

Northwestern College Magazine

SPRING 2014

the Classic



Urban Learning

Denver semester places students in inner-city internships

Also

Best (and Worst) Campus Jobs

Remembering West Hall

Weightlifting Wonder



24

Jona Leo '99 holds the bench press world record, which gives him a powerful platform for mentoring young athletes and sharing his faith.

Classic People

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

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

On the cover:
Social work major Abby Van Gorp (front) with the teen moms she works with as part of her Denver Urban Semester internship.

PHOTO BY BARRY GUTIERREZ



GREG LATZA

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DOUG BLURG

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 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 intellectual 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 *empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world*. We desire to help our graduates discover and respond to God's call with courage and faith. They do, and God has led them all around the world—sometimes to places that are more mayhem than Mayberry.

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 overseas.

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 putting to work the practices of community development they learned from religion professor Michael Andres.

Janelle assists with NWC's Romania Semester and also works with mothers of children with Down syndrome. Felipe uses his avocation of rock climbing to build relationships with youth and is raising funds for a climbing gym to better reach the many young people in need of mentorship. Through their church the Silvas welcome Romanians into their home, where they can share the love of Jesus with them.

The Silvas recently visited the Northwestern community and area churches, telling stories of their first year of Romanian ministry. Their passion for the people of Romania was inspiring. What a blessing to witness our graduates living Northwestern's courageous and faithful mission wherever God calls them.

Greg Christy
President

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

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 Grotenhuis '83
Orange City

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.

Vallen Cook '13
Grand Portage, Minn.

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 (Hawks '04) Mihaescu
Jerusalem, Israel



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 terrorists' attacks on Israel by 40 to 50 percent. [However], it has not stopped the Palestinians from regularly launching missiles and rockets into Israel.

Bogdanffy bemoans the fact that Muslims are not allowed to carry weapons while in Israel. Perhaps he is unaware that there are one million Arabs who are full citizens of Israel with all the privileges therein—including being well represented in the Knesset. Yes, Palestinians are not allowed to carry weapons while in

Israel, but wisdom dictates not to put weapons in the hands of one's enemy.

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 (Bolks '54) Jones
Orange City

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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

around the Green



Northwestern's nursing department will again send students to Tanzania to study the nation's health and social systems; it's one of four study abroad programs offered this summer.

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.



AMITA CIRIUS

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 50 students each year.

Tara (Meyer '98) Madsen, George, Iowa, supports student scholarships at the Scholarship Auction, hosted by the Alumni Board.

Ramaker Repurposed

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.

The \$4 million price tag for the renovation includes new heating, air conditioning and electrical systems; a new elevator, windows and roof; and a new brick-and-limestone exterior—installed over three inches of additional insulation—that will give Ramaker a facade that matches other buildings on campus.

The Ramaker Center will feature red brick with a limestone banding, as well as a new north entrance.



Campus Life



Warm Cookie Wednesdays

Crispy on 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 caf'. 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, steaming home-away-from-homemade 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.

nom nom nom

Popularized by the Cookie Monster, "nom, nom, nom" is defined by urbandictionary.com as "the sound made when someone is eating or chewing something and really enjoying it." Like cookies.

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 and Support of Education District Six competition.

The video, *Real.Northwestern.2*, features students sharing what they really think about their profs, studying, discipleship and dorm life. Produced by Joe Hubers '03 of Passenger Productions in Sioux Falls, it can be viewed at www.nwciowa.edu/videos.

The winning essay was published in the summer 2012 *Classic*. "Sandwiched," by Lisa (Boonstra '83) Burg, provided a first-person account of her experience parenting five children and working full time while grieving over the losses she saw in her aging parents. The article can be read at classic.nwciowa.edu/summer-2012/classic-thoughts.

Spring Work

Two Northwestern students put their spring break to work by participating in a new program offered by the Career Development Center: alumni-hosted 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 over-the-shoulder viewpoint.

Junior Genesis Torres externed with Aaron Haverdink '06, general services director for Sioux County Community Services in Orange City. A social work major from Chino, Calif., Torres was able to job-shadow Haverdink as he worked with low-income families and individuals seeking financial and nutritional assistance.

Josie Clark, a sophomore biology-health professions major from Story City, Iowa, traveled to Omaha, where she job-shadowed Jackie (Knibbe '09) Hollinger, a pharmacological and experimental neuroscience researcher at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Clark was able to observe Hollinger in her lab support role for Dr. Howard Gendelman, a renowned HIV/AIDS researcher and physician. Hollinger and her team breed and raise genetically altered mice on which to test 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 Kirsten Brue in the Career Development Center: cdc@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7225.

Research Grants



Dr. Laura Furlong will use a \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship to study stream invertebrates on California's Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands.

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 resurvey 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 large 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 theatre 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 Schuiteman of Sioux Center. He has already written three plays about her life and years in Africa.



Jeff Barker

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.

Career Boot Camp

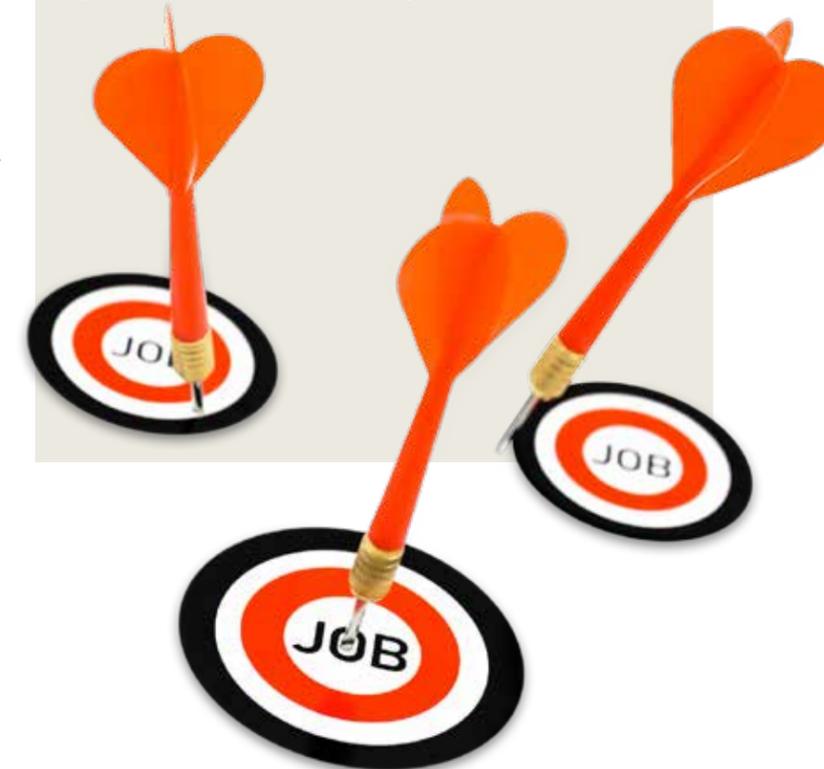
Seventeen Northwestern seniors returned to campus before the start of spring semester classes in order to participate in a Career Boot Camp.

