**Brooke Oehme** serves as coordinator of volunteerism and service learning at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids.

**Dr. Alan Smit** was recently awarded the Dennis Darnell Memorial Scholarship by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. He graduated from Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and is an associate veterinarian at Sioux Center Veterinary Clinic.

'05 **Jesse Aguilera**, The Woodlands, Texas, is an engineer for LEAM Drilling Systems.

**Leah (Seehusen) Stam** teaches first grade at Oskaloosa (Iowa) Christian School.

'06 **Nic Boersma** is a research associate in the agronomy department at Iowa State University. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in plant biology, working with bioenergy crops.

**Sara Brinks**, Marshall, Minn., is a human resources analyst for the Schwan Food Company.

**Scott Brouwer** graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a master's degree in history and another in library and information science, with an archival studies concentration. In addition to

working at the Shorewood Public Library, he is an intern in the history department of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

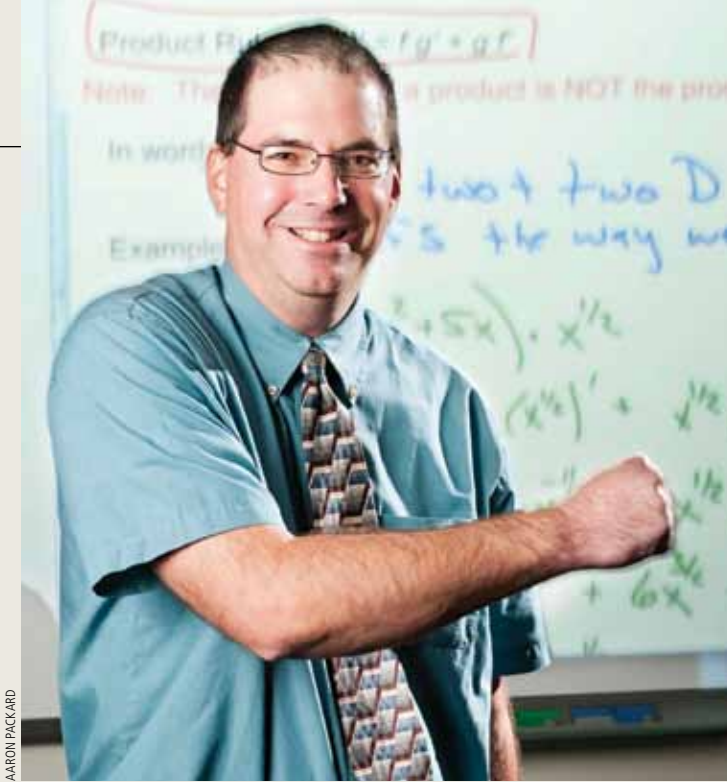
**Jim Ellis** has resigned from his position as middle school ministry director at Sun-nybrook Community Church in Sioux City, Iowa, and will spend 2012 running across the state of Iowa. While crisscrossing the state for a total of 1,500 miles, he will speak to numerous schools, churches and organi-zations, challenging people to discover and use their God-given abilities well. If you would like to host Jim or arrange for him to speak in your community during his journey, contact him at AwakeMySole@gmail.com.

**Michael Holm** completed a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is an applied research mathematician for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Md.



Start someone's engine with a Northwestern College coffee tumbler or key ring for Christmas. Shop for these and other gifts on the NWC Bookstore website.

bookstore.nwciowa.edu



Dan Van Peursem uses music to help his students at the University of South Dakota learn math.

Math Notes

Standing outside a college math classroom, probably the last thing you expect to hear is music—certainly not rapping, for example, or lyrical chanting. But the oddity of such practice hasn't stopped Dr. Dan Van Peursem '89 from getting his groove on.

Chair of the math department at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, Van Peursem incorporates many diverse teaching methods, including mnemonic devices and getting his students to chant, stomp their feet and sing.

The e's the playful—but effective—"Derivative Song": "One d two plus two d one, that's the way we get'er done," sung to the familiar tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." And Van Peursem describes "The uotient Rule" as a rap that requires the whole class to "do some b-bop in the background" while they chant "low d high minus high d low, you draw that line and square below."

