

Northwestern College Magazine

# *the* Classic

SPRING 2011

## Designer Genes

Can Christians have faith in  
genetic technologies?

*Also*

Fake Patients, Real Learning  
Spring Service Scrapbook  
National Champs Again





14

Thea Engen takes her turn at the net in Sioux City's Tyson Events Center after the Raiders won their second consecutive national title.

# Contents

## Classic People

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

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

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

### On the cover:

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



18

## 20 Faith in Our Genes

Christians should have a thorough understanding of genetic technologies like cloning and stem cell research before they can be a credible voice in discussions of these ethical issues.

## 28 Fake Patient, Real Learning

Three human patient simulators help students develop their nursing techniques and bedside manner without risking patient safety.

## 30 Dining Hall Hits

Cook up some memories of caf' cuisine with recipes from Sodexo.



20

## On the Web

### Your Turn

Share comments about any article in this issue, including your thoughts about genetic technologies.

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

## Departments

- 2 **Zwemer View**
- 3 **In Box**
- 4 **Around the Green**
- 6 **Of Course**
- 9 **Face Value**
- 14 **Red Zone**
- 17 **Looking Back**
- 18 **1,000 Words**
- 32 **Class Notes**
- 40 **Classic Thoughts**

30



28



# Zwemer View

## 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 redeeming 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. However, it’s important to note that we engage students in courageous *and* faithful learning. Courage by itself could be reckless; faithfulness provides an important balance. This distinctive pairing sets us apart even from other Christian colleges. Our goal is not to teach students *what* to think but *how* to think within a Christian worldview.

This is not easy. It would be far easier not to touch certain subjects, but that would 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 concert with some of the things we have learned from science? Should we use stem cells to improve or even save the lives of others? Answering questions like these requires the kind of brave faith Collins demonstrates.

Our desire is for Northwestern to be a safe place where students can challenge themselves and seek answers to some of the hardest questions. Courage and faithfulness is a fine 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.

Greg Christy  
President

# in Box

## From the *Classic* website

The following excerpt is from reader-posted comments about *Classic* articles at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu).

## Social Media Reactions

The potential for transformative change through social networking is undeniable. The most obvious example is Oscar Morales, who in 2008 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 2001 on Third West Colenbrander, there was hardly a door shut. You could hear people horsing around and laughing, while Staind’s *It’s Been Awhile* echoed in the bathroom for the 20th time that day.

We had e-mail, 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 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, Tapatalk, Swype, YouTube 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. That was 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 complementary to the social experience of college. But it might be easy to let online interaction begin to replace some of those face-to-face conversations. I shudder to think what the NWC experience would have been like if everyone kept their doors shut and instead texted each other.

**Matt Austin '05**

## Welcomed

We just wanted to compliment you on the latest issue of *Classic*. This is the first one we have ever received.

As parents of a freshman far away from home, we loved reading about the accomplishments and the activities of the students and alumni. It certainly made us feel confident our daughter made a good decision to attend Northwestern, and it made us feel part of the Northwestern family. Since we can’t be there for a lot of the activities, we appreciated being able to have this magazine!

**John and Marilee Yorchak**  
*Lakewood, Colo.*

## Favorite Prof

I really liked the story on favorite profs. Mike Kugler will always be mine; his class

was always interesting, and he became a good friend to me. He even came to Colorado for my wedding!

He is an incredibly compassionate and curious person. The reason why his class was great (even to an English major) was his own sincere interest in learning more. He’s also hilarious!

**Jen (Medema '02) Wentlandt**  
*Westmont, Ill.*

## WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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



# around the Green

## 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 Reformed Church in America’s Al 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. 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 theoretical religion but as something new friends of theirs practice.”

Junior biology major Tyler McKenney is among students participating in Northwestern’s first Oman Semester.

## 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 Lesage, 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 Lesage. “Our criteria for approving courses or hiring faculty won’t change.”

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



Northwestern's Symphonic Band toured in the Pacific Northwest over spring break.

## 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, *Iowa Ethiopia*, to Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. *Iowa 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.

## 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 volunteerism 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



Dr. Jennifer Feenstra

among them.

New Horizons Foundation’s executive director, Dana Bates, also serves as onsite 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 action 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 Servant 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.

# Of Course

## Whodunit?

### Class

Topics in Chemistry: Forensics

### Instructor

Dr. Dave Arnett

*Associate Professor of Chemistry*

Beakers filled with brightly hued liquids cover a counter next to bottles labeled *Belle*, *Snow White*, *Cinderella* and *Ariel*. Throughout the lab, students hold vials over Bunsen burners, looking for evidence that will help them determine the cause of death for each princess.

“How ironic would it be if Ariel died of dehydration?” asks one student scientist.

The concepts are basic chemistry, but the context is new for Northwestern: A general education course in which science is used to solve crimes.

The idea for a forensics-based class came to Dr. Dave Arnett when he received a new textbook in the mail. A fan of the TV show *CSI*, he realized the course would be a way to appeal to non-science majors.

Josh Doorenbos is such a student. A writing/rhetoric major from Boyden, Iowa, Doorenbos put off taking a science class until his senior year.

“I had chemistry in high school and hated it,” he says, “but this class has been really fun because it’s putting it in a context I already enjoy. I was watching *Bones* the other day, and they were doing a test we did in lab. It was a soil sample test, and because of the lab, I actually knew how the test works.”

Arnett says the labs are the strength of the class. It’s common for a chemistry course to introduce students to gas laws, but this one connects those laws to explosives. It ties spectroscopy—the interaction of light with molecules—to the process of determining someone’s blood alcohol concentration.

That application of science is one of Arnett’s goals for the course. “I want students to learn a little bit of chemistry and a little bit of the background behind the things they’ll consume in terms of the media.”

By making science fun, he says, Forensics will give students a deeper understanding of the scientific process and how scientists think.

## Giving for Lent

Several Northwestern students, faculty and staff contributed devotionals to the Reformed Church in America’s website, [www.rca.org](http://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 Lupkes, a senior Christian education and youth ministry major.

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

## On Board

Dawn (Te Brink ’80) Wieking, 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.

Wieking earned a master’s degree in reading development at the University of Sioux Falls. She is a teacher at Sioux Falls Christian School.

She and her husband, Kim ’80, have had three sons graduate from Northwestern: Brett ’06, Blake ’08 and Bryant ’10.



Dawn Wieking

# Honored Prof

Dr. Laird Edman, professor of psychology and co-director of the honors program, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship. The professorship will provide annual funds to support Edman’s scholarly work and travel, both the research he does independently and in collaboration with students.

Edman provides Northwestern psychology students with graduate-level research experience by involving them in his study of epistemological development and critical thinking assessment. He has published articles and book chapters on how to teach and assess critical thinking among college students. He has also made more than 50 presentations at conferences, including 10 that involved undergraduate students as co-authors and co-presenters.

Edman, who was named NWC’s Teaching Excellence Award winner in 2008, earned a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota. He also has master’s degrees in literature and counseling psychology from Notre Dame and a bachelor’s degree in literature from Luther College.

Edman’s appointment is for a five-year period beginning this fall. Three of the four past recipients of the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship continue to teach at NWC: Dr. Doug Anderson, history; Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English; and Jeff Barker, theatre and speech. Dr. Fred Van Dyke, formerly of the biology department, also held the professorship from 1996 to 2001.

Dr. Laird Edman, psychology, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship.



STEPHEN ALLEN

## 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 pushing the bidding up at the Gala Auction.



ANITA CIRIUS



### 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, blood types, arson and accelerants, polymer identification and DNA evidence.

# World Classroom

For the first time, Northwestern’s summer study abroad program will take students to Israel, Japan and Turkey. The three countries are among five destinations offered in 2011.

Kim Van Es, a member of NWC’s English department, and her husband, Jerry ’71, are leading the trip to Israel and Palestine. Students will spend time in Bethlehem, Jericho, Jerusalem and Nazareth while learning about faith and justice in that region of the world.

History professor Dr. Doug Carlson will guide another group of students in a course examining Japan’s history and culture—from the ancient Samurai to contemporary issues of gender, religion, individualism and youth culture. Students will stay with host families in Shimonoseki and visit Hiroshima, Osaka,

Kyoto and Tokyo. Dr. Laird Edman, professor of psychology, and Dr. Sally Oakes Edman, a psychologist and director of Northwestern’s counseling services, are team-teaching the course in Turkey. Students on that trip will study psychology, religion and Middle Eastern culture in a Muslim country with a secular democracy.

Dr. Paul Bartlett, kinesiology, and Vonda Post ’88, business, are returning to the Czech Republic to teach a course on that nation’s “physical culture”—a concept that encompasses fitness and sports but that also links physical vigor with nationalism.

