Designer Genes
Can Christians have faith in genetic technologies?

Also
Fake Patients, Real Learning
Spring Service Scrapbook
National Champs Again
Thea Engen takes her turn at the net in Sioux City’s Tyson Events Center after the Raiders won their second consecutive national title.
Courageous and Faithful Learning

Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redemptive work in the world. What exactly does our mission statement mean, particularly “courageous and faithful learning”?

Our Reformed heritage proclaims “all truth is God’s truth.” That means we can courageously seek truth in every discipline without fearing the answers we might discover. Our Reformed heritage proclaims “all truth is God’s truth.” That means we can courageously and faithfully learn and live that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redemptive work in the world.

President Greg Christy

From the Classic website

The following excerpt is from reader-posted comments about Classic articles at classic.nwcl.edu.

Social Media Reactions

The potential for transformative change through social networking is undeniable. The most obvious example is Oscar Hawkins, who in 2006 used Facebook to rally millions and bring worldwide protests against the Colombian guerilla organization FARC. There is enormous potential to put it to “kingdom use” as mentioned.

But I did read something I found somewhat troubling, and that’s the thought that it might be diminishing the social experience of college. In 2007 on Third West Colenbrander, there was hardly a door shut. You could hear people horsing around and laughing, while Stain’s 6:30 A.M. school in the bathroom for the 20th time that day.

We have real, but other than writing papers, we didn’t spend a lot of time on the computer. We actively engaged in community, from movie night (and Bible study) to pulling pranks on our sister wing. In fact, my GPA took a hit at the first couple semesters because I became a little too engaged with the community aspect of college.

Now I wonder how I ever got along without my Android phone, SMS, MMS, TopTalk, Skype, Yahoo! and Facebook mobile. I still think Twitter is worthless. I wonder how these would have affected my college experience. It worries me a little to think online social networking might be serving to erode the community aspect of college. Was that the whole reason I chose Northwestern over a state school?

It’s funny, I remember in spring of 2005 when Facebook finally opened registration to Northwestern’s domain. We all started getting invitations, and then came a concerned e-mail from [computing services] warning everybody: “We are not responsible for this website, and we’re not even sure it’s legitimate; please use caution when entering your information.”

I guess it just boils down to “everything in moderation.” If used properly, it can be a disservice to our students. Trying to be a faithful follower of Christ in a fallen world is messy, and there are a lot of gray areas. We want to prepare our students to enter this world and engage it, especially the messy parts.

One example of this approach is in the sciences. Many colleges, even Christian colleges, are uncomfortable exploring the intersection of God and science. While it may be tempting to avoid discussing the principles of evolutionary theory, for example, it would not be courageous or faithful. God is the creator of all things—including the way creatures evolve and change.

A model for integrating faith and science is Dr. Francis Collins, a committed Christian who leads the National Institutes of Health after having invested years in the human genome project. Our professors have encouraged students to read his book, The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief.

A year ago, I heard Dr. Collins speak to a group of Christian leaders. He challenged us to wrestle with some tough questions: Is it possible that in creating the world God did so in a line to walk, and we will make mistakes as we try to achieve just the right balance.

Perhaps British theologian Charles Spurgeon best summarizes what we are trying to achieve: “Discernment is not a matter of simply telling the difference between right and wrong. Rather, it is telling the difference between right and almost right.” We covet your continued prayers and support as we seek God’s truth together as a Christian academic community.
Christians in a Muslim Country

Ellen Tolsma usually likes to sit toward the front of class. This semester she’s sometimes been told to sit in the back—and cover her head. Tolsma, a junior history and political science major, is among six students enrolled in Northwestern’s first Oman Semester, based at the Reformatted Church in America’s Amana Centre in the capital city of Muscat.

With center director the Rev. Doug Leonard, an RCA missionary, as their mentor, the students are learning Arabic and studying the Islamic religion with a goal of furthering understanding and trust between Christians and Muslims.

They are also taking classes at Sultan Qaboos University and pursuing a research project in their area of interest under the oversight of a senior-level government official. Oman, which borders Saudi Arabia and Yemen, has not experienced the same level of upheaval affecting other Middle Eastern countries recently. NWC administrators monitored the small, peaceful protests that took place in February and were prepared to evacuate students if necessary, but protestors’ demands for jobs and higher wages were met by the Omani government.

When the Grand Mosque’s segregated seating separated Tolsma from her male classmates, she sat among the Omani women. The women allowed Tolsma to participate in prayer but** forbade** her to enter the shrine to pray.

“Introductions have led to shopping trips, party invitations, and bridge-building conversations. We discuss things like the Christian vs. Muslim view of Jesus,” she wrote in an e-mail to family members. “All of us desire to understand rather than judge.”

Dr. Doug Carlson, associate dean for global education, visited the students in March. “We’re all aware of the tensions between the Western world and Muslim world today,” he said. “For our students to be immersed in Middle Eastern culture and interact with Omanis will be not only life-changing personally, but will also facilitate the larger goal of greater understanding.”

“They are encountering Islam not as a theological religion but as something new friends of theirs practice.”

Online Learning

Northwestern is moving forward with plans to develop an online learning program. A search is currently under way for a full-time director to develop, market, and implement the program.

Discussion of online learning was begun by Northwestern’s 2007 strategic plan, which mandated piloting summer online courses and evaluating whether their form and content are a good fit for the college. Online courses were offered the last two summers, with enrollment nearly doubling the second year.

Courses leading to the unified early childhood endorsement, a program that is in demand by experienced teachers, were the most popular; students also took classes in English, history, kinesiology and psychology.

Dr. Jasper Leavas, provost, says the online courses appeal to NWC students who are struggling to fit classes into their schedules or want to arrange their schedules so they can spend a semester interning or studying abroad. Other targets for the classes include high school students, former NWC students who want to complete a degree, and individuals who wouldn’t be able to come to campus but are interested in Northwestern courses.

“We aren’t going to compromise the quality of our education; we desire a program that supports Northwestern’s Vision for Learning,” says Leavas. “Our criteria for approving courses or being faculty aren’t much change.”

Thirteen courses are being offered this summer. Leavas hopes the new director can have some courses in place for next spring.

Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, psychology, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research and teach in Romania next school year.

Feenstra will research the effectiveness of the youth development work done by the New Horizons Foundation. She will also teach research methodology courses in a master’s degree program at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj while on sabbatical.

A social psychologist with research interests in voluntarism and the development of adolescents and young adults, Feenstra will live in Romania from October through June. She will assess the success of the program New Horizons has developed to empower Romanian youth and increase responsibility, teamwork and trust among them.

The New Horizons Foundation’s executive director, Dana Bates, also serves as online program director for Northwestern’s Romania semester. Feenstra, who participated in a Northwestern summer study abroad course in Romania in 2005, will work with Bates to develop a research program for a new curriculum the organization is implementing in its youth clubs. She will also analyze data previously collected by the Center for the Study of Democracy.

“I’m excited to work with New Horizons,” says Feenstra. “I was fascinated with their efforts to improve social capital—the trust in others and willingness to engage in cooperative actions needed to successfully run a democratic society— which is low in post-communist Romania. I’m inspired by the kind of difference they’re making, and I look forward to getting to know the people of Romania and learning more about the culture.”

