



*Northwestern College Magazine*

SPRING 2017

# *the* Classic

## Special Care

Northwestern alumni doctors are exceptional practitioners and scientists

*Also*

Study Habits and Habitats  
Health Care Reform  
Student Style



14

Northwestern students display their personal style through clothing, hairstyles and accessories.

FLOPPY SUN HAT

LEGGINGS

ANKLE BOOTS

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## Classic People

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

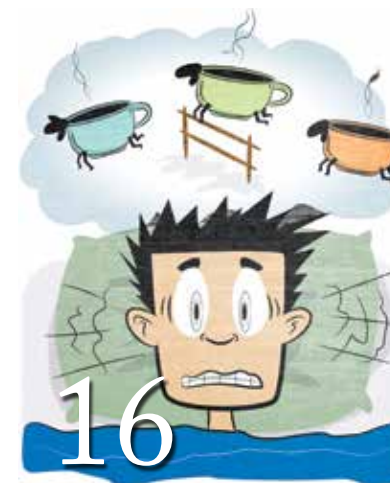
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Opinions expressed in the *Classic* do not necessarily reflect the official position of Northwestern College.

### On the Cover:

The cover art is a portion of a painting commissioned to hang in the home of Dr. Jerry Van Es '71, Sioux Center. The original work depicts those things that matter most to Van Es and his wife, Kim, NWC English professor, including his 30-year career in family medicine.

ART BY EYOB MERGIA



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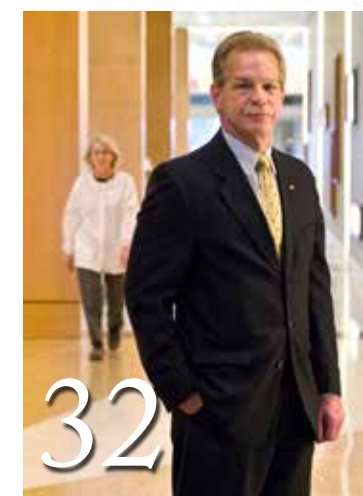
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Where was your special study spot at Northwestern? Share your story and comments about any article in this issue.

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



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DOUG BURG

## What I Discovered From the Discover Campaign

In November of 2014, we embarked upon the largest single-building fundraising campaign in Northwestern's history. The Discover Campaign has a goal of \$24.5 million for a new science center. It also seeks another \$5.5 million to endow the facility's operations and provide more scholarships and better research opportunities for students.

On April 7, thanks in part to a successful challenge pledge, we were able to break ground on Northwestern's newest building. Praise God for the generous financial commitments of so many people! As wonderful as it has been to see people give so sacrificially, what I will remember most about the Discover Campaign are the stories I've heard from our alumni.

On almost every trip I have made, at least one alum has asked about longtime biology professor Virg Muilenburg '58, '60, '62. Many have similar memories to the person who recalled, "He used to host me at his home for homemade pizza and milkshakes!" When I tell them he is still doing that for students, they are amazed! They are also not surprised to hear "Prof," as he's still affectionately known, continues to humbly serve the college by caring for our campus grounds.

Early on, an alumnus from our junior college days told me about a professor named Ted Van Bruggen. This gentleman said, "I owe him everything." I was able to get the two of them together when they were both in northwest Iowa, and they had a great reunion. A number of others have asked about former chemistry professor Dr. Pete Hansen. Many have expressed a deep respect and appreciation for what they learned from him.

More recent graduates have shared about the impact of our current science faculty. It's clear that alumni have been profoundly influenced by their professors in the natural and health sciences throughout our history.

While the focus of the Discover Campaign has been to raise funds for a new science center for the next generation of NWC students, it has also been a reminder that Northwestern is a place where deep and meaningful relationships are cultivated between professors and students—and those relationships continue long after graduation. Our faculty and staff pour their hearts and souls into providing a whole education for one's whole life. In the end, Northwestern grads get even more than that. They also gain lifelong mentors and relationships that can never be measured in dollars and cents.

Through the generations, we have been blessed with faculty and staff members who engage students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world. This campaign has reminded me yet again what a blessing it is to be part of this Christian academic community.

Greg Christy  
President

## New Academic Deans

Four employees will be promoted to new roles as academic deans, effective July 1.

Karen Bohm Barker, professor of theatre and speech, will serve as dean of arts and humanities; Dr. Dean Calsbeek '97, professor of kinesiology, as dean of natural and applied sciences; Dr. Rebecca Hoey, director of graduate school and adult learning, as dean of graduate school and adult learning; and Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff '83, professor of political science, as dean of social sciences.

According to Dr. Mark Husbands, vice president for academic affairs, the new positions will create an academic administrative team that

allows for greater communication, leadership and care for faculty and the academic program. He also anticipates the change will encourage strategic development at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The deans will work to improve instructional quality and outcomes by guiding curricular planning and assessment and by supporting faculty and faculty-student research.

"Our new deans will play a significant role in deepening Northwestern's institutional commitment to academic excellence in teaching, scholarship and the integration of faith and learning," Husbands says. "Committed Christian

scholarship is a necessity if we hope to maintain a truthful and abiding witness."

The academic deans will help secure resources and space for faculty to pursue teaching, scholarship and artistic production. They will also support department chairs so the chairs can play a more substantial role in mentoring their faculty colleagues. And because Husbands believes in the value of academic administrators who are, at the same time, models of teaching excellence, those deans in charge of Northwestern's undergraduate programs will continue to teach half time.



Karen Bohm Barker



Dr. Dean Calsbeek



Dr. Rebecca Hoey



Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff

## in Box

### Thankful for Diversity Vision

I was so thankful to read of the Vision for Diversity commitment and the steps NWC is taking to meet it! I love that students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included. Thanks for the articles covering this important work.

**Lisa (Steiner '99) Van Hofwegen**  
Bellingham, Wash.

The following is from a reader-posted comment about the *Classic* at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu):

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T

I agree completely with [Ben Brown '10, in his "Man in the Middle" *Classic* Thoughts

essay] on the respect issue. It is something that served me in good stead for my 36 years in law enforcement. Even the least among us wants to feel they have self-worth.

**Pete De Beer**  
Orange City

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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





# Encore of Accolades

Northwestern's high national rankings continued this winter with rankings by ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org. NWC was ranked 22nd on the website's list of the 50 Best Value Christian Colleges and Universities and 16th on its 50 Most Beautiful Christian Colleges and Universities nationwide list.

The value ranking lists the most affordable Christian colleges based both on net price and return on investment. Northwestern was the only college in Iowa to make the list.

"We are pleased to see another high ranking based on data that shows Northwestern is affordable and offers a strong return on investment," says Mark Bloemendaal '81, dean of enrollment and marketing. "Students and their families can be confident that Northwestern offers an outstanding education at a reasonable price and that our graduates get great jobs."

The site's description of Northwestern's campus highlights the

college's attractive grounds and vicinity to residential neighborhoods, local parks and eating areas. The website also mentions impressive facilities that surround the campus green, including Zwemer Hall.



Northwestern is ranked as the 16th most beautiful Christian college campus by ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org.

FIGAYLOR

## Biblical Drama Online

A recording of last fall's production of *Joseph and His Brothers* can be viewed at [nwciowa.edu/joseph-video](http://nwciowa.edu/joseph-video).

The drama was scripted directly from Scripture by theatre professor Jeff Barker with input from the show's cast. As with all the Old Testament dramas he's scripted, Barker hopes the experience of watching the play inspires audience members to re-read the biblical story—this time with a bigger, more vivid imagination.

A video of the Northwestern theatre production of *Joseph and His Brothers* is online.



## Recommended Programs

Twenty-five of Northwestern's academic programs are listed in the 2017 edition of *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook that recommends specific college departments to prospective students.

The selected programs are actuarial science, athletic training, biochemistry, biology, business, chemistry, computer information systems, computer science, ecological science, education, English, exercise science, history, music, music and worship leadership, nursing, philosophy, physics, psychology, public relations, religion, social work, sociology, Spanish and theatre.

Written by Frederick Rugg, a national expert on the college search process, the book includes programs at 1,170 colleges he has identified as providing a high-quality education.



English is one of 25 NWC programs listed in the 2017 edition of *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*.

DOUG BURG

## Calling and Mission

Students, faculty and staff spent a day exploring the calling and mission of the Christian college during Northwestern's annual Day of Learning in Community on Feb. 15.

Dr. Timothy Larsen, professor of Christian thought at Wheaton

College, served as the keynote speaker and participated in a panel discussion on faith and science. Participants also had their choice of sessions covering such topics as young adult faith development, Christians and democracy, global education, intercultural living and

learning, preparing for graduate school, and caring for the vulnerable.

"Dr. Larsen reminded us that while there are significant economic benefits to getting a high-quality Christian education, that's not the primary benefit,"

says Dr. Mark Husbands, vice president for academic affairs. "The primary benefit is learning how the particular way God has made you—with your gifts and abilities and passions—connects to God's work in the world."

## Profs Practice What They Teach

Four Northwestern professors are the recipients of grants or sabbaticals for 2017–18 designed to encourage research and further study in their fields. Dr. Laird Edman, psychology, and Emily Stokes, art, were awarded \$9,500 and \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowships; Dr. Diana Gonzalez, Spanish, and Dr. Valerie (Roman '93) Stokes, social work, full-year sabbaticals.

Edman will use his fellowship to continue his research in the cognitive science of religion, which studies the relationship between belief and mental processes involved in perception, memory, judgment and reasoning. He is writing a book to help ministry leaders benefit from a more accurate understanding of human cognition and psychology.

The other fellowship will support the artistic work of Emily Stokes, who is creating pieces that feature contemporary iconography. She mounts linocut and lithograph prints on wood, populating

landscapes with animals, objects and people that reflect Christian symbolism and convey deeper meanings.

Gonzalez will spend her sabbatical as part of a research team in her home country of Argentina. She and her colleagues will explore how language choices in Spanish differ depending on the social context, roles and values of the speakers. The project will also study identity building through discourse.

Valerie Stokes will open a private practice as a clinical mental health therapist during her sabbatical. She also wants to develop advocacy activities and outreach opportunities among the local Latino community and spend time working on curricular revisions for the college's social work program.

Northwestern funding will enable (clockwise from left) Dr. Diana Gonzalez, Dr. Laird Edman, Dr. Valerie Stokes and Emily Stokes to pursue further study in their fields.



DOUG BURG



# Campus Life

## Whodunit?

There's an outline of a body on the ground, and passers-by hear nefarious things. "Stabbed or shot?" "Bullets were ricocheting everywhere." "It was the mafia. Hit job."

It's not a crime scene. It's Dr. Sam Martin's English seminar on writing crime fiction.

Students gather around a table—underneath which there really is an outline of a body, made with masking tape on the carpeted floor—to discuss crime scenes from literature, movies and TV and try writing their own. They read and their classmates critique their writing, offering suggestions for everything from character names to weapon choices to disposal options for dead bodies.