The final summer study abroad course will focus on German language and culture and will be led by Dr. Michael Kensak, who teaches in the English and foreign language departments, and Glenda (Hiemstra ’79) De Vries, a German tutor and manager of Northwestern’s bookstore.

Last year’s summer study abroad courses included a trip to China. This year students will travel to the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Japan and Turkey.

## Winning Web

Northwestern’s website won two awards this winter. The site, [www.nwciowa.edu](http://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. And an essay by Todd Thompson ’85 received a silver award in the Excellence in Writing: Opinion/Column/Editorial category. Thompson’s article, “Love That Lasts,” was published in the winter 2009–10 *Classic*. The essay describes love stories Thompson and his 10-year-old twin daughters have witnessed during regular visits to the residents of a skilled-care center.

# Face Value

## Harlan Jorgensen

Practically wired

### What makes your job great?

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 challenges come with managing the campus’ technology?

In almost every corner of campus, something is connected through our network to the outside world. That is tricky to address in an academic environment because the system needs to be open and very useable, but also restricted enough to maintain appropriate security. Plus, technology is always changing.

### Describe yourself in three words.

Open, practical, honest.

### What are your hobbies?

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

### What is one of your favorite NWC memories?

A work-study student pulled a prank on our co-worker by putting a two-way radio under the floor of the Learning Resource Center and meowing into the other one. Our co-worker started freaking out and ripping up the flooring to find the kitten. We all had a good laugh.

### How would you summarize your 18 years at NWC?

Challenging, inspiring and fulfilling.

### Mac or PC?

I look at computers as a tool to accomplish tasks. Depending on the task, some jobs are better handled by a PC and others by a Mac. I am more PC-oriented because of our campus configuration and the need for specific tools that require and are more useable on a PC.



Harlan Jorgensen started at Northwestern in 1992 as the information systems manager. He later served as the associate director of administrative computing, and since 2000 has been the director of computing services.

### What do you appreciate about the campus community?

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

### What is your favorite time of year and why?

Fall is archery season, so I get to spend time in a tree awed by God’s handiwork. It re-energizes my thoughts and actions at home and work.

### 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.

### What’s 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

he has joined 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 staffs. 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



Kenton Pauls

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.

## Brand New

Brand: Volvo. Promise: Safety.

Brand: UPS. Promise: Package delivery, intact and on time.

Brand: Northwestern College. Promise: Education for action-oriented thinking Christians.

That may be the bumper-sticker version. Actually, Northwestern College's newly articulated brand promise is this: Northwestern is a Christian academic community that develops the mind and empowers the faith of students as they prepare to serve and lead in the world.

The statement was among five possibilities tested for importance, believability, distinctiveness and appeal by higher education branding experts at Stamats, who surveyed Northwestern alumni, students and employees.

More than 1,900 surveys were completed, including 1,200 by alums. A Stamats consultant said the company had never witnessed as high a degree of consensus as among Northwestern constituents, the vast majority of whom indicated the statement above captures the Northwestern brand.

The promise serves as an actionable companion to the college's

mission statement and includes a list of attributes that describe a Northwestern education as courageous and faithful, challenging and supportive, committed to the whole student, and meaningfully engaging.

Neither a mission statement nor a motto, the NWC brand promise is instead a working document intended to guide both marketing messaging and the NWC "product," ensuring the college delivers on its promise to enlarge students' intellect and Christian character so they're prepared for any roles God calls them to.

An 11-member branding task force worked with Stamats to develop the promise. Alumni on the team were Barry Brandt '69, Ron De Jong '71, Deb (Kuiper '84) Locker, Amanda Maloney '09 and Jay Wielenga '82.

## 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 amazon.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 Five Burroughs*. Aimee Bender, who wrote *Lemoncake* and *Willful Creatures*, says Cutter's prose is "deft 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 Nicolette (Storm) Bracy and junior Adam Verhoef.

Senior Aleah Stenberg wrote "Ah, the Power of Women" about Louise Erdrich's novel *Love Medicine*. Renee (Nyhof '10) Wielenga wrote "Dream Act May Help Local Student Fight for Residency," arguing for passage of legislation that would aid immigrant teens. And Kathleen Kropp '10 contributed "Latin American Music: A Diverse and Unifying Force."

## Rise and Rock

Lincoln Brewster  
Superchick  
Hawk Nelson  
Disciple  
True Emotion  
Go Fish  
Manafest  
A Rotterdam November

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](http://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 investment manager 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 *Fortune* 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 Achterhoff ’83, business
- Billi Ellingson ’07, law
- Heidi (Droog ’01) Hibma, parenting
- Jo (Will ’82) Hop, social work
- Rev. John Hubers ’76, missions
- Kyle Irvin ’02, law
- Grace (De Boer ’89) Kohnke, nursing
- Perry Krosschell ’87, business
- Vince Kurtz ’98, law enforcement
- Jon Moss ’99, business
- Dr. Mark Muilenburg ’84, medicine
- Rev. Jon Opgenorth ’88, ministry
- Steve Roesner ’83, business
- Dr. John Swart ’90, genetic technology
- Jaymi (Franken ’01) Vandewater, parenting
- Marne (Hutchcraft ’95) Withers, education
- Scott Wolfswinkel ’97, construction
- Carl Wynja ’88, banking

## 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 departments, 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.

Social work is among 18 Northwestern programs recommended in a national guidebook.



MICHAEL HUDSON

## Extreme Makeover

Workers will begin a major refurbishing of part of the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center at the end of this school year. The four-court area, which includes an indoor track and space for basketball, tennis and volleyball, will be redressed with new flooring, lighting and an updated heating system. Windows will be added near the ceiling to allow natural light into the space.

“The track will have almost twice as much cushioning as before, so it will offer more protection to runners,” says Dale Thompson, Rowenhorst Student Center director.

Thompson says a new netting system will enable activity to be isolated on courts for more flexibility. “We’ll be able to do two things at once and do them safely. People will be able to walk or run on the track without worrying about the possibility of having balls come into their space.”

The \$1.5 million renovation project is funded largely by contributions from donors. Completion is expected in time for Homecoming on Oct. 1.

A major refurbishing project will update the four-court area of the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center this summer.

## 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 additional \$2 million toward the new learning commons.

The gift brings the DeWitts’ total learning commons commitment to \$3 million. Northwestern has now received gifts and pledges of \$9.3 million 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 community 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 University and the defending champion Northwestern Red Raiders, 34-1. Northwestern's only loss had been to Davenport, 89-80, in December.

After both teams rolled through their early tournament games, things got tougher 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 Hulst and freshman Samantha Kleinsasser started in place of their sidelined teammates. Two other freshmen—Mackenzie Small and Alli Dunkelberger—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 second consecutive national title, its third since 2008, and its fourth overall.

"It's a credit to the kids," says Woudstra. "We get girls with out-



The atmosphere was tense as Northwestern and Davenport traded leads eight times in the championship game's final eight minutes.

National player of the year Becca Hurley contributed 32 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists in the Raiders' championship victory.

## 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 use 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 sensed 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 Korver '92) on the Raider squad that was national runner-up Yaw's senior year. A math teacher at MOC-Floyd 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).



# Red Zone

Sophomore Dan Van Kalsbeek scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds when Northwestern beat Dordt in January, 85-82.

## Men's Basketball Back to Branson

Northwestern returned to the NAIA Div. II national tournament for the first time since 2008. The Raiders, who won the Great Plains Athletic Conference with a 14-4 record, finished 22-9 overall. Ben Miller and Daniel Van Kalsbeek earned All-American honorable mention.

## Wrestling Five at Nationals

Five Raiders competed at the national meet. The team won the Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Award. Luke Evjen and Jerod 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 Huseman placed fifth in the 1,000-meter run and high jump, respectively.

## Volleyball Champions of Character

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

## Football All-Americans

Northwestern finished the season 8-2, ranked 18th in the final national poll. Taylor Malm was named an NAIA and Victory

Sports Network (VSN) All-American. John Adam, Brandon Smith and Caleb Van Otterloo received VSN honorable mention.

## Cross Country Miles Ahead

Charity Miles placed 79th out of 331 runners in her fourth year at nationals. She and Sara Hess earned all-conference honors.

## Soccer All-GPAC

Ben Karnish and Alli Dunkelberger 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 10 in cross country. Repeat honorees included Becca Hurley and Kristen Neth (basketball); Caleb Blauwet and David Butler (football); Kaitlin Beaver (volleyball); Sarah Seeger (soccer); and Sara Bolkema, Sara Hess, Heidi Hildebrandt, Charity Miles and Jenna Sorensen (cross country).

