

Northwestern College Magazine

SPRING 2008

the Classic

Northwestern's New Leader

Potential and a proven track record place
Greg Christy in the president's office

Also

Dave Kuhnau's Desert Races
Women in Afghanistan
RD Anecdotes



20

Secluded, poor, sometimes abused—many women in Afghanistan lead difficult lives. A Northwestern alumna is among those seeking to help.

Contents

Classic People

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

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

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



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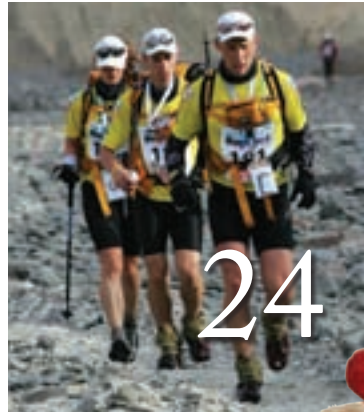
Greg Christy brings to Northwestern a successful track record as a fundraiser, a gift for strategic thinking, warm interpersonal skills, and a desire to do God's will.

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Northwestern's resident directors have been asked to take students' temperatures, track down missing trees, and clean up after chickens.

24 Iron Man

Dave Kuhnau's weight-loss program led him to run marathons and participate in triathlon competitions. His latest adventure? Completing 155-mile races in the hottest, coldest, driest and windiest places on earth.



Tell Us What You Think

This issue of the *Classic* introduces a new look for Northwestern's magazine—the first redesign in 10 years. John Vander Stelt '83 has developed a more contemporary design, while at the same time the *Classic* staff has intensified its efforts to produce a publication that informs, engages, educates, connects and entertains you.

We welcome your feedback regarding the redesign and contents of this issue. Send letters to *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041; fax: 712-707-7370; e-mail: classic@nwciowa.edu.



On the Web

Fun Run Afowl

Listen to RDs tell stories of rooster unruliness and more.

Iron Man

Read a day-by-day account of Dave Kuhnau and his teammates' conquering of The Last Desert race in Antarctica.

Champs

View a photo gallery of the women's basketball team's national championship game.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

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Zwemer View

First Impressions



Dan Ross

One year ago, I learned I was nominated for the presidency of Northwestern College. My initial reaction was one of great interest.

From the beginning of my time at Dakota Wesleyan University in 1995, I have had a strong and growing admiration for Northwestern. It began with meeting [Vice President for Advancement] John Greller and increased as I got to know other employees of the college. I even was fortunate to hire several Northwestern alumni to work for me at DWU. In every case, I have been impressed by the personal and professional qualities of these people—especially their deep spiritual commitment.

My perception of Northwestern was that its people were authentically living out what the college claimed to value—the pursuit of academic excellence within a Christ-centered, Reformed worldview. Few colleges proclaim the name of Christ as boldly as Northwestern does, which was the foundation for our initial interest.

Michelle and I began a months-long period of personal discernment as we opened ourselves to this possibility. While there are many reasons from a worldly perspective that this opportunity might be appealing, our prayer from the beginning was that God would make his calling abundantly clear to us and to the Northwestern community.

Believing that Jesus is not just our Savior, but sovereign Lord of our lives and Lord of all, we searched the Scriptures, prayed earnestly, and sought the counsel of godly friends and family. Our desire was to be open to God's leading should he choose to move us from a place we loved dearly. Over time, we have learned that his plans for us are far better than the plans we make for ourselves.

God used countless Scriptures and the prayers of many people to show us clearly that he was calling us to take this step of faith, if invited. One verse he continually brought to my attention was Isaiah 6:8: "Whom shall I send? ... Lord, send me."

Since I accepted the position in October, God has graciously confirmed his calling, which has given us great peace in the midst of transition. My family and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of the NWC and Orange City communities. We feel blessed to live, work and worship in such a special place and are honored to follow in the footsteps of so many outstanding predecessors.

As I have been visiting with faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni and community members, I've discovered that Northwestern's distinctives are what I expected and much more. I am impressed by our faculty and their commitment to the integration of faith and learning. Our staff are deeply committed to the mission of the college. Our students are bright, energetic, and desire to learn, grow and serve God and others. The alumni and RCA friends I have met speak passionately about the college and support its mission with their time and resources.

What a privilege we all have to partner with God in educating the next generation of leaders, who will be sent forth from this place to engage the world and impact the kingdom for the cause of Christ. That is a purpose worth giving one's life to.

Greg Christy
President

in Box

First Computer

I would like to comment on a question in the pop quiz of your winter 2007–08 issue. Question 23 asks what year Northwestern purchased its first computer. You answered 1976.

In the summer of 1978, I was hired as the college's first director of computing services. At the time, the college had a computer, but I do not recall whether it was purchased or donated. What I do recall is that it broke down very often and was very unsatisfactory. Consequently, it saw little use.

That same summer, the college purchased a minicomputer, a Digital Equipment Corporation PDP 11/34. Previously, only large institutions could afford computers, since the only ones available were the big mainframes. In the mid '70s, the advent of minicomputers made it possible for smaller colleges to purchase one. Nevertheless, the DEC PDP still cost about \$250,000.

It was not very powerful by today's standards, since it had only 256KB of internal memory and two 20MB disk drives—of which we could use only one at a time. The computer came initially with five (dumb) terminals—essentially remote monitors to the PDP, but with a timeshare system so that multiple users could work at the same time.

My main tasks were to put the administration on the computer and to develop a career concentration in computer science. Some administrative functions (like maintenance of the development office's mailing list and business office operations) were outsourced to a company in Minneapolis.

The first project was to transfer the mailing list to our new computer to serve as a central database for information about and contacts with students, alumni and donors. Since modern electronic transfer was non-existent, I had to reconstruct bits and bytes from a tape into readable characters for about 15,000 names and addresses.

One of my first challenges was to overcome the skepticism of many faculty and staff concerning the usefulness and viability of a computer for their daily tasks. To a certain extent, this skepticism had been generated by their bad experience with the earlier computer mentioned above. There was, of course, also skepticism in general (not limited to NWC) about the usefulness of computers and a general fear that computers would replace people.

I should also mention that in 1978 there were not many computers in Orange City. The only other one I was aware of was the IBM system at what was then called K-Products.

Coenraad Bakker

Fairport, N.Y.

WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN?

Harold Vogelaar's academy classmates probably didn't envision in 1955 that he would serve as a missionary in the Middle East, earn a Ph.D. from Columbia University, teach world religions in seminary, and pioneer the development of positive relationships between Christians and Muslims. And they certainly didn't imagine he would receive Northwestern's Distinguished Service to Humankind Award in 1997.

Have you been impressed by a classmate's achievements and service? Consider nominating him or her for the Distinguished Professional Achievement, Distinguished Service to Humankind, or Distinguished Service to Northwestern College award.

TO MAKE A NOMINATION:

Visit www.nwciowa.edu/alumniawards

Call 712-707-7134 • E-mail alumni@nwciowa.edu

Kudos

Great job on the winter *Classic*, which I read cover to cover, some articles twice. What an engaging cover photo!

Grete Carlson

Orange City, Iowa

Wonderful Memories

We really enjoyed the pop quiz in the winter issue of the *Classic*. What fun! It brought good conversation and wonderful memories. Thanks!

Rick '70 and Marsha (Olivier '71) Hoffman

Grand Rapids, Mich.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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



CAROLE HERMETER—"Carole"—"As merry as the day is long." Choir 1, 2, 3, 4; Trio 3, 4; Y-Team 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Officer 1, 2; Annual Staff 1; Sparks Staff 2; 4; General Team 1, 2, 4; Academy Play 2, 4; Basketball 4; Cheerleader 3; Homecoming Reading 1, 2, 3, 4; One-Act Play 2, 3, 4; Y-Cabinet 2, 4.



MILTON PENNINGTON—"Milt"—"Shrewd and dependable whether at work or play." Choir 4; H-1 1, 2, 3, 4; Y-Cabinet 4; Class Officer 2, 3, 4; Student Council 1; President 4; Annual Staff 3; Academy Play 4; Basketball 1, 4; Manager 2.



JOANNE WISEMAN—"Jo"—"With me it is always the unexpected that happens." Transferred from Haskell; Choir 2, 3, 4; Y-Team 2, 3, 4; Y-Cabinet 3; Class Officer 3; Student Council 2, 4; Sparks Staff 2, 4; Academy Play 2, 4; Dramatics Reading 2.



HAROLD VOGELAAR—"Buddy"—"They are men alone who are disappointed by naive thought." Choir 1, 2, 3, 4; H-1 1, 2, 3, 4; Y-Cabinet 4; Senior Class President 4; General Team 4; Basketball 1; Academy Play 1, 4; Dramatics Reading 4; One-Act Play 4.

MOST LIKELY TO RECEIVE A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

around the Green

Giant Drama

The Drama Ministries Ensemble (DME), Northwestern's traveling theatre company, will tour in the U.S. from June 16 to Aug. 12.

This summer's tour, *Goliath and Other Foes*, features ancient plays of Israel drawn verbatim from the Old Testament. The dramas are flexible in length so they can be presented as a fine arts event or complete worship experience, or they can be integrated with worship.

Goliath and Other Foes emerged from ongoing collaboration between theatre professor Jeff Barker and Dr. Tom Boogaart, professor of Old Testament at Western Seminary. Boogaart thinks some Old Testament texts are intended to be watched rather than read. Barker has been testing Boogaart's theory by scripting Old Testament texts into worship dramas and productions like *David and Goliath* in 2005 and the musicals *And God Said* in 2004 and *Terror Texts* in 2008.

DME members, all of whom are skilled in the development and performance of worship dramas, can also lead workshops for worship leaders and others who want to learn about integrating the arts with worship. Workshop topics include performing the Old Testament, enacted prayer, and story-formed worship.

To request a brochure with information about tour productions and workshops—or to book *Goliath and Other Foes* in your church or community—contact tour coordinator Kelly Van Marel, 712-707-7257 or theatretour@nwciowa.edu.



Tom Becker

The Drama Ministries Ensemble will perform ancient Israelite dramas taken from the Old Testament during their summer tour.

Body of Knowledge

"Put your finger in the aorta," says Dr. Ralph Davis, biology, encouraging his students to explore the construction of the human heart. Science students are able to take hands-on learning to a new level in Northwestern's first cadaver lab.

Davis helped establish the lab so students majoring in health professions will have a real human anatomy experience before enrolling in medical school and other professional programs.

"It's the best way to learn anatomy," he says. After students have dissected rats, cats and sharks and done digital dissection of the human body, they are now able to probe the layers of muscle on the cadaver and remove its rib cage so they can handle a human heart, liver and kidneys.

"This teaching tool is truly a great gift," says Davis, adding that students have responded with amazement and appropriate respect.

The cadaver arrived in September. During the fall semester, the lab was used by over 100 students majoring in biology, kinesiology and nursing. Davis received the male cadaver through the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota (USD) in Vermillion. He is hoping to secure a female cadaver as well.

Davis advises anyone interested in more information about USD's Body Donation Program to contact Paul Bliss, pbliss@usd.edu or 605-677-5141.

Wanted: SUMMER JOB STORIES

Life guards. Tree trimmers. Oscar Mayer wienermobile drivers. College students work wet, wild and weird summer jobs. We'll share stories of our alumni's best, worst, dirtiest and dopest in the next issue of the *Classic*. Tell us how you and your friends made summer cash at:

classic@nwciowa.edu

Northwestern College Classic
101 7th St. SW
Orange City, IA 51041



Senior Crystal Algood is majoring in actuarial science, one of 15 NWC programs highlighted in a national guidebook.

