Changing Tracks
New career directions bring alumni fulfillment and challenge

Also
Loving God, Living Green
Service Masters
Top Geeks
Competing among the top 100 computer programming teams in the world, Northwestern’s team attended opening ceremonies at Stockholm City Hall, where Nobel Prizes are awarded.

Green Plea
Matthew Sleeth, a medical doctor who now is a creation-care missionary, talks about the connection between loving God and living green.

Committed Servants
John Greller and Carl Vandermeulen retire after a combined 42 years of student-centered service.

Unsung Heroes
Willing to tackle plugged toilets and pranked dorms, Northwestern’s maintenance staff restores order to the campus.

Changing Tracks
Moving from biochemical research to archival work and from the postal service to the pastorate, NWC alumni are charting new career paths—and having the time of their lives.

On the Web
Restoring Order
Against their better judgment, members of Northwestern’s heroic maintenance staff share memories of worst messes and more.

Your Turn
Add your comments to any article in this issue, including sharing ways you have changed your lifestyle to take better care of God’s creation.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

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I concluded my last Classic column by stating that while the times we are experiencing may be economically uncertain, we serve a God who is unchanging, unshakeable and worthy of trust. At the time, I had no idea how my own faith would be tested in new ways in 2009.

Over the holidays, my wife, Michelle, and I were hoping that after two years of significant transition we would be able to settle into some sort of normalcy in 2009. That desire quickly faded when on Jan. 5 we sat in a doctor’s office listening to the news that Michelle had breast cancer.

Since that day, we have been on a seemingly never-ending trip to see surgeons, oncologists and other specialists. It has been a challenging first half of the year. However, as Michelle and I have been reminded often through this process, our God is sovereign. He knows every detail of our lives, including the journey we have been on. We know his grace is sufficient for us and that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.

These truths are easier to claim, though, when not on the path we have been walking. This experience has given us a new picture of what it means to suffer. We have found much encouragement from Isaiah 41:10: “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous arm.”

Michelle and I are acutely aware that while Michelle is facing a very serious illness, there are many others who are facing just as difficult circumstances. We are reminded that we are not alone in our suffering, and that God will be with us at every step of the way.

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Servant Scientist

Peursem has so many admirers is dedicated to Christian servanthood.” Randy is a true testa-
ment to helping students succeed like no one else.” Senior Erin Brogan clar-
ifies: “Randy patiently and expertly explains answers to questions in Organic Chemistry wore shirts with Randy Van Peursem’s face on them. And when the call went out for candidates for Northwestern’s 2009 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award, 22 students submitted endorsements on his behalf—including four nomina-
tions from faculty and staff.

Why do people describe the co-
ordinator of the academic support department’s science center with such phrases as “a phenomenal” and “nearly irreplaceable”? Robben Schat ’09 has the answer: “He has devoted himself to helping students succeed like no one else.” Senior Erin Brogan clar-
tifies: “Randy patiently and expertly explains answers to questions in the way each student learns best. He is more than willing to give us extra time. Randy is a true testa-
tment to Christian servanthood.”

Perhaps part of the reason Van Peursem has so many admirers is that they know what he’s overcome to help them. Fifteen years ago, he had to leave medical school. He was frequently dizzy, continually nauseous and had dangerously fluctuating blood pressure. Diagnosed with allergy-related dysautonomia, a disease of the autonomic nervous system, Van Peursem was confined to his home for two years. After making dra-
matic changes to his diet and sur-
rroundings, he was able to tutor at Northwestern three hours a week. Now full time, he works afternoons and nights because he doesn’t feel well in the mornings.

The Class of 2009

On Board

Dave Dunkelberger Linda Van Roekel

Two alumni, David Dunkelberger ’85 and Linda Van Roekel ’85, attended Northwestern’s spring Board of Trustees meeting in April as new members. Dunkelberger is serving as a trustee by virtue of his role as the president of Northwestern’s National Alumni Board. A resident of Waconia, Minn., Dunkelberger is corporate credit consulting manager for Wells Fargo.

Van Roekel, a board member from 1996 to 2004, retired from a career in corporate credit consulting manager for Wells Fargo.

The Class of 2009

Northwestern awarded 283 diplomas to its second-largest graduating class during commencements ceremonies on May 16. This year’s graduates already have jobs with organizations like The Segal Company, Family Crisis Center, Hanford Christian School in California, Thrivent Financial and Orange City Area Health System. They will be living in places like Sioux Falls, Chicago, Seattle and India.

Other new alumni are entering graduate programs at Duke, Princeton, Yale, and the universities of Iowa and North Carolina.

Eighteen NWC students are giving—and receiving—Christ’s love around the globe as short-
term missionaries this summer. As members of the Summer of Service team, the students are ministering in 15 different countries, including Haiti, Bolivia, Cameroon, Moldova and the Philippines. They are assisting pastors, phys-
icians and other missionaries in churches, hospitals, clinics, schools, orphanages and refugee camps. They are performing construc-
tion, planting churches, delivering community health programs, and teaching English as a second language with ministries such as International Teams, the Luke Society, Navigators and Youth With A Mission.

Green Generation

Instead of collecting quarters, Heemstra Hall guys are seeking clothespins. That’s because they’ve been hanging their clothes to dry rather than using machines. A hall committee, conducted by Matt Leither, was one of four student projects that received funding during Northwestern’s Day of Learning in Community (DLC), which focused on creation care.

Ericha Walden invited DLC participants to the college’s costume shop, where she provided scrap fabric, yarn and other material as art supplies. Two textile creations were later auctioned off, with proceeds donated to an area homeless shelter.

Recycling is also behind a composting project proposed by Heather Tallet and Matt Vander Molen. They are arranging for cafeteria leftovers to become compost for the Garden of ARC, a community garden at Orange City’s American Reformed Church.
Money for Medicine
Northwestern’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received a shot in the arm this spring with news it will receive a federal appropriation of $43,720 in fiscal year 2009.

Nursed along by Senators Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley and Rep. Steve King, the appropriation will fund equipment for the college’s nursing arts laboratory, including additional human patient simulators, an electronic health record simulation program, hospital beds, a medication system, IV training arms, and computer-based resources for nursing professors. In addition, improvements will be made to Northwestern’s biology and chemistry laboratories, which are used heavily by nursing and other health care professions students. The appropriation will pay for the purchase of an autoclave, a fluorescence spectrometer and other equipment. Renovations this summer will result in even safer student workstations and an expanded chemical stockroom.