## Red Raider Club Hall of Fame

Ben Gerleman '01 (basketball) and Kirk Maasdam '91 (football) were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in February.

Jay McKinstrey '86, head football coach at Pella (Iowa) Community High School, and Chris Yaw '92, NWC assistant women's basketball coach, were named co-coaches of the year. Michael Hardeman '00 received the Barnabas Award.

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

# When Nationals Was New

BY DUANE BEESON

Eight team national championship banners hang in the Bultman Center today, but four decades ago, competing at the national level wasn't an expectation for the Red Raiders. The men's basketball team in 1970-71 helped changed that.

Don Jacobsen became Northwestern's head coach a year earlier, and his reputation preceded him. He held the South Dakota high school scoring record with 2,825 points, a mark that stood for 50 years. And at South Dakota State, he was an All-American who averaged 20 points per game.

"He outworked everybody to be the player he was," says Dave Aalbers '73, "so he was pretty hard on us." The Raiders completed a lot of running drills in practice—and even did some in Midland Lutheran's gym following a disappointing one-point loss.

In games, the Raiders "were a bunch of greyhounds," says Jim Woudstra '74, entertaining the crowds with their fast-paced play. The team averaged 92 points, with the starting five contributing more than 80.

"We outran everybody," says Aalbers. "We knew going into halftime that the other team was whipped. Jake had us in shape, and it paid dividends big-time."

Coming off a 10-12 season in Jacobsen's first year, the 1970-71 Red Raiders went 11-1 in the Tri-State Conference. The team won

the last 10 games of the regular season and took two victories in the NAIA District 15 playoffs to qualify for the national tournament for the first time in school history.

Northwestern canceled classes for two days so students, faculty and staff could attend nationals in Kansas City. The Raiders had an estimated 1,000 fans on hand as they faced the Jackson State Tigers from Mississippi, a team with four starters as tall or taller than Northwestern's big man, 6-foot-6-inch Woudstra.

The scrappy Raiders boxed out aggressively, ran the floor and led at halftime, 48-45. The game was tied at 78 with five minutes left, but Jackson State prevailed, 96-91.

Ending the year at 28-5, the Raiders set 16 team and individual records.

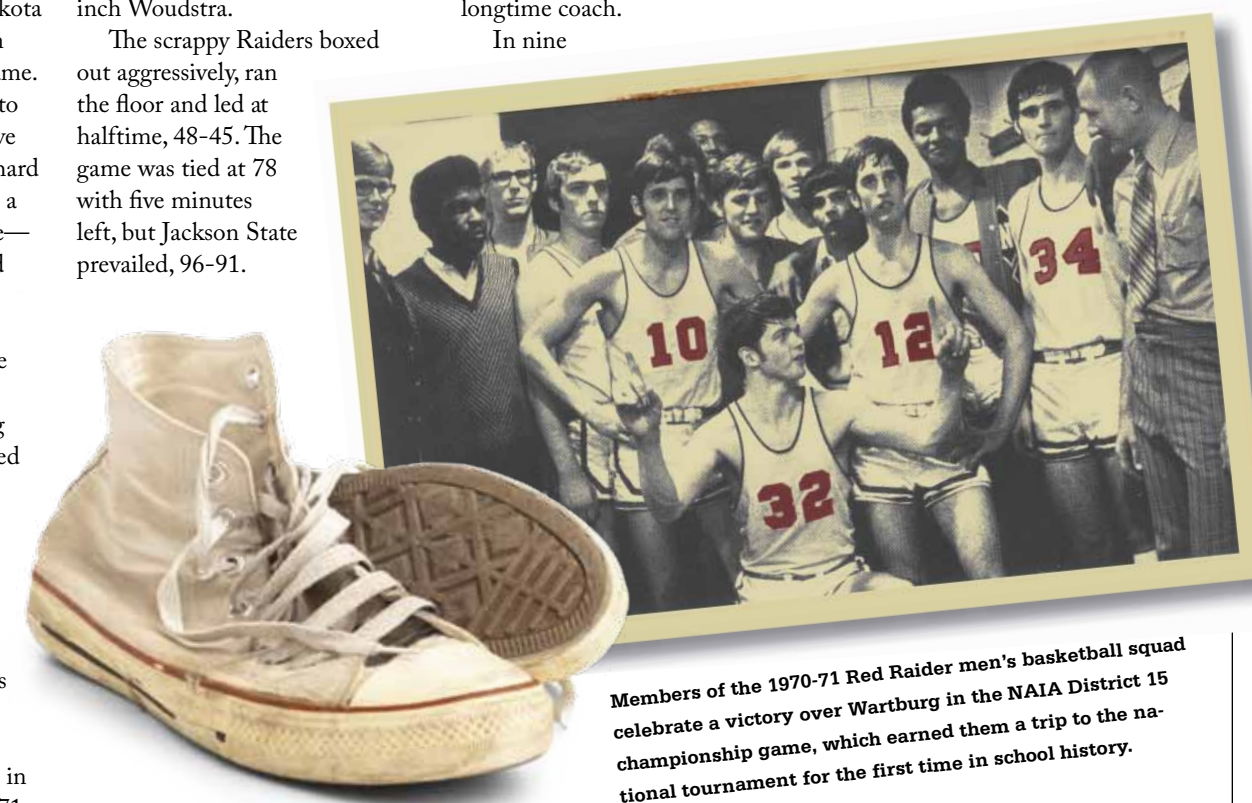
Looking back, team members say their squad had a special chemistry. "Everybody knew what they needed to do and trusted everyone else," says Dr. Jerry Van Es '71.

Certainly much of the credit for the team's success goes to Coach Jacobsen. "He treated each player in the way that helped motivate him," says Woudstra, himself a longtime coach.

In nine

seasons at NWC, Jake coached teams that compiled a 159-79 record and qualified for the national tournament twice. Now retired and living in Sioux City, he left a legacy that still lives on at Northwestern.

Fans of the national-champion women's basketball program have seen the team use an in-bounds play designed by Jacobsen. Coach Earl Woudstra '78, who played and coached under Jacobsen, calls it "the Jake."



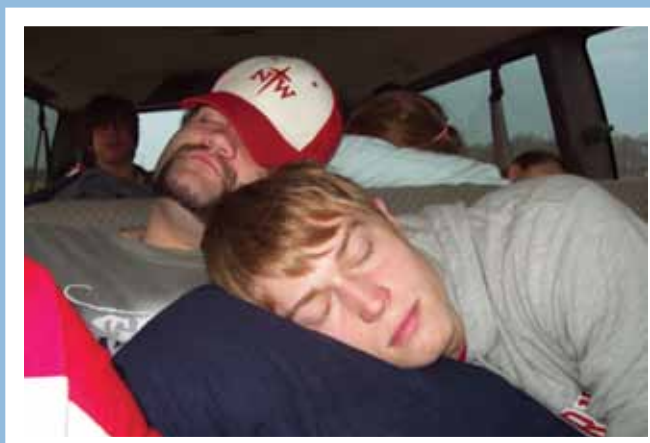
Members of the 1970-71 Red Raider men's basketball squad celebrate a victory over Wartburg in the NAIA District 15 championship game, which earned them a trip to the national tournament for the first time in school history.

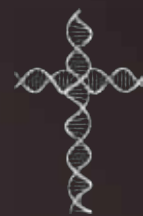
DAN ROSS



# Spring Serve

**E**very 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

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*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. He thought about his own three kids as Linda shared the shock of finding out, after two healthy babies, that she and her husband were CF carriers who'd each unknowingly contributed a mutant copy of their CF gene to their last-born.*

\*Names have been changed for confidentiality.

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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.

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.

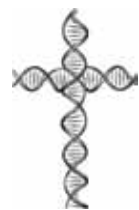
Not long after, Swart was contacted by former NWC board member Dr. Jan Schuiteman, a veterinarian and genetic technology entrepreneur whose northwest Iowa company, Trans Ova, is a global leader in cloning calves for dairy operations. Schuiteman knew that a University of Iowa researcher had developed 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 mechanisms that trigger 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 repair and improve it. "God gave Adam the garden and told him to work it," Swart explains, adding that he disagrees with those naturalists who argue humans have had a mostly negative impact on creation. Without the kind of control science offers, Swart argues, we wouldn't have the pest- and drought-resistant crops that enable us to feed the world, we couldn't replace fossil fuels with cleaner renewable options, and we couldn't develop better ways to treat disease.

"God has given humans the responsibility to make creation the best it can be," he contends. "Science can enable nature to be more productive, and genetic technologies offer very powerful tools for correcting what happened as a result of the fall in the Garden of Eden."