Recommended

Ask Northwestern students what are the best academic programs on campus, and you'll get a lot of answers. That's one of the approaches college admissions adviser Frederick Rugg uses as he compiles his annual *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook that recommends specific college departments to prospective students.

Fifteen of Northwestern's academic programs are listed in the 2008 edition: actuarial science, athletic training, biology, chemistry, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, Spanish and theatre.

Only four other colleges or universities in Iowa have more departments recommended.

World Travelers

Northwestern's summer study abroad program will set two records when courses begin in May: the most trips and the most participants.

"We're very excited about the variety and number of students," says Dr. Doug Carlson, associate dean for off-campus programs.

Lasting an average of four weeks, the courses will take faculty and students to seven countries: Ecuador, Germany, Great Britain, India, and—for the first time—Korea, Tanzania and Thailand.

The Korea trip is offered through Dordt College, but Northwestern music professor Dr. Juyeon Kang, who comes from Korea, is one of the co-leaders. Korean music and religion are the focus of the course. The Tanzania trip is a requirement for Northwestern's upper-level nursing

students, who will gain cross-cultural experience through STEMM (Siouxland Tanzania Educational Medical Ministries), based in Sioux City.

Derek Brower, a Northwestern education professor who lived in Thailand for two years, will lead the trip focused on Thai culture.

The remaining trips will study Ecuadorian life and culture and the Spanish language; German culture, history and language; British art and theatre; and India's social structures and religion.

Funds from Northwestern's Lilly Grant have allowed faculty to make exploratory trips to countries to make arrangements for summer study abroad courses. Carlson credits those resources and good promotional work for the growth in the program.



China summer study abroad, 2007

A Mother's Confession

The Highest Calling?, a new play by theatre professor Jeff Taylor, will premiere in Northwestern's Allen Theatre April 18–19 and 23–26.

The play is inspired by Taylor's mother, Dr. Frances DeBone Taylor, one of only a few women at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in the 1920s.

Pushed by her mother to pursue "the highest calling," DeBone Taylor struggled emotionally in a profession that, according to Taylor, tortured her romantic, poetic spirit. At age 75, she confessed to her son that medicine was the wrong career for her. "Despite her noble service that helped so many patients, Mom suffered much in a career that did not fit her temperament," says Taylor.

Intrigued with the ways one senses and chooses calling, Taylor determined to write his mother's story. During a 2006–07 sabbatical, he reviewed hours of taped interviews with her. He also interviewed medical school professors and students and a diener (a person who prepares cadavers) to write *The Highest Calling?*.

In the play, the character based on Taylor's mother, Florence, is played by two actors. One Florence is in her 70s, newly widowed, and reflecting on whether her life of service to humankind was worth the denial of her heart's desire to be a poet and heal with words.

The other Florence is a first-year medical student whose intellectual capacity for medical school is being sabotaged by her raw emotions. She barely survives her first gross anatomy experience when she discovers her cadaver is a young woman her age, and she is plagued by nightmares of the dead and dying.

Theatre professor Karen Barker will play the role of the older Florence. Junior Sophie Eicher, from Lincoln, Neb., will play Florence as a medical student. The cast also includes math professor Dr. Tim Huffman in the role of Florence's misogynistic professor.

For ticket information for *The Highest Calling?*, contact the Northwestern theatre box office, 712-707-7098 or boxoffice@nwciowa.edu.



On the Road

Performing groups represented Northwestern College on the East and West Coasts—and several places in between—this spring.

New York was the final destination for the A cappella Choir, which toured over spring break, March 1–11. The choir also sang in churches in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and New Jersey.

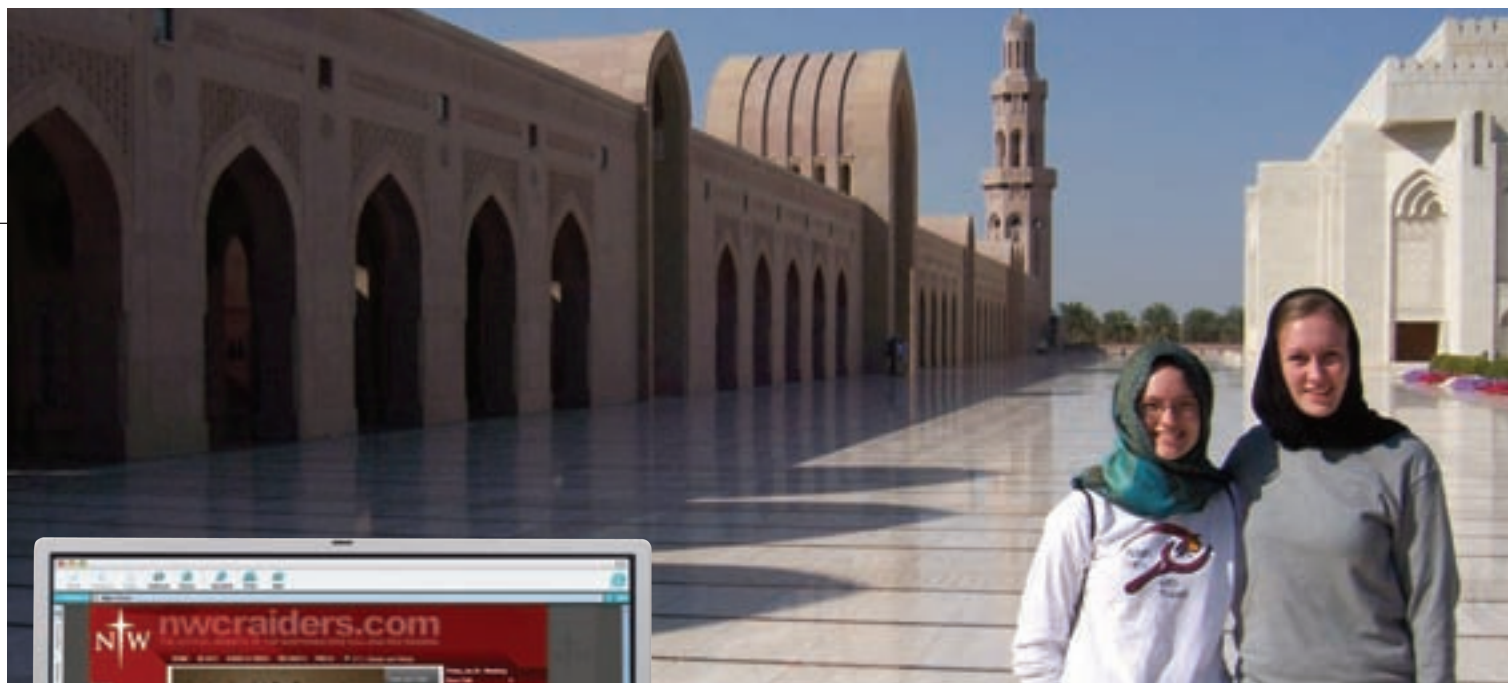
The Drama Ministries Ensemble presented *Goliath and Other Foes* in Washington and British Columbia, performing mainly in the Seattle, Yakima and Vancouver areas.

In addition, the Symphonic Band will give concerts in Des Moines and other communities in Iowa April 3–6.



The A cappella Choir performed in six states, including New York, during spring break.

Dan Ross



Students may soon spend whole semesters studying in Oman. The Middle Eastern country has already hosted NWC students, including Katie Gard and Candi Fender.

Paving the Way

Sociology professor Dr. Scott Monsma has traveled with students to Oman twice as part of a Northwestern study abroad course. This March he was accompanied to the Arab nation by two other professors, two resident directors, and staff of the college's study abroad office.

The group's 11-day trip was designed, in part, to lay the groundwork for a semester study abroad program in that country, as well as to promote interfaith dialogue at Northwestern. Assisting in the effort is Michael Bos, coordinator of the Al Amana Centre, a Reformed Church in America mission in Oman.

In preparation for the trip, participants and others on campus read and discussed *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. Since returning, they have been sharing their experiences with the Northwestern community.

The exploratory trip was funded in part by monies from Northwestern's \$2.5 million Lilly Grant.

Dramatic Wins

Two Northwestern theatre seniors, Vaughn Donahue and Lindsay Westerkamp, were honored at the Region Five Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held at Creighton University in Omaha in January.

Donahue, a communications major from Monmouth, Maine, won the Regional Award in Graphics/Poster Design for publicity he designed for *Terror Texts*, a new Jeff Barker musical that tells six Old Testament stories rarely taught in Sunday school or preached from the pulpit.

Westerkamp, a theatre major from Clarinda, Iowa, was one of 36 students, out of 343 hopefuls, who advanced to the semi-final rounds of the Irene Ryan acting competition.

Award-Winning PR

The string continues.

For five consecutive years, Northwestern's public relations office has received recognition in the 2008 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District Six awards competition.

This year's winners are the college's new athletics website, www.nwcraiders.com, which received a silver award in the Web Special Section category, and Northwestern's efforts to promote its new tuition guarantee, which resulted in a bronze award for Best Solution to an Institutional Communications Challenge.

The athletics website was developed by Dan Robinson, web development manager, and Matt Bos, sports information director. Launched last August, the site seeks to

convey the quality of an NCAA Div. I athletics site while working with the staffing and resources available at an NAIA school. The site features frequent updates and interactivity to encourage constituents to come back often. It offers fan polls, free webcasts, video clips and photo galleries.

The public relations office's award-winning efforts to promote Northwestern's Tuition Guarantee were multi-pronged, including development of a logo and tagline for the program, a website, a postcard for prospective students, e-mail communications, and news coverage. Contributors included Robinson, Duane Beeson, Anita Cirulis and Tamara Fynaardt of Northwestern's public relations office, and graphic artist John Vander Stelt '83.

Of Course



The learning commons, which will be the academic center of the campus, is the main component of the \$30 million Imagine Campaign.

Imagine This

Donations to Northwestern's Imagine Campaign had reached \$11.5 million by mid February, when President Greg Christy began meeting current and prospective donors to the project.

At a banquet on Feb. 11, Northwestern employees had the opportunity to make pledges toward the campaign's \$30 million goal.

"We believe in the value of both learning and community, and that's why we're supporting this project with our time and money," said the co-chairs of the employee fundraising effort: Dr. Laird Edman, psychology, and Patti Thayer, director of academic support.

The centerpiece of the Imagine Campaign is the 75,000-square-foot, \$20 million learning commons, which will be constructed west of Christ Chapel.

The campaign is also raising funds for the Rowenhorst Student Center renovation—which is already completed—as well as scholarships and academic innovation, including improved facilities for communications and nursing.

You've Got Personality

Class

Psychology of Personality

Instructor

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, assistant professor of psychology

Most students in Dr. Jennifer Feenstra's Psychology of Personality course leave with a better understanding of themselves—but that's not the point of the class. It's true they take a battery of personality tests during the semester, but only to give them hands-on experience with the various theories they are studying.

"The more you find something personally relevant, the more you remember it," Feenstra explains.

So students study various theories, take personality inventories based on those theories, and then write their own personal case story.

As they do, Feenstra has a word of advice: "Remember that your personality is not being graded—your analysis of your personality is."

Text and Assignments

Feenstra uses as her textbook *The Person: A New Introduction to Personality Psychology*, by Dan P. McAdams. In addition to taking a variety of personality tests and writing a paper analyzing their own personality, students apply personality theories to various case studies and take four exams.

To Learn More

Textbook author Dan McAdams is a leader among psychologists who place stories and storytelling at the center of human personality. For an engaging explanation of how such an approach can lead to better self-understanding, Feenstra recommends *Tell Me a Story: The Life-Shaping Power of Our Stories*, by Daniel Taylor.



