Northwestern College Magazine the College Magazine

College 101 Northwestern launches

Northwestern launches First-Year Seminar for new students

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Also

Inside the DeWitt Learning Commons Celebrating the Imagine Campaign Rodeo Rider

Modern yet warm, with plenty of natural light, the Jack & Mary DeWitt Learning Commons opened this fall to rave reviews.

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Classic People

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

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

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

On the cover:

Designed as an introduction to college, Northwestern's new First-Year Seminar provides freshmen with a place to connect while they explore life's most important questions.

PHOTO BY DOUG BURG







Imagine Big Changes

A new grand entrance was among the capital projects funded by the Imagine Campaign, which raised \$48 million to transform student learning on and off campus.

Learning in Community

Northwestern launches the First-Year Seminar, a course designed to help freshmen adjust to college, connect with each other, and discover their role in God's world.

Saddle Up

Cowgirl Erin Van Horn is Northwestern's one-woman rodeo team.

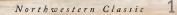
On the Web

Your Turn Share comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

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Zwemer View



More Than We Could Have Imagined

e celebrated the achievements of the Imagine Campaign during Raider Days Homecoming and Family Weekend. More than \$48 million was contributed by alumni, parents, friends, businesses and churches in support of the largest fundraising effort in the history of Northwestern College. We are so grateful for every donor and every gift!

The centerpiece of the Imagine Campaign is the new boulevard and plaza entrance and the beautiful Jack & Mary DeWitt Learning Commons, which have transformed our campus. Dedicating this long-anticipated building reminded me of April 13, 2011, a day I'll never forget.

Jack and Mary, along with their grandson and five of his friends, were in Orange City for a campus visit. My wife, Michelle, and I had lunch with Jack and Mary after they had interacted with students, attended chapel and taken a campus tour. Over dessert, Jack said the visit had moved them to give \$2 million to Northwestern—in addition to the \$1 million they'd already given earlier in the campaign for the learning commons.

With tears in my eyes, I told Jack I didn't know what to say other than, "Praise God!" And with tears in his eyes he responded, "That's right. Praise God! We're just so glad we're able to do it."

Jack and Mary love Northwestern. Mary says she senses the Holy Spirit at work on our campus and sees something in our students that's different from those at other colleges. Jack's parents, Marv and Jerene, got Mary and him involved in giving to the college more than 30 years ago. They continue their family's rich legacy of commitment to the college because they know our students will leave this place better prepared to impact the world for the cause of Christ.

Donors gave for other projects as well: scholarships, the Northwestern Fund, mission trips, Rowenhorst Student Center renovations and new academic initiatives. As those who attended our recent Donor Appreciation Banquet heard, there are many reasons why donors choose to give their hard-earned dollars.

One 1969 graduate said it this way: "I appreciate the knowledge Northwestern gave me to not only be successful in business, but also to realize what is really important in life. I feel that more so today than ever before. We need college graduates with Christian values to spread the love of Jesus Christ."

We are humbled and grateful for all who invested in the mission and ministry of Northwestern these last several years. As the apostle Paul said, "We thank our God upon every remembrance of each of you." May God bless you richly for your generous, faithful and-in many cases-sacrificial support. Praise be to God!

Greg Christy President



Follow President Christy at Twitter.com/NWC_PGC

in Box

Reminiscing

I read about Dr. [Syl] Scorza in the recent issue of the *Classic*. What a great man and tremendous asset to Northwestern for many years. He used to play chess with my father at our house on Albany. (My father [Joe] was dean of students from 1954 to about 1971.) My, oh my, how time flies.

Donald De Vries '60

San Jose, Calif.

Man of God

[That was] an excellent piece on Dr. Scorza. I had a stare-down contest with him and won. He is well-grounded and an excellent man of God. I love him dearly.

Roger Wyngarden '64

Constantine, Mich.

What About Native Americans?

Thank you for the article on the very driven Dr. Scorza. I was especially happy to learn I wasn't the only student to discover his class was tough. I remember well the test on the building of the tabernacle. What were the dimensions again? Needless to say, I was not too proud to take my report card home to my dad, the Rev. Andrew Meyer. He wasn't happy, to say the least.

Dr. Scorza will be happy to know I recently completed a Bible study on the building of the tabernacle, and this time it sunk in. What a great thing it is to mature as a human being and as a Christian. I am grateful for his patience and grace with the immature student I was in 1972.

[Regarding the Of Course article "Studying Slavery"]: I am curious why this [issue] require[s] a separate course rather than including it in the study of American history.

How was this deemed more important than what was done to Native Americans, for instance? They were targeted and killed through starvation and warfare. Those who survived were taken from their homes, cheated and stolen from. Today alcoholism is prevalent on their reservations and, unless the young leave their homes and families, they can expect a shorter life expectancy like their elders. Yet all we seem to hear about is what happened to the black population. If there is not a course dedicated to the history of [Native Americans], something is wrong!

Why not treat people equally by studying all of American history in its entirety? [Until] we all stop promoting one race to the exclusion of another, we will never enjoy true equality.

Cindy (Meyer '76) Jensen *Dawsonville, Ga.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The course, Slavery, Separation, Redemption,

Reconciliation, was a special topics religion course focused on narratives that helped students understand oppression and reconciliation. While it had a heavy focus on slavery in the U.S., it also covered oppression in biblical times and included study of the Trail of Tears and the Dakota–U.S. War of 1862. The history department offers two courses providing an overview of American history and a number of more focused classes, including The American West and American Indian Societies and Cultures, both of which cover the Native American experience in the U.S.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

thurstern Callege Magazine the Classic

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

From the *Classic* website

The following comment was posted online about a *Classic* article. Read more at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Godly Counsel

[Regarding "Degrees of Grief," the Classic Thoughts essay by Chaplain Harlan VanOort '82]: This is one of the most thoughtful messages on the highly emotional and sensitive issue of family loss one could write. Northwestern students suddenly placed in these unfortunate positions of losing loved ones are fortunate to have your good and godly counsel. Well done, good and faithful servant. **76alum**

Trivial Pursuit Korthwestern in numbers from the obscure to the obvious Honoring Syl Star Deters

around the Green



Ellipticals, treadmills and other cardio machines are joined by free weights, resistance machines and additional fitness gear in the college's state-of-the-art fitness center.

Northwestern students and members of the community are enjoying the results of a remodeling project that transformed what traditionally was referred to as the RSC Mini-Gym into a state-ofthe-art fitness center.

The \$2.2 million project

equipped the center with Matrix cardio and resistance machines, free weights and other fitness gear. Gone are the white cement block walls and two-story-high ceiling. In its place is a floor plan that is both open and intimate, featuring curved half-walls topped with glass and cloud ceiling features in a variety of heights.

A game zone with pool, ping pong and foosball is part of the fitness center, as are three new racquetball courts. The entrance and existing locker rooms were remodeled and two new restrooms were added. The cardio machines—ellipticals, treadmills, cycles and stair climbers—all include video and the most up-to-date cardio training technology.

"There are so many more options," says Deidra Vander Woude, a sophomore from Chandler, Minn. "I can do a lot more, and because we have TVs and my iPod can hook up to it, I'm more motivated to exercise."

"It's been exciting to see the use of the area by our students, faculty and staff," says Dr. Earl Woudstra, professor of kinesiology and chair of the planning committee. "What's especially encouraging is to see the use by our general student population—those who aren't part of any athletic team. We've also heard very positive comments about the facility from prospective students and their parents."

The design of the new fitness center provides a natural transition from the Rowenhorst Student Center, which was remodeled in 2007, to the indoor track and courts of the DeWitt Fitness Center, renovated in 2011.

Patriot

As he finished announcing the last song of the Symphonic Band's November concert, Dr. Tim McGarvey was surprised to see senior French horn player Rebekah Stofer come up to the mic. She had a special announcement to make, she said.

Stofer presented McGarvey with a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of Guards and Reserve. Stofer is a member of the 147th Army Band, based in Mitchell, S.D. "Dr. McGarvey worked really hard to arrange the music department calendar so I wouldn't have to miss my drills or any Symphonic Band concerts," Stofer says. "A lot of other students in my Guard band have to miss their school concerts or they have to miss drill for a school event. It's amazing how supportive he's been."



Top of the Class

Northwestern's senior business students earned high marks on the ETS Major Field Test, a well-recognized exam taken by college students across the nation.

The test measures students' subject knowledge and ability to apply facts, concepts, theories and analytical methods. Northwestern seniors take the test as part of the capstone business class, Business Strategy.

Northwestern students scored above the 90th percentile in five of the nine areas, including in the 98th percentile for accounting, 97th in economics, 95th in finance, 94th in international issues, and 93rd in quantitative business analysis. Overall, they finished in the 94th percentile.

Handwritten Thank Yous

Poet Alice Walker said, "'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say." So it was fitting, during chapel in early September, for students to worship by writing thank you notes.

After reflecting on verses about gratitude from Luke 17, students received blank postcards and were invited to express their thanks to the Northwestern supporters who invest in them and their learning.

Hundreds of students dug pens out of their backpacks, and Christ Chapel fell silent as they wrote words to be read by guests at Northwestern's Donor Appreciation Banquet Sept. 27.

The notes included personal stories, like this one from Robert Gill, a business and sport management senior from Los Angeles: "I'm most thankful for just being here at NWC because I can honestly say if I didn't leave my neighborhood, I would never have graduated. ... Thanks for your donations ... without [them], I'd be a statistic."

"[Northwestern] is helping me grow into a courageous and faithful woman of God," wrote senior nursing major Kate Kosters, Sibley, Iowa, who participated in medical missions in Malawi through the college's Summer of Service program. "[I am] equipped to spread God's love wherever I go."

Among those penning thank you notes was Bailey Wade, Fort Dodge, a high school junior. She wrote, "Today I'm on a college visit here, and I'm loving it. Thank you for donating to the college of my dreams."

New Criminal Justice Major

Beginning next fall, students will be able to pursue a major or minor in criminal justice. The program is designed to help prepare students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, the judicial system and related professional fields.

"Our goal is to train students to think critically about the criminal justice system, to understand and implement evidence-based practices, and then to apply those skills in the pursuit of restorative justice," says Dr. Scott Monsma, sociology, who helped develop the new major.

