



Northwestern College Magazine

SPRING 2015

the Classic

Facing Race

NWC's vision for inclusion
is more than skin deep

Also

Remembering Ron Nelson
Students' Bucket Lists
A Surrogacy Story



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After an eight-year struggle with infertility, Chad and Stacey Baker are joyful parents, thanks to a friend who served as their gestational carrier.

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

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

On the cover:

As the faces of Northwestern students change, the college seeks to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body.

PHOTOS BY
FJ GAYLOR AND GEOFF JOHNSON



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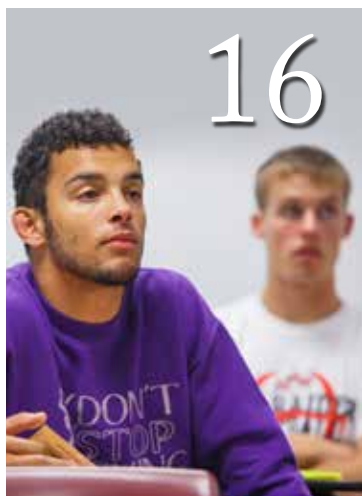
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Zwemer View



Private Higher Education: A Wise Investment

For several years, I've listened as the national media question the value of private higher education. Much has been written about tuition increases exceeding inflation rates. Most people don't understand that when the tuition "sticker price" increases, the net cost usually doesn't increase proportionally. In truth, many private institutions offer aid that keeps their net costs competitive with public institutions.

For example, our tuition was just over \$21,500 in 2007–08; this year's was just over \$27,500, an increase of 3.4 percent per year. Meanwhile, we have increased institutional financial aid by 6.4 percent annually, from \$10.3 million to \$15.7 million. This is certainly one of the reasons 97 percent of our students' parents say an NWC education is worth it.

Bottom line: Before assuming private higher education is too expensive, compare the real costs. Use the cost calculator found on every private college's website. You'll discover they're more affordable than you think.

There are several other myths perpetuated in the media regarding private colleges:

Fiction: Only the wealthy can afford private college.

Fact: Private colleges in Iowa educate around 4,000 more financially needy students than the three regents institutions combined.

Fiction: Public universities are less expensive.

Fact: Private colleges can be less expensive when you pair generous aid with the fact that more private college students (78 percent) graduate in four years or less.

Fiction: Private college graduates have way more debt.

Fact: Average loan debt for Iowa's private college graduates is around \$31,600—not much higher than the debt for public university grads, \$28,300.

Fiction: Private college grads can't get jobs.

Fact: Ninety-five percent of Northwestern alumni are employed or in graduate school within six months after graduation.

Ultimately, the value of any college education is proven in its graduates. The intimate class environments of private colleges pay dividends in genuine learning and mentoring relationships that shape students' character and knowledge. Numerous studies show that graduates of private colleges are more engaged in their community during and after college than their public institution peers. Indeed, the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes 18 Iowa private colleges, including NWC.

The ability to understand and engage with one's neighbors is needed in our culture more than ever. And it's an "outcome" of the education private colleges offer that is just as important as high placement rates. We want our graduates to have successful careers, but we also want to prepare them for thoughtful leadership in their communities.

For value-added outcomes like an educated, engaged citizenry, some college choices are better than others and worth the investment. The track record of private colleges for producing these kinds of graduates and delivering an affordable education is impressive—and that's the truth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Greg Christy".

Greg Christy
President

Versions of this article were previously published as op-eds in the Des Moines Register and Sioux City Journal. My last column was also edited from my Fall Convocation speech and borrowed from the wisdom of Bill Robinson, president emeritus of Whitworth University. I regret that the edited version failed to cite Dr. Robinson.

around the Green

Learning Overseas

Northwestern students will head to the Middle East and Eastern Europe this summer for programs offered by the college's global education office.

Theatre professors Jeff and Karen Barker will lead a trip to Israel and Palestine, where students will learn about that region's culture through dramas found in

the Old Testament. They'll stay in homes, convents and youth hostels while exploring Israel's language, land and theatre—both ancient and modern. Excursions will include Habima National Theatre in Tel Aviv, Mount Carmel, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

A study abroad trip to the Czech Republic will enable students to compare and contrast that nation's sports, fitness and leisure pursuits with those of the United States. Students will interact with Czech college students while staying at two universities. They'll also tour a Czech Olympic training center,

visit a famous mineral water spa town, and explore castles and villages. Dr. Paul Bartlett, professor of kinesiology, and Carrie (Carlson '95) Krohn, assistant track and cross country coach, are leading the class.

in Box

Blizzard Baby

The headline and pictures (of "Super Blizzard" in the winter issue) caught my attention. I immediately assumed the article would describe a recent storm in northwest Iowa. The second paragraph, however, assigned the blizzard to 1975; in fact, the Jan. 10 date quickly resurrected vivid memories.

Jan. 10, 1975, marked the third year of our marriage and my ministry in Woodstock, Minn., as well as the approaching birth of our first child. Our doctor ordered us to go to Pipestone if it looked like snow. On the 10th, snow began to fall; nevertheless, we didn't need to go yet because there was no sign of the impending birth.

Snow fell, and a friend called and asked if he should take us to Pipestone in his pickup. We declined. Soon it was too late to go, because birth pains started and a blizzard had created conditions in which no emergency vehicles were being dispatched. Heavy snowfall, 40-mph winds, and about 30-below-zero temperatures (with the wind chill, it was 80 below) meant our baby would be born at home.

Two friends came on snowmobiles and brought a retired nurse to the parsonage. Fortunately, we had electricity. Over the phone, our doctor ordered me to boil water—lots of it—and to sterilize a shoestring. Our daughter, Heidi, arrived in the early morning of Jan. 11. We had no bed for her because my father had built a cradle they planned to bring when they visited us in the hospital. Heidi spent her first night on earth in a cardboard box on an end table.

An ambulance came about mid-day to take Marion and Heidi to the hospital. We tease Heidi that she has been a "blizzard" ever since. We will never forget our connection to Jan. 10–11, 1975! For us, indeed, the storm was a "Super Blizzard," as we possess super memories tied to that date and event.

The Rev. Dr. Leon ('68) and Marion Te Paske ('71) Draayer
Mira Loma, Calif.

Milk Run

I enjoyed the article on the blizzard of '75. I was the director of Colenbrander Hall at that time. Cafeteria Manager Keith Miller and I had the only two four-wheel-drive vehicles on campus, and by Sunday night we were both able to make a milk run to a storage area across town for more supplies, but it wasn't easy.


Regarding your Red Zone coverage in the winter issue, I send congratulations to the 2014 Red Raider cross country team on placing 21st out of 36 teams at nationals. I'm not sure if the reference to "their best-ever performance" is related to the modern era or NWC harrier history, as the teams of 1978 and 1979 also recorded 21st-place finishes out of 46 teams, and the '79 team was 10 points from 17th place.

Stan McDowell '74
Cross country coach, 1974–80
Lander, Wyo.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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Students' service of more than 52,000 hours led to Northwestern's inclusion in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the eighth year in a row.

Honored for Service

For the eighth consecutive year, Northwestern has been included in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of the college's strong commitment to volunteerism, service learning and civic engagement.

Honorees are chosen based on several factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable outcomes.

During the 2012–13 academic year, Northwestern students volunteered more than 52,000 hours of service. Over 400 students were enrolled in one of 35 courses that integrated a service-learning component, and 546 students were involved in non-academic service projects, including Spring Service Projects, Summer of Service trips and Project Serve outreach.

New Music

Two NWC music professors have recently won awards for their composing talents.

Dr. Luke Dahn won the 2014 John Donald Robb Composers' Competition hosted by the University of New Mexico. His piece, *Buffalo Dance*, was written for alto saxophone and piano.

Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson took first place in a hymn-writing contest sponsored by Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

New in the Classroom

Dr. Tyler Scott joined the faculty in January as an assistant professor of physics. He comes from Clemson University, where he completed a doctorate in engineering and science education and served as a teaching and research assistant since 2007. He holds two other degrees in physics: a master's from Clemson and a bachelor's from Bob Jones University.



Tyler Scott

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Creative Bravery

"There are two antidotes to meaningless work: creativity and courage." With those words of advice to Northwestern students, Grammy winner Steve Taylor opened the college's seventh Day of Learning in Community. Taylor was the featured speaker for the Feb. 18 event, which explored "The Art of Courage."

A filmmaker and record producer as well as a musician, Taylor began as a recording artist in the 1980s. He has toured internationally and sold more than a million albums worldwide. He produced albums for the Newsboys and Sixpence None the Richer and

directed Sixpence's music video for *Kiss Me*, which was featured on VH1.

After Taylor's keynote address, campus and community members were invited to engage with art through art-making demonstrations; hands-on creative activities; and lectures, discussions and performances that explored courageous artists and artistry.

Music students performed songs composed in response to World War I, nursing students guided attendees through art therapy sessions, and social work students created a sight-and-sound installation that enabled



participants to walk through a seemingly benign setting while victims of domestic violence described their experiences. Other sessions explored the psychology of music and the neuroscience of artistic effort and experiences.

The DLC ended with a screening of Taylor's latest film, *Blue Like Jazz*, based on Donald Miller's book of the same title, followed by a discussion with the director.

Endowed Professor Appointment

Dr. Lila (Elliott '81) Sybesma, a professor who specializes in reading and early childhood education, has been appointed to the James and Margaret Blekkink Endowed Education Professorship. She joined the faculty in 2001 after teaching at Sioux Center Christian School for 19 years. She is a former president of the Northwest Iowa Reading Council and has led numerous workshops for teachers. Sybesma holds a Doctor of Education degree in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis in early childhood education, from the University of South Dakota.

Endowed chairs provide annual funds that can be used for research, the purchase of equipment or materials, travel to pursue research, or assistance to student researchers. Criteria for the appointments include having a distinguished record as an outstanding teacher; being recognized for scholarly and leadership contributions to their discipline; having provided exemplary service to the department, NWC and the larger community; and having demonstrated a commitment to the college's mission.



Lila Sybesma is the latest recipient of the James and Margaret Blekkink Endowed Education Professorship, which provides funds for research efforts.

FI GAYLOR

Campus Life

On Screen



Cinematographer Justine Johnson records a breakfast scene for one of the TENTS episodes.

A cast and crew of about 20 Northwestern students worked nights and weekends for months in an effort to help people not feel alone. The result is a six-episode video series, "TENTS: Something Built Together," completed in April and available at facebook.com/tentstogether.

The shows, ranging in length from about five minutes to 11, feature five main characters. All are dealing with struggles that can make them feel isolated: Asperger's syndrome, dyslexia, self-harm, sexual harassment and Tourette syndrome.

Through relationships developed or strengthened at the fictional Tents Coffee Shop, they find acceptance and encouragement.

Screenwriter Amber Beyer developed the script for the series last summer after a late-night talk with several friends. As Justine Johnson was discussing her desire to make a film before graduation, they were also talking about people who were going through challenges and feeling invisible.

"Our idea was to build a 'tent,' a safe place to come together and not feel alone," says Beyer. "The video grew out of our desire to tell people's stories and educate others to better walk alongside them."