Personality Factors

Among the more than 15 personality tests students take are the following:

- **Adult Attachment Scale**
Tests whether you see relationships as safe and secure or unreliable and unnecessary
- **Bem Sex Role Inventory**
Measures stereotypically masculine and feminine personality traits
- **EAS Temperament Scale**
Determines how emotional, active and social you are
- **Narcissistic Personality Inventory**
Measures self-centeredness
- **NEO Personality Inventory**
Assesses the "Big Five" personality traits: neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness
- **Self-Efficacy Scale**
Tests your belief that you have the power to produce an outcome
- **Sensation-Seeking Scale**
Determines whether you prefer to seek thrills or play it safe

The Write Stuff

Anita Cinielis



Barbara Turnwall, a member of the English faculty since 1966, recently received the highest honor given by the Iowa Writing Project.

Barbara Turnwall says her involvement in the Iowa Writing Project (IWP) has “meant everything” to her career.

Leaders of IWP returned the compliment to the English professor in January, honoring her as a recipient of the organization’s Star Thrower Award. Only 14 people have received the award since its inception in 1992.

Turnwall has taken most of IWP’s workshops, facilitated several of them, lobbied legislators for funding, and served on the agency’s advisory board and steering committee.

“Barb’s leadership in her department, for Northwestern and for IWP has truly been sterling,” says Jim Davis, director of the Iowa Writing Project. “Perhaps most importantly, Barb’s work is centered on her students and her Christian mission in their lives.”

Turnwall says she has stayed involved with IWP because it has made her a better teacher and servant leader.

“With its emphasis on serving others, IWP’s

philosophy is congruent with following Jesus. IWP cares about individuals and student learning, and it empowers students to develop their voices.”

In collaboration with IWP, Turnwall began Northwestern’s Pedagogy Project in 2000. Through the program, 59 NWC professors have come together to study, discuss and reflect on their teaching practice and to experiment with new strategies in their classrooms.

Turnwall was among five individuals who were featured in a recently published volume of memoirs of outstanding IWP leaders as part of the organization’s 30th year celebration.



Joyful Noise

Dr. Juyeon Kang hasn’t given birth, but she thinks she has an inkling of what it’s like.

A Northwestern music professor since 2003, Kang released her first edited CD in January. The concert pianist had conceived the recording’s title, *Joyful Noise*, years ago, and she recorded the classical pieces last August at a studio in Lansing, Mich.

Kang, who spent 14 hours recording, two weeks selecting the best tracks, and 15 hours editing, describes the process as physically and mentally demanding. “It was a lot of work and stress, but I feel good about the final outcome. It’s like my baby.”

Kang celebrated the release of the CD, distributed by Fleur De Son Classics of Buffalo, N.Y., with a faculty recital in February. She also performed concerts in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma during spring break. She will present a July recital in her home country of Korea.

The 70-minute CD was funded by the \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship Kang received from NWC last year. The recording features compositions by Bach, Brahms, Debussy, Haydn, Scriabin and others, and the CD’s program notes include information she discovered about the composers’ spiritual beliefs.

Joyful Noise can be purchased for \$15, with a portion of the proceeds going toward the Bruce and Di Murphy Intercultural Student Scholarship. Contact Kang at 712-707-7061 or jkang@nwc-iowa.edu for more information.

Despite the labor involved in producing her first CD, Kang plans to record another. She already has the name picked out: *Joyful Dance*.



Susan Wilson

Sales proceeds from Dr. Juyeon Kang’s new CD will help fund a Northwestern scholarship.

Helping Hands

Spring break for 200 Northwestern students meant working in homeless shelters, tutoring children, doing home repairs, leading youth activities, and helping with hurricane recovery. The students went to 14 sites around the world through Northwestern’s Spring Service Projects in March.

Four international sites were part of this year’s efforts: Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Bluefields, Nicaragua; Belfast, Northern Ireland; and St. Helena, Trinidad. Students also served in Annville, Ky.; Apache, Okla.; Jackson, Miss.; Jonesboro, Ark.; Lindale, Texas; New Orleans and Opelousas, La.; New York City; and Spartanburg, S.C.



Doug Burg

More than 830 students were involved in some type of community service last year, including accounting majors Carissa Fields (left) and Tim Ulibarri (right), who assisted clients with tax preparation as part of a service-learning project at the Sioux Center library.

On a Roll

For the second year in a row, Northwestern's efforts to foster an ethic of compassion and service among its students have received a high grade. The Corporation for National and Community Service has named NWC to the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The list includes 528 colleges and universities. Northwestern is among only 10 chosen from Iowa.

"Northwestern has a strong commitment to supporting a number of innovative and effective community service and service-learning initiatives," says Marlon Haverdink, director of service learning. "Our students care deeply about their neighbors and their communities. When they're made aware of needs, our students rise

to the occasion and use their creativity, passion and knowledge to address those needs. They become involved because their faith compels them to care for their neighbors in real, tangible ways."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors, including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Service Stats

633 NWC students engaged in community service during 2006–07

201 students involved in academic service learning

9,085 hours of service provided by Northwestern's students

250 students engaged in at least 20 hours of community service per semester

Auction Action

More than 500 alumni and friends of Northwestern made a bid for students at the 25th annual Gala Auction, hosted Feb. 23 by the National Alumni Association.

The auction raised around \$31,000 to help fund \$1,000 Alumni Scholarships for 30 to 35 students next year. Auction proceeds also support the Northwestern College Teaching Excellence Award, a fall workshop for faculty, and student life programs.

Among the 450 items that secured generous bids were a Nintendo Wii, a hot air balloon ride, and a football signed by Minnesota Vikings rookie Adrian Peterson.

Alumni director Rachel Van Den Broek praised the warm spirit and giving of Northwestern's supporters. "I was overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity of the donors and the bidders," she said. "I'm already looking forward to next year's auction."

Rise and Rock

Rise Ministries and Northwestern will co-sponsor the fourth annual RiseFest on June 21 with musical headliner MercyMe. Tickets will be \$10 if purchased before May 15, with children 10 and under admitted free. After May 15, tickets will cost \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.riseministries.com.



Dove Award-winning MercyMe, well-known for their smash hit *I Can Only Imagine*, will perform at RiseFest 2008 on Northwestern's campus.

SHOP NWC

Visit the Northwestern Bookstore—without leaving your home. The Bookstore's new website enables you to purchase selected items online. Shop for a variety of NWC apparel, giftware and books. bookstore.nwciova.edu



NAIA DIVISION II

CHAMPS!



National player of the year Debbie Remmerde scored 41 points—22 in the final 10 minutes—to lead the Northwestern women in a come-from-behind 82-75 victory over top-ranked College of the Ozarks in the NAIA Div. II national championship game on March 18. Remmerde was one of five seniors in the starting lineup who gave Raider fans a season to remember. Northwestern finished the year 35-2, the best record in school history.

Photos by Dan Ross





On the Web *exclusive*

See more pictures of Northwestern's championship game at classic.nwciowa.edu



Red Zone

Women's Basketball **Raiders National Champions**

Seven years after Northwestern won its first women's basketball national title, the Raiders brought the championship trophy back to Orange City with a 35-2 record. Debbie Remmerde (see back cover), the national leader in scoring, three-pointers and free-throw percentage, was named tournament MVP and national player of the year. Amy Larson was selected as a third team All-American, and Earl Woudstra earned national coach of the year honors for the second time.

Men's Basketball **NWC Advances to Final Four**

For the second straight year, the Red Raiders advanced to the Final Four of the NAIA Div. II national tourney before falling. Northwestern ended the year with a 30-5 record. The team won the GPAC tournament and was seeded fifth at nationals. Seniors Chad Schuiteman and Curt Schilling, both among the top five scorers in school history with more than 2,000 points, were named All-Americans—Schuiteman on the first team and Schilling on the second.

Wrestling **Two All-Americans**

Enock Francois (174 pounds) and Levi Price (149 pounds) earned All-American status at the national meet, finishing fifth and sixth, respectively. DJ Jackson at 159 and Tom Eaton at 174 both placed eighth and received honorable mention All-American recognition.

Indoor Track **Coach Receives Conference Honor**

Northwestern's Nate Wolf was named the GPAC Coach of the Year. Charity Miles earned the top female performer award at the conference meet by winning the 3000-meter and 5000-meter races, breaking league records in both events.

Miles, Laura Jacobson and Olivia Johnson placed third in the 5,000, 1,000 and mile, respectively, at nationals and were named All-Americans. The distance medley relay finished fifth, also earning All-American status. Members were Jacobson, Johnson, Jess Regan and Stephanie Powell.

Red Raider Club **Alumni Honored**

Northwestern's Red Raider Club added two alumni to the Athletic Hall of Fame. All-Americans Melinda (Leichty '00) Engelmann, a middle distance runner who holds three individual school records, and Brandon Jacobson '02, the fourth-leading rebounder in school history, were inducted in February. Kevin Dicus '89, head softball coach at Sioux City North High School, was honored as the Coach of the Year. Cory Brandt '92 received the Barnabas Award.

Women's Tennis **Coming Back**

With improvements made to on-campus courts, NWC will offer a women's tennis program next spring after a six-year hiatus. Jeff Guthmiller '88 will be head coach.

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

Chad Schuiteman

Dan Ross

Face Value

Mark Vellinga

Teacher, learner, runner

What is your favorite use for a computer?

Programming. I enjoy learning new programming languages. I'm not a computer game player. I prefer playing games with my grandchildren.

What do you wish you were an expert at?

Being a parent and grandparent. Also running—I would love to run a 4-minute mile. OK, even a 5- or 6-minute mile would be wonderful. I'm also always working toward becoming a better teacher.

Mac or PC?

I'm a recent convert to the Mac; however, I do not own a home computer. I use my laptop from work if I need to have a computer at home.

Would you describe yourself as a technology junkie?

No, I enjoy finding ways to do things that don't involve machines. I have a hard time reading books online. As another example, instead of reaching for a calculator, I like to do math by hand.

What do you enjoy about your work?

I enjoy the variety that each day of teaching brings, especially the interaction with students. I really like watching students gain an appreciation and understanding of the material I'm teaching. I'm also very grateful for my good colleagues at Northwestern.

What would you like your students to do differently when it comes to computers?

I'd like to challenge them to avoid the typical computer products for a semester. As computer scientists, I think it would be a good exercise to struggle through this together as we experiment with alternative operating systems and evaluate our dependence on the usual pieces of software. I'd also like to challenge them to use technology wisely. As people actively involved with computers and their various applications, I believe it's vital that we maintain a balance and constantly evaluate our dependence on technology.

Describe yourself in three words.

Sensitive, methodical and loyal.

And Northwestern?

Steady, challenging and faithful.



Doug Burg

A member of Northwestern's faculty since 1990, Mark Vellinga '77 teaches introductory computer science classes, as well as courses in data structures, operating systems and programming languages.

If you could do anything else at Northwestern, what would it be?

Learn full time. I'd like to do what retired Northwestern religion professor Dr. Syl Scorza does—attend a variety of classes so that I am always learning.

What new things would you like to learn?

I'd like to learn to play guitar and piano. I also have a growing interest in taking some seminary classes.

Got any hobbies?

I enjoy almost any form of physical activity, such as walking and running. These activities provide me the opportunity to think and reflect while enjoying the outdoors. I also enjoy reading, traveling and sitting by the fireplace.



Dan Ross



BY ANITA CIRULIS

Path to a Presidency

Success brought offers, but it wasn't until Northwestern came calling that Greg Christy said 'yes'

The mood at Dakota Wesleyan University was so somber that one faculty member described the campus as feeling like a morgue. Greg Christy, it had been announced, was a candidate for president of Northwestern College.

