

Northwestern College Magazine *the* **Classic** SUMMER 2008

Minding Place

Northwestern holds first
Day of Learning in Community

Also

An Interview with Author Kathleen Norris
Enjoying America's National Parks
Summer Job Stories





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National parks on roads less traveled can provide a peaceful vacation. English professor and park ranger Ann Lundberg offers tips.

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Classic People

Editor

Duane Beeson
712-707-7116
beeson@nwciowa.edu

Staff Writers

Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson
Duane Beeson
Anita Cirulis
Dana (Smith '93) Daniels
Tamara Fynaardt

Designers

John Vander Stelt '83
Anji Bennett
Roy Trevino

Web Designer

Dan Robinson '01

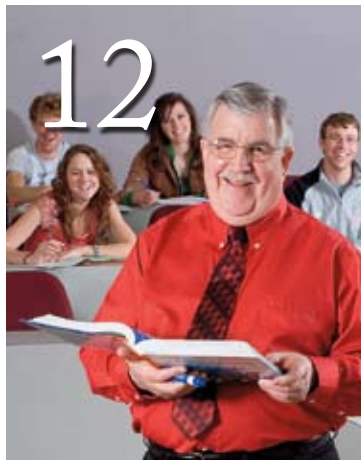
The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, July, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni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

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996 or classic@nwciowa.edu.

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

On the cover:

Few homes evoke a sense of place like the house in Eldon, Iowa, that inspired Grant Wood's iconic "American Gothic" painting. Ryan Stander '98 captured this image.



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Zwemer View

Significant Place

Minding Place events April 5–12, including the first Day of Learning in Community on April 9, were a huge success. Our featured speaker, author Kathleen Norris, challenged us to consider how place shapes us and how we shape our place.

To fully engage the campus in this endeavor, we canceled all classes and closed offices for significant portions of the day. It was a day set aside for everyone on campus to learn together—along with alumni and community members who joined us for this thought-provoking experience.

Many faculty, staff, students and guests led place-themed workshops throughout the day. There were a variety of excellent sessions to choose from, with rich discussions on topics as varied as “Our Hispanic Neighbors” and “Virtual Places.”

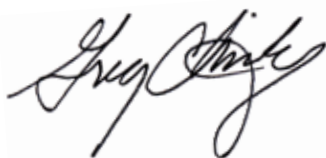
One of the workshops I attended, “Tulips, Windmills and Buggies: Ethno-Religious Integration in Orange City and Kalona, Iowa,” was led by Dr. Mitch Kinsinger, religion, and Dr. Michael Yoder, sociology. Both professors shared how the Amish settings they grew up in shaped them and their communities. They gave an excellent presentation on the similarities and differences between their personal backgrounds growing up in the Amish tradition, and the Dutch Reformed tradition and its influence on Orange City and northwest Iowa.

The significance of place and relationships was also a common theme at our baccalaureate service on May 9. All of the seniors who spoke during this final worship service of the year shared stories of how they grew as a result of this place and their relationships with peers and professors.

One senior said his advice to new freshmen would be, “If you feel like you don’t know anyone, and you don’t know how you got here and where you are going, you are probably in the right place.” That is how he felt as a freshman—but now, after having been impacted by relationships formed in this community, he leaves Northwestern a changed person, with a connectedness that will influence all areas of his life.

That is what we are all about at this place—the integration of faith, learning and living. We believe the holistic education we offer happens best in the context of community and personal relationships. In our students’ pursuit of wisdom, our hope is that their faith in Christ is strengthened and they are challenged to examine how they ought to live in light of what they have learned.

May we give God the glory for the transforming experiences our students have at this place.



Greg Christy
President



DAN ROSS

Rave Reviews

We received numerous compliments regarding the new design of the *Classic*, which debuted with the spring issue. Marcy Larson wrote, "The entire magazine is excellent." Brittany Caffey '06 said, "I really enjoyed the look." Lisa (Boonstra '83) Burg wrote, "Fabulous job!" And Jill (Erickson '96) Carver said, "The stories were great—keep up the good work!"

Even members of Northwestern's faculty got into the act. Karen Barker, theatre, said, "I absolutely love everything about the new look." Dr. Scott Monsma, sociology, wrote that the magazine's new website "is 1,000 percent better than what was there before." And someone who knows a thing or two about design, Rein Vanderhill, art, said, "The look of the *Classic* is really good—so much better than before."



Dr. Heemstra Remembered

Congratulations on the outstanding spring 2008 issue of the *Classic*!

I especially enjoyed reading the article about Jacob Heemstra and the accompanying quote by my former Northwestern colleague, Ralph Mouw. I did, however, find one error in the article: Dr. Heemstra did not die in 1957. In the fall of 1958, my first year of teaching at NWC, I worked under Heemstra; President Preston Stegenga was gone for a couple of months preparing for Northwestern's first accreditation as a four-year institution by the North Central Association.

During his absence, former President Heemstra returned from retirement to serve as our temporary leader. He was such an astute, kindly gentleman—even at that age, when his health was failing. It was a privilege for me to work under him part of that semester. Dr. Heemstra died on Oct. 23 that year.

I still cherish my 12 years (1958 to 1970) affiliated with

Northwestern College as a biology professor, academic dean and acting president.

Dr. Tom TenHoeve
Holland, Mich.

God-Glorifying

I really wanted to thank you for your work on the *Classic*. I don't see it all that often, but my mom forwarded it to us here in Spain, and I really ate it up! It's done so well—the cover, format, articles, variety, everything. Thanks for your work. It is God-glorifying.

Tim Tjernagel '89
Cáceres, Spain

Setting the Standard

The redesigned *Classic* is fantastic! I love the look, feel, tone, typography and use of photography throughout the publication. The balance between design, headlines, copy blocks and photography seems perfect to me.

I am sure you have already received lots of compliments on your new publication. Your team has done an awesome job. I would say you have set the

standard for Christian colleges and universities around the country for alumni publications.

Matt Schlientz
Holland, Mich.

Wonderful

The *Classic* has taken on a wonderful new look. Thank you to all the staff and to John Vander Stelt '83, who is sharing his artistry in each edition.

I appreciate your efforts to inform readers about current and past events at Northwestern College. Keep up the good work.

Jeane Van Veldhuizen '51, '53
Sanborn, Iowa

New Approaches

Peg and I sure enjoyed the spring *Classic*. We wonder how it can keep getting better, but you always seem to find some new approaches. We especially thought you did a great job with the articles and pictures of President Christy.

You always have a variety of articles and features. I sure appreciated Amy Scheer's article

about women in Afghanistan, as it provided a perspective we often don't read or hear about.

Thanks for all the time and skills you invest in the *Classic*.

Dr. Ron Juffer '56
Orange City, Iowa

Very Disturbing

Although the details provided in the spring *Classic* are sketchy, I found the description of what happened to the chickens in the "Fun Run Afowl" story very disturbing. I would not be surprised to learn of these abuses happening in a secular college situation, but in a Christian college setting, it made me wonder what else is going on there.

I hardly think Christ would approve of this blatant disregard for animals and the seemingly lighthearted consequences. Nor do I believe he would condone the terrorizing of the women in the dorm and the mess caused by the prank. It is not at all amusing; in fact, I find it disgusting.

Keith Roghair '77
Tampa, Fla.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: classic@nwciowa.edu; fax: 712-707-7370. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.

around the Green

One-of-a-Kind Minister

Barb Dewald, associate dean of spiritual formation, is the first woman to be recognized for campus ministry excellence by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCCU). She was honored at their Campus Ministers Conference in February.

Dewald received the Dana Walling Award for Excellence in Campus Ministry, established by the CCCC to honor the former pastor of Point Loma Nazarene University, who was known for his gentleness, wisdom and humility.

Since 1995, Dewald has directed nearly all Northwestern's campus ministry efforts, including student discipleship and ministry teams. She has also trained and traveled with Spring Service Project teams and Summer of Service students ministering overseas.

"One of Barb's greatest contributions to campus ministry has been her work with the Fellowship of Short-Term Mission Leaders (FSTML)," says Rod Reed, campus pastor at Fresno Pacific University and chair of the CCCC's Campus Ministers' Commission. "She and her colleagues strive to train, equip and empower students as short-term missionaries."

As a member of the FSTML, Dewald co-wrote the Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission (stmstandards.org), a common set of standards that ensure individuals or teams sent as missionaries by U.S. colleges receive excellent training and follow-up.

This is the second time a Northwestern campus ministry staff member has received the award. Dr. Keith Anderson, former dean of spiritual formation and vocation, was the honoree in 2004.



Barb Dewald's excellence in discipling Northwestern's students was recognized by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

DOUG BURG



Dave Arnett

Research Fellowship

Dr. Dave Arnett, chemistry, received a fellowship to pursue summer research at the University of Kansas.

Arnett was awarded an \$8,000 research fellowship from the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund for an eight-week research project during June and July. He is working with Dr. Carey Johnson, professor of chemistry at the University of Kansas, to investigate the characteristics of fluorescence from individual protein molecules. Using

single-molecule fluorescence spectroscopy, Johnson's research group is studying calmoduline, a calcium-signaling protein.

Arnett hopes to continue the research collaboration when he's back on campus.

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

Northwestern is seeking an individual to plan, organize and implement a comprehensive church relations program.

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.nwciowa.edu/employment

Space to Study Place

A week of Minding Place events in April culminated with planning meetings for a Northwest Iowa Center for Regional Studies at Northwestern. The center's archives and holdings are a proposed part of the new \$20 million learning commons. Around 30 attended the two-day meetings to offer opinions and input for a prospectus that will outline the center's physical space, programming, personnel and funding needs.

Gordon Hendrickson, archivist and administrator for the State Historical Society of Iowa, was among the participants. Also attending were community and regional leaders, archeologists, archivists, historians and museum curators.



Jasper Lesage

New Administrative Roles

In an administrative restructuring, Northwestern has promoted Dr. Jasper Lesage to provost and Dr. Adrienne Forgette to dean of the faculty. They assumed their new responsibilities on July 1.

Lesage was Northwestern's vice president for academic affairs during the last three years. The newly created role of provost brings the areas of spiritual formation and student development under his leadership, in addition to the academic program. He now supervises Dr. John Brogan, vice president for student development, who continues to provide direct oversight of spiritual formation and student development.

Lesage also supervises Forgette, who is a new member of the college's Administrative Council. Northwestern's associate academic dean for the last two years and a former psychology professor, she previously served two years as interim associate dean of assessment and accreditation. Also reporting to the provost are individuals charged with leading study abroad efforts, Lilly Grant programs and academic support services.

"This organizational restructuring brings together the core areas of our mission—faith, learning and living—under one position," says President Greg Christy. "By aligning those areas more closely organizationally, we believe we will have potential for better integration and, ultimately, better achievement of our mission to be a distinctively Christian liberal arts college.

"I have great confidence in Jasper and Adrienne," says Christy. "They are proven leaders who have the essential gifts and talents to perform well in their newly expanded roles."



Adrienne Forgette

Following a Trend

A link has been developing between Northwestern and Western Kentucky University—at least in the psychology departments. For the third year in a row, a Northwestern psychology major has been selected for research at the Bowling Green, Ky., institution.

This year's participant, Sarah Connolly, a senior from Mokena, Ill., is working with Dr. Pitt Derryberry, researching the moral development of adolescents and young adults. Last year, Emily Griesse worked with Derryberry on similar research. In 2006, Candace Gross collaborated with Dr. Anne Rinn on gifted-student research.

All three projects were part of the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

Mission Mentors

Now in its fifth year, a Northwestern program designed to help students explore their calling has placed 17 students in summer internships. Funded in part by Northwestern's \$2.5 million Lilly Grant, the program gives participants the opportunity to work alongside mentors in a variety of ministry contexts.

Eight students interested in the pastorate or other roles in the church are serving in Reformed churches in Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico,

Washington and the Virgin Islands, as well as in a United Methodist Church in Ankeny, Iowa.

Another nine students are at one of five Christian Community Development Association ministries: Voice of Calvary Ministries and the John Perkins Foundation in Jackson, Miss.; Trinity Christian Community in New Orleans; Mission Waco in Waco, Texas; and Mile High Ministries in Denver.