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 those professionals, and sessions on dressing for success, business dining etiquette and finances.

Ashley Van Wyhe, a music ministry and public relations major from Rock Rapids, Iowa, appreciated the opportunity to hear from employers, as well as the variety of information covered during the weekend.

"I'm more prepared," she said of the impact of the camp. "I learned how to research careers and what kind of questions will come my way during an interview. I'm definitely further in the process of finding a job after college."

Bill Minnick, director of career development, says the weekend gave students a chance to focus on their future at a time when they're not busy with academics and activities. Plans are to offer the Career Boot Camp twice next year—at the start of both the fall and spring semesters.



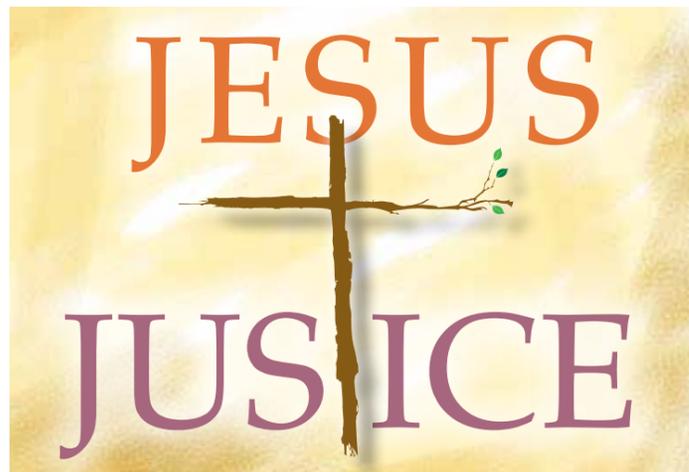
Day for Justice

“There are more than 3,000 verses about justice in the Bible,” said the Rev. Alexia 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 Christians can use to help redeem broken people, broken systems and a broken world.

Between keynote presentations,

DLC participants could attend two of more than 40 sessions offered by students, alumni, faculty and staff speakers that explored the presence



and absence of justice in capitalism, civil rights laws, the criminal justice system, immigration reform, and wartime practices and policies.

Among the alumni who traveled

to campus to present was the Rev. Blaine Crawford '09, pastor of Lakeview Community Church in Rochester, N.Y., who led two

sessions about food justice and the ways in which our American appetites contribute to food shortages and worker oppression in other parts of the world.

Ben Pitzen '06 and Kevin Sas-Perez '07 shared insights they have gained in their respective community development roles in Chicago and Milwaukee. JP Sundararajan '00, 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 Rodriguez '11 and Holly 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 Colleges, a national guidebook that highlights the nation’s top academic departments, lists about 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.

Athletic training is among 21 Northwestern programs recommended in a national guidebook.



ANITA CIRIUS

Bravo!

“It’s quite a coup for us,” said professor Karen Bohm 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, Charles City, Iowa, and his scene partner Gerrit Wilford, a sophomore from Brandon, S.D., were one of two acting pairs from among more than 300 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.

Action-packed Worship

The Drama Ministries Ensemble (DME) presented three different dramatizations of the Genesis story of Cain and Abel, passages from Exodus, and enacted prayer 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.

Face Value

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 grade 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 have 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.

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 cut me some slack during the moments 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.



DOUG BING

A member of the mathematics faculty since 1993, Dr. Kim Jongerius received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in 2005. She says her math hero is zero, and she enjoys using Charles Seife’s *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* in her History of Math course to teach students about how people feared the number for millennia.

How has your knowledge of mathematics affected your faith?

A mathematical understanding of the complexities of infinity has really helped me, as have insights from the mathematics of transformation and higher dimensions. I’m much less likely to limit God than I was before studying mathematics.

What books are you reading?

Elizabeth Moon is my favorite author. I really love her series, *The Deed of Paksenarrion*. It has great storytelling, fascinating detail and in-depth character studies of flawed human beings, many of whom are trying to do the right thing. I re-read them periodically and find there’s always some new connection I make with my faith and how it should affect my choices.



Students helped with vacation Bible school and construction projects in Bluefields, Nicaragua, as part of the 2014 Spring Service Project program.

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 stu-

dents 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 Christians International in Haiti. In the U.S., students traveled to Arkansas, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas. One SSP team consisting entirely of football players and coaches partnered with Emmanuel Reformed Church of Paramount, Calif., 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 Achterhoff '90, Derek Brower '89, Laura Ecklund '13, Ross Fernstrum '12, Mark Haselhoff '12, Tyler Knobloch '11, Hannah McBride '09, Matt McCarty '03, Jake Nessa '06, Sara (Kernes '06) Nessa, Charlotte Richards '13, Harlan VanOort '82 and Tara Woodward '13.



Sandi Altena

Leader Among Leaders

Dr. Sandi (Kuiper '83) Altena, executive director of The Bridge transitional housing program in Orange City since 2008, began work in February as Northwestern's first full-time director of the Franken Leadership Center. In that role, she will oversee many of the college's experiential learning opportunities.

"Sandi brings to this position a depth of leadership experience, including work with students in service-learning projects and internships, program development, mentorship, networking and administration," says Dr. Adrienne Forgette, dean of the faculty. "She is well-prepared to engage external partners and build relationships among students and 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 through experiential education, and I'm excited about helping to foster that at Northwestern."

Altena previously served as Dordt College's director of residence life and as Sioux Center's assistant recreation 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 Grond and student Sarah Kaltenbach—is available at



Amazon.com and local retailers. *Orange City* is part of the "Images of America" series by Arcadia Publishing.

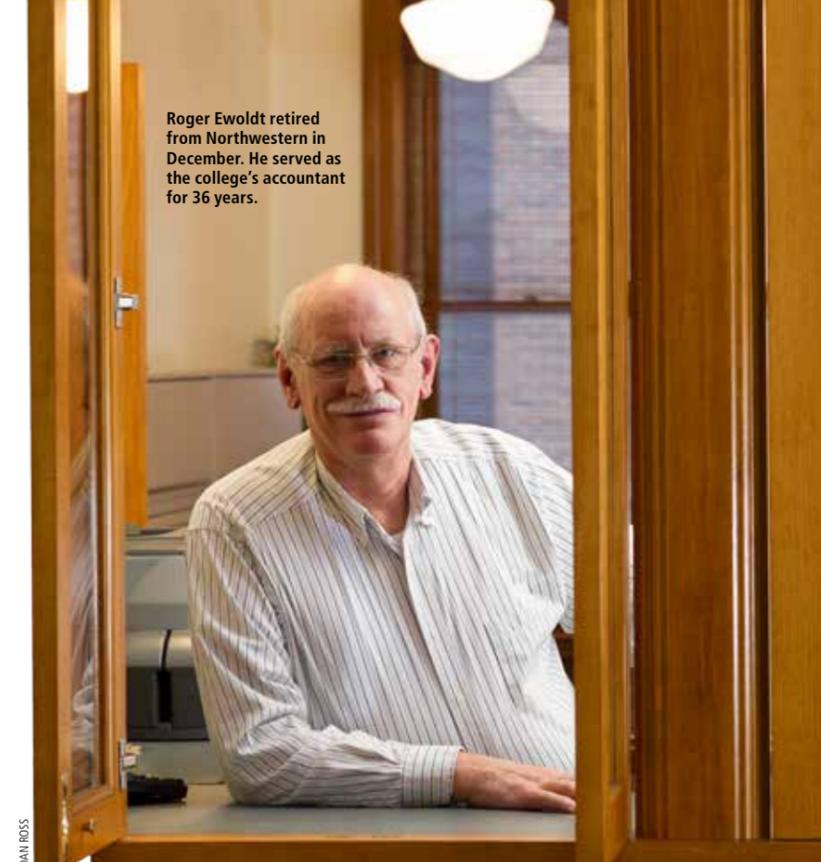
Anderson was inspired to write the volume after seeing an Arcadia Publishing book about Chadron, Neb., that was written by a Chadron State College faculty member and students.