Christy was well-loved at DWU, and for good reason. As the college's vice president for institutional advancement, he played a major role in the success of a \$40 million campaign and the construction of three new buildings. But it wasn't only his fundraising ability that earned him admiration. Christy's gift for strategic thinking led to his appointment as chair of a master planning task force, while his interpersonal communication skills made him a natural representative and spokesperson for the college.

"As I watched Greg in his leadership at Dakota Wesleyan, people were drawn to him because of his authenticity and commitment to mission," says Doug Mason, who serves as a consultant for both DWU and Northwestern. "People across campus truly respected and liked Greg—not always an easy thing for an administrator to achieve."

Greg Christy is spending the opening months of his presidency meeting with faculty and staff and getting to know students. Along with eating in the cafeteria, he participated in a headphone karaoke event and provided hugs as part of a student scavenger hunt held on National Hug Day.

A Quick Study

Now Northwestern's ninth president, Christy was 40 when he assumed office in January—a fact that shouldn't be surprising, given the trajectory of his career.

He was barely 28 when Dr. Jack Ewing, then president of Dakota Wesleyan, made what Ewing calls the best hire of his career, tapping

Greg Christy played a major role in the success of a \$40 million campaign at Dakota Wesleyan that included construction of the new McGovern Library on DWU's campus.



Christy to head the fundraising efforts for the financially challenged school as its director of institutional advancement.

At the time, Christy was the tickets and promotions manager in the athletic department at South Dakota State University. Ewing, a former academic dean at SDSU, had heard the athletic director rave about the work Christy was doing and the impact his organizational skills were having on ticket sales.

"I knew I couldn't hire experience, so I hired potential," Ewing says.

Less than two years later, Christy was promoted to vice president.

"He was already demonstrating he had the ability to be a college president back in 1996," Ewing says of his protégé. "His greatest strength is his ability to see the big picture. At 30 years of age, he was helping

me make decisions about how Dakota Wesleyan was going to move forward. He just has incredible intuition and always gave me good advice."

He also has a deep faith. Jackie Davis, who reported to Christy during his 12 years at DWU, describes him as a spiritual leader both in the advancement office and on campus. "It was very clear he lived a life devoted to Christ," she says.

Iowa Roots

At 6-4, with blond hair and blue eyes, Christy could easily be mistaken as Dutch, but his heritage is Welsh, Swedish and—as his last name suggests—Irish. Born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa, the older of two boys, he started life in a hospital bassinet with a baseball glove at his side. Baseball and apple pie are two of his favorite things.

Christy is a 7-handicap golfer, a tenor who enjoys singing on his church worship

team, and a self-described newspaper junkie who loves reading the *Des Moines Register*. He rises early and makes devotions and exercise part of his morning routine. He runs his life using a two-inch-thick Franklin planner that he carries everywhere.

He gets his love for people and memory for names from his father, a seed corn salesman. His passion for education comes from his mother, a grade school teacher. Also passed down were his middle name—Earl, from both grandfathers—and a die-hard loyalty to the St. Louis Cardinals.

A serious student and gifted athlete, Christy enrolled at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, an NCAA Division III school, attracted to its management degree and the opportunity to play baseball for a start-up program. His skills as a pitcher made him a four-year starter, earned him all-conference and all-region honors, and in 2007, secured him a place in Simpson's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Christy met his wife, Michelle, in a calculus class at Simpson when she was a freshman and he was a junior. In a story illustrating his methodical, logical nature, she enjoys telling—much to his chagrin—how he made a list of female classmates he wanted to get to know as the professor called roll at the beginning of the semester.

"I guess I made the first cut," she laughs.

The two struck up a friendship, began dating in the spring, and wed after she graduated. "Among the things that attracted me to him was that he is serious about his walk of faith and his relationship with Jesus Christ," Michelle says. Married more than 16 years, they have three children: Ryan, 13; Madalyn, 9; and Kyle, 6.

Open Doors

While Michelle finished school, Christy continued his education at Western Illinois University, where he earned a master's degree in physical education and sport management. He also spent six weeks in Europe and the Soviet Union with Athletes in Action, a sports ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, followed by work in Iowa State's athletic development office as part of a required internship.

It was at Iowa State that Christy discovered his gifts as an administrator. Thinking he would combine his interest in coaching at the college level with the role of an athletic director, he began looking for



Dan Ross

Family is a priority for President Christy. He and his wife, Michelle, make games and homemade pizza with their kids a weekend tradition.

his first job. A glut in the coaching market, however, left him stymied. Unable to find the job he wanted, Christy and his new bride moved to Brookings, S.D., where he took a position at the bottom of the totem pole as SDSU's tickets and promotions manager.

"I think God had some lessons to teach me," Christy says, "and ironically, it turned out to be a fantastic experience that eventually led me to move into university administration."

Four years later, with a baby on the way, Christy was praying about his future when Jack Ewing offered him the position at Dakota Wesleyan. "That was a big moment in my life in terms of stepping away from athletics and moving into general university administration," Christy says, "but it was clearly part of God's plan."

Answering the Call

A desire to do God's will was still paramount for Christy when he learned he'd been nominated for Northwestern's presidency.

After Bruce Murphy announced in October 2006 his intention to retire the following year, a presidential search committee was formed and charged with identifying the qualifications of the college's next president. High on the list were a solid, mature faith in Jesus Christ; a collaborative, team approach to leadership; a Reformed theology and commitment to Christian higher education; and proven abilities in strategic planning and fundraising.

Eleven months later, the committee recommended Christy as the person who best met those criteria. While their candidate came from a Baptist rather than a Reformed background, committee members were convinced he would ensure Northwestern stayed true to its distinctive Christian identity.

"It was very apparent he had investigated Reformed theology, thought through how that lined up with his own perspective, and didn't see a conflict," says the Rev. Roger Voskuil '69, a member of the search committee and director of spiritual care at First Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

Christy's strengths also outweighed the fact that he doesn't have a doctorate.


"Gifts for a position are far more important than credentials," Dr. Robert Duffett, Dakota Wesleyan University's current president, told the search committee. "I'm an Ivy League grad, former dean and provost, and I would exchange my degrees for the qualities and gifts you'll receive in Greg."

Those who know Christy well saw Northwestern as a perfect match for his talents.

"He's had some really great opportunities," says Christy's brother, Geoff, "but he wasn't going to make a move that didn't have as an integral part of it the ability for him to include his faith."

That, says Greg, is the reason he and Michelle came to believe God was leading them to Northwestern. During his years at Dakota Wesleyan, he experienced a growing admiration for Northwestern's commitment to academic excellence coupled with a Christ-centered focus.

"Whenever we've been approached about something, we've wanted to know what God wants. How can our talents and gifts best be utilized for the sake of the Kingdom?" he explains. "If I'm going to give my life to something, I want it to have lasting and eternal value."

That's why, when Northwestern asked, the answer this time was "yes." 



Fun Run Afowl

RDs share stories of panicked poultry and other dorm drama

Few job descriptions on a college campus are as open-ended as resident directors'. Recently, *Classic* staff sat down with Northwestern's RDs and asked: "What goes on during your 24/7 work weeks?"



Classic: Let's start at the beginning. What is your first week like after students arrive?

Ann Du Mez, Hospers Hall: The doors open at noon on Friday, but, of course, there's always someone on the sidewalk with all their luggage at 9 a.m., waiting.

Brian Moriarty, Heemstra Hall: I usually get mistaken for a freshman. I'm trying to be helpful, going around to all the rooms, introducing myself, and I'm perceived as that awkward freshman who just can't get enough of meeting new people.

Brandon Van Marel, Colenbrander Hall: I get asked why the air conditioner's not on.

Seth Currier, West Hall: Parents like to arrange their sons' rooms, which is hilarious. I'll see two freshmen sitting on their beds, staring at each other while their parents make deals over who gets the desk by the window, who gets the top bunk.

Brian: I usually tell the students to come to me if there's a problem. One of the first nights, I woke up around 4 a.m. to a freshman poking me in the shoulder ...

Classic: You don't lock your door?



Iowa winters don't stop RD Lisa Barber (center) and the women of Fern Smith Hall from tropics-style partying.

Brian: I lost my key. Anyway, he's poking me, and when I wake up he says, "I can't sleep." In the five seconds it took me to respond, I'm thinking, "Does he have a bedtime routine with his mom or something? Is he going to ask me to read him a story, rub his tummy—what?"

Brandon: I once had a kid call me to come and take his temperature.

Brian: Turns out his roommate was snoring, so I let him sleep in Heemstra's prayer room. The snoring was bad the whole semester, but I kept telling him, "If you could learn to sleep

through that, think what a valuable skill it would be." He slept in the prayer room a lot.

Classic: At the risk of giving current students ideas, what pranks have been played in your halls?

Sara James, Stegenga Hall: It's been a little lame lately. Nothing like the chickens.

Classic: The chickens?

On the Web *exclusive*

Listen to an audio version of the RDs' stories at classic.nwciowa.edu

Eric Anderson, director of residence life: I wish I'd kept that voicemail [from then-RD Lisa Burch]: "I don't know what to do. They're bleeding and killing each other. Help!" Two guys, from Heemstra and West, let 36 chickens loose in Stegenga Hall. Girls were coming out of their rooms, stepping on eggs and chicken dung ...

Sara: ... and then the chickens started pecking and killing each other. Maintenance arrives and starts throwing half-dead chickens in trash cans. To hear [maintenance director] Scott Simmelink tell it, it was hilarious—except for the cleanup. But to hear Lisa tell it, she was traumatized.

Classic: Speaking of mayhem, tell me about students breaking the rules.

Brandon: How long do you have? The Coly Christmas Bash—someone always gets in trouble at the Coly Christmas Bash. This year an RA told one of his guys to get a Christmas tree. So the student takes his axe ...

Classic: ... because he brought an axe to college, naturally.

Brandon: Naturally. He takes his axe behind Korver Field and cuts down a tree. The next morning I get a call from maintenance: "Uh, we're missing a tree." So we follow the pine needles to this kid's room. He had to buy the college a new tree.

Lisa Barber, Fern Smith Hall: Fern has a tradition of naked snow angels—in the middle of the night, very secretive. One of the upperclassmen was trying to get the freshmen excited, and they weren't buying it, so she whipped off her shirt and showed them how to do it—at 3:00 in the afternoon. She didn't think it was any big deal.

Classic: Was she European?

Lisa: No, she was from Wisconsin. We made her write a paper on modesty.

Classic: Sounds like a riot. What keeps you at this job day after fun-filled day?

Sara: Hanging out with college students and getting paid for it—what better job is there?!

Seth: After college, I felt like God was calling me to ministry. This is a ministry. 🏠

Veiled

BY AMY SCHEER

Northwestern alum among those helping women in Afghanistan

In 1984, *National Geographic* photographer Steve McCurry visited a camp for refugees fleeing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. There he captured on film a now world-renowned image: a beautiful young girl draped in red, tattered cloth, her piercing green eyes a window into the suffering of her country. The magazine's cover of the "Afghan Girl" haunted the world's soul.



When McCurry traveled again to Afghanistan 17 years later, he found and photographed Sharbat Gula, now a woman in her late 20s. In the new photos, she appears distrustful of the camera. Her eyes, still penetrating, tell the story of living through the Soviet conflict and Islamic fundamentalist Taliban rule. The fiery resolve remains, but her skin and heart have hardened, as severe and unrelenting as the deserts and rugged terrain that surround her.

A Woman's Life

Afghan women have borne the brunt of their country's past three decades spent in war. By the time the Soviets withdrew their troops in 1989 after a decade-long conflict, nearly 1.5 million Afghans were dead, leaving 98,000 Afghan women widowed and unprepared to support their children.

In 1994, a group of religious leaders, or *mullahs*, formed the Taliban to bring order and religious orthodoxy to their society. Their strict edicts, often enforced with violence, targeted women most harshly.