Students are receiving hands-on ministry experience in churches and community development agencies through a Lilly Grant program this summer.





A Job Well Done

Three students received regional and national recognition for their research this spring.

For the second year in a row, a Northwestern psychology major was honored for presenting the best student paper at the Siouxland Undergraduate Social Science Research Conference. Emily Griesse '08 of Platte, S.D., received the 2008 award for her presentation, "Epistemology and Religiosity as Predictors of Moral Reasoning."

At the Student History Conference on the campus of the University of South Dakota, Brittany Lassen was honored for presenting the best paper in media history. A senior from Remsen, Iowa, Lassen presented "The Legend(s) of Billy the Kid."

Ruth Cink, a senior chemistry major from Missouri Valley, Iowa, presented research at the American Chemical Society's April national conference in New Orleans. She gave a poster presentation about her study of chemical influences on the copper aluminum system. Cink conducted the research last summer at Iowa State University, funded by a National Science Foundation grant. She continued part of that research at Northwestern for an honors research course.

Psychology professor Laird Edman is the 2008 recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

When Dr. Laird Edman joined Northwestern's psychology faculty in 2003, he had already won teaching awards at Iowa State University and Waldorf College. He added to his collection this spring, when he was named the 2008 recipient of the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

Edman is described by students as passionate about psychology, students and teaching.

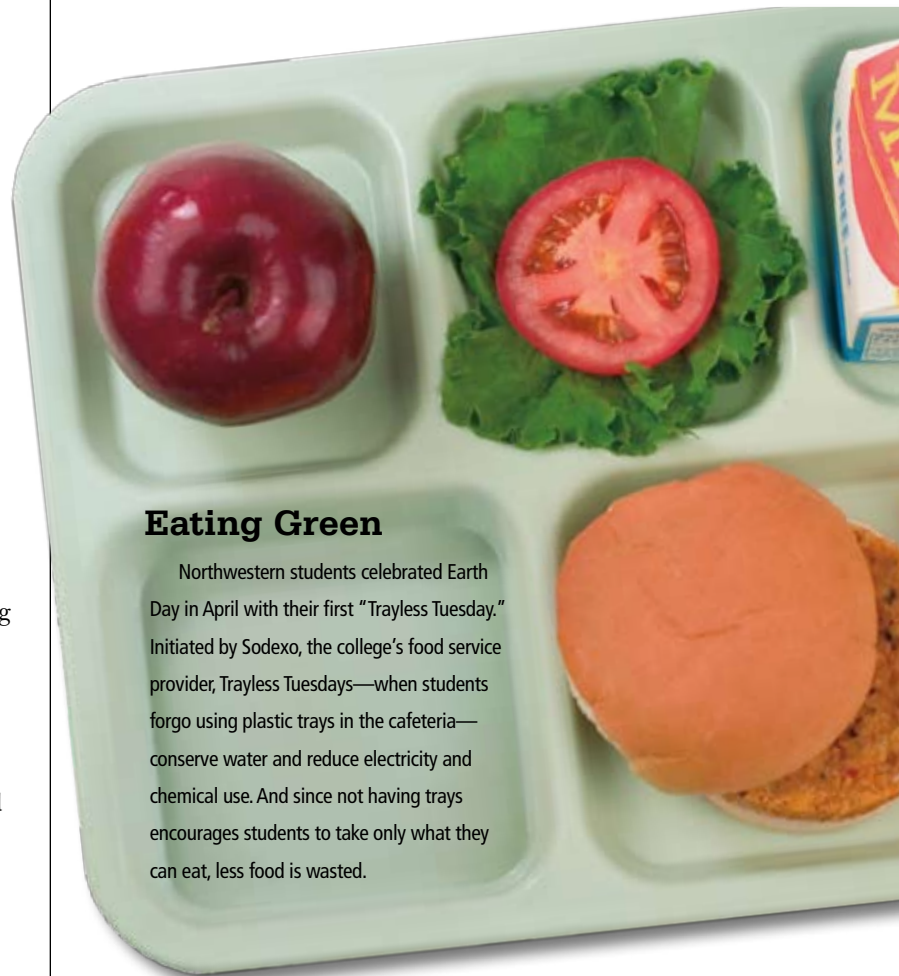
"I've never been so pushed or stretched to learn," says Kelsey Arvidson '08, a psychology major from North Oaks, Minn. "He teaches in a way that is challenging and eye-opening, and he's always willing to help. He's completely brilliant, and he shares his knowledge in a way students can understand."

Jacob Parsons, a sophomore biology health professions major from Los Alamos, N.M., says Edman is "one of the most dedicated, wise, real, honest and influential persons—let alone professors—I have ever encountered. He is a huge asset to this campus as a philosopher,

professor, mentor and fellow Christian."

Edman, a co-director of the Honors Program, is praised by students for integrating faith and learning. "He is intentional about preparing students for the real world of psychology but also being able to have an answer for our faith," says Emily Griesse '08, a psychology major from Platte, S.D. "Through class activities in which we take differing perspectives and argue opposing viewpoints, we are not only educated on why we should have the faith we do, but why others don't. In doing so, we are becoming truly educated on being a psychologist with a Christian faith."

The teaching award is sponsored by Northwestern's Alumni and Student Government associations. Students nominated 27 professors for the honor, with 65 nominations being received. The other three finalists selected by a committee of professors and students were Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, religion, and business faculty Dr. Graham Lemke and Dr. Dick Van Holland.



Eating Green

Northwestern students celebrated Earth Day in April with their first "Trayless Tuesday." Initiated by Sodexo, the college's food service provider, Trayless Tuesdays—when students forgo using plastic trays in the cafeteria—conserve water and reduce electricity and chemical use. And since not having trays encourages students to take only what they can eat, less food is wasted.

Distinguished Service

Northwestern's Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award is intended to recognize staff who consistently go above and beyond what is expected, personify a strong Christian commitment, and distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community. This year's recipient, Academic Affairs Assistant Brenda Meyer '76, fits the criteria to a tee, according to those who nominated her.

"Brenda exemplifies service, compassion and integrity in all she does," says Deb Sandbulte, director of human resources. "She does so much behind the scenes of which people are unaware, and she does so with a willing and gracious attitude and a smile on her face. Even though she may be swamped with work, she is always willing and ready to help others."

"Her passion for her Lord and Savior is witnessed through her actions of helping and serving others," adds Sandbulte. "She has this uncanny ability to sense when people are in need—whether it be a work-related need or a personal need."

Meyer received a \$500 honorarium funded by the Alumni Association.



Brenda Meyer, academic affairs assistant, received the 2008 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award.

A Summer of Service

Twenty-two Northwestern students are spread around the globe this summer, participating in short-term mission experiences. From Bahrain and Burkina Faso to Greece and Togo—and in 10 other countries—the students are serving with Christian mission agencies as members of the college's Summer of Service team.

Students are assisting pastors, physicians and other missionaries in churches, hospitals, clinics, schools, orphanages and refugee camps. Their work includes helping to counsel youth, performing construction, planting churches, translating Scripture, and teaching English as a second language.

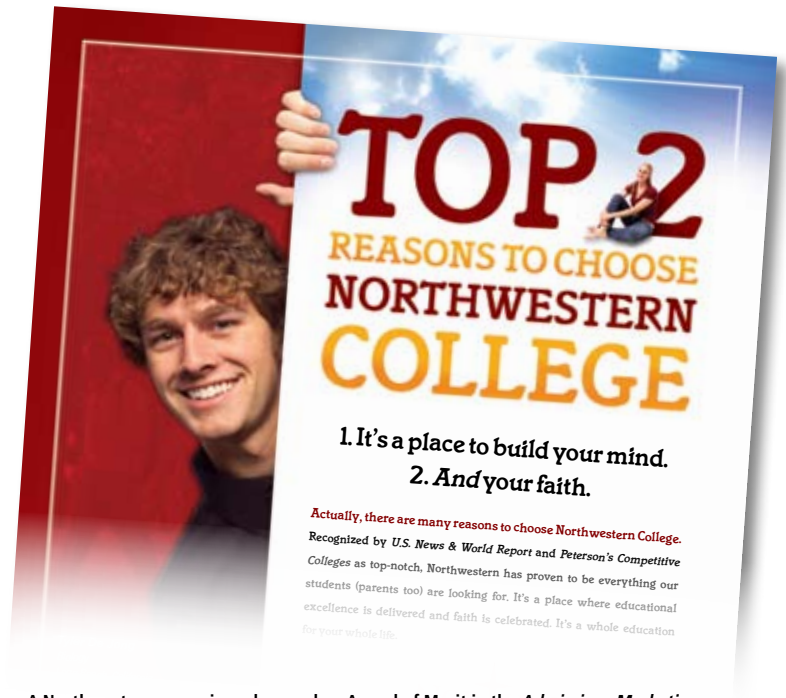


Northwestern students are ministering to children, working in clinics, helping refugees and providing other mission assistance this summer.

Honored Historian

Northwestern Classical Academy was only 25 years old when Nelson Nieuwenhuis was born in February 1908. As Northwestern matured, Nieuwenhuis played an important role, serving 30 years on the history faculty and curating the Dutch Heritage Collection.

As part of the college's 125-year celebration, the now-100-year-old Nieuwenhuis was honored for his contributions at an April luncheon.



A Northwestern magazine ad earned an Award of Merit in the Admissions Marketing Report's national competition.

Award-Winning Marketing

Three marketing publications developed for Northwestern's admissions office have received awards in the *Admissions Marketing Report's* national competition.

A series of four postcards for the parents of prospective students received a Bronze Award in direct mail advertising for schools with fewer than 2,000 students. In addition, the "Top 2 Reasons" magazine ad and the "Building Minds, Building Faith" billboard each received Awards of Merit.

Admissions Marketing Report is a monthly magazine covering the marketing strategies and admissions procedures of

colleges, universities and schools. Last year, Northwestern's search piece won an Award of Merit in the magazine's competition, and in 2005, Northwestern's admissions video received a Bronze Award.

The parent postcards were designed by John Vander Stelt '83, in conjunction with Duane Beeson, Anita Cirulis and Tamara Fynaardt of Northwestern's public relations office. The magazine ad was developed by The Image Group of Holland, Mich., and the billboard was developed by Clear Channel Outdoor of Des Moines, also in conjunction with the NWC staff.

Hunger Hero

As general manager of Northwestern's Sodexo food service since 1991, Don Keith has helped satisfy the hunger of thousands of students.

He's also done whatever he could to meet more serious hunger needs for people in crisis—a commitment for which he was named a Sodexo Hero of Everyday Life for 2008. Keith and seven other national winners—honored for investing their time, talent and spirit in the ongoing fight against hunger—were recognized by the Sodexo Foundation in Washington, D.C., on June 11.

Each Hero of Everyday Life award winner received a \$5,000 Sodexo Foundation grant to give to a hunger-related charity of their choice. Keith donated his grant to Northwestern's Called2Go hunger/homeless ministry. Some of the funds will be used for a campus event in which Kids Against Hunger food packages will be prepared to feed children in developing countries. The NWC ministry also plans to award two mini-grants to students who submit proposals for ways to engage issues of hunger in the local area.

Keith has taken a week's vacation to participate in the college's Spring Service Projects for 14 consecutive years. He usually travels with a group of students to New Orleans, where they minister to the homeless, work with youth, rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and do street evangelism. In 2000, he was part of an NWC group that served in Honduras.

"Missions work really is Don's true calling," says Cindy Hickman, the front-of-the-house manager for Sodexo at Northwestern. "He's always willing to volunteer. He has a soft heart and is very compassionate. When he retires, he wants to open a soup kitchen."

Keith says his work in New Orleans has been a joy. "I fell in love with the people of New Orleans. It's a joy to see churches come together to be the hands and feet of Christ."

Through his position at Sodexo, Keith also donates a monthly meal for 50 people at the St. Francis House, a ministry to the homeless in Sioux Falls, and provides surplus food to the Sioux City Gospel Mission. In addition, he coordinates campus canned food drives to assist the local food pantry and donates food for fund-raising events to aid families in crisis.