The Orange City paperback features approximately 240 photos and includes information on the city's founding in 1869 as a colony of Dutch-Americans who migrated from Pella, Iowa, under the leadership of Henry Hospers. 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.



Roger Ewoldt retired from Northwestern in December. He served as the college's accountant for 36 years.

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 exit interviews with students leaving NWC due to financial hardship, family crises and other reasons. (He also took on all pool or ping-pong challengers 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."



Notes From the Road

Northwestern's A cappella Choir performed in churches, schools and senior centers in the western and southwestern U.S. during spring break March 1–10. Their 14 performances included concerts in the Denver and Phoenix areas, as well as Gallup, N.M.

The Symphonic Band traveled to churches in Minnesota and South Dakota March 27–30.

Red Zone

Luis Rivera-Santiago was among six Raiders who qualified for the NAIA national wrestling meet.



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 tourney 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 Leeper ended his career 21st on the school's scoring charts, compiling 1,366 points, after 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 conference's wrestler of the week in January after winning his class in the Hastings Open. The Raiders went 6-6 in duals.

Indoor Track Five All-Americans

High jumper Matt Huseman and the 4x800 relay team of Taylor Bodin, Kyle Anderson, Logan Hovland and Skyler Giddings earned All-American honors at the national indoor meet after placing fourth and fifth, respectively. The

men's team placed fourth in the GPAC and the women finished seventh.

Scholar-Athletes Honored

Samantha Kleinsasser was named the Capital One CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American of the Year in women's basketball. 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 cross country. Repeat honorees included Lauren Aycock, Jackie Niewenhuis, Janet Pitsenberger and Zach Wittenberg (cross country); Ann Calsbeek and Jo Jensen (soccer); and Claire Roesner (volleyball).

In addition, Nate Huyser was named a second team CoSIDA Academic All-American in soccer.

Red Raider Club Hall of Fame

Three 2008 graduates—Megan (Meyer) Christensen (volleyball), Deb Remmerde-Leusink (basketball) and Chad Schuiteman (basketball)—were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in February.

Dan Kruse '82, co-head girls' basketball coach at Central Lyon (Iowa) High School, and Jon Mouw '94, head volleyball coach at MOC-Floyd Valley (Iowa) High School, were named coaches of the year. Mark DeYounge '08 received the Barnabas Award.

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

After 33 years as a dorm—first for women, and then for men—West Hall will be demolished this summer.



BY DUANE BEESON

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 *Sioux County Capital* on Aug. 24, 1981, predicted a "cheery environment" would be created by the large skylights over the stairwells.

Former West residents remember the dorm as a fairly studious place that was home to a number of campus leaders. It wasn't loud, although Ann Vander Kooi Minnick '88 recalls the "Good Vibrations" of regular 10 p.m. Beach Boys dance parties.

When Northwestern built a new women's dorm—North (now Stegenga) Hall—in 1996, West took on new life as a men's dorm. The RD at the time, Eric Anderson, says the building's culture was a mix of future seminarians and guys who came to Northwestern mainly to play sports. "I saw some amazing life transformations as students influenced each other," he says.

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.

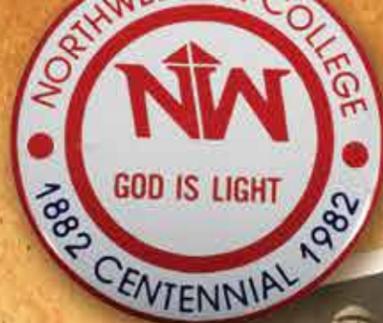
Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, says he was told that after West's excavation had begun, officials decided not to include a basement. So the hole was filled with eight feet of sand, which meant the water and gas lines underneath the building are inaccessible. And the lack of a solid foundation (pause while we sing that Sunday school song about the hazards of building on sand) resulted in numerous cracks, leaks and loose floor tiles.

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."

Being themselves means staging an epic battle in cardboard-and-duct-tape medieval war costumes on the campus green each spring. Cheering on the football team while wearing togas. Going on the Pilgrimage, a 15-mile walk that's designed to generate conversations.

Residents have a different journey ahead, moving to Hoppers Hall after West is demolished this summer. While Hoppers will offer a more traditional layout and room for 20 more residents, Kundert says their tight-knit community will continue. Even without carpet on the walls.



Record of Recitations by Member

Numbers	Names of Scholars In this School.	TEACHER	Pupil's Age	Months of May, 1884							Weekly Average	Total		
				Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Frid	Sat	Sun				
	Levan Patton												5.6	
	Henry Hooper												3.4	
	Abraham												3.4	