The Taliban enforced *purdah*, or the seclusion of women, particularly from men. Keep a woman indoors—no school, no job, no interaction with society—and she'll be sure to obey religious law, they deemed. If she must go outside, cloak her in a *chadri* or *burqa*, cloth garments covering her from head to toe.

Devastating and sometimes fatal consequences followed such rules.

Women needing health care could be treated by a male doctor only if accompanied by a male chaperone; even then, the doctor had to examine them through their clothing, making surgery impossible.

Two to a hospital bed, women delivered babies on the floor. Last year, according to United Nations statistics, Afghanistan had the second-highest maternal mortality rate in the world, and the average life expectancy of an Afghan woman was 44 years.

There is no mention of *purdah* or *chadris* in the Koran or Hadith, a supplemental record of the words and works of the prophet Muhammad; in fact, Islam grants equal rights to men and women in religion, education and society. The widespread human rights violations against women in Afghanistan cannot be blamed on Islam, then, despite the Taliban's alleged orthodoxy or Western perception otherwise.

Rather, a strict societal code, in place long before Islam spread into Afghanistan in the mid-seventh century, governs women's daily lives, even beyond the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

A strict societal code governs women's daily lives in Afghanistan.

AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool





When a woman experiences domestic abuse—a phenomenon rampant in Afghanistan—she has no recourse, as authorities are reluctant to betray cultural norms and displace a man as head of his household. In despair, many women resort to self-abuse: setting themselves on fire.

“We have no permission to leave the home so no one [to turn to],” one Afghan woman told Amnesty International. “We can’t even tell our mothers and fathers, community or *mullahs*. If we do, they will take our children and our husbands will leave us.”

Poor Options

That the woman considers the absence of her abusive husband a disadvantage points to the equally troubling alternative to violence: poverty. Without a provider for her family, she’ll be poor but prohibited from working, left to beg in a *burqa*. Some impoverished families sell female children as young as nine, as a child bride brings a good price.

Lori*, director of a non-government organization (NGO) with a presence in Afghanistan who spoke to Northwestern writing students last fall, saw firsthand how poverty compels Afghan women to fend for themselves at the expense of others.

While living in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2005, Lori and a co-worker facilitated classes in reading, tailoring and computer skills for Afghan women. The tailoring students met with boys from a local orphanage, measuring their dusty limbs and making new clothes to replace their rags. The boys were thrilled to their toes, which were covered in new shoes sent by Lori’s home church.

Smiling proudly in their new outfits, the boys didn’t know they were missing items intended for them. Their teachers, women who worked long hours in the orphanage for little pay, saw the injustice of leaving behind their own six or eight children to care for these orphans inundated with gifts. The women took what they felt was rightfully

theirs and their children’s: donations designated for the boys.

This mentality, while shaped by war and poverty, must also be viewed through the eyes of Middle Eastern culture. For example, it’s difficult for Westerners to comprehend that some women prefer to wear a *burqa*, yet one survey reported that 75 percent would do so even if given free choice. (Gula, photographed by *National Geographic*, calls the *burqa* “a beautiful thing to wear, not a curse.”)

And it’s especially problematic to follow the reasoning of a fairly liberal Afghan man who mentioned to Lori that he couldn’t swim. When she asked what he’d do if his wife were drowning and another man could save her, he said, “I would not let anyone touch her. I would jump in and drown with her.”

Responding Despite Risks

In light of these attitudes, offering aid to the people of Afghanistan seems naïve at best; dangerous, too, for all involved, as attested by recent artistic efforts to expose the plight of Afghan people.

As a precaution against potential repercussions for enacting a homosexual rape scene, the young Afghan boys in the film *The Kite Runner* were removed from their country. The nonfiction book *Kabul Beauty School* reportedly put its female subjects in danger once copies of the book began circulating in Afghanistan.

Yet help must be offered, says Lori, whether it be finances and prayers from afar or aid face to face. “These are women who will someday hold key positions in education and religion,” she says. “It’s important to invest in their country, to instill in these women value and significance.”

Key to effective work is integrity, says Heather, a Northwestern alumna who worked with an aid organization in Afghanistan and other predominantly Muslim countries.

“People tend to respond to you better if they see your character in action,” she says. “It is so important that our help is empowering, not

domineering. It needs to be driven by the people who live in the country so that it is culturally relevant and sustainable.”

Heather uses her love of sports—“a language in itself”—to forge relationships with foreign women; she’s helping create a women’s fitness center in Afghanistan this spring. Northwestern English professor Deborah Menning’s classes, which created a writing project for the adjoining women’s center, are raising funds to furnish it with equipment.

Relationships between organizations make a difference, too. Short-term relief trips are often too brief to accomplish much, but when groups or individuals connect with a long-term presence in a country, the benefits add up. “We’re in it for the long haul,” Lori says of her NGO.

When she sees a woman of 60 write her name for the first time, she knows it’s worth it.

Since the Taliban’s fall, “women have not witnessed a significant improvement in their abilities to enjoy their human rights,” according to Amnesty International. Organizations such as the Ministry of Women’s Affairs are active again, yet the Taliban—out of power but still in existence—continues to wreak havoc for women.


Ninety of the 224 schools created since 2001 have closed due to safety concerns, according to a National Public Radio report. Reemerging Taliban have threatened, kidnapped and killed teachers of female students.

Yet day after day, the girls and the teachers weigh the risks and keep coming to school.

Bridges of Hope

This generation of young people just might push past the burdens their mothers bore. The orphan boys whose teachers stole from them? They’re learning gratitude. To thank Lori and her co-workers, they presented them with naan, a round flatbread, and a single onion, the only gifts they had to give.

“I think so often we are on the threshold of the Kingdom of God, and all that stands between things staying the way they are and the Kingdom being ushered onto the earth is someone building a bridge to get there,” says Heather. “This perhaps is the role of every believer—to stand on the earth, but to see something beyond the earth and live for that.”

To see beyond the earth, and past the veil. 



Afghan women are empowered through classes on computer literacy and tailoring offered by a non-governmental organization.

To help Afghan women write to
afghaninfo.08@gmail.com
www.ccafgan.org
www.photogenx.net

*Names of people and places have been
abridged to protect those who work in
volatile areas of the world.

Sources for this article include *Afghanistan*
by Jeffrey A. Gritzner, Afghanistan Online
(afghan-web.com), Amnesty International,
National Geographic, National Public Radio,
The New York Times, and United Nations
Development Fund for Women.



Dave Kuhnau
conquers deserts on
four continents

BY DUANE BEESON

IRON

The Series

The 4 Desert series of endurance races is put on by RacingthePlanet, a company founded by veteran ultramarathoner Mary Gadams in 2003. The races seek to challenge individuals to go beyond their athletic frontiers while exploring the most remote landscapes and ancient cultures on earth.

The races cover 155 miles (250 kilometers) in a series of stages over a seven-day period. On each of the first four days, the athletes run from 20 to 30 miles. The fifth stage covers 50 miles and takes up to two days to complete. After those challenges, the last stage is a virtual cakewalk: 10 miles.

The athletes carry their own food, water, clothing and emergency medical supplies in backpacks. The only assistance provided is medical care and additional water, offered at a series of checkpoints in each stage, and tents for spending the night.

When Dave Kuhnau competed in Chile, China and Egypt, the races included up to 100 runners. Approximately 80 percent of competitors finish, with half of those returning for another 4 Deserts event. The final race, in Antarctica, is open only to athletes who have completed the other three.



MAN

It was day four of a seven-day, 155-mile race in the driest desert of the world, the Atacama in Chile. Dave Kuhnau '92 and his two partners in Team Illinois had already run the equivalent of a marathon each of the first three days at altitudes as high as 13,000 feet. A 50-mile run awaited them tomorrow.

Carrying 25-pound backpacks in 110-degree temperatures, Kuhnau, Joel Burrows and Joel's wife, Nancy Fudacz-Burrows, took over three-and-a-half hours to cross 10 miles of salt flats. Their feet sank into the flat's surface—sometimes all the way up to their shins. The radiant heat reflected off the surface of the ground and bounced from the bills of their caps onto their faces.

In the scorching, arid conditions, with skin starting to crack, Kuhnau had developed bronchitis. His sinuses were overproducing, and fluids were running down his throat.

"My lungs were burning, Nancy and I were out of water, and eventually the dehydration got the best of us," Kuhnau remembers. "Our bodies could hardly move and we started to get disoriented. I just wanted to quit, and I stopped to lie down on the salt flats—like somehow that was a good idea."

Dave Kuhnau dedicated the last race in the 4 Desert series, in Antarctica, to his sister Tamara '89, who died less than two months earlier.



Fudacz-Burrows walked toward Kuhnau and kicked his backpack. “Get up, we’re not done,” was all she said.

Kuhnau would later say of the Chilean desert, “When God was trying to think of a suitable place for the devil to call home, Atacama came in second.”

New Road

Kuhnau’s journey to Atacama began six years earlier, in 1998, when he weighed 265 pounds and realized he needed to improve his health. His first 5K road race was in October 1999, and six months later he ran a marathon.

Ambitious in his career as a business technology consultant, he brought a similar intensity to his exercise regimen, completing seven marathons within the next year. Kuhnau has now run 21 marathons, more triathlons than he can count, and four Ironmans (which consist of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike race, and 26.2-mile run).

Kuhnau met the Burrows during recreational runs along Chicago’s Lake Michigan shorefront and later ran in two Ironmans with them. When they asked Kuhnau to join them in the Atacama Crossing, the first event in the 4 Deserts series of endurance races, he agreed with a simple, “Sounds cool, sign me up.”

“The more I read about it, I thought, ‘What did I get myself into?’ At that point, once I was committed, I felt I couldn’t let two other people down,” he says.



An irrigation pipe gives Kuhnau relief from the 135-degree heat in the Sahara Desert.

Running Hot

Kuhnau’s commitment to his teammates was the reason he got up from the salt flats and kept moving forward in the Atacama Crossing. And that commitment, coupled with his desire to push his physical and mental limits, led him to sign up for the next desert race, China’s Gobi March, nine months later.

Armed with experience, more off-road training and expert advice from trainers and nutritionists, Team Illinois won the Gobi March with a time of 42 hours, 13 minutes, defeating four other teams.

Five months later, Kuhnau and his teammates were back in competition, this time in the Sahara Desert of Egypt. Running in the most oppressive heat yet—the thermometer consistently



Kuhnau (back) and his teammates finish the Sahara Race in front of the famous Egyptian pyramids at Giza.

hitting 135 degrees—the athletes endured sand storms, vipers and scorpions. Again, Kuhnau’s team won, completing the distance 90 minutes faster than they did in China.

While it took some time for Team Illinois members to decide to enter the second and third races, they already knew when they finished Sahara that they would run the final event in the endurance series. The Last Desert race would feature temperatures opposite what they endured in the first three, as the setting was Antarctica.

Undying Commitment

Adventure racing pushes every physical limit imaginable, Kuhnau says. He loves the challenge and the knowledge—borne of experience—that he can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

“He possesses an iron will that does not know the meaning of the word ‘quit,’” says Joel Burrows of Kuhnau. “In his darkest moments, he is able to find a rallying strength to lead him back to conquer the task in front of him. He emboldens those around him to work at a higher level than they may have thought possible.”

Kuhnau’s perseverance and boldness to go after his dreams were among the characteristics he shared with his sister Tamara ’89—along with a love of travel. Close friends growing up, he admired her strong faith in God and vivacious approach to life.

In 2000, Tamara was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. Her brother immediately suggested she come to Chicago to hunt for advanced treatment centers, and he volunteered to research new medicines and programs for her. She chose a different path, nutritional and herbal treatments, eschewing the options of chemotherapy and radiation.