The half-semester course introduces students to three crime-fiction subgenres: the whodunit, sometimes called the "village cozy," as it's often set in a small town or enclosed environment like a train; police procedurals, a popular format on TV; and noir thrillers, including psychological thrillers like recent book-to-movie sensation *Gone Girl*.

Martin also teaches fantasy writing and poetry. He's currently working on his second novel, a noir thriller, and has published short stories, essays and poetry.

"I want student writers to be able to try different kinds of genres," he says, adding that he wants students to think of their characters as more than just plot devices. A key to good crime fiction is giving weight to each body, he explains. "We're making art about real people, and regardless of their sins, we need to find artistic ways to honor the image of God in them."

The students finished class before spring break by turning in their tales of murder and mayhem. During the final class, Martin quipped, "Class is over. There will be no more killing." A student lamented, "Bummer. I was just getting good at it."

### Crime Classics

Martin's syllabus warns the course is for writers and readers "unafraid of macabre discoveries and harrowing encounters ... There will be blood." The course's criminal reading list includes the Sherlock Holmes mystery *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; *A Fatal Grace*, by Louise Penny; *The Devil You Know*, by Elisabeth de Mariaffi; and *The Son*, by Jo Nesbø. Students are also assigned to watch episodes from crime series such as *Castle*, *Broadchurch* and *Breaking Bad*.

## Gold Rush

Four Northwestern publications won awards in the 2017 Educational Advertising Awards contest sponsored by *Higher Education Marketing Report*.

Gold awards recognized the 2016 Christmas card, designed by John Vander Stelt '83, and Northwestern's college fair brochure. Two publications for the admissions office received awards of merit: the fine arts brochure and an "apply now" postcard.

This is the second consecutive year that four projects coordinated by Northwestern's PR office have won awards.

## Critical Acclaim

Senior Abi Stoscher received first place in a theatre criticism competition at the Region Five Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Des Moines in January.

During the festival, Stoscher wrote a preview for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and a critique of *Othello*.

Stoscher and senior Julia VanDyk also received honorable mention for their sound design for the college's production of *Rabbit Hole*.

In addition, junior Warren Duncan was among 66 students who advanced to the semifinal pool of the Irene Ryan Acting competition.

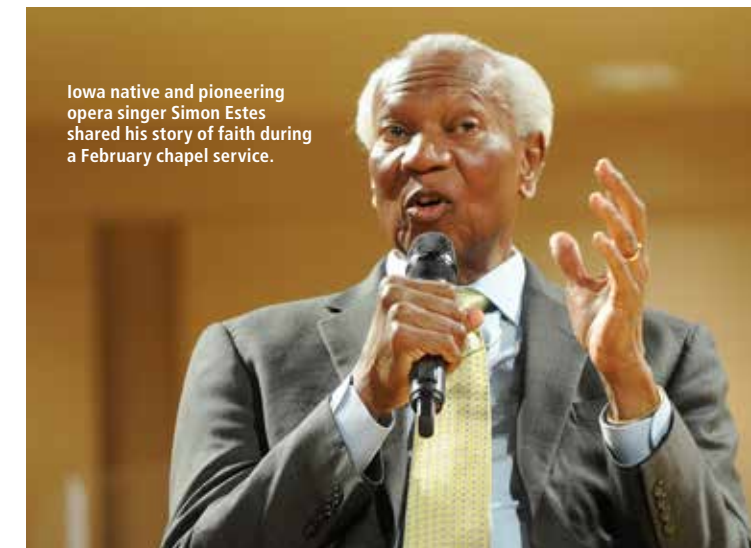
## Sharing the Word

Students have heard from a number of nationally known speakers during chapel services this semester.

Guests have included sexual abuse survivor Nicole Bromley; international opera star Simon Estes; Chigozie Obioma, award-winning author of *The Fishermen*, which was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize in 2015; and Sarah Theborge, author of *The Invisible Girls*, which tells the story of her relationship with a family of Somali refugees.

Among others sharing their stories and insights were the Rev. Ben Aguilera '12, pastor of community and global engagement at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Mich.; the Rev. Dr. Jerry Sittser, best-selling author, former Northwestern chaplain and current professor at Whitworth University; and the Rev. Tim Vink '87, senior church multiplication catalyst for the Reformed Church in America.

Iowa native and pioneering opera singer Simon Estes shared his story of faith during a February chapel service.



DAN ROSS

### ¿Hablas Español?

Northwestern has added Spanish-language webpages to its website. The pages—available at [nwciowa.edu/espanol](http://nwciowa.edu/espanol)—provide information on the college's academic excellence, Christian faith, financial aid and campus visit program. They are written for Spanish-speaking family members of prospective students and were translated by Professor Piet Koene, who directs Northwestern's Spanish translation and interpretation major.

According to Dr. Mark Husbands, vice president for academic affairs, it's common for Latino students to share college information with pastors and extended family members in order to get the community's blessing on their college decision. Having webpages in Spanish makes it easier for them to do just that—and lets them know they matter to Northwestern.

## The Art of Influence

The influence of generations of art professors, including John Kaericher, professor emeritus of art at Northwestern, was emphasized through exhibits and a lecture at Minot State University (MSU) in March.

Under the coordination of Ryan Stander '98, a professor at MSU, the university displayed a major artwork donation to its permanent art collection by noted Chicago printmaker David Driesbach while also exhibiting stylistically related prints by Kaericher. An interpretive lecture, "Lasting Influence: The Art of David Driesbach and John Kaericher," kicked off the exhibits.

Driesbach and Kaericher were students of Mauricio Lasansky at the University of Iowa. Kaericher also studied under Driesbach while earning his bachelor's degree at Millikin University.

Kaericher eventually taught Stander, who says the underlying message in the two exhibits is that

teachers can have a profound influence on their students. "It's about the mentoring," says Stander, "the power between the educator and student."



A self-portrait of retired Northwestern art professor John Kaericher was included in an exhibit at Minot State University.



## European Classroom

A new professor is teaching a new study abroad course.

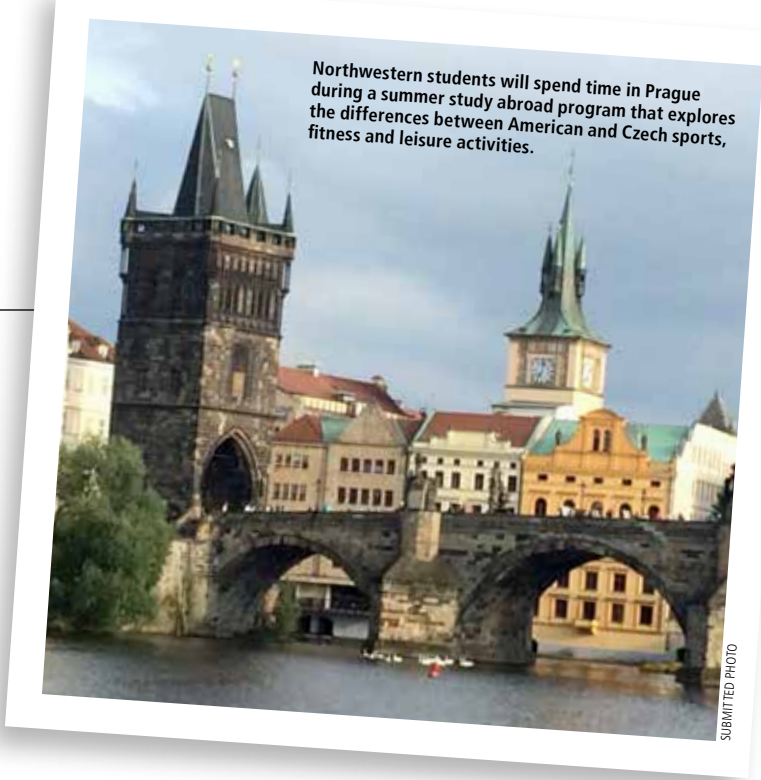
Dr. Jason Lief '96 joined Northwestern's religion faculty last August as an expert in Christian education and youth ministry. This summer he will lead students to Italy, where they will participate in a two-week spiritual pilgrimage that follows the journey of St. Francis from Assisi to Rome.

"Students will experience religious beliefs and practices that are an important part of the Italian heritage, and in doing so, they'll have the opportunity to

examine their own faith," Lief says.

The pilgrimage will take students through the back country of Italy, where they will stay in hostels, homes and monasteries in small towns and villages. Morning and evening worship will be part of each day.

The other summer study abroad trip will take students to Czechia—the country formerly known as the Czech Republic. Led by Kyle Ochsner '09, Northwestern's head strength and conditioning coach, participants in that three-week course will compare and



contrast Czech sports, fitness and leisure activities with those of the United States.

Daily hikes and runs will be part of the schedule, as will the opportunity to interact with Czech college students

while staying at two universities.

Members of the class will also tour a Czech Olympic training center, visit a famous mineral water spa town, and explore castles and villages.

## Science Center to Open in Fall 2018

Members of the Board of Trustees, faculty/staff and students gathered on April 7 for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new health and natural sciences building.

A flurry of recent gifts has brought the total for the Discover Campaign to \$26.1 million. Less than \$3.9 million remains to be raised to reach the campaign's \$30 million goal, which includes \$24.5 million

for the facility and \$5.5 million for its maintenance, student research and scholarships.

Please join in the effort to fully fund the campaign. To learn more and donate, visit [nwciowa.edu/discover](http://nwciowa.edu/discover).

The 61,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed by the fall of 2018.



The new science building will bring the departments of biology, chemistry and nursing under one roof and create a grand west entrance to the campus on Highway 10.

## Special Education M.Ed.

Northwestern College's graduate school has added a fourth track to its Master of Education degree program: special education. Classes, offered entirely online, will begin May 15.

The program is designed for teachers who want to educate and inspire children with exceptionalities in a wide range of teaching and administrative roles. Teachers will learn effective strategies for creating meaningful learning experiences for students, as well as the social, legal and ethical issues surrounding special education. The program will provide instruction on the latest breakthroughs in assessment, instructional strategies and evidence-based practices for teaching students with exceptionalities.

"This is an in-demand M.Ed. track for us to offer," says Dr. Sara Waring-Tiedeman, director of Northwestern's Master of Education program. "As teachers are learning about Northwestern's great professors and how affordable our M.Ed. programs are, they're asking for tracks in their areas of specialization. I'm pleased we can now offer a graduate degree for special educators."

Four instructional strategist endorsements will also be offered. For more information about these or other graduate programs and adult learning opportunities, visit [online.nwciowa.edu](http://online.nwciowa.edu).