TOM BECKER

Don Keith received a national Sodexo Hero of Everyday Life award in June for his ministry to the hungry and homeless.



You Are Invited

to the
inauguration of

PRESIDENT GREGORY E. CHRISTY

Mark your calendars for Oct. 10 and plan on joining the celebration. Look for details later this summer at www.nwciowa.edu.

Dorm Deliberations

Could some of Northwestern's men have a new place to call home in a few years? The Board of Trustees voted to continue planning for a proposed new residence hall at its spring meeting.

Since last fall's board meeting, a committee of faculty, staff and students has been meeting with architects to develop plans for a residence hall to replace Heemstra and West halls. The potential facility is envisioned to have a capacity of 206 students, but with two distinct living areas to retain the sense of close community offered by the current residence life program.

The board's decision authorizes moving ahead with design development and construction documents, as well as strategies for funding the residence hall, which could be built by the fall of 2010. A final decision on whether or not to build the hall is expected to be made by the board at its October meeting.

Of Course

Faculty Research

Eleven NWC professors are conducting scholarship and research this summer with funding from the college's Scholarship Grant Program. Awards of up to \$2,250 were presented to seven, while another four received grants of up to \$5,000 for research with students.

Dr. Luke Dahn, music, is in Russia, composing a chamber work for the Moscow Conservatory's Studio for New Music ensemble. Biology professors Dr. Laurie Furlong and Dr. Sara Tolsma are researching the genetic relationships between mayfly populations on Santa Cruz Island and the California mainland.

Dr. Randy Jensen, philosophy, is writing a book of reflections on selections from the *Chronicles of Narnia*, while Dr. Michael Kensak, English and foreign languages, is investigating theories of visual intelligence and designing a series of animation sequences for teaching German grammar.

Three other English professors were awarded grants. Dr. Ann Lundberg is studying how World Fair exhibitions of Native American archaeological sites changed over time. Dr. Joonna Trapp is continuing her work on a book about lyceum oratory and culture in the South. And Kim Van Es is researching how grammar is taught in secondary schools.

Faculty conducting collaborative projects with students are Dr. Michael Andres, religion, who is working on an introductory text about Christian witness; Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, music, who is studying worship music used by emerging churches; and Dr. Todd Tracy, biology, who is researching the impact of the invasive European buckthorn on two local forest ecosystems.

Headstones 'n' Headcounts

Class

Demography

Instructor

Dr. Mike Yoder, professor of sociology/anthropology

Northwestern students wandering around an Orange City cemetery, staring intently at gravestones, are a sure sign Dr. Mike Yoder is teaching Demography. The assignment is a hands-on way for students to see changes in a population: By compiling data on when people were born and died, they can see how life expectancy has increased an average of 30 years in just one century.

"I could give them this kind of data in a table," Yoder says, "but when they go to the cemetery and get the data from tombstones, it means a lot more to them. It brings home how precarious life was before 1920."

Demography, or the study of human populations—their size, distribution and vital statistics—is a useful course for students with majors as varied as actuarial science, biology, business, economics, health, history and political science, in addition to sociology. Yoder created the course when he joined Northwestern's faculty 26 years ago, and he's been assigning the tombstone project for a decade.

Yoder remembers when population research was a tedious, time-consuming project involving printed census volumes in the library and percentages computed by hand. Today, websites built from census data display computer-generated color graphs and charts.

Text and Assignments

Demography uses a textbook by the same name. Yoder assigns mini-projects, like the tombstone analysis, and reading reports drawn from a scholarly journal and census and population websites. For a final project, students conduct demographic research of a county, state or city, then write a paper and give an oral report about their findings.



Demography is the study of human populations, including the way migration, births—and deaths—result in population change.

To Learn More

You can explore differences in the U.S. population by visiting www.censususcope.org, which gives data for states, counties and major cities. Find where you live, by city or county, and check out the following:

- Population growth
- Racial composition
- Age distribution
- Household and family structure
- Educational attainment
- Languages
- Migration
- Origins
- Income
- Poverty levels
- Ethnic heritage
- Occupations



Sophomore Matt Gray heads for third in the Raiders' 5-1 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan.

Red Zone

Baseball

Conference Champs

The Red Raiders won their first conference baseball title since 1980, capturing the GPAC championship with an 18-6 league record. Northwestern lost the championship game of the regional tournament, finishing the year with a 29-18 record. Senior catcher Codie Zeutenhorst was named an All-American honorable mention selection. He also shared all-region honors with juniors Jake Jansen and Grant Wall and became the first conference and regional Gold Glove winner in school history.

Men's Golf

Golfer of the Year

Luke Vermeer was named the GPAC men's golfer of the year after winning the conference meet. He also placed first at regionals and became the first Red Raider to advance as an individual to the national tournament.

Women's Golf

Fifth in Region

The Raiders were co-champs at the University of Sioux Falls Spring Invitational and placed fifth at the regional championships. Melissa Hisel earned all-conference honors for the fourth straight year.

Outdoor Track

All-American

Freshman Olivia Johnson earned All-American honors at the NAIA national outdoor meet by placing sixth in the 1500-meter run. She received the women's top-performance-of-the-meet award at the GPAC meet after winning both the 1500 and 800. Her 1500 effort of 4:37.87 set a new conference record.

Softball

Honored Pitcher

Freshman Lexy Determan was named GPAC co-pitcher of the year after compiling a 21-11 record with a 1.98 ERA. The conference's strikeout leader earned national pitcher of the week honors on April 30 following a week in which she went 4-0 with a save and two shutouts. She also set a school season record with 261 strikeouts. The Raiders advanced to the regional tournament for the fourth consecutive year and finished 28-21.

Soccer

New Coaches

New coaches have been appointed to direct Northwestern's soccer programs. Sheena (Getty) Van Roekel, an assistant coach last season and a starter at midfield from 2001 to '05, will lead the women's team. Dan Swier '06, who recently earned a master's degree in exercise physiology at the University of Texas at Arlington, will be the men's coach. They replace TJ Buchholz, who resigned to take over the men's and women's programs at Wartburg College.

Red Raider Club

Car-Winning Drive

Charlie Harrington must be living right. Just five weeks after winning \$1,000 with a hole-in-one, he carded another hole-in-one at Northwestern's Red Raider Classic in June—this time netting a Ford Focus. His perfect shot was on the 165-yard, par-3 11th hole at Landsmeer Golf Club. With his daughter Kymberlee preparing to enroll at NWC this fall—and play on the golf team—Harrington took the cash value.

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

Face Value

Denise Sneller

Fan of students

What do you love about your job at Ramaker Library?

I really value the relationships I develop with the 24 work-study students I supervise. Some of them become like my own children by the time they graduate! I also enjoy the camaraderie we have among the library staff—we've had a lot of good times and laughs together.

Are any of your laughs the result of library pranks?

There have been many pranks played in the library: stacking furniture and books in the elevator, re-shelving reference books throughout the regular book stacks (we found some an entire year later), playing flashlight tag in the dark after the library closed, throwing rolls of toilet paper over the mezzanine balcony. Now with a motion detector and an alarm system connected to the police department, the pranks have decreased, but we still wonder what mischief goes on when the staff is gone.

Describe yourself in three words.

Listener, encourager and supporter.

What do you notice about Northwestern students?

Because I interact with students every day, their joys and stresses become evident to me. When I assist them at the library circulation desk, they often share their anxieties about a particular research assignment. I also observe their relief when a project is complete. Our perspective in the library is that students are very hardworking, committed and conscientious, though many of them tend to procrastinate. We try to remind them to start their research assignments early.

Do you have any unique interests?

Many people are surprised to discover I'm an avid Red Raider fan. I've always been a strong supporter of my work-study students and their activities. When I learned some of my students were athletes, I began attending their games and became hooked.

How dedicated a fan are you?

My husband and I often go to many of the away games and have even scheduled our vacations around important games. One week after his heart bypass surgery six years ago, we attended a Northwestern basketball game—except he sat on a first-row bleacher since he couldn't climb steps, and he refused to look at the score throughout the game because he wasn't supposed to get too excited following his surgery!



DOUG BURG

Denise Sneller '72, a member of the Ramaker Library staff since 1990, supervises students who work at the desk, ensuring that library materials are circulated and shelved properly.

What changes have you seen in your department over the years?

Technology. When I began working in the library 18 years ago, it took me an entire day to process and hand-write overdue book notices. Now our computerized library system sends out e-mail notices every morning.

What are your hopes for the future?

More traveling. We lived in Sicily, Italy, for two years, and that experience gave us the desire to travel as much as possible. I also hope to spend more time visiting our children and grandchildren.

BY Anita Cirulis

Award-winning student supporters
Patti Thayer and Dick Van Holland retire

Decades of

Patti Thayer

In farewell remarks at an end-of-the-year banquet, Patti Thayer joked she was giving her high-heeled boots and perfume to a colleague so everyone in Van Peurse Hall would continue to hear Thayer coming and smell her going.

With her retirement in May after 25 years at Northwestern, they will miss more than those familiar sounds and scents. Thayer departs having left an indelible mark on the college as its director of academic support.

From a Writing Center with five student tutors each working four hours a week, Thayer developed a department that includes a staff of two professional assistants and 135 student tutors. Academic support is now provided not only for writing, but for courses across the curriculum, and special tutoring sessions are available for accounting, computer science, math, Spanish and the sciences.

In addition to the peer tutoring program, Thayer was responsible for advising at-risk students, accommodating students with learning disabilities, managing the academic alert program, and conducting learning skills seminars and workshops. During the fall semester, more than 800 students used her department's

services, and her staff had more than 5,000 hours of student contact.

"She's had an amazing impact," says Dr. Scott Monsma, a professor in the sociology department. "Students loved her."

Thayer's passion for helping students succeed led her to teach college learning and study skills—as well as organize Northwestern's first summer orientation—when she was originally part of the English department. In 1984, her last year on the faculty, she was awarded the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

Five years later, she returned to Northwestern to direct the Writing Center, and in 1994, was given responsibility for all academic support services. She succeeded so well in that role that she was awarded Northwestern's Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award in 2006, making her the only person to have won both honors.

"It was all about student learning and student success," Thayer says of her work at Northwestern. "I signed many e-mails, 'It matters to me that you do well.' I truly believed every student who came to Northwestern had the ability to succeed, and I cared deeply about them."



DAN ROSS

Service

Dick Van Holland

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Dick Van Holland ended each semester the same way: by writing a personal note to every student, telling them what he appreciated about them and thanking them for being in his class.

It's a tradition the accounting professor practiced even when he had more than 100 students.

"It would take hours," he says, "but it was worth it. I hear from former students who tell me they still have them after all these years."


This spring, Van Holland wrote his final note. After 48 years of teaching—29 at Northwestern—he is retiring.

Teaching was Van Holland's career goal since he was a boy. "I remember as a kid I would pretend I was correcting papers," he says. "Then, the more checkmarks I could give, the better. Now it's just the opposite."

His interest in accounting sparked by a high school teacher in Rock Valley, he earned degrees in business from Northwestern Junior College and Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. He then taught business for nearly two decades at Canton (S.D.) High School and earned a doctorate from the University of South Dakota.

"My dream always was to teach in a Christian college, and Northwestern was always my first choice," he says. Hired by NWC in 1979 to direct the office management program, he eventually moved into teaching accounting and also supervised the college's business education students.

Van Holland's gift for teaching made him a finalist for the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award six times and won him the honor twice, in 1988 and 1995. He also won a national academic advising award.

"He was my adviser for getting classes set up, and he is awesome at that," says John Top, a business education major who graduated in May. "If students have a major in mind, he'll plan out their entire four years while giving them input. Anyone coming after him will have big shoes to fill." 

On the Web *exclusive*

Submit your tributes to retirees Patti Thayer and Dick Van Holland at classic.nwciowa.edu

DAN ROSS



Minding

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Northwestern cancels classes, closes offices and opens its doors for the college's first Day of Learning in Community

N eighbors viewed Kathleen Norris and her husband with suspicion when the couple moved from New York City to Lemmon, a small, isolated town in western South Dakota perched along the North Dakota border.

