

Northwestern College Magazine

FALL 2017

# *the* Classic



## Raider Made

Your shopping guide to products  
created by Northwestern alumni

*Also*

The Trees of Northwestern  
Chaplain to Congress  
Living Miracle



14

Northwestern's 2017 grads used their heads to thank important supporters and celebrate the future.



# Contents

## Classic People

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

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

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

### On the Cover:

Ameyah Hiemstra, 6-year-old daughter of Eric and Becky (Vermeer '99) Hiemstra, with a few of the items featured in our gift guide of alumni-made products.

PHOTO BY DOUG BURG



## 13 Capitol Hill Pastor

After graduating from Northwestern Classical Academy, Bernard Braskamp capped a long career in the ministry by serving as chaplain to members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

## 16 Campus Branches

Former biology professor Glen Hegstad explains the history behind Northwestern's most unusual species of trees.

## 18 Rally

Two years ago, a motorcycle accident nearly killed Ardie Keune. Now mostly recovered, he's grateful for the support of so many, including his Raider coaches and teammates.

## 20 Alumni Gift Guide

Looking for the perfect present for that special someone? We've got a selection of products made by Northwestern alumni.

## Departments

2 Zwemer View

3 Around the Green

3 In Box

6 Campus Life

9 Face Value

12 Red Zone

13 Looking Back

14 1,000 Words

26 Class Notes

32 Classic Thoughts

## On the Web

### Your Turn

Share comments about any article in this issue.

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

20



# Zwemer View



## Leading in Leadership

At Northwestern College, educating students for leadership is a key part of our mission. We want graduates to model leadership in their families, careers, communities and churches.

One such model leader was Jim Franken '75, CEO of Interstates in Sioux Center and trustee of NWC. After his untimely death in 2001, his family and friends made donations to establish Northwestern's Franken Leadership Center in Jim's name. The center aims to instill in students the leadership principles Jim lived by so they might lead well in ways that honor God and further his kingdom.

Other leaders have invested in the center. In 2013, support from Todd '89 and Jill (Erwin '91) Carlson enabled us to hire a full-time director, Dr. Sandi (Kuiper '83) Altena. Dr. Altena has guided faculty in adding service-learning components to their courses and overseen the addition of more than 50 paid internship opportunities for students, including our elite-level Carlson Internships. Three years ago, in partnership with Pizza Ranch, Dr. Altena and colleagues in Northwestern's graduate school launched the Northwestern Leadership Series, an annual leadership development conference for business professionals and community leaders.

This year's Northwestern Leadership Series keynote speaker was Dr. Wess Stafford, author and president emeritus of Compassion International. Active in the child-advocacy ministry for 40 years, Dr. Stafford challenged attendees to lead with courage, love, integrity and humility. I had the privilege of spending an additional hour with him, discussing leadership principles. What a blessing!

I knew Dr. Stafford would be a compelling speaker because I'd heard him at a Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit in 2009. I've attended the Global Leadership Summit every year since 2000, and it's been the single greatest influence in my own leadership development. So I'm thrilled that Northwestern served as one of the Summit's livestream hosts for the first time this August.

Willow Creek's founding pastor, Bill Hybels, often says, "Everybody wins when a leader gets better." All of us in one way or another are leaders in our personal and/or professional lives. And if we aren't learning and growing as leaders, then we're probably not leading very well.

At Northwestern, we are committed to growing leaders among our undergraduate and graduate students through academic and co-curricular programs as well as through mentorship and encounters with diverse people and ideas. The Franken Leadership Center has expanded and amplified our efforts to teach and involve students in leadership. With the Northwestern Leadership Series in June and Global Leadership Summit in August, we have created leadership development bookends for the summer that also enable community members to experience the college's commitment to leadership. Northwestern's mission is to participate in God's redeeming work in the world. We think developing Christ-like leaders is a faithful way to do that.



Follow President Christy at [Twitter.com/NWC\\_PGC](https://twitter.com/NWC_PGC)

Greg Christy  
*President*

# around the Green

## Teaching Minds, Winning Hearts



Described by her colleagues as enthusiastic, creative and deeply caring, psychology professor Dr. Jennifer Feenstra received the college's Faculty Inspirational Service Award in May.

FJ GAYLOR

Dr. Laird Edman says his psychology colleague Dr. Jennifer Feenstra is "the heart of our department" and "one of the primary reasons our department is as strong as it is." The icing on the cake? "She brings food."

The praise and clear affection of Edman and others for Feenstra led to her recognition as Northwestern's Faculty Inspirational Service Award winner for 2017.

A Fulbright Scholar and member of the college's psychology faculty since 2003, Feenstra is known as a master teacher and deeply caring educator who's always willing to devote extra time to meet the needs of both students and colleagues.

She coordinates orientation for new faculty members and is a sought-after member and leader for campus committees. Edman says Feenstra is "one of those people who becomes a leader in the organization because others quickly learn to trust her ability and execution. She is always pleasant and cheerful, and she tends to expect the best of those around her."

Feenstra's students are "all devoted fans" of her "full and unwavering attention" to their needs, says Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, who co-directs Northwestern's Honors Program with her. Admiring the fact that she teaches at least one new course each year, Vonder Bruegge says it means "she's willing to fill in gaps and go in new directions" with the psychology department's curriculum and course offerings.

Edman adds, "Jennifer works so well with students that her research team is unable to accommodate all who would like to join it. Our students flock to her not just because she is clear and fair, but also because she so obviously cares for them and enjoys them."

And bakes cookies for them.

## A Week With Plato

Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, religion, was one of 21 faculty members nationwide selected to participate in a Council of Independent Colleges summer seminar on ancient Greece. The one-week course took place at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies campus in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mark Husbands, Northwestern's vice president for academic affairs, says students in Vonder Bruegge's honors course,

The Greek Legacy, will benefit from his participation in "The Verbal Art of Plato."

The seminar explored Plato's dialogues in which he "stages" encounters between Socrates, his mentor, and some of the most celebrated intellectuals in the second half of the fifth century B.C. The language of these conversations reflects Plato's keen ear for the complex traditions of verbal art.

## in Box

### Suffer the Consequences

*(Sent in response to "Here's How to Reform Healthcare")*

I'm a dialysis dietitian with over 10 years of experience in healthcare. Recently I had a man younger than me state he drank 60 ounces of Code Red Mountain Dew and smoked two packs a day, and he wasn't giving those up.

He proceeded to lecture me on the need for socialized medicine because some people can't afford care. When I told him that was me, and that I work hard to exercise, eat right and take care of myself, he was quiet.

If this young man was paying for his own healthcare, he **would** give up his Dew and smokes. His attitude is typical of Medicaid recipients: I will eat what I want, smoke what I want, [have] sex [with whomever] I want, and someone else should pay.

Sadly we humans must suffer the consequences of our poor choices. It's the only way we learn.

**Fran Hutson**  
Logan, Iowa

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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







## Innocence Lost

A piece of art by Phil Scorza '84, assistant professor of art and design, is included in Viterbo University's Traffick 2017 juried exhibition Aug. 30 to Sept. 29 in La Crosse, Wis.

Titled "Innocence," the work features three photos of dolls that appear to have been well-loved but are now separated from their "caregivers." Scorza says the images allude to how human trafficking often occurs due to the ease of deception and vulnerability in children.

## Attention Grabber

Getting students' attention in an age when they are easily distracted by their glowing screens is hard. Keeping it when their brains are conditioned to absorb content in 10-second Snapchats or 140-character tweets is #challenging.

It takes a teacher who is not only smart, but engaging; not only respected, but beloved. That's Dr. Laird Edman. And it's the reason he was named the 2017 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award winner at commencement in May.

Edman "grasps students' attention and keeps it," wrote a student who nominated him for the award. "Not only is he extremely knowledgeable in his field, but he displays his knowledge in a way that is fun and interesting. He cares about his students. He really got me to think."

A distinguished scholar in addition to being an exceptional educator, Edman is one of just 25 professors from around the world chosen to participate in a series of research seminars on science and religion at Oxford University. He received a 2017 grant from the Templeton Foundation for his ongoing research on the cognitive science of religion and is currently writing a book aimed at enabling ministry leaders to benefit from a more accurate understanding of the role cognitive development plays in religious belief.

Before joining Northwestern's faculty in 2002, Edman taught at the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, Waldorf and Luther College. He has also won teaching awards at Waldorf and Iowa State and won the NWC award for the first time in 2008.



Dr. Laird Edman, psychology, has won teaching awards at three different institutions. At commencement in May, he received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award for the second time.

The Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award is given to an honoree chosen by student leaders with input from select professors, including past award winners. Thirteen faculty members were nominated; other finalists were Vonda (Elgersma '88) Post, business and economics; Drew Schmidt '05, theatre; Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, religion; and Dr. Wayne Westenberg '79, math.

# Grace Notes and Heavy Metal

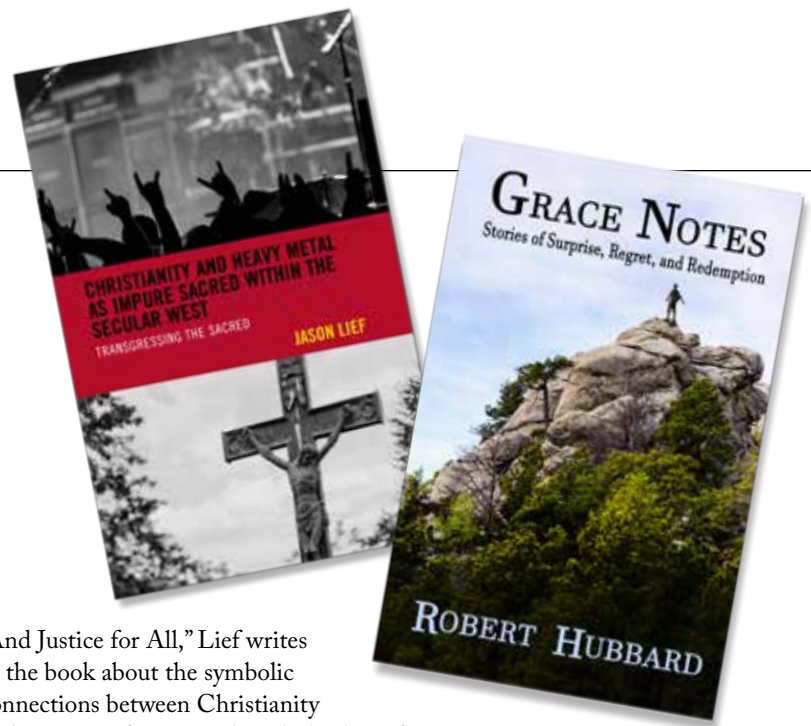
Father-son relationships. Football. Rock music. The preoccupations of many a teenage boy have found their way into two books recently published by Northwestern professors.

Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, collected autobiographical scripts he has written and performed over the years into *Grace Notes: Stories of Surprise, Regret and Redemption*. Hubbard has performed the stories as one-person shows in schools and churches and at fringe festivals throughout the U.S.

The book's chapters describe coming-of-age events during Hubbard's life: his relationship with his alcoholic father and his surprising, unbridled joy when his father's favorite team, the Denver Broncos, won the Super Bowl. "All the stories center on moments in which a flash of grace shines through the cracks of an otherwise broken situation," he explains.