Feenstra, a co-director of Northwestern’s Franken Student Leadership Institute, has published her research in the Journal of College Student Development, Teaching of Psychology and Journal of Psychology and Theology. A member of Northwestern’s faculty since 2003, she earned doctoral and master’s degrees in psychology at the University of New Hampshire. She received a bachelor’s degree from Calvin College.

The Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. The program operates in over 155 countries.

Shows on the Road

Northwestern musicians and actors performed on both coasts during spring break tours March 5–15. The Symphonic Band played 10 concerts at schools and churches in Idaho and Washington. They also spent one day performing community service in Seattle.

The Drama Ministries Ensemble took a new play, Jesus Ethiopia, to Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Jesus Ethiopia is about the surprising spiritual gifts of Arlene Schuiteman, a nurse missionary to the Sudan and Ethiopia in the 1960s and 70s. Schuiteman, 87, traveled with the company for part of the tour.
AROUND THE GREEN

Of Course

Whodunit?

Class
Topics in Chemistry: Forensics

Instructor
Dr. Dave Arnett
Associate Professor of Chemistry

Texts and Assignments
• Investigating Chemistry: A Forensic Science Perspective, by Matthew Johll and W.H. Freeman

In addition to completing assignments and taking quizzes and exams, students participate in weekly labs in which they learn to analyze handwriting samples, soil, urine and blood, fingerprints, and bloodstain patterns. Other labs deal with gunshot residue, and bloodstain patterns. Other soil, urine and blood, fingerprints to analyze handwriting samples, and exams, students participate in assignments and taking quizzes in addition to completing Texts and Assignments

Giving for Lent

Several Northwestern students, faculty and staff contributed donations to the Reformed Church in America’s website, www.rca.org, during the season of Lent.

The readings began on Ash Wednesday, March 9, and continued through Saturday, April 23. The project was coordinated by Sarah Lippin, a senior Christian education and youth ministry major.

Twenty-nine students contributed devotionals, along with Chaplain Harlan VanOort ’82, Dean of the Faculty Alison Forgey, and five members of the religion faculty.

On Board

Dawn (To Brink) ‘82 Wohling, Sioux Falls, is a new member of Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. Appointed to a two-year term by virtue of her position as president of the National Alumni Board, she attended her first meeting in April.

She and her husband, Kim ’80, are teachers at Sioux Falls Christian School.

Successful Sale

Northwestern’s 28th annual Gala Auction raised $33,000 in February. Around 750 community members attended, and bids were submitted on nearly 450 items.

Items that secured generous bids at the event included a Nebraska golf vacation, hot air balloon ride, yearlong movie pass to Orange City’s Holland Plaza, an XBox with Kinect, and tickets to a Minnesota Twins game.

Proceeds will help fund student life programs and $1,000 Alumni Scholarships for 25 to 30 students next year.

Bonnie Van Den Broek has a good time putting the bidding up at the Gala Auction.
Winning Web

Northwestern's website won two awards this winter. The site, www.nwciowa.edu, won an award of merit in the Higher Education Marketing Report's advertising awards contest and a silver award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six awards competition.

The revised site was launched in July with a new look and content overhaul as the result of a yearlong process. It was produced by Web Development Manager Dan Robinson '01 and other members of the public relations staff.

CASE also commended two other NWC marketing projects. An e-mail campaign designed to communicate with current students in a way that provides them with the information they need and lets them know the college cares about their success received a silver award in the Best Solution to an Institutional Communications Challenge category. The "Mile Marker" e-mails, created by the Enrollment Management and Retention Team, address specific developmental concerns of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.


What is one of your favorite NWC memories?

I hunt, fish and golf. I also like to build and fly model airplanes.

What do you appreciate about the campus community?

Our employees. I feel that NWC faculty and staff are difference-makers.

What do you appreciate about the campus environment?

The work environment, my staff, our customers (employees and students), and I'm always looking at new technology in order to deliver the best products to those customers.

What's your least favorite technological development?

The Internet. It is very difficult to make sure everyone on campus has secure access and is protected in an ever-changing world—not to mention the fact that people are forgetting how to communicate personally.

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Do you have a favorite technological development?

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What is your favorite technological development?

The Internet, because it allows information to be shared and used when and where it's needed.
New Admissions Leader

Northwestern’s new dean of enrollment management joined the staff in March after nearly 10 years as director of enrollment services at the University of North Dakota. But Kenton Pauls is no stranger to Christian higher education. 

A graduate of Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., Pauls served his alma mater as an admissions counselor for five years. “Kenton’s experience in Christian and public higher education admissions, along with his winsome personality, personal Christian commitment, character and integrity, combine to make him an excellent person to lead our enrollment efforts,” says President Greg Christy. “We are very excited about his joining our administrative team.”

“His strengths are many,” says Christy, “but his greatest strengths are leadership and communication skills, expertise in marketing, and an exceptional ability to manage data. This unique gift set will allow him to excel at both the art and science of enrollment management.”

As dean, Pauls will provide strategic leadership and vision to the admissions, financial aid and public relations staff. He will also work closely with other Northwestern officials to design and support implementation of a comprehensive retention plan. “I’m excited to be better able to connect what I care about most with what I do best as a professional,” says Pauls. “I care most about Christ and furthering God’s kingdom, while I also have a passion for the life-impacting outcomes of a solid liberal arts higher education experience. As a product of Christian higher education, I understand the lasting personal and professional impact it can have.”

A frequent presenter at national conferences on topics ranging from predictive modeling to marketing and the use of data in recruitment, Pauls also has led training seminars in recruitment effectiveness for one of the nation’s foremost higher education marketing firms. Pauls replaces Ron De Jong ’71, who will retire this summer after 40 years of service in the admissions, external relations and advancement offices.

Write Turns

 Stranger Fiction

Weston Cutter, who teaches English at Northwestern, has published his first book of fiction. You’d Be a Stranger, Too, a collection of short stories, was released by BlazeVox Books in December.

The book, available at amazont.com and other online bookstores, includes 19 stories. “Facts of the Mississippi” describes relationships that develop as a group of friends spend winter nights following a new band, and in “Red Leaves,” Cutter sets a father’s aging in the context of the changing seasons. “Weston Cutter is a massive talent,” said reviewer Ed Falco, author of St. John of the Nine Barrows. Airline Bombardier, who wrote Tercentennial and WAMU Courtyard, says Cutter’s prose is “left and intricate, and at times dazzling.”

Easy as Pie

“Pie,” a short story by Northwestern senior Anna Pitney, will be published in the Albion Review, a literary journal that showcases undergraduate writing. The story’s central character, Grace, shares a late-night dessert with her dad while reflecting on their relationship, which has weathered his job losses and the family’s moves. Pitney wrote “Pie” during an independent study with Professor Weston Cutter. “Getting a story published this early in her writing career is a wonderfully auspicious start for her,” he said.

How-to Essays

Essays by seven students—some of whom are now alumni—have been published as instructive samples of student writing in the fourth edition of The College Writer, an English textbook published in January by Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

“Dutch Discord,” by senior Brittany Korver, analyzes how the influx of Muslim residents in the Netherlands is affecting the country’s identity and culture. Korver also contributed to a collaborative essay, “The Effects of the Eastern Red Cedar on Seedlings and Implications for Allelopathy,” other writers were Dana Kleckner ’09, senior Rachelle Stenstrom Tracy and junior Adam Verhoef.