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Program makes the grade
Northwestern’s teacher education program passed its latest tests with flying colors, earning continuing accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approval by the State Board of Education after a joint evaluation visit last fall. Only three other education programs in Iowa—Graceland, Luther and Wartburg—are accredited by NCATE. Laura Heitritter, instructor in education, says the reviewers were impressed by the department’s students, particularly by the fact that they led the first session of the site visit. The visitors also reported hearing very good comments from alumni and area educators and commended the program’s efforts to expand students’ understanding of and experience with diversity.

Evaluators said one of the teacher education program’s strengths is the amount of classroom experience students receive before they do their student teaching.
Healthy Report

Northwestern's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program has been given a clean bill of health by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), which granted the department an initial five-year accreditation.

The evaluation results affirm both the college's commitment to the nursing program and the nursing program's "great fit" as part of Northwestern's mission.

The evaluation results affirm both the college's commitment to the nursing program and the nursing program's "great fit" as part of Northwestern's mission. Evaluators noted the program already is "part of the fabric of the college" and praised "the unique character of the students and faculty with respect to their Christian ethos and values."

Lab Time

While some mow lawns, wait tables, roof houses or babysit children this summer, six NWCI students are honing their research skills in off-campus projects.

Jordan Larson is conducting research at the University of North Dakota Medical School. He is exploring a lipid metabolic pathway's role in inflammation contributing to cell loss and memory dysfunction.

Josh Locker is interning at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls that is focused mostly on congestive heart failure.

At Johns Hopkins University, Curt Van Wyk is working in the Center for Language and Speech Processing. He is parsing textual data for acquisition of semantic knowledge that can be useful in search engines.

Three students are at the University of Iowa. Rachelle Pekosens is studying the effects of depression on older patients' psychosocial behavior and cognitive abilities. Kelley Salem is working in a lab that focuses on DNA replication, repair and mutation. And Alex Menard is studying fluorescence-based assays to investigate protein-protein and/or protein-DNA interactions. That research is part of a fellowship designed to form new connections between the state's scientists and the university.

Purposeful

Northwestern students are getting ministry experience—and churches and communities are getting a helping hand—thanks to a summer internship program funded in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The internships give students the opportunity to work alongside mentors in a variety of ministry contexts.

Eight students interested in the pastorship or other roles in the church are serving in a variety of ministry contexts.

One 13 students are at one of eight Christian Community Development Association ministries: Cary Christian Center in Cary, Miss.; City Mission in Detroit; Hope for Opoleusis in Opoleusis, La.; the John M. Perkins Foundation in Jackson, Miss.; Mile High Ministries in Denver; Mission Valerie in Texas; Trinity Christian Community in New Orleans; and Urbn Ventures in Minneapolis.

Bravo!

Senior Staff, scripted by theatre professor Jeff Barker, continues to win awards. In April the musical's composers—

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What is your favorite NWC memories?

My favorite was the time Tress Jacobsma had to hoist me through a window to get into the old storage room in Zwemer because the door had been locked accidentally and there wasn't a key to open it. The funniest part was that once I got through the window, I had a big drop to the floor. As I negotiated my drop, the bottom of my jeans became impaled on a nail along the window ledge and I ended up hanging there upside down!

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What is one of your lesser-known responsibilities?

Tres is a kind of the information booth person of Zwemer Hall. Since my office is close to the door, people naturally drop in for directions or other information. I don't always have the answers, but I usually know someone who might.

Why did you want to work at NWC?

When I started many years ago, it was because it was a better job than waitressing. As the years have gone by, the reasons I stayed have included because I could be flexible with my family commitments and because I developed a better understanding about the mission of Northwestern.

What is one of the most common questions you're asked?

Pam, do you have time to ...?

What are your hobbies?

I love to cook. I don't mean just cooking, but baking and canning too. That has led to another hobby: collecting antique and old church cookbooks. I have well over 100. I also read as much as I can, listen to music, and like to play games.

What is your favorite time of day, and why?

The morning is definitely my favorite time. It is like having a clean slate—a new day to do things differently or better, to help people with more of a servant's heart, to make them smile.
The world is a classroom for students who study abroad in countries like Russia, Ecuador, India, Thailand, England, Tanzania and Egypt. Some take a summer month to study with NWC professors. Others spend a semester in Romania, Oman or other nations. Wherever they go, students see and learn about the people and cultures God loves—and are better prepared to participate in his transforming work in the world.
An interview with J. Matthew Sleeth, M.D.

Formerly an ER doctor and chief of staff, Matthew Sleeth gave up medicine to care for an ailing earth when he became a Christian. Author of Serve God, Save the Planet, Sleeth travels the U.S., teaching and preaching about caring for creation. When he visited Northwestern in April as the keynote speaker for the college’s second annual Day of Learning in Community, Classic staff asked him, among other things, what green living has to do with loving God.

**Classic:** In your book, you describe some pretty drastic lifestyle changes your family has made to live more in line with God’s plan for the planet. Describe some of those adjustments.

**Sleeth:** We started where most beginners do, with recycling. Now we also precycle, which means considering the amount of packaging and other waste that will be generated before you buy something. Then we added more difficult things, like gardening, washing dishes by hand, and hanging clothes on the line—even in winter. Eventually we moved from a doctor-sized house to one that was smaller. Now we live in a house the size of our former garage, and we don’t own a clothes dryer or dishwasher.

**Classic:** Your family—your kids—went along with this?

**Sleeth:** My kids were spoiled kids when we started, but now they think nothing of having to do the dishes. I’m lucky. My kids seem to like physical labor. It’s hard as a parent to tell your kids we’re going to do without things they’re used to—whether it’s eating less meat or having to do the dishes. It’s hard as a parent to tell your kids we’re going to do without things they’re used to—whether it’s eating less meat or having to do the dishes.

**Classic:** How do Christians, in particular, respond to your presentations about living more green?

**Sleeth:** Although many Christians have views on this (and some of them believe God doesn’t care about going green—it’s a political movement, they argue, not a faith issue), I find many of them have never gone to their Bibles seeking answers to environmental concerns. I’ve never encountered anyone who’s against what I share once they’ve gone to their Bibles themselves saying, “God, teach me about this.” Most of the time, they find their views are based on politics too—and not on what the Bible teaches about creation and how to care for it.