Hubbard decided to publish the stories—which can be performed all together as a full-length play or individually as 20- to 30-minute dramas—in response to numerous requests for the scripts from audience members. AJ Stoscher '17 helped edit the publication and designed the cover.

Religion professor Dr. Jason Lief<sup>96</sup> published *Christianity and Heavy Metal as Impure Sacred Within the Secular West: Transgressing the Sacred*. A fan of heavy metal music since he first heard Metallica's



"And Justice for All," Lief writes in the book about the symbolic connections between Christianity and music. Referencing the scholarship of Western theologians, philosophers and sociologists, he explores whether the connections are an expression of opposition to religion or something different: an impure sacred expression (but sacred, nonetheless) in a secular cultural context.

Lief says the book is the “culmination of a lifetime of wrestling . . . Growing up in a religious environment, I felt the tension between what members of my Christian religious tradition said about heavy metal and what I felt when I listened to it—pure joy.” As a religious scholar focused on youth ministry, Lief devotes much of his research and scholarship to exploring and resolving the tensions between religion and pop culture.

Both Hubbard's and Lief's books are available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Lief's is also available on the publisher's website, [lexingtonbooks.com](http://lexingtonbooks.com).



In 2016, Northwestern had the fifth-best pass rate among schools with at least 10 candidates taking the CPA exam for the first time.

# Test Success

Northwestern accounting graduates taking the CPA exam for the first time in 2016 did very well, recording the fifth best pass rate among all institutions with at least 10 candidates. Eighty-five percent of the NWC alumni passed—just a few percentage points behind grads from Wake Forest University and Northwestern University—and they compiled an average score of 80.9.

That continued a long tradition of success for North-

western accountants. In 2015, NWC had the 10th best pass rate (82.6%) among institutions with five to nine candidates. In 2014, Northwestern tied for 12th in that category with an 81.8% pass rate. Graduates passed at a 76.2% rate in 2013, making NWC 14th among schools with five to nine candidates. A 76.7% pass rate in 2012 placed Northwestern 30th overall and 14th among schools with 10 to 20 candidates.



# Campus Life

## The Great Escape



Puzzles and clues abounded in the Hospers Hall Escape Room, developed by Jacob Johnson.

A stack of *Beacons* sits on a desk next to a coffee cup. Across the room, a shelf holds some books and knickknacks, including a jar of bottle caps. Clothes hang in the closets. It looks like a typical dorm room in Hospers Hall, albeit with less clutter.

A group of five friends enters the room and is charged with a task: Within the next hour, they need to find the item that was PGC's (President Greg Christy's) most valuable possession when he was a college student. Apparently he hid it for safekeeping but forgot to retrieve it when he moved out.

Welcome to the Hospers Hall Escape Room, developed by sophomore Jacob Johnson during the spring semester. He took a nod from the global popularity of escape rooms, which challenge people to solve a set of puzzles to complete a mission and find their way out.

In the Hospers Escape Room, the mystery featured a locked suitcase, cooler and guitar case; hidden keys; airline tickets; a map; a message on a mirror; a xylophone with a line from *Joy to the World*; and biblical verses, including Lamentations 3:7: "He has walled me in so I cannot escape." Participants could find 11 puzzles, four of which did not provide a valid clue.

About 20 groups paid \$20 each to attempt to find the prize, with the funds donated to two local nonprofits: the Family Crisis Center and The Bridge transitional housing. Two groups solved the mystery in 27 minutes. A few were unsuccessful, but most were able to accomplish their goal near the end of the hour.

Johnson, an analytically minded business education major from Astoria, S.D., put about 100 hours into the project. He says he enjoyed watching the groups trying to figure things out and hearing their comments at the end.

"It was a lot of fun for groups. I wanted to make it good for all different types of people—those who like to think outside the box and those who like to solve puzzles. Different strengths came out. Communication was the biggest thing they could take away from it. There were so many puzzles, they had to work together."

So what was PGC's prized possession?

A bowling trophy.  
Who knew?



## Expert Training

Senior psychology major Hope De Ruyter of Rock Valley, Iowa, received intensive training and experience working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at the University of Washington Autism Center Apex summer camp in Seattle. Selected from a national pool of applicants for a competitive seven-week clinical internship, De Ruyter garnered 150 treatment hours, which is equivalent to two years of clinic or school-based training.

De Ruyter plans to pursue a graduate degree in occupational therapy, with hopes of working in a school setting.

## Aid for Translation

For the second year in a row, a Northwestern student has received a scholarship from the Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association.

Michelle Palafox, a senior majoring in translation and interpretation as well as nursing, was recognized at the association's June conference. Palafox joins last year's winner, Maria Rebeca (Perez '17) Wagner, as the only recipients of the scholarship, which was established in 2016.

Northwestern is the only college in the Midwest—and the sole Christian college—to offer a bachelor's degree in Spanish translation and interpretation.



## Cleaning Service

Jim Burmakow keeps the Bultman Center in such pristine condition that a colleague says the



Jim Burmakow

22-year-old building appears as if it was built three years ago.

His cleaning abilities, however, weren't the main reason he was chosen to receive Northwestern's 2017 Staff Inspirational Service Award. The veteran of Northwestern's maintenance staff is also known for his investment in students.

"I am impressed with how Jim has evolved into an incredibly influential builder of young men and women who will one day be spouses, parents and agents of change in the world," says Kris Korver '92, men's basketball coach. "When a student has lost a parent, Jim has been there.

When a student has needed a home away from home, Jim has been there. When a student has faced academic challenges, he has offered encouragement. And when a student has complained a bit too often, Jim has provided a kick in the pants."

Burmakow joined the college's housekeeping staff in 1984, initially working in Van Peurse Hall until the Bultman Center was built in 1995. Those who teach, practice and compete in the athletics facility praise him for his hard work, attention to detail, helpfulness and servant leadership.

Student workers see Burmakow's humility as he works

alongside them instead of just telling them what to do, says Dr. Jennifer Rogers, athletic training program director.

Derrick Moss '12, head athletic trainer, has likewise seen Burmakow's investment in students. "Jim goes above and beyond his call to manage his work-study students by treating them like they are his own children, taking them out for meals, driving those without transportation to Walmart to pick up some essentials, doing devotions with them, and setting high standards of expectations for how they should live their own lives as followers of Christ."

## Repeat Performance

For the first time since 1996, Northwestern College awarded graduate degrees during its annual commencement ceremony. Forty-six students received Master of Education degrees in May, while another 267 students were granted bachelor's degrees.

"Our online graduate programs are enabling us to provide teachers with a high-quality, flexible and distinctively Christian education tailored to help them advance in their careers," says Dr. Mark Husbands, vice president for academic affairs. "It was so exciting to be at commencement this year and meet many graduate students for whom this was their very first visit to campus."

Northwestern awarded an honorary doctorate to Simon Estes, an internationally renowned opera star. Dr. Rick Melmer served as this year's commencement speaker. A member of the college's Board of Trustees and a lifelong educator, Melmer formerly served as secretary of education for the state of South Dakota and dean of the School of Education at the University of South Dakota.



Brianna (Wright '12) Johnson of Sheldon, Iowa, receives her master's degree hood during the college's commencement ceremony in May.

## Strike Up the Band

School spirit will get an added boost this fall with the formation of the Red Raider Athletic Band. The 15-member ensemble will perform at home football and basketball games.

"It's exciting to think about the contribution the band can have on our campus," says Dr. Earl Woudstra '78, director of athletics. "I believe it can greatly enhance the experience for our athletes and fans."

Tapped to lead the band is Steve Connell, who retired in May after

42 years as director of the Pride of the Dutchmen Marching Band. During his career at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City, Connell built the band into an award-winning 150-member ensemble known for its musical excellence and distinctive Dutch uniforms—complete with wooden shoes. Under his direction, the group performed twice in the Tournament of Roses Parade, as well as in the Fiesta and Orange Bowl parades and at nationally

televised NFL football games.

Connell is excited to join the athletic department and have a similar impact at Northwestern. "I know a band full of students who are having fun, playing well and playing loud can really help to create a great game-time atmosphere," he says. "We are looking forward to working closely with the cheerleaders and dance team to make pregame, halftime and timeouts entertaining."



Steve Connell

## Red Carpet Treatment

Tents covered several areas of campus when Northwestern served as the main campground for RAGBRAI on July 22.

Northwestern's football and soccer practice fields turned into campgrounds when Orange City hosted the beginning of RAGBRAI in July. Approximately 2,700 people camped on NWC property the night before the weeklong bike ride across Iowa, and another 400 stayed in dorms, apartments or the floor of the Rowenhorst Student Center four-court area.

The Bultman Center served as an information center for the 25,000 riders and support team members who traveled to Orange City.

"We heard an awful lot of good comments from riders," says Allison Cahill, athletic facilities director, who coordinated Northwestern's hospitality efforts. "They were impressed by our facilities and the beauty of the campus. Several people who ate in the cafeteria said it was the best meal they'd ever had on RAGBRAI."





# Face Value

## Dictionary Authors

Five Northwestern professors have contributed to the *Dictionary of Christianity and Science*, published in April by Zondervan.

Written by and primarily for evangelical Christians, the hardcover reference work features well-researched and peer-reviewed articles by more than 140 international authors. It includes summaries and critical analyses of over 450 relevant concepts, theories, terms, movements, individuals and debates.

In compiling the dictionary, the editors said they aimed to represent various evangelical camps and viewpoints as fairly as possible on their own terms, with the goal “to chart the outlines of evangelical thought on science and to suggest a framework for future discussions.”

The Northwestern contributors included four members of the biology department. Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma authored entries about Dr. Ursula Goodenough, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck and the John Templeton Foundation. Dr. Laurie Furlong wrote a biographical sketch of Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus. Dr. Byron Noordewier profiled microbiologist Dr. Jacques Lucien Monod. And Dr. Todd Tracy summarized the biblical basis for the concept of Christian environmental stewardship.

The fifth Northwestern author, Dr. Don Wacome, philosophy, wrote an introduction of Dr. Ernest Nagel, one of the most influential philosophers of science in the mid-20th century.

## Kirsten Brue

Careers are Her Job

### What brought you to Northwestern?

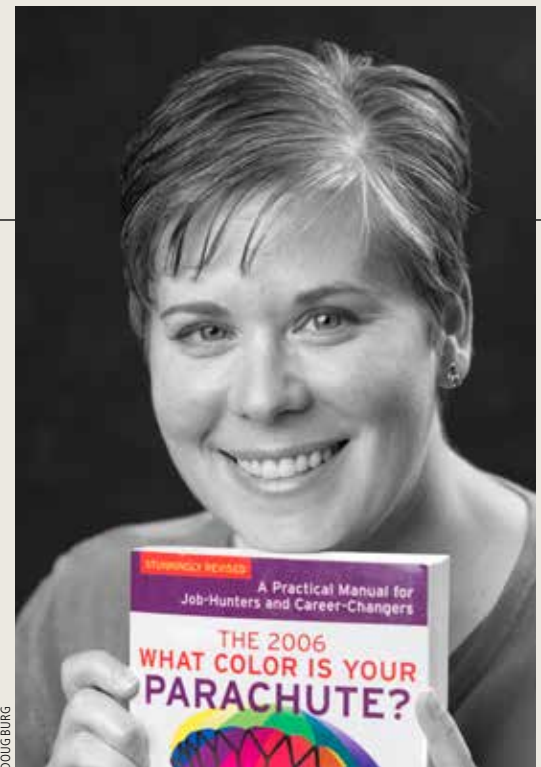
I've always told students that sometimes those pivotal, shipwreck moments in our lives will point us to our futures. I was an undecided junior when I was in college. I thought choosing a career would somehow give me identity, value or worth. My college adviser challenged how I viewed myself. During our first meeting, he said, “Let's not talk about what you want to do, but instead talk about who you want to be.” I still tear up when I think about that moment. I discovered I could “do” a lot of different careers in my life, but living into who God created me to be was infinitely more important. So I came to Northwestern to work with undecided students because it is such a formative part of my own story.