Van Peursem says that while the exercises are highly entertaining, they also engage the students in learning. He admits his students may be less likely to remember him as someone passionate about math than "the crazy, excitable person in front of the room who will do virtually anything to get his students to learn."

BY DAVID GUTCHE '11



**Tyler Parson** serves as pastor of Cross-Ridge Church in Holstein, Iowa.

**Ryan Simmelink** teaches fourth grade at Adams Elementary in Carroll, Iowa. He recently completed a master's degree in educational leadership at Drake University.

**'07 Alicia Driscoll** is a clinician at the Center for Psychosocial Development in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Stephanie Hulstein** graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She is completing a five-year residency in otolaryngology at the University of Iowa Hospital.

**Breann Sechler**, Brooklyn Center, Minn., is an SEC reporting analyst for Imation Corp.

**'08 Emily Carris** is a bilingual investor specialist at The Principal in Des Moines.

**Anthony Ebert** is co-director of bands at The Classical Academy in Colorado Springs.

**Kendra (Van't Hof) Heitritter** teaches kindergarten in Rock Valley, Iowa. She and her husband, **Joseph**, have a daughter, Lucy (1).

**'10 Jessica (Vander Velde) Glanzer** and her husband, **Tyler**, both teach math at Perry (Iowa) High School.

**Andrew Klumpp** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

**Rachel (Kleinsasser) Schuur** teaches second grade in the dual language program of the Sioux City Community Schools.

**Hannah (Watters) White** is site coordinator for the Zach Johnson Foundation's Kids on Course program at Harrison Elementary School in Cedar Rapids. The foundation was started by Zach Johnson, a professional golfer from Cedar Rapids, to give back to his community. Her husband, **Greg '11**, is immigrant/refugee coordinator for the Catherine McAuley Center.

**'11 Laura (Briggs) Crippin**, Northwood, Iowa, teaches third grade at Northwood-Kensett Elementary School.

**Katherine Hielkema** teaches music for the Andes Central School District in Lake Andes, S.D.

**Clayton Hjelmeland**, Montezuma, Iowa, is a junior high math teacher.

**Laura Starr** teaches Spanish at two Waconia, Minn., elementary schools.

New Arrivals

Jill and **Jay McKinstrey '86**, daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, joins Casey (16), Corin (13) and Anna (3)  
Richard and **Susanne (Caines '91) Bolt**, son, Seth Richard, joins Ashley (3)  
Stuart and **Kellie (Gregg '95) Hogg**, daughter, Eibhlin Mardell, joins Elspeth (5) and Eoin (3)  
Allison and **Scott Van Aartsen '95**, daughter, Sarah Claire, joins Benjamin (10), twins Anna and Grant (6), and Jacob (1)  
Tomm and **Allison (Petersen '96) Eitreim**, son, Greysen Kingsley, joins Chandler (12) and Ashton (7)  
Suzanne and **Matthew Jahn '97**, daughter, Emilia Grace, joins Lynnette (7), Aubrianna (5) and Elisabeth (2)  
Jeffrey and **Sally (Ruisch '97) Orlando**, son, Ryker J  
Jonathan and **Jennifer (Hubers '99) Bentz**, son, Landon Jay, joins Hannah (6) and Zachariah (3)  
Jason and **Sarah (TeBrink '99) Hendel**, daughter, Mackenna Emalee, joins Cael (3)  
Virginia and **Dan Houston '00**, son, Sawyer Daniel, joins Sadie (4) and Silas (1)

SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by Jan. 5 to:

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classic@nwc Iowa.edu • classic.nwc Iowa.edu



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# SPREAD RED

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Make the gift-giving season last with Northwestern's annual Gala Auction. Donate to the auction. And, starting in January, bid online for collectibles, toys, trips and more.

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


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June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour) & summer 2013 (bike tour)  
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Led by Dr. James '84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Nella Kennedy  
*Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.*

**ISRAEL**  
June 29–July 12, 2012  
\$3,850 + airfare  
Led by Rev. Marlin '70 and Sally Vis and Dr. Jerry '71 and Kim Van Es  
*Visit Bethlehem, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.*

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloemendaal—[alumni@nwc Iowa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwc Iowa.edu) or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:  
[www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour](http://www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour)  
[www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour](http://www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour)







When Laura Jacobson graduated from William & Mary School of Law this past spring, several Hispanic families threw a party to express their appreciation for her service to their community.