Northwestern has offered a career concentration in criminal justice since the 1980s and a number of graduates are

employed by law enforcement agencies. By moving from a career concentration to a major, however, NWC can offer more courses and better fulfill the job requirements of potential employers while appealing to strong interest from prospective students.

Requirements for the major will include three new courses to be taught by people working in the field: Restorative Justice, Criminology, and Policing and Law Enforcement.

According to Monsma, Northwestern's emphasis on restorative justice will make its criminal justice program unique. "As people of faith, we want to be out there having an impact," he says. "The United States incarcerates more people than any other nation in the world. We want people who are going to go into the field and ask, 'What are we doing and why?' in ways that are really productive."

Northwestern's liberal arts education will be an advantage as well, producing graduates who are well-rounded—with a historical framework for issues, an ability to think critically, and an understanding of human development and psychology. Northwestern's criminal justice students will also have access to jobs and opportunities for advancement available only to those with a four-year college degree.



With Northwestern's new criminal justice major, more students will be prepared to join alumni who are working in law enforcement and corrections careers, such as Zach Dieken '12, who interned at the Lyon County Sheriff's Department and is now an Iowa state trooper based in Des Moines.

Of Course

Follow the Leader

Class

Following Jesus in America

Instructor

Dr. Douglas Anderson Professor of History

Is America a Christian nation? Dr. Doug Anderson's history course doesn't try to answer that much-argued question. Instead, his course focuses on how various Americans over time have perceived themselves and others in relation to Christianity and following Jesus.

"There is not one way of encountering God or seeking to journey with him," explains Anderson. "I hope students take away a better understanding of the diversity and challenges of following Jesus in particular times and places, and how that has shaped our country and our past."

Anderson's course uses five people from history as case studies, uncovering what it was like for each of them to follow Christ's calling. They include Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, a Spanish explorer of the New World; John Woolman, a Quaker abolitionist; Frederick Douglass, a former slave turned statesman; Charles Eastman, a Native American physician and author; and Dorothy Day, a Catholic journalist and social activist.

"This course is history, and it is also religion. Yet, it is not a church history course, or at least not one as traditionally conceived," says Anderson. "Rather, this course is focused on the intersection of life in the American past and some of the religious beliefs and practices that play out in the lives of ordinary citizens."



Survey Says

A recent survey of *Classic* readers showed that the magazine is well-respected and well-read.

All elements of the magazine received high ratings: 94% of respondents said the photography and design were excellent or good; 93% said the same thing of the cover; 92% said that of the writing; 91% rated the content as excellent or good; and 90% said that of the ease of reading. In addition, 92% reported they read at least some of the magazine, and there were nearly eight times as many positive comments as negative ones.

"We're pleased to see so many people hold the magazine in high regard," says Duane Beeson, editor. "The very strong ratings for design and photography are especially gratifying since nearly all of that work is done by freelancers. In reviewing both the ratings and comments, it's clear our readers want to know if Northwestern is adhering to our mission, what our students are like, what our alumni are doing in the world, and how the campus is changing."

Beeson says the *Classic* staff will be making changes as a result of the survey, such as providing more student stories and possibly replacing some regular sections.

Parent Laura Gilbaugh was the winner of the \$50 Amazon.com gift card in a drawing of people who submitted surveys.

Texts and Assignments

- Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition by Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca
- Native and Christian: Indigenous Voices on Religious Identity in the United States and Canada edited by James Treat
- *Loaves and Fishes* by Dorothy Day
- From the Deep Woods to Civilization by Charles Eastman
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave by Frederick Douglass
- Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction by John Fea
- American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon by Stephen Prothero
- The Journal of John Woolman and a Plea for the Poor by John Woolman

In addition to reading assignments, students must also complete three essays and 10 to 15 discussion assignments.

Dorm Decision

Due to the deteriorating condition of West Hall and changing enrollment dynamics, the 32-year-old men's dorm will be demolished this summer and its residents will move to Hospers Hall. The women of Hospers, meanwhile, will be accommodated by other campus residences.

The announcement of that decision, following the fall board meeting, led to mixed emotions among the residents of the two halls, both of which are known for a tight-knit community. The men of West had known their dorm's demise could be imminent, while the news took Hospers residents by surprise.

"West has some structural issues and safety concerns, and it has been slated for closure for some time according to our campus master plan," says President Greg Christy. "This is the best time to do it, because we're at the point where we need more housing for men and we have enough housing for women right now without Hospers."

West's aging water and gas lines are buried in concrete, and college officials have known a break could mean the end of the dorm.



The building is also sinking, and parents have complained about its condition.

Julie Vermeer Elliott '97, dean of student life, says any current Hospers residents who want to stay together will be housed in a wing in Fern Smith Hall.

"We're very mindful of the personal cost of this decision," says Elliott. "The RDs have been great about helping students process their emotions in regard to this decision and making sure everyone is heard."

The board's decision calls for officials to begin plans for a suite-style hall for women.

Music Ministry

When Tec Sun, a Northwestern senior who grew up in the Philippines, heard about the colossal destruction of Typhoon Haiyan in November, he knew he needed to do something.

"It just breaks my heart that people who live in slums have nowhere to go—no food, no water," he says. "I couldn't just sit and watch the news. I needed to be the answer to my own prayer."

So Sun, a music ministry major whose missionary father planted churches in the devastated area, organized a benefit concert to raise money for typhoon victims. The event, on Nov. 23, featured Sun and other students as well as faculty folk musicians.

Sun hoped the concert would raise \$3,000 for Kids International Ministries, which runs children's centers, a Christian school and community outreaches. The agency is partnering with Bethel International School to provide relief to the residents of Tacloban, one of the cities most devastated by the storm. The ministries aim to provide long-term shelter, clean water, two nutritious meals a day, and medical treatment for victims. Senior Tec Sun, who grew up in the Philippines, organized a benefit concert for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

Making the Lists

Northwestern achieved notable national recognition in recent months:

- Washington Monthly rated NWC as the nation's sixth-best baccalaureate college.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked Northwestern sixth among 99 Midwestern colleges.
- Forbes.com listed Northwestern among the top 10 percent of the nation's colleges.
- Princeton Review.com named Northwestern to its Best in the Midwest list.
- For the sixth consecutive year, Northwestern was recognized by The Groundwater Foundation as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site.
- Northwestern made its third appearance on the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces education list by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. NWC placed fifth—behind McGraw Hill Financial, Cornell University, The Ohio State University and New York University.



Northwestern's environmental stewardship was recognized by the campus being named a 2013 Groundwater Guardian Green Site.

Room for Red Raiders

Early-morning and late-night team practices, as well as the meteorological disadvantages Upper Midwest colleges have in preparing for spring sports, could be a thing of the past at Northwestern. Officials are seeking to raise \$2 million for a facility that will provide more than 33,000 square feet of indoor practice and training space for Red Raider student-athletes.

Located just west of the Rowenhorst Student Center and connected to it, the new building will include a multipurpose area for team practices, an athletic conditioning space, batting and pitching cages for baseball and softball, hitting nets and a putting green for golf, and a weight room.

The athletic practice and training facility will relieve the demands placed on the



DeWitt Physical Fitness Center's four-court area, which currently serves athletes, students and community members. It will also address safety concerns created when teams are practicing in the same space being used simultaneously by the public. Dr. Earl Woudstra, assistant director of athletics and chair of the committee planning the facility, says the new building will serve all athletic teams by providing a dedicated space for strength training and conditioning. Its weight room for athletes—along with the new fitness center for students in what was formerly known as the RSC Mini-Gym—will also free up badly needed space in the Bultman Center.



Raider Days

More than 50 members of the 1973 and '83 Red Raider football teams returned to campus during Raider Days, Sept. 27 and 28, to celebrate the 40- and 30-year anniversaries of their respective national championships. In addition to being honored during halftime of the football game, the former players, cheerleaders and their families enjoyed a post-game reception and dinner.

Raider Days also included the dedication of the DeWitt Learning Commons, the Donor Appreciation Banquet, road race, Morning on the Green, class reunions, and a music department concert.

Former head football coach Larry "Bubb" Korver '54 (middle) and former players Dennis Korthals '72, Alton; Joe Petrill '70, Somerville, N.J.; and Steve Ellsworth '69, Rock Rapids, Iowa, celebrate the legacy of Red Raider football—and Coach Korver's 80th birthday during Raider Days Homecoming and Family Weekend Sept. 28.

Inventor

A software invention by Dr. Frank Bentrem, physics, has been issued a patent. The invention was developed by Bentrem when he worked as a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, Miss., for 10 years before coming to NWC.

The invention enables a computer to quickly segment a sonar image into different areas of brightness and texture that can then be assigned material categories. The software's applications include those involving medical, satellite and underwater sonar imagery.

Remembering the Saints

Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, music and campus ministry, served as editor for the second edition of the newly published For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations.

The book is a collection of one-page stories about Christians throughout the past 2,000 years. Each story focuses on a particular saint and provides an example of how that person was faithful in his or her circumstances. "We use the term 'saint' as Paul did, referring to people of great faith to whom we can look as examples," explains Josselyn-Cranson. "We hope the stories of how these saints lived lives of faith will inspire present-day Christians."

Josselyn-Cranson was responsible for identifying new saints to be added to the second edition. Some of the additions included civil rights activist Rosa Parks; Branch Rickey, who helped to integrate major league baseball; and 9th century Christian missionaries Cyril and Methodius.

Face Value

Monte Golden Heart of Gold

What led you to work at Northwestern?

I was working on an ambulance crew at a hospital in Cherokee, Iowa. I had a friend, Jim Burmakow, who was working in maintenance at Northwestern, and he told me, "If you ever decide to change your job, you should think about Northwestern." An opening came up, and I applied and got the position. I was glad, because the community here is really nice, the hours were more regular, and I had done some janitorial work at the hospital. It really worked out great.

What's the best part about your job?

Working alongside students employed by maintenance. It's a lot of fun. They keep an old guy like me young! It's really neat to see how much they develop spiritually from a freshman to a senior. That's one key thing that's pretty awesome about my job.

How much cleaning do you do at home?

My wife retired after 33 years of teaching and spends a lot of time substitute teaching and babysitting our two grandchildren at home. After I clean all day, I go home and she says, "You know, you used to help me more, but now that I'm retired, you've cut back." And I say, "Well, you're retired. I'm just tired!"