Compared to other areas of natural science, the field of genetics is young. It sprouted in the late 19th century with Gregor Mendel's garden peas and then grew slowly until the late 1960s and early '70s when the structure of DNA was solved and scientists discovered that genes are located on chromosomes. Genes were cloned in the '80s, and in 1996, Dolly, the first cloned mammal, became the most famous sheep in history.

After Dolly, "our imaginations were loosed," says Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, who studied cancer at Northwestern University before coming to teach biology at NWC. "Dolly was worldwide news, and soon fiction writers were churning out modern and all-too-realistic variations on Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Some speculated that miraculous cures were on the horizon, and others predicted the beginning of the end of human civilization as we knew it."

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. Excited to finally read humans' 3-billion-letter-long "hereditary code of life," researchers were eager to go further, faster. Religious scholars and ethicists wondered if someone should step on the brakes.

In an appendix to his book, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, Collins, who converted from atheism to Christianity, welcomes 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."

Tolsma assigns students to read Collins' book, and in class she uses stories like Morgan's to put a human face on the science of technologies like genetic screening and testing. In Morgan's case, her CF may have been detected through genetic screening done on most newborns. Pre-pregnancy genetic tests might have alerted her parents to their one-in-four chance of having a child with CF. The same tests can help her siblings determine whether they are CF carriers, culpable for someday passing the mutant gene to another generation.

If one of Morgan's CF-carrying siblings marries another CF carrier, they might use in vitro fertilization (IVF) to get pregnant, testing all the resulting embryos for CF and implanting only those with two normal copies of the CF gene. IVF is costly, though, so they might become pregnant naturally and then undergo prenatal genetic testing and use the results to prepare for caring for a special needs child if necessary—or they might decide to terminate the pregnancy.

Some of Tolsma's students, as animal lovers, are already squeamish about the idea of cloning diseased animals for testing drugs and other treatments. More are uncomfortable at the notion of discarding diseased embryos. Nearly everyone squirms when abortion becomes part of the discussion. Yet Tolsma gently encourages them: Try to empathize—put

*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.*



For many Christians—like these protestors outside a 2002 biotech conference on stem cells and regenerative medicine—their opposition to embryonic stem cell research is based on the belief that “personhood” begins at conception.



Human embryonic stem cells are valuable to researchers because they are self-renewing, or “immortal,” and phenomenally flexible: They can be chemically coaxed into nearly any human tissue for study or use in treatment.

PROFESSOR MIOBRAG STOJKOVIC / PHOTO RESEARCHERS, INC.

yourself in the shoes of parents like Morgan’s who, because of advances in genetic science, might be faced with heartbreaking decisions.

Tolsma’s genetics classes are a pile of scientific terms and explanations leading to a slope, seemingly slippery at times, of ethical questions and conundrums. 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—thecatandtheratatetheredbat—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.

*“Thoughtlessly rejecting genetic technology is not living out our calling to be thinking Christians.”*

To connect science with life, Tolsma might ask students to imagine they are newlyweds with Tay-Sachs in their family tree and then pose questions like: Would you undergo genetic testing to find out if you carry the TSD gene? If you do, is IVF—which can create 5 to 10 times the number of embryos than are needed for successful implantation—an ethical option for Christian parents? Who decides what should be done with the unused embryos, some diseased, some healthy? What 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,” Tolsma 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.”

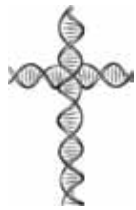
For other Christians, Tolsma counters, the chance that genetic testing might lead to terminating a pregnancy raises ethical red flags. Abortion is a line they don’t intend to cross, so why take even a step that might lead in that direction? Still others, she adds, believe that even imperfections are 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.”

Might biotechnologies like genetic screening and testing lead to playing God, as some Christians worry? Maybe. But, Tolsma argues, blood transfusions, vaccines, antibiotics, and organ transplants were viewed skeptically as playing God at one time. Now few Christians would object to these life-altering medical advances.

Tolsma 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.”



Julie (Vermeer ’97) Elliott studied Christian ethics at Duke and now teaches ethics courses at Eastern University in Pennsylvania. “I don’t teach ethics the same way a lot of professors do,” she says. While many ethics texts and classes might ask students to consider dramatic situations like sinking boats and limited life jackets, Elliott prefers to focus on the ethics of real life and relationships. “Students want to know how they can think about their lives in relationship to their boyfriends, girlfriends, parents and siblings.”

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.

They wondered whether having a biological child was worth the potential moral quandaries. What if Elliott became pregnant with more babies than she could safely carry? What would happen to any unused embryos? Was it right to generate life but not bring it to fruition?

Estimates put the number of unused embryos, frozen at fertility clinics, at more than 500,000. When Elliott shares that number with students, they’re shocked. Invariably they begin to wonder whether the use of those embryos to create embryonic stem cell lines might be a better option than indefinite cryo-storage. They also wonder about the ethics of creating those embryos in the first place. Yet without the advances of IVF, numerous couples wouldn’t have become parents through childbirth.

Experimentation with embryonic stem cells (ES cells) was given a green light in 1999, and progress since then has been two steps forward, one step back. Presidents have both banned research using ES cells and allowed it. Members of Congress have battled, trying to grant or deny rights through “personhood legislation.”

Unlike “personhood,” which is a concept, “embryo” is a specific scientific label—an umbrella term for the single-cell zygote, 16- to 32-cell morula, and 250-cell blastocyst, which, if implanted in a womb, will become a fetus and eventually a self-conscious adult with more than 10 trillion cells. Embryonic stem cell lines are created at the blastocyst stage by removing the inner cell mass (the eventual fetus) from the outer cells (the eventual placenta). Removing the inner cells destroys the embryo.

The cells that make up a human embryo are pluripotent, meaning they are phenomenally flexible. Implanted in a womb, they will continue dividing and differentiating until they grow into a human being. Outside a womb—like in a lab—embryonic stem cells can be chemically coaxed into nearly any human tissue: nerves, muscle, functioning pancreatic cells, beating heart cells. ES cells’ flexibility (the only thing they can’t become is a placenta) and capacity for self-renewal (they are “immortal”) are the qualities that distinguish them from other stem cells and make them so valuable to scientists.

Adult stem cells—or any that have developed beyond the embryonic stage—are also valuable and showing more promise than once believed, but they are still limited in what they can be used to study, and the vast majority will divide (renew) only a limited number of times before they

Science for Sundays

Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma 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? Does it arrive fully developed, or does a soul grow into “being,” the same way egg and sperm become first a zygote, then a morula, blastocyst and eventually a fetus? And is human life at each of those stages the same thing as being a person?

After understanding more clearly that conception is less a moment 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.

Class members talked about “playing God” with creation—genetically modifying plants and animals to feed the hungry. Yet GMOs (genetically modified organisms) decrease species diversity, which can devastate ecosystems and lead to extinction. Scientific progress can relieve suffering and extend life. In most cases, though, such medical advances are available only to those who can access and pay for them. Is it ethical to expend resources trying to grow replacement kidneys when a large percentage of the world’s population doesn’t have clean water?

At the end of six weeks, Tolsma’s students felt more scientifically knowledgeable—and more compassionate toward people whose lives are affected by physical brokenness and the hope that science might save them. “It’s less mysterious now,” said a participant, “and more amazing than I realized.”

Above all, Tolsma reminds students, God is sovereign and still performs miracles—some of them masquerading as marvels of science.

die. And while some types of adult stem cells, like the hematopoietic cells found in bone marrow, are plentiful, others, like living brain cells, are harder to come by.

“The real excitement about medical benefits from stem cell research is the potential to use this approach to develop new therapies,” writes Collins, who now directs the National Institutes of Health. Diseases like type I diabetes and Parkinson’s arise because a certain cell type dies prematurely: insulin-secreting cells in the pancreas for diabetes and neurons in the substantia nigra of the brain for Parkinson’s. Even “[normal] aging is a failure of stem cells,” said Dr. Doris Taylor of the University of Minnesota’s Stem Cell Institute during a recent appearance on NPR.

Type 1 diabetes, Parkinson’s—even old age—might eventually be treatable through regenerative medicine, a dream for which stem cell research offers the most promise. Regenerative medicine therapies first need to be tested on the tissues they’re intended to treat, and testing on human tissues is a greater predictor of success than testing on animal tissues, even if they’re as closely related to human DNA as Exemplar’s pigs. In addition, drug and other testing is easier and safer to do on brain cells grown from a donor embryo than on an actual brain (which, understandably, few people are willing to donate while they’re still using it).

