Urban Learning
Denver semester places students in inner-city internships

Also
Best (and Worst) Campus Jobs
Remembering West Hall
Weightlifting Wonder
Jona Leo ’99 holds the bench press world record, which gives him a powerful platform for mentoring young athletes and sharing his faith.
Courageous and Faithful

For some people, their first impression of Northwestern College is that it’s a small, quiet college tucked safely amongst the cornfields of northwest Iowa. On one hand, this is true. With around 1,200 students, NWC is a small college located in the most prosperous agricultural county in Iowa—and perhaps the world. Orange City is remarkably safe, often quiet and sometimes referred to as “Mayberry-like.”

A safe, quiet Mayberry-like quality is nice when it comes to a small college in a small town. But safe and quiet aren’t necessarily appropriate characteristics of our Christian life and witness. So while they’re reassuring descriptors of Northwestern’s location, they don’t describe the college’s mission. Instead, we boldly proclaim we are a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living. Students might be pushed beyond their comfort zones as they’re encouraged to indulge their curiosity and develop the depths of their spiritual understanding.

Why do professors, coaches and staff challenge students in this way? To accomplish our mission of equipping students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. Northwestern has many courageous and faithful alumni, but I will share the story of one couple: Felipe ‘12 and Janelle (de Waard ‘11) Silva. Felipe came to Northwestern from Brazil, Janelle from Canada, and they met here. Felipe majored in religion, played soccer, and served as an RA and SSP leader. Janelle was a social work major, RA, Discipleship Group leader and SSP participant. Through these various experiences, they sensed a calling to serve God and to share the gospel with others.

God led the Silvas to New Horizons Ministries in Romania, a country socially and economically devastated after decades of communism. The vast majority of residents in their village of Lupeni are unemployed. The Silvas are investing in their new neighbors and economically devastated after decades of communism. The vast majority of residents in their village of Lupeni are unemployed. They do, and God has led them all around the world—sometimes to places that are more than Mayberry.

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Felipe and Janelle Silva.

On the Scene

As usual, I enjoyed the Classic very much. I especially enjoyed the piece on Dykstra Hall, since it brought back some good memories. Mark Gunderson ’83, Paul Janssen ’83 and I were the last crew to paint Dykstra Hall. I lived one block north of Dykstra in 1987 and knew immediately that lightning strike was close.

Some friends and I were among those who helped carry out books before the fire department told everyone to get out. As we stood outside, Dr. Bultman told me, “Orange City’s fire department is far too efficient.”

Doug Te G曾任htube ’83

Learn More About Native Americans

As a Native American living on a reservation, I was drawn to the letter “What About Native Americans?” I spent a lot of time at NWC trying to form my ideas of Native American theology [and thinking about] how to effectively communicate my perspective regarding how Native Americans are viewed. I took the Slavery, Separation, Redemption, Reconciliation course as well.

While at NWC, I was approached a handful of times to give my perspective on different topics having to do with Native Americans. To see that NWC is expanding its class range to include more history on Native Americans is great. Being taught about the people who were native to this land and how they used to live might [help to inform] how we all live today.

Samantha Solwey ’04

Misinformed

I live in Jerusalem with my Israeli husband, and I found the information in “In Pursuit of Peace” was incorrect. It is possible that [Robert] Bogdanffy was given misinformation, but I want to clear the air as this put a bad spin on Israel.

The story mentions Israelis are allowed to carry weapons in Jerusalem and non-Jews are not. The only people carrying weapons are security and military personnel. A soldier, even on leave, is not permitted to leave his gun under penalty of imprisonment. And we know an Arab who is permitted to carry a gun.

[The story also says “many Palestinian families are allowed to fill their water tanks only once or twice a week.” We know a handful of Arab families in the area, and they have no issue with water. He could be referring to the West Bank—that is not under Israeli control; it is the Palestinian authorities who would be rationing out the water.]

[The article describes Palestine and Israel as “two nations.”] Palestine is not a country.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my side.

Samantha Solwey ’04

Tell Both Sides

It is necessary to tell both sides of the story. Israel’s side is missing. [Robert] Bogdanffy’s photo shows him strategically placed in front of “The Fence” separating Israel from the Palestinians. Perhaps he doesn’t know that it has reduced tensions, or that Muslims are not allowed to carry weapons while in Israel, but wisdom dictates not to put weapons in the hands of one’s enemies.

Bogdanffy accuses the Israelis of being selfish with the supply of safe drinking water. Again, perhaps he does not know that the Palestinians have all the resources they need to supply clean safe water for their families, but they choose not to do so.

Evelyn Bulke ’54

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: Classic, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51045; email: classic@princeton.edu. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your address and daytime phone number.

Zwemer View in Box

Follow President Christy at Twitter.com/NWC_PGC
Northwestern’s former library is undergoing a transformation that will give the building a second life as a student services center. Work on Ramaker began in mid-September, just after the DeWitt Learning Commons—the new home for the college’s library—opened in the fall. Construction crews completely gutted the 50-year-old building and are now framing in the offices, conference rooms and meeting spaces that will house such departments as student life, campus ministry, career development, international/multicultural student services, and global education.

Floor plans for the remodel preserve the mezzanine layout of the old library, in which the second floor provides views of the first floor below. What used to be study areas will be transformed into lounge and meeting spaces for students, complete with a gas fireplace and big-screen TV. A wide hallway leading from a new north entrance to the original south entrance will make a route through Ramaker the shortest distance from the learning commons to the cafeteria—and give added visibility to the center’s services and occupants.