## Face Value

### David Arnett

Making Chemistry F<sup>9</sup>U<sup>92</sup>N<sup>7</sup>

#### How did you become interested in chemistry?

My dad was a physician with a love for science. As far back as I can remember, we were always building kites or collecting butterfly eggs. At one point, my parents bought me a chemistry set, which I used to almost burn down the house. I had great science teachers in middle school, high school and college, and they challenged me and teased me and somehow got me to engage. I found I loved the creativity in chemistry. I later learned I love the math that underlies chemistry.

#### Did you always want to be a chemist?

I think everyone assumed I would become a doctor like my dad. But I never wanted that. I wanted to be an architect, but I think science got ahold of me pretty early on. Later I thought about applying to be an astronaut, and I've even thought about attending seminary.

#### What do you find fascinating about your field?

I just love light. It's a little mysterious, very beautiful and really powerful. I'm amazed at the number of ways we can use light to learn about molecules. My love of light really started in graduate school when I learned how to build a laser and got to explore ways to use it.

#### Has an experiment you've performed ever gone wrong?

Most of them do, at least initially. Fortunately, I like the process of troubleshooting and working through what might be going wrong. So I actually get really excited when something happens that I don't expect.

#### What's your favorite lab experiment for students?

We do a forensics-themed lab in which students are given urine and blood samples (all fake, of course) from Disney princesses who have recently died. They need to figure out what killed the princesses and if they were pregnant



Dave Arnett, a member of the chemistry faculty since 1999, is known for wearing Hawaiian shirts. The Ph.D. graduate from the University of Pennsylvania frequently uses a longboard made by two of his students.

at the time of death, all based on the chemical makeup of the urine and blood. I also add in some irony, like Ariel the mermaid suffering from dehydration.

#### Got any good chemistry jokes?

Why did the chemist oppose carbon dating? Because it leads to carbon marriage. Here's another: Two atoms are walking down the street. One turns to the other and says, "I think I lost an electron." The other looks back and says, "Are you sure?" to which the first atom says, "Yes, I'm positive." A third: A photon checks into a hotel and is asked if he needs any help with his luggage. He says "No, I'm traveling light."

#### What do you do when you're not teaching?

I've always enjoyed athletics, and I'm pretty competitive. I used to be into soccer and running, but now it's CrossFit, racquetball and golf (both regular and disc). I also love tormenting my kids with dad jokes.



# A New Chapter



Dr. Eric Elder has taught 23 different courses since joining the business and economics faculty 32 years ago.

DOUG BURK

## Getting Off of the Bus

Following five years of working as an accountant, Eric Elder was driving a bus in Tacoma, Wash., when he felt a sense of calling. He had been reading about Christian formation and decided he could contribute more to God's kingdom by becoming an economics professor at a Christian college.

He earned a doctorate in agricultural economics at Washington State University and was hired to join Northwestern's business faculty in 1985. During his time at NWC, he served a number of years as department chair and was interim academic dean for two.

One of the highlights for him, though, has been seeing the growth of students. "They come in and often think they're mature already. Over their four years, they go through this transformation in so many ways. When they graduate, they are adults

like they thought they were when they came in. I like all the ways we get to know them—as advisees, in class, outside of class. I'm encouraged by their energy and their faith."

The recipient of a Northwestern teaching award in 1990, Elder has been described by students as kind, patient, knowledgeable and approachable. Former student and longtime business professor Vonda (Elgersma '88) Post adds, "He is an encourager and a supportive leader to students as well as colleagues—a team player who works for what is best for all."

As he enters retirement, Elder hopes to spend more time in national parks, visiting his grandchildren and competing in in-line skating marathons. He'll also continue looking for new opportunities to encourage others.

**After serving on Northwestern's faculty for decades**, Drs. Eric Elder and Jackie Smallbones are retiring this spring



Religion and Christian education professor Dr. Jackie Smallbones says she admires her students' genuine Christian faith and desire for ministry.

DOUG BURK

## South African Storyteller

The Northwestern students who have grown in their faith through Jackie Smallbones' teaching over the last 22 years owe a debt to "Auntie Rita." In Smallbones' native South Africa, Rita was the leader of a children's Bible club that kept the future professor enrapt as she told one Bible story after another.

"She was an amazing storyteller, and she wasn't afraid to teach about theology," says Smallbones. "All of my basic Bible and theological knowledge came from Auntie Rita."

Years later, after earning master's and doctoral degrees in Christian education and teaching at a South African seminary and Northwestern, Smallbones wanted to refresh her own spiritual life. That happened when she returned to the power of "story" she had left behind in her adolescence.

Smallbones' latest book, *Live the*

*Story not the Dream: Story and Spiritual Formation*, encourages readers to discover the same excitement for God's word she regained. "It's about putting yourself in the story, forcing you to think with your head and heart together," she explains. "It takes students a while, but they do get into it."

The students who nominated Smallbones for the 1998 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award confirmed that. "She transformed the Bible for me in a way I thought was not possible," wrote one. "Her classes have given me a hunger for God," said another.

As she moves into retirement, Smallbones looks for ways to continue to help others flourish in their faith. She hopes to expand her work as a spiritual director and retreat leader. And she's already thinking her fourth book could be a daily devotional.

## Summer Lovin'

Fiji and Greece are among the destinations for Northwestern's 20 Summer of Service team members, who will each spend six to eight weeks serving with mission agencies around the world. Students also are headed to Bolivia, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Southeast Asia and Spain.

Among the missions they will serve are Robin's Nest, an orphanage in Jamaica; Camino

Global, a ministry that equips Spanish-speaking Christians to serve the church and transform their communities; and the Luke Society, a medical mission organization with clinics and hospitals on five continents.

Northwestern's Summer of Service program has been supporting and equipping students to serve as short-term missionaries since 1981.



Twenty Northwestern students will develop relationships with people at sites around the world as they partner with mission agencies this summer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Dual-Degree Engineering Program

Northwestern has reestablished a dual-degree engineering partnership with Washington University in St. Louis that enables students to earn two degrees in five years.

Students in the program spend three years at NWC earning a bachelor's degree, typically in a field foundational to engineering, such as biology, chemistry, computer science or math. Credits then transfer to Washington University and become the basis for a degree in one or more

of WashU's programs: biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, or systems science and engineering.

Washington University is ranked among *U.S. News & World Report's* top 50 engineering schools.

Learn more at [nwciowa.edu/engineering](http://nwciowa.edu/engineering).

## Counselor on Council

Dr. Sally Oakes Edman, Northwestern's director of counseling services, has been elected to represent the state of Iowa on the Council of Representatives for the American Psychological Association (APA).



Dr. Sally Edman

The council is the APA's legislative body. Edman's three-year term began in January; in this role she serves on the Executive Council of the Iowa Psychological Association. She is also a member of the organization's Ethics Board.

## Spend a week exploring God's plan.

Northwestern College  
June 25–30, 2017

Living your Faith is a campus experience for high schoolers who want to explore Christianity and calling.

[lyf.nwciowa.edu](http://lyf.nwciowa.edu)

LIVING  
YOUR  
FAITH



Sixteen years after leading the Red Raiders to their first national title, Rachel (Binneboese) Leavitt was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

# Red Zone

## In the Hall

BY DUANE BEESON

Rachel (Binneboese '01) Leavitt can't remember the last time she picked up a basketball. That will surprise many Red Raider fans who remember her as a four-time All-American and two-time National Player of the Year who led NWC to the 2001 national championship.

Leavitt, who was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame at this year's national tournament in Sioux City, says her basketball career was fulfilling—and complete.

"I think I don't play anymore because I had the most amazing experience at Northwestern. I could not have asked for better coaches, teammates and supporters. There's nothing I wish would have turned out differently."

Now in her sixth year as the secondary principal for the Lawton-Bronson (Iowa) School District, Leavitt has turned her competitive spirit to distance running and triathlons. Success has followed; she has placed in her age group in each triathlon in which she raced.

"Rachel prepares for everything she does with remarkable attention to detail and total commitment," says Earl Woudstra '78, her former coach and now Northwestern's athletic director. "She had a burning desire to be her best and to make her team successful. No one was going to work harder than Rachel."

An NAIA Scholar-Athlete as a junior and senior and the 2000 national Liston Award winner for high athletic and scholastic achievement, Leavitt is Northwestern's career leader in steals and the runner-up in scoring and rebounding.

She is the second NWC player to be named a Hall of Famer, joining quarterback Lee McKinstrey '85. Three coaches have received the honor: Woudstra, Larry Korver '54 (football) and Paul Bartlett (wrestling).



Rachel Leavitt

## Sweet 16

The men's and women's basketball teams both advanced to the second round of their respective NAIA Div. II national tournaments in March, the men ending the year with a 27-7 record and the women finishing at 20-12.

Colton Kooima and Kassidy De Jong earned National Player of the Week honors and were named first team All-Americans.

The Raider men won the GPAC tournament for the first time since 2012.

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

# Capitol Performance

BY ANITA CIRULIS

The photo shows 34 Northwestern students posed on the steps of the United States Capitol, along with U.S. Rep. Wiley Mayne and theatre professor Dr. Theora England.

It was 1973, and the Choral Readers were on a 12-day spring tour to the East Coast. Performances were scheduled in churches and schools in Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, New York and New Jersey, but it was their time in Washington, D.C., and New York City that many alums describe as the highlight of the trip.

"It was exciting to perform on the Capitol steps," says Peggy (Heldt '76) Kenyon, who played guitar for the group. "That was a huge thing. We also performed inside the Washington National Cathedral."

Jay Dekker '74, from Fulda, Minn., remembers the view from the top of the Empire State Building and looking out the windows that form the Statue of Liberty's crown. "It was a great trip," he says. "For me—20 years old, from the farm—I'd never seen anything like that." In D.C., Dekker and his fellow Choral Readers also visited the Lincoln and Washington memorials and toured the White House.

The program that year included psalms; poems by Carl Sandburg, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Thomas Hood; a piece for a verse choir; and songs that included *Pass It On*, *I Wish We'd All Been Ready*, *Here Comes the Sun* and *One Tin Soldier*.

The combination of dramatic readings, music and Scripture is what drew Muriel (Dykstra '74) Loveall to the group after her freshman year at NWC. "I had never heard of Choral Readers, but after seeing them, I realized it was a chance to work with other people on something I enjoyed," she says. While Loveall, who went on to major in speech, appreciated the honor of performing at the Capitol, she enjoyed more the programs the Choral Readers presented in churches, where they had more contact with their audience.

It was Rep. Mayne from Iowa's 6th District who secured permission for the Choral Readers to perform on the Capitol steps and arranged for a photographer to take the group's picture—then made sure each student received a copy of the photo. He was also likely the one who delivered to President Richard Nixon the pair of wooden shoes the students brought with them from Iowa.

In a letter of thanks addressed to Nancy (Truitt '74) Vander Velde, Nixon expressed appreciation for the gift. "You were kind to want me to have the pair of wooden shoes as a remembrance," the letter reads, "and I was interested to learn that they were handcrafted in Orange City. We Americans are a people with a hearty appreciation of the heritage we have drawn from all nations."