An 11-member brand team, which worked with Stamat’s students to develop the promise. Alumni on the team were Barry Branch ’69, Ron De Jong ’71, Deb Kruiper ’84, Locker, Amanda Maloney ’09 and Jay Wielenga ’82.

Northwestern Classic

Grant Breider

Christian musicians Lincoln Brewster, Superchick, Hawk Nelson and Go Fish will be featured at RiseFest on Northwestern’s campus on June 25. Sponsored by Rise Ministries and NWC, the family festival will also feature several other bands, speakers and children’s ministry activities.

Tickets are $20 if purchased by June 15, with children 10 and under admitted free. Tickets at the door will be $25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.riseministries.com.
God at Work

People spend 50 to 60 percent of their waking hours at work and just 3 to 4 percent sitting in a pew. “Do you think God is interested in just 3 to 4 percent?” business ethics scholar Dr. David Miller asked during Northwestern’s fourth annual Day of Learning in Community. “God is a better investor management than that. He wants 100 percent.”

Miller served as the keynote speaker for the daylong symposium held on Feb. 16 and devoted to the theme “Faith at Work.” The former executive in international business and finance admits that as a Christian, he originally was a master at compartmentalizing his life. “Like a lot of people, I never thought about my faith on Mondays,” he says. “I thought faith was for Sunday, but the claim of a Christian is that Christ is in all of your life.” Miller now serves as the director of the Faith and Work Initiative at Princeton University. He has taught his signature business ethics course, Succeeding Without Selling Your Soul, at Princeton and Yale. He is also the author of God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement and has contributed to the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Fornax magazine.

Miller’s two addresses focused on whether faith in the workplace is a fad or the future and on how faith at work moves from an idea to actual practice. Between his presentations, students, faculty, staff and the public attended workshops offered by campus and community members.

Business ethics, biblical models of leadership, calling and career, and living one’s private faith in the public sector were among the topics addressed. Presenters included professionals in the arts, banking and finance, business, education, government, healthcare, law enforcement, ministry and missions, politics, scientific research and sports.

Alumni Presenters

• Ryan Achenholz ’83, business
• Bill Ellingson ’07, law
• Heidi (Deroog ’91) Hibma, parenting
• Jo (Wise ’92) Hoy, social work
• Rev. John Habers ’76, missions
• Kyle Irvin ’02, law
• Grace (De Boor ’89) Kohler, nursing
• Perry Knossell ’87, business
• Vincen Kontra ’98, law enforcement
• Jon Mass ’99, business
• Dr. Mark Muanenburg ’84, medicine
• Rev. Jon Oppenorth ’98, minority
• Steve Roemer ’83, business
• Dr. John Sweet ’89, genetic technology
• Jenny (Franken ’01) Vandersande, parenting
• Marnie (Hochstetra ’95) Withers, education
• Scott Welschwindel ’97, construction
• Carl Wyna ’88, banking

What’s the best major on campus? There must be a lot of discussion when Northwestern students are asked that question, because they’ve given many answers to representatives from Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges.

The national guidebook, which recommends specific college depart-ments, includes 18 NWC academic programs in its 2011 edition. Listed are actuarial science, athletic training, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, social work, Spanish and theatre.

The book includes programs at 1,120 four-year colleges Rugg has identified as providing a high-quality education. The publication relies heavily on random polls of students at those colleges.

Top Grade

What’s the best major on campus? There must be a lot of discussion when Northwestern students are asked that question, because they’ve given many answers to representatives from Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges.

The national guidebook, which recommends specific college depart-ments, includes 18 NWC academic programs in its 2011 edition. Listed are actuarial science, athletic training, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, social work, Spanish and theatre.

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Generous Gift

Northwestern’s spring Board of Trustees meeting, April 14-15, was highlighted by an announcement of a major gift to the college’s Imagine Campaign. President Greg Christy shared with trustees, faculty and staff that Jack and Mary DeWitt of Holland, Mich., have pledged an addi-
tional $2 million toward the new learning commons.

The gift brings the DeWitt’s total learning commons commitment to $3 million. Northwestern has now received gifts and pledges of $9.3 mil-

lion toward the facility’s goal of $15 million.

The DeWitts revealed their additional gift to Christy while making a campus visit with a grandson and some of his high school friends. “Their incredible generosity stems from their passion for the Christ-centered education we offer,” says the president. “Mary told me, ‘We can see in the eyes of students on campus that there’s something different about this place.’

Christy says the gift affirms the work done several months ago to revise the plans and cost of the learning commons, which will include the library, classrooms, writing center, archives, a coffee shop and a commu-

ity room with views of the campus green. This gift is the catalyst we’ve been praying for that puts us in place to work hard over the next 12 months to complete the project’s fundraising and look toward groundbreaking. We believe this can inspire others to follow the DeWitts’ lead in giving sacrificially to make this long-desired project a reality.”

With the DeWitts’ additional commitment, board members voted to move into the design/development phase of the learning commons project.
Sweet Repeat

Hollywood couldn’t write a better script. The two top-ranked teams were meeting for the NAIA Div. II women’s basketball national championship on March 15 in Sioux City. 37-0 Davenport and 34-1 Northwestern’s only loss had been to Davenport, 89-80, in December.

After both teams nilled through their early tournament games, things got tough in the semifinal round. The Davenport Panthers beat fourth-ranked Walsh, 68-55, but needed a strong second half to get the win. Northwestern, facing third-ranked Morningside for the fourth time, relied on clutch free-throw shooting in the final minute to gain an 86-81 win over the Mustangs in a game that saw 20 lead changes.

Two casualties were suffered in that contest. Starters Mel Babcock and Kendra De Jong sustained foot injuries and wouldn’t be able to suit up for the final game. “That was one of the most emotional games in a long time,” says NWC Head Coach Earl Woudstra. “We had a hard time celebrating because Mel and Kendra were hurting so much.”

When the Raiders took the court for the championship, senior Allison Halat and freshman Samundra Kleinmausser started in place of their sidelined teammates. Two other freshmen—Mackenzie Small and Ali Dankelberger—would also see significant action. “We didn’t change anything we do,” says Woudstra. “We just put different people into those spots. Our young kids had come along pretty well and were playing with confidence.”

The Panthers led by three at halftime and were up by eight with 10 minutes remaining. The Raiders knotted it up two minutes later, and the two teams traded leads for the next seven minutes. “We had great fan support,” says Woudstra. “There was a time when our fans really got behind our kids, and I thought that gave us the energy to finish the game.”

A jumper by Small gave the Raiders an 81-80 lead with 1:18 remaining, and then senior guard Becca Hurley couldn’t be stopped. She went 7-of-8 from the free-throw line and grabbed three rebounds in the last moments as NWC triumphed, 88-83.

The win gave Northwestern its third consecutive national title, its third since 2006, and its fourth in the national tournament.

In the Zone

• Becca Hurley was named national tournament MVP for the second consecutive year.

• Kendra De Jong also earned all-tournament honors.