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Ramaker Repurposed

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The World’s a Classroom

Northwestern’s first summer study abroad course in Greece is also the college’s first Honors Program summer study abroad. Religion professor Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, who teaches Greek at NWC, will help participants explore ancient and modern Greece. Students will stay in Athens and visit such sites as the Acropolis, Corinth and the Oracle of Delphi. Also this summer, students studying Spanish will sharpen their language skills while in Ecuador. Spanish professor Rick Clark will introduce participants to Ecuadorian society and culture. Students will live with host families in Quito, spend two nights with Otavalo Indian families, complete a service-learning project in the Amazon jungle, and tour HCJB World Radio Mission. Theatre professor Dr. Robert Hubbard will teach a course in Great Britain. Students will stay in London and Gloucester, where they will attend and analyze theatrical performances, art gallery exhibitions and museum collections. They’ll also explore England’s many cathedrals, markets, parks and squares. Finally, Northwestern nursing students will accompany nursing professor Diane Smith to Tanzania, where they will learn about the African country’s health and social systems. They’ll spend time in Arusha as well as in a number of Tanzanian villages, visit museums and schools, serve at orphanages, participate in a tribal celebration, and go on a safari.

Bidders’ Buy

Northwestern’s 31st annual Scholarship Auction, held Feb. 8, raised more than $35,000. More than 400 college supporters attended the event and bid on 360 items. Items that secured generous bids included vacation packages to Keystone, Colo., and Omaha, as well as Minnesota Twins tickets. Passes to the John Deere Classic PGA tournament in July—along with the chance to meet PGA golfer Jordan Spieth—also sold well, as did items autographed by Spieth. The passes and autographed items were donated by Michael Greller ’00, who is Spieth’s caddy.

Auction proceeds are added to the endowed Alumni Scholarship, which funds scholarships for approximately 30 students each year.
Accolades

Northwestern's public relations office won two silver awards—for the college's admissions video and a Classic essay—in the 2013 Council for Advancement & Support of Education District Six competition. The video, Real Northwestern, features students sharing what they really think about their professors, and Support of Education District Six competition.

The winning essay was published in the summer 2012 Classic. "Sandwiched," by Lisa (Boonstra '07) Schuiteman of Sioux Center, was awarded $2,500 to support his plans to study nanodrugs for humans. In addition to hosting students in their workplaces, alumni externship sponsors can also host students in their homes for the period of the externship. If you'd like to offer an externship opportunity for Northwestern students, contact career counselor Kristen Brown in the Career Development Center: cdc@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7225.

As a doctoral student at the University of California—Santa Barbara, Laura Furlong did an extensive study of stream invertebrates on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands in California's Channel Islands National Park. This summer, thanks to a $10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship from NWC, the Northwestern biology professor will resume the streams to help the National Park Service determine the impact of conservation efforts on the islands' ecosystems.

"Organisms living in streams are good indicators of overall stream health—and streams, in turn, reflect the condition of the watersheds that feed them," she says. The islands suffered a century of severe habitat degradation due to ranching and foraging by wild pigs and larger grazers that have since been removed. Furlong's work will allow for direct comparisons between conditions in the 1990s and today and contribute to a database for monitoring impacts of future long- and short-term environmental changes. Also awarded an Endowed Research Fellowship for 2014 is theater professor Jeff Barker. Barker was granted $2,500 to support his plans to write a book of stories about the nursing, teaching and missionary career of Arlene Schutteveen of Sioux Center. He has already written three plays about her life and years in Africa.

The Endowed Research Fellowships are intended to fund substantive summer research that contributes meaningfully to the faculty member's discipline. The awards are provided through the generosity of an anonymous donor and may be used for stipend, travel, equipment, books, supplies and student assistants.

Warm Cookie Wednesdays

Crip the outside, gooey on the inside, with melting chocolate. Remember the days when you came home from school and the sweet smell of butter, brown sugar and vanilla meant mom (or dad) had just pulled a pan of cookies from the oven?

Northwestern students indulge that sweet nostalgia every Wednesday during lunchtime's hot cookie bar in the cafè. Starting at 11 a.m. and for the next two-and-a-half hours, Raider baker Deb Ver Mulm pulls 20 dozen warm cookies from the oven every 10 minutes. That’s 16 extra-large baking sheets at a time, covered with soft, sprawling home-away-from-home cookie goodness: chocolate chip, peanut butter, sugar, white chocolate macadamia nut—and—the most popular—M&M.

The idea was Chef Benjamin "BJ" Whitmore’s. He says Northwestern’s food service staff members were skeptical it could be done at first, but now it’s routine on Tuesdays to fill tray upon tray with frozen cookie dough, readying them for Wednesday’s warm cookie crush.

Although Sodexo food service’s fresh-daily cookies are always popular, on Hump Day students put away 2,000 cookies—10 times as many as on other days.

Spring Work

Two Northwesterners put their spring break to work by participating in a new program offered by the Career Development Center—alumni-involved externships.

Three to five days in length and more observation than action, externships offer students a glimpse into the career they’re considering from an on-the-shoulder viewpoint.

Josie Clark, a sophomore biology-health professions major from Story City, Iowa, shadowed Jackie (Knibbe '09) Hollinger, general services director for Sioux County Community Services in Orange City. A social work major from China, Iowa, Hollinger was able to job shadow Hollinger as he worked with low-income families and individuals seeking financial and nutritional assistance.

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Career Boot Camp

Seventeen Northwestern seniors returned to campus before the start of spring semester classes in order to participate in a Career Boot Camp.

The two-day event, offered for the first time by the Career Development Center, featured workshops on developing résumés, sharpening interview skills and conducting a job search. It also included tips from panels of alumni and human resource professionals, mock interviews with these professionals, and sessions on dressing for success, business dining etiquettes and financiers.

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Research Grants

Drs. Laura Furlong will use a $10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship to study stream invertebrates on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands.