That conflict led to a strain in their relationship, and for five years the two avoided extended conversations. Kuhnau was called home to Iowa a week after

On the Web *exclusive*

Read a day-by-day account of Team Illinois’ conquering of The Last Desert race in Antarctica in January 2006 at classic.nwciova.edu



“Sounds cool, sign me up.”

A book, *The Power of Team*, chronicles the success of Kuhnau and his partners in the 4 Desert series and the lessons they learned about teamwork and perseverance that readers can apply to their own lives. Kuhnau has also started a motivational team-building/speaking and training company.

Thanksgiving 2005, less than two months before the Antarctica race was to begin. Tamara was dying.

As he sat by her bedside, they reconciled, and she asked if he would train her to run a marathon. She told him of a dream she'd had about running a marathon with him and their father, a paraplegic since a workplace accident in 1981.

“Tam, if you get out of this bed, you and I will run a marathon together,” he said.

She died five days later.

Dream Team

The Last Desert race was open only to those who had completed the first three events. With a ground temperature of zero and winds up to 60 mph, Antarctica brought new challenges to Team Illinois and the other 12 athletes. The bulk of the race was a 100-mile stage spanning up to three days, part of which was run during a blizzard.

Several hours before the blizzard struck, Kuhnau stopped at the edge of a cliff. Overlooking a harbor, he beheld a beautiful view of penguin rookeries and icebergs floating out to sea. Kuhnau took a small bottle from his backpack and released some of Tamara's ashes into the air.

Eighteen months after Team Illinois won The Last Desert, which Kuhnau dedicated to his sister, he fulfilled another aspect of her dream. Pushing his father in a custom-made titanium wheelchair, Kuhnau completed Milwaukee's Lakefront Marathon in 4 hours, 12 minutes—while carrying more of Tamara's ashes.

“My dad finally understood the joy of doing this,” he says, “especially when we came down the finishing chute and everybody was there cheering. He was all smiles.”

Higher Aspirations

The views of endless sand dunes and indescribable sunsets, the camaraderie of shared agony and triumph with competitors from around the globe, the adulation and welcome received from Chinese villagers—these are just a few of the fond memories Kuhnau carries with him from his desert races.

“People say I'm crazy, but for what I've experienced, I'd rather be crazy than to have never done it and be called normal. It fuels the fire for the next one,” he says.

The next one could be the X-Alps.

“People say I'm crazy, but for what I've experienced, I'd rather be crazy than to never have done it and be called normal.”

“I saw a *National Geographic* show—only a handful of people have done the X-Alps race,” Kuhnau says excitedly. “You start in the middle of the Swiss Alps and you paraglide off the top. The race is 500 miles long; you have one support person. You paraglide as far as you can get, then you pack your chute up and run to the top of the next mountain and paraglide again. It's a 10- to 12-day race, finishing in Monaco.”

He's already looking into paragliding lessons. 🏠



The Man Who Set the Standard

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

IN THE LATE 1920s, NORTHWESTERN'S board was finally ready to add a junior college to Northwestern Classical Academy. Leadership would be key. Principal Thomas Welmers told the board, "What we need ... is a man who is enthusiastic and can give all his time ... in the interests of this institution."

That man was Dr. Jacob Heemstra. Born in 1888 in northwest Iowa, he graduated from the academy in 1906. After earning a degree from Hope College, he attended Princeton and Western Theological Seminary.

From 1914 to 1918, he simultaneously pastored Trinity Reformed Church and attended the University of Chicago. He then became a professor at Central College, where he taught education, religion and psychology and also served as registrar.

In 1928, at 40 years old, he became Northwestern's first college president.

Much of his 23-year presidency was a struggle for the college's survival. During the Depression, Heemstra pleaded for money from supporters to ensure the well-being of his underpaid—even unpaid—staff.

During the 1940s, as students and faculty were drafted into World War II, the junior college's enrollment plunged from 128 students in 1940 to 33 in 1944. Twenty Iowa junior colleges closed during the war, but Northwestern remained afloat as Heemstra conserved funds and found new sources of support.

He also battled the Reformed Church in America, fighting for fair and adequate financial support from the denomination's Board of Education and the board's secretary, the Rev. Willard Brown.

In 1932 Heemstra requested Board of Education funds be reapportioned now that there were three RCA colleges. He was shocked when, instead of receiving funding, he received a letter in which Brown proposed Northwestern close.

Brown had talked to Central College administrators, and Northwestern students could transfer there—especially if the additional students were accompanied by funding from Northwestern's supporting churches.

Heemstra responded with an angry seven-page letter, declaring, among other things, he had "no intention of closing Northwestern's doors."

During his presidency, Heemstra directly contributed to the growth of the college's academic and co-curricular programs. He hired faculty and enabled many to earn their doctorates.

He raised funds for remodeling a house into Dykstra Hall in 1945 and adding to Science Hall in 1948. In 1950 Heemstra Hall was built and named for the man who championed its construction.

Heemstra retired from the presidency in 1951 and taught in the religion department until his death in 1957, at 70 years old.

Ralph Mouw '36, '38, a Northwestern professor from 1947 to 1983, remembers

Heemstra as a model of dedication. "He stuck with Northwestern all those difficult years," says Mouw. "He inspired loyalty."

When Gerald De Jong wrote *From Strength to Strength* for the college's centennial, he dedicated the volume to Heemstra, claiming, "There has been no single individual ... more responsible for [Northwestern's] success."

"What we need ... is a man who is enthusiastic and can give all his time ... in the interests of this institution."

Ralph Mouw '36, '38 says Northwestern College's first president, Dr. Jacob Heemstra, was very respected by students. A *Beacon* editorial in December 1928 said of the new leader: "[He] is our inspiration, counselor and good friend. ... His sage advice and up-to-date ideas have benefited the school in countless ways."

Photo: Northwestern College Archives



class Notes

'51 **The Rev. Dr. C. Orville Kool**, Orange City, continues to provide pulpit supply for area churches.

'62 **Cal Hoekstra** was inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in October. During his 14 years as head boys' basketball coach at Southwest Minnesota Christian High School in Edgerton, he coached his teams to 10 conference championships, five district titles, three regional championships, and back-to-back state titles. He was named Minnesota Class A Coach of the Year in 2000, the same year he stepped down as head coach. He spent the past four years as the head girls' basketball coach, retiring last spring after 45 years of teaching and coaching.

'64 **Roger Wyngarden**, Constantine, Mich., operates a taxi service for the local Amish population.

'68 **Dr. Corwin Smidt** continues to serve as the director of the Henry Institute at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was quoted this fall in national news stories related to religion and the presidential election. He is the co-author of *Divided by a Common Heritage: The CRC and RCA at the Turn of the Millennium*. His most recent book, *Pews, Prayers and Participation: Religion and Civic Responsibility in America*, will be published later this year.

'70 **Dr. Bob Boerigter**, Maryville, Mo., was inducted into the Hastings College (Neb.) Athletic Hall of Fame in February. He served as the Broncos' athletic director and professor of physical education from 1988 to 2001. Previously, he taught and coached at NWC. He is in his seventh year as athletic director at Northwest Missouri State University.

'73 **Cornie Wassink**, Alton, Iowa, a longtime track and cross country official, received the John Lowry Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Track Officials Association in December. In addition, he is serving as president of the Planned Giving Council of Siouxland this year.

'75 **Jim Simmelink**, Onawa, Iowa, received an Administrator Award from the Iowa High School Athletic Association at the boys' basketball state tournament in March. He is the superintendent of West Monona Community Schools. He and his wife, **Delores (Smith '80)**, have three children, including Ryan '06 and Nicole '10.

'76 **Nancy (Noteboom) Kroese** recently won the 50s division of Beauties of America, a pageant that celebrates the beauty and achievements of women of all ages. Nancy is the director of student support services and coordinator of disability services at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Her husband, **Bob '77**, serves as chief executive officer of Pella Regional Health. They have two children.

Alan TeBrink, Durango, Colo., works part time as a lay pastor for Allison Community Presbyterian Church and takes seminary classes online. He also referees football and basketball games.

'77 **Sherry TenClay**, Albuquerque, N.M., was recently named senior program manager of business and technology programs in the University of New Mexico's Division of Continuing Education. She will be a presenter at April's International Learning Resources Network Conference on Best Practices in Program Development in Tucson, Ariz.

'79 **Connie (Bastemeyer) Albers** became the director of stewardship at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., in January. She previously served the college in the principal gifts office of the advancement division.

Wayne Westenberg was inducted into the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association Volleyball Hall of Fame in November. He coached at Sanborn High School and Unity Christian High School for a total of 22 years. During that time, he led Unity to 10 state appearances, with five championships. He is an assistant volleyball coach at NWC and an assistant professor of mathematics.

Red Ties

RACHEL VAN DEN BROEK '02

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Cal Hoekstra '62 was recently inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. In his acceptance speech, Cal said, "I am proud to identify myself as a graduate of Northwestern College!" That kind of obvious pride in NWC is exactly what I love to hear.

Alumni pride can be put into action in a variety of ways. Here are just a couple of examples of ways our alumni are advocating for their alma mater:

Last spring, when I was still an admissions counselor, I was out and about encouraging seniors to finalize their college decisions and hopefully choose Northwestern as their home for the next four years. As I strolled into Washington High School in Cherokee, Iowa, I was grateful that young alums Jaylene (Wiersema '03) and James De Vos '03, who both teach there, had been priming the pump.

They promote Northwestern the moment their students step into their English and chemistry classrooms. Jaylene admits some students are more interested in her beloved alma mater than others, but anyone who wants to know more about Northwestern is invited to ask James or Jaylene. In addition to helping to recruit four current freshmen, the couple offered each student a couch from their basement collection. Three of the four students accepted the De Vos' offer.

Another trip took me to southeastern Iowa, where Pam (Menschner '03) and Art De Vos '02 live in Mt. Pleasant. A former camp director, Art had made trips to NWC to recruit students as camp counselors. During one of his recruiting trips, he encouraged a senior in high school to come along for the ride and check out his alma mater.

I know many of you may not work as directly with prospective students as these alumni. But that shouldn't stop you from shouting, wearing or living your pride for Northwestern College and its mission wherever you are.

Thank you for your commitment to Northwestern and for claiming and proclaiming, "This is my college!"

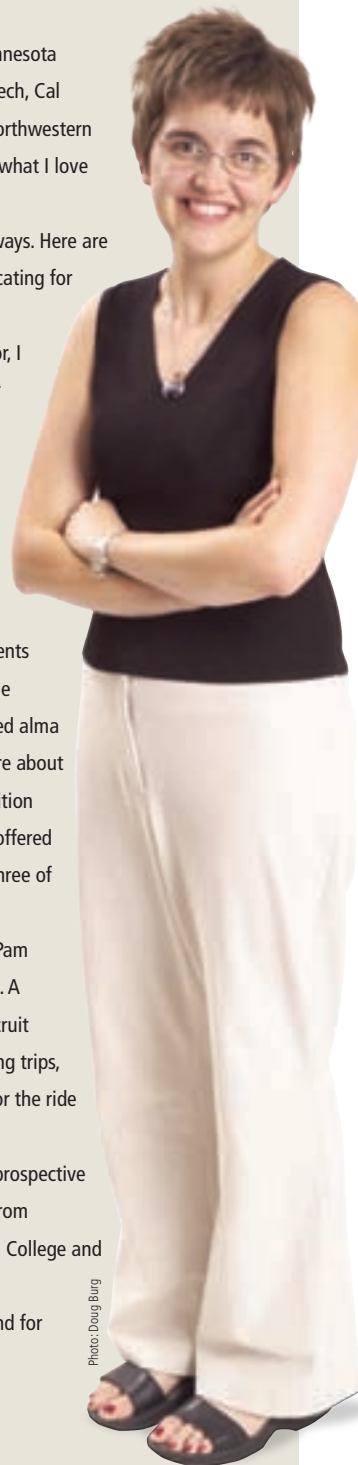


Photo: Doug Burg

'83 Michelle Levigne, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, is the author of three books that are finalists in the 2008 EPPIE Awards competition: *Wolves on the West Side*, *Threads*, and *Hoven Quest*. EPPIEs are given for publishing excellence of electronic books. For more information, visit Michelle's website at www.mlevigne.com.