Law Practice

For the average law student, course work alone can sap every second of free time, so there’s little left for interacting with the community or giving back.

Laura Jacobson ’08, the 2011 recipient of the William & Mary School of Law’s prestigious Thur ood Marshall Award for public service, isn’t average.

“I went to law school because I wanted to do public service after graduation,” she says, “so it seemed obvious to serve while I was there.”

Th ough her work with a local church’s Hispanic ministry, Jacobson discovered a need for legal information among the immigrant population of Williamsburg, Va.

“People had problems with landlords, or bosses not paying them, or even domestic issues like child custody, and they had very little idea how the system worked,” she says.

Jacobson started a program to connect students with immigrants, calling it De Vecino a Vecino (From Neighbor to Neighbor) to highlight the focus on partnership.

“We’ve been able to provide immigrants with a caring and trustworthy resource in issues that produce a lot of confusion and anxiety,” she says. In turn, students get valuable legal experience and the opportunity to serve.

Jacobson has since graduated, but she’s confident the seed she planted will continue to grow in the community, with both students and immigrants reaping the rewards.

BY SARAH ASP OLSON ’03

- Kim (Verburg ’00) and Dan Peterson ’00, daughter, Lydia Jo, joins Jenna (9), Ella (7) and Amelia (3)

Sara (Katzenberger ’00) and Tom Schol- tens ’00, daughter, Annika Joy, joins Nathaniel (5) and Josiah (3)

Katy and JP Sundararajan ’00, son, Reu- ben Alagar, joins Leila (3)

Melanie (Poppen ’01) and Chad Odens ’02, son, Luke William

Vicki (Dykstra ’01) and Justin Schrock ’01, daughter, Naomi Kay, joins Angelique (9), Caleb (7), Emilee (5), and twins Miya and Kira (2)

Chad and TJ (Hoftzyer ’01) Simington, daughter, Selah Hope, joins Caleb (5), Avery (4) and Olivia (2)

Tamara and Tim Breen ’02, daughter, Selah Danae, joins Jericho (2)

Renae and Adam Sperling ’02, son, Graham Greg, joins Micah (2)

Kyle and Stacy (Wittler ’03) Berck, son, Ryan Neal, joins Abby (3) and Kaity (1)

Michael and Sarah Asp Olson ’03, daugh-
- ter, Cora June

Stephanie (Gunderson ’04) and Nic Boersma ’06, daughter, Ellsey Jean

Ashley (DeBower ’05) and Ryan Musil ’05, daughter, Evelyn Modesta, joins Riley (5) and Sophia (2)

Daniel and Shanna (Vetter ’05) Tadic, son, Trevor Nikolai

Hannah (Vander Helm ’06) and Michael Holm ’06, son, Wesley Thomas

Bobby and Jenna (Schweitzer ’06) John- son, son, Ryer Steven, joins Laiken (3) and Dreleigh (2)

Kali (Carroll ’06) and Dan Johnston ’05, daughter, Elizabeth Kate, joins Caroline (2)

Willem and Tessa Drijfhout-Rosier ’06, son, Jissia Eliezer

Luke and Brooke (Sliefert ’07) Nielsen, daughter, Kendall Grace

Sally (Blezien ’09) and Jake Hockinson ’07, son, Gavin Paul

Bethany (Landegent ’09) and Carson Norine ’09, son, Jackson John

Always knew you’d be a Raider?

Thought you were applying to Northwestern *University* when you filled out your app? Everyone’s road to NWC is diff rent. Tell us how you wound up at Northwestern for a future story in the *Classic*.