It’s a sin to tear God’s world apart. When I teach or preach, I try to make it really simple: I say, “Imagine the world is one square mile. You live downstream, and I live upstream. What do you want me to put in the water—or not put in it?” If I put something in the water that I know might hurt you, that’s a sin.

**Classic:** Why don’t we hear sermons about environmental issues?

**Sleeth:** Remarkably few pastors have been equipped to preach and teach about creation care. That’s why I’ve started traveling to seminaries. Also, it’s hard for a pastor to get up and give a sermon that challenges congregants’ lifestyles. Say a Midwestern pastor preaches on biblical agricultural laws and asks, “What does this mean for feedlots—and those of us who like our meat cheap?”

**Classic:** What are some specific ways churches and colleges have responded to your creation-care message?

**Sleeth:** At one church, everyone agreed to forgo Christmas presents for one year, and they put that money—$290,000—toward a clean water project in Afghanistan. Another church raised money to buy all their households rain barrels. They also stopped using disposable dishes for church events. (All the men volunteered to do the dishes, which was unanimously endorsed by the women.) They dedicated the money they saved for feeding ministries. A college did away with trays in their cafeterias and saved 16,000 pounds of food waste in one year.

**Classic:** Some Christians don’t believe global climate change is real. Does it matter?

**Sleeth:** People use arguments over an issue like this so they don’t have to meet their responsibilities toward God’s creation. You don’t have to believe global climate change is happening to know water shouldn’t have dioxins in it or that the air you drive into a city shouldn’t look like a dome of smog and haze. Christians can usually still agree we should be consuming less and freeing up more of our resources for the church’s work. Everyone—including Christians—can do something about caring for creation every part of the day. No excuses.

**Classic:** Given the current state of our economy, we’ve been warned not to severely limit our consumption or the U.S. and global economies could collapse. Thoughts?

**Sleeth:** Our economy may have to collapse. We’ve been heating the house by burning the furniture. There’s no way to dig yourself out of a hole; you’ve got to go to a different direction. The planet will cease to exist if every generation lives only for itself. The Bible is all about considering generation after generation after generation. God is not concerned with short-term economies. Focusing just on the immediate future is not a biblical approach to how to live on God’s planet.

**On the Web exclusive**

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to comment on Dr. Sleeth’s views and share ways in which you and your family have changed your lifestyle to take better care of God’s creation.
Word Lover

Carl Vandermeulen’s voice is remarkably similar to that of Garrison Keillor, host of radio’s The Prairie Home Companion. Like Keillor, his speech is soothing, unhurried, thoughtful—and he, too, is comfortable with meanderings.

“Carl’s teaching is unique,” says Dr. Joorna Trapp, a colleague in the English department. “Rarely straightforward and direct, he finds himself wandering along paths of inquiry, inviting students to follow him.”

With Vandermeulen’s retirement after 25 years at Northwestern, students will have to follow someone else in more than one department.

Vandermeulen initially joined the college’s faculty on a part-time basis to teach communication studies courses. A year later, he began serving as the adviser for the Beacon, the student newspaper—a natural role for someone who taught News Writing and Editing, Feature Writing, and Layout and Design. Then came added responsibilities in the English department, where he helped establish a writing center, wrote the curriculum for its writing courses, and later was lead writer for the writing and rhetoric major.

As varied as Vandermeulen’s roles have been, most have revolved around the written word: teaching journalism and literature courses, directing the English education program and supervising its student teachers. He even helped craft the proposal that brought a $2 million Lilly grant to NWC—an achievement he described as “satisfying” because of its impact on the college.

Lilly grant to NWC—an achievement he described as “satisfying” because of its impact on the college.

VANDERMEULEN CLOSE-UP

Year hired by NWC 1984

Education
Calvin College (A.B.), University of South Dakota (M.A.), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Ph.D.)

Teaching career
Spent entirely in Orange City (Vandermeulen taught at Unity Christian High School for 14 years before joining NWC’s faculty, and at least 23 current NWC faculty and staff were at one time his students in high school or college.)

Estimated number of student papers read while at NWC 12,500

“I tried to create a community in the classroom where students were interdependent and learned from each other,” Vandermeulen says. “If they trusted the process and engaged in it, they finished the course able to do what they weren’t able to do when they started, with a different sense of who they were and what they were capable of knowing and being.”

Years after taking his classes, Northwestern alumni report that Vandermeulen—in his soft-spoken way—did just that.

Friend Raiser

Growing up in Washington, D.C., John Greller was expected to go to a good school, get good grades, obtain a good job, and earn good money. Instead he came to know Christ and dedicated himself to building God’s kingdom by helping others give their money away.

After 30 years in fundraising—more than half of which were spent at Northwestern College—Greller is retiring. Just as he felt called by God to NWC, he believes God is making it clear it’s time to leave. Plans to retire in a year and a half were moved up when he was recently diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

This isn’t the first health challenge Greller and his wife, Janes, have faced. A few years after becoming Northwestern’s vice president for advancement, John experienced kidney failure due to diabetes. He went through two transplants, the second time getting a kidney from his son Brian after his body rejected the first organ.

Throughout his illnesses, surgeries and hospitalizations, Greller has impressed others with his unwavering faith in and love for God. “His faith in the Lord is the first thing you see when you meet John,” says his colleague and successor, Jay Wielenga ’82. “Equally as notable about Greller is his deep love for people and for Northwestern.”

When John created new friends for the college, it was so genuine,” says Drew Vogel, Board of Trustees chair. “He showed what Northwestern’s mission is all about. He and Janes fell in love with Northwestern, and then he always said [his job] was easy.”

The Grellers are known for their hospitality, opening their home to students, colleagues and friends of the college. John regularly attended chapel, and Janes joined him for meals in the cafeteria with students and in cheering the Raiders at athletic contests.

These familiar with John’s deep bass voice and hearty laugh also know he has a gift for listening to, caring for and encouraging people. In fact, it’s his people skills that made him so successful at his job. As Greller often pointed out, “Fundraising is really friend raising.”

With Greller’s retirement, both Northwestern and its alumni and supporters are losing a true friend.

GRELLER CLOSE-UP

Year hired by NWC 1992

Education
Kenyon College (B.A.), Oberlin College (M.A.T.)

Total raised for NWC during his tenure $67 million

Most fulfilling fundraising accomplishment Raising money for the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center

“The theatre was in the most disrepair of our facilities, and yet it was one of our finest departments. I believed for making it a priority. I didn’t want to lose faculty members and see the program go down the tubes.”