Without a budget, Beyer, Johnson, director Julia VanDyk and others auditioned students for roles in the fall and began filming this semester. The first episode was completed in March, with the others released weekly until a viewing party featuring all six was held in the college's England Theatre in late April.

Inside Tents

The five main characters in "TENTS: Something Built Together" are:

Theodore: The founder of Tents Coffee Shop, he struggles to communicate orally because of Asperger's syndrome. Poetry enables him to express himself.

Elie: Dyslexia makes it hard for her to focus on her studies. The quiet atmosphere of Tents helps her relax.

Nicky: Elie's roommate, she's considering dating Seth but is held back by memories of sexual harassment.

Tyler: New in town, she finds that baking at Tents is her outlet for dealing with Tourette syndrome.

Seth: He uses self-harm to help him survive the stress of college.

Returning



Northwestern set a record with 95 percent of this year's freshmen returning for the spring semester.

Northwestern recorded its highest rate of freshman retention this year, as 95 percent returned for the spring semester. In addition, the retention rate for the entire student body was high; 93 percent of all students, except those who graduated in December, returned.

"These strong retention rates tell us students are having their expectations met at Northwestern," says Kenton Pauls, dean of enrollment management. "The rates are among many indicators that point to our students having great experiences in and out of the classroom."

The spring enrollment figures also set a record for the number of students enrolled only in online programs: 71.

Mission Leader

Dr. John Hubers '76, assistant professor of religion, has been elected to serve as president of the Midwest Mission Studies Fellowship. The organization is comprised of professors and scholars in the area of Christian missions and intercultural studies from Christian colleges, universities and seminaries in the Midwest.

Summer Research Grants

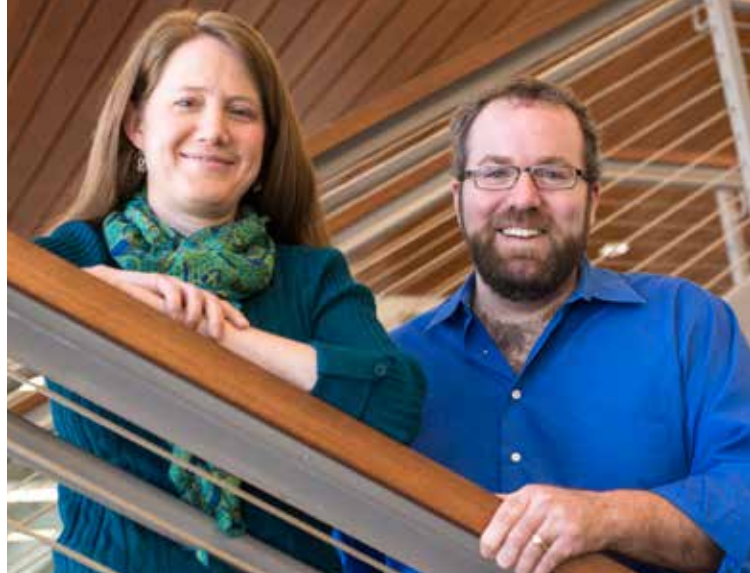
Northwestern professors will spend part of the summer studying an experiential learning program in Romania and working on a novel about an Israeli-Arab writer, thanks to Endowed Research Fellowship grants from NWC.

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, psychology, was awarded a grant of \$10,000 to support her study of the long-term effects of experiential education, including service learning. She plans to survey former participants of programs offered by New Horizons Foundation, Northwestern's partner in the Transylvania Semester. The

organization operates youth clubs in Romania designed to teach high school students active citizenship, job skills, social entrepreneurship and leadership abilities.

Feenstra will spend part of this summer in the Eastern European nation, developing and administering a survey so she can analyze and present its results during the school year. The survey will build on her previous study of experiential education, volunteering and vocation, as well as her work as a Fulbright Scholar in Romania in 2011-12.

Dr. Sam Martin, English,



DOUG BUNG

Drs. Jennifer Feenstra and Sam Martin have been awarded Endowed Research Fellowship grants from NWC.

was granted \$5,000 to conduct on-site research in Israel and Palestine as he prepares for his third novel, which will have an Israeli-Arab writer as one of two main characters. His book will explore the consequences of how a

contemporary writer imagines God and others, as well as the conflict between an author's intent and how his work is received.

Among the Best Values

Northwestern has been named among the nation's 50 Best Value Christian Colleges and Universities by ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org.

Focusing on institutions' net tuition cost and the juxtaposition of quality with affordability, the best value list uses data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics and follows the methodology employed by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The site's commentary highlights Northwestern's low student-to-faculty ratio and high retention and graduation rates. No other colleges from Iowa, Nebraska or South Dakota are included in the rankings.

Northwestern is also included on the website's list of 50 Christian Colleges Exceeding Expectations, based on predicted and actual graduation rates.



Moving On

During his 33 years on the maintenance staff, Lee Hofland was known for keeping a level head, no matter what challenge came his way.

That came in handy years ago in the old maintenance building when a skid loader started on fire. While some of his colleagues' hearts started beating faster, Hofland nonchalantly put out the fire, replaced the wire that caused the problem, started up the machine and went on with his work. No big deal.

Hofland retired in February from a job that had him doing everything over the years from transplanting trees and installing sprinklers to changing light bulbs atop 20-foot scaffolding and catching bats in the Rowenhorst Student Center. In recent years, his primary responsibility was in the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center.

"Lee's always been a very steady worker, always interested in getting to know the students he's around," says Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations.

Calm and steady.

JENNI (SYBESMA '09) OCHSNER

New Science Major

Biology students headed to research or genetic counseling careers will now be able to prepare with a new major in genetics, molecular biology and cellular biology (GMBCB).

The new major joins three other options for biology students: a biology major (for students interested in biology teaching), an ecological science major, and a biology-health professions major.

The GMBCB major is intended to prepare students for fields other than health care, says Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma, who helped develop the program. "Right now, our biology-health professions major is the default choice for students pursuing biomedical research, biotechnology, genetic counseling, or other careers or graduate programs that are not explicitly health professions," she explains.

"Some students have experienced scrutiny of their applications because programs and employers believe the label 'health professions' suggests they really intended to enter medical school or another health care field but failed to get in. The GMBCB major provides these students with a degree that more accurately reflects their graduate school and career goals."

Students in the GMBCB track will take fewer health care-related classes and instead complete a research experience or internship.



Library Director

Greta Grond, a member of Northwestern's library staff since 2007, has been named the director of the college's DeWitt Library.

"Greta has a clear vision for the role of a Christian liberal arts college library in a rapidly changing environment, a collegial approach to leadership, and a commitment to work with faculty, staff and students to establish priorities for the library," says Dr. Jasper Lesage, provost. "I'm looking forward to seeing her build on a strong program and work with an outstanding staff to accomplish strategic goals for Northwestern."

Grond joined Northwestern's staff as a project assistant before becoming a research and systems



librarian in 2011. She has served as interim director of the library since last summer, when Dr. Tim Schlak left to become library director at

Robert Morris University.

Grond has extensive experience in developing websites and marketing strategies, which she

plans to use in her new position.

"The library world is changing rapidly, and we need to be nimble and innovative when responding to the changes technology is making possible," says Grond. "Northwestern students have critical questions, and the library should be able to provide the resources, services and technologies to support their inquiries."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern University, Grond earned a master's degree in library and information science from Wayne State University.

Face Value

Critical Acclaim

A play by junior Jacob Christiansen shared first prize in the 10-Minute Play competition at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) in January. He wrote *Choices*, about a woman ending an affair, last fall.

The technical artistry of two other students was also recognized at KCACTF. Sound design by Rowan Sullivan, a senior, placed second. Sullivan designed sound for *Faustus*. And sophomore Carolyn Hopkins received honorable mention for the costumes she designed for *The Power and the Glory*.

Accounting for Excellence

Northwestern's accounting program was ranked highly in a recent study of programs at Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) schools.

A paper presented at the annual conference of the 2014 Christian Business Faculty Association reported that Northwestern's students achieved the 10th highest pass rate for the 2012 CPA exam among CCCU schools.

The study also ranked NWC second in "learning gain," comparing each college's CPA exam pass rate ranking to the ACT/SAT scores of its incoming freshmen, suggesting Northwestern accounting students are getting a strong return on their educational investment.

The research, conducted by Southeastern University faculty members, indicates NWC students are as prepared for the CPA exam as those at large research universities.

Harlan VanOort

Reverend Red Raider

What have been some of your favorite memories as Northwestern's chaplain?

I remember with joy traveling with students on Spring Service Projects to such sites as Bluefields, Nicaragua, Jacksonville, Fla., and Denver; listening to students talk about life-changing experiences in chapel; watching students discover new ideas; and hearing them tell how God has called them to an adventure of service in God's kingdom. It's really fun to be a part of these experiences, and I hope my favorite memory is still ahead.

What was the best sermon you've heard preached in Christ Chapel?

Senior Brittany Vollmer [who lost her parents and two siblings in an automobile accident] offered one of the most powerful messages I have ever heard anywhere in a Sunday night Praise & Worship service last year. She spoke from 2 Corinthians 4:16–18, "We do not lose heart." If anyone would be tempted to lose heart, it would be her. But by faith, she looks to what cannot be seen.

You've helped students raise SSP funds by offering to dye your hair blue. Would you ever shave off your mustache for money?

My mustache is my wife's decision. Once, I shaved it before a trip, and she joked that if I didn't come home with the mustache, I need not come home at all.

You served as a pastor in Yakima, Wash., and at American Reformed Church in Orange City. What does each community have to offer?

Yakima has the best weather in the world—all of the seasons, but none severe. But I do like living in Orange City and the lack of traffic. I never expected to live here, or for 20 years, or to like it this much. I appreciate the compassion and the faithfulness of the people in both places.



DOUG BURG

Harlan VanOort '82 has served as the college's chaplain since 2003. Students follow his thoughtful advice as well as his Twitter account, @RevRedRaider. Some even learn home-improvement skills from him while working together on service projects.

Before you became a pastor, you worked as an electrician. How did you get into that line of work?

In high school and after, I worked as an electrician for my dad. I treasure the wisdom I gained from him and the sermon illustrations I still use.

What do you do to unwind?

I love to garden, read and play racquetball. I probably don't unwind much. But then again, I try not to get too wound up in the first place.



Dr. Laird Edman has been selected to participate as a senior scholar in a series of research seminars on religion and science.

Oxford Bound

Northwestern psychology professor Dr. Laird Edman has been selected as one of just 25 faculty members from around the world to participate in a series of research seminars on religion and science in Oxford, England.

Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford, in partnership with the UK Centre of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, will host a series of seminars on "Bridging the Two Cultures" in August 2015 and July 2016. Edman will work alongside theologians, historians, philosophers, and social and natural scientists on topics of science and religion. He is also among a select group of senior scholars who will spend time mentoring younger professors and presenting workshops.

During his sabbatical last year, Edman worked with Dr. Justin Barrett of Fuller Theological Seminary on a book about cognitive and psychological issues related to worship and discipleship. Barrett is on the advisory board for the Oxford seminars.