CAMP STYLE - LAYERING

MAN BUN

FLANNEL

CAMPY CARDIGAN

FASHION GLASSES

STICKERS EVERYWHERE

FLEECE PULLOVERS

LONG SOCKS + BOOTS

CHACO SANDALS

HYDRO FLASK WATER BOTTLE

DICK BOOTS

BLANKET SCARF

BRIGHT LIPSTICK / GOLD JEWELRY

STRIKED JEWELRY

# Fashion Statement

College students are trend-setters, discovering their personal style and displaying it through clothing and accessories. Check out what's popular among Northwestern students.

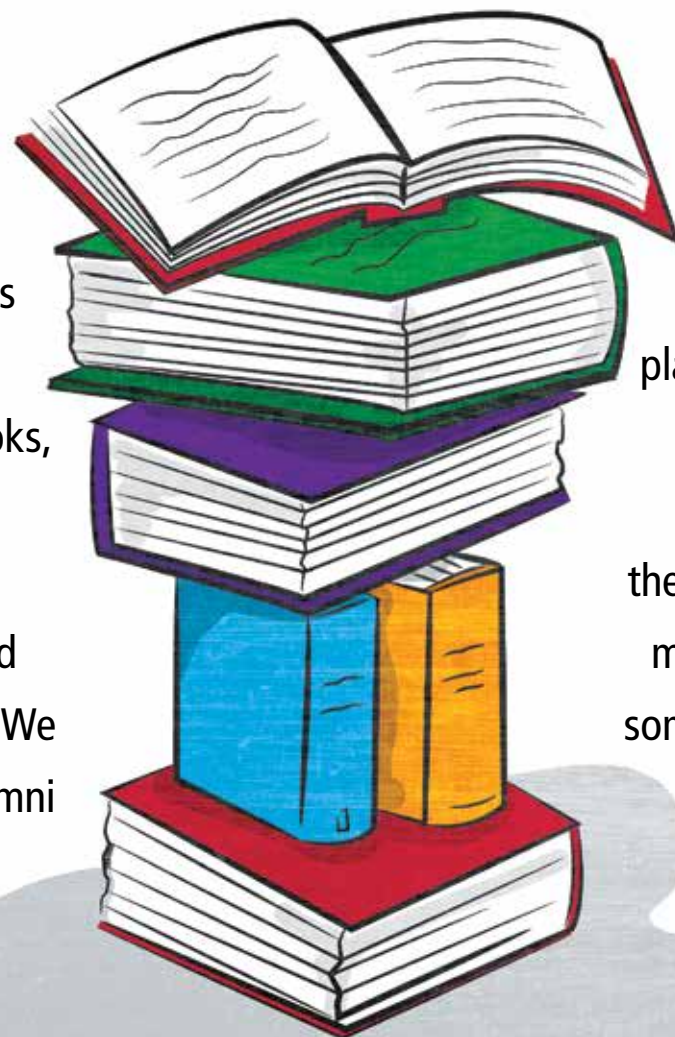
Student photos by Doug Burg



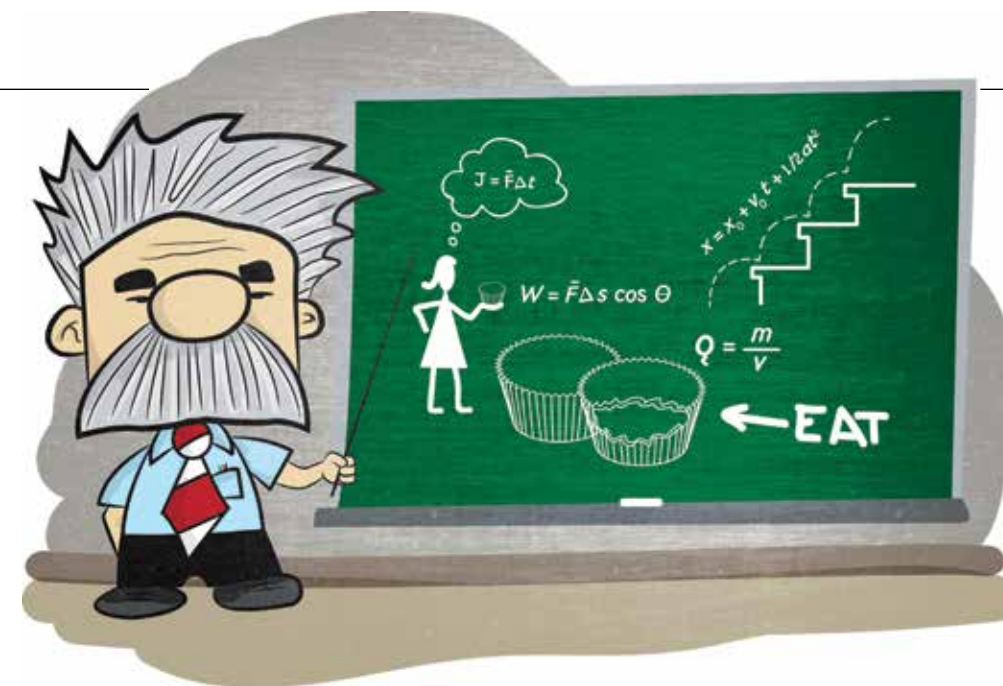
# HITTING the BOOKS

EDITED BY ANITA CIRULIS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE MALEC

College students  
spend hours  
reading textbooks,  
doing research,  
conducting lab  
experiments and  
writing papers. We  
asked NWC alumni  
and students



to share the best  
places on campus to  
concentrate on an  
assignment—and  
the best ways to stay  
motivated. Here are  
some of their favorite  
study haunts  
and habits.



## SWEET SUPPORT

Once while walking back to my dorm room after a particularly painful physics exam, I happened upon a Reese's peanut butter cup in the back stairwell of Fern. Because I was feeling a little down in the dumps about the test and the opportunity presented itself, I admit: I may have eaten it. From then on, whenever I had a physics test, or even a P-Chem test, my roommates would leave Reese's peanut butter cups on my desk so I wouldn't be tempted to eat anything off the floor.

**EMILY NIENHUIS '16**  
Pullman, Wash.

## COMPUTER OASIS

In the '90s, the best place to type papers was the computer in the Ramaker children's library. The second-floor room was usually empty and contained a lone computer next to a window that overlooked Highway 10 and the entrances to Zwemer and VPH, creating an ideal vantage point for people-watching. When the weather cooperated, I could open the window and enjoy a nice breeze. After dinner, I would grab a couple of cans of Coke, head up there and knock out a draft.

**DR. TOM TRUESDELL '01**  
Orange City

## CORNER VIEW

I used to study on the top floor (balcony) of Ramaker Library. I would head for the last study carrel on the northwest side. From there I could study without distractions and even take a quick nap. I appreciated the quiet but could also gaze out on the lawn to see any activity I might be missing out on. My first Northwestern boyfriend got me hooked on studying in the library, and it was a habit I continued all four years.

**KAREN (SCHERB '85) BENES**  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

## STAGED FOR STUDY

I love studying in DeWitt Theatre. The lobby and classroom are usually peaceful, with the occasional friends who pass by on their way to rehearsal. As a theatre major, I spend so much time in that building that it feels like home. Venturing to the faculty office suite to say "hi" to the profs and grab a handful of marshmallows makes for the perfect study break.

**HANNAH WAMHOFF**  
Sophomore, Papillion, Neb.

## TROUBLE BREWING

During my sophomore year, I was living on the first floor of Colenbrander Hall. A room at the end of the hall was reserved for serious study, and since only a few of us were serious studiers, it was usually free. That's where I pulled my first all-nighter. The dorm parents furnished a coffee pot that was replenished all night long. And I took advantage of it, drinking nine cups of coffee between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., when I finally laid down for a nap before my exam. I discovered the urban legend about sleeping with your eyes open is actually true, as I could not get my eyes closed even though my body was screaming, "Go to sleep!!" I swear I fell asleep with my eyes open.

**DR. JOHN HUBERS '76**  
Orange City





READING IN THE READY ROOM

I'm always running around campus for classes, meetings, events and rehearsals, so sometimes when I have an unscheduled hour, I study wherever I'm at just to save the time of walking somewhere else. One of my favorite spots when I really need to focus is the green room in DeWitt Theatre. It's almost always available, and it's in the back of the building so it's nice and quiet. The room is fully equipped with tables, a couch and some comfy chairs—as well as a huge whiteboard and full kitchenette. It's got everything a student needs to stay focused, comfy and fed.

**RANDYL LYNN GETZ**  
*Sophomore, Urbandale, Iowa*

DOUBLE-BOOKED

I had two favorite study places. The first was a little room in the drama department's office under what was then the chapel. It was often empty at night, and I could close and lock the door and study without interruption. It was also where I met many students I tutored for a Western Civ class. The second spot was one of the two upstairs classrooms in Ramaker Library. I would study in one of those at night, as they were not used then. Occasionally couples found their way into those rooms, and I would say "Oops!" and find another space.

**REV. PAUL NULTON '69**  
*Vernon, N.J.*

COMMUTER CAMARADERIE

I was married with a young son when I attended Northwestern, so I didn't live on campus. My favorite place to study was the commuter lounge, located in the southwest corner of the third floor of Van Peursem Hall. There was an odd collection of furniture, a small refrigerator and lots of camaraderie.

**LAURA (DYKSTRA '84) HEITRITTER**  
*Boyden, Iowa*

SMELL OF SMART

Fall semester of my freshman year, I only had one final on the Thursday of finals week. Since I had lots of time to prepare, I tried to find many different places around campus to study so I could stay focused. My favorite was the basement of Ramaker Library. It was incredibly quiet since no one else was down there, and I could find inspiration from the smell of the old books.

**SARAH HILKEMANN '08**  
*Pierce, Neb.*

STAKING A CLAIM

I always do my homework in one of the individual study rooms on the second floor of DeWitt Learning Commons. The room isn't much bigger than 4-by-6-feet, but it's my favorite spot on campus. I get there right when the building opens on Sundays to claim my territory.