Jeff Barker

The idea was Chef Benjamin "BJ" Whitmore’s. He says Northwestern’s food service’s fresh-daily cookies are always popular, on Hump Day students put away 2,000 cookies—10 times as many as on other days.
Day for Justice

“There are more than 5,000 verses about justice in the Bible,” said the Rev. Alecia Salvatierra, setting the stage for Northwestern’s sixth Day of Learning in Community (DLC), which explored the theme of “Jesus and Justice” on Feb. 12.

A minister in the mold of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Salvatierra preaches from both the pulpit and the bully pulpit, pastoring a Lutheran church in Los Angeles and leading and participating in events that advocate for vulnerable populations such as immigrants, low-wage workers, homeless people and gang members. The author of Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World, Salvatierra presented a compelling biblical case for justice seeking and shared practical tactics.

Ben Pitzen ’06 and Kevin Sas-Perez ’07 shared insights they have gained in their respective community development roles in Chicago and Milwaukee. JP Sundararaman ’90, a missionary with Audio Scripture Ministries, explained how God’s word is a powerful force for justice among Indians experiencing caste or social stigma discrimination. And Eduardo Rodríguez ’11 and Kelly Stewart ’13 talked about their work with vulnerable populations in northwest Iowa.

The DLC ended with a screening of the acclaimed documentary The House I Live In, about racial bias in the U.S. war on drugs. Judge Mark Bennett, who presides over the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa and is featured in the documentary, was present at the screening and answered audience questions.

Grade A

Rugg’s Recommendations on the College, a national guidebook that highlights the nation’s top academic departments, lists nine departments for the average college. Northwestern has 21 recommended programs in the 2014 edition. The selected programs are actuarial science, athletic training, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, ecological science, education, English, history, music, music ministry, philosophy, physics, psychology, public relations, religion, sociology, social work, Spanish and theatre. Rugg’s listings rely heavily on recommendations from college students.

Action-packed Worship

The Drama Minors Ensemble (DME) presented three different dramatizations of the Genesis story of Cain and Abel, including passages from Exodus, and enacted proper at the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids, Mich., in late January. Under the direction of theatre professor Jeff Barker, the nine-member DME helped lead worship and participated in a seminar and workshops entitled “Story and Worship.” Barker taught from his book The Storytelling Church, which encourages churches to improve their presentation of both biblical stories and the narratives of church members. DME members demonstrated methods for using storytelling and drama in worship—with a goal of engaging congregants in new ways.

Bravo!

“It’s quite a coup for us,” said professor Karen Bohlin Barker after two Northwestern theatre students won Irene Ryan acting recognition at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in January. Senior Alex Wendel, Charlotte City, Iowa, and his same partner Gerrit Wilford, a sophomore from Brandon, S.D., won one of two acting pairs from among more than 360 selected to advance to the national KCACTF event at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in April. Wendel also won the Irene Ryan classical acting award and Wilford won best partner.

“It’s unusual for one team to win all three of the Irene Ryan awards Alex and Gerrit won,” said Barker.

Kim Jongerius
Math Maven

How has majoring in both English and mathematics as an undergrad affected your math teaching?

Not only do I have to make sure the math I write on the board is correct, my grammar and punctuation also have to be correct. I guide that way too. Students don’t really appreciate that. But, more seriously, both English and math are languages, and the more you understand about the structure and methods of one language, the better you can understand and communicate in another.

What inspired you to pursue teaching?

After years as a camper, I became a counselor and found that I really enjoyed teaching the things I was good at, like using hatchets, building fires and lashing a table together out of sticks. There was also this really great moment when I’d just come back from a day off, and my campers were complaining about my substitute. They told me things they’d gotten in trouble for, and I said I’d gotten mad at them too. One camper said, ’But we wouldn’t have done those things if you were here, because you expect more of us.’ It blew me away. I wanted more opportunities to connect that way.

Face Value

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How do you make math engaging for students?

I love figuring things out, and I try to share that love. I think this approach works well for math majors. For non-majors, I try to make myself more engaging (or more obviously human, anyway) by telling them embarrassing stories about myself or amusing stories about my family. It makes me less intimidating, and they’re more likely to let me ask some questions during the moment when they’re not as excited about the material as I am.

Do you have a favorite math joke?

There are 10 kinds of people in the world: those who understand binary, and those who don’t.

How long have you been teaching?

Since 1998.

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Called to Serve

Though not officially a Spring Service Project team, a group of students led by two business professors joined 13 other teams whose members spent spring break serving others in the name of Christ.

Ray Gibler, accounting, and Dr. David Befus, business, took a dozen students—predominantly business majors or minors—to Sincelejo, Colombia, to work with the Association for Integral Development (ADIN). ADIN is a microfinance revolving loan fund Befus helped start when he and his wife lived in Sincelejo for two years. The Northwestern students worked in teams, providing consulting for either new business start-ups or for existing enterprises that have financing from ADIN and needed marketing, accounting and financial systems assistance to take their companies to the next level and create more jobs.

Three other international SSP teams worked with the Moravian Church in Nicaragua, the Shelter Youth Hostels in Amsterdam, and United Christian International in Haiti. In the U.S., students traveled to Arizona, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas. One SSP team consisting entirely of football players and coaches partnered with Emmanuel Reformed Church of Paramus, N.J., to serve in a gang-ridden community nearby.

Throughout spring break, students served by visiting prisoners, tutoring children, working on construction projects, teaching English, leading vacation Bible school, working in a community health clinic, and building relationships with people in diverse communities.

Among the more than 200 SSP participants were 13 NWC alumni who served as advisers: Kyle Achtenhoff ’90, Derek Beers ’89, Laura Eddington ’13, Ross Fetsmon ’12, Mark Haselhoff ’12, Tyler Knoblock ’13, Hannah McBride ’09, Matt McCoy ’05, Jake Nessa ’06, Sara (Kernes ’06) Nessa, Charlotte Richards ’13, Heslan VanOort ’82 and Tara Woodward ’13.