Edman specializes in the cognitive science of religion, critical thinking and emotional intelligence. He earned a doctorate in educational psychology that focused on cognition and learning from the University of Minnesota, as well as master's degrees in counseling psychology and English literature from the University of Notre Dame.

September Opening

Work continues on the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse, with college officials announcing in December the building's fundraising goal has been met.

"We had a number of new donors who were excited about what this project means for Northwestern," says Jay Wielenga '82, vice president for advancement. "Because so many different sports will benefit, our donors represented a wide variety of athletic backgrounds."

Footings and foundation walls were poured in the fall, but a two-month delay in the delivery of the building's pre-fabricated components pushed back the anticipated opening from summer to late September.

Once the metal exterior walls and steel trusses, beams and columns arrived in February, construction crews were able to enclose the large

indoor practice space for football, baseball, softball and soccer. Still to be completed is the north end of the building, which will house a practice and training area for golf, a weight room for athletes, restrooms and storage space.

The building's electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning systems will be finished during the summer, as will masonry, floors and cabinetry. Last to be installed are the synthetic turf for the practice area, specialized practice screens and nets for various sports, and flooring for the weight room.

The \$3.1 million, 33,000-square-foot facility will be accessible from a main north entrance and from a corridor connecting the fieldhouse to the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center.



Plans call for dedication of the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse on Friday, Oct. 2, as part of Raider Days.

Educating Master Teachers

Within a week of the announcement that Northwestern is offering Master of Education degrees, the program already had more than 10 applicants, and the number continues to grow. The first classes begin May 13.

On Feb. 3 the college received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer graduate degrees, enabling educators who want to take their careers to new levels to earn a Northwestern College master's degree in one of two tracks: early childhood education or teacher leadership. Either degree can be earned in two years or less, entirely online.

The early childhood master's degree prepares graduates for positions as early childhood administrators, specialists or consultants. The M.Ed. in teacher leadership is for educators interested in career opportunities as instructional coaches, peer mentors, lead grade-level teachers or other positions of leadership or mentorship. In addition to Northwestern education professors, expert instructors for the program include adjuncts Katy (Shelp '92)



CHERIE PHELPS

Classes begin in May for new NWC online master's degree programs in early childhood education and teacher leadership.

Evenson and Sherry (Stubbs '81) Vanderploeg.

"Northwestern has a reputation for producing excellent teachers because our alumni win teaching awards and prove the effectiveness of our student-centered 'teacher as servant' philosophy in schools all over the world," says President Greg Christy. "I'm pleased we are now a place where teachers can earn graduate degrees and propel themselves into roles where they

can influence even greater numbers of students."

Northwestern's education department is one of only four in Iowa accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

For more information about the Master of Education degrees—as well as other online programs for adults and graduate students—visit online.nwciowa.edu.

Mission is our Business

In mid-March Northwestern received Higher Learning Commission approval to offer an online graduate certificate program in the management of international development. The four-course certificate is for individuals who want to improve their knowledge and skills for working on development and business projects among poor populations in developing countries.

Courses will cover world poverty and development, social enterprise, and nonprofit and international management. Students will benefit from the mentorship of program director Dr. David Befus, who has worked with Opportunity International, World Vision, the World Bank and the United Nations.

Classes begin Aug. 25. For information, visit online.nwciowa.edu.

Award-Winning Publications

Two fundraising publications produced by Northwestern's public relations office won gold awards in the 2015 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six awards competition.

Northwestern's Imagine Campaign report was developed for the 2013 event that celebrated raising more than \$48 million for the campaign. The brochure covered the impact the campaign had not just on facilities but also on students' learning through scholarship and academic program support.

Northwestern also received a gold award for the draft case statement produced in preparation for a capital campaign that is currently in the

silent phase. The publication was used by consultants in a readiness study to share preliminary campaign information with potential donors and to solicit feedback about the project's vision and goals.

Both publications were coordinated by Tamara Fynaardt, associate director of public relations.

This is the fifth consecutive year the public relations office has won at least two awards from CASE District Six.



Red Zone

Women's Basketball **All-American**

Karen Ettleman ended her Red Raider career as the school's eighth-best scorer and 10th-best blocker. The leading scorer in the Great Plains Athletic Conference with 22 points per game, she earned NAIA All-American second team honors, was named to the all-conference first team and was a two-time GPAC Player of the Week. Paige O'Neal also earned the weekly honor and was a second-team GPAC selection. Ettleman and O'Neal were chosen as All-American honorable mention selections by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. The Raiders went 17-12 on the season and were fifth in the conference with an 11-9 record.

Men's Basketball **Freshman of the Year**

Colton Kooima was named GPAC Freshman of the Year after averaging 14 points. He earned a spot on the all-conference second team; Jordan Baker and Nathan Wedel were honorable mention selections. The team finished 14-14 overall and ninth in the league with a 7-13 mark.

Indoor Track **Nine All-Americans**

Nine Raiders earned All-American honors at the national indoor track meet: Karen Ettleman, third in the pentathlon; Kyle Anderson, seventh in the 800; Skyler Giddings, seventh in the 1000; the fifth-place men's 4x800 team of Giddings, Logan Hovland, Elliott Johnson and Anderson; and the eighth-place women's 4x400 team of Megan Walhof, Katie Landhuis, Kendra Van Meeteren and Lauren

Spranger. The men's 4x800 squad of Anderson, Giddings, Ryan Weitgenant and Hans Epp won a GPAC title, as did Johnson in the 600 and Anderson in the 800. The men's team was fifth in the conference; the women placed seventh. Ettleman earned GPAC Women's Indoor Field Athlete of the Week after winning the long jump, placing second in the 55-meter race and finishing sixth in the 55-meter hurdles at the Dordt Invite.

Wrestling **Two at Nationals**

Tyree Cox, 174, and Randall Null, 184, qualified for nationals. Cox won the North Qualifier title in his weight class. Brandon Schuler, 165, was named to the GPAC second team. Cox, Null and Tyler Schaefer, 184, earned honorable mention

Scholar-Athletes **Honored**

Karen Ettleman, an art/graphic design major, has been named to the Capital One CoSIDA College Division Academic All-America second team in basketball.

Nine Raiders in winter sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including six in women's basketball. Ettleman was a repeat honoree.

For more on Raider sports, visit nwcraiders.com

A quiet and cerebral professor, Ronald Nelson was an advocate of peace and justice. His legacy lives on through a scholarship for like-minded students and the Ronald R. Nelson Scholars and Artists in Residence Program, which has brought Christian leaders like John Perkins, the late Brennan Manning and Tony Campolo to campus.



NORTHWESTERN ARCHIVES

BY DUANE BEESON

A Scholar's Life Cut Short

Dr. Ronald Nelson loved to talk about ideas and Christianity. "I have this memory of him sitting with several colleagues, alive in the discussion and debate about how to live out our faith," says his son Roger '82.

That was what Nelson sought when he came to Northwestern in 1974 on sabbatical from his tenured position at Michigan State University. The history professor liked the Christian liberal arts environment so much that he stayed—taking a pay cut of more than 50 percent.

During his 11 years at NWC, his deep sense of personal piety led him to become engaged in social justice issues. He helped a family of Southeast Asia refugees settle in Orange City, and he traveled to Russia to build relationships with Christians there.

Nelson was supportive when Roger felt called to make a difference in the inner city. Roger interned at Roseland Christian Ministries on Chicago's South Side both as a Northwestern senior and as a seminarian.

In March 1985, Nelson and his wife, Marion, came to the Windy City for a weekend with Roger and his fiancée, Sandi.

During the Sunday morning service at Roseland, Nelson placed a \$50 check in the collection plate and clenched his fist as if to say "I believe in you" as a man gave his testimony about fighting alcoholism. At the door, Nelson told the pastor, "We are so refreshed on our journey."

As the Nelsons headed toward their car, convicted felon Clarence Hayes was cutting across the parking lot. He held them at gunpoint for

about 10 minutes, becoming agitated because he felt they weren't giving him all of their money.

"There was no provocation; he just shot point-blank into my dad's side," says Roger.

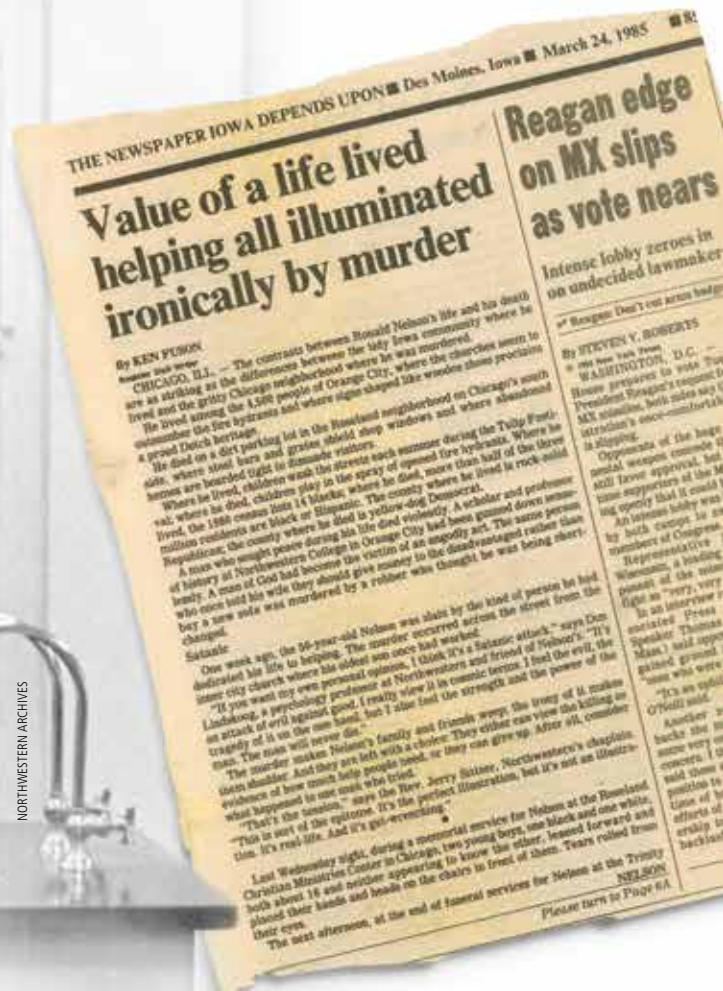
Ronald Nelson, a Christian pacifist, died at the scene. He was 50.

Thirty-five members of Roseland Christian Ministries traveled to Nelson's funeral four days later. "They were family to me," says Roger. "It was important for them to say, 'We love you, and this murder is not reflective of all of us.'"

Roger is still part of the Roseland family. He has been pastoring Hope Christian Reformed Church in Oak Forest, 12 miles away, since 2002. The two churches regularly join for projects and worship experiences. Roger mentors Roseland's pastor, preaches there frequently and has served on its board.

Roger rarely mentions the murder; he doesn't want it to define him. It's his story of brokenness, he says, but we all have one.

Thirty years later, words his father wrote to him still provide light: "Upholding the name of Christ and working to strengthen the church is finally all that is ultimately worthwhile. Sin and social evil are somehow, in ways we may never know in this life, overcome as Christians suffer with and for Christ ... He works through our dying but he brings resurrection, as he promised."