### You were a resident director at another Christian college for three years. What did that contribute to your career journey?

I learned a lot working as an RD. I wore so many different hats—counselor, mediator, organizer, creator, manager, cleaner, encourager, truth teller—and all of them have prepared me well for subsequent roles in my life.

### In your years spent advising students, what (or who) has been your greatest success story?

Having any student invest the time, energy and self-reflection to work the process is always what I consider success. It's hard work to decide what direction you want to go, especially knowing that it probably will change over the course of your life due to crisis moments or new skills/interests. If I had to pick one success, I'd say the externship program. I gather alumni mentors who are willing to have students come to their workplaces and homes over spring break to learn more about their career. It doesn't boast large numbers, but students always return with stories about how significant it was in their career development.



DOUG BURG

**A counselor in Northwestern's Career Development Center, Kirsten Brue assists students with identifying and achieving their career goals. From advising undecided majors and helping students research careers to arranging externships and informational interviews, Kirsten helps students succeed.**

### What are some of the qualities you've seen in NWC students that make them good employees no matter what career they pursue?

Qualities that make students successful employees are those transferable skills that our liberal arts curriculum hones: critical and analytical thinking, written and oral communication, reading and research skills. Other qualities employers love are a willingness to learn and grow, a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility, interpersonal skills, and computer savvy.

### What do you do for fun?

Every evening you can find me with a book in my hands and my 12-year-old cat, Olive, on my lap. As an introvert, it's the easiest way for me to recharge after a day of meeting with students. You'll also find me swimming; walking my lab mix, Zoe; or playing games with my sons, Hyatt and Simeon. Summers also include gardening.

## Summer Research

Thirteen Northwestern professors spent their summer conducting research or developing their art with funding from the Northwestern Scholarship Grants program. Awards ranged from \$2,250 for individual projects to \$5,000 for collaborative research with students.

Theatre professor Drew Schmidt '05 worked with a theatre major while serving as the media director for Rocky Mountain High, a summer youth conference. Students also assisted chemistry professor Dr. David Arnett and biology professors Dr. Todd Tracy and Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma. Arnett studied how a signaling protein activates an enzyme involved in the dilation of blood vessels. Tracy researched the impact of invasive plants on local forests and grassland ecosystems. Tolsma's work was two-fold: identifying the best preservative solutions for insect field samples and studying the ability of plant extracts to inhibit the growth of human tumor cells.

Another theatre professor, Karen Barker, performed a one-woman musical about Mary Magdalene in churches across the country. Dr. Fan Fei, business, researched the development of the highway system and its impact on retail trade.

Dr. Chris Hausmann, sociology, prepared a paper and presentation on an encounter-based approach to Christian scholarship, while Dr. Seunghun Hong, mathematics, worked on a method for calculating the volume of quantum states related by symmetries using techniques in Lie theory.

History professor Dr. Rebecca (Vander Molen '03) Koerselman studied how evangelical summer camps in the post-World War II era shaped perceptions about gender roles and identity. Dr. Jason Lief '96, religion, worked on a paper about youth ministry, popular culture and identity. English professor Dr. Sam Martin likewise spent his summer writing, finishing a short story and working on a series of crime novels.

Dr. Tyler Scott, physics, researched the similarities and differences between the attitudes and motivations of physics and engineering students, and art professor Yun Shin used her grant to fund the creation of new artwork for exhibits this fall.

**Business professor Dr. Fan Fei is among 13 NWC professors who conducted research this summer with funding from Northwestern Scholarship Grants.**



Wess Stafford, former Compassion International CEO, was a keynote speaker at the Northwestern Leadership Series conference in June.

## Teaching Leaders

A record 173 attendees participated in the third annual Northwestern Leadership Series conference, hosted by the college's graduate school and Franken Leadership Center in June. Former Compassion International CEO Wess Stafford was a keynote speaker for the event. He was joined by Ann Bilbrew, a Chicago pastor and social worker, and 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year Shelly Vroegh, who headlined a conference track that enabled educators to earn graduate or license renewal credit.

## Don't Lose Sight of the Future

It may be hard to see now, but she'll be ready for college before you know it. Make sure you're ready, too, with the Private College 529 Plan.

This national plan lets you pay today's rates for tomorrow's tuition at Northwestern and more than 270 other private colleges.

**privatecollege529.com**





# Kudos Continue

Northwestern has garnered high rankings from several organizations in recent months.

BestCollegeReviews.org ranked NWC fifth nationally in its 2017–18 Top 50 Best Small Colleges list this spring. Colleges that made the top 50 list have above a 50 percent graduation rate, charge no more than \$30,000 for tuition, boast a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1 or less, and have a retention rate higher than 74 percent.

According to the website, NWC earned a spot in the top five because “academics are personal and faith-filled with a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio, something that brings 82 percent of first-year students back for more.” Northwestern was the highest-ranked Iowa college.

Meanwhile, Northwestern has also been ranked among the 25 Most Affordable Christian Colleges in the Midwest by ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org. Ranked 24th, NWC is the only Iowa college included.

Northwestern’s online Master of Education degree in early childhood has been ranked fourth on a list of the nation’s top 20 programs by TheBestColleges.org. Northwestern is one of only two Iowa colleges on the list and one of just six faith-based institutions. TheBestColleges.org surveys hundreds of online programs, basing their rankings on colleges’ and universities’ reputations, tuition/cost-competitiveness, retention rates, and median starting salaries for graduates.



Among Northwestern’s latest accolades is a ranking as the nation’s fifth-best small college by BestCollegeReviews.org.

Northwestern’s online RN to BSN degree program has been ranked 31st in the Top 50 Best Value Online RN to BSN Programs by valuecolleges.com. That website also ranked NWC sixth in its listing of the Top 10 Best Online Colleges in Iowa.

## Building’s Structure Takes Shape



Northwestern’s new science building, seen here as it will appear from the campus green, will anchor the west entrance to campus.

Steel girders rising out of the ground mark progress on Northwestern’s latest building, a \$24.5 million health and natural sciences center.


The new facility, scheduled to open in the fall of 2018, is located along Highway 10 just west of the Ramaker Center. Its three stories and 61,000 square feet will house the departments of biology, chemistry and nursing.

Since the groundbreaking in April, construction crews have installed the below-grade plumbing and electrical work, poured the basement floor and walls, and erected approximately half of the structural steel. Doug Beukelman,

vice president for financial affairs, reports subsoil moisture caused a couple weeks delay.

“They won’t make that up until they get inside the building,” he says, “but they’re confident they can meet our delivery schedule.”

Website visitors can view the current status of the science center at [construction.nwciowa.edu](http://construction.nwciowa.edu). Northwestern staff are also using the college’s drone to document the building’s progress. The aerial footage will be edited together at the end of the project to provide a time-lapse video shot from multiple angles and perspectives.



Austin Reitz was one of three first-team all-conference golfers for Northwestern in 2016-17, helping the squad qualify for the national tournament for the third consecutive year and five of the last six years.

# Red Zone

## Best Ball

BY DUANE BEESON

After starting their spring season at a tournament in Las Vegas, members of the men's golf team hit the jackpot. The Raiders won four tournaments in a row and finished 13th at the NAIA national meet, Northwestern's best-ever finish.

"We didn't compete in the fall like we felt we could, but the guys didn't get too down," says Coach Aaron Aberson '06. "They were dedicated to getting better in the off-season."

The indoor golf practice facility in Juffer Fieldhouse provided an advantage. "It's been a complete game-changer for our spring season," says Aberson. "It gives us the opportunity to work on some weaknesses and also to stay sharp in the areas we've done well. We feel incredibly prepared to play in competition shortly after the snow melts, and that was not the case in the past."

After placing second in the GPAC's first qualifying round in the fall, the Raiders won the conference title by nine strokes. It was the third straight league championship for Aberson's squad, and the fifth in the last six years. At the national meet, the Raiders advanced to the final round for only the second time in school history.

Aberson and his players say the team's chemistry and competitive spirit are two of the reasons for its success. "A lot of it can be attributed to our practice habits," says senior Evan Schuler. "We're a team that likes to have fun when we golf, but we also know when it's time to buckle down and get better. All of the times we stayed late and hit those few extra putts and bunker shots were a big key to our team's success."

Senior Justin Kraft adds, "The chemistry on this team is special. We have such strong relationships that we can challenge each other and be competitive in practice."

With those two and another first-team all-conference golfer returning next season, Aberson has high hopes for a return to nationals.

"I think the guys are hungry to have a chance to get back and prove we can place even higher."


You can bet on that.

## Drake Relay Champions

The women's 4x800 relay team of Katie Bosch, Rebekah Muilenburg, Kassidy De Jong and Katie Landhuis won their race at the Drake Relays in April with a 9:09.6 clocking. It was Northwestern's fourth Drake title and the first since 1991.

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





Dr. Bernard Braskamp, a 1903 graduate of Northwestern Classical Academy, opens a session of the House of Representatives with prayer in his role as the legislative body's first full-time chaplain.

# A Pastor for the House

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Residents of the community of Alton, Iowa, located just east of Orange City, took pride in native son Bernard Braskamp—and justifiably so.

“Ben,” as he was known in his youth, graduated from Northwestern Classical Academy in 1903 at the age of 16. Despite having to walk four miles to school, he was never late for the 8 a.m. chapel services. More degrees followed: an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan; master’s degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and Princeton University; and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hanover College.

As the forerunner of Northwestern College, the Northwestern Classical Academy was established to prepare students for the ministry, and Braskamp was arguably one of its most illustrious alumni. Ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1911, he spent nearly 40 years as a pastor in Washington, D.C., initially serving the congregation of what later became known as the National Presbyterian Church before reaching what the *Alton Democrat* newspaper called “the pinnacle of his profession.”

In 1950, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously elected Braskamp as its chaplain—the first full-time chaplain in either the House or Senate. For the next 16 years until his death, he served as pastor, counselor and friend not only to the legislators and their families, but to all House employees in the Capitol. His brief prayers given each day to open the sessions of the House contained “the essence of

greatness,” said Rep. Albert Ullman at the time. “They never fail to bring us close to the Divine, and to inspire in each of us a renewed dedication to the sacredness of public trust.”

Those many prayers included one that opened the session that passed the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. Another was given in memory of assassinated President John F. Kennedy. Yet another was said for Kennedy’s successor, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Despite the serious nature of his call, Braskamp maintained a keen sense of humor, once remarking, “I always look out over the House of Representatives and then I pray for the country.”

Those prayers were appreciated by those under his care, who described him as their spiritual guide and a man of deep faith. Braskamp’s prayers were compiled in a book spanning the 85th and 86th Congresses that is available in Northwestern’s archives.