Using leftover embryos from fertility clinics is the most common method for creating stem cell lines for research, but there are other ways to create ES cells. Somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) involves removing the nucleus from an egg and fusing the “empty” egg with a “donor” cell, like a skin cell. This fusion cell is then treated so it develops into an embryo.

Embryos created by SCNT would never be implanted into a womb because the resulting fetus would be a clone of the skin cell donor, and human cloning is currently banned. However, stem cells from an embryo created by SCNT could be used to grow a replacement organ. And because the tissue of the replacement organ would be an exact match to the donor’s tissue, it wouldn’t be rejected.

In light of this potential, try telling someone currently facing an organ transplant that may either fail or be accompanied by years of taking immunosuppressant drugs that stem cell research should be off limits. “Opposing all research of this kind means the ethical mandate to alleviate suffering has been trumped absolutely by other perceived moral obligations [to an embryo],” argues Collins. “For some believers, that may be a defensible stance, but it should be arrived at only after a complete consideration of the facts.”

Reformed Church in America pastor Dr. Stephen Mathonnet-Vander Well, who studied theological ethics at Boston College and has served on the RCA’s Commission on Social Action with Tolsma, wrote about stem cell research in an October 2004 essay for *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*.

While he admits to having deep reservations about the use of ES cells for many of the same passionate “protection of life” reasons a majority of Christians hold, he also shares how the words of a colleague with a



Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma studied genetic cancers at Northwestern University before coming to NWC. She teaches students the science of genetic technologies so they are well-prepared to thoughtfully engage with the ethical issues.

debilitating genetic disease echo in his mind: “If Christians are going to oppose the use of embryonic stem cells that could change my life, they had better offer some good, clear reasons, not some vague theological mumbo-jumbo.”

Mathonnet-Vander Well adds, “To speak to those who suffer from terrible genetic disorders takes some hard-earned moral credibility. I wonder if Christians, as a group, have that kind of credibility. I would like to say to those anxious for stem cell research to ease their suffering, ‘We Christians are here for you. We will suffer alongside you.’ I am not sure, however, that I would be listened to. I’m not sure I should be.”

Faced with the inability to conceive a second time, Elliott found few faith-based resources to help her think through the potential collateral damage of IVF. So as a student and teacher of ethics, she did her own research and hopes eventually to write a book on reproductive ethics that will offer Christian couples guidance for thinking ethically about sex, love, the purpose of children, and the meaning of family.

Meanwhile, unused embryos already exist. Some are available for adoption by parents who want to birth a child, even if it’s not theirs biologically. Others remain frozen with no plan for them ever to develop into persons.

Some stem cell research proponents wonder whether the latter might have a different, but nonetheless valuable, potential. Summarizing their position, Tolsma says, “Perhaps the potential for a human life is only one of many potentials held by an embryo. [Perhaps] value and dignity are not solely associated with personhood but can be found in other potentials, such as offering cures through the use of ES cells.”



Last October, officials at Geron Corp. of Menlo Park, Calif., announced they had treated the first human patient in the U.S.—a 21-year-old with a spinal cord injury—with embryonic stem cells. Timothy Atchison has told the *Washington Post* he believes his opportunity to pioneer embryonic stem cell therapy is part of God’s plan for his life. While it will be months yet before doctors know the outcome of Atchison’s stem cell infusion, they hope results will mimic those they’ve experienced with injured rats that, after being treated similarly, regained the ability to walk.

When considering the ethical treatment of unused embryos, the late Joseph Fletcher, an Episcopal priest and ethicist said, “In all cases, we need to ask, ‘What is the most loving thing to do?’”

This, of course, raises the question: What *is* the most loving thing to do? Frozen suspension? A kind of dignified death by being discarded? Continued existence as something life-giving but less than a person?

In his *Perspectives* essay, Mathonnet-Vander Well writes, “I don’t purport to know when [personhood] begins. [But] I am concerned that the use of ES cells is part of a process that leads ... to a subtle devaluation and depersonalization of human [life].”

On the other hand, he says, “We need to acknowledge that those who are excited about the prospects for stem cell research are tapping into something that’s deeply Christian. If healing and concern for bodies isn’t rooted in Jesus’ ministry, what is?”

Christ did, after all, help the lame to walk again.

**On the Web** *exclusive*

Comment on this article at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

# Fake Patient

# Real Learning

BY ANITA CIRULIS

**D**wight'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 use 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 in this semester's child-bearing class. "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 case study covering the gender, age, condition and medical history of that day's patient. Each student is assigned a role during the scenario. Some act as nurses, another plays a doctor, several function as lab and pharmacy personnel, and still others provide dialogue for the patient or patient's family using a prepared script.

As the students interact with the simulator, 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 that medicine, then 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 Karina Smit 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

### Chicken Parmesan

Serves: 6

**Ingredients:**

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 2 six-oz. boxes of wild rice
- 6 slices of Swiss cheese
- 3 cups prepared Alfredo sauce, heated

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Grill or bake chicken until fully cooked (165F internal temp).
2. Cook rice according to package instructions.
3. Place cooked rice in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan, followed by the cooked chicken breasts. Cover each breast with a slice of Swiss cheese.
4. Cover and bake for 15 minutes until cheese is melted. Before serving, ladle sauce over each chicken breast.

### Peanut Butter Bars

Serves: 20

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup peanut butter, creamy or crunchy
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups flour

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Cream butters and sugars.
2. Add eggs, soda, salt and vanilla and mix well. Then add flour and oatmeal and mix completely.
3. Spread mixture on 10x15 greased jelly roll pan and bake for 12-15 minutes.
4. Cool completely before frosting.

**\*\*Icing Ingredients:**

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- Milk, as needed, to make spreadable consistency

### Four-Cheese Lasagna

Serves: 10

**Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 23-26 oz. spaghetti sauce
- 8 oz. tomato sauce
- 2 tsp. dried oregano, divided
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 small onion, diced
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 8 oz. provolone cheese, shredded
- 15 oz. ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 9 lasagna noodles
- 3/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 375F. In a skillet over medium heat, season ground beef with garlic powder and 1 tsp. oregano. Brown the meat and drain.
2. In a large saucepan, add spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce and 1/2 tsp. oregano, set aside. In a skillet, saute garlic cloves and onion in oil for 5 minutes. Add meat and onion mixture to sauce mixture and cook for 15-20 minutes.
3. Combine mozzarella and provolone cheeses in a medium bowl. In another medium bowl, mix ricotta cheese, eggs, milk and 1/2 tsp. oregano.
4. Cover the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan with a thin layer of the sauce. Lay three lasagna noodles, uncooked, in the pan. Cover with sauce, then ricotta mixture and mozzarella/provolone mixture. Repeat layering. Finish with a layer of noodles and remaining sauce. Sprinkle parmesan cheese on top.
5. Cover and bake for 30 minutes, then uncover and bake for an additional 15 minutes.



# class Notes

**'68 Dr. Corwin Smidt**, Ada, Mich., gave a series of five lectures in Moscow on religion and American public life as a guest of the Spiritual Institute of the Russian Orthodox Church last year. He has been awarded the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, for next fall.

**'73 Cornie Wassink**, Northwestern's director of planned giving, was recognized as the 2010 Official of the Year by the Siouxland Officials Association.

**'74 Ed Spurr** is the program coordinator and music director at Community United Methodist Church in Ruidoso, N.M.

**'79 Kevin Muur**, Sanborn, Iowa, is a community skills trainer at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon.

**'83 Jill (Smidt) Christensen** was inducted into the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame in November and was a nominee for the American Volleyball Coaches Association National High School Coach of the Year. In her 28th season, she coached the Parker High School Pheasants to a 28-5 record and fourth place at the 2010 state tournament. Her teams have compiled a 605-225-14 record, giving her third place on the victories list of South Dakota volleyball coaches.

**Mark Gunderson**, Orange City, was named the 2011 Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Character Coach of the Year. He is head coach of the MOC-Floyd Valley High School girls basketball team, which qualified for the state tournament and finished with a 25-1 record.

**The Rev. Paul Wissink** serves as senior pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Ky.

**'84 Jay Rozeboom** was named the 2010 *Northwest Iowa Review* Football Coach of the Year after leading West Lyon High School to the Iowa

Class 1A championship. His teams have compiled a 186-33 record and won three state titles in the last 19 years.

**The Rev. David Spiegel** and his wife, **Martha (Parsil)**, have moved to Norwich, N.Y., where he is the pastor of First Baptist Church.

**'85 Bob Vander Plaats**, Sioux City, has been named president and CEO of the Family Leader, an Iowa-based Christian organization that seeks to strengthen and protect the family. The Family Leader encompasses the activities of the Iowa Family Policy Center, Marriage Matters, and Iowa Family PAC.