Maintenance department staff hesitate to discuss pranks for fear of giving current students ideas. Nonetheless, what's the most memorable chapel prank you've witnessed?

There used to be a dairy down the road from the college that had a big black-and-white plastic cow as part of its signage. Somehow, the students unbolted the animal from its concrete foundation and brought it into chapel where the organ is now. They propped each leg onto a chair so it stood above the railing, and they stuck a big sign across the front that read "Holy Cow."



Monte Golden has made the 60-mile round-trip commute from Primghar to Northwestern for 26 years. A member of the maintenance staff, he cleans and cares for Christ Chapel, DeWitt Music Hall, and Sittser and Noteboom cottages.

What do you love most about working at Northwestern?

It's like a family. If someone is sick, it seems like everyone is there to support them. After my hip surgery last year, I was visited by a lot of professors from the music department and Arlo, my supervisor. I thought that was really awesome. Everybody's so supportive. You don't get that at a lot of places.

If you'd like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, email classic@nwciowa.edu.

Investing in the Mission 2012–13 giving reaches nearly \$5 million

Fundraising Report

July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013

- **\$4.8 million** Total giving to Northwestern College (giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1.16 million)
- **\$1,331,457** Total alumni giving to Northwestern (25% of alumni supported their alma mater)
 - **\$763,053** Total giving to endowed scholarships for students (\$662,774 was received from bequests)
 - 406 Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
 - **333** Tower Society members (donors giving \$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund; 48 gave more than \$2,500 and 43 gave more than \$5,000)
 - **592** Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor members (donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years)

Designation	Alumni giving for 2012–13	Total for 2012–13	Total for 2011–12
Northwestern Fund	\$456,911	\$1,164,108	\$1,068,159
Other annual giving	60,681	168,589	137,638
Endowed scholarships	209,311	763,054	628,343
Annual scholarships	30,617	153,085	119,486
Capital gifts	366,340	1,628,111	2,678,551
Life income gifts	118,080	550,781	7,770
Student missions/travel	67,332	330,155	239,652
Other restricted gifts	22,185	39,234	29,236
Total	\$1,331,457	\$4,797,117	\$4,908,835

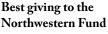
Alumni giving

Best giving percentage

Class of 1951	60%
Class of 1963	59%
Class of 1956	58%
Classes of '59 & '70	52%
Classes of '53 & '57	51%

Best giving overall

Class of 1953	\$132,240
Class of 1981	\$66,005
Class of 1982	\$58,131
Class of 1965	\$50,826
Class of 1956	\$42,867



Class of 1965	\$21,900
Class of 1955	\$21,090
Class of 1968	\$18,303
Class of 1972	\$17,685
Class of 1997	\$17,247



www.nwciowa.edu/thankyou

InvestionScholarshipAuctionSaturday, Feb. 89:30 a.m.

Invest in scholarships for Northwestern students by donating—and bidding on—items for the college's annual auction. Contact the advancement office for details and then raise your bidder's number in the RSC gym this February.

www.nwciowa.edu/auction events@nwciowa.edu • 712-707-7134

Northwestern's 2013 alumni of the year are, left to right: Eric McDonald, Kristie Mompremier, Shirley Van Wechel and Dave Van Wechel

Honored

Success and service earned an entrepreneur, a missionary and two longtime volunteers the college's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2013. The recipients were honored at a banquet during Raider Days, Northwestern's Homecoming and Family Weekend, on Sept. 28.

Kristie (De Boer '95) Mompremier

Service to Humankind

Kristie Mompremier serves as a missionary with her husband, JeanJean, in his home community in Haiti. In 2005 the couple founded United Christians International (UCI), a ministry that works through the local church to teach and equip Haitian leaders.

The Mompremiers train pastors and operate nutrition centers to feed badly malnourished children. A dorm houses pastors who travel long distances to receive biblical training. To enable families to feed themselves, UCI helps Haitians learn farming techniques and purchase pump irrigation systems. A multipurpose worship center now serves the community, a primary school enrolls 400 students, and a Christian university was opened in 2012 offering vocational classes and degree programs in agriculture, pre-med and theology.

Eric McDonald '98

Professional Achievement

Eric McDonald is the founder and CEO of DocuTAP, a company he started two years after graduating from Northwestern. He wrote the original computer code for the electronic medical records and practice management software designed for urgent care clinics. Today DocuTAP—headquartered in Sioux Falls—has attracted venture capital investors, raised nearly \$20 million in capital, and grown to 150 employees serving thousands of urgent care providers across the nation.

McDonald is a leader in the urgent care industry, serving as both a speaker and guest columnist. He was the first recipient of the South Dakota Entrepreneur of the Year award and serves as a board member for the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Dave '69 and Shirley (Van Maanen '66) Van Wechel Service to Northwestern

Both of the Van Wechels attended Northwestern—with Dave earning a bachelor's degree in physical education—as did three of their four children. An independent painter, Dave has painted most of the buildings on Northwestern's campus for the college's maintenance department.

The Van Wechels served as a home away from home for numerous Raider athletes, international students and others. They have been members of the college's Red Raider Club and Theatre Patrons organizations, and Dave also operated the clock at football, wrestling and track competitions. Dave was a member of the initial nominating committee for Northwestern's Hall of Fame, while Shirley represented alumni on the Campus Master Plan Committee. Karlie Schut (3) and Payton Samuelson celebrate a point in the Raiders' five-set win over Doane. There was a lot to cheer about throughout the fall as the Raiders finished the regular season with only one loss.

Red Zone

Volleyball Regular-Season Champs

Northwestern went unbeaten in the GPAC, winning the conference title for the fourth time in six years. The Raiders were ranked fifth nationally and had a 34-2 record heading into the national tournament. Kaitlin Floerchinger was named national player of the week in September and GPAC player of the year in November.

Football Big Upset

After starting the season 2-2, the Raiders reeled off six straight wins, including a 38-28 victory over top-ranked Morningside. Theo Bartman was named NAIA national player of the week after he rushed for 123 yards and four touchdowns in that game. Davis Bloemendaal threw for a schoolrecord seven touchdowns in the 55-27 win over Midland. The Raiders advanced to the NAIA playoffs and finished the year 8-3.

Men's Golf Conference Leaders

The Raiders lead the GPAC after two rounds of the conference qualifier, with Ryan Kiewiet and Neil Malenke tied for second individually. Malenke set the school record with a 65 on the first day of the Palace City Classic, which he won. Kiewiet was medalist at the Siouxland Invitational.

Women's Golf School Record

DAN ROSS

The women broke the school record by shooting 326 in the first round of the Palace City Classic. Northwestern is in second place after two rounds of the GPAC qualifier. Taylor Malenke is fourth, with Emma Wynja seventh. The Raiders won two meets.

Men's Soccer Double-Digit Wins

Northwestern won more than 10 games for the third year in a row, finishing the season with a 12-7-1 record. The Raiders tied for third in the conference with a 7-2-1 mark.

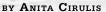
Women's Soccer Shutout Star

Goalkeeper Ariel Watts recorded eight shutouts and set the school's career record with 17. The Raiders, under new head coach Ben Karnish '11, went 8-9-2 and placed sixth in the GPAC with a 5-4-1 mark.

Cross Country Champions of Character

The men's team was named the NAIA's Champions of Character award winner in recognition of a number of service projects and efforts to support other teams. The squad won two meets and Skyler Giddings was named the GPAC runner of the week after placing first at the Dakota State race. Will Norris qualified for NAIA nationals by placing eighth at the conference meet. The men finished fifth in the conference; the women were seventh.

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



Dykstra Hall served as a dorm, cafeteria and home for faculty offices at various times from 1944 to 1987.

LOOKING BAC

The Many Lives of Dykstra Hall

Way a bright flash of light when he emerged from the Kepp Apartments in Orange City the afternoon of July 11, 1987. "I looked down at myself, and all the hair on my arms was standing straight up," he recalls. After checking to "see if I was still alive," the biology professor headed downtown. Once there, though, he heard sirens and—figuring lightning had hit somewhere in the neighborhood returned to campus.

Lightning *bad* struck. Insulation in the college's Dykstra Hall, just across the alley from Kepp Apartments, was smoldering. Muilenburg and others watched firefighters save a building slated to be torn down. Standing next to President Jim Bultman, he remembers Bultman joking, "Is there any way we can open these doors and get some air in there?"

At the time of the fire, a lone psychology professor had his office and research lab in Dykstra. For more than 40 previous years, however, the building had served first as a dorm and then as offices for English and psychology faculty.

Dykstra Hall was established in 1944 when Northwestern purchased a home a half block north of campus for \$3,100 to help meet a need for student housing. Another \$12,000 was spent to remodel, enlarge and furnish it as a dorm for 29 students, with a dean's apartment and dining hall seating 60 on the lower level.

Dykstra began as a women's dorm, housed male students in 1950 after Heemstra was built, and women again in 1963 when Colenbrander opened. Wayne Vermeer '61 vividly recalls the water fights between guys living in Dykstra. A narrow winding stairway near a side door connected all three floors. "The water would pour down the steps like a waterfall," he says.

Ron Juffer '56 tells how a favorite practice was to wait on the top floor and dump water on guys as they came up the stairs. One night a water fight escalated from cups to buckets until the water seeped through the woodwork and dripped out of the light fixtures in house parent and chemistry professor Howard Lyon's downstairs apartment.

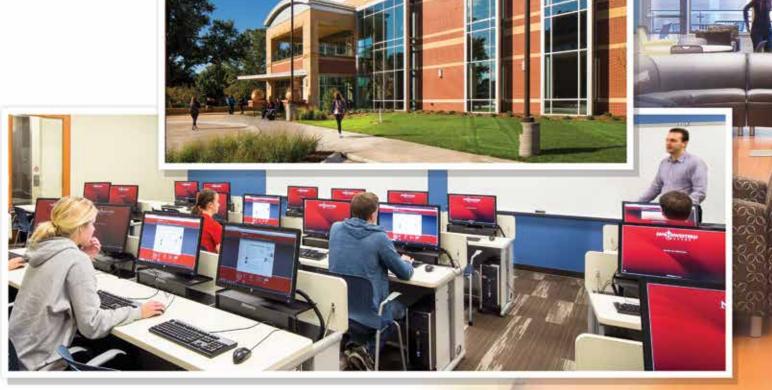
Lyon came storming up the steps, where Juffer, waiting with a garbage can full of water, mistook him for another student. "It was a direct hit," Juffer chuckles. "I can still see him, glasses hanging on one ear and hair down in his eyes. I was in the dean's office the next day."