Leader Among Leaders

Dr. Sandi (Kuiper ’83) Altena, executive director of The Bridge and former college registrar, will manage the Carlson Internship Program, a new program that will revolve around the college’s experiential learning opportunities. She will also work with faculty to incorporate service-learning opportunities into courses and administer adventure education opportunities.

“Sandi brings to this position a depth of leadership experience, including work with students in service-learning projects and internships, program development, membership, networking and administration,” says Dr. Adrienne Forgette, dean of the faculty.

Altena will manage the Carlson Internship Program, a new effort that will place students in full-time prestigious internship experiences. She will also work with faculty to incorporate service-learning opportunities into courses and administer adventure education opportunities.

“I love working with students and connecting people,” says Altena. “There is great potential for student learning and success throughout spring break, and I’m excited about helping to foster that at Northwestern.”

Altena previously served as Dordt College’s director of residence life and as Sincere’s Center’s assistant recruitment director. The Franken Leadership Center was established in 2010. It was founded in memory of NWC board member Jim Franken ’75, who served as CEO of the Interstates Companies and the Harbor Group in Sioux Center.

In Print

A new pictorial book about the history of Orange City—developed by Northwestern history professor Doug Anderson, library director Tim Schlak, systems librarian Greta Grand and student Sarah Katenbach—is available at Amazon.com and local retailers. Orange City is part of the “Images of America” series by Arcadia Publishing.

Anderson was inspired to write the volume after seeing an Arcadia Publishing book about Chamber, N.Y., that was written by a Chautauqua State College faculty member and students. The Orange City paperback features approximately 240 photos and includes information on the city’s founding in 1859 as a colony of Dutch-Americans who emigrated from Pella, Iowa, under the leadership of Henry Hoopes. Within five years, the city had railroad connections, was the seat of Sioux County, and circulated a weekly Dutch-language newspaper. Other book topics include the founding and growth of Northwestern College and the annual Tulip Festival.

Sales will benefit Northwestern’s DeWitt Library.

Smooth Sailing

By the time he settled into what would turn out to be a 36-year career in Northwestern’s business office, Roger Ewoldt ’74 had seen a lot of the world.

A sailor in the U.S. Navy, Ewoldt visited Paris, Rome, Athens and a dozen other European cities. He served aboard the "Floating White House," as the presidential command ship is called, and was on board during one trip up the coast to Canada with President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Since coming ashore, Ewoldt has ridden fewer waves. A husband, father and now grandfather, he sank himself into a career that is more "steady as she goes."

After he left the Navy, Ewoldt took advantage of the GI Bill to attend Northwestern, earning a business administration major. In 1977, Northwestern administrators recruited him to a newly created accounting position in the business office.

Decade after decade, he prepared monthly budget reports, counseled graduates regarding their college loans, and conducted end-of-year interviews with students leaving NWC due to financial hardship, family crises and other reasons. (He also took on all pool or ping-pong challenges during his lunch hours.)

The "numbers man" was in it for the relationships, he says. Bottom line: "I looked forward to the job nearly every day because of the people—my colleagues, the students. Northwestern makes a difference in people’s lives, and I liked being a part of that.”
Red Zone

Women’s Basketball

Best Start

This year’s team etched its place in the school’s record books with an 18-0 start on the season. The Raiders ended the regular season 24-4, 16-4 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC), and in a four-way tie for first place in the league. NWC won the conference tournament and advanced to the national tournament. Three of the GPAC’s top five scorers were Raiders: Alli Engebretson (19), Karen Hutson (17) and Samantha Kleinsasser (16).

Men’s Basketball

1,000 Point Club

Zach Loper ended his career 21st on the school’s scoring charts, compiling 1,306 points, averaging more than 19 per game this year. The Raiders were 14-17 overall and eighth in the conference with a 7-13 record.

Wrestling

All-Conference

All-GPAC honorees Zach Fishman, John Lynch, Randy Null and Diego Quintana qualified for the national tournament, along with JL Mayo and Luis Rivera-Santiago. Fishman was named the Capital One CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American of the Year in women’s wrestling. A nursing major, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being a leader on the court for the nationally ranked Raiders. Fifteen Raiders in fall sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including seven in the Hastings Open. The Raiders: Alli Engebretson (19), Karen Hutson (17) and Samantha Kleinsasser (16).

The Sun Sets on West

In the fall of 1981, just a year after the progressive Rowenhorst Student Center opened in an old factory, Northwestern unveiled another facility: West Hall. The first dorm constructed in 13 years, West was built with dark fluted block to match the RSC, and its design added a new dimension to residence life.

Instead of the traditional dorm with long hallways and space for 200 residents, West housed about 85 students and featured rooms built around the perimeter of community spaces—a lounge, study area and laundry room. Residents’ rooms were carpeted, even on some of the walls. While most units housed two women, the coveted corner rooms added a third. The laundry room featured a basement. So the hole was filled with eight feet of sand, which meant the water and gas lines underneath the building are inaccessible.

Fifteen Raiders in fall sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including seven in cross country. Repeat honorees included Lauren Aycock, Jackie Niewoehner, Janet Pitsinger and Zach Wittenberg (cross country); Ann Calhoun and Jo Jensen (soccer); and Claire Hoyer (volleyball).

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

Over the years, West lost its luster. The carpeted walls trapped unpleasant smells. The skylights couldn’t brighten the building’s dungeon feel. And the building was sinking.

Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, says he was told that after West’s excavation had begun, officials decided not to include a basement. So the hole was filled with eight feet of sand, which meant the water and gas lines underneath the building are inaccessible. And the lack of a seal (foundation) meant the water and gas lines underneath the building are inaccessible.