**JESSI CARVER**  
*Sophomore, Urbandale, Iowa*

HIDEAWAY

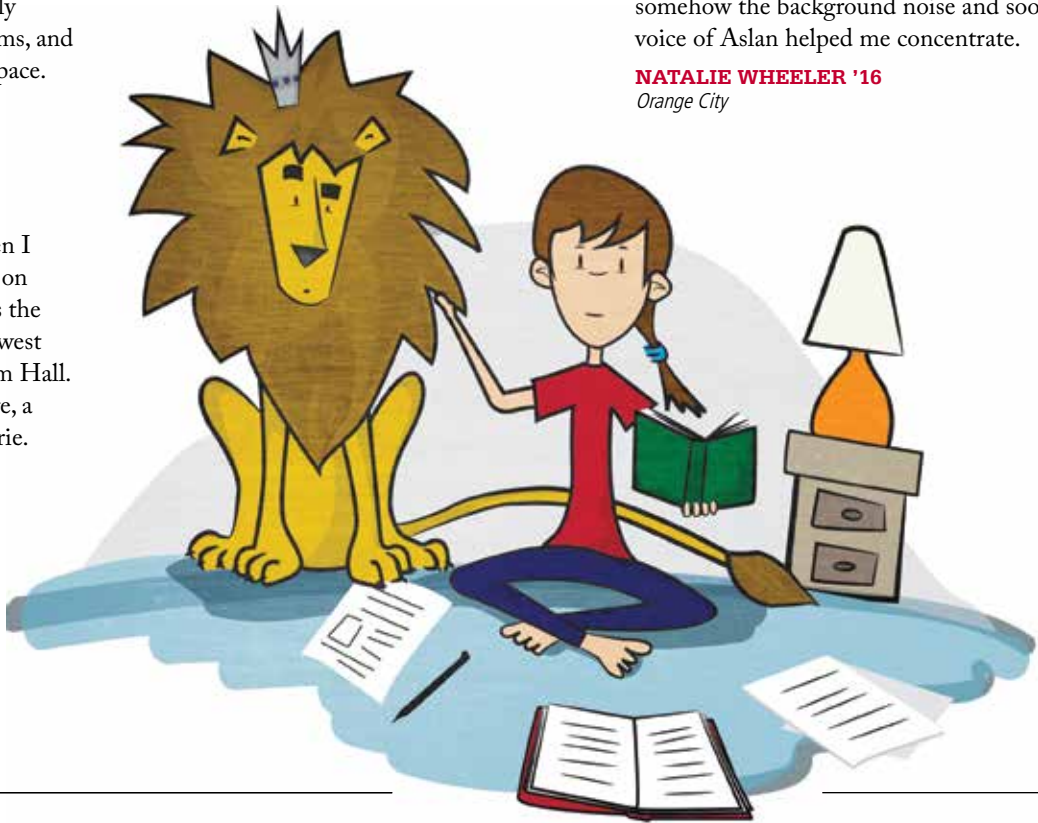
Being a commuter, I would drive to campus Monday through Friday and make the library my home away from home. On long Mondays, which sometimes began with an 8 a.m. class and ended with an evening class, I would slip into the seldom-used second-floor classrooms/meeting rooms in Ramaker Library to study. There were fewer temptations for socializing, and with those comfortable sofas, I could catch a much-needed nap after busy weekends.

**REV. ROGER PUNT '72**  
*Woodbury, Minn.*

HELP FROM ASLAN

During the second semester of my senior year, I was student teaching. I found writing lesson plans and doing all the teacher prep wasn't something that could be done in the learning commons, Ramaker—or really anywhere there were people. I'm too much of a social butterfly for that. So I would literally lock myself in my dorm room, sit on the floor with all my teaching materials spread out around me, and play *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* on TV. I've seen the movie too many times to actually be distracted by it, but somehow the background noise and soothing voice of Aslan helped me concentrate.

**NATALIE WHEELER '16**  
*Orange City*



CANDY COATED

My roommate and I studied for our philosophy class with a two-pound bag of peanut butter M&Ms. We consumed so many that semester that we were able to cover our door with the bags. I also have fond memories of bringing a pillow and a coffee pot to the little study rooms in Ramaker back in the day ...

**DR. ELIZABETH HEEG '01**  
*Orange City*

EARLY MORNING DEW

Casey's had reusable mugs that you could fill with fountain pop for \$1. We would head there before closing to fill up with Mt. Dew to make it through the night. I usually tried to do Monday and Tuesday's work on the weekend and then always work a day ahead so I wouldn't have to say no if someone called for a spontaneous midnight run to the "TH" (Truck Haven truck stop in Le Mars) for a giant cinnamon roll.

**VALERIE (DITTMER '87) KING**  
*Marshalltown, Iowa*

EXAM EXCUSE

I always studied in the library before tests, but during finals week I lived there. My goal was to spend all my free time in the library until I was done with my last exam. My sophomore year I was in an upstairs cubicle on the Wednesday of finals week. Most of my friends were done studying and had resorted to playing pranks on each other. My roommate came storming into the library, ran up the steps (he knew right where to find me), and informed me he needed my help because our wing-mate had finally crossed the line when he put a raw liver in my roommate's underwear drawer! I was happy right where I was, though, and told him I wouldn't be getting involved.

**DAN SWIER '06**  
*Orange City*



FULL MOON

My preferred study spot was on the upper level of Ramaker when it was still the library. I recall one final exam week when I happened to look out the window and catch a full view of someone's rear end. One Heemstra guy was mooning another out on the campus green!

**DR. KARISSA CARLSON '02**  
*Le Mars, Iowa*

SOLITAIRE

If I really need to focus and get a lot of work done (like cranking out a 10-page paper), I like to shut myself into one of the individual study rooms upstairs in DeWitt Learning Commons. Otherwise, my favorite table in the learning commons is hidden behind some bookshelves and right next to a window. It's a bit secluded so there are less distractions, but I can still look outside, which makes studying more enjoyable.

**ANNA STROH**  
*Sophomore, Sioux Falls, S.D.*

ACADEMIC ALCOVE

Back when Hospers was a women's dorm, my favorite study spot was an alcove in the basement that had a few comfy chairs and a couch. During the day, this was a great place to hang out and play games with wing-mates, but after midnight, something special happened, and it was transformed into a place filled with muse and that ever-elusive element: motivation. Many a paper and project were completed in that beloved alcove—sometimes accompanied by music, but other times, just the sound of silence and the hush of a dorm that can only materialize in the early hours of the morning. 🏠

**DR. EMILY DYKSTRA '10**  
*Orange City*





Dr. Mitch Engle is a physician and pain medicine professor at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, a global leader in cancer care. Engle's patients are from all over the world; he also directs the center's elite pain fellowship program, mentoring future doctors.

# GOOD MEDICINE

Alumni physicians provide exceptional care and contribute to advances in their specialized areas of practice

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Opioid abuse now kills nearly as many people in the U.S. as car accidents—33,000 overdose deaths in 2015 compared to nearly 38,000 traffic fatalities, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's an epidemic. And it's an area of concern and research for Dr. Mitch Engle '00, an anesthesiologist who specializes in pain medicine.

After graduating from Northwestern, Engle earned both an M.D. and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. The dual-degree idea was "all Sara," says Engle, crediting his Northwestern mentor Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84 for assuring him he was strong enough in biology and chemistry to excel as both a doctor and a research scientist. "I would have done just medical school if not for her," Engle says, "and missed out on an area of medicine I really enjoy."

Engle's doctoral research in neuropathic pain and his anesthesiology residency—as well as graduate school mentorship by a well-known pain researcher—enabled him to land a fellowship in pain medicine at the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. He was offered a position when he finished, and he's been an assistant professor and pain medicine physician at MD Anderson since 2011.

Engle's patients come from all over the world, often because the cancer treatment they've been receiving elsewhere isn't working. They hope to participate in MD Anderson's drug trials and other therapies not yet available to the broader population of cancer patients. "Ten to 20 percent of my patients require having a translator in the room," says Engle, who also provides consultation by video or in person with oncologists and pain physicians at MD Anderson-affiliated hospitals in

countries such as Ethiopia, Jordan and South Korea.

Engle fits the stereotype of a multi-tasking, yet focused, physician. In addition to overseeing a handful of studies—including one on responsible opioid prescribing—and treating his own patients (which includes attending to paperwork at night after his daughters are in bed), Engle directs MD Anderson's elite pain fellowship program, teaching and mentoring select physicians who are training to do what he does: lessen pain for patients living with cancer.

And dying with cancer. Engle says his most gratifying patients to care for are those who are getting close to the end of their journey. "My favorite thing as a physician is when I get to help a patient with a symptom burden—pain, fatigue and nausea are all symptoms of the drugs cancer patients take—so they can enjoy their last days, take care of important things in their life. When I get a letter after a patient has died thanking me because 'You helped him be able to spend his last two weeks telling his grandkids what he wanted them to remember'—that's the most rewarding thing to me."

Treating patients living with chronic disease is familiar territory for Dr. Corey Harthoorn '93. Now a family medicine physician in Norfolk, Neb., he spent eight years between 2004 and 2013 as a doctor in the African country of Malawi, where 75 percent of his patients had HIV/AIDS.

Harthoorn felt a call to missions and medicine as a senior in high school, a calling that was confirmed during a Summer of Service experience in El Salvador while he was a student at Northwestern. After



medical school at the University of Iowa, he partnered with Serving in Mission (SIM) to practice medicine at a new AIDS clinic in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe.

The rate of HIV infection in Malawi in 2004 was 14 percent—eighth highest in the world—and the country was home to more than a million AIDS orphans. That's also the year antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) finally became available in Malawi. Harthoorn describes his years in the African clinic as the most rewarding of his medical career so far.

"People think I must have seen people die a lot," he says. "Yeah, I did. But once ARVs were available, I also saw a lot of patients live for years after being at death's door. They gained weight. They could go back to work. They could take care of their families. Not to mention, for those who didn't yet know the Lord, it gave them more time to hear the gospel. I became an HIV expert, and it was fun to take care of those patients and see them get better."

Now back in the U.S., Harthoorn still takes care of patients who are underserved with health care as a physician at an FQHC clinic (Federally Qualified Health Center). His patients are not nearly as poor as those he doctored in Malawi, but about half do not have health insurance, which

requires creative caregiving and prescribing on Harthoorn's part to enable them to access and afford the specialized care they need. "Being poor in America is different than being poor in Africa," says Harthoorn. But it's still devastating when care that would make someone better is beyond the budget.

**D**r. Karen Roetman '79 also has experience taking care of patients underserved by adequate health care. After medical school at the University of Iowa, one of her fellowships was in pediatric anesthesia at an inner-city hospital, Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Her patients, all under the age of 15, included drug addicts and dealers, as well as victims of child abuse and gun violence. Three patients—siblings—were severely burned when their uncle's cocaine lab blew up. "They were with us for a year getting skin grafts, surgery after surgery. They became like family to the hospital staff," she says.

Now based in Seattle, Roetman is part of an anesthesiology practice known for advances in regional anesthesia like nerve blocks that deliver pain relief to just one part of the body. "You go home after shoulder

surgery with a catheter in your neck delivering drugs just to the affected area," she explains, as an example.

While Roetman supports and participates in the pioneering research of her anesthesiology colleagues, she's mostly focused on her own patients and the Virginia Mason Medical Center and University of Washington anesthesiology residents she supervises, overseeing their skill development and interaction with patients who are often in tense healthcare situations.