Social Agenda

From lip-synching and slime fights to dances and dodgeball, Northwestern's Student Activities Council plans events that are not only fun but also lead to lasting friendships and learning about the balance between work and play.

*Photos by Doug Burg,
Jenni (Sybesma '09) Ochsner
and Dan Ross*







Looking RACE in the

BY ANITA CIRULIS

*Photos by Anita Cirulis,
FJ Gaylor, Geoff Johnson
and Dan Ross*



Members of the Northwestern College community take an honest look at racial biases, white privilege, and God's heart for racial justice and reconciliation

They call her Mom. *Every Sunday afternoon during the school year, Julie Andersen fixes dinner for her family and as many as 10 Northwestern students. After the meal, they hang out in her living room, watching TV, talking, and doing laundry and homework. The students come from such distant states as California, Colorado and Virginia. They are black and Latino. Andersen is white.*
She's also, she admits, racist.



Andersen's story is one of grace, forgiveness and the transforming power of God. The administrative assistant for the college's maintenance department, she grew up in a small Iowa town. "I never knew anybody who was different from me," she remembers. Prejudicial attitudes and stereotypes bubbled underground in her community, revealed in conversations and comments she heard as a child.

Five years ago, Andersen discovered how much her environment had impacted her when a student of color got into trouble and she found herself judging him, gossiping and telling others, "We don't want that here." Then she heard a sermon about forgiveness and, convicted, wrote to the young man, apologizing for what she did.

"He came into my office and had tears in his eyes," she says. "He told me nobody had ever said or done anything like that before." Andersen and her husband invited Sergio

to live with them that summer, and though he's now back home in California, they talk every other week. "He's like my son," she says. "When he left, I learned what it felt like to have my heart break."

Through Sergio and one of his Raider teammates, Andersen formed connections with other minority football players and, sitting around her dining room table, heard their stories of what it's like to attend college on a predominantly white campus. Among them was Christian Butler '12 of Rialto, Calif., who remembers the culture shock he felt after arriving in northwest Iowa. Music, food, church, the ways people talked and dressed—even the style of playing the game and his teammates' superstitions—were all different.

"You start to internalize everything, [thinking] 'What am I doing wrong?'" Butler recalls. "There's an identity crisis that comes with that. You do so much bending to conform and fit in that you reject yourself at times.

It becomes very uncomfortable. And then when you come home, you try to swing that pendulum back to the other side."

Such stressors create an environment in which, as Andersen puts it, "only the strong survive." Butler experienced that himself his first year at Northwestern. He returned after Christmas break; two friends from high school did not. "If I had to give you a time that was probably the hardest of my four years, it would be those first two weeks of spring semester," he says. "Snow was all over the ground, it was freezing cold, I had no roommate, and all my friends had left."

Despite his loneliness, Butler chose to stay. He also decided to do something about how he felt. In the spring of his sophomore year, he and Angelica Perez '12 started La Mosaic, a multicultural student club. "The idea was to form a group that would be like a family," he explains. "Where I could go and spend time with people I knew who were experiencing

"Caring for a particular group of students without dealing with our larger systemic issues is like putting a Band-Aid on a broken bone."



similar struggles to me. Where we could hang out, laugh and be ourselves.” The group meets weekly, providing support and guidance, hosting forums, and showing and discussing relevant movies. Today, in addition to La Mosaic and the longstanding International Club, Northwestern students can also join Amigos and M’Afrique.

When Butler first arrived on campus in the fall of 2008, just over 3 percent of Northwestern’s student body were students of color. Today that figure is nearly 10 percent, with the largest growth in Latino students—from 18 in 2007 to 61 last fall. It’s wrong, however, to measure diversity success only in terms of numbers, says Dr. Kevin McMahan, Northwestern’s associate dean for intercultural affairs. “Diversity in higher education is larger than the recruitment and enrollment percentages most are inclined to focus on,” he explains. Also important, research has shown, are a multicultural and inclusive campus climate, vibrant intercultural student organizations, the curricular integration of intercultural learning, and faculty and staff diversity.

A year after La Mosaic formed, Northwestern hired Rahn Franklin as the college’s academic support and diversity specialist. Franklin’s college experience mirrors that of many of Northwestern’s students of color. Originally from Kansas City, Mo., he, too, attended a predominantly white college in a small Iowa town, earning both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s in professional school counseling at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

Tasked with helping students achieve their full academic potential, Franklin knew Northwestern’s minority students had retention and graduation rates that lagged 10 to 15 percentage points behind those of the student body as a whole. He also knew about

the development of La Mosaic, about Julie Andersen’s connection with guys on the football team, and about the work Dr. Tom Truesdell ’01, director of academic support, was doing with students from diverse backgrounds.

“I’m a connector,” Franklin says. “I see these things happening and I ask, ‘What can we do to bring this together so it’s focused and potent?’ Lives were being changed—those who were serving, those who were being served, and observers who simply noticed what was happening. Those relationships were becoming biblically reciprocal, and I just wanted to help us find a way to expand to a larger number of students and a larger part of our community.”

In 2013, Franklin worked with colleagues to start Futures, a program for any student who identifies as a student of color, a first-generation college student, or a student from a low-income family. Students who meet those criteria are invited to participate in the program, and those who accept attend an August retreat held prior to the start of classes. They are also connected with peer and faculty mentors and paired by Andersen with a local host family.

Prior to the start of the Futures program, Northwestern placed a request on its Facebook page for people to serve as host families. Some signed up; others questioned the rationale and need for creating a program that singles out students of color. Such a reaction, McMahan explains, stems from the belief that we live today in a post-racial society—or that the best defense against racism is to be colorblind.

In reality, he says, “We live in what I’ve heard called a ‘racial smog’. It defines so much of what our interactions are and what we make of each other, whether we’re honest—or even conscious of it—or not. So it’s not so much colorblind as color silent. And if we’re choosing color silence, then it just keeps the status quo in place.”



“We become people who love,
and love means going out of our way.
It means feeling uncomfortable;
it means connecting with people who are different from us.”

America’s racial history goes back to before the country’s founding, as European explorers came into contact with the new world’s indigenous people and assumed ownership of what had been tribal lands. When settlement began in the early 1600s, European-born indentured servants were replaced with slaves from Africa. In a country founded on the concept that all men were created equal, the only justification for the seizure of tribal lands and the continuation of slavery was one that held non-whites were inferior to whites.

As recently as the early to mid-20th century, scientists, biased by ideas informed by the society in which they lived, classified people into dozens of races and searched for evidence that differences in behavior and performance were due to biology. Higher disease and death rates among immigrants in urban ghettos, for example, were seen as proof of genetic inferiority rather than as the result of poverty and overcrowding.

In fact, race is a cultural and societal, rather than biological, reality. As the documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion* explains, genetically, human beings are among the most similar of all species. Two people from different racial groups can have more in common genetically than two people from the same race. That truth, however, doesn’t erase the impact of systems, policies and prejudices that create inequities and disadvantages due to the color of one’s skin.

Dr. Chris Hausmann, a sociology professor at Northwestern, teaches a course titled

Ethnicity, Power and Identity. “Historically, race has been a central factor in shaping who has a spot at the table,” he says, “and not just historically, but today. Much of what we do in the course is coming to terms with the fact that being white still carries a ton of weight when it comes to every measure of standard of living and of wealth.”

Dr. Val (Roman ’93) Stokes has similar discussions with social work majors in the course *Diverse Populations and Social Justice*. “It’s so ingrained into our systems and our daily life that we may not even see it—especially those who have privilege. To have privilege means you don’t have to see the pain and the hurt of someone else.”

That pain and hurt is inflicted in many ways. Christian Butler tells of going into

stores and restaurants and being stared at, and of the time another student wanted to write on his arm with a black Sharpie to “see if it shows up.” Denise Cowherd is a senior math major from Des Moines who has served as one of Northwestern’s multicultural interns and as a peer mentor for the Futures program. She says other students often want to touch her hair—and sometimes do so without asking.

“I don’t mind educating people, but the way you approach me can change everything,” she says. “So don’t walk up to me and say, ‘Do you wash your hair? Can I just feel it? It feels so interesting.’ The only word you have for my hair is ‘interesting.’ I don’t appreciate that.”

Being on the receiving end of insensitive comments and actions like these, known as



“microaggressions,” is an all-too-common experience for people of color. Often whites are unaware of the offense they’ve caused, just as they are unaware of their own implicit biases—biases that research shows exist nonetheless.

“Caring for a particular group of students without dealing with our larger systemic issues is like putting a Band-Aid on a broken bone,” Franklin says of his role at NWC. “I can’t simply focus on making sure students who would be considered diverse are happy here. All of us have lots of work to do in terms of developing our intercultural competence and finding a way to become ‘the beloved community,’ as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called it.”

In recognition of that fact, Northwestern’s Multi-Ethnic Resource Committee (MERC), chaired by Franklin and Stokes, is leading the campus community in creating a “Vision for Diversity”—to accompany the college’s “Vision for Learning”—in order to guide students’ intercultural learning and preparation to pursue God’s redeeming work in a diverse and increasingly connected world.

Throughout this spring, committee members have been meeting with a select group of 50 students, faculty and staff to discuss the role diversity plays in the college’s mission as a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living. That vision will be drafted in May and finalized next fall, after which it will inform the development and assessment of institutional diversity objectives and programs—from curricular integration to the hiring of faculty and staff to research and scholarship.


Among those taking part in the discussions is Northwestern faculty member Dr. Michael Andres. In the early ’90s, as a student at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Miss., Andres and his wife, Joan, joined an interracial, inner-city church.

“We loved worshipping at Voice of Calvary Fellowship,” he says. “It was a very evangelical congregation, very Bible-centered, but we intentionally talked about issues of race and reconciliation.” Ignorance about white privilege was replaced with understanding and empathy, while the multicultural services gave Andres a glimpse of the worship by every nation, tribe, people and language described in Revelation.

Those years, the religion professor says, shaped his calling and desire to awaken—particularly in white Christian college students—God’s heart for justice and racial reconciliation. “I’m an evangelical and believe it’s a relationship with God, but it’s love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. How do we do that? We become people who are reconcilers. We become people who love, and love means going out of our way. It means feeling uncomfortable; it means connecting with people who are different from us.”

Denise Cowherd echoes Andres when she says, “We need to have these discussions because we can’t love our neighbors as ourselves if we don’t know what’s going on with our neighbors—if we don’t know the struggles of our neighbors.”

Julie Andersen admits being a reconciler is hard work, a role that calls for extra doses of humility and perseverance. “Through this journey, I’ve really learned about forgiveness,” she says. “I’ve had to forgive, but I’ve also been forgiven, and I’ve been forgiven many, many times by students for the stupid things I say and do.”

In forgiving and being forgiven, loving unconditionally and being loved, Andersen has gained a clearer understanding of all God has done for members of every tribe and nation—and what he calls us to do as well. 