In ordering the chaplain’s prayers to be published, the late Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House, said, “There is no one who enjoys in such a notable degree the respect and affection of the entire membership of the House as does Dr. Braskamp. To the membership of the House of Representatives, he is counselor, friend and brother. Free from any suggestion of sectarian bias, his daily ministrations were helpful and inspiring, lifting all who heard him to a deeper realization of their need for divine guidance.”



# CAPPING IT OFF

At commencement in May, graduates topped off their celebration with a variety of mortarboard messages sharing everything from favorite Scripture to the folksy wisdom of Charlie Brown. They advertised accomplishments—like being the first family member to graduate from college or getting into law school at Creighton—and thanked important supporters like Mom and Dad. As students moved their tassels from right to left, they all signaled, as one grad's cap said, "Class dismissed."

Photos by Olga Alvarado and Dan Ross











# Campus Branches

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Northwestern's carefully tended trees include species more commonly found in southern swamps, European forests and Chinese gardens

Students study under them, sway in hammocks hanging from them, and toss Frisbees at them as they stand in for “holes” in disc golf. They throw shade, old-style, for the students who stroll under them tweeting comic insults that “throw shade” Gen Z-style. They’re the living landmarks of campus: Northwestern’s trees.

Nearly everyone who spends time on campus enjoys their charms—from the gauzy spring blooms of the crabapples near Christ Chapel to the water-like rustling of the leaves on the towering cottonwood near the soccer fields—but few know Northwestern’s trees as intimately as biology professor emeritus Glen Hegstad. Hegstad taught at Northwestern for 25 years and charts his time on campus through memories of trees that have come and gone.

“The sycamore tree looks like it’s falling apart,” jokes Glen Hegstad, retired biology professor, of the species’ scabby-looking bark. Students planted the tree—one of just a few surviving sycamores in Orange City—on an Arbor Day in the 1970s.

“They all went,” he says, running his fingers over a photograph of American elms standing fortress-like along the south side of Van Peurse Hall when he arrived in 1967. He looks as if he has lost a friend. Hegstad sounds similarly wistful remembering the beginnings of numerous Colorado blue spruces still growing on campus. A note in his binder of NWC history recalls “100 little seedlings ([the] size of one’s small finger) ... planted in #10 tin cans from the college cafeteria ... [and] nurtured in the backyard of Granberg Hall.”

Hegstad is responsible for planting some of the most unusual trees on campus. When a new science wing was added to Van Peurse Hall in 1967, creating a U-shaped alcove on the north side, then-president Dr. Lars Granberg, an avid naturalist, commissioned the Alumni Garden.

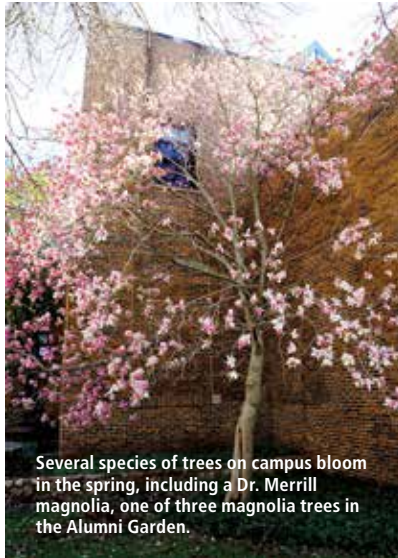
Dorothy Van Eck, wife of former biology professor Edward Van Eck, designed the garden, and Hegstad selected the vegetation, much of which is still growing there today. The sheltered habitat includes three magnolia trees, a junberry tree, and the only green beech tree in Orange City. Most unusual is the ginkgo tree, a species native to China.

For years, NWC’s ginkgo tree was the only one in Orange City. Recently, though, a sapling was planted across town by Hegstad’s daughter Christine Dykstra ’79 to replace a doomed ash tree. “I told her, keep it wet, keep it wet,” Hegstad says. He offers frequent advice for how the new ginkgo should be cared for, sounding a little like a botanical grandpa. 🏠





Hegstad planted unusual species in Colenbrander Hall's sheltered alcove: two English oak trees and a bald cypress, which typically grows in swampy areas in the American southeast.



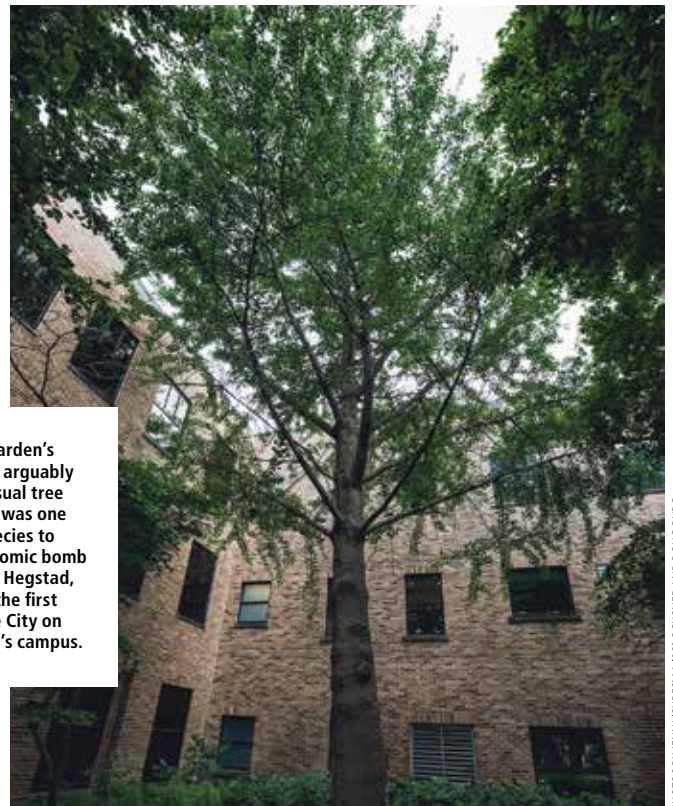
Several species of trees on campus bloom in the spring, including a Dr. Merrill magnolia, one of three magnolia trees in the Alumni Garden.



The Alumni Garden's ginkgo tree is arguably the most unusual tree on campus. It was one of the few species to survive the atomic bomb in Japan, says Hegstad, who planted the first one in Orange City on Northwestern's campus.



Two trees on campus were planted in memory of students. A silly dogwood on the campus green remembers Keiko Yogi (1972 to 1996), and a swamp oak in front of Hoppers Hall remembers Megan Queitzsch (1983 to 2003).



PHOTOS BY JENNI (SYBESMA '09) OCHSNER AND DOUG BURG



# RAIDERS

## Two years after a life-threatening accident, alum reflects on the strong support that played a role in his miraculous recovery

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

**Ardie Keune '79 holds a football in his hands.** That he can not only grasp it, but stand, throw it and chase it down if he wants to, is ... well, it's a miracle.

The Sioux Rapids, Iowa, chiropractor was on his way to the Sturgis, S.D., Motorcycle Rally in August 2015 when his Harley-Davidson was struck from behind by a driver trying to escape law enforcement. The SUV that hit Ardie was going more than 100 miles per hour and crashed shortly after colliding with him.

Former Raider football teammate Blaine "Dusty" Duistermars '80 was traveling with Ardie and was the first one to reach him. "I supported his head. Blood all over. One of his legs sticking out in the wrong direction," he recalled in an interview with the *Des Moines Register* this past April. Duistermars was also the first one to know that the call to the ambulance telling them it was "a cold one" was wrong. Ardie was alive.

Ardie's wife, B.B., still gets teary talking about those early days—his extensive injuries, numerous broken bones (shoulder, right leg, left hand and foot, eight ribs), and worrisome brain scan that Ardie's trauma surgeon described as looking like scrambled eggs. The surgeon later admitted he thought Ardie's chances of survival were around one percent. When B.B. and their daughter, Kenzie, now a Northwestern sophomore, arrived at the Rapid City, S.D., hospital where Ardie had been taken, Kenzie didn't recognize her dad.

Living minute to minute, as B.B. describes it—through multiple surgeries, setbacks and moments when his medical team thought they still might lose him—the patient dubbed "miracle man" by his nurses improved. B.B.'s worries changed from wondering whether her husband would live to wondering what kind of life he would have. Though Ardie remembers very little of the time he spent in the hospital, he smiles and reaches for his wife's hand as she tells about the first time she heard him speak, two weeks after the accident. B.B. and a Rapid City pastor were praying near his bed. When they finished, Ardie said in a raspy voice, "Amen."

During Ardie's six-week hospitalization and his more than three months of intense physical and

occupational therapy at a rehabilitation hospital in Lincoln, Neb., B.B. and Kenzie kept family and friends updated with Facebook posts. More than once B.B. passed along wisdom shared by Ardie's doctors, nurses and therapists, that "patients that do the best are the ones who are fully supported by family and friends ... we need your support and love and presence."

The Keunes' community delivered. B.B. gets teary talking about this too. Memory books compiled by friends document a #KeunDawgStrong-themed benefit hosted at the Sioux Rapids Fire Station, and B.B.'s social media messages are filled with expressions of thanks to people who went above and beyond supporting her and Ardie and driving Kenzie back and forth to Rapid City and Lincoln. Dr. Tim Aberson '89, from Paullina, Iowa, took over for Ardie at his chiropractic clinic. Friends welcomed Kenzie into their home, and her volleyball teammates buoyed her spirits as her parents missed her senior season.

Ardie's former teammates rallied for him too. Duistermars stayed with him when he could and kept the rest of the Raider gridiron gang informed. Ardie starts to list some of those who visited—former coaches Larry "Bubb" Korver '54, Mel Tjeerdsma and Cornie Wassink '73 and teammates Orv Otten '79 and Jim Svoboda '83—then he stops because there were so many and he doesn't want to forget to name someone.

While the former All-American offensive lineman and NFL try-out gutted it out through six-a-day physical therapy sessions, his teammates sent around a football, covering the leather with well wishes and Bible verses about fight, courage and strength. Among the more than 30 messages from players who back in the day went by nicknames like Beef, Muffin, Neuty and Zeut, is encouragement from Coach Korver: "God saved your life so that you can be an example for others."

"He's the example, though," says Ardie, who'd rather talk about how people like Korver inspire him. "He's quite a man. And isn't that just like him to always be coaching." 🏈

### On the Web

For video, photos and more of Ardie's recovery story as reported by Mike Kilen in the April 12, 2017, *Des Moines Register*, visit [tinyurl.com/dmrkeune](http://tinyurl.com/dmrkeune).

Despite lingering effects of his accident—he'll likely need physical therapy the rest of his life—Ardie Keune is grateful he's still around to watch his daughter compete as a Red Raider herself. "I just want to be with my wife and watch my daughter grow up," he says.





During former Raider football player Ardie Keune's long recovery from a life-threatening motorcycle accident, his former teammates rallied around him. They visited and gave him a football with notes of encouragement. Coach Larry Korver visited more than once, even bringing cinnamon rolls and cookies for former player #70.



# RAIDER *Made*

**Looking for the perfect birthday present?** Perhaps you're someone who gets your Christmas shopping done especially early.

Whatever the occasion, we have some gift ideas to make your life easier, featuring products from businesses established by Northwestern alumni.