Perhaps because the building itself is different, West became known as a home for the alternative crowd. Current RD Corey Kundert offers the hall’s present identity: “We’d be the more creative, outgoing but laid-back guys.”

“A lot of guys find acceptance in West who maybe haven’t found it in other places,” says RA Bradley Smith. “We’re able to be ourselves.”

Residents have a different journey ahead, moving to Hospers Hall—a more traditional layout and rooms for 20 more residents, Kundert says their tight-knit community will continue. Even without carpet on the walls.
A 150-year-old watch brought from the Netherlands. The precise calligraphy recording grades earned in 1884 by Northwestern Classical Academy students. Beanies worn by freshmen. From documents to photos to artifacts, Northwestern’s archives—now in its new home in the DeWitt Learning Commons—provides a walk down memory lane for those interested in exploring the history of the college, Reformed Church and northwest Iowa.

Photos by Dan Ross
CONFLUENCE PARK IN DENVER, LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT, IS A FAVORITE DESTINATION FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY. WITH THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AS A BACKDROP, IT FILLS WITH RUNNERS, BIKERS AND FAMILIES ON WARM SUMMER EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS.

MOST VISITORS TO THE PARK, HOWEVER, ARE UNAWARE IT IS ALSO HOME TO TEENS WHO SET UP CAMP IN THE THICK BUSHES TOPPING THE PARK’S HILLS AND TAKE SHELTER UNDERGROUND TO ESCAPE THE HEAT OR COLD.

Called TO THE CITY

Service learning and community development are focus of Northwestern’s Denver Urban Semester

by Anita Cirillo

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“They’re purposely working in multicultural, underserved neighborhoods and schools ... places where most people don’t want to work.”

God’s Leading

Through their internships, students gain confidence, too, in their calling and in their preparation for that calling. Wheeler is a case manager intern at the Crossing, a transitional housing program for homeless families. As such, she’s become aware of how prevalent homelessness is. She’s also learned the homeless aren’t just those living on the streets. Anyone without an adequate place to sleep every night— who goes from friend’s house to friend’s house or from one family member’s home to another—meets the definition of homeless.

“Learning about social work in a classroom is completely different than the real-world experience,” Wheeler says. “My eyes have definitely been opened to the need for social workers. I’m excited to graduate and work on the streets.”

Fuchs has connections with more than 40 internship sites to choose from as he places students in work settings. He meets with the students when they are applying to the program to learn about their interests in order to make the best match.

As a sophomore, Guthmiller switched his major from education to social work when he realized he loved kids but didn’t want to be in a classroom. His goal is to work with troubled youth, perhaps those in the juvenile court system. Rather than placing Guthmiller in such a setting, Fuchs arranged for an internship at SOAR Academy, an alternative school that serves kids who are at risk of failing or who have been expelled.

“With a lot of these kids, there’s so much stuff going on in their lives that interferes with school,” he says. “Sometimes kids don’t come to school because they have jobs or they themselves have kids—or they’re the head of the household and they’re in charge of all their siblings. God matched me with SOAR Academy because he thought it would be a really good fit with my interests, and I’ve loved it.”

Abby Van Gorp likewise is at the perfect internship site for where— to use the words of theologian Frederick Buechner—her “deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” The senior social work major from Sioux Falls first became interested in working with teen moms after watching a reality TV show that follows the lives of four 16-year-olds who go from friend’s house to friend’s house or from one family member’s home to another—meets the definition of homeless.

Through the Denver Urban Semester, Van Gorp is completing her social work practicum at Hope House of Colorado, a nondenominational schoolwork, participates in group counseling sessions, teaches life skills, and works to improve attendance.

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Christian organization that helps parenting teen mothers become self-sufficient. Hope House runs a GED program so teen moms can get their high school diploma, matches girls with trained volunteer mentors, and provides a residential home for single teenage mothers and their children who are homeless or living in an unsafe environment.

Van Goop participates in informational lunches held for the teen moms, gives them rides to school and the grocery store, and helps them navigate governmental forms and requirements for public assistance. “I love my placement—just seeing all the different ways I can help teen moms,” she says. “It can be hard, but it’s also rewarding.”

Real-World Experience

Social work students aren’t the only ones who are benefiting from the Denver Urban Semester. This spring’s participants also include five education majors, all of whom are student teaching in public and charter schools that serve diverse student bodies and low-income families. “We have a lot of students going into education because they want to teach underserved populations,” says Dr. Derek Brower ’89, an assistant professor of education. While the college provides student teaching experiences in and around Orange City, for the most part, those schools are fairly homogeneous. “That’s why Denver is so attractive,” Brower says. “It gives students a more realistic perspective of what teaching in a diverse classroom looks like.”

Rebecca Rens, an elementary education major from Sioux Falls, is among those students who want to work with disadvantaged children. She is student teaching at Columbine Elementary, a school that serves many families living in poverty.

“I can’t get in a setting that’s any more challenging or that has students with any more behavior issues,” she says. “It’s really prepared me for what I have a heart for doing. I’ve been blessed with a phenomenal cooperating teacher, so I’m able to see how she pushes the students and maintains academic rigor while still understanding what they can and can’t handle.”

Rens gets similar praise from Elizabeth Yates, the principal of Columbine, who describes her as a high-quality student who came ready to teach. “Rebecca loves the students,” Yates says. “She puts them first and has a very calm manner. I think she knew about the challenges, but until you live it, you don’t really understand. Being here has opened her eyes to students who come from poverty.”