In 1988, Dykstra was demolished. According to Juffer, legend has it that the college originally decided to burn the old dorm down—but the wood was so saturated with water the fire wouldn't start.









A HOME FOR LEARNING

A REAL DEPENDENCE

It's impressive. Warm. Functional and inviting. The new DeWitt Learning Commons has transformed the center of Northwestern's campus and provided a place that supports learning in community. Students can grab a cup of coffee, conduct online research, curl up with a good book, watch a movie required for class or get help at the peer tutoring and writing centers-all under one roof. And whether they study best alone or in a group, there's a space designed just for them.

Photos by Paul Brokering and Doug Burg







See more at www.nwciowa.edu/learningcommons

Imagine BIG Changes

Funds raised during the Imagine Campaign have transformed campus and students' learning

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Nearly 10 years ago, Northwestern launched its boldest fundraising effort yet: the Imagine Campaign. Under the leadership of then-president Dr. Bruce Murphy—and with input from campaign consultants and architects—administrators, faculty and staff imagined a campus transformed by an investment in people, places and programs that value and nurture learning in community.

Murphy retired and President Greg Christy was hired in 2008, just as the nation faced a recession that prompted many organizations, including colleges, to reevaluate priorities and spending.

Northwestern scaled back the campaign. Donors stepped up. This fall, campus community members and college supporters celebrated the successful completion of an effort that honored Northwestern's faith-andlearning heritage by raising \$48 million for programs and resources to strengthen this distinctive Christian academic community.

At the center of what Imagine Campaign supporters accomplished stands the DeWitt Learning Commons, a building that demonstrates both excellent stewardship of resources and an extravagant investment in a place where ideas take root—and imagination takes flight.

IMAGINE A CAMPAIGN FOR NORTHWESTERN

GIFTS & PLEDGES

Total \$48.1 million



The Heart of Campus

tunning" has been a common reaction to the Jack & Mary DeWitt Learning Commons, which opened as classes started in August. Appreciation for the building's gorgeous form has been eclipsed only by the college community's gratitude for its function as the heart of campus and for the courageous and faithful learning that takes place there.

"The building is so busy most evenings that it can be hard to find a free place to sit," says DeWitt Library Director Dr. Tim Schlak. He estimates student usage of the learning commons is five times higher than that of Ramaker Library.

"A typical day in DeWitt feels like the busiest day of the semester in Ramaker," he says. "Within a few hours of opening, all the individual study niches were filled, and students were using the space in ways we'd hoped: studying and socializing."

"I can study and get tasks accomplished," says sophomore public relations major Stephen Dykstra, Pella, Iowa. "Then I can meet a friend for coffee or read out on the balcony—all in the same building."

In addition to the DeWitt Library (named in memory of Jack's parents, Marvin and Jerene) and the Vogel Community Room (which honors Northwestern benefactors Frank '47 and Lois Vogel), the learning commons also includes the tutoring center, a multimedia laboratory, and the college's archives and Dutch heritage collection.

Just inside the main entrance is one of students' favorite features: the Common Grounds coffee bar. "I love the atmosphere," says senior social work major Kelsey Martinez, Sibley, Iowa, who considers caffeine a study essential.

Brook Stephens, an athletic training major from Colorado Springs, is grateful for the learning commons' multi-functional convenience. "Before if we wanted to study in a large group, we had to go to the RSC. If I wanted a quiet place to read, head to the library. Peer tutoring or whiteboards for group projects? Van Peursem Hall. Now all those things are under one roof. It's made it so I no longer have an excuse not to be a great student."

In a September *Beacon* editorial, Kiersten Van Wyhe, a senior elementary education major from Springfield, Mo., expressed what the learning commons means for students. "It isn't just a building," she wrote. "It's a place to learn for generations of college students who may leave

A NEW BLOCK-LONG GRAND

ENTRANCE to campus was part of the learning commons construction. Visitors now arrive from the north via a bannered boulevard that directs them to a view of the DeWitt Learning Commons on the west, Christ Chapel on the east, and Zwemer Hall straight ahead. It's a stunning path to a place with a proud history of integrating faith and learning. here and serve the poor, provide nursing care, teach children no one else cares about ...

"People who supported what looks on the surface like a fancy building in fact supported the training of future world-changers which I hope we all become in small or large ways."





Wise Investments

The DeWitt Learning Commons is the most visible part of a campaign that improved facilities across campus and supported students' learning in classrooms as far away as Romania and Oman—not to mention cyberspace.

ROWENHORST STUDENT CENTER & DEWITT PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER

Campaign-funded renovation projects in the Rowenhorst Student

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS were the Imagine Campaign's most direct investment in learning. This year Northwestern students received \$839,502 in scholarships from college alumni and friends. Seventy-five new scholarships were established during the campaign, bringing the total number funded by NWC supporters to more than 700. Center began in 2006 and finished this October. The RSC was given a facelift that involved raising a 30-foot-wide section of the roof six feet and rimming it with windows to transform the student center from a cave-like labyrinth into a sunlit, airy concourse filled with comfortable furniture and flanked by student development and health services offices—as well as the bookstore, mailroom and Hub café.

During the summers of 2011 and 2013, a similarly sleek makeover was given to the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center, which includes the college's indoor track and courts as well as state-of-the-art fitness and recreation equipment.

DEWITT CENTER

Northwestern's food service provider, Sodexo, took the lead on a remodel of the DeWitt Center cafeteria during the summers of 2012 and 2013. As a result, crowded buffet lines were traded for made-to-order serving stations, and long tables were removed, making room for round ones where students can enjoy intimate, family-style dining.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Of the more than 50 students who study off campus each year, up to 20 are participating in Northwestern's own semester programs.

The Romania Semester began in 2007. Students live in the coalmining Jiu Valley and use adventure education and service-learning to help youth rebuild their communities and learn to trust others.

In 2011, students inaugurated the Oman Semester. Ellen Tolsma '12, a University of Iowa law student, says studying in the Middle East broadened her worldview: "I experienced issues like freedom of religion and women's rights from a different cultural perspective, and I learned to embrace the gray areas."

Last spring the Denver Urban Semester began, enabling students to learn about careers in nonprofits while interning with organizations

that serve addicts, pregnant teens, homeless people and others who live on society's margins.

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Northwestern's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program began around the same time the Imagine Campaign did, with the first students taking classes in 2006–07. In 2009 a federal appropriation of nearly \$425,000 enabled the expansion of the nursing arts laboratory to include state-of-theart human patient simulators.

To date, 83 BSN graduates are practicing Northwestern's shalomstyle nursing in clinics, hospitals and other healthcare settings around the world.

THE CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED GLOBALIZATION of the

college's on-campus curriculum in addition to off-campus semesters that enable Northwestern students to learn around the globe. The Spanish translation and interpretation major demonstrated responsiveness to a society that is increasingly diverse. And three new academic minors were developed that prepare graduates to pursue God's redeeming work in the world: Christian mission, Middle East studies, and Christian community development.

ONLINE ADULT AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Northwestern administrators believe the college's distinctive faith-infused education isn't just for students who can live on or near campus. That's why they're investing in online programs for working adults and others who want to grow in their careers and lives. An

online analytics certificate program—preparing business professionals to manage and utilize big data—began last May, and the online RN-to-BSN program started this fall.

CAREGIVERS IN DEMAND by an aging

NURSES AREN'T THE ONLY

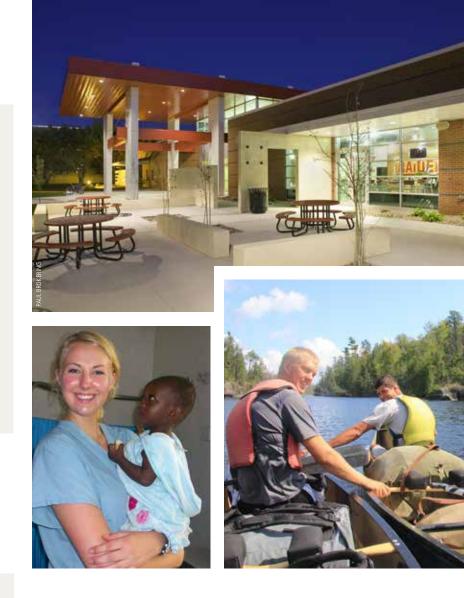
U.S. population. To prepare graduates for growing career opportunities in health and wellness, Northwestern also added a sport (and fitness) management major and a program in strength and conditioning.

FRANKEN SERVANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Franken Servant Leadership Institute was founded in 2010 in memory of James Franken '75 of Sioux Center. The institute supports experiential learning initiatives like Portage, a reflective pre-enrollment camping and canoeing trip for incoming freshmen, and Impact Clubs, in which Northwestern students mentor area youth and model investing in one's community through volunteerism.

A WHOLE EDUCATION

Redesigned by faculty for implementation this fall, Northwestern's new Integrative General Education features a 14- to 16-credit core of classes all NWC students will take, including: a First-Year Seminar (FYS) that engages new college students in the Christian liberal arts



(read "Learning in Community" on page 20); eight credits of classes that focus on the Christian story and tradition; courses that fall under learning themes such as belief and reason, cross-cultural engagement, historical perspectives, and self and society; and a senior-year seminar that ensures graduates are prepared to apply all they've learned—both in their major and in their general education classes—to their future career and a life of integrity and social responsibility.

More than a century ago, when Northwestern was just a high school academy and the campus consisted of a single building, Principal James Zwemer said, "[This] academy of learning ... was built to stand as a testimony to the importance of higher education; a protest against ignorance and materialism ... [a determinant of] whether we would be a people only for hogs and corn, or also for 'dedication' and culture."

Northwestern College is still a testimony: It's a place where devotion to God and the longing to learn about the world not only coexist—they're the same thing.

Learning in Community

Common course introduces first-year students to college and God's call

by Anita Cirulis



DOUG BURG

"Who are my neighbors? My perspective on this issue was pretty narrow before this class ... Now I realize my neighbors are all around the world."

Ryan Kliegl

JESUS SAID THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

is to love God with all one's heart and soul and mind, and the second is like it: to love one's neighbor as oneself. But what does that look like in daily life? More pointedly for Northwestern students, how do those commands impact their college education?