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Marriages

- Brooke Fister ’03 and Jason Silberhorn, Rockford, Ill.
- Tara Van Peursem ’03 and Michael Stegmann, Naperville, Ill.
- Jaime Woudstra ’04 and Scott Meyer, Fort Collins, Colo.
- Leah Seehusen ’05 and Caleb Stam, Leighton, Iowa
- Chad Hatting ’06 and Katherine Kaihoi, Waukee, Iowa
- Amanda Wright ’09 and Jeff DeWit, Osage Beach, Mo.
- Megan Redlin ’10 and Tim De Haan ’10, Creston, Iowa
- Laura Briggs ’11 and Alex Crippin, Northwood, Iowa
- Nicole Ellingson ’11 and Jameson Guthmiller ’09, Coralville, Iowa
- Ally Fischer ’11 and Matthew Skelton ’11, Aurora, Colo.
- Sara Horn ’11 and Daniel Solis ’11, Waco, Texas
- LeAnn Johnson ’11 and Clayton Hjelmeland ’11, Montezuma, Iowa
- Jennifer Nilson ’11 and Jacob Parsons ’10, Aurora, Colo.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

- Edna (Smedley ’41) Den Herder, age 90, died July 5 in Sioux Center. She and her husband, Gerald, farmed for nearly 40 years. She was a member of First Reformed Church. She is survived by three children, including Jerry ’69.
- Howard Heemstra ’46, ’48, died July 22 in Ames, Iowa, at age 82. He received degrees in architecture from Iowa State University and Cranbrook Academy of Art. He was a registered architect for several firms for 12 years and served as project architect of the award-winning C.Y. Stephens Auditorium at Iowa State University. He taught architecture at Iowa State for 37 years. He is survived by two brothers, John ’39, ’41 and Raymond ’43, ’45.
- The Rev. Dr. Harvard Krui- zenga ’58, age 73, died June 19 in Holland, Mich. He graduated from Central College, Western Theological Seminary and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He served two RCA churches in South Dakota and later served Presbyterian churches in Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Ravina, and two children.
- James Lancaster ’69, of Ida Grove, Iowa, died July 29 at age 64. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a master’s degree from the University of South Dakota. He taught at the University of South Dakota, Western Iowa Tech Com- munity College and in the Ida Grove school system. He later started Lancaster Painting. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Among his survivors are his wife, Jean; a brother; and a sister.
- Jewel (Vander Pol ’80) Klein, of Frisco, Texas, died from breast cancer on June 7 at age 53. After receiving a degree in interior design from Iowa State University, she moved to Dallas to pursue a career in kitchen design. She was also a BeautiCon- trol Image Consultant. She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Lewisville, where she served as a deacon and on many committees. In addition to her husband, Lance, and two sons, she is survived by three siblings: Lyle ’71, Harry ’74 and Roberta Brightman ’84.
- Philip Van Oort ’89, age 45, died Aug. 6 in Denver, after a battle with neuroendo- crine pancreatic cancer. After college, he taught English in China and Japan with the Reformed Church’s mission program. In ad- dition to his wife, Jennifer, and two sons, he is survived by his mother, Josephine (Boender ’48), and four siblings, includ- ing Jolene ’81, Harlan ’82 and LuAnne Vander Horst ’84.



Marv DeWitt of Zeeland, Mich., the greatest benefactor in Northwestern’s history, died Aug. 5 at the age of 92.

DeWitt and his wife, Jerene, gave over \$6.75 million to the college, supporting every capital building project over the last 30 years. Buildings named in honor of them include DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, DeWitt Music Hall, DeWitt Physical Fitness Center and DeWitt-Cook Athletic Arena.

DeWitt got involved with NWC in 1978 at the encour- agement of his Reformed church pastor. He served

on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees for nine years and was one of the leaders in convincing the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Jerene have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philan- thropy. The challenge they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable. Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive, ‘can-do’ attitude to the board and administrators, and he will be dearly missed.”

DeWitt, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from North- western in 1988, said in 2003 that he enjoyed giving toward brick-and-mortar projects. “When you build something, it lasts a long time and impacts generations of students who go on to make a difference in the world.”

DeWitt and his brother, Bill, began raising turkeys in 1938 on their parents’ farm. Starting with just 17 turkeys, BilMar Foods grew to become one of the nation’s larg- est turkey processors before it was purchased by the Sara Lee Corporation in 1987.

Among DeWitt’s survivors are his wife; seven children; 23 grandchildren; and 62 great-grandchildren.