• Earl Woudstra earned NAIA Div. II national coach of the year honors for the fourth time and was also selected as the sole NAIA coach of the year by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association.

• Hurley was named national player of the year, earning first-team All-America honors for the third straight season.

• Northwestern set the record for all-time victories in the national tournament. Since 1999, the Raiders have gone 34-6.

Sideline Switch

At the press conference announcing his retirement from coaching, Earl Woudstra ‘78 reflected on his beginning years as Northwestern’s head women’s basketball coach.

“There are probably 20 times more people here than there were at the first game I coached,” he told the crowd of about 100 gathered just a week after Woudstra led the Red Raiders to their fourth national championship.

Woudstra may have been exaggerating, but not by much. When he started in 1994, the Raiders had gone seven years without a winning season. Opening with 14-14 and 11-17 seasons, his teams eventually compiled a 403-139 record. NWC won the national title in 2001, 2008, 2010 and 2011; placed second in 2000; and advanced to the Final Four in 2006 and 2009.

One of the keys to Woudstra’s success, says Athletic Director Barry Brandt ‘69, was the way he cared for his team members. “He earned their trust because they knew he cared. That allowed him to demand very high levels of performance. He’s very intense and passionate; his players accepted his intensity because they knew all he wanted was the best for them. The incredible success his teams had on the court was a direct reflection of who he is.”

Woudstra says the trophies and accolades aren’t among his highlights. For him, it’s all about the relationships.

“It’s been a real joy to coach these young women. It’s very fulfilling to help them see their gifts to glorify God,” he says.

Woudstra, who holds a doctorate in physical education, is a kinesiology professor. With the development of Northwestern’s new sport management major, he intends it was a good time to return to a larger role in the classroom.

He hands the coaching reins to his top assistant, Chris Yaw ’92, who was one of the captains along with current head men’s coach Kris Koner ’82 on the Raider squad that won national runner-up Year’s senior year. A math teacher at MSHS Floral Valley Middle School, Yaw has served on the coaching staff for seven seasons, taking responsibility for the team’s defense.

“I’ve definitely been blessed to work with Coach Yaw,” says Woudstra. “I know I’m putting the program in good hands.”

“My greatest goal for the program,” says Yaw, “is that it continues to model and uphold the mission of Northwestern, creating women of great character and faith. Another goal is to continue to pursue excellence in academics and in our relationships. Finally, we seek to continue to compete at a high level.”

Earl Woudstra (center) announced his retirement as head coach in March, passing the baton to assistant Chris Yaw (left).
Mark Basketball

Back to Branson

Wrestling

Plunge at Nationals
Fire Raiders competed at the national meet. The team won the Ben Fuchs Five Star Champions of Character Award. Luke Extyn and Jerry Flores were conference champs.

Indoor Track

Among the Best
Three Raiders earned All-American honors at nationals. Charity Miles finished third in the 5,000-meter run. Dawn Gildersleeve and Matt Hausman placed fifth in the 3,000-meter run and high jump, respectively.

Wrestling

Champions of Character
The Raiders received the Champions of Character Award. Team at the national tournament, where their season ended with a 36-2 record. Katie Bear, GPAC player of the year, earned first-team All-American honors, while Hillary Eaves was a second-team selection.

Football

All-Americans
Northwestern finished the season 8-2, ranked 18th in the final national poll. Taylor Malin was named an NAIA and Victory Sports Network (VSN) All-American. John Adams, Brandon Smith and Caleb Van Otterloo received VSN honorable mention.

Cross Country

Miles Ahead
Charity Miles placed 79th out of 333 runners in her fourth year at nationals. She and Sara Hess earned all-conference honors.

Soccer

All-GPAC
Ben Kantish and Ali Duskelberger were named to the all-conference second team.

Scholar Athletes

Smart Choices
Twenty-two Raiders in fall and winter sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 30 in cross country. Repeat honors included Becca Hurley and Kristen Neth (basketball), Caleb Blauwet and David Butler (football), Katie Bear (volleyball), Sarah Seeger (soccer); and Sara Bolkema, Sara Beaver (volleyball); Sarah Seeger (basketball); Caleb Blauwet and Becca Hurley and Kristen Neth (soccer). Among the Best

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Every March, more than 200 students, faculty and staff spend their spring break on Spring Service Project trips to countries like Nicaragua and the Netherlands and U.S. locations that include the Bronx, L.A., New Orleans, and Minneapolis’ Somali community. Working with local ministries, the teams cook, clean, paint, teach, build, repair and share their faith as they form relationships with—and learn from—the people they serve.
Faith in our Genes

Christians are an important voice in discussions of genetic technologies both hailed as medical salvation and condemned as “playing God”

by Tamara FynaardT

As her toddler fingered the ears of a stuffed bunny, Linda* described a daily routine of clapping her daughter’s chest, coaxing her to cough, and administering antibiotics to keep her breathing easy. She talked about Morgan’s future, which will include continuous treatments and occasional hospitalizations. Her daughter may eventually require the help of a ventilator—maybe even a double lung transplant. Still, with diligent disease management, Morgan, who was born with cystic fibrosis (CF), could live into her 40s.

While Linda talked, Dr. John Swart ’90 listened. A biochemist, he’d decided to leave the office for the afternoon to spend time with a family living with CF.

Swart is CEO of Exemplar Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa, the only company in the world producing large animal models of human diseases like cystic fibrosis. Using biotechnologies like gene targeting, genetic modification and cloning, Exemplar farrows litters of identical-DNA piglets whose genes have been manipulated to produce a case of swine CF that is 94 percent similar to human CF. The pigs are then purchased by laboratories studying the disease.

Pig models are better than the more common mice models because mouse CF is only 77 percent similar to human CF, and mice don’t show the disease’s clinical signs, while pigs do. CF pigs enable scientists to study cystic fibrosis as it advances naturally—something one wouldn’t do with a human—and studying CF’s natural development produces data that researchers never had before, enabling more progress toward a cure in two years than had been achieved in the previous 20.

S

ames have been changed for confidentiality.
Swart, who has a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Nebraska, worked for NOBL Labs in Sioux Center, staying after it was acquired by Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), a German pharmaceutical company. He gained experience in operations, test development and regulatory affairs before BI closed the Sioux Center operation in 1997.

Not long after, Swart was contacted by former NWC board member Dr. Jan Schuiteman, a veterinarian and genetic technology entrepreneur whose northwest Iowa company, Trans Ova, is a global leader in cloning calves for dairy operations. Schuiteman knew that a University of Iowa researcher had developed a pig model for cystic fibrosis. He encouraged Swart to license the patent, hire the scientist and launch Exemplar Genetics.

Although he’s been contacted by the Discovery Channel, Swart declined to be interviewed because he isn’t quite ready for a TV show about his transgenic pigs. While Exemplar’s pigs have led to advances in understanding the mechanism that triggers CF and better treatment, that’s not the breakthrough he’s hoping for. When there’s a cure for Morgan, then maybe he’ll do a documentary for Discovery.

Swart believes his work is a response to “part two” of the greatest commandment in Matthew 22: Love your neighbor. While overseeing employees harvesting cells, altering their genes and cloning them, Swart thinks especially of his “neighbors” with cystic fibrosis, Huntington’s disease, muscular dystrophy, and genetic cancers or cardiovascular diseases— all of which Exemplar is trying to model in hogs so they can be studied and, Swart hopes, cured.