Though her roots in the state went back three generations and she spent most of her childhood summers in Lemmon, Norris was still considered an outsider when they began living in what had been her grandparents' home.

Place

She was also a writer. And eventually she would give voice to people like the residents of her

community—rural Americans living in an area largely invisible to the rest of the country. *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*, her book about the impact of the Great Plains on the human spirit, became a bestseller and *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. It also made her the clear choice as the keynote speaker for Northwestern's first Day of Learning in Community, a day set aside to examine how place shapes people and how people shape place.



The Invisible Rural America

"This is a historic moment," said English professor Keith Fynaardt when introducing Norris to the audience gathered in the Bultman Center gymnasium April 9. "We've suspended classes, closed offices and flung open our doors to the community. For one day as a whole college and community, we gather to explore a common theme."

"Minding Place," part of Northwestern's celebration of its 125th anniversary, consisted of two weekend workshops, the Day of Learning in Community, and a two-day meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional studies center at NWC. The weekend workshops, both of which were free and open to the public, brought novelist and poet Jim Heynen to campus to lead a session on writing, while presidential historian Charles Morrissey taught a workshop on oral history. More than 2,000 people participated in Minding Place events, including nearly 1,000 on hand for Norris' opening address.

Like Heynen and Morrissey, Norris attracted guests to Northwestern's campus from throughout the region—people who previously had no connection to the college.

"She drew the crowd. People came to hear her," says Fynaardt, who was part of the planning committee for Minding Place. "We were looking for name recognition, but we also wanted someone who knows this place—someone as close to northwest Iowa as we could get."

"This is a historic moment. We've suspended classes, closed offices and flung open our doors to the community. For one day ... we gather to explore a common theme."



Not only had Norris written about the Great Plains, but her grandmother graduated from Sioux City High School, and her paternal grandfather pastored churches in Iowa. A Christian, she is thoughtful and articulate about her faith.

Norris drew rave reviews from organizers and participants alike for her ability to connect with her audience. With her stout frame, plaid flannel dress, black stockings and sensible shoes, she looked more like someone's great-aunt than a best-selling author. As a speaker, she was unpretentious, witty and down-to-earth.

"I'm going to start out with a few poems because they're fun, and I like poetry," she said as she took the podium. Then came the verse of *Morning Worship*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mark Van Doren; Norris' own evocative prose, *On the Northwest Hiawatha*, about a cross-country train trip to the Dakotas; and the whimsical, rhythmic *Baling*



In one of the workshops offered during the Day of Learning in Community, students shared stories about belonging in places as varied as Iowa, North Dakota, Mexico, Moldova and Africa.

Wheat Straw on My 33rd Birthday, by Norris' late husband, poet and photographer David Dwyer.

Norris wove poems and stories throughout both her addresses, painting word pictures of the place and people that were part of her life for more than a quarter century. Her morning address, "Dakota and Beyond: America's Invisible People," described the gap between urban and rural.

"I began work on *Dakota*," she said, "because I realized what I was witnessing on the Plains in the early 1980s—the beginning of what was then termed 'The Farm Crisis' but now seems to have become the endemic state of rural America—was largely invisible to the rest of the country. And it interests me that, almost 15 years now after my book was first published, the people on the Great Plains are still so invisible to other Americans."

In her evening address, Norris examined the "necessary contradictions" of stability and change that she believes help make a place



DAN ROSS

Margo Vanderhill (left) describes efforts she and her husband, art professor Rein Vanderhill, have taken to create tall grass prairie on land they own in Alton.

worth living in and are critical for the survival of small towns. America's emphasis on mobility, she says, stems from the pursuit of "the new best place" and makes putting down roots countercultural.

But too much stability can be just as damaging.

"It's OK to have a genuine pride in place—that stable place that you love," she said. "But it's not OK when that pride becomes tribalism and reflexively rejects anyone or anything from outside as automatically suspect—as different and other and unwelcome."

An Interdisciplinary View

Norris' reflections on place served as bookends to an entire afternoon of more than 30 workshops led by faculty, staff, alumni, students and community members. The interdisciplinary sessions drew from a wide range of fields. English and creative writing workshops focused on stories about place. Other workshops looked at the history of neighboring towns and of Native Americans.

There were workshops about the Holy Land, the virtual places of online communities, and the restoration of prairies. Science faculty led workshops on the pollution of Iowa's waterways and how the brain gives one a sense of place and presence; music faculty examined how place influenced *The Music Man*, by Iowa composer Meredith Willson. Still other workshops focused on the importance of experiencing different places in order to develop intercultural credibility.

Among the alumni who led workshops were Ryan Stander '98, who talked about photographing place, and Kevin Sutton '92 and Doug Hochstetler '89, who reflected on how movement—hiking, backpacking, biking and walking—helps one experience a place.

"I spend my time creating experiences for people to walk into spaces, into wilderness," said Sutton, who directs an outdoor/wilderness ministry for college students. "I want them to explore not just that place, but bigger questions: Who am I? What am I here for?"

As with the addresses by Norris, the workshops were free and open to the public. Orange City resident Doug Van Berkum '62 attended a session designed to give participants a sense of their "cosmic place" through models that illustrated the size and distances between planets, solar systems and galaxies.

"I think this is a wonderful idea to have the college involve the community," he said. "So many times, all we do is go to a game or an art exhibit."

The mix of area residents, alumni, students, and faculty/staff participating in the Day of Learning in Community was especially gratifying to those who organized the event. Success was measured not only in attendance, but in the positive evaluations given by participants.

Plans are already under way for Northwestern's second Day of Learning in Community. Scheduled for April 1, 2009, it will center on caring for creation. 🏠

An interview with Kathleen Norris

PlainsTalk

Best-selling author Kathleen Norris spent a quarter century living in western South Dakota. During her April visit to campus, *Classic* staff asked her about the places and people that influence her writing.

Classic: Not many writers leave New York City for the Great Plains. Why did you and your husband [poet David Dwyer] move from the Big Apple to Lemmon, S.D.?

Kathleen Norris: I grew up in Honolulu and had been on the East Coast for about 10 years—college and then I worked in arts administration in New York City, where I met David. My grandparents had recently died, and my mom didn't know what to do with their house and things in Lemmon. The rational thing would have been to sell everything at an auction and then just move on as a family, but she didn't want to do that. So I had this perverse idea: I said we'd go out there and live in my grandparents' house and take care of things awhile. "Awhile" turned out to be 25 years.

Classic: How did David respond to your idea?

Norris: The poor guy was in love, and he had this sense of adventure. It was part of the world he'd never been to, and he liked to go places he'd never been. I had to assure him it wouldn't be flat because he said he didn't think he could bear living on a flat landscape. I said, "Oh, no, this is much more interesting." And it turned out he just fell in love with it.



GREGORY YAMAMOTO

Classic: What insights are available to people who live in barren spaces?

Norris: If you call it barren, it just means you don't understand it—because, of course, the people who live there don't see those spaces as barren. They see potential and life there, from grasses to animals. Sure, it's bare in the sense that it's not developed with highways, buildings and the stuff people cling to as signs of human civilization. You ask, "Where's the human touch?" Well, you're it. Open spaces throw you back on yourself. That's why people have a strong response when they get out there. Some say, "Yes! I love this." And others—who rely on being distracted from themselves—can hardly wait to get out of there. The prairies, in particular, seem to provoke a love-hate response. And if you love it, it never leaves you. I live most of the time in Honolulu now, but I dream about the prairie.

Classic: Urban dwellers might accuse people in small towns of being provincial. Are they?

Norris: Sure. But urban dwellers can be very provincial too. Provincialism is a human condition. You notice it more in small towns because you know so much more about the community and its people. People complain about the lack of anonymity in a small town, but David and I enjoyed that—the idea that I could walk into the drugstore and know the person behind the counter: I know who her parents and grandparents are—why she left her husband and that her son rodeos. One of the things I find disorienting about urban life is I go to the same grocery store in Honolulu all the time and even though I recognize the clerks by sight and we have nice little exchanges about what I'm buying, I don't really know them.

Classic: What is the future for plains communities like Lemmon?

Norris: A lot of people who were born and raised on the plains don't want to leave. They love the land, even though it hasn't always been good to them. Unfortunately, some are forced to leave because there are no jobs or they can't farm or ranch the way their parents did. I recently read an article about a study done by one of the South Dakota universities that identified Perkins County, where Lemmon is, as a food desert. People in Perkins County might be 30 to 45 miles from a grocery store. Most people grow some of their own food, but in a drought or if you're elderly, what access do you have to good nutrition? Not much.

Classic: You mostly live in Honolulu now—why did you leave Lemmon?

Norris: Like others, we didn't leave by choice. David became critically ill, and we had to move near my family in Honolulu. We had to be close to a hospital because the closest specialized care to Lemmon is the hospital in Bismarck, 130 miles away. If David hadn't gotten so sick, we'd still be happily living in Lemmon, I'm sure.

Classic: When is your next book coming out?

Norris: This fall. It's called *Acedia and Me: Marriage, Monks and a Writer's Life*. "Acedia" means not caring—or worse, not even caring that you don't care. It leads you to hate the place you are and hate the people you're with. It's the temptation to walk away from commitments—to seek a different, illusory place that's going to be perfect. I think that's one of our big afflictions in contemporary life. We don't like to make long-term commitments because they're too much trouble. The traditional monastic way of dealing with acedia was to pray, meditate and stop fantasizing about leaving. Stick in your place.

Classic: How important is story to enabling one to embrace a place?

Norris: Life wouldn't be worth living if you couldn't tell stories about it. Story is the whole point. 🏠



On the Web *exclusive*

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to read about Norris' favorite books and movies, whether she prefers rodeos or powwows, and what happened to Hope Church, the remote country congregation she wrote about in *Dakota*.

Solstice

By the time summer begins, its longest day is already spent. All spring long, plans for the unhurried weeks of June and July unrolled in the imagination: the stack of summer reading, trips to lakes and parks, the concerts, the projects in the garage, to fit once more into a favorite pair of shorts, or catch the perfect walleye. In spring, summer is full of possibility. Then suddenly the Fourth is just a week away, and it seems as though fall is already in view and prospects diminished.

Late June calms the winds of northwest Iowa—more calm at least, by the standards of northwest Iowa's winds. Most of May (with the exception of a few gorgeous days of flowers) was spent with half an ear to the radio at supertime, hoping that dark clouds and gusts of cold air under hot, humid layers meant rain only—that the tail-hooks of supercells would remain aloft, that a huddle around the radar wouldn't break with a dash to the basement, clutching a flashlight and a photo album.

No, this morning, even as the heat rises, some sense of experience foretells a peaceful day, a day no one will mention the Fujita scale and no one will worry that a whirlwind might drop from the sky and lift a little town away.

The Labradors awake with an itch to dig and chase—to find some woodlot scent and run it down. Fledgling starlings and robins, raucous and insatiable, plunge from nests in the spruces headlong and bumbling in a youthful impudence as if they think they can fly. And some do.

Rabbits, well into the second litter (or is it the third?) stop at nothing to eat the last of the garden lettuce. Heavy plastic netting is nibbled right through; next year it must be wire. Swallows glow blue-purple-golden in winking angles in and out of the barn. They'll fly a hundred miles by the time I finish breakfast, driven by young whose calls define twittering, the urgent sound we know by heart.



At the farmer's market, better gardeners who understand the capacities of rabbits display a hard-won feast. Vegetables are precious yet. No anonymous benefactor will leave even a zucchini on the stoop in June. And a tomato? It wouldn't be shared with a spouse.

Early sweet corn makes its own rules: A grandmother will cut in line and brazenly buy as much as she can stuff in her basket—even if it's all that's left, even if members of her own Bible study are in line behind her. I pick up lettuce to replace what was lost to the rabbits, and on the way home notice the leaves on the Norway maples have grown as large as a Dutchman's hand from so much spring rain.

After lunch the day slips into drive: An old softball glove needs to be found for an afternoon game, and supplies for an evening bonfire must be gathered.


