

CLASSIC



A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Summer 2007

Summer of Service

Short-term mission, lasting impact



Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

After 125 Years, an Even More Promising Future

A few years ago, organizational sage Peter Drucker made this prediction: "In 25 years, small, residential, liberal arts colleges will be obsolete." As Northwestern prepares to begin a yearlong celebration of its 125-year anniversary, I would like to explain why I strongly disagree with Dr. Drucker, yet believe we need to take his statement seriously.

First, two stories: In February, Northwestern theatre professor and Iowa Professor of the Year Jeff Barker was asked by Iowa Governor Chet Culver, "What is your secret?" Turning to his wife, Karen, Jeff said, "Karen has said it best. The key to good teaching is 'letting your students peek inside your grocery cart.'"

It took a moment, but the governor understood: Allowing students to know you as a person—and observe your life away from the classroom—opens them up to hearing what you have to say as a professional.

A few months after Professor Barker's honor was announced, we learned that one of our 2006 graduates had received a very prestigious graduate school fellowship. Daniel Berntson was one of only two college and university graduates in the nation to receive an American Graduate Fellowship. The award is worth up to \$100,000 for two years of doctoral study at one of 23 top-tier private research universities. Daniel was accepted by several schools and eventually decided to study philosophy at Brown University.

Recently Daniel's mother reminded me why he chose to come to Northwestern. As a home-schooled student, he had taken Advanced Placement courses at NWC during his high school years. He loved his professors, she said, and became convinced this was a place where he could grow as a person and deepen his Christian faith without checking his mind at the door.

I believe Northwestern and other similar schools will not only survive but flourish in the years ahead because personal relationships and integrative learning are critical to an education that matters. Of the many lessons to be learned from the horrible tragedy at Virginia Tech, perhaps the most significant is that knowing our students as individuals and helping them integrate the various pieces of their lives is the foundation of meaningful learning and the seedbed of wisdom. Without this, all the expertise in the world is of little value.

But Drucker is right to express his concerns. Schools like Northwestern are threatened by rising costs, distance learning opportunities, and more specialized offerings at large public universities. It is going to take the efforts of all of us—faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and friends—to keep Northwestern strong.

I have no doubt this will happen. Thank you for sending us students, for contributing financially, and for praying faithfully. By God's grace, the next 125 years will be Northwestern's best.

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CLASSIC

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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, June, October 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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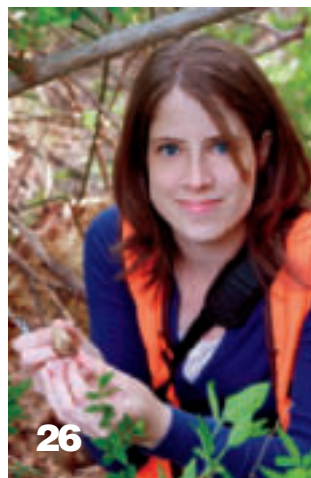


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Classic thoughts

Letters to the editor

Climate Change

Thanks for your excellent article on global warming in the spring *Classic*. This is an issue all of us need to be concerned about as citizens and as Christians. It cuts across all our disciplines and all our lives.

While those in the scientific community have taken leadership in our world and on our campus in documenting this trend and sounding the warning bells, all of us need to take note and examine our own lives, and see how little actions like Sean Cordry's decision to ride his bike to campus in an Iowa winter can make a difference. This is a social issue, a political issue, an economic issue, a scientific issue, an ethical issue, a religious issue. We will all pay the price if we do not "get religion" on this issue and make appropriate adjustments individually, as a society, and within our various organizations.

Christian colleges are in an ideal position to take leadership here. Thanks for putting NWC on the side of those who are concerned.

Dr. Mike Yoder

NWC Professor of Sociology/Anthropology

I read the article about global warming (spring '07). It occurred to me that as the population of the earth increases, we are in need of more food. I believe in an all-knowing and all-powerful God. I am not an educated person, but my understanding is that an increase in carbon dioxide is good for plant life, which produces much of our food. What an amazing gift from God, that he would actually provide for us this way.

I would also suggest that you go to the archives of *Time* magazine and look up global cooling from the June 24, 1974, issue. What massive changes did man make in his behavior to turn us away from the projected global cooling suggested back then? In the second paragraph of the article it states, "The trend shows no indication of reversing."

In the third paragraph, it talks about the global temperature dropping 2.7 degrees since the 1940s. That was an estimate, but it was supported by other convincing data.

I suggest directing students to www.climatepolice.com to get the other side of this issue. Much of the information supporting global warming is refuted in articles available there.

For your information, my family does recycle. I have done ditch cleaning. I also deliver the *Argus Leader*. My paper route takes me over an hour. It is six miles long. The only time I don't use a bicycle is when it is raining or the snow is



too deep. The coldest actual temperature I had this past year was 18 degrees below. I have done this for 10 years. I also do other recreational bike riding when my health permits.

Yes, it's important to conserve what God has given us, but I don't think we give God enough credit for taking care of us.

Robert Sandbulte

Steen, Minn.

Forming Community

I just read the article you wrote on the Mission House (spring '07). Thank you for an excellent and honest treatment of the difficulties and struggles associated with forming genuine community—Christian or otherwise.

You have accomplished with feature writing what Wendell Berry has done with fiction. That is, to communicate a rich and real understanding of what is involved with forming community. You have helped deal a blow to the myth that the quality of a community is measured by how well everyone "gets along with one another." It is so good for us to be exposed to the idea that the measure of the quality of a community is how well we handle the reality that we don't naturally get along.

Dr. Paul Blezien

Vice President for Student Development
William Jessup University, Rocklin, Calif.

Vet Stories

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the article on Professor Deb Menning's student writing assignment with World War II veterans (spring '07). There are some quotes from students with wisdom beyond their years.

What a meaningful assignment—getting to know people from another generation and having the opportunity to learn from them. When I see articles like that and see what is happening on Northwestern's campus, it gives me a twinge of envy. What a joy it would be to participate in such an assignment!

One of life's ironies is that many go to college when they are too young to appreciate it. But assignments like this open the eyes of young people and hopefully give them a better understanding of the sacrifices made to get us all here today.

As this generation of World War II veterans passes away, it will take assignments like this to ensure these events are not forgotten and that they involved real people with real lives.

Linda (Van Wyk '77) Tigges
Clive, Iowa

Service with a smile



Scott Simmelink is known for arriving to work early, leaving late, and often being back on campus on the weekends. That work ethic and commitment to service are among the reasons he was chosen to receive Northwestern's 2007 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award.

The director of maintenance and operations was awarded a \$500 honorarium funded by the Alumni Association, a plaque, and a luncheon for him and his coworkers. The honor is given to recognize staff who consistently

provide outstanding contributions by going above and beyond what is expected, personify a strong Christian commitment, and distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community.

Northwestern employees nominated candidates, and a selection committee—which included a faculty member, the three previous winners of the award and another staff member—selected Simmelink.

Simmelink joined Northwestern's maintenance staff in 1983 after working in plumbing and carpentry. Director of the department since 1990, he oversees a staff of more than two dozen employees and many student workers involved in building maintenance, groundskeeping, housekeeping and custodial services, and the college's motor pool.

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs and Simmelink's supervisor, says this year's award winner is

known for his servant's heart. "He's always willing to help everybody, even if it interrupts or extends his day. He's the kind of guy you can always count on."

In nominating Simmelink for the award, Ward Van Beursem, grounds supervisor, said he was inspired by his boss's work ethic. "When you see your boss working hard at making Northwestern a better place, it makes you want to do the same."

Simmelink has participated in several Northwestern Spring Service Projects and takes opportunities to develop relationships with students.

"He's such a great example for his student workers," says Beukelman, noting that Simmelink leads morning devotions for his summer employees. "He has a naturally caring heart and is genuinely interested in them. That rubs off on them and shapes their lives."

The award winner says former President James

Bultman impressed upon him the importance of having an attractive campus.

"He always wanted the campus looking like a park, because we only get one first impression for prospective students and visitors. So my goal has been to have the campus looking nice—and, more importantly, safe. It's also important to me that we have an energy-efficient plant, that we are being good stewards of our resources," says Simmelink.

Top speakers

Dr. Graham Lemke and Vonda Post, members of the business faculty, received an award at April's Midwest American Accounting Association conference in St. Louis.

Lemke and Post were honored for presenting the conference's best paper on teaching and curriculum. They spoke on "Making the Transition From Accounting to Finance: Cash Flow Analysis."

Letters to the editor, *continued*

Disappointing Choice

I wanted to express my disappointment in the photo essay of the Great White North tradition featured in the spring 2007 edition of the *Classic*.

Women on campus are already forced to put up with Great White North as a tradition that condones (and even praises) gender inequality, and further condoning this with no less than color photos in a college publication seems to be a poor representation of the values Northwestern claims to promote. Would photos of women in limited swimwear or underwear be so lauded in an article seen by alumni and students alike?

These are only a few reasons why I believe that this article is inappropriate, and I know I am not alone. In the future,

I hope some of the traditions our campus holds dear will be considered for how they affect everyone, and what they truly represent to some.

Tracey Pronk '08
Rochester, Minn.

The *Classic* welcomes letters from readers regarding the content of the magazine or issues relating to Northwestern College. All letters should include the author's name and address. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, clarity and style. Send your letter via e-mail: classic@nwciova.edu; fax: 712-707-7370; or mail: The Classic, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041.



Workers clear the area in front of the Rowenhorst Student Center in preparation for the installation of a new parking lot.

Move-in day

They've been waiting for this day for more than a year. Now it's finally here.

Sometime in July, staff of the offices and services displaced during the renovation of the Rowenhorst Student Center (RSC) will begin moving into their new home. Student development, counseling services, the mailroom and bookstore—scattered across campus during 2006–07—will once again be under one roof.

Workmen spent the month of June creating a new parking lot, installing cabinets and countertops, and putting finishing touches on the building.

Deb Wolthuizen '85, hired as the college's new

mailroom supervisor in January, has been operating Northwestern's mail services from the ticket booth of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. Her reaction upon seeing the remodeled RSC mirrors that of many others.

"Wow! When you first walk in, that's the first thing you say," she says. "It's very open and spacious—just a very pleasant atmosphere. I think students are going to enjoy having the mailboxes back in the hub of all the action. We'll be right between the bookstore and the café, so it's going to be a great location."

Eric Anderson, associate dean for student development and residence life, also

appreciates the building's transformation. Before, the RSC had no natural light. Now, with the clerestory windows in the roof, the student center is brighter with every light turned off than the old RSC was with every light on.

Along with offices with windows, Anderson says he

and his colleagues are most excited to be back under the same roof.

"We're putting people together using a strategic placement rather than through a piecemeal approach," he says. "I feel like it's becoming more of a student development hub."



Thanks to the addition of clerestory windows along the roof, the renovated RSC has a bright, open feel.

Four join board



Dawn Huibregtse

The Northwestern College Board of Trustees welcomed four new members at its spring board meeting in April: Dawn Huibregtse '98 of Elmhurst, Ill.; the Rev. Irving Rivera of Middleton, N.Y.; Linda (Rozeboom '67) Van Peursem of Surprise, Ariz.; and Robert Wei of Upper Saddle River, N.J.

Huibregtse was appointed to the board by virtue of her position as president of Northwestern's National Alumni Board. An M.B.A. graduate from the University of Chicago, she serves as segment manager, finance, for Harris Bank in Chicago.



Linda Van Peursem

Rivera is pastor of Fordham Manor Reformed Church in Bronx, N.Y. The 2006 president of the Reformed Church in America's General Synod, Rivera previously served as a Northwestern board member for six years.

Van Peursem is a real estate agent with Windermere West Valley. Before beginning her realty career in 1990, she served as a music teacher and church organist.