Memory Keeper

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



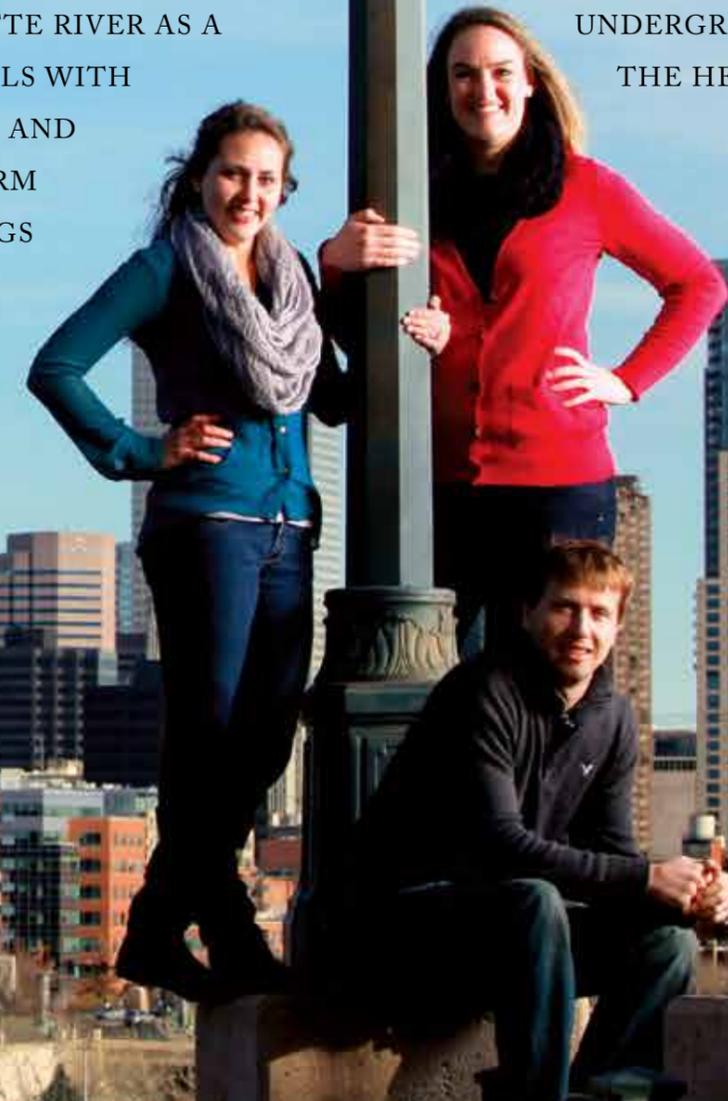
Called TO THE CITY

BY ANITA CIRULIS
PHOTOS BY BARRY GUTIERREZ

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

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.



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



An internship at a transitional housing program run by the Denver Rescue Mission is giving social work major Audrey Wheeler experience working with the homeless.

Sean Guthmiller, a senior at Northwestern, learned of this unseen world while on a “turf tour” in January. “They showed us, right off of downtown where all the rich and successful people are, these drainage tunnels for the river where kids our age who are homeless will crawl in at night and sleep.”

Guthmiller is one of eight Northwestern students living and working in the Mile High City this spring through the college’s Denver Urban Semester (DUS), a program designed to introduce collegians to the needs and opportunities of the city. Each is placed in an internship with an urban ministry, school or nonprofit that serves Denver’s marginalized populations. They also take two to three classes from a curriculum that includes courses on race and ethnicity, intercultural communication, global urbanization, and living out one’s faith.

“They’re purposely working in multicultural, underserved neighborhoods and schools,” says Greg Fuchs, director of the Denver Urban Semester. “That’s the only setting we place students in—places where most people don’t want to work.”

Fuchs himself grew up in the non-culturally diverse community of Wheaton, Ill. After earning a master’s degree from Denver Seminary, he served as a youth pastor and then did leadership development with college students through Young Life in Colorado and Europe. Eight years ago he started the Denver Urban Semester in partnership

with Mile High Ministries, an organization that seeks to mobilize neighborhoods, equip leaders and empower the poor.

“We really want to help students find their vocation—not just a job or a career, but something God made them for,” Fuchs says. “This gives them an opportunity to put their education, their calling and their career aspirations all together, integrated with their faith.”

Urban Immersion

DUS students live in community in the heart of the city, the men in a house a block off of East Colfax Avenue and the women nearby in a more residential neighborhood.

“Colfax is a very diverse and interesting street,” says Guthmiller, who grew up in Orange City. “It’s not really a street we’re supposed to be on at night, which is a little invigorating and a little nerve-racking at the same time. So we’re definitely immersed in the inner city.”

“I had fears and anxieties about living in Denver—trying to get around with public transportation, navigating the city, and just working with a different population of people,” says Audrey Wheeler, a senior from Montezuma, Iowa, a town of just 1,500. The social work major received encouragement from Northwestern professor Dr. Valerie

(Roman ’93) Stokes to stretch herself and take advantage of the Denver Urban Semester.

Fuchs begins the semester with an orientation that teaches students how to conduct themselves, read the streets, understand a neighborhood and use Denver’s bus system. “It takes about a week or two before that whole process is over, and then they just sort of flow into the life of the city,” he says.

Also helping with the transition are the classes the students take. Their Urban Cross-cultural Integration Seminar occurs not in a classroom but out in the city, with the students learning about graffiti from someone who once painted it and about homelessness while under a bridge where homeless people live.

“They’re learning how to be in the city and how to understand it and the culture they’re serving,” says Millie Cline, who works as a spiritual director and mentor for students in the program. “It’s fun to watch their confidence grow and to see them blossom.”

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 find a job because I know I’ve had the education and training that will enable me to open doors for those who sometimes go unnoticed.”

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, however, 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.

“He doesn’t have a lot of experience yet,” Fuchs says of Guthmiller. “A detention center may be where his heart is—and that may be where God is leading him—but if he jumps into that right away, it’s a big leap.”

At SOAR, Guthmiller helps students stay on task with their



Helping at-risk high school students during the Denver Urban Semester is a first step for Sean Guthmiller toward his dream of working with troubled youth in the juvenile court system.

schoolwork, participates in group counseling sessions, teaches life skills, and works to improve attendance.

“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. Greg 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 and their babies. When she saw a social worker conduct a home visit with one of the girls to talk about her options, Van Gorp realized that’s what she wanted to do.

Through the Denver Urban Semester, Van Gorp is completing her social work practicum at Hope House of Colorado, a nondenominational

Abby Van Gorp is spending the spring semester interning at Hope House, a Christian nonprofit that serves teen moms.



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 Gorp 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 seniors, who 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 homogenous. “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.”

Exposure to economic and cultural diversity is important in today’s world, says Fuchs. “While becoming culturally competent is a lifelong learning process, more and more, students who have that training and experience are the ones who will be hired.”

Fuchs believes Northwestern’s Denver Urban Semester students do well in cross-cultural settings because of the preparation they receive at NWC and because of their faith and values. “Especially in the public

schools, people notice Northwestern students are different from the other student teachers they get,” he says. “The same thing is true with social workers.”

For Fuchs, it’s obvious why Northwestern students are able to adapt to challenging internship sites so quickly. “They’re learners,” he says. “They’re intelligent, but they come with a humble confidence. They are sure of God’s leading, but they don’t have all the answers. Their desire is to be in God’s will and to follow Jesus.”

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. Three 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 rejuvenate 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 someplace else, *where* they serve isn’t the important thing. It’s how. 