The search for the glove under a load of miscellaneous sports stuff in the basement turns up a collection of equipment as mysterious as if it were someone else's closet. Whose cleats are *these*? Why do we own *brand-new* tennis rackets? Have we *ever* played badminton? *Where* did this croquet set come from? A storeroom of summer ambition.

Our church league slow-pitch team is no powerhouse. In fact, some years we've failed to field a team. When we arrive, we're met with tolerance—it's church league, after all—but the established teams seem to regard us as batting practice. We're not above bringing on an occasional college ringer, but we're still no threat to teams with uniforms, hand signals and rosters where surnames have remained unchanged for four generations.

The chests and shoulders of our opponents make them look like hitters, which they are. It's not hard to imagine one of them in his 60s, even, whacking a tall fly out over the power lines above the centerfield fence and into a thigh-high cornfield.

We're respectable for at least three-and-a-half innings. After that no one pays attention, but it's enough time for someone unexpected to catch a deep shot to right field, on the run, over his shoulder. He won't forget it.

Fireflies emerge from the darkening grass, cicadas screech, and gravel clatters as players and family-fans head home. In the woods behind the house, a fire burns in a circle of stones. As sticks are sharpened for marshmallows and lanterns hung in the branches, no one notices the clouds roll up until the first urgent crack of thunder.



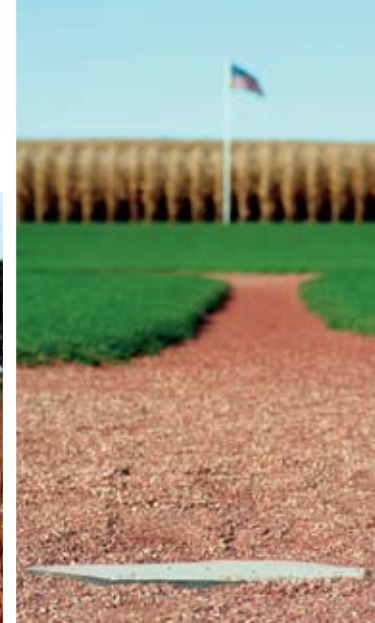
The wind arrives, and in the rush to secure the ice chests, lawn chairs and blankets—even as the heavy drops hiss onto the stones—a teenager leaps clear over the flames. The thunder cracks again, but in a warm rumbling way that signals rain and eases fear. Electric excitement pushes us onto the porch, where we spread out picnic-style with damp hair and wet dogs and eat chocolate bars and marshmallows as the rain brightens the rocks and darkens the grass, and the trees and corn lay open their leaves to drink.

As the rain subsides, mosquitoes begin to invade our refuge, but not before a nine-year-old boy, chin-deep in a bowl of strawberries and ice cream, says suddenly, his mouth half full, “This is the best part of the best part.”

Next April, a hazy memory of that moment will again spark the possibilities of summer—when the solstice offers time to stand still, pay attention, and maybe find some fulfillment of what was anticipated, maybe live a little of what was imagined. 🏠

Raised on a family farm in southern Iowa, Keith Fynaardt is restoring an abandoned Sioux County farmplace so his sons can grow up the way he did: with animals, chores and places that feed one's imagination. A literature and writing professor at Northwestern, he encourages his students—even as they explore the world—to discover home as well.

orientation



A former Iowa farm boy who prefers pictures to pigs and stories to silos, Dakota photographer and writer Ryan Stander '98 has sought to understand his Midwestern place—its geography, sociology, history, theology—by capturing images that root him. “Places are not mere backdrops to life,” says Stander. “I am oriented within geography, but my photos orient me within memory, reminding me who I am—and whereof I am.”





Summer Cash

Incidental to many students' college education are the summer jobs that teach life lessons and remind them why getting a diploma might be a good idea. Northwestern alumni and students share stories of the ways they cashed in on summer.

Prize employee

As a marketing intern for the Iowa State Fair the summer after my junior year, one of my duties was to promote the fair as Rosetta, the fair's blue-ribbon mascot. The costume was ridiculously hot, but the internship led to a full-time job with the fair after graduation, and now when my interns complain, I say, "When I was Rosetta ..."

Emily Hennager '06

ANKENY, IOWA

Udderly fascinating

The summer after my freshman year, I roamed the East Coast with cousins who owned a traveling show. No, I wasn't a carnie—well, sort of, I was. We stopped at fairs and carnivals with our pony rides and cow with spots in the shape of the United States on her side; we called her "Miss Ameri-cow." Our chickens played tic-tac-toe, and we dressed our goats like local sports heroes.

Jenny Neuhauser '00

PIERRE, S.D.



Smells like money

I worked on a dairy farm, not only milking cows, but also delivering calves and doing lots of other fun chores. One afternoon a colleague accidentally fell into the manure pit. Thankfully, we hadn't carpooled that day.

Steve Vander Leest '01

SIoux CITY, IOWA

Yabba-dabba-doo!

Two summers I was the pride of Bedrock City, dressed as Fred Flintstone to greet visitors to a rather corny depiction of the cartoon character's hometown in South Dakota's Black Hills. I even "drove" Fred's foot-pedaled car for parades and other special events. Parents were amused by me, and children ran away in fear.

Dave DeValois '89

POLK CITY, IOWA

Cave woman

I was a tour guide at Black Hills Caverns, leading tourist groups ranging from three to 18 people through caves, sharing stories and cave legends. At 80 feet underground, I would demonstrate total darkness by turning off the lights, and my presentation would be drowned out by screaming kids. At 5-foot-2, I had no problem walking through the narrow, short passages, and I'd try to remember to warn "Watch your head!" but at least once a week a tall tourist would emerge from the cave nursing a wound on his bald spot.

Brittany Osborn '09

RAPID CITY, S.D.

Fish 'n' Foul

One summer I worked for the city of Rock Rapids, Iowa, my hometown. My memories include fishing a dead cow from the flooded Rock River and learning lots of new words I couldn't repeat at home.

Jay Wielenga '82

ORANGE CITY

Catching some rays

A city girl, I stayed in Hinton, Iowa, last summer to rogue and detassel in the corn fields. My friends thought I was crazy, but I saw the sun rise every morning and learned *a lot* about corn.

Katie Bell '09

BEAVER FALLS, PA.

Nanny insanity

Last summer I nannied in Wisconsin. I'd already been informed that the family's last nanny, an alcoholic, had been "let go." On the car ride from the airport, family members told me their former nanny had actually tried to commit suicide—in the room that would be my bedroom. Sure enough, there were still blood stains on the carpet and walls. I stayed, but by the end of the summer, I understood what may have driven her to the brink.

Margareta De Boer '09

BOYDEN, IOWA

Wet cement

I worked for the state of Illinois for three summers, one of them on road construction. A girl on a construction crew is not needed or wanted. Most of the time, I sat on a pile of dirt and literally watched concrete dry.

Amy Vos '09

STERLING, ILL.

Latrine link

One of my summer jobs was cleaning campground bathrooms two nights per week. The pay was lousy, the work was dirty, but the perks were great. The grounds included Lawsonia, a championship-quality golf course known as one of the best courses in the Midwest, and I was allowed unlimited golf for free the entire summer!

Jeremy Eisenga '00

BEAVER DAM, WIS.

Family business

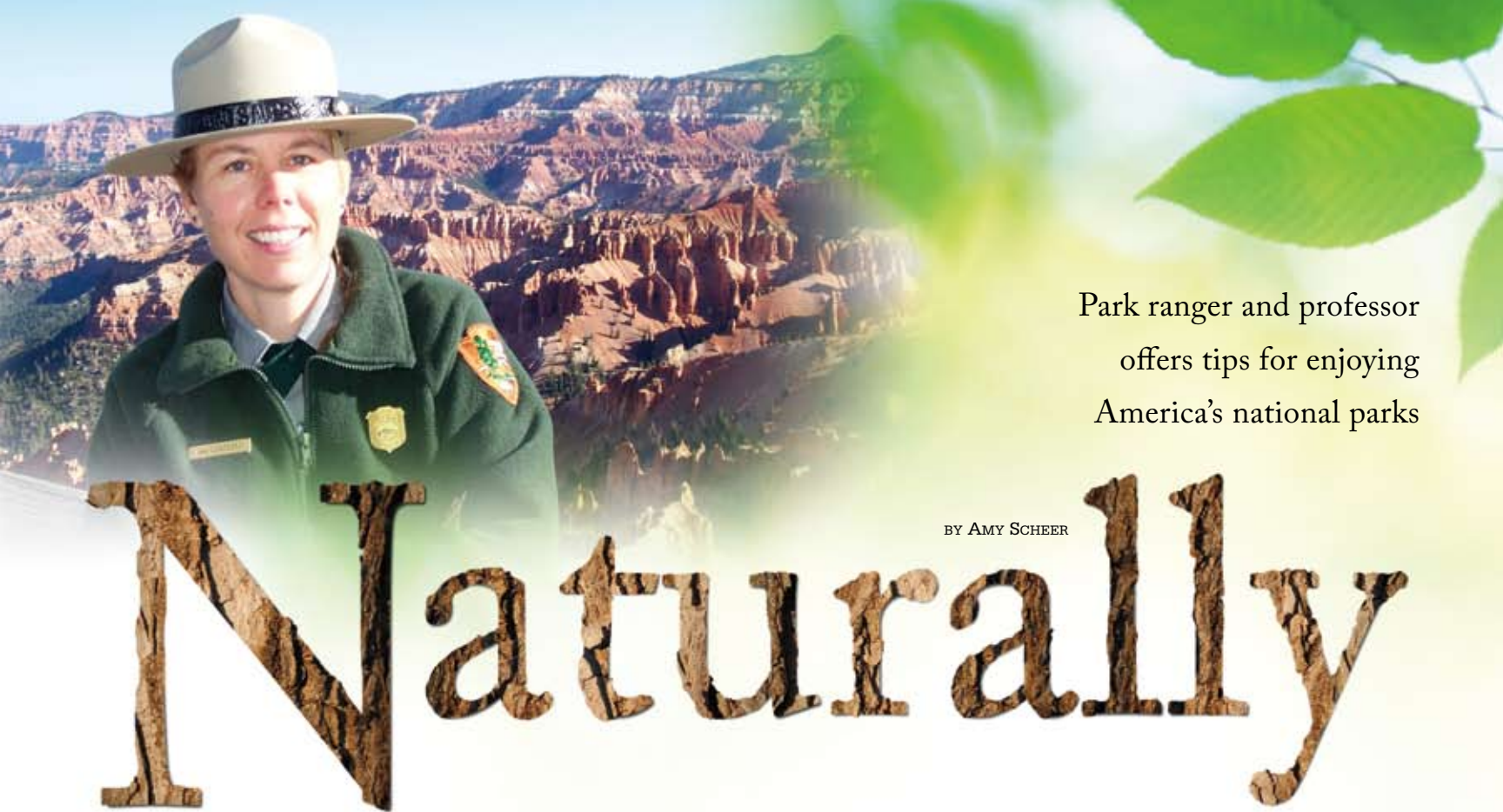
I've worked construction with my dad the last six summers. He needs the help, and, of course, I need the money. The work—and my boss—are pretty demanding. I sometimes wonder what other summer jobs and opportunities I'm missing. The older I get, though, I've begun to realize how rewarding it is to spend time with my dad every day. He's a very wise and discerning man, and I'm at a time in my life when I can use as much wisdom and guidance as I can get.

Joel Dykstra '10

PLATTE, S.D. 

On the Web *exclusive*

Read more alumni and student summer job stories and submit your own at classic.nwciowa.edu



Park ranger and professor
offers tips for enjoying
America's national parks

BY AMY SCHEER

A woman walks into a ranger station. “These natural bridges,” she says, looking around at information about Natural Bridges National Monument, Utah. “They man-made?”

Park ranger Ann Lundberg has heard it all. She’s fielded eccentric questions, met the self-proclaimed twin brother of Jesus, and awakened to the sounds of 70 buffalo surrounding her tent.