**'87 Dr. Alethea Stubbe**, George, Iowa, has been named the ninth president of Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. Currently the vice president of education and learning services, she will assume the presidency in May. An employee of the college since 1991, she previously taught in the business department and served as chief financial officer.

**'90 David Murray** has been named president and CEO of ARAG North America, a Des Moines-based provider of legal insurance. He previously was the company's chief financial, operating and information technology officer.

**'94 Bruce Heusinkveld** has been promoted to production manager at Winnebago Industries in Forest City, Iowa. A 16-year veteran of the company, he previously worked as a manufacturing engineer and production supervisor.

**Joy (Sterner) Hevron**, Monroe, Mich., is a registered nurse for the St. Joseph Mercy Healthcare System. She recently went on a medical mission trip to India with Hand of Hope.

**Cindy (De Boer) Yoder** is a development associate for Sioux Falls Christian Schools. Her husband, **Scott**, is an agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services.

## Red Ties

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

Looking through the photos collected for this issue's "1,000 Words" feature reminded me it's been 30 years since Northwestern began sponsoring annual mission trips for students during spring break (SSP) and summers (SOS). 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 U.S. and around the world, our students gain more than they give—their world and worldviews expand.

Our Reformed heritage challenges us to be thinking Christians—to learn and respond 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 God's people.

I recently read *Jim and Casper Go to Church*, co-authored by a Christian and an atheist who attended a number of churches together and then evaluated each experience. While impressed with some of our worship rituals and traditions, the atheist ultimately challenged his Christian friend with this question: "Is this what Jesus told you to do?"

As Christians, we are right to value our participation in corporate worship. But the book's final question reminded me that attending church Sunday after Sunday is the least of what Jesus asked us to do. Most of what he wants looks more like the photos in "1,000 Words," where following Christ means taking up our hammers, paintbrushes and soup kettles.

There are lots of things I love about Northwestern, but none more than the ways we challenge students to discover God's call for their lives not just through learning—but through serving too.



**'95 Bryan Case**, Lake City, 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 the head football and boys track coach at South Central Calhoun High School, where he also teaches physical education and health. **Cory Brandt '92**, head football coach at Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley, was also selected as an assistant coach for the game.

**Dayle (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. Receive updates on her recovery at [www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/632600](http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/632600).

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

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

**'97 Sunell Vincent**, Cincinnati, is an account executive for DHL Global Forwarding. He and his wife, Regina, have two children: Sophia (3) and Ayden (1).

**'98 Dawn (Huibregtse) Feenstra** is vice president of finance for the commercial segment at Harris Bank in Chicago.

**'99 Darrin DeVries** is pursuing a master's degree in applied statistics from Western Michigan University.

**Dan McMartin**, Ankeny, Iowa, has written a book about coping with the recent death of his brother **Clint '97**. *Lord, Please Open My Eyes* can be purchased at [www.publishamerica.net](http://www.publishamerica.net).

MY ROOMMATE REARRANGED OUR DORM ROOM FURNITURE IN HER SLEEP.

MY ROOMMATE SOLD MY CLOTHES WHILE I WAS IN THE LIBRARY.

MY ROOMMATE STILL HAS MY GARFIELD SLIPPERS.

MY ROOMMATE DARED ME TO GET A TATTOO.

MY ROOMMATE TOOK ME MOOSE HUNTING.

MY ROOMMATE DATED MY SISTER.

MY ROOMMATE...

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SARA (VELDHUIZEN '97) SCHROCK



The Rev. Harold Korver helped lead Emmanuel Reformed Church's efforts to transform its community of Paramount, Calif.

### Grace Over Generations

Eighty years ago, Bill and Matilda Korver prayed their son would dedicate himself to ministry. Not until the day in 1955 that Harold '48,'50 was ordained would they tell this story.

Forty years ago, Harold decided the last place he'd pastor was Emmanuel Reformed in Paramount, Calif., "another dying Dutch church." He refused to leave his position as director of Camp Manitoqua near Chicago until, he says, he had a mystical experience: "I had disequilibrium for two days unless I faced west." He accepted the call.

Twenty years ago, Harold and his son Kevin sat in his Emmanuel office and asked the Lord for wisdom on how to reach Paramount, which had been rated one of the nation's 50 worst cities. While they prayed, city officials knocked on the door and asked if the church would partner with them. Later, the church's clean-up efforts in Paramount would be honored by President George H.W. Bush as one of his "thousand points of light."

Another of Harold's sons, Ken, now pastors Emmanuel, which has begun a 40-year initiative helping to rebuild the neighboring city of Compton.

At 80, Harold's perspective spans decades, yet his analysis remains brief. When asked once to write a book about his life, he claimed he needed only a sentence: "Grace stacked on grace."

BY AMY SCHEER

**Brian Town**, activities director at Johnston Middle School, was named the 2010 Educator of Character by Character Counts in Iowa in September.

**'00 Karinda (Trumble) de Boom**, Hull, Iowa, teaches art at Western Christian High School. Her husband, **Scott '01**, works at Vision Builders in Sioux Center.

**Aaron Feltman**, Sauk Centre, Minn., received a Master of Divinity degree from Sioux Falls Seminary in May. He is guest ministries coordinator at Camp Lebanon.

**Jessica (Wilcox) Strand** is the author of *Rodeo Chicken*, a children's book

published by Real Life Press. She teaches third grade on McCord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Wash. Copies of the book are available at [www.rodeochickenbook.com](http://www.rodeochickenbook.com).

**Nicole (Mentink) Velzke** earned a master's degree in reading through Concordia University Wisconsin in December. She teaches kindergarten in the Cedar Grove-Belgium (Wis.) School District.

**'01 Rachel Binneboese** is the assistant principal of student services at Lincoln-Way West High School in New Lenox, Ill. She will become the middle school and high school principal for the Lawton-Bronson (Iowa) Community School District next fall.

# Be Inspired

A year's worth of devotions collected by Dot and Dave Mulder, professor emeritus of business, includes contributions from numerous Northwestern coaches, All-Americans, chaplains and presidents, as well as state legislators, pro athletes and more.

**\$12**

Proceeds benefit ATLAS of Sioux Center

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With 27 cameras filming his every spill, Dan Van Beek competed on an episode of the TV show *Wipeout* that aired Jan. 20.

### Wipeout

“You can’t spell ‘danger’ without ‘Dan.’” With quips like that, Dan Van Beek ’92 earned his 15 minutes of fame.

Wearing a Speedo over tights and a T-shirt proclaiming “Danger Dan—Safety Third,” the Chino, Calif., resident captured enough attention at his audition for ABC’s *Wipeout* that he was selected to compete on-air.

Van Beek, who owns a T-shirt screen printing and embroidery business, trained for three months to face the Snowplow Sweeper, Spinning Ski Lift and Big Balls. He worked out with a trainer, doing a lot of squats, jumping and instability training to prepare himself for the obstacle course. But he didn’t know about the Vaseline.

“Everything’s pretty slick on the course—you have no footing or leverage,” he says. “They want you to wipe out.”

Van Beek obliged—even needing some off-screen attention from EMTs after he took a snowball to the nose—but nearly made it to the final round of three.

He didn’t win the \$50,000 prize, but Van Beek said he had a blast. And the experience led to other opportunities with fellow *Wipeout* contestants, including an appearance on the Fox News Channel helicopter.

Now a reality show junkie, Van Beek has his sights set on *The Amazing Race*. He just hopes the route isn’t greased with Vaseline.

BY DUANE BEESON

**The Rev. Justin Grimm**, Lake Ann, Mich., received the Faithfulness 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 (Recker) 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. A loan adjuster specialist for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, he has been a volunteer mentor for seven years.

**'02 Derek Beekhuizen** teaches instrumental music at Sheboygan Falls (Wis.) High School.

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

**Amanda (Magnuson) 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 Joliet, Ill.

**'03 Nathan Ter Beest** teaches social studies at Omaha South High School. His wife, **Belinda (Vermeer '02)**, teaches technology and business at Omaha Benson High School.

**John Wiberg**, Prior Lake, Minn., is a student finance officer at Rasmussen College Online. He and his wife, Helen, moved into their first house in August.

**'04 Jill (Lowman) MacAuley**, El Paso, Texas, is an extension agent for Texas A&M AgriLife. She teaches classes for military families at Fort Bliss.

**'05 Dan Breen**, Orange City, received the 2011 Genevieve

Mauck Stoufer Outstanding Young Iowa Journalists 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*.

**Ariel (Emery) Butler** is the project coordinator for the Northfield (Minn.) History Collaborative.

**Mary-Celeste (Korte) Schreuder** teaches at Emmanuel Christian School in Oxford, England.

**Jenny (Haub) Winterfeld** is an associate attorney in the Waagmeester Law Office in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law last May.