Wei is retired after serving as portfolio manager for JP Morgan for 12 years. He previously worked as chief financial officer for the New York State Housing Finance Agency. A graduate of Yale University, Wei earned an M.B.A. at Harvard Business School.



Rev. Irving Rivera



Robert Wei

Presidential search progresses

Northwestern's Presidential Search Committee isn't taking a summer break. Members have been busy checking references and participating in phone interviews with top candidates. Face-to-face interviews will take place off campus during July.

"We're excited about the quality of the candidate field—both in their interest and passion for Northwestern as well as their experience and strengths," says Drew Vogel, president of the Board of Trustees and a member of the search committee.

Vogel says the committee plans to bring a finalist to campus for interviews with various constituent groups in late August or early September.

Summer in the lab

Seven Northwestern students are participating in off-campus research projects this summer.

Kathleen Ainslie, a senior biology health professions major from Rapid City, S.D., is interning at the Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She is studying adolescents who have severe behavioral disabilities.

Senior Andrea Davis, a psychology major from Orange City, is conducting neurotheology research at the University of Hawaii-Hilo. Davis is part of a lab team that is attempting to validate a pioneering survey that aims to quantify and assess meta-emotion (emotion about emotions).

Biology health professions senior Hannah Dyvig, Humboldt, Iowa, is conducting neuroscience research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dyvig, who has a career concentration in neuroscience and persons, is contributing to research on the molecular changes that occur in different areas of the brain during initial learning. Her program is funded by a Research Experience for Undergraduates grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Jason Helmus '07 is spending the summer as a research assistant at the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center. Helmus, a biology health professions major from Rock Valley, Iowa, is part of a biomedical research team studying placenta and normal fetal growth and development.

Emily Meyerink, a senior psychology major from Platte, S.D., is participating in the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates program at Western Kentucky University. She is helping to research the moral development of adolescents and young adults.

Jessica Peterson, a senior chemistry major from Blue Earth, Minn., is participating in an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of South Dakota. She is conducting research related to photodynamics and nanoscience.

Laura Rensink, a senior biology health professions major from Sioux Center, is conducting developmental biology research at North Dakota State University. She is assisting a team investigating vascular growth in reproductive tissues.



A task force has compiled a list of tentative goals for Northwestern's general education program and will spend the next school year designing a curriculum to accomplish those goals.

A plan for learning

Northwestern is revamping its general education program—but not because the last major revision to gen ed requirements was made in 1983.

“Part of what’s happening in higher education is a renewed focus on student learning and the need to articulate clearly what we expect students to learn,” says Dr. Jasper Lesage, vice president for academic affairs.

That need led to the creation of Northwestern’s “Vision for Learning,” a doc-

ument that describes the college’s goals of teaching students in a way that enables them to trust, love and worship God; engage ideas; connect knowledge and experience; and respond to God’s call.

With those goals in sight, the eight-member General Education Task Force, composed of faculty and administrators, spent 2006–07 reviewing Northwestern’s general education program.

“One of the things we’re trying to do is have a more

coherent program that has scope and sequence,” says Lesage, who is chairing the task force. “We’ve always had scope, but there’s no clearly articulated framework for how these courses all hang together.”

Northwestern students currently may take general education courses in any order they want, Lesage says. “We’d like to see a better recognition of development in students during the four years they’re here.”

After a year of work, the task force has compiled a list

of tentative general education goals. Those goals emphasize integrative learning that permeates all aspects of campus life and enables students to explore, develop and discover:

- a stronger sense of God’s call in their lives,
- personal and social responsibility,
- intellectual and practical skills, and
- knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world.

The task for 2007–08 is to design a general education curriculum that will accomplish those goals.

That, says Lesage, is going to be the tougher job.

Van Den Broek to lead alumni



As a student, Rachel Van Den Broek '02 was known across campus as a lover of libraries and a zealous fan of Raider sports. She majored in sociology, served as a student government representative, and was crowned Homecoming queen as a senior. A non-dancer, she famously grooved on stage during her last chapel speech.

▼
"I'm excited to hear stories of alums' experiences as students, and I want to find out what's been happening in their lives since then."
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Starting in July, Van Den Broek brings her outgoing personality, high energy and infectious enthusiasm to a new role as Northwestern's director of alumni and parent relations.

Van Den Broek has been

working in higher education since graduating from Northwestern. She completed a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Iowa in 2003 and served as an instructional services and outreach librarian at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Mich., for two years.

She returned to her alma mater as an admissions counselor in 2005. Ron De Jong, vice president for external relations, says Van Den Broek has a "tremendous work ethic" and is exceptionally relational.

"Rachel has been a crucial contributor to the college's record enrollment," he says.

A native of Pella, Iowa, Van Den Broek is eager to support Northwestern's mission in a new role. "What I experienced as a student—a commitment to faith and learning within the context of community—is still happening here. I love that, and I want others to reconnect with that.

"I'm excited to hear stories of alums' experiences as students," she says, "and I want to find out what's been happening in their lives since then."

Van Den Broek used technology to enhance her admissions role, and John Greller, vice president for advancement, expects she will do the same with alumni and parents, using online

communities and networking to reconnect alumni with their alma mater.

Van Den Broek also loves to travel, and Greller says, "I envision her taking Northwestern on the road to alumni and friends of the

college across the country."

Van Den Broek replaces Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, who served as director of alumni and parent relations from 2001 until 2006.

Acting out the Bible

The efforts of Northwestern theatre professor Jeff Barker and his students to re-story worship through drama are being featured by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

A website article, "Let Story Form Your Worship: Old Testament and Lectionary Dramas" (www.calvin.edu/worship/stories, under "Liturgical Arts"), cites studies that show while the use of drama in worship is on the rise in churches, Bible literacy continues to drop.

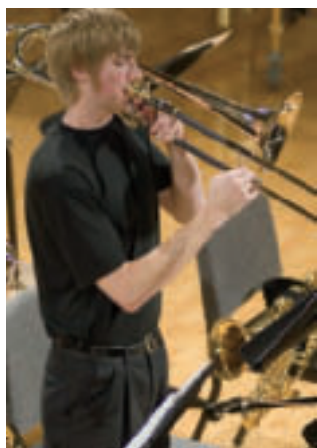
The article presents Barker's ancient Israelite dramas, which are scripted verbatim from the Old Testament, as a way theatre can help worshipers learn—or relearn—biblical stories.

"There's a difference between hearing a solo storyteller and seeing a Bible story acted out," Barker says. "Putting the text on its feet puts it in the present."

Barker and his students perform the Bible in both simple and elaborate ways. The Drama Ministries Ensemble touring company is performing ancient Israelite dramas as part of its 10-week international tour this summer.

Barker staged Old Testament texts in a musical, *And God Said*, in 2004, and he directed *David and Goliath* in 2005. A new project, *Terror Texts*, will be produced at Northwestern in February.

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Mich., promotes both the scholarly study of the theology, history and practice of Christian worship and the renewal of worship in churches worldwide.



Musician to perform in Ireland

Trombonist Josh Van Der Maaten, a junior from Orange City, will perform in the land famous for its sham-rocks and Blarney Stone this summer.

Van Der Maaten was selected to participate in the 2007 World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) International Youth Wind Orchestra, which plays in July at the WASBE international conference in Killarney, Ireland.

Van Der Maaten, a religion major, was chosen from a record number of applicants who submitted taped auditions. He will be joined in the orchestra by about 50 other musicians, ages 18 to 25, from around the world.

Van Der Maaten is the fourth Northwestern musician to be chosen for the IYWO in the last eight years, joining Derek Beekhuizen '02, Angela (Husman) '03, Bock and Andrea Weinert '02.

Strategic thinking

During a reaccreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission in the fall of 2005, Northwestern received the organization's "most enthusiastic endorsement." Among the few suggestions for improvement was the recommendation NWC work on its strategic planning process.

College officials took that advice to heart, and for more than a year, have been developing a strategic plan to guide Northwestern through 2012. The plan builds on the college's new "Vision for Learning," a description of Northwestern's learning goals and objectives.

"The heart and soul of the strategic plan is the development of an engaged community of learners," says Dr. Adrienne Forgette, associate dean for academic affairs. The strategic plan also covers recruiting and retention strategies to maintain a stable and diverse campus community, along with ways to secure the physical, financial and organizational resources necessary for all members of the college to flourish.

Forgette and Dr. John Brogan, vice president for student development, co-chaired the nine-member steering committee. Initial work involved talking with students, faculty and staff, as well as conducting research on topics

such as academic programs, enrollment trends and financial aid.

Last October, a strategic planning retreat was held in Orange City. The weekend event gave the committee the opportunity to get additional input from external constituencies, such as alumni, members of the community, and others in higher education.

"We asked questions and listened to what people had to tell us," says Forgette.

Following the completion of an initial draft, committee members continued to listen, collecting feedback from trustees, faculty and staff. The committee's task now is to incorporate that feedback and seek possible alignment with President Murphy's report on "a new way to do college."

While the strategic plan will go to the Board of Trustees for approval this fall, with implementation to begin in 2008–09, Northwestern's presidential transition will impact the final product.

"Both the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee told us to keep working on it but leave space for the new president to be able to put his or her stamp on it or to have input," Forgette says. "That's what we've been trying to do."

Brandt named conference AD of year



Northwestern's Barry Brandt '69 has been named the 2006–07 Great Plains Athletic Conference Athletic Director of the Year after a vote of his colleagues.

This past season, the Red Raiders claimed a share of the conference championship in women's and men's basketball, and had second-place finishes in football, volleyball, wrestling and softball. Northwestern placed fourth in the GPAC all-sports standings.

Brandt has been active in the NAIA, serving as the chair of Region III and representing the region on the NAIA Council of Athletic Administrators.

"Barry has not only been a tremendous asset to Northwestern College, but his work on behalf of the conference for the NAIA and Region III does not go unnoticed," says Corey Westra, GPAC commissioner. "Numerous first- and second-year GPAC athletic directors cited Barry's willingness to assist them in getting up to speed with the happenings in the NAIA and the region. We are fortunate to have someone with Barry's experience within the conference."

A member of the Red Raider staff since 1984, Brandt was head track coach for 15 years, offensive coordinator for the football team for 14 seasons and a PE instructor. He has served as athletic director for six years.

New roles in Center for Spiritual Formation

Following the 2006 departure of Dr. Keith Anderson, dean of spiritual formation and vocation and director of the Lilly Grant, and a one-year period of interim leadership, Northwestern has announced a reorganization of the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation (CSFV).



Dr. John Brogan

Dr. John Brogan, vice president for student development, will oversee the CSFV and represent it

on the Administrative Council in addition to his other responsibilities.

Activities related to Northwestern's Lilly Grant, Vocare: Find Your Place, will be under the leadership of Dave Nonnemacher, who also now has the title of director of



Dave Nonnemacher

experiential education. He had been Northwestern's director of service



Marlon Haverdink

learning since 2003.

Marlon Haverdink, director of leadership development since 2005, has been named director of service learning. He will retain responsibilities in leadership



Harlan VanOort

development.

The Rev. Harlan VanOort, Northwestern's

chaplain since 2003, will report to the president and serve as a member of the Administrative Council.

When was the last time the truth made you laugh until you hurt?