## JAVA ROASTER

**cherrybean.net** | \$9-\$50

**Jennifer (Herlyn '06) McCormick** of Marion, S.D., is the fourth owner of a business started by another Northwestern alum. Originally a customer of the Cherrybean Coffee Company, she now follows roasting instructions passed down from founder Reed Friesse '95 and speaks easily about the best temperatures for flushes and kick outs.

In addition to roasting coffee beans, McCormick and her husband package and deliver their product, and she handles the company's finances, marketing and ordering. They sell retail, wholesale and direct-to-consumer to customers that include restaurants, grocery stores, churches and a farmer's market.

McCormick spends time researching the farms and cooperatives that grow the beans she purchases, selecting only certified organic and fair trade coffee. "It's important to us that the people who grow and harvest the coffee we sell are treated well and paid fairly," she says. "And because we sell organic coffee, our decaf coffee is decaffeinated with water rather than chemicals."







## SEW CUTE

**thedottedduck.com** | \$10–\$50

Sisters-in-law **Kim (Kollasch '04)** and **Katie (Kennedy '07) Doughan** started sewing for their families as a way to save money. When friends and acquaintances asked where they could purchase the same outfits for their kids, the two began taking requests. Now their home-based business, The Dotted Duck, features handmade boutique children's clothing and baby items, as well as women's totes and scarves.

The work-from-home moms enjoy the creative outlet and flexible hours their Orange City business gives them. They started small, with Katie using her mom's sewing machine until she had the funds to buy her own. Now they have more than 2,500 Facebook followers. "I think one of the things people like about buying from us is the fact that we'll do custom orders, using fabric they've found," says Kim. Summer and fall are their busiest seasons as customers prepare for family photos or purchase Christmas dresses and outfits.







## POPPIN' FRESH

**solsma.com** | \$5–\$10

The gourmet Ruby Red popcorn **Amy (Langstraat '91) Solsma** sells is one of many items available at the Solsma Punkin Patch near Sanborn, Iowa. The smaller-kernel variety pops bright white with red hull speckles and has a rich, nutty flavor. Amy's husband, **Jay '92**, first proposed growing the variety. "It's pretty on the ear, has a small, tender kernel, and people have loved it," she says. Their online sales have reached customers in 28 states.

Solsma grew up on a farm. "We always had a really big garden," she recalls. "We would plant some pumpkins and set them out by the road with a little sign." Amy and Jay started the Solsma Punkin Patch in 1999. In addition to popcorn and pumpkins, their business features a corn maze and country store selling local products.

## REPURPOSED

**Facebook.com/door2decor** | \$50–\$1,000

The home décor and furniture **Tyler Reichle '08** and his father create is both beautiful and functional. Take a closer look, and you'll also see it's crafted from old doors—in some cases, complete with the original knobs and hinges.

Door 2 Décor was established in 2013 after Reichle's dad, a woodworker, began experimenting with converting doors into shelves, bookcases, mirrors, coat racks and headboards. Reichle, a teacher, enjoys spending time with

his father as they work side by side. "Dad does most of the construction," he says. "I get to do the fun part—the paint, the distressing—and give it the final touch."

Door 2 Décor products are available in several home décor stores in Iowa and Minnesota. The Sioux Center duo also sells their work at several shows every year, but the majority of their orders are custom-made for people who have their own ideas or requests for a specific stain to fit a room.







## FABRIC BY THE FRAME

**tonyasuefolkerts.com** | \$10–\$75

**Tonya (Neufeld '03) Folkerts** draws with fabric. The Des Moines artist stitches together vibrant colors and patterns to create folk art that often incorporates Bible verses or inspirational quotes. Her penchant for vintage materials and other pre-used textiles goes back to her first piece. “I was looking for something to put on my wall, and I found one of my grandma’s scarves,” she says. “I realized I could print on fabric, sew it and make a picture.”

Encouraged by a friend, she took part in a trunk show in 2010 and nearly sold out. Now she sells original pieces, prints and cards at art shows. She also does commissions for customers who want her to use something with special meaning for them, like a baby’s onesie or a mother’s tea towel.

“Sometimes my work is inspired by a beautiful piece of fabric, and sometimes there’s a Scripture I need to see,” Folkerts says. Artistic by nature, the theatre grad is grateful for a creative outlet that she recognizes is a gift from God.

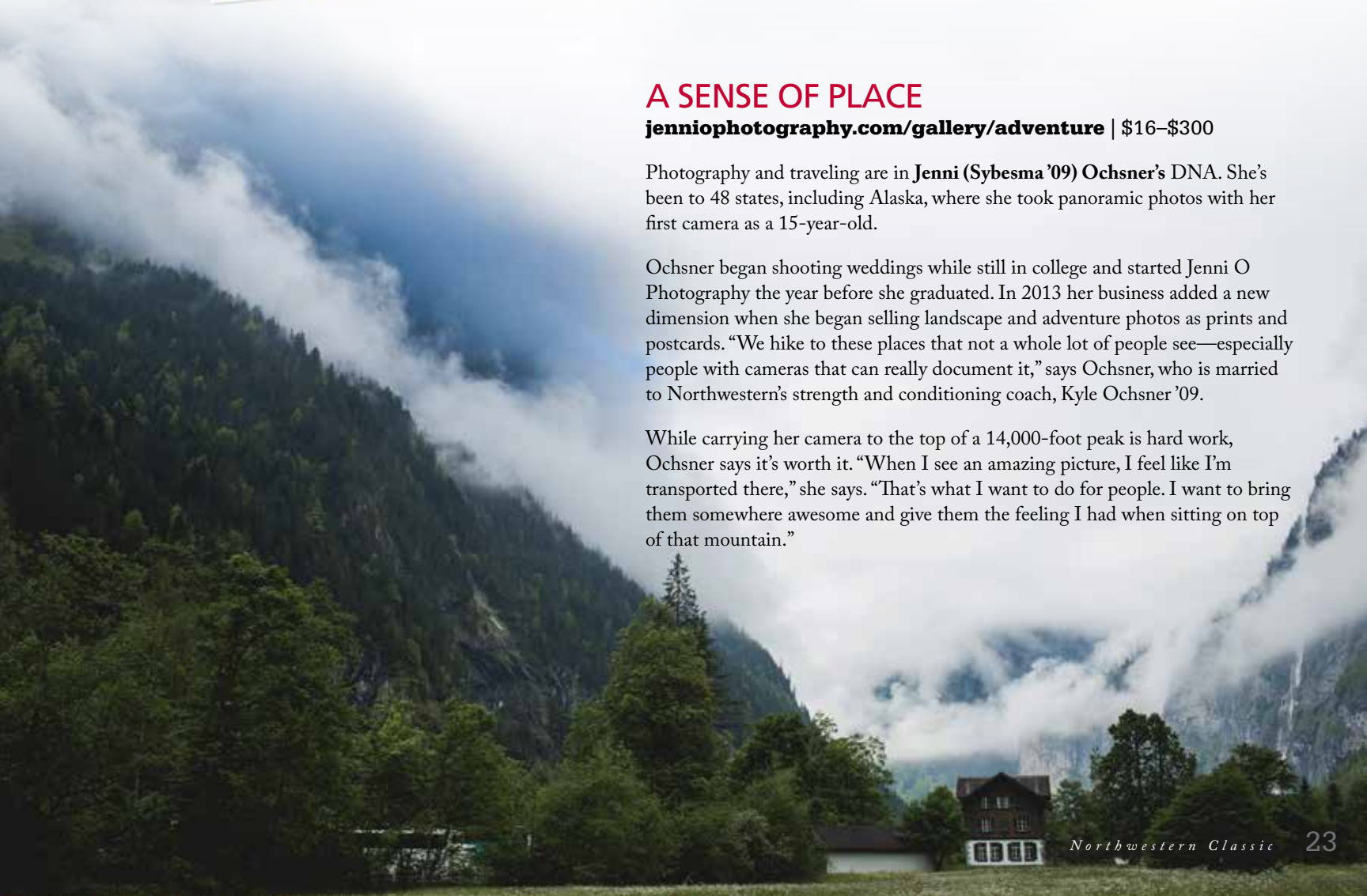
## A SENSE OF PLACE

**jenniophotography.com/gallery/adventure** | \$16–\$300

Photography and traveling are in **Jenni (Sybesma '09) Ochsner’s** DNA. She’s been to 48 states, including Alaska, where she took panoramic photos with her first camera as a 15-year-old.

Ochsner began shooting weddings while still in college and started Jenni O Photography the year before she graduated. In 2013 her business added a new dimension when she began selling landscape and adventure photos as prints and postcards. “We hike to these places that not a whole lot of people see—especially people with cameras that can really document it,” says Ochsner, who is married to Northwestern’s strength and conditioning coach, Kyle Ochsner '09.

While carrying her camera to the top of a 14,000-foot peak is hard work, Ochsner says it’s worth it. “When I see an amazing picture, I feel like I’m transported there,” she says. “That’s what I want to do for people. I want to bring them somewhere awesome and give them the feeling I had when sitting on top of that mountain.”





## DESIGNING BEAUTY

**Etsy.com/shop/SweetJuniperDesigns** | \$15–\$45

**Alison Kuglin '16**, Hawarden, Iowa, traces her interest in designing jewelry back to her childhood and a creative mother who always had projects laying out on the table. “I’ve been playing with beads ever since I could put them on a string,” she says. She began selling her work for the first time while in college, and by the time she was a senior, was known as “the jewelry girl.”

Kuglin gave a name to her business—Sweet Juniper|Designs by Alison—in the summer of 2015, when she lived for a week with a family of artisans who allowed her to display and sell her jewelry in their gallery. Her rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings are handcrafted and feature intricate wire work—a detail-oriented process she enjoys.

Kuglin’s jewelry designs are also available through Vi Bella Jewelry, a company that teaches jewelry-making skills to women in Haiti and Mexico. She joined Vi Bella as its shipping manager when she graduated, but has worked as one of its designers since January.

## TAILOR-MADE

**sweetzionpaperie.com** | Inquire for prices

Think of Sweet Zion Paperie as a stationery concierge. **Sophie (Eicher '09) Ulibarri** of Highlands Ranch, Colo., designs and prints custom tailored stationery for life’s biggest moments, while her husband, **Tim '08**, handles the accounting and payroll. Whether it’s letterpress printing, a watercolor painting or something a bit more unusual, it’s a project they’re willing to tackle—with enthusiasm. “We offer custom stationery, logo design and brand development,” says Sophie, “but probably 90 percent of what we do is consultation-based event stationery.”

Ulibarri’s invitations for weddings, baby showers and milestone birthdays are perfectly coordinated, from hand-addressed envelopes to response cards. Typefaces, papers and special touches—like die cuts, embossing, wax seals, foil stamping or ribbon closures—combine to create a unique look for every client. For some events, she also designs matching menus, programs, table place cards or signage.

Ulibarri begins each project by getting to know her clients, their story and what makes them unique. That personalization makes Sweet Zion Paperie distinctive. The opportunity to create beauty and celebrate life’s greatest occasions gives her joy.