'84 Karen (Westley) Chase and her husband, Tim, are missionaries with Mission Aviation Fellowship. They spent the last 10 years in Indonesia, most recently providing tsunami relief. They have moved to Kathmandu, Nepal, to initiate a flight program.

'85 Dan Addington, Chicago, became sole owner of the newly renamed Addington Gallery in September. His paintings can also be seen at the Rymer Gallery in Nashville, Tenn., and at Aliya Linstrum Gallery in Atlanta. His exhibition schedule and samples of his work can be found at www.danaddington.com.

'87 Valerie (Dittmer) King is a self-employed graphic designer. She is also the director of the choir and bell choir at First Presbyterian Church in Marshalltown, Iowa, where her husband, **Rich '86**, serves as senior pastor. They have four children.

'90 Margarita Ramos, Ripon, Calif., is the deputy director for the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department.

Steve Van Otterloo was recently promoted to a special agent with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation in Sioux City. He previously served as a trooper with the Iowa State Patrol. He lives in Le Mars.

'91 Susanne (Caines) Bolt, Greenwood, Mo., is a chaplain and bereavement coordinator for Catholic Charities Hospice in Overland Park, Kan. She and her husband, Richard, are helping to plant a church.

Daniel Thome, McIntire, Iowa, is the vice president of business development for Artesian Fresh Inc. in LeRoy, Minn.



Jim Heemstra '72

C.Y. Stephens Auditorium on the campus of Iowa State University

Sound Design

BY EMILY HENNAGER '06

As a preschooler growing up on Northwestern's campus, Howard Heemstra '46, '48, son of then-president Jacob Heemstra, enjoyed sitting outside under an open window while Fern Smith taught music classes. "I'd listen and pretend to direct," he says.

That early experience may have given him an award-winning ear for music. In 1963, Heemstra was again listening and directing—this time as the project architect for Iowa State University's Stephens Auditorium in Ames. The world-class performance hall was named Iowa's "Building of the Century" by the Iowa chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2004, beating out works by notable architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright.

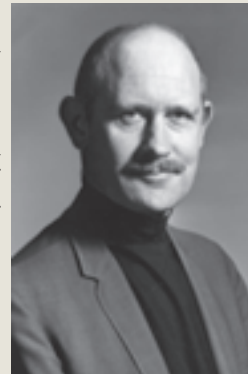
The auditorium's exceptional acoustics are due to Heemstra's dedication to detail. Using light and mirrors to simulate sound waves, Heemstra precisely calculated how sound would bounce off each surface, sometimes even calculating secondary and tertiary reflections.

"It was about maximizing sound power," he says. "No sound is wasted."

Upon completion of the building's design, Heemstra was offered a teaching position at Iowa State, where he taught until retiring in 2003. Looking over his career, he says he is honored by the building's award.

"The building performs well," he says. "It does what it's supposed to do, and it does it both functionally and aesthetically."

Iowa State University Library/Special Collections Department



Howard Heemstra in 1968

'94 Dayle (Gage) Halverson is a substitute teacher in Portland, Ore. She also teaches creative art classes for parents. Her husband, Chip, is attending medical school.

'95 Jason Kanz, Eau Claire, Wis., is a neuropsychologist for Marshfield Clinic. He was recently named an associate editor of *Assessment*, a journal devoted to psychological assessment.

Todd Schuiteman is chief financial officer for Quality Living Inc. in Omaha.

'96 Jill (Kment) Capito, Carol Stream, Ill., is the internal control director in benefits outsourcing for Mercer. Her husband, Steve, is an engineer in the material handling business.

Rebecca Daniel, Staten Island, N.Y., is a financial analyst for New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Kevin Kroeze works as a police officer in Visalia, Calif.

'99 David Kment is vice president of Stanton (Neb.) National Bank.

'01 Justin De Jong has taken a new job as director of communications for the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

Randy Olson, Norfolk, Neb., a former assistant track coach at Northwestern, recently competed in the World Masters Track and Field Championships in Riccione, Italy. He placed 10th in the decathlon and 11th in the 110-meter high hurdles.

'02 Steve Hydeen continues to perform with 88improv. His wife, **Andrea (Smits '04)**, is a stay-at-home mom and a Creative Memories consultant. They have two children, Lillian (3) and Josiah (1), and live in Bellevue, Neb.

'03 Amanda Hoklin, Lincoln, Neb., is pursuing a master's degree in graphic design at the University of Nebraska.

Carrie Petersen works in the student financial services office at AIB College of Business in Des Moines. She is also the concert coordinator at Valley Church in West Des Moines.

'05 Kristen (Hosbond) Donahue is a senior accounting clerk for Marsh in Des Moines.

Rebekah (Shelton) Elder is a curriculum/resource director at University Park Methodist Weekday School in Dallas. Her husband, **David**, is working on a doctorate in rhetoric/writing at Texas Christian University.

Regina (Downing) Hassanally is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Palmer Theological Seminary near Philadelphia.

Ryan Musil, Spring, Texas, graduated from the Harris County Sheriff's Department Academy as valedictorian and is now a sheriff deputy in the patrol division.

'06 Allison (Freeman) Iwahashi works in the accounting office of Be in Health in Thomaston, Ga. Her husband, Scott, works in the media department. They are also active at Pleasant Valley Church.

Josh Menning has been appointed director of Youth With a Mission's Pursuits Ministries discipleship training school in Matamata, New Zealand.

Mick Snieder is a financial adviser in Orange City. His wife, **Crystal (Drury '05)**, works at Iowa State Bank as a customer service representative and coordinator for the Frontier Club.

'07 Nathan Bosman works in sales/estimating for Lynden (Wash.) Door. His wife, **Angela (Meendering)**, is a bookkeeper for BAI Environmental Services.

Kaitlyn Bowie, Spring, Texas, is a third-grade teacher at Odom Elementary School in Houston.



Neil Mitchell/Axiom Photo Design

Barbara Halsey's role as executive director of the California Workforce Investment Board is part diplomat, part facilitator and part fortune-teller.

Good job

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98

Few people would want to disappoint Arnold Schwarzenegger—including Barbara Halsey '82, who calls him boss.

Last year the governor appointed her the executive director of the California Workforce Investment Board, which brings local and state systems together to provide better customer service to job-seekers and businesses. The group works to ensure job-seekers have the right skills for employment and companies find the workers they need.

Halsey has 27 years of experience in workforce training, but her greatest qualification is a passion for finding people jobs—a passion she's had since she was a social work major at Northwestern and helped develop a supportive work program for people with disabilities in Sioux Falls.

"That really opened my eyes to what employment means to people—the phenomenal difference it can make in their lives," she says.

Now that she's overseeing the job prospects of the entire population of California, Halsey no longer gets to interact with job-seekers one-on-one, but, she says, "I never want to forget what this job is all about: the individual who is now able to support his family because he's found a job."

Amanda (Brown) Brouwer is pursuing a master's degree in health psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Daryn Dockter is a naturalist for Mission Springs Outdoor Education in Scotts Valley, Calif.

Leah Doster, Anchorage, Alaska, teaches special education at Trailside Elementary School.

Austin Janssen is a sales representative for Koch Brothers in Des Moines.

Jaimi Joneson teaches seventh and eighth grade language arts at Hinton (Iowa) Community School. She lives in Le Mars.

Sara Kaiser, Winter Park, Fla., is pursuing a master's degree in business at Rollins College.

Bethany Kroeze, Orange City, is the sports editor for the *Le Mars Daily Sentinel*.

Katie (Schnoes) Schroeder works in payment processing for Citibank in Sioux Falls.

Hannah Smithson teaches English and Spanish at Sheboygan (Wis.) Christian School.

T.J. Speer serves as a credit analyst at First National Bank in Sioux Falls. His wife, Lisa, is a surgical trauma nurse at McKennan Hospital.

Erin Theilen is a health counselor at Tanager Place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Megan Van Peursem is director of Christian education and youth ministry at Trinity Reformed Church in Waupun, Wis.

Carin (Grussing) Weltzheimer, Hoisington, Kan., is a case manager for Rosewood Service Inc. in Great Bend.

Sarah (Bergh) Whigham is pursuing a master's degree in school psychology at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.



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Little Raiders (left to right):
Amaia Agre is the daughter of Marcy (Vos '98) and Ryan Agre '98.
Ethan Agre is the son of Carla (Kelm '01) and Nathan Agre '00.
Aliya Agre is the daughter of Adrienne (Gaster '04) and Tristan Agre '03.



Sam Harrell/Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Kayla Clark '96 was recognized as the Alaska Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year in November.

A Global Gym Class

BY EMILY HENNAGER '06

Visit one of the physical education classes that Kayla Clark '96 teaches in Fairbanks, Alaska, and you may see her students rollerblading, learning lacrosse, orienteering, scaling the climbing wall, swing dancing or curling.

After a trip to Australia, she even designed a unit featuring a modified version of Australian rules football.

Such innovative approaches to teaching earned Clark Alaska's Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year honors in November. The award is given annually by the Alaska Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. A longtime member of the organization, Clark is also serving as its president this year.

Clark's non-traditional P.E. activities go hand-in-hand with classes on sports like basketball and soccer, as well as information about health and nutrition.

"I try to show them the possibilities and skills for lifelong fitness," she says.

An avid traveler, Clark often brings back ideas for new activities from the places she visits.

"I'm learning right along with my students," she says. "As I learn new activities, I like to bring them to my classes. Every year the list gets longer."

New arrivals

Jill and **Jay McKinstrey '86**, daughter, Anna Elizabeth, joins Casey (13) and Corin (10)

Jill (Gayer '94) and **Mark De Ruyter '94**, son, Tylandon Mitchell

Roger and **Lori (McDonald '95) Van Beek**, son, Zachary Allen, joins Callie (4)

Brian and **Janna (Klyn '96) Bouwkamp**, son, Sawyer Lee, joins Hannah (7), Sarena (5) and Caden (2)

Steve and **Jill (Kment '96) Capito**, twin sons, William Ingles and Jacob Kment

Deb (Bandstra '96) and **Todd Schuiteman '95**, son, Jackson Dean, joins Brayden (3)

Jerry and **Robin (Chalstrom '97) Hunt**, daughter, Christianna Joy, and daughter by adoption, Deanna LaVonne (12), join Shariah (5) and Ezra (3)

Sara (Armstrong '98) and **Robbin Eppinga '97**, daughter, Esther Serene, joins Samuel (4), Emily (3) and Elia (2)

Sara and **David Kment '99**, daughter, Chelsea Renee, joins Aubrey (1)

Marie (Tilderquist '99) and **Kyle Menke '99**, daughter, Ava Marie, joins Elijah (1)

Susan (Menning '99) and **Dan Nelson '00**, daughter, Romey Jean, joins Avery (2)

Sarah and **Brian Town '99**, son, Max Steven

Lynnette (Van Gorp '00) and **Chad Fikse '00**, daughter, Laura Beth, joins Evan (3) and Kendra (2)

Brianna and **Kevin Noffsinger '00**, daughter, Mya Irene, joins Ian (1)

Peter and **Liz (Huizenga '01) Brokaar**, daughter, Emma Adriaantje

Kendra (Schutt '01) and **Gabe Carlson '00**, daughter, Elyse Faith, joins Kaylee (2)

Geoff and **Sara (Johnson '01) Essells**, son, Joshua Andrew, joins Madelyn (2)

Rachel (DeGroot '01) and **Travis Popken '99**, daughter, Ellason Grace, joins Addison (4)

Sarah (Kennedy '01) and **Tim Schoenfeld '03**, son, Isaac Dare

Nathan and **Stephanie (Kruse '02) Haila**, son, Lucas Ethan, joins James (2)

Anna (Teigland '02) and **Lance Reinke '02**, son, Keaton Anthony, joins Parker (2)

Sarah (Nessa '03) and **Matthew Thompson '04**, son, Dax Matthew

Justin and **Sarah (Freerks '04) Groen**, son, Leo Randall

Amy (Huyser '04) and **Nick Harthoorn '04**, daughter, Kate Johanna

Rebekah (Shelton '05) and **David Elder '05**, son, Noah Ellis

Marriages

Sheila Allen '03 and Aaron Williams, Lincoln, Neb.