Ken Davis

COMEDY CONCERT



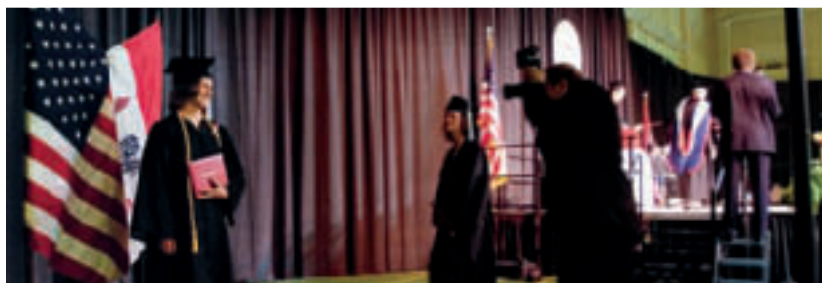
Saturday, Nov. 3
7:30 p.m.
Christ Chapel

Part of Fall Family Weekend

*Enjoy an evening of side-splitting humor
and inspiration from one of the most
sought-after speakers in North America.*

Tickets:
\$10 for NWC students, parents and employees
\$18 for general public

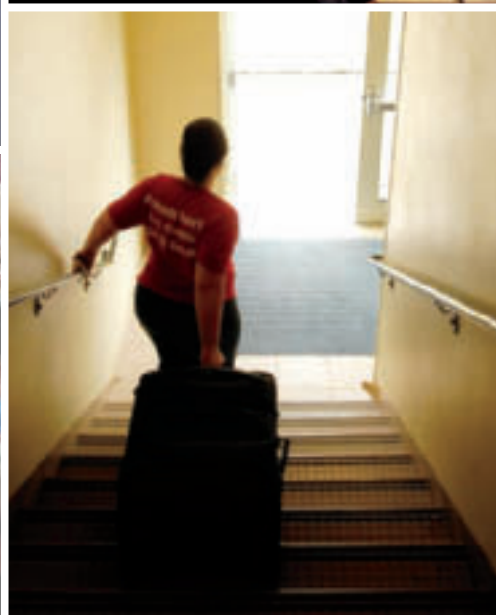
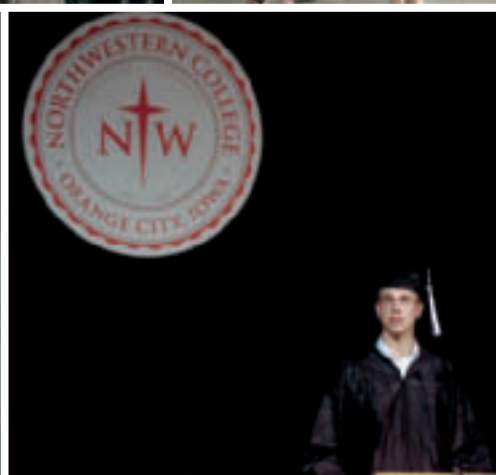
Call 712-707-7200 for more information and to buy tickets.



Com•mence

vb to have or make a beginning

At Northwestern, the end of each school year signals the arrival of commencement, a bittersweet event when the college bids farewell to another class of graduating seniors. During ceremonies on May 12, degrees were awarded to 239 graduates as family and friends joined in the celebration. While the presence and influence of the class of 2007 will be missed on campus, their work in furthering God's kingdom in the world is just beginning.



A Different Mission Field

Rick Clark's classes feature award-winning teaching, bold faith, and a passion for Spanish



Spanish instructor Rick Clark, the 2007 recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award, learned Spanish in his home and on the streets as the son of missionaries to Ecuador. As a result, his classes emphasize hearing and speaking the language.

by Duane Beeson

Halfway through Professor Rick Clark's Spanish 102 course during spring semester, sophomore Robert Johnson knew his major was "undecided" no more.

"I got really excited about Spanish—how he taught it, how he integrated his faith with it, the opportunities to use the language. His passion for it made me passionate about it," says Johnson.

"I was excited to come to class every day to hear the next story he had to tell, whether it was about growing up in

Ecuador, a mission trip he was on, or about some things that were happening locally. He talked openly about how Christ was using him—and I realized God could use me too."

Suddenly it all clicked for Johnson. The Southern California resident's church, Emmanuel Reformed of Paramount, has been encouraging its members to make a difference in Compton, a nearby city noted for poverty and a high crime rate. Johnson realized a major in Spanish would prepare him well to work with Compton's large Hispanic population.

Heading home

When Rick Clark was a student at Wheaton College, he had his future mapped out. A mass communications major, he planned to return to Quito, Ecuador, to join HCJB World Radio, the mission his parents served. Even before college, he had operated television cameras for the agency and preached sermons in nearby villages.

Clark pursued teacher certification because he thought it could give him another avenue for ministry as a missionary. Then, during his student teaching experience—in an inner-city Chicago school with bars on the windows—something unexpected happened.

Clark fell in love with teaching.

▼

“I know a lot of students have not had a good experience with language in the past. I love being able to transform that for them—to help them realize learning a language can be good and fun. It’s so exciting to see them get to the point where they can carry on conversations. I love to hear them say, ‘I did that in high school but didn’t understand it; now I see how that works.’”

▲

“I couldn’t believe someone would pay me to do this every day,” he says.

Still, Clark felt torn. “When I was willing to be a missionary—and many are not—why would God want me to stay here in the States?” he asked. “I struggled for a while.

“God convinced me I could be a missionary here too,” he says. “Kids in high school are every bit as needy as anyone in Ecuador. It’s a great mission field.”

Clark taught high school Spanish and English for 22 years, the last 17 of which were at Orange City’s MOC-Floyd Valley. He seized opportunities to share his faith with students, and he directed a local youth group for 10 years.

Active classroom

In Clark’s Spanish classes at Northwestern, where he has taught since 1997, the pace is fast—not unlike the tempo on the court where he is an assistant coach for the high-scoring Red Raider men’s basketball team.

“I believe you shouldn’t do hardly anything in the classroom for more than five to seven minutes,” Clark explains.

“And if you do, you should approach it in two or three different ways.”

So in his classes, a typical period could include an activity or game, some work with the textbook, a time of singing Spanish worship songs, a vocabulary quiz, and exercises in which students pair up to practice Spanish speaking. Through it all, the focus is on speaking the language.

Games like “Family Feud” or “Jeopardy” are used to help students solidify their language knowledge. A market simulation in which students buy and sell items helps refine their vocabulary and speaking skills.

“He motivates you to want to learn and be productive in class,” says senior Ellen Schroeder. “He makes learning enjoyable and fun.”

Some professors might be discouraged by having many students who are in the class only because it is a general education requirement. Not Clark, who teaches mostly introductory courses.

“I know a lot of students have not had a good experience with language in the past. I love being able to transform that for them—to help them realize learning a language can be good and fun. It’s so exciting to see them get to the point where they can carry on conversations. I love to hear them say, ‘I did that in high school but didn’t understand it; now I see how that works.’”

Loving the “other”

One of Clark’s ultimate goals is for his students to realize how they can use the language they’re learning to reach out for Christ.

“So many of our students have grown up isolated. If you’re isolated, you don’t know how to love those who are different from you,” he says. “Until we communicate with them in their language, we won’t know them and learn to love them. If we don’t love them, we won’t fulfill all the mandates of the Bible—about providing for the poor and taking care of the orphans and widows—and we’ll miss out on spiritual growth.

“As students learn about Spanish-speaking people, they become tender toward them and are more likely to want to get to know them. Hearts are changed.”

Students who nominated Clark for the 2007 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award say that’s true.

“He not only teaches Spanish,” says senior Lisa Horn, who joined Clark in a study abroad trip to his home country last summer. “He also teaches students how to live Christianly.”

A missionary indeed.

Lookingback

A Northwestern Tragedy

by Carrie Odell Anderson '01

Editor's note: As part of Northwestern's 125th anniversary celebration in 2007–08, the Classic presents a series of articles exploring the institution's history.

A van with college students and staff collides with a semi. A bus full of university baseball players plunges from an overpass.

In the past two years, two small Christian universities, Taylor and Bluffton, have experienced the devastation of losing members of their campus communities in tragic accidents. As national news coverage revealed, such events deeply impact college campuses.

In the summer of 1934, the Northwestern community experienced similar grief after an instructor and four students died in a swimming accident. At the time, Northwestern had just 144 students, and the effect of suddenly losing five people was shocking for the campus and the region.

Six female students and their chaperone, Margaret Blackburn, an instructor at Northwestern Junior College, intended to spend a week sunbathing and swimming at Iowa's Lake Okoboji. During their vacation, the group decided to explore a rocky reef near the cottage where they were staying. While wading on the moss-covered rocks, three of the women

slipped off the reef into deep water.

Though the details that followed were vague even to eyewitnesses, Blackburn, who had earned a lifesaving badge, and two of the students made a vain attempt to rescue their companions. When one of the women, Eleanor Rozeboom, screamed for help, other vacationers came running to assist.

Although artificial respiration was administered, Blackburn and four of the students drowned. Two members of the group, Rozeboom and Mildred Vanden Bos, survived.

News of the tragedy spread quickly to Orange City and throughout the state. A combined funeral service for the four students—Wilma Duimstra, Elsie Herwynen, and sisters Wilmyna and Vera Muilenburg—was held at First Reformed Church, drawing thousands of mourners.

Twenty-four Northwestern students served as pallbearers, and five pastors participated in the service, including the Rev. Jacob



The front page of the Des Moines Register carried eyewitness accounts of the drownings.

Heemstra, then the president of Northwestern Junior College and Classical Academy. A service for Blackburn was held at the same hour in her hometown of Davenport, Iowa.

Though more than 70 years have passed since the drownings, Henry Vermeer '33 says he often thinks about the tragedy and describes the event as one of the most shocking incidents of his life.

"The girls were all good friends of mine, and Miss Blackburn was a very devout teacher," he says. "They were great people—their deaths left a hole in the Northwestern community."

Clarence Buurman '34 also remembers the events of that summer.

"It was a disaster that hit the entire community," he recalls. "Everyone was affected, seeing those four hearses driving down the street."

Victims of the 1934 tragedy:

Margaret Blackburn, age 27—taught French, Latin and physical education to women at Northwestern Junior College

Wilma Duimstra, age 19; Elsie Herwynen, age 19; Wilmyna Muilenburg, age 18—1933 graduates of Northwestern Classical Academy and first-year students at the junior college
Vera Muilenburg (Wilmyna's sister), age 17—1934 graduate of the academy

125-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ALL-SCHOOL REUNION & HOMECOMING

OCT. 5-7

Northwestern College turns 125 years old this fall, and you're invited to the party. Join other Northwestern alumni and friends at a 125-year anniversary celebration and all-school reunion during Homecoming 2007.

DON'T MISS THE FUN!

OCT. 5-7

AN EVENT LIKE THIS HAPPENS ONLY ONCE EVERY 125 YEARS.

Visit the 125-year anniversary website throughout the summer for the latest information about the weekend's events, as well as additional details about reunions:

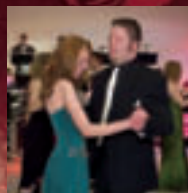
WWW.NWCIOWA.EDU/125

Homecoming highlights:

- Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
- Morning on the Green
- Raider 5K Run/Walk
- Football and volleyball games
- Reunions for the classes of 1977, '87, '97 and 2002

Anniversary events on Saturday:

- All-School Reunion, with food vendors, class reunions by decades, and interest group reunions
- 125-Year Anniversary Program
- Anniversary Dance, with music by the Des Moines Big Band
- Alumni Art Exhibition



125 years
NORTHWESTERN
COLLEGE
God's light still guides

HOT READS



Under a beach umbrella, beside a campfire, or swaying in a porch swing—summer hangouts beg for good books. The Classic asked Northwestern faculty and staff to recommend a few of their favorites.

Adventure

In the Heart of the Sea

by Nathaniel Philbrick



Like other Americans in the early 19th century, Herman Melville was morbidly fascinated with a sperm whale's attack on a whale ship that left 20 sailors stranded on the open sea. Philbrick retells a true story that was as known to Americans then as 9/11 is to us today.

Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English

Coming of age

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

by Betty Smith



Like a tree that sprouts from rock or concrete, Francie thrives despite her squalid circumstances and dysfunctional family. She enjoys going to her local public library and escaping through books. As a former librarian, I love that!

Rachel Van Den Broek '02, alumni relations

Faith

Dakota

by Kathleen Norris



In her bestseller, Norris wrote about Lemmon, S.D., a place similar—both geographically and spiritually—to ours. She encompassed her place broadly as well as deeply, honestly as well as lyrically, and above all Christianly, helping the reader think about place and experiencing God.