Through science, he sees ways to not only care for creation, but also to ease, muscular dystrophy, and genetic cancers or cardiovascular diseases— all of which Exemplar is trying to model in hogs so they can be studied and, Swart hopes, cured.

In 2000, after a team led by Dr. Francis Collins finished mapping the human genome, scientists celebrated and theologians worried that less mystery about humans might lead to fewer reasons for faith in God.

In an appendix to his book, _The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief_, Collins, who converted from atheism to Christianity, concludes theologians, philosophers, ethicists and other thinkers to discussions of scientific discoveries. But, he writes, “While some might argue that science is moving too quickly, and that we should declare a moratorium on certain applications until we have time to study them ethically, I find those arguments difficult to convey to parents who are desperate to help an ailing child.”

Tolstma assigns students to read Collins’ book, and in class she uses stories like Morgan’s to put a human face on the science of technology— all of which Exemplar is trying to model in hogs so they can be studied and, Swart hopes, cured.

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yourself in the shoes of parents like Morgan's who, because of advances in genetic science, might be faced with heartbreaking decisions. Toloma's genetics classes are a pile of scientific terms and explorations leading to a slope, seemingly slipping at times, of ethical questions and quandaries. Using running “sentences” aimed at representing a DNA sequence—for example, thecatandtheratatetheredhat (actual DNA sequences have only four letters, but students get the point)—Tolsma shows how a single letter mutation—thecatandtheratatetheredhat—that might lead to something as devastating as Tay-Sachs disease (TSD), an incurable genetic disease that causes mental and physical deterioration and will lead to an excruciating death before kindergarten.

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To connect science with life, Toloma might ask students to imagine they are new parents with a Tay-Sachs infant in their family tree and then pose questions like: Would you undergo genetic testing to find out if you are already pregnant with a child you discover will suffer and die from TSD? “Some Christians, even those generally opposed to abortion, view a decision to terminate a pregnancy in which the child will be born with a painful and ultimately fatal disease as a form of relieving suffering,” Toloma offers, referencing Collins, who argues, “[I]n virtually every culture throughout history, the alleviation of suffering from medical illness has been considered a good thing, perhaps even an ethical mandate.”

For other Christians, Toloma counters, the chance that genetic testing might lead to terminating a pregnancy raises ethical red flags. Abortion is a line they don't intend to cross, so why take even a step that might lead in that direction? Still others, she adds, believe that even imperfections are gifts from God and that in avoiding suffering, important life and spiritual lessons might be missed.

Students are surprised when conclusions as varied as these are reached by peers in the same Christian college classroom. Eventually they ask, “What do you think, Dr. Tolsma?” But she’s unwilling—even unable—to give them a “right answer.”

“Biotechnology won’t save us,” she says, “and, as Christians, we shouldn’t embrace scientific advances just for the sake of the science or the advance. On the other hand, thoughtlessly rejecting genetic technology is not living out our calling to be thinking Christians.”

Toloma references the wisdom of Dr. Allen Verhey, a professor of Christian ethics at Duke Divinity School: “Verhey suggests that perhaps ‘playing God’ is a reflection of the image of God in humans. Maybe we ‘play God’ to imitate God and grow to be more like God in the same way children play house and in so doing, learn to be parents or spouses. Maybe ‘playing God’ is our human attempt to participate in caring for those in need as God does.”

Eventually the case studies Elliott discusses with her students involve the ethics of procreation. As the students consider marriage and family, sex and reproduction, Elliott shares insights from her own story, which includes single motherhood, secondary infertility and adoption. Raising one daughter while an undergraduate, Elliott later married and then experienced infertility before adopting another. She and her husband briefly consulted with a fertility specialist, and it quickly became clear they were on a path toward IVF. As the prospect grew, so did the couple’s unease with traditional fertility treatment and the doctor’s consumerist “we’ll get you the baby you want” attitude.

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For many Christians, like those protesters outside a 2002 Human embryonic stem cells are valuable to scientists. For many Christians, the chance that genetic testing might lead to terminating a pregnancy raises ethical red flags. Abortion is a line they don't intend to cross, so why take even a step that might lead in that direction? Still others, she adds, believe that even imperfections are gifts from God and that in avoiding suffering, important life and spiritual lessons might be missed. Students are surprised when conclusions as varied as these are reached by peers in the same Christian college classroom. Eventually they ask, “What do you think, Dr. Tolsma?” But she’s unwilling—even unable—to give them a “right answer.”

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Science for Sundays

Dr. Sara Sybtsma Tolona has served on the RCA’s Commission on Social Action and co-authored papers on genetic technologies with other Christian scientists, ethicists and theologians. A new project is taking her into a curious classroom: the church. She’s working on a Bible study on the science and ethics of biotechnologies like genetically modified organisms, genetic testing and screening, gene therapy, embryonic stem cells, and human therapeutic cloning that could be used to grow replacement cells and organs.

Last fall she piloted six 60-minute lessons in an adult discipleship class at her church, teaching participants—mostly non-scientists ranging in age from teens to retirees—scientific terms and helping them understand concepts like delivery vectors for gene therapy and the process of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

The genetics lessons were followed by discussions of ethical and theological questions like: What is a soul, and when does it arrive? How do we define conception? Does the moment of conception matter more than a process, one participant commented, “I thought I knew the answer to ‘When does life begin?’ But now I think a better question is ‘When does a person begin?’”

It may be a better question, but it’s harder to answer. As they learned more about the science, participants had better-informed debates about the ethical issues and implications for individual Christians, as well as the wider body of Christ. Recognizing that devout Christians can come to different conclusions, they explored ways to minister to parents who are considering IVF to have a child, or families hopeful that stem cell research might lead to a cure for generations of Huntington’s disease.

Tolona, a professor of religious studies at the University of Minnesota, had a child with a genetic disorder and understands the complications that come with infertility treatments. As they learned more about the science, participants had better-informed debates about the ethical issues and implications for individual Christians, as well as the wider body of Christ. Recognizing that devout Christians can come to different conclusions, they explored ways to minister to parents who are considering IVF to have a child, or families hopeful that stem cell research might lead to a cure for generations of Huntington’s disease.

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Fake Patient

Real Learning

by Anita Cirulis

Dwight’s chest rises and falls as he breathes. His heart beats in a stethoscope, and his pulse throbs in his wrists, neck, feet and thighs. Insert a needle into his pliable skin, and his veins take the contents of an IV bag.

Dwight is as close to a real patient as modern technology can get. He’s a human patient simulator, a complex computerized machine that allows Northwestern nursing students to practice what they’re learning in the classroom.

“We see the simulators to prepare students for their clinicals in the hospital, where they’ll be dealing with real patients,” says Michelle Van Wyhe, who teaches in the college’s nursing department.

Working with the simulators, students have the opportunity to develop their nursing techniques and bedside manner in a safe environment, without the fear of injuring someone if they make a mistake. Van Wyhe has seen the difference that makes in their confidence levels.