The First-Year Seminar (FYS), a new course at NWC, introduces students to a Christian academic community as they explore the answers to those questions.

Haley Chambers was one of 117 freshmen who took the class during its pilot year in fall 2012. Reflecting on what she learned, she wrote in her final paper, "God is using [me] to redeem the world someway, somehow. I am a Christian first and foremost ... I am [also] a student who is learning more about the creation, adding more ways to love God to my repertoire."

Chambers' perspective mirrors the goals professors have for the First-Year Seminar. The course is an introduction to college, the Christian liberal arts, Northwestern and Reformed theology.

"It's easy to think of all college students as 20-something adults," says Dr. Mitch Kinsinger, a professor of religion and youth ministry at NWC. "But when you think about students who just graduated from high school three months earlier, how are you going to treat them, educate them, teach them?"

Northwestern's answer, the First-Year Seminar, features small classes of no more than 16 students who initially meet during orientation prior to the start of the semester. The course itself involves extensive reading, class discussion, writing and speaking focused on four questions that reflect the two great commandments of Matthew 22: Who am I? Whore am I? Who are my neighbors? and How will I live in the world?

"These seem to be the questions that someone who is 18 or 19 years old most needs to wrestle with," says Dr. Michael Kensak, English, who

The small size of First-Year Seminar classes—no more than 16 students per section—encourages deep discussions and close friendships.

Incene

"Before reading *Ghost Map*, I was stuck in a miasmic worldview. I did not seek the truth but assumed everything I thought was true."

Sarah Morren



Professors from across the disciplines are involved in teaching First-Year Seminar classes, including biologist Dr. Sara (Sybesma '84) Tolsma.

"I thought I would be comfortable away from home, but I wasn't. First-Year Seminar helped me to cope, and I feel like it was my second home."

Elizabeth Jacobo

played a lead role in the development of the course. "They're timely questions, and that's what a First-Year Seminar is: It's an introduction to the college, addressed to a specific audience of people in one of life's biggest transitions."

The First-Year Seminar is the foundational course of Northwestern's new Integrative General Education (IGE) program, which took effect this fall. The core of classes required of all students by IGE will eventually include a senior-year capstone seminar as well.

First-year seminars are the norm in higher education—more than 95 percent of colleges offer them. They can vary, however, from onecredit extensions of orientation to four-credit courses in which each

> professor chooses his or her own topic. Northwestern's faculty were resolute about wanting a first-year seminar that was academically rigorous; those involved in the pilot program agreed to make it a common experience as well. Though taught by different professors, each Northwestern FYS section has the same syllabus, textbooks and assignments.

> "I love this idea, because we regain something we lost when the canon in English literature exploded: a common experience and a common academic language," says Kensak.

"I think that's a real strength of our program," agrees Kinsinger, who taught a First-Year Seminar last year and often finds himself referencing FYS content in his religion classes. "It's a structural example of integration. We're writing, speaking and thinking about the Christian liberal arts. That's hard work, but you've got to model that for students. You can't just say, 'Here's a whole bunch of pieces. Now you go run along and put it all together.""

Early indications are that the First-Year Seminar is achieving its goals. Students in the pilot were tested prior to the beginning of the course on their understanding of concepts such as the liberal arts and Reformed theology. After half a semester of readings and discussions, they were tested again. "All of a sudden we had a group of students who know why Northwestern is special and what they are paying for," Kensak says. "They know the vision of this place."

Perhaps that's why the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate for students in the pilot was 94 percent, compared to just under 91 percent for non-FYS students. National research

shows increased retention is a common result of first-year programs and that participants are 5 to 15 percent more likely than nonparticipants to graduate within four years. Studies also show that students in first-year seminars report more frequent and meaningful interactions with faculty and other students and are more satisfied with their college experience.

In fact, those interactions may be the most valuable aspect of the First-Year Seminar.

"Students tell us they love the discussion," Kensak says. "They get to wrestle with issues of identity and purpose, and we've given them rich, meaty texts to help them think."

"Friendships are built in that class that are unlikely to have been built otherwise," says English professor Kim Van Es, who is in her second year of teaching FYS. "I like that a community is formed around learning."



Van Es is confident that conversations begun in class are continuing in the cafeteria and dorms. "They'll say, 'We were talking about this book last night," she says. "Now the great majority of our first-year students are reading the same books and working on the same assignments, so that dialogue is going to happen. You talk about things you have in common."

Faculty, too, are talking. Initially, seven from different disciplines were involved in creating the First-Year Seminar, sharing perspectives unique to their fields as they collaborated.

"It was incredibly energizing to learn about writing from the writing people and for them to talk to me about theological perspectives and implications," says Kinsinger. "We were doing the work of integration."

This year 17 professors—from the departments of biology, English, political science, psychology and theatre—are teaching the various sections of the First-Year Seminar. They continue to meet weekly to discuss their experiences and share ideas. Among them is Dr. Keith Fynaardt, who wasn't originally on board with the idea of teaching a course outside his English literature specialty but now serves as the First-Year Seminar coordinator.

"I was skeptical at first," he admits. "College professors aren't trained to be team players. We carve out a little niche and that's our role in higher education. But, I, like so many others, saw the value of the course institutionally. The goals we have—the collegiality and the communal aspect of teaching together—that's what won me over."

Fynaardt isn't alone. Whether one is teacher or student, the answers to life's biggest questions are more easily found together. The best learning takes place in community.

In addition to readings, discussion and speeches in their individual classes, all First-Year Seminar students also gather as a large group for conversations with chapel speakers, panel discussions, and to watch the film *A Raisin in the Sun*.

"FYS is the first class that I have taken where I can openly talk about my faith daily. So many times my heart was filled with joy by the conversations that we had in class because we connected what we were doing in our assignments with our faith."

Andrew Powell

What They're Reading

In addition to a writing and research handbook, the Belhar Confession, and a guide to public speaking, reading assignments for the First-Year Seminar include a variety of nontraditional texts drawn from literature, science, theology and theatre:

The Glass Castle, a memoir by Jeannette Walls, tells her story of growing up in a family that was wildly dysfunctional—but also made her the captivating storyteller and successful author she is today. Reading about Walls' unconventional childhood prompts students to talk about their own families and the impact upbringing has on one's identity.

Why College Matters to God, by Rick Ostrander, introduces students to the aims and purposes of a Christian college education: "[not] simply to hand you a complete Christian worldview on a platter; rather ... to start you on the process of developing a comprehensive, coherent, yet dynamic Christian worldview [of your own]." Students end FYS with a better understanding of what their next three-and-a-half years should lead to.

The Ghost Map is a nonfiction account of how a physician and a clergyman put their heads together and finally solved the most pressing medical riddle of their time: London's 1854 cholera epidemic. The book reads like a mystery, and students are able to see how integrating disciplines—in this case science and sociology—lead to better answers than either could achieve on its own.

Chaim Potok's novel, *The Chosen*, explores divisions among friends, within families and between faiths in a coming-of-age story set in the New York Jewish community during World War II. It's a rich resource for discussions about the roles culture, relationships and choice play in shaping who we become.

The play *Clybourne Park* continues the story of the Chicago home featured in the iconic 1959 drama, *A Raisin in the Sun*, about an African-American family moving into a white neighborhood. In *Clybourne Park*, a white family is moving into a black neighborhood. Students wrestle with topics that include white flight, urban renewal, multiculturalism, and what it truly means to be a good neighbor.

Saddle Up Northwestern sophomore competes on the college rodeo circuit

BY AMY SCHEER

hortly before 8 most mornings, Erin Van Horn and her family are out the door and into the fresh air of their Nebraska ranch. First, they might repair some fence, or stretch wires across the river to keep straying cattle at home. Heifers are freeze-branded, horses are saddled up, and cattle are moved from one pasture to another.

A good day's work behind them, the family then heads back toward the house so that by early evening, a roping and tying session can begin. Erin and her siblings practice their rodeo skills under Dad's careful coaching until around 10:30 when they call it a day, settling into a homestead that has been in the family for four generations.

"Ranching and rodeo are such family-based operations," says Van Horn, a sophomore who competes in college rodeo events under Northwestern's name. "A lot of sports you could do by yourself, but rodeo, you're not going to be as competitive. And if I didn't have my sister and brothers to push me, and my mom and dad to help me, it wouldn't be as enjoyable."

As far back as the 1500s when the Spanish brought horses and cattle to what is now the American Southwest, ranchers held contests to showcase the skills they had

> In nearly every rodeo she's entered, Erin Van Horn has placed in the top 10.



developed to manage their herds. Work became play and the play complemented their work—with family at the core.

In competition, Van Horn specializes in breakaway roping and goat tying. In the first event, a calf is let out of a chute, and Van Horn spurs her horse into a chase to rope the calf as quickly as she can. In the second, a goat is staked at the end of a 10-foot rope in the middle of the arena. Flying full-speed, Van Horn dismounts, flanks the goat and ties three legs together.

"You're going as fast as your horse can go," Van Horn says. "It's a rush. There's nothing like it."

Van Horn has been riding so long she can hardly recall her first time. Her father, who used to rodeo himself, taught her how to rope. She calls him before every college competition because as far back as her time in the National Little Britches Rodeo Association and other circuits, she's never done it without him.

In nearly every rodeo she's entered, Van Horn placed in the top 10, in a field that typically sees about 80 competitors.

"Win or lose, I try to have the same attitude and a smile on my face. I never want to get a big head or so low that I complain," Van Horn says. "It's important to have the same attitude in rodeo and in life."

Van Horn blends the two, as did the early cowboys. A clinician at the Johnstown, Neb., Rodeo Bible Camp, she is aware that her successes grant her role-model status to the young girls she teaches. "Honestly, I would love if these little girls became great ropers and tyers," she says. "But rodeo can teach you respect for others, animals and yourself. I try to live my life so that if any of those little girls saw me, I wouldn't be embarrassed. I want to make sure I'm living my life correctly."

To the uninitiated, tying a goat or roping a calf can seem rough, but Van Horn points to strict rules in place for the care of the animals. Moreover, rodeo honors the athleticism of the horse, she says, paying tribute to the beauty and agility of these grand animals.

"Rodeo shows respect for the great creation God has made. I love it," she says, "but it's so much more than riding your horse. It's about glorifying God."