To learn more

The following resources can help you learn more about race and racism in America:

Race: The Power of an Illusion, a three-part documentary series produced by California Newsreel

Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces That Keep Us Apart, by Christena Cleveland

Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America, by Michael Emerson and Christian Smith

“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People, by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald



Summer Baby

Surrogacy opens the door to parenthood for determined couple

BY AMY SCHEER

They entered the restaurant not yet having made up their minds. Stacey and Chad Baker '97 joked that an article they read earlier that day might be right: The universe will reveal your destiny, if only you pay attention. The couple wanted children, but perhaps there was a lesson to be learned after eight years of disappointment.

And now, in a Des Moines eatery known for wooden doors suspended playfully overhead, the Bakers were sure all doors had closed to them. They talked and decided to give up their dream of having a family.

Moments later, a waiter appeared with an opened bottle of wine; a nearby couple had to head out early and wanted to share, thinking the Bakers needed a little something to celebrate.

They had no idea.

Chad is chief accounting officer of a biofuels producer in Ames, Iowa; Stacey manages a floor of nurses at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. Midwest natives, Chad and Stacey were raised with the idea that dedication to a goal brings success, and up until their first miscarriage, in 2007, they believed that to be true.

"Those were the days when we thought we could plan these things and they'd happen," says Stacey.

Stacey found she was pregnant again in early 2008, the morning they signed the contract on a new house. Plans to chart her belly growth next to the house's progress were halted after another miscarriage, at 10 weeks. Early the next year, mindful that Stacey was already 36, the couple began fertility treatments—with little success.

Then came 2010. The year began with another miscarriage, followed by the death of Chad's uncle from brain cancer. After the funeral, Chad and Stacey flew to Florida to unwind. Within hours of landing, Chad noticed during a shower that his left testicle was hard as a rock; back home, he would be diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Surgery was successful, but a few months later, pain would level Chad to the ground, revealing the cancer had spread to the right testicle and, more dangerously, to his lymph nodes. In between these diagnoses, Stacey's father died.

"Believe me, we prayed a lot. And then we stopped praying," says Chad. "We stopped going to church for a while. I got angry at God. But we didn't stop talking to each other. And we didn't stop believing."

Fertility treatments would finally yield some success in 2012. Chad had recovered from the short, intense chemotherapy, and Stacey became pregnant with twins, only to miscarry again.

In March of 2013, eight years into their journey to create a family, Chad and Stacey shared the gift of wine from strangers and decided enough was enough. And then a text arrived from their friend Summer: "How old is too old to be a surrogate?"

Summer Marnin had taken care of the Bakers' dog, Daisy, and their house while they were away throughout the years; they had come to know her and her teenage daughters well, but had shared only the bare bones of their efforts to have a baby. After some initial reluctance to draw Marnin and her two daughters into their struggles, they checked her insurance. And every door they thought would close stayed open.

"There was a lot of love invested in getting Gavin here and getting Chad through his cancer."



After an eight-year saga of infertility, miscarriages and cancer, Stacey and Chad Baker are the proud parents of Gavin, born via a gestational carrier last August.

Enduring a myriad of lab tests, lawyers and psychological evaluations together, the families bonded. On Dec. 6, 2013, two embryos created from Chad's sperm and a donor's eggs were implanted; the Bakers—and the Marnins—were expecting twins. Twenty weeks in, however, an ultrasound revealed one of the twins had died.

But on Aug. 22, 2014, Gavin Caymus Baker entered the world. The doctor delivered him straight into Stacey's arms, and when Chad spoke, Baby Baker lifted his head in recognition.

"I was afraid until the second I saw his face," says Stacey. "I thought, 'He's beautiful and he's OK.'"

"Getting to experience this was unbelievable," Chad says.

Until Gavin's birth, it was difficult for the Bakers not to believe they were being punished, or that there was a lesson somewhere to be learned.

"I think Summer was supposed to have Gavin," says Stacey, "but we'll never know the reason or the ripple effect. We heard from hundreds of people [following the *Des Moines Register's* five-part chronicling of their story]. Summer heard from a woman who wasn't going to have her child and now will."

Gavin is a happy, social baby; his big grin wins over the most unsuspecting of strangers. And those strangers in the restaurant, with

the wine? They might have sensed not only his parents' need for a little something to celebrate, but also their joy—a hopeful determination in the face of many struggles.

"It's a point that gets lost in our story," says Stacey. "Yes, it's sad, but we have a lot of joy in our lives. There was a lot of love invested in getting Gavin here and getting Chad through his cancer."

"I think that couple thought we already had something to celebrate. They saw us smiling."

Just like the boy the Bakers would one day meet. 🏠

The Bucket List

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAN LANDEGENT '85

Commencement is just around the corner, so it seemed like a good time to ask Northwestern students what experiences they hope to have before graduation day.

Visit the biology department's rat lab

Northwestern doesn't currently have a live animal lab. (Rats!) But floor plans for a new science building include a vivarium (for housing rats and other furry subjects), as well as garden plots and a greenhouse.

Sit in every seat in the England Theatre

DeWitt Theatre's proscenium-style venue has 196 seats, so students will need to sit through a whole lotta drama to take a bow on this Bucket List item.

Eat at every table in the caf'

Much more doable. The caf' has 66 tables, so this one can be crossed off in less than a month by a student who eats three squares a day.

Be called the wrong name by Kathy

For students who eat regularly in the caf', it's not long before Kathy (Bonnecroy '73) Meendering, who scans their IDs at the caf' entrance, knows them and greets each one by name. She's almost always right, except with twins and look-alike siblings.

Compete in NC/DC

Northwest Iowa's version of *American Idol* pits Northwestern stars against Dordt performers.

Climb to the top of the Zwemer Hall tower

A mid-'90s renovation transformed the historic building's attic into offices, enabling students to climb partway up into the tower for a bird's-eye view of campus.





Land a hot air balloon on the campus green

For a price, Orange City resident Doug DeZeeuw '92 will give you the flight of your life in his hot air balloon (although touching down on the green might be hard to guarantee).

Travel to at least five countries

A student with wanderlust could get a long ways by participating in the college's annual Spring Service Project trips, which include at least three overseas destinations (Haiti, the Netherlands and Nicaragua). There is also Summer of Service travel (team members will be in 11 different countries this summer) or study abroad opportunities, which include NWC's programs in Oman and Romania.


Spend the night in a non-residence building

"No. Not allowed," says Director of Maintenance and Operations Scott Simmelink. And he will not share what he knows about students who have spent the night in non-residence buildings so as to avoid giving anyone ideas.

Brush my teeth in all the bathrooms on campus

Could be biting off more than one can chew, unless students work alongside housekeepers in NWC's maintenance department in the summer and are privy to both men's and women's residence hall bathrooms in order to clean them (a job that might require scrubbing with a tiny brush).

Learn human anatomy in the cadaver lab

Northwestern's cadaver lab is extraordinary for a college NWC's size. The cadaver lab contributes to science students' body of knowledge and preparation for medical and graduate school. Northwestern's cadaver is procured through the University of South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine. 

Catch a campus squirrel

There's no shortage on NWC's 100-acre campus, even though Professor Emeritus Carl Vandermeulen is no longer here to feed them outside the window of his Granberg Hall office (also gone).

Climb every tree on campus

Maybe this nature lover can help the one who's nuts about squirrels!

My NWC Bucket List

- ☒ Speak in chapel
- ☐ Become fluent in Spanish
- ☐ Audition to dance in RUSH
- ☒ Lead a Spring Service Project trip
- ☒ Work as an RA (resident assistant)
- ☐ Throw a Frisbee across the campus green
- ☒ Make a dish in the ceramics studio
- ☐ Play the organ in Christ Chapel
- ☒ Prank Dr. [Scott] Monsma [sociology prof]
- ☐ Perform in the music department's Christmas vespers



Sleep outside at least once each semester

The men of Colenbrander Hall have this one in the [sleeping] bag, snoozing on the campus green before opening ceremonies of the Coly Olympics, a four-day competition each spring that includes events like an egg toss, mattress race and hot dog relay. And right before end-of-the-year exams, one wing of Colenbrander residents honors the memory of Heemstra Hall with their Stoop-a-thon, a Dead Week tradition that involves round-the-clock lounging on chairs and couches moved to the campus green.

class Notes

'66 Christina McGrinson was honored by the city of Kalamazoo, Mich., when Oct. 25, 2014, was named Ms. McGrinson Day in recognition of her local and international efforts. During her career, she taught in five different Kalamazoo schools and three countries in Central and South America and was an active community member. After retiring, she tutored students and taught Spanish to senior citizens. She recently moved to Panama.

'67 In October **John Harrod** was posthumously honored with a plaque for his work in founding the longest surviving neighborhood arts center in Washington, D.C. Harrod founded Market 5 Gallery and Kuumba Center at Eastern Market in 1973 and served as executive director for 35 years. He died in 2010.

'68 Dr. Beverly (Gaalswyk) DeVries, professor of education at Southern Nazarene University, recently completed her fourth edition of *Literacy Assessment & Intervention for Classroom Teachers* and the fifth edition of *Integrating the Language Arts*. Both college textbooks are published by Holcomb Hathaway. She is co-chair of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee of the International Reading Association (IRA) and is the reading specialist on the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability

Council. She also is a national program review auditor for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and IRA accreditation. She and her husband, **Merlyn**, reside in Edmond, Okla.

'73 Linda Porter teaches K-8 art part time at Spalding Catholic School in Granville and Alton, Iowa. She retired in May from Northwest Area Education Agency, where she worked as a special education strategist.

'74 Ruth (Knock) Westling, Alcester, S.D., is retired after 38 years as an elementary teacher and librarian.

'76 Doug Lacey and his wife, Gail, continue to live in rural Sioux City. They enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren, including the four daughters of **Ben '00** and Katie and two sons of **Jenny '03** and **Nathaniel Feddes '03**.

'78 Rob Van't Land is one of three NWC alumni coaching in the Boyden-Hull-Rock Valley football program who received the Don Taft Memorial Junior High Coaching Award from the Iowa Football Coaches Association last fall. He has coached for 37 years. The other honorees were **Greg Heemstra '90** (25 years of coaching) and **Stan De Zeeuw '01** (10 years of coaching).