One More

Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoe, professor of music, announced her retirement after the deadline for this issue. A feature on her will be included in the fall Classic.
Ben Kester is explaining how he and teammates John Calsbeek and Curt Van Wyk should have tackled their first problem at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest in Stockholm, Sweden, in April.

The question that required such an aggressive approach?

You are an air traffic controller with a bunch of planes to schedule for landing. (The world competition question probably didn’t use the term “bunch,” but Calsbeek says “bunch” when he’s describing their first challenge.) All the planes are assigned an interval of time within which they can land. Figure out which plane can land when and where so all the planes are landing with the longest span of time between descents—because that’s the safest, obviously.

Now it’s time for brute force?

“Yes,” says Kester. “You brute force the different possibilities. That’s basically just programming the computer to try every single combination until you find one that works. Brute force is pure trial and error versus having a strategy that guides your trial and error. It’s like trying to open a padlock by trying every possible combination.

You couldn’t really do that, could you?

“No, but a computer could.” Or, a computer manned by pretty bright programmers.

So, did they get everyone on the runway safely?

“Not this time,” says Kester.

The annual international ACM competition, sponsored by IBM, includes the top 100 college-level programming teams in the world. During the opening ceremonies, in the same auditorium where the Nobel Prizes are handed out, “Northwestern College” boomed across the hall, amidst introductions of teams from MIT, Moscow State University, Oxford, Stanford, the University of Melbourne and the University of Warsaw, to name a few.

Curt Van Wyk, Ben Kester and John Calsbeek (from left) competed among the world’s top 100 student computer programming teams in Stockholm, Sweden, in April.

Representing the smallest U.S. school at the world competition, Calsbeek, Kester and Van Wyk were frequently mistaken for Northwestern University students. When they corrected yet another person who assumed they were from the Big 10—describing their 1,200-student campus in a town of 6,000—the well-wisher said, “Wow. You must be pretty much heroes there.”

En route to Europe, the heroes of 1s and 0s had already out-coded their competition at a regional programming competition last November, correctly completing all nine problems to finish fourth.

They had less success with the 11 problems at worlds. “We went for a high-risk, high-reward strategy,” blogged Kester during a break in the competition. In a divide-and-conquer move, each teammate worked on a different problem. Unable to arrive at answers, they’d moved on to a fourth question when they ran out of time.


So Sweden didn’t compute. Reprogram.

Calsbeek, Kester and Van Wyk are still among the world’s best, and they have other interests beyond binary code.

All computer science majors, they argue they transcend “Geek Squad” stereotypes. Calsbeek gestures to the three of them with a “Do you see any pocket protectors here?” look on his face.

Nope. No pocket protectors.

Calsbeek, a senior, is also pursuing a literature degree. Van Wyk, another senior, is an athlete and has competed in soccer, football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and track. Kester, who graduated in May, is a social servant-leader—he was a West Hall RA and discipleship group leader and traveled to India as a member of the Summer of Service team.

Like other guys, they are gamers. But their programming prowess doesn’t make them any better than their peers at computer or video games like Tower Defense or Command and Conquer. Except:

“Sometimes it helps you figure out how to beat the system,” says Kester.

They don’t mind the term “geek,” though. “We like programming,” say Van Wyk and Calsbeek, with “no excuses” shrugs. And Kester, who also majored in actuarial science, had already landed a job at a Chicago consulting firm and passed seven of eight actuarial exams before he graduated. “Actuarial science is kind of its own nerdy world too,” he says, grinning.

Yep. They’re good with geek.
Students are the focus for a maintenance staff that keeps Northwestern running

BY Amy Scheer

This summer, junior Andy Boone is back at his job on Northwestern’s maintenance crew, and he’s like a kid at Christmas.

“I’ll get to clean the Courtyard Village apartments,” says Boone. “I might get to shampoo the carpets.”

Boone can’t be blamed for talking like this. He spends his time with Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, who says such things as, “There’s nothing like giving students a hand at 11 at night when they lock their keys in the car, or starting their cars when it’s 20-below.”

Um, yeah.

In the 15th century, the word maintenance was defined as the “action of upholding or keeping in being.” Earlier, the word was thought of as the “action of providing a person with the necessities of life.” In 2009, Simmelink puts it this way: “We try to get things back to normal as quick as we can.”

It takes 20 full-time staff, six part-time and seasonal workers, and some 25 summer student workers to maintain normalcy at Northwestern. Plumbers, housekeepers, groundskeepers, electricians, locksmiths, heating/cooling experts and carpenters make up the crew; there are also folks in charge of tasks from coordinating facility and vehicle rentals to keeping up on government regulations for all of the above.

“Can’t do that,” says Simmelink.

Summers find the staff coordinating renovations, catching up on projects, and restoring dorms to their natural state through extensive cleaning and repairs. When carts of drawers show wear from being used all year as ladders to the top bunk, for example, that’s just “normal routine maintenance” in Simmelink’s worldview.

Boone says cleaning never feels like work around housekeepers Pat Bruvoorst and Kathy Kleinwolterink. Jessi Post, a senior who has worked in the maintenance department for three years, points to a game they liked to play in the past three years, points to a game they liked to play in the apartments.

“We’d walk in and guess if it was a boys’ or girls’ room based on what was left behind and what it smelled like,” says Post. “I was usually right.”

While summer mornings always start with devotion, each day also has its own theme—like “Muffin Man Fridays,” when a mystery person provides sweets for the crew.

“I still don’t know who the Muffin Man is,” says Post, sounding a little miffed. “No one will give me a straight answer.”

Gary Jeltema, supervisor of mechanical services, says one of the joys of the job is being around students.

“Some you get to know because they’ve done something wrong,” he adds with a chuckle. Northwestern students have been known to execute elaborate pranks. Jeltema won’t divulge some of them, not wanting to give current students any ideas. Instead, witness him talking about the time all 52 chapel pews were unbolted and turned to face the back wall. Will he discuss the amount of work this caused his crew? Will there be a hint of resentment in his voice, a need for revenge?

No, Jeltema gives the basic facts, and then adds that the box, “This is just like having a dad on campus.”

“It was the best compliment I ever received,” says Simmelink, talking again like somebody who shows up day after day just for moments like this.

“Can’t do that,” says Simmelink. “I guess he was thinking outside the box.”

On the Web exclusive

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu for the main- tenance department’s most memorable moments and more.