“They did a great job at their first clinical,” she says of her students. “You never would have known it was their first night, because they definitely had that confidence and knowledge. They were able to walk into the patient’s room and do what they were supposed to do without hesitating.”

Northwestern has three high-tech simulators—an adult, a child, and a childbirth version—each of which cost between $80,000 and $100,000. A private donor paid for Dwight, while a federal appropriation grant in 2009 purchased the other two.

The simulators are connected to computers that run pre-programmed illness and injury scenarios, control their physiological functions, and produce vital signs displayed on a monitor. A computerized medical records program enables the students to do electronic charting of their simulated patient’s health status and health history.

Prior to a lab, students are given a prepared script. As the students interact with the simulation, their professor enters into the computer the actions they take, and the computer adjusts the simulator’s responses accordingly.

“If they need to give some type of medication to the patient in order to save him and they don’t give it, the vitals will decrease and the patient will slowly deteriorate,” Van Wyhe explains.

Conversely, proper interventions result in improved vital signs. The realistic experiences provided by the simulators extend beyond their ability to breathe and have a heart rate. The company that manufactures the machines also sells artificial blood and provides a recipe book for making products to represent different bodily fluids and functions. Coffee grounds look like dried blood in “vomit.” Yellow dye in sterile water makes urine. Cotton balls soaked in fake blood take on the appearance of blood clots.

“You try to simulate it as much as possible so they get the visual, tactile experience of what it’s going to be like,” Van Wyhe says.

The ability to mimic a patient’s appearance and responses is part of what makes the high-tech simulators effective as a teaching tool.

“They’re very, very realistic. They do everything a normal human being would do as far as vitals,” says sophomore Michael Grossmann.

“As I’m working on the simulator, if things start to go bad, my heart rate will actually start to rise and my adrenaline will increase.”

That’s one of the advantages of the simulators, says Van Wyhe. “You can make a lot go wrong in a short amount of time, and that gives students practice they may not get during clinicals in the hospitals.”

Van Wyhe and her colleagues can also change the simulators’ heart and bowel sounds. “If we just practice on each other,” she says about her classes, “unless somebody has something abnormal, you wouldn’t know what abnormal is.

With the simulator, we’re able to make it have a heart murmur so the students can hear what that sounds like.”

As realistic as the simulators are, there’s one important difference between artificial and real patients. “You get a do-over with a simulator,” says nursing instructor Deb Bomgaars.

“It’s because of those do-overs that Northwestern’s nursing students graduate prepared to provide the best possible care to those they serve.”

Nursing instructor Deb Bomgaars works with students Michael Grossmann and Katrina Stehl using one of Northwestern’s human patient simulators.
Dining Hall Hits

Remember the convenience of walking into the caf' and finding several meal options available? Recall the joy of seeing your favorite entrée behind the counter? Use these recipes from Sodexo food service—reduced to family-sized quantities and all dressed up just for you—to savor some flavors of Northwestern.

caf’ facts

Oldest entrée
Tater tot casserole

Healthy menu addition
Made-to-order deli sandwiches

Exotic menu item
Greek pizza with feta cheese

Obsolete entrée
Homemade ham-and-cheese puff pastries

Allergy-friendly option
Gluten-free wraps

Number of meals prepared each day
2,120

Amount spent on ground beef annually
Over $150,000

Number of new recipes tried this year
132 to date
Red Ties

**Mark Roodendaal ’81**

Director of Alumni Relations

Looking through the photos collected for this issue’s “10,000 Words” feature reminded me it’s been 30 years since Northwestern began sponsoring annual mission trips for students during spring break (SIB) and summers (SISO). While we’ve always emphasized ministry and missions, these two programs officially made service an important part of a Northwestern education. Serving with a variety of ministries across the US and around the world, our students gain more than they give—our world and worldview expand.

Our Reformed heritage challenges us to be thinking Christians—in love and required to the world with both our hearts and our heads. As a Christian college in the Reformed tradition, we aim to graduate students who are not only smart, but also compassionate—eager and equipped to use what they know to serve God and the world.

As a Christian college in the Reformed tradition, students gain more than they give—their world and worldviews expand.

**Bryan Claus, La Crosse, Iowa,** was recently selected to be one of the assistant coaches for the 2011 Iowa Shrine All-Star Football Classic, which will be July 23 in Ames. He is head football and boys track coach at South Central Calhoun High School, where he also teaches physical education and health. Cory Brunsdon ’90, head football coach at Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley, was also selected as an assistant coach for the game.

Daylpee (Gage) Halverson, Portland, Ore., was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) last fall. After intensive chemotherapy treatment, she received a bone marrow transplant in February. She says she is experiencing God’s amazing love during this time of suffering and trial. She asks for prayers that God’s will would be done in her life and, ultimately, for complete healing. Rosaries updates on her recovery at www.stoluhelpinghands.com/632600.

Kerry Johnson is vice president of business banking at Great Western Bank in Sioux Falls.

**Craig Zitter, Greenfield, Iowa,** earned a master’s degree in administration from Wayne State College. He is principal of Red Clay Valley Middle School. His wife, Amy (Vehey ’97), stays home with their three children: Mara (11), Brayton (8) and Keegan (3).

**Seth Vennos, Cincinnati,** is an account executive for DHI. Global Forwarding. He and his wife,Regina, have two children: Sophia (3) and Ayden (1).

**Davon Woolington** is president of finance for the commercial segment at Harris Bank in Chicago.

**Darrin DeVito** is pursuing a master’s degree in applied statistics from Western Michigan University.

**My Roommate Dared Me to Get a Tattoo.**

**My Roommate Still Has My Garfield Slippers.**

**My Roommate Took Me Moose Hunting.**

**Send us your roommate stories for a future Classic feature.**

classic@nwciowa.edu • 712-707-7116
The Rev. Justin Grimm, Lake Ann, Mich., received the J.F. Holyoke in Ministry Cross Award from Luther Seminary for ministry within 10 years of graduation. He is the mission developer/pastor of Advent Lutheran Church.

Jennifer (Reeder) Kudera is the director of community wellness at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, S.D.

Carl Nagel was named the 2010 School-Based Mentor of the Year through Lutheran Social Services and the Sioux Falls School District. He is an assistant principal for Wells Fargo Home Mortgages. He has been a volunteer mentor for seven years.

Derek Reebhuizen teaches instrumental music at Shoveygan Falls (Wisc.) High School.

The Rev. Nathan Huisman serves as pastor of Chandler (Minn.) Reformed Church.

Amanda (Magness) Sullivan is a technical writer for TEAM Software in Omaha.

Jen (Medema) Wentlandt earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas. She is the director of education at the Sylvan Learning Center in七十, Ill.

Nathan Ter Brey teaches technology and business at Omaha Benson High School.

John Wilber, Privy Lake, Wis., is a student finance officer at Ramapo College Grinnell. He and his wife, Trina, moved to their first house in August.

Jill (Leromman) MacAskill, El Paso, Texas, is an extension agent for Texas A&M University. She teaches classes for military families at Fort Bliss.

Dan Brown, Orange City, received the 2011 Governor Mark Smaller Outstanding Young Iowa Journalist Award at the Iowa Newspaper Association Convention in February. He was also given a first-place award for the best breaking news story in 2010, about an EF4 tornado in Sibley and Little Rock in July. He is a staff writer for the Northwest Iowa Review.