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www.matchinggifts.com/nwc Iowa



# Classic Thought

## Libraries: Beyond the Walls

BY JANNA DYKSTRA SMITH '77

Books have always had a place in my life. I remember, when I was 10 years old, a catechism teacher reading aloud *Escape to Life* by Gladyn Condor, about a boy in East Berlin who escaped across the wall to the West. The description of how he savored an orange for the very first time captivated me.

It was at Northwestern where I first read *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis, the Christian apologist. This book was pure genius. Lewis used the letters between the senior demon Screwtape and the junior tempter Wormwood as a clever, backhanded way of teaching about Christianity.

Three friends and I once spent the night among the books in Ramaker Library, making popcorn in Senator Hoeven's office. (I want to set the record straight, though: It was not my idea to hang the portraits of Northwestern's presidents upside down.)

As an elementary education major, I had a work-study job at the Orange City Public Library that convinced me to pursue a library career, but it would be a while before that happened. After teaching for two years, I spent a summer traveling throughout Europe. While there, I learned that teaching positions were available on U.S. military bases, so I decided to apply. That August, I flew to Bad Hersfeld, Germany, to teach first grade.

The city was about six miles away from the Iron Curtain, the metal fence between East and West Germany. Despite the harsh realities of the border, it was a magical land on the west side of the barrier. I enjoyed wandering through the villages where the Brothers Grimm had collected their fairy tales. I saw my first Gutenberg Bible in the Fulda Bibliothek (Library). And I met a young cavalry lieutenant, whom I married the next summer.

I followed my husband to Fort Knox, which gave me the opportunity to complete a master's degree in library science. We had three sons, the military required a few more moves, and we returned to Germany, where we were living in 1989 when the fall of the Berlin Wall occurred. We watched the East

German cars (Trabants) pouring across the border near Bad Hersfeld, which had made international news because the city was wiped out of bananas within hours. It made me think of *Escape to Life*, the book I was so intrigued with as a 10-year-old.

After the wall fell, the military drawdown began. Army posts that had operated since World War II were suddenly deactivated. Each base had a post library. It was encouraging to learn that rather than shipping the books back to the States, most of them were sent to libraries in Eastern Europe.

Once my husband retired from the military, my career stabilized and I became a library media specialist at a middle school in Jefferson, Wis. I became involved in the Veterans History Project through the Library of Congress. My students and I interviewed soldiers and others who had experienced war. Catharina Voorwinde, a Dutch woman who as a child was in a Japanese prison camp in Sumatra, was memorable, as she required us to read a number of books before agreeing to answer any questions. Her story can be read at [www.tinyurl.com/wartimeremembrances](http://www.tinyurl.com/wartimeremembrances).

I was able to work with architects to design a modern library when a new Jefferson Middle School was built, so I share the excitement Northwestern's librarians must feel about building a new learning commons and library. We are in a fascinating time for libraries as we figure out how to utilize digital readers, e-books and other technologies. Libraries now extend beyond the traditional four walls.

Three years ago I transferred to a neighboring district. I am still a middle school librarian, but now to nearly 700 students. It is a challenging job, but I love it. Our students are at an interesting age. There are some great books written for this level (although, personally, I hope the vampire craze ends soon).

Things are looking up. Last week a student checked out *The Screwtape Letters*.

**Janna Dykstra Smith, a native of Hull, Iowa, is a library media specialist in Elkhorn, Wis. Her husband, Steve, is a library media specialist in Milton, Wis., and one of their sons is a librarian at Kennedy-King College in Chicago.**



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# Sister Act

When Amelia Thies moved into the third south floor of Fern Smith Hall in August, the anxiety of starting college was lessened by the fact that she knew her roommate, Emma. In fact, they had always been roommates. And a third sister, Paige, was just down the hall.

The triplets—daughters of Don and Peggi (Vander Linden '91) Thies of rural Melvin, Iowa—didn't originally plan to attend the same college, but as they searched, Northwestern seemed like the best fit for all of them.

"They weren't ready yet to make that break," says Peggi.

And, besides, by living on the same floor at the same school, they would still be able to share things like blow-dryers, shampoo and clothes.