During the school year, Van Horn works several jobs to help pay her competition entry fees. She trains diligently with her horses, which are stabled in Sioux Center. Choosing a college with a rodeo team would have provided advantages to Van Horn, but she's since found enough Western in Northwestern to satisfy her.

"I was recruited by other colleges, but after coming to Northwestern I know I made the right choice," she says. "The professors see me as a person, not just a competitor. They encourage me to reach my full potential in life."

The word rodeo comes from the Spanish *rodear*, which means "to surround." Van Horn is indeed surrounded—by family who support her, animals she respects, and a nurturing college community—all of whom have branded this cowgirl's heart with lessons that will last beyond her time in the saddle.



The Red Raiders' solo rodeo competitor, Erin Van Horn found enough Western in Northwestern to choose the college over schools with established rodeo teams.

class Notes

 $^{\rm b}42^{\rm Joyce (Muilenburg)}_{\rm Booher}$ is retired from a career in nursing. She lives with her daughter in Waukegan, III.

256 John Hartog II, Ankeny, lowa, is the author of a memoir, It's a Crazy, Wonderful Life.

*61 Judy (Herzog) Symens, Sisseton, S.D., and her husband, Herman, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last summer. The celebration with their immediate family was a Northwestern reunion of sorts; there is a combined total of 42 years of education at NWC among them and their siblings and spouses.

*74 Earl Hulst retired in June after 37 years of teaching and coaching. He spent the last 26 years teaching middle school math at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines, Iowa. In addition to facilitating summer tutoring classes, he enjoys taking portraits and photographing athletic events.

Glenn Van Ekeren is the author of a new inspirational book entitled *Love is a Verb.* He is the president of Vetter Health Services based in Elkhorn, Neb. 275 Barb (Heyman) Alderink, Holland, Mich., has retired after 25 years of teaching. She taught at Roosevelt Elementary in Zeeland for the past 19 years.

*81 Kelly Kruger is the new head women's basketball coach at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. He spent the last seven years coaching at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colo. His teams have compiled a 420-337 record over more than 20 years of coaching.

*84 Bill Boer is the new Superintendent of the Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) School District. He served as junior high and high school principal for South O'Brien the last six years and taught in the Okoboji School District for 20 years.

286 Steven Albaugh was one of 10 finalists for 2013 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. A choral instructor at Rosemount High School, he received 64 nominations for the award from students, graduates and colleagues. Since he joined the Rosemount staff in 2000, the choral program has more than doubled to 510 students and 13 choirs.

Red Ties

MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81 Director of Alumni Relations

As the final shelves were moved out of Ramaker Library, my colleague Jay Wielenga '82 walked through the mostly empty building (reminiscing about all the studying he did there, I'm sure). He found a 1963 *Classic* on the floor and brought it to me. Always interested in the thoughts of those who sat in this office before me, I read what alumni director Paul Colenbrander '43 wrote back then:

> One of the biggest tasks facing Northwestern in the next year is the securing of qualified new students. In the eyes of a prospective student, there can be no more meaningful expression than the enthusiastic words you will have for your alma mater. There is no help, financial or otherwise, that is so meaningful to the college as assistance in bringing the right students to Northwestern. Many students have selected Northwestern simply through the encouragement of interested friends like you. The college needs and appreciates this help from former students. Your time given to this worthy cause will certainly be appreciated.

Paul's wisdom from 50 years ago couldn't be truer today. Few endorsements speak louder to an impressionable teenager than your encouragement—as someone who knows and loves this place—that they consider Northwestern College. And if your nudge results in a student enrolled, then you've given your alma mater one of the best gifts alumni can offer.

Maybe you feel like you don't know the Northwestern of today very well. The campus certainly *looks* a lot different. But if the Northwestern in your memory is a place where you were loved, supported and encouraged to think deeply and follow Christ closely, then you're remembering right. That was and will always be the heart of Northwestern.

Connect Northwestern with the teens in your life: www.nwciowa.edu/refer

Remember MUFFIN MAN Fridays?

You do if you were a summer student worker in Northwestern's maintenance department.

What are your memories from the years you were a student working on campus? Did any skills, advice or relationships prove valuable even after graduation? Share your stories for a future *Classic* feature about student jobs on campus.

classic@nwciowa.edu

* 88 8 Marla (Nelson) Brands and her husband, Chad, live in St. Petersburg, Fla., where she enjoys homeschooling their teenage children.

Steven Bruder is the new principal at South O'Brien (Iowa) Junior High and High School. He previously served as the principal at Sibley-Ocheyedan High School.

*90 Fawzy Simon, Buffalo, Minn., has left the Missouri State Public Defender System and is now in private practice with the Cisar Law Firm in Lake Ozark.

*922 Eric Johnson of Spencer, Build a Business with People. The book tells the history of Arnold Motor Supply and its founder, E.P. Arnold.

Sarah (Walton) Stillion's play about autism, *Hunting Dinosaurs*, was performed at the Seattle Fringe Festival this fall.

Brad Van Kalsbeek, assistant accounting professor at the University of Sioux Falls, received one of the school's three Outstanding Faculty Awards last spring.

*96 Shiran Nathaniel is the director of conferences, camps and special events at Morningside College in Sioux City. He served as general manager of Sodexo's food operations at Morningside the last seven years.

*98 Sara Veldhuizen Stealy is an information officer in the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

'999 Josh Thomas is a professor of health, wellness and sport at the University of Dubuque.

The Rev. B.J. Van Kalsbeek, Sioux City, received the 2013 Catherine McAuley Excellence Award for exemplifying the values and mission of Mercy Medical Center, where he has worked for the last 10 years. He is the manager of spiritual care and mission services.

***O1** Justin DeJong is the vice president of editorial and channel strategy for the American Medical Association in Chicago. He previously served as director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. He was recently named to *PRWeek* magazine's 40 under 40 for 2013.

Koury Kramer was named the Northwest Iowa Review's 2013 Baseball Coach of the Year. He led the West Lyon High School team to a 23-7 record and the Siouxland Conference title. The Wildcats advanced to the Class 1A substate game.

Heath Reinke is a physician assistant at the Orthopedic Institute in Sioux Falls. He and his wife, Jen, have a daughter, Jade (1).

2022 Andrew Bouwman earned a doctorate in math from Montana State University. He teaches math at Suzhou (China) Foreign Language School.

'03 Matt Ernster is the executive director and head coach of Man Up in Vancouver, Wash. Man Up is a wrestling club that seeks to train boys to be "warriors of integrity for Christ."

Rebecca (Vander Molen)

Koerselman completed a doctoral degree in history from Michigan State University in May. She is now an assistant professor of history at Oklahoma Baptist University. Her husband, **Beau**, teaches ninth grade history at Shawnee High School. They have a daughter, June (1).

Chuck Mullikin is the associate pastor of adult disciple making at Westchester Evangelical Free Church in Des Moines. He previously served as the associate pastor of youth and their families at New Hope Evangelical Free Church in Orange City.



Originally a music teacher, Linda Van Peursem has sold real estate for more than 20 years in Wisconsin, Texas, Nebraska and now Arizona. She says one of her biggest roles is to educate her clients.

Designed to Sell

Church is about the only time Linda (Rozeboom '67) Van Peursem is without her phone. Being available 24/7 is key to success as a real estate agent, she believes—along with integrity, listening to the client and being a great resource.

Those are the qualities she came to appreciate in the agents who helped her as she and her husband, Stan, moved several times for his work. The best ones made it easy for her to find the right house and feel at home in the new location. They were her inspiration when, after 17 years as a music educator, she decided to start a new career as a Realtor.

From teacher to Realtor may seem like a big change, but Van Peursem said her main purpose is to educate her clients. "You have to be their source of information, not only about a home's value, but the community, the area, schools—all of that. You're the one answering their concerns and needs."

And, similar to when you see a student learn, there's a thrill in finding someone the right home. "I find the accomplishment is a huge reward—finding a home that, when you open the door and walk in, they say, 'This could be it."

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98



People from all walks of life were drawn to the cross Andy Van Ommeren pulled behind his bike during a 1,030-mile trip in May. Many used a wood burner to etch things they needed to turn over to Christ, such as anger, abortion, sexual sin and meth use.

Cross Country

For 17 years, Andy Van Ommeren '95 took part in RAGBRAI, the annual summer bike ride across Iowa. A beer bong within easy reach, he wallowed in the weeklong party.

Last May Van Ommeren took a different ride. He pedaled 1,030 miles in 18 days from the grounds of the LifeLight Christian music festival in South Dakota to its festival in Texas, pulling a 5-foot-high, 30-pound cross behind him.

Van Ommeren shifted gears in 2010 when he drove his pickup into the neighbor's house after blacking out from drinking. Following a night in jail, he was challenged by the Rev. Michael Hardeman '00 to write a better end to his life's story.

After 17 years of alcohol addiction, Van Ommeren entered treatment. "I asked, 'What am I doing to my wife and daughters?' I knew I needed help," he says. Six months later he accepted Christ and began working to mend the rifts in his life.

On his ride to Texas, Van Ommeren raised \$3,000 for LifeLight, bikes for pastors in India, and the bike trail system in Alton and Orange City. More importantly, he shared about his deliverance from addiction at every opportunity.

"People have to know that Christ can change you," he says.

Van Ommeren became the director of children's ministries at Alton Reformed Church in November. In his new role, he'll share many stories about God's grace—including his own.

BY DUANE BEESON

*****O4 Dr. Ashley (Ruppert) De Witt, Winchester, Tenn., is an OB/GYN at Premier Women's Health Center. She and her husband, Daniel '06, have a daughter, Makenna (1).

April (Johnson) Weber earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Phoenix. She is a registered nurse health coach for Sanford Medical Center in Sheldon, Iowa. She and her husband, John, have four children: Sofia (7), Natalie (5), Paige (3) and Jackson (1).

'05^{Phil Brinks}, Sioux Falls, worked in the wellness and recreation fields before starting Brinks Web Solutions two years ago.

Rachel (Kramer) Hibma is the guidance counselor at Unity Christian High School in Orange City.

Travis Kooima was named the *Northwest Iowa Review's* 2013 Softball Coach of the Year after leading the Western Christian High School team to a 19-8 record. The Wolfpack finished one game away from qualifying for the state tournament.

Isaiah Lockard is a technical director at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Ky.