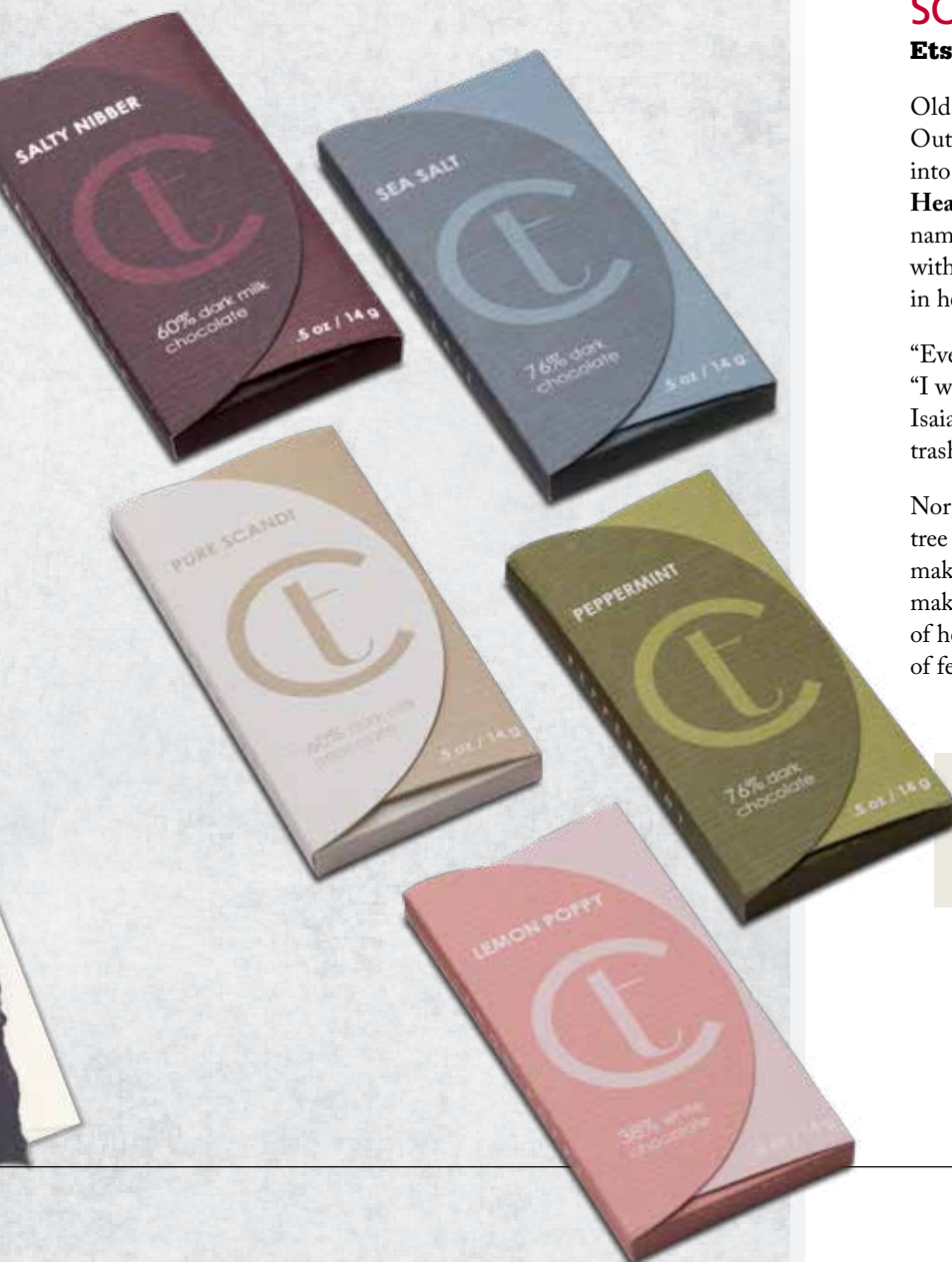
## COCOA WITH CULTURE

[tasteofplacechocolate.com](http://tasteofplacechocolate.com) | \$2.50–\$10

Grapes aren't the only crop used to create something with a flavor impacted by the climate and soil where it's grown. Just as wine has *terroir*, or a "taste of place," so do cacao beans, the raw ingredient for chocolate.

**Kristin (Spidahl '09) Mohagen** and her husband, Josh, built their business, Terroir Chocolate, on single-origin cacao that preserves the personality of its source. "We get beans from Madagascar, and the chocolate tastes like citrus," says Kristin. "Beans from Peru—bananas and mango. The flavors are completely different, even though it's just cocoa beans with a little sugar."

As one of approximately 60 bean-to-bar craft chocolate makers in the U.S., the Mohagens do their own roasting and grinding. They spend long days in a commercial kitchen in Fergus Falls, Minn., heating the chocolate to the desired texture and color before pouring it into bar molds and then packaging the sweet treats by hand for sale online and in specialty stores.



## SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

[Etsy.com/shop/beholdanewthing](http://Etsy.com/shop/beholdanewthing) | \$15–\$45

Old blankets and sweaters are turned into felt Christmas ornaments. Outdated maps, into paper flowers. Pages from a favorite book, into heart-shaped confetti for scattering on a table at a wedding. **Heather (Harrison '87) Northrop** of The Villages, Fla., chose the name of her business, Behold a New Thing, to reflect what she does with vintage, recycled and reused materials—and what God does in her.

"Everything I sell in my Etsy store was something else," she says. "I write a note to everyone who purchases from me and include Isaiah 43:19. God is constantly taking what I might consider to be trash and making something beautiful and useful out of it."

Northrop's felted wool pinecones, which can be used as Christmas tree ornaments or bowl fillers, are one of her best-sellers. She also makes felted wool hearts, birds and bunnies. She isn't alone in making new things with what she sells. One customer used one of her recycled bedsprings as the base for a sunflower made out of felt. 🏠

**Know of more alumni-made goods?** If you—or someone you know—has a homemade business that should be included in a future *Classic* gift guide, let us know. Send your tips to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).

# class Notes

**'66 Ivan Mulder** is the 2017 recipient of the Pella (Iowa) Area Community and Economic Alliance's Hall of Fame Excellence Award for community service. Following his career in teaching, he began managing a senior living campus. He secured a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to restore Fair Haven, a 100-year-old building that now provides 29 apartments for low-income seniors. In addition to managing the facility part time, he continues to be active in various community organizations, including the Pella Historical Society and Museums.

**'68 Kella Klinker Simonin** directed a production of *Squabbles* for Spencer (Iowa) Community Theatre this spring. The show wrapped up the theatre's 57th season.

**'72 Steve King**, Tucson, Ariz., retired in April after 37 years as president and CEO of Beacon Group, which provides training and employment for persons with disabilities in southern Arizona. The group's board honored Steve and his wife, **Kathy (Oolman)**, by naming the organization's facility the Steve and Kathy King Community Center.

**'73** The National Federation of State High School Associations recently recognized **Cornie Wassink** as the Football Official of the Year for Iowa. Last season was his 47th and final year as a high school football official. During this period he officiated high school games in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota, including four Iowa state championship games. He also officiated collegiate football for 24 years at the junior college level as well as NCAA Div. II and III and NAIA. He continues to serve as a high school and college official for cross country and track and field.

**'74 Mark Bruggom** has written a book documenting the first 75 years of KICD radio station in Spencer, Iowa. He served as meteorologist and news broadcaster for the station from 1995 to 2010.

**'77 Daryl Copp** has retired as the deputy chief of police in Sierra Vista, Ariz., after 20 years of service. He also served on the Ankeny, Iowa, police department for 11 years before moving to Arizona.

**'78 The Rev. David Landegent** has published an ebook, *Colossians: A Commentary*, through Westbow Press. The volume explores the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians phrase-by-phrase, even examining Greek words and other first-century writings, yet is written in a style that can be easily understood by a layperson. The commentary seeks to provide the big picture as well as the facets of each Scriptural gem. Landegent is a Reformed Church in America pastor in Volga, S.D.

**'82 Maria Khoury** is a new commissioner and chair of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee for the National Institution of Human Rights in Bahrain. She also serves as chairperson of the Al Raja School.

**'83 Brenda (Sinkey) Zahnley** is a chaplain at Tyson Fresh Meats' corporate office in Dakota Dunes, S.D. She previously served as director of bereavement at Christy-Smith Funeral Homes for 20 years.

**'85 Mike Van Berkum**, chief of the Iowa State Patrol since 2015, retired in March after 32 years with the force.

**'87 Greg and Melanie (Odens) Olson** are two of the founders of the South Dakota Scavenger's Journey, a 100-mile antique/garage sale

## Red Ties

**KRISTIN (BREEMS '03) RUCKS**  
Director of Constituent Engagement

I have had the pleasure of being back on campus, working in the advancement office, for a year and a half. After having a wonderful time as a student and serving three years as an admissions counselor, it's been a blessing to work with donors to help advance Northwestern's mission.

From my varied experiences, I know that most students have a specific story about how they heard of Northwestern or why they are here. Most often it starts with a person.

Many of you have been key players in the college decisions of your kids, their friends and other teens you know. Your influence is very apparent in so many stories we hear. Jackie Davis, director of admissions, conducted several focus groups last semester and found that 14 of the 15 freshmen she spoke to became interested in NWC primarily because of encouragement from someone in their lives—like a teacher, a neighbor or a youth leader.

Corky Koerselman '82, director of alumni and parent relations, let me write this Red Ties column because I am excited to share about a new alumni, parents and friends engagement program: the Northwestern Network. We know how valuable our alumni, parents and friends are when it comes to student recruitment, and we've also had tremendous volunteer support in fundraising. The NW Network will involve those efforts as well as three others in which volunteers can help to spread red: career and internship support; social media; and campus activities, such as returning to speak in a class.

You can learn more about the Northwestern Network and sign up in the area that makes most sense for you at our Celebration Banquet on Sept. 29. You'll also have the opportunity to meet students, hear their stories and thank donors. Cost is just \$15 per person. Contact Aletha Beeson with questions or to reserve tickets: [events@nwciowa.edu](mailto:events@nwciowa.edu) or 712-707-7134.





road trip that takes place the weekend after Father's Day every year and strives to promote commerce in rural communities. Owners of the Old West Trading Post antique mall in Oacoma, S.D., for 20 years, they are retiring and closing the store this fall. They will continue to sell antiques online and at flea markets and shows.

**'92 Lt. Col. Lisa (Burris) Ciccirelli** will retire from active duty in the Air Force Sept. 1 after nearly 22 years of service. She plans to continue living in Southern California with her husband, Chris, and children, Ally (17) and Spencer (12).

**'93 Joline (Schultz) Paska** has been employed by JP Morgan Chase for 24 years and recently started a new role as a control officer. She and her husband, Steve, live in Chicago.

**'00 The Rev. J.P. Sundararajan**, Holland, Mich., is the India-Asia director for Audio Scripture Ministries, which is developing an app that will bring the Bible to smartphones in India in about 100 languages.

**'01 Jonathan Strauss** is a senior graphic designer with the Willow Creek Association supporting the Global Leadership Summit, an annual conference that takes place at 1,375 sites in 128 countries and is broadcast in 60 languages. He and his wife, Sara, live in Lake Zurich, Ill., with their sons, Connor and Caleb.

**'02 Dan Milczski** is the ISO coordinator at Barton Solvents, a chemical distribution company in Des Moines. His wife, **Laurie (Sandbulte '00)**, is the office manager at Adventure-Life Church in Altoona. They have three children: Kirsten (10), Camryn (6) and Trevor (4).

**'04 Rebecca Lanquist**, St. Louis Park, Minn., is a market access reimbursement manager for Coloplast Corp. in Minneapolis.