Kathleen Norris will visit NWC in April 2008 for "Minding Place," a 125th-anniversary event. E-mail mindingplace@nwc.iowa.edu to be on a mailing list for further information.

Dr. Doug Anderson, history

Fiction

Middlesex

by Jeffrey Eugenides



The Stephanides family are Greek immigrants with a mixed bag of crimes and secrets. This 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winner kept me laughing, but at the heart of the novel is a serious matter: the pain and confusion of being born with ambiguous gender.

Deb Menning, English

▼
 “What we become
 depends on what we read
 after all the professors
 have finished with us.”

Thomas Carlyle
 19th-century British author



History

We Band of Angels
 by Elizabeth Norman

We Band of Angels is about women nurses during World War II who withstood extreme conditions as prisoners of war—all while continuing to care for their patients. I always enjoy little-known stories about courageous women.
 Jill Haarsma '95, president's office



Science

The Language of God
 by Francis Collins

Collins is a respected geneticist, leader of the Human Genome Project—and a committed Christian. Writing simply for non-scientists, he argues that science and faith are compatible and that one can, for example, have a sincere Christian faith and also believe in the evolution of humans.

Dr. Sara (Sybesma '84) Tolsma, biology

Social justice

Nickel and Dime
 by Barbara Ehrenreich

Journalist Ehrenreich takes her editor's challenge to go undercover and attempt to live on minimum wage. As I read about her experiences as a waitress, cleaning lady and Wal-Mart employee, my empathy for the working poor drastically increased.

Kim Van Es, English

Intercultural understanding

The Color of Water
 by James McBride

The son of a white rabbi's daughter and black Baptist preacher, McBride grew up as one of 12 children in the Brooklyn projects. His memoir is a compelling story of a boy sorting out his race, religion and identity. Having been raised Jewish, I resonated with much in this book.

John Greller, advancement



Memoir

The Last Farmer
 by Howard Kohn

Kohn remembers the hard work, responsibility for land and animals, frugal living, and gamble his farmer father took each spring when he planted. This book leaves me a little sad because the family farm, as we think of it, is becoming rare.

Pamela (Van Grootheest '83) Vlieger, printing services



Sports

How Soccer Explains the World
 by Franklin Foer

Foer traveled the world for a year, researching soccer in different cultures. For Americans, soccer is sport; in other cultures, it's much more, at times interwoven with politics, economics, race relations, religion and gender equality.

Paul Smith '98, computing services

Travel

Confederates in the Attic
 by Tony Horwitz

Horwitz captures the world of the Lost Cause as kept alive by hardcore confederate reenactors like the ones he follows throughout the South for a summer. The book is sometimes hilarious and other times chilling in its portrayal of the “unfinished Civil War.”

Dr. Doug Carlson, history



Mystery

The Haunted Bookshop
 by Christopher Morely

“When you sell a man a book,” says the story's protagonist, “you don't sell him just 12 ounces of paper, ink and glue—you sell him a whole new life.” First published in 1919 and now available as a reprint, this is a fun read about bookish characters caught up in a mystery.

Dan Daily, library



For many more reading suggestions from Northwestern professors and staff,
 visit www.nwciowa.edu/readmore.

Summer Love

SOS alumni share stories of the season that changed their lives

by Tamara Fynaardt



After her summer in India, Wendy White '05 wrote, "I was humbled every day. Before I felt invincible, but God made it clear I am nothing without him." A marketing and management major, White was inspired by her SOS experience to detour from corporate America to Project Hospitality, a hunger, homeless and HIV/AIDS ministry in Staten Island, N.Y., where she served as a volunteer.

During the summer of 1996, Kristine Van Noord '98 and two mission teammates trekked through Nepal's Himalaya mountains.

One day, after hiking for

over 10 hours, they reached a village where they were likely the first foreigners any of the villagers had ever seen.

"I really wanted a shower," Van Noord remembers,

but she and her teammates had to make do with one spigot in the center of the village, trying to wash their dusty, sweaty bodies while the whole community

watched.

The villagers offered them a place to sleep, outside on mats infested with bedbugs. It was monsoon season. During the night, Van

Noord woke up when the tarp over her mat broke, soaking her.

She got her shower.

"It was the best night of the summer," she says.

Van Noord went on to work at Pioneers International's U.S. headquarters before heading to the Middle East, where she has lived for the past four years. Her Summer of Service, she says, confirmed God's call on her life.

"Before Nepal, I'd never been in a place where the people had not heard the name of Jesus Christ. Since then, I have an aching desire to share hope. I can't get it out of my system."

Summer of Service

Since 1981, almost 500 Northwestern students have spent six to 10 weeks serving as short-term missionaries through what is now called Summer of Service, or SOS. They have served on nearly every continent in almost 100 countries.

They raise the money to cover their expenses themselves, mostly from family, friends and their home churches. This year's team of 21 raised more than \$80,000.

Year after year, SOS students have worked alongside The Luke Society's Dr. John Boateng in Ghana and at The Shelter youth hostels in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Others have been the only Northwestern student to travel to places like Argentina, Ethiopia,



Dan Johnston '05 is one of at least 16 pre-med students who served in The Luke Society clinic and hospital in Ghana. Johnston's wife, Kali (Carroll '06), was a member of the 2004 SOS team, serving in Bosnia. SOS alumni include at least 18 other married couples.

Montenegro, Pakistan and Zambia.

The students' challenges have ranged from lost luggage and language barriers to diarrhea and malaria. Cockroaches have invaded their beds, and bandicoots have scampered over them as they slept on the floor. They have milked yak, delivered babies and held people dying of AIDS.

SOS has taken students from middle-class families and supportive faith communities to overfull orphanages, understaffed hospitals, and places where spiritual oppression and darkness is palpable.

The students return with unanswered questions about God's mercy and compassion. Yet they still proclaim

joyfully that God is, indeed, at work in the world.

Heartbreak and joy

"The biggest challenge was dealing with my broken heart," wrote Laurie Lipp '00 after her experience in Haiti in 1999. She knew before

"I wasn't prepared to have women on the street offer me their children because they thought, as a white person, I could take better care of them."

going that Haiti is the poorest country in the Western

Hemisphere, but, she says, "I wasn't prepared to have women on the street offer me their children because they thought, as a white person, I could take better care of them."

Stacey Wilcox '06 recalls her most difficult day at an orphanage for children with special needs in Guatemala in 2005. In a room of cribs, three-year-old Gloria was screaming in pain.

"I stroked her hand and tried to soothe her with 'mi amor' and 'te amo,'" Wilcox remembers. "My eyes were swollen with crying. I clung to what one of my encouragers had written to me: 'You must go forward on your knees.'"

Dr. Corey Harthoorn '93 explored his call to medical

missions during his Summer of Service in El Salvador in 1992. Today he is a physician at Partners in Hope Medical Center in Malawi, one of the 10 poorest nations in the world—where 14 percent of the population is HIV-infected and there are over a million orphans.

"The clinic has a staff of 70; one or two are always

raise their families, long enough to hear the message of salvation," he says.

Coming home

After his summer in India in 2003, Aaron Willems '05 moved back into West Hall but continued bathing out of a bucket until Christmas. It was his way of transitioning from his sum-

SOSer celebrated her return to the U.S. by shopping with friends. Surrounded with so much to buy, she nearly threw up.

Coming home can be harder than going, say former SOSers and those who have worked with them. Upon return, their life in the U.S. seems irrelevant—even irresponsible.

of Service from 1995 to 2003.

Kara (Wisner '05) Willems' friends teased that her Summer of Service to India had changed her from Barney to Eeyore, she remembers. "I kept thinking I could be making a *real* difference back in India," she says. "It took awhile before I didn't feel guilty for just goofing around with my friends."

"They have changed, and their world at home has not," says Jill Erickson '96, who went on an SOS trip to Amsterdam in 1995 and served as Northwestern's director of missions from 2003 until this past April. "They are more sober—and more passionate. They are more engaged with their faith, but they need to find a way to hope again."

Going back

"I think I will always be able to recognize a refugee by the look in their eyes," wrote Erin Scholtens '07 after spending last summer working with World Relief in Seattle. "It's a distinctive look of pain that never goes away—even when they smile."

After graduating in May, Scholtens headed back to Seattle and World Relief. She reconnected with four families she assisted last year and spent a weekend living with a Turkish family who had just arrived in the U.S.

She brought her fiancé along to meet her friends, many of whom are Muslim.



After his SOS experience in Kenya in 2005, Chad Benson '06 wrote, "Different people reflect different aspects of God. What better reason is there to learn more about this diverse world than to learn more about who God really is?" Benson currently is teaching English in China.

gone to a funeral," he says.

Still, Harthoorn's work fills him with joy. The new drugs available to treat HIV improve the health and life expectancy of his patients.

"I can help them live long enough to work and

mer experience—where you might go a whole day without water in your section of town—back to America, where his wingmates were taking hot showers for 10 minutes or longer.

Another returning

"One week they are surrounded by people dying of AIDS, and the next they are supposed to resume their comfortable lives on campus," says Barb Dewald, associate dean of spiritual formation, who oversaw Summer

"I formed strong friendships with people who do not share my Christian faith, and I have a lot of questions about how to relate to them on a spiritual level—to respect their religion while maintaining the integrity of my own," she says.

Scholtens hopes to continue to work in refugee resettlement. To prepare, she is headed to graduate school to study Islam. "I want to understand my friends' faith," she says. "The Holy Spirit has shown me there are great benefits when real friendships are formed across faith lines."

During her experience in Romania last summer, Kadie Becker fell in love with children living in group homes in the town of Rosiori. She celebrated with some of the children who were able to go home to their parents after the school year, and she questioned God when one boy who was sent home died after being abused by his father.

Over spring break in March, Becker went back to Rosiori, to the place and the people who have broken her heart and convinced her of God's deep love. In line at the airport, a man asked her what she was going to do in Romania. "I'm going to see family," she said.

"SOS changed my life"

Next January, Aaron and Kara Willems and their infant son are moving to Papua New Guinea, where they will work with Wycliffe Bible



Many SOSers—like Megan (Rich '01) Satvati, who served with Pioneers in East Asia—say they were given more than they gave during their short-term experiences.

Translators. They are two of over 50 SOS alumni who have served as missionaries after graduation—some for a year or two, others for a lifetime—doing community development, English teaching, evangelism, medical work and translation.

Before SOS, Annette (Long '85) Harrison was headed into theatre. She says she still can't remember signing up for the 1983 team.

Growing up in Germany where her dad was a teacher, Harrison struggled to learn German. Yet, during her Summer of Service in Cameroon, she found herself eager to communicate with the villagers. By the end of the summer, she'd learned enough Mofu to hold a simple conversation.

When she returned to Northwestern, she changed

▼
"I formed strong friendships with people who do not share my Christian faith, and I have a lot of questions about how to relate to them on a spiritual level—to respect their religion while maintaining the integrity of my own."
 ▲

her major to French, and after graduation she returned to Africa and has never left.

Now able to share the gospel in six African languages as a Wycliffe missionary, Harrison says, "I could not have imagined a life of language learning 25 years ago. In fact, I would have

fled from it. SOS changed my life."

The majority of SOS alumni have not become missionaries in the traditional sense, but their SOS experiences still influence their lives and lifestyles. Many report they try to live simply and frugally. They are generous with their time and money. They are knowledgeable and committed to learning more about God's creation and creatures—both next door and around the world.



In Peru during the summer of 2001, Sarah Wynia '03 was awakened at 5 a.m. by the sound of singing. Her host family was starting the day with worship. This summer, senior Megan Griwac is with the same Luke Society ministry, living with the same family. In an e-mail to campus ministry staffer Barb Dewald, Griwac wrote: "They are still singing."