Red Ties

MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81
Director of Alumni Relations

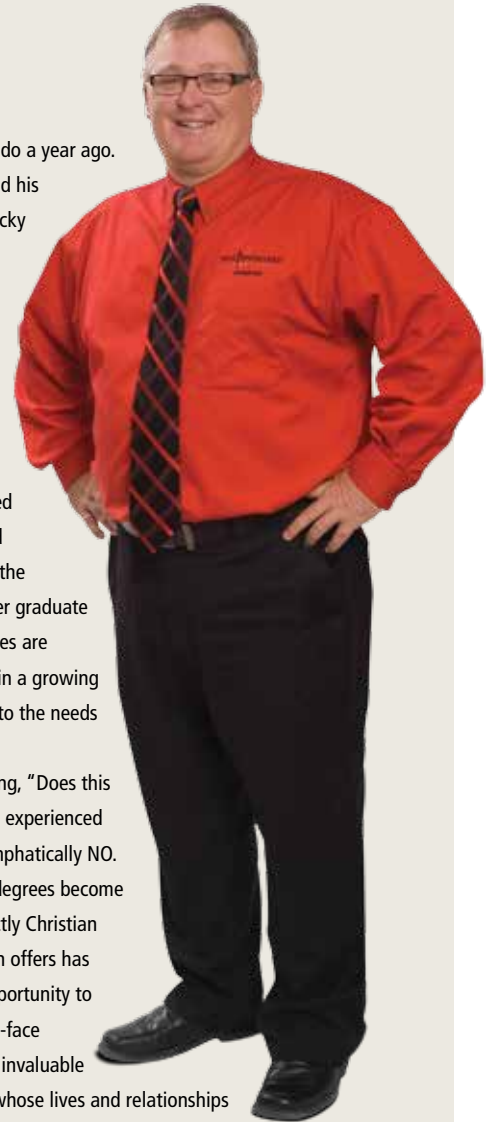
My oldest son moved to Colorado a year ago. It's been fun to visit and look around his new home in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. While there recently, I was thinking about how mountain ranges are a series of peaks, each one soaring higher than the next. Each peak is majestic on its own, but together, the view is even more impressive.

In February, Northwestern scaled a "peak" we'd been striving toward when the college was approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer graduate degrees. Master of Education degrees are being offered entirely online and join a growing number of NWC programs tailored to the needs of adults and graduate students.

Some of you might be wondering, "Does this mean the Northwestern College we experienced no longer exists?" The answer is emphatically NO. In fact, even as online classes and degrees become more available, I'd argue the distinctly Christian residential experience Northwestern offers has never been more important. The opportunity to learn in community through face-to-face conversations with professors is an invaluable experience for 18- to 22-year-olds whose lives and relationships are increasingly mediated by technology.

Preparing young people for adulthood requires flexibility, creativity and commitment. Northwestern remains committed to a campus environment where it's OK to ask hard questions, where scholarship and research are prized, and where faith and life intersect. Living on campus isn't for everyone. But there's still something special about the education that happens through collaboration with professors, in residence halls, on athletic teams and in roles that develop leadership qualities.

As a new peak appears on the Northwestern horizon, we have more reason to admire the view. Northwestern's Christ-centered education is becoming available to more students, including those who see something other than the Zwemer tower out their window. Either way, it's a beautiful sight.



Game on!

Remember college intramurals?

Victories. Defeats.
Injuries. Trophies.

The players with moves.
The ones with heart.



Tell us your intramural sports stories for a future feature in the *Classic*. classic@nwciowa.edu

'79 **Mike Meyer** was named the 2014 *Northwest Iowa Review* Volleyball Coach of the Year after leading the Le Mars Gehlen Catholic High School team to the state tournament for the sixth-straight season. The Jays finished the season with a 23-15 record.

'83 In **Michelle Levigne's** inspirational romance series, *Tabor Heights*, Butler-Williams University is loosely based on NWC, and the town is partly based on Orange City. For more information, visit MLevigne.com. She lives in Parma, Ohio.

'84 **Martha (Shaver) Devadatta**, Naperville, Ill., is pursuing a master's degree in intercultural studies/TESOL from Wheaton Graduate School.

Karen (Goettsch) Fenedick is a State Farm Insurance agent in Bryans Road, Md. She enjoys quilting, shooting sporting clays and volunteering for the Southern Maryland Mustang Club.

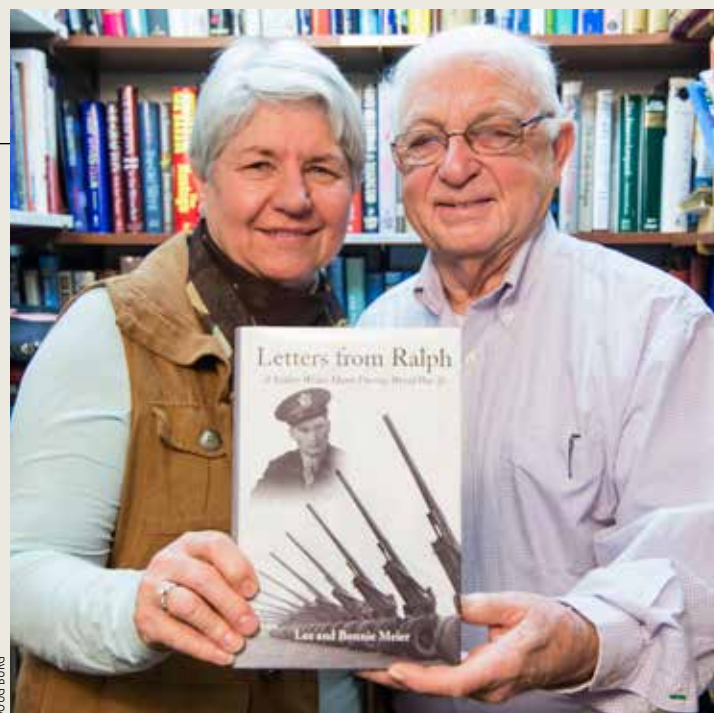
'86 **Jay McKinstrey** led the Pella High School football team to the Iowa Class 3A state championship in November. The Dutch finished the season 14-0.

'87 **Deb Russell**, Cambridge, Iowa, is a medical records representative for the Iowa Heart Center in West Des Moines.

The Rev. Rick Timmer became pastor of the Reformed Church in Dell Rapids, S.D., in November. He previously served First Reformed in Edgerton, Minn.

'88 **David Uit de Flesch** is a therapist at Centennial Park Counseling in Grand Rapids, Mich. He specializes in behavioral addictions, especially sex and porn addiction.

'89 **John Wills**, Spirit Lake, Iowa, is in his first year as a state representative.



Bonnie and Lee Meier have published a book of letters their Northwestern math professor, Ralph Mouw, sent to his family during World War II. The book is available at the Meiers' Orange City store, Jubon Juweelen, as well as at Lulu.com and Amazon.com.

Letters From War

Drs. Lee '51 and Bonnie (Vis '65) Meier both took math classes from Ralph Mouw '36, '38 and had the ultimate respect for him, "a gentleman in the best sense of the word," says Lee. So when Bonnie learned 109 letters he wrote while serving in World War II were found following his 2009 death, she thought they should be preserved.

This winter the efforts of the Meiers and Mouw's daughter, Sandi Carlson '71, came to fruition: publication of *Letters From Ralph*. The hardcover book includes letters Mouw wrote between 1941 and 1945 from U.S. training camps and European combat zones, where he served as captain of a field artillery unit that saw heavy fighting. Lee, a war buff, added text providing historical context.

Despite the tense situations Mouw was often in, he sought to assure his family he was OK. "He closed almost every letter with something like, 'I am well, and I hope you are too,'" says Bonnie.

At one point, Mouw wrote to his dad, "Just keep your chin up and have faith. That's what I am doing."

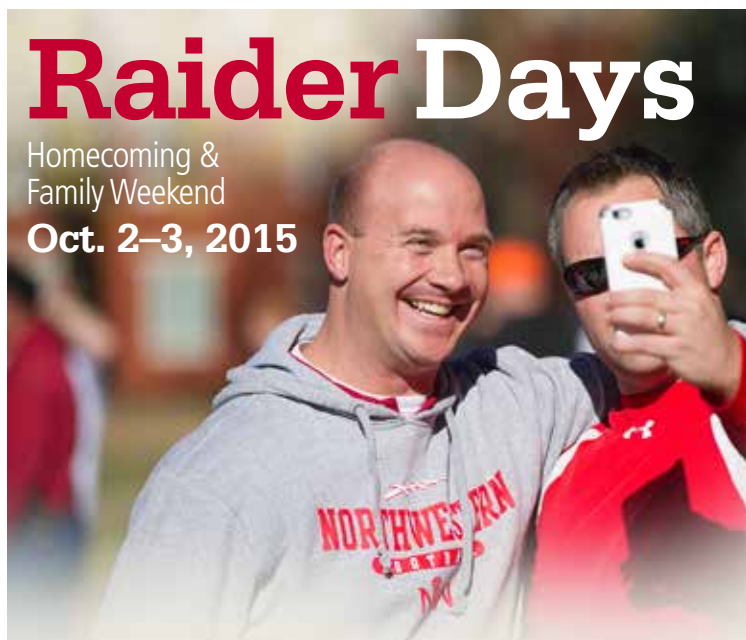
A month before his battalion fought its way into Normandy from Utah Beach, he wrote, "I have escaped serious injury too often not to believe in divine protection."

The Orange City native also revealed his sense of humor. "I almost always have running water in my foxhole—of course it's rainwater," he wrote in July 1944 from France.

BY DUANE BEESON

Raider Days

Homecoming &
Family Weekend
Oct. 2-3, 2015



Picture yourself at Raider Days this fall! The celebration will include traditions like the Morning on the Green family carnival and Raider football—as well as reunions for the classes of '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '05, '10 and '15.



Patrick and Nancy Heilman celebrated their 25th anniversary by going on a Compassion International tour of Kenya and meeting Joyce, one of the five children they've sponsored since they got married.

25 Years of Love

A poster on a bulletin board outside the Career Development Center at Northwestern launched Nancy (Wollman '90) and Patrick Heilman '90 on a path that's still impacting their lives decades later.

The Heilmans were newlyweds finishing their degrees when the poster for Compassion International caught Nancy's eye. The \$32/month sponsorship was a stretch at the time, but "I thought, 'This would be a cool thing to start in our marriage,'" Nancy recalled.

This year marks 25 years of marriage and of being Compassion sponsors for the Heilmans. Instead of a traditional anniversary trip, they celebrated with a Compassion tour of Kenya. They toured some of the more than 355 Child Development Centers the organization has established throughout the country in partnership with local churches, to see how Compassion works to change families' lives. The Heilmans also met a girl they had sponsored and exchanged letters with for 11 years.

"Seeing the work that Compassion does—it was just incredible," Nancy said. "It's so easy to think, 'That's so far away.' You get so engrossed in your life and career and raising kids, and you forget that there's a whole world out there. The sponsorship tour brings everything to life, and you can't ignore it anymore. I think that's what God wants: He doesn't want these to be people 'over there'—he wants these to be real people we care about."

BY **SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98**

'90 Ken Ven Huizen, Sheldon, Iowa, was named a 2014

Outstanding Employee of the Year by Village Northwest Unlimited, which serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as those with traumatic brain injuries. A member of the agency's staff for 12 years, he is the life skills director, focusing on improving individuals' abilities to perform daily tasks, make informed decisions and advance in their vocation.

'96 Barb (Nemec) Larson is an IT project manager for Sanford Health in Sioux Falls. Her husband, Todd, is an underwriting manager for Wells Fargo. They have two sons, Kendall (14) and Logan (9).

'97 Sheri (Zimmerman) Gunderson, Sioux Falls, is the director of development for LifeScape Foundation.

'98 Jason Robertson, Olathe, Kan., was named a recipient of the *ENR Midwest* Top 20 Under 40 Award. He is the director of business development for CRB, a consulting, design and construction services firm with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

Tim Van Regenmorter was named the 2014 *Northwest Iowa Review* Football Coach of the Year after his Sioux Center High School team finished as the Class 2A state runner-up. The Warriors compiled a 12-2 record.