Artist (Dinny) Butler is the project coordinator for the Northfield (Minn.) History Collaborative.


Jenny (Houck) Winterfeldt is an associ- ate attorney in the Wagnerman Law Office in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law last May.

Ryan Simms, a fourth-grade teacher at Alamo Elementary School in Carroll, Iowa, received the Golden Eagle Award from WNOV-TV in October.

Avery (Birkett) Bleyer, Rochester, N.Y., received a master’s degree in English from the University of Rochester in October. She is pursuing a master’s in education from Roberts Wesleyan College, a degree which her husband, Zaneen ’01, recently completed.

Billi Killingsworth graduated from the University of Texas College of Law and is working as an estate planning, tax and business law firm in Rochester, Minn.

Roman Rezvani, Spring Lake, N.J., is train- ing to become a medical screwsup for the Army Special Forces (Green Berets).

Kris (Scholtesen) Ter Brey, Sioux Falls, is a match grant employment specialist for Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.

Kent Wallinga, Lincoln, Neb., received a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of South Dakota. He is a physical therapist in the transitional care unit at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. His wife, Melissa (Breden) ’01, is a registered dietitian. She is pursuing a master’s degree in nutrition and health services at the University of Nebraska, where she will research the diet composition of NCAA athletes.

Elizabeth Collis is the marketing manager for the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Kari (Johnson) Pfiffig teaches first grade at Sapien Community School, located on the Pacific island of Saipan.

Jessica (Rogers) Knecht and her husband, Adam, own Fortitude Performance, an in-home personal training business in Omaha.

Angela (Johnson) Tom Clark, Urbandale, Iowa, is the marketing and Web coordinator for America’s Family Coaches.

09 Ruth Clark is a quality control chemist at Sasha Inc. in Brighton, Colo.

Amanda (Frey) Clowers, Clinton, Iowa, named a master’s degree in organizational management from Ashford University, where she is a prior learning assessment specialist.

Tyler De Jong is a medical student at the University of Southern California’s Keck Medical Center.

Nakeata Hendershott, McCook Lake, S.D., is an ESL instructor at Western Iowa Tech Community College.
Jeff and Deb (Van Leerom ‘93) touchscreen, son by adoption from China, Olga Xin Ting (5), joins Nathan (8).

Amanda and Jeremy Wierscema ‘95, daughters, Anne Marie Jane, joins Josiah (6) and Amanda (4).

Ryan and Jane (Reneck ‘96) Whisenham, daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, joins Roger (14) and Sarah (10).

Devin and Isac (Holzgrafe ‘98) Forrest, son, Jacob Daniel, joins Sarah (16) and Amelia (3).

Chris and Delila (Fitz ‘99) Perry, son, Thomas Christopher, joins Emily (11) and Corbin (7).

Inson and Angela (Smits ‘98) Kim, son, Collin John, joins June (11) and Isiah (8).

Don and Michelle (Aberman ‘00) Vias, son, Levent James, joins Emma (11), Klayton (8) and Elizabeth (2).

Wendy and Sherry (Green ‘99) Koopman, son, Grant Lee, joins Lisa (5) and Ethan (3).

Sarah and Brian Town ‘99, daughter, Anna Elizabeth, joins Max (5).

Julie (Kalkin ‘99) and Steve Vlo ‘98, daughter, Cambrie Faith, joins him, Cindy (14) and Jordan (12).

Karen and Todd ‘00, daughter, Macy (4).

Lauren (Hagge ‘01) and Jordan Driessen ‘01, daughter, Alson Christopher (10), joins Lilia (5) and Andrew (3).

Michaela (Mogensen ‘02) and Ron Shuster ‘99, daughter, Anna (5), joins Beulah (3) and Al Khader (2).

Shelby and Rob ‘02, daughter, Marina Yvette (5), joins Zeke and Dave (2), and John and Amy (8).
SPRING 2011

Register: www.nwcraiders.com/redraiderclassic

All friends of Northwestern athletics are invited to participate in this four-person scramble, hosted by the Red Raider Club. Golfers can designate the proceeds from their entry fee to the sport of their choice.

Dr. Vergil Dykstra ’42, ’44, of Farifax, Va., died Dec. 31 at age 85. Attending the classical academy and junior college, he received a bachelor’s degree from Hope College. He later earned master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin. He taught at various universities before serving as president of George Mason University from 1973 to 1977. He worked as the administrative vice president at Montgomery College before retiring in 1980. He is survived by four children and two sons.

Roger De Voskin ’62, ’65, died Jan. 7 in Lowell, Mass. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he graduated from Iowa State with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked as a draftsman for Wood Brothers, Standard Brands and Colorado Oils. He is survived by his wife, Marge, and two sons.

Marcine (Mullenburg ’46, ’48) De Jong, age 82, of Watervliet, Minn., died Jan. 3. She received a bachelor’s degree from Hope College and taught for several years in Iowa and Michigan. She and her husband, Keith, moved to Kokomo, Indiana, South Africa, through the Reformed Church in America. In addition to teaching at a boarding school for missionary children, she started a church to address poverty, created jobs for the unemployed, and generated income for a variety of humanitarian efforts. She received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service to Humankind Award in 1995. Survivors include her husband, four children and sister Lee Roos ’40, ’42.

Joyce (Woodward ’46) Koel died Nov. 1 in Orange City at age 82. After graduating from Northwestern Classical Academy, she earned a degree in music at Taylor University. She and her husband, Dr. C. Orville Koell ’51, served Baptist churches in Illinois and Iowa and were church planters for Cornerstone Baptist Church in Orange City, where she was an active member. She also served as an assistant personnel director and a legal secretary. Survivors include her husband and four children, including Karla Deikema ’81.

Judith Visser ’50, age 70, of Holland, died Sept. 10. She was an active member of First Reformed Church, where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. She also assisted with Meals on Wheels and was involved with the Food Pan. She is survived by four children and two siblings, Muriel ’53, ’63; Benjamin ’58; and Richard ’65.

Anna (Van Gelder ’52) Vande Weerd died Aug. 23 in Pella, Iowa, at age 78. She taught for many years in northwest Iowa, including at Valley School in Rock Valley, where she worked with mentally and physically challenged children. She is survived by her husband, Bob; two sons; and two grandchildren, including Gehr ’84.

John Lundeboeuf ’54, age 76, of Iowa Falls, died Oct. 25 in Sioux Falls. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned degrees in science, secondary education and natural science from the University of South Dakota. He taught biology and psychology for 39 years in Vermillion and Sioux Falls, and received the South Dakota Outstanding Young Educator of the Year award in 1968. He was a longtime member of Community Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, where he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Audrey (Nemmers ’53, ’54); and two sons, the Rev. David ’78, Dale ’82 and Dan ’85.

Gary Keyes ’55 died Oct. 20 at age 74 in Ames, Iowa. He earned a master’s degree in physical education from Colorado State University and coached basketball at Mascot Junior College, Iowa Lakes Community College and Westminster College. Survivors include his wife, Myrna, and two daughters.