Launching Pad

The similarity in the values of NWC and Fuchs is one reason he selected Northwestern as a DUS partner school. While 14 other colleges send students to Denver in the summer and fall, the Denver Urban Semester’s spring program is offered exclusively through Northwestern. Thirty social work majors enrolled in its inaugural year in 2013. Ultimately the program could handle as many as 18, and Fuchs hopes to attract students from even more majors: pre-law students to work at a legal aid clinic, for example, and those majoring in Spanish translation and interpretation for internships in a city that is 40 percent Latino.

Whatever the students’ majors and wherever they are interns, Fuchs’ goal for them is the same: that they would learn to integrate their faith in all they are and do. God’s calling, the students are discovering, has as much to do with who he’s made them to be as what he’s asking them to do. Through personality tests and one-on-one mentoring, they are encouraged to explore their strengths and weaknesses.

“I’ve learned the real world happens and there are experiences that are going to wear me down,” says Wheeler, “but I’ve also been taught how to reevaluate myself based on my personality and the social work profession. It’s important to take that personal time for ourselves. If we’re not taking care of ourselves, then we can’t do our job of taking care of others.”

For some Denver Urban Semester alumni, that job and the inner city will go hand-in-hand. For others, they may find themselves serving God in small towns or rural communities.

“Our hope is not to keep people here,” Fuchs says of the program. “But after living in the city, the students’ worldview will always be different. When they think about what missions looks like or consider the ‘other’ in their neighborhood or realize the brokenness in their community, they’ll have experiences to draw from and wisdom to offer.”

In other words, whether Denver Urban Semester students stay in the city or make their home somewhere else, where they serve isn’t the important thing. It’s how.
Good to the Last Drop

If there’s one thing I learned working maintenance for three summers, it’s this: The maintenance staff is like coffee—the college cannot function without it. The people I worked with taught me about campus history and how to grease elevators and get stains out of carpets, all while joking around to make the workload seem light. If there was ever a dull moment, I worked under Deb Wassink in the business and write well. But the most important thing I learned was that photography definitely isn’t just about taking pictures; you also need to be a people person, understand the business and write well. But the most important thing I learned was that photography was my calling.

Jumpy

Working in the AV department was one of the most fun jobs I’ve ever had. But my least favorite part was being sent to the dark and quiet “dungeon” of Van Peursem Hall to look for some equipment. One time as I stepped out of the basement AV room and switched off the light, I turned and almost ran into Mike Stokes ’94, who was coming down to check on me. I jumped about five feet in the air and tripped backwards into a bush, knocking over a bunch of boxes. I didn’t think my heart would ever stop racing, but Mike started teasing me about being scared of the dark. I loved working for someone who was ready to joke around even when I’d made a complete fool of myself.

Squeaky Clean

I won’t name names, but I witnessed someone ride through the dishwasher in the cafeteria. Boy, did we have some fun working the dish room!

Hang Ups

I was able to be a part of many fun events like Ballyhoo and Airband through my work for the AV department. It was really interesting to see what took place behind the scenes to make an event happen. Many times we would rig up a pulley system to suspend a screen or a backdrop. Many times we would rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop or rig up a pulley system to suspend a screen. We would rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop, rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop, rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop and rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop. We would rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop, rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop, rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop and rig up a pulley system to suspend a backdrop.

Bathroom Duty

You haven’t lived until you’ve found yourself on your hands and knees in front of a urinal in Hermanna Hall scraping stained wax off the floor with a razor blade! I learned there are two kinds of jobs in this world: those you do on your hands and knees, and those you do after the fact. The latter really makes you appreciate the former. But what I remember most about working maintenance was the sense of camaraderie we shared, morning devotions, donuts at coffee break, and getting to spend my days with people I could laugh with.

Photo Finish

I learned many things from working as a photographer for the Beacon. Photography is definitely isn’t just about taking pictures; you also need to be a people person, understand the business and write well. But the most important thing I learned was that photography was my calling.

Chapel Cupid

I performed custodial work in the chapel under the supervision of Monte Golden. He was a lot of fun, so it really didn’t seem like work at all. When Monte found out about my crush on music major Ken Ven Huizen ’90, he proceeded to subtly let Ken know. Meanwhile I began to be aware of Ken’s schedule for organ rehearsal. It was during those times that I “conveniently” had to dust in the balcony or vacuum the carpet. Thanks in part to my work-study job and Monte, Ken and I eventually got together. We will be married 22 years this June. Ken and I saw Monte after the Christmas Vespers concert this past December and introduced him to our son Jake, a freshman music major at NWC.

Photo Finish

I worked under Deb Wassink in the business office. It was inspiring to see someone take so much pride in her job and go the extra mile with each student and staff member. Deb also expressed concern for my life and offered words of wisdom. Through these conversations, my faith in Christ was strengthened.

Room With a View

My student supervisor at the switchboard, Bethany (Hegstad ’08) Swart, was a dear friend who would often work when I was there. Our basement office in Zwemer Hall had one little window, and watching people through it—while they were unaware—became a highlight of our time. Bethany took special joy in watching one tall, handsome guy, Tim Swart ’07. Probably thanks to the “love window,” they are now happily married and raising their sweet daughter together.

Hang Ups

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SUNNYVALE, CALIF.
Ann Iversen ’93

JUMPY

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Floral Tribute

I loved working the grounds crew. One time we wrote our supervisor’s name in a flower bed with a certain color flower. I don’t think he ever noticed.

Beacon

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SUNNYVALE, CALIF.
Ann Iversen ’93
Lessons in the Caf

I worked all four years in food service and moved up from the dish room to student manager. It was a lot of hard work but really taught me how that can get you far in this world. Thanks, Don Keith!”

Shelbyville, Iowa
Jenni (Sybesma ’09) Ochsner

Chapel Cupid

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SUNNYVALE, CALIF.
Ann Iversen ’93
Powerlifter Jona Leo raises the bar, setting bench press world record

By Thomas Fysarak

O

n March 2, Jona Leo ’99 set a bench press world record, lifting 826.7 pounds. That’s about the same weight as four standard refrigerators. Or two upright pianos. Or one fully loaded soda vending machine.