**'05 Jeff DeVore** has joined the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte, N.C., as a proofreader in the creative services department.

**Kara (Dehmlow) Knaack** is the co-owner and director of business development for the Des Moines Mom Blog, a website dedicated to offering relevant and timely information to connect and support mothers in the Des Moines area.

**'06 Dana (Jensen) Blayney**, Hendersonville, Tenn., was recently promoted to manager of transplant and dialysis services at HCA Healthcare. She supports and manages 13 transplant centers throughout the U.S.

**Benjamin Brownson** is artistic director and co-founder of Broken Nose Theatre in Chicago, which received four awards in the prestigious Non-Equity Jeff Awards in June. He earned a master's degree in the humanities from the University of Chicago and serves as director of programs for Leadership Greater Chicago.

**Anna (Wilkinson) Tabone** is a career adviser at Spring Arbor University in Michigan.

**'08 Jen Marks** completed a master's degree in theological studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May. She moved to Thailand this summer to serve as the global technology adviser for Pioneers, a missions organization with bases around the world.

**The Rev. Bethany Popkes** is the pastor at High Bridge (N.J.) Reformed Church.



A two-time Northwestern graduate and cancer survivor, Evonne Blankers provides nursing care to patients at Mercy Medical Center.

## From Patient to Healer

More than many of her fellow graduates at Northwestern's commencement ceremony in May, Evonne (Vander Wilt '82, '17) Blankers knew what to expect. She'd been there before.

The first time, Blankers graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and music. Now she was receiving her second degree, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She wore a red cord signifying her selection as one of two outstanding graduating seniors in nursing.

Blankers sold pharmaceuticals for a dozen years, stayed at home with her children for a time, and then worked in a non-clinical job at a hospital. A survivor of thyroid cancer, she began pursuing an RN degree at Western Iowa Tech Community College.

After her first semester, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "My nursing education gave me more understanding and enabled me to feel more in control of my ongoing treatment," she says.

Following surgery, she completed her RN degree, began working part time at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, and later enrolled in Northwestern's online RN to BSN program. "It was academically challenging, but it went well," she says. "I really appreciated the opportunity to incorporate my Christian faith."

Blankers continues to work with patients rehabilitating from strokes and serious injuries, providing compassionate care as the result of both her personal experiences and her education.

"I know the value of recognizing small steps and how oftentimes it's very difficult to do something that looks easy."

BY DUANE BEESON



Exemplar Genetics president John Swart, shown with 2014 Carlson Intern Jillian (Estes '17) Janssen, received the Cultivation Corridor Iowa Biotech Leader of the Year Award in March.

## This Little Pig

Dr. John Swart '90 honestly wasn't sure the pigs would work out.

A chemistry major at Northwestern, Swart heard in 2007 that University of Iowa researchers had developed the technology to genetically engineer pigs for the study of cystic fibrosis.

Having spent 12 years in global animal health, Swart decided to raise funds to test their findings. The pigs proved to be more effective study models than mice—more anatomically and genetically similar to humans—and by 2008, Swart had birthed Exemplar Genetics (and the first pigs) in Sioux Center to offer custom models of human disease for laboratory study.

Swart won the 2017 Cultivation Corridor Iowa Biotech Leader of the Year Award for advancing Iowa's biotechnology industry through Exemplar's innovative approach.

"God called me to be a businessman and a scientist," he says, humbled by the honor. "We're in the business of preventing human suffering, and we do it with the highest integrity we possibly can."

Swart joins his employees on an annual service day to aid families affected by some of the 15 diseases the company strives to cure. Tasks such as building a wheelchair-accessible deck are crucial, he says, to helping all Exemplar staff—from researchers to those who clean the animals' pens—understand how life-changing their work really is.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

'09 **Andy Janssen** was named assistant coach for the South Dakota State University women's soccer team in March. Previously he served as the assistant coach for the Bemidji State women's soccer team, helping them earn an 81-45-9 record with seven consecutive trips to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference tournament. He completed a master's degree in sport studies at Bemidji State in June.

**Kathleen (Kropp) Marsh** works in Aurora, Colo., as a music therapist with Rehabilitative Rhythms Music Therapy.

'10 After six years as the middle school band director for MOC-Floyd Valley, **Dan Mangold** is now the high school band director.

'11 **Matt Vander Molen** is a program associate for Heartland Tree Alliance in Kansas City, Mo. The program seeks to engage people in the Kansas City region to take action and advocate for a healthy community forest.

'12 **Erica (Graber) Miller** is the director of operations at the Alpha Center, a nonprofit pregnancy resource center in Sioux Falls.

**Dr. Tyler Vermeer** graduated from the Indiana University School of Optometry and now works for Family Eye Care in Rock Valley, Iowa.

**Jill Weitgenant** has completed a master's degree in school mathematics from Iowa State University.

**Anna Yarrow** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in May with a master's degree in genetic counseling and is now a genetic counselor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of Iowa Health Care.

'13 **Amy (Van Skike) Vermeer** graduated from the University

of Iowa College of Dentistry in May and is doing a residency at the University of Iowa in endodontics. Her husband, **Tim '12**, earned a master's degree in teacher leadership in May through an online program offered by Northwestern College's graduate school.

**Keely Wright-Ogren** was awarded the 2017 Robert Cohen Sound Achievement Award from the United States Institute of Theatre Technology for exhibiting excellence and creative application of sound in the performing arts. She graduated in May with a master's degree in design and technology from the University of Idaho.

'14 **Abby (Van Gorp) Guthmiller** is a client services social worker at the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls.

**Bret Krosschell** is the network administrator for Farmers Coop Society in Sioux Center.

**Jenna Ripke** graduated from Nebraska College of Law in May and started a new job as an attorney at Brown Immigration Law in Lincoln, Neb.

**Mackenzie Small** has been teaching second grade at Sioux Falls Christian School. In 2017-18 she will be piloting the school's sabbatical program, teaching at the Jean Alexis Kuislin Christian Academy in Haiti.

'15 **Adrianne Bishop** earned a master's degree in sports medicine: strength and conditioning from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She is the head strength and conditioning coach and assistant athletic trainer at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla.

**Tyler Janota** is the assistant strength and conditioning coach for the men's basketball team at the University of Texas.



## New Arrivals

Andy and **Kelsey (Iversen '02) Callens**, twins, Maddox Samuel and Xavier Michael

Jon and **Christie (Jans '03) Conover**, twins, Leah Alexandra and Rebecca Joelle, join Rachel (1)

Zach and **Stacy (Van Vark '04) Kanis**, son, Avery Philip, joins Zander (6), Grayson (4) and Koen (3)

Adam and **Stacy (Tynan '05) Campbell**, daughter, Lillyan Loretta Ann Mark and **Rachel (Starr '05) Heath**, son, Jeremiah Sherburne, joins Lydia (2)

**Wendy (White '05) and Joel Ivarson '03**, son by adoption, Isaac Dawon, joins Mina (4)

Megan and **Travis Kooima '05**, son, Ezekiel Aaron, joins Grayson (2)

Kate and **Aaron Aberson '06**, twins, Quinn Marie and Cadence Jolene

Eric and **Jennifer (Hoitink '06) Hahn**, son, Vander Paul, joins Deacon (2)

Jeff and **Anna (Wilkinson '06) Tabone**, daughter, Noelle Elizabeth

**Amanda (Brown '07) and Scott Brouwer '06**, daughter, Annabelle Elizabeth, joins Jonah (2)

Anthony and **Elizabeth (Colbert '08) Burns**, daughter, Margaret Anne

**Emily (Lichter '08) and Kyle Sauter '10**, daughter, Alice Renee, joins Olivia (4) and William (3)

**Jessica (Vander Velde '10) and Tyler Glanzer '10**, son, Emmitt James, joins Savannah (4) and Owen (2)

Eric and **Sarah (Hansen '10) Vermeer**, daughter, Vivian Johanna Ruth, joins Josiah (3)

**Nicole (Ellingson '11) and Jameson Guthmiller '09**, daughter, Madelynn Ruth, joins twins Eli and Hudson (2)

Jeremy and **Monica (Klarenbeek '11) Vink**, daughter, Hattie Victoria-Layne, joins Kuno (4) and Zac (2)

**Ashley (Evans '12) and Jake Anderson '10**, son, Jax Darwin Thomas, joins Brock (3)

Derrick and **Jessica (Wedel '12)**

**Bulthuis**, daughter, Maya Joy

Luke and **Kay (Heiberger '12) Pucket**, twin sons, Micah Preston and Riley Alan

Tim and **Rebecca (Lokker '14) Ortner**, son, Titus Paul

**Jill (McInnis '15) and Cory Cunard '14**, son, Elisha Everett

## Marriages

**Joline Schultz '93** and Steve Paska, Chicago

**Melissa Uittenbogaard '03** and Kevin Woodley, Estherville, Iowa

## In Memoriam

**Jack Vander Wilt '43, '45** died July 11 at the age of 90. He worked as a manager at Silent Sioux and a salesman at K-Products in Orange City before moving

to Grand Rapids, Mich., to serve as office manager at Words of Hope. In retirement, he lived in Orange City and made deliveries for the Flower Cart. His survivors include his wife, **Elynor (Heemstra '48)**; three children, including **Gayle Newby '73** and **Jaclyn Emry '88**; and a brother, **Marlin '53, '55**.

**Lorna (De Haan '43) Visser** died March 23 at the age of 92 in Waverly, Iowa. She served as a homemaker and held office positions in various schools and churches. She is survived by three daughters.

**Grace (Meerdink '44, '70) Boote**, 92, died Feb. 27. She taught in Boyden, Iowa, and was a homemaker. She was active at First Reformed Church in Hull, teaching Sunday school and catechism, singing in the choir, and playing piano and organ. Among her survivors are three children, including **Howard '73** and **Bob '78**.

# RAIDER DAYS

## Homecoming & Parents Weekend

Sept. 29–30, 2017

Come home for Raider Days and enjoy Morning on the Green, the Red Raider Road Race, a tailgate picnic, Raider football and soccer, and more. Reunions will be held for the classes of '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, '07, '12 and '17.

[nwciova.edu/RaiderDays](http://nwciova.edu/RaiderDays)





LON MONAHAN

Shelley Twigg put in a pool at their family home in Waukee, Iowa, in 2016 and provided lessons for 650 children this summer.

## Neighborhood Lifesaver

The swim noodles and the Elsa doll that can convince the most timid kid to dive underwater—each summer weekday Emma Twigg, 10, organized these and other pool toys before the morning's first lesson. Her dad, Ben, checked the chemicals and filters, and younger sisters Lily and Maya topped off instructors' water bottles.

It was a family affair at Twigg Swimming Academy in Waukee, Iowa, where 650 kids received private instruction this summer in the customized lesson pool behind the Twiggs' house. With another 100 on the waiting list, they doubled the number of swimmers served last year.

Shelley (Beal '01) Twigg began the academy in 2016 to fill a need in the community and satisfy a passion. Still the girls' head swim coach at Waukee High School, Twigg stopped teaching school when her second daughter was born and knew she'd miss the connections with the kids.

"I'm the luckiest person to be able to do something I love every single day," Twigg says.