Anesthesiology is "never boring," she says. "You have to be always thinking and really engaged with the patient"—both before and while they are unconscious. "Surgery patients are stressed, and the anesthesiologist has just a few minutes to quickly develop a relationship and trust," says Roetman, who typically does about a dozen pre-surgery patient consults a day. Then she spends the bulk of her time overseeing residents as they put their knowledge of both human physiology and diagnostic medicine to use keeping surgical patients alive.

Roetman credits the late Dr. Edward Van Eck, who taught microbiology at Northwestern, for encouraging her into the field of medicine. When she started, women were a minority among medical

school students and residents. She was one of two females among 28 residents, and she was asked during her first job interview about whether she planned to get pregnant. Now she's glad to see that one of the ways in which medicine has changed during her three-and-a-half-decade career is that both genders are represented nearly equally in many fields of medical practice.

**L**ike Roetman, Dr. Darla (Vander Sluis '84) Olson is happy her physician colleagues are a more equal balance of men and women these days. When she began practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist in the early 1990s, she was one of only a handful of OB/GYN physicians in the Grand Rapids, Mich., area, and she was initially ineligible for partnership in her male-dominated practice because—as a mother of small children—she wanted to work only three days each week.

By the time she left that practice 19 years later, she was a partner, and half her colleagues were women. And physicians of both genders felt free to adjust their clinic and on-call schedules around their other responsibilities. After several years as supervisor of OB/GYN residents



Alumni physicians invest in the next generation of Northwestern doctors in different ways: Dr. Bryan Den Hartog '81 is chair of the Discover Campaign for new science facilities. Dr. Steve Locker '85 (pictured here) mentored Renju Pun, a biochemistry junior from Nepal, during her medical externship.



Northwestern students get hands-on medical practice through the college's Summer of Service program. Some of them—like Dr. Corey Harthoorn, who spent eight years at an AIDS clinic in Malawi—go on to serve as medical missionaries. Others make short-term volunteerism part of their career, like Dr. Karen Roetman, who has traveled with Operation Smile medical teams to a number of countries, including Nicaragua, Russia and Vietnam.



Dr. Darla Olson estimates she's delivered between 6,000 and 8,000 babies during her career as an OB/GYN physician in Michigan.



in one of Michigan's Spectrum Health teaching hospitals, Olson has been back in private practice since 2013, caring for moms and babies in the Zeeland area. She hasn't kept track of the number of newborns she's delivered over the course of her career but estimates the tally is somewhere between 6,000 and 8,000.

Olson decided on a career as a doctor in high school, although at the time she had no idea how many years of education and training it entailed. "My grandma was a nurses' aide," she shares, "and she talked all the time about how much she loved taking care of people. She inspired both me and my sister, who's now a nurse."

In medical school at the University of Iowa, Olson rotated through various specialties, ruling out family medicine as lacking in procedures and surgery as lacking in patient interaction. During her obstetrics rotation, she fell in love. "I got to do procedures and also connect with patients from their teenage years through motherhood—both things I loved," she says. "Now I've been practicing so long I'm seeing babies I delivered become mothers themselves."



Katee and Adam Verhoef met in chemistry class at Northwestern. Now they're both third-year medical students at the University of Iowa. They don't share their grades with each other—for the health of their marriage, Katee says—but both agree "Northwestern prepared us extremely well" for the rigors of medical school.

Concern for women and infants—as well as the chance to do procedures, surgeries and direct patient care—is what drew Katee (Wyant '13) Verhoef to OB/GYN as well. A third-year medical student at the University of Iowa, Verhoef's passion for women's health grew through short-term mission experiences during college and medical school in Haiti and Niger.

In Niger Verhoef assisted an Iowa doctor doing surgeries to repair obstetric fistulas, a complication of prolonged labor and delivery that can leave women incontinent. Women with the condition in developing countries are often ostracized by their families and communities. "If they just had access to routine OB care, they wouldn't have problems like this," Verhoef explains. She describes the relatively simple surgical repair as "life-giving for the patients we saw, some of whom were younger than me."

Back in Iowa City, Verhoef and her husband, Adam '12, who's also a third-year medical student, have recently passed their board exams, and both are rotating through advanced clinical electives. Adam is training to be a family medicine physician because "he likes the whole womb-to-tomb spectrum of care and the diversity of patients and cases," Verhoef shares.

The couple spent the spring semester apart as Adam completed family medicine clerkships in Sioux City and Des Moines. Next year he'll participate in clinical rotations at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. Then the Verhoefs hope to find residency appointments together and eventually find a home in a community where Katee will care for obstetrical patients and Adam for everyone from infants to the elderly.

Northwestern senior Laura Hurley will graduate in May with a biology-health professions major and math and Spanish minors. She dreams of providing health care to women and children in a Spanish-speaking country.

Hurley's undergraduate experience has included mentorship by biology professors Tolsma and Dr. Elizabeth Heeg '01, as well as opportunities for healthcare internships in Nicaragua and Ecuador. She also is a research assistant for a Mayo Clinic physician who is conducting international health research.

Hurley wrote in her medical school application: "I believe these hands-on learning experiences form a strong foundation as I finish my undergraduate degree. ... [G]lobal health work requires a resilient, passionate individual who is not intimidated by hard work ... I am confident I am ready for the challenges and great rewards ahead."

Hurley has already been accepted to several medical schools. This fall she'll enroll at her first choice, Rush University Medical College in Chicago, where she plans to pursue both an M.D. and a master's in public health.

As a Northwestern graduate, she feels well prepared and expects to succeed. If her alumni colleagues' careers are any indication, there's plenty of evidence she will. 🏠

## Distinguished Docs

When Northwestern College began naming distinguished alumni award winners in 1977, the inaugural honoree was the late Dr. Alfred Popma '24, an Idaho radiologist who served as the president of the American Cancer Society in the 1950s and is credited with developing the first educational materials describing proper breast self-examination.

Another cancer specialist, Dr. Kent Hoskins '84, was named a distinguished alumnus in 2012. He treats patients and teaches in the oncology department at the University of Illinois-Chicago and directs the university's Familial Breast Cancer Program, researching hereditary breast cancers.

Northwestern's list of notable alumni doctors also includes the late

Dr. Robert Van Citters '44—dean of the University of Washington School of Medicine and cited by the *Seattle Times* as "one of this country's most imaginative and productive cardiovascular physiologists"—and Dr. Samuel Noordhoff '47, a world leader in cleft lip and palate surgery who spent his career in Taiwan and founded the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation to

help Asian patients afford restorative plastic surgery.

Other physicians who've been named Northwestern College distinguished alumni are the late Dr. Robert Giebink '36; the late Dr. Alfred Pennings '42, '44; the late Dr. Stanley Vander Aarde '49, '51; Dr. Leo Landhuis '54; Dr. Don Van Etten '54; Dr. Bryan Den Hartog '81; and Dr. Mark Muilenburg '84.



Northwestern's Future Physicians Club helps science majors prepare for medical school and careers as doctors. In March members visited Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, where they toured the cancer institute, women's center and neonatal intensive care unit.

ELIZABETH HEEG '01



# class Notes

**'73** **Cornie Wassink** was recognized as the 2016 State High School Cross Country Official of the Year by the Iowa Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches and the Iowa Association of Track Officials. This is the seventh time Wassink has been named the state's top official in track or cross country.

**'76** **Mark Tigges** of Clive, Iowa, was recognized as the 2016 Girls' State High School Track and Field Official of the Year by the Iowa Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches and the Iowa Association of Track Officials.

**'77** **David Ritsema** is the guitar program director at Washburn High School in Minneapolis, where he also teaches piano/keyboarding and songwriting. He previously spent eight years teaching abroad, including seven years at the International School of Berne, Switzerland. His wife, **Linda Vander Maten '78**, is a transfer specialist/adviser at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. She served as an academic counselor at Normandale and North Hennepin community colleges for 25 years.

**'90** **Mark Van Holland**, Shorewood, Minn., is senior portfolio manager for the high-yield fixed-income sector team at Columbia Threadneedle Investments. His group was named the top money manager in its class in the 2016 U.S. Investment Management Awards competition by *Institutional Investor*.

**'92** **Cory Brandt** was named the 2016 *Northwest Iowa Review* Football Coach of the Year after leading the Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley Nighthawks to a 12-1 record and the state Class 2A championship. He and his father, **Barry '69**, are the only father-son duo in Iowa history to have each coached state championship football teams.

**'95** **Heather Wangen Holtan** is an elementary instructional coach for the Rochester (Minn.) Public Schools.

**'96** **Brad Eckhoff**, Papillion, Neb., has been named to the Midlands Community Foundation Board of Directors. He is market president for Pinnacle Bank.

## Red Ties

**CORKY KOERSELMAN '82**  
Alumni Relations

Ever been somewhere and seen another person wearing a Northwestern College T-shirt? Don't you get an immediate warm feeling and desire to connect with that person and say, "Hey, I went to Northwestern too!" You may not know each other, but you still have an immediate bond because of your shared experience as part of Raider Nation.

I thought of that bond recently when I heard about something called "Raider Night." It takes place on Wednesday nights in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and is a gathering of Northwestern alumni who live and work there. Regulars include Lauren McDonald '16 and Erin (Brasser '16) Vande Vegte, who both teach at Oskaloosa Christian School. Lauren's roommate, Jacie White '15, who teaches at Oskaloosa High School, also shows up for Raider Night, along with her teacher colleagues, Clint '11 and Hillary (Hanno '11) Gingerich and Tim Vermeer '12. Jacie's accountant boyfriend, Tyler Stuermer '14, and chiropractor Mike Vander Veen '12 are also usually gathered around the table in one another's homes or an Oskaloosa restaurant.

The story of Oskaloosa's Raider Night is a web of connections that started at Northwestern College and now span two school systems, several different churches, and multiple homes and families in a community in the opposite corner of the state. It's the kind of thing that happens when you experience Northwestern's tight-knit campus community and then are equipped to build that interdependent, supportive community after graduation.

If you want to know what members of Raider Nation live near you, get in touch with Northwestern's alumni office, alumni@nwciowa.edu, and we'll be happy to share a potential guest list for your own Raider Night. And if you spot someone who looks like a fellow Northwestern graduate, reach out—even if it's just to walk over and say, "Hey, I love Northwestern too."



**'99** **Matthew Johnson** is a principal at CliftonLarsonAllen, a professional services firm that offers wealth advisory, outsourcing and public accounting services. A certified public accountant since 2001, he has served as a fraud examiner since 2010 and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Missouri Society of CPAs. He lives in Savannah, Mo.

**Wes Treadway** founded and operates REAL 102.1 FM, a Christian music station in Carroll, Iowa. He also is marketing manager for Western Iowa Networks, based in Breda.

**'00** **Kelly (Van Haaften) Jansma** is the owner and optometrist at The Eye Company in Ankeny, Iowa. Her husband, **Kevin '99**, works as the practice administrator in addition to his role as the senior director of programs at Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. They have three sons.

**The Rev. Nathan Lamb** is the new pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Pipestone, Minn., after serving nearly 10 years at Hartford (Iowa) Presbyterian.