▼
"I don't think I will ever practice in a middle-class suburban neighborhood. I'm drawn to patients who are underserved. Despite my obligation to work in a clinic like this, I like to think I'd be doing it anyway."
 ▲

Lead with love

Harrison says anyone can be a missionary simply by being a friend to someone who needs one. The diversity of the United States means you can be a cross-cultural

missionary without leaving home. According to Van Noord, it takes an average of 10 years before a refugee or immigrant is invited into an American home.

During her recent furlough in the U.S., while pursuing a master's degree in education, language and literacy, Van Noord befriended an Arab woman in her Atlanta neighborhood.

The woman never learned to read and write, but she is learning English, her fourth language. Van Noord recently taught her friend to pump her own gas. "By her reaction, you would think I've given her the world," she says.

"Ministry doesn't happen from a distance," says the Rev. Doug Tensen '80, who, even though he'd grad-

uated, was a member of Northwestern's first summer missions team in 1981. At former Chaplain Jerry

Sittser's encouragement, Tensen traveled to Hong Kong. As has happened to so many who have come after him, the experience impacted the rest of his life.

Now a pastor at Orchard Hill Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Tensen says his mission is to "Lead with love—not with my checkbook, or even the Bible necessarily—lead with love."

That's his message to his congregation as they serve the growing number of minorities in their community. It's his reminder to those he has led on numerous short-term mission trips, including five to Haiti.

It's the legacy he hopes to leave with his daughter, Annie, who began her own Summer of Service experience in Cameroon in May.



Carissa (Hall '04) Youngsma taught English in Thailand during her SOS experience. This year's SOS students are serving in 16 countries, including Brazil, Cameroon, Fiji, Guatemala, Sweden and Tanzania.

Facevalue

Barb Dewald

Disciple, pastor, friend

Describe yourself in three words.

Resourceful, relational, faithful.

What are you about?

My personal mission statement—my calling in life—is to listen and be obedient to God so my gifts are used in his kingdom for the benefit of others.

Why do you value working at Northwestern College?

Northwestern cares about development of the whole person—mind, body and soul. My passion is to see faith not only inform but also affect lives. During college, I realized my faith is not separate from any area of my life: relationships, vocation, finances. It is a great privilege—and I get really excited—to walk alongside students in their faith journeys.

What are you an expert at?

“Expert” is a strong word. What do I know best? College ministry and spiritual development of students.

What do you wish you were an expert at?

Home repair, keeping piles of papers out of my office, and dog obedience training. I sometimes feel as though I do whatever my dog, Snickers, “tells” me to do.

What is your unique perspective on Northwestern College?

Working with students who are seeking to know God more intimately and are excited about serving others with their gifts. It encourages me that over 400 students meet together weekly in small groups to pursue God in the company of friends. Another privilege of my job is partnering with others involved in mission around the world. It has been life-changing for me to catch glimpses of how God is at work in people and cultures everywhere. Watching as students connect with and serve alongside these Christian workers has been a great joy.

What have been some of your most memorable mission trip experiences?

Using six forms of transportation on one trip, learning how to cook the local cuisine in Trinidad, meeting faithful people in Guatemala who had seen great injustices, visiting with women who had received microloans and now had chickens, seeing the widespread and devastating impact of AIDS in Uganda, and worshipping God in unfamiliar—yet wonderful—ways. In each place I’ve visited, I’ve seen God’s grace and faithfulness.

What do you enjoy?

Traveling, reading, learning, meaningful conversation, antiques, biking, nice scenery, playing tennis, seeing God at work. I’d love to take a world tour and visit everyone I know.

What do you value?

Faith, friendship, family, ideas, health and time.

Who do you hope to be yet?

I dream of being a person of wisdom and grace. I want to know God more fully, enabling me to better serve him in the world.



A member of Northwestern’s staff since 1995, Barb Dewald serves as the associate dean of spiritual formation. She is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in leadership and spiritual formation from George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Portland, Ore.

Kelley Downer



The Cute Factor



Stink bug

Entomologist shares love of bugs

by Amy Scheer

There are six occurrences of the word “cute” in the blog of Kelley Downer ’04. “Cute” is often followed by “little,” which is then followed by a polysyllabic name with a Latin root. For example:

“Here is a cute little cer-

ambycid popping its head out” (March 17).

Indeed, the cerambycid (longhorn beetle) is charming, with its little head cocked to the side. As is the Asian longhorn beetle—quarantined for ravaging hardwood trees in New York City, Chicago and New Jersey—with its “pretty little

blue feet.”

At “Bugs for Thugs” (www.bugsforthugs.com), a blog borrowing the nickname of an introductory entomology course at the University of Massachusetts, Downer shares her bug bias with friends and family (and strangers around the world who seek her expertise

through her “Ask the Entomologist” feature).

Downer is an entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Harwich, Mass., studying invasive insects that threaten our country’s agricultural and forest systems. Her focus is European woodwasp females, which inject toxic



Asian longhorn beetle

A childhood fascination with insects led Kelley Downer to a career studying invasive species that threaten agricultural and forest systems.

mucus, fungus and eggs into pine trees. In a year's time, the tree dies and the offspring hatch and feed on the fungus, posing a serious threat to the timber industry. Next winter, Downer hopes to travel to South Africa, where, in addition to Australia and South America, this woodwasp has caused significant damage.

A published scientist with a wide research background, Downer knows when to put aside affections for the cute to keep her task in clear focus: "That's what I find really exciting about insect science: being able to apply the knowledge learned about the mechanisms of basic biology in order to improve the quality of life [for humans]," she writes.

Northwestern biology professor Dr. Laurie Furlong won Downer over to entomology. During the summers of 2002 and 2003, with funding from NWC research



Velvet mite

grants, they traveled to California's Santa Cruz Island to study aquatic insect drift patterns. The two women collected insects in a stream at night, armed with pots and pans to scare off the wild boar that visited and snorted at them in the dark.

Not until Downer reached graduate school at the University of Massachusetts would she realize how unusual it was to have someone like Furlong as a mentor—a woman in the field of entomology and a Christian.

"There is a general stigma in the scientific community that if you believe in God you obviously cannot do good science," Downer says. "You know there are others out there who believe in God and share similar religious views, but you just don't talk about it at work or in public."

This June, Downer married fellow biologist Joshua Zylstra '05, bringing to the

partnership an unusual dowry—a cat, a colony of giant cave cockroaches and 10 darkling beetles. (Even as a city kid growing up near downtown Chicago, she'd choose bugs for pets; she'd drip water onto webs, sparing spiders the need to travel for a drink.)

And though she donated her first pinned insect collection to Northwestern's biology department, Downer took her groom's "I do" as tacit acceptance of her current collection of some 100 specimens. Her collection is ever expanding thanks to the "Insect Wish List," a feature on her blog where she provides guidelines for interested parties to send dead specimens by mail. A bridal registry, of sorts.

Forget *Fear Factor*, Downer says to the squeamish, referring to the reality television show that features stunts often involving insects. Bugs are creepy and crawly for functional reasons, and we can't live without them. It's often that first bee sting or the sight of flies on trash that leads us to associate bugs with things unpleasant and dirty; those plagues of locusts you heard about in Sunday school are troublesome too. But the good that insects do, Downer says, far outweighs the bad.

"We would be very much out of luck without insects carrying about their daily routines as pollinators of most of our crops and plants or decomposers of decaying animal and plant matter," Downer says.

"Insects serve as food for

many animals and even many human cultures, past and present. We need insects, despite whatever fears they evoke in us."

Downer is out to change that fear to fascination. Take a caddisfly, she says, mentioning a photo in her blog. It collects debris and builds a protective case on its back—"its own little mobile home"—and casts a silk net to catch algae floating by—"a little garden." Cute, huh?

No matter where she is—at a microscope, near a stream, in a forest of pine trees in upstate New York—Downer finds herself full of wonder.



Longhorn beetle pupa

"As an entomologist, I'm amazed by those who can witness the incredible diversity of species, spectacular color variations and body forms, and uniquely bizarre behaviors of the insect world and attribute their existence to pure random chance. I can't help but stand in awe of a creative God's handiwork.

"It's like a present every time I look under a microscope."

A cute, little present.

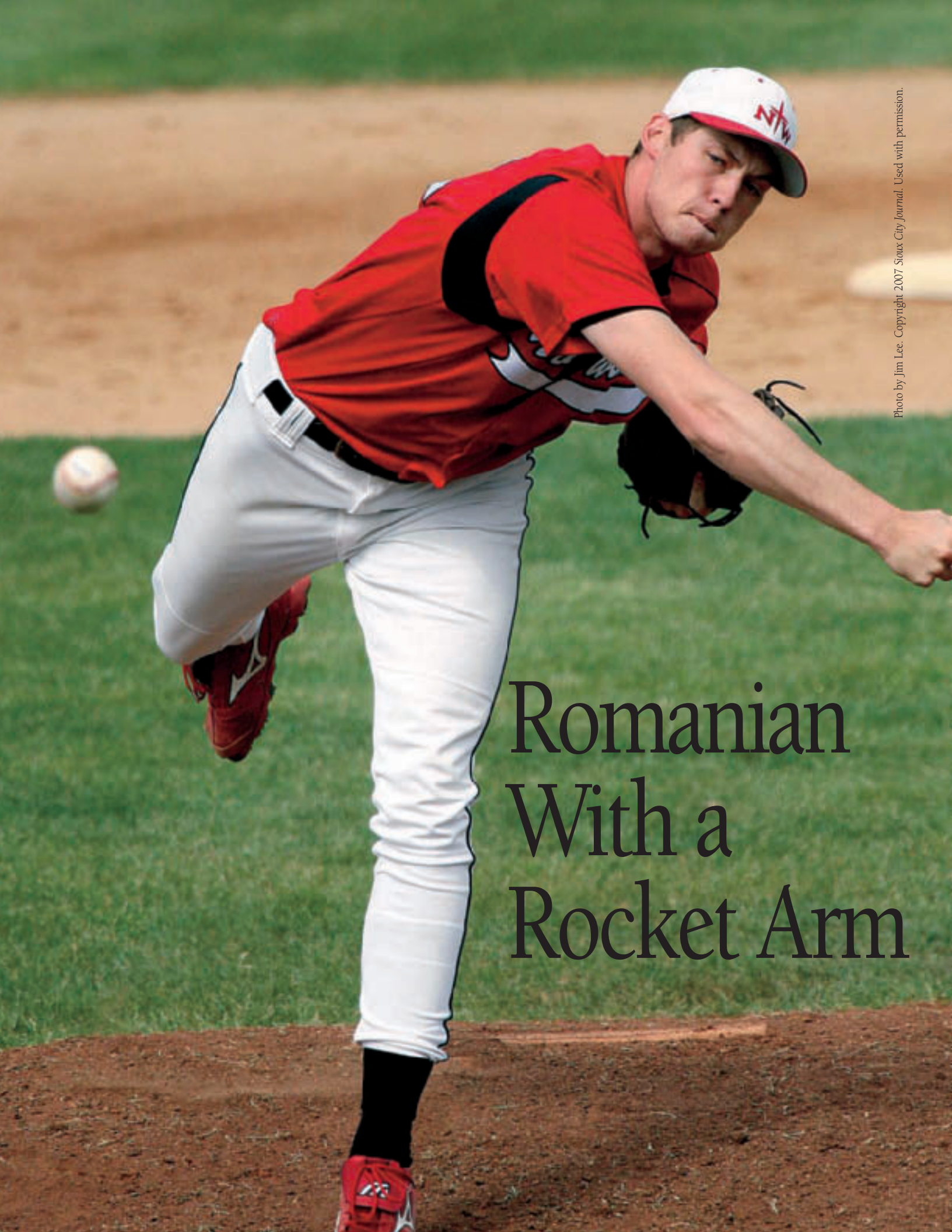


Photo by Jim Lee. Copyright 2007 Sioux City Journal. Used with permission.