'00 Jeremy Eisenga is the co-owner of Dynamic Internet Solutions. His wife, **Kara (Koopmans '01)**, is a real estate agent with Premier Sotheby's International Realty in Naples, Fla.

'01 Beth (Holznagel) Hautala is the author of *Waiting for Unicorns*, a middle-grade novel published by Penguin Group. She is co-owner and vice president of Red House Media, an advertising agency in Brainerd, Minn.

Travis Schueller, Quasqueton, Iowa, is the 6-12 principal for the East Buchanan Community School District.

Joe Sherry, Bloomington, Minn., serves as a medic in the Air Force Reserve and was promoted to staff sergeant in December. He

is also a print estimator for General Marketing Solutions.

Laura (TerBeest '01) Strubbe teaches sixth grade at Columbian Elementary School in Omaha. She and her husband, **Ezra '00**, have four children, Victoria (14), Carter (10), Micah (5) and Hattie (1).

'02 Carl Nagel is a partner/general manager for Papa Murphy's in Worthington, Minn.

Rachel Van Den Broek is a Doctor of Pharmacy student program adviser and recruiter for the University of Illinois (UIC) College of Pharmacy. She is based at the Rockford campus.

'04 Mary Beth (Sears) Breen teaches first grade at Orange City Christian School.

'05 Tyler De Haan was one of eight finalists for Central Iowa Young Professional of the Year. He is the director of business development/retirement solutions at Principal Financial Group. He also serves as vice president of the Waukeee Leadership Institute, co-chairs the Dallas County Republicans and the 3rd District Republicans, and serves Waukeee United Methodist Church as a worship leader and member of the finance committee.

Aaron Flaugh, Red Wing, Minn., completed a master's degree in information systems from Strayer University in December. He is a network engineer for Goodhue County.

Rachel (Starr) Heath now lives in Eldoret, Kenya, where her husband, Mark, works as an aircraft mechanic for Samaritan's Purse.

'07 Dr. Jill Bowman is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota. She is board certified in internal medicine and practices primary care and hospital medicine, with an academic interest in medical education.

Katie (Sells) Colson is an asset protection manager for Walmart in Vermillion, S.D.

The Rev. Emily (Fischer) Munger, Mina, S.D., is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ. She serves at Columbia Congregational Church and teaches at Presentation College in Aberdeen.

Chris Rensink earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Dordt College. He teaches fourth grade at Kirk Day School in St. Louis.

'08 Kristen (Moss) Andringa, Bettendorf, Iowa, and her husband, Mitchell, will be spending six months in Quantico, Va., as he works at the Marine base there.

Elizabeth (Colbert) Burns, Sioux Falls, is the marketing director for Thompson Law.

Melissa (Hisel) Wallinga is a pediatric dietician at St. Luke's Children's Hospital in Boise, Idaho. Her husband, **Kent '07**, is a physical therapist at St. Luke's Rehab Hospital.

'09 Emily Carris is a bilingual nanny in Dallas.

Ruth Cink is pursuing a doctoral degree at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand.

Rebecca (Swart) Hille, Hales Corners, Wis., is an R.N. case manager for Community Care in Milwaukee.

Ryan Voster is a social work/recovery mentor for Hope Haven in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

'10 Carrie (Manifold) Blaha, Cedar Falls, Iowa, is a pediatric nurse at Covenant Medical Center.

Bret Larson, Manson, Iowa, completed a master's degree in educational administra-

tion from the University of South Dakota in May. His wife, **Andrea (Wedel '11)**, is pursuing a master's degree in nursing from Creighton University.

'11 Danielle Arnone teaches special education in the North Kansas City (Mo.) School District.

'12 Jack Bonnecroy, Orange City, is the director of technology for the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District.

Nic Leither, Duluth, Minn., is a senior youth counselor at Woodland Hills, a nonprofit agency that serves children and adolescents. His wife, **Tamara Smith**, is pursuing a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

'14 Bret Krosschell is an IT helpdesk/telecom and security system administrator at Diamond Vogel Paints in Orange City. He and his wife, Emily, have a son, Liam (5).

Danielle Maurer is an executive assistant for DragonDev, a technology solutions business in Boulder, Colo.

Sherry Nelson is an Episcopal Service Corps intern for Magdalene St. Louis, a program that empowers women to live free from abuse, addiction and prostitution.

Valerie (Luppen) Van Zandbergen, Orange City, is a nurse at Sanford Sheldon.



DAVID CHRISTOPHER TYSDAL

As owner of Changing Spaces, Jeannine Bryant helps senior citizens de-clutter and downsize as they navigate life's transitions.

Moving Experiences

The morning of her move from her home of 33 years, Pam woke up with the flu. When the movers arrived, they brought 7UP and saltines, took her dogs to the boarder, and ensured the things they'd helped her select for the move to her much smaller townhouse were carefully packed, transported and put into place in her new home.

The movers were from Changing Spaces SRS (Senior Relocation Services), and Pam calls them "friends for life."

Started by two sisters in 2008, Changing Spaces is based in Lincoln, Neb. In 2010, when the sisters were seeking a new partner, Jeannine (Lovas '04) Bryant moved in. Today she's the sole owner of the niche company that, she says, moves much more than stuff. "We move lives."

Bryant's company specializes in helping seniors right-size when it's time to transition to a new home. It's full-service—and then some. Clients choose from a list of services that includes sorting, moving and removing. Changing Spaces also organizes and runs estate sales, sometimes under the direction of distant family members.

Staff members also laugh with clients, cry with them, and listen as the contents of attics, basements and closets spark memories and lead to stories that are sometimes painful, often wistful and always revealing about the lives the place has shaped.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT



Courageous Communication

Leadership Series | Aug. 10–12, 2015

Featuring
U.S. Senator John Thune (R-S.D.)
& former KTIV-Sioux City news anchor
Kristie VerMulm

\$400 before July 15
\$450 after July 15
\$350 for NWC alumni

Register at nwciowa.edu/lead

The conference is hosted on the campus of Northwestern College. Lodging is provided by Orange City's Hampton Inn and is separate from the conference fee. Call 712-707-4100 to make your hotel reservation.

The conference is sponsored by Northwestern College Graduate School & Adult Learning, the Franken Leadership Center and Pizza Ranch.



Geri Genant trains workers at healthcare facilities in the use of robots that kill the Ebola virus and other superbugs.

The Germinator

Geri Genant '09 has some famous and forceful co-workers at Xenex Disinfection Services. Thankfully, she knows just how to push their buttons—literally. As implementation manager for Xenex, Genant regularly works with powerful germ-zapping robots, the sole product of the San Antonio-based company.

The most renowned robot is Saul, deployed in the hospital at Langley Air Force Base in November. In just five minutes, Saul can use intense ultraviolet (UV) light—25,000 times brighter than florescent lights—to kill the most powerful viruses on any surface of a room, a key to preventing the spread of the Ebola virus and other superbugs to healthcare workers and patients.

While Genant is thrilled to professionally geek out with chemistry terms her NWC professors would be proud to hear, she is most passionate about the Xenex mission to destroy the pathogens that cause healthcare-associated infections. Unlike earlier UV devices that used mercury, Xenex has patented technology using Xenon, which offers more power in a faster, environmentally safe way. Xenex robots like Saul are at work in more than 250 hospitals, long-term care and rehabilitation centers, and Defense Department and Veterans Affairs facilities.

Working closely with healthcare professionals in the training process, Genant loves to think of the impact made by the robots. “We can actually quantify how many lives we touch with this technology,” she says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

New arrivals

Jill and **Jay McKinstrey '86**, daughter, Magdalene Elizabeth, joins Casey (20), Corin (17), Anna (7), Sarah (4) and Joshua (2)

Rebecca and **Steve Bogaard '95**, daughter, Jacinth Carryn, joins Zemirah (3) and Creed (2)

Troy and **Rachel (Menning '99) Van Roekel**, son, Joah Alan, joins Jaylie (6) and Jaxon (4)

Kate Bisciglia and **Joe Sherry '01**, son, Andrew William

Melissa (Clark '02) and **Joel Bundt '92**, son, Joseph Robert, joins Josiah (11), Simeon (10), Ezra (8), Evelyn (6) and Lucas (4)

Leanne and **Matt Ernster '03**, son, Caleb Matthew, joins Selah (2)

Julie (Westenberg '04) and **Josh Pickard '01**, son, Griffin John, joins Carter (5) and Bennett (3)

Mark and **Rachel (Starr '05) Heath**, daughter, Lydia Marie

Cristin (Kadner '05) and **Elijah Vander Weerd**, daughter, Rory Paige, joins Trey (5) and Nile (3)

Kevin and **Emily (Hennager '06) DeVries**, daughter, Cora Jean

Jillian and **Justin Dowdy '06**, daughter, Jamie Kay, joins Jackson (3)

Sarah (Way '06) and **Scott Treft '06**, daughter, Taytum Sarah, joins McKyndree (4) and Lillian (2)

AJ and **Emily (Fischer '07) Munger**, son, Briggs Allen

Bethany and **Chris Rensink '07**, daughter, Annika Lee

Erin Scholtens Ter Beest '07 and **Casey**

Ter Beest '08, daughter, Cora Dawn, joins Sawyer (3)

Sam and **Mallory (Stahl '08) Minor**, daughter, Cora Lynn, joins Hayden (3)

Ellen (Schroeder '08) and **Josh Nelson '08**, daughter, Arabella Joy, joins Adeline (2)

Ben and **Annie (Moran '09) Cochran**, daughter, Eliza Rose, joins Hosea (3) and Obadiah (2)

Peter and **Kelsey (Driver '09) Huskamp**, son, Wyatt John

Curtis and **Haley (Hector '09) Miesner**, daughter, Gracelyn Shalae

Lauren and **Matt Roesner '09**, daughter, Stella Claire

Matthew and **Sarah (Abbas '10) Moore**, daughter, Hazel Grace

Nicole (Ellingson '11) and **Jameson Guthmiller '09**, twins, Eli Martin and Hudson James

Jennie (Poush '11) and **Ben Karnish '11**, daughter, Lillie Ann Brittany

Andrea (Wedel '11) and **Bret Larson '10**, son, Bryce Allan, joins Madilyn (2)

Jennifer (Nilson '11) and **Jacob Parsons '10**, son, Aiden Jacob

Marriages

Carl Nagel '02 and Stacie Deeming, Worthington, Minn.

Jennifer Hoitink '06 and Eric Hahn, Sheboygan, Wis.

Jill Dykstra '07 and Ben Bavier, Sanborn, Iowa

Tamara Smith '12 and **Nic Leither '12**, Duluth, Minn.

Nathan Corlew '14 and Kelsey Davidson, Alta, Iowa

Drop in for the
Red Raider Golf Classic
 Friday, June 5
 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. tee times
 Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City



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

Samantha Kleinsasser '14 and **Nathan Van Gorp '14**, Ireton, Iowa
Bret Krosschell '14 and Emily Vander Plaats, Alton, Iowa
Kiersten Van Wyhe '14 and **Nathan Sexe '14**, Sioux Center

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

CORRECTION: We printed the wrong name of the widow of **Jason Van Zee '01** in the In Memoriam section of the winter *Classic*. He is survived by **Kari (Krempges '00)**. We regret the error.