Jordan Dowdy '03 and April Vandeventer, Lincoln, Neb.

Sarah Wynia '03 and Brian Smith, Madison, Wis.

Paula Ewoldt '04 and Kevin Hodgson, Papillion, Neb.

Chad De Jager '05 and Kim Pett, Holland, Mich.

Regina Downing '05 and Terrence Hasanally, Lansdowne, Pa.

Corinne Mings '05 and Adam Christian, Omaha, Neb.

Maria Vos '05 and James O'Dell, Ottumwa, Iowa

T.J. Speer '07 and Lisa De Jong, Sioux Falls

Codie Zeutenhorst '08 and Jana Sneller, Orange City

The couples reside in the city listed.

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Event to be announced.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Saturday, June 21
Join us for a tailgate and a Milwaukee Brewers game.

Fond du Lac, Wis.

Sunday, June 22 - 12:30 p.m.
Enjoy a picnic in Lakeside Park.

Omaha, Neb.

Sunday, July 20
Enjoy a day at Henry Doorly Zoo, including a meal, IMAX showing and more.

*For the latest details,
visit www.nwciowa.edu/alumnigatherings
or call 712-707-7134*

SEVENTH ANNUAL RED RAIDER CLASSIC

Friday, June 6 • Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City

All former Raider athletes and friends of the athletic department are invited to participate in this four-person scramble, hosted by the athletic department and the Red Raider Club. Golfers will be able to designate the proceeds from their entry fee to the sport of their choice. The event includes a noon lunch, 1 p.m. best-ball shotgun start, and 5:30 dinner.

For more information,
contact Coach Kyle Achterhoff:
712-707-7282
or achterhk@nwciowa.edu





Professional basketball player Brandon Woudstra leads his German team in scoring, rebounds and assists.

Globe-trotter

BY DUANE BEESON

Brandon Woudstra '03 knew he wasn't playing in the Great Plains Athletic Conference anymore when he listened to a 15-minute pre-game pep talk in Icelandic, not understanding a thing.

Eager to hear the elaborate game plan, Woudstra was surprised when the coach turned to him and said just six words in English: "Go out there and play hard."

While language has occasionally been a barrier during Woudstra's overseas basketball career, it hasn't deterred him from success. Northwestern's all-time leader in scoring and assists has been named an all-star in all but one of his five professional seasons.

After a year each in Iceland and the Netherlands, Woudstra is in his third season in Germany. In the first year of a two-year contract with ENBW Ludwigsburg, he plays among several former NCAA Div. I players and European stars.

"I've been really blessed to make a living out of basketball," says Woudstra. "It's a thrill everyday competing against players I watched on TV."

Woudstra and his wife, Kyndara (Hardersen '03), have taken advantage of opportunities to travel throughout Europe. This year alone, his team has played games in Estonia, France, Greece, Poland and Spain.

When the season's over, the Woudstras and daughter Jaelye (1) will return to their acreage near Orange City, while Brandon serves as an instructor for B.J. Mulder's B.E.S.T. basketball school.

NCATE seeks comments

Northwestern's education department is scheduled for a fall 2008 accreditation review by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Federal regulations require that accrediting agencies allow for public comment on the qualifications of programs under consideration for accreditation.

Both NCATE and Northwestern recognize that graduates, parents, schools and community organizations have valuable perspectives on the quality of the programs that prepare teachers and other school personnel. We invite interested parties to submit written testimony on the NWC education department to:

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of professional education programs offered at Northwestern and should specify the respondent's relationship, if any, to NWC (e.g., graduate, present or former faculty member, employer of graduates). Copies of all correspondence received will be sent to the college for comment prior to the review. No anonymous testimony will be considered.

Letters of comment should be received no later than Sept. 1.

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Deaths

Ava (Dykstra '30, '32) Berkebile died Jan. 3 in Fairfax, Va., at age 94. She taught in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Sioux County, Iowa, for many years. Later, she lived in Paterson, N.J., and Los Angeles, where she worked as a loan officer for Bank of America. Among her survivors are two brothers, **Wesley '41, '43** and **Vergil '42, '44**.

Davis Roelofs '31, age 98, died Jan. 10 in Sioux Center. After his time at Northwestern Junior College, he graduated from Central College. The longtime owner of Roelofs' Store, he was treasurer of the Sioux Center Civic Club for 33 years and served on the Sioux County Conservation Board for 21 years. A member of Central Reformed Church, he served as Sunday school superintendent, deacon and elder. His survivors include his wife, Margaret; two sons, **Bill '59** and **Jim '65**; and three daughters, including **Darlene Mouw '56** and **Mary Chapman '68**.

Mildred (De Jager '35) Schoep, age 92, died Jan. 4 in Orange City. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she taught in rural schools. She was a member of First Reformed Church, where she was involved in women's activities. She also served on the Tulip Festival Queen Committee. She is survived by a son, **Robert '68**, and two daughters, including **Linda Donaldson '72**.

Frederick Verdoorn '62, age 67, died Dec. 28 in Des Moines. He worked for many years at H&B Electric in Brookings, S.D., and later worked at Sears Auto Center in Des Moines. He is survived by three children, including **Robert '86**.

Gregory Vermeer '76, Dade City, Fla., died Jan. 2 at age 54. He was a fish health biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. His survivors include his wife, Kimberly, and two children, as well as parents **Joanne (Vonk '51)** and **Wally Vermeer '50**; sister **Julie Elliott '97**; and three brothers, including **Brent '80** and **Barry '81**.



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Classic Thoughts

Behind the Burqa

BY DANA (SMITH '93) DANIELS



ASSOCIATED PRESS/ELIZABETH DALZIEL

Despite advances in women's rights since the fall of the Taliban regime over five years ago, most Afghan women, especially outside the capital, still wear the all-enveloping burqa.

We've coined a new term in our home: "bookjacking." I'll define it with an example. My husband, Jim '98, brings home a few books he's hoping to read. I browse the titles in case there's anything that interests me. If there is, I settle in my reading chair and begin the book.

When he returns to claim his new read and discovers my nose buried in its pages, he understands the look that communicates, "Back off, for now this book is mine." And with that, I've successfully "bookjacked" another book. This was the case during the summer of 2006 when *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini appeared in our home.

As the story unfolded, I found it difficult to put down and began completing tasks as quickly as possible in order to resume reading. I read it in three days, quite an accomplishment considering I was also caring for our two children, then 8 months and 3 years old. The story, partially set in Afghanistan, is fictional, but I began to suspect there was truth behind the circumstances Hosseini described.

I realized I knew very little about Afghanistan and was compelled to learn more, so I searched Amazon.com and visited the public library in pursuit of books that could educate me about the country's history and culture. For two months, I was consumed with learning about this land and its struggles over the last several decades. As I read multiple accounts of the cruelty women endured during the Taliban's reign, I was ashamed of my ignorance and troubled for women who lived in a society where they were so devalued.

I wondered aloud to Jim, "Why have *my* eyes been opened to the struggles of women in this country?" My husband, a pastor, gave a response I should have anticipated. He suggested I pray for an opportunity to respond to what I'd learned. I did—for a while—but the busyness of life crept in, and thoughts of Afghanistan moved to the perimeter of my life. My interest quickly rekindled, however, after reading Hosseini's second book, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. I resumed my prayer of "Now that I know, what should I do?"

Fast-forward to August 2007. I'm now working part time in Northwestern's public relations office. I open an e-mail from English instructor Deb Menning. She's informing us about a service-learning

project. I snap to attention as she describes it. Her College Writing class would learn about various forms of injustice faced by women worldwide, particularly Afghan women. Students would also read Hosseini's books and craft a writing project to offer encouragement to a few Afghan women. I hit reply, explain my interest in Afghanistan and beg Deb to let me be involved.

In November, I joined her students for an extended class period that included a conference call with workers in Afghanistan and a meal at Deb's home. Our Afghan meal was prepared by several American women who'd lived in Afghanistan. They shared stories, answered questions and confirmed fears about the ongoing struggles of Afghan women.

Toward the end of the meal, one woman held up a burqa. I stared at it, seeing it as a physical representation of the nearly total imprisonment women experienced throughout the Taliban reign. I'd recently been reflecting on a passage from Isaiah that describes bestowing upon someone "a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" (Isaiah 61:3, NIV). This garment had bestowed discouragement and despair on the women of Afghanistan, and I realized how I longed for them to know something different.

After that experience, I had to take action. I've become an "e-mail friend" with a young woman preparing to serve in Afghanistan. I've also begun receiving specific prayer requests for this country. Jim and I decided to pledge both financial and prayer support to someone actively serving among Afghan women, and I was even invited to join a group traveling to Afghanistan this spring. Although I won't be going this time, I am praying for courage to obey if God ever desires for my feet to touch the soil of this land.

I now have a heart invested in Afghanistan. Maybe I got what I deserved; after all, I did "bookjack" the novel that sparked this interest. I've noticed a new book in our home. It's about the conflict between Palestinians and Jews. I'm almost afraid to open it.

Dana Daniels worked in Northwestern's admissions office for five years. Now a member of the public relations staff, she serves on the National Alumni Board and the 125th Anniversary Committee.

Be Counted

I got a great computer science education at Northwestern. I also made lifelong friends, like Ben Petty '99, who introduced me to the person who hired me for my first job. I give to Northwestern because I know people gave when I was a student. Out of gratitude, I want to enable others to enjoy the same opportunities I had—opportunities for excellent learning in a community that cares about you in college and beyond.



Josiah Dunlap '01 and his wife, Kristen (Van Roekel '02), live in Georgia, where he is a network administrator at IBM and she is a band director for Fulton County Schools. He also plays trombone and she plays flute in the Alpharetta Community Band. In addition to supporting the Northwestern Fund, the Dunlaps also fund scholarships for students majoring in computer science and music.

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Shooting Star

Senior Debbie Remmerde became the all-time scoring leader in NAIA Div. II in the Raiders' win over Briar Cliff on Jan. 16, breaking the record of 3,236 points set last year by Cedarville's Brittany Smart. Remmerde also became Iowa collegiate basketball's leading scorer in the same game, eclipsing the previous record of 3,248.

As Northwestern's season wound down, Remmerde had moved to fourth on the chart of all-time scorers in women's collegiate basketball. The Rock Valley native, who is the leading scorer in Iowa five-player high school girls' basketball, made national news two years ago when her 133 consecutive free throws broke all records and she made 256 straight on the CBS Early Show.

Remmerde's hoop dreams continue. She aims to keep swishing the nets as a professional, either in the WNBA or in Europe.

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