Romanian With a Rocket Arm

Raider pitcher has his eye on the pros

by Brian Gunderson

Assistant baseball coach Dave Nonnemacher gets numerous mass e-mails from junior college baseball programs, offering recruits who want to transfer. He rarely opens them.

He can't explain, then, why he opened the one from Eastern Arizona Junior College. Scanning the team's roster, he recognized one of the player names, Mihai Burlea, as Romanian.

Nonnemacher has been making regular trips to the beautiful, yet troubled, country of Romania for nearly 20 years. He e-mailed Burlea, using a Romanian greeting in the letter.

"I couldn't believe somebody wrote to me in my own language," says Burlea, who e-mailed back and later called.

"We talked for hours," Burlea remembers.

Born in the textile-producing city of Botosani, Burlea grew up in a close-knit family. He played soccer

until the age of nine, when he switched to a sport less popular in his home country: baseball.

"I was amazed by the huge glove and the bat," he says, recalling his first practice on a cement field with drawn-in lines to represent an infield.

Burlea started as a center fielder because he could hit home plate on the fly. His coach eventually moved him to pitcher, which drew the attention of the Romanian National Team.

A Major League Baseball scout saw Burlea pitch against Belgium. After stifling the Belgian bats, Burlea was approached by the scout and a translator who invited him to play college ball in the U.S. Less than a year later, he was pitching for the junior college in Arizona, and last August, through his friendship with Nonnemacher, Burlea enrolled at Northwestern.

Although a small-town college surrounded by cornfields is a long way from the Romanian city he grew up in, Burlea says it's exactly what he needed. He's been speaking English for only two years, and although the business administration major has found Northwestern academically rigorous, he has also received academic and other support from the college's multicultural affairs

office.

And he has friends here. "Mihai came to Northwestern to play baseball," Nonnemacher says. "He stayed because we love him and care about him as a person."

When Nonnemacher connected with a baseball player from the country he loves so much, he had no idea Burlea has a missile

▼

"It would be an honor for me to play professional baseball in the U.S. because I would be the first Romanian player to get so far in baseball."

▲

launcher for a right arm.

Equipped with a low-90s fastball and a slider as dirty as a pigpen, the 6-foot-6-inch pitcher began his season with Northwestern rather ominously. Facing Tabor College in late February, he was rocked for 11 runs in only three innings.

Determined, Burlea turned his season around in his next start two weeks later, fanning 10 and picking up the win against Trinity International.

Burlea went on to lead the Red Raiders in wins with

12, breaking the previous record of nine. He struck out 113 batters, shattering the previous record of 67. He also set a record for most innings pitched, tallying 97 in 14 starts.

With Burlea hosing down batters and a lineup that batted .330 as a team, the Red Raiders enjoyed their finest season ever, winning the Region III tournament.

This summer Burlea is pitching for the Brainerd (Minn.) Blue Thunder in the Northwoods League; many of his teammates are from Division I programs.

He has received considerable attention from Major League Baseball scouts, and hopes, with a strong senior season for the Raiders, that he might be drafted next spring.

"It would be an honor for me to play professional baseball in the U.S. because I would be the first Romanian player to get so far in baseball," says Burlea.

Cement-street baller to pro? Not bad for a Romanian kid who journeyed to the United States with nothing more than a glove, a change of clothes and a dream.

Mihai Burlea began playing baseball on a cement "field" in his hometown of Botosani, Romania. This spring his efforts on Midwestern fields for the Red Raiders earned him conference and regional pitcher of the year honors and All-American honorable mention recognition.

Ofcourse

The Games We Play: A Window to the World



Wrestling and football team trips to the Czech Republic, held in conjunction with the kinesiology department's Sport in Societies course, have given Northwestern students the opportunity to teach physical education classes to local children while learning about Czech culture.

Class:

KIN 360: Sport in Societies

Instructor:

Dr. Paul Bartlett, professor of kinesiology

Most countries have a national sport—one that captures the imagination and passion of its people. In America, however, football, basketball and baseball are equally popular, depending on the region and time of year.

America's World Series is, in fact, a national championship, the Toronto Blue Jays notwithstanding. By contrast, in other cultures, the sporting events that generate the most excitement are those that pit the national team against teams from other countries: soccer's World Cup, for example, or the Olympics.

What those differences—as well as similarities—reveal about how sport reflects and shapes culture, both in the United States and in other countries, is the topic of Sport and Societies. Offered annually by Northwestern's kinesiology department, the class fulfills the college's general education requirement for cross-cultural studies.

"Sport is universal," says Dr. Paul Bartlett, professor of kinesiology. "It's also a microcosm of society, so it's a window into the values, problems and issues of a particular culture."

As a 16-year-old, Bartlett traveled to Tokyo, Japan, on a wrestling trip and became fascinated with cultural differences. Ideally, he'd like students in Sport in Societies to have a similar experience—and at times, they have. The class has been offered as a study abroad course in conjunction with international trips by the football and wrestling teams. When it's not, research and interviews with international students provide a window into another culture.

Comparative studies are the focus of Sport in Societies. At the beginning of the course, students are assigned partners and a country to research. Those countries then provide a counterpoint as Bartlett guides students in an examination of sport in America. Among the topics studied are the interrelationship of sport with education, the mass media, the economy, violence, social mobility, race, gender, religion and politics.

"We get a good foundation for sport in the United States so when we encounter similarities and differences in other countries, we have a frame of reference to make comparisons," he says. "I want them to ask the question, 'Why are there differences?' rather than judge the differences as inferior, and then to discover how those differences relate to cultural values."

Kyle Blankers, a business education major and member of Northwestern's track team, spent hours talking to fellow student Peter Eko-Acquah of Ghana—where a different pace of life allows taxis to shut down and stores to close for the local soccer game. Also assigned the country of Russia, Blankers wrote a final paper that compared the two nations with the U.S.

"I learned a lot about three countries," he says of the course, "but I also got a little taste of 20 other countries through the sharing and discussion in class and the video clips we watched. And I built a better friendship with Peter, talking with him and learning about his country. I don't know if I would have done that if not for this class."

Blankers' experience fulfills one of his professor's goals for Sport in Societies.

"I want students to value the kaleidoscope of people God has created and the cultures that have developed throughout the world," Bartlett says. "There's so much outside our own limited perspective as Americans. I want them to appreciate that from a broader global perspective."

Spring sports



Amy Larson turns a double play in a GPAC conference tournament game against Midland Lutheran. The Raiders finished the year at the regional tourney with a 32-19 record.

Baseball

- Set a school record with 37 wins and won Northwestern's first-ever regional championship, advancing to a super-regional showdown with eighth-ranked Bellevue University.
- Finished 37-18 overall.
- Placed third in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) with a 14-8 mark.
- Pitcher Mihai Burlea (junior, Botosani, Romania) received NAIA All-American honorable mention recognition and was named the regional and conference pitcher of the year. Also joining him on the all-regional team were designated hitter Michael

Janssen (senior, Ackley, Iowa) and shortstop Grant Wall (sophomore, Mountain Lake, Minn.). Wall was the GPAC player of the year.

- Wall was a conference player of the week, and Dusty Meyn (senior, Boyden, Iowa) was a GPAC pitcher of the week.
- The Raiders won the Clearwater Christian College tournament over spring break. Codie Zeutenhorst (junior, Maurice, Iowa) was named tourney MVP. Also named to the all-tourney team were Wall, Jake Jansen (sophomore, Oak Harbor, Wash.), Jake Koerselman (senior, Hospers, Iowa)

and Austin Malone (sophomore, San Diego).

Softball

- Advanced to the regional championships, finishing with a 32-19 record.
- Tied for second in the GPAC with an 18-6 mark.
- Megan McHugh (senior, Missouri Valley, Iowa) was a GPAC pitcher of the week. She became Northwestern's all-time leader in strikeouts, finishing with 480, surpassing the previous record of 393 set by Barb (Bahrke '80) Hansen.

Track and field

- Andrew Ortmeier (senior, Osmond, Neb.) was

named an All-American after placing fourth in the javelin at the national championships in Fresno, Calif. He also competed in the discus, hammer throw and shot put. Also competing at nationals were Nick Fynaardt (senior, New Sharon, Iowa) in the discus and shot put, Michael Ortmeier (junior, Osmond, Neb.) in the decathlon, Laura Jacobson (junior, Galva, Iowa) in the 800-meter run, Amy Katsma (junior, Boise, Idaho) in the shot put and Sarah Storm (sophomore, Sheldon, Iowa) in the marathon.

- Fynaardt won the GPAC title in the shot put and placed first in both the shot put and the discus at the Sioux City Relays. The women's 4x400 relay team—consisting of Jacobson, Jess Regan (junior, Council Bluffs, Iowa), Kristen Becker (senior, Osage, Iowa) and Megan Harding (senior, Newcastle, Neb.)—also took first place at Sioux City.
- The men's and women's teams placed seventh at the conference meet.

Men's golf

- Placed seventh at the conference meet.

Women's golf

- Finished fourth at the regional meet.

Huibregtse takes reins as alumni board president

A four-year member of the National Alumni Board, Dawn Huibregtse '98 became president in February. She views her involvement as a way to reconnect with Northwestern.

Why did you enroll at Northwestern?

I knew about Northwestern from growing up in an RCA church, but I became interested when a counselor at Camp Manitouqua shared about her experience. When I visited Northwestern, I loved the small-campus feel and opportunity for integrating faith and learning. It was the only place I applied!

In what ways did you grow at Northwestern?

I grew immeasurably. I think I grew most from extended conversations in the cafeteria, observation of faculty and staff as they modeled their faith in their everyday lives, Spring Service Project experiences, and various leadership opportunities I was given. More importantly, though, even as I experienced growth, the interactions, opportunities and experiences I had enabled me to see how much growing I had yet to do (and still do today).

How prepared did you feel for your career?

Very well-prepared. I was offered a job at Harris Bank after I interned there through the Chicago Semester, and I still work there today. I was accepted into a top-rated M.B.A. program two years after graduation and found I was as well—or even better—prepared than my peers, many of whom were several years older and/or came from top-rated universities.

Why have you chosen to get involved in the National Alumni Board?

It's great to be able to be an extended part of the life of the college and have an opportunity to interact with students, faculty and staff on an ongoing basis. It's a true honor to serve the college in this capacity.

What do you want alumni to know about NWC today?

Alumni support is more important than ever as colleges compete for top students, faculty and staff. Many alumni associate "alumni support" with "financial support." While financial support is crucial, there are a lot of other vital ways alumni can support the college: encouraging students to check out Northwestern, offering to mentor or network with current students,



Originally from Sheboygan Falls, Wis., Dawn Huibregtse works in finance for Harris Bank in Chicago. She earned an M.B.A. in finance at the University of Chicago.

and letting the Career Development Center know of job openings, for example.

What are some of your goals as National Alumni Board president?

I'd love to increase alumni involvement in regional gatherings, as well as provide more opportunities for current students to establish relationships with alumni in their field of interest.

What can alumni do to get more involved in the life of NWC and with the Alumni Association?

There are many opportunities. Read the *Classic*. Check out the website. Reconnect with a former professor. Attend a regional gathering in your area. Come back for Homecoming. Talk to current students. I'd love to hear from alumni who have other ideas for things we can be doing as an alumni board. E-mail me at dhuibreg@chicagogsb.edu.

Deaths

Bernice (Van Wyhe '38) Janssen, age 87, died Feb. 25 in Hawarden, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College and Westmar College, she taught for 29 years. She was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Survivors include her husband, Lorenz, and three children.

Class notes

'65

Les Douma, Orange City, has retired as chief administrator of the Northwest Area Education Agency.