**'02** For the last 14 years, **Carmen Hofmeyer** of Colorado

Springs, Colo., has been a senior HR business partner supporting Compassion International's 28 global offices. She holds Professional in Human Resources and Global Professional in Human Resources certifications.

**Amanda (Magnuson) Sullivan** works as the marketing and communications manager for TEAM Software in Omaha.

**'04** **Rebecca (Voss) Rael** has published a daily devotional, *Real Life*, through WestBow Press. The book grew out of journals from her personal devotional time.

**'08** **Lindsay (Westerkamp) Bauer** is the new executive director for the Orange City Arts Council. She also serves as program director for OCStages/Orange City Youth Theatre and performs professionally with Vandal Theatre Lab and Swander Woman Productions. She and her husband, **Cody '08**, live in Orange City with their son, William.

**The Rev. Lindsey De Kruif** is the pastor of Helderberg Reformed Church in Guilderland Center, N.Y.

**'09** **Sam Galloway** graduated from the University of Missouri



**Alene Wiebesiek** began playing hymns by ear as a child. When she started accompanying congregational songs at Bethel Reformed Church in Davis, S.D., in 1948, she'd had only 12 lessons.

## Soul Music

Each Saturday, Alene (Bunger '44) Wiebesiek lets herself into the sanctuary of Bethel Reformed Church and practices the music for Sunday's service. She can't see the notes as well as she did 69 years ago when she first began accompanying the congregation, so she chooses old hymns such as *Victory in Jesus* and *It is Well With My Soul* for their familiarity to her fingers.

Sunday, some 20 people from Davis, S.D., (population: 85) will gather in the pews. Wiebesiek remembers Bethel in busier times: Though the small congregation remains tight-knit, many of the remaining families are related to members who founded the church in 1894. Robert Miedema, who provides pulpit supply, says the greeting time at the start of the service runs long, and "the longest line is by the organ."

"The kids all come up to the organ and give me a hug," Wiebesiek says. "One made me a valentine."

She was a new bride in 1948 when she began playing piano at the church; she switched to the organ a decade later. Wiebesiek finds solace in music and the bass pedals under her feet. Hymns gave her comfort when her husband passed away and after their 53-year-old son died from leukemia.

"The message of the hymns means a lot to me," she says. "Because it is well with my soul."

BY **AMY PHILLIPS**

## Red Raider Golf Classic

**Friday, June 2**

8 a.m. and 1 p.m. tee times  
Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City

Register: [nwciowa.edu/red-raider-classic](http://nwciowa.edu/red-raider-classic) or contact Kara Smit, 712-707-7280 or [kara.smit@nwciowa.edu](mailto:kara.smit@nwciowa.edu)

**YOU'VE GOT MAIL.**

What filled your campus mailbox?  
Letters from your love back home?  
Cookies that arrived in crumbles?  
The parka you forgot to pack?

A future *Classic* will share stories of the mail you got while at Northwestern. Send your mail tale to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).





SUBMITTED PHOTO

A retired brigadier general, Rep. Don Bacon serves on the House’s agriculture, armed services and small business committees.

Bacon in the House

Readers of Don Bacon’s “Ham ’n Eggs” column in the 1980–81 *Beacon* soon learned the 16-year-old freshman was enamored with politics and foreign policy.

His columns gave a hint about the career he would later pursue. He joined the Air Force in 1985, commanded airbases in Germany and Nebraska, was deployed three times in the Middle East, and retired in 2014 as a brigadier general. Today he’s a freshman legislator representing Nebraska’s 2nd District (the core of the Omaha metro) on Capitol Hill.

Describing himself as a “diplomatic conservative,” Bacon says his key issues are the nation’s military readiness and fiscal responsibility.

Eschewing the seriousness one might expect from a longtime military leader, Bacon has shown he can be a ham. When he announced his candidacy, he noted, “A vote for Bacon will always be a vote against pork.” One of his commercials showed him talking in a grocery store with a customer who confirmed, “Everybody loves bacon.”

And while he majored in political science at NWC, Bacon says he minored in pranks. He possesses intimate knowledge of one of the college’s best, launching three parachuting gerbils from the old chapel attic shortly before Christmas 1981. A scroll preceded them, wishing “Season’s Greetings from Airborne 101.”

He promises not to try that in the Capitol.

BY DUANE BEESON

School of Medicine and is in the family medicine residency program at UC-San Diego. He and his wife, **Kristi (Korver)**, have a son, Leif (2).

**Dr. Jesse Nieuwenhuis** will join the Orange City Area Health System’s family medicine group this summer. A graduate of the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, he’s currently in residency at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation in Sioux City.

**’10 Amanda (Karssen) Vazquez** is the new director of the Orange City Public Library, where she has worked for six years.

**Hannah (Watters) White** directs marketing and operations for the Zach Johnson Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping children and families in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, lead happy and healthy lives. Her husband, **Greg ’11**, manages the Van Buren Elementary School site for the foundation’s Kids on Course program.

**Renee Wielenga** is a staff writer for the *Sioux Center News*. She recently won first place in the Best News Feature Story category of the Iowa Better Newspaper

Contest. Her newspaper’s awards also included recognition for coverage of agriculture and business.

**’11 Clayton Hjelmeland**, Harmony, Minn., teaches fifth grade at North Winneshiek Community School. His wife, **LeAnn (Johnson ’10)**, works from home as a reporter for the *Sully Hometown Press*.

**Austin McCombs** graduated from the Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy and is a police officer in Sedro-Woolley, Wash. A music ministry graduate from Northwestern, he also conducts the orchestra for musicals at Lynden High School.

**Alyssa McConnel** has joined the Downtown Roseburg (Ore.) Association as its executive director. She previously worked as the downtown account manager for the city’s newspaper, the *News-Review*.

**Brad Payne** is working as the assistant director of programming for the Sioux Empire Baseball Association in Sioux Falls. He previously served as a head instructor for the Las Vegas School of Baseball and an assistant varsity coach for Del Sol High School.



### Who deserves a shout-out?

Nominate outstanding alumni for the Distinguished Professional Achievement, Distinguished Service to Humankind or Distinguished Service to Northwestern College award. We’d love to give them a hand.

Email your nominations to [alumni@nwc Iowa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwc Iowa.edu)

## Learn about leadership at NWC this summer



### Northwestern Leadership Series

June 8-9 | \$99

Featuring Wess Stafford, Compassion International, and Iowa’s 2017 Teacher of the Year, who will headline a for-credit track for educators.

[nwc Iowa.edu/lead](http://nwc Iowa.edu/lead)

### Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit

Aug. 10-11 | \$189; \$149/person for groups

Northwestern is one of 600 host locations for more than 400,000 attendees worldwide.

[willowcreek.com/leadership](http://willowcreek.com/leadership)

**’12 Josh White** is serving as the headmaster at Aquidneck Island Christian Academy in Portsmouth, R.I.

New Arrivals

Amy Mooney-Geels and **Daniel Geels ’99**, son, Benton Robert

Jeremy and **Jennifer (Recker ’01) Kudera**, son, Julian Trey, joins Jackson (6), Jordyn (5) and Jalen (3)

Mick and **Laura (Fryman ’02) Jackson**, son, Tage James, joins Hailey (7) and Lanea (5)

John and **Amanda (Magnuson ’02) Sullivan**, daughter, Stella Jane, joins Charlotte (2)

**Rebecca (Vander Molen ’03)** and **Beau Koerselman ’03**, daughter, Flora Annette, joins June (4)

**Becky (Fanning ’05)** and **Vaughn Donahue ’08**, daughter, Penny Jae, joins Cora (4)

Adam and **Tamara (de Waard ’05) Stevenson**, son, Benedict Edward, joins Della (4) and Macrina (2)

Dave and **Billi (Ellingson ’07) Brahn**, son, Alexander James, joins Harrison (3)

Mitchell and **Kristen (Moss ’08) Andringa**, son, Malachi Edward

Trent and **Kimberly (Johnson ’08) Powers**, son, Luuk Thomas

Pavlos and **Meggan (De Jong ’08) Vasileiadou**, son, Matthew Paul, joins Theodore (2)

**Natalie (Allgood ’09)** and **Steve Tschopp ’07**, daughter, Rylea Eleanor, joins James (3)

Greg and **Jaime (Haverly ’09) Weeks**, daughter, Madison Lynn

**LeAnn (Johnson ’10)** and **Clayton Hjelmeland ’11**, son, Nolan James

Danika and **Jacob Peterson ’11**, daughter, Adeline Noelle

**Lisa (Thvedt ’11)** and **Josh White ’12**, son, Calvin James

Steve and **Kelli (Neevel ’12) King**, son, Owen Phillip, joins Levi (2)

**Karen (Hutson ’15)** and **Levi Ettleman ’16**, son, Benaiah James

**Valerie (Heaton ’15)** and **Brandon Lenderink ’12**, son, Jayden Kole

Brett and **Amber (Attema ’16) Beyer**, son, Arie Kevin

Marriages

**Kelli Anderson ’05** and Ryan Joe, Lincoln, Neb.

**Lindsey De Kruif ’08** and Stephen Dukenski, Guilderland Center, N.Y.

**John Sandbulte ’10** and Savannah Tuzo, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Gabriel Harder ’13** and Jenna King, Lino Lakes, Minn.

**Jenna Harms ’14** and Mark Mares, Holland, Mich.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

**Frances (De Vries ’40) Moss**, 95, died in Davenport, Iowa, on Feb. 5. She taught for four years before farming with her husband, Ed, west of Sioux Center. In her later years, she moved to Joplin, Mo., and Davenport to be closer to family. An accomplished self-taught pianist, she was active at Carmel Reformed Church, including serving as the church librarian and a Sunday school teacher. Among her survivors are five children, including **Glen ’69**.

**Henry Rikkers ’40, ’65**, Sioux Center, died Feb. 5 at age 96. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he served as a teacher and principal at Sheldon Christian School. He later served as a medic in the Navy during World War II. When he returned home, he farmed and then earned a bachelor’s degree at NWC and a master’s from the University of





Teacher and coach Dusty Meyn seeks to use what he's learned from his experience with Kennedy's disease to help his students.

### Going for the Assist

Dusty Meyn '07, girls' basketball coach and business teacher at Forest City High School in northern Iowa, met with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and read from Exodus 17.

Moses is pictured standing on a hill, staff held high. While he kept his hands raised, the Israelites could easily defend themselves against the Amalekites; when he grew weak, the effort faltered. Aaron and Hur came alongside Moses, each supporting one hand until sunset, and this ensured victory.

"Who is holding up your hands when you're tired?" he asked the students, and had them write notes of thanks.

Meyn knows fatigue.

Diagnosed at the start of the 2015–16 season with spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, a rare genetic condition known as Kennedy's disease, his mouth is sometimes too tired to hold a whistle during practice, and eating supper takes longer after teaching and coaching all day. By the time he's in his late 50s, Meyn expects to have difficulty climbing stairs, though his current exercise regimen keeps him agile.