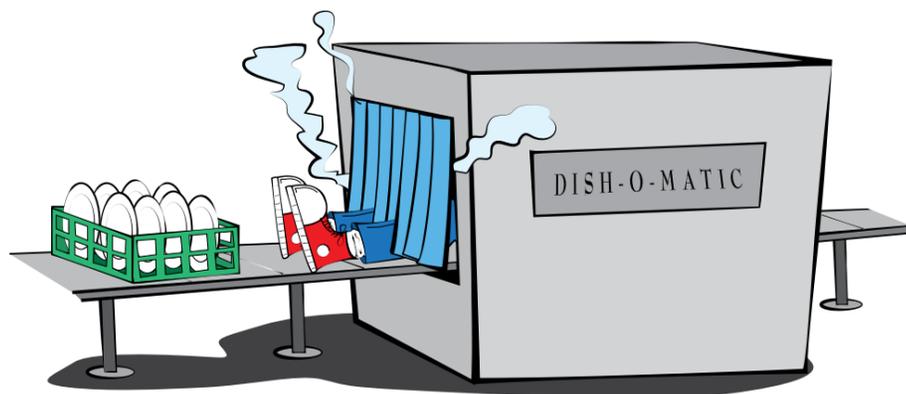


Kippen Larson-Gulsvig is one of five education majors who are student teaching disadvantaged students in culturally diverse schools this spring through Northwestern’s Denver Urban Semester program.

From waxing floors to washing dishes, about 80 percent of alumni had a campus job at some point during their time at Northwestern. While they appreciated earning money for pizza, movies or tuition, they say the real benefits were something more valuable: lessons about life, appreciation for their education, and sometimes even romance and a sense of calling.

Job One

EDITED BY DUANE BEESON AND AMANDA KUNDERT
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE MALEC



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, they would say it was my own fault. I needed to make the most of the day no matter what I was doing—something I still remember today.

Renee (Nyhof '10) Wielenga
SIOUX CENTER, IOWA

Class Act

Doing my work-study under Dr. Dick Van Holland '58 helped me see all that goes into teaching, and it helped me hone my organizational skills. Dick impressed upon me how I need to get to know my students and invest in them by attending their athletic events and concerts. His care for students made an impact on how I treated mine during 11 years teaching high school, and it still affects me today as I teach at NWC.

Scott Bahrke '01
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

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!

Brenda (Pool '88) Keene
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

Bathroom Duty

You haven't lived until you've found yourself on your hands and knees in front of a urinal in Heemstra Hall scraping stained wax off the floor with a razor blade! I learned there are two kinds of jobs in this world: those you shower before and those you shower after. 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.

Matt Austin '05
ORANGE CITY, IOWA



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 from the rafters in the gym. "Don't let go" was a common phrase.

Adam Halford '06
SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

Photo Finish

I learned many things from working as a photographer for the *Beacon*. 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.

Jenni (Sybesma '09) Ochsner
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

Room With a View

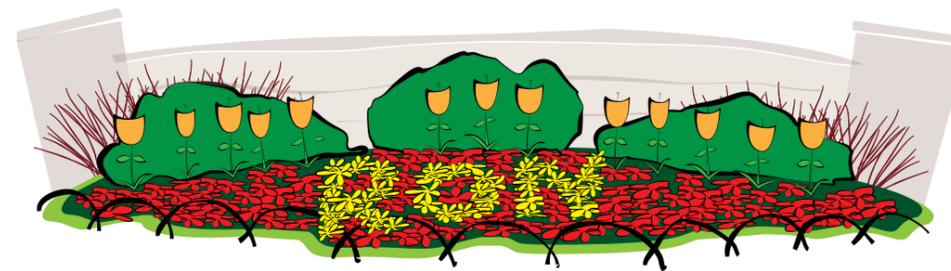
My student supervisor at the switchboard, Bethany (Hegstad '08) Swart, was a dear friend who would often work when I was there. Our basement office in Zwemer Hall had one little window, and watching people through it—while they were unaware—became a highlight of our time. Bethany took special joy in 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.

Jessi (Matson '07) Copeland
WORTHING, S.D.

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.

Karla (De Boer '92) Ven Huizen
SHELDON, IOWA



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.

Becky (Vermeer '99) Hiemstra
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

Office Mentor

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. Deb's example continues to affect how I treat people in my career.

Bryce Book '09
DAKOTA DUNES, S.D.

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 Peurse 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 bench, 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.

Michelle (Mether '11) Bergst
SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

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! 
Ann Iversen '93
SUNNYVALE, CALIF.



STRONGMAN

Powerlifter Jona Leo raises the bar, setting bench press world record

BY TAMARA FYNARDT

On 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 (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 Lyncoln, 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 Boys Ranch, a Sioux Falls school and social services provider for at-risk boys. Leo and fellow Red Raiders Phil Brinks '05 and Mike Smit '07—who also live in the Sioux Falls area—raised funds to establish a weight room

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 sends 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 at 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 three who will make appearances at the world championships this year. In addition, 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 break it again." Tough talk. Thankfully he's got the guns to back it up. 🏠

Powerlifting

A strength sport, powerlifting resembles weightlifting but focuses on different lifts: the squat, bench press and deadlift. Leo has competed in all three lifts but now focuses just on bench press, his best event.

At competitions like the one where Leo set the world record, he attempts three lifts, each judged by six International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) referees. The lifter's technique must meet with the judges' approval for the lift to be scored.

Although not yet an Olympic event, powerlifting is recognized by the International Olympic Committee and is a sport in the World Games. An IPF athlete, Leo follows the same drug-testing protocols as Olympic athletes. IPF officials are lobbying the IOC to add powerlifting to the summer Olympic games.



Powerlifter Jona Leo has won three national bench press titles and one world title, which he'll defend at the 2014 world championships in Denmark in May.

Leo's training regimen includes working out five days a week and consuming around 350 grams of protein a day to maintain impressive muscle mass, including his 22-inch biceps.

GREG LATZA

class Notes

'65 **Leland Foreman** retired as pastor of First Baptist Church in Fremont, Neb., and now directs the adult choir at United Faith Community in Valley, Neb. His wife, **Jean (Palsma '68)**, is a group leader in Bible Study Fellowship.

'71 **Joyce (Ubben) Den Hartog** teaches special education at Fulda (Minn.) Elementary School. Her husband, **Benson '70**, is the chaplain at Good Samaritan Home in Windom.

'73 **John VandeWeerd** retired in July after 39 years in education—15 years in teaching/coaching and 24 years in administration. He was most recently the principal at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School in Alton for 14 years. In 2005 he was named the Area Education Agency 4 Middle School Principal of the Year.

'78 **Terry Van Berkum**, Rock Rapids, Iowa, was named a 2013 Class 2A Iowa Football Coaches Association Assistant Football Coach of the Year. He is a teacher and coach in the Central Lyon School District.

'83 **Jeff Taylor** is the author of a recent book entitled *Politics on a Human Scale: The American Tradition of Decentralism*. He is a professor of political science at Dordt College.

'90 **Cheri Waggoner** started substitute teaching in the Chillicothe (Mo.) R-II School District last fall and was hired as a para-educator in the Chillicothe Middle School in January.

'92 **Israel Jacob**, Lynden, Wash., has been promoted to manager of Peoples Investments. He has been a financial planner for 19 years.

'93 **Dana (Smith) Daniels** serves as associate director of advancement at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich., where she is also enrolled as a student. Her husband, **Jim '98**, is pastor of Embody Christ Fellowship. They have two children: Alex (10) and Madalyn (8).