'73

Tom Estes, Sioux Center, was inducted into the Iowa High School

Athletic Association Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in March. He compiled a 308-140 career record during 21 years as head boys basketball coach at Little Rock and Sioux Center high schools, leading four teams to the state tournament. He retired from basketball coaching in 1997 but continues to teach physical education and coach boys golf at Sioux Center.

'74

Bob Mars, principal of Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center, was named Administrator of the Year by the Northwest Area Education Agency for the former AEA 4 region. Principal at Kinsey since 1984, he previously taught there for seven years.

'77

Mark Davis, Arlington, Mass., serves as head of school at Lexington Christian Academy.

Larry Tigges, Lanark, Ill., teaches physical education and serves as athletic director at Immanuel Lutheran School in Freeport. He also coaches basketball and baseball for Eastland School in Lanark. He and his wife, **Cindy (Ludwig '80)**, lead various youth programs. Cindy has taught kindergarten at Eastland for 20 years.

'79

Dr. Timothy Westcott, assistant professor of history and chair of the department of social sciences at Park University in Parkville, Mo., has been awarded tenure.

'80

Rachel Klay, Vienna, Va., recently retired from the Secret Service after 24 years and was commended in the March 21, 2007, *Congressional Record*. She now provides security for Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

'81

Kenley Hinrichs, Boise, Idaho, serves as a software developer for Baliho Inc., a company developing a specialized search engine for media buyers, planners and owners.

'82

Lorna (Hulstein) Leavitt is an assistant professor of education at Morningside College in Sioux City.

'83

Albert Koduah, London, England, is the finance manager for Metropolitan Police Services.

Beth (Dykstra) Van Meeteren, Cedar Falls, Iowa, has taught first and second grade at a laboratory school in East Waterloo since 2001. She will be an instructor at the University of Northern Iowa in the fall. She has been active in presenting at several educational workshops and conferences.

Sue (Dalman) Van Peursem, Pella, Iowa, serves as a case manager for Capstone Behavioral Systems, where she works with people with mental illness.

'86

Dave Hughes was recently named vice president of ag/commercial lending at Northwestern Bank in Orange City.

'87

Alethea Stubbe, George, Iowa, is the new vice president of education and learning services at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. She served as vice president of finance and administrative services for the past four years.

'90

Jerry Zomermaand is the new manager of the physical therapy department at Sioux Center Community Hospital. He previously operated a private physical therapy practice in Sioux Center.

'92

Dionne (Poppinga) Pignataro is finance manager for Kraft Foods. She and her husband, Steven, live in Arlington Heights, Ill., with their two children, Hannah (3) and Andrew (1).

Professor emeritus dies



Dr. Lyle Vander Werff '54, age 72, a member of the religion faculty from 1967 until 1998, died on April 23 in Orange City.

Vander Werff earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College, a Master of Divinity degree from Western Seminary, a Master of Theology from Princeton Seminary and a Ph.D. from the

University of Edinburgh. He served three years as a missionary in Kuwait.

Vander Werff's passion to see the gospel spread throughout the world and for others to catch a global vision deeply influenced his time on Northwestern's faculty. He established Northwestern's first sister-school relationship with a Japanese college in 1980, and in 1985, he began the Summer Institute for International Students. For 15 years, he served as the director of international programs.

Named the recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in 1985, Vander Werff was awarded an honorary doctorate by Japan's Keiwa College in 1996 and received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern Award in 2004. In 1999, Vander Werff received the highest honor given by the Schools for Christ Foundation in Hong Kong for making significant contributions to Christian education in that city.

Among his survivors are his wife, Phyllis; a son, David '82; two daughters, Kathryn Gabel '89 and Kristyn Howe '90; his mother; three brothers; and three sisters.

Alumni and colleagues who shared memories about Vander Werff at www.nwciowa.edu/lyle cited his gentle spirit, warm smile, servant's heart and global vision. Royal Huang '88 wrote, "Dr. Vander Werff treated me like a son. His favorite line to me was, 'Can we have a cup of tea and talk?'" Kristine Van Noord '98 said she "learned so much by watching his quiet, intentional way of living."

Grace Rohrer, international student counselor at NWC, wrote, "Lyle was a deep thinker. But even more, he had a huge heart and a great capacity to love and serve other people. Every time I visit Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong, I see his footprints and observe the fruit that has grown from the seed he planted and cultivated."

Those interested in honoring him with a memorial gift may contribute to the Vander Werff International Mission Scholarship at NWC. Donations can be sent to Northwestern's advancement office.

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82
Chaplain

Parents of college students have a new challenge. They've always had to find a balance between staying connected to their children and letting them go. It's said mothers give birth to their children twice—the second time may be more painful. What's new is the pervasive presence of the cell phone, labeled by many as “the world's longest umbilical cord.”

Staying connected is necessary. It would be very difficult for someone to enter or succeed at college without parental involvement. But letting go is also necessary, and the cell phone has made it more challenging. By phone, some parents are able to dictate a student's schedule or even help them research an assignment.

Such parents are known as “helicopter parents,” defined by Wikipedia as those “who pay extremely close attention to their children, particularly at educational institutions. They rush to prevent any harm from befalling them or letting them learn from their own mistakes, sometimes even contrary to the children's wishes. Like a helicopter, they hover closely overhead, rarely out of reach whether their children need them or not.”

There is one way parents cannot exceed the limits: by praying. They may pray without ceasing for their children. Like Paul prayed for the church in Philippi, they may “thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.” Parents pray for Northwestern students from orientation to commencement—and every moment in between. There is even a group of moms who pray weekly on campus. It's called “covering,” not “hovering.”

Please join parents and Paul in prayer that God who began a good work in NWC students “will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” and that their love “may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight” to help them determine what is best, so that they may be “pure and blameless in the day of Christ.”

'93

Todd Leach, Gladstone, Mo., manages marketing research for H&R Block Financial Advisors.

'95

Monte Vander Velde has been named president of Interstates Instrumentation in Sioux Center. An engi-

neer with experience in plant engineering, automation and instrumentation, he most recently served as the company's general manager.

'96

Matt Danger works as a team leader for MetLife. His wife, **Carrie (Pedersen '97)**, is a division director

at Robert Half International, specializing in IT recruiting. They live in Urbandale, Iowa, with their daughter, Savannah (1).

'97

Deb Schleusener, Seattle, recently traveled to China to help mobilize Christian college students. She serves on the campus staff of International Students Inc.

David Wenell lives in Surrey, British Columbia, where he serves as associate pastor of youth and family ministries at Emmanuel Evangelical Covenant Church. His wife, **Beth (Fisher '98)**, stays home with their two sons.

'98

Jonathan Kraker serves as youth pastor at Rosewood Reformed Church in Jenison, Mich.

Rico Moss, Twentynine Palms, Calif., works in information technology for the Marine Corps Air Combat Command Center.

Leah (Evans) Schmidt, Harlan, Iowa, is a social worker for Shelby County. She works with people who have chronic mental illness, mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

'99

Darrin DeVries serves as campus pastor for Bronco Campus Ministries at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Jeff Hall, Wheaton, Ill., works as a financial adviser for First Command Financial Planning. His wife, **Amy (Risler)**, is a substitute teacher.

Andrew Manz is a distributed systems analyst for HSBC Technology and Services in Minnetonka. He lives in Chanhassen, Minn.

Kendra (Brinkman) Zachrisson is a registered nurse at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Her husband, **Jamie '00**, is in his fourth year of medical school at the University of Nebraska.

'00

Mitch Engle graduated with M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Iowa Medical Scientist Training Program and has begun a medical residency in anesthesiology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He and his wife, Carissa, have a daughter, Estella (2).

Jennifer Lundmark, Ashville, N.Y., teaches music and band at Holy Family Catholic School in Jamestown.

Dawn (Pulscher) Olijnek and her husband, Matt, recently moved to Great Falls, Mont., after spending three years in England. She volunteers with the spouses group at Malmstrom Air Force Base and stays home with Adam (1).

'01

Amy (Wacker) and Kyle Hutchinson, Iowa Falls, Iowa, recently received master's degrees in teaching from the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan. Kyle teaches math and coaches basketball at Iowa Falls-Alden High School, and Amy teaches second grade at Pineview Elementary.

Chris Rott recently graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is now pursuing a general surgery residency at Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich. His wife, **Penny (De Haan '03)**, stays home with son Logan (2) and serves as a substitute teacher.

Shelley (Beal) Twigg, Waukee, Iowa, teaches fourth grade at Walnut Hills Elementary, coaches swimming in Johnston, and coaches girls soccer at Waukee High School.

'02

Laura (Fryman) Jackson, Bellevue, Neb., received a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in May.

'03

Monica (Vermeer) Aalbers works as a



Searches are open for the following faculty positions:

Communications (PR emphasis)
Nursing (obstetrical emphasis)
Theatre (design/technical direction)

Each position is tenure-track and begins August 2007. Job descriptions and application details are available at www.nwciowa.edu/employment. Northwestern seeks individuals who are Reformed and evangelical in theology and committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education.

Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply.

physical therapist for Le Mars Physical Therapy. She lives in Sioux Center.

Dr. Brooke (Fister) Connor, Austin, Minn., graduated from Northwestern Chiropractic College in November. She works at Advanced Body Chiropractic in Stewartville and Byron.

'04

Crystal Brown works in visual merchandising for Macy's in Chicago.

Ashley (Ruppert) De Witt is a third-year medical student at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. She is completing her rotations in Trenton, Mich. Her husband, **Dan '06**, teaches physical education, algebra and science at Agape Christian Academy in Canton. He also coaches soccer, baseball and basketball.

'05

Anna (Schoenfeld) Cook is a certified ophthalmic assistant for Retina Associates of Kentucky.

Maggie Keelan, Brookline, Mass., is associate director of admissions at Boston University School of Theology, where she earned a master's degree in theological studies. She is a member of the historic Old

South Church.

Andrew Rorabaugh is pursuing a master's degree in systematic and philosophical theology at the Graduate Theological Union with Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, Calif.

Crystal (Hanson) Smith is enrolled in the accelerated nursing program at Creighton University in Omaha.

Heidi Tonne graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Creighton University in August. She is a registered nurse in the oncology hematology special care unit at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Kara (Wismer) and Aaron Willems, Omaha, are preparing to serve as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.

'06

Brady Baker, Orange City, is a fifth grade teacher and coach at Sibley-Ocheyedan Middle School.

Kevin Ulmer teaches physical education and health and coaches volleyball at Chattanooga (Tenn.).

Christian School.

'07

Aaron Haverdink serves as the administrative assistant for Sioux County Mental Health. He lives in Orange City.

Emily Hoekema is a business communications coordinator at Lawrence and Schiller, an advertising agency in Sioux Falls.

New arrivals

Tim and Patti (Vanden Hull '81) Jones, daughter by adoption, Kristina Liliya (2), joins Andy (18), David (16), Caleb (12), Blake (10), Rachel (7) and Emily (6).

Randy and Marsha (Koel '90) Meyer, son, Kellan James, joins Emily (5) and Kaeley (3).

Heather and Darren Kleis '92, son, Bergin Peter, joins Corbin (2).

Jody and Renia (Park '93) Snyder, daughter, Shelby Kayleen, joins Joshua (3).

Randy and Lynette (De Jager '95) Feenstra, daughter, Savannah Faith, joins Taylor (10), Erika (7) and Dawson (5).

Alumni: What's new with you?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to classic@nwciowa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the fall '07 *Classic* is July 31.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Home phone _____ Class of _____
 E-mail _____
 Current employer(s) _____

Mini profile

Alum's ministry rebuilds lives through donated cars

by Emily Hennager '06

Marc Veldhuizen '93 remembers the first time he helped his neighbors by fixing their car—at the age of 16. What was once a hobby has become his life's work.

Veldhuizen is the founder and director of Good Neighbor Garage, a Denver-area Christian organization that repairs donated cars and places them with disadvantaged families to help improve their employment situation.