Carol (Collins ’57) Aeck died Feb. 8 at the age of 73. She taught school for a few years before moving to a farm near Mason City, Iowa, with her husband, Donald. She was a member of Holy Name Church. Her survivors include six children, a brother and two sisters.

Julie (Eichhoff ’56) Boelman, Bellevue, Iowa, died Feb. 24 at age 84. She retired in 2003 after teaching for 33 years, most of which were in special needs classrooms. Among her survivors are her husband; David, ’64; and a son.

Leon Keiser ’73, Urbankdale, Iowa, died March 2 at the age of 81. She retired from the J.C. Penney Co. after 37 years of service. Survivors include his wife, three children, four brothers and a sister.

Heidi (Davis ’78) Southwell died Aug. 23 in Pella, Iowa, at age 78. She taught at Iowa State, where she worked with mentally and physically challenged children. Survivors include her husband, Bob; two sons; and two grandchildren, including Gehr ’84.

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

Dr. Lars Granberg, president of Northwestern College from 1966 to 1975, died on March 2 at the age of 91.

Under his leadership, NWC was accredited as a liberal arts college by the North Central Association in 1970 and by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in 1979. In addition, Ferre Smith Hall was built and a wing was added to Van Peursem Hall.

“Lars really brought the school into a new identity that all of us since then have built upon,” says Dr. Bruce Murphy, Northwestern’s president from 2001 to 2007. “He established a team that developed the new curriculum, including the general studies program, and he put together a strategic plan.”

Murphy is one of dozens of longtime NWC professors inspired by Granberg. “He mentored many young faculty on the Reformed vision of living faith in the world,” says Murphy.

A native of Norway, Granberg grew up in Chicago and earned a bachelor’s degree from Wheaton College. After serving in the Army during World War II, he completed master’s and doctoral degrees in psychology at the University of Chicago.

Granberg taught psychology at Hope College from 1947 until becoming dean of students and associate professor at Fuller Seminary in 1954. He retired in 1960 and founded the student counseling service.

After his time at Northwestern, he returned to Hope, where he was dean for the social sciences and director of interdisciplinary studies. He retired in 1984.

Granberg wrote two books. Marriage is for Adults Only and Counseling. He served on the Reformed Church in America’s Commission on Christian Action, Board of Theological Education and Commission on Theology.

Northwestern awarded Granberg an honorary doctorate in 1975. The building housing the English department was named in his honor in 1987.

Granberg is survived by his wife, Carol; three daughters; the Rev. Karin Granberg-Michalsen; Barbara Joldersma and Linda Popovich.
A, D, C, D. “I wondered if my ‘student’ realized it would be strange if two symbols, B and D, actually had the same sound. ‘B.’ I emphatically pressed my lips together, encouraging her to make the distinctive sound during her first 15 alphabet attempts. Forty-five minutes later we were still sitting across from each other, quite uncomfortably, in the lobby of the low-income housing complex. We still hadn’t made it to E.

She knew it as well as I did. There was no way she was learning English. Her frustration was surpassed only by my exasperation. We were waiting each other’s time. I kept glancing around, trying to catch the eye of the one Somali translator in the room, but she was nowhere to be found. By now, Hasna and I had exhausted our communication possibilities. She knew her name and her country. Nothing else.

To numb my frustration and assure myself until the time came to leave, I studied everything about Hasna. She was tiny. Her bright red hijab complemented her deep brown eyes. Her face looked a bit like a dried and wrinkled grape, giving the impression that the mounds of fabric surrounding it were heavier than they should be.

“C, D, D, A.” A is for Angry. I am so angry. A is to the English language as Hasna is to Somalia. A is a reason for me not to care.

Her frustration was surpassed only by my exasperation. We were wasting each other’s time. I kept glancing around, trying to catch the eye of the one Somali translator in the room, but she was nowhere to be found. By now, Hasna and I had exhausted our communication possibilities. She knew her name and her country. Nothing else.

To numb my frustration and assure myself until the time came to leave, I studied everything about Hasna. She was tiny. Her bright red hijab complemented her deep brown eyes. Her face looked a bit like a dried and wrinkled grape, giving the impression that the mounds of fabric surrounding it were heavier than they should be.

“C, D, D, A.” A is for Angry. I am so angry. A is to the English language as Hasna is to Somalia. A is a reason for me not to care.

I glanced down to see that the first question she’d make was to identify an E. I unleashed my fury on this innocent man. “She doesn’t know E! She’ll never know E!” It will take this woman 17 years to learn English! Hasna smiles. She has no idea what I’m saying.

In a few minutes, the translator finally joins me at the table and asks Hasna some questions. She translates for me: “Hasna, what can we do to help you? Are there things you need—medicine, transportation, food?” Hasna’s appreciation for the English language as evident, but she shakes her head and responds tersely. The translator informs me that Hasna won’t talk here—she wants a private meeting.

I look down, notice my assignment still lying in front of me on the table, and seize the opportunity to complete it. I direct my questions to the translator.

Name? Hasna Isa. Age? She doesn’t know Somalis don’t celebrate birthdays. She guesses she is about 75. When did she come to Minnesota? Three years ago. Has she lived anywhere else? Yes, a refugee camp in Kenya. Children? All dead.

I began to understand the vulnerability required to answer what seemed to me to be a simple questionnaire. Any health concerns? She lifts up her sleeve to show where the bullets went in. Two in her shoulder and one in her elbow. Under the layers of black fabric, the arm hangs limp and useless. I hadn’t noticed.

And suddenly my mind loses itself in the horror of a 70-year-old woman, lying outside in the sand, covered in blood. A. Guns fire and people scream. D. She’s watching her family, her country and her life—watching it all die. “A, D, C, C.” See.

I don’t want to look. I can’t handle this. A is to the English language as Hasna is to Somalia. A is a reason to give up. Hasna is a reason not to care. She’s fine without English; I’m fine without the discomfort of knowing people like her exist.

If you’re hoping for a happy ending, I’m sorry. I do believe God is love, and I do believe Jesus died to save us. They say that prayer can lead to miracles—I’m sure that’s true, too. But Hasna’s still at A, and I’m still at Hasna. And for a moment we’re united by a poignant commonality: Neither of us can say what comes next.

Jessa Kuik and her husband, Jon ‘09, live in Pasadena, Calif., where she is a student at Fuller Theological Seminary. She wrote this essay in March 2009 after a Spring Service Project trip to Minneapolis to teach and learn from refugees enrolled in S.A.L.T. (Somali Adult Literacy Training), an English language learning program that is part of The Crescent Project.

It all adds up.

Matt believes giving to NWC is an investment in students. He also thinks it’s an investment in himself because it helps ensure the financial strength of the institution whose reputation he counted on when he applied to the University of Iowa and sought a job with law firms in the region.
Greta Hays’ performance as Red Riding Hood in Northwestern’s production of *Into the Woods* earned her an acting nomination to the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Hays didn’t compete in the festival, however. Instead, the public relations major from Chicago is spending her spring semester in Washington, D.C., as one of 20 students from across the U.S. chosen for a highly competitive Kennedy Center arts management internship.

Despite Hays’ absence, Northwestern was still well-represented at the regional festival in January. Six other students were nominated as actors, and the theatre department received seven Certificates of Merit for excellence in acting, costume design, dramaturgy, program design and set design.