'95 **Tracy (Carter) Hatch**, Elko New Market, Minn., was appointed deputy commissioner, chief financial officer and chief operating officer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

'97 **Anna Minor**, Ovilla, Texas, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a ministry assistant to the minister of education and discipleship at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Cedar Hill.

Red Ties

MARK BLOEMENDAAL '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, once-in-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 reading the nominations 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 alumni director. It is humbling and gratifying.

While final selections are made by a committee of alumni board members, former honorees and Northwestern staff members, nominations are welcome and encouraged from all alumni. We do our best to keep informed about the accomplishments of Northwestern's graduates, but often we simply are not aware of what many of you are doing.

Is there anyone among the NWC alumni you know—a classmate, parent, child, spouse, or friend from work, church or your community—who should be considered for a Distinguished Alumni Award? I urge you to nominate a person you think is making a difference professionally, as a volunteer, or for the cause of Northwestern.

Help us identify Northwestern's notables. Email me at alumni@nwciowa.edu to nominate someone whose achievements we should celebrate during Raider Days next October.



'99 **Andrew Manz** is a senior business process analyst for Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, Texas.

'02 **Angela (Brouwer) Wong**, Grimes, Iowa, is a deputy for the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

'03 **Brooke (Fister) Silberhorn**, Rockford, Ill., is a doctor of chiropractic at Blackman Chiropractic. She and her husband, Jason, have two daughters: Harley (7) and Ashlyn (1).

Tim Vander Ploeg is an assistant track and field coach at Northwestern.

'04 **Peter Boerema** is Northwestern's new director of campus safety and environmental health. He and his wife, **Megan (Blunck '05)**, have three children: twins Ashleigh and Anna (5) and James (1).

Micah Van Otterloo is a lieutenant on the Spencer (Iowa) Police Department. His wife, **Laura (Boote '03)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

'05 **Jessica (Dornink) Rollins** has worked for several years in agriculture education and communication, holding positions with such organizations as South Dakota Pork Producers and Archer Daniels Midland before joining the technical services and marketing teams of DuPont Pioneer in Mankato, Minn.

Drew Schmidt is in his first year as an assistant professor of theatre at Northwestern. He served NWC the last four years as an audiovisual technician after earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in lighting and sound design at Illinois State University.

'06 **Rosalyn (De Haan) De Koster** is director of youth ministries at American Reformed Church in Orange City.

'07 **Brett Boote** completed a master's degree in chemistry from Illinois State University and is now an instructional assistant professor in chemistry there. His wife, **Emily (Gaalswyk '10)**, continues to work as a registered nurse at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.



Irwin Symens calls the 1951 Massey Harris he painted pink for breast cancer awareness his "tribute tractor."

Pink Power

In Marshall County, S.D., where Irwin Symens '56 lives, donations to fund breast cancer research exceeded those from any other small county in the state last year. The American Cancer Society marked its sixth straight year of setting fundraising records in the county, and Symens' wife, Cleo, serves as chairwoman of Relay for Life, the organization's annual event.

All the money in the world, however, couldn't prepare them for the call from their daughter, Susan, in March 2011, saying she had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It was kind of a shock," Symens says. So he did what any grieving farmer might do: He painted his tractor pink. With one last look at the paint job he had ordered a decade before that returned the 1951 Massey Harris to its original yellow and red, Symens asked the body shop for all pink, to represent breast cancer awareness. And for purple wheels, to honor survivors.

Each time Symens displays the tractor—at Relay for Life parades or a benefit for a local family battling the disease—he shows a poster listing the names of cancer survivors in his family and those they've lost. Susan, thankfully, is on the survivor list.

"People ask when I'm going to paint it back. I say I'll paint it back when they find a cure."

BY AMY SCHEER

Raider Days

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Oct. 24–25, 2014

Plan to attend Raider Days this fall! The celebration will include beloved traditions like the Morning on the Green family carnival and Raider football—as well as reunions for the classes of '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, '04, '09 and '14.



Ah, the caf'. What do you remember about your favorite meal or never-miss treat? Strangest food combinations, most epic food fight or longest conversation? Tell us your stories for a future feature in the *Classic*.

classic@nwciowa.edu



The Rev. Carl Boersma is serving as president of the Reformed Church in America's General Synod for 2013-14. His tenure will culminate at Synod in June.

Pointing to Jesus

After more than three decades of local and regional ministry in the Reformed Church in America (RCA), the Rev. Carl Boersma '75 finds his leadership expanding beyond Faith Reformed Church in Brookings, S.D., to the entire denomination.

As the current president of the RCA General Synod, his calendar is filled with meetings, speaking engagements and trips to share the RCA's new 15-year strategic goal and his personal passion, "Transformed and Transforming: Radically Following Christ in Mission Together." Boersma views his role as one of informing and inspiring, following the tradition set by last year's General Synod president, the Rev. Tom Smith '75, Boersma's NWC roommate.

Though Boersma is not blind to the hurdles to faith in American culture, he is encouraged by what he sees in the RCA today. "I've been richly blessed by the many servant-hearted, Christ-following people with compassionate hearts who just want to fulfill their call in the power of the Spirit."

The RCA's 15-year goal and its accompanying priorities, passed during General Synod 2013, will see fruition the same year the denomination celebrates its 400th anniversary in the United States, a milestone Boersma eagerly anticipates.

"I can't even begin to imagine the potential impact for Christ over the next 15 years. It's a joy to just be pointing people to Jesus," he says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

'08 **Katie Gard** earned a master's degree in transformational urban leadership from Azusa Pacific University. She recently returned to the States from Manila, Philippines, where she spent two years as an intern with Servant Partners.

Angela (Jiskoot) Ten Clay was selected for the Community Connect mentorship program in Des Moines. The program seeks to inspire future leaders through mentoring relationships. She is a senior marketing specialist at TMG Financial Services.

'09 **Bryce Book**, Dakota Dunes, S.D., is the supervisor of gas transportation and special projects for MidAmerican Energy Company.

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

'11 **Westley Garcia** 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.

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

'12 **Justin Karmann** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Juliana Pennings is Orange City's new Tulip Festival and community tourism director.

'13 **Brett Amiotte** is an assistant national bank examiner at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Sioux City.

Annaliese Cloeter is a registered nurse at Bryan Health in Lincoln, Neb.

Mallory Cunard is a personal trainer at Work It Out Fitness in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Carrie Engen teaches Spanish at Marshall County High School in Newfolds, Minn.

Matthew Eriksen, La Mirada, Calif., is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Biola University's Talbot Seminary.

Nathan Fischer teaches third grade at Orange City Elementary School.

Jolyssa Ginkens, Waukee, Iowa, teaches kindergarten at Walnut Hills Elementary School.

Andrea Hallberg is pursuing a doctoral degree in molecular and cellular biology at the University of Iowa.

Melissa Hassman is a bilingual services assistant at the Sioux Center (Iowa) Public Library.

Brianna Hobbs, Omaha, is a personal trainer at Fortitude Performance.