Elizabeth (Peterson) Lorenz earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Doane College last summer. She teaches third grade for Millard Public Schools in Omaha.

Emma (Roberts) McClung is a

supervisor in the Tap Room, a jazz lounge at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena, Calif. She recently participated in the Sierra Madre Art Walk with her handmade jewelry line of precious stones, Simply Emma Designs.

Michael Nelson and his wife, Jackie (Carlson '06), are the residence supervisors at Freeman (S.D.) Academy.

Dustin Rusche teaches secondary vocal music for the Hinton (Iowa) Community School District. He completed a master's degree in music from the University of South Dakota in May.

Jeremy Van Soelen is an English language learner teacher in the Fargo (N.D.) Public Schools. ***O6 Scott Brouwer** is an archivist at the La Crosse (Wis.) Public Library. He is also the area operating director of League Trivia: America's Pub Quiz.

Brent Town is the principal at Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) High School. He previously taught social studies at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School, where he also served as the assistant athletic director.

°07^{Ashlie Arthur, Seattle,} is a forest technician/crew supervisor for the Washington Conservation Corps.

BreeAnn Brandhagen, Brookings, S.D., earned a doctorate in basic biomedical sciences from the University of South Dakota in 2012. She is a lecturer in the medical laboratory science program at South Dakota State University.

Jolynne (Nilson) Eilts is the business manager/board secretary for the Spencer (lowa) Community School District. She previously served as the payroll/human resources accountant.

Stephanie Hague, Brooklyn, N.Y., is the marketing manager for The Taco Truck.

Emily (Fischer) Munger earned a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University and a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is an academic support specialist at Presentation College in Aberdeen, S.D.

* O 8 Carley (Christoffers) Denton teaches third grade at Storm Lake (Iowa) Community School.

Gena Dubois completed a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Doane College in May. She teaches science at Mobridge-Pollock (S.D.) Middle School.

Dustin Hamm is the resident director of Northwestern's Colenbrander Hall. He previously worked in residence life at Dordt College. His wife, Brittany (Belden '11), is the clinic nurse manager at Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center.

Kathleen (Kropp) Marsh is a music therapy intern for Pathways Hospice in Fort Collins, Colo. Katie Hohnstein-Van Etten, Seattle, earned a master's degree in teaching from The Evergreen State College and teaches sixth grade humanities at Nelsen Middle School.

Colette Veldhorst, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., is a chemistry teacher and freshman volleyball coach at Oostburg High School.

After earning a master's degree in nutrition and health sciences and completing a dietetic internship, **Melissa (Hisel) Wallinga** is a registered dietician at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

⁹O9 Nick Aarsen is in charge of operations at the Northwest Iowa Farm Business Association in Spencer.

Jameson Guthmiller is a resident at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Phil Kosakowski, Sioux Falls, is director of technical arts at The Ransom Church.

Derek Kosters earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minn. He owns Prairie Life Chiropractic in Sioux Center.

Jen Marks, Ames, Iowa, works in quality engineering at WebFilings.

Jenna (Boot) Vos is the marketing coordinator at Leighton State Bank in Pella, lowa.

Libby (Burkitt) Wasylik, Hastings, Minn., is the executive director of Black Dirt Theater.

⁹ **1 O Ben Brown**, Sioux City, is a deputy in the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office.

Sarah Earleywine, Winter Springs, Fla., is an athletic trainer at the Orlando Orthopaedic Center.

Andy Norris is the high school youth pastor at Cornerstone Church of Ames (lowa). His wife, Emily (Mortenson), teaches first grade at Edwards Elementary School. Holly Petersen, Sioux City, earned a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Iowa and is now a reference and instructional librarian for Morningside College.

Debra (Warren) Slagter is a pregnancy counselor for Bethany Christian Services in Willmar, Minn.

*** 1 1 Ashley Buse**, Porterville, Calif., is a physician assistant for Family HealthCare Network.

Kelsey Leonard is the university ministry director at Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa.

Jose Sanchez-Perry and his wife, Alli (Klarenbeek), moved into a new monastic community, Epworth Project in West Dallas, Texas, where they work with Hispanic immigrants. Jose is an intern in the office of the chaplain and religious life at Southern Methodist University, where he's completing a Master of Divinity degree.

Chelsea Stanton is spending a second year of service with the Episcopal Service Corps in Atlanta. She is a live-out assistant at L'Arche Atlanta, which seeks to transform the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities.

¹ **1 2 Jordan Kruse** is an admissions counselor at Northwestern. He spent last year as a worship intern at the Lutheran Church of Hope in Des Moines.

Emily (Gowing) Lawson is an associate editor and page designer for the *Lake City* (Florida) *Reporter*.

Morgan Weis, Champlin, Minn., is the services and operations manager for the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration.

'13 Laura Ecklund is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

Emily (Mahlum) Hildreth is an administrative assistant for Spencer (Iowa) Community School. Jessica Kleveland is an elementary music teacher and reading interventionist for Hubbard-Radcliffe (Iowa) Community Schools.

Emily Loveland is the head coach for Northwestern's dance and cheerleading programs. She also serves as the managing assistant of the college's new fitness center.

Kirsten McConnel, Maurice, Iowa, is a community care coordinator for Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center.

Charlotte Richards is the Americorps/ Vista volunteer at Northwestern. She works with the education department on a variety of programs, including development of the Raider Reach program.

Rachel Van Gorp, Orange City, is a resource room teacher at Sioux Center Christian School.

Willie Willats, Saint Cloud, Minn., is a property administrator for the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Tara Woodward is a tax and audit professional for Williams & Company in Sheldon, Iowa.

Tyler Zeutenhorst is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

New Arrivals

Abby (Verburg '97) and Mark Laman '96, son, Hudson Mark, joins Grace (11), Audrev (9) and Elise (5) Esther (Leman '98) and Pete Errington '97, son, Levi Cooper, joins Aidan (13), Talea (11) and Shiloh (7) Becky and Eric Galstad '98, son, Mitchell Grant, joins Everett (4) and Marissa (2) Rebecca (DeGroot '99) and Andy Anderson '99, son, Caleb Andrew, joins Hannah (10), Julia (8), Lydia (6) and Hope (3) Tineke (Raak '00) and Donovan Hanke '99, daughter, Anora Eve Katie and Ben Lacey '00, daughter, Bianca Lu, joins Eva (4) and twins Vivian and Daphne (2)

Aubyn (Elgersma '02) and Jerod Hoegh '03, son, Cooper James, joins Brielle (3) and Judson (2)

- Leanne and Matt Ernster '03, daughter, Selah Grace
- Justin and Kristin (Breems '03) Rucks, daughter, Holland Kate, joins Parker (4)
- David and Nicole (Feikema '04) Bosma, daughter, Aubrey Elise, joins Deyten (4) and Lily (2)
- Mark and Amy (Ropte '04) Johnson, son, Kendrick Willard, joins Cashel (1)
- Scott and Jaime (Woudstra '04) Meyer, son, Kolton Scott
- Ashley (DeBower '05) and Ryan Musil '05, daughter, Avery Nina, joins Riley (7), Sophia (4) and Evelyn (2)

James and Maria (Vos '05) O'Dell, daughter, Rebecca Marie, joins Titus (4) and Andrew (2)

- Jenny (Van Der Maaten '05) and Ryan Simmelink '06, daughter, Cady Joy, joins Macy (3)
- Cody and Teresa (Larson '05) Templin, daughter, Halle Grace, joins Jack (2)
- Jackie (Carlson '06) and Michael Nelson '05, daughter, Eden Leigh, joins Olivia (2)
- Maria (Smits '06) and Tyler Simmelink '06, daughter, Norah Mae, joins Hazel (4) and Griffin (2)
- Quentin and Ashley (Van Kekerix '07) Huisman, son, Braxton Henry
- Cole and Katie (Schueller '07) Leiding, son, Laythe Herbert John, joins Landyn (2)
- Laura (Spanhut '07) and Nick Scholten '03, son, Grant Nicholas, joins Danica (1)
- Katie (Schnoes '07) and Dusty Schroeder '06, son, Tyson Lee
- Emily (Lichter '08) and Kyle Sauter '10, son, William Brandon, joins Olivia (2)
- Bethany (Hegstad '08) and Tim Swart '07, daughter, Julia Fay
- Laura (Rensink '08) and Mike Vander Stelt '08, son, Henry Michael
- Melissa (Hisel '08) and Kent Wallinga '07, daughter, Ainsley Lee
- Gustavo and Katlyn (Emory '09) Guerrero, son, Isaac Sebastián
- Erin and Derek Kosters '09, son, Brogan Josiah
- Tanner and Jenna (Boot '09) Vos, son, Bryley Allen
- Megan (Redlin '10) and Tim De Haan '10, son, Liam David
- Emily (De Weerd '10) and Jesse Moret '10, daughter, Raya Ann, joins Greyson (3)



A former reporter for the *Sioux Center News*, Melissa Tagg now works for a Des Moines ministry and has just published her first novel.

Made to Write

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who loved books more than anything in the whole world. When she heard the enchanting news that it was someone's job to write them, she knew just what she would do when she grew up. And she did.

Although Melissa Tagg '04, one of Bethany House Publishers' newest authors, is living her dream, she couldn't always see her fairytale ending. She has spent a lot of time working hard—and waiting.

"The toughest part was doing a lot of work and not knowing if anything would come from it. But I said, "I'm just going to keep doing it as long as God opens doors."

Now her faith, patience and daily 5 a.m. writing regimen are paying off. Her first Christian romantic comedy, *Made to Last*, was released on Sept. 15, with her second set to hit the shelves next May.

Although she still works full time as development and community relations coordinator at Hope Ministries in Des Moines, she is living an author's life, complete with an agent and a pitch to make for her next book series. Tagg is as excited as that little girl who couldn't stop reading.

"God doesn't give us a creative spark or a dream for no reason. We don't know the twists and turns we'll take, but he'll finish what he started," she says.

BY BETH (Nikkel '02) Gaulke

Thornton, Colo. Jessica Post '09 and Chad DeVries, Sioux Center Amanda Leonard '11 and Neal Wenninger, Winthrop, Minn. Rianna De Winkle '13 and Ryan Landes, La Mirada, Calif. Lindsey Geels '13 and Tyler Klyn '13,

Lindsey Geels '13 and Tyler Klyn '13, Pella, Iowa

Marriages

Harbor, Wash.