"Changing lives for Jesus through cars—that's our mission," Veldhuizen says. "One of the biggest factors for employment success in the Denver metro area is whether a person has a car in order to get to work."

Fiana-Rose Hopkins, who received a car from the organization two years ago, credits the gift with changing her life. A mother of two young children, Hopkins had never owned a car. She found that relying on public transportation made it difficult to keep a job.

"With that car, I was able to stay at one job for two years, and that experience enabled me to get an even better job," she says. "Plus, it allowed us to be more active as a family. We

went camping for the first time ever. We couldn't have done that riding the bus."

In order to qualify for a car, candidates must meet certain income guidelines. A sliding fee scale helps defer the cost of vehicle acquisition and repairs.

make this more than part time," Veldhuizen says.

A biology major at Northwestern, he learned the car industry by working at dealership service departments. He previously worked as an equipment director for a county's search and rescue

just about our local area," Veldhuizen says. "We want to support anyone around the country who is interested in getting something like this started."

Now he's fielding calls from others who want to open similar garages in their



Using his mechanical skills, Marc Veldhuizen started a ministry in the Denver area with the mission of "changing lives for Jesus through cars."

Known by fellow church members as "the car guy," Veldhuizen was asked by the congregation's leaders to help fix and place donated cars eight years ago.

"It started very low-key, as something people just know you can do, and grew as God gave the vision to

team and a ski patrol.

Good Neighbor Garage officially launched in 2003 after five years of research and visiting similar organizations around the country. From the beginning, one of the ministry's goals was for it to be replicated elsewhere.

"We didn't want it to be

communities. At the same time, he's trying to keep up with the growth of Good Neighbor Garage. The ministry had already placed 17 vehicles in the first four months of 2007, compared to 26 vehicles in all of 2006.

Heather (Tysseling '95) and Matt Oosterhuis '97, son, Alec Nathaniel, joins Katherine (4) and Jared (2).

Crystal and Michael Rozeboom '95, son, Drew Harrison, joins Katie (8), Caleb (6) and Leah (4).

Kyle and Dawn (Van Den Berg '95) Van Den Bosch, daughter, Aubrey Merced, joins Jackson (3).

Susan (Mitchell '95) and Greg Van Holland '89, daughter, Taliya Ruth, joins Anna (6) and Sarah (3).

Bart and Valerie (Garner '96) Gregersen, daughter, Emma Elaine, joins Stephanie (6) and Cora (4).

Eric and Jill (Rasmussen '97) Groezinger, daughter, Brooke Janae, joins Nathan (3).

Brian and Sheri (Zimmerman '97) Gunderson, daughter, Anna Kathleen, joins Elena (2).

Caryn and Clinton McMartin '97, son, Gabriel James, joins Madison (6) and Trevor (4).

Jamie and Rico Moss '98, son, Ryland Xavier, joins Parker (6) and Preston (5).

Scott and Tonia (Wiese '98) Sheesley, daughter, Katherine Grace, joins Shawn (11).

Rebecca (De Groot '99) and Andrew Anderson '99, daughter, Lydia Grace, joins Hannah (4) and Julia (2).

LeEllen and Darrin De Vries '99, son, Caedmon Durst.

Moir and Gary Eggleston '99, daughter, Elizabeth Ann, joins Grant (3).

Sara (Beukelman '99) and Bob Kleinwolterink '99, son, Carter John, joins Caden (4).

Rob and Erin (Peters '99) Wilkens, son, Ky Robert.

Kendra (Brinkman '99) and Jamie Zachrisson '00, son, Isaac Edward.

Craig and Christal (Smith '00) Fendley, son, Nicolas Craig, joins Vallarie (2).

Jackie (Van Engen '00) and Ryan Freese '00, son, Christopher Patrick.

Lindsay and Craig Paulsen '00, daughter, Kailey Grace.

Nikki (Tjossem '00) and Carl Zylstra '98, son, Brent Andrew, joins Brooke (4) and Bryan (2).

Sara and Mike Groher '01, daughter, Elise.

Amy (Wacker '01) and Kyle Hutchinson '01, son, Calvin Davis, joins Kate (2).

Ben and Shelley (Beal '01) Twigg, daughter, Emma Louise.

Patrick and Breanne (Aalbers '01) Van Gelder, son, Braylon Patrick.

Adam and Julie (Wynia '02) Brown, son by adoption, Austin Ryan.

Rachel (Netten '02) and John Fernstrum '02, daughter, Kennedy Grace.

Julie (Van Der Maaten '02) and Kevin Lors '02, daughter, Naomi Grace.

Ryan and Alyssa (Ridout '02) Rusk, daughter, Kaitlyn Ann, joins Elise (2).

Jennifer and Steve Egerstrom '03, daughter, Abigail.

Stephanie (Ells '03) and Nathan Huisman '02, son by adoption, Adrian Reid.

Don Hardeman and Aubrey Van Sloten '03, daughter, Jadesyn Mackenzie.

Kyndara (Hardersen '03) and Brandon Woudstra '03, daughter, Jaelye

Nikohl.

Kara (Wismer '05) and Aaron Willems '05, son, Titus Jon.

Marriages

Nelva (Keunen '51, '53) De Valois and Jay Cunningham, Colorado Springs.

Ringo Chinoy '89 and Radhika Reddi, Alexandria, Va.

Denise De Haan '99 and Ed Anker, Visalia, Calif.

Andrew Manz '99 and Keli Hatlevig, Chanhassen, Minn.

Jennifer Van Beest '00 and Nathaniel Roberts, Virginia Beach, Va.

Maria DeBoer '02 and Chris Anderson '02, Austin, Minn.

Christina Grace '04 and Nelson VanDenHoek '04, Tea, S.D.

Ashley Ruppert '04 and Dan De Witt '06, Riverview, Mich.

Anna Schoenfeld '05 and Jamie Cook, Richmond, Ky.

The couples reside in the city listed.



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Little Raider Calla Schrock is the daughter of Sara (Veldhuizen '97) and Jason Schrock '97.



Reunited

When alumni celebrating their 50-year reunion this May graduated in 1957, Northwestern was a junior college and offered high-school level classes through the academy. Ten years later, the classes of 1966 and 1967 graduated from a four-year college and the academy had closed its doors. Regardless of its form, their alma mater drew them back to reminisce, renew old friendships, and marvel at how much has changed—and stayed the same—over the years.

Pictured, counter clockwise from top right:

- Shirley (Schut) Kuiper, Audrey (McMurray) Van Roekel and Carole (Heemstra) Kempema (from left) visit during the 40-year reunion of the class of 1957 of Northwestern Junior College.
- Alumni of Northwestern Classical Academy's class of 1957 share a meal during their 50-year reunion. Pictured, from left, are Janice (De Groot) Mouw, Jim and Marvella (Vander Wilt) Van Klompenburg, Allen and Tylene Zevenbergen, and Janice (Hartog) Veldhuis.
- 1966 Northwestern College alumni Carol (Gnade) Platt and Edna (Moss) and Dave Mast look at memorabilia from their college years.
- Allan Huizenga takes a photo of fellow 1967 classmates (from left) Doug and Elaine (Van Beek) Schelhaas and Jan Vander Wal.
- Dan Smith (left) and Norm Nieuwenhuis, both members of the class of 1967, get reacquainted.
- Janice (De Groot '57) Mouw shows a family wedding picture to her Northwestern Academy classmate Mayris (Haverdink) De Jong.



A Breath of Life in Argentina

Send your Classic thoughts to classic@nwciowa.edu



by **Andrea (Collier '07) Helmus**

When I first came to Buenos Aires to study abroad last fall, I thought I would go crazy from the buses rumbling up and down our street all night, the honking taxis, the barking dogs (everyone has a dog), and waking up to the sound of a jackhammer every morning.

Moments of complete silence were rare, which is why I was struck by the quiet at the art exhibit. An utter contrast from the noisy, colorful park outside, the mood inside the exhibit was thoughtful and solemn. The exhibit's title was what had intrigued my friend and me, and as we entered the exhibit commemorating "The Disappeared" of Latin America and Argentina, we understood the reason for the silence.

During the 1970s, Argentina suffered under a brutal military dictatorship that targeted its own citizens as the

enemy. It is estimated over 30,000 people disappeared between 1976 and 1983. They were kidnapped, tortured for information, and killed. Thirty years later, only a handful of people have been tried for the crimes committed, and the families of the disappeared (*desaparecidos*) still do not know what happened to their loved ones.

Ever since my freshman year at Northwestern, I have been drawn to Argentina. I entered college as a Spanish major, and one day while digging through the stacks in Ramaker Library, I came across a book about Argentina's dictatorship. Once I started reading it, I realized my life would be changed, yet at the time I had no idea how profoundly. One thing was certain: I was hooked on Argentina.

Another Spanish major, Becky Johnson '06, and I joined the students at the Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires last fall and moved in with a señora named Marta. Our exploration of the city allowed us to experience the things we learned in class and read about in our textbooks. Evita's black marble tomb, accordion music at late-night tango shows, and the mothers of the *desaparecidos* who march every Wednesday afternoon in memory of their missing children were the images that lent shape to the ideas in my head.

It was a true privilege to learn about Argentina's history from professors who lived through it. My sociology professor had nearly been a *desaparecido* herself. Arrested once, she was fortunate enough to be released, but I remember hearing her voice shake when she talked about the dictatorship.

The art exhibit was yet another instance when the facts of history became personal.

The artists, many of them friends and family members of *desaparecidos*,

earnestly tried to speak for the missing who could not speak for themselves. The works in the exhibit ranged from haunting to hopeful—from childhood photos of one artist's disappeared younger brother (they are play-fighting with toy bows and arrows on the front lawn) to spray-painted silhouettes of bicycles that call to mind their stolen riders.

One of my favorite works involved small polished steel circles. Artist Oscar Muñoz had engraved each shiny circle with a photo of his disappeared friends in Colombia. The photos were invisible until I got close enough to breathe on the steel. My warm breath caused the faces to emerge in the condensation. The face of someone I had never known—and never will because of injustice—stared back at me amid my own reflection.

Muñoz said it best: "The viewer gives life [to the disappeared] with his or her own breath ... and the face of the dead is transformed into poetry by this simple act of human attention."

I found truth in Muñoz's words that day. I often think about why God gave me this desire to study Argentina and understand its troubled past. I wonder if each one of us is called to somehow do as God did when he created humans, and breathe life into the earth.

Our world is confusing and painful, chaotic and scary, but as Christians, we can be instruments of beauty, truth and—most of all—redemption. With God's help and guidance, we can breathe his life into the world's darkest corners.

Andrea Helmus' study abroad experience was preceded by a Summer of Service in Argentina with World Gospel Mission. She hopes to continue studying the country as she pursues a master's degree in Latin American studies at the University of Arizona.

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Contact Jennie Smith, director of the Northwestern Fund, for more information about supporting Northwestern students through the Northwestern Fund. Phone: 712-707-7110; email: smith@nwciowa.edu; visit: give.nwciowa.edu

Legacy



Ira White (second from right) and Wayne and Sue Kooiker have enjoyed meeting recipients of the scholarship in Sue's name. "It's encouraging to see how God has gifted them. To have a small part in that is just great," she says.

Ira White and Wayne and Sue Kooiker have been friends since 1971, when the two men worked together on audits for a major accounting firm. About 15 years ago, Ira and Wayne decided to honor Sue for her Christian commitment, unselfish friendship and service to others by establishing the Sue Kooiker Scholarship at Northwestern.

Ira and the Kooikers know the importance of scholarship funds. The first in his family to go to college, Ira struggled to pay for his education. Wayne saw the impact of financial aid during his 16 years as Northwestern's vice president for financial affairs.

"Funding a scholarship is really about investing in people. When you invest in people, you're investing in eternity because people are eternal," says Sue.

For information about how you can honor a friend or family member by establishing an endowed scholarship, contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, 712-707-7109 or cwassink@nwciowa.edu.