And at the start of every summer, when her duties as a Northwestern English professor taper off, she’s ready for more. Having begun her academic career in pursuit of a geology degree, Lundberg was sidetracked by John Van Dyke’s *The Desert*, a poetic recounting of his three-year

journey through deserts in the American Southwest at the turn of the 19th century. She knew while reading it that her two interests—literature and the natural world—could meet at the crossroads and keep on traveling together.

Lundberg spent summers as a child building sand castles along the base of the Great Sand Dunes in Colorado. She went on to work as a seasonal ranger at national park sites in Utah, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Ask her about the National Park Service, a system of nearly 400 sites across the nation, and she’s got plenty good to say.

Why visit a national park? Why not beat the heat at Mall of America?

“For peace of mind,” says Lundberg. “If you visit parks in the right way—really see them, take time to actually stay in the park, to walk, to sit still—it can really bring you a sense of peace. They’re reflective places. They’re peaceful.”


What’s the right way? The ranger knows best.

“Don’t overplan; plan to do things well rather than to do everything. See something, and see it well.”

Beyond a few favorite parks, Lundberg is hesitant to name a “best of” list of any sort. “It’s close to impossible to choose,” she says. If pressed, she’ll tell you to see the Grand Canyon before you die—Yellowstone, too, and one “ruin” park, preferably Hovenweep in Utah.

And though she can’t help favoring the wildflowers that bloom at Cedar Breaks, Utah, in late June/early July, or the 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine trees at Great Basin National Park, Nevada, she still insists that each traveler find her own way through the hundreds of unique opportunities the National Park System has to offer.

“You make your own experience wherever you go,” says the ranger.

Naturally. 



A well-planned vacation in a national park can bring you and your family a sense of peace, says Dr. Ann Lundberg, an NWC professor who works as a park ranger most summers.



The Ranger's Preferred Paths

Though her journal is stamped with many a park's name (visitors can secure small park "passport books" for this purpose, but she prefers some extra room for notes), Lundberg has a soft spot for sites where she's worked and for roads less traveled, to borrow from poet Robert Frost—as any good English professor park ranger should.

On the Web *exclusive*

Where's the best vantage point to enjoy the Grand Canyon? Discover that and more by reading Ranger Lundberg's tips on well-known national park destinations at classic.nwciowa.edu

Natural Bridges National Monument Utah

The first park where Lundberg worked, Natural Bridges is small, seldom-visited—and gorgeous. "Hike through the canyons and under the bridges; hang out with the lizards, be followed by a mountain lion." Don't just drive by the overlook and peek out of your car, she says; walk a mile from the parking lot and you'll have some time to yourself.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Dakota

See where Roosevelt found solace from heartache in 1883 and visit his ranches; hike and mountain bike; hang with the bison and explore the wilderness of the badlands. Also, stop by the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (NHS) and the Knife River Indian Village NHS.

Great Sand Dunes National Park Colorado

"My family and I loved the great sense of peace there. It's relatively small and unhurried. The forms of the sand dunes are graceful, peaceful. It's beachlike but with mountains and no waves. Be sure to spend time wading in Medano Creek."

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Wisconsin

"For Midwesterners who can't afford to drive far with gas prices." Reach four of these 21 islands (Oak, Raspberry, Stockton and Madeline) on Lake Superior by ferry or tour boat. Be sure to visit the Civil War-era Raspberry Island Lighthouse, where Lundberg spent three summers giving tours and living alone on the island. Stay all day if you can, she says. And do what? "Build sand castles on the beach. The more adventurous can rent kayaks and tour the less accessible islands and shoreline 'sea caves.'"



PHOTOS: ASSOCIATED PRESS AND ISTOCKPHOTO



At the formal banquet, Mr. Spadling acted as master of ceremonies as the queen, her attendants, and their escorts reigned at the head table. The live entertainment was provided by Simon and Garfunkle.



62



Simon and Garfunkel's campus visit was chronicled in the 1965 *De Klompen* yearbook.

Sounds Met With Silence

BY DANA (SMITH '93) DANIELS

Had *American Idol* been discovering new music talent back in the '60s, would its fans have helped launch the careers of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel? Not if Northwestern College students had been responsible for the vote.

Somewhat forgotten in Northwestern history is the visit the now-classic duo of Simon and Garfunkel made to campus. A search of the college archives provides little evidence of their stop in Orange City—only a small photo in the 1965 yearbook. Dan Smith '67, however, clearly remembers his brief encounter with the soon-to-be stars.

The occasion that brought them to Northwestern was the 1965 May Day banquet. May Day, though no longer celebrated on campus, was once *the* social event of the spring semester. According to Smith, when word spread that the banquet entertainers were Simon and Garfunkel, students laughed and joked about the musical guests with the funny-sounding name.

"Since there was no dancing at Northwestern back then—at least of the sanctioned variety," adds Smith with a smile, "they performed while we sat and listened. I can't remember any specific songs, but I do recall noting the quality of their musicianship. I also sensed that their performance was not well-received. Their song lyrics contained an evident social message, and I'm not sure that was what we wanted in our entertainment."

"I sensed that their performance was not well-received."

Later that evening, Smith returned to Colenbrander Hall, where he met Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel roaming the dorm, looking for something to eat. He directed them to the candy and pop machines, their best bet for food at 10 p.m. in Orange City. Smith thanked them for their good performance—a compliment met with surprise, as the two admitted knowing they'd not been popular with students.

"I'll never forget Paul and Art following me into my dorm room and finding seats on the bunk beds," says Smith. "Paul Simon noticed my guitar, reached for it and strummed it for a few moments."

Smith then bid them good night and hurried off, eager to rejoin his date. He didn't give another thought to the unknown musicians.

Within months of Simon and Garfunkel's performance at Northwestern, *The Sounds of Silence* was released and rose to the top of the music charts. Smith recalls hearing their music on the radio and realizing that May Day banquets would no longer appear on their per-

formance schedule.

Over the years, Smith has enjoyed an occasional return to Colenbrander 119 to ask its current occupants if they know who once visited their room. When the answer is given, the name Simon and Garfunkel is not met with laughter—only interest that such well-known artists once performed at Northwestern.

class Notes

'56 Marjorie Hartog-Vander Aarde '56, '58, Great Falls, Mont., was recently named a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders. She has most recently served as the bureau chief of certification for the Montana Department of Public Health.

'68 Kathleen (Van Dyken) Apotheke, South Haven, Mich., is retired after serving as curriculum director for the local public school system. She and her husband, Frank, are enjoying life in their resort town near Lake Michigan. They invite classmates to pay them a visit.

'70 The Rev. Dan Ramaker and his wife, Karen, recently moved to Branson, Mo., after retiring from 34 years of pastoral ministry.

'71 The Rev. Everett Bosch is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tracy, Calif.

'79 Dr. Stephen Branch will become chair of the department of music at San Diego Christian College in El Cajon, Calif., in August.

Dr. Timothy Westcott, Kansas City, Mo., has been appointed to a two-year term on the board of counselors for Phi Alpha Theta, a national history honor society. He is an associate professor of history at Park University.

'85 The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake is pastor of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham, N.C. He was recently the featured preacher on a nationally broadcast radio program. A podcast of his sermon is available at www.Day1.org.

'86 Doug Brunsting, Sioux Falls, is the purchasing manager for POET Design and Construction.

'93 The Rev. Shane Sterk has been serving Faith Community Church in West Chicago, Ill., for three years.

Ann (Iversen) vonWaaden is a network administrator for the Discovery Channel in Berkeley, Calif.

'94 Kurt Dykstra has been appointed to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners. He is a partner with Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Holland, Mich.

'95 Reed Friese recently moved to Parker, S.D., to open a fair trade coffee roasting company with his wife, Hope, and their four children. For more information, visit www.cherrybean.net.

'96 Tina (Vellema) Anderson, Lakewood, Colo., is a stay-at-home mom and the varsity volleyball coach at Front Range Christian High School.

Lou Bram, Mason City, Iowa, serves as a deputy sheriff for Cerro Gordo County. He previously pastored a church for nine years. His wife, **Christy (Hoffman)**, stays home with their three children, Anna (6), Elijah (4) and Abigail (2).

Brad Hofmeyer, Manitowac, Wis., recently joined Wachovia Securities as a financial adviser.

'97 Alissa (Steege) Bieschke and her husband, James, have a hobby farm outside of Blainstown, Iowa. She is a stay-at-home mom and a worship leader at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Vinton.

Pam Plank has moved from Minnesota to Concord, N.C., where she is pursuing a nursing degree.

'98 Chris Moehring, Eagles Nest, N.M., is a park ranger/law enforcement coordinator for New Mexico State Parks.

'99 Barb Burlingame has served as the band instructor at Hirsch Metro High School in inner-city Chicago for the past eight years. The band was recently featured in the *Chicago*

Red Ties

RACHEL VAN DEN BROEK '02

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

For 2008 graduate Lindsey De Kruif, it seems like Northwestern has always been part of her life.

Raised in Chandler, Minn., she remembers hopping in the car and heading to Northwestern's Homecoming. Along with her mom, Fonda (Koerselman '72), and sister, Melanie '05, Lindsey would enjoy Morning on the Green while her dad and brother got a spot on the bleachers to watch Raider football. Those visits sometimes included a stop in Hoppers Hall to check out the room where Fonda used to live.

Lindsey's other childhood trips had Northwestern connections too. Family vacations were planned around gatherings with Fonda's college friends: Marcene (Boertje '72) Cox, Cindy Fliss '73, Donna (Field '72) Koskamp and Mary (Wissink '72) Zeilenga. Regularly during the last 36 years, the women and their families have gathered for shopping, camping or just relaxing.

Recently I asked Lindsey, "What does the phrase 'This is my college' mean to you?" I could hear her mom's echo in Lindsey's response: "This is the place where I learned, grew and formed relationships—a place where there will always be people I can return to."

In May, Lindsey and other seniors said goodbye to their roommates and friends following commencement. As they scatter around the world, I hope the friendships they made during their four years here have created a community they reconnect with again and again.

That's been true for Lindsey's mom. It's also been true for class of 1977 friends Carla (Kjorness) Moore, Anita (Plantage) Bomgaars, Cheri (Block) Meyn and Lori (Hoffman) Cook, who told me they've simply changed the location of their sleepovers from Fern Smith Hall in the 1970s to Lake Okoboji, where they reunited last summer.

Have you connected with your roommate, wingmates or NWC friends lately? If you have, tell me. I love hearing about reunions of the Northwestern family. If you haven't, what are you waiting for? This is a place where there will always be people to whom you can return.



DOUG BURG

Tribune after receiving a donation of new instruments from Fidelity Investments. The school originally had no instruments, and incoming freshmen had no musical experience before entering high school.

Jake Killinger is a youth pastor at Hope Church in Springfield, Ill., and a high school basketball coach. His wife, **Becky (Vugteveen)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

Natasha King has been accepted into the nursing program at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Adam Schnell, New Hope, Minn., is an information technology consultant for Glasshouse Technologies.

Julie (Van Manen) Wiederstein, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, has left her teaching position to become a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, Scott, teaches elementary music and serves as a DJ.

'00 Eric Haley is a sixth-grade teacher in Olathe, Kan.

'01 Katie (Petersen) Morrell is a public relations executive for Evangelical Alliance Ireland in Dublin.

'03 Jordan Baker, Grand Island, Neb., is a corrections officer for Hall County.

Michael Johnson, Watertown, Mass., is pursuing a master's degree in counseling from Lesley University in Cambridge.

Larry Schrock, Bellflower, Calif., recently received a master's degree in educational leadership with a concentration in administration from Azusa Pacific University. He teaches and serves as technology coordinator at Lakewood Christian Schools.

'04 Kylee (Veenis) Breems is the public relations and marketing coordinator at Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul.

Tyson Graham recently helped coach the track team at Nature Coast Technological High School, Brooksville,



PAUL STOUJ

Christina McGrinson sensed God calling her to one of the hardest things she's ever done—writing a book about the murder of her son.

Remembering Christopher

At the funeral for Christopher Austin, held just days before he would have turned five, the pastor read fairy tales to illustrate that bad things sometimes happen to children.