City, Mo.

Orange City

Gretna, Neb.

Normal III

ings, Minn.

Talladega, Ala.

Michael Greller '00 and Ellie Morris, Gig

Jamie Stubbe '00 and Doug Peters, Kansas

Elizabeth Peterson '05 and Corey Lorenz,

Heather Anderson '08 and Andrew Stout,

Libby Burkitt '09 and David Wasylik, Hast-

Ruth Cink '09 and Christopher Musgrave,

Rachel Kramer '05 and Dane Hibma,

Carly Miller '06 and Brent Bauman,

Emily Mahlum '13 and Keaton Hildreth, Spencer, Iowa

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Clarence Buurman '34, age 98, died Sept. 23 in Greenville, S.C. He received a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in organic chemistry from the

University of Iowa. He spent 29 years in the New York City area as an employee of GAF Corporation and retired in 1982 as the vice president and operations manager of Emery Industries in Mauldin, S.C. He founded Greenville's Junior Achievement chapter, served on the city's school board, and organized 34 sister-city exchanges. Active in humanitarian projects in Haiti and Kenya and a former member of the state's Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs, he received the highest awards bestowed by South Carolina and Rotary International. He was the 1987 recipient of the Northwestern Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Community and State Award. He is survived by three sons.

Joyce (Van Wyk '46) Wielenga, age 87, of Orange City, died Aug. 10. She was a schoolteacher and homemaker for many years, and later she assisted her husband, Ray, in the operation of the American Legion Bowling Alley and Café in Orange City. She was a member of American Reformed Church. She is survived by a daughter, Linda Coyle '71.

Harold DeWeerd '48, '52, Delavan, Wis., died Aug. 4 at the age of 82. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned degrees from Calvin College and Calvin Seminary. He later earned a certificate of financial planning and opened DeWeerd Financial Services. He served a term as Delavan town chairman and was on the board of the Walworth County Taxpayers Alliance. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; two daughters; and a sister, Phyllis De Kock '61, '63.

Myron Meyer '53 of Archer, Iowa, died June 28 at age 80. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he earned a bachelor's degree from Westmar College and a master's degree from the University of South Dakota. He taught in northwest Iowa schools, retiring in 1989 from Sheldon Middle School. He was a member of Archer Reformed Church, where he served as an elder, and was clerk for the East Sioux Classis of the Reformed Church in America. He spent 20 years on the Archer Fire Department and 22 years as Archer city clerk. He is survived by his wife, Esther, and three sons, including Mike '79 and Roger '85.

Gladys Tratebas '71, age 95, died March 6 in Nashville, Ind. After receiving a bachelor's degree at NWC, she earned a master's in business education from the University of South Dakota and taught at Dakota State University. She retired in 1983 and moved to Indiana, where she served as president of Brown County's historical and genealogical societies. Among her survivors are a son, Calvin '71, and four daughters.



Sharon (Meester '75) Heitritter, age 72, of Boyden, Iowa, died Sept. 1. She had worked at the Travel Advantage and was a member of First Reformed Church of Boyden. She served on the boards of Boyden's library and the Boyden-Hull Community School District, and was a member of the Sioux County Cancer Society. She is survived by three sons, including Steve '86, as well as a brother and a sister.

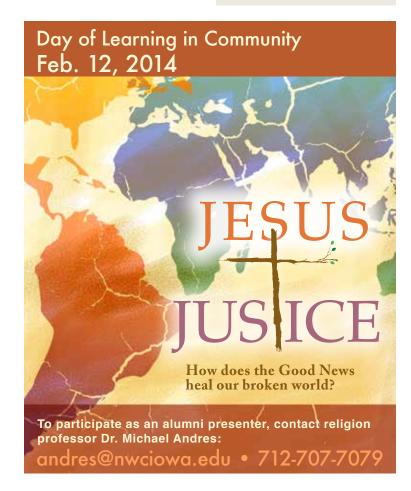
Susan (Thompson '77) Smid, age 58, died Aug. 22 in Sioux City. She was a music teacher for many years, most recently at Liberty Elementary School. Her survivors include two sons.

Mark Vande Brake '79, age 56, of Orange City, died Aug. 18 after battling cancer. He was employed by Dakota Supply Group in Sioux Falls and attended New Hope Evangelical Free Church in Orange City. He is survived by his wife, Lori (Sterler '79), and four children, including Anthony '13.

Cheryl Kuntz '85, age 51, of Minneapolis, died Sept. 21 in a motorcycle accident. She served in the U.S. Army. She is survived by her parents, two sisters and a brother.

Edmund Tratebas, professor of English, philosophy and religion at Northwestern from 1967 to 1983, died Aug. 10 in Nashville, Ind., at age 97. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Wheaton College and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister and served churches in five states before coming to Northwestern. Survivors include a son, Calvin '71; four daughters; and two brothers.

LET US KNOW: Email your news for the next *Classic* by Jan. 13 to classic@nwciowa.edu.





As a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegate to the West Bank, Robert Bogdanffy met Palestinians and Israelis and learned about their daily realities living on opposing sides of fences like this one on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

In Pursuit of Peace

"We think of peace as passive," says Robert Bogdanffy '12, a political science graduate who spent last May and June in the wartorn West Bank. "But peace has to be an active pursuit."

Bogdanffy's passion for peace led him to join a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Palestine and Israel with a goal of learning more about the conflict between the two nations and engaging with peacemakers from both countries.

Bogdanffy describes walking through the streets of Jerusalem where Israelis are allowed to carry weapons and non-Jews—mostly Muslims—are not. He also learned that Israelis have priority access to the water in the region, and that many Palestinian families are allowed to fill their water tanks only once or twice a week.

"This is their daily reality," explains Bogdanffy, who felt heartbreak for both those who are oppressed and their oppressors. "We met people from both sides of the conflict and saw, ultimately, that both Palestinians and Israelis have so much to lose. There are no winners in the current situation."

Bogdanffy has since returned to his home country of Romania, where he is putting his Iowa education to work at McGuire Woods Consulting, a U.S. company in Bucharest whose clients include farmers and agri-business entrepreneurs who want to develop the agricultural industry in Romania.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Classic Thoughts

This I Believe

BY JACOB CHRISTIANSEN

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!" It seems like eons ago that I used that childhood proverb to combat a playground

bully's stinging verbal attacks.

I may have believed it then-but I don't any more. I haven't since my sophomore year in high school. Now I believe in the power of words. I understand they have the power to damage a person more than any stick or stone. They also have the power to heal. In fact, I believe words have the power to change the world. Believing in the power of words changed me.

I'm not proud of my

former carelessness with words. I swore constantly. I told gay jokes. I made racial slurs. I said things I cannot repeat, all the while believing that words never hurt anybody. I lived my life as if the things that came out of my mouth never had any effect on my head or my heart.

Then I joined the Millard South debate team. All I really wanted from debate was to learn more about politics and the world. I did learn a lot about politics, but something else happened too. Debate wasn't just about the government and law; we also discussed morality and human worth. We studied critical gender theory, capitalism and bio-politics. We read philosophers like Foucault, William S. Burroughs, and Georges Bataille.

My debate prep led me to read other philosophers and thinkers. Late one night before a major tournament, I was reading something by Brent Henze, a professor of English and rhetoric at East Carolina University. Much of Henze's career has been dedicated to studying the use of rhetoric and discourse in cultural and social discrimination. He explores how words are used to tear society apart and build it up. One essay, "Who Says Who Says?" argues that the voices and the words of the people at the bottom rungs of society can be a force for change.

Henze says, "Starting off thought from the lives of the oppressed is useful for grounding the knowledge of outsiders seeking to understand their own complex relations to systems of oppression." In other words, by beginning our discourse from the standpoint of oppressed people, we can begin to combat the system that exploits them.

The idea of language and discussion as a catalyst for social change astounded me back then. I'd believed that only actions can change things—that words are only important if they're the precursor to some sort of movement. But Henze was arguing that words have power. I began reading more about the power of words. I broadened my literary horizons, reading authors like Gloria Anzaldúa who believe in words and their impact.

My self-education in discourse continued through the rest of high school and into college. I'm a theatre major, and I plan to use theatre to bring the stories of the oppressed into the light. I believe the voices of people clinging to the bottom rungs of society need to be heard. As a white, middle-class male, it's important for me to hear the words of someone who is black, or poor, or living on the margins of society and then repeat them as a way to further understanding.

If people are willing to talk about issues that are uncomfortable and listen to viewpoints that are challenging, I believe words can change the world.

Jacob Christiansen is a sophomore theatre major from Omaha, Neb. He wrote this essay—patterned after essays written for "This I Believe," an international dialogue about belief (thisibelieve.org)—for a First-Year Seminar assignment last year.



Be Counted

•• As a little boy, I saw my dad sit down and write out checks to the church and Northwestern College. Giving was definitely modeled in our home."

ate

It all adds up.

John, Tim and Tyler Zeutenhorst represent three generations of donors to the Northwestern Fund. John and his wife, Phyllis, who worked in the college's business office, began giving to the college in 1972. Their son Tim made his first gift in 1982, the year he graduated from NWC. And Tim's son Tyler, a 2013 grad, made his first donation while still a Northwestern senior. For all three, supporting the college is a way to give back to a place that has had a life-changing impact on their family.

In addition to giving to Northwestern, the Zeutenhorsts have all worked for NWC. John mowed the campus lawn for 21 years as part of the maintenance staff, and Tim and Tyler are the first father and son to both work as admissions counselors—Tim for nine years beginning in 1982 and Tyler starting in August.



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The Storehouse



Enter the Jack & Mary DeWitt Learning Commons and one of the first things to catch your eye will be artwork by John Vander Stelt '83 hanging behind the research desk. Entitled "The Storehouse," the 8-by-5foot painting features a stylized corn crib in a field of grain—symbolic of the learning commons as a storehouse for books and information and Christians as storehouses for knowledge and truth. Clouds and grasses moving to the right represent the influence of the world, while the shadow of the cupola (cast by God as the light) points one back toward a life centered in Christ. There is symbolism, as well, in the selection of a Vander Stelt painting for the learning commons: While a student at NWC, he painted the mural in Ramaker Library depicting the settling of northwest Iowa by Dutch pioneers and the founding of Northwestern College.

the Classic