Maintenance by the Numbers

26,496 rolls of toilet paper bought each year

9,450 industrial rags used yearly

121 gallons of floor cleaner and wax applied annually

276 muffins consumed each summer

“Theres nothing like giving students a hand at 11 at night when they lock their keys in the car, or starting their cars when its 20-below.”

Job satisfaction? Check. The retention rate in the maintenance department is arguably the best at Northwestern: Nine of the full-time employees have served nearly 20 years each—some as many as 26.

“They have a heart for helping out and being a servant to others,” Boone says. “Forty hours a week you clean, you clean, you repeat. I’ve never once heard a person complain. I always see Kathy with a smile on her face.”

Jeltema enjoys coming to work in the morning; he says, “We’ve got a special staff—it’s like family.”

Bake sales and coffee ins, like “Muffin Man Fridays,” are based on what was left behind and what it smelled like.

It’s a way to “give back” to the students, Simmelink says.

“We’ve got great kids here,” he says, momentarily forgetting about the pews.

Strangely, some of the things they get to do, like giving students a hand, aren’t the most appreciated—such as, “There’s nothing like giving students a hand at 11 at night when they lock their keys in the car, or starting their cars when it’s 20-below.”

Students are the focus for a maintenance staff that keeps Northwestern running

SUMMER 2009

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That’s how students put it too. Like the young woman standing in the cold while her car roared back to life, who turned to Simmelink and said, “This is just like having a dad on campus.”

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Tracks
Alumni find both joy and risk in taking new career direction
by Diane Beeson

The last time the jobless rate in the United States was as high as it is now, Ronald Reagan was proposing the Strategic Defense Initiative, Michael Jackson was moonwalking through Billie Jean, and Bill Gates was just starting to make money from Microsoft Word.


As whole industries hemorrhage and jobs continue to be outsourced to other countries, many Americans have been forced to consider a career change. Others are contemplating a new direction because of a specific passion or family considerations.

Many Northwestern alumni have successfully changed career paths. We share the stories of several as encouragement that—whether you have to or want to—you can do it too.

Pursuing a Passion

When pharmaceutical giant Pfizer purchased Pharmacia Corporation in 2003, it announced most of Pharmacia’s research and development work in Kalamazoo, Mich., would cease. Michael Swanson ’82, a research biochemist, had a decision to make.

Swanson had been experiencing a declining sense of fulfillment in his job. Decisions affecting his infectious diseases research were being made for business and marketing—not scientific—reasons. Uncertainties regarding long-term support of projects were growing.

The year before, he had enjoyed a moving experience in Sweden, walking the land his ancestors had farmed. It was his seventh trip to Europe, most of which involved visiting Swedish and Dutch relatives and conducting genealogical research. Long interested in history, he found genealogy offered a new way to apply his analytical skills.

Part of his severance package included assistance from a career consulting company. With their help, Swanson chose to pursue a master’s degree specializing in archives and records management. Now completing his first year as an archivist at the University of North Dakota, he says, “It just seems to come naturally to me—probably because I have a passion for it. I really enjoy helping people more directly. We work hard but in a relaxing environment. It’s a lot less stressful.”

Stress is one of the reasons John Liesveld ’00 left his law practice in 2006. He loved some aspects of the work—analyzing, researching, writing, competing in the courtroom. But the intense nature of many of his cases, such as child-custody issues, took a toll on him.

Liesveld enjoyed listening to talk and sports radio and often thought that could be his dream job. When the general manager of KLIN in Lincoln, Neb., called and asked if he was interested in joining the morning team, saying he had always been intrigued by putting a lawyer on the show, Liesveld couldn’t refuse.

Now “Jack Mitchell” on “Jack and John in the Morning,” he talks about state politics, national issues and Husker sports every day from 6 to 9. Liesveld works longer hours than he did as a lawyer—there’s a lot more to his job than just his on-air time—but he says he’s having the time of his life.

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Family Matters

SDupre’s over at the home of Hope and Reed Frieze ’95, and Elijah (7) and Iris (6) are helping dad at the family business in Parker, S.D. The kids make a good cleaning team for the Cherrybean Coffee Company: He sweeps, she mops while Reed roasts coffee.

The Friezes moved back to his hometown in 2007 after he had worked a dozen years in production and management at an aircraft painting company near Seattle. Frieze wanted a quieter, more predictable environment for their four children—especially Elijah, who is autistic. “Here we can let him go to the library,” Frieze says. “He can get our mail from the post office. We can give him a lot more freedom and allow him to explore his interests.

Frieze’s high-school obsession with coffee was stoked when he lived in Seattle. Returning home, it seemed natural to start a roasting company and coffee shop. Frieze wanted it to be a true family business, so in addition to cleaning, the kids go along on deliveries and will have other responsibilities as they grow.

I try to use all the flexibility I have as a small-business owner to be with the kids when other fathers might not be able to,” he says. “I work twice as many hours as before, but I’m more connected with my family.”

Exerting Influence

Working in public affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years, Carrie (Van Hook ’87) Jasperse enjoyed her responsibilities and supported the EPA’s mission. But she yearned for more.

“I wanted to be involved in substantive decision-making, but the people who did that were either scientists or lawyers. I wouldn’t have been a good scientist,” says Jasperse, who majored in English and French at NWC, “So I became a lawyer.”

Today Jasperse is an attorney for the Food and Drug Administration. She has been involved in legal work behind FDA warnings to companies marketing products said to cure H1N1 and the consumer advisory regarding potential liver damage from Hydroxyxic diet supplements.

A variety of projects compete for Jasperse’s time, and her work is more challenging than before. But she says the fulfillment she derives from helping keep the public safe makes up for the stress.

Timing it Right

Sitting in a law school classroom a couple of years ago, Fawzy Simon ‘90 couldn’t believe what he heard from the dean: “They tell me many of you have never failed.”

“I’ve failed,” says Simon. “My grades at Northwestern were abysmal; I’ve been fired. Failure is a distinct advantage because I learned the sun will still rise and I’ll have another shot. Some of my 4.0 classmates couldn’t process failure.”

Working in public affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency, Simon realized the pastorate “wouldn’t be so bad after all.”

For 10 years, Lou Bram ’96 preached grace and forgiveness at a Baptist church near Mason City, Iowa. Now he busts drug dealers and investigators thefts as a Cerro Gordo County deputy sheriff.

He changed career tracks to bring home more money so his wife, Christy (Hoffman ’96), could be with their children full time. His heart is still in the ministry, but for now his job meets their family’s goals.