A neighbor kindly allowed cars to park in front of her house for the half-hour lessons. Moms sat poolside and cried tears of relief, Twigg says, when children worked up the courage to jump in the deep end after just a week's worth of lessons, proving they've learned how to be safe in the water.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

**Angeline (Smit '48) Calsbeek**, age 88, died in Balaton, Minn., on April 21. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she taught in Inwood, Iowa; Holland, Mich.; and Yankton, S.D. As a pastor's wife, she taught Sunday school and women's Bible studies, played piano and organ, and directed choirs for congregations in South Dakota, New Mexico, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. Among her survivors are four children, including **Marcia Vermeer '78** and **Doug '79**, and two sisters, including **Elvena Hyronimus '51**.

**Fenita (Harmelink '51) King** died Feb. 23 in Omaha at age 85. After graduating from Northwestern, she attended Central College and taught at schools in various locations, including Sioux Center; Yokohama, Japan; Holland, Mich.; and Tucson, Ariz. She later worked for the University of Arizona as an accountant until her retirement in 1998. She played organ at several churches in Tucson for many years. She is survived by two children and four siblings, including **Herman '52**, **Milton '56** and **Joyce Koop '61**.

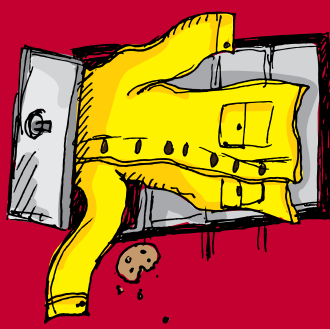
**Muriel (Bruxvoort '52) Ravestein**, 82, died April 14. After attending Northwestern, she enrolled in the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Sioux City. She worked at Sioux Center Community Hospital and later at the Heritage House

nursing home in Orange City and Concordia Care Center in Bella Vista, Ark. She was a member of Village Bible Evangelical Free Church, where she participated in dramas and assisted with Vacation Bible School. She is survived by three children and six siblings, including **Wesley '58** and **Gordon '61**.

**Frederick Lamfers '54** of Sioux Center died June 24 at the age of 83. He spent 40 years working for AMPI, hauling cream cans and driving a milk truck. In retirement, he drove a van for Casey's Bakery. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and eight children, including **Brent '98** and **Dr. Julie Dragstra**, assistant professor of nursing.

**Mayris (Haverdink '57, '59) De Jong** died March 20 at age 77. A homemaker, she enjoyed sewing and worked at De Vries Interiors, in addition to making wedding attendant dresses and costumes for Orange City's annual Tulip Festival. She was active in a number of churches, singing in choirs and participating in Bible studies, and had served as secretary at Dover Avenue Alliance Church. Her survivors include two sons and a brother, **Gene '54, '56**.

**Marilyn (Van Roekel '64) Rausch**, 74, of Gunter, Texas, died June 25. She taught elementary school for 35 years in Iowa,



# YOU'VE GOT MAIL.

What filled your campus mailbox?  
Letters from your love back home?  
Cookies that arrived in crumbs?  
The parka you forgot to pack?

A future *Classic* will share stories of the mail you got while at Northwestern. Send your mail tale to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).



Minnesota and Texas. She later owned and managed an excavation company with her husband, Jim. Among her survivors are her husband, a stepdaughter and four siblings.

**Phyllis (Stallbaum '65) Van Peurse**m of Orange City died April 20 at age 73. A homemaker, she was active on their family farm, working in the animal nurseries and hauling grain. She was a member of Trinity Reformed Church and taught Sunday school classes. Her survivors include her husband, Pete; two children, including **Susan De Weerd '92**; and two sisters, including **Darlene Van Roekel '58**.

**David Van Wechel '69**, Orange City, died June 29 at age 73. He taught in Alton and Onawa before becoming a full-time painter. A recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award in 2013 with his wife, **Shirley (Van Maanen '66)**, he operated the clock at Red Raider football, wrestling and track competitions and hosted numerous NWC students. His survivors include his wife; four children, including **Todd '86**, **Teri Anderson '89** and **Bobbi Riedemann '91**; and two siblings.

**Andrea Van Beek '74**, age 64, died March 12. She graduated from the University of Iowa Law School, established trust departments in several area banks, and practiced law in Orange City for 30 years. Active in the Reformed Church in America, she was a four-term member of the General Synod Commission on the Book of Church Order and also was on the General Synod Council. She served on the boards of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Northwestern College and numerous area organizations, including the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Orange City Arts Council, Orange City Area Health Center Foundation and Bethesda Midwest. A former chairperson of the Sioux County Republicans, she served on the board of directors of the Small Business Administration. She

played organ and piano for area churches for 47 years.

**Todd Mouw '90** of Orange City died July 8 at age 53. A quadriplegic since an automobile accident in 1985, he had a passion for cooking and horses, and he was a member of New Hope Evangelical Free Church. He is survived by his wife, Cyndi; two stepchildren; and seven siblings, including **Monty '77**.

**Ed Ericson**, 77, Northwestern's dean of academic affairs and a professor of English from 1973 to 1977, died on April 29. A graduate of Hope College who earned a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Arkansas, he also taught in the English departments at Hope College, Westmont College and Calvin College, where he received the Faith and Learning Award in 2009. Among his survivors are his wife, Jan, and two sons.

**John Kaericher**, a member of Northwestern's art faculty from 1963 to 2005, died May 31 at the age of 80 after a long battle with cancer. He graduated from Millikin University and the University of Iowa, where he earned a Master of Fine Arts degree. During his time at NWC, he developed the art major, founded the permanent fine arts collection and art gallery, and brought numerous visiting artists to campus. His own art was displayed in more than 30 solo exhibitions and over 115 group exhibitions in the U.S. and the Netherlands. Survivors include his wife, Bonnie.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by Sept. 29 to [classic@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc-iowa.edu).



D. FREESMEIER

Greg and Hannah White are helping educate and inspire at-risk children in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, through the Zach Johnson Foundation's Kids on Course program.

## Long Game

Maybe it's your usual classroom, but after school—and summers, too—it transforms into The No Worksheet Zone and fewer kids compete for the attention of the teacher (who has become The Mad Scientist). It's a place—like the soccer field or dance studio—where mentorship enables you to take a solid swing at the stats that say the poorer you are, the greater your chance of falling behind.

Kids On Course, a program of the Zach Johnson Foundation, partners with 18 schools in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to keep low-income kids on course to college.

Pro golfer Johnson wanted to give back to his hometown after winning the 2007 Masters. Hannah (Watters '10) White was the first of two employees hired and now is the director of marketing and operations.

"To help pave the way for hundreds of first-generation college students is the best work I could ever hope to be part of," she says.

Her husband, Greg '11, joined the program last year as a school site manager. As translator and soccer coach, he uses his Spanish major every day to build relationships with kids like Jose.

"His family speaks an indigenous dialect, so he had barriers coming in," Greg says. "Jose grew his state reading score by 19 points—we expected three or five."

Jose is over par—but in a good way.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

# Classic Thoughts

## Called to Give

BY CONNIE (BASTEMEYER '79) ALBERS



KEVIN HEALY

I'm in the business of expressing gratitude. My work in the advancement division at St. Olaf College focuses on donor relations: acknowledging and recognizing those who have provided financial support for the college, its programs and its students. In the fundraising profession, we use terms such as prospect, identification, qualification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship. But none of this really produces results without the "secret sauce" of philanthropy—a Greek term that, directly translated, means "love of humankind."

Everyone knows how wonderful it feels to receive gifts, but the joy of getting is short-lived. I've had the privilege of working with people who understand that our lives are truly richer when we share and that great inner joy comes from helping others better their lives. Giving is good for the soul, and the act of giving can be of greater value to the giver than to the recipient.

What compels people to be philanthropic? There are many answers, from "Others have a need and I have the means," to "I feel better about myself," and even "God wants me to."

While the mystery of why generosity grows in the hearts of only some of us is beyond human understanding, many donors with whom I've worked have reflected on the opportunities they had as students, thanks to others' generosity. To express their gratitude, they want to give back to enable students to have similar meaningful experiences. Another reason some choose to give is the belief they are not giving *to* the college but rather *through* the college to create a better world—that there is no better investment in the future of the world than in the young men and women about to enter it.

I recently witnessed a wonderful example of two people who found a tangible way to do both—to demonstrate the gratitude they felt in their hearts while investing in the lives of current and future students. International and off-campus study is an integral component of a St. Olaf education. One of the most rewarding programs requires extensive air travel and field excursions. These significant costs are passed on to participants, placing this program out of reach for many students.

Because of their own life-changing experiences in this program, husband-and wife-alums Larry and Lynn have established an endowed fund that will enable St. Olaf students to participate in this program for the same cost as studying on campus. They stated that their global experiences shaped their worldview and who they are. They "hope to encourage students' development of a global perspective, foster their learning about the world and other cultures, broaden their horizons and enhance their self-discovery." Their gift will bring great joy (and relief) to the families of the students accepted into the program, but I can honestly say no one was more thrilled about this gift than the two people who made it.

I realize not many of us have the resources to establish a large endowment at a college. But we all have felt gratitude, and we all can find ways to give back—time, talent or treasure—to our congregations, our communities and other organizations that do good work in the world.

I am grateful for parents who provided me with living examples of this principle while I was growing up. Those beliefs and values were further nurtured during my years at Northwestern College. I am grateful for the education I received, the professors who taught me, and the people who helped make that possible. I am pleased to read Northwestern's mission statement about "engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world." We are called to serve and we are called to give.

Giving from the heart is one of the best investments you can make. It's the joy and "love of humankind" that brings true happiness and union with God. What are you grateful for? What will you give?

**Connie Albers has been the director of stewardship at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., since 2008. An English major at Northwestern, she taught and worked in banking and retail before joining St. Olaf's staff.**



# Spread Red

As alumni who had three children attend Northwestern, Larry '77 and Cindy (Ludwig '80) Tigges of Lanark, Ill., are sold on NWC. "Northwestern is such a gem," Cindy says. "We have always been enthused to tell others there is a college choice that offers more than just a top-rated education. If you want a truly Christian education, you can't beat Northwestern!"

Larry and Cindy recommended Northwestern to Makenzie Fink, a student they had taught and coached. "We knew Makenzie would be a great fit for Northwestern, so we encouraged her and her parents to check it out," says Cindy. "We assured Rod and Renee that after raising Makenzie in a Christ-centered home, they can be confident Northwestern will come alongside them to continue 'the race,' providing tremendous resources, programs and personnel to help deepen her faith while giving her an outstanding education. We're thrilled to be cheering on another Red Raider this fall!"

Know high school students who desire to develop a strong mind and a strong faith? Tell them about Northwestern and share their names with us at

**[nwciowa.edu/refer](http://nwciowa.edu/refer)**







# Faith Camp

Twenty high school students spent a June week on campus asking big questions about God and exploring their faith through seminars with Northwestern's theologians, serving at area ministries, and living with NWC upperclassmen mentors. The summer camp experience, called Living Your Faith (LYF), was funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Between sessions with titles like "Where did the Bible Come From?" and "The Gospel According to [Pixar movie] WALL-E," students took field trips to an Orange City shelter for women and a church on the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska.

"[LYF] made me wonder and want to dive into [the Bible] more deeply," said junior Ben Wiersema from Dyer, Ind.

Faith Tyrrell, a junior from Marshalltown, Iowa, explained the value of diving deep: "In order to serve God, you have to know him."