Leo has been pumping iron since high school, starting mostly as a way to gain gridiron strength but meanwhile claiming four Nebraska state powerlifting titles. A defensive lineman for the Red Raiders, he thought after college his winning days were over. But after a year and a half, he started lifting again, and his competitive urge surged.

“From the first time I picked up a barbell, it was apparent this is one of my God-given gifts,” says Leo, who joined U.S.A. Powerlifting in 2002 and has since won three national powerlifting titles (2010, ‘12 and ‘13) and one world title, which he set in 2013.

Between meets, Leo balances five-day-a-week workouts at a Sioux Falls gym with his responsibilities as wellness director at Trail Ridge Retirement Community and dedicated family man to wife Michelle ( Jongeling ’99) and kids Lincoln, Lennox and Liberty.

While Leo’s kids don’t often travel to his national or international competitions, they do get in on the action when he runs the annual December powerlifting meet at McCrossan in 2006. The men also coached McCrossan lifters from 2006 to ‘09.

Brinks trains alongside Leo one day each week, and Leo routinely studies video for technique analysis by several powerlifting experts around the country, including Bill Gillespie, a former Seattle Seahawks strength coach.

Leo is his own toughest coach (and biggest critic). A kinesiology major at Northwestern, he says he has hit the books more since college than he did while a student-athlete. “At the end of every training cycle, I pick something I wasn’t happy with and crack open the books to find a solution,” he says. “Every ounce of my programming—from warm-up through workout and cool-down—has been improved through studying and trial and error.”

Between now and his fourth appearance at the world championships in Denmark in May, Leo will continue his intense training regimen, eating natural foods (“anything put here by God,” he says) and consuming around 350 grams of protein a day (the equivalent of about 16 chicken breasts). He’ll try to gain a few pounds because “weight pushes weight,” says Leo, who is more than 300 pounds—and with 22-inch biceps—competes in the super heavyweight class.

Currently in peak form, Leo says the top of the podium is a powerful platform for honoring God with a strong body, mind and spirit. He marvels at the opportunities he’s had to demonstrate his Christian faith.

He also embraces the other heavy lifting required of a world-class athlete and role model. He’s helping build the next generation of powerlifters and strength athletes through his website, leostrength.com, and by e-coaching a number of up-and-coming lifters, including those who will make appearances at the world championships this year.

Leo is a volunteer coach for a Sioux Falls high school lifter who qualified for the sub-junior world bench press team and will join Leo in Denmark in May.

One of Leo’s competitors at the 25th World Bench Press Championships will likely be Ukrainian powerlifter Victor Testov, who broke Leo’s world record the last time he set it and will be aiming for it again.

Leo is unfazed. He says if Testov breaks the record, “then I’ll just have to set it and will be aiming for it again.”

Leo is unfazed. He says if Testov breaks the record, “then I’ll just have to set it and will be aiming for it again.” Tough talk. Thankfully, he’s got the guns to back it up.
Red Ties

Mark Blommekeel ’81
Director of Alumni Relations

One of the things I look forward to when I get each issue of the Classic is reading what our alumni are doing. I find that whether I’m reading about someone’s notable, on-to-a-lifetime accomplishment or decades of quiet, steady service, I am always amazed and inspired. Each year Northwestern celebrates alumni who are making an impact by recognizing them with Distinguished Alumni Awards for professional achievement, service to humankind, and service to Northwestern. The process—from nominating the honorees and selecting the honorees to hearing them share their stories at the annual Raider Days Distinguished Alumni Banquet—has become one of my favorite parts of being Northwestern’s Director of Alumni Relations. It celebrates alumni who are making a difference for the world, together.

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'08 Katie Gard served a master’s degree in transformational urban leadership from Azusa Pacific University. She recently returned to the State from Manila, Philippines, where she spent two years as an intern with Partners for Education.

Angela (Uhlhorn) Tom Chby was selected for the Community Connect mentorship program in Des Moines. The program seeks to expand future leaders through mentoring relationships. She is a senior marketing specialist with TNG Financial Services.

'09 Brynn Brook, Dalitah Davis, S.D., is the supervisor of gas transportation and special projects for WI&WA American Energy Company.

Kellen (Schottel) Ridghe, Kansas City, Mo., works with her husband, Caleb, for Unbound, a nonprofit that seeks to alleviate poverty in 21 countries.

'11 Westminster Giants is an admissions coordinator at California Institute of the Arts. He is also pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in worship and music ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

Kendall (Rager) Klein, West Des Moines, Iowa, is an executive assistant for Ameriprise Financial.

'12 Justin Karmos is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary.
In Memoriam

John Reinders ’33 died Nov. 16 in Freeman, Mls., at age 97. He was a longtime farmer in the Orange City area and served as president of the farmers Cooperative board of directors. He was a member of the Masonic Christian Reformed Church. He is survived by two sons.

Betty (Gissend 82) De Jong died Oct. 18 in Orange City at age 83. She had a variety of jobs over the years, including working in her father’s grocery store and for the Sioux County Capital-Democrat. She was a lifelong member of First Reformed Church, where she sang in the choir. Her survivors include two children: Myra Bouma ‘73 and Wayne ‘78.

Dr. Robert Van Cotters ’44 died Dec. 7 in Edmonton, Wash. He served in the Army and then earned bachelor’s and medical degrees at The University of Kansas. During his 38-year career at the University of Washington School of Medicine, he became an internationally known cardiologist and served as dean for a decade. Under his leadership, the school began a regionalized medical education program serving students in Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Northwestern awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1978 and the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Professional Achievement Award in 1998. Among his survivors are four children.