Jaclyn (Moret) Hoekstra, Sioux Falls, is an audit associate at Eide Bailly.

Jeffrey Hubers is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary.

Amanda Hussman, Davenport, Iowa, is attending Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Jennifer Kahanic is working on a master's degree in international human rights from Denver University.

Taylor Kelley is pursuing a master's degree in social work from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y.

Erin Kiel is a customer service specialist at Quatro Composites in Orange City.

Abigail Korthals, Des Moines, is a pricing analyst at Nationwide Insurance.

Nathan Mastbergen teaches language arts at Opelousas (La.) Junior High School.

Sadie Mennen, Muncie, Ind., is pursuing a master's degree in counseling from Ball State University.

Erica Miller works as a reintegration social worker at St. Francis Community Services in Hutchinson, Kan.

Kyler Mulder is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Des Moines University.

Leah (Dykstra) Nonnemacher is a registered nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minn.

Erin Ogden, Loves Park, Ill., is in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Northern Illinois University.

Jeremy Paxston is an inside sales/consulting administrator for RK Dixon in Davenport, Iowa.

Patrice Peters, Orange City, teaches special education at MOC-Floyd Valley High School.

Katie Raab is pursuing a master's degree in social work from Aurora (Ill.) University.

Brooke (Faber) Rozeboom is a Title 1 K-2 teacher at Rock Valley (Iowa) Elementary School.

Beverly Rubel is working on master's degrees in mental health and art therapy counseling at Emporia State University in Kansas.

Brandon Schuler is an audit assistant at Deloitte in Davenport, Iowa.

Brandon Smith, New Ulm, Minn., is a financial adviser at Strategic Wealth Consulting.

Ali Sondreal is pursuing a master's degree in theatre directing from the University of East London.

Holly Stewart is the volunteer coordinator at The Bridge transitional housing in Orange City.

Tony Vande Brake, Orange City, is a financial planner at Van Rooyen Financial Group.

Carley Van Hal teaches first grade at East Marshall Primary School in Laurel, Iowa.

Amy Van Skike is attending the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa.

Jordan Vermeer is a retail clerk at Jackson Lake Lodge in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.

Tanya Woodward, Kijabe, Kenya, teaches middle school English at Rift Valley Academy.

New arrivals

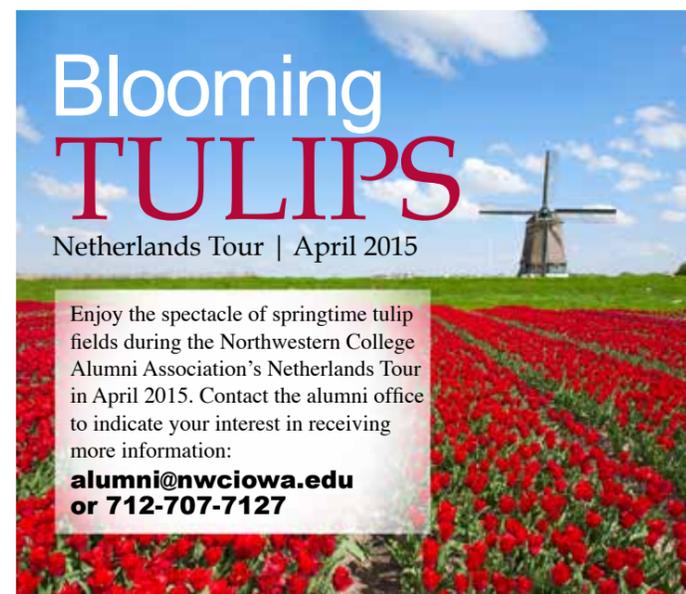
Tony and **Amy (Vanden Bosch '97) Keahi**, daughter, Acacia Zion

Kim VanGundy '98, son, Beckett Glenn Keli and **Andrew Manz '99**, son, Lincoln Edwin Allen, joins Jensen (6), Campbell (4) and Hatleigh (2)

Marie (Tilderquist '99) and Kyle Menke '99, daughter, Anna Beth, joins Elijah (7), Ava (6) and Emma (2)

Joel and **Christie (Rydell '99) Vos**, daughter, Emily Rachel, joins Josiah (7)

Rob and **Erin (Peters '99) Wilkens**, daughter, Selah Grace, joins Ky (6), Casey (4) and Jesse (1)



Enjoy the spectacle of springtime tulip fields during the Northwestern College Alumni Association's Netherlands Tour in April 2015. Contact the alumni office to indicate your interest in receiving more information:
alumni@nwciowa.edu
or **712-707-7127**

Joel and **Laura (Reimers '00) Stauffer**, son, Thomas Clayton, joins William (2) David and **Krista (Boltjes '01) Pendergrass**, son, Malachi Lewis, joins Finn (6), Will (5) and Bryce (3)

Marcie (Huff '02) and Jackson Schuiteman '01, son, Charlie Jackson, joins Grace (5) and Emma (3)

Nathan and **Janice (Zoetewey '03) Briggs**, son, Micah Alan, joins Kaylee (3)

Kelli (Hansen '03) and Tim Vander Ploeg '03, son, Chase Timothy, joins Conner (5) and Karli (4)

Laura (Boote '03) and Micah Van Otterloo '04, daughter, Cora Jean, joins Jackson (2)

Lee and **Heidi (Hagena '04) McCoy**, daughter, Greta Mae, joins Bennett (3) and Brigham (1)

Brian and **Kacey (Van Dyke '04) McQuilkin**, daughter, Wren Avery, joins Logan (7) and Piper (4)

Natalie and **Brandon Rounds '04**, son, Barrett Henry, joins Daivney (5) and Neely (3)

Emily (Gaalswyk '10) and Brett Boote '07, son, John William
Michelle (Mether '11) and Chris Bergst '09, daughter, Kelsey Julia
Jessica (Vander Velde '11) and Tyler Glanzer '10, daughter, Savannah Faye
Ashley (Evans '12) and Jacob Anderson '10, son, Brock Jacob

Marriages

Orville Kool '51 and Marlys Koens '59, Rochester, Minn.

Angela Brouwer '02 and Chong Wong, Grimes, Iowa
Ryan Davelaar '02 and Erin Roe, Arnolds Park, Iowa

Jessica Dornink '05 and Grant Rollins, Pemberton, Minn.

Rosalyn De Haan '06 and Philip De Koster, Hull, Iowa
Kevin Sas '07 and Brianna Perez, Milwaukee

Audra Schmidt '08 and Lorme Jourdan, Orlando, Fla.

Ellen Schuch '09 and Caleb Edgar, Kansas City, Mo.
Hollyann Elton '11 and Dan Huygens, Sioux Falls

Rachel Rager '11 and Brian Klett, West Des Moines, Iowa
Brandon Hammack '13 and **Natasha Fernando '13**, Marshall, Minn.

Nolan and Trista (Knoke '09) Pitt, son, Korver Drake Ryan

The couples reside in the city listed.