In law school Simon vowed not to squander his second chance at higher education. “I was in a room full of really smart people who knew a ton about what I wanted to learn and were happy to talk it over with me. Being around people younger than me forced me to work harder.”

Now a public defender in Lebanon, Mo., Simon appreciates both the structured environment of law and the opportunity to work within it to help others who have failed. “Essentially, I play high-stakes poker with people’s freedom,” he says. “I’m motivated by my desire to get a good outcome.”

Fenya Simon, the public defender, also draws on past experiences in his new role. “My theatre training is paramount,” he says. “I learned how to use my voice, memorize lines, move in a space and get into character. I’m a different person in the courthouse. I use my words, voice and behavior to persuade.”

When the Rev. Troy Van Beek ’00 started his first pastorate at the age of 35, he found his previous business ventures created a connection with church members. “They sensed I had experienced the same things they had,” he explains.

Van Beek started at Northwestern in 1986 but left as a junior after switching from major to major. God used his 10 years working in implement and lawn care businesses, he says, to help him listen and prepare for ministry.

Help Wanted

Thinking about a career change? Here’s advice from alumni who’ve been there.

*Surround yourself with people you trust who will ask the right questions.*

The Rev. Troy Van Beek ’00, from landscaping business to ministry

“Seek advice from mentors in both your current field and the field you’re considering.”

John Liesveld ’00, from law to talk radio

“Pray—and look for the signs the Lord puts in front of you.”

Karen Wildeboer ’78, from education to real estate

“Be patient. Be willing to take a part-time job to get your foot in the door.”

Lou Bram ’96, from ministry to law enforcement

“Be committed. Once you decide, work hard toward your goal.”

Michael Smucon ’72, from biochemistry to archives.

A coffee lover for years—he got an espresso machine for Christmas in high school—Reed Frieze is now the proud owner of a roaster that can produce 5,000 pounds of coffee per month. He left an aircraft painting business to start the Cherrybean Coffee Company (www.cherrybean.net).
The Rev. Troy Van Beek, senior pastor of Bethel Reformed Church in Sheldon, Iowa, worked in business for 10 years before completing his undergraduate degree and seminary. “I wake up every morning—even when in the midst of difficult things—and I can’t believe I get paid for doing this,” he says.

A former kindergarten teacher and NWC alumni director, Karen Woodward is now a real estate agent. “I love the challenge of matching a family with the right house,” she says. “I get great joy hearing a family loves their new home.”

“Costs of Change”

Karen (Goettch ’84) Fendick and her husband spent a year living off of his income so she could take computer courses. After 21 years as a nanny in the Washington, D.C., area, she knew she needed technological skills to pursue an office job. When she landed a position selling insurance, she was so motivated she became one of the fastest-certified agents in State Farm’s history.

Leon Pikesley did not have the luxury of saving to funnel into his education at Western Seminary. But when his California house didn’t sell, their nest egg was soon gone—as were borrowed funds from relatives. Unsure if he could continue, he told God he didn’t know where to turn. “After we humbled ourselves before God, our house sold quickly. God has always taken care of us,” he says.

Reed Friesie is learning trust after the first year of his coffee business. “My biggest surprise was how many lattes it takes to pay a light bill. I got way more business than I expected. I also made way less,” he says. But he subleased some of his retail space to a flower shop, and he’s seen his roasting business perk up through the Sioux Falls Farmers market. Ultimately he favors the positives this change has brought his family.

Michael Swanson, the biochemist-turned-archivist, followed financial advisers’ advice and had money saved in case he lost his job. When she landed a position selling insurance, she was so motivated she became one of the fastest-certified agents in State Farm’s history.

“Smart Play”

Twenty-three Raiders earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors this spring, including 31 in track. Recognized for the second year each were Ingrid Carlson and Jaesoon Guttmiller in track, Trevor Kuyper in baseball, and golfer Anne Ehrle, Jamie Jeltema, Justin Pommiak, Kelsey Staffelt and Lissa Wiersma.

“Back on the Court”

Luke Vermeer earned all-conference honors for the third year in a row. He finished seventh individually in the four-round GPAC championship. The team placed seventh.

“Women’s Tennis”

In the first varsity tennis season at NWC since 2005, the Raiders went 4-9 overall. They placed seventh in the conference with a 3-6 mark. Nessa Summers (No. 6 singles) and Kate Mannenbach and Jessica Pomerenske (No. 3 doubles) earned all-conference honors.

“Men’s Golf”

The Raiders finished third in the four-round GPAC championship, with Carrie Spree and Maggie Achterhof earning all-conference honors. Achterhof was most valuable at the Briar Cliff Open, leading NWC to the team title.

“Baseball”

The Raiders finished third in the four-round GPAC championship. Luke Vermeer earned first team all-conference honors, with Austin Malone and Drew Nommacher named to the second team.

“Softball”

NWC lost 14 of its first 16 games but went above .500 for the rest of the season to finish at 13-24. The Raiders were 10-14 in the GPAC for 10th place. Rachel Harris received second team all-conference recognition.

“Above Par”

Luke Vermeer is the new head coach for women’s golf. Sara (Kernes ’06) Nessa, the program’s all-time scoring and assist leader, will assist.

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Red Ties
Jennifer Neuhamer ’00
Director of Alumni Relations

Recently a co-worker accompanied her daughter to a music competition at a local high school. She told him he noticed right away that the teacher who taught that particular classroom must have been a University of Iowa graduate, as the room was plastered with UNI colors. Apparently the teacher is in his 70s, so his UNI experience and he wasn’t afraid to show it. I wonder how many (as he puts it) talks to his young about UNI—probably every time his students are ever patient account representative for the Avera Medical System in Orange City.

Sarah Tilkbrink, Albia, Ia., is a patient account representative for the Avera Medical System in Orange City.

Mackenzie (Thedens) Grassrud, Danavenport, Iowa, is director of service learning at St. Ambrose University.

The Rev. Cory Moss serves as senior pastor of Christian Park United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

Matthew De Jager completed a Ph.D. in ecology, evolution, and behavior from the University of Minnesota last year. He is an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wis., and his wife, Anna, have a daughter, Klara (2).

Justin De Jong is the new deputy press secretary for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, of Washington, D.C., His experience includes communications at the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Illinois director of communications for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign.

O’Brian Parramore, Orange City, is an English language arts teacher at South Orange High School in Pennsylvania.

Abbie (Klinker) Deppolt, Elburn, Ill., is senior financial advisor at American Heritage Financial.

Gretchin (Bliek) Englemeier, Overture Park, Kan., is a registered vascular technologist for Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. She is pursuing a master’s degree in health informatics at the University of Phoenix.

Rebecca (Vander Molen) Keowenin, a teaching assistant at Michigan State University, recently received the former Excellence in Teaching Award. She is pursuing a doctorate in American history with minors in religion and gender studies. Her husband, Ben, is executive director of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors Institute, which focused her educational outreach in Michigan.

Angel (Schreuder) Van Gorp, Iola, Iowa, quit her job at Latinos State Bank to be a stay-at-home mom and in-home daycare provider.

Joel Vander Wai received a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in December. He serves as associate pastor of youth ministries at Northwestern Presbyterian Church in Peoria.

Elisa (Breneman) Vranimeters is a senior accountant for Oriental Trading Company in Omaha.

Malene (Oud) Woestenen, Hartford, will continue with new clinic in Iowa City.

Jim Ellis ran 61 miles from Sioux City to Orange City on March 28 as part of the Red Letter Festival, which raised funds for the Bridge transitional housing shelter.

Rachel (Timmer) Krueger, Labrador, Minn., is a human resources assistant for New Fashion Pork. She also serves as an EMT for Labrador Ambulance.
Northwestern Classic

Jon Slater is pursuing a master’s degree in leadership for non-profit organizations and mobilization from Columbia (S.C.) International University in Seminary.

09 Art Rentzmann is a personal banker for Pinnacle Bank in Lincoln, Neb.

Ben Crabtree, Aurora, Neb., is a deputy sheriff for Hamilton County.

Amanda (Dengel) Haye, Luverne, Minn., is a child protection social worker for Rock County Family Services Agency. Her husband, Nolan, is an after-school program coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District.

Shanna Nelson, Holstein, Iowa, is a family service worker/family advocate for Head Start PreSchool in Clarinda and Ida Grove.

Deb Remondere was inducted into the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Hall of Fame during the state basketball tournament in March. The all-time leading scorer in Iowa five-year player history with 2,766 career points, she led Rock Valley High School to three consecutive state championships.

Slat Wang, San Mateo, Calif., is a marketing director for Nike International Transport USA in San Francisco.

Audrey Wagner is a music teacher at Alamo Cone Music in Burnsville, Minn.

New Arrivals

Shelly and Jeff Taylor ’93, son, David Heiny, joins (Jane) (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Burnsville, Minn.)

Ben and Mel Wendell ’91, daughter, Abby Lenz (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Burnsville, Minn.)

Jane and Dan Van Gorp ’92, daughter, Anna Elaine (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Payson, Utah)

Lynnette (Webb) ’96 and Adam Rasmussen ’94, daughter, Caleb John (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Sioux Falls, S.D.)

Eric and Missy (Van Klompenburg) ’95, son, Tylee Grant Robert and Aableen (Vis) ’96, son, John (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Pensacola, Fla.)

Jen and Alex Kitchen, daughter, Palma Suzanne (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Overland Park, Kan.)

Aubrey Weger is a music teacher at Alamo Cone Music in Burnsville, Minn.

Recharged

On a Tuesday afternoon in a rec room in Zierlach, Mich., batteries are in big demand. Jamie, a tall, husky teenager in a sleeveless shirt, revises his remote and sends the virtual bowling ball toward the remaining pins. Blake, who’s new, had Jamie show him around, and of course the tour ended here, near the PlayStations, Wii and air hockey.

“He’s a game-master,” says Jamie’s mom. “People come to him, so he’s talking all the time, whereas normally he’s just hunched over.”

Jamie admits he’s “Mr. Popular” here at Compassionate Heart Ministry, which provides a sense of belonging for youth with disabilities in the Zierlach, Mich., area.

David and Krista (Bollas ’91), Pondergrass, son, Willow James, joins (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Pondergrass, son, Willow James, joins) (Michigan)

Nicole (Kosinski ’95) and Eric Farber, Arlington, Va.

Jon Slater ’07 and Rebekah Giddings, Columbia, S.C. (Bob) (Chelsea) (year) (shift) (new) family (lives) (Columbia, S.C.)

The couple reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Dr. Paul Bolks ’35 died May 8 in Hull, Iowa, at the age of 92. He earned a degree in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University and served for five years in the U.S. Army Air Force as a food inspector. A longtime veterinarian in Hull, he also served the town as mayor and city councilmember for eight years each. He was a member of American Reformed Church, where he served as an elder and deacon. Active in Kinawa’s and the American Legion, he served as Soldier County’s director of veterans affairs for 36 years. Survivors include his wife, Bertie; a daughter, Marcia Ham; 8 sons.

Dorothy (Mol ’71) Vande Berg, age 89, died March 30 in Orange City. In addition to farming with her husband in Keokuk, Iowa, she worked in the Keokuk Store and was a devoting home wife. A member of Keokuk Reformed Church, she taught Sunday school, led Bible studies and was active in the women’s organizations. Among her survivors are three daughters, Judy Pickardt ’66, Gloria Ruthen ’74 and Debra Poppen ’79; a son, Joanne Johnson ’40; and a brother, John ’55.

Myron (Mike) Van Pearson ’36, age 87, died Feb. 13 in Orange City. After graduating from Northwestern, he served with the Army Air Corps for two years. He then farmed, sold seed corn and was a substitute rural mail carrier. He was a member of First Reformed Church, where he taught Sunday school. He was also an active member of the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, Lenora, and four children, including Martin ’92 and Marble ’92.

John Aabo ’45, ’49, age 88, died March 4 in Los Osos, Calif. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a degree in accounting from Stanford University in Los Angeles. He worked for the U.S. Air Force as a food inspector. After retiring, he operated a small business. He also served as a substitute rural mail carrier. He was a member of First Reformed Church, where he taught Sunday school. He was also an active member of the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, Lenora, and four children, including Martin ’92 and Marble ’92.

New York City-based actor Kris Kling has earned credits on stage and in film and TV.

Well-Played

Kris Kling ’97 is modest about his accomplishments, but not every actor can say he’s appeared on the big screen at Utah’s Sundance Film Festival. “It was cool to hear something I did is getting good exposure and recognition,” he says.

The film is Mystery Team, a dark comedy about amateur sleuths solving a crime way out of their league. The film was well-received at the festival and earned Kling another line on his IMDb.com profile, a public—and highly selective—database for commercially produced TV shows and films.

Mystery Team wasn’t Kling’s first film (he has appeared in a handful of shorts and one other feature-length film), but he says the process was a great learning experience—especially for an actor more accustomed to theater.

“I’ve been on stage since I was four,” says Kling, who studied at London’s Guildhall School of Music and Drama and earned rave reviews for his 2008 performance as a British storm in Storm Theatre’s The Shambles.

“I’ve had a lot less experience on film, so I don’t have the technique and comfort that people learn from doing it for years and years. But it comes down to the same thing: Use your body, voice, intellect, emotions, instinct, imagination and spirit to tell the story the best way you can.”

By SAMJ ASH QUINE ’03
Dick "Bob" Mulenberg '52, age 76, died March 15 in Spirit Lake, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a bachelor's degree at Iowa State University. He taught in Atlantic, Iowa, and then spent more than 30 years as an insurance adjustor.

Donald Althaus '75 died Jan. 22 in San Antonio. After graduating from NWC, he worked in his family's construction business in the Kingsley, Iowa, area for several years. He moved to Texas in 1985 and spent the last several years working as a warehouse manager for Labatt Food Service in San Antonio. Survivors include three brothers and a sister.

Brad Odens '08, age 23, died April 9 in Jacksonville, Fla. He attended NWC from 2004 to 2006 before transferring to South Dakota State University, where he was studying electrical engineering. He is survived by his parents and two siblings, including Chad '12.

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Northwestern Classic
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Destinations
by Josh Doorenbos and Ian Dudley

During spring break in March, we drove from Orange City to the coast of Maine and back as the experiential part of a course in pilgrimage writing. Purposely wandering with no particular destination in mind, we explored the off-the-expressionway towns we’re usually too hurried to notice, recording our reflections and insights along the way. We drove through towns like Reading, Pa., and Ohio City, N.Y.; we drove through mountains and forests and plains. We saw barns decorated with painted quilt patterns and a town that was clinging to one last bar for life. We wrote about sunsets and rain storms and rundown buildings and silos. We met people we never would have met—in coffee shops we never would have stopped at—had we not taken this journey.

Nothing extraordinary happened. We expected nothing extraordinary. We expected awe-inspiring, life-changing occurrences, and all we got were a couple of seemingly forgettable conversations. We wanted eye-opening exploration of the uncharted, and all we got were gas stations and country roads.

Around day seven we came to a realization. This is all there is. We caught ourselves trying to set destinations for our meandering trip—not physical or geographical, maybe, but intellectual, psychological. We set our sights on insights and ways in which our lives should change when all we were ever meant to learn was to see the ordinary.

Driving home, we found ourselves surrounded by the frenzy of interstate driving, caught in the current, streaming toward a destination. On both sides we watched neighboring drivers down coffee as if it were the antidote to the poison they call sleep. Headlights staring like eyes and flickering like twin lamps, shuttered and aimed straight ahead, lighting a path before them and only before them. The destination seemed to be all that mattered.

And then it happened. We were the same. We were guilty of passing through miles upon miles of countryside without a glance to either side. The speed limit was 65, and yet the cars around us were going 75. We accelerated, boosting our speed to match theirs.

Is the journey so miserable that all we care about is ending it?

What happened to our conscious effort to meaner—to take the time to see what is missed in our 65-mile-per-hour lifestyle, to breathe the country air, to examine every drop of water, every leaf, every hole in every tree?

We built, on those back roads and rundown highways, a new philosophy, one that allows for—nurtures, even—an appreciation of the moment. It was a philosophy not so much about speed and distances and destinations as it was about people and places and observations. The interstate bypassed that philosophy, took the soul of the journey away, and gave us our two lamps, shuttered and staring straight ahead. The journey was lost in the destination.

The living journey, the one that deals in steps and minutes as opposed to miles and hours, is never lacking for destinations. Grocery lists, to-do lists, guest lists, contact lists, reading lots, programs, goals, agendas—all are destinations. In 65-mile-per-hour living, one can get tired of the blurred road ahead.

“Everywhere asphalt reaches up to kiss the tires of our 65-mile-per-hour lifestyle, to breathe the country air, to examine every drop of water, every leaf, every hole in every tree,” Ian writes now. “And so we walk,” Ian writes now. “Everywhere our feet touch ground—that is our destination. Everywhere asphalt reaches up to kiss the tires of our vehicle—that is our destination.”

Wanderers and wonderers, Josh Doorenbos and Ian Dudley are junior writing and rhetoric majors. Josh, from Boydton, Iowa, is also studying literature. Ian, from Barneb, N.H., is also pursuing an art major.

Classic Thoughts

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Wanderers and wonderers, Josh Doorenbos and Ian Dudley are junior writing and rhetoric majors. Josh, from Boydton, Iowa, is also studying literature. Ian, from Barneb, N.H., is also pursuing an art major.

It’s no surprise Char Van de Waa and her late husband, Carl ’37, established a scholarship for Northwestern students interested in health care. Carl graduated from the University of Iowa’s dental school after attending Northwestern Junior College. He and Char met when she joined his Sioux Falls practice as a dental hygienist.

A gift of stock enabled them to fund the Dr. Carl and Charlotte Van de Waa Scholarship, and last fall Char met the first two recipients at the college’s annual Scholarship Luncheon. A photo of the students hangs on Char’s fridge. “I like to look at that and keep them in my prayers,” she says.

“I chose Northwestern College because I wanted to receive my nursing degree from a program that was committed to Christian nursing, not just to teaching students how to do a job. The Van de Waa Scholarship is helping me achieve my dreams.”

Beth Hunter
Nursing major from Deon, Iowa

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Be intentional.

Think about what you will leave behind. Contact Cornie Wassink at 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciowa.edu to learn how you can impact Northwestern’s future by endowing a scholarship or using another planned giving tool.
For the first time, Northwestern’s commencement weekend in May coincided with Orange City’s annual Tulip Festival. After the pomp and circumstance, many graduates and their families stayed in town to experience the festival’s Straatmarkt and Volksparade down tulip-lined Central Avenue.

Many faculty and staff exchanged cap-and-gown regalia for Dutch costumes and klompen (wooden shoes) and headed downtown to scrub streets, serve poffertjes (tiny pancakes), and serenade festival guests as the Fietsen Zangers (bicycle singers). Among those celebrating the end of the semester with a little Dutch dancing were Vice President for External Relations Ron De Jong ’71 (the festival’s town crier) and his wife, Bonnie (Mouw ’70).