**'06 Ryan Simmelink**, a fourth grade teacher at Adams Elementary School in Carroll, Iowa, received the Golden Apple Award from WHO-TV in October.

**'07 Aaryn (Eckert) Bierly**, 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, **James '08**, recently completed.

**Billi Ellingson** graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law and is working at an estate planning, tax and business law firm in Rochester, Minn.

**Roman Rozell**, Spring Lake, N.C., is training to become a medical sergeant for the Army Special Forces (Green Berets).

**Erin (Scholtens) Ter Beest**, 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

# SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by May 20 to:

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therapist in the transitional care unit at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. His wife, **Melissa (Hisel '08)**, is a registered dietician. 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.

**'08 Elizabeth Colbert** is the marketing manager for the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

**Kara (Johnson) Fifield** teaches first grade at Saipan Community School, located on the Pacific island of Saipan.

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

**Angela (Jiskoot) Ten Clay**, Urbandale, Iowa, is the marketing and Web coordinator for America’s Family Coaches.

**'09 Ruth Cink** is a quality control chemist at Sashco Inc. in Brighton, Colo.

**Amanda (Fox) Conover**, Clinton, Iowa, earned 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.



BARRY GUTIERREZ

After working for a Denver CPA firm, Kelly Calton began a business that assists families in managing their wealth.

## Family Finances

When Kelly (Bauder ’02) Calton mentions *family*, she might be referring to relatives in Sioux Center, Iowa, whose livelihood revolves around the farming industry. Or she could be talking about one of her clients—the daughter of a very successful Colorado businessman. Calton, a CPA who earned an MBA in the Netherlands, began Confluence Family Office in 2008 to help clients manage wealth. With her small-town background—what she calls “a really good, simple life”—balanced against her city life in Denver, Calton is uniquely positioned to examine how, why and where money is spent. “Many people, regardless of income, don’t budget,” says Calton. “They spend and don’t know what they’re spending. And the review process doesn’t happen. People put an insurance policy or estate plan in place and don’t look at it again.” She and husband Bryan see their own money as belonging to the family of God—to their church and some charities. As for assets not easily liquidated, Calton’s time and skills are happily distributed, turning those she serves into something more than just customers. “At the end of the day,” says Calton, “I love what I do because I really do care about people and want them to have the best life they can have.”

BY AMY SCHEER

**Blake Kruger**, Des Moines, is an accountant and financial analyst for the state of Iowa’s Office of Consumer Advocate.

**Stephanie Powell** is an admissions coordinator and mentoring specialist at Omaha Home for Boys.

**Jamie Richards** serves as minister of student faith formation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Wash.

**Brittnee Wood**, Denver, is the marketing and resource development coordinator for the Community Resources and Housing Development Corp.

**’10 Sarah Earleywine** is an athletic trainer for Select Medical Corporation in Orlando, Fla.

**Stefany Foster** is working as a strategic growth analyst for Guaranteed Rate in Chicago.

**Angela Isker** teaches business for the Keota (Iowa) Community School District.

**Anne (Eberline) Summers**, West Des Moines, is a youth development professional for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa.

**Debbie Warren**, Montevideo, Minn., is an outreach coordinator and victim advocate for Safe Avenues, a domestic violence agency. She also works as a coordinator for Onward Services, which serves people with disabilities.

**Renee (Nyhof) Wielenga** is a staff writer for the *Northwest Iowa Review*.

**New Arrivals**

Khawla Abi-Sheikh and **Todd Wise ’82**, daughter, Hajar Lilith, joins Rachael (25), Brooke (15), Robert (13), Sophia (7), Hashim (5), Saladin (4) and Al Khader (2)

**Ruth (Shicks ’83)** and **Dale Landegent ’82**, daughter by adoption, Marina Yvette Patricia (14), and son by adoption, Tony Santana Emmanuel (11), join **Titus ’08** and **Bethany Norine ’09**

Jeff and **Deb (Van Leeuwen ’95) Tornow**, son by adoption from China, Elijah Xintong (3), joins Nathan (8)

Amanda and **Jeremy Wiersema ’95**, daughter, AnnMarie Jane, joins Joshua (6) and Amber (4)

John and **Caroline (Rogers ’96) Musgrove**, daughter, Elizabeth Lowry, joins Roger (2)

Ryan and **Jane (Rensink ’96) Wehrman**, daughter, Lucy Elizabeth

Dean and **Susan (Hagge ’97) Fuerst**, son, Jacob Daniel, joins Sarah (6) and Anna (3)

Chris and **Delia (Pini ’97) Perry**, son, Wynn Christopher, joins Lilia (5)

Insoo and **Angela (Smits ’98) Kim**, son, Oliver Jude, joins Elliot (4) and Isaiah (2)

Don and **Michelle (Aberson ’98) Vaas**, son, Bennet James, joins Emma (10), Kleyton (8) and Elizabeth (2)

Monte and **Sherry (Groen ’99) Koopman**, son, Gerrit Lee, joins Lisa (5) and Ethan (3)

Sarah and **Brian Town ’99**, daughter, Anna Elizabeth, joins Max (3)

**Julie (Kuiken ’99)** and **Steve Vis ’98**, daughter, Cambrie Faith, joins twins Cody and Joslyn (2)

**Karinda (Trumble ’00)** and **Scott de Boom ’01**, son, Caleb Lee, joins Ian (5) and Maliyha (3)

**Stacie (Brosamle ’00)** and **Tony Englin ’99**, daughter, Alayna Joy, joins Brandon (7), Tyler (5) and Ryan (2)

Gary and **Cristina (Painter ’00) Griffin**, son, Nathaniel Jeremiah

**Laurel (Sandbulte ’00)** and **Dan Milczski ’02**, daughter, Camryn Elise, joins Kirsten (3)

**Marianne (Koolhaas ’00)** and **Ben Petty ’99**, daughter, Amber Michelle

**Amy (Huisman ’00)** and **Mike Siebersma ’00**, daughter, Emerson Dael, joins Maxwell (10), Treyton (8) and Zoe (6)

John and **Amber (Davis ’01) Backes**, daughter, Epiphany Joy

Dave and **Krista (Boltjes ’01) Pendergrass**, son, Bryce Arthur, joins Finnian (3) and Willem (2)

Heather and **Ryan Petersen ’01**, daughter, Ruby Emeline, joins Noel (2)

Zeke and **Kimberly (Tjeerdsma ’02) Ellis**, son, Parker Ray

**Marcie (Huff ’02)** and **Jackson Schuiteman ’01**, daughter, Emma Faith, joins Grace (2)

Jake and **Allison (Berger ’02) Tenge**, son, Kellen Jacob, joins Carter (2)

**Belinda (Vermeer ’02)** and **Nathan Ter Beest ’03**, son, Lucas James

Nathan and **Janice (Zoetewey ’03) Briggs**, daughter, Kaylee Elaine

April and **Jordan Dowdy ’03**, daughter, Madelynn Renee

**Jaci (Van Engen ’03)** and **Aaron Feltman ’00**, son, Hudson Steven, joins Lauren (4) and Anna (2)

**Stephanie (Ellis ’03)** and **Nathan Huisman ’02**, son, Jackson Mark, joins Adrian (3)

Jason and **Carleen (Owens ’03) Smith**, son, Trevor Richard, joins Ian (2)

**Meagan (Wells ’03)** and **Mike Wallinga ’01**, daughter, Allison Irene, joins Abigail (2)

Todd and **Jeannine (Lovas ’04) Bryant**, daughter, Kate Loraine

Chelsi and **Karlton Hector ’04**, son, Dash Abram, joins Stella (5)



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Order yours at [www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ovs/plates](http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ovs/plates) or contact your county treasurer’s office.