Lowell Vander Hamm '42 of Fairfield, Iowa, died Nov. 6 at age 92, after a battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He served in the Army Air Corps and the Air Force Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. After earning a degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University, he spent most of his career with the Iowa Department of Transportation, retiring as a local systems engineer in 1987. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran church. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and three children.

Edward Buys '56, '63, age 78, of Belle Fourche, S.D., died on Nov. 14. After graduating from Northwestern, he continued his education at Reformed Bible College, Minnesota State University Mankato and South Dakota State University. He taught in Michigan for several years and then served as a principal in Canby, Minn., before becoming the superintendent in Carthage, S.D. He retired in 1995. His survivors include his wife, Donna; four children; and five siblings.

Bastian "Cap" Wabeke '57 of Ruthton, Minn., died Dec. 21 at age 83. An Air Force veteran, he earned a bachelor's degree from Westmar College. He taught physics and math for more than 30 years and coached multiple sports. He was named Minnesota Class A Basketball Coach of the Year in 1981. He was a member of Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone and the American Legion post in Ruthton. He is survived by his wife, Marilynn; seven children; and three brothers.

Dwayne Westra '58, '61, age 75, of Fulda, Minn., died Nov. 28. He was the elementary school principal in Fulda for almost 30 years.

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCE INTEGRITY SERVICE LOYALTY AND HONOR

Who has embodied the qualities of an outstanding alum? Nominate him or her for the Distinguished Professional Achievement, Distinguished Service to Humankind, or Distinguished Service to Northwestern College award. Email your nomination to alumni@nwciowa.edu.

He and his wife owned the Hub Drive-In in Slayton for 26 years and Hometown Meats for five years. He was a member of First Reformed Church in Slayton, where he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. In addition, he was a charter member of the Fulda Jaycees and served on several local boards. He is survived by his wife, Beth; three children; and four siblings.

Virgil Haverdink '60, '62, '64 of Ankeny, Iowa, died Jan. 16 at the age of 72. He earned a master's degree in engineering from Iowa State University and was a project engineer at John Deere for 40 years before retiring in 2004. He was named on more than 20 patents, including the first round baler. He was an active member of Bethany Reformed Church in Des Moines. Among his survivors are his wife, Audrey; three children, **Michael '89, Michelle Goodrich '92** and **Marlon '97**; and two siblings, **Gene '54, '56** and **Mayris De Jong '57, '59**.

Shirley (VandeBerg '63) Johnson, Plymouth, Minn., died Dec. 15 at the age of 73. She was an elementary schoolteacher in Iowa and Minnesota. Survivors include her husband, Floyd; two children; and two brothers, **Paul '59** and **Warren '66**.

Dwayne Alons '68 of Hull, Iowa, died Nov. 29 at age 68. He earned a master's degree in management from the University of Arkansas and served in the Air Force for seven years. He and his wife farmed, and he flew fighter jets for the Air National Guard in Sioux City. He retired from the Guard in

2002 as a brigadier general. In 1998 he was elected a state representative, a position he held until his death. He was a member of Christ Community Church in Sioux Center, Gideons International, the American Legion post in Boyden, Hull Kiwanis Club and the Sioux County Farm Bureau. He is survived by his wife, **Clarice (Ahlers '68)**; four children, including **Kevin '91**; and two sisters.

Jay Jackson '70, age 65, formerly of Zion, Ill., died Nov. 6 in Orange City from complications of multiple sclerosis. He was a packager for a cement company in Waukegan, Ill., and a member of Lakeview Missionary Church in Zion, where he taught Sunday school and was an Awana leader. He is survived by his wife, **Gloria (De Jager '70)**; three children, **Jason '00, JoAnna Scherer '02** and **Jonathan '04**; his mother; and a sister.

Byron Bulthuis '71 of Le Mars, Iowa, died Dec. 25 at age 66. He served in the National Guard for eight years and with the Le Mars Ambulance Service for over 30 years. He was also a social worker for adults with special needs. A longtime member of Calvin Christian Reformed Church, he sang in the choir, directed the children's Christmas pageant and served on church council. He was active in the Postal Playhouse and a member of the American Legion. His survivors include his wife, **Lynda (Mastbergen '71)**; two sons, **Sean '94** and **Sid '00**; and three siblings, including **Gaylon '73**.

Karla (Sneller '78) Bronzynski, age 58, of Eldora, Iowa, died Nov. 17. She taught for

36 years, most recently at Eldora-New Providence Elementary School. She was an active member of the Iowa Reading Association, having served as president, and was named the 2014 Iowa Reading Teacher of the Year. She also coached high school volleyball for many years. She is survived by her husband, **Brian '79**; three children; her mother; and three siblings.

The Rev. Kevin Karhoff '89 of Mitchell, S.D., died Oct. 18 at age 47, after a battle with lymphoma. He served in the Navy for four years and then worked as a veterinary technician at NOBL Labs in Sioux Center. He graduated from Sioux Falls Seminary in 2004 and served four Reformed churches in Iowa, South Dakota and Michigan. His survivors include his wife, Kim, and seven children.

Kelly (Kleinhesselink '92) Meharg of Madison, N.J., age 46, died in January. After graduating from NWC, she earned a certificate in graphic design from the Rhode Island School of Design, worked as a park ranger, and was a caregiver for the elderly. An active artist, she recently painted several murals at her daughters' school. Among her survivors are her husband, **Dan '95**; two daughters; her parents; and four siblings.

Ray Van Pelt of Orange City, the man who first called Northwestern's athletic teams the Red Raiders, died Jan. 27 at the age of 97. He served as part-time coach for the Northwestern Junior College men's basketball team in 1945–46 and came up with the nickname because a service buddy was constantly talking about Colgate University's Red Raiders. Since Northwestern's uniforms were red and Red Raiders wasn't a common name, Van Pelt chose that moniker for his team. He worked for the Dunlop Agency and Moorman Manufacturing before retiring in Arkansas. Survivors include his wife, Myrna, and five children, including **Virginia Vaden '86**.

LET US KNOW: Email your news for the next *Classic* by May 18 to classic@nwciowa.edu.

Classic Thoughts

Race to the Table

BY LISA (BOONSTRA '83) BURG



But we deal with the same things other families do. Homework. Relationships. Sibling rivalry. Busy schedules. And despite those schedules—often overlapping and at times chaotic—we manage most nights to share a family meal. Around the dinner table we hash out histories, discuss our day, face our futures, dare to dream. Share stories while passing the pasta.

Like last night.

After dishing up dinner—a giant bowl of spaghetti and meatballs almost too heavy to pass—there were a few rare moments of quiet. Then Sera exclaimed, “Oh, my gosh, I cannot wait for the summer Olympics!”

Sera is our long, lithe, very fast 12-year-old. Picture an East African runner, and you’ve envisioned Sera. That’s her dream.

She went on. “Did you know that Usain Bolt is going to try to break the world record for the 400?”

“That’s cool,” I said. “And it’s *your* race!”

At that, Sera’s 8-year-old brother, Ben, piped up. “That’s racist.”

Inevitably, whenever a family member comments about someone’s physical characteristics, or even their character, one of the kids responds with a snide “Racist.” It’s done most often in jest, of course, demonstrating how that overused term has, in many cases, become irrelevant. At least here in our house.

Sera, of course, knew what I meant. ***Her race.*** The 400-meter, which she triumphed in at the fourth-and-fifth-grade track-and-field day—with a time that could nearly qualify her for high school state track.

I decided to use this as a “research” opportunity for the *Classic* column I had been asked to write just that morning.

“Ben, do you know what ‘race’ means?” I asked.

“Of course. I’m not in pre-K,” he said with a sigh, running his garlic bread around his plate in an at-

tempt to sop up every drop of spaghetti sauce. Ben’s dream is to bulk up to be a professional football player. “It’s how you look. Like your skin.”

“So, can I ask you something?” I probed. “Do you ever feel like you’re different, like you look different than other kids, because of your brown skin?”

Ben didn’t hesitate. “Heck no. I have a lot—a TON—of friends.”

I smiled, knowing full well that our little charmer has definite people skills.

“Well then, is there anyone else in your class who you think feels different, or is treated differently?”

“Yeah,” Ben responded quickly. “Brody.”

I know who Brody* is. According to Ben, Brody already has over a thousand pages logged in reading. And he’s an expert on World War II. Brody has definitely raised the bar in third grade.

“How does Brody look different?” I puzzled.

“He doesn’t. He looks just like you,” Ben said, glancing at my blonde hair. “But he’s really, really smart. He knows the answer to everything. I guess he’s kind of a nerd. So sometimes kids are mean to him.”

I recalled then the time Brody’s mom approached me in the grocery store to tell me how much she appreciates Ben’s way of reaching out to her son, pulling him into activities on the playground.

Later that night I considered this. Perhaps “race” needs to be put on the table more often. The dinner tables of typical families like ours all across the country. *And let the kids control the conversation.*

After all, the future belongs to this hodgepodge of American children ...

... to Sera, as she runs *her race*, perhaps becoming someone’s hero ...

... and to Ben and Brody as they run, together, across the playground.

**Name changed*

At times the Orange City home of Doug and Lisa Burg seems like a veritable United Nations assembly. Sera (12) and Ben (8) were adopted from Ethiopia; Anton (12) was adopted from Russia. Tessa (13) is a native Iowan, as are her grown siblings Maria (27) and Isaac (25).



Leave a Legacy

Siblings Margaret and Robert Barks both attended Northwestern Junior College in the mid-1940s. When Margaret died in 2010, she left her estate to her brother, two nephews and their children, and several charities, including Northwestern. Her gift to the college was especially appropriate for a woman who spent her career as a librarian: NWC added it to those of other donors to fund construction of the DeWitt Learning Commons, the new home of Northwestern's library.

Margaret also named Bob as the beneficiary of two annuities she owned. He, in turn, used them to fund the Margaret M. Barks Memorial Scholarship in her memory. Last fall Bob attended Northwestern's Scholarship Day Luncheon, where he was delighted to meet the two students who directly benefit from his and his sister's generosity—and impressed to see a banquet hall filled with 550 donors and students.

Be intentional.

Honor someone you love with a student scholarship named in their memory. To learn how, contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, at 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciova.edu.



give.nwciova.edu | giving@nwciova.edu



Excellence Abroad



ALLYSON AUSTIN '15

Northwestern's study abroad programs in Oman and Romania have earned the college another national ranking. Best College Reviews includes Northwestern among 50 American colleges and universities with the best study abroad programs. The website

identifies the most desirable study abroad opportunities that are unique to a college or university and provide a personal experience for the student.

Dr. William Hyndman III, Northwestern's director of global education, says the ranking affirms

the quality of the college's study abroad programs at a time when such opportunities are increasingly important to students and parents choosing a college. Both the Oman Semester, established in 2011, and the Transylvania Semester in Romania,

begun in 2007, are open to students from other colleges and universities.

the Classic