But Little Red Riding Hood would escape the wolf, whereas Christopher was not as fortunate: He died of multiple stab wounds, inflicted by his father. Christina McGrinson '66 knew she had to tell her son's story to help others—especially children—grieve real life's sometimes unhappy endings.

In 2006, the 25th anniversary of the tragedy, McGrinson began writing *Forever Friends*, a children's book published in English and Spanish, the Panama-born author's native tongue. The book follows Christopher and his friend Brad through their final playdate, the funeral, and Brad's resolve to carry Christopher in his heart forever. Readers mourn alongside the community as they lay Christopher to rest with the song *God Is So Good*, which the boy had once sung as a solo.

"I feel the Lord has preserved me to be an encourager to children," says McGrinson, a retired schoolteacher. Once a woman wracked with sorrow, she is now an author inscribing her books with Nehemiah 8:10. Truly, the joy of the Lord is her strength, carrying her past a tragic ending to a fresh new start.

To purchase Forever Friends or arrange for a speaking engagement by McGrinson, contact her at charismapa5@yahoo.com. Read a transcript of the interview with McGrinson at classic.nwciorwa.edu.

BY AMY SCHEER

Fla., to its first-ever district and county championship. He is now pursuing a master's degree in learning and teaching with technology at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, where he will serve as a graduate assistant coach for cross country and track and field.

Talitha Landegent recently moved to Hove, Belgium, to be an au pair for an American family with four children.

Jackie (Hauptert) Langstaff, Indianola, Iowa, is a targeted case manager for Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines.

Marcus Leloux, Sioux Falls, recently completed a master's degree in education from Graceland University. He will teach at Harrisburg High School. His wife, **Megan (Gort '06)**, graduated from the University of Iowa with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She will be a pharmacy practice resident at Avera McKennan Hospital.

Melissa Tagg, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, is the development and community relations coordinator for Hope Ministries in Des Moines.

Tim Truesdell is associate pastor at Christ's Family Reformed Church in Davenport, Iowa.

April (Johnson) Weber is a nurse at Avera Worthington (Minn.) Specialty Clinics.

'05 Jeremy Koerselman, Yankton, S.D., is a children's clinician at Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services. His wife, **Lisa (Miller)**, is a parent educator at Yankton County Parents as Teachers.

Julie (Warren) Ruiter and her husband, Chad, own and operate a meat locker and grocery store in Leota, Minn. She also serves as a counselor for a local girls club.

Doug Van Zanten graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in May and is an associate attorney with Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids, Mich.

'06 Scott Brouwer is pursuing master's degrees in history and library/information science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where his wife, **Amanda (Brown '07)**, is in the health and social psychology Ph.D. program.

Lisa Burnette is pursuing a Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

'07 Laura Spanhut, Orange City, is a receptionist for Northwestern Bank.

Julia (Meyer) Tjeerdsma is the educational talent search/Upward Bound coordinator at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

New Arrivals

Khawla Abu-Sheikh and **Todd Wise '82**, son, Al Khader Billal, joins Rachael (23), Brooke (13), Robert (11), Sophia (5), Hashim (3) and Saladin (2)

Jeff and **Nancy (Nieuwkoop '88) Guenther**, daughter, Peri Jacobi, joins Andie (4)

Michelle (Skinner '89) and Shawn Rit-enour '89, daughter by adoption, Cecily Isabella (1), joins Helena (4)

Jerry and **Melanie (De Boer '89) Van Grouw**, daughter, Kate Louise, joins Andrew (6) and Julianna (6)

Thomas and **Shelby (Keating '92) Wilson**, son, Jake Keating

Brent and **Erin (Christensen '93) Schlittenhart**, son, Justin Lee

Wendy (Tigchon '93) and Shane Sterk '93, son, Elijah Michael, joins Micah (7) and Emma (6)

Jamie and **Josh Bird '95**, son, Bryce Xavier, joins Kayden (3)

Steve and **Angie (Landhuis '95) Fischer**, son, Mitchel James, joins Madisen (4)

Sandy (Scholtens '95) and Derrick Mars '94, daughter, Abigail Jean, joins Ben (8) and Rachel (5)

Gene and **Tina (Vellema '96) Anderson**, daughter, Hannah Mae, joins Jacob (4)

Jennifer (Groendyke '96) and Brian Dacken '97, daughter, Lydia Mae, joins Jonah (8) and Ryer (5)

Kent and **Happy (Foster '96) Kinnear**, son, Etienne Emmanuel Kevin, joins Anika (3)

Jamie and **Alissa (Steege '97) Bieschke**, son, Elias James, joins Marisa (9) and Wyatt (6)

Abby (Verbura '97) and Mark Laman '97, daughter, Elise McKenna, joins Grace (6) and Audrey (4)

John and **Cheri (Bergman '97) Van Der Hart**, son, Carson Bruce, joins Haley (4)

Joel and **Jennifer (Shaver '98) Sohre**, daughter, Kaelyn Jane

Kirk and **Londa (Wassink '99) Dirksen**, son, Brayden James

Rebecca (Vugteveen '99) and Jake Killinger '99, daughter, Kierra Jo, joins Hannah (2)

Scott and **Julie (Van Manen '99) Wiederstein**, daughter, Emma Rae, joins John (2)

Nathan and **Kari (Wagenaar '00) Bousema**, son, Joshua Henry, joins Summer (5) and Autumn (1)

Jessica (Wilcox '00) and Donny Strand '00, daughter, Olive Lea

Andrew and **Stephanie (Waage '00) Turcotte**, daughter, Ava Rae, joins Jack (2)

Heather (De Vos '00) and Colin Youde '02, daughter, Sadie Marie, joins Mykin (2)

Marc and **Kim (Ortman '01) Caifano**, son, Dylan Russell

Joshua and **Julie (Frantz '01) Clarke**, son, Aydan Lucas

Davee (Hubers '01) and Steve Connell '00, son, Tate David, joins Austin (2)

Tiffany (Altena '02) and Ryan Govig '02, son, Kyler Shane

Dave and **Sara (Fuoss '02) Jansma**, twins, Cole David and Erica Lynn, join Breanna (2)



ERIC CEGLY

Patient-Focused

Randy Oostra '77 is the CEO of a health system that has \$1.5 billion in revenues, employs over 15,000 people and serves 2.5 million residents in a two-state area. But he says his job comes down to this question: How would you want your family to be treated?

"We have to run a solid organization from a business standpoint, but we're really about taking care of people and strengthening our communities," says the president of ProMedica Health System, based in Toledo, Ohio. "I hope our patients say we treated them with compassion and they got a first-class experience in every way."

Oostra's expectation of providing consistent quality must be working. ProMedica—which includes 10 hospitals, a physician's group, an HMO and a continuing care division—was named the country's most integrated system by *Modern Healthcare* earlier this year.

A biology major and medical technologist, Oostra worked in healthcare administration in western Michigan and the St. Louis area before joining ProMedica in 1997. He served the system in a variety of capacities before being named to his current position two years ago.

Responsible for all of ProMedica's operations, Oostra stays grounded by remembering the patients. "We have thousands of employees who are just trying to do what's best for their patients every day. When you cut through everything, that's what it's all about."

BY DUANE BEESON



© RON LEVY 2008

Soaring

Bad weather, long winters, back-breaking work, nerve-wracking travel to isolated spots—Brian Bruxvoort '82 is living the dream.

Being a missionary pilot in remote Alaska may not be everyone's idea of the perfect job, but after a lifetime of seeking God's calling, Bruxvoort is right where he wants to be—working for Mission Aviation Repair Center (MARC) in Soldotna, on the west coast of the Kenai Peninsula.

The work isn't easy. His duties include maintaining, inspecting, fueling and cleaning the aircraft. That's all in addition to flying pastors, missionaries and service teams to villages across an area one-and-a-half times the size of Texas, often using only gravel runways in temperatures of 20 below. The destinations are so isolated they can't be reached by road, making the air service necessary.

The greatest reward for Bruxvoort is the interaction with the people he transports, especially the kids he brings from the villages to Bible camp and the youth groups he transports to villages for short-term mission work.

"I enjoy talking to these young adults who are starting to live for the Lord," he says. "They often face tremendous social pressures to fall back into old habits and temptations. To get to know them, pray with them, encourage them to stay in the Word—that brings me the most satisfaction."

BY **SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98**

FAIR FARE

NWC ALUMNI GATHERING

Iowa State Fair

Friday, Aug. 15 • 4 to 6 p.m.

In between the hog-calling contest, midway rides and trips to the nutty bar stand, stop by the Polk County Farm Bureau Shelter House to gather with NWC alumni and visit with President Greg Christy.

Advance discount gate admission tickets are available: \$8/adults; \$7/ages 6–11; 5 and under, free.

www.nwciowa.edu/alumnigatherings
712-707-7134

Makila (Hallett '02) and **Ben Lors '00**, daughter, Lydia Kristann, joins Seth (5) and Danielle (3)

Tami (Te Selle '02) and **Drew Namminga '00**, son, Kase Owen, joins Mason (2)

Ben and **Amber (Blom '02) Younan**, son, Aidan Youssef

Pam (Menschner '03) and **Art DeVos '02**, son, Hudson John, joins Ashton (3)

Peter and **Kelly (Punt '03) Larson**, son, Noah Aaron

Amanda (Ulmer '03) and **Greg School-land '02**, daughter, Clara Grace, joins Jack (2)

Meagan (Wells '03) and **Mike Wallinga '01**, daughter, Abigail Jean

Anna (MacKay '04) and **Steve Frieze '03**, daughter, Naomi Judith, joins Evelyn (2)

Molly and **Tim Truesdell '04**, daughter, Anna Joy, joins Micah (2)

John and **April (Johnson '04) Weber**, daughter, Natalie Rose, joins Sofia

Megan (Blunck '05) and **Peter Boerema '04**, twin daughters, Ashleigh Mae and Anna Kristine

Jared and **Lisa Farmer '05**, son, Micah Jasper-Brian

Lisa (Miller '05) and **Jeremy Koerselman '05**, son, Logan John

Marriages

Jordan Walton '92 and Laura Eastman, Seattle

Ann Iversen '93 and Craig vonWaaden, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Jill Erickson '96 and Ken Carver, Brownwood, Texas

Carrie Stromley '05 and **Doug Van Zanten '05**, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Julie Warren '05 and Chad Ruiter, Leota, Minn.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Don Rave '56, age 71, died Feb. 21 in Norfolk, Neb. After attending Northwestern, he graduated from the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy. He then served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Over the years, he was employed at pharmacies in Norfolk, Neb., and Lake Crystal, Minn. He was a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, where he served on various committees. He was also a longtime member of the Norfolk Lions Club and the Nebraska Pharmacy Association. Among his survivors are his wife, **Marie (Landhuis '57)**, and two children, including **Amy Peterson '90**.

John Wurpts '65 of Ogden, Iowa, died of cancer March 1 at age 65. After graduating from Northwestern, he received a master's degree in Christian education from Western Theological Seminary. He taught speech and drama in Brewton, Ala., and Dallas Center, Iowa. He then farmed for more than 30 years and also owned a trucking company. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Lions Club and the Rapture Riders Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association. His survivors include his wife, **Rosalee (Nyhof '68)**, and two children, including **Mishelle Levi '91**.

Dave Bomgaars '68, age 58, died Feb. 7 in Sioux Center, Iowa. He farmed for many years in Middleburg and Carmel and also worked at Sioux Preme Packing, Tyson Foods and Quick to Fix. He served on the Farm Bureau Board and the Pork Producers Board. He was an active member of Carmel Reformed Church, where he served as a Sunday school and catechism teacher, a youth sponsor, and a deacon and elder. Among his survivors are his wife, Colleen; four children, including **Melanie Pottebaum '97**; and a sister, **Janice McMurray '56**.