Red Raider Golf Classic
Friday, June 6
8 a.m. and 1 p.m. tee times
Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City

Head to the links and support Red Raider athletics by playing in our annual four-person scramble.

Register: www.nwcraiders.com/red-raider-classic or contact Kyle Achterhoff, 712-707-7282 or achterhk@nwciowa.edu



CHRISTAN (FULLER '04) FERRELL

Sarah Greenwood (pictured) founded The Language Project, a company that teaches foreign languages to children through small-group immersion classes, in Spain. Former soccer teammate Chrystan Ferrell became a partner and helped expand the firm in the U.S.

The Business of Friendship

Sarah Greenwood '05 and Chrystan (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 11 years old in after-school clubs, daycares and in-home programs.

The company is the fulfillment of an entrepreneurial dream Greenwood developed during her study abroad semester in Spain. Launching TLP in 2009 in Spain, she hoped to someday expand to the United States. That dream became a reality when Ferrell, who directed a large childcare facility, offered to pilot the program in her center in 2012. Seeing the results, she was sold and soon became a partner in the company, which now serves 45 locations across five states.

Greenwood and Ferrell, both married with children, say their partnership is a lot like a marriage. "You have to be committed every single day to one another," Ferrell said. "It has really deepened our relationship."

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

In Memoriam

John Reinders '33 died Nov. 16 in Fremont, Mich., at age 97. He was a longtime farmer in the Orange City area and served a term as president of the Farmers Cooperative board of directors. He was a member of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church. He is survived by two sons.

Betty (Giesen '42) De Jong died Oct. 18 in Orange City at age 88. 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 Bowman '73** and **Wayne '78**.

Dr. Robert Van Citters '44 died Dec. 7 in Edmonds, Wash. He served in the Army and then earned bachelor's and medical degrees at the University of Kansas. During his 39-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 Muyskens '48, Orange City, died Jan. 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 Sioux Center High School before joining the staff at NWC. Over 29 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 to the Mission of Northwestern Award. He is survived by his wife, **Pat (Oelrich '49, '65)**; two daughters, including **Debra '78**; and a brother, **Joe '49, '51**.

Minerva (De Beer '52, '54) Van Peurse, age 79, of Orange City, died Nov. 14. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she taught school in Alton. She later served as a nurse's aide, care coordinator and patient advocate at Orange City Municipal 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 Area Health System and was honored as the Iowa Volunteer of the Year. She is survived by her husband, Dave; two children, **Diane Broek '80** and **Robert '83**; and five siblings, including **Darlene Vander Aarde '50, '52**; **Marilyn Hoffs '54, '56**; **Ruth De Beer Wilson '56, '58**; and **Laura Peuse '67**.

Dr. Herbert Ritsema, professor of music at NWC from 1961 to 1992, died Oct. 14 at age 83. 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 minister 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: **Allyson Becker '75, Mark '77** and **Donovan '85**.



JENNI (SYBESMA '09) OCHSNER

Journalist and basketball fanatic Tom Westerholm is making a career out of covering his favorite team, the Boston Celtics, gaining attention as one of the team's official bloggers for ESPN.

He's Got Game

Celtics superfan Tom Westerholm '13 has written his ticket from couch to courtside sports reporting.

While in college and writing for classes and an online magazine he helped establish, the writing, rhetoric and journalism student also started writing about basketball, contributing to blogs for his two favorite teams, the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Boston Celtics.

After graduation, Westerholm worked as a newspaper journalist by day and blogged about basketball by night, capturing the attention of ESPN's TrueHoop network, which hosts team blogs and publishes select entries in their "Daily Dime" coverage of the NBA. Westerholm was added to the list of official bloggers for celticshub.com and makes an occasional appearance in the "Daily Dime," which is worth more than a few extra dimes in his paycheck.

With games nearly every weekend and at least two nights most weeks from November to June, Westerholm drafts around seven blog posts per week, speculating about the Celtics' prospects and marveling about the moves of point guard Rajon Rondo.

Just before March Madness (Westerholm tunes in for NCAA play too), he and his wife moved from Orange City to Springfield, Mass., where he was recently hired to cover sports for MassLive.com, a leading New England news source.

Westerholm's new job is a hoop dream: In addition to a press pass for area high school games, he now has credentials for in-person reporting on Beantown's team in green.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Follow Tom's hoop scoop on Twitter: @Tom_NBA.

Where in the world is NWC?

Jennie Jansen '13 proudly wore her volleyball practice shirt and warm-up pants when playing with children at the Missionaries of Charity orphanage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while student teaching. How far have you gone to promote Northwestern? Send us a photo of you in Raider attire and it might get printed in a future *Classic*.

Email classic@nwciowa.edu

SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by May 5 to:

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101 7th Street SW • Orange City, IA 51041
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Name _____

Address _____

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Email _____

Current employer(s) _____

My news _____

Classic Thoughts

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 passes 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.

In my opinion, there was nothing special about the cinder block walls, the outdated lounge furniture, or the ubiquitous door decorations—except they were *ours*. Ours to call home. A place to belong and a place to discover where in the world God would call us.

The second floor of Hospers Hall became a sanctuary where our differences sparked community, not separation. When one of us was groaning over the flashcards for Anatomy and Physiology, the rest groaned alongside her. When I was hunkered down in the theatre building for a late night of programming lighting cues, the others brought me dinner. When still another was developing her senior psychology

research project, we all participated in her survey and then attended her presentation. Hospers was a home—even more, a family—where I could be fully myself while also belonging to something so much bigger than me.

Nearly eight years after graduation, I cannot imagine life without these women. They remind me who I am, and they trust me to return the favor. When we were juniors and cancer ended my mother's life, they drove four hours to attend her funeral. When I decided to go to seminary rather than pursue a career in theatre, they cheered 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.

We also took time to grieve. Brittany Caffey '06 is the friend who gave us the mugs and is also the current resident director of Hospers Hall. During our time together, she shared that Hospers will transition from female housing to male housing next fall. I cannot deny that there was a real feeling of loss.

And yet, the mugs are still accurate. Hospers is home. It has nothing to do with a building. It has everything to do with story, spirit and sisterhood. When male students move in next fall, I pray that they may find a way to add “brotherhood” to that list. Hospers, the building, has not been my home for a number of years. But Hospers, the experience and the community, will forever be part of who I am.

The Rev. Megan Hodgin '06 earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary and serves as minister of discipleship and missions at Fellowship Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.



Megan Hodgin (second from right) celebrates a wedding with former Hospers Hall wingmates.

DAVID KASPER

LEAVE A LEGACY



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 Ardele Hegstad Scholarship, established by the couple and supported by their family to invest in students preparing for careers in teaching.

Be intentional.

The Hegstads 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@nwciova.edu.



give.nwciova.edu • giving@nwciova.edu

Athlete Advocate



DAN ROSS

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 NIAA's Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year. Noordewier formerly served as president of the Great Plains

Athletic Conference and chair of the NIAA's Council of Faculty Athletics Administrators.