"Everyone is dealing with something," Meyn says. "Treat everyone with respect; you don't know what they're going through. We need to love one another."

Meyn could ask for the support of outstretched hands, but instead he reaches for ways to lift up his students and prepare them for their own victories.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

South Dakota. He taught fifth grade science, health and math at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center for 16 years before retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Betty; three children, including **Audrey Cogan '85**; and a sister.

**Norman Boonstra '44** died Jan. 29 at age 91 in Spencer, Iowa. He served as an Army Signal Corps electronics technician and repairman during World War II. Back in the U.S., he worked as a bookkeeper for the Chevrolet dealership in Orange City and head chemist at Diamond Vogel Paint Company. He retired in 1990 and moved to Spencer in 2012 to be closer to family. He was very involved at First Reformed Church in Orange City and Hope Reformed in Spencer, performed in 29 consecutive Tulip Festival night shows, and was active in the Gideons. He is survived by his wife, **Velma (Van Driel) '47**; a daughter, **Julie Hill '75**; and three siblings, including **Harold '43**.

**Clifford Mouw '47, '49** died Jan. 6 at age 87. A lifelong resident of Orange City, he was a farmer for many years before being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He then served as office manager at the Sioux Veterinary Clinic before becoming a salesman of agricultural products and later working for Diamond Vogel Paint Company. He was an active member of First Reformed Church, teaching Sunday School and serving as an elder and deacon. Among his survivors are his wife, Shirley, and two daughters, **Rhonda Van Es '74** and **Janna Kingma '79**.

**The Rev. John Boender '49**, age 86, died Dec. 3 in Sheldon, Iowa. After his time at Northwestern Junior College, he graduated from Central College and Western Theological Seminary. He served as a chaplain in the Army and then led Reformed churches in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. While at Woodstock, Minn., he assisted at the New Life Treatment Center. In

retirement, he served as a calling pastor in Allendale, Mich.; Hull, Iowa; and Little Rock, Iowa. He was a former member of NWC's Board of Trustees. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; three children, including **David '82** and **Andrew '84**; and two sisters, including **Josephine Van Oort '48**.

**The Rev. Dr. C. Orville Kool '51** died Nov. 30 at age 89 in Rochester, Minn. After graduating from NWJC, he earned a bachelor's degree from Westmar College, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After pastoring a number of Baptist congregations in Illinois, he retired to Orange City in 1992 and served as associate pastor for community outreach at Dover Avenue Alliance. He also planted Cornerstone Baptist Church in Orange City and served as a visitation and interim pastor at a number of local churches. Author of the book *Christian Baptism*, he was recognized in 2000 as the Outstanding Pastor of the Year by the Baptist Convention of Iowa. Among his survivors are his wife, **Marlys (Gortmaker '59) Koens-Kool**, and four children, including **Karla Dekkenga '81**.

**John Fakkema '52** of Oak Harbor, Wash., died Sept. 26 at age 86. After his time at NWJC, he completed his education at Western Washington State College and taught at Lynden Christian School and Oak Harbor Christian School. He later became an owner of the Anacortes Co-op Plywood Mill. He began driving buses for the Oak Harbor School District in 1967 and eventually was promoted to the director of transportation, maintenance and security, retiring in 1996. He was a lifelong member of the First Reformed Church of Oak Harbor and spent 12 years on the Oak Harbor City Council. He served on Northwestern's Board of Trustees for 16 years and received the

Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern Award in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, as well as four children and two brothers.

**Scott Lensink '80**, age 58, died Dec. 5 in Mattoon, Ill., following a battle with cancer. He earned a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and served there as an instructor before becoming a business professor and head women's basketball coach at Lake Land College in 1993. He held several positions at Lake Land and served as president for six years before retiring in 2013. Under his leadership, the institution was named among the top 10 percent of the nation's community colleges. His survivors include his wife, Michele; two sons; his father; and two siblings.

**Audrey Rider**, age 91, died Dec. 20 in Dacoma, Okla. A member of the Northwestern business faculty in the early 1960s, she also served as the deputy court clerk and county clerk of Woods County, Okla., and was president of the Oklahoma County Clerks' Association. Among her survivors are her husband, **John**, who also taught at Northwestern, and two children.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by May 15 to [classic@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc-iowa.edu).

Checking on the next Homecoming?



**Raider Days**  
**Homecoming & Parents**  
**Weekend**  
**Sept. 29–30, 2017**

The celebration will include traditions like Morning on the Green and Raider football—as well as reunions for the classes of '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, '07, '12 and '17.



Kathleen Henderson (second from right) and her husband, Dan, (far right) teamed with another couple to start a coffee shop that's been named among the best in the United Kingdom.

### Cup o' Joe, Side of Community

Married to one of the world's best baristas and co-founder of a small coffee shop in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, Kathleen (Ainslie '08) Henderson never has to go far for a good cup of coffee.

Henderson and her husband, Daniel, a Northern Ireland native who was named the 11th best barista in the world in 2014, met during a year of ministry school in Redding, Calif., and were married in his homeland in 2010. Their passions for faith, community, food and coffee came together in a dream to open a coffee shop, and in 2014 they partnered with some like-minded friends to open Lost and Found, a coffeehouse on the northern coast of Northern Ireland that is focused as much on community as caffeine.

With her growing expertise in nutrition and a desire to offer healthy, fresh alternatives to fast and frozen fare, Henderson—a biology-health professions major—became the head cook and baker for their new business. Their attention to excellence in food and coffee is the "craft" part of their vision: community, craft and care.

Lost and Found was recently named among the top 25 coffee shops in the United Kingdom. But its impact is measured by more than awards. "I have seen the café become a home to people in the community, a third space apart from work and home where people can take a breath and just be," Henderson says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE



# Classic Thoughts

## Here's How to Reform Health Care

BY RANDY OOSTRA '77



Our nation's health care system is a mess. The industry spends \$3 trillion annually and constitutes more than 17 percent of the nation's GDP. For patients and their families, shouldering the burden of rising health care costs often leads to financial hardship and is the No. 1 cause of personal bankruptcy.

Our system is fragmented, unaffordable and lacks a key element: It fails to address the social determinants of health—the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

Research indicates 20 percent of an individual's health is based on heredity and access to care, while 80 percent is determined by physical environment, health behaviors and socioeconomic factors.

The impact of social determinants on the cost and quality of health care has never been greater. In 2013 alone, Americans spent about \$280 billion on care for people suffering from diabetes, heart disease, and back and neck pain—all of which are fueled in large part by social conditions and personal behaviors.

Given this, our nation, communities and health care systems must invest significantly more to affect these social determinants of health.

In recent years, a growing number of health systems—including my own, ProMedica—have embraced their role as community anchor institutions by making such investments. Efforts include screening for food insecurity, reducing infant mortality, improving mental health, addressing housing and transportation needs, helping to ensure personal safety, and aiding urban economic development.

ProMedica has learned much on this journey. For instance, the cost of hunger nationally is estimated to be at least \$167.5 billion, of which \$130 billion is for health care. Food insecurity impacts nearly 13 percent of households, including 19 percent of homes with children, 33 percent of single mothers with children, and seniors at a rate in excess of 30 percent.

We began screening patients for food insecurity, which led to other initiatives, including food pharmacies (whereby providers write prescriptions for food), food reclamation (we've served more than 300,000 pounds of food that would have been thrown away!), weekend backpack programs for schoolkids, and building and operating an inner-city grocery store that also offers job training.

As our knowledge grew about the link between hunger and health outcomes, we recognized the need for clinicians to understand more about patients' circumstances: Do they live in a safe home with working utilities? Can they afford to feed their families without neglecting other bills? Do they have transportation? This year, we'll expand screenings to include 10 health determinants and ensure patients in need are connected with community resources.

This approach should be replicated nationwide. Too many health professionals use a litany of excuses for avoiding screening for these determinants: It's not their job, they don't have the resources, or they won't be compensated. Still others say they're concerned that if their patients identify an unmet need, they won't know how to address it. That's the point! As an industry, we need to think less about the business side and more about our mission of caring.

So, what do we propose?

1. By 2019, providers should screen each Medicare patient on key social determinants. Benchmark data should be used to inform research and identify key areas in which to offer interventions.

2. By 2021, hospitals should provide all patients a resource guide to help them meet identified needs.

3. Nonprofit hospitals should quantify these services and report them as approved expenses to meet their charitable-contribution requirements.

4. Incentives should be offered to physicians to encourage them to focus on the social determinants of health, starting with mental health and hunger.

5. Federal research should be conducted to track the impact of these measures and how they affect clinical outcomes.

Across our nation, we have dedicated health professionals who rise to the challenges and responsibilities of caring for others in need. But each day as they answer their calling, we refuse to heed the signs of a collapsing system weighed down by a model that was conceived with good intentions but has run its course.

We need a new model.

**Randy Oostra is president and CEO of ProMedica, a Toledo-based nonprofit health care system. This essay is excerpted from one published in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in February.**

# Leave a Legacy

When siblings Matt Van Heuvelen '07 and Melissa Carrington '09 graduated from Northwestern, their parents wanted to give to the college in a way that would be meaningful to their son and daughter. Matt majored in business and political science and was a member of the men's soccer team, so Wayne '74 and Priscilla established a scholarship for a student with those same academic and athletic interests. Melissa served as a choreographer and costumer for RUSH, the annual student-led dance performance. Now, thanks to the Van Heuvelens, there's a fund to help other RUSH performers pay for their costumes.

"We enjoy seeing the fruits of our labor multiplied here at Northwestern," says Wayne. "We're just happy we can give something back to a place that did so much for our children."

## *Be intentional.*

Wayne '74 and Priscilla Van Heuvelen want Northwestern's academic excellence, Christian focus and co-curricular activities to be just as strong when their granddaughter Katie is old enough for college. Follow their lead and honor someone you love by establishing a student scholarship. To learn how, contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, at 712-707-7109 or [corniew@nwciowa.edu](mailto:corniew@nwciowa.edu).





# Traveling Drama

"... për shkak të vurratave të tij, ne jemi shëruar."

It means "[B]y his wounds we are healed" in Albanian, and it's from Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 53. Northwestern senior Abi Stoscher delivered the line as part of a play about Easter presented during the Drama Ministries Ensemble's spring break tour in Albania, where her parents are missionaries with Torchbearers, a summer camp and Bible education ministry that grew from outreach to Kosovo refugees in the late 1990s.

While in Europe, the nine-member DME and director Jeff Barker also traveled to Greece, visiting Thessaloniki and Philippi, cities that were home to churches in the early history of Christianity.

Northwestern's Symphonic Band and A cappella Choir were also on the road this spring—the band to the East Coast and the choir to Minnesota, where one of their performances was for patients at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