Lucille (Koester '68) Sohn of Ankeny, Iowa, died June 24, 2007, at age 80. She

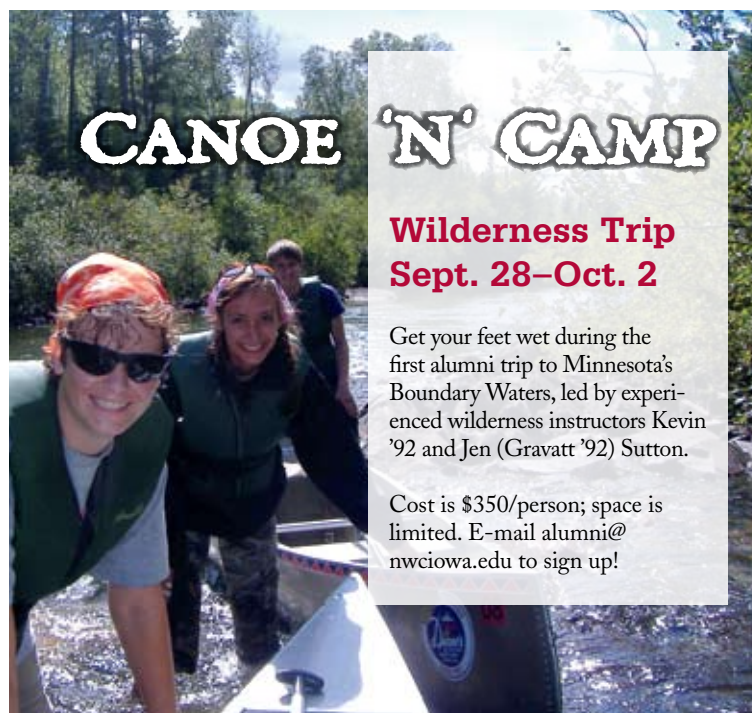
was an elementary and preschool teacher in Paullina, Algona and Ankeny. A board member of Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wis., for many years, she was active in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and taught Sunday school. She is survived by her husband, Paul, and nine children.

Dave Van Meeteren '74 of Sheldon, Iowa, died Feb. 8 at age 55. After attending Northwestern, Dave farmed for many years in Sheldon. He was a member of First Christian Reformed Church, where he served as a deacon. Among his survivors are his wife, **Linda (Mastbergen '73)**; four children; and three siblings, including **Marlene Goesch '57, '74** and **Dolly Jiskoot '72**.

Kevin Post '88, age 42, of Davenport, Iowa, died April 24. The vice president of lending at Family Credit Union, he was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Among his survivors are a daughter; his parents; two brothers, **Steve '86** and **Marlyn '91**; and a sister.

Ron Schumann '93, age 37, of Cherokee, Iowa, died Feb. 2 from injuries suffered in a car accident. After attending Northwestern for two years, he worked for Wilson Packing Plant and Hy-Vee Distribution Center. He was a member of the Little Sioux Wildlife Association and the Cherokee Country Club. He is survived by his parents and four siblings.

Jeanne Ritsema died April 5 in Orange City at age 78. A graduate of Hope College, she worked in Northwestern's Ramaker Library from 1976 to 1990. She was a member of First Reformed Church, where she directed the women's chorus and taught Sunday school and catechism classes. Her survivors include her husband, **Herb, professor emeritus of music**; and three sons: **Doug '75, Dave '77** and **Randy '79**.



Bob Reynen '68, Northwestern's director of church relations, died on April 19 after a brief battle with brain cancer. Reynen, 61, rejoined Northwestern's staff in 2002 after serving as the college's first church relations officer from 1969 to 1975.

"Bob made an impact on others by his quiet, conscientious, godly presence," says John Greller, vice president for advancement. "He commanded respect. He was always willing to help in any way he could. When I saw pastors applauding him at this year's

Pastors Conference and praying for him at the meeting of the East and West Sioux classes, it was clear to me they had a great respect and affection for him. He will be greatly missed."

Reynen owned and operated his own farm near Hollandale, Minn., for 27 years. For 10 of those years, he also ran a computer business and was the finance director and treasurer for Hollandale Christian School. An elder and choir member at Orange City's First Reformed Church, he previously served as vice president of consistency, elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher at Hollandale Reformed Church.

Among his survivors are his wife, **Sharon, an assistant in Northwestern's admissions office**; and six children, including **Sue Shields '93, Tricia Veenendaal '97** and **Liz '07**.

Nursing Agency Seeks Comments

Northwestern's nursing department is scheduled for a fall 2008 accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Federal regulations require that accrediting agencies allow for public comment on the qualifications of programs under consideration for accreditation.

Both CCNE and Northwestern recognize students, parents, alumni, faculty, health organizations and the public have valuable perspectives on the quality of the programs that prepare nurses. We invite interested parties to submit written testimony on the NWC nursing department to:

ATTN: LiAnn Shepard
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of Northwestern's nursing program and should specify the respondent's relationship, if any, to NWC (e.g., graduate, present or former faculty member, employer of graduates). No anonymous comments will be considered.

Letters should be received by Sept. 28.



Golden Reunion

Harriet (Blankers) Van Veldhuizen, left, and Marlene (Navis) Wierenga, members of the junior college's class of 1958, enjoy catching up during their 50-year reunion on May 9. About 50 alumni returned to campus for reunions, which also included academy graduates from 1958 and members of the class of 1968.



MARK VANDERWERFF

A foster mom and second-grade teacher on the Yankton Sioux Reservation, Mandy Chaplin is also active in a Sunday school ministry.

Teaching Across Cultures

When Mandy Chaplin '02 graduated from Northwestern, her plan was to teach in a city, then go to Africa to pursue her love of working across cultures.

Instead, she found a unique culture near home: the Yankton Sioux Reservation in Lake Andes, S.D., where she teaches second-grade American Indian students.

The whites and American Indians in town don't mix much, but Chaplin sees relationship-building as a necessary part of her job. Many of her students have serious family issues—broken homes, drug and alcohol abuse.

"Teaching them math and social studies is important, but the most important thing is to make them feel loved and secure," she says. "There are a lot of behavior problems, but it helps to step back and realize what's happening in their lives and try to address that, not just patch the surface problem."

Chaplin drives a van for an American Indian Sunday school and has also opened her home to 14 foster children during the last two years. She knew she'd become accepted by her diverse community when one of her students described her as a "white Indian."

"It's such a blessing that God allows me to be used in these kids' lives, even in a small way," she says. "There are a lot of tough things, but I think teaching in a suburban, middle-class town would drive me crazy."

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98

HOMEcoming 2008, SEPT. 26-28

ALL COUNTRY ROADS LEAD HOME



Come on home and reunite with friends who were like family. While you reminisce, enjoy Red Raider football, class reunions (1978, '88, '98 and 2003), the Raider 5K Run, Morning on the Green and more.

www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming

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COLLEGE

Submit by July 31 to:
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Northwestern College
101 7th St. SW
Orange City, IA 51041
classic@nwciowa.edu
classic.nwciowa.edu
712-707-7370 (fax)

SPEAK UP



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

Name _____

Address _____

Home/cell phone _____ Class year _____

E-mail _____

Current employer(s) _____

My news _____

Classic Thoughts

Homegrown Goodness

BY SARA SYBESMA TOLSMA '84



ISTOCKPHOTO

In an April 20 article in the *New York Times Magazine* called “Why Bother?” environmental journalist Michael Pollan (who wrote *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, which I recently read and recommend) mentions several ways individuals can change how they live to combat global climate change.

He argues for switching to fluorescent light bulbs, cutting back on eating meat (the production of which contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases), or observing a “consumer’s Sabbath” by going one day a week without driving, shopping or using electronics.

My family is trying to get on board with green living, especially after living in Germany for a year. Our German friends’ religious recycling and composting put us to shame. They were knowledgeable and intentional about using and not using fossil fuels. They valued natural, organic foods and were much more deliberate about eating seasonally and locally than Americans.

Now back in America’s heartland, my family is trying to walk more and drive less. We have increased our recycling and added our voices to those raising awareness for environmental issues.

My favorite part of Pollan’s essay, though, came toward the end when he urged, “[Grow] some—even just a little—of your own food.” Pollan argues that planting a garden is one of the most powerful things you can do. Not only does it reduce your carbon footprint, but it also reduces your sense of dependence (and helplessness in the face of a global problem) and increases your sense of community with your neighbors and the earth.

When I was growing up in Spirit Lake, Iowa, my parents had a huge garden, and my brother, sister and I had to work in it. It was hard, hot and itchy. I hated it. Indentured servitude was not my idea of summer fun.

Despite my protests, that place—the earth and the goodness that came from it—became part of who I am. Working close to the earth was elemental, healthy and life-giving. I sensed the rhythms of seasonality, and I grew up knowing that food doesn’t just come from the grocery store. I know what a vine-ripened tomato tastes like.

After college, I moved to Chicago and found I loved the Windy City’s fast-paced, energetic lifestyle. So I was surprised one spring when I began to feel the pull of the earth that shaped so much of my childhood. Our Palestinian neighbor urged my husband and me to join a neighborhood garden. Connecting with the earth and other gardeners in our diverse community taught me how people from different cultures use the soil to grow foods they love, and in so doing, preserve and share a taste of their culture with others. Composting, hoeing and weeding alongside my neighbors, I learned to grow new varieties of vegetables and fruits and learned about other people and places.

When we moved back to Iowa, we chose our house largely because we loved the huge backyard. Between preparations for my first year of college teaching, we started an ambitious vegetable garden and planted flowers that would attract birds and butterflies. It was hard, hot and itchy. I loved it.

Recalling both the garden of my childhood and our urban neighborhood garden while I canned, jellied and froze produce from my overwhelming harvest, I thought about how intentionally cultivating relationships—not only with God’s creatures but also with creation—is redemptive and life-giving.

This summer I will get on my hands and knees in the dirt of my garden again. It has lain fallow during the two summers we lived in Germany. Soon, in addition to the birds and butterflies, there will be rows to hoe, weeds to pull and beans to pick (and pick and pick).

Because it is good for them, my three kids will have to work in our garden. It will be hard, hot and itchy. They will hate it. Indentured servitude is not their idea of summer fun. Despite their protests, they will know what a vine-ripened tomato tastes like. This place—the earth and its redeeming goodness—will hopefully become part of who they are.

Sara Tolsma has taught in Northwestern’s biology department since 1995. She has a Ph.D. in microbiology, immunology and virology from Northwestern University, Chicago.

On the Web *exclusive*

Try Sara Tolsma’s recipes for enjoying your garden’s abundance at classic.nwciowa.edu

What's Your Legacy?



When Todd Heemstra '92 returned from his Summer of Service experience in Indonesia, he brought home almost nothing. He left his sleeping bag and many of his clothes with people who didn't have much. "He was a giver," says his mother, Lois.

Shortly after Todd died in a car accident, his parents continued his legacy by establishing the Summer of Service Scholarship to aid other students with a heart for missions. Last year's recipient, Jennifer Shafer '08, was so impacted by her medical work in Ghana that her career goal is to serve international populations as a physician. She began her studies at Israel's Medical School for International Health this summer.

Be intentional.

Think about what you will leave behind.
Contact Cornie Wassink to learn how
you can impact Northwestern's future
by endowing a scholarship or using
another planned giving tool.



"After witnessing the lack of medical care available to those living in less developed nations, I've set my sights on international health care. I can think of no better way to love my neighbor than to use the talents God has given me. Todd's scholarship was a huge help for an experience that changed the course of my life."

Jennifer Shafer '08



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DAN ROSS

At the Threshold

Members of the second-largest graduating class in Northwestern history officially took the next step in their lives at commencement on May 10. The class of 2008 included 281 graduates, second only to the 297 members of the class of '05.

The '08 graduates already have jobs with organizations like Weber Shandwick public relations firm, Bethany Christian Services, Sanford Health and Wellness, and Wycliffe Translators. Their new jobs are taking them to places like Des Moines, Chicago, Sacramento, Cambodia and Kenya.

Other new alumni are headed to graduate programs at Gonzaga, Tulane, and the universities of Alabama, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. Among them is Laura Jacobson, who presented the senior class's response at commencement. Named the English department's Outstanding Graduating Senior and one of two Faculty Honors recipients, Jacobson will pursue a law degree at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

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101 7th Street SW
Orange City, IA 51041
Ph. 712-707-7000
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