Paul Maykens ’48, Orange City died June 10, at age 87. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Hope College and later received a master’s degree in counseling from the University of South Dakota. He taught and coached for 10 years at Siusa Center High School before joining the staff at NBC. Over 25 years he served as a teacher, coach and administrator, including vice president for finance. He was an active member of Trinity Reformed Church and a two-term city councilman. In 1999 the Alumni Association honored him with the Distinguished Service Award. He is survived by his wife, Kay (Dechlo ‘49, ’55), two daughters, including Debra ‘78; and a brother, Joe 49, ’51.

Minerva (de Boer ’52, ’54) Van Peursem, aged 76, of Orange City, died Nov. 14. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College of the taught school in Alton. She later served as a music’s aide, care coordinator and patient advocate at Orange City Hospital and taught adult education classes through Northwest Iowa Community College. She was a member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church. An EMT, she served on the board of trustees at the Orange City Anmo Health System and was honored as the Iowa Volunteer of the Year. She is survived by her husband, Dave; two children, Diane Brock ‘93 and Robert ‘81; and five siblings, including Darlene Vander Aarde ‘50, ’52, Marilyn Hoff ‘54, ’56, Ruth de Boer Wilton ‘56, ’58; and Laura Pauzer ‘67.

Dr. Herbert Ritsenma, professor of music at NWC from 1961 to 1981, died Oct. 14. A graduate of Hope College, he earned a Master of Music degree at the University of Michigan and a doctorate in music theory at the University of Iowa. He began the band program at Northwestern and served as the director of music at Orange City’s First Reformed Church for 40 years. He was very active with Gideons International; serving for three years as state chaplain. He is survived by three sons: Doug ‘75, Dave ‘77 and Randy ‘79.

The Rev. Dr. Alfred Drake, director of development at NWC from 1969 to 76, age 91, of Orange City, died Dec. 27. He graduated from Wheaton College, attended Dubuque Seminary and Boston University School of Theology, and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Christian Theological Seminary. He served Presbyterian churches in several states before coming to Northwestern. His survivors include his wife, Lillian, and three children: Allison Cooper ’75, Mark ’77 and Donovan ’85.

The Business of Friendship

Sarah Greenwood 05 and Chyrstan (Fuller) 04 Ferrell have gone from best friends and Red Raider teammates sharing ideas across the soccer field to business partners sharing ideas “across the pond.”

Co-owners of a growing language acquisition company, The Language Project (TLP), Greenwood, of Sevilla, Spain, and Ferrell, of Kansas City, Mo., are passionate about helping children learn different languages through small-group immersion classes. TLP uses games, music and play to teach languages to kids from 12 months to different ages.

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Hospers Is Home
by Megan Hodgin '06

She enters the living room carrying a cardboard box and wearing a big grin. Stopping just shy of the overstuffed couch where we are gathered, she announces she has "a little something" to share with us. Reaching into the box, she pulls out six turquoise ceramic mugs. We read the inscription on the mugs, and almost in unison, we respond with laughter and a few misty eyes.

Printed on each one are three little words that hold years of story: "Hospers is home." Simple but true. That was our experience.

The seven of us met at Northwestern, and Hospers Hall was home for four years. In many ways, Hospers—the spirit, the attitude, the family—still is home, even if we no longer live there together. Our story is not unlike so many others, but it is special to us.

When we first met nearly 12 years ago, Hospers was the only thing we had in common. I came from St. Joseph, Mo., and met these women from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and even California. No two of us had the same hometown or the same major. The only reason we were invited into one another's lives is because we were fortunate enough to be assigned rooms on the same floor in the same dorm.

To be assigned rooms on the same floor in the same dorm. To discover where in the world God would call us. To decide to go to seminary rather than pursue a career in theatre. To cheer me on throughout the entire application process.

Since then, I have had the privilege of officiating at their weddings and praying over their babies. In fact, we have managed to coordinate gatherings with each other almost every year since we left the dorm rooms where our relationships began.

This year we decided that turning 30 was worthy of celebration, so 14 of us—counting spouses and children—rented a large farmhouse over Christmas break and spent three days sharing stories, laughing and living together again, if only for a short time. Just like in our Hospers days, it didn't matter that the house had multiple rooms. We spent most of our time nestled on the overstuffed couch, savoring every moment of each other's company.

Be intentional.
The legacy of Glen and Ardie Hegstad at Northwestern College is deep and wide. Glen was a professor in the biology department for 25 years, and Ardie worked in the library for 18 years. Their children—Christine Dykstra '79, Gary '82 and Renee Guthmiller '88—attended Northwestern, followed by their 10 grandchildren, some of whom are raising a next generation of Raider babies.

This year a Northwestern senior majoring in biology teaching received the first Glen and Ardie Hegstad Scholarship, established by the couple and supported by their family to invest in students preparing for careers in teaching.

Be intentional.
The Hegstad added to their Northwestern investments of time and talent with an investment of treasure as well. Find out how you can support students by establishing a Northwestern College scholarship. Contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, at 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciowa.edu.
When the Red Raiders are competing, there’s a good chance biology professor Dr. Byron Noordewier is courtside, offering color commentary for Northwestern’s webcasts.

And, as the college’s faculty athletics representative, Noordewier may be even more tuned in when Northwestern’s student-athletes are in the classroom.

“Byron puts students first, athletics second, and helps them find ways to accomplish their goals beyond the field or court,” says Dr. Jasper Lesage, provost. “He manages to do this while also being an effective advocate for student-athletes when academics and athletics conflict.”

The 25-year member of Northwestern’s faculty will be honored in April as the NAIA’s Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year. Noordewier formerly served as president of the Great Plains Athletic Conference and chair of the NAIA’s Council of Faculty Athletics Administrators.