Lee and **Heidi (Hagena ’04) McCoy**, son, Bennett Lee

**Ethanie (Wallinga ’04)** and **Mike Pulscher ’03**, son, Alec Michael, joins Ellea (2)

Natalie and **BJ Rounds ’04**, daughter, Neely Mae, joins Daivney (2)

James and **Maria (Vos ’05) O’Dell**, son, Andrew Dwayne, joins Titus (1)

Aaron and **Renee (Van Regenmorter ’06) Alons**, daughter, Bella Faith, joins Asa (2)

**Kristin (Westenberg ’06)** and **Dan Breen ’05**, daughter, Abigail Lynn, joins Faith (2)

**Emily (Jahn ’06)** and **Robbie Cundy ’07**, son, Drew Jacob

**Scott** and **Carin (Grussing ’07) Weltzheimer**, son, Chase Scott, joins Paysli (2)

**Bethany (Harms ’08)** and **Jon Handsaker ’09**, son, Gideon Paul

**Emily (De Weerd ’10)** and **Jesse Moret ’10**, son, Greyson Joel

**Dawn Huibregtse ’98** and Ted Feenstra, Elmhurst, Ill.

**Christina Groen ’01** and Vance Roelofs, Harlan, Iowa

**Julie Hoving ’01** and David Jones, Springfield, Ill.

**Amanda Magnuson ’02** and John Sullivan, Omaha

**Jen Medema ’02** and Mark Wentlandt, Westmont, Ill.

**Andrew Rorabaugh ’05** and Blair Reaser, Berkeley, Calif.

**Liza Tegeler ’05** and **Mark DeYounge ’08**, Sioux Falls

**Jerica Westra ’05** and Jimmy Sieperda, Beresford, S.D.

**Josh De Kok ’07** and **Heidi Te Grootenhuis ’10**, Orange City

**Jennifer Herlyn ’07** and Shawn McCormick, Kodiak, Alaska

**Katie Van Etten ’08** and Erick Hohnstein, Olympia, Wash.

**Emily Entzel ’09** and **Iver Mettler ’07**, Rochester, Minn.

**Rachel Hermann ’09** and **LJ Cunningham ’10**, Blue Grass, Iowa



SHELLY MOSMAN

Kate Neisen took steps to help the unborn last summer, walking across the country as part of the Crossroads Pro-Life Walk.

## Walking for Life

After walking across Northwestern’s commencement stage last May to receive her diploma, Kate Neisen ’10 kept walking. She spent the summer trekking from Seattle to Washington, D.C., as one of 40 participants in the Crossroads Pro-Life Walk, spreading the message that every life is sacred. Team members—who wore T-shirts emblazoned with PRO LIFE on the front and the Crossroads motto, “Taking Steps to Save Lives,” on the back—walked 15 to 18 miles per day over the course of three months. Neisen’s team consisted of 11 walkers from across the country ranging in age from 18 to 26. They were split into shifts and took to the streets day and night, walking along everything from interstates to side roads. On the weekends, the team spoke at Catholic parishes, requesting prayer and raising funds. They also paused in front of abortion clinics, praying and offering sidewalk counseling. “Thousands of people got our message, and by the end of the summer you could feel that community of prayer,” says Neisen, who now lives and works in St. Paul, Minn. “Crossroads was just the first step for me in saving lives. It’s a launch pad, an invitation to embrace the pro-life mission as a way of life.”

BY SARAH ASP OLSON ’03

# Red Raider Golf Classic

Friday, June 3 • Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City



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.

Morning and afternoon tee times are available. The event includes a noon lunch, numerous contests and prizes, and dinner.

**Register: [www.nwcraiders.com/redraiderclassic](http://www.nwcraiders.com/redraiderclassic)**  
Or contact Kyle Achterhoff, 712-707-7282 or [achterhk@nwciowa.edu](mailto:achterhk@nwciowa.edu)

**Heather Nold '09** and Todd Dablemont, Rolla, Mo.  
**Audrey Tau '09** and Zechariah Stake, Sioux Falls  
**Shauna Eli '10** and **Justin Derry '05**, Fort Dodge, Iowa  
**Renee Nyhof '10** and Daniel Wielenga, Sioux Center  
**Julia Strom '10** and **Ryan Dembeck '09**, Minneapolis  
**Lisa Van Beek '10** and Kyle Puhrmann, Paullina, Iowa

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**The Rev. Robert Vander Schaaf '35** died Jan. 6 in Orange City at the age of 91. He graduated from Central College, served in the military during World War II, and owned the Floyd Hatchery in Alton, Iowa, before feeling called to pastoral ministry. After graduating from Western Theological Seminary, he served churches in Belmond, Iowa, and Fulton, Ill. He and his wife, Esther, retired to Alton in 1985. He is survived by his son, **the Rev. Robert '71**; two

sisters, including **Amy Breisch '43**; and a brother, **Howard '43**.

**Tom Noteboom '41, '47, '66**, age 86, died Oct. 28 in Orange City. After earning a bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern, he received a master's degree in history from the University of South Dakota. He was a part-time instructor at NWC for 20 years and later started Noteboom Electric in Orange City. He was an active member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Survivors include his wife, **Elinor (De Blauw '49, '73)**, and three children, including **Lucinda Huizenga '71** and **Thomas II '78**.

**Dr. Vergil Dykstra '42, '44**, of Fairfax, Va., died Dec. 31 at age 85. After 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 1989. His survivors include four children.

**Roger De Valois '45, '47**, age 82, died Jan. 9 in Loveland, Colo. After attending 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 Ute. He is survived by his wife, Margie, and two sons.

**Marcine (Muilenburg '46, '48) De Jong**, age 82, of Waterville, 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 Kodaikanal, South India, through the Reformed Church in America. In addition to teaching at a boarding school for missionary children, she started a council 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) Kool** 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 '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 worked as an assistant personnel director and a legal secretary. Survivors include her husband and four children, including **Karla Dekkenga '81**.

**Judith Visser '50**, age 78, of Hull, 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 Gideons. She is survived by four children and three 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 River Valley School in Rock Valley, where she worked with mentally and physically challenged children. Her survivors include her husband, Bob; two sons; and two siblings, including **Gerb '64**.

**John Landegent '54**, age 76, 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 physiology for 39 years in Vermillion and Sioux Falls, and received the South Dakota Outstanding Young Educator of the Year award in 1968. A longtime member of Community Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife, **Audrey (Heemstra '52, '54)**, and three sons, **the Rev. David '78, Dale '82 and Dan '85**.

**Gary Kreykes '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 Muscatine Junior College, Iowa Lakes Community College and Westmar College. Survivors include his wife, Myrna, and two daughters.

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

**Julie (Eckhoff '68) Boelman**, Belmond, Iowa, died Feb. 26 at the age of 64. She retired in 2003 after teaching for 33 years, most of which were in special needs classrooms. Among her survivors are her husband, **David '68**, and a son.

**Leon Keizer '73**, Urbandale, Iowa, died March 2 at the age of 61. He retired from the J.C. Penney Co. after 37 years of service. Survivors include his wife, three children, parents, four brothers and a sister.

**Heidi (Davis '78) Southwell**, age 54, died Jan. 23 in Sioux City. She was a supervisor in the freight audit department at IBP and an active member of Riverside United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Mel, and two children.

**Rick Doppenberg '92**, Rock Valley, died Nov. 25 at age 49. He was a project manager for Hope Haven. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; two sons; and three siblings, including **Bonnie Hammer '70** and **Loren '74**.

**The Rev. Dr. Blaise Levai**, professor of English and director of admissions at Northwestern from 1958 to 1960, died Dec. 20 in Jacksonville, Fla., at age 91. He received degrees from Hope College, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan. Before coming to Northwestern, he served as a missionary pastor and professor in Vellore, South India. He pastored churches in New Jersey and Florida, served as managing editor of the American Bible Society, and was the director of literature for the Methodist Board of Missions. He is survived by his wife, Marian, and five children.



**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 1971. In addition, Fern Smith Hall was built and a wing was added to Van Peurseem 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 hired 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 rejoined Hope 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, and three daughters: the Rev. Karin Granberg-Michaelson, Barbara Joldersma and Linda Popovich.

# Distinguished

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.

**[www.nwciowa.edu/alumni/award-nomination](http://www.nwciowa.edu/alumni/award-nomination) or e-mail [alumni@nwciowa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwciowa.edu)**

# Classic Thoughts

## What Comes Next

BY JENNA (BOOTE '09) KUIK

"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 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 amuse 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-D, A." A is for Angry. I am so angry. A site leader brings me a sheet of paper to fill out. Find out her name, her birthday and her family, he tells me. Then give her a test to see how much English she knows. I glance down to see that the first question asks her to identify an E. I unleash 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 familiar language is 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 begin 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, 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 Hasna. 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.

**Jenna 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.**

# Be Counted

"Every time a student calls, I give—even when I was in law school and it meant borrowing money from my dad [Wayne '74]. He taught me it's important to give, even if it's a small amount. Every gift increases NWC's alumni giving percentage, which helps Northwestern get better national rankings like the ones published in *U.S. News & World Report*. Also, Dordt's alumni giving percentage is higher than ours, and we think that's completely unacceptable!"

*Matt Van Heuvelen '08 lives in Sioux Falls, where he's an attorney practicing business law at Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith. He visits campus often to keep in touch with faculty mentors and cheer at games (especially when the Raiders play the Defenders).*



## 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.

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# Fairy Tale

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.



TOM BECKER