

Northwestern College Magazine

SUMMER 2011

# *the* Classic

## The Crescent and the Cross

Can Christians and Muslims find common ground?

*Also*

Northwestern's Oman Semester

Dog handler Riley DeVos

Art by Rein Vanderhill







14

Rein Vanderhill will have more time to work on his paintings, like this Lake Michigan shoreline landscape, now that he has retired after 36 years on the art faculty.

**Classic People**

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

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

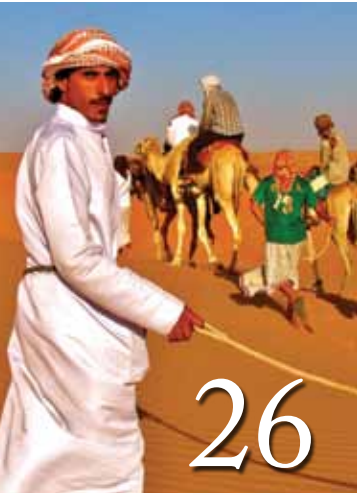
**On the cover:**  
The Dome of the Rock, an Islamic mosque built on the Temple Mount, is the backdrop for a church's cross in the Old City of Jerusalem.



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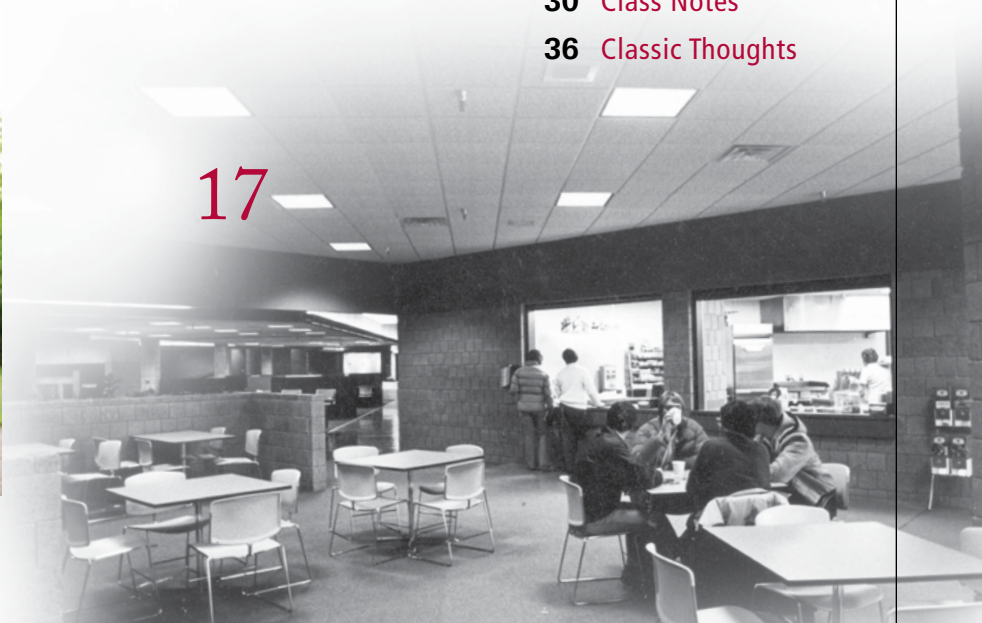
**On the Web**

**Your Turn**  
Share comments about any article in this issue, including your thoughts about interfaith dialogue.

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

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## A New View of God's World

Many institutions of higher education are committed to sending students abroad to study for a few weeks, a semester or even a year. With the global marketplace graduates are entering today, learning in another country has perhaps never been more important.

However, at Northwestern we view global education through the lens of our Vision for Learning ([www.nwciowa.edu/vision](http://www.nwciowa.edu/vision)), which makes our approach distinctive.

Northwestern doesn't send students abroad just to study and experience another culture, as important as that may be. Similar to all students' learning at NWC, we want their experience to better prepare them to trust, love and worship God; engage ideas; connect knowledge and experience; and respond to God's call.

Before sending students abroad, our faculty and staff work diligently to ensure they are strongly rooted academically and spiritually—ready to experience other cultures and learn more of what it means to pursue God's redeeming work.

This summer Northwestern sent 52 students on study trips to the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Japan and Turkey. During the last four years, we have developed and launched our own study abroad semesters in Romania and Oman (see story on page 26). Reflecting our mission and Vision for Learning, these programs are rich experiences for growth that integrate faith, learning and living in community.

In the summer of 1990 I had the opportunity to experience something like this myself. I spent five weeks traveling with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, to what was then Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Holland and Spain.

Our ministry team conducted baseball clinics, played games against national teams, and shared our faith in Christ publicly and personally. What impacted me most was staying with host families in two of the countries and learning how much we had in common even though it seemed we were so different.

Up to that point in my life, I saw the world from a very limited perspective. This trip gave me a new vision of God's world and my place in it. In a similar way, our students are experiencing this with the added benefit of an academic component.

As our students travel, study, learn and live in community with those who are different from themselves, they experience growth as never before. The world becomes smaller and their vision of who God is becomes larger.

Northwestern's study abroad experiences engage students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world—a big, diverse world. This is yet another way we live out our mission as a Christian academic community.



Greg Christy  
President

## Thou Shalt Not Murder

We read your spring 2011 *Classic* with great interest. Your cover story was about issues we've dealt with as a Christian legislator, attorney and lobbyist (Chuck) and scientist (David): embryonic stem cell (ESC) research, cloning, etc.

Technologies such as in vitro fertilization or cloning may be “exciting” and “promising,” but whenever human life is created or used specifically to be sacrificed (killed) for scientific experiments, our Lord's commands to love your neighbor and not murder are violated—even if those experiments could help alleviate someone else's suffering.

The article concludes by citing Jesus' healing ministry as justification for these scientific experiments. But Jesus didn't heal anyone at the expense of someone else's life.

Life's beginning is a biological fact. Conception, whether through normal fertilization or through technology like cloning, marks the objective beginning of each individual's life. A human being's size or level of development doesn't determine his or her value or sacredness.

Human ESCs are derived by destroying a living human being at the earliest stages of development. Northwestern should put “Thou shalt not murder” ahead of any “exciting” scientific venture.

Beyond the moral issue, no human life is “excess” or needs to be discarded. The Snowflakes® Adoption Program facilitates adoption of embryos “left over” by in vitro fertilization.

The article also made some misrepresentations about stem cells. While the “excitement” continues about ESCs' “potential” to form most tissues, no such thing has actually happened in the laboratory. (It has only happened in the womb, when embryos have been allowed to continue as normal pregnancies.) ESCs have yet to help a single human.

Also, it is unproven speculation that stem cells from cloned embryos might someday be used to grow matching replacement cells or organs. Even though human embryo cloning to harvest ESCs is not banned

by U.S. or Iowa law (as the article erroneously stated), there are zero verified instances of stem cells derived from embryo clones, even after years of attempts. Whether such cells would be a match and not rejected upon transplant is only hypothesis, and is actually contradicted by the few attempted animal studies.

But even if these ghoulish experiments help another patient someday, they would still be morally wrong.

Meanwhile, perfectly moral adult stem cells from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood and many other tissues are treating over 50,000 patients a year around the globe for various cancers, heart damage, and dozens of other conditions, improving health and saving lives. Adult stem cells are not limited to repairing only the tissue from which they are taken; the old scientific dogma about their limitations is simply not true, disproven by multiple published scientific studies.

Please be more careful in reporting on life and death issues. Lives and souls are at stake.

**Chuck Hurley, J.D.**  
President, Iowa Family Policy Center  
Pleasant Hill, Iowa

**Dr. David Prentice**  
Senior Fellow for Life Sciences, Family Research Council  
Washington, D.C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Among the information shared in “Faith in Our Genes” was the statement, “[human] embryos created by SCNT [somatic cell nuclear transfer] would never be implanted into a womb because the resulting fetus would be a clone ... and human cloning is currently banned.” While cloning of *human cells* is not currently banned, cloning of embryos for *purposes of growing a fully developed human clone* is banned. The author apologizes for the lack of clarity.

## Hitting Home

The “Faith in Our Genes” cover story really hit home as my husband and I found ourselves in the middle of an ethical situation much like the ones in the article.

After four miscarriages, a genetics lab found a rare paracentric inversion in my seventh chromosome. The geneticist told us we had a 50-50 chance of passing the “bad” chromosome each time I got pregnant, and the likelihood of a pregnancy with the inversion carrying to term was very low. Because of this, she recommended we do in vitro fertilization (IVF) so the embryos could be tested before implantation. Only ones that weren't carriers of the inversion would be used.

It all sounded so reasonable—after all, the ones carrying the inversion probably wouldn't survive anyway. However, we really struggled with the idea of the “imperfects” being tossed away. The question that kept haunting me was this: If my own mother had had the opportunity to do this, would I have been tossed out?

Much to the consternation of the geneticist, we decided the most





God-honoring thing to do was to keep trying to get pregnant naturally. We believed if God wanted us to be parents, he would make it happen. Knowing what we faced gave me the determination to keep going. My fifth pregnancy resulted in a healthy son, and an eighth pregnancy resulted in a healthy daughter.

Our story doesn't have an entirely fairy tale ending, though. Both my children have been tested and also carry the inversion, like I do. As carriers, they would have been discarded with IVF, which makes me even more thankful we did what we did. These two beautiful, healthy children were obviously meant to be. Of course, knowing they will also have difficulty having babies breaks my heart. Our pediatrician told me that by the time our kids grow up, scientists will probably have figured out how to fix the chromosomal abnormality before conception. I pray this ends up being true!

From the *Classic* website

The following excerpts are from reader-posted comments about *Classic* articles at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Designer Genes Reactions

Thank you so much for this insightful, fact-filled article written from a much-needed Christian perspective. I chose to be tested for Huntington's disease, and the implications of that test for my family have weighed heavily upon me. God led me to this article, and when I read it, a huge burden rolled off my shoulders.

I appreciate Dr. Tolsma's unwillingness or inability to give students the "right answer." She is acknowledging that these situations are incredibly complex and require prayer and God's leading in each affected person's life. I value the sanctity of life and the purpose of suffering to develop Christ-like character in the one suffering and those who come alongside to help. But God's ultimate goal is healing and restoration: "He will wipe away every tear."

In my garden, I can see that the perfect world God created has been invaded by weeds. In my body, I face the harsh reality of living in a broken world with a defective gene. I can accept that for myself, but who of us would want that for our children and grandchildren?

Although this article has not given me a clear path to follow or a prediction of a cure, it has given me something of great value not found in Huntington's disease: permission to hope.

Nedhener

I could not be more alarmed. From President Christy's column: "God is the creator of all things—including the way creatures evolve and change." This is theistic evolution. It is false and not biblical. Christy writes: "Our desire is for Northwestern to be a safe place where students can challenge themselves and seek answers to some of the hardest questions." President Christy should know that these questions

One [result from the experience] is that I am much less judgmental toward people and their decisions regarding how to build a family. Northwestern is a great place. I thank God all the time for my years there. It's where I learned what it really means to be a Christian.

Anonymous '88  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street 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.

have been asked and answered by America's leading bioethicists. Northwestern is not charting any new waters. The world has already walked down this road and with disastrous results.

Likewise, statements from "Faith in Our Genes" are very troubling. Through science, Dr. Swart sees ways to not only care for creation, but also to repair and improve it. God declared his creation good. It is not in need of repair.

Dr. Tolsma says, "Try to empathize with parents like Morgan's who, because of advances in genetic science, might be faced with heartbreaking decisions." She is encouraging situational ethics, not biblical reverence for God's creation. More Tolsma: "On the other hand, thoughtlessly rejecting genetic technology is not living out our calling to be thinking Christians." This is an extraordinary claim! Are we to believe we can't call ourselves "Christian" if we reject destructive embryonic stem cell research?

Fynaardt writes, "Might biotechnologies like genetic screening and testing lead to playing God, as some Christians worry? Maybe. But, Tolsma argues, blood transfusions, vaccines, antibiotics and organ transplants were viewed skeptically as playing God at one time. Now few Christians would object to these life-altering medical advances." ... "Meanwhile, unused embryos already exist." She is creating a straw man and lumping acceptable medicine with the destruction of human life.

Fynaardt concludes, "Christ did, after all, help the lame to walk again." But Christ did NOT destroy human life to help the lame to walk again. It appears the theme of this article is that man, based on his own perceived goodness, can create heaven on earth. That is indeed troubling coming from a Christian college.

76alum

Thought provoking, informative, objective, bold and courageous. I enjoyed the article and appreciate that genetic technologies are being honestly and openly discussed and researched by Christians in a Christian college context.

Parentof00alum

around the Green



Shining Like the Son

Eighteen Northwestern students are serving as Christ's hands and feet around the globe this summer.

As members of the college's Summer of Service (SOS) team, they're volunteering as short-term missionaries in Cameroon, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Trinidad, Uganda, Ukraine and the United States.

The students—who represent 13 different majors—are assisting pastors, physicians, teachers and other missionaries in churches, hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps.

They are teaching English, caring for AIDS orphans, leading worship, administering microfinance loans, and delivering community health programs with ministries such as Africa Inland Mission, the Luke Society, Pioneers and Wycliffe.

For information about the students on the 2011 SOS team—including their dates of service and ministry details—visit [www.nwciowa.edu/sosteam](http://www.nwciowa.edu/sosteam).

Eighteen NWC students are serving as short-term missionaries in 14 countries this summer.

New Online Director

Rebecca Hoey was nearing completion of her doctoral degree, working with faculty to design curriculum, mentoring new online teachers and raising four young children. But when she heard about an opportunity to build an online learning program at Northwestern, she knew she couldn't pass it up.

"I have a passion for online learning; it meets needs for so many students," says Hoey, who joined the staff as director of online learning in June.

"Northwestern has offered a great educational experience to traditional-aged undergraduates on campus for years. I'm taking a look at what we do so well and how we can translate it online," she says.

Maybe there's a parent who'd love to be a teacher, but she can't come to Orange City to earn her degree. Perhaps an outstanding volunteer youth leader has a dream of studying youth ministry, but he needs to keep working to pay the bills.



Rebecca Hoey

As Hoey builds the framework for Northwestern's program, one of her roles is that of a champion for online learning.

"I'm working with faculty to help them see how online learning can be just as rigorous as what happens in the physical classroom and how community isn't dependent on geography," she says. "You don't have to be in the same place. It's all about the relationships you've built with other people."

Hoey is also in the process of choosing a learning management system for online courses. Her immediate goals are to pilot some courses next spring using the new system and to offer numerous courses next summer—including one from every general education area.

Hoey encourages alumni to let her know what they'd like to see in Northwestern's online program. E-mail her at [rebecca.hoey@nwciowa.edu](mailto:rebecca.hoey@nwciowa.edu).



## A Place to Call Home



ANITA CIRILUS

Workmen take advantage of a rare sunny day in June to finish the cement work around Northwestern's newest residence hall.

When classes begin this fall, a new \$3.5 million residence hall on Northwestern's campus will welcome 68 students as the building's first tenants.

North Suites is a men's dorm located just north of Stegenga Hall. The three-story, 23,000-square-foot facility

consists of 17 suites, each with its own bathroom, along with many community areas—including a main floor lobby with adjoining full kitchen.

Several open houses were held in the spring as the building neared completion. "Overwhelmingly, the comments have been positive,"

says Patrick Hummel, director of residence life. "People have really liked the space, particularly the common spaces we built into it."

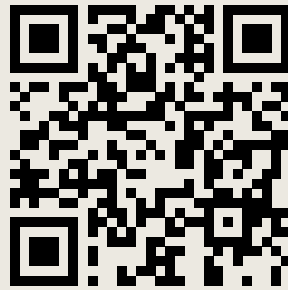
In placing students in the hall, Hummel and his staff held 24 spots for freshmen, another 20 for sophomores, and the remainder for juniors and seniors.

North Suites is the first Northwestern building to feature geothermal heating and cooling, making the residence hall not only cost-efficient, but environmentally friendly as well.

## Smart Link

Information about Northwestern College can now be accessed via smartphones at [m.nwciowa.edu](http://m.nwciowa.edu). The latest NWC news and sports scores, event calendars, a campus directory, facility hours, directions to campus and even cafeteria menus are available at the mobile site.

The site also includes overviews of academic programs, financial aid and much more.



Use this QR code to view Northwestern's new mobile site with a smartphone.

## Summer in the Lab

Four senior science majors are participating in competitive off-campus research projects this summer.

Samantha Hoy is looking at the mechanism of a relatively new form of chemotherapy used to treat abdominal cancers in her research at Des Moines University.

Elizabeth Stevens is at the University of Missouri, working on a team that is synthesizing new molecules for potential use in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes.

Adam Verhoef is studying replication proteins in the University of Iowa's Biochemistry Summer of Undergraduate Research Fellowship program.

And Anna Yarrow is researching cloning and expression of human nuclear protein modules fused to fluorescent chromophores at South Dakota State University.

## Registrar's Office Promotions

Two staff have been promoted in the registrar's office. Sandy Van Kley '05 has been promoted to registrar, and Austin Nyhof '06 has been promoted to associate registrar.

Van Kley, a member of the registrar's office since 2001, had served since 2005 as associate registrar. She replaces Charlie Couch, who became registrar at the University of Northern Colorado after 12 years of service at Northwestern.

Nyhof joined the office in 2007 as the assistant registrar.



Sandy Van Kley



Austin Nyhof



Public Relations Director Duane Beeson, who's usually publicizing Northwestern behind the scenes, found himself in the news this spring when he received the Staff Inspirational Service Award.

DAN ROSS

## Award-Winning Service

When Duane Beeson contacted Marlon Haverdink to find out who this year's recipient of the Staff Inspirational Service Award would be, Haverdink didn't answer his e-mail.

Beeson, Northwestern's director of public relations, wanted to know so he could get a head start on writing a news release. Haverdink, part of the committee that chose the recipient, had good reason for not responding: This year's award winner was Beeson himself.

It's not easy keeping secrets from the person charged with publicizing the college, but Haverdink and his colleagues managed to surprise both Beeson and his staff, who cited their supervisor's servant leadership in nominating him for the award.

"Duane is a quiet, steady

leader of integrity," says colleague Tamara Fynaardt. "He sets a tremendous example as someone who believes in Northwestern's mission and works tenaciously to further it."

A mass communications graduate of Taylor University, Beeson spent three years at Indiana State University as its coordinator of broadcast relations before becoming Northwestern's public relations director in 1986. In the years since then, the public relations office has grown from a single person to a staff of five that has produced award-winning publications and websites.

Those awards were one reason psychology professor Dr. Laird Edman nominated Beeson for special recognition. Edman calls the PR director

"well-respected" and praises his "consistent, tireless service, enthusiasm and professionalism."

Under Beeson's leadership, the public relations staff's recent accomplishments include updating Northwestern's logo and graphic identity in 2005, redesigning the college's alumni magazine in 2008, revamping the Northwestern website in 2010, and developing a brand promise for the college in 2011.

As busy as he is, Beeson still makes time to speak to the college's communications classes, provide work opportunities for students in the public relations office, and meet with students researching careers in his field.

It's just another way of serving as he leads.





## Escape to Iowa

Nobuko Noguchi spent Japan's March 11 earthquake under her bed—and the days following it and the resulting tsunami short on food, milk and diapers for her toddler sons.

She lives in Tokyo, more than 200 miles from the Fukushima nuclear plants damaged in the tsunami, but as a nurse, she worried about the risk of radiation exposure for Yuki (4) and Naoki (1). She told her mother, Junko Nagao '70, "I want to go to Orange City."

Nagao contacted her former Northwestern roommate and friends, Char (Van Zanten '72) Granstra, Sandi (Mouw '71) Carlson, and Barb (Jacobs '70) Lubbers, who arranged for Noguchi and her sons to spend April, May and June in Orange City while her husband, a surgeon, helps with Japan's recovery.

Despite Iowa's spring thunderstorms and a tornado touchdown in a nearby town, Noguchi said, "I feel safe here."

**Nobuko Noguchi (the daughter of Junko Nagao '70) was cared for by her mother's "Northwestern family" during the three months she spent in Orange City after Japan's earthquake and tsunami.**

DOUG BURG

## Summer Schooling

Nine Northwestern professors are conducting summer research and scholarship with funding from the college's Scholarship Grants program. Awards range from as much as \$2,250 for independent research to up to \$5,000 for collaborative projects with students.

Physics professor Dr. Frank Bentrem is continuing his study of electroclinic liquid crystal elastomers—a potential component in artificial muscles—while religion professor Dr. James Mead is researching the formative documents of Judaism.

In the fine arts, art professor Arnold Carlson is exploring abandoned rural Midwest homesteads with the intention of incorporating found objects into sculptures. Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, is submitting his show, *How Helicopters Figure in My Dreams*, into the Minnesota and Kansas City fringe festivals. And music professor Dr. Juyeon Kang is serving as a guest performer

and adjudicator at the Mozart International Piano Competition in Bangkok, Thailand.

Grant winners collaborating with students include English professor Dr. Michael Kensak, who is working with Skylar Tiaht, a writing and rhetoric major, and Sarah Lichius, a literature major, to research poets Andrew Marvell and Thomas Crashaw.

Two biology-health professions majors—Daniel Locker and Preston Leader—are assisting biology professor Dr. Sara Tolsma with her research into the genetic relationships between mayfly populations on Santa Cruz Island and the California mainland, as well as between mayflies in different watersheds in northwest Iowa.

Two other biology professors, Dr. Laurie Furlong and Dr. Todd Tracy, are continuing their study of the impact of invasive plants on northwest Iowa ecosystems, assisted by biology major Meghan Green and biology-ecological science major Olivia Norman.



## Melodious Prof

Music professor Dr. Luke Dahn has composed works performed by the Boston Brass and the Moscow Conservatory Studio for New Music, but he's a teacher at heart. And a pretty good one at that, according to students whose nominations led to him being named this year's recipient of the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

"He especially does well balancing the class time between lectures, projects and assignments in a way that we are able to apply what we're learning with his and our peers' guidance," Rachel Lynn wrote in a letter of nomination. "Although we learn a lot in class, we also have time to have fun. He takes something that would often be tedious, like music lab, and makes it academically challenging and fun

with games using Christmas carols and percussion instruments.

"Not only is Dr. Dahn great at teaching classes, but he genuinely cares about his students," Lynn continued. "He is open to people stopping by when they need help with assignments, and he tries to keep up with students' lives. He also integrates faith in the classroom in a way that encourages real-life application of questions about our God-given gifts and the church."

Jessica Kleveland wrote, "Dr. Dahn is one of the most respected professors because of his knowledge and willingness to answer questions when a student is having a difficult time understanding the material."

Dahn, who joined the faculty in 2007, teaches music theory and composition. He



Music theory and composition professor Luke Dahn is the 2011 recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

DANIEL ROSS

earned a doctorate in music composition from the University of Iowa, where he served as visiting assistant professor. He also received a Master of Music degree from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's in music from Houston Baptist University.

Dahn's compositions have been performed at the Estonia Academy of Music, the 14th International Saxophone Meeting in Slovenia, Harvard University's Memorial Church and the N.E.O.N. (Nevada Encounters of New Music) Festival. Several

of his works have been recorded on the Albany label, included his quintet *Penumbrae*, winner of the 2010 League of Composers/International Society of Contemporary Music Composers Competition.

## Honor Roll for Service

Northwestern has been named to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of its strong commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Northwestern, honored for the fifth year in a row, is among just 114 schools cited "With Distinction." Only two others are from Iowa.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized a total of 641 colleges and universities for their impact on



A Spring Service Project trip to Jonesboro, Ark., where students worked in a youth center, is one of the volunteer opportunities that earned Northwestern a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

issues from literacy and neighborhood revitalization to environmental justice. Honorees were chosen from 851 applicants based on a series of factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes.

"Northwestern has always had a strong commitment to service, and being named to this year's Honor Roll is a wonderful recognition of our current commitment," says Marlon Haverdink '97, Northwestern's director of service learning. "I'm continually encouraged by the willingness of our students to give of their time to serve locally, nationally and globally."

Last year, 662 NWC students were engaged in community service, including delivering groceries for the Orange City Food Pantry; building homes for Habitat for Humanity; organizing a festival to raise money for a transitional housing facility; and coaching youth football and soccer teams. Over spring break, students taught English to Somali immigrants, assisted with health clinics, repaired homes and performed other tasks at 14 locations around the world. In addition, another 470 students were involved in academic service-learning, putting classroom knowledge into practice by helping area agencies and businesses.

"So many of our students have a vibrant faith in Christ, which propels them to seek out ways to serve others. Combine that with both Northwestern's commitment to provide avenues for them to put their faith in action and the ministries and organizations that so graciously partner with us, and the result is over 30,000 hours of service," says Haverdink.





SEAN EMERY, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Life-Saver

Jordan Gammon '11 and his father, John, helped save the life of a woman at the Las Vegas airport while returning to California after Northwestern's commencement.

Just days after completing his emergency medical technician (EMT) certification, Jordan Gammon '11 passed the ultimate test. While in the Las Vegas airport with his family following Northwestern's graduation, the physical education major from Murrieta, Calif., helped save a woman's life.

During a layover on May 15, Gammon's mother noticed a young woman lying on the ground several feet from them. Realizing she was in

cardiac arrest, Gammon's father, John, a firefighter, alerted Jordan. The new graduate performed CPR while his dad raced through the airport to find an automatic external defibrillator.

"I was impressed watching him, because he engaged and just went right to it," John Gammon told *The Orange County Register*.

"Three days before that, I had been tested on it," said Jordan Gammon. "It was a little stressful, but my training took over."

The newspaper reported that a doctor and an airport employee with a defibrillator arrived to help. The device analyzed the woman's heart rhythm and delivered a single shock, at which point the rescuers found a pulse. Local firefighters arrived soon after, taking the woman to a hospital.

She underwent open-heart surgery but appears to be doing well. Authorities believe the 33-year-old woman had a pre-existing condition that was exacerbated when she ran to catch a flight.

For Jordan, the rescue was a reminder of why he wants to become a full-time firefighter, following in the footsteps of his father and both of his grandfathers. While at Northwestern, Jordan was a two-year member of the Orange City Fire Department.

"I enjoy helping people, and it's always interested me," Gammon told the *Register*. "Being able to help this lady was a blessing."

Orange City Fire Chief Denny Vander Wel says Gammon and fellow California native Taylor Malm '11, who also seeks a career in firefighting, were excellent additions to the local force. "They are both very good citizens who will do well in this profession."

## Northwestern's Newest Graduates

Northwestern's alumni numbers grew by 251 after degrees were awarded to the college's class of 2011 during commencement ceremonies May 14.

Nearly all of the graduates were granted a Bachelor of Arts. The exceptions were 21 students who earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Among the employers hiring these latest Northwestern graduates are Interstates Control Systems, AmericanEagle.com, MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School, the Davenport

(Iowa) Parks and Recreation Department, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Wealth Concepts, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and Cain Ellsworth & Company.

Other new alumni gained acceptance into graduate programs at schools that include the University of Iowa, Western Theological Seminary, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Baylor and the University of South Carolina.



Kathleen Phillips and Jesus Santoyo celebrate following Northwestern's May commencement.

DAN ROSS

## The Arts Add Business Smarts

Starting this fall, Northwestern will offer a new minor in arts administration for art, music and theatre majors who want to broaden their options in the arts job market.

The program is "a pragmatic addition to our fine arts programs," says Dr. Robert Hubbard, chair of Northwestern's theatre department.

"Our student artists are very talented," he adds, describing the awards they've won as performers and their experience with productions, concerts and exhibits.

But, he says, "Few artists make their living solely through performing or producing art. This minor enables them to offer administrative and promotional skills to arts organizations that want employees who also understand art, artists and creative endeavors."

In addition to courses in business and public relations, the new minor requires an internship. Arts students have interned through the Chicago Semester and the Los Angeles Film Studies Center. Last spring, a Northwestern student interned in arts management at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

## Of Course

### The Good News

#### Class

Christian Witness

#### Instructor

Dr. Michael Andres

*Associate Professor of Religion*

Students in Dr. Michael Andres' Christian Witness class may not be able to say what "postmodernism" means. But they know how it feels: like trying to grab onto Jell-O.

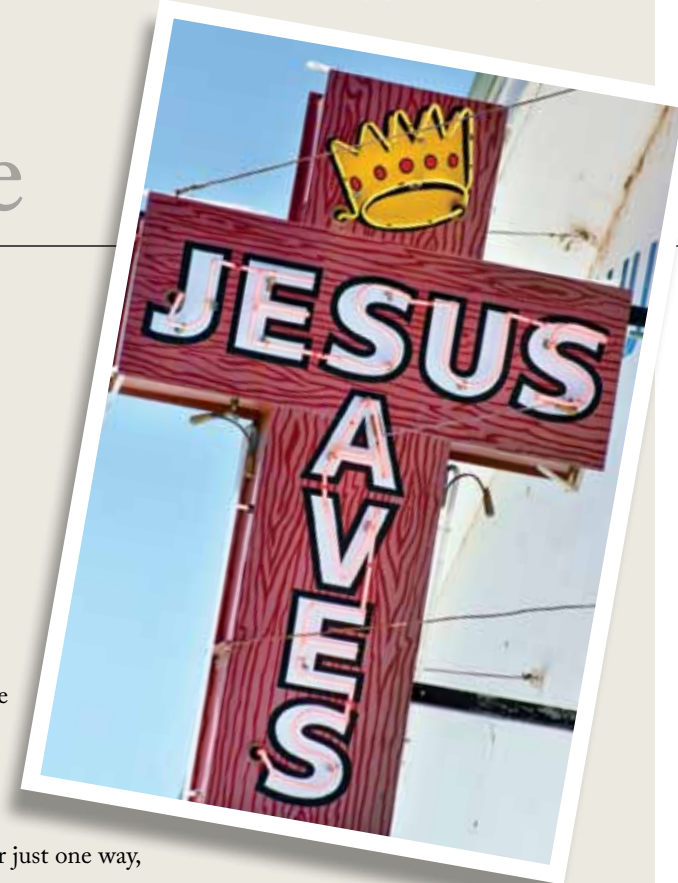
In a cultural context where the ground is constantly shifting, how does one stand up for just one way, one truth?

"A few students come into the class with a gung-ho, preach-it-on-the-street-corner view of Christian witness," says Andres, "and I appreciate that impulse. But more of them are skeptical of that model. They perceive Christians who witness that way as pushy salesmen. They think to press your beliefs on someone might be arrogant or insensitive."

For students who are wondering how to witness, Andres' class offers practical models. It also seeks to encourage young Christians awash in postmodern relativism to anchor themselves—to have confidence in their ability to know and speak the truth.

Andres teaches students about a holistic Christian witness that comes straight from Scripture. It includes verbal proclamation (evangelism), reasoned defense (apologetics) and social action (justice). "Paul may be the best example," he says, adding that in addition to understanding Christ's teachings and preaching them boldly, Paul also advocated for the weak and vulnerable.

Andres also points to Christian leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Perkins to show students what holistic Christian witness looks like. "Like King, Perkins opposes racism and fights for civil rights," says Andres. "He also values a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and isn't shy talking about how much he wants to know Jesus and share the Good News."



#### Texts and Assignments

Among the six books students read for Christian Witness are these:

- *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself*, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, by Timothy Keller
- *Good News and Good Works: A Theology for the Whole Gospel*, by Ronald Sider

Students also participate in a class-wide service-learning project. In fall 2009, when the class was last offered, students met with the leadership and members of Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City. Based on what they learned, they wrote and presented a "Strategy of Christian Witness" proposal uniquely suited to the church's theology and members' social action passions.



# Observant Servant

This spring Dr. Mike Yoder emptied his office of the anti-war slogans, Latin American artifacts, field corn and old-fashioned canning jars that served to let students look into his life during his 28 years at NWC. An Illinois farmboy, Yoder attended college and then, as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, volunteered as a self-supporting missionary to Brazil. There he taught English, learned Portuguese and honed his sociological skills, observing and studying the culture. “I’ve always been an outsider,” says Yoder matter-of-factly. He describes being one of the only Mennonites in his public school, learning to live in a Latin American country, and feeling tension as a peace advocate



Raised Mennonite, Mike Yoder is opposed to all forms of violence, including war. The newly retired sociology professor says his pacifist convictions were always respected by a majority of his NWC colleagues and many of the students.

during wartime. As a sociology professor at NWC, he’s tried to maintain a degree of outsider-ness that lets him notice things others don’t. A sabbatical and reduced teaching load during his last two years enabled Yoder to conduct a last sociological research project with Northwestern as its subject. Through 325 surveys completed by students, faculty and staff and in-depth interviews conducted with nearly 150 campus community members, Yoder aimed to understand better the culture—and subcultures—at Northwestern today. The resulting 220-page report was his parting gift to colleagues. It highlights the challenges ahead, including educating students who are part of an “entitled” generation—one that often prioritizes a “fast-paced culture of fun and friends” over a culture of academic seriousness. It also highlights strengths of Northwestern’s culture: It’s an authentic, caring Christian community that trusts, intellectually and emotionally, that faith and knowledge are inherently connected—that to seek God means embracing God’s world with curiosity and openness. “It’s what I’ve grown to love about the Reformed faith,” says Yoder. “Reformed Christianity values faithfulness *and* intelligence.”

## De Jong Retires

As reported in the fall issue of the *Classic*, Ron De Jong ’71, vice president for external relations, retired this summer after 40 years of service to Northwestern’s admissions efforts. He continues to work for his alma mater on a part-time basis, cultivating donors in his role as a senior advancement officer.

## National Athletics Leader



Barry Brandt ’69, Northwestern’s athletic director, was elected to a one-year term as president of the NAIA’s Athletic Directors Association in June. He will also sit on the NAIA’s Council of Presidents. Brandt served as vice president this past year and as secretary the two previous years. He says his national role has been a

great professional development opportunity. “I’ve gotten to know athletic administrators and coaches from all over the country, see what issues they’re dealing with and learn from them.” While the NAIA has seen a number of schools leave for NCAA Divisions II and III, Brandt says a number of strong

schools want to get into the NAIA. “The association is making some good changes, including looking at how to improve marketing and working on guidelines related to membership issues.”

## Pest Control

Superbugs: Beware. Biology professor Dr. Elizabeth Truesdell and her students have teamed with researchers at the University of Iowa and physicians at the Hawarden (Iowa) Community Clinic to investigate methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections in northwest Iowa. MRSA has been called a “superbug” because of its resistance to antibiotics, which makes infections caused by MRSA very difficult to treat and potentially lethal. It has been researched extensively in hospitals and other clinical settings but is less studied in rural areas, where MRSA has been known to spread and can infect livestock.

Individuals who have a potential staph infection are offered enrollment in the study by their healthcare providers at the Hawarden clinic. Truesdell’s students, members of Northwestern’s Future Physicians Club, are gaining hands-on clinical research experience as they extract data from patient records and evaluate it for contributing factors to MRSA.

The study is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Researchers and physicians hope it will lead to better diagnosis, treatment and prevention of MRSA infections in rural areas. They plan eventually to expand the study to other northwest Iowa clinics.

# Face Value

## Vonda Post

Committed fun

**What do you love about your job?** The students! I enjoy being around them, and they keep me young by demanding lots of energy. Since college students are still growing and developing, their minds are receptive to suggestions and new ideas. I love the opportunity to mentor and influence them in positive ways.

**What is one of the biggest challenges in working with students?** Some students focus on activities rather than classes, but I understand that because that was me. I came to Northwestern to play volleyball and run track and sometimes studied just enough to get a good grade rather than to truly learn. I changed, though, and I hope to encourage my students to have appropriate priorities as well.

**How has your teaching style changed during your years at Northwestern?** In the beginning, I survived by teaching exactly the same way I had been taught. Over time, my teaching has evolved to stress understanding. I’m constantly asking, “Does this make sense to you?” I don’t want my students memorizing; I want them understanding.

**How do you relate to your students?** I’m very transparent—what you see is what you get. I want my students to really know me. (Plus, it’s easier to keep my stories straight by always telling the truth!)

**Describe yourself in three words:** Sincere, fun, committed.

**What do you do in your free time?** In addition to following my own kids’ activities, I make an effort to support my students by attending something they’re involved in: sports, fine arts, music or something else. It helps me relate to them by seeing their lives outside the classroom. In the summer, I



Vonda (Elgersma ’88) Post wants her accounting classes to be both fun and meaningful. After students gave her colorful whiteboard markers years ago, she always uses the one that matches her outfit, unless she’s wearing red—because a good accountant is never “in the red.”

love to do anything outdoors—like gardening, volleyball, camping, water sports and boating. The hotter and more humid the weather, the better.

**Name one thing you’d do with more time and money.** Travel! I’ve dreamed of going to Australia since childhood to watch kangaroos and see the Sydney Opera House.

**What is Northwestern’s greatest quality?** Northwestern has two. The first is our active Christian perspective in everything we do. Second, Northwestern’s community on campus is unique and very intentional. Students experience community here in a way that’s different from anywhere else.

**Do you have a favorite spot on campus?** I have a corner office with two windows—every accountant’s dream.





# Retrospective

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Out the expansive windows of Rein and Margo Vanderhill's home in Alton, Iowa, is the couple's native prairie, living art that changes color and texture with the seasons.

Inside the high-ceilinged studio and living spaces, the white walls are covered with the couple's paintings, including Rein's outsized berries and blooms and landscapes of the Lake Michigan shoreline. An imitation of Greek iconography frames a 10-foot doorway.

"I need to get on a ladder and work on that some more," says Vanderhill. He'll have time. Vanderhill retired this spring after 36 years as a professor in Northwestern College's art department.

"I feel like Peter Pan," he says, "because even though I've gotten older, my students have stayed the same age." Fresh-faced and full of creative juices.

As longtime director of the college's Te Paske Gallery, Vanderhill says, "I've had a show closed

or painting removed under nearly every president since I came." He sounds, maybe, a bit mischievous, contributing to an occasional art-fueled uproar.

The truth, though, is Vanderhill doesn't aim to have doors closed on an exhibit. But as an artist and committed, sometimes confrontational Reformed Christian, he takes to heart his responsibility to open eyes—and hopefully minds—to the power of sometimes provocative, always evocative art.

"[Art] is a dynamic relationship between the artist, viewer and the Creator of us all," he wrote in a 1997 essay for *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* after a brouhaha over an exhibit. "Art by its very definition deals with truth ... That is why [making and viewing art] is exciting, difficult, fearful and rewarding.

"Experiencing art is not safe, secure or predictable."

That's been true of Vanderhill too.



Rein Vanderhill, *Natural Balance*. Oil on canvas, 33 x 47 inches.



Rein Vanderhill, *Rite of Spring*. Oil on canvas, 62 x 124 inches.





DAV ROSS

Dawn Gildersleeve, left, and Charity Miles cruise on their way to a one-two finish in the 1500-meter run at the Red Raider Open.

# Red Zone

## Track and Field Broken Records

The Raiders set 20 school records in indoor and outdoor track this year. Six athletes earned NAIA All-American honors at outdoor nationals. Charity Miles finished second in the 5,000-meter run and joined with Dawn Gildersleeve, Brianna Hobbs and Teresa Scholten to place third in the 4x800 relay. Matt Huseman finished third in the high jump and Logan Ogden placed sixth in the discus. Miles was named the outstanding female performer at the GPAC outdoor meet.

## Baseball Sharing First

Northwestern tied for first place in the GPAC with a 16-6 mark. The Raiders finished 26-19 overall. Matt Negaard received NAIA All-American honorable mention after compiling a .367 batting average with 43 runs and 29 stolen bases. Negaard and Eddie Pantzlauff were named to the all-conference first team, with Steve Englund, Clint Gingerich, Taylor Morris and Mike Zoellner chosen for the second team.

## Softball Strong Finish

Going 14-8 in April, the Raiders finished 16-22 overall and were fifth in the GPAC with a 12-10 mark. Five players were named to the all-conference second team: Keely Bracelin, Rachel Harris, Kami Kuhlmann, Shelby Johnson and Alex Price. Chris Nachtigall, softball coach and athletic director at Iowa Mennonite School, was named the new head coach.

## Men's Golf Two All-Conference

Neil Malenke and Ryan Kiewiet made the all-conference team, placing seventh and 11th, respectively, in the four-round GPAC qualifier.

## Women's Golf Second Best

The Raiders shot the second lowest round in the program's history, 335, at the Dordt Invite. Maggie (Achterhof) Rozenboom, who recorded Northwestern's best-ever single-season and career scoring averages, placed second in the GPAC qualifier and was joined on the all-conference team by Taylor Kline, who placed seventh.

## Tennis Competitive

The Raiders placed fifth in the GPAC with a 4-4 record, 7-10 overall. Nessa Summers made the all-conference first team.

## Scholar-Athletes Honor Roll

Twenty-two Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 13 in track. Repeat honorees included Laura Starr in tennis and Sara Hess, Heidi Hildebrandt, Jordan Langer, Charity Miles and Jenna Sorensen in track.

## Cross Country New Head Coach

Nate Wolf '03, head track coach since 2004, now is also head cross country coach. He will be assisted by Dale Thompson, who led the program for 30 years.

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



NORTHWESTERN ARCHIVES

## Repurposed

BY AMY SCHEER

In 1980, the Rowenhorst Student Center was created from the shell of the Silent Sioux factory. Much of the facility was renovated in 2007, and another refurbishing project is under way.

The sheet metal business of Orange City's Silent Sioux Oil Burner Corporation stayed current with the times.

When oil brooders and heaters went the way of gas, the Silent Sioux, founded in 1921, shifted production. And when post office equipment came into high demand, workers loaded mailboxes into the two railroad cars that tracked into the back of the building.

Operations slowed after the corporation's president died in 1969; various businesses would move in, but none took. Eventually, the smooth-bricked rectangle on Highway 10 sat as quiet as its name.

Northwestern, meanwhile, experienced its own growing pains. Overcrowded athletic facilities and a small student center in Union (now Hospers) Hall limited campus recreational opportunities. To fulfill President Virgil

Rowenhorst's vision to develop the whole person—academically, spiritually and physically—the college purchased the factory from the Agri-Quip Company for \$325,000 in 1978.

By the fall of 1980, the renovated Silent Sioux became the Rowenhorst Student Center, a 90,000-square-foot facility named after the president, who died of cancer at age 54 the previous year. The campus showcase included a 250-seat theatre, an art gallery, and a large fitness area with a track and multiple courts.

"The parquet wooden floor was always the real eye-catcher," says Dale Thompson, who has served as director of the RSC since the building's second year.

He recalls how crowds of students would gather to watch the latest shows on a large projector television, or head over to the theatre for a reel-to-reel movie. Students would stop by after lunch

to check for mail and stay for a game of pool.

Then came e-mail. Televisions in rooms. Phones in pockets. Students taking a tour of the dark, mazelike structure would point to the snooker table and ask what it was for.

"The life of the building mirrors the life of the college," says Thompson. By 2007, the facility underwent another renovation, allowing for more light and greater visibility to student services, among other accommodations to the changing times.

This summer sees more construction on the center. A \$1.5 million project will result in fitness center improvements such as new flooring, lighting and heating. Housekeeping Supervisor Arlo Van Beek, who worked as a student on the factory changeover, was able to sneak on site and locate a trowel he accidentally dropped into a column 30 years before.



STEPHEN ALLEN

The tool now sits in his garage at home, where it has found a new purpose—as did the factory it helped renovate and the student center it built.





# Across the Faith Divide

Faithful Christian witness among Muslims starts with learning to love 'the other'

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Centuries ago, a man raised to believe in many gods became increasingly disturbed at the idol worship in his hometown. Convinced there was only one God, he boldly preached against the sanctuary that housed the idols and opposed the powerful tribe that controlled its access. When his message threatened the tribe's lucrative business among idol-worshipping pilgrims, he and his small band of converts left the only home they had ever known.

From those ignoble beginnings in 613 A.D., the followers of Muhammad have grown to an estimated 1.5 billion people. Approximately 22 percent of the global population is Muslim. With Christians at 33 percent, that makes Islam and Christianity the two largest religious faiths in the world.

Two Egyptian Christians stand guard while their Muslim countrymen pray during anti-government demonstrations last February in Cairo's Tahrir Square. A month earlier, Muslims formed a human shield around churches in Cairo following bombings by extremists.

PATRICK BAZZAF/GETTY IMAGES



Although Islam had its origins in what is now Saudi Arabia, four out of five Muslims today live outside the Middle East—many in Africa and Asia, where they encounter half of the world's Christians. Less than 1 percent of Americans are Muslim, but Islam will soon pass Judaism as the second largest religion in the U.S.

"Increasingly, this is a multicultural, multi-religious society," says John Hubers '76, a former missionary to the Middle East who joined Northwestern's religion faculty last fall. "The greatest numbers of non-Christians we're going to meet who are practicing another religion are going to be Muslims. They tend to be very well-educated community members—doctors, engineers, technology specialists—so if our graduates work in any major corporation in America, they're almost certainly going to be working with Muslims."

Hubers has another reason for championing interfaith dialogue besides preparation for a diverse world. Understanding, he says, is important for witnessing.

"There's no quicker way to close the channels of communication and the ability to share the love of Christ than Christians who, with the idea they're defending Christianity, end up prejudiced toward Muslims," he says. "If all that Muslims hear from Christians is hatred and stereotyping, how are they ever going to hear that Christ loves them?"

Hubers felt called to the ministry by the time he was a freshman at Northwestern. After graduating, he and his wife, Lynne (Lenderink '76), were sent by the RCA to Bahrain, where they taught English. It was there they realized their calling to ministry was in the context of Muslim-Christian relations.

Two years later, the Hubers returned to the U.S. so John could earn a Master of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. While in seminary, he spent a year in Egypt, interning with RCA missionary Dr. Harold Vogelaar '57 and learning more about Islam and interfaith relations.

After serving an RCA church in New York, the Hubers returned to the Middle East, where John pastored churches in Oman and Bahrain for 10 years. His parishioners were expatriates—foreigners from Asia, Europe, Africa and America who were living in the Arabian Gulf—and as their pastor, Hubers encouraged them to develop an informed, sensitive, caring Christian witness to Muslims.

Now working on a Ph.D. in world Christianity and global mission at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Hubers is following a similar calling as a professor. Few people with an evangelical background have both experience and academic credentials in Islamic studies. His goal is to share his wisdom with the next generation of Christian leaders

who will increasingly be involved in Christian-Muslim relations.

"Whether it's my atheist neighbor or my Muslim neighbor, the best way to share the love of Jesus Christ is to know who they are—to understand how *they* see the world," Hubers says. "So when I'm teaching World Religions, the first thing I say is we need to understand these faiths from the perspective of the people who hold them."

Kendra Dahlbacka '10 is doing just that. She participated in a Spring Service Project in Minneapolis her junior year, teaching English to refugees from Somalia, a predominantly Muslim nation. During their SSP, the students also visited a mosque, ate at Somali restaurants, and shopped at a *souq*, or Arab/Muslim market.

Now a third grade Spanish teacher in a Minneapolis suburb, Dahlbacka is taking Arabic classes at a Muslim community center, where she's the only non-Muslim in a class that includes people from Somalia, India, Kenya and Pakistan. Her classmates are there to learn to read the Quran, Islam's holy book. She is there to learn Arabic in order to understand Muslims and their culture.

"I'm still at the listening point," says Dahlbacka, who has spent time with the other women in their homes.

God has given a burden for Muslims to Dahlbacka, who says they are misunderstood and portrayed as villains by the media. "People are afraid to love on them because of

9/11 and the things that have happened that have marred relations between Muslims and Christians," she says. "But Jesus went out of his way to be with people who were marginalized, and in a lot of ways, Muslims are marginalized in the U.S."

"Whether it's my atheist neighbor or my Muslim neighbor, the best way to share the love of Jesus Christ is to know who they are—to understand how *they* see the world."

The Christian-Muslim tensions that characterize so much of the world today weren't always true of the two faiths. When Muhammad's followers were persecuted, some of them found asylum in the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia, whose king heard in their story of abandoning idols to worship one God something that resonated with his own faith.

It is likely Muhammad was introduced to the concept of monotheism by Christians and Jews. Muslim sources say he met Christian monks while on trading missions, and his hometown, Mecca, was a trading center that attracted Jewish tribes.

Hubers, however, doesn't believe Muhammad ever heard the mes-

The Rev. John Hubers spent a dozen years in the Middle East and is working on a doctorate in world Christianity and global mission. An evangelical with both experience and expertise in Islamic studies, he joined Northwestern's religion faculty last fall to pass his knowledge on to the next generation of Christian leaders.

sage of true, orthodox Christianity. In 431 A.D., after the Council of Chalcedon declared that Jesus was fully human *and* fully divine, Eastern Christians didn't accept that decision and were declared heretics. There were also heretical Christians in the Arabian Peninsula teaching something that approached tritheism, worshipping Mary along with Father and Son.

By all accounts, Muhammad was an upright, generous and pious man. His nickname, *al-Amin*, means "faithful, trustworthy one," and in contrast to the norms of Middle Eastern culture, he was initially married to one woman for 25 years until her death. Troubled by Mecca's religious and economic system in which the poor were exploited by the rich and powerful, he frequently went on solitary religious retreats in the mountains surrounding the city.

Islam teaches it was on such a retreat in 610 A.D. that Muhammad heard a voice command, "Recite!" and thus began a 20-year period of revelations that became the Quran—literally, "the Recitation." For Muslims, the Quran is Islam's one miracle.

"Muslims believe that Muhammad received, word for word, this direct revelation from God, dictated by the angel Gabriel," Hubers explains. That many believe Muhammad was illiterate makes the Quran seem even

more miraculous to the Muslim faithful, as it's widely seen as the most powerful, poetic book ever written in Arabic.

Convinced he had been chosen as a prophet and claiming to be the Messenger of God, Muhammad continued to preach of one God and a coming Day of Judgment until he and his followers emigrated to Yathrib, 250 miles north of Mecca. There he united warring tribes into one faith community that eventually became known as Medina, or "The City of the Prophet." It was the birthplace of Islam as a religious, political and social movement.

Eight years later—after a series of battles with the ruling tribe of Mecca—Muhammad returned to his hometown followed by 10,000 men. After receiving the key to the city and declaring amnesty for most of his enemies, he made his way to the *Ka'ba*, the center of idol worship, entered the sanctuary, and destroyed all the idols inside.



DOUG BURG







Said Ben Saida (left) and Nic Andersen visit while their wives prepare *Kotban*, a Moroccan dish. Despite their differences in faith, the two Orange City families—one Muslim and the other Christian—have become close friends.

“There is no god but God, and Muhammad is God’s messenger.” In Islam, saying the *Shahadah*—the confession of faith—with conviction is what makes a person a Muslim (literally, “one who submits” to God).

“I tell Muslim friends we’re really on the same page with the first part of the Shahadah,” says Hubers. “It’s the second part where we begin to move in different directions.”

Islam, Christianity and Judaism share a belief in one God. Many Christians, however, are unconvinced that Muslims’ Allah is the God of the Bible. Those who argue the two are different focus on ways in which Muslims’ perception of Allah varies from what Christians know of the nature of God.

Hubers says that’s to be expected, since it is through Jesus Christ that God revealed himself fully and completely. “If your argument is that unless you understand the Trinitarian nature of God you are worshipping a different god, then you have to make that same statement about Judaism,” he maintains.

Like Hubers, Dr. Ray Weiss spent more than a decade in the Middle East, where he taught at a Lebanese college and served as the pastor of an Arabic-speaking church in Bahrain. A former chaplain and professor emeritus of religion at Northwestern, Weiss cautions, “Allah is the only name for God in my Arabic Bible and the only name by which we prayed in church. So if you say Allah is their God and *we* have another God—because Allah in their language means ‘*the* God’—it’s as if you are saying we don’t worship ‘the God.’”

Islam and Christianity hold some beliefs in common: the revelation of God through nature, the existence of angels and Satan, the sovereignty of

God, a coming Day of Judgment. Islam teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin, performed miracles, ascended into heaven, and will one day return. Where the two faiths diverge is in their understanding of who Jesus claimed to be.

For Muslims, Jesus is one in a long line of prophets given by God to specific people groups. Some of those prophets were also given books: Moses, the Torah; David, the *Zabur*, or Psalms; and Jesus, the *Injil*, or Gospel. Muhammad, they believe, is the “seal of the prophets”—the last and greatest—and the book he was given, the Quran, contains God’s literal words and is God’s final revelation.

While there are verses about Jesus in the Quran, both Abraham and Moses have greater prominence in Islam. And the Quran teaches that Jesus was not the Son of God and was never crucified.

“Since Muslims believe the Quran is the very words of God, when the Quran contradicts the Bible, they believe the Bible is wrong,” Hubers says. “They think Christians have tampered with Scripture, twisting it to insert our Trinitarian ideas.”

Without a Savior, Muslims envision a future in which—at a time no one knows—the world will end and God will measure people’s good deeds against their bad.



Both Hubers and Weiss baptized just two converts during their respective years of service in Bahrain. When Hubers is asked about the resistance of Muslims to the gospel, he reverses the question to help one see things from a Muslim perspective.

“Consider why it is so difficult for a Christian to become a Muslim,” he says. “First, you’re convinced that what you have is the fullest expression of a relationship with God. Why would you give that up for something that seems to offer less?” Muslims feel the same way about their faith.

Islam also puts a great emphasis on community and has a holistic understanding of faith, so when someone leaves Islam, it can be perceived almost the same way a political traitor is viewed. Because many of the cultures where Islam is prominent are communal cultures, people understand that the decisions they make impact everyone in their family.

Most crucially, Hubers says, Islam has a built-in critique of Christianity. “Jesus is in Islam, but it’s a different Jesus, and because of Muslims’ high regard for the Quran as the word of God, that’s the final expression of who Jesus is. It’s a challenge trying to share Christ with people who have an alternative understanding of him.”

That’s not to say Christians shouldn’t share their faith with their Muslim neighbors. Dahlbacka advises: Love people, pray for opportunities, and God will do the rest. Hubers stresses the importance of genuine, caring friendships. “Among the Muslims I’ve known who have become Christians,” he says, “most were loved into the faith—not argued into it.”

Relationships with understanding, non-prejudiced Christians are especially important at a time when many Muslims are experiencing discrimination and hatred. Originally from Morocco, Said Ben Saida has lived in the United States for more than 20 years and in Orange City since 1996.

“Things got hard after 9/11,” he says. “Some people look at me and just because I’m Arab, I’m the enemy.”

Ben Saida was raised as a Muslim by devout parents. “My father never drank alcohol,” he says. “He never looked at another woman. He told us to be honest and work for our living. Don’t steal. Don’t cheat.”

When his brother married a woman from Granville, Ben Saida accepted his invitation to join them in Iowa. He settled in Orange City after meeting his wife, who converted to Islam after they were wed. Small-town life suits him.

“I love it,” he says. “I leave my car without locking it. The neighbors are great. They really live by their Christian values, and those Christian values and my Muslim values made like heaven of this place.”

Among Ben Saida’s neighbors is a man he describes as “a young evangelist.” A committed Christian, Nic Andersen is bold about sharing his faith, while Ben Saida prefers not to preach to non-Muslims. As the two families became close, Andersen’s efforts to convert his friend created friction.

“It was like a boxing match,” says Ben Saida. “We are both passionate.” The two stopped talking about religion but continued their friend-

ship. One day, as Andersen was helping him work on his roof, Ben Saida turned to his neighbor and said, “Nic, I love you, and you love me. You want to save me, and I want the best also for you. Let’s not close ourselves to this communication.”



Not all interactions between Christians and Muslims are so positive. Tensions between the two faiths in places like the Sudan, Nigeria and Egypt are costing lives.

Eliza Grizwold, an award-winning journalist and author of *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line between Christianity and Islam*, told *Christianity Today*, “[O]ne of the most overlooked and important human rights issues facing us today is the treatment of religious minorities.” She also says religious conflicts often have a secular trigger: a power struggle over politics, land, water, oil or natural resources.

Anti-government demonstrations that began in Tunisia in February have spread to Algeria, Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain and Syria. The result of the “Arab Spring” could be governments that are more democratic and tolerant. As John Hubers contends, “The biggest loser in all of this has been the radical Islamist. These are revolutions led by the young, well-educated and highly wired—reformers who would argue that to be more Islamic is to be more open.”

Whatever the outcome of the Middle East protests, however, it won’t be governments that provide solutions to interfaith conflict. The Rev. Doug Leonard, who directs Northwestern’s Oman Semester, is also director of the Al Amana Centre, which is dedicated to promoting Christian-Muslim understanding and peace. The central question of interfaith work, he says, is how we should interact with the “other.”

One month after 9/11, in a poll conducted by the *Washington Post*, 14 percent of Americans said they wouldn’t want a Muslim as a neighbor. When the same poll was conducted seven years later, that figure had grown to 34 percent.

While it may be human nature to view those unlike ourselves with fear and suspicion, Christ models another way, Leonard says—“the way of relationship maintained by the tools of love, humility, forgiveness and bearing with one another when we clash.”

Renowned Christian theologian Hans Kung has written about the importance of interfaith understanding. He maintains that understanding and peace between Christians and Muslims is more essential for peace in our world than peace between any other groups, since together the two faiths make up more than half of the global population.

“There will not be peace among the nations,” he says, “unless there is peace between the religions.”

And there will not be peace between religions unless there is peace—and understanding—between one person and another. 🏠



# UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

## The 5 Pillars of Islam

In Islamic teaching, human beings aren't naturally sinful, but they *are* naturally forgetful, weak and easily drawn astray. The Five Pillars are the foundational practices of the Islamic community—ritualistic reminders that are a gift from God to a forgetful people.

### Shahadah

*The testimony of faith*

“There is no god but God, and Muhammad is God’s apostle.”

### Salat

*Ritual prayers*

Made five times a day at sunrise, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening, facing Mecca. *Salat* begins with ritualistic purifications; includes the repetition of words from the Quran, said in Arabic; and involves specific motions, such as bowing with forehead to the ground.

### Sawm

*Ramadan fast*

The ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which devout Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking and sex from sunup to sundown in order to increase their remembrance of God and his blessings.

### Hajj

*Pilgrimage to Mecca*

The duty of all able-bodied Muslims once during their lifetime; a deeply moving, community-building experience.

### Zakat

*Almsgiving*

A voluntary tithe of 2.5 percent of a person’s income that is given to the poor.



## Sunni and Shi’ite

Disagreement about who should succeed Muhammad continues to divide Muslims to this day.

The majority of Muhammad’s followers supported Abu Bakr, the prophet’s friend and loyal companion. Today they are known as the Sunni, are considered “orthodox,” and represent 90 percent of the world’s Muslims. Hubers likens them to Protestants in that they have no single spokesperson or leader.

A vocal minority of Muslims wanted Muhammad’s successor to be from his bloodline. Since the prophet had no sons, they championed Ali, Muhammad’s nephew and son-in-law, and Ali’s sons—all of whom were assassinated or killed in battle. Named for the Arabic word that means sect, Shi’ites compose roughly 10 percent of Muslims and are a persecuted minority.

Like Catholics with their Pope, Shi’ites follow someone they believe is a divinely inspired leader—in their case, a cleric called an ayatollah. Shi’ite Muslims compose the majority of the populations in Iran, Iraq and Bahrain, but they’re in power only in Iran. In the latter two countries, the Shi’ite majority are ruled by Sunni leaders.

## Jihad and Infidels

In his book *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*, author Reza Aslan says that of all the words in Arabic that can be translated as “war,” *jihad* isn’t one of them.

“The word *jihad* literally means ‘a struggle,’ ‘a striving,’ or ‘a great effort,’” Aslan writes. “In its primary religious connotation ... it means the struggle of the soul to overcome sinful obstacles that keep a person from God.”

A secondary meaning is “any exertion—military or otherwise—against oppression and tyranny. And while this definition of jihad has occasionally been manipulated by militants and extremists to give religious sanction to what are in actuality social and political agendas, that is not at all how Muhammad understood the term.”

Likewise, *infidel* has been corrupted from its original meaning. “When infidel is used in early Islam, it’s not referring to Christians and Jews,” Hubers says. “Many of the verses in the Quran about God’s enemies that sound very, very harsh are written about the idol worshipers who were trying to destroy Muhammad and his followers.”

## Shariah Law

Shariah Law is Islamic law based on the teachings of the Quran, the *hadith* (stories of Muhammad and his early companions), and historical rulings by judges. There are four schools of Shariah Law, so there isn’t agreement among Muslims as to what constitutes Shariah Law.

Only two countries have Shariah as the law of the land: Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

Worries about the spread of Shariah are unfounded, Hubers says. “If it’s so important for Muslims to impose Shariah Law in their societies, then why do Muslim-majority countries *not* have Shariah as the law of the land?” he asks. “Some of the greatest opposition to that comes from other Muslims.”

Part of that resistance stems from the fact that punishments that are part of the stricter interpretations of Islam are very harsh—for example, cutting off the hands of thieves and stoning adulterers. “That gets magnified in the press, so this incredibly complex system of law and code for life gets boiled down to two things,” Hubers says.

What makes Shariah Law most problematic for Christians is its punishment for apostasy. In a strict interpretation of Islamic law, anyone who converts from Islam to another religion can be put to death.

“Even where that’s law, it’s rarely been carried out by the courts,” Hubers says. “When converts are killed, it’s usually family members taking revenge on other family members. Islamic countries are responsive to world opinion, and even in those countries, there’s not an agreement among all Muslims that Shariah should be interpreted so harshly.”

**On the Web** *exclusive*

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## Bearing Trust

BY GRETE HELSTAD CARLSON

In Oman’s desert villages and gleaming modern capital, there are Muslims who have memorized foreign names: Zwemer, Cantine, Barny, DePree, Dykstra, Kapenga, Thoms, Harrison, Bosch. Middle Eastern oral traditions ensure that wisdom and experiences of ancestors enrich future generations, so these faithful Ibadi Muslims pay reverent tribute to Christian missionaries of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) who came to bear witness to God’s love in Christ.

For 120 years, RCA missionaries have been coming to this arid nation on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Samuel Zwemer arrived in Muscat in 1891 to establish the RCA’s mission in collaboration with His Majesty Sultan Faisal Bin Turki Al Said, great grandfather to Oman’s current sultan.

Two years later, Zwemer’s brother Peter and James Cantine established a home for orphans of slaves from Zanzibar. Elizabeth DePree, the first single woman sent to Oman by the RCA in 1904, established an elementary school and taught English, educating the sons of prominent Omanis, including the royal family. Dirk and Minnie Dykstra began educating girls in the 1930s.

Dr. Sharon Thoms, the first RCA surgeon in Oman, established a 15-bed hospital in 1910, treating 10,000 patients in his first year. Twenty years later, Dr. Paul Harrison turned down a teaching position at Harvard Medical School to work as a surgeon in Oman and train Omani doctors and nurses.

Dr. Don and Eloise Bosch arrived in 1954. Eloise taught at Al Amana School, and Don served as administrator of an RCA hospital. When the sultan’s mother became gravely ill, Bosch saved her life, even moving her into his home temporarily to provide round-the-clock care.

By the early ‘60s, RCA medical facilities were the single largest private employer in the country, and in 1973—after Oman gained economic stability through oil and political stability under new leadership—the RCA gave its medical facilities to the government.

Oman is now a model of modern development, thanks to wise investment of oil wealth in extensive infrastructures, including 6,000 kilometers of paved roads and eight-lane super-highways, 1,053 coed public schools, 21 coed colleges and universities, and modern clinics and hospitals. In 2010, the United Nations Human Development Index declared that Oman’s standard of living had improved more in 40 years than any other nation.

When the Al Amana School was no longer needed, RCA leaders developed a new vision for Al Amana Centre to continue “bearing trust,” or *al amana*. Oman’s minister of religious affairs has honored Al Amana Centre with an unprecedented partnership. Together these agencies bring prominent interfaith scholars from universities like Cambridge, Yale and Georgetown to speak at Oman’s Grand Mosque, advancing their agenda for nurturing Christian-Muslim understanding and peace.





# ARAB SPRING

BY GRETE HELSTAD CARLSON

Students in Northwestern's first Oman Semester visited Muscat's Grand Mosque several times for interfaith lectures—including one by John Esposito, consultant to the U.S. State Department, Georgetown University religion professor, and founding director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown's Walsh School of Foreign Service.

When students in Northwestern's Oman Semester attended an interfaith lecture by Georgetown University's John Esposito soon after arriving in Muscat, Ellen Tolsma, as a woman, had to sit in the back of the Grand Mosque.

Surrounded by local Omani women in traditional *hajib* dress, she smoothed her own colorful head covering, smiled, and introduced herself in halting Arabic to the young woman sitting beside her. The woman's response was in English. It was also overwhelmingly warm, welcoming and enthusiastic.

When her new friend, Fathiya, invited her on a family outing to Nizwa, Tolsma was a little nervous about an all-day car trip with people she barely knew. But when Fathiya came to pick her up, Tolsma's apprehension disappeared: "As Fathiya walked toward me, her warm, open nature made me feel calm. Her warmth was not unique but true of all the Omanis I met. They welcomed us all to a new culture and a whole new world."

Through Fathiya, Tolsma also met Hadeel and LuLu, who invited her for coffee, family dinners and overnights. "I even attended a traditional

engagement party," she says, "which is an honor usually reserved for family. My relationships make me want to return to Oman—to friends who have changed my life forever."

This past January, Northwestern launched the Oman Semester with six students. They lived in the "Old City" of Muttrah in the capital of Muscat, the cultural and political center of the most peaceful, open and welcoming country in the Middle East. Oman, on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, provided a balmy semester by the sea for the students, who didn't seem to mind leaving Iowa's icy roads and snowy campus behind.

The Oman Semester grew out of collaboration among former Al Amana Centre director the Rev. Michael Bos; Northwestern sociology professor Dr. Scott Monsma; and Dr. Douglas Carlson, associate dean of Northwestern's Global Education Center. Since 2004, nearly 30 students have studied in Oman for a few weeks as part of Northwestern's study abroad program.

Carlson has visited Oman several times, including in 2007 to help shape the semester-long program. "People ask, 'Why Oman?' but anyone



BRIAN MORIARTY

In addition to learning Arabic and attending classes at Sultan Qaboos University, students also traveled throughout Oman, including to Wahiba Sands, where they rode camels.

who has been there has experienced the Omanis' warm welcome for American Christians and their deep respect for the work of RCA missionaries," Carlson says.

"Northwestern's mission statement affirms our commitment to engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living," he explains. "Studying abroad in the Middle East—especially right now—creates so many opportunities for that engagement."

Northwestern students lived at the Al Amana Centre in the historic Date Palm House that was once the home of RCA missionaries. A 12-foot wall encloses a lush lawn under date palm trees, long-ago gifts to mission doctors, while pink blossoms cascade over stairways. Warm sea breezes drift over the rooftops as the call to prayer echoes from area mosques: "There is no god but God ..."

Just beyond the gate, a remnant of the wall that once surrounded Muttrah creates a towering portal to "the *souq*," a marketplace filled with sweet aromas of sandalwood and frankincense. Booths overflow with bright pashminas, saffron and nut-filled dates. Omani families wander the cobblestone path, children playing and babies perched on fathers' shoulders.

It's a short walk from Al Amana Centre, through the souq, to the corniche of polished marble walkways along the sea and shady gazebos of golden filigree. Most evenings Tyler McKenney met Ali and Ahmed on the corniche. "We often talked late into the night about life in Oman and America, discovering many similarities," he says of his new friends. "Ahmed was determined to teach me Arabic, and I taught him English. They are two of the friendliest people I have ever met."

In addition to studying Arabic for six hours each week, the students

also attended an astronomy class at Sultan Qaboos University and engaged Omani culture through independent research projects guided by Ahmed Al-Mukhaini, a professor and attorney who is a leader of Oman's human rights community and former adviser to two U.S. ambassadors.

In a course on Christian-Muslim relations led by Al Amana Director the Rev. Doug Leonard, students read *Theologies of Religions* by Paul Knitter. "Studying Knitter's book while in Oman pushed my faith into places I was not expecting," says Kameron Toews. "I wrestled with ideas I had not thought about before and came out with a more developed idea of Christianity and how it relates to other faiths. My own faith has become stronger and more mature."

Weekend trips offered a broader understanding of Oman's culture and, Nic Leither says, "Travel was the best way for friendships to grow within our group." Students visited a 3,000-year-old archaeological site, hiked Oman's "Grand Canyon," snorkeled coastal reefs, swam in wadis, rode camels, and saw giant sea turtles lay eggs on a moonlit beach.

Leonard says Northwestern's first Oman Semester offered profound encounters with Islam and Arab culture through relationships. "By the second week, students were playing soccer, going out for coffee and having dinner with Omani friends.

"By semester's end, amid tears, embraces and promises to attend future weddings, they realized they had changed. Their souls were enlarged with the joy of following Christ's intercultural leading—his outrageous calling to befriend 'the other.'" 🕌



# Top Dog

**Northwestern student establishes national reputation as dog handler**

BY DUANE BEESON

It's Saturday morning in the park, and seven-year-old Zach shows evidence of his lively cairn terrier heritage. Like his ancestors, bred to hunt vermin in the Scottish Highlands, the dog quickly notices the squirrel to the right and the bird behind him. While perfectly coiffed by his handler, Riley DeVos, the little dog is more interested in what's going on around him than in his upcoming photo shoot.

Yet Zach also conveys the qualities that made him one of the top cairn terriers in the nation. One minute he's licking DeVos' face; the next he responds to her command and holds perfectly still, legs out and tail raised.

DeVos, a senior elementary education major from Le Mars, Iowa, showed Zach twice at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York's Madison Square Garden and at the Eukanuba National Championship in 2006 and 2007. Her work with him and other dogs has led her to become known as one of the nation's up-and-coming dog handlers.

She handles dogs for other owners around the country, is working toward becoming a junior showmanship judge, and is trying her hand at breeding the next generation of dog show winners. DeVos also trains misbehaving dogs and does some grooming.

It all started in the fifth grade with a book about show dogs and a visit to Tom De Koster's ('64) class by dog handler Mary Fedders. Fascinated with the cairn terrier and Fedders' stories of dog shows, DeVos volunteered to write a thank-you note to the classroom guest.

"I told her I wanted to show dogs someday," says DeVos. Impressed, Fedders invited the girl to join her at a local show and allowed her to show a puppy.

It was an inauspicious beginning—placing second out of two entries—but DeVos was hooked. "I thought it was the best thing ever."

Two years later, DeVos brought home a puppy on Christmas Eve. It was Zach, handpicked as a great show prospect by Fedders.

While a high school student, DeVos went to shows 40 weekends a year with Zach and other dogs. Spending only a few hours a week with her dogs while at Northwestern has helped her realize how much she misses them.

"I really like that I can take a dog and, within a few minutes, develop a bond with it. And I love the feeling of teamwork in the ring. It's amazing that a dog knows what I want just from the way I look at him," says DeVos, whose dogs have won nearly every award possible except for best in show.

DeVos' ability to make dogs respond to her is the result of a studious devotion to her sport. "She reads everything she can get her hands on about dogs," says Fedders, who co-owns all her dogs with the Northwestern student. "She observes other handlers and learns from them."

During the summer, DeVos ramps up her dog show schedule,

handling at shows from Omaha to Fargo and Minneapolis to Chicago. It's a schedule she could see herself doing for years as a special education teacher.

DeVos has several dog show friends who are also going into special education. "There are so many similarities between how you work with dogs and children," she says. "You need to be patient, loving and caring, but sometimes you have to be firm."

DeVos spent the previous two summers teaching teens from Girls Inc. to do dog training as a way to help build their confidence and learn a life skill. She knows from personal experience how effective that can be.

"I used to be incredibly shy; I would be in tears talking in front of a group. Having to carry myself as a teenager in front of people at a dog show and be seen as somebody who knows what she's doing helped make me more mature and self-confident."

Watching from the sidelines for most of that time was Fedders, the mentor who saw something in a wide-eyed fifth grader and gave her many opportunities.

"She's like my kid," says Fedders. "We've been to shows around the country, done breedings together, walked puppies together. When you're waiting hours for puppies to be born, you become quite close. I think she's a really special young lady."

A rare breed, indeed. 🏠



Riley DeVos celebrates a Best of Breed win in Chicago with cairn terrier Petra.



# class Notes

'67 **Faye (Ten Pas) Wetherbe**, Lubbock, Texas, is a part-time health and wellness consultant with Arbonne International and an editor for her family's publishing business. Her husband, Bond, teaches information systems in the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University.

'69 **Cal Groen**, Lewiston, Idaho, retired in March after 21 years with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, where he most recently served as director.

'70 **The Rev. Terry Muller** pastors two small churches: Raritan (Ill.) Reformed and Bethel Lutheran in Stronghurst. His wife, **Laura (Kreun)**, helps with the preschool program at a daycare center.

'75 **Dr. Tom Smith**, co-pastor of Faith Reformed Church in Rock Valley, Iowa, was elected vice president of the Reformed Church in America's General Synod in June.

'81 **Sherry (Stubbs) Vander Ploeg** is director of Church of the Cross Preschool in Altoona, Iowa.

'83 **Della Jahnke**, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., is pursuing a bachelor's degree in graphic art from Lakeland College.

'85 **Susan (Gruis) Hielkema** has earned a master's degree in education from Ohio State University. She teaches in the Gahanna-Jefferson (Ohio) Public Schools.

'86 **Julianne (James) Doty**, Herrin, Ill., teaches English and French at Agape Christian High School.

'88 **Bill Francis** was named the 2011 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year by the *Northwest Iowa Review* after leading the Boyden-Hull High School team to a state tournament berth and a 17-8 record.

'91 **Wendy (Wilhite) Krischel** is director of home health and hospice at Pocahontas (Iowa) Community Hospital.

'93 **Mark Vander Zwaag**, Orange City, is a marketing representative for North Star Mutual Insurance Company in Cottonwood, Minn.

'95 **Dr. Jason Kanz**, Eau Claire, Wis., is a neuropsychologist at Marshfield Clinic. He serves on the executive committee of African Christian University in Zambia and edits the newsletter for the *Society for Christian Psychology*.

'96 **Jon Holthe** serves as vice president and senior trust officer for Central State Bank in Muscatine, Iowa.

'97 **Gretchen (Vander Velde) Bruhn** is the K-12 media specialist for Sioux Center (Iowa) Community Schools.

'99 **TJ Buchholz** was recently named head women's soccer coach at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. He previously coached at the University of California-Riverside, Wartburg College and NWC.

**Kirk Johnson** is the new principal of Waukee (Iowa) High School. He served as principal at Vinton-Shellsburg High School the last three years.

**Tim Klein**, manager of Wells Fargo's Sioux Falls Home Preservation Team, received the Volunteer of the Year award from the local Wells Fargo Volunteer Chapter. He contributed 163 hours of volunteer service in 2010 as a Habitat for Humanity project manager, Junior Achievement volunteer, United Way campaign section chair, Hands on Banking educator, and blood drive donor. As the Volunteer of the Year, he received a \$1,000 grant for Habitat for Humanity.

## Red Ties

**MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81**  
Director of Alumni Relations

An ongoing discussion among alumni directors concerns whether Homecoming is for students or alumni. Of course, the easy answer is that it's for both groups. However, that doesn't necessarily solve the question of what events make for a successful Homecoming.

Students might want Homecoming activities to be a break from normal college life Alumni want to reminisce and reconnect—go back to college, in a sense. When it comes to alumni participation in Homecoming, the main question I try to answer is, "What inspires people who no longer live here to come back?"

As we plan for Homecoming 2011, we're discussing reunions and other activities for alums and students alike. "Affinity" seems to be a common theme and a concept that crosses class years. So in addition to class reunions, we're also offering reunions organized around student groups, activities and traditions.

Watch the Homecoming publicity or visit [www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming](http://www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming) to learn if teams, clubs or other student groups you used to belong to are having reunions. Or better yet, contact me to initiate one.

Maybe you'd like to gather the cast of *Godspell*, anyone who had Harlan Van Oort '82 as an RA, or biology majors who also went to the University of Iowa—let me know and we will try to help you plan an affinity reunion.

One affinity gathering of sorts happening this year is our Donor Appreciation Banquet, taking place Sept. 30, the Friday evening before Homecoming.

This new event is for NWC supporters whose love of the college has led to significant investment—including members of the Tower and Heritage societies, donors who've given annually for more than 20 years, and givers who've reached six- and seven-figure lifetime giving milestones. If your generous or consistent donations qualify you, you'll receive an invitation to the event in August.

And if you haven't returned to campus in awhile—or even if you visit regularly—come for Homecoming this October 1. We're eager to welcome you back.



'02 **Paul Knudson** completed a doctorate in sociology from the State University of New York at Albany. He is an assistant professor of sociology at The College of Saint Rose in Albany.

**David Perrigo** is principal of Edmunds Elementary, an inner-city school in Des Moines.

**Rachel Van Den Broek** earned a master's degree in business leadership from William Penn University in December. She is an academic counselor for evening M.B.A. students at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

'03 **Jaylene (Wiersema)** and **James De Vos** live in

Cherokee, Iowa, and teach at Cherokee High School. They both coach speech, and James coaches boys golf.

'04 **Crystal Brown** is a work director for Wells Fargo in Sioux Falls.

**Rachael Thompson** is the assistant director of undergraduate programs at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business.

'05 **Melanie (DeKruif '05) Andersen**, Modale, Iowa, earned a master's degree in education from Morningside College. She teaches fifth grade at Logan-Magnolia Community School.

**Kristy (Vander Hamm) Damrau** earned a master's degree in education from Southwest Minnesota State University. She teaches K-12 art for the Sidney (Iowa) School District.

**Krissie (Hosbond) Donahue** is a premium suspense analyst in the accounting department of Sammons Annuity in West Des Moines.

**Brian Gunn**, Ocean Springs, Md., is a cyberspace operations officer for the Air Force. He earned a master's degree in international relations from Webster University last year.

**Kendall Stanislav** completed a master's degree in higher education and student development at Taylor University in May. He

is the resident director of Northwestern's North Suites Hall and assistant director of student activities.

'06 **Kevin Ulmer** graduated with a master's degree in kinesiology from the University of Kentucky. He will be an assistant volleyball coach and kinesiology instructor at Georgetown (Ky.) College.

'07 **Aaryn (Eckert) Bierly**, Rochester, N.Y., is an adjunct English instructor at Everest Institute.

**Jill Bowman** graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She is completing a residency in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota.

## SPREAD RED

### Homecoming 2011 • Oct. 1

- Red Raider Road Race
- Morning on the Green carnival
- Tailgate picnic for all alumni
- Class reunions for 2011, '06, '01, 1986, '81, '71, '61
- Raider football and soccer

[www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming](http://www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming)





TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Jeanette Van Voorst draws on her years of experience as a surgical technician in her role as a volunteer receptionist at the Orange City Area Health System.

## Still Working

At age 85, Jeanette (Rozeboom ’39) Van Voorst realized retirement wasn’t for her.

She had been a stay-at-home mom for her eight children until her husband’s health required them to move off their farm near Sioux Center when she was 48. She worked at the Orange City hospital for 38 years, first as a nurse’s aide and then as a surgical technician.

A year after retiring, however, Van Voorst felt lost. “I wanted to keep busy. You go backwards fast if you just sit around,” she says.

So Van Voorst returned to the surgery area at Orange City Area Health System (OCAHS) four years ago, this time as a volunteer receptionist. She works at least one day a week providing comfort and insider knowledge for patients and their families.

“She understands the anxiety people go through when a loved one has a surgery,” says Mary Plathe, the health system’s volunteer services manager. “She soothes those fears and keeps them very calm and informed.”

Van Voorst, who will be honored in October at the Iowa Hospital Association’s meeting in Des Moines as a recipient of a Shining Star Award from OCAHS, plans to keep volunteering as long as she can.

After all, she’s only 90.

BY DUANE BEESON

**Josh DeKok** is the youth director of Bismarck (N.D.) Community Church.

**Katie (Schueller) Leiding**, Primghar, Iowa, is a psychiatric security specialist in Cherokee.

**Amy Oelschlager** earned a Master of Education degree in technology integration from Graceland University’s campus in Independence, Mo. She teaches fourth grade in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Alison (Waggie) Vlieger**, Maurice, Iowa, is an occupational therapist for Therapeutic Health Services.

**Braden Archer** is studying radiography at the Mayo School of Health Sciences in Rochester, Minn.

**Chantelle (Steggerda) Green** is the drama director at Omaha Christian Academy.

**Bret Larson** teaches junior high special education and coaches football and girls basketball for the Manson (Iowa) Northwest Webster School District.

**’08 Audra Schmidt**, Orlando, Fla., is a certified athletic trainer for Select Physical Therapy.

**Nate Summers** is a junior associate investment banker for Piper Jaffray in Des Moines.

**’09 Matthew Boer** recently received the top Honor Graduate Award from the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy Detention Officer Basic in Douglas, Wyo. He is a detention officer for the Campbell County Sheriff’s Office.

**Emily Entsminger** is the youth director at Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Iowa.

**Derrick Rensink** is a manager for Batteries Plus in Sarasota, Fla.

**Tyler Tigges**, Sioux Falls, is an accounts receivable training consultant for the Good Samaritan Society.

**’11 Caleb Kester** is a Web developer for AmericanEagle.com in Chicago. His wife, **Alayna (Carlson)**, teaches middle school mathematics at Westminster Christian School

**Taylor Malm** competed in July on the 2011 U.S. National Team, assembled by USA Football, against seven national teams in Austria. The squad was coached by Mel Tjeerdsma, offensive coordinator at NWC from 1976 to 1983 and recently retired head coach at Northwest Missouri State.

**Brad Payne** is spending the summer playing professional baseball with the Lake County Fielders of Zion, Ill., in the independent North American League.

**Sheena (Getty) Van Roekel** is the assistant men’s and women’s soccer coach at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville.

**’10 Bobbie (Lydick) Allen**, Kirkland, Wash., is a loan coordinator for Metropolitan Mortgage Group.

**Sara (Veldhuizen ’97) and Jason Schrock ’97**, son, Ryan Justus, joins Sophia (8) and Calla (4)

**Sarah (Ubben ’98) and Greg Hofland ’97**, daughter, Anika Grace, joins Evan (13) and Makayla (10)

**Dawn (Van Meeteren ’99) and Matt DeYoung ’00**, son, Joshua Luke, joins Emily (7) and Joseph (5)

Nathaniel and **Jennifer (Van Beest ’00) Roberts**, son, Ezekiel Christian

Michael and **Amber (Smith ’01) Potts**, twin daughters, Allie Ruth and Kasey Emma

**Teresa (Rummel ’01) and Noah Van Oosterhout ’00**, daughter, Ruby Jayne, joins Marin (3)

Carissa and **Cory Rasmussen ’01**, son, Maxwell Jerome

**Corinne (Fanning ’02) and Colin Doughan ’02**, daughter, Anora Jean, joins Jackson (5) and Micah (2)

Jessica and **Andrew Hugen ’02**, daughter, Quinn Everly, joins Trey (2)

Mick and **Laura (Fryman ’02) Jackson**, daughter, Lanea Faith, joins Hailey (2)

Kristin and **Travis Schueller ’02**, daughter, Macie Ann

**Jaylene (Wiersema ’03) and James De Vos ’03**, son, Jakob Ivan, joins Julia (5) and Joel (2)

**Emily (Hines ’03) and Dan DeYoung ’03**, twin daughters, Anna Maria and Evangelina Sophia

Joshua and **Sarah (Fanning ’03) Ortega**, son, Isaac Nehemiah

**Cassie (Klinger ’03) and Eric Reeves ’03**, son, Elias Ryan

Daniel and **Jill (Timmer ’03) Saucedo**, son, Jackson Misael

**Amanda (Ulmer ’03) and Greg School-land ’02**, daughter, Lydia Dawn, joins Jack (5) and Clara (3)

Drew and **Heidi (Krikke ’03) Van Wyk**, daughter, Aleah Hope, joins Hannah (2)

Zach and **Stacy (Van Vark ’04) Kanis**, son, Zander Christian

**Magdalene (Biesanz ’04) and Titus Landegent ’08**, son, Raymond John

Nick and **Melanie (DeKruif ’05) Andersen**, son, Adam Nicholas

Chris and **Krissie (Hosbond ’05) Donahue**, son, Gavin William

Lance and **Kara (Dehmloew ’05) Knaack**, son, Lucan Richard

MY ROOMMATE REARRANGED OUR DORM ROOM FURNITURE—IN HER SLEEP.

MY ROOMMATE SOLD MY CLOTHES WHILE I WAS IN THE LIBRARY.

MY ROOMMATE STILL HAS MY GARFIELD SLIPPERS.

MY ROOMMATE DARED ME TO GET A TATTOO.

MY ROOMMATE TOOK ME MOOSE HUNTING.

MY ROOMMATE DATED MY SISTER.

MY ROOMMATE...

Send us your roommate stories for a fall *Classic* feature.

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LORE BEINSTEIN

Mick Noteboom’s life-changing experience at Northwestern caused him to want the same for daughter Adrianna, now an NWC sophomore.

## Full Circle

Shedding tears over the eldest leaving the nest: It’s a common parental reaction. But when Mick Noteboom’s daughter Adrianna decided to attend NWC, her father’s emotions had as much to do with the past as with the future.

“Northwestern changed my life,” says Noteboom, who graduated in 1983 and is now a National Alumni Board member from Champaign, Ill. “My daughter is a lot like me, and I knew she’d have that same deep-down experience I had.”

As a freshman from Milford, Iowa, Noteboom brought a substance abuse problem to campus.

“I didn’t have the best experience growing up,” he says. “I was picked on a lot, never had many friends, and my parents divorced. I drank a lot and smoked a lot of pot. That was my escape.”

A fellow student challenged Noteboom to accept Christ and change his lifestyle. The moment profoundly changed Noteboom; his faith would continue to grow thanks to Jackie (Woudstra ’75) De Groot, Char Ten Clay ’79, Cliff Leslie and Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoe—staff and faculty members who influenced him in ways that “you don’t know what hit you until later.”

Though Adrianna’s faith journey has always been strong, her father knew blessings were in store. Seeing her at Homecoming, he thought, “This is everything I could have hoped and prayed for, and then some.”

BY AMY SCHEER





EMILY SPARTZ, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

National champion powerlifter Jona Leo competed in the world championships in Austria this May.

### Strongman

When he flexes, Jona Leo’s bicep is nearly two feet around. Twenty-one inches, to be exact. The 1999 alum and U.S. champion powerlifter can bench press nearly 700 pounds. That’s like lifting three Raider football players at once.

Interested in strength training through high school and college, Leo started powerlifting in 2002. “My competitive spirit wasn’t done,” he says. Now, in addition to being a husband, father and wellness director at a retirement community in Sioux Falls, he also trains and travels to meets throughout the Midwest.

A strength sport, powerlifting resembles weightlifting but focuses on different lifts: the squat, bench press and deadlift.

A win at last August’s national meet entitled Leo to one of eight spots on the U.S. team competing at the International Powerlifting Federation’s Bench Worlds competition in Solden, Austria, in May. Leo lifted 655 pounds, 677 and 683. His last lift would have been enough for a silver medal if he hadn’t been called on a technicality; he finished in fifth place.

Leo is heading back to the U.S. competition in Orlando over Labor Day weekend and hoping for another trip to the worlds next spring. This time he’s aiming for three clean lifts and besting his personal record of 705 pounds.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

**Crystal (Drury ‘05)** and **Mick Snieder ‘06**, daughter, Analiese Ruby, joins Raegan (4)

**Ashley (Adams ‘06)** and **Kendall Stanislav ‘05**, son, Andrew John, joins Madyson (3)

Eric and **Rachel (Timmer ‘07) Kruger**, son, Jacob Jeffrey

Cole and **Katie (Schueller ‘07) Leiding**, son, Landyn Claire

**Nicole (Simmelink ‘10)** and **Caleb Tilstra ‘09**, daughter, Kenzley Renee

### Marriages

**Sara Dekker ‘05** and Timothy Nichols, Marshalltown, Iowa

**Emily Hennager ‘06** and Kevin De Vries, Monroe, Iowa

**Julie Hagmeier ‘08** and **Braden Archer ‘10**, Rochester, Minn.

**Craig Menke ‘09** and Nicolette Pippy, Coralville, Iowa

**Kathleen Kropp ‘10** and Evan Marsh, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Alayna Carlson ‘11** and **Caleb Kester ‘11**, West Dundee, Ill

**Karina Smit ‘13** and **Drew Nonnemacher ‘11**, Orange City

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

### In Memoriam

**Gertrude (Brink ‘35, ‘37) Kraai** died May 21 in Orange City at age 93. After graduating from Northwestern, she taught at a country school near Boyden, Iowa, for a few years. She was the first woman to serve on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees, a position she held from 1970 to 1980. In 1996, she and her late husband, **Mert ‘37**, received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award. She is survived by two sons, including **Dan ‘71**.

**Cynthia Brantsen ‘38**, age 89, of Sioux Center, died May 19. She was a cook at Kinsey Elementary School for 28 years. Her survivors include two sons and a sister, **Joyce Kooy ‘51**.

**Dr. Otto Van Roekel ‘45**, age 88, died April 1 in Aledo, Ill. He attended Northwest Missouri State, Harvard and Columbia universities, and graduated from Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine. He served in the Navy and then worked at Aledo Vet Clinic for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Rosalie; two children, including **Kermit ‘76**; and five siblings, including **Glenn ‘57**.

**Duane Poppen ‘52** died April 4 in Sioux City at age 78. He worked for more than 35 years for Concrete Products in Sioux City, retiring as vice president of sales. He also owned a construction sales business. He was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church, the Sioux City Construction League, the Morningside Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the Abu-Bekr Shrine Temple Foot Patrol. He is survived by two children, a brother and a sister.

**Marvin Bomgaars ‘53**, age 79, died Jan. 14 in Mason City, Iowa. He graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in accounting. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for many years, and then served as an auditor for client services of the state Supreme Court. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and Veterans of Foreign Wars. His survivors include two sons and a brother.

**The Rev. Elmer Vander Ploeg ‘55** of Lynden, Wash., died March 5 at age 85. He attended Northwestern Junior College, Hope College, and graduated from Western Theological Seminary. He served churches in Belmond, Iowa; Corsica, S.D.; Lynden, Wash.; St. Anne, Ill.; and Maple Lake, Minn. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie; five children, including **Julie Jacob ‘92**; and a sister.

**Leon Ann (Reinsma ‘61, ‘63) Aalberts** died Feb. 18 in Oswego, Ill., at age 70. She earned an M.B.A. from the University of Iowa. She taught in Hamilton, Mich., as well as at Upper Iowa University and North Central College. She was also employed by AT&T, IBM and Lucent Technology. She is survived by her husband, **the Rev. Leon Aalberts (‘58, ‘62)**, and two sons.

**John Harrod ‘67** died at the age of 69 in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 23, 2010. After studying at Northwestern, he returned to his hometown of Washington and worked with inner-city youth. He founded Market 5 Gallery—a nonprofit that sponsored art exhibits, music and theatre performances, and craft sales—and served as executive director for more than 30 years. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

**Greg Foreman ‘68**, age 66, died June 22. He taught art for 32 years, all but one in Rock Valley, Iowa. After retiring in 2000, he volunteered with the Foster Grandparent Program. Active at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, he was a member of the Lutheran Services in Iowa Endowment Cabinet and the Rock Valley Arts Council. Among his survivors are his wife and son.

**Ila (Hofmeyer ‘71) Hegland**, age 62, of Fort Morgan, Colo., died March 21 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was a high school social studies teacher for six years in Council Bluffs, Iowa, before moving to Fort Morgan, where she worked at the Social Security Administration office for nearly 27 years. She was a member of United Presbyterian Church. Her survivors include her husband, Scott; two daughters; her parents; and two sisters, including **Peg Smith ‘75**.

# SPEAK UP

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

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Relationships Teresa Van Oosterhout established with migrant children when she coordinated a mentoring program led to her doctoral dissertation research on how children choose their life’s path.

### Fields of Opportunity

What makes one child follow in her parents’ footsteps and another choose a totally different path?

Teresa (Rummel ’01) Van Oosterhout studied this question as it pertains to migrant families for her doctoral dissertation in sociology from Michigan State University. Specifically, she wondered, what motivates some to go to college while others continue doing farm work?

“The main thing is parental influence,” Van Oosterhout says. “If parents are encouraging kids to continue their education, that tends to be what they will do.”

Strong connections outside the close-knit migrant community also matter—a teacher, coach or counselor, or friends already in college.

Van Oosterhout’s research was a chance to deepen relationships she had begun building as coordinator of a mentoring program for migrant kids in west Michigan, which has a large population of Hispanic workers for the region’s fruit farms.

“The majority in this area are U.S. citizens and legal residents who are working hard to support their families,” says Van Oosterhout, who now writes grant proposals for the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance. “They’re some of the most dedicated workers I’ve been around.”

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON ’98



# Classic Thoughts

## Changing Hearts and Minds

BY ROBERT BOGDANFFY

During the spring semester, I studied in Washington, D.C., through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities American Studies Program (ASP). I interned at the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD), an organization that addresses identity-based conflicts by incorporating religion as part of the solution.

I worked alongside Dr. Douglas Johnston, the president and founder of ICRD and author of a recently published book, *Religion, Terror and Error: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Spiritual Engagement*. He previously directed Harvard University's Executive Program in National and International Security.

He is also a devout Christian. It was my privilege to learn from him not only many professional lessons, but also about the proper Christian engagement of conflicts in light of our calling to be peacemakers.

My research at ICRD dealt mainly with radicalization as a result of alienation, some of which has given rise to violent extremists. I learned that, when fighting terrorism, it's important to understand the causes of radicalization and terrorism—causes like injustices, social and individual alienation coupled with political struggle, and a certain amount of Quranic misappropriation. (To be fair, causes like these can also serve as catalysts for democratic change—as they did during the Arab Spring.)

I also learned that the overwhelming majority of Muslims resent extremism just as much as any other sane person. In fact, culturally and religiously, most are admirably devout, hospitable and peaceful.

The Quran says, “[I]f God had so willed, he could surely have made you all one single community: but he willed it otherwise in order to test you by means of what he has revealed to you. Compete then with one another in doing good works! Unto God you all must return and then he will make you truly understand all that on which you were wont to differ” (Quran 5:44-48).

Compete with one another in doing good works: Whether one believes the Quran or not, isn't that wise counsel? This is what ICRD is pursuing—initiating a competition of good works instead of fueling an ersatz incongruity with vitriolic language.

Although I believe U.S. military actions against tyrannical regimes are commendable, I cannot help but think of the cost in times of historic debt. The yearly budget allocated for one U.S. soldier is enough to build 20 schools in Afghanistan. Perhaps I lack the understanding of what it truly costs to change a regime, or perhaps in the long run, this will become a telling statistic of an inefficient government and a narrow aperture.

Either way, change cannot come without a shift in thinking, and while this involves many things, it categorically mandates a soft power approach. The fundamental ingredient of this approach is a global citizenry armed with broad knowledge. Anyone who makes an effort to understand someone different from themselves can be part of furthering peace.

How much do we know about the Afghan people? How much do we truly understand the average Muslim's worldview? There are 1.5 billion Muslims sharing the world with us, and yet the majority of us don't know the five basic pillars of Islam.

American social writer and philosopher Eric Hoffer said: “A war is not won if the defeated enemy has not been turned into a friend.” After my internship, I believe more than ever in working toward world security through changing people's hearts and minds—including our own. Micah 6:8 encourages followers of God to do justice and walk humbly. It's hard to project love and humility with an M16 in your hands.

In one of my ASP classes, Dr. Steve Garber, director of the Washington Institute, challenged us with a vision of Christian engagement that starts with learning more about the world and those sharing the planet with us. He said: “We are called to love the world. Do we love the world enough to *know* it? And do we know the world enough to *love* it?”

**Robert Bogdanffy is a senior political science major from Petrosani, Romania.**



## What's Your Legacy?



When Bob '75 and Cathie Keyser lost their son suddenly at age 9, they leaned on their faith and the support of family and friends. As part of their healing—and with the help of Bob's former Raider teammates—the Keyzers established the Thomas Robert Keyser Memorial Scholarship, which today supports three Raider student-athletes.

The Keyzers travel from Texas nearly every year to meet Thomas' scholarship recipients personally. “We continue to be amazed at the quality of the young people selected to receive our scholarship,” says Bob. “Their beliefs shine brightly through their athletic and academic accomplishments. Something very good has come out of the loss of our son.”

## Be intentional.

To establish a scholarship in memory or honor of someone you love—or to make a donation in support of student scholarships—contact Cornie Wassink, 712-707-7109 or [corniew@nwciowa.edu](mailto:corniew@nwciowa.edu).



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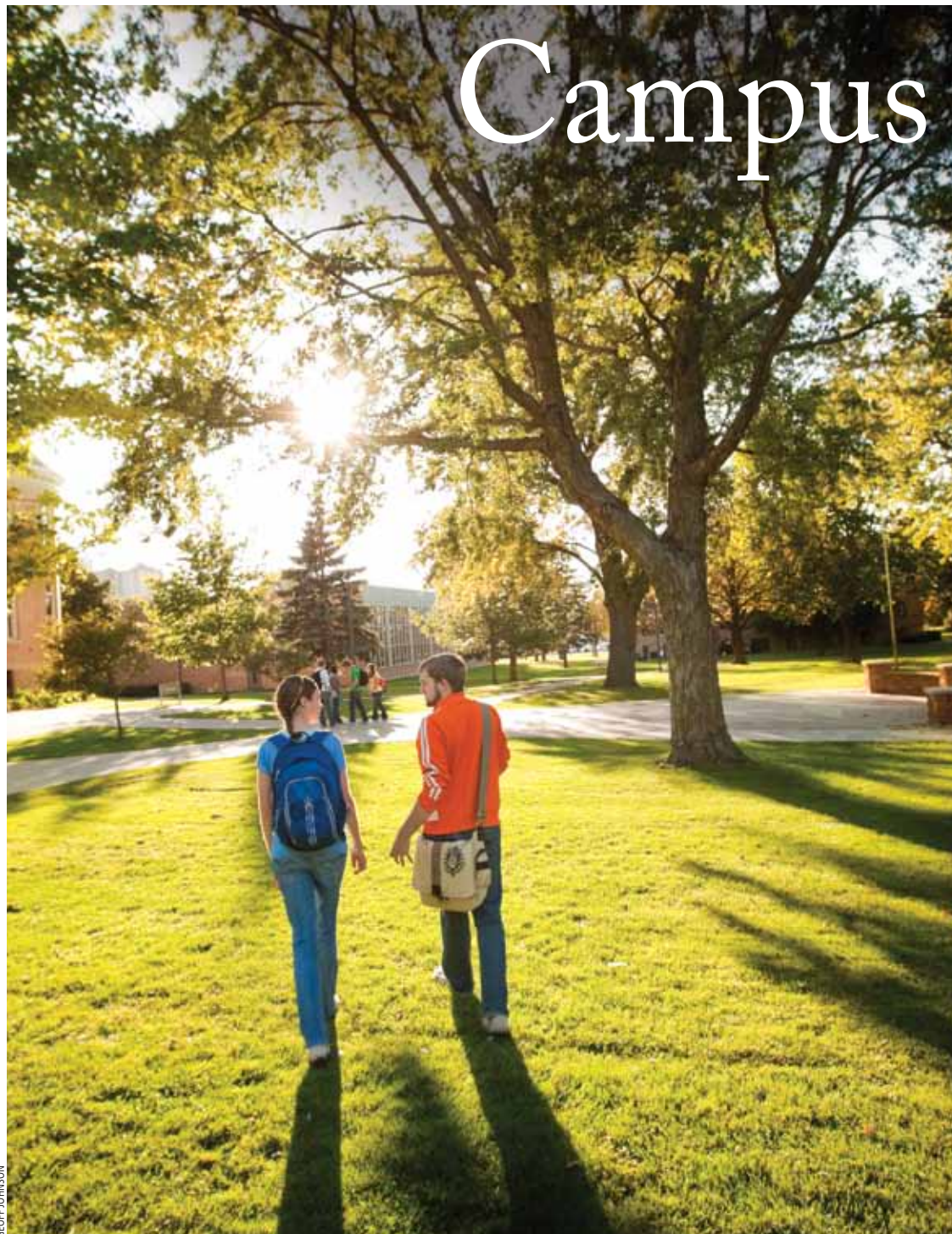
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# Campus Green

For the fourth year in a row, Northwestern College has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation. Of the 25 U.S. sites honored this year for responsible use of chemicals and water, pollution prevention, and water quality, Northwestern is one of only five colleges.

Northwestern's water-friendly practices include applying fertilizer based on nutrient analysis, maintaining a no-application zone around surface water and active wells, selecting plants adapted to the region's climate, disposing of toxic substances properly, and irrigating lawns at night to reduce evaporation.

Northwestern also received a growth award for implementing additional groundwater-friendly practices, including adding two additional detention ponds to capture runoff and challenging students to curb